

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

In this Issue



November 2002

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

An annual Newsletter, devoted to the interest of all serving and retired members of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is published as an official Regimental Publication by authority of the President of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Association.

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PATRON

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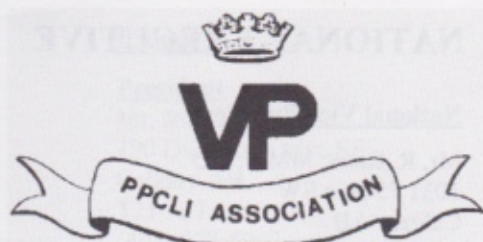
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Past President: Mr. D.W. Bedford, CD
National Secretary-Treasurer: Captain D.A. MacPherson, CD



Founded October 1947

Incorporated September 1, 1953

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The above information was the latest available to the Editor at press time. Please notify the Editor and the National Secretariat immediately of any errors or subsequent changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Jac de Bruijne, CD

We welcome the PPCLI Association Newsletter's new Editor-in-Chief, Mr. D'Arcy Best. His years of dedicated service to the Association at both national and branch levels and his experience publishing his branch's newsletter make him a capable choice. For years, D'Arcy has published the Manitoba/NW Ontario Branch Newsletter, which is exemplary in its layout, information and humour. The editor and I urge all branch executives and members to use this opportunity to send him notes on your local and future activities and anecdotal stories for publication in our Newsletter that reaches all members and at no cost to your Branch. On behalf of all members, I thank you, D'Arcy, for accepting these added responsibilities.

In mid-September, we conducted a very successful Annual General Meeting hosted by the Wainwright Branch. Many fond memories and friendships were rekindled at this warm gathering, and all those who attended felt enriched by the experience.

A highlight of the meeting was the appointment of MGen (Retd) C.W. Hewson, CMM, CD, former Colonel of the Regiment, to Vice-Patron of the Association, where he joins BGen Graham and MGen Pitts. We also awarded Mr. Norman McCowan, a founding member of the PPCLI Association, an Honorary Life Membership. Our congratulations to both General Hewson and Norm McCowan on their well deserved appointments.

On behalf of all those who attended this year's AGM, I thank Land Forces Western Area Training Centre's Commanding Officer, LCol Bryan Bailey; his staff; and Wainwright Branch President Bert Scott and his hard working committee who, together, made this event a great success.

We, the Association, salute all members of 3 PPCLI Battle Group on a job well done during Operation Apollo, which was performed in such appalling conditions that defy description. Further, we wish all members of 1 PPCLI Battle Group a successful tour of duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Operation Palladium (Roto 11). The battle group includes a company formed entirely of Reserve soldiers and, when you receive this newsletter, they will have been deployed in theatre.

Next year's Association activities include the 55th Annual General Meeting in St. Catharines, Ontario, 9 -11 May, 2003. I dedicate this next AGM in honour of all the

D-Day Dodgers who, on 10 July 1943, stormed ashore southwest of Pacino, Italy to attack the Axis Powers through the "soft" underbelly of Europe. I hope to see you there, Andy, Sydney and Norm. As well, for next year, the Association is attempting to secure funding from Veterans Affairs to send representatives of our Regiment to attend commemorative services at these historic beaches. In addition to Italy, Korean commemorative services will likely be held in conjunction with the anniversary of the signing of the Panmunjon Ceasefire Agreement on 27 July 1953. The Association is also requesting funding from Veterans Affairs to send Korean War veterans to attend these ceremonies in South Korea.

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT



*General John de Chastelain,
OC, CMM, CH, CD*

I am pleased to have the occasion to write this brief note for the Association Newsletter as we move into the 2002/2003-winter period.

It has been a busy Summer and Fall for the Regiment, with much activity in each of the battalions. Both the Third and Second battalions have been active in rotating their troops back from the Afghanistan mission conducted by 3 PPCLI Battle Group, and First Battalion has been busy preparing for and then deploying to Bosnia.

The huge success of the Afghanistan mission, marred only by the tragic deaths of the four Patricia soldiers in an unfortunate bombing incident, has added to the great respect in which all Canadian soldiers are held worldwide. The fact that the Battle Group bore the name of the Patricias, and was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Stogran, the CO of 3 PPCLI, has also added lustre to the Regiment's name, and written a new chapter in its history at war.

The month of August saw two changes of Command, with Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Day replacing Lieutenant-Colonel Marv Makulowich in 2 PPCLI, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Beaudette replacing Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Stogran in 3 PPCLI. Colonels Makulowich and Stogran both had outstanding tours in command of their battalions and have gone on to challenging new appointments, respectively at the Staff College in Kingston and in NDHQ. Colonels Day and Beaudette both came directly off operational postings in Afghanistan to take over their new commands.

While in Winnipeg and Edmonton for the changes of Command, I also had the opportunity to visit Wainwright to

see 1 PPCLI in their final preparations for their tour in Bosnia, where they are now. Integrating a company made up of soldiers from regiments of the Primary Reserve into the battle group, Lieutenant-Colonel Craig King put the finishing touches to their preparations with live-firing qualifications and equipment training updates. We wish him and his troops well on their Bosnian mission.

Also in Wainwright I was able to spend time with the Association National President, Jac de Bruijne, who also attended the change of command parades and visited 1st Battalion. While there, we were able to see members of the Wainwright Branch of the Association at a BBQ they hosted during the visit, and Jac was able to make final preparations for the Association AGM which was held in Wainwright in September (and which, sadly, I had to miss due to my involvement in Northern Ireland).

I was able to use the visits to the battalions and to the WATC to pass on news of our Colonel in Chief's successful hip operation. I have been in touch with her since, and she is fit and about and looking forward to visiting her First Battalion in Bosnia in the Spring.

