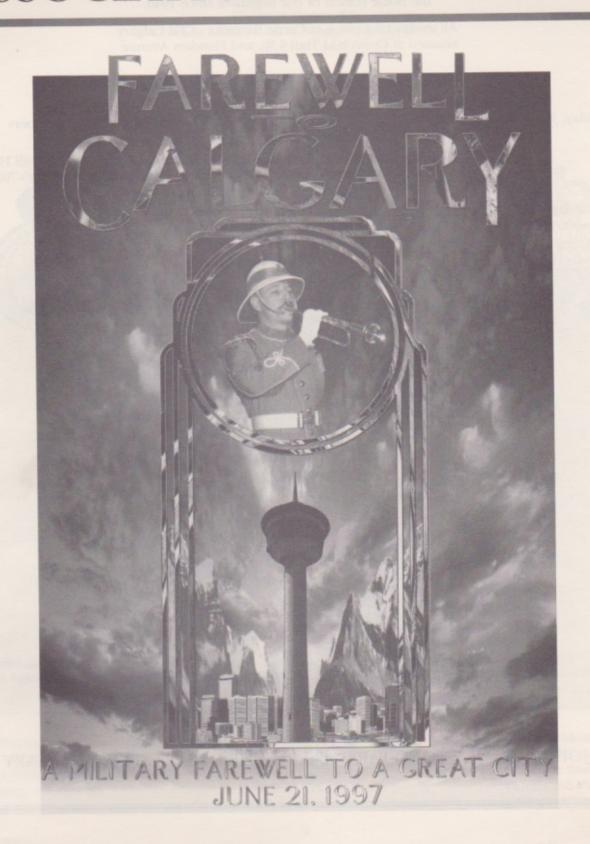
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



JOIN US FOR A MILITARY

FAREWELL TO CALGARY

Beginning Friday, 20 June, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, in association with other units of 1CMBG, will be bidding farewell to the great city of Calgary—the home station of our Regiment since 1946.

All events take place at Currie Barracks - CFB Calgary situated at Crowchild Trail S.W. and Flanders Avenue.

MAIN EVENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Friday, June 20 1200 hrs. CFB Calgary Open House for past and serving members & their families.

1900 hrs....... 1PPCLI All Ranks Party at Better 'Ole (Bldg AF16 - Drill Hall).

There is limited space for this event so please call 240-7011,
ext. 7620, if you are planning to attend.

Saturday, June 21 1600 hrs. Better 'Ole opens (Open to the public) 1830 hrs. 1CMBG Military Tattoo 2030 hrs. 1PPCLI Sunset Ceremony

MILITARY TATTOO — 1830 brs on Rifles Field

Participants include:

First Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
1 Field Ambulance
King's Own Calgary Regiment
Calgary Highlanders
Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4PPCLI)
Air Command Band
First Special Forces Group (Airborne) Army
Calgary Police Services
Calgary Fire Department

followed by a

World Police/Fire Games

SUNSET CEREMONY — 2030 brs on Rifles Field

JOIN US IN OUR FOND FAREWELL TO THE GREAT CITY OF CALGARY

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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This Issue Contains:

Colonel of the Regiment's Message	-
President's Message	Page 1
The Editor's Observation Post	Page 2
Special Interest	
Korea Reunion	Page 3
PPCLI at Currie Barracks	
Archive Story - John Richardson	
475801 Pte H.A. Cochran	Page 7
Branch Reports	
Atlantic Branch by Jamie Reid	Page 8
Toronto Branch by James Reid	
Vancouver Branch by Charlie Ball	. Page 11
Manitoba/NW Ontario Branch by D'Arcy Best	. Page 12
Edmonton Branch by Patricia Monro	. Page 14
Okanagan/Thompson Branch by Tom Tyson	. Page 16
Calgary Branch by Rudy Raidt	. Page 18
Fraser Valley Branch by Mel Canfield	
Victoria Branch by John Tolley	. Page 21
Saskatchewan Branch by Norm Walden	. Page 23
In Memoriam	. Page 24



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) 974-2860 Fax: (403) 974-2864 Fax: (403) 246-2482 INTERNET: //www.nucleus.com/~ppcli	The Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund "Music Heritage Project" c/o Regimental Headquarters Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 4520 Crowchild Trail S.W. Calgary, AB T2T 5J4			
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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

MGen C.W. Hewson, CMM, CD

Norah and I celebrated March 17th in Bosnia this year during the Colonel-in-Chief's visit to Second Battalion. The 2 PPCLI Battle Group, with Headquarters in Coralici, is responsible for maintaining stability in a very large portion of mountainous, North West Bosnia. Association Members will not be surprised to know that this duty is being performed superbly. The Colonel-in-Chief was in good health, and meeting the geographical challenge, managed to visit each sub-unit and to present the NATO stabilization Force medal to each member of the Battle Group. I am pleased to report that, despite the inhospitable environment and tough living conditions, morale in the unit is very high indeed. The battalion is due to return to Canada in June when it will be replaced by the LDSH Battle Group which will include a company each from the First and Third Battalions.

Construction of the Regimental accommodation in Edmonton Garrison is progressing well. First Battalion and RHQ will occupy their building this summer and Third Battalion will move into its new lines this fall. The Colonel-in-Chief will attend the Farewell to Calgary on 20/21 June to mark the closing of another significant chapter in Regimental history.

Yet another chapter will end this summer when the PPCLI Battle School combines with Camp Wainwright HQ on 17 June to form the Western Area Training Centre. Although the PPCLI designation will be dropped, I have been assured that our recruits will continue to be trained by Regimental Senior NCOs and Officers.

In my view the Regiment has met extremely well the organizational and operational challenges of the past two years. All members are to be congratulated for their steadiness and professionalism during this trying period. I truly believe we can now, confidently, look forward to a time of less turbulence and move into favourable public attention.

Norah and I hope to see a good number of Regimental friends in Saskatoon on the First of August and we wish you all a good summer.



President's Report

Doug Bedford

I trust that this Spring Newsletter finds you all in the best of health and that the winter was not too hard on you.

As the month of April slowly draws to a close, the packing has started and there are less than three months until Currie Barracks officially closes. We, here in the Officers' Mess are no exception and for the past month we have been returning Regimental and Association property previously held in the Mess back to RHQ. The Regimental silver has officially been packed away.

Our Patron, Lady Patricia, will be coming to Calgary for the closing ceremonies in June. The Calgary Branch hopes to be able to host the Patron during the weekend of official closure ceremonies. You will note that the key dates are printed on the backs of your membership cards. If you are planning to attend these ceremonies, I would suggest that you try and stay with a friend as the Hotel space in Calgary is at a premium because of the Calgary Stampede which follows closely on the heels of the CFB Closure. Additionally, this year the World Police and Fire Games will be held in Calgary coincidental with the Stampede dates. As a result, hotel space and trailer/RV parking will be very tight.

I had the opportunity to spend some time with General Crabbe when he visited Calgary for Regimental Day celebrations in March. I was able to discuss my concerns on the operation of the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund and the relationship of the Board of Trustees. After a very informative conversation we came to an agreement that some changes were necessary and perhaps some Constitutional amendments were in order to more clearly define the function of the Board in the management of the HGMF. These changes will be a topic at future Regimental Guard Meetings.

Finally, and probably a bit premature, I would like to thank Captain Bill Lewis for all of his help over the last couple of years. Bill is off to Kingston on course. After that he will have a one year tour of duty as a UN Military Observer in Kuwait/Iraq. Bill, from all of us at the Association, good luck and have a safe tour.

We will see you all in Saskatoon for the August AGM!

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Editor's Observation Post

By Capt Bill Lewis

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.

FLOODS: At the time of writing, Currie Barracks and CFB Calgary are "skeleton-manned", having sent all available strong backs to Southern Manitoba to assist in flood control. The First Battalion was part of the vanguard to move from Alberta to Shilo, Manitoba on very short notice once the full impact of the flood threat was assessed. Most of 1PPCLI had been deployed to Wainwright for Spring training when the Warning Order was given for Operation NOAH. After an eighteen hour road move and significant logistical effort, the Battalion was completely redeployed 1,000 kilometres East in less than 48 hours.

Most of the available manpower in First Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group has followed 1 PPCLI in the past week and a half. This includes the Lord Strathcona's Battle Group which was in training to relieve out Second Battalion, presently in Bosnia. As part of the LDSH commitment, a company of the Third Battalion was moved to the sandbag parapets around Emerson, Morris, Ste Adolphe, St Norbert and the Winnipeg Area. This company was "detached" back to 3 PPCLI in situ after the Third Battalion was" bugged out "from Edmonton on Sunday, 27 April. Hopefully the LDSH Battle Group training will not be paused for long. I am sure the Second Battalion does not wish to have its rotation home delayed because the relieving troops need more time to train.

