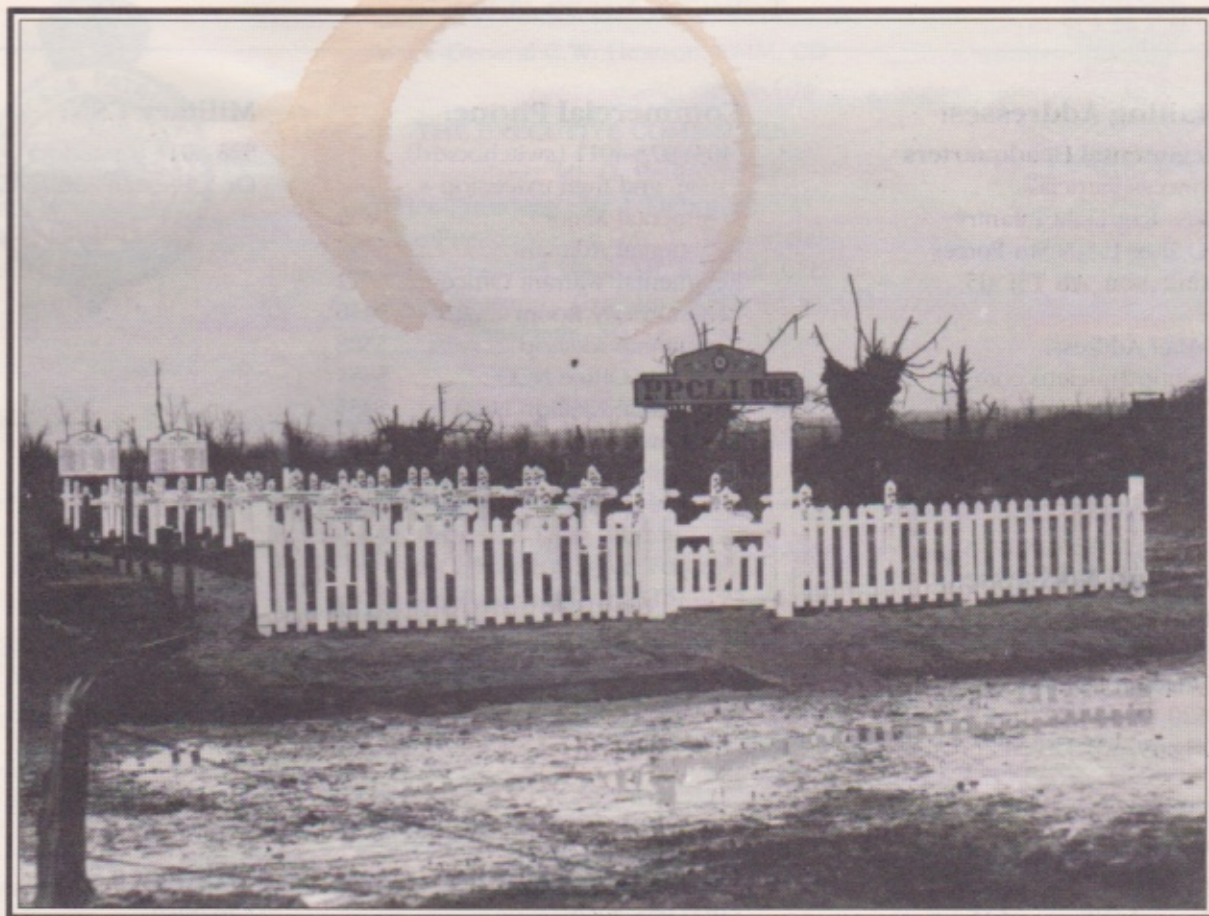


Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



REGIMENTAL CEMETERY - VOORMEZELE ENCLOSURE #3





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PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

A semi-annual Newsletter, devoted to the interest of all members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is published at Regimental Headquarters, Museum of The Regiments, Canadian Forces Base Calgary as an official Regimental Publication, under authority of the President of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Association.

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P.P.C.L.I.

Music Heritage Project

In September of 1994 the P.P.C.L.I. Regimental Band was struck from strength as part of the general downsizing of the Canadian Forces. The heritage and traditions of this unit, which was first formed in 1919, have been preserved largely through its music.

Our band was the first Canadian Military Band to play at the Wembley Exhibition in Great Britain. In 1953, they performed at the British Empire Games in Vancouver. In 1957, the band played at the Royal Tournament in Britain in front of our Colonel-in-Chief. Although absorbed into the Regiment as stretcher-bearers during the Second World War, the musicians of the band borrowed instruments to maintain their skills. By doing so, they served the Regiment proudly in the VE Day celebrations in Holland.

The P.P.C.L.I. band has represented the Regiment and the Country by playing in numerous tattoos and ceremonies across the nation as well as abroad. They have journeyed through Europe, Australia, Cyprus, the Gaza Strip and the United States entertaining troops and civilians through concerts and performances. Until their disbandment, our band led the world-famous Calgary Stampede Parade each year. Such a record should not be forgotten.

A concerned group from the Victoria Branch of the Association has determined that this heritage will be maintained through the production of a Compact Disk and cassette of Regimental Band Music as it was recorded in previous albums. This is a costly project. Although fully half the funds have been raised by the Victoria Branch alone, more donations are necessary to complete the project. Accordingly, the Regiment, alongside the Association, has agreed to support this heritage effort wholeheartedly.

We therefore invite individuals and groups to show their support for this venture by making a contribution to the **"Music Heritage Project"**. **All donations are welcome and will be recognized by a tax receipt.** Those who give a minimum of \$25.00 will receive an exclusive "Drummer Boy Lapel Pin". Any contributions of \$50.00 or more will receive a free Compact Disk or cassette and a lapel pin. The "Drummer Boy Lapel Pin" can only be acquired through making a donation to the Music Heritage Project. It will not be otherwise sold or given away!

Music Heritage Project

Please make all donations payable to:

Tel: (403) 973-4011 ext. 5450
Fax: (403) 973-1613
INTERNET: //www.nucleus.com/~ppcli
E-MAIL ADDRESS: kitshop@nucleus.com

The Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund
"Music Heritage Project"
c/o Regimental Headquarters
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
PO Box 10500 Stn Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

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CD

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Editor's Observation Post

By Captain Steve Newman

As always, this issue contains news and photos from many of the Branches, and the Editor sincerely thanks all contributors who have taken the time to make a submission.

At the time of writing the Spring Newsletter, Captain Bill Lewis was commenting on the floods in Manitoba. They have since receded, and along with them many of the negative aspects that have been plaguing the military since the Somalia affair. The units were well received by the public and the young soldiers were proud to be wearing their uniforms on the main streets of this country once again.

The Move

Forty years ago in 1957, the PPCLI marched into their new barracks at Griesbach on the northern outskirts of Edmonton. There were seventeen new buildings ... and now, history repeats itself. 1 PPCLI is firmly ensconced in their new building in the Edmonton Garrison (formerly known as Namao). By the time this newsletter is distributed the building will have been officially dedicated by 1 PPCLI as the G.G. Brown Building (17 October 1997). The 3 PPCLI building is still under construction and there will likely be no move from Griesbach to Garrison Edmonton until the New Year.

RHQ is now a stand alone unit with its own UIC. However, trying to convince both Garrison and others who will remain nameless that RHQ does exist in Edmonton has been frustrating. Typical growing pains all around. RHQ has left a small detachment in Calgary (which causes part of the confusion here in Edmonton) to look after the museum and archives. In this edition you will find the new phone numbers and addresses for RHQ and its detachment in Calgary.

A New Book on the Regiment

In this edition of the newsletter you will find a quick book review on the newly released *Letters of Agar Adamson*. The letters are a priceless reminder of a different age and a much different Canada. Adamson was an original officer of the Regiment, rising to command at Vimy and Paschendaele. His endurance, in relationship to his peers, was astounding. He finally stood down in 1918 for personal reasons. His letters are a marvellous historical chronicle of the Regiment and will undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most important books on the Great War.

In tandem with this new book is a review on *First In The Field - Gault of the Patricias* by Jeffery Williams. When these two books are read together, there is little

doubt they provide one of the most insightful and truthful pictures of the Regiment in the Great War, the personalities and intrigues of the time. We are very happy to have both available at excellent prices through the kitshop. They will make excellent Christmas presents.

Military Cross Winner Dies

We duly note the passing of Major Robert F.S. Robertson, M.C. This event has shown a further weakness in our Archives — the lack of a central registry of decorations and awards to Patricias since inception until the present day. This will be rectified.

Music Heritage

As regards the Music Heritage Project, we gratefully thank all of the contributors to date. A repetition of the donor form is reproduced in this issue to allow others to take advantage of the opportunity to obtain a "Drummer Boy" lapel pin by making the donation described. It is possible to order the CD or cassette separately from a donation. However there is no tax receipt or "Drummer Boy" lapel pin. Proceeds go to the kitshop. The CDs are \$12.00, the Cassettes \$9.00, with a \$4.50 handling fee and GST to be added on.

Are You In The Picture?

As time goes by, so does my memory of names, places and events. As Regimental Adjutant, I hope to get out to as many branches of the Association as possible with pictures from the Archives that need identifying. We have placed in this newsletter a photo recently donated by Ralph McArthur, an ex-Patricia (Korea), turned flyer (Flying Boxcars and Hercs). Are you in the picture?

Hoping to meet as many of you in person as possible over the next year. All the best.