May I use the occasion of this Newsletter to wish continued success and happiness to Patricias everywhere and to congratulate the Association for their continuing work on behalf of the Regiment.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATION POST

By D'Arcy Best

Association Newsletter Reinstated

During recent discussion, the Association Executive confirmed the need to improve communication within the Association and agreed that the Association Newsletter should be reinstated. They invited me to be the Editor for the first edition and, against my better judgement, I consented, which is why I am now sitting here wrestling with this word processor instead of out climbing Mount Everest or snow shoeing solo to the North Pole.

The Executive has agreed that the *Association Newsletter* will be distributed in November of each year and will contain editorials, announcements of upcoming Association and Regimental activities, personal and historical notes and current affairs of interest to members. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be enclosed. We will also include Branch activity calendars for the coming year and any other information Branches may have for the benefit of their own and other members, and we encourage individual members to contribute personal anecdotes and photographs.

In addition to the *Association Newsletter*, all paid up Association members will receive the Association's *Spring Bulletin* and *The Patrician*.

The *Spring Bulletin* will contain an editorial page, information on the up coming AGM and other events, updates to Branch calendars, changes in Branch Officers and re-

mindings to Branches and members. It will be distributed in March or April, ensuring that AGM information is passed on early enough for members to respond in time. The 2003 *Spring Bulletin* will be distributed in April. To meet this deadline, I will need your submissions by March 15.

The Patrician is the primary archival record of our Regimental Family and submissions from Branches should outline their activities during the past year. The articles should contain humour to maintain readers' interest. Commencing this year, *The Patrician* will be restructured from 5 x 7 size to 11x7. The increased page space will be used primarily for more photos. We expect *The Patrician 2002* to be distributed in May 2003, and submissions must be received at Regimental Headquarters by January 20, 2003.

We hope Branches will not duplicate submissions in the *Association Newsletter* and *The Patrician* as Association members read both. In essence, the *Association Newsletter* announces what we are planning and *The Patrician* reports what we have done.

Second Battalion to Receive Commander In Chief Unit Commendation for Action in the Medak Pocket

On December 1, 2002, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson will present the newly created Commander in Chief Unit Commendation to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The award is in recognition of the 2PPCLI Battle Group's work in the Medak Pocket Operation in Croatia in 1993, Canada's most severe military action since the Korean War.

The ceremony in the Winnipeg Arena will commence at 1400 hrs and is open to the public. Following the awards, there will be a reception in the arena for former and current members of the 2PPCLI Battle Group and invited guests.

Anyone who served with 2PPCLI Battle Group during Op Harmony Roto 2 (1993) is eligible for the award. Eligible former members of the Battle Group who plan to attend are asked to contact Warrant Officer Colin Moran, 2PPCLI, at (204) 833-2500, Extension 6173, or e-mail: Moran.CM@forces.gc.ca, **as soon as possible**.

There are no military accommodations available but the following hotels are close to the Winnipeg Arena and offer government rates:

- Canad Inn Polo Park, (204) 775-8791, \$90 double, \$80 single
 - Viscount Gort, (204) 775-0451, \$84 double, \$74 single
- Both of these hotels have Airport Shuttle Service and 2PPCLI will provide transportation between these hotels and the arena.

2003 Annual General Meeting in St Catharines May 10

The 55th Annual General Meeting of the PPCLI Association, hosted by the Southwest Ontario Branch, will be held in the Howard Johnson Hotel, St Catharines, Ontario, on Saturday, May 10, 2003. Activities will commence on Friday, May 9 and conclude with a Mothers Day Brunch on Sunday, May 11.

Our hosts have arranged special rates with West Jet to Hamilton from various points in Canada and will provide ground transportation from the Hamilton Airport to the hotel. Association members should find the complete information package, including AGM Registration Form and West Jet fare information and booking form, enclosed with this Newsletter.

To obtain the special West Jet rates, flights must be booked by **April 7, 2003**. You must inform them that you are with the PPCLI Association and provide this number: **QC#2104**.

If you require pickup at the airport, you must specify on the AGM Registration Form.

Completed AGM Registration Forms, together with cheques or money orders, must be returned to the specified address by **April 1, 2003**.

Annual General Meeting 2003 Election Of Officers

At the Annual General Meeting in St Catharines on 10 May 2003, we will be required to elect a President, National Vice-President and Vice-President (East)

Jac de Bruijne will have served two consecutive terms as National President and will not be eligible for re-election. However, he will remain on Council as Immediate Past President. Bruce Paxton will have served two consecutive terms as Vice-President (East) and will not be eligible for re-election to that office but he is eligible for election to President or National Vice-President. National Vice-President Rudy Raidt, having served one term, will be eligible for a second term in his current office or for election to President.

All members are urged to seek out and nominate suitable willing candidates for the above positions. In particular, members of the eastern branches are asked to give serious consideration to likely candidates for the position of Vice-President (East).

All voting members of the Association are eligible for nomination to the National Executive; however, nominees for National Vice-President and Vice-President (East) should have served on a previous Council and for President should have served on the *immediately preceding* Council.

Written nominations, confirmed by two members in good standing and acknowledged by the nominees, are to be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee at the following address:

Mr. D.W. Bedford
5327A - 38 Avenue
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by **31 Jan 2003**.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the AGM provided they are seconded and the nominee is in agreement.

2003 Airborne Reunion

The 35th Anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Airborne Regiment will be celebrated with an Airborne

Reunion in Edmonton, June 5-8, 2003. The tentative program is as follows:

Thursday, Jun 5: Happy Hour.

Friday, Jun 6: Trip to the I Can Para Monument at Siffleur Falls followed by a Meet & Greet BBQ.

Saturday, Jun 7: Tours, Free Time, Memorial Parade, Dinner and Dance.

Sunday, Jun 8: Breakfast and Farewell.

Further information can be obtained *after January 1, 2003* by contacting Bill Dickson, Telephone (780) 459-6215, Fax (780) 459-7845.