It is anticipated that some of our troops, now in Manitoba, will not be back home until mid-May. Even with the help of Thirty-two Brigade in Manitoba and elements of Two and Five Brigades from Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick, the "Red Sea" — as the army has begun calling the Red River — will run its course. Regrettably, this has the potential to become a serious disadvantage to families scheduled to relocate from Calgary to Edmonton beginning at end-May. Presently, the First Battalion is allowing soldiers to return to Alberta to take their House Hunting Trips to Edmonton before returning to the flood waters.

MOVING: The focus for all CFB Calgary residents this summer will be the move to North to Edmonton. The official farewell to Calgary is scheduled for late June; however, the movement activity for the soldiers will begin in earnest after the farewells have been said. It is anticipated that the move will not be completed until late August — early September — perhaps later — given the unexpected deployment to Southern Manitoba. Wherever possible, spouses and dependants will be relocated before the new school year, although some of the Dads will remain in Calgary to assist in relocating the hundreds of tonnes of furniture, files and equipment. Rod Middleton's story in this issue summarizes the consensus feeling on the loss of Currie Barracks to the Regiment. Alternately, Edmonton offers up a good part of the Regiment's heritage as well, and the city has provided the warmest welcome possible to the relocating Patricia families.

TURBO CARDS: If you haven't received yours yet, ask your secretary or see the Ad in this issue. Thanks to Rod Hunter of the Calgary Branch, the Association has been provided with over 400 hundred of the fund-raising cards for use by members in Ontario and the West. Simply explained, this programme offers a "kickback" to the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund of ½ cent per litre of gas when the purchaser produces the card at the participating station. The number of cards can be increased based upon the use of those presently in use. Hence, the potential exists to have from 2,000 to 3,000 cards circulating within the Association Branches and Battalions by next

year. Monies raised from this programme will be used to support the Museum or to build on the HGMF Bursary fund.

BURSARIES: This year, based upon investment interest, the HGMF and Jack Cathie Bursary Programme will be able to sponsor eleven student bursaries of up to \$1,000.00 each — selections to be made by the Board of Trustees on June 30. Three years ago six bursaries of \$500.00 were given. Last year 11 bursaries of \$500.00 were awarded. The phenomenal increase in both the number and amount of bursaries is in large part due to the generosity of Mr. Jack Cathie as well as to a more solid investment plan initiated by the Regiment. The end result is that eleven deserving students from the Regimental family will receive some substantial post-secondary educational subsidization. Last minute applications can be obtained from RHQ through any of the contact numbers at the front of this issue.

MUSIC HERITAGE: In April, RHQ had the pleasure of hosting Bruce Dickey and Doug Bell from the Victoria Branch. These gentlemen (two of the prime movers behind the Music Heritage Project) were here to make an assessment of the Regimental Archival Film Library so that an outline plan could be developed on how to best preserve some of the older films and videos held in the museum. Rod Middleton, as Chairman of the Heritage Committee was able to informally meet with both Bruce and Doug and the groundwork was laid for several heritage preservation projects. 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. Only 100 of these pins were produced, thus they are an exclusive to the Regiment and will not be further reproduced.

BIG JOHN: In taking advantage of my Editorial License I can refer to RSM John Richardson by the soldiers' reference he was known by when I first became a Patricia in 1969 at Fort MacLeod, Germany. Since becoming Regimental Adjutant, I have had the pleasure of doing business with John on several occasions. There has never been a truer Patricia and he has continued to represent the best in Regimental ethos through his continued pride, concern and commitment. RSM Richardson deserves a tribute from the Regiment and I have chosen this issue to publish an archival story on him — knowing I can be hiding behind the sand dunes on the Kuwait/Iraq border by the time the RSM has the opportunity to react. I will nevertheless publicly apologize to John for invading his privacy as I know he is a truly humble man. I will therefore seek his forgiveness rather than his permission.

FAREWELL: Having identified my hiding place from John Richardson, I am offering my farewell to the Association as Newspaper Editor and Secretary-Treasurer. By July, I will be a UN Military Observer on the Kuwait/Iraq border for the next year (one of four Canadians in UNIKOM). I will be joined by Major Joe Pollock (presently DCO of 3 PPCLI), hence the Regiment is contributing half the strength of the Canadian contingent of this UN Force from 36 Nations.

THANK YOU: Upon the occasion of my leaving, I will be personally thanking all of those who have assisted me over the past three years and it may be that I will be doing that from Kuwait City given that I must relocate my family to Kingston; attend a three week course there; clear Base Calgary and get on the plane. That means I will likely be leaving Calgary by mid-May and returning to assist in the final week's preparations for the Farewell Ceremonies in June. I will of course miss the AGM in Saskatoon and that is regrettable. Capt Scott Macdonald (now Assistant Regimental Adjutant) will be caretaker of the Regimental Adjutant's duties until Captain Steeve Newman is posted from Ottawa in July to be the new Regimental Adjutant. Thank you in association.

Korea Reunion

By Herb Pitts

Thank you for allowing space in The Newsletter for a matter that I think will be of interest to your readers.

During the period 25 - 27 July, 1997 a Reunion of Korea War veterans will take place in Brampton, Ontario. The main purpose of the gathering is to dedicate a Memorial Wall to the memory of Canadians who made the supreme sacrifice during the combat and peacekeeping phase of that War.

Fundraising for the project is nearly completed with about \$265,000 having been raised, mostly through KVA Units, Legion Branches, ANAF Units, corporations and many, many private donors Korean cultural and business groups have also made sizeable contributions.

Nearly \$17,000 was raised by a Golf Tournament last September, PPCLI Association Branches in Toronto, Southwest Ontario and Winnipeg sponsored holes as did Anne & Frank Stringer and we wish to acknowledge their support through this article. Thank you all very much!

By printing this letter, it is my hope that those members of the Association who may not have heard of the Wall project or know of someone who may be interested in information or those who may yet wish to get involved will be advised it is NOT TOO LATE but TIME IS SHORT!

140 Patricias will be commemorated on the Wall by individual bronze plaques which are replicas of those used as grave markers in the Pusan UN Cemetery. Altogether, 516 young men will be remembered in this way. This memorial will be unique in Canada as the only one where ALL the dead of a Conflict are each listed in one place.

Should your readers wish information on the Wall or the Reunion they can get it by calling 1-888-381 BRAMPTON, or Fax 1-(905) 874-2670 or Tel/Fax 1-(905) 459-6257.

TOGETHER IN REMEMBRANCE.

Eleventh Hour Photo Submissions

Ed: The photos below were submitted as the presses were about to roll. They have been included in this issue because of their timely content.



In celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Jim Reid, President of the Toronto Branch was chosen to represent the Regiment at the Official Ceremonies at Vimy Ridge France. Jim is on the Right with the PPCLI wreath. To bis right are the R22er, RCR and Artillery representatives.



The wreath laying party mounts the face of the Vimy Memorial looking into Belgium. The Guard at the foot of the memorial includes one platoon of Patricias (1 PPCLI).



Photo submitted by Len Roe of the Calgary Branch on return from his visit to Korea April 97. On the steps of the Kapyong Memorial are the Korean Student Recipients of the Annual Regimental Bursaries (19 April, 1997). Patricias in the back row are Ed Bastien, Bill Larkin, Mel Lasbuk, Len Roe, and Rudy Pfeifr.

The P.P.C.L.I. at Currie Barracks

By Rod Middleton

In the summer of 1997, Calgary will break ties with an infantry regiment that has lived in our midst almost continuously since 1946. Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry First Battalion will vacate their Currie Barracks home and move to Edmonton to join other units that are moving from this city.

Following the Regiment's service in World War I, a detached Rifle Company was based in work Point Barracks at Esquimalt, BC while Battalion Headquarters and a second Rifle Company were stationed at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg. On mobilization in 1939, the Regiment assembled at Winnipeg and was despatched to England. The Patricias took part in the invasion of Sicily in July, 1943 and continued to fight in the Italian campaign until March, 1945 when they joined 1st Canadian Army in the liberation of Holland.

Returning to Canada in November of that year, most of the wartime veterans were released from service. The remaining soldiers joined the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment that had just been formed for service in the Pacific Theatre. This battalion was soon incorporated into the new post-war army, dropping the 2nd battalion designation and becoming the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. With reorganization completed, it was time to move from the Manitoba base at Camp McDonald near Portage La Prairie.