— Radjt



Association Pin

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

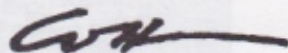
MGen C.W. Heuson, CMM, CD

I am pleased indeed to again use this Newsletter to extend greetings to all members of the PPCLI Association. Since the last newsletter the Somalia Commission has reported, the First Battalion has marched out of Currie Barracks and joined Third Battalion in Edmonton, the Second Battalion has completed its very successful tour of duty with the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and the Battle School has been transformed to the Western Area Training Centre. The Regiment has accommodated all these changes and challenges with style and a professionalism which does great credit to us all. It is to be hoped that the base closures and unit relocations have now stabilized so that future planning can be done with more confidence.

Norah and I were delighted to see so many friends at the Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon in August. The visit to Batoche gave all who participated a much deeper sense of that significant part of Canadian history, and the rest of the weekend afforded the expected opportunity to renew old friendships and retell old stories. We congratulate Claude Petit and members of the Saskatchewan Branch for organizing and hosting a fine reunion. The business of the meeting will be reported elsewhere but I would particularly like to note that Lloyd Jones has stepped down as National Vice President and thank him for his counsel and strong commitment to the Association and the Regiment.

We were pleased to again join the SW Ontario Branch at their meeting in July and to be with the Atlantic Branch this September in Chatham. It was my distinct pleasure to present the Association Certificate of Merit to George Arthurson at the AGM in Saskatoon in recognition of his strong support of all Calgary Branch activities. At an informal meeting of the Victoria Branch in September Bob Peacock, Bruce Dickie and Doug Bell were similarly recognized for their major contribution to the Regiment's Music Heritage. A highlight of the Atlantic Branch meeting was the recognition of Jamie Reid with the Certificate of Merit for his central role in the establishment of the Branch in August 1981 and for his continued strong support of the Association and the Regiment.

All members are urged to note the dates 7, 8 & 9 August 1998 in their calendars. Ottawa Branch will host the next AGM and is already working on a program which will include the Ceremonial Guard and Lansdowne Park, the birthplace of the Regiment. We look forward to seeing you then if not before.



President's Report

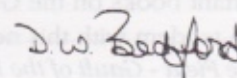
Doug W. Bedford, CD

As the summer is quickly coming to a close it is once again time to take pen in hand and give a brief update on the Association as well as the Regiment. This first bit of information is for the members at large who may not be in constant contact with the Regimental Family. Quoting a paragraph from my last letter to the Branch Presidents: *"The move of Regimental Headquarters and the First Battalion to Edmonton is now complete. The Third Battalion will hopefully be in their new building by December. We have lost both incumbents in Regimental Headquarters to postings. The new Regimental Major is Major Mike Minor, CD and the new Regimental Adjutant is Captain Steve Newman, CD."* For you who have computers and have E-Mail capability the E-Mail address for the Kitshop is kitshop@nucleus.com. I have just had word that Colonel Sutherland is retiring from the Military. We all wish him well in his future endeavours. I would at this time like to thank him for the support he has given me and particular the Association. I know that he will be a strong Association member.

The Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon was a great success. A lot of items were brought up concerning the Association and in most cases were resolved at the meeting. One of great importance was getting a smoother working relationship between the Association and the Regiment, this is being done by harmonizing our Constitution with that of the Regiment's. Rudy Raidt has been asked to work with Major Minor on this. Still with the Association I would again like to remind you all about the Bursary Fund. It's there for you and your family to use, so please take advantage of it. The pin we had designed for the 50th Anniversary of the Association is now available. It is a replica of the first Association crest and can be purchased from your Branch or from me for \$4.50. My phone number is (403) 242-5751.

Larry Harrington has gone over to Italy on the "Italia 97 Tour" for the unveiling ceremony of the Gothic Line Monument honouring the Canadian Regiments who fought there. Larry will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. Also, I have just received a letter from our Past President D'Arcy Best saying that the Cairn is now in place at the old site of Fort Osborne Barracks. I will be going to Ottawa in November to a Regimental Guard Meeting at that time. I will be asking them for a date for the Dedication Ceremony. As soon as this has been established I will inform all the Branch Presidents. If you are ever in Winnipeg go have a look at the Cairn — it is a beautiful piece of work.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not thank Claude Petit and the Saskatchewan Branch for the excellent job they did at the Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon. The meeting and the tour were a great success. The Association will be holding its casino in Calgary 30/31 March 1998. And, one last note, don't forget the Annual General Meeting in Ottawa in August 1998. In closing I would like to wish you and your family a very merry Xmas and a happy New Year. See you all in Ottawa.



The Regimental Cemetery at Voormezeele

By the RAdjt

The village of Voormezeele is found three kilometres south of Ypres between the roads leading to Messines (Mesen) and Kemmel. Voormezeele Enclosure No. 3 Cemetery is one of the original four "Enclosures" begun as regimental groups in the town. In fact it was the very first one started when Lieutenant Colonel Farquhar personally staked out the PPCLI's burial point in February 1915. Private H.R. Herbert wrote *"Prior to Col. Farquhar making his H.Q.'s at Shelley Farm, his H.Q.'s were at Voormezeele in a basement under a house which had been badly damaged by gun fire. Alongside of him in another part of the basement was our pioneer section who kept busy making crosses for our unlucky comrades. About a hundred yards away was our first cemetery and across the way was our dressing station, Major Keenan our medical officer doing a real job."* During the war the village remained in French and British hands until April 1918. The village and the cemeteries were captured April 29 after heavy fighting, and held by the Germans until early September 1918.

The "Enclosures" were reduced to three after the war. The cemeteries were used throughout the war except when they were in German hands. Voormezeele Enclosure No. 3, the one started by the PPCLI, is the largest of these burial grounds. The Patricia graves are in Plot III except for one by itself in Plot IX. This belongs to Lieutenant Spruyt De Bay killed at Sanctuary Wood in June 1916. The description in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register B.III gives the rest of the history of the Enclosure. *"The other Plots from I to IX are the work of other units, or pairs of units, and include a few graves of October, 1918. Plots X to XII are of a more general character. Plots XIII to XVI, containing 1,215 graves, were made from after the Armistice by concentration of isolated graves and smaller cemeteries; and at the same time the French graves (of April and September, 1918) were removed to a French cemetery. The concentrated graves cover the months from January 1915 to October 1918 and they include those of many men of the 15th Hants and other units who recaptured this ground early in September 1918."*



Voormezeele Enclosure #3, 1915.

The Enclosure contains the graves of 1,480 soldiers from the United Kingdom, 100 from Canada, eight from Australia, two from New Zealand, one from South Africa and one whose unit in our forces is not known. The unnamed graves number 616, and special memorials are erected to eleven soldiers from the United Kingdom and three from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Five other special memorials record the names of soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Pheasant Wood Cemetery, whose graves could not be found located for concentration. The Register records particulars of 1,592 War Graves."

Voormezele Enclosure No. 3 could be considered the PPCLI Regimental Cemetery of the Great War. Fifty-eight soldiers of the Regiment, including two Commanding Officers — Lieutenant Colonel Farquhar and Buller — are buried here. The Regiment went into the line for the first time at nearby Vierstraat on 6 January 1915, taking over trenches from French 53rd Regiment. The first men were killed on 8 January when #4 Company was heavily shelled. Lance-Corporal Fry, the first man killed, is commemorated on the Menin Gate and Lance-Corporal Bellinger, killed the same day, is buried in Voormezele Enclosure No. 3 Cemetery. While this was not the only cemetery used during the period of January-March 1915, it does hold the majority of the seven officers and seventy-six other ranks killed during that time. Two officers, Lieutenant Colonel Buller and his Adjutant, Lieutenant Spruyt de Bay, were buried in the "Regimental Cemetery" after being killed during the Battle of Mount Sorrel (Sanctuary Wood, 2 June 1916).

The following are just some of the Patricia graves in the cemetery with the details of the men buried there. The date of soldiers joining the Regiment is the actual attestation date into the unit, rather than when they first joined the PPCLI. There was a considerable delay in some cases as Farquhar insisted on interviewing each man personally before formal acceptance into the Regiment. The last item given is the grave location within the cemetery (Plot/Row/Grave). In the photograph on the cover of the Newsletter are two large white signs at the back of the cemetery. These list all the officers of the Regiment that were killed during the Great War, and not just those buried in the cemetery.

BELLINGER Henry George Lance/Corporal 1264. Born Winchester, Hants., England Jun 1878. Served nine years 1st Bn Rifle Brigade. Worked as a tailor before joining PPCLI 12 Sep 1914. Appointed L/Cpl 20 Nov 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. One of two men killed by enemy shell fire in the early morning of 8 Jan 1915. L/Cpl Bellinger, and L/Cpl Fry who is commemorated on the Menin Gate, were the first fatal casualties of the Regiment on the Western Front. Age 36. III.K.3

BULLER Herbert Cecil Lieutenant Colonel. Distinguished Service Order. Mentioned in Dispatches. Born in England 1881.