Student Bursaries

Due to the current low interest rates the revenue generated in the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund Student Bursary Fund was lower than anticipated this year resulting in only two bursaries being awarded. One of the \$500 Jack Cathie Bursaries was awarded to Olubusola Famuyide, a Cadet Warrant Officer in Winnipeg's 2701 PPCLI Cadet Corps, who will be attending first year at the University of Manitoba. The other recipient, Jacinda Wagner, is the wife of Cpl Derek Putnam, 2PPCLI, and is currently a pharmacy student at the University of Manitoba.

"Always a Patricia"

RM's CORNER

By E.A. (Ted) Giraldeau
Regimental Major

Greetings. I feel very pleased to be able to include a brief article in the newly revised Association Newsletter. Communications is the key to any organization's viability and I am encouraged by the Association's decision to re-institute the publication of a newsletter. As a tool for internal communication, the newsletter is an excellent way to keep the membership informed of events, activities and the special accomplishments of members from across the Branches. It should also be used to entice non-members and serving soldiers to join the Association so I would encourage the Association to think of externally distributing the newsletter to a wider audience.

I have been the Regimental Major for just over year. In that time, I have attended two Annual General Meetings of the Association, last year in Winnipeg and recently in Wainwright. Whereas I thoroughly enjoyed the social aspect of the gatherings, I was also impressed with the interest displayed by the Branch Presidents and/or their representatives in the business side of the Association. An organization such as the Association does not run by itself. It takes dedication and effort to make it work, particularly if the membership wants to have more than just a social club.

The PPCLI Association is, and should be, more than just a social club. It has a mandate to foster and maintain the spirit of the Regiment and to perpetuate its heritage and

traditions. If anyone believes this involves only a social aspect, he is mistaken. The Association has made it its duty to provide benevolent support to its members, to establish and maintain the Regimental Museum and Archives, to provide student bursaries to family members and to perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship, mutual respect and esprit de corps. These are all worthy goals but to achieve them it requires full and active support from the membership. Relying on only a few members to carry the torch and bear the responsibility of governing the Association is not beneficial, particularly with an aging membership. The "Old Guard", despite their dedication, cannot do it forever, and to remain a viable organization, the Association must continue to recruit members and encourage everyone to become active in the Association's governance at the branch and national levels.

As a currently serving soldier *and* a member of the Association, I plan to be in the organization for a long time. I would like to believe that dedicated and motivated individuals will step up to take up the torch from the current leadership to ensure the Association is strong and viable well into the future. After all, the Association will only be as good as the membership makes it. The Association is you so please make something of it.

MILLENNIUM FUND - CLOSING CALL

By Rudy Raidt, PPCLI Association Finance Chairman

Since our first letter to members in the fall of 1999, announcing a fundraising campaign under the slogan "Millennium Fund", we had hopes for a successful outcome. Regrettably, so far only about 150 members (from over thousand contacted) have joined the "Annual Donation" campaign. While we received donations of close to \$25,000, it is far from our goal. I am hopeful, however, that those Patricias who have yet to support us will see the merit of our endeavour and do so now. A letter will be sent to all members during October-November, asking for a final donation. I believe that this "Annual Donation" campaign is too important to let it go. Therefore, please make your donation count.

The intent of the campaign was to raise \$100,000 over a five-year period, a goal that, in my opinion, was achievable. With the current cash assets in the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund of about \$120,000, our total capital could now well be over \$200,000. **We need your help to build our Memorial Fund!** Based on current interest rates, the Memorial Fund needs at least a \$200,000 capital base to meet and sustain its charitable activities, i.e. bursaries, Museum and Cadet support, audit fees and other administrative expenses.

We have only you to turn to for help. We don't solicit corporate donations and we are not eligible for government or foundation grants. Your special gift now will help close the gap and send us a vote of confidence that you want us to continue. Members who have yet to make a donation should do so now by donating the full amount of \$125, or more, if you can. **Please do so before December 31!** Your donation

to the Millennium Fund is crucial and your support is much appreciated. All donations of \$25 or more will be receipted for income tax purposes. And thanks in advance for your donation!

If you have any questions, please contact:

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CANADA'S SECRET BATTLE VALIDATED

By Scott Taylor, Editor and Publisher of "Esprit de Corps"

(Published in the Winnipeg Free Press July 16, 2002)



Charlie Company demonstrated that the UN was ready to use deadly force to back up its mandate in Croatia.

Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson has created two new military decorations in recognition of Canadian peacekeeping exploits in the Balkans. These Commander-in-Chief citations were awarded to the First Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment (Vandoos) and the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) for the "outstanding service of Canadian Forces in time of conflict under direct enemy fire."

The Vandoos are being credited for their 1992 role of allowing then UN sector commander Maj-Gen. Lewis Mackenzie to reopen the Sarajevo airport at the height of the Bosnian civil war. Thanks in part to the tremendous international attention garnered by MacKenzie at that time, the Vandoos' dangerous exploits were relatively well publicized.

One cannot say the same about the 2PPCLI Action in the Medak Pocket, which has subsequently been dubbed "Canada's Secret Battle." This unheralded action began with a devastating bombardment on the morning of Sept. 9, 1993, and lasted a total of nine days before a ceasefire was reinstated.

When the Croatian shells first began to explode in the Serbian village of Medak, Lt. Tyrone Green and his platoon

found themselves caught in the centre of the maelstrom. They, along with the rest of 2PPCLI, had only recently been deployed to this region known as Sector South.

Although it was included within the administrative boundaries of newly independent Croatia, this area was historically populated by ethnic Serbs. Having no desire to submit to Croatian authorities, the Serbs, in turn, declared their own independent region called Krajina. Croatian military threats to eliminate this pocket of resistance prompted the United Nations to declare this a protected area. From the outset, Lt-Col. Jim Calvin, commanding officer of 2PPCLI, made it clear that he and his battalion would not back away from their mandate to protect the Krajina Serbs.

Despite the danger, Green's platoon remained in Medak to the UN Security Council with an up-to-the-minute account of the heavy fighting.

On the night of Sept. 10, Green reported a distinct shift in the bombardment. Croatian special forces troops had begun rolling through the Medak valley. Brave but futile Serb resistance resulted in a steady stream of wounded soldiers and frightened refugees flowing past Green's position.