June 10th, 1946. On a clear, sunny day they came marching through the doors of the Canadian Pacific Railway station on 9th Avenue. Proudly led by the Colour Party bearing the cased King's and Regimental Colours and protected by senior noncommissioned officers with sloped rifles and bayonets fixed, the men of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry had arrived in Calgary to take up quarters in Currie Barracks. Their arrival would mark the beginning of an association with Calgary that would carry them into 1997.

Currie Barracks in 1946 still bore the signs of wartime expansion. What had been large open areas in 1939 had been quickly filled with wartime construction of temporary accommodation and office buildings. Described as "H" huts because of their configuration, the huts covered every available space including most of the original parade square.

The Patricias quickly settled into their new quarters and shakedown training was started in the Sarcee training area, culminating in the first post-war exercise in the North-West Territories which was part of the Regiment's new mandate for protection of the Alaska Highway and the Canadian north-west.

By 1947, new married quarters were being established and the Regiment was finally settling into the city life of Calgary. In May the Regiment performed the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on the parade square at HMCS Tecumseh — the Currie square being under repair. For the first time Calgarians would witness this impressive ceremony where the Regimental Colour, with the Patricia's WW I Battle Honours was paraded through the ranks to serve as a reminder of past sacrifices made in battle. The ceremony would be performed countless times in the years to come to delight audiences at Currie Barracks.

In July of that year the Patricias began a longstanding relationship with the Calgary Stampede, and a float, together with a marching contingent, appeared at the annual parade. For many years until the disbandment of the PPCLI band in 1994, the annual parade would be led by the scarlet uniformed musicians of the Regiment.

Provision of aid to the civil power has always been a task that the military can be called upon to provide under the National Defence Act, and in July, 1947 Calgary based Patricias found themselves helping to save the rich farmlands in the Fraser Valley from floodwaters. Again, in May of 1950, the Regiment would be called upon to help fight the disastrous Winnipeg floods.

As a result of new defence policy in 1948 the Patricias were designated as an airborne battalion and would be embodied in the newly formed Mobile Strike Force to counter any aggression in the Canadian north. Soon the skies around Calgary would blossom with parachutes as the unit prac-

tised their new found skills. Drop zones were used on the airfield south of Currie Barracks, at Midnapore near the Lacombe Home, and areas west of the city. In the Spring of 1950 a mass jump was made at the Calgary airport and the event was witnessed by thousands of spectators.

The relative peace of the post-war era was soon to be shattered. On June 27th, 1950 North Korean communist forces attacked South Korea and Canada, under the auspices of the United Nations, agreed to the provision of armed forces to assist in what was called a UN "police action".

Once again Currie Barracks was in the forefront of preparations. In August the Patricias were authorized to raise a second battalion for service with the newly created Canadian Army Special Force. Recruits hurried into Calgary by train and bus to join the new battalion, and the barracks quickly filled up. Training swung into high gear. By early September, 2nd Battalion had moved to Wainwright to complete their training prior to embarkation for Korea in November.

Currie Barracks would continue as home station for the paratroop trained Patricias, now designated as 1st Battalion of the Regiment. In the late Fall of 1951 they would replace the 2nd Battalion in Korea, who would then occupy the barracks.

The fighting in Korea would not stop until the cease fire of July, 1953. In the interim, Canada had incurred a further obligation in 1950 to provide troops for service in Europe as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In the Fall of 1953 2nd Battalion PPCLI would leave Currie Barracks for service in Germany. 1st Battalion, who had returned from Korea in December, 1952 would now have Currie barracks to themselves again. Tours of duty in Europe were for two years and in 1955 the 1st Battalion would leave Currie for Germany, while 2nd Battalion would once again be back in Calgary.

The rapid expansion of the Canadian army in the 1950s to meet both the UN Korean and NATO European commitments had raised more infantry battalions than could be accommodated, thus the 2nd Battalion moved to a new barracks in Edmonton in the summer of 1957. Currie Barracks was now the home to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who were to remain in the city throughout the sixties until their demobilization and reversion to Reserve army in 1968. In that same year the 1st Battalion of the Patricias would return to Currie Barracks from their base in Edmonton.

With the beginning of peacekeeping operations on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in 1964 a new era had opened in the operational tasking of the army. The Patricias would be called upon in turn to serve four separate six-month tours of duty on the troubled island. With the 1991 breakup of Yugoslavia, the Regiment found itself once again in the blue berets of the United Nations attempting to instill peace and security in a country that did not at times want to appreciate their presence. Calgarians were proud of their Patricia's achievements in Bosnia, Croatia and the Serbian Krijina. Their many acts of assistance to civilians and care of homeless refugees set a high standard for others to emulate.

Throughout their stay in Calgary the Patricias have acquired a taste of the friendliness and warmth of Calgarians. They have carried out our City's style of western hospitality across the seas to Germany during their NATO service and to Cyprus and Yugoslavia during their UN tours. They have held pancake breakfasts, mini-stampede celebrations and Western Style barbeques, introducing a Calgary blend of friendliness to other cultures.

Calgary will miss the Patricias and their families when they leave us next year. Gone will be the students who attend our schools and other centres of learning. Gone will be the countless wives who are employed in all aspects of our society - nurses and teachers, librarians and secretaries, clerks and caregivers. The Patricias, including their wives and families, have all formed a major part of the mosaic of Calgary. Next year Currie Barracks will close, and they will be gone to Edmonton to enrich another city with their military and civilian presence.

Soon Currie Barracks as we remember it will be no more. Although a small section of the Base is likely to continue to operate in support of local militia units, most of the Base will be declared surplus to military requirements. No longer will the parade square echo the barked commands and the sound of marching feet. No longer will the stirring sounds of martial music fill the air and entertain civilian audiences. There will be, I am sure, one last magnificent parade when the Patricias depart next year, but after they have gone, Calgarians will have only the memories of those who served there. A proud association established between the citizens of this city and the Regiment will be but a memory.

City Hero Receives DCM at Work Point

Editor's Note: The following story is reprinted from the Regimental Archives.

Another of Canada's Korean war heroes quietly received the Distinguished Conduct Medal in a ceremony

held at Work Point Barracks last week.

The soldier was Sgt. John H. Richardson, DCM, who returned wounded from Korea before Christmas. He is staying with his mother, Mrs. Helen Richardson, 2733 Somass, before rejoining his unit in Calgary.

Sgt Richardson was wounded five times in the patrol action in which he won the DCM.

The citation was dated December 17. The action occurred on the night of October 15.

NIGHT PATROL

Sgt Richardson led a 26-man patrol of PPCLI men from the 1st Battalion on a night patrol "to search out the enemy and capture a prisoner."

The patrol's objective was the base of a 600-foot hill, 2,800 yards ahead of

the Patricia's lines. About 100 yards short of the hill Sgt. Richardson divided his group and went forward with two snipers to look for enemy soldiers.

Suddenly in pitch blackness, Sgt. Richardson and his men were assailed on two sides by the enemy, and their patrol was overrun and cut off by an enemy force estimated at 35 or 40 men which had apparently been lying in wait.

Eleven of the Patricia's patrol were wounded, and their radio was riddled by machine-gun bullets. Sgt Richardson's DCM citation reads, in part:

SEVERELY WOUNDED

"Sgt Richardson, himself severely wounded in five places, reorganized the group and began a withdrawal in the face of continued enemy fire.

"Although pursued by the enemy this courageous

non-commissioned officer carried Sgt. R.A. Prentice, a seriously wounded comrade, a distance of over 1000 yards.

"Despite the severity of his own wounds, on regaining wireless communication Sgt Richardson called down artillery and mortar fire on the enemy while supervising the carrying of wounded a further 800 yards where they were met by a battalion party.

"Through the accuracy of his fire directions and control of his men succeeded in withdrawing and countering the enemy fire.



"His calm courage, leadership and devotion to his comrades was an inspiration and an example to the patrol through-out."

Two men were lost in the patrol action, both being listed as missing.

Sgt Richardson was flown from Japan to Vancouver, where he underwent surgery to have shrapnel removed from behind an ear. He was home for Christmas.

He was educated in Victoria at Glenlyon School, Victoria High School and Victoria College. Shortly after his 18th birthday he joined the army in Calgary in 1945. At the end of the Second World War he stayed in the army and went to Korea with a contingent in the PPCLI in the fall of 1951.



475801 Pte H.A. Cochran

Editor's Note: The following story is reprinted from the Regimental Archives.



An interesting story surfaced recently which is beyond belief considering the time of the incident. Our regimental History, Volume 11, shows the Regiment winning a total number of 369 Decorations, Distinctions and Awards. While the accuracy of this number has been under suspicion for years, it certainly does not contain the award given to a Patricia by the German Empire — Bavarian Minister of War in 1918.

