



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

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

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

By Colonel J.E.N. Roderick

Once again, Newsletter time is upon us and **Kathy Batty** (most of you knew her as **Kathy Stephen**) has her riding crop out and is ordering us to heat up our keyboards and get our articles submitted. Actually, this is my second



attempt at drafting a few words. My initial article started off with a plea for more involvement from the Old Guard and ERE, as my concern was that the Newsletter was becoming a mini-Strathconian and losing its purpose as a means of communication within the family. Now that I've had a chance to look over the submissions that Kathy has received from far and wide, I'm breathing a little easier and feel we are back on the track plan that **Nic Nicolay** and **Mucker Langan** established for us. Thanks to all of our contributors and keep the messages coming.

I wish that I could report in this edition that our Regiment has been able to slow down and enjoy life but I can't. Our soldiers are still working, training, and fighting at the same furious pace with no

immediate relief on the horizon. A Sqn is approaching the end of another successful tour in Afghanistan and C Sqn is at "Pack up" and soon will be at "Saddles". I note that A Sqn has waived any notice to move to come home – just the executive "Move Now" will do. This, of course, means B Sqn has started to get ready to follow the now familiar training program in preparation for its third tour. I'll just leave it at that as I'm sure others will provide more detail on life in the Regiment in this Newsletter. It should surprise no one that I have heard from several senior officers that we have the busiest unit in the Army. They also expressed admiration for the way our soldiers are performing under this stress.

Despite the Regiment's life on the treadmill, I am delighted to report that we are maintaining our traditions in every aspect. In addition to prowess on the battlefield, the Regiment has continued to lead the way in its public duties as well. The Mounted Troop had another great year, the Historical Vehicle Troop continues to attract more attention, and the smallest troop in the Regiment, the Family Support Troop, is providing levels of support that are second to none. As busy as all that was, there was the steady stream of official visitors, drawn not only by our tanks and horses but also by our reputation for treating every visitor with pomp and ceremony unknown anywhere else in the Forces. One visitor of note this summer was **LGen Waldemar Skrzypczak**, the

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Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel D.A. Macaulay

Over the past months the RSM and I have had the opportunity to travel. Whether we were visiting the tumbleweeds of Wainwright, the swamps of Gagetown, the sands of Afghanistan or tasting the bratwurst of Germany, the ales of London, or the hearty soups of Poland, I have been consistently been ask one question, "what has changed in the Regiment?" My response to this question may surprise people.

In the six months I have been in command, I argue that not much has changed since many of you served in the Regiment. The Regiment is busy. We have squadrons continually at war or training on the long road to war, while supporting national and area tasks. Coupled with the requirement to conduct professional development courses, soldiers find themselves challenged everyday.

But if I was to ask many of you about your experiences while you were at the Regiment, I think you would be able to tell me you were also busy. Perhaps you were not focusing on the new volatile, uncertain, chaotic, and ambiguous (VUCA) operating environment facing Strathconas today, but you were perhaps faced with the "cold" facts of the Soviet bear or the "ethnic" wars of the former Yugoslavia.

So, in my opinion, when the RSM and I accepted the Chief of Defence's (CDS) Unit Commendation as a result of the Regiment being able to provide, in September 2006, the direct fire tank capability for Joint Task Force Afghanistan, I felt that this was an award that all Strathconas should take pride in.

I have been, and continue to be, a

proud Strathcona for the past 19 years. During this short period, I have witnessed many extraordinary things. The Regiment has always been able to respond quickly to the requirements of the Canadian Forces domestically and internationally. Whether it was **MGen Grant** (then Commanding Officer) redirecting the Regiment to Manitoba to fight floods or **Col Hilton** (then Commanding Officer) preparing Reconnaissance Squadron, on short notice to lead North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops into Kosovo, the soldiers of the Regiment have always risen and conquered the challenges put forth by the Canadian Forces.



The Army Run, Fall 2008

So, as you enter the Harvey building and see the CDS Unit Commendation flag flying proudly under the Strathcona camp flag, I ask you to take a minute and reflect. Whether serving in the Regiment today or years past, a piece of this commendation belongs to you. It represents something that will never change, "Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona."

Nevertheless, this is my opinion, and I look forward to hearing your opinions in the next newsletter.

Perseverance

Regimental Sergeant-Major

By Chief Warrant Officer J. Ramsay

As I pen this article, I am forced to contemplate the happenings over the past six months. It would be an understatement to say they went by quickly. The one steadfast fact within the unit lines is that the soldiers continue without pause to represent the Strathcona's in a truly fine manner. This is not just a proud RSM talking; this is reflected in statements by **LGen Skrzyczak**, **Chief of Land Staff** with the Polish Forces. Although his visit to the unit was a short one, he was so impressed by the professionalism of the young soldier's he met he requested the Strathcona's be affiliated with his best unit.

Of course, almost everyone is aware how very busy we are and have been for some time now. So when Strong Contender, the annual sports competition, was in the planning, I was concerned that it may prove difficult to field teams to represent the unit. The soldiers within the unit did not want to give up an opportunity to represent us in every sport. There were some soldiers who played for more than one team, at times playing up to three different games involving two different sports in one day. We may have not come away with first place; but we did come away with pride because those who were willing to represent us gave their all.

I would be remiss in not recognizing the fantastic support from the families of all these fine soldiers. We all know without their support, none of these feats would be possible. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break (as cold as it was) and wish you all the very best in 2009. Perseverance

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Colonel of the Regiment

Chief of Land Staff in the Polish Forces. **LGen Skrzyczak** was so impressed with his visit that on his return to Poland he wrote to **LGen Andrew Leslie**, our CLS, proposing an affiliation between “my best unit,” 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade (10 Brygady Kawalerii Pancernej), and the Strathcona’s. Things moved quickly and on 29 November a contingent of us arrived in Warsaw to begin a week of familiarization, socializing, touring, and determining the way ahead for this new affiliation – one for which I have high hopes. This is not only because of my previous service in Poland but because I see great potential for mutual support and strong friendships between two allied armies. The Poles, especially, have not forgotten their close ties to the Canadian Army in WW II. The details on this visit are well covered on our Regimental web site.

A second major event was the repatriation of Sir Sam Steele’s personal archives and artefacts to Canada. Through the foresight and perseverance of the University of Alberta, these archives were rescued from public auction in England and the eighty-five or so boxes are now being archived and will go on display in 2010 at the University in Edmonton and the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. In thanks for our support to the handover of the documents at the Canadian High Commission in London and the ceremony to receive them in Edmonton, we have been promised full access to these and the loan of items for our own display purposes. My only concern is that access to Sir Sam’s personal letters and diaries may mean that we will have to do a major “book burning” in the Kit Shop and commission a

new and ‘accurate’ history.

Just to end the year on a high note, the CO, RSM, and I were invited to London to meet with our Colonel-in-Chief and finally present the print we commissioned to mark the 30th anniversary of His Royal Highness’ appointment. We met with him privately at Clarence House and left totally impressed with his interest in and awareness of our Regiment’s activities, especially in Afghanistan. There is no doubt that he keeps informed and has a very special interest in the physical and mental casualties coming out of theatre. In case you are not aware, the Colonel-in-Chief stays involved by sending personal letters to the families of our war dead, the seriously injured, and all who receive decorations and commendations in theatre. He also sends letters to each Sqn Comd on rotation to Afghanistan and a special Christmas parcel to each squadron in theatre at Christmas time. On the personal side, the CO, RSM, and I thoroughly enjoyed the frank and candid conversation we were able to have with him. Of course, the RSM and I, being young boys from small towns in Northern Ontario, were already over-awed by the time we entered Clarence House.

See you all at Moreuil Wood 2009, I hope, or at least at the 2010 Reunion!

Summer 2009 Edition

The deadline for submissions for the Summer/Fall 2009 Strathcona Newsletter is **4 September 2009**.

