



REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

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AND

THE PPCLI ASSOCIATION



*Ally Ronnie
Pat Memo
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TRIBUTE TO MAJOR-GENERAL C.B. WARE, DSO, CD

COLONEL-OF-THE-REGIMENT

PPCLI

09 OCT 1959 - 8 MAY 1977

" In conjunction with the 8th May celebrations a Mess Dinner was held at the PPCLI Home Station Officers' Mess. The dinner was graced by the presence of our Colonel-In-Chief, The Lady Patricia Brabourne, the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C.B. Ware and the Colonel of the Regiment designate, Major-General G.G. Brown. As well Patricias from the length and breadth of the country were in attendance including at least eight former Commanding Officers of the Battalion and a former Commanding Officer of the Regimental Depot.

" Following an excellent dinner, tributes were paid to the retiring Colonel of the Regiment, by the Colonel-In-Chief and his successor Major-General G.G. Brown. Following these tributes, gifts were presented to Major-General Ware on behalf of the Regiment and the Association by Lady Patricia.

" After the week-end was over, the following letter was received by Lieutenant Colonel K.R. Foster, the President of the Regimental Executive Committee:

Quote " I have written to you to say what a truly magnificent week-end it was and I write to you in your capacity as President of the Regimental Executive Committee to attempt to thank, through you all those who had any part in those magnificent presentations to me at the end of my tour of duty as Colonel of the Regiment.

" It was quite apparent at the time that I was (and remain!) stunned - completely ! I did hope that I might get a camp flag after 42 years of service and when this happened at the dress rehearsal, I was thoroughly happy and well content.

" To have our Colonel-In-Chief, on behalf of all of you give me a piano, colour TV as well as a certificate of service indeed did render me speechless.

" As Hamilton Gault said, " we are not like any other Regiment and can be expected to do the unusual ! " The presentations were certainly that. If I have been able to do anything over the years to even closely deserve such recognition I do rejoice - They shall be treasured all my life.

" We are a truly great fighting Regiment and of course I love it and everyone that has served therein. I have merely tried, as we all have, to do everything I can for the Regiment and Patricias wherever they are. However, I am always mindful of what Reg Clark expounds "the Regiment has done far more for us than we can possibly do for it." How true it is - and thank heavens for such a great family - so ably headed by our wonderful Colonel-In-Chief.

" So please express my very great gratitude to all those who donated to these presentations. Too great a recognition, indeed, but one which I shall always treasure as I continue I trust, to serve as an old Patricia, in any way possible our Colonel-In-Chief, my successor and all Patricias."

With great thanks,
Yours ever,

Cammie Ware

THE REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER
OF
PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

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EDITOR - CAPTAIN J.W. MILES, CD

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PRESENTATION OF COLOURS
AND
FIREPOWER DEMONSTRATION AND
MILITARY DISPLAY
COMMEMORATING THE 62nd ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF FREZENBERG

7 - 8 MAY 1977

The culmination of almost one year of meticulous planning and preparation came to fruition with the celebrations surrounding the anniversary of the Battle of Frezenberg. The Words of the Editor of this Newsletter will be totally inadequate to describe the imaginative and exciting demonstrations that took place in Camp Sarcee on Saturday the 7th of May followed by the splendour and precision of the Trooping and Presentation of Colours that was held before an audience of approximately 12,000 persons in McMahon Stadium on Sunday the 8th of May.

As well as the anniversary of the Battle of Frezenberg being commemorated in the most suitable of ceremonies, the Regiment was indeed graced with the presence of our beloved Colonel-In-Chief, her father the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the Colonel of the Regiment retiring and the Colonel of the Regiment designate. Another first in the history of the Regiment with our Colonel-In-Chief and two Colonels of the Regiment on the dais.

Let me take a few lines to record some of the highlights of the six days of activities.

At 1440 hours on Thursday 5 May the arrival of the Colonel-In-Chief marked the beginning of the celebrations. In a steady downpour, her plane pulled up at McCall Field to be greeted by a 100 man Guard of Honour. Once again, she endeared herself to all present by her obvious pride in her Regiment and her apparent delight at being with her Regiment again.

During the morning of 6 May, Lady Patricia visited C.F.B. Calgary and was met on her arrival by a very well turned out quarter guard composed of cadets from the 2554 PPCLI Cadet Corps commanded by Sergeant T. Wilse.