Son of Admiral Sir Alexander Buller. Entered the Rifle Brigade 11 Aug 1900. Promoted Lt Aug 1902 and Capt 22 Jan 1910. A member of the Governor-General of Canada's (Duke of Connaught) personal staff when the war broke out. Appointed first Adjutant of the Regiment by Lt-Col Farquhar. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. Assumed command 21 Mar 1915 after Farquhar was killed at St Eloi. ■ General Action: 2nd Battle of Ypres ■ Commanded the Bn during the silent withdrawal from Polygon Wood 3/4 May 1915. Mentioned in Dispatches. Wounded and lost his eye to a piece of shrapnel 5 May 1915 while at Hellfire Corner near Ypres. Evacuated to England. Awarded the D.S.O. on the King's 1915 Birthday List for his handling of the Regiment during the 2nd Battle of Ypres - London Gazette 06/23/15. Discharged to duty 12 Oct 1915. Crossed to France 2 Dec 1915. Returned to take command of the Regiment 7 Dec 1915. ■ General Action: Battle of Mount Sorrel ■ Killed while directing the defence of Sanctuary Wood 2 Jun 1916. Age 34. III.A.7

CAMERON Donald Ewan Lieutenant. Born in Montreal, Quebec 1871. Served in the Victoria Rifles of Canada and as a major in the Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars. Self employed businessman. Joined the PPCLI 12 Aug 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. Killed during the limited counter-attack against the Mound, St Eloi 15 Mar 1915. The troops were lying out in the open and in extended line in No Man's Land. As the Patricias stood up to charge, a German machine gun on the Mound opened up. Cameron was hit in the throat. Age 44. III.A.5

CLAYTON Arthur Gardner Private 1800. Born Glastonbury, Somerset, England Jul 1890. Served in the Officer Training Corps. Worked as a clerk before joining PPCLI, 17 Sep 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. On Sunday 14 Feb, 1915 the Patricias were in the trenches at Vierstraat and La Brassiere. The Germans attacked in the St Eloi area, taking trenches 19, 20 and 21, causing the planned relief of the Battalion to be postponed. The next day was very wet and cold as the 3rd King's Royal Rifle Corps counter-attacked successfully at 4 a.m. It remained all quiet on the PPCLI front until noon when heavy shelling of Trench #6 killed Pte Clayton and Pte Palmer and wounded two others. They are buried side by side in the cemetery. Age 24. III.D.5

CONNOR Harry Sergeant 695. Born in St. Bells, Cumberland, England Feb 1883. Served 12 years with Royal Field and Garrison Artillery units. Worked a stenographer before joining PPCLI, 24 Aug 1914. Promoted Cpl while at Levis, Quebec Sep 1914. Promoted to Sgt 11 Dec 1914 while stationed at Winchester, England. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. Sgt Connor was killed and three men wounded during heavy friendly bombardment of the German trenches, 6 Mar 1915. Age 32. III.F.3

DE BAY Michael Spruyt Lieutenant. Born in England 1889. Served in the Militia 3rd Regiment Victoria Rifles of Canada. Joined "Originals" as a Lieutenant 12 Aug 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Remained behind at the Depot when the Regiment crossed to France. Crossed to France 7 Apr 1915. Joined the PPCLI in the Polygon Wood Sector 11 Apr 1915. ■ General Action: 2nd Battle of Ypres ■ ■ General Action: Battle of Frezenberg ■ Wounded in the right arm which left him temporarily

paralysed down one side at Bellewaerde Ridge 8 May 1915. Joined 11 Reserve Bn 21 Jul 1915 but went home to Canada on sick leave 17 Aug-17 Oct 1915. Deemed medically fit 1 Apr 1916. Rejoined the unit in the field 7 May 1916 Hooge/Sanctuary Wood Sector. Became Battalion Adjutant for Lt-Col Buller, D.S.O. ■ General Action: Battle of Mount Sorrel ■ Killed In Action Sanctuary Wood 2 Jun 1916. Severely wounded in the head about 11.00 a.m. Placed in a dugout near Warrington Avenue/Hill Street junction, he never regained consciousness and died soon after. Age 27. XI.A.11

FARQUHAR Francis Douglas Lieutenant Colonel Distinguished Service Order, Mentioned in Dispatches. Born in England Sep 1874. Entered the Coldstream Guards 29 Apr 1896. Promoted Lieutenant 24 Jan 1898. Served in South Africa 1899-1900. Mentioned In Dispatches (London Gazette 10 September 1901) and awarded the Distinguished Service Order (London Gazette 27 Sep 1901). Promoted to Captain 20 Apr 1901. Attached to Chinese Royal Infantry from May 1901 to Jun 1902. On special assignment with Somaliland Field Force May 1903 to Jun 1904. Served as a member of the Governor General of Canada's personal staff in Ottawa when the War broke out. Selected as first Commanding Officer of the PPCLI. Formed and trained the unit before leading them to France 20 Dec 1914. Organized the first Canadian trench raid. Mentioned in Dispatches. Sniped in the head while handing over the trench line at St. Eloi. Died of wounds 21 March 1915. Age 40. III.A.6

FITZGERALD (real name: R.G.R. Mansfield) Born Ireland. Date of birth not listed. Rumoured to have been cashiered from his Irish Regiment in India. Joined the "Originals" as a Lieutenant and under an assumed name 22 Sep 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Promoted to Captain 17 Nov 1914. Crossed to France with the Battalion 20 Dec. Killed in the trenches at St Eloi 26 January 1915. He crawled out of the trench to check Lance Corporal Pepler's body and was sniped. Under fire, Lieutenant Colquhoun managed to pull him back into the trench. Age 30. III.A.1

HADDOCK Thomas B. Private 1663. Born in St. Mary's, Ontario Sep 1876. Served in the 10th U.S. Infantry. Worked as a mechanical engineer until he joined PPCLI. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. Went missing in action during the first trench raid 28 Feb 1915. A Court of Inquiry on 27 Mar presumed him killed in action. He was shot through the lungs, carried back towards the trenches, but heavy fire hit the men carrying him. He was last seen in no man's land. His body was recovered much later. Age 41. III.E.5

LLOYD Conway Company Sergeant Major 1501. Mentioned in Dispatches. Born in Winchester, England Jan 1884. Served 12 years with the Scots Guards. Worked as a packer before joining the PPCLI 24 Aug 1914. Promoted to Acting/Sgt 18 Sep 1914 at Levis Camp, Quebec. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Hospitalized ill during October/November from inclement weather on the Salisbury

Plain. Promoted to Sgt while posted in his hometown of Winchester 14 Dec 1914. Remained behind with Major Adamson to run the Patricia Depot when the Battalion crossed to France 20 Dec 1914. Promoted to Company Sergeant Major at the Tidworth Depot. Crossed to France with a replacement draft 17 Feb 1915. Confirmed in the Battalion rank of CSM 27 Feb 1915. Killed in action 27/28 Feb 1915 while leading one of the three raiding parties in the "first" trench raid. Mentioned In Dispatches LG 29128 13 Apr 1915 for his part in the raid. Age 31. III.H.5

McLEOD Norman Private 658. West Gorton, Lancashire, Sep 1877. Served 7 years in the 1st East Lancashire Regiment. Employed as a miner before enlisting in the PPCLI 20 Aug 1914. Arrived in England with the 1st Canadian Contingent Oct 1914. Crossed to France with the Regiment 20 Dec 1914. Sentenced to 7 days Field Punishment #2, 12 Jan 1915. Reported killed in action 15 Jan 1915. On the evening of 15 Jan, the PPCLI took up position in the trenches at St Eloi in preparation for a two battalion attack on the German sapheads immediately across from their trenches. The plan was postponed and the 4th KRRC was relieved in place. The trenches were in bad order with few loopholes and parapets not bulletproofed. While working on the parapet, Private McNish spotted a German in his own line. He called to McLeod, who stood up and peered over McNish's shoulder. A shot was fired, killing both men through the head 15 Jan 1915. Age 34. III.E.3

PEPLER Roger Crook Lance/Corporal 652. Born in Barrie, Ontario June 1886. Served with the Canadian Militia 6th Regiment (Duke of Connaughts Rifles) Vancouver for 2 years. Worked as a clerk before joining the PPCLI 20 August 1914. Promoted to L/Cpl 19 December 1914 and the next day embarked with the Battalion to France. Marched from Dickebusch to Voormezeele on Sunday 24 January 1915. The Battalion took over trenches C.3 to C.10 from the Leinster Regiment. The weather was fine with a bright clear night which made the relief more difficult. There was heavy fire against trench C.9 during this time with L/Cpl Pepler, acting as the guide, and Lt Price being killed. III.J.3



*Capt Fitzgerald
(his name/grave is in the above text),
Voormezeele Enclosure #3.*

These are but a few of the men buried far from home. Research has recently been completed on each Patricia killed or missing in the Great War and will be the basis of a forthcoming book called "With the Patricia's in Flanders — Then and Now." The first of two books will deal with Flanders and the second with France. The chapters will deal with the sectors of the front during the war with letters and diaries offering detail of the time, and a second part of what you will find there now. The tour guide will give details of places and cemeteries of Regimental interest, complete with service details of the men buried there.

Letters of Agar Adamson



Norm Christie ISBN 0 896979-02-5
First published in Aug 1997 by CEF Books
Softcover 368 pages
Published Price: \$24.95

Available at the Kitsshop for \$20.00

Agar Adamson was a soldier in the Great War. He enlisted when he was 48 years old and nearly blind in one eye. Having fought in the Boer War, he quickly joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as an Original Officer of the Regiment in 1914. When the Regiment left England for France in December 1914, he was left behind to man the first Patricia Depot, first in Winchester and then Tidworth Garrison. The harsh wet climate of Flanders sapped the battalion of its strength. Crushed at being left behind, Adamson was soon on his way to the Front. As a Captain commanding No. 2 Company, he first saw action in Flanders at St. Eloi in February 1915. He served continuously from 1915 to 1918, fought at Ypres, Mount Sorrel and the Somme. He rose in rank to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the Regiment at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. He was severely wounded once (Frezenberg 1915) and decorated with the Distinguished Service Order by the King. But Agar Adamson did more than fight in the Great War, he recorded it in daily letters to his wife. What he inadvertently produced was one of the finest and most detailed personal accounts of the war.