The story, which follows, was related to the Regiment by a recent visitor to the Museum and Archives, no less than the grand-nephew-Garth Cochran. Mr. Cochran donated several artifacts and supporting documents to this story.

475801 Private H.A. Cochran, a member of the 3rd McGill Company, joined the Regiment on January 21, 1916. At the Battle of Sanctuary Wood, June 2nd, 1916, he was critically wounded and eventually taken prisoner and found himself in a military hospital just outside Munich. During his convalescence period, he was permitted to work for a German business as a "free" man. It was during this period that Private Cochran was to be decorated for bravery with The Bavarian Cross of Military Merit, 3rd class. The Citation reads:

"War Office Acknowledgement"

To the English Prisoner of War, Cochran Harry Adolf, from the Prisoner Camp Bayreuth: We express herewith for the rescue done with courage and resoluteness of the 3 year old child named Gugel, saving her from drowning in the Birnbaum Pond in Feilsbrom, District of Auch Gusbach, the acknowledgement of the War Office."

Munich, 20th of June 1918 M. Henningrath General of the Cavalry Minister of War

Note: Private Cochran was released from the POW camp shortly after the Armistice was signed. A letter received by his mother dated December 24, 1918, stated that he was free and in a military hospital in France. He also indicated that he would contact her once he was in Blighty. However, Private Cochran was never to see his loved ones again, nor was he able to live to the ideals in the essay "A Parting Word" given to all former POWs by the German authorities.

Private H.A. Cochran died on 28 December, 1918, in a military hospital in France, from a lung ailment, caused by his injury sustained during the Battle of Sanctuary Wood. He is buried in the military cemetery at Montebello, France.

This story appeared in the popular television show "RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT". The only Allied Soldier during WWI to be decorated by the enemy. It was also published many years ago in a Newsletter.

Editor's Note: The Bavarian Cross of Military Merit, 3rd class which was awarded Pte Cochran is presently on display in the Regimental Museum.



Pte Cochran with German guard. (Propaganda photo postcard sent by POWs in Germany to their families in Canada.)



Another propaganda photo postcard of friendly German guards, circa 1917.

ATLANTIC BRANCH

A Brief History by Jamie Reid

In 1979 Lieutenant Colonel Art Neadow, then stationed in Base Gagetown, concluded that there were enough retired Patricia's in the area to start a Maritime Branch of the Association. To this end he organized several meetings of both retired and serving Patricia's to lay the groundwork for an Association.

This brief history purports to outline the early years of the association in the Maritimes. One early change was the designation change from the "Maritime" to "Atlantic" as the Association covers the four Atlantic Provinces.

As in many organizations the early files are sketchy and in some cases incomplete. Every effort has been made to be as factual as possible. In any event I accept full responsibility for any errors or omissions which may occur.

A series of meetings were held during 1980 with both executive and members attending to attempt to define the purpose and future activities of the members. During this period the initial constitution and bylaws were rewritten to better reflect reality.

It was evident early on that with a member base as diverse as the far reaches of Cape Breton to the North Shore of New Brunswick the normal or usual monthly or bimonthly meetings would not work. The big problem was to design a yearly program that would be supported by the members.

It was also evident early on that close liaison with the "French Grey" Battalion of CFB Gagetown worked to the benefit of both the Association and the Patricia's at the Base. I should explain the "French Grey" is rather unique. Origin of "French Grey": The Regimental full dress uniform "facings" collar, cuffs and shoulder straps of the tunic are "French Grey". The choice of "French Grey" colour was made for two reasons:

- (1) To commemorate the occasion when the Regiment first went into the line alongside the French Army (6 January 1915).
- (2) In honour of the 3rd Canadian Division with which the Regiment served during World War 1 (22 December 1915 - 11 November 1915). The colour of the divisional patch was "French Grey".

All the Patricia's stationed in Base Gagetown form a shadow unit the "French Grey" with the senior Patricia as CO with a headquarters, companies, etc. This allows them to maintain their Regimental identity and helps communications with Regimental Headquarters. Currently in the Constitution the CO of the "French Grey" is a member of the Association Executive and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association sometimes is a member of the "French Grey". The Association members are invited to all "French Grey" "occasions" and the Association reciprocates in kind. The Association members appreciate the chance to meet serving Patricia's and serving members don't object to the "war stories" of the old guard.

After several lean years in the 1980's a meeting formula was established which meets the requirements of our widely scattered members and which is supported by the members.

The Association now holds two scheduled meetings each year. The first meeting is the business meeting of the Association held in Fredericton and planned in conjunction with the "French Grey" for the same weekend they hold their Regimental Birthday celebrations. The Association members attend their business sessions during the day and then attend the "French Grey" parties during the evening. A few of the more adventuresome play broom-a-loo with the "French Grey".

Spouses and friends of members are encouraged to participate in all activities of the Association. Spouses who are Associate Members have voting right.

The second meeting is advertised as strictly social and is held in the fall at various locations in Atlantic Canada. The Nova Scotia (Annapolis Valley) Patricia's organized the first (1990) get-together and set the standard for all future such meetings. These meetings have been highly successful and most enjoyable.

In March 1996, there was a change made in the number of meetings per year. It was agreed that there would be only one meeting in the fall and it would combine the business meeting and social event.

This brief history does not attempt to recount many of the activities which took place during the period 1980-1996, nor does it attempt to name members who were the driving force in making the Association successful. Many members in the provinces of the Atlantic were very directly involved in the activities and I hesitate to name any for fear of missing those who well deserve mentioning.

TORONTO BRANCH

By James Reid

SICILY 1996: Boarding a ferry, we crossed over to the Island of Sicily in less than an hour, and booked in at the Ramada Resort Hotel at Taormina. It was near here that the Allied Armies, including the Patricia's left for the invasion of the mainland of Italy on September 3rd 1943. We were not far from Mount Etna, I could see the peak from the balcony of the hotel, I took a few pictures but there was nothing outstanding in the results and it looked like any other mountain top. After a stay of two nights we left here for Agrigento



At the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Ontario 12 May 1979,
60th anniversary of the Princess Patricia's
Canadian Light Infantry Association (Toronto Branch).
Left to right front row: Dave Pearce, James Patterson,
Fred Heasman, Harold Reading, Cliff Naylor, John O. Clarke.
2nd row: Victor Gianelli, Captain P. Tweedie,
Patricia officer?, Korean vet?, Joe Demytriw, Patricia officer?.
3rd row: Unknown, John Slimkowich, Lt.-Col. Snider MC,
Dave Middleton, James Reid, Captain Tymchuk,
Lt.-Col. Ted Cutbill DSO.

a far more interesting place than Taormina, we visited the 4th Century Roman villa of Casale, we passed the fortress town of Enna and Leonforte, places familiar to the Patricia's, some of the most fierce battles the Regiment ever went through, in Sicily that is, only Ortona and Cassino were worse, I was hoping to get to see both of these places, but no luck, our tour group was not much interested in and old soldiers wishes.

We visited the Valley of the Temples and saw both Roman and Greek temples dating back to 450 BC, some are in very good shape and remind one of the Acropolis in Greece. To the troops some of these ruins, were just a place to rest and scrounge for some fruit grown in the area. From here we drove on to Palermo, the chief industrial and commercial centre in Sicily, parking is not a problem here as the local people park anywhere there is a space no matter how small, no parking signs are a rarity and crossing streets are at the pedestrians own peril, there are crossing stripes on the streets, but to use them one has to cross when there is no traffic around, very few cars or motor-scooters obey any of them.



60th Anniversary Dinner, PPCLI Association (Toronto Branch) beld at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto 12 May 1979. Left to right: Victor Gianelli, MM Eddie Gardiner (Korea).

Wilf Reilly (H17188) won the Military Medal at Leonforte for stalking a machine-gun nest and killing the German crew. "Shorty" Cousins (H16736), rushed a machine-gun post with his Bren gun at the hip and killed the crew of another machine-gun nest, unfortunately due to our stupid army regulations, if one is killed one cannot be given either the D.C.M. or the M.M. posthumously, he was killed later on in the day and a MID (Mentioned in Despatches) was added to his name. In 1948 the Department of Natural Resources, Winnipeg, Manitoba named a lake after him in Northern Manitoba, Cousins Lake, probably none of us will



Major-General H.C. Pitts, at the Annual Frezenberg Dinner, PPCLI Association (Toronto Branch) May 11, 1991 Carlton Inn Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. Presenting Major Tweedie with a gift from the Regiment on his retirement from the Patricia's.