Submissions should be forwarded to newsletter@strathconas.ca

or mailed to:

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

Strathcona’s Awarded CF Unit Commendation

In recognition of the tremendous efforts of all ranks of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) the Chief of the Defense Staff, **General Walter Natynczyk**, and the Chief of the Land Staff, **Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie**, presented the Regiment with a Canadian Forces Unit Commendation on 4 December, 2008. The honour was officially announced 29 August, 2008 in a VCDS CANFORGEN.

The Commendation was presented by the CDS to formally acknowledge the efforts of LdSH(RC) with regards to the short notice deployment of tank support to Joint Task Force Afghanistan in September 2006. Acting in a manner befitting the Regimental motto of “Perseverance” the Regiment as a whole demonstrated an outstanding level of commitment. This ensured that the soldiers of the CF in Afghanistan have access to the most powerful elements of the Canadian Army in support of the mission there.

Although dated for a specific incident, all members of the Unit can be proud of the effort that they have put forth and continue to put forth. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Macaulay**, reinforced the fact that Strathcona’s remain the busiest regiment in the CF and that all members of LdSH(RC) share in this highly respected honour as they continue to persevere in this period of demanding operational tempo.

The text of the commendation follows:

LDSH (RC) EDMONTON-
FOR OUTSTANDING
PROFESSIONALISM AND
DEDICATION DEMONSTRATED
BY ALL RANKS IN RESPONSE
TO THE AUG 06 SHORT
NOTICE CDN GOVT DECISION
TO ADD A TANK CAPABILITY
TO JOINT TASK FORCE
AFGHANISTAN

Reunion 2010

With the rapid approach of the year 2010, thoughts have begun to turn towards the organizing of another large-scale reunion in Edmonton. This will give all members of the extended Regimental Family the opportunity to come together in camaraderie and share our distinguished history.

The intent is to schedule the 2010 Reunion in the last week of June to coincide with the change-of-command parade that will also be taking place. This will allow members to share in the excitement of the change-of-command event, while also reminiscing with friends. The old and the new will be celebrated during this joint ceremony. Coupled with the command team's changeover, the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment will also be handed over.

Reunion 2010 will be similar to Reunion 2000 and will provide an excellent opportunity for the Regimental Family to come together to celebrate our heritage. All members, past and currently serving are invited to attend.

Regimental Association Alberta Branch

By Bob Lett

First, I would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the membership, the Regiment, the Society, and all their business units. This support has gone a long way to help us have a very successful year

We are coming off a very busy year for the Association. I feel that the Association is truly a great vehicle for the Strathcona veterans to stay in contact with the rest of the Regimental family. We have had our highs and lows over the year but we're strong in that we've handled both well and we remain sound going into 2009. We are particularly happy that our membership numbers are up over last year. Unfortunately, we have had to add more names our list of widows but that too is part of getting on in life. We have noticed the use of snail mail is the preferred way to communicate with our group. Because emails and faxes are very much the secondary mode, lead times are more necessary if any questions come up.

We held our Annual General Meeting on January 13th. It is my pleasure to inform you that the full executive committee has agreed to stay on in their same positions. I feel very grateful for this as each member is doing a great job. (see photo). There was some interesting motions brought forward and passed at this meeting. One was that we would fund each of the LdSH (RC) cadet Corps (7) in the amount of \$100.00 per year, for the next five (5) years. Also, there is a second \$100.00 per Corps, per year, for any specific program or initiative they might have. We hope this will help with their future plans and add to each Corps' success. The Association can afford this and it is what our constitution calls for us to do. Specifically, we are to "Help perpetuate the Strathcona Family."

The coming year will be very busy and, I believe, important for us. We are getting closer to R2010 and things will begin to shape up for this important occasion. We are going to try to emphasizing the Annual Golf Tournament this year to hopefully include more family members and their children even if they do not golf so they can come out for the social event after the



Ron Howard, Howie Owen, Keith Welch, Bob Lett and Clair Lane

golfers return for the presentations. The BC group is also planning their BBQ reunion in the summer. This is always a great time and they really put on an excellent show. If you attend any of these I'm sure you will have a memorable time. Then, there are the famous or infamous **ID McKay Lunches** (5). This is where the lies get better each time you hear them but it's a good time to see other groups of Strathcona veterans. The Edmonton Chapter is showing signs they're getting things rolling. They have held a few meetings, and a couple of lunches. If you can attend any of these functions, I know you would be made welcome. The planning for R2010 is moving along as well, but I'll pass this one to **Dave Biener** who is the main man on the total program.

I'm looking forward to going to Edmonton to celebrate Moreuil Wood with the Regiment. It will be my pleasure to represent the Association again this year at the Board of Directors meeting as well at the Regimental Society meeting, both of which are held the same weekend. I find them interesting in that you can see how the different business units of the Regimental family fit together and just how well each are being run.

We are excited about this coming year and I'm sure with our combined effort it will be the best year we've had for a long time.

In closing and as always, if you have any questions or comments, Please contact any one of the Association's Exec. Committee.

The Annual Strathcona Association Family Golf Tournament

By Howie Ownn

It was Saturday the 26th of July 2008, the sun was shining with all its might and not a rain cloud could be seen. At exactly 0900 hrs, the first of eleven teams of four (4) hit the Tee Box to start the Fourth Annual Strathcona Family Best Ball Golf Tournament at Buffalo Run in Calgary. The last team tee off was at 1015hrs and during play many words of encouragement were heard up and down the fairway like "Have a miserable game Howie", "Spook you suck" and "No Jim, you can't use your hockey stick as a putter." All in all, it was a very enjoyable morning of golf with some very impressive under par score sheets being turned into the official scorer.

We had golfers not only from Calgary but also from the Regiment in Edmonton Garrison and from the Edmonton Chapter of the Association. **Curtis Benson** and his team came from Pine Lake, **Lenore** and **Darcy Spence** came from Toronto, **Jerry Cluett** and **Rosa** came from Nanton Alta, **Ken Yoxall** from Oliver BC, and **Grady, Landon** and **Dallas** from my team



(Owen) were from Red Deer. After the golf was completed, we gathered at 285 Legion for a bit of food, fun, and the presentation of the prizes and trophies. Oh yes, I almost forgot; some even had a few bubbles.

The overall winning team was the **Bob Evans'** team who came in at 5 under par, followed by the Owen team at 4 under. During the social event, we had **Slider Welsh** and his wife **Mary** selling 50/50 draw tickets and we were able to give over \$400.00 to a young corporal who was having a rough road financially and who had health problems. He also wanted to take his young daughter to Disneyland. So with that money and contributions from other kind people and businesses, he was able to do that. We, as a small group of the Regimental Family, are proud of being a small part of the corporal's dream.

In closing, I again would like to thank everyone for their support of this Golf Day and to say that it will happen again in July or August this year.

One of our Own

By Bob Lett

This is somewhat of an unusual submission to the newsletter but I thought it appropriate to recognize one of our own.

Tpr (retired) **Mr. Val Rimer** served with regiment during WW II and is a veteran of Melfa River. What is not known is that Val is an extremely active leader in the veterans' circle; specifically, he holds the position of Post Commander Western Area of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Val has for years organized and officiated at the Remembrance Day Service at his synagogue in Calgary. The invited guests include the Regimental Association President, veterans, police and fire fighter representatives, City Council representatives, MLA's, MPs, senators, DVA representatives, cadets corps groups, plus many more. The ceremony is very important to all of us and the Association looked forward to it each year. A representative from Regiment has always been in attendance.

Under Val's leadership, the Jewish War Veterans group have been instrumental in fund raising for many humanitarian organisations across the country, e.g. national and local food banks, veteran's food banks, local hospitals, and the military museums in Calgary and Ottawa.

Val has been a strong supporter of the Strathcona's and the Regimental Family in general; he attends all or most of our functions and takes particular pride in celebrating the Regiment's annual Melfa River activities.