Serbian reinforcements were rushed from all over Krajina to halt the Croatian advance. After desperate fighting on the morning of Sept. 14, the Serbs had succeeded in stabilizing their line, barely 1,200 metres from the village of Medak itself.

Under intense political pressure from the UN, the Croats reluctantly agreed to withdraw to their pre-Sept. 9 lines. However, when Calvin attempted to push his troops forward, the Croats opened fire at the advancing peacekeepers. Invoking their right to self-defence, the men of Charlie Company, 2PPCLI, started shooting back. Over the next 16 hours a vicious firefight took place at ranges often less than 200 metres. Despite being outgunned, the PPCLI held their ground.

The following morning, Calvin resumed his attempt to push forward into the contested pocket. When a Croatian general refused passage to Delta Company, Calvin ordered his men to "lock and load" their weapons. A tense standoff ensued, with the heavily outnumbered Canadians looking through their gun sights at Croatian gun barrels. To break the impasse, Calvin gambled on the threat of negative international press coverage by calling forward a handful of journalists to the roadblocks. Based on violence witnessed by his troops the previous evening, Calvin accused the Croats of "crimes against humanity." The tactic worked, and the general backed down.

As the Croatian soldiers removed the roadblocks and the Canadian armoured column rolled forward, it soon became evident that Calvin had been correct in his allegations of atrocities. What could not be looted by the retreating Croats was burned, and of the 171 Serb civilians reportedly trapped in the pocket, the PPCLI found only 16 badly mutilated bodies. Discarded surgical gloves next to bloodied soil left little doubt as to the fate of the other missing Serbs.

Given the heavy fighting they had endured and the carnage they had uncovered, the men of 2PPCLI expressed little remorse for having inflicted heavy casualties on the Croatian forces – officially listed as 21 dead and dozens wounded.

With hundreds of our soldiers enduring more than a week of artillery fire and several close-quarter firefights, the Medak remains the largest combat engagement experienced by Canadian troops since the Korean War. In contrast to the almost constant media attention being directed towards the activities of our troops currently on operational duty in Afghanistan, incredibly the first news reports of the Medak battle were not publicized in Canada until the *Ottawa Citizen* broke the story in November 1996 – 38 months after it occurred.

Despite the exemplary performance of 2PPCLI and the relatively light casualties they suffered during the operation (four wounded and one accidental death), the senior bureaucrats at the Department of National Defence deliberately chose not to make public the Medak incident. Domestically, the senior brass was already embroiled in the Somalia scandal, and the Progressive Conservative government was in the midst of a disastrous federal election. No one wanted to put a spotlight on the military, particularly when this incident had the potential to embarrass the U.S. over their pro-Croatian foreign policy in the Balkans. U.S. Military advisers had assisted the Croats in planning the overall Medak operation.

At the time, some Defence officials argued internally that 2PPCLI had "failed" to protect the Serbs in Medak. However, the fact remains that Calvin's troops demonstrated, for the first time, that the UN was prepared to use deadly force to back up its stated mandate in Croatia. Official recognition of this brave effort with a decoration is a step in the right direction. However, nine years later, the perpetrators of the Medak atrocities have still not been indicted by the Hague War Crimes Tribunal, despite the overwhelming evidence supplied by the Canadian soldiers who witnessed the horrors.

Only when this international court alters its anti-Serbian bias and begins applying an even hand of justice can our Medak veterans' efforts be considered truly validated.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PPCLI ASSOCIATION?

To many of today's serving soldiers, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Association is a bunch of old guys who show up for Troopings and other Regimental occasions, gather in the messes and the Better 'Ole and talk about wars that took place before most of today's soldiers were born. To some extent, this is true. However, while our members are drawn to the Association by the bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps forged by service in the Regiment, in war and peace, we should not be looked upon

as merely an "Old Comrades" association.

The PPCLI Association is composed of retired and serving members of the Regiment and members of other Canadian Forces components who have at some time served with or been attached to the Regiment. The objects of the Association are to foster and maintain the spirit of the Regiment and perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship, mutual regard and esprit de corps forged among all ranks while serving with the Regiment.

Although the Association is an independent self-governing component within the Regimental Family, we serve both the Regiment and its retired members. We are the legal guardians of regimental property and funds, and much of our activity and administration is linked to the Regiment.

The National President represents the Association on the Regimental Guard and the Regimental Executive Committee, providing Association input in the development and management of regimental affairs. The President and Vice-President are Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund, and together with the Immediate Past President and the Secretary-Treasurer, they comprise a majority on the Board. In addition, the Chairman and the majority of the members of the Regimental Heritage Committee are also Association members.

The Hall of Honour in the Regimental Museum was conceived and carried to completion by Rod Middleton, President of the Association from 1984 until 1989, and, for the most part, was paid for with funds raised by Association Branches. Calgary Branch volunteers provide many hours of service to the Museum and staff the annual Cash Casino, which has raised thousands of dollars for the Museum Fund.

The Okanagan/Thompson Branch constructed a small park and erected a memorial cairn at Vernon Camp to perpetuate the memory of Patricia's who have served there. Members of the Ottawa Branch played a key role in acquiring the Hamilton Gault Statue for that city. The Manitoba & North Western Ontario Branch arranged for the erection of a monument at the former Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg to mark the Regiment's former home there.

The PPCLI Association was probably conceived in 1917 when troops in the trenches talked about forming a club after the war. A Patricia club, calling themselves the PPCLI Service Association, was actually formed in Toronto in 1919, and they held their first Annual Frezenberg Dinner on May 8th, 1920. This was the birth of the Toronto Branch of the Association, and for over 75 years they held an annual dinner on the Saturday nearest that date. Over the years, other Patricia clubs were organized across Canada and in the UK.