Page A18

The Globe and Mail, Wed. Dec. 1996

Lives Lived

BRIGADIER ROWAN COLEMAN

War hero, university administrator. Born in Winnipeg June 22, 1915; died of heart failure Sept. 21 in Montreal, aged 81.

R OWAN Coleman certainly never saw himself as a hero. But those who served with him, or read or heard the stories, knew he was one of the most remarkable Canadian heroes of the last war.

What outsiders saw was a slight, small, quietly elegant man, filled with understatement and self-deprecatory wit. After the war, he laid aside all outward signs of the young officer who rushed forward to lead from the front, no matter how heavy the fire. What remained was the seemingly endless reserve of kindness and consideration for others, which — his courage and originality aside — had helped men to follow him willingly into impossible situations.

A series of massive heart attacks in the 1950s changed his life. He became a placement officer, then registrar at McGill, gave most of his spare time to helping those who suffered from alcohol abuse and collected modern Canadian art for his own pleasure. There are hundreds — students and other young who remember his support, advice and the kindness that his wartime colleagues still talk of

that his wartime colleagues still talk of.

He was my godfather. When I first went to McGill, he took me to a gathering of retired veterans and serving soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was made to say a few words and climbed onto a table. Next to me, a young serving officer murmured in awe: "So that's Rowan Coleman."

Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross, Mentioned in Dispatches, a colonel in his 20s, one of the youngest Allied brigadiers, commander of three different Canadian battalions.

In 1940, with his Winnipeg friends, including my father, he joined the PPCLI. In 1942, a small contingent of them was sent to North Africa for experience. A long, eerie trip across the desert and mountains, in an old train with the windows removed, led to the front. If anything, what they experienced was a lesson in how not to fight a war.

On July 9, 1943, Captain Coleman, company commander, waded ashore with the Canadian assault on Sicily. After two weeks of slow advance through mountainous country, they came up against German Panzer Grenadiers in the heavily defended hill town of Leonforte. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment fought its way into the town, then was cut off on the other side of a bridge exposed to impossible machine-gun fire. The commanding brigadier ordered Coleman to attempt a rush.

He piled his men onto four tanks and some antitank guns, with others placed to run behind. As they clung to the armour, some sitting astride the guns, he led a "gallop" through the fire and across the bridge so fast that only one man was killed and the Germans were overwhelmed.

They battled on up the mile long main street, house by house, until the town was cleared. In those strang-

ely formal words of military honour, he was awarded the Military Cross for "leader-ship and courage" and "conspicuous gallantry." A pattern had also been set — speed and an original blend of aggressive flexibility, with himself exposed at the front of his troops.

He was soon second-in-command of the Patricias, often temporary commander. The searing emotional effects of the



Rowan Coleman in Italy, 1943.

emotional effects of this Italian campaign were cap-

ever see it, because it is so far north. Wilf Reilly died August 12th 1994 in Winnipeg, they were both members of "A" Company.

We boarded a large ferry boat in the harbour at Palermo for the overnight trip back to Naples and after spending a few days in Sorrento, we took off for Rome by way of Casserto and Monte Cassino. It was in this area that on May 23rd 1944 the Patricia's took such a terrible pounding, the losses were high, 3 officers and 55 other ranks killed, 5 officers and 157 other ranks wounded, 2 officers and 25 other ranks missing. I never did get to see the cemetery as our tour group wanted to visit the Benedictine Monastry, this place was completely destroyed in 1944 and has since been rebuilt. The Polish divisions captured the hill on May 17th and the huge cemetery viewed from the Abbey attests to their losses. A monument at point 593, commemorates their sacrifices and heroism, we passed it on the way up, a huge pile of metal from guns and tanks.

We Polish soldiers
For our freedom and yours
Have given our souls to God
Our bodies to the soil of Italy
And our hearts to Poland.
A man who has not been to Italy,
is always conscious of his inferiority.

Samuel Johnson 1709-1784

tured by one of his friends and fellow Patricias, Colin McDougall, in the novel *Execution*, which won the Governor-General's Award.

By May of 1944, and the attack on the Hitler Line, Lieutenant-Colonel Coleman was commanding the Loyal Edmontons. In the morass of weapon pits, aprons of wire and solid machine-gun and mortar fire, a sniper in a tree wounded him twice with a single bullet. Eventually, he was too weak to continue leading and had to be left in a ditch on the battle-field in the hope of rescue.

In February of 1945, he took over the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in northern Europe. Between Meppen and Oldenburg, he led the regiment in an astonishing running battle, out of an apparently hopeless situation of heavy fire, mined and cratered roads surrounded by thick forest, on through savage street fighting and on still farther through a series of mined and booby-trapped roadblocks. He "demanded of his troops," the DSO citation said, "nothing he would not do himself."

These are only a few incidents, none of which I heard about from him. He didn't tell war stories. A few days before the operation that he didn't survive, I visited him in the Montreal General. He knew his chances were 50-50. He was, as always, the fond and amused godfather, full of irony and a desire to talk about anything except himself. His last bit of advice: "Don't grow old."

John Ralston Saul is the author of The Unconscious Civilization, which won the 1996 Governor-General's Award for non-fiction.

VANCOUVER BRANCH

By Charlie Ball

The Regimental Birthday was held at the WOs/ Sgts Mess, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, at 1200 hrs, 16 March, 199. Our special guest was the former Lieutenant Governor of BC, Brigadier "Budge" Bell-Irving and his wife Nancy.

Prior to the luncheon, the "work crew" President, Vice-President and his wife (Ken & Val Tutte, Don Parr-Pearson) set up the tables in the mess with the Colours behind the main table. Regimental runners were provided for all tables and candelabras with gold, blue and maroon candles made great table settings.

A piper from the Seaforths piped in the head table and also played the lament for fallen comrades. The meal was also enhanced with appropriate pipe music. Speeches were kept short and toasts were said as appropriate.

Brigadier Bell-Irving spoke to the members stating he was an Honorary member of the First Battalion PPCLI WO/Sgt Mess when he was the Lt-Gov of BC and he wore the Regimental tie with his Seaforth blazer. He went on to say how the PPCLI Association had been welcomed by the Seaforths and our Branch had made a fine home in the Armouries.



Val & Ken Tutte with appreciation plaque in front of fireplace Seaforth WOs/Sgts Mess.



Sam Urquart, Alice Holt, Jenny Urquart, "Bud" McLeod, David Ferguson Sec/Tres Seaforth of Canada.

At the end of the dinner, a special plaque was presented to Ken & Val Tutte for their work over the past years. It as the least we could do for two wonderful people.



Don Boyce, Fred Udell (outgoing - ingoing Sec/Tres)
"Gerry" Jantzen keeping them bonest.



The Head Table — Thelma Holland, Ken Tutte, Brigadier "Budge" Bell-Irving, the president, Mrs. Bell-Irving.



We made money on the draw, why not smile! Don Parr-Pearson, Charlie Ball, Andy Foulds.



Looking from the bead table — standing Glen Palmer, Don Parr-Pearson & Gordon Henderson baving a cbat.



Table set up, places please, WO/SGTS Mess Seaforth of Canada. Back wall are pictures of all past RSM of Seaforth of Canada.

MANITOBA & NW ONTARIO BRANCH

By D'Arcy Best

It's time to put away the mukluks, snow shovels and booster cables and get ready for our annual Spring water sports, ie., sandbagging, digging drainage ditches and manning the pumps.

We were fortunate in recruiting 15 new members during 1996 but attrition took its toll as well. Colonel Bill Sutherland transferred to the Edmonton Branch and Pamela Borland to the Calgary Branch, we lost eight members to the Grim Reaper



Who called this meeting, anyway?

Seated, clockwise from bottom left: Emily Heaver, Elsa Hart,
Connie Coyne, Pat Talbot, Trixie Freese, Betty Sharpe, Bev Weeks.
Standing, left to right: Greg Hart, Dick Heaver, Jerry Franc,
Art Sutton, Andy Gallant, Stu Weeks, Bob McMurdo.

and three others who just faded away. This left us, at the end of the year, with 111 members in good standing. We are happy to report, however, that former Branch President Doug Walsh has resurfaced in Langley, BC. It seems he never really was missing but Canada Post, for some reason or another, was returning his mail.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Branch activities have been limited this winter. First, the renovations to 2PPCLI WOs & Sgts Mess, originally scheduled for last Spring, postponed to July and then cancelled, were suddenly switched back on again in October. This forced us to cancel our scheduled Annual Dinner as we were unable to make other suitable arrangements on short notice. Then, as Second Battalion were preparing to deploy in Bosnia, the traditional Christmas functions we normally participate in were curtailed so Battalion members could spend as much time as possible with their families.