Please join me in congratulating Val on the award from the B'nai B'rith recognizing his work. The CDS, then **General Rick Hillier**, presented this award to Val last year in Calgary.



Where are they now?



Moreuil Wood Dinner 1976

Front Row (LtoR): Darrell Prosser, Bill Fox, Dick MacDonald, Jim Ellard, Bill Milroy, Ian Barnes, Walt Reid, Rowley Keith

Second Row: Protestant Padre Harry Rose, Doug Dobson, Sterling Kierstead, Rick Bell, Brian Simmons, Hugh Egener, Cam Ross, Mike Snell, Bob Black, RC Chaplin Luke Roy, Bob Keating, Steven Cobb, Bernie Richard

Back Row: Hank Reid, Norm Speak, Jim Grey, Roy Clark, Dennis David, Dave Scandrett, Greg Hug, Pete Furnell, Larry Found, Joe Donnelly, Craig LeClair, Chuck Cadick, Steve Moffat

Missing: Terry Mayne

Regimental Connections: The Never Ending Story

By John Boileau

After retiring in 1999 and settling in Nova Scotia—far from the Regiment’s traditional stomping grounds—I did not expect there would be many occasions when I would make Strathcona connections. In fact, just the opposite has happened. I thought I would share a few of these from 2008 with fellow Strathconas, especially since the Colonel of the Regiment, **John Roderick**, has exhorted the “old and bold” to make more contributions to the Newsletter



John Doble (right), the last 17th/21st Lancers exchange officer in Germany stands beside Patrick Harvey (left), Brig Fred Harvey’s great nephew, at the Moreuil Wood memorial to the Canadian Cavalry Brigade.

When the Regiment was stationed in Iserlohn 1965-1970, our last 17th/21st Lancers’ exchange officer there was **John Doble**, in many ways the epitome of an eccentric Brit. John, a single officer at the time, was the 2IC of C Squadron, where I was first a troop leader and then Sqn LO. When he asked my future wife—a nursing sister in Queen Alexandria’s Royal Army Nursing Corps at British Military Hospital Iserlohn at the time—what he could do about the dirt on his sweater, Miriam told him to wash it. Clearly astonished, he asked, “You mean you can wash these?”

After his exchange tour, John left the British Army and joined the Foreign Service. He worked as a diplomat in many places, especially sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa and Mozambique, before finishing his career as the British High Commissioner to Swaziland. John and I have maintained contact over the years, a connection that was reinforced during my time as CO in Calgary when John was the British Consul-General in Edmonton, responsible for most of Western and Northern Canada. He has since visited us twice in Nova Scotia.

On March 29-30, 2008, John visited Moreuil Wood as part of a battlefield tour conducted by **Brough Scott**, an old Oxford chum of his. Brough is the grandson of **Brigadier Jack Seely**, who commanded the Canadian Cavalry Brigade at Moreuil Wood. In 2003, Brough wrote a biography of Seely, entitled *Gallop Jack: A*

Grandson’s Search for a Forgotten Hero. I highly recommend this book to all Strathconas; it is a well-written study of a fascinating character.

The tour traced the 120-mile route of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade from its camp at Ennemain to Moreuil. It included **Brig Fred Harvey’s** great nephew, **Patrick Harvey**, a Church of Ireland clergyman, who presided over prayers in the thick of Moreuil Wood in the pouring rain. The previous week, Britain’s Sunday Telegraph had published Brough’s account of the battle, which focussed on Seely’s horse, Warrior (on the actual 90th anniversary of the battle, the Halifax Chronicle Herald published my story about the battle).

Although Brough is very passionate about his grandfather, he is perhaps even more passionate about horses. After college, he was a professional jockey (with about 150 winners), and a horseracing commentator for TV. He is now a sports writer. Brough supported a campaign to have Seely’s charger, Warrior, presented with the Dickin Medal, which is often referred to as the “animals’ Victoria Cross” and is awarded by the PDSA, Britain’s leading veterinary charity.

On October 6, I received a phone call out of the blue from Britain from a lady at the PDSA who was trying to gather documentary support for such a nomination on very short notice. As Seely’s grandson, Brough was reluctant to be one of the signatories. **John Doble** would have been a natural, but he was out of touch on one his many treks into the Himalayas. Brough had suggested the society contact me to provide a nomination for Warrior, confirming he was at the Battle of Moreuil Wood and that he deserved the medal.

I was delighted to provide such a nomination and quickly sent off the following by email:

“As a former Commanding Officer of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians), a Canadian cavalry regiment that was part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade commanded by **Brigadier-General Jack Seely** during the First World

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Regimental Connections

War, and an historian with several published articles and books about that war, I am honoured to support the nomination of Warrior, Seely's charger, for the PDSA Dickin Medal.

Warrior was present at the most famous action of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, the Battle of Moreuil Wood on March 30, 1918, and is clearly worthy and deserving of this rare recognition.

I can think of no more fitting occasion than the 90th anniversary of the First World War to award this high honour to Warrior, in particular as a symbol of the hundreds of thousands of animals that served alongside their human masters during that epic conflict."

On October 28, I received an email from the same lady informing me of the results of the PDSA Council's deliberations:

"Thank you so very much for your recent email supporting the idea of a PDSA Dickin Medal to be awarded to the horse Warrior as representative of all animals who served and those who gave their life in the First World War.

PDSA was very fortunate to have the support of **Brough Scott**, the Canadian regiments that **General Seely** commanded throughout the war, Warrior being his constant companion in battle. The Royal Veterinary College, the Imperial War Museum in London and **Jilly Cooper** were equally supportive of the idea, especially in this, the 90th anniversary of the Armistice. However, the ultimate decision on all PDSA awards never rests with the awards team. Our job is simply to provide evidence to support a nomination and then pass all to the PDSA Council. This particular submission was unique in that it was for an animal that served in WWI when of course the PDSA Dickin Medal was not, as you know, instituted until 1943. It was the first time the Council had been presented with this situation. After a meeting here at PDSA Head Office, it was decided, at the highest level, that although Warrior was obviously an exceptional horse and a fine representative of all his animal companions during the Great War, it would not be possible to award the PDSA Dickin Medal on the basis that the horse's actions took place in a conflict that pre-dated the institution of the Medal. It was felt that, on principle, the award could not be made to any animal whose bravery pre-dates the Second World War.

Although we have this decision on Warrior, PDSA will still take the opportunity of the Remembrance Day commemoration this year to put out stories of the animals that received the PDSA Dickin Medal for bravery in World War II and contemporary conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Despite this decision, perhaps the way has been opened for a change to the regulations for the award of the Dickin Medal and future submissions of this type, including a re-submission of Warrior's nomination.

The next month, I was invited to address the students and staff at the Halifax Grammar School, a local private school, on the subject of democracy and war during their Remembrance Day ceremonies. Because my latest book, *The Peaceful Revolution: 250 Years of Democracy in Nova Scotia*, had just been published in September and in it I had referred to the debt owed to our veterans in defending democracy, the Headmaster thought I might be able to make a few appropriate comments on the subject.

At a small reception before assembly, I met a few of the students and was surprised to hear one student introduce



The new memorial at Moreuil Wood pays tribute to the Canadian Cavalry Brigade.



The headstone marking Capt Gordon Muriel Flowerdew's grave is inscribed--like those of all VC recipients--with the outline of the famous medal.

himself as **Mark Flowerdew**. Since Flowerdew is not a name I had ever encountered before in Atlantic Canada, my interest was immediately piqued. I asked the young man if he was aware of **Gordon Flowerdew**, a Strathcona who had been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his actions at Moreuil Wood in March 1918. “Oh, yes,” he replied. “He was my great uncle.”



Namps-au-Val Cemetery, where Gordon Flowerdew is buried, contains 425 Allied burials.