At 1100 hours, the Colonel of the Regiment officially opened the Better Ole. The members of the Battalion responsible for setting up and organizing our traditional gathering place did a tremendous job. Special mention is made of the diorama built by Pte R.C. Buchanan of Recce Platoon depicting a portion of the line held by the Patricias in WW 1.

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As the Guest of Honour at the Mess Dinner on the evening of the 6th of May, the Colonel-In-Chief presided over an impressive collection of Patricia Officers in the immediate area were present as well as some who had travelled many miles to be in attendance. In addition, there were eight former Battalion Commanding Officers and a former Commanding Officer of the Regimental Depot as well as the present Commanding Officer. Truly a gathering to be remembered.

The highlight of this particular evening was the official farewell to our beloved Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C.B. Ware and the welcome of our new Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General G.G. Brown presided over by our Colonel-In-Chief.

The same evening, the Warrant Officers' and Sgts' Mess entertained their ladies and guests at a mixed Mess Dinner.

Some out of town guests were Base Chief Warrant Officer F.S. Dodd from Winnipeg, Chief Warrant Officer H.A. Johnston from RSS Central Ontario, RSM C.A. Wilson from 2 PPCLI as well, from 2 PPCLI in attendance were MWO F.J. Breurkens and W.O. JR Demeules. The mess was also honoured with the presence of Mr Alex Rennie from Edmonton accompanied by his daughter, Mrs Patricia Munro. Mr Rennie # 689 joined the PPCLI in August of 1914 and is an Honourary Life Member of the Edmonton Branch and at the dinner he met a Mr Norman who had served in the Rifle Brigade in 1914, a truly memorable evening for both gentlemen and for all in attendance.

Saturday morning, 7 May, the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. At this meeting, Col W.B.S. Sutherland of Ottawa was elected President of the Association. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr E.J. Dodd of Winnipeg who had led the Association with faithfulness and devotion for the last three years.

Following the business portion of the meeting, the Colonel-In-Chief and the Colonel of the Regiment designate and Senior Serving Patricia, Major-General G.G. Brown arrived. MGen Brown addressed the meeting with a most interesting presentation highlighting the activities of the three Battalions, 2 CDO and the 4th Bn over the past year.

A delightful luncheon was served at which the Colonel-In-Chief was joined by her father, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

The Colonel-In-Chief addressed the meeting and expressed her pride and pleasure at being once again in the midst of her Regiment.

Following the luncheon in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the official party moved off to Camp Sarcee to witness the Military display and Fire Power Demonstration.

The reception accorded to this demonstration and support by the General Public was absolutely incredible. Approximately 30,000 spectators turned out to join the Regiment in supporting both Armed Forces Week-End and the Regimental celebrations. Their support was well worth the effort, especially well received by the crowd was the World War 1 platoon trained by QMSI L.A. White. This demonstration included a comparison of World War 1 soldiers and weapons to their modern day counterparts, a company sized mechanized attack with live mortar fire, a repelling demo, an aerial display of fighter aircraft and the Sky Hawks Parachute Team.

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Sunday the 8th of May dawned clear and bright and the slight breeze made the conditions comfortable for both the troops on parade and the approximately 15,000 spectators that turned out to witness the historic Presentation of New Colours.

The setting for this historic ceremony was absolutely spectacular. The green of the astro turf contrasting with the green uniforms and white accoutrements, the sparkle of brass and medals and the entire scene crowned with a bright blue sky made it a scene long to be remembered by all present.

From the moment that the RSM and the markers marched onto the stadium, through the Trooping of the Old Colours and it's marching off to the strains of " Auld Lang Syne ", to the historic Presentation of New Colours by our Colonel-In-Chief, assisted by retiring Colonel of the Regiment and Colonel of the Regiment designate, to the Advance in Review Order, the ceremony was performed with dignity and precision. Every member of 1 PPCLI can indeed be proud of their individual and collective roles in that moving ceremony and indeed it made all Patricias attending very proud to be a part of the Regiment.

The Final March Past was led by the " Old Guard " commanded by MGen Ware and formed up by his former RSM, Capt Owen Gardner, marched past almost one hundred strong. Mr Alex Rennie, age 93 and a Frezenberg veteran, was assisted to march past the Colonel-In-Chief by a comrade on either side.

The crowning touch was the spontaneous forming up of the Old Guard on either side of the exit to the stadium to cheer the Battalion through guard by guard.