"I noticed yesterday that the Germans had no wire in front of their trenches, which is very rare; when darkness came they did not put flares which always means they are preparing for an attack or are working on their parapet. We lined the trench; sent up our own flares and let them have a volley from the top of the parapet. They were all out in front of their trenches putting up barbed wire. We kept this up constantly all night and prevented them from doing much work. We must have accounted for a few of them last night, although this morning I could see no bodies, but I also saw very little wire. It was a noisy night."

The letters of Agar Adamson first came to prominence when a number of excerpts were used in Sandra Gwyn's *"Tapestry of War"*. The letters revealed a complex man with keen powers of observation and sharp sense of humour. He loved new ideas and new gadgets and was always imploring his wife to obtain something he needed. He was an unusual combination of old-fashioned Victorian, adventurer, sensitive man and charmer. What makes him more remarkable was that he recorded so much of what he did and what he saw, both in and out of the trench line. His details of day to day life and his acerbic observation of the men and events around him are unique.

What is also clear, beyond the detail and the tragic deaths of so many of his comrades, is the emotional roller coaster that men of this period experienced. Agar started with the enthusiasm so typical of 1914 — full of King and Empire, but as the war progressed and the casualties mounted, Adamson's spirit slowly declined. He was under the constant strain of command, had a seriously ill wife, and the perpetual nagging self doubt. By 1918 Adamson was exhausted both physically and emotionally. He reluctantly relinquished command of that he loved most — his Regiment.

As a historical document, the letters of Agar Adamson stand on their own. But what give his letters even more depth is the complicated and touching relationship with his wife, Mabel Cawthra. She came from a wealthy family — he did not. She was always wanting him to settle and do something — almost anything as a constant focus to his day. He could not. But as a soldier it was different. He was not the brightest, nor the best. He was stout, partially blind — but he had compassion, common sense and a true sense of loyalty. Together, he and his wife went to war in 1914. Each striding off towards their own objectives. At the start of the war she very much wanted to be a part of it. She undertook the Belgian Boat Fund and went to the continent to run it. It left Agar both proud and concerned. Their relationship, with its ups and downs,

comes through in his letters. His frustrations, his love, his compassion for his wife and life in general, shines through like the rough diamond that was Agar Adamson.

The book is dedicated to Anthony Adamson, Agar's second son. The letters of Agar Adamson lay dormant for many years in the attic of the family home in Port Credit until Anthony found them and decided to ensure this Canadian treasure was never to be lost. After much work they were donated to the National Archives where they remained hidden in relative obscurity until Sandra Gwyn shone a light on them. Norm Christie was so impressed with the letters that he sought out Anthony Adamson and permission to tell the story of an incredible Canadian who experienced incredible times. Now they are for all to enjoy — and wonder at the man who was Agar Adamson.

About the Author

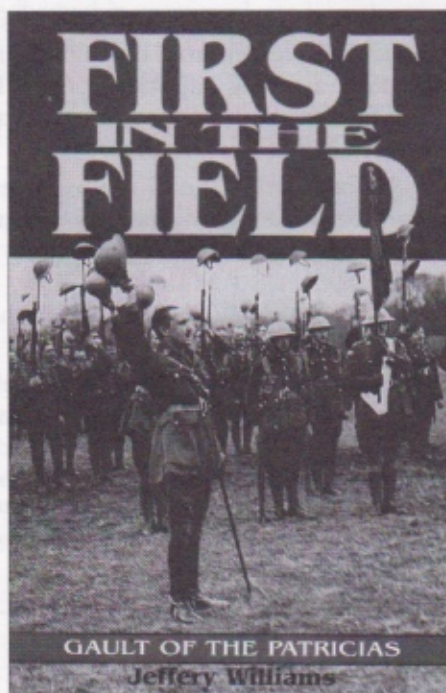
Norm Christie is the author/publisher of CEF Books. He has always had a strong fascination with the Canadian part in the Great War and the Western Front. Though

he was employed as a metallurgical engineer, he left that to take up a post with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. While the Records Officer, he was directly responsible for solving the mystery and identifying the grave that held the missing son of Rudyard Kipling. He performed the same task for many others, including Company Sergeant Major Dames (PPCLI) from Bellewaerde Ridge.

Christie has since left the Commission (1995) and spends his time writing and publishing books on Canadian Military History dealing with the Great War. He is the author of the successful King & Empire series which deals with the major Canadian battles fought in Belgium and France. His books are vibrant, interesting and give an outstanding tour of the battlefield, pertinent cemeteries and points of interest. Norm Christie has a direct link to the PPCLI. His great uncle was a member of the PPCLI in the Great War, Lieutenant John Christie, Military Cross.

— RAdjt

First in the Field



Jeffery Williams ISBN 0 85052 436 9
First published in 1995 by Leo Cooper
Hardcover 277 pages
Published Price: \$37.95

Available at the Kitsbop for \$31.50

Though the book covers the life of Alexander Hamilton Gault, founder of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the topical strength, and half of the book's content, is the formation of the Regiment and its participation in the Great War. It provides a fascinating picture of the Regiment and of the flesh and blood that made it so well known. At the start of the war Gault not only paid for the raising of the Regiment from his own money, but he was insistent on providing for its welfare in the field. Unlike Regimental histories, the faults, the weaknesses, and the sometimes pettiness of individuals are on parade — along with the strength, the perseverance, the duty and the courage of its soldiers. It all makes for a story worth telling. And Jeffery Williams does that without pulling the punches.

Unlike most of today's Canadian pseudo icons, Gault gave true meaning to words hero, bravery, responsibility, and duty. They were not the devalued words or concepts of today. The Originals valued him as a leader of men, and perhaps gave him the highest honour bestowed upon an officer — he was considered "one of us." It started from the Regiment's first days in Ottawa when he would meet the trains and march back with his new soldiers through the mud and rain to Lansdowne Park where the Regiment was forming. It was his willingness to share the dangers of the trench, and to take even greater personal risks than themselves that endeared him to the men. As a testament to his bravery and ability,

Gault was the first Canadian in the Great War to win the Distinguished Service Order (March 1915), and the officers and the men fully supported its award.

But Jeffery Williams has chronicled the life of a real man — not a Hollywood hero. Gault's private life was deeply scarred by both tragedy and acrimony. His bitter divorce during the Great War from his first wife, Marguerite, affected him deeply. The first cap badge of the Regiment was designed with the flower of the same name, honouring her, a symbol which later rankled him unmercifully. Severely wounded twice, and losing a leg at Sanctuary Wood in June 1916, Gault continued to care, nurture and love his Regiment. He remained in uniform, commanding the 3rd Division Training School in France, and at one point, returned to command the Regiment in the trenches of the Vimy Sector. But times had changed — and the Regiment had changed. The "Originals" were mostly gone by 1917. There was a newer, brasher and more Canadian group of men who replaced the stalwarts of 1914. They did not want a "cripple" leading them. It fell to his old friend Agar Adamson to gently dissuade him after several days from retaining command. Heartbroken, Gault continued to contribute to the war effort, forced as ever by his sense of duty. His loyalty to the Regiment's care never wavered, and after the Armistice, Gault resumed command of his Regiment and led them home to Ottawa where they disbanded in March 1919.

After the war, Gault continued to serve his King and Empire. A staunch believer in Anglo-Canadian unity, he felt the best place to ensure this was in the British Houses of Parliament. With sole-minded determination he bought Hatch Court in England and ran in politics. He was elected as a Member of Parliament for Taunton, Somerset for eleven years (1924-1935). He engaged in his passion of flying; met Adolph Hitler and discovered the Luftwaffe being formed despite the Versailles Treaty. Throughout inter-war years he kept pace with the Regiment. When war broke out in 1939, Gault was there to greet the Regiment when they arrived in England and looked out for their welfare. He also joined the war effort and by 1942 was a Brigadier commanding the Canadian Reinforcement Holding Units in England. Ill health and a forced retirement by a Medical Board ruling finally forced the "old war horse" to stop at age 60. It was a bitter blow, and he returned to Canada in mid-1944 to live out the rest of his life. He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment in December 1948 and then became the first Colonel of the Regiment in September 1958. The old soldier passed away shortly afterwards on 28 November 1958. Included as honorary pallbearers were the Governor General of Canada and the Minister of Defence. Alexander Hamilton Gault was among the best and the last of a vanished breed in Canadian history — a true legend in his own time.

Today he is buried far away and inside the ancient church beside Hatch Court, Somerset, England. His second wife, Dorothy, who was very active in supporting the Regiment throughout her life, died in 1972 and she is buried with him. As with so many churchyards in England, soldiers are never alone. For within the confines of the cemetery outside is the grave of Colonel John Chard — Royal Engineers — Victoria Cross winner and defender of Rorke's Drift, as epitomized in the film *Zulu*. Truly both were soldiers of Crown and Empire.

It is interesting to note that the author dedicated the book to Anne Nation. Anne was a niece of Mrs. Dorothy Gault. She was a staunch supporter of the PPCLI Association and an exceptionally dedicated and loyal custodian of the Regiment's history. She helped maintain the Founder's former residence of Hatch Court as a Regimental Memorial and museum. Patricias should remember her well as a Guardian of the Past. She unfortunately died just before the book was published in 1995. Her husband, Commander B.C.H. Nation, RN (Retd) is an honorary Patricia.

About the Author

The author, Jeffery Williams, was born in Calgary, Alberta in 1920. As an infantryman he served in the North West European Campaign during the Second World War and later, commanded a PPCLI company in Korea. He has taught at Staff College, held military appointments in Germany, the Canadian Embassy in Washington and at the Canadian High Commission in London, England. He retired from the military in 1971. He has remained a strong supporter of the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, both from a written and archival source and in the PPCLI Association.