When I recovered from my shock, I learned that Mark’s father was also named **Gordon Flowerdew**. Gordon is an associate professor at the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University. He was born and raised in England and when his father retired from the Royal Engineers as a colonel in 1958, the family settled in Crowborough, Sussex. The only contact that Gordon has had with the Regiment was a few years ago when he sent the Museum in Calgary the original of the letter that Gordon wrote to his mother on the night before the Battle of Moreuil Wood, delivered posthumously. It was eventually passed down to him since he has the same first name. To his surprise, the curator of the Museum sent him “a handsome tax receipt.” In view of what transpired over the next two days—Flowerdew’s courageous actions, which led to the award of the VC and also to his death—the text of the letter is particularly poignant:

“Dear Mother,

Have been a bit busy lately, so haven’t been able to write. I managed to borrow this card. Haven’t had any mail for some days, so we are very keen to see the papers. The weather is still very good, but very keen at night. Have had the most wonderful experiences lately & wouldn’t have missed it for anything. Best love to all.

Your affectionate Son

Gordon”

As Gordon had never visited his namesake’s grave, I was able to send him a photo of it and the cemetery it is in which I had taken on a visit a couple of years ago. I also included photos of the Flowerdew painting that I had commissioned **Joan Wanklyn** (the British artist who did our centennial print series) to do for me which I presented to the Officers’ Mess in Calgary in 1992, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the battle **Duncan Crockford’s** more ethereal version (for which I was the model—but that’s a story for another issue!).

I didn’t expect to make any Strathcona connections during my month-long cruise to the Caribbean and the Amazon in November-December but, in fact, two more fascinating connections occurred. Miriam and I were travelling as part of a 17-person group made up of people from across Canada, none of whom we had met before. After we made our introductions on the first day at sea, a delightful lady in the group named **Anne Sheppard** approached me and told me of her Strathcona links. Although she had been born in China in 1930, where her parents were medical missionaries, her Canadian roots were in Winnipeg. She is the niece of **S.H. Williams**, author of *Stand to Your Horses*, the story of the Regiment during the First World War.



Namps-au-Val Cemetery, like all Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries, is dominated by the Cross of Sacrifice.

The final connection was made on our return trip from the Amazon, when we docked at Bridgetown, Barbados, for the day. Miriam and I were exploring the island’s capital on foot when we came to a statue of **Admiral Horatio Nelson** at National Heroes Square. Behind the statue was a war memorial commemorating the Barbadian dead of two world wars. We were struck by the number that had served in Canadian units but nothing prepared us for what

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we read on a brass tablet under the heading:

1939-1945
To The Enduring Memory Of
Those Barbadians Who Gave Their
Lives In The Second World War
The fifth name was “**Clarke, G.L.A. Captain, LD. S.H. (R.C.)**”

When I mentioned this to **Mike Snell**, he pointed out that **Jim McAvity**'s book, *A Record of Achievement*, stated that **Captain George Lawrence Alleyne Clarke** of Bridgetown had taken over command of a fighting squadron on May 24, 1944, after heavy personnel losses at the battle of the Melfa River. He was killed the next day when the Regiment (in McAvity's words) “suffered what is undoubtedly the greatest tragedy in its history” at the hands of a heavy German artillery concentration while it was recovering in a regimental harbour area from the earlier battle.

McAvity went on to note that “‘Nig’ Clarke came to the Regiment from the R.C.R. in 1941; proficient in everything that he undertook, gifted with a keen wit, sincere, generous and conscientious, he was one of those who seemed destined to succeed in life. On that day the regiment lost a true Strathcona and Barbados a fine citizen.” The 24-year old captain and another officer were originally “laid to rest on the east bank of the Melfa, beside their comrades who had fallen the day before.” Today his remains are in the Cassino War Cemetery, overlooked by the monastery that so many Allied soldiers gave their lives trying to capture.



The name of Capt George Lawrence Alleyne, a Barbadian who was killed at the Melfa River, is inscribed on the war memorial in Bridgetown, Barbados.

So, far from being out of touch with matters connected to the Strathconas down here in Nova Scotia, these are a few examples from last year. I look forward to whatever connections 2009 will bring.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to **Walt Reid**, my Second-in-Command during my first year as CO, 1985-86. I first met Walt at the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School at Camp Borden in the summer of 1964. Walt was a Lt on the staff and I was an OCdt undergoing Phase I armour training. One day, the block and detailed syllabus called for us to present ourselves at the Officers' Mess for a lecture on mess etiquette.

I seem to recall it was the very first time we had been allowed to report somewhere without one of our NCOs accompanying us. So we marched over from E-110 to the mess led by **Tammy Richardson** playing his bagpipes. A very proper Walt met us, impeccably turned out in his bush uniform. For the next hour he took us through the intricacies of proper dining room behavior, from which utensil to use to how to remove a fish bone or a cherry pit unobtrusively from one's mouth at the dining table. This last point cracked us up and we could not stifle our laughter. Needless to say, Walt was not quite as amused as we were and he chewed us out. I, for one, never forgot how to remove fish bones or cherry pits—unobtrusively!

Over the next 20 years, Walt and I never served together but we did see each other at various meetings and conferences. As well, we spent an enjoyable time together in Germany in 1978 as umpires for the annual FALLEX deployment. Then, Walt got married shortly afterwards—when we were all long convinced he was a confirmed bachelor—and came to Calgary from Ottawa for a regimental wedding. I was proud to be one of his ushers.

When I arrived in Calgary to take command of the regiment from **Dave Rogers** in 1985, I was delighted to have Walt as my 2IC. He was exactly the type of mature, steady officer that was needed in the job. He oversaw the many parts of the growing regimental family, especially their financial aspects. Always the gracious gentleman, Walt was

a loyal, trusted, dependable officer and a proud Strathcona. His timely and thoughtful advice made my first year in command much easier.

It was one of the proudest moments in my life when Walt and I were called to **BGen Clive Milner's** office one day. Although I knew what was about to happen, Walt had no idea. It came as a complete—and pleasant—surprise to him when the Brigadier and I put LCol's rank on his shoulders. He truly deserved the promotion, although it meant he had to leave regimental duty. Fortunately for the Strathcona's, he only moved a short distance away to CFB Suffield where he continued to look after his Regiment's best interests in any way he could.

“Rest in peace soldier, your duty's done.”

BC Interior Reunion

By Rollie Keith

Well , after many years of successful BC Interior Reunions, that were originally organized by **Vic Binnie** in the Okanagan, the Strathcona BC Reunion moved west this past year. In those years, when there were no national reunions, Strathcona's from Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon' and Okanagan Falls organized and ran very successful Regimental get-togethers. These were well attended by former Strathconas, who were from the BC Interior and also from the Lower Mainland, the Island, and Calgary and other Alberta locations. Of course, there were also Strathconas from elsewhere, and on occasion we enjoyed the participation of our Colonel of the Regiment.

This past year though, the torch was passed to **Bernie McNicholl** and **Rollie Keith** of Chilliwack, who, with the able assistance of **Dick Thody**, **Carl Cole** and **Fred Schuh**, hosted the 2008 BC Reunion.



Some 60 participants, along with their ladies, gathered in Chilliwack from 5 to 7 September to renew acquaintances and enjoy Strathcona fellowship, as well as to tell a few “war stories”. They also participated in several weekend events. **Carl** and **Lois Cole** organized and manned the registration desk; **Dick Thody** led those who wished to participate in Chilliwack golfing and **Pam Keith** and **Pat McNicholl** guided those who spent the afternoon at Chilliwack's Minter Gardens. **Rollie Keith** facilitated a visit to the Canadian Military Education Centre (CMEC) on the former Camp/Base Chilliwack, and **Bernie McNicholl** most ably took care of our finances -- along with helping out with everything

else . As an aside, CMEC is a non profit military museum, consisting of a number of well restored military vehicles and numerous military weapons, kit and other artifacts. Prominent among the vehicles is Chilliwack's Sherman tank “Caroline”, which is currently on loan to the museum.