In October of 1947, representatives from the various clubs met in Calgary to draft a constitution and elect an executive for a National organization. The Regiment's founder, Brigadier A. Hamilton Gault, chaired this organisational meeting. Retired Major R.G.M. Gammell of the Montreal Club was elected the first National President and Lieutenant W.B.S. Sutherland, then serving with the Regi-

ment in Calgary, was appointed the Association's first Secretary-Treasurer. The PPCLI Association was incorporated on September 1st, 1953. Lady Patricia Ramsay, the Regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief, kindly consented to be Patron of the Association and the Countess Mountbatten, our current Patron, succeeded her in 1974.

Sadly, the Toronto and UK Branches are no more, but they have been replaced by new branches and we now have 13 across Canada: Victoria, Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Okanagan/Thompson, Calgary, Edmonton, Wainwright, Saskatchewan, Manitoba & North Western Ontario, Ottawa, Kingston, Southwest Ontario, and Atlantic. The National Secretariat is located at Regimental Headquarters in Edmonton and the Regimental Adjutant is our National Secretary-Treasurer.

REGIMENTAL SYSTEM UNDER ATTACK

(From *This Passing Parade*, a column by Harry L Mardon in *Prime Time News*, July 15, 2002)

Centuries-old traditions of regimental soldiering are under attack in, of all places, National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. The enemy from within are some faddists who appear to be determined to obliterate the regimental system in the Canadian Army.

The immediate targets are the regular army's three proud old infantry regiments: the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Royal Canadian Regiment and the mainly French-speaking Royal 22nd Regiment, better known as the Vandoos. Each regiment has three battalions, which at full strength should each have about 800 officers and men.

But the ultimate objective of the "social engineers" cult at defence headquarters is believed to be the abolition of all reserve army infantry regiments, most of which have deep roots in their local communities.

Units such as the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, both based at Minto Armoury. These militia regiments fought with great bravery and effectiveness throughout the First and Second World Wars, and have provided reinforcements to many Canadian peace-keeping regular force units in the post-war era.

Reporter Tom Blackwell of the *National Post* uncovered the insidious assault on the regimental system in the form of a "major review ...following criticism that regiments can be paternalistic, old-fashioned and susceptible to cover-up when wrongdoing occurs."

The reporter doesn't name the sources of these criticisms. One suspects many of the critics are political theorists who detest firm social structures which have survived the permissiveness that has plagued other areas of Canadian society over the past half-century or so.

Of course, there may be a few of the whiners and complainers who have actually served in an infantry regiment. There are always a few disgruntled soldiers in every battalion.

However, throughout military history armies have been sub-divided into cohesive smaller units, often called regiments. Britain has the distinction of having the oldest, largest and most effective regimental system in the world, dating back nearly 400 years ago.

It served as a splendid model when Canadian militia regiments were raised, and subsequent regular army regiments formed.

In the case of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the oldest infantry regiment in Western Canada at 120 years, it was modelled on the King's Royal Rifle Corps, founded in 1756 as the 60th Foot Regiment of the British Army. The British regiment still exists as the Royal Green Jackets, which is affiliated with the three PPCLI battalions.

(The 1st Regiment of Foot, the Royal Scots, was founded in 1633 by King Charles I. The Honourable Artillery Company, founded in 1537, is the oldest surviving military formation in Britain, as an army reserve unit in London. It was formed by King Henry VIII.)

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada was formed in Winnipeg in 1910 and still treasures its connections with Britain's 79th Foot Regiment, founded in 1793 as the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. It is now known as the Highlanders after the Camerons were merged with the Seaforth Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders.

What is notable about army regiments is that often Canadians have joined their regiment of choice and stayed with it for their entire military careers, sometimes several generations following that pattern.

The history of warfare shows repeatedly that the men who do the actual fighting "at the sharp end" whether they're in tank, artillery, engineer or infantry regiments, fight mostly for their close comrades. They don't risk their lives for vague intangibles -- and certainly not for their government. But they will give up their lives for their buddies. The regiment is their family, and the soldiers in it are intensely aware of its history and traditions.

As Napoleon once sagely observed, in war "morale is to material as three is to one."

Yet today, the armchair warriors and bureaucrats at DND headquarters in Ottawa are now tinkering with the greatest morale booster a soldier can enjoy, the sense of belonging, of mutual trust and camaraderie from serving in a close-knit fighting regiment. Many U.S. Army officers are on record as saying they greatly admire Canada's regimental esprit de corps, a system that does not exist on any scale in their army.

The National Post quotes a Canadian colonel who is in charge of the regimental review project as saying: "Our gut tells us that the regimental system is well worth retaining, but at the same time our gut tells us that, OK guys, it's time to get out of the '50s."

What sort of claptrap is that? To add salt to the wounded feelings of thousands of men who serve in Canada's regular and reserve fighting regiments, the review is being conducted by a Canadian now living in Holland. She is Donna Winslow, chairman of the social and cultural

anthropology department at the Free University in that country.

What a way to run an army.

ATLANTIC BRANCH

By Bill Minnis

Our Branch strength remains at 61 members, with only 37 members paying dues for 2002.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Kensington, PEI, 20-22 September 2002, with 21 members present. Fred and Joyce Bridges were our hosts, doing a tremendous job of organizing the event. The dinner drew over 50 persons. Our Guests of Honour were Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Corry and his wife Robin. Chris is Chief of Staff, 36 Brigade Group, Halifax, and presented an update on Regimental affairs and operations. All enjoyed the weekend. (Chris has begun to organize Regimental affairs in Atlantic Canada, and we are certain that this will strengthen the Association in our region).

Concerns were expressed by members at reports of the Canadian Forces considering changes to the regimental system. Discussion of advertising the Association and public relations led to the decision to appoint a PR Vice-President for the Branch. A new executive was elected; President, Bill Minnis (PEI); Sec-Treas, Norm Ray (NS); Vice-President NB, George Stringer; Vice-President NS, Jim McNutt; Vice-President PEI, Fred Bridges.

Our Branch AGM will be held in St Stephen NB in 2003, hosted by Barb and Bev Earle.