Happily, we were able to get back into the WOs & Sgts Mess for our Annual Meeting in November and we celebrated the occasion by electing Jerry Franc as Branch President for 97. Jerry,

who was Second Battalion's RSM from 1989 to 1992, joined the Branch on retirement from the Forces in 1993. With two years experience on the Branch Executive as a Director, good contacts in the Regiment and a few fresh ideas of his own, Jerry is expected to be a real asset to the Branch and the Association Council.

It has been our custom to celebrate the Regimental Birthday with Second Battalion but this year, with the Battalion away, we decided to have our



Sixty-six years a Patricia.
Bob McMurdo (centre), flanked by Dick Heaver and Art Sutton.

own function on Sunday, the 16th of March. This was planned on short notice but the Phoning Committee got to work and began calling members in and around Winnipeg. In addition, all known Patricia widows in the area were contacted, largely through the efforts of Norm McCowan, and about a dozen of them were able to attend. Altogether, about three dozen members of the Patricia Family



I told you we'd have a party! Monte Allison, Entertainment Committee.

enjoyed sandwiches, sweets and drinks during an informal gathering in the WOs & Sgts Mess. Comments on this function have been quite favourable, in particular from some of the widows who attended, and it's quite possible it could become an annual event.



Nice place you have here. Left to right: Norm McCowan, Greg Hart, Major Brian Flynn (OC Rear Party, 2PPCII).

On March 17th, a few of us joined Second Battalion's Rear Party for their Regimental Birthday hi-jinks. Following the Officers vs WOs & Sgts Broom-I-loo, where seven hapless officers were overwhelmed by the Senior NCOS (3-0), we spent a little time in the Junior Ranks Club before joining the Senior NCOS as guests of the Officers' Mess. There, the appropriate parts of the horse were presented in the traditional manner and then, as new Custodians of the Butt, the Officers, were presented with a gas mask by the members of the Association.



Emily didn't win the bottle draw. Left to right: Greg Hart, Emily Heaver (biding ber remorse), Linda Sutton, Stu Weeks, Jerry Franc, Art Sutton.

In closing, we congratulate Brian Henwood, one of our new members recently retired from active service, and RSM Ron Cooke of Second Battalion, on being invested as Members of the Order of Military Merit (MMM).



It's mine and you can't bave it! Left to right: Greg Hart, Andy Schaene, Emily Heaver, Linda Sutton.



What are those gals doing back there? Left to right: Greg Hart, Linda Sutton, Emily Heaver, Jerry Franc, Bev Weeks, Art Sutton.

That's all from the Land of the Big Lakes. See you all in Saskatoon on August 1st.

"Always a Patricia"



I am not back for seconds! Taffy Gray sneaks some more cake under the watchful eye of Tommy Prince.

EDMONTON BRANCH

By Patricia Munro

Gleaned from the minutes of Edmonton Branch meetings from September 96 to March 97.

The initial Fall meeting was held in the Norwood Legion Boardroom with 34 in attendance. Guests were Leo Ricketts and Andy Anderson of Airborne Edmonton Garrison.

With 84 persons attending the Frezenberg Commemorative Dinner and the steadily increasing membership, it was decided that a change in venue was necessary. Jasper Place Legion #255 graciously gave us the needed space, and we now meet at 102 Ave., and 156 St., in W. Edmonton. An invitation is extended to visitors to join us at 11:30 hrs, the 4th Friday of the month.

October — "we will remember" — WO Frank Brignell (Korea) and MWO Les "Gootch" White. Welcomed new member, Michael Bludd, QMSI 3 PPCII (still serving). Introduced by G. Descoteaux.

1996 Remembrance Day Services, held in the Sports Complex on the U of A Campus was attended by a large crowd of Military and civilians. Representing the Edmonton Branch (laying wreath) were Don Manuel and Bert Rajotte. John Jackson, Bugler, Tex McCannel and "Ole" Vold, (Korean Vets). January — A Service of Remembrance for the late Jimmy "Newfie" O'Neill was held at the Veterans Centre, with Midge O'Neill and members of her family presenting a framed picture depicting the Battle of Kapyong. It will be given an honoured place on a wall at the Centre. Joe Dunn and 7 members of our Branch took part in the ceremony.

Barney Barnbart, Bill Shybunka & John Sulderitsch Don Gower, Bodo Unger, Joe Dunn, Jerry Zolk & Oscar Lacombe Chick & Eibel Query, Margaret Dunn & Mickey McCannel Roy Ellison Sylvia Ellison, Don Manuel, Bert Rajotte, John Jackson & "Ole" Vold. PCLI ASSOCIATION

December — 62 persons attended the Annual Christmas Luncheon. A shortened business meeting allowed members and their guest an opportunity to enjoy fellowship as a prelude to the Christmas season.

February — Lloyd Holden reported 57 on the Nominal Roll, with recent additions — Drummer Graham "Scotty" Trotter of the Big Rock Pipe Band and Joel Gilbeau. Also, returnee, Jim Aniandy. Guests were Mr & Mrs Bob Ewart and LCol Grant McLean. He shared some of his early experiences in an interesting and humorous account of his days as a Cadet in the Queen's Own Highlanders, his reception into the Infantry with the Van Doos and in 1969 his appointment to Commander of the Mechanized Rifles at St Jean, Quebec. Summing up his talk he noted that "transferring to the Reserves from the Regular Force was a cultural shock"!!!!

March — Our Branch received an invitation from Col Sutherland to hold the regular luncheon/meeting at Edmonton Garrison, Namao. This is the site of the expanding Military Base. Closure of major centres and movement of personnel necessitates enormous building and restructuring. New fami-

lies are already integrating into the Edmonton and surrounding communities, making a decided cultural and monetary impact. Following a delicious lunch in the Officer's Mess, the assembly boarded a Base Bus for a tour of the vast area which will eventually comprise the Edmonton Garrison.

Volunteers to attend the Wainwright Battle School Graduation Ceremonies, March — John Solderitsch, April — Lloyd Holden.

A committee will be struck to deal further with the proposed site and re-dedication of Princess Patricia Park in the area adjacent to the former Prince of Wales Armouries (now housing the City Archives). Neil McKerracher will keep us posted on progression of this project. Names to the committee at present — Paul Robison and Wayne Taylor.

This years Frezenberg Dinner will feature a similar skit to the one last year which portrayed the Life of a Young Soldier at the Front. This year those who served at Kapyong and the Hilter Line will be remembered.



OKANAGAN/ THOMPSON BRANCH

By Tom Tyson

Our membership stands at 51, with two new members during the year, Cornelius Pyne and Gil Hopkins.

We lost one of our members the name of Tommy Thompson suddenly to cancer, in December 96.

These members have been on the sick list: Mike and Mac Melnechuk, Pat Collins, Doug Mitchell, Mike Lawless and others including myself.

This winter sure has been a long one but maybe with the spring showing up soon, hoping that all will be back on parade.

The members of the branch are sorry to here that Arthur Kemsley is in the hospital with a stroke, our thoughts and prayers are with him.

One of our members Norma MacPhail is downunder in Australia visiting her son, daughter inlaw and grandchildren.

March 17 1997 the branch is holding a get together for Regimental Day at the Vernon Legion #25 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm all are welcome to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1997

April 25, Friday: Kapyong Day

May 10, Saturday: WWI Freezenberg

June 14, Saturday: Branch A.G.M.

June/July: National A.G.M.

August 9, Saturday: Branch BBQ

September 20, Saturday: WWII San Fortunato

October 18, Saturday: Luncheon Meeting

November 11, Tuesday: Remberance Day

December: Standdown

If in Vernon on any of these dates please join us, events are held at Branch #25 Royal Canadian Legion at 11:30 am. For more information phone 1-250-545-8250 Tom Tyson.



Okanagan Thompson Branch BBQ — Queenie Leclaire & Patricia Richard.



Hen Party — Bev Waselowich, Rene Tyson, Mac Melnechuk & Betty Farnell.