As usual at these Regimental gatherings, there were 6 “desert rats” in attendance including our two co-chairs along with **Chuck McBride**, **Ron Ransom**, **Roy Cooper**, and **Ernie McDuff**, all Strathcona veterans of 56 Canadian Reconnaissance Squadron. They conducted their personal mini 51-year reunion on and about the Ferret Scout Car provided by the CMEC which was on display at the reunion ASU site!

The reunion was held at the Area Support Unit building which is all that is left of the former base. It commenced with the Friday Meet and Greet, followed by the Saturday breakfast and activities A catered dinner with Strathcona wine followed in the evening, and was accompanied by the delightful musical entertainment of **Fred** and **Madeleine Schuh**.

We plan to hold a Chilliwack, BC Reunion again this year on the 11 to 12 September so please mark your calendar as we hope to see even more Strathconas then.

On behalf of the committee,

Perseverance



Your Dispatches

I thank you for forwarding the recent Regimental Newsletter. I did change my e-mail address as I was fed up sitting waiting and watching grass grow. I am now on satellite and things have improved. This is not as fast as cable or wireless but it sure beats dial up.

I served as a proud Strathcona for a sharp period (1953-1956). I was transferred to the 8th Canadian Hussars when the unit was activated in 1956. That was my initial militia unit, as my home was in Sussex NB. I continued to wear the 8 CH badges until I retired in 1980, a total of 32 years.

Regardless of where one served and in what unit the fact remains, I am very proud of our armoured units. It appeared that armour was relegated to the back burner until the situation in Afghanistan required heavy equipment. The tank is back and the Strathcona are leading the parade.

I spoke to Col Roderick this past weekend at a dinner party in celebration of the 160th anniversary of the 8th Canadian Hussars.

The dinner party was held at the Fort Frontenac Officers Mess in Kingston. He was relating how busy the Regiment is and has been with its commitments to Afghanistan. I can well appreciate the work load, however I know the Strathconas are definitely up to the challenge.

Thanks Again Bob Sear

Thanks, Bob. We passed this on to the Colonel of the Regiment and he was surprised that you had remembered the dinner! Ed.



The News Letter via email was a great step forward and hopefully a cost saving step for the Regiment. A bonus for me, was to see my "A" Sqn LAD CO Lt Bill Svab remembering our "Johnny Come Lately" arrival to replace "B" Sqn.

Sincerely Ken Pirt

Glad you like the "cost saving step". It does save a bundle. We were glad to hear from Bill too and hope to hear from more Strathconas who just happened to wear the RCEME/LORE/EME badge. Ed.



Greetings,

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year. I also have something that came up in a meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion, of which I am a member.

The idea that we had is that our branch would like to "adopt" a regiment. As a past Strathcona, I said that I would run the idea through the regiment.

In essence, the branch of the Legion would like to dedicate a corner/section of the Legion to provide a display for the regiment, outlining the history of the regiment and keep current on the happenings within the regiment. We also envision a sign-in book for ANY members, past or present.

If something like this can be worked out, with regimental permission, please let me know and we can work out further details.

Thanks

PERSERVERANCE

Jeff Martell

Sounds like a great idea, Jeff. We passed this on to RHQ and understand they have asked you for more info. Hopefully you will get the "Quick March" soon. Ed



Hello :

I was with the Straths from 1957 to 1966, and am making a trip to Calgary in May of this year. But I have lost track of all the guys, I once was in touch with.

Was just wondering if there is any place I can go to find any addresses of guys that might be in Calgary as I would love to see any of the old guys, if they still around.

I just played the Video of the history of the Strathconas, boy did I get choked up, when they played soldiers of the Queen. And when it came to the part once a Strath always a Strath, I have kept that in my heart all my life, they did a good job in teaching me as a soldier. And I know they will keep up the good work and teachings.

*My title was Trooper Ronald MacFarlane SC137803 B Sqn
ronald015@sympaatico.ca*

Ron. We are not allowed to give out addresses but since you have provided your E-mail address we'll pass it to the Association in Calgary and ask them to get in touch and help you out. Hopefully some of our readers will remember you and contact you by e-mail as well. Ed



Just after Phil A Daniel left the 8th Hussars appointment on "I" Staff in Owen Sound in 1969 he came to the Royal Canadian Dragoons and was to attend a function in the Sgts' Mess and did not have the proper trousers because the Hussars and Dragoons differed in dress. Phil the excellent scrounger approached Bert Diveto who was working as curator of Museum and asked him for loan a pair of trousers. Bert being of different size to Phil decided to help him so he took the trousers off a manequin and loaned them to Phil. To make a long story short ...it was

Your Dispatches...continued

in May of 2008 that Phil finally saved enough money to get them dry cleaned and decided to return them to Bert who was attending Black Hatters gathering in Borden. At a tank hangar **Capt Terry Shaw** of LdSH called for **Bert Diveto** and **Phil Daniel** to come forward and at that time Phil made a presentation to Bert of the same trousers which had been worn by **Major General Churchill Mann**, Col of the Regt RCD before they were displayed in the RCAC Museum 38 years before..... I'm hoping that on 8 May 09 at Black Hatters in Borden Phil remembers that he borrowed **Norm Wood's** Mess tins and **Jim McGimpseys** cooks Whites in 1946 at Fort Churchill and I will forget about the Aunt Jemima episode in the flats with C A Robinson..

Norm Wood

Great story, Norm. The Colonel of the Regiment told some of us you were his troop sgt when he was first commissioned. Not very good at training officers, are you?
Ed



Hi Kathy or to whom this might concern!

I'm **Bob Bartlett** & must first off apologize for the lateness of the form regarding my status in the Assn. I had filled it out sometime ago - & just recently found it still here under a bundle of papers etc on my desk & will forward same under separate cover, (mail).

I noted in last edition of the Newsletter under "Lost Trails" a **Mr AN Kazimer** - Fauquier BC. I've taken the liberty to fill out his Membership renewal & payment of same for 2009 which I sent on to our Calgary Assn. about 2 wks ago. 'Tho I gave military particulars on

what info I know of him - briefly: He was not a Strath - served w/25 Bde Seaforth's (Nato) & RCAF (total 25 yrs). My interest in renewing his membership is thus: He is my bro-in-law & my sister **Pat** is most interested in Strathcona events as our dad & I have a combined service from WW1 thru WW2 & until I left in 1970 - of 56 yrs. Sister Pat has attended every reunion in the Okanagan area except this yr in Chilliwack. When living in Calgary - through me she got to know many Straths I palled with as tpr when the Regt came west from Borden after the war (in Jun '46) & as the yrs have gone on, enjoys the company of those folks!! So hence the interest..

Re: Deceased Straths - I took a small task outside the Newsletter in 2005 scanning the Last Post pages of the Legion magazine for names of deceased Straths who have never appeared in our Newsletters. & compiled same & no doubt I could go back a lot further. When I was Sec/Treas of Assn I made up the newsletter for a number of yrs & incl names from the Legion. After my/our "Hungry 30s" survival - Our Newsletter muffed in to something of quality with 2 greats - **Nic & Mucker!** Now - again - I have gone thru Legion Last Posts first & then checked names off against those in "Last Trumpet Call" over same period. I then put asterisk beside names that have appeared in Newsletters.

I will send the lists off to you - some names maybe missing if the Legion didn't list their unit . All names state LSH (not LdSH) - for brevity I guess..Anyway to some it is quite OK as when they enlisted it was LSH until changed in Great Britain after King George VI made "a particular

remark about the abbreviation for Lord!! as I'm sure that's not news!