The Colonel-In-Chief addressed her 1st Battalion and brought greetings from her Majesty the Queen who had presented the retiring Colours in Victoria in 1959. Lady Patricia also displayed her pride in her First Battalion as she paid tribute to the bearing and the precision of the troops on parade. She then bade farewell to Major-General C.B. Ware and welcomed Major-General G.G. Brown as Colonel of the Regiment.

Following the parade, an all Ranks reception allowed many of those present an opportunity to meet the Colonel-In-Chief, her Father, and the Colonels of the Regiment.

In the evening receptions were held in the various messes giving old comrades an opportunity to gather and reminisce.

On Monday morning 9 May, Lady Patricia bade farewell to her First Battalion and continued her journey to Edmonton where she met informally members of 2 CDO, CAR and members of the Edmonton Branch of the Association and spent the evening with her Fourth Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, at an all ranks Bar-B-Q.

On Tuesday May 10th, she travelled to Wainwright and was given an opportunity to view the training being done at the Regimental Depot.

Lady Patricia also had an opportunity to meet briefly with her Second Battalion who had recently deployed to Wainwright to take part in the summer concentration.

On from Wainwright to Victoria where Lady Patricia spent the evening with her Third Battalion and saw them Wednesday morning formed up ready to depart for Wainwright.

In Vancouver on Thursday 12 May, Lady Patricia was given an opportunity to meet informally with members of the Vancouver Branch of the Association prior to her departure to the United Kingdom.

This concluded a most memorable visit by our Colonel-In-Chief, a fitting commemoration to the Battle of Frezenberg and an opportunity for all of us to recall the traditions passed on to us by those "originals" of 1914-1918.

This week-end also gave us an opportunity to bid welcome to our Colonel-In-Chief once again and with it the hope to see her again in the not too distant future.

To the First Battalion, in particular, to LCol K.R. Foster and RSM A. MacMillan we express our sincere thanks for a tremendous parade and to all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that everything ran so smoothly, congratulations on a job well done, professional in every way !

The climax to a tremendous week-end occurred on the afternoon of Monday the 9th of May when a 100 man Guard of Honour marched the Old Colours of the First Battalion to the Regimental Museum. A short service was conducted by Capt C.G. (Colin) Curtis and Capt R.C. (Ross) Finlan. Following this service, the Colours were laid up in an alcove adjacent to the entrance to the Regimental Museum.

REGIMENTAL MAJOR'S NOTES

As this will be the last Newsletter published during my tour in RHQ, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Patricias for their support and cooperation over the past 18 months.

Major Lou Barbeau, now EA to MGen Brown, will take over my position on 17 Jul. Lou is well known throughout the Regiment and brings a wealth of experience and a high level of common sense to the job. I am sure we will all benefit from his efforts.

Looking back at the past 18 months, I receive a great deal of personal satisfaction from our achievements. In recent weeks I have been most impressed by the growth of the Association in several areas and by the growing interest and involvement of the Association in all aspects of Regimental life. This and a reciprocal growth in the respect of the regular force for the Association bodes well for the future.

We still have a long way to go and have many problems to overcome. While I am confident that we will be successful, I would like to raise a minor problem which has recently developed with this publication. We now produce and mail 4 editions a year with each edition composed of some 3000 Newsletters. Greatly increased postal rates and other costs have reduced a once healthy postage fund to a very poor level and your support is urgently required.

Once again, my thanks for all the assistance and support RHQ
has received and my best wishes to all Patricias.

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MESSAGE FROM THE

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

MAJOR GENERAL G.G. BROWN, CD

TO

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF ON THE

OCCASION OF HER VISIT TO HER

REGIMENT 5-12 MAY 1977

" All ranks of your Regiment have been deeply touched by your kind message on your departure after your memorable visit to all elements.

" Your presentation of New Colours to your First Battalion on behalf of Her Majesty, The Queen of Canada, on the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Frezenberg will mark a historic and nostalgic occasion which will become a hallmark in the annals of our history.

" All who witnessed that moving ceremony will always remember your presence, your grace and your inspiring words.

" Your strength and determination to see all elements of your Regiment, despite your recent illness, have shown us all that the head of your closely knit family is a sterling example of soldiering at it's very best.

" As your new Colonel of the Regiment, I again pledge my loyalty to you, and service to your Regimental Family and extend the gratitude and warm affection of all ranks for your devotion and unsurpassed inspiration to us all."