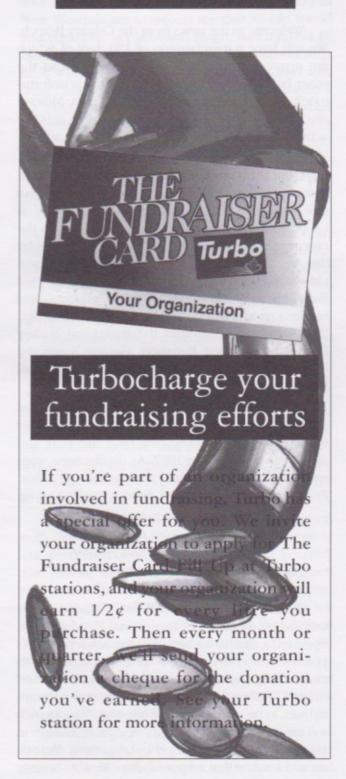
Backyard Bunch — Chris Yerburgh, Bill Davis, Tommy Thompson, Betty Farnell, Larry Harrington, Tina Yerburgh. Rear: Jerry Richard, Cliff Waselowich.



80th Anniversary, Calgary— Cowboy President Tom Tyson, Lady Patricia, Bill Waselowich, Tyson Waselowich (Tom's grandsons).



Okanagan Thompson Branch BBQ — Tom Tyson, Tom Mason, Gladys Mason, Tommy Thompson & Lois Thompson.



CALGARY BRANCH

By Rudy Raidt

Welcome to the news from the Calgary Branch. We still have a membership of 150, half of which are active in the affairs of the Branch, and the other half just hold memberships. This is unfortunately true of any volunteer organization, Military or civilian, and we are no exception, but, it is the active half which keeps our branch going and provides the focal point for our endeavours.

Our Octoberfest last fall was a successful event. Many turned out in traditional garb — who knows where they got it from. Remembrance Day was, as usual, well attended. Many members went to the ceremonies at the Jubilee Auditorium followed by the wreath laying at the Cenotaph downtown. Others attended ceremonies organized by the First Battalion at the Museum of the Regiments, and others joined Patricia's residing outside the city. We closed out 1996 with the traditional Turkey Dinner by the First Battalion. George Smith did his usual reading of poetry lifting the espirit of all those present.

On 30 January we held our Annual General Meeting. The membership applauded the hard work done by the Executive over the year and approved the plans for 1997. As no elections were necessary the present Executive remains in office. For those who don't know, here is the Executive:

President Bob Zubkowski Vice-President John Demerchant Secretary-Treasurer Rod Hunter Entertainment Chair George Arthurson Past President Rudy Raidt

On 17/18 February, our Branch members, ably assisted by members of Regimental Headquarters, operated a Casino on behalf of the Association. As you all know, operating a Casino is essential to maintaining the Regimental Museum. We netted over \$23,000 to the pool and we expect a substantial sum to be received by the Museum. As a Branch we are committed to operate one more Casino in 1998, then, we believe, the Edmonton Branch should assume that responsibility. We also believe the Calgary Branch has done its share over the last 30 years, so, indeed, it's time the other Branches pull their weight. Remember, as long as the Museum remains in calgary the Calgary Branch still provides volunteers to man our gallery.

Our entertainment calendar is set for 1997 beginning with a formal dining-in on 3 May, as part of the closing ceremonies of CFB Calgary. Because of all sorts of other activities 3 May 1997 is the only available date for us. We encourage all members to come out for this final occasion in the WO's & Sgt's Mess. Of course friends are cordially invited to come out and join us. Contact any member of the Executive.

As part of the Regimental Heritage Project for 1997, the Calgary Branch will initiate an oral history project which includes both visual and oral histories of members of the Branch. We are indeed cognizant of the fact that time is running short. We hope that everyone will co-operate as we try and cover all aspects of our Regimental history. It is your story too, whatever your original Regiment, country or creed, we all can learn from it.

We are also actively engaged with the First Battalion as CFB Calgary is being closed down. Details can be found on other pages. Suffice it to say we are proud to have been part of CFB Calgary. As a garrison, Calgary was second to none.

A very good friend of the Calgary Branch paid us a visit from Australia. Don MacLeod, Ron Fraser, Butch McFarlane, Doug McNeil, Rudy Raidt and Bill Lloyd were able to meet with Jim Dalton at the Ogden Legion for breakfast on Tuesday 4 March 1997. Unfortunately by the time Ron and Butch found Jim at his favourite spot it was nearly lunch time - so much for knowing your city. Many a tale crossed the table and it was clear that the Regimental esprit was as strong as ever. One thing became clear and that is that we are losing touch with our fellow Patricia's, especially the junior ranks. Why oh why is this happening? We know that age is taking it's toll but it is Patricia's like Jim who demonstrate that once bonded that bond remains strong forever. Jim when you read these lines, we all hope that you returned safe and sound and that the temperature down under is more bearable as you approach your "fall" season. We can hardly wait for our spring season.

FRASER VALLEY BRANCH

By Mel Canfield

The first meeting of the Fall session. Matt Brown gave the members a rather disturbing report on his trip to Edmonton over the summer. He reported on his visit to the new military facilities being built at Namao. He was not impressed, at least not with the speed of construction. Particularly with when we've been told troops are due to move. It looked to Matt as though they will have nothing to move into before winter strikes. We will see, and I guess 3 Bn will experience, whatever happens.

Our president reported on a trip to Winnipeg and 2 Bn's Trooping and 45th Anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Kapyong on 27-30 June. The report was a glowing one especially the part about the Trooping in steamy, hot weather. The troops really suffered in the heat but they never missed a beat. Their pride was very evident and they carried out their drill in flawless fashion. The whole three days of the troop's performance was outstanding. It gave an "old original" of the second Bn a real burst of pride in his unit, and in the standards being maintained by the Regiment.

The President also reported on the KVA AGM conducted in Calgary over a weekend in late August. Lots of old comrades and visitors from various units around North America and even some from England. We even ran into a couple of First Cav guys who had helped us withdraw out of Kapyong, what a rush that was!

At our Oct meeting we enjoyed visitors passing through from Calgary. Ed and Bernie Dixon on their way south and Fred Udell moving from Calgary out to N. Vancouver with his lady, Garry Janzen. Our only bad news this month was about our Secretary, Felix Carriere who was in hospital for surgery. We wish him well.

November started off badly with the passing of former RSM Roy H. Appleton, CD. He died peacefully, at his home, in Harrison, with his wife Caroline present, looking after him. On 11 Nov we attended Remembrance Day services at the Base Cenotaph. The weather was nicely warm and sunny. Mark Gagne and Bob Shine laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. On 23 Nov we attended a Service Of Remembrance for Roy Appleton.

On 9 Dec the Branch members enjoyed our Christmas dinner at the Grand West Restaurant. It

turned out really well. On 12 Dec we held our regular monthly meeting in the RCL, Br 280. Just after mid Dec I received a call from Ann Wray in New Westminster to inform me that an old friend and comrade, her husband Hugh, had died on 14 Dec. Hugh had served with the Westminster Regt in WWII. He was de-mobbed at War's end and went back to his regular job. In 1950 he joined 2 Bn PPCLI and served a tour in Korea. He then transferred to Regular Force and served a number of years. On retirement from the Military he went back to University, earned a degree in Education and taught in the Westminster area until his retirement at age 65.

At our regular meeting on 8 Jan 1997 Tom Walton, as retiring president of the "Bornewest" Airborne Forces Association, extended an invitation to our Branch members to attend the Airborne Forces Association Dinner and Dance on 22 Feb 1997 at the Base WO"s & Sgt"s Mess. It will be one of the last such functions before the Base closes later this year. Considerable interest was expressed by the members.

The highlight of the meeting was expressing congratulations to Helene and Harold Grouette on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 22 Jan. As you might imagine, the congratulations were mostly for Grouch. Helene was mostly offered condolences in varying degrees of sympathy from a gang who had known them both for most of those years. It was fun!

At the regular meeting on 12 Feb it started off with more disturbing news. Diane Mitchell, one of our own members had to be taken to hospital. She had an attack of some kind but they figured she would be ok with some treatment and rest. Then we got a call from Don Parr-Pearson to tell us that Art Kemsley, recently retired President of Vancouver Branch had been taken to Lion's Gate Hospital with a stroke. At last word he was undergoing extensive rehab treatment. He has always been a fiercely loyal and hard-working Patricia. We all wish him well.

At our regular meeting on 12 March, Tom Walton first reported on the Airborne Dinner and Dance. It was with a bit of a smile that he noted that the ones who closed the Mess following the Dine and Dance were the Fraser Valley Branch members he had invited. Tom then went on to report that he had completed arrangements with the Base CWO, and the PMC of the WO's & Sgt's

mess, for our use on Monday 17 Mar for our Regimental Observations. We could meet there from 1300 to 1600 hrs. Our president said he would bring the new Regimental music we had recently received from RHQ. Some money was voted for light food and Phyllis Shine volunteered to make the necessary arrangements.