Jeffery Williams won the Governor General's Literacy Award for Non-Fiction and the University of British Columbia's Canadian Biography Award for his acclaimed biography of Lord Byng of Vimy, former Governor General of Canada and architect of the great Canadian victory on Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Other titles written by Jeffery Williams and published by Leo Cooper, Pen & Sword Books Limited are *The Long Left Flank* (1988), *Byng of Vimy* (1983) and in the Famous Regiments series, *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry* (1972) and the updated version *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1914-1984 Seventy Years Service)*.

— Radjt

Major R.F.S. Robertson M.C.

It is with great regret that the Regiment learned of Major Robert Frank Straun Robertson M.C. passing away on Saltspring Island, 18 May 1997. Born in India in 1918, he was educated in Victoria and attended UBC. In 1940 he enlisted in the PPCLI and served overseas. He was awarded the Military Cross for leadership and gallantry in Italy 1944. After the war he received a PhD in chemistry and was employed by Atomic Energy Canada in Chalk River and the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment. He ended his career as the Nuclear Liaison Officer to NATO in Paris. In 1976 he retired, settling on Saltspring Island with his wife, Dorothy. A more detailed article will be published in the 1997 Patrician. **VP**



Capt R.F.S. Robertson - 1943

Wall of Remembrance (Korea)

During the period 25-27 July, 1997 a Reunion of Korea War veterans took place in Brampton, Ontario. The Memorial Wall to the memory of Canadians who made the supreme sacrifice during the combat and peacekeeping in Korea was dedicated. A full twenty per cent of the 516 names belong to the Regiment. Each individual is commemorated on the Wall by individual bronze plaques which are replicas of those used as grave markers in the Pusan UN Cemetery.

Private fundraising for the project was raised, mostly through KVA Units, Legion Branches, ANAF Units, corporations and many, many private donors including the PPCLI family. Korean cultural and business groups also made sizeable contributions.



New Gothic Line Memorial

On a high ridge just outside of the Italian town of Tavullia is a new memorial commemorating the Canadian assaults against the German Gothic Line of World War II. In August and September 1944 the 1st Canadian Corps fought to take the Ridge and break the strong Gothic Line — a Battle Honour the Patricias wear proudly on their Colour. What made this ridge so important compared to the hundreds of other ridges that the Canadians fought their way over between 1943-44? It was the last ridge. From Point 204, where the memorial is located, the low plains of the Po Valley could be seen stretching in front of the Allied Forces and the last of the never-ending natural obstacles were behind them.

On 7 September 1997 the Italian Defence Minister Beniamino Andreatta and the new Canadian Minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton, paid tribute to the men who fought and died here. About eighty veterans were in attendance along with an Honour Guard from the Strathcona Battlegroup in Bosnia. Among them was Larry Harrington who laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. It was a suitable passing of the torch from the old Canadian soldiers to the new in a far away land — where the price of freedom has been paid for in blood.

After the war the Imperial (later the Commonwealth) War Graves Commission opened a cemetery on Coriano Ridge and gathered in the graves from the local area and a few from further afield. Among the 427 Canadians buried there are forty-four Patricias. When the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College visited in late September, the Patricias under LCol D. Pentney stopped to Remember with a short service.

A Wainwright Connection

Just south of the Wainwright Training Area is the small hamlet of Czar, Alberta. An insignificant group of houses to the average visitor, including Patricias. However, there is a secret. Just past the village by two kilometres or so and on the south side of the tracks is the Lutheran Cemetery. It is located on a small lonely hill with but a few graves spanning the history of the area. Standing by itself, well apart from the rest, lies the grave of Private Harry B. Little.

Who is Private Little? Well that's a good question because there is very little in his personnel record in the National Archives. We know he was born in England, probably in Stroud, and that he had served in the 14th Hussars. On his gravestone beside his name is a regimental number of T619 and just below that his regiment, PPCLI. The date is 14 August 1914.

An article ran in the Edmonton Journal Friday 14 August 1914 which explains how Private Little became the first Patricia to die in the service of his Regiment. "Volunteer in Edmonton Regiment Dies On Way To Ottawa With Troops" read the headline:

"H. Little, a volunteer in the Edmonton detachment of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who left the city early on Thursday night with the second contingent of the local contribution, died on the train at



Private H.B. Little

Hughenden, Alberta early this morning and the body now lies in the baggage room at that station. Heart failure is given as the cause of the man's sudden demise and it is also believed that the excitement of being actually on the way to the war had considerable to do with his death.

Word of Little's death received at 11 o'clock by Captain McKinery from Sgt Major Foden who was in charge of the party. This message said that Little had died and that the body had been turned over to the Royal North West Mounted Police at Hardisty, they having been notified by wire. The Mounted Police have received official notification and are inquiring into the man's death and also arranging the funeral."

So Private Little, a member of a regiment which won lasting glory in the war he joined to fight, lies unmourned and unremembered just a short distance from the training area of Wainwright. The reality of life and war is that not everyone dies in heroic actions and battles. This holds true today. Whether people die in traffic accidents at home or in far away places like Bosnia or Cyprus, or die of medical complications or misadventure — they too served the Regiment. And should be remembered. Private Little you are remembered today — and hopefully by the Regiment for evermore. **VP**

— RAdjt

Are You in the Picture?



- Who
- Where
- When
- Why
- What

OTTAWA BRANCH

by Chris Snider

September sees Ottawa Branch in a very embarrassed mode having, through a series of misadventures, failed to send anyone to the Association Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon. It is our loss and we apologize to Saskatchewan Branch members who we understand went to a great deal of trouble to set up an excellent AGM.

In penance, Ottawa Branch will host the 1998 Association Annual General Meeting. It has been agreed that the Association AGM will be held on 7, 8 & 9 August, 1997. Our committee has roughed out a schedule of events which, in addition to the normal Association and Council meetings, will permit those who attend the 1998 AGM in Ottawa to see a Ceremonial Guard mounting on Parliament Hill; attend an Association dinner at the National Defence Headquarters Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess (located in beautifully decorated and appointed quarters in the old Militia Stores Building; and attend a Remembrance Ceremony at the Patricia Cairn located in Lansdowne Park (the location of the founding of the Regiment and where it gathered its first members before moving off across the Atlantic en route to fight in the First World War). The Association AGM will be held just one day before the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment.

Ottawa, of course, has a wide variety of places to visit and things to do which should meet almost everyone's needs. There are excellent accommodations ranging from top notch hotels to bed and breakfasts and trailer parks. Both Carleton and Ottawa Universities rent accommodation to visitors, thus we are sure we can meet almost everyone's requirements as well as keep within limited budgets.

The AGM organizing committee has six members possessing considerable experience in organizing every level of conference and meeting. Bill Love has "volunteered" to chair the committee. He is recognized as an expert, having chaired a committee organizing the last Association AGM in Ottawa. It is proposed to have a mailout package to each Association Branch describing the program in detail along with brochures and other information on Ottawa and the surrounding area, including the range of accommodation and interesting things to do. Once individuals notify the organizing committee of their interest in attending the AGM and related events, it is proposed to mail out a package to these individuals.

You will hear more about the 1998 Association AGM in future newsletters and from your local branch. In addition, Regimental Headquarters will be kept informed of the details so that they can advise those who enquire.

Ottawa Branch continues to operate with three main events each year. The principal event is the annual Remembrance Ceremony in Lansdowne Park at the Patricia Cairn. Attendance is always good with excellent turnout from Regulars, Association members and a wide variety of guests. The March 17th festivities usually end with a dinner at the NDHQ WOs' & Sgts' Mess and is also well attended. Traditionally, Ottawa Branch holds its Branch AGM as near

as possible to the anniversary of Frezenberg (8th of May). It is always a low key event centered on a buffet and the meeting. The addition of hosting the 1998 Association AGM will have the Branch members scurrying to ensure the Branch keeps up the record maintained by all other branches of hosting excellent AGMs.

The members of Ottawa Branch look forward to renewing friendships and acquaintances with as many of you as can visit. In the interim, should you be in Ottawa when we are having our regular events, you are welcome to attend, or should you pass through at other times, we are always available to help you or even just to talk with you while you are visiting.

Best wishes from Ottawa Branch to all members of the Association.

TORONTO BRANCH

by James M. Reid

Greetings from the Toronto Branch. Not much activity to report, but we are still alive. One would never know it by the small turnout at our annual Frezenberg Dinner, held on May 10th — only ten showed up. The dinner was held at the Queen's Own Officers' Mess, Moss Park Armoury. We had a wonderful dinner and it was enjoyed by all. Those of you who missed it, I feel sorry for you. The Mess Sergeant put on a wonderful meal and was thanked from all of us by Captain Rick Cunningham, a former Patricia, now with the Queen's Own.

A magazine was sent to me by Ches Helgason of Oakville, Ont. It is called "Soldier" and is a British Army publication. It is published in Aldershot, Hants (there's a familiar name). Do you remember when our Regimental band was disbanded? Of course you do, how could anyone forget? It is of great interest that I read about the British Army bands. In July of this year they had 1,139 personnel. Thirty Regular Army bands are fully funded by MoD, whatever that is. (*Ministry of Defence - Editor*)

Another item of interest from the same magazine, "You'll Never Walk Alone." The 81st Nijmegen March was held earlier this year in the Netherlands. The marchers covered 100 miles in four days. 5,100 military personnel and 10,000 civilians, they foot slogged their way along endless tarmac roads, through farmlands and across canals. There was a 140-strong team from Canada, led by a Sgt. Harry Scofield, but it does not mention what units they came from. During WW2 I thought a 25 mile route march was a killer. They must be better fed and have worn better shoes than we did. Our lunch was a cheese and jam sandwich, supplied by our cook, "Grease-Ball" Wilson. All the best.