Are you interested in "Long ago photos?" - Have 3 or 4 of a Hallowe'en do In the Sgts' mess in Borden w/ short story - circa '54? of 3 of us (still around). Also Change of SSMs of HQ Sqn in 1960 when -on promotion - I took over from SSM **Vic Binnie** (a little history behind that) as my father took over from his father some 30 yrs earlier in 1930 at Mewata Armoury in Calgary (where RHQ & B Sqn were quartered at the time) This event made the Calgary Herald (Might say that-well known Vic in last obit - last name is Binnie - not w/y). There are a number of photos I have of Regt'l & social activities over the yrs. Some old photos of both Sqns (B in Calgary & A in Wpg) Sqn training "Drill in the rough" "Action Front!" etc in the hills & bush of Camp Hughes in 1926 later to become (A bit further south of the railway tracks) - Camp Shilo & now CFB Shilo (taken,w/I think from one of those ol' accodian type cameras!

Thanks many for taking over the task of newsletter - Well done!

Incl a few \$ to help "you all"

Meanwhile - Compliments of the Season - May the Perseverance of The Strathconas continue in to the New Year of 2009 with nothing but Success and Good News from all fronts!

Merry Christmas -- Bob Bartlett

Thanks, Bob, you continue to be one of the stalwarts of the Regiment- the epitome of "Always a Strathcona". We'd love to reprint some of your old photos in the Newsletter- none showing the Newsletter staff of course. Many thanks for the donation as well. **Ed**.



Your Dispatches...continued

I am a Dutch warbride, an associate member with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 50, Tisdale SK. My 3 daughters and their husbands are also Legion members. Two of my daughters and myself were in Edmonton in 2005 for the LdSH 105 year celebrations and are looking forward to the next one in 2010. My husband passed away in 2002. We have kept in touch with the LdSH for several years and enjoy the Newsletter.

My Husband was a trooper, L100870 and served with LdSH 2nd Regiment, 5th Div Regimental Headquarters tank driver. We were married in Holland 20 Oct 1945. We had twins born in Holland as Bob came back to Canada in fall 1945. I came in Nov 1946 with our 2 babies.

At the last reunion I brought a couple of pictures of Bob's tank regiment and they were taken to the Calgary museum. With all the names of the men on the back.

I have a membership and have for several years and will keep it up. Canada has been very good to me.

Sincerely yours,

Joukje Will

Thanks for the letter Joukje. We'd love to print some of your recollections of your arrival and first years in Canada as one of the many Strathcona war brides, if you would care to send them to us. See you at the 2010 Reunion. Ed



So sorry we haven't been keeping in touch with everyone who has been diligent in keeping all of us old "lads & lassies" up to date.

*At the 2005 reunion my husband **Jacob** got very ill at the base and was taken to hospital by ambulance*

where he stayed for 8 long days. We missed the rest of our lovely gathering - not to worry though he is much better, now 87 and going strong. We had our 60th anniversary and it was lovely. Sorry to hear about the boys that have passed away, but the old guard is passing away also, so each day is a blessing. Accept our donation and will try and add to it off and on as you will need every penny for 2010.

Blessings and good health to all,

Ruby Troudt

Thanks for the kind words and donation, Ruby. We are pleased to hear Jacob is doing well and we hope you'll make it to Reunion 2010. We'll ask the Association if they will give Jacob a discount since he missed a lot of the 2005 Reunion. Ed



*My affiliation with the Strathcona Family comes from my father, **Fred Cooper**, who was a WWI trooper along with his brother, **Edward (Ted) Cooper**, and his two uncles, **Albert** and **Wally Maytum**. His registration number of 2519 was very close to that of **Fred Cade**, who was instrumental in getting these young men to join the Strats in 1914.*

My dad was wounded in the Battle of Festubert, May 24, 1915 and was no longer able to serve in the war. Id didn't change his faithful devotion to the Regiment and his brothers Ted and Uncle Albert continued to serve. Ted ended his service when the war ended, but Albert was killed in October shortly before the Armistice in November 1918.

My mother and dad attended many of the Strathcona reunions. In 1985, my husband Les and I brought my

*dad, and in 1990 my daughter joined us flying to Calgary with her granddad. That year he was honored by the Regiment to be on the reviewing stand for the ceremony. It was a thrill for all of us. It was his last reunion as he received the last trumpet call in April 1992. Les and I attended the 1995 reunion in Calgary with **Bob** and **Beverly Owens**, good friends of our family.*

*The 2000 reunion was the very special Centennial Reunion, and we came with our daughter and her husband. It was great to see the Cade family, a devoted Strathcona family. In 2005, I returned to spend some special moments with **Mucker** at the Museum in Calgary. What a special man and how dedicated! Sorely missed, I am sure. This visit I was joined with my son and his wife, **Buzz and Kathy Beauchamp**, as my husband Les passed in 2003.*

***Don Crossman, Dave Cathcart** and many of the Calgary members were so helpful and gave up special attention. We enjoyed visiting with **Reverend Greene**, who knew my parents from the "olden days". It was a wonderful experience and sounded out the message, "Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona."*

Thank you for allowing me to bend your "ear" on this two-page letter. It tries to explain where I fit into the Strathcona Family Roll.

Sincerely and Perseverance,

Dorothy (Dodie) Beauchamp

Thanks for writing, Dorothy, there is no doubt about your place on the "Family Roll" and we hope you and your family will join us at Reunion 2010. What a coincidence you mentioned the Cade family. Take a look at the last letter. Ed.



Your Dispatches...continued

I joined the 61 Battery Edmonton on 13 Sept 1939 and received my discharge 13 Jun 1945 in Calgary.

My regiment was made up from all four western provinces, 107 Battery, Cranbrook BC, 61 Battery, Edmonton AB, 71 Battery, Regina SK, 113 Battery, Brandon MB. My regiment supported the Strathconas all through the Italian campaign.

My father's cousin, **Major General Ernest Dunlop Swinton** was the inventor of the tank in World War One. I met him in Oxford England in 1943. He was 75 years old and still teaching military history at Oxford University in 1943.

I have given a collection of 12 fully dressed mannequins and 120 pictures to the Vimy Ridge Academy in Edmonton and thought that the Strathconas might be interested.

Sincerely

HA (Al) Swinton

Good to hear from you, Al. Your donation to the Vimy Ridge Academy was very generous and no doubt greatly appreciated. Thank heavens there are people like you who foster the preservation of military artifacts. Did Major General Swinton forgive you for not being a 'tanker'? Or perhaps he was still favoring the Royal Engineers? Anyway, you have a heritage to be proud of. **Ed.**



I would like to write a letter, but my hands just don't do what I want them to do.

Thanks for keeping up the good work of publishing the newsletter which I always look forward to receiving.

Thank you again

Bill McCulloch

Your hands did very well, Bill. We love compliments!! **Ed**



In R: Al Swinton, his daughter and District 2 Commander Reid Morris.

Following Vimy Ridge's Remembrance Day celebration, Al Swinton dedicated 12 uniforms and 130 pictures to the Vimy Ridge Academy. Al had wished to dedicate the collection in the name of his Regiment, Field Division, but ended up dedicating it in the name of the Town of Tafel.

What a great newsletter !

I know very few of the people mentioned; my service ended in the mid-60's, but I still appreciate knowing "what's going on". And I loved the **Bas Collett / Dick Green** article.....they were my contemporaries.

Thanks so much.

Charles Low

Thanks for the compliment. It is good to hear from you and we look forward to receiving some of your stories. **Ed.**



My name is **Phillop Tomothy Derksen**. I served in Korea as a Trooper with the Lord Strathcona Horse from January 29, 1951 to February 26, 1954. I would like to send all of you at the Regimental Association my sincere appreciation for your newsletters and magazines.

As a part of the Lord Strathcona family I appreciate keeping up on the current deployment and situation of our troops. I also enjoy reading the stories and history of the old Strathcona Members and where they are now.

Keep up the good work.