CALGARY BRANCH

Branch Executive

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Calgary Branch Calendar**2002**

30 Nov	Winter Dinner and Dance	
	Cocktails	1830
	Dinner	1930
	Dance	2100

2003

9 Jan	Executive Meeting	1930
25 Jan	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030
6 Feb	Executive Meeting	1930
22 Feb	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030
6 Mar	Executive Meeting	1930
15 Mar	Regimental Birthday	1500
10 Apr	Executive Meeting	1930
26 Apr	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030
8 May	Executive Meeting	1930
31 May	Spring BBQ and Dance	
	Cocktails	1830
	BBQ	1930
	Dance	2100
1 Jun	Annual Golf Tournament	TBA
12 Jun	Executive Meeting	1930
28 Jun	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030
August	6th Annual RV Weekend	TBA
11 Sep	Executive Meeting	1930
27 Sep	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030
9 Oct	Executive Meeting	1930
25 Oct	Fall Meet & Greet (Candlelight Dinner)	TBA
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	TBA
13 Nov	Executive Meeting	1930
29 Nov	Breakfast Meeting	0900 1030

Last Friday of the month (Sep - Jun): **Happy Hour**, 1500 hrs, at **Erika's Deli**, Bay 2, 4604 - 37 St SW, Calgary.

For updates contact Bob Zubkowski @ 249-8107.

EDMONTON BRANCH

By Wayne Taylor

We have had a very busy kick off for our fall meetings. So busy we have had to defer many business issues to an executive meeting because of meeting events.

We had Major Vida speak to our association about his tour in Afghanistan. Major Vida was stationed in Kabul during his stay as the only Canadian attached to the British contingent. His presentation went over very well. Our October meeting was very unique. We invited Graham Hicks from the Edmonton Sun to join us while all our members gave a two-minute history presentation of their military experience. It was like having a history book open before your eyes as our members shared their experiences with us. This is our second annual effort.

Pat Munroe, our long standing Secretary has asked to take a leave of absence due to poor health. As many are aware, Pat is a true Patricia. Her father was one of the originals. We wish her well with her recovery and look forward to her coming back to meetings without the responsibilities of keeping us on track.

Ted Walton is our new membership chairman and he has some great membership building ideas to build our organization. Our Association will do the normal duties for November 11 at four locations this year. This includes a special wreath laying ceremony at the Legislature Building, 7 November. All members are invited. We have just completed our annual membership survey designed to keep the lines of communications open with all members and meet their needs.

At the 27 September meeting, we had a posthumous presentation of Sgt. Chuck Newman-Jones peacekeeping medal to his wife Betty, his daughter Chantel and Granddaughter Hanna.

FRASER VALLEY BRANCH

By Harry Chatry

As of 1 Oct 02 we have a newly elected Branch Executive: President Harry Chatry, Vice-President Matt Brown, Secretary Hope Chatry, Treasurer Harold Grouette and Sgt-at-Arms Bill Wilkinson.

Since time is of the essence now with regard to the newsletter, and because we have as yet not defined too accurately our coming yearly agenda, this will be abbreviated. Our only planned activities at this time are the 11 November parade at the Vedder Memorial with the Airborne Regiment Association, followed by hot rum at the Base, and our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Best Western on 4 December. We will provide an update on planned activities in the Spring Bulletin.

That's it for this time except to say that the Branch owes a great deal of thanks to Mel Canfield for his eleven years of service to the Branch and that he leaves large footsteps to follow and fill. [No pun intended] Mel has gone thru some very difficult times and endured as a good man and a good Patricia. I'm sure he will be missed at the executive meetings as well. I personally am glad that I have him as my Past President as we keep our Branch moving along. His voice in my ear will certainly be appreciated.

MANITOBA & NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO BRANCH

By D'Arcy Best

The Manitoba & North Western Ontario Branch meets on the *fourth Wednesday* of each month (except July, August and December) in the 2PPCLI WOs & Sgts Mess, Kapyong Barracks, Winnipeg, at 7:30 PM. Most of these meetings are informal 'bull sessions', however, the January meeting is the Branch Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and other monthly gatherings will become General Meetings when necessary to conduct branch business.

Other Planned Activities

(Unless otherwise specified, all activities take place in the 2PPCLI WOs & Sgts Mess, Kapyong Barracks)

2PPCLI Jr Ranks Christmas Dinner: Thursday, December 12, 2002, at 11:00 AM. Kapyong Barracks Drill Hall.

Branch Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers: Wednesday, January 22, 2003, at 7:30 PM.

Ladies Day: Sunday, March 16, 2:00 PM.

Kapyong Day: Friday, April 25. To be arranged with 2PPCLI.

Barbecue and Casino: June - August. To be arranged.

Annual Golf Tournament: August 2003. To be arranged.

Annual Dinner: Saturday, October 18. Bar opens at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM.

Remembrance Service, All Saints Church: Sunday, November 9, 11:00 AM.

2 PPCLI Remembrance Day Parade: Tuesday, November 11, 10:45 AM, Kapyong Barracks Drill Hall.

2PPCLI Jr Ranks Christmas Dinner: December 2003. To be arranged.

OKANAGAN/THOMPSON BRANCH

By Jerry Richard

At the recent Okanagan/Thompson Branch Annual General Meeting at the Spallumcheen Golf Course on 3 Oct 2002, the following Officers were elected for the next two years:

President - Bill Davis

Vice President - Ken Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer - Jerry Richard

The Sgt-at-Arms duties are to be taken over by the Vice President.

There will be a few changes in the normal procedures:

- Meetings will be called at the discretion of the President.
- Due to its location, meetings will be held in Vernon unless otherwise arranged.

- There will be one important meeting each year immediately before the National Annual General Meeting.
- There will be two other get-togethers during the year. All other events will remain as social lunches.

Members are expressing concern that age is catching up on the older members without the participation of younger retiring Patricias. Greater effort must be applied to recruiting these younger people.