ATLANTIC BRANCH

No article received by publishing date.

S.W. ONTARIO BRANCH

by Anne Stringer

Dear Patricias and Ladies:

It is that time of year again when we visit our far away friends through the National Newsletter. Sorry that our Spring newsletter was misplaced in Calgary and missed that Edition. Capt. Bill Lewis sent me a letter from Kuwait City with his apology for missing our newsletter.

Those not up to par this year so far: George Peskleway had a heart attack, just after our May weekend; Bill McHattie had bypass surgery, just before our May weekend. They are both on the recovery road to good health at last reports. George Biggley had more surgery on his legs after he came back from the A.G.M. in Saskatoon; he is not able to go on Parade as yet but attended our B.B.Q. This past year we have lost three more members. George Cameron and Robert Caughill both served in Korea. Also Orma Meeking last February; she was the wife of the late Mick Meekina. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

In May our Branch held their annual A.G.M. weekend. It was well attended with 73 for dinner. Maj. Gen. Bill and Norah Hewson attended as our guests and it was most enjoyable renewing our friendship with them. On Sept 6,



Al Street and Frank Stringer at the D-Day Dodger Reunion.

1997 we held our annual B.B.Q. and meeting on the property of Elaine Gillespie at Peterborough; there was 23 in attendance. The weather also cooperated and it was a beautiful day.

May 22-23-24, 1998 will be our Branch A.G.M. weekend in St. Catharines at the Howard Johnsons Motel. Anyone that is planning to be in that area and wishing to attend, please call our President John Murray or myself. We hope everyone is in the best of health, and looking forward to attending the A.G.M. in Ottawa next year. God willing, hope to see you there. Wishing everyone Season Greetings when it arrives.

"Just a Coincidence"

It is not surprising that Messrs. Vidal and Philbrick chose the VP to be the logo for their estate winery. Little did they know, a VP logo has been used by Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry since 1914 when Victoria Patricia Ramsey (Princess Patricia) presented her regiment with a hand-made camp colour (flag), the centerpiece of which was an embroidered VP. Carried into battle, it became known as the Ric-a-Dam-Doo. Since that time, a VP has been the logo of the PPCLI.

Happy to discover a winery they could call their own, members of the local PPCLI Association thought it only appropriate that their adopted winery should have a picture of the Ric-a-Dam-Doo.

Excerpt from PPCLI WW1 Song:

*"The Ric-a-Dam-Doo pray what is that?
T'was made at home by Princess Pat.
It's red and gold and royal blue
It's what we call the Ric-a-Dam-Doo!"*



Wayne Philbrick, Ron Vidal, Doug Armstrong,
Jack Murray, Bruce Paxton.

MANITOBA AND NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO BRANCH

by D'Arcy Best

The river has subsided, most of the sandbags have disappeared and over 8,000 Armed Forces personnel who assisted the citizens of Manitoba in their desperate battle with the Red Sea have returned to their home bases. As far as we know, none of our members were directly affected by the flood, but many of us were involved in assisting friends and relatives in the flooded and threatened areas, and the branch donated \$500.00 to the Salvation Army "We Care" Flood Relief Fund. Those Manitobans whose homes were destroyed or badly damaged are now engaged in another battle with various levels of government over compensation for their losses, and many of them will not be able to rebuild their homes before this winter, but, for most of us, life has returned to normal. The APCs and assault boats have disappeared from our streets and waterways but they will be long remembered by thousands of grateful citizens. A local artist has memorialized our recurring war with the Red with a large mural on an outside wall of the Saint Vital Curling Club in southeast Winnipeg depicting flood fighting operations from 1776 to 1997, and our Armed Forces personnel are prominent in the 1950 and 1997 segments.

Following the flood, a few of our members assisted the PPCLI Cadet Corps in delivering 15,000 sets of phone books for Manitoba Telecom Services. This is an annual fundraiser for the Cadets' various training activities. Our next big event was the return of the Second Battalion from Bosnia, where they had served with distinction and, remarkably, without losing a single person. We celebrated the event by attending a "Welcome Home" barbecue in the WO's and Sgts' Mess. A few of their members were "mugged out" on posting or retirement and Branch President Jerry Franc presented an Association Certificate of Appreciation to MWO Darby Whitebone, CSM of Second Battalion's Rear Party, who went more than the extra mile in support of our branch while the Battalion was away.

Our Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament was a disaster. Played in torrential rain, most of us packed it in after nine



Fort Osborne Barracks Monument

holes, suffering from trenchfoot and hypothermia. Only five stalwarts completed eighteen, and a few didn't even make it the ninth. However, we all made it to the Junior Ranks Club for a great barbecue. Because so few actually finished the tournament, no trophies were awarded.

Nearly two years in the making, our monument to those who served at Fort Osborne Barracks between 1920 and 1939 was finally erected on September 5th. It is prominently located in a landscaped area immediately south of the old Headquarters Building, which anchors the new Asper Jewish Community Campus. Dedication will take place sometime in the future, as determined by the Regimental Executive. **VP.** "Always a Patricia".

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

by Norm Walker

AGM Diary:

Thursday 31 July 97: Travelling from Ottawa and Victoria to Saskatchewan, by road and air, to meet at the Saskatoon Inn, for our 49th Annual General Meeting, of the PPCLI Association. Most of us had pre-registered, so during the evening it was a chance for us to meet each other and prepare for the next day's activity.

Friday 1 Aug 97: We boarded our bus to travel to Batoche National Historic Park to explore and learn more about the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Some of us on the tour still have ancestors living in the area of Batoche. After an audio visual presentation we were free to roam the battle site. To this day there is still evidence of the armed struggle. At lunch we were able to have a traditional meal of buffalo stew with garden vegetables, gravy and bannock, plus Saskatoon pie. After lunch, to everyone's surprise, we crossed the South Saskatchewan River by ferry. After the ferry crossing we visited the historic shire of St. Laurent. Then we proceeded to Duck Lake and toured the

Interpretive Centre, before viewing the townsite and their many murals. We hope all enjoyed seeing some of our Western history.

Saturday 2 Aug 97: The morning and afternoon was taken up with meetings and sales to the kitshop. But in the evening we had a sit down dinner. The Saskatoon Branch of the Korea Veteran Association marched on the colours and joined us for a lovely roast beef dinner. We had 79 at dinner, with the rest of the evening devoted to fellowship, dancing. Most said their good-byes later as we were all planning an early start the next morning.



C. Petit (Saskatchewan Branch President) and wife with Colonel of the Regiment and Norab.



Certificate of Merit – George Arthurson.



*"You fight me, you fight my gang."
Batoche '97.*

CALGARY BRANCH

by Bob Zubkowski

So much has happened over the past few months that it is hard to know where to begin. We have started using our Turbo gas cards and this is generating funds for the Regiment. You don't have to be a member of the Regiment to use the card, so if you know someone or a company that is willing to use Turbo get them a card.

When we heard that the base in Calgary was closing we decided that we should have a candlelight dinner, organized by George Arthurson, John Demerchant, Rod Hunter, and Rudy Raidt. The dinner was held on the night of 3 May, and at the head table were Mrs. Pauline Brown, widow of MGen Brown and our guest speaker, our Honorary Patricia Mr. Rod Sykes, former Mayor of Calgary. We conducted the candlelight dinner in the proper fashion with pomp and ceremony, which was appreciated by all in attendance. The food was excellent, the music was superb, supplied by HMCS Tecumseh Band. The band played many old favorites and some surprises as well, which made for a wonderful atmosphere. When the band



Mac Walker introduces his wife, Donna, to Bill Toews.

began the Regimental marches there were surprised faces. As with tradition we started with the senior service and those, whose Regimental march was played, were happy that they had not been forgotten. Mr. Sykes gave a speech explaining how he stopped the base from closing in the 70's and how politics still plays a role today. The speech was well received by the members and guests and Rod Sykes received a standing ovation. The evening ended with the usual group of social butterflies leaving the mess around 0100 hrs.

June was a whirlwind of activity. The first Battalion was busy with its move to Edmonton and also conducting parades in Calgary with its departure. The first of these was the Freedom Of The City, which took place on Wednesday the 11th of June at 12:00 hrs in front of City Hall. The Battalion formed up at Mewata Armories and marched to city hall for the ceremony. Both the CO of the Battalion and the Mayor's representative, Alderman Barry Erskin, gave speeches on the Regiment's long ties with the city, its people and how the Regiment will be missed. The Battalion then marched back to the Armories for a meet and greet with the citizens of Calgary.

Friday, June 30, started off with the Battalion holding an open house. On display were many vehicles, and everyone had a chance to take one last walk through the barracks to check out our old rooms, followed by the opening of the Better 'Ole. This, of course, was well attended through the entire weekend by Patricias from far and wide. The Drum Line gave many outstanding performances during the weekend, as well as the Calgary City Police Pipe Band.

On Saturday the Calgary Branch of the Association hosted our Patron, The Countess Mountbatten, at the WO's and Sgt's Mess. The Countess was accompanied by her



B.A.J. Franklin chats with our Patron.

daughter Lady Amanda Ellingworth and son-in-law. The Branch was delighted with the visit and unfortunately, as always, it was much too short. Then it was time for the 1 CMBG Tattoo, which took place on Rifles Field at 18:30 hrs. The display of firepower and military skills was exciting, bringing back memories to those in attendance. The weather unfortunately did not cooperate; the heavy rain caused a halt to the displays where upon we all retired to the dry comfort of the Better 'Ole, which really lived up to its name at that point.