Perseverance

Philip Derksen

Phil, thanks for your vote of confidence. How about sharing some of your stories from the 50s? **Ed.**



I would like to continue to receive your Newsletter each time it comes out. Although I have not been a member of the Strathconas, I have many in the family that were as shown below:

Name	In Date	Out Date	Relation
Walter C Cade	Sept 8 1905	Jun 6 1908	Uncle
	Feb 2 1916	Nov 18, 1917	
Herbert S Cade	Jan 14 1907	Dec 4 1909	Uncle
Frederick H Cade	Nov 27, 1911	Jul 31 1914	Father
	Aug 10 1914	Mar 25 1919	
Frederick H Cade Jr	Aug 23 1939	Dec 12 1945	Brother
John D Cade	Sept 3 1939	Apr 24 1972	Brother
Jamieson Cade	May 11 1984	Still Serving	Nephew

Thank you

Charles W. Cade

Charles, your surname certainly qualifies you to receive the Newsletter. Fred and Jack were great Strathconas and Jamie is coming along not too badly. No doubt you have seen him on the TV news as the Deputy Commander of the troops in Kandahar, Afghanistan. **Ed**



I have just received the Regimental Society Newsletter and am much impressed by the professionalism in its production. It brings back to me many fond recollections of the fine days in the company of your officers in the good old days of the BML's in Harvey Barracks in Calgary. I can assure you that I miss those occasions greatly.

Back about 25 years ago I was accorded the honour of being asked

Your Dispatches...continued

to become an Honourary Member of your Regiment and, with alacrity, I accepted. The kindness may have resulted from my efforts to tend to the affairs of **Mrs. Winnie Harvey**, widow of **Brig. Fred Harvey**. Since I had nothing but fondness for both of them it was a pleasure to serve her during those days when she was a resident of Trinity Lodge. She was a great lady.

My father was, in the thirties, the CO of the 15th Alberta Light Horse Unit which engaged in various war games with your unit and I was privileged to ride out with Dad on a number of exercises. I fear that I was a bit of a fifth column on one of them. I remember well the Brigadier who was also a good friend of Dad and it was he who asked Dad to take over the Calgary Highlanders when was was looming. I will never forget the stark message delivered down

from the railway station as we were camping at Gull Lake which simply said: "Mobilize. Pearkes". So went our holiday camping as Dad headed to Calgary leaving us to pack up our tents.

I recall when I was with the Calg Highrs working on the incorporation of a foundation that your current CO was kind enough to send down a copy of your incorporation documents to assist us. Since I have always believed in the validity of foundations, I enclose a small contribution to your foundation. I wish you and your regiment well in the future. From what I hear and read, the unit is serving well in Afghanistan and I expect will continue to do so.

Do you by chance have a list of the CO's in the period 1964 to 1995, the period when I was involved in one

way or another with your regiment? I remember so many faces of fine chaps but their names elude me. Of course, most of them will have long since retired from the army but there are several of them that I would like to locate if I can. I will appreciate any advice you can supply to me.

Sincerely

Fred L. Scott

Fred, a lot of us miss the comradeship of those BMLs in Calgary as well. You and your father are well remembered for your contributions to the Calgary military community. There is a list of all former COs on our web page www.strathconas.ca. Click on Regimental History at the bottom of the page and then on "Former COs" at the top of the History page. If you send us a list of those you wish to contact we'll ask them to get in touch with you – we are not permitted to give out addresses. Stay in touch. Ed



Last Post - From Legion Magazine

Compiled by Bob Bartlett

MARCH/APRIL 2005

BROWN Robert H - Age 87 Portage La Prairie, MB

CHAISSON George W - Age 83 Kelowna, BC

MOLLER Jack - Calgary, AB

SIMPSON Robert J - Age 80 Sooke, BC

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

A'HEARN Hubert J - North Bay, ON

EPPS Reginald - Age 87 London, ON

FOLLAND G. Nelson - Age 84 Kensington, PEI

MITCHELL Russell J - Age 84 Toronto, ON

NEWCOMB Carl W - Age 70 Amherst, NS

MARCH/APRIL 2006

BETCHER Wilfred - Age 81 Calgary, AB

GUNDERSON Rolf - Age 74

PORTER Darrell - Age 85 NS

RANOSTAY Carl - Age 80 Edmonton, AB

SAUNDERS Lloyd - Age 74 Long Branch, ON

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

AUSTIN Dan - Age 99, Chesley Br, ON

COLE Frank - Age 79 Sussex, NB

COPELAND Glen - Age 83 Calgary, AB

CRAIG Rob T - Age 85 Fort Saskatchewan, AB

FORBES Hugh - Mission City, BC

FORTIER Sigmund G - Age 85 Timmins, ON

Last Post - From Legion Magazine...continued

KEELING Howard - Age 83 Owen Sound, ON

LITTLE Warren R - Age 75 Penticton, BC

ROBERTSON John A - Montreal PQ

TETRAULT Leo A - Age 76 Port Alberni, BC

VAN VEEN William C - Age 69 London, ON

VIPOND Arthur E - Age 89 Kelowna, BC

MAY/JUNE 2007

BUTLER Wesley B - Age 74 Cranbrook, BC

FORSTER Clarence M - North Burnaby, BC

FORSYTHE Rob T - Age 77 St. Thomas, ON

HIND Terrance - Age 86 Winnipeg, MB

JAMES William - Age 86 Sault Ste Marie, ON

MORTON Joseph R - Age 91 Lantzville, BC

TRINCA JL - Age 85 Veoder Crossing, BC

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

HAMMOND Stan - Age 87 Boissevain, MB

LLOYD Frank R - Elmvale, ON

REYNOLDS FE - Age 86 Calgary, AB

WATT Alexander - Age 75 St. Boniface, MB

THEISSEN Frank - Calgary, AB

Strathcona Message Board

www.strathconas.ca/board

Someone is interested in how you are doing. Have you checked out the Strathcona Message Board lately? Some of the Old Guard and not so Old Guard are invoking some interesting reading, while others are looking to connect with old friends. With over 10000 posts and 750 members, you are sure to come across a familiar name.

Check it out today.

Nostalgia

By Major General P.A. Neatby

When I think back to our youth and the wonderful characters that shared our military life, I have to include in the front rank **Browne DH**, 'Slewfoot'. He was the ideal companion in the field as he was eternally cheerful and busy.

My first contact with DH was in 1950 in Borden. I was the new Transport Officer and DH was a new arrival from The RCD (I think). In the first week, I was standing at the hangar door, admiring my four-hangar empire, when a Honey tank burst through the closed door of the tank hangar.

I rushed over and a frightened DH looked back at me. He said that **Cpl Davis JJ** had told him to move the tank. He had never driven one, but thought it couldn't be that hard. He claimed that he didn't realize that its drive was hydramatic and his stamping on the clutch was really pushing the accelerator! He did feel that he should get some credit for steering in such a way as to take only one of the two doors (his friends were convinced that the real cause was that his over-sized boots were caught in the accelerator space).

DH was **Bob Gross**' driver in Korea. The Ordnance inspection teams descended on us as we prepared to leave Korea. The Strathcona penchant for over-insuring and for grabbing whatever might be useful was viewed as a terrible crime by the RCOC albeit an important talent to the troopers. Among other things, A Sqn had an extra tank! We didn't mention the ¾ ton weapons carrier and some other vehicles that had gone to the RTR.

The Inspection Team was *The Enemy* as far as the troopers were concerned and no good would come from it. The team was particularly critical of **Bob Gross** as his tank had at least three sets of track jacks, two more than authorized. Two were imperiously confiscated. DH whispered to Bob as they disappeared, "Don't worry, Sir. I have two more sets just over the hill!"

Nobby Clarke's "Anglo Boer War, Lord Strathcona's Horse"

Submitted By Murray Cayley

In our previous installment we concluded with: "Three days later Steele's regiment reached Zandspruit, having marched through Ingogo, past Majuba Hill and Laing's Nek, made famous by previous conflicts, and was taken on strength."