PRESENTATION TO REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

" In conjunction with the 8th of May celebration, the Regimental Museum is indebted to LCOL A.M. (ARTHUR) POTTS and SGT J.T. (JOE) DUNN for putting us in touch with MR ALEX MCPHEE of Edmonton, Alberta. Mr McPhee in turn arranged for us to contact the daughter of 1772 CPL GEORGE MILLER, a piper in the original band in 1914. MRS DORIS SELWYN and Mr Alex McPhee journeyed to Calgary from Red Deer and Edmonton respectively and following the Presentation of Colours on Sunday the 8th of May a small presentation took place in the library of the Officers' Mess, where Mrs Selwyn and Mr McPhee presented the medals awarded to Cpl Miller along with his cap badges and the badges worn on his waist belt and sporran.

" These were received on behalf of the Regiment by our Colonel of the Regiment, MGEN G.G. BROWN. These medals and badges are an excellent addition to our Museum and their generous act is much appreciated by all Patricias.

Edmonton, Alberta, March 4th, 1977 - From RSM G.E. SALMON

"Ex-CWO and Garrison RSM GRANT E. SALMON has been appointed The Sergeant-at-Arms for the province of Alberta at the Provincial Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

"GRANT" or "SAMMIE" joined the 1st Bn PPCLI in March 1947 when stationed at Currie Barracks in Calgary under command of LCol CAMERON WARE. From Calgary, Grant went to A & T Staff under the then Captain "BILL" STUTT in Edmonton and eventually to the 3rd Bn PPCLI and served with them as CSM in Korea 1952-53. Back to the 1st Bn again and then promoted to RQMS and posted to Camp Wainwright where he remained for 12 years. He was then promoted to CWO and posted to Central Command at Oakville, Ontario, where he was Garrison RSM for 5 years. He retired with 32 years service in September 1970, returned to Edmonton and took a position with the Public Affairs Department, Provincial Government in 1972.

"There are still many serving and retired Patricia's who will remember Grant in particular when he was serving in Camp Wainwright.

" Grant enlisted with the Toronto Scottish Regiment in November 1939, arriving in England in December 39, sailed for France in June 1940 and landed at Brest, France. The late STU DYMOND was CSM. Grant was evacuated back to Plymouth, England. Participated in the Dieppe raid in August 1942. Went to France "D" plus 28 and was wounded at the Falaise Cap. Grant was also RSM of the Repatriation Depot, Cove Barracks, Farnborough, Hampshire where the Regiment had been stationed during their stay in Great Britain."

Vancouver, BC, March 11th, 1977 - WALTER finds time to mark 94th year
"WALTER DRAYCOTT'S a busy man, but he found time last weekend to celebrate his 94th birthday with friends on the North Shore.

" A bachelor, Walter has lived for 60 years on Lynn Valley's Draycott Avenue, which was named after him.

" Born in the UK, Walter saw action on the Boer War and the 1914-18 war. As a young immigrant to B.C., he took part in geological surveys into the interior of the province, discovering fossil remains now housed at the Lynn Ecology Centre.

" Walter's wide ranging interests have invariably benefitted the community. His sketches of B.C. mountain ranges are hung in the Victoria Parliament Buildings. A valuable stamp collection, he donated is on view in a Victoria museum.

" In Lynn Valley, Walter worked with Scouts, served several terms on the school board and was a justice of the peace. Three years ago he received the Lynn Valley Lions Club Good Citizen Award.

" Birthday celebrations last weekend brought a constant stream of visitors to Walter's home, plus a personal letter of congratulations from MLA JACK DAVIS.

" This week, after mailing thank-you letters to well wishers, Walter returned to his current project, a history of Lynn Valley now ready for printing."

NOTE: The above article appeared in a Vancouver newspaper and was forwarded by a friend of Mr Draycott.

North Vancouver, B.C., March 11th, 1977 - From Mr WALTER DRAYCOTT

" In reference to the 60th of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9th, 1917, mentioned in the Newsletter, 1st March, 1977 issue.

" In your Regimental Library, also at the National Museum in Ottawa, (War Trophies Section) you will find my typed Record of the Battle while attached to the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade for "In the Field" topographical and Intelligence duties under General A.C. MacDONELL, from the time we entered the Vimy Ridge zone until the famous "Ridge" was captured.