The weather continued to deteriorate causing a delay in the Sunset Ceremony. First Battalion put on a display second to none. The steadiness of the troops, the perfect drill, made all the Patricias watching proud of the Regiment. The Ceremony ended with the rain starting again as the troops marched off. People went slowly back to the Better 'Ole with heavy hearts, knowing that this was the end of the Patricias in Calgary.

July 4th was the last formal parade of First Battalion in Calgary. At 11:00 hrs, the Change of Command parade took place. During the parade seven Patricias, who had marched through the Gates of Currie in 1946 pulled the 6 pounder antitank gun onto the parade square, followed by a contingent of the Calgary Branch. In front of the dais they were given a scroll for the City of Edmonton, which was placed on a holder on the gun. They then marched off the parade square with the gun. Note — None of the Patricias on parade were born when these seven members marched through the gate in 1946. The gun was handed over to members of First Battalion, who were then running to Edmonton with the 6 pounder in tow.

At present there is a small rear party left here. It is very sad to drive by the base and see the empty buildings. The weeds are already growing on the parade square and pity the RSMs watching from above. One waits to hear an order being given, troops marching by or trucks passing. I now know how the Founder must of felt in 1919 when the Regiment was disbanded.

The Calgary Branch is now holding its monthly meetings at the museum for now. By the time you read this we will have had our golf tournament and Oktoberfest.



6 Pounder followed by members of the Branch.

EDMONTON BRANCH

by Patricia Munro

"Where have all the Flowers gone?" Hard to believe that we are already into Fall. So much has happened in our Patricia family, Edmonton Branch since our last Newsletter of the Association. And with the turning leaves laying beautiful red and gold carpets across the country — a reminder that winter is around the corner and related PPCLI activities are in full swing.

The Edmonton Branch renewed friendships on Friday, September 26th at the first of our monthly meetings after a summer recess. Before that recess and following another successful and well attended Frezenberg Dinner (thanks to Joe Dunn and his committee) the Branch was privileged to have the June meeting at the "under construction and revamped" Edmonton Garrison. A briefing of the new structure and activities of the Garrison by Col. Bill Sutherland and L/Col. Frank Parker was followed by a bus tour of the vast area which is to be the new Headquarters. Edmontonians have warmly welcomed the troops and trust the feeling is reciprocated. This expanded and expanding site, which was formerly the Air Force and Paratroop Base, has taken on the appearance of a "new city", on the northern outskirts of Edmonton. All of this will be completed in time to welcome delegates to the 1999 Association AGM and 85th Anniversary celebrations.

Also, in June, we were honored by a visit from the Countess Mountbatten of Burma and her daughter Lady Amanda and her husband, who were in Alberta for the "Farewell to Calgary" exercise, and the renaming of the former Battle School at Wainwright to the Western Area Training Centre. The Base hosted an all-ranks Western-style steak barbeque in the Officer's Mess. A warm, friendly fun evening, allowing members to meet our guests and to spend a time together before the "golfing season" started.

The Steering Committee for the projected 85th Anniversary (1999) have met on four occasions, putting in place the necessary planning for this challenge. With President Wayne Taylor at the helm, a dozen persons have volunteered to serve on this Committee to get the "ball rolling", and to expand as the needs arise. Just as Edmonton "welcomed the world" for Commonwealth and Universiad Games, we expect a great response for the "big-time" reunion. Keep 1999 on your calendar — we expect large numbers to answer Roll Call!

Vice-President Jack Slater and Secretary Pat Munro attended the AGM in Saskatoon, July 31 to August 2nd, hosted by the local Branch. Approximately 100 persons attended. Elsewhere in this publication no doubt there will be a full account of the meetings. Of particular interest to the delegates was a very informative and well-received excursion to three historical sites in the area. The old buildings, church and cemetery at Batoche (Riel Rebellion), a ferry trip to Our Lady of Lourdes, and a very well received experience at the Interpretive Centre at Duck Lake. Particular salute to Claude Petit and his Committee. (A tough act to follow!) Dinner in the Convention Centre of

the hotel, followed by greetings, a short message from Gen. Bill Hewson, a Certificate of Merit presented to George Arthurson of Calgary, preceded dancing to conclude an enjoyable weekend.

Our Branch continues to grow in numbers as more people come on board, but we are saddened to say "goodbye", as we did in June when a number of the Branch members attended the funeral of the late Nancy Descoteaux, wife of Gordon. Our sincere condolences to Gord and his family.

At the initial Fall meeting we welcomed the new RADjt Captain Stephen Newman, who briefed us on the expectations for upcoming Newsletters. He also related that he is concerned at the lack of a modern Regimental History covering the period from 1957 to the present. There is a real requirement for members to provide artifacts, photographs and stories to the Archives for any period after 1919. An up-to-date registration showing where the experience of the membership resides for the various periods of the Regiment's history will be helpful in the near future for researchers and special projects.

Pamela Borland, also welcomed as a new member, is heading "Operation Santa Claus" and indicated the response has been gratifying — with donations of books, playing cards, toiletries, cash, etc. As this will be an on-going project, the opportunity to continue donating is still before us. Expectations are that all serving in Bosnia and elsewhere will benefit from a "Christmas package!"

The Edmonton Branch applaud Col. Bill Sutherland, who is resigning as Garrison Commander in order to assume a new career as Chief Commissioner of the County of Strathcona, Alberta, effective 15 Oct 1997. Edmonton Branch Patricias say farewell on a saddened note, but wish him well, appreciating that he will be within the area, and would continue as a valued member of our Branch. "God go with you, Bill!"



Jack Slater and cairn at Batoche, Saskatchewan.

Paul Robinson brought us up-to-date on the on-going project, namely, the relocating of the Park which was named for Lady Patricia Ramsey in the early twenties and lost in the shuffle of renaming parks in the city. We are now hopeful that a suitable spot will be found at Edmonton Garrison and the tradition will carry on. Backtracking ... we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge those deserving "Certificate of Merit" recipients, from the Edmonton Branch. Jimmy Coutts, Margaret Dunn, Lloyd Holden, Lorne Hurst, Sylvia Ellison, Roy Ellison, John Kilanchey, Dave La Rose, Neil McKerracher, Paul Robison, Fred Rumsey, Una Travis, Bert Rajotte and "Ole" Vold.

In closing, "Welcome" to the new Commander of Garrison Edmonton Jim Selbie, currently the Commander at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, Manitoba. He assumes his new post in October.

"The secret of happiness is to count your blessings instead of your birthdays" — Shannon Ross.

OKANAGAN/THOMPSON BRANCH

by Jerry Richard

Greetings from the not-so-sunny Okanagan. The worst of our problems occurred with the flooding due to the heavy snow pack this past winter and many lake front properties suffered considerable damage. This was also complicated by the unusually excessive rainfall. At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch on 14 June, the following slate of officers was elected: President - Jerry Richard; Vice-President - Bill Davis; Secretary - Allan Burke; Treasurer - Tom Tyson. Also elected were Director-Kamloops - John Fossett; Director Kelowna - Mel Lashuk & Bill Dechant; Sgt-At-Arms - Mike Lawless; and PR - Bob & Pat Casement. Past President is Tom Tyson.

The annual barbeque of the Branch took place at Richard's hangout, "Northland Main" on the Okanagan Lake and 23 members and guests enjoyed a rare sunny and warm gathering. On 20 September we remembered those who served in the San Fortunato operation at our usual Luncheon/Meeting at the Vernon Legion Branch. Members are reminded to make every effort to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies at their local cenotaphs.

This newsletter would not be complete without publicly acknowledging Tom Tyson's outstanding contribution to our Branch and the Association in general. One project of which he can be justifiably proud was the construction of the Patricia Way Cairn at Vernon Army Cadet Camp. After the unfortunate death of Vince Lilley, Mike Tyson took over the leadership of this 75th Anniversary project. He was involved in every detail from the gathering of rock, pouring the cement, and planting the trees and sod, to positioning the park benches. And once all was in place, maintaining and mowing the project site. We will be hard pressed to ensure these tasks will be carried out with such diligence in the future. All of us owe

Tom our gratitude for his dedicated service to the Branch and the Association.

Just as a reminder, all members are urged to face up to their obligation to the Association by paying their 1998 dues as soon as possible. Unless stated otherwise all Luncheon/Meetings take place at 1130 hours in the Vernon Legion Branch. Naturally all visiting Patricias are more than welcome. The Branch 1998 Calendar of Events: Sat 17 Jan; Sat 14 Feb; Mon 17 Mar Regimental Day; Sat 25 Apr Kapyong Day; Sat 16 May; Sat 20 Jun Branch AGM; Barbeque 18 Jul; National AGM 7-9 Aug (Ottawa); Sat 19 Sep San Fortunato Day; Sat 17 Oct; Remembrance Day 11 Nov 1998.

FRASER VALLEY BRANCH

by Mel Canfield

The time since the Spring edition of the Regimental Newsletter has been one occasion after another of Final Parades, closures, and farewells — not necessarily happy times but certainly a lot of nostalgia. Our first event was on Sat 3 May at CFB Chilliwack. The occasion was the graduation parade of the last class of CFOCS Chilliwack prior to its move to Quebec. All previous instructors living locally were invited to attend. We had a significant number when the command was given to "Fall in, The Old Guard." Next was the final church services in the two Base Chapels on Sun 18 May. For many of us serving at CFB Chilliwack over the years, we have had weddings, children christened and subsequently marriages in these chapels. Seeing them closed and torn down feels like a chunk of our lives are being ripped out and thrown away.