After all the difficulties of travel and settling into South Africa, the Strathcona's were finally in the field at the scene of impending action. Important questions now became: what kind of leadership would they be serving under? And who was the enemy?

The Regiment became part of the Natal Field Force commanded by General Sir Redvers H. Buller, V.C., attached to the Earl of Dundonald's Third Brigade. Strathcona's Horse would provide scouting tasks for the brigade, at the insistence of Steele.

Sir Redvers Buller, VC was a very controversial General, described by some as a procrastinator, overly cautious, reluctant to commit his soldiers to battle and indecisive on strategy. On the other hand, Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister, said: "My confidence in the British soldier is only equaled by my confidence in Redvers Buller." Sir Evelyn Wood says: Buller was "Careful of his men's lives, reckless of his own; untiring and unflinching in his performance of his duty." By his own self assessment he was most comfortable as chief-of-staff, a position, he said, "involving all the responsibilities for execution without those of invention and preliminary organization". "I have never credited myself with much ability on the inventive side; all mine, if I have any, is on the executive side." "I have always considered that I was better as second-in-command in a complex military affair than as an officer-in-charge." The consensus is, however, that Buller's battle plans and achievements as he moved the Natal Force North from Newcastle to the North Drakensberg range were, in fact, quite brilliant.

No stranger to Canada, Buller had taken part in the Red River expedition in 1869-1870 under command of General Worsley. The Canadian experience was the common thread for Buller, Lord Strathcona, and Colonel Sam Steele. Steele held Buller in high esteem as a soldier and as a gentleman.

From Sandspruit the Brigade was moved to Perdekop (horse's head); about 10 miles north - east; where they deployed in small battle groups in preparation for the march on Standerton. From the outset, Steele had insisted that his soldiers were superbly trained and suited for tasks as Scouts: "doing any important work that experienced horsemen and good shots can do in the advance: screens, flank protection. patrols, outposts and general scouting duties". While this would relieve the Regiment of some of the menial garrison duties it also placed them in a vulnerable -battle disposition.

Approaching Standerton, loud explosions were heard from the vicinity of the town; the retreating Boers had blown the railway bridge over the River Vaal. Entering the town, the Strathconas were singled out with loud shouts and applause of "Welcome Canadians" by a predominately British crowd. It was also learned that the Boers had simply withdrawn to the hills and Kopjes north and west of Standerton where they were able to dispatch raiding parties and persistent snipers.

(Nobby, a personal aside while visiting South Africa): "While overlooking the battle fields in Standerton I couldn't help feeling the uncanny similarity of the Boers and the Strathcona "cowboys".

"I know the Afrikaner! My grandmother was... who nursed my grandfather, a British prisoner-of-war, back to health. They were wed after the war. "

"The Afrikaner lived a compassionate existence, basing the family unit and God above all else. They kept their family values through an iron discipline administered by the head of the family, often the grandfather, or the father. It was not uncommon to see three generations of Boers in one fighting unit known as "The Commando". The

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commando units were, in fact, a citizen force without uniforms, pay, or formal training, although they had good fighting experience protecting their widely scattered farms against marauding native tribesmen. They were superb horsemen and deadly shots with a rifle. They grew up where horse and rifle were synonymous from early childhood. They knew the country well and made good use of reconnaissance, deploying their scouts well in advance of their units. They would attack in extended line and quickly disperse to strike again. They were masters of camouflage and concealment. They soon gained the respect and even admiration from the British soldier. “

“And what of our own Strathcona’s Horse? I think Fraser, in his book: “Always a Strathcona” describes them well. And so I quote Fraser’s reflections of the Strathcona’s Horse verbatim:”

“They joined for their own reasons, but, with only a few exceptions, all were western outdoors men who could ride and shoot and fend for themselves without requiring the amenities of civilized life. According to Colonel Steele: “The men enlisted are composed of the very pick of the cowboy, cowpuncher, ranger, policeman, ex-policeman of the Territories and British Columbia. . . .”

“It would be wrong to imagine that most joined the Regiment primarily for patriotic reasons; even though many were only a few years removed from the British Isles, the Empire was not threatened and Canada had no direct interests in South Africa. A few might have been influenced by the jingoism of the times, but the majority were searching adventure--after all, many had come to western Canada seeking a challenge and a different sort of experience. Here was an opportunity to find something new with an element of danger attached, the company of kindred spirits and the chance to serve under officers drawn from a force that had built an international reputation.”

“Quite a number of the volunteers knew Colonel Steele personally; most knew him by reputation. The majority knew the NCO’s and officers they were serving under as they so often came from the same district or locality. Friends and neighbours joined together with the understanding that they would serve together in the same troop. Whatever their reason for enlisting, they signed on for a minimum of six months and a maximum of one year, at rates of pay of 75¢ per day for privates, 85¢ for corporals, \$1.00 for sergeants, and \$1.50 for sergeant-majors.”

Standerton was occupied on the 22nd of June 1900 by the Third Brigade of the Natal Force under Command of the Earl of Dundonald. They remained in Standerton till the 29th of June while the railway was being repaired in order to establish a communication through to Heidelberg and Johannesburg. During this time, the Regiment was gainfully employed providing patrols and general reconnaissance duties for the force.

On the 30th of June the Regiment ‘provided the advance and flank guards for Lieutenant General Clery’s 2nd Division’s march to Greylingstad on its way to Heidelberg.

It was on the 1st of July, 1900, the second day out, that the patrol ran into a situation that remains controversial to this day. We will look into the White Flag incident in our next installment.

- Lost Trails**
- Summer/Fall 2008 Newsletters*
- which have been returned*
- Jordaan MC - Oliver
- Herdman WJO - Medicine Hat
- Baker MJ - Cochrane
- Murray M - Sooke
- Garner RH - Calgary
- Luttyck A - Calgary
- Ranostay CP - Edmonton
- Alley RG - West Vancouver
- Stevenson RC - Calgary
- Harreson H - Calgary
- Billingsley JF - Airdrie
- Montrose BD - Edmonton
- Turner WD - Kelowna
- Ross MA - Black Diamond
- Maclean AB - Edmonton
- Fraser IE - Edmonton

Last Trumpet Call

BEAVER, Cliff Age 87, 2 Apr 08, London, ON

BOLDING, Fred Age 86, 30 Jan 08, Swift Current, SK

BREYIG, Ingolf (Bert) Age 87, Strasbourg, SK

BURNETT, Richard H Age 85, 1 Jan 08, Carman, MB

CHAFFIN, George (Bud) 18 Jan 09, Calgary, AB

COLWILL, Harvey London, ON

FALLAS, Jack Age 88, 8 Dec 08, Saskatoon, SK

HENDERSON, Robert (Bev) Age 76, 21 Oct 08, High River, AB

KAUFMAN, Lawrence Oct 06, Windsor ON

KYLE, Alexander Age 83, 23 Jun 08, Orillia, ON

LAMHA, Robert 27 Oct 08, Barrhead, AB

MCAULEY, Matthew Age 61, 1 Feb 08, Selkirk, MB

MCGRAIL, Joseph A Age 69, 5 Mar 08, Millbrook, ON

MORDEN, Joseph A 16 Feb 08, McCreary, MB

PAINTER, JC Age 83, 22 Nov 08, Provost, AB

PENNEY, William (Ed) Age 81, 21 Jan 09, Calgary, AB

REID, Walter A Age 68, 29 Nov 08, Edmonton, AB

ROWLAND, George Age 85, 5 Jan 09, St. Albert, AB

WARD, William E 26 May 07, Calgary, AB

WILSON, Bud 4 Jan 09, Mayerthorpe, AB

In Loving Memory of Wives

RYAN, Verna (*David Ryan*), 3 Dec 2007, Regina, SK

WARD, Eleanor (*Maj WE Ward*), 12 Dec 2007, Calgary, AB

*Our apologies for lack of details in some cases
Editor*