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February 2003



The GROUND SHEET

The Official Publication of
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

*'Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship
we knew in wars and peace in our
services both home and abroad.'*

'Pro Rege et Patria'

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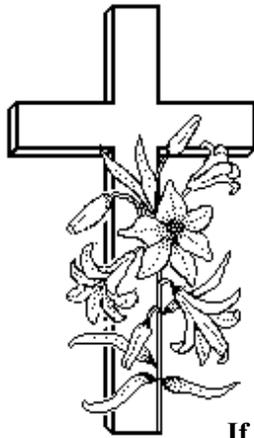
Web Page: www.westies.ca

**Your Association Needs You!
Your Support! Your Dues!
Your Attendance!**



And little of your time!

**Please come and give us a hand organizing a
few events like the Melfa Weekend and the AGM.**



In Memoriam

Doug BLAKELY	(Ont)	Westminster Regiment WWII
John GACH	K75188 (BC)	Westminster Regiment WWII
Jack TOUGH	H1296 (Man)	Westminster Regiment WWII
James ZACHARY	M107233 (Alta)	Westminster Regiment WWII

If you hear or know of a Westie comrade who has passed on, please advise us.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Putting up the Xmas tree this year turned out to be quite an ordeal. In the process of moving the tree from the carport into the house, a branch of the tree flicked against my eye destroying the cornea. Pain was instantaneous and quite unbearable. At the local clinic, Doctor froze the eye surface and received twenty minutes of relief from pain. Doctor concerned about condition of eye so recommends trip to LGH emergency. Once in emergency, waited for 3 hours before doctor was able to see me. Pain through the wait was immense. Doctor says eye sight should not be damaged. Later this is confirmed by specialist who says I was fortunate not to have suffered permanent damage to the eye. Two more days of pain and sleepless nights. Third night finally slept entire evening. Was most surprised that such intense pain would dissipated so rapidly after two days. Apparently cells in cornea begin to divide and heal the damage immediately. What a marvellous entity the human body is with regard to the healing process. Enough of me.

Bruce Eaton, 84 years of age has undergone a rather serious operation for an aneurysm on the aorta just before Christmas. Listening to wife Elsie, the ordeal leading up to his hospital stay was quite dramatic and we are so fortunate to have him with us. Our best wishes for a return home soon and a speedy recovery. **George Gibson** seems to forget things and is in Eagle Ridge home in Ioco, joining his wife Sylvia. We know **Dave Gowler** is recovering from a stroke but he has disappeared off the radar screen. He tends to spend time in warmer climates so if anyone knows his whereabouts, let us know. Met **Dick Armstrong** in Surrey Mall and he says he saw **Chuck Smithers** on Remembrance Day. Chuck is slowing down and requires use of a wheel chair to get around. Chuck, remembrance day 2002 was the first service I missed in 39 years and I am sorry to have missed seeing you. From the heart, good friend, best wishes. **Fred West** is at home recovering from an operation on his vocal cords to remove a cancerous growth. The operation was followed by twenty sessions of radiation treatment. Says if he talks to long it hurts. Speedy recovery comrade. Greetings to **Colin McQuarrie** who celebrated his 91st birthday on November 2. To Colin, who is in Canada Way Lodge in Burnaby, we offer our best wishes for many more birthday celebrations. Goods friends and

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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If you have any correspondence to send to any executive member, please send it to the post office box number listed on the front of the **Groundsheet** or you can email your letters to the appropriate person.

Veterans who have been mentioned in previous reports and who are in various stages of confinement include: **Vernon Ardagh, Ron Hurley, Bill McIntyre** and **Norman Palmer**. There may be others and we would like to know about them. To all of you we want you to know our thoughts and prayers are always with you. Change of topic. A nice call received from **Nora Shannon**, daughter of **Ed Shannon**. It turns out that Ed Shannon kept a diary of his time with the Regiment overseas. The diary and other items will be deposited with the museum in the near future. Also noteworthy was Ed's extensive collection of past issues of the Groundsheet. Nora has requested that she allowed to receive the Groundsheet. This will be done. Finally, thanks to all who phoned and alerted me as to condition of members. **Jerry Gangur**.

EDITORS NOTES

Well I did it! Got my first edition of the Groundsheet out without too many headaches. I want to thank all of you who have reached me with your comments. Many liked the addition of the colour. All have been positive. That's what will keep me going. I enjoyed putting the edition together as well as this one. I enjoy reading the mail and looking at some great photos. Keep the cards and letters coming in. The biggest pain though is the mail list. Out of about 500 GS's sent out, we had about 30 returned for various address problems. Mostly because people move and forget to tell us. The wasted postage and paper we can't afford. If you move, please let us now.

The other big issue I have to address (again) is the need for help in the Association. This is truly a problem. The fellas who built this Association and stuck with it to help on the Executive are fading away and besides, they've done their time and served us well. The post war people, and in particular, us 70s and 80s type are not coming forward to take over. We get the odd bit of help but we need more. One meeting a month and a few minor committees and that's it along with the Melfa weekend. For the sake of the survival of this Association, please come out and help us. I looked very carefully at the mailing list. Many of you I served with are still out there and I know where you live (haha). Come on guys, get with it. I know the likes of **Chuck Prince, Ed Farkas, Bert Larsen, and Chuck Marshall** (How about those names eh?) would help but they live hundreds of miles away. Many of

you still live around here. Can you help?