OTTAWA BRANCH

Branch Executive

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Vice-President

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Treasurer

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Member at Large

Mr. Dan Bordeleau
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Calendar

17 March: Regimental Day Dinner

8 May: Annual general Meeting

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

By Lloyd Jones

The Saskatchewan Branch of the Association is beginning to suffer from a lack of members but we are endeavouring to carry on as best we can.

There are some dedicated members upon whom this task must fall. I have accepted the responsibility as President, John Swetman as Vice-President and Don Pelletier as Secretary-Treasurer. We certainly hope for good things.

I had the pleasure of attending the 2002 Annual General Meeting in Wainwright and found the gathering and meetings to be well conducted. The host committee were up to the challenge and made all who attended welcome and made certain everyone was treated to a most enjoyable weekend.

During our spring AGM in Regina we were pleased to have as our special guests Mr. And Mrs. Len Hollister, parents of Corporal Curtis Hollister. What a pleasure to have this fine couple as our guests. I believe every Branch

should invite and extend the hand of friendship to the parents of serving Patricias.

Tentative plans are being made to hold a get-together possibly in early 2003.

On behalf of our members and myself may your upcoming festive season be joyous and, for the year 2003, good fellowship and health.

SOUTHWEST ONTARIO BRANCH

The South Western Ontario Branch of the Association has a very busy itinerary for this year. The Executive Committee is meeting on a monthly basis, planning for a very enjoyable National PPCLI Association AGM on Mother's Day Weekend, 9-11 May 03.

On 16 March 2003, we will hold a Regimental Family Sunday Brunch at the Howard Johnson Hotel, St Catharines, commencing at 1100 hours. This will be an opportunity to not only celebrate the Regimental Birthday, but to also have a meeting and make the final preparations for the National PPCLI Association AGM.

This year the National AGM will be held on the Mothers' Day Weekend at St Catharines. The details of the activities are enclosed along with a registration form. We encourage members, both serving and retired, to come and enjoy a wonderful weekend in the Niagara Peninsula. The weather is great at that time of the year and we have a wonderful weekend of activities in store for all who attend. We ask that all registration forms be completed and sent to our Branch Vice President, Major Morris Brause, at the following address:

Major M. W. Brause, CD
Commanding Officer
CFRC Hamilton
100 Main St East
Hamilton, ON L8N 3W4

If you should be in the area and would like to attend any of our events, please do not hesitate to call Morris Brause at (905) 972-4000 Extension 2031 or e-mail him at: Brause.MW@forces.gc.ca.

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Branch Executive

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Donald (Don) M. Boyce 12493 79th Ave Surrey BC V3W 8C4	Fred Udell 217-2020 Cedar Village Cr North Vancouver BC V7J 3P5

Calendar

Christmas Party: Sunday, December 8 2002 at 3:00 pm at the home of Jenny and Don Urquhart.

Annual General Meeting: On the 12th or 19th of January 2003 depending on our next Executive Meeting and the availability of our meeting place, the WO's & Sgts Mess of the Seaforth Armoury. We will be having elections for the coming two years unless the present slate indicates a willingness to do another term, which we will decide at the Executive Meeting at the end of October.

Patricia Regimental Day Luncheon: On the Sunday closest to March 17th. We hope to hold it at our regular venue, the Anderson Room of the Seaforth Armoury.

Annual BBQ: Usually held at the home of Val and Ken Tutte in Richmond on the last weekend in August. Will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

Any further details on the Branch Activity can be obtained at any time by contacting the Branch Secretary.

VICTORIA BRANCH

By Bill Westfall

We are on the move again. Please note that in future we are meeting at the LANGFORD LEGION. Our next meeting then will be at this location at 8.00 pm on Wednesday the 30th of October. I will mention the reason for our change of venue at the meeting, but it has financial advantages.

As usual at this time of year, please send in your 2003 branch dues. No change on this, \$20.00 for regular membership, and \$5.00 for associates. In the last newsletter I reported that donations for our plaque in the Trans Canada Trail pavilion had been fully subscribed. In fact we had a small surplus, so we have repaid the \$800.00 that we borrowed from RHQ for the cost of the plaque, and donated the \$30.00 excess to the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund.

Members may be interested to know that during this year we had 104 paid up branch members. Sadly if you have not already heard, three of our number passed away this summer, all quite suddenly, and all within a two month period: Smokey Green, Bill Palfrey and Barney Lane. I think we only have one D Day Dodger left in our ranks now.

I have several battalion and company nominal rolls from the 1930s and WW2, including the 21 December 1939 draft for the UK. These were in the effects of Bill Oxley. If you would like a copy of any of them, please give me a call.

Victoria Branch Calendar

29 January 2003: Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, 8:00 PM at the Langford Legion.

16 March 2003: Annual Regimental Dinner at the Langford Legion. Time to be arranged.

30 April 2003: Spring Meeting, 8:00 PM at the Langford Legion.

29 October 2003: Fall Meeting, 8:00 PM at the Langford Legion.

WAINWRIGHT BRANCH

By Bert Scott

The Wainwright Branch meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs except July, August, December in Land Forces Western Area Training Centre WOs & Sgts Mess, Wainwright. The April meeting in April is election of officers.

Calendar

Tuesday, 26 November: **Branch Meeting.** Mess, 1900 hrs.

Thursday, 12 December: **Men's Christmas Dinner.** Men's Kitchen, 1100 hrs.

Saturday, 14 December: **Association Dinner.** Mess, 1830 hrs.

Tuesday, 28 January: **Social Night.** Mess, 1900 hrs.

Tuesday, 25 February: **Branch Meeting.** Mess, 1900 hrs.

Tuesday, 17 March: **Regimental Day.** TBA.

Tuesday, 29 April: **Annual General Meeting.** Mess, 1900 hrs

STAND EASY

Canadian Forces Voice Mail

This should be on the Armed Forces voice mail system shortly, eliminating the need for real live people:

"Thank you for calling the Canadian Forces. I am sorry, but all our units are out at the moment, or otherwise engaged. Please press '1' to leave a message, with your country, name of organization, region, details of the specific crisis, and a number where we can reach you.