" Bullets spat, spit and thudded on striking their target. A bullet would rip your uniform, the hot whiff of a passing shell would remove your helmet but ... umm. That was close, but you stumbled on, picking a way along the rims of shellholes, filled with water and one or two dead men. A snow flurry came to remind us of Home in Canada --- and a cup of hot tea or coffee !

" Hundreds of bursting shells illuminated the early grey dawn at 5:30. The din was terrific. The quiet-speaking man was now yelling orders or asking a question. And there was me sitting on a ruined wall of the castle on top of the Ridge sketching the country beyond; bareheaded and cold hands !

" The famous Lahore Battery of guns were there, long-range guns of the British Navy and a Battery of Small-arms and Trench Mortars took a hand in disturbing the enemy. Truly a Canadian-British Scene, with everyone speaking the same language --- English; to save mistakes!

" Incidentally I met Capt BAIRNSFATHER in the trenches when our PPCLI were stationed alongside his regiment. Our company relied on water from a pump with a squeaky handle at a ruined farm within No Mans' Land. This situation caused him to make that famous cartoon showing "yours truly" working the squeaky pump-handle. Under the cartoon he wrote --- " I'm sure they'll hear this damn thing squeaking". And as it squeaked it brought forth a fusilage of bullets from " Our Friends across the Way " ! Some episodes we never forget !"

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Accra, Ghana, March 15th, 1977 - From LCol RD BELL, CD

" Only two days until the Regimental Birthday and it does appear that we have something to celebrate this year. Having just perused the December Newsletter which arrived yeaterday - the mails are not exactly rapid to this part of the world.

" I managed to get out to the west coast for two weeks at Christmas time, that being all the time that could be spared from the Ghana Armed Forces Staff College. A most pleasant sojourn and a welcome change of scenery - I had just completed 18 months without a break. The College is now in full swing with Term 1 (basically Staff Duties and Intelligence) nearing completion and Term 2 (tactics and strategy taught by service) due to commence in four weeks time. I have spent the past nine months bending Camberly and Kingston precis and exercises into the GAFSC format and changing them to a west African setting and idiom. The first course, 46 weeks in length, has 28 students, of which 18 are LColts or equivalent, representing all three services. GAFSC is the first tri-service staff college on the African continent."

Petawawa, Ontario, March 23rd, 1977 - From Captain R.J.A. BUNNER, CD

" For one year I was the only PPCLI representative in Petawawa. I have subsequently been joined by Captain RAY TROWHILL who is the Militia Training and Liaison Officer here. However, this summer will see a great influx of PPCLI with the move of the Airborne Regiment.

" I spent the first half of March in North Norway as a player on WINTEX, representing the CAST Combat Group. The return timetable permitted me to spend 17 Mar in Oslo with the Canadians at HQ AFNORTH. That evening I had dinner with Lieutenant-Colonel JIM MURPHY, RCD, his wife, and the rest of the Canadians. Included among the guests were Lieutenant-Colonel DON ARDELIAN and his wife. The Ardelians are enjoying their stay in Norway and invite anyone passing through to give them a call. They are always anxious to hear the latest news from Canada.

" Here in Petawawa, activity is gearing up to the change of command parade from Major-General LOOMIS to Brigadier-General A.G. CHRISTIE who commanded a company in 2 PPCLI in Germany. With the move of 3 RCR personnel out and the move of the Airborne Regiment in, it should be an interesting summer here."

Toronto, Ontario, March 24th, 1977 - From Captain HARRY S. BLOOM

" March 17th was a great success at the college. The resident "Patricias", all six of us hosted the students and staff to drinks after classes. Unfortunately our timetable did not allow for the traditional broom-i-loo game. LOU GRIMSHAW and I brought in a few of our Regimental pictures and treasures for display in the Mess. The print-out of the Regimental History was well received by all."

3 Mech Commando, Germany, March 28th, 1977 - From Major A.S. JOHNSTON

" Our 17 March celebrations were low key this year over here in 3 Mech CDO. LCol SHARPE visited us from HQ CFE and Major BILL MacMILLAN was down from HQ 4 CMBG. We had a drink or two, told a story or two and sang a song or two. MCpl MURPHY performed his annual 17 March parade in battle dress, boots and putties, and forage cap. Some of the younger soldiers could not believe that we actually used to wear all this stuff."