*Visiting the Patron in Vancouver:
Helen Gravette, Mr. & Mrs. Canfield.*

WAINWRIGHT BRANCH

No article received by publishing date.

On 20/21 June we were in Calgary for the final parade and closure of CFB Calgary. This one hurt personally because this was where I started my military career in the Special Force for Korea and also where I began my Regular Force service. Even the weather seemed to disagree with the idea of closure. Part way through the event a pelting rainstorm blew in from the west and drove most of us to shelter. Only the troops on parade and a few spectators who could clamber under cover stuck it out through the driving rainstorm. The one positive note was seeing some old comrades and having a brief conversation with Lady Patricia.

Next we drove quickly back to Chilliwack for 26 June. Our Branch had been invited by the Vancouver Branch to join them at lunch with Lady Patricia and her daughter, Amanda, prior to their return to England. This was held in the Officer's Mess of the Seaforth Armouries. A bus was provided so that a group of serving and retired members from the Upper Valley could attend the function. The event gave Lady Patricia a chance to visit with another group of her soldiers, both serving and retired, and some of the wives.

Our next event was on 1 July when CFB Chilliwack held a final parade in town, and the Base Commander, Col R.K. St John, made a presentation and farewell speech to the city represented by Mayor John Les. The troops and the Old Guard then marched a few blocks to the site of the old train station and loaded on a train for a short ride out of town. This was a reverse enactment of the arrival in April 1942 of the Military Engineers, who when they first arrived, marched the five miles out to Vedder Crossing and set about building the original Military Engineer Training Camp on the site of an old hog farm.

Next we drove back to Saskatoon for the Association AGM on 31 Jul/01 Aug. This was a very positive experience, again meeting old comrades and attending what I thought was a very fruitful Council meeting. The day trip to Batoche and Duck Lake was excellent. We travelled in a chartered airconditioned, 40 passenger bus. This was organised and conducted by Claude Petit of the Saskatchewan Branch. Claude is a Metis whose Grandpere took part in the battles of Batoche and Duck Lake (i.e. the Riel Rebellion). After Claude retired from active service with the Regiment he spent the next 23 years working on local Metis history and projects. As a result he has a detailed knowledge of the area's history and its people. Claude made the trip worthwhile and imparted a lot of local lore and history to those who made the trip.

Back in Chilliwack, at 1000 hrs 2 Sep, CFB Chilliwack staff, under the direction of the Commandant, Col R.K. St John, lowered the Base National Flag for the last time. This was followed by the lowering of the other Base flags at the front gate. Following that ceremony the front gates were closed and sealed and CFB Chilliwack ceased to exist as it has been known for the last 55 years. Shortly after 1100 hrs, in what was previously the home of 1 CER, the recently lowered Flag was turned over by Col St John to Col W.G.S. Sutherland, Garrison Commander Edmonton. Col Sutherland, following a brief speech, had the Flag raised and then officially opened the building as the new military

support unit for BC. This new HQ is a satellite of Garrison Edmonton. Following the ceremony everyone moved inside for some more handovers and a briefing of the staff by Col Sutherland. This process was ended with a social gathering and refreshments.

On 15 Aug 1997 the Engineers, and particularly the Airborne Regiment, lost a significant member. LCol Don Rochester, a former Commanding Officer of 1 CER and the first Commanding Officer of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, died quietly in his home following a protracted battle with cancer. On Sat 6th Sep there was a memorial service in the Base Drill Hall. This was preceded by a mass jump of paratroopers — young and old onto the sports field in a celebration and remembrance of Don Rochester's life and contribution to the Canadian Forces.

On 18 Sep our Branch held its first meeting of the new Fall season. We had a good turnout and a productive meeting. We are looking for another good year with perhaps as many closure parades. They are almost as bad as funerals!

VANCOUVER BRANCH

by Charlie Ball

The 26th June 97 was an outstanding day for our Association, with the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, Countess of Mountbatten of Burma, with her daughter Lady Amanda Ellingworth, between 1200 and 1400 hrs in the Seaforth Armoury. Lady Patricia and her daughter were escorted by Capt Scott Macdonald and his wife. She met her old friend, former Lt Gov. of B.C., BGen Budge Bell-Irving. They were escorted to the Officers Mess, by Capt Raesler (Adj. of the Seaforth of Canada. There they met with executive and wives of the Vancouver Branch PPCLI, and pictures were taken in the mess.

Members of Vancouver, Vernon and Chilliwack associations, with wives, were in the Anderson Room (between Officers/WO's & Sgt Mess). Lady Patricia took a position in front of the Association colours. I welcomed her on behalf of Vancouver, Vernon and Chilliwack members. She then told us of her visit to her Patricia's Mar 16-18th in Bosnia. We all found she had a great sense of humour. After a light lunch, Lady Patricia with her daughter went into the WO/Sgts Mess to talk to association members and wives. She later left the members to talk to the uniform members of the PPCLI and Seaforth who had served with Patricia's in Cyprus and Bosnia.

I cannot remember where the two hours went. She made everyone at ease, talking with all feeling like a family. On leaving the armoury she thanked me "for a day I have really enjoyed". I am sure all members felt the same. I would like to thank Major John McComber for his help in making Lady Patricia's visit happen, and Major Saunders for getting transport to bring in members from Chilliwack.

We cannot forget LCol Don Chipman, CO Seaforth of Canada, Capt Raesler (Adj.), and Capt Richards (PPCLI) for making this a day to remember.

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I am proud of my executive who gave me support. We say to all Patricia's across the great nation Canada, Happy Holidays. May 1998 be a good one.



Seaforth Officers' Mess:

*Fred Udell, Mary Jantzen, Don Parr-Pearson,
Hon. H.P. Bell-Irving, Lady Patricia, Charlie Ball,
Lady Amanda, Tom Holland.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Bell-Irving with Lady Patricia.
Within 4 weeks Mrs. Bell-Irving passed away.
A great lady who will be missed by all who knew her.*



*Lady Amanda, Lady Patricia, Maj Saunders,
Vice President Tom Holland and wife.*

VICTORIA BRANCH

by Larry Davies

The summer activities for the Victoria Branch include our secretary, John Tolley, making his annual "escape" to England. So this is a first for me. In June we were honoured with a brief visit from the Colonel-in-Chief. A good crowd turned at the reception held for her at Bay Street Armoury.

In July we held our annual BBQ in conjunction with the KVA at the horse shoe club. Once again we had a good turn out and with the sun shining, a good time was had by all. In August Don Ross attended the AGM in Saskatoon and we were proud to learn that Jac de Bruijne was elected Vice President of the National Executive.

In September we had the Colonel of the Regiment on hand at the Bay Street Armoury to present Certificates of Merit to Bruce Dickie, Doug Bell and Bob Peacock for the time and effort they put into preserving the regimental music on compact disk. It was a very proud day for our Branch. On a sad note we lost two of our members with the passing of Buzz Mainprize and Pat Crofton.

Our next function will be our annual bingo on 2 November 1997.

The Future of the Newsletter

The Council has approved the reduction from two Newsletters per year to just one. This is a cost cutting exercise for the Association and an attempt to hold dues down. The 1998 National fee remains at \$12.00.

The single Newsletter will be published in October of each year. The Patrician yearbook, published in April, will fill the position of the old Spring edition. Association branches are requested to have their submissions to RHQ no later than 31 Jan 1998.

Our veteran casualty rate in the Association is a concern because much of the corporate history of the Regiment is disappearing. However, Regiments do not consist of only official histories and unpublished wartime memories — each of us has contributed something to the fabric of this Regiment. The stories, pictures, tall tales and mess talk are all part of archival material that needs to be recorded and preserved. *Do it as individuals, do it as groups, do it as branches — but do it now!*

Future Newsletters, with your support, will record the Regiment's history in the categories of WWI, Inter-War Years, WWII, Korea, Post War Years at Home, United Nations, and NATO. Serving soldiers will be encouraged to participate with articles and pictures. *History is not just the past — it is every day, including tomorrow.*

In Memoriam

Name	Service	Date	Place
Aspinwall, R.S. (Bob)	Reg F	10 Jun 1997	Victoria, BC
Burdeiny, Steve	WWII	3 Oct 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Clark, Alexander	Korea/Reg F	21 Jul 1997	
Collins, Patrick W.		24 Jul 1997	Westport, ON
Crofton, Pat	WWII	26 Jun 1997	Victoria, BC
Delisle, Rene	WWII	29 Aug 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Forbes, James Stewart	WWII	11 Apr 1997	Dauphin, MB
Green, Alfred	WWII	28 Sep 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Leary, Frank		May 1997	Calgary, AB
Mathews, Ron	WWII/Reg	5 Sep 1997	Duncan, BC
Mark, M.L. (Len)	Reg F	10 Jun 1997	Lac du Bonnet, MB
Pettinger, John Everett	WWII	14 Jun 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Robertson, Robert Frank Straun M.C.	WWII	18 May 1997	Saltspring, BC
Sexsmith, Larry Edward	WWII	4 Sep 1997	Kelowna, BC
Schultz, Art	Korea	13 Jul 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Swanston, William Frank	WWII	29 May 1997	Victoria, BC
Webber, R.C.	WWII	15 Jul 1997	Winnipeg, MB

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VICTORIA BRANCH

by Larry Davis

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31 October 1997

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