"As soon as we have sorted out Indonesia, the Balkans, Iraq, marauding Chinese refugees, the Combat bra, the Millennium Bug, marching up and down the streets of Toronto with snow shovels, and compulsory Diversity Training, we will return your call.

"Please speak after the tone. For other services please listen to the following options:

"If your crisis is small and close to the sea, press '2' for the Canadian Navy.

"If your concern is distant, with a tropical climate and good hotels, and can be solved by one or two low risk

bombing runs, please press '3' for the Canadian Air Force. (Please note that this service is not available after 1630 hours or on weekends.)

"If your inquiry concerns a situation which can be resolved by a bit of rifle drill, a colour party and a really good marching band, please write well in advance, to the Commanding Officer, The Ceremonial Guard, Ottawa, Ontario.

"If your inquiry is not urgent, please press '4' for the 2 CMBG Quick Reaction Force.

"Only if you are in real, hot trouble then press '5' and your call will be routed to the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.

"If you are interested in joining the Army and wish to be shouted at, paid little, have premature arthritis, put your life partner and family in a condemned hut miles from civilisation, and are prepared to work your butt off daily, risking your life in all weather and terrain, both day and night, whilst watching the Treasury Board eroding your original terms and conditions of service, then please stay on the line. A bitter, passed-over Recruiting Sergeant in a strip mall somewhere in Newfoundland will shortly take your call.

"Have a pleasant day, and thank you again for trying to contact the Canadian Forces."

An old cowhand came riding into town on a hot, dry, dusty day. The local sheriff watched from his chair in front of the saloon as the Cowboy wearily dismounted and tied his horse to the rail a few feet in front of the sheriff.

Howdy, stranger."

"Howdy, sheriff."

The cowboy then moved slowly to the back of his horse, lifted its tail, and placed a big kiss where the sun don't shine. He dropped the horse's tail, stepped up on the walk and aimed toward the swinging doors of the saloon.

"Hold on there Mister," said the sheriff. "Did I just see what I think I saw?"

"Reckon you did, sheriff. I got me some powerful chapped lips." was the reply.

"And that cures them?" the sheriff asked.

"Nope, just keeps me from lickin' 'em."

THE LAST WORD

Now that you have read the *Association Newsletter*, what do you think of it?

We aren't fishing for comments but would appreciate suggestions for improvement. What would you like to see changed? Is there anything that should be added? How about the style and size of type? Is it large enough and easy to read?

Future issues could include a *Reader's Forum* section where members write in and express their views on current events affecting the Canadian Forces, the Regiment and the Association, and a *Lost Trails* for seeking out old buddies.

Any other suggestions? We'd like to hear from you.

"Always a Patricia"

LAST POST

Those whom this list commemorates served King and Queen, Country and Regiment.

At duty's strident call, they left all that was dear to them, endured hardship and faced danger so that others might live in peace and freedom.

Not all soldiers die in battle or glory, but they too served the Regiment.

Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
John I. Moore		January 2, 2002	Port Coquitlam BC
Henry E. Baker	WWII	January 4, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Claude Royer	Korea, Regular	January 12, 2002	Saskatoon SK
Alan A. Wardell		January 16, 2002	Victoria BC
Herbert W. Caie	WWII	January 17, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Gordon Stuart	WWII	January 17, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Roy H. Wickstrom.	WWII	February 12, 2002	Winnipeg MB
J.E. Rimmer	Korea	February 16, 2002	Coleman AB
H.R. Parsons	Regular	February 17, 2002	Vancouver BC
Peter B. Smedvik	Korea	February 20, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Robert L. Caldwell	Regular	February 21, 2002	Victoria BC
Kenneth J. Arril	Regular	March 2, 2002	Ottawa ON
Leslie Roe	Regular	March 2, 2002	Ottawa ON
Frank McNab	Regular	March 23, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Michael Shewchuk	WWII	April 2, 2002	Winnipeg MB
George E. Tessier	Korea	April 4, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Andrew Danyleyko	Korea, Regular	April 8, 2002	Victoria BC
Frank W.H. Quesnel	WWII	April 12, 2002	Fort Saskatchewan AB
Darvil J.P. (Doug) Walsh	WWII	April 14, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Ainsworth Dyer	Regular	April 17, 2002	3PPCLI, Afghanistan
Richard Green	Regular	April 17, 2002	3PPCLI, Afghanistan
Marc Leger	Regular	April 17, 2002	3PPCLI, Afghanistan
Nathan Smith	Regular	April 17, 2002	3PPCLI, Afghanistan
Leonard B. Hill	PF, WWII, Regular	April 18, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Lorne L. Hurst	Korea	April 20, 2002	Edmonton AB
Andrew Koterla	WWII	April 25, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Maurice O. Lane	PF, WWII, Regular	April 29, 2002	Victoria BC
Bob Bruner	Regular	May 12, 2002	Calgary AB
A.H. (Howard) Buchanan	WWII	May 25, 2002	Portage la Prairie MB
William Palfrey	WWII, Regular	May 27, 2002	Victoria BC
Alvin C. Green	PF, WWII, Korea, Regular	July 5, 2002	Victoria BC
Colette Besserer	Regular	July 18, 2002	Winnipeg MB
H.G. (Greg) Leitch	Regular	August 20, 2002	Abbotsford BC
William A. McIvor	Regular	September 11, 2002	Winnipeg MB
George A.H. Loxton	WWII	September 22, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Michael R. Hodgson	Regular	September 23, 2002	Calgary AB
Norman Theo Ward	Regular	October 2, 2002	Winnipeg MB
Fred Bootle	Regular	October 9, 2002	Edmonton AB
Percy John Ford, CD	PF, WWII, Regular	October 22, 2002	Salmon Arm BC
Hokan, William, CD	Korea, Regular	2002.	

"We will remember them"