Sixteen members showed up on the 17th, plus one new member, WO Jim Ogden, a serving member and the new President of Bornwest Airborne Association. Two guests also joined us from the surviving Base Staff, CWO Terry Manning, the A/Base CWO, and WO Chris Simpson the PMC. Following the appropriate toasts, we had a great afternoon of storytelling, recounting of snippets of Regimental History, some War Stories and a few Jump Stories. It was a good afternoon of Regimental nostalgia.

Our next meeting will be the Branch AGM on 9 Apr.



(From Left to Right) (half face) Harry Chatry, DIT Roe, Bob Shine, Guest CWO Terry Manning (A/Base CWO), New member WO Jim Ogden (incoming President, "BorneWest", Branch Airborne Forces Assn). Jim is currently stationed at CFB Chilliwack & Adeal Canfield.



(Left to Right) Phyllis Shine, Helene Grouette, Lil Roe, Charlene (Lil's Daughter), Hope Chatry, Harry Chatry. "Some of our loyal Lady members" (and Harry).



(Left to Right): Hope Chatry, Harry Chatry, DIT Roe, Noel Pitre, Mrs Pitre, Bob Shine, Jim Ogden (back to camera). "Noel Pitre and Bob Shine exchanging reminiscences. Noel was the Food Services Officer with the Regiment for several years".



Sitting, facing left, then counter clockwise:
Harry Chatry, Hope Chatry, Charlene (DIT Roe's Daughter),
Lil Roe (bidden behind Charlene), Helene Grouette,
Phyllis Shine, Harold Grouette, Mel Canfield, Adeal Canfield,
Jim Ogden, Bob Shine & DIT Roe.
Standing: CWO Terry Manning (A/Base CWO) — our guest.
An overview of the group who were first on the scene
for our 17 March gathering.
This was held in the CFB Chilliwack WO's & Sgt's Mess.



(From Left to Right) Mel Canfield, Harold Grouette, Harry Chatry (standing), Tom Walton & Terry Main. Tom Walton (in Maroon Jacket with hands outstreched) is telling Harold a Jump Story. As you can tell by the look on "Grouch's" face, it is an incredible story — but very interesting!



VICTORIA BRANCH

By John M. Tolley

The Victoria Branch AGM in October 1996 saw Chic Goodman step down as President for a well deserved rest, and Larry Davies took over the position. Don Ross volunteered to take on the task of Vice President, and the rest of the executive and appointees remained in place since getting replacements is harder than finding someone to do your fire piquet on pay night.

We have lost several members during the last few months, and they will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I can however report that former Regimental Chaplain, Alex Reid and Don Brodie have joined us. Don has moved to Victoria to take over as head of the local Corps of Commissionaires.

As usual our members turned out in large numbers for the various November 11th services in the Victoria area. The Esquimalt service always attracts the largest contingent, and we lay our PPCLI Association memorial wreath at that location. Earlier that week, on November 7th the branch were on hand at the Colville Road Veterans Cemetery, to lay to rest the ashes of Bill Roach DSO. For those not familiar with the cemetery it is well worth a visit, or a return visit, since many of our old comrades lie in such a beautiful location. If you plan on being buried there, make sure you have a good sense of humour. The cemetery lies in the middle of Gorge Vale Golf Course, and if a player slices a ball, it may land on your plot. In which case, the offender is likely to make a joke at your expense.

In December we joined forces with the Korean Veterans Association for our annual Christmas bingo. Thanks to the efforts of Olive Miller and Georgina Worsfold of the entertainment committee it was a great success. Unfortunately Olive has since suffered a serious medical problem, but I'm happy to report that she has made a good recovery.

Our Regimental birthday was held a day early on the 16th of March in the Officers mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. General Brian Vernon, recently retired to Comox was our guest of honour, and the event as always was well attended with both retired and serving members. We have to thank Jac de Bruijne for the excellent buffet provided, his old CQ skills have not faded. The event brought together five old comrades from pre-

WWII days, Smokie Green, Bill Oxley, Jim Coutts, George Wilkinson and Barney Lane. They all served together in B company at Work Point in the mid to late 1930s. The trouble is that when you hang around with a crowd like that, your 61 year old correspondent with 35 years service feels like a new recruit.



Internment of Ashes



Captain Doug Salmon (son of Sockeye) surprised to find that some of the guys here have been shot at.



Why are Brian Vernon and Doug Bell smiling? Because their wives are driving.



Bill Roach's medals



Punchy Westfall demonstrates bow bis new knees lock into place and never let you down at the bar.



1930s B Company PPCLI. 300 years of combined Regimental bistory.



Memorial service for Bill Roach. Eulogy by Doug Bell.



Branch colour party.



Saskatoon? No, Gorge Road Victoria on New Years day 1997. Snow storm videos, and "I survived the blizzard" bumper stickers are selling well.



Belts and suspenders give us confidence.



When Irish eyes are smiling. Olive Miller explains to the ladies bow she keeps Happy Harry bappy.

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

By Norm Walker

Our reunion in Prince Albert was blessed with a blizzard and our numbers were down. We were, however, able to have thirty-two members on the ground for dinner.

Most of our "New Business" was put off to the next meeting in Regina in 1997. We were able to sign an anniversary card to be given to Capt Robert Rootis and the PPCLI Estevan Cadet Corps. We will also send them a Newsletter.

Norm and Kathy Walker will attend the anniversary on behalf of the Sask Branch while Lloyd and June Jones will attend on behalf of the National Association. I must say, while we were there in May of 96 we were very well received — as the attached photos attest to.



Col. R.R. Romses, OMM, C.D. Base Comd. C.F.B Calgary with Mr. Lloyd Jones, National Vice President P.P.C.L.I.



Comrades of the Saskatchewan Branch.



President Claude Petit (C) at awards night.



Col. R.R. Romses, OMM, C.D. with Norm Walker, Sec. Sask Br. P.P.C.L.I., 11 May 96.

In Memoriam

Name	Service	Date	Place
Appleton, Roy H. MM, CD	Korea, Reg F	4 November, 1996	Agassiz,BC
Bell, William Charles	WW II	20 February, 1997	Logan Lake, BC
Bouley, Valmont	Korea	26 August, 1996	Timmons, ON
Butler, William	WW II	13 October, 1996	Oshawa, ON
Cameron, G.W. (George)		12 January, 1997	Newcastle, ON
Caughill, R.G. (Robert)	_	21 January, 1997	Niagara Falls, ON
Copp G.E. (Graydon)	_	23 February, 1997	Red deer, AB
Cottel, Lorne H.	Reg F	24 June, 1997	Tillbury, ON
Coulter J. (Jerry or Jack)	WW II	23 November, 1996	Lethbridge, AB
Derrick a.k.a. Zadorowich, Bill	WW II	2 November, 1996	Winnipeg, MB
Ford, Harvey P.	WW II	16 October, 1996	Ninette, MB
Harding, Calvin Eugene	Korea, Reg F	17 March, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Howe, Chris	Korea	30 Sep, 1997	Whitehorse YN
Hughes, Daniel J.	Reg F	7 December, 1996	Eckville, AB
Inglis, Charles H.	WW II	31 August, 1996	Kelowna, BC
James, Raymond L.	WW II	20 October, 1996	Winnipeg, MB
Keep, Robert Harry Noble	WW II, Korea, Reg F	9 January, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Labutte, Henry J.	Korea	27 July, 1996	Windsor, ON
Long, Arthur J.	Korea	11 July, 1996	Winnipeg, MB
Luckwell, George	WW II	31 January, 1997	Texas, USA
Mainprize R.B. (Buzz)	WW II	10 March, 1997	Saanichton, BC
Marchessault, Marcel Henri	WW II, Korea, Reg F	12 March, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
McKinnon George	WW II	15 January, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
McManners, Terry	Reg F	31 October, 1996	Brockville, ON
Moore, Herbert	WW II	27 August, 1996	Vancouver, BC
Nicholson, Lorne W.	Reg F	22 October, 1996	Kelwood, MB
O'Grady G.S. (George)	-	October, 1996	Mt Uniacke, NS
Sanders, Francis O.	WW II	2 August. 1996	Atikokan, ON
St Pierre, Joseph Real	Reg F	18 January, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Thompson, E.A. (Tommy)	WW II, Korea	12 January, 1997	Kelowna, BC
Trapp, Elmer Reinhold	Korea	9 April, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Turnbull, Archibald T.	WW II	12 December, 1996	Winnipeg, MB
Weitzel, Harold Charles	WW II	9 April, 1997	Winnipeg, MB
Wilson, Dave P.	Reg F	11 November, 1996	Trenton, ON
Wray, Hugh	WW II, Korea, Reg F	14 December, 1996	New Westminster, BC