Our President Len has made it clear he is not running this next term. We need a new President. Len has done a fantastic job. We need new faces, new blood on the Executive. We hope to form a nominating committee. Please call a member of the Executive and help us out. Enough, right?

I had the great honour this past summer of being asked by the Mayor of New Westminster to be the chairman of the Remembrance Day committee. A huge honor for me. Even though the ceremony and service haven't really changed in 40 years, I did put some of my own touches to it. I was also very proud to follow in the steps of **Mr. Peter Larkin**, who chaired the committee for many years. Even after Peter retired from the City, he continued as the charman. A veteran himself, Peter was always a stalwart figure on November 11th. Peter passed away earlier in 2002. As a side note, it is beleived that the City of New Westminster's November 11th service is the largest indoor service in western Canada. About 1500 people are in the armoury each year.

Just came home from the December Executive meeting. Thank you! Thank you! I guess my call for support has been heard. We had four Association members, besides the Executive, show up for the meeting to help. We still need a few more. Next meeting is February 3rd in the Mess.

Had a wonderful gift given to me this Christmas. A book titled *Testaments of Honour. Personal Histories of Canada's War Veterans*. The book is by Blake Heathcote. The book is a compliation of short stories from interviews conducted by the author of our WWII veterans. It is truly and great book to read of their personal experiences. Lasty, check out these two new web pages. www.westies.ca & www.mapleleafup.org. **Ted Usher**

Are Your Dues Up To Date?

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association depends on your dues and donations. Yearly dues are \$15 and a Life Membership is \$100. How about a tax deductible donation? You can identify where you want the donation to go. The Future Fund, Cadets, Health & Welfare, or whatever you feel is worthwhile. Whatever you support, it is appreciated. Send in your dues today. Thanks.

When is Melfa 2003?

The dates are set for

May 23,24 & 25.

More in the spring issue.

Change Your Address?

If you move, please let us know. In the last Groundsheet mailing, about 30 envelopes came back from the post office. Almost all for people who had moved. Thank goodness for the internet and *People Finders* because I was able to find about 20 people and readdressed their envelopes. Here are some I couldn't find: Linda **Sullivan** of Richmond, Bert **Woolverton** of California, Dave **Demers** of Delta, Bernie **Spanier** of Australia, Dave **Adlem** of Abbotsford, John **Wilson** of Surrey, Gordon **McCourt** of Sechelt and Colin **McQuarrie (located)** of Victoria. If you know these members, please ask them to send us a change of address. The numbers are shrinking as it is. We can't afford to loose people. Also, if you know of someone who needs to get on the list, send us their name and address. **Ted Usher**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello again fellow Westies. Here is just a quick update of the latest activities of your executive. Remembrance Day went quite well with the Regiment and City of New Westminster. **Ted Usher** did an excellent organization of the event as the City's Chairman. Attendance by our members was not as high as usual. The inclement weather may have been a significant factor. Since there were only 4 of us available to march we decided not to march but to present the wreath as a group. This marks the first time that the Association has not marched in the Remembrance Day parade. The problem is not the veterans but the post WWII association members. The veterans are attending if they are able to but they are becoming fewer in numbers each year. It is now up to the newer members of the association to pick-up the slack and carry on. Remembrance Day is one of the two events that the Association participates in every year. It is a significant day in that it is a national day of remembrance for those who have served in the Armed Forces and especially those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. New Westminster has one of the largest turn outs for Remembrance Day in the Canada. As part of the Regimental Family we have a duty to participate in this day. In times when the Armed Forces are being asked to do so much with very little it falls in our lap to demonstrate our solidarity with them and demand that their sacrifices are not made in vein. I expect next year that we will have better participation from our post WWII members.

To enable that we have members for participation in Remembrance Day, we are continuing our active recruiting campaign. **Graham Reimer** has accepted the position as chair of our membership committee. He is actively searching for former members through the internet. Additionally, he is looking into recruiting through the Legion and local community newspapers. I expect that Graham will have a report for the next Groundsheet.

In the last issue I spent quite a bit of time on the need for having more members on the executive. **Jerry Gangur** has volunteered to chair our nominating committee. Thanks Jerry. At our last executive meeting we had representation from the Regiment from 2nd Lt. **Jonathan Angelski** and Sgt. **Chris Stier** (substituting for Sgt. **Perry Fiedler**). M/Cpl. **Craig Goldsby** did not attend but would have if I had informed him with the correct date. Sorry about that Craig I intend to do better. Jonathan and Chris gave informative reports on the Regiments and on what their respective messes are doing. I am pleased that the Regiment is finally participating in our meetings. Additionally, **Brian Knipstrom** and **Karyn Copeland**, former members of the regiment, also attended our meeting. Brian has agreed to join the executive and Karyn has agreed to assist us. The executive is also hosting an executive information seminar on February the 10th in the Sgts. Mess. We are inviting specific association executive candidates to inform them what the Association is about and what the executive does. If you have some one you believe would make a good candidate please contact **Jerry Gangur, Ted Usher, Herb Hamm**, or myself.

Part of the Associations charge is to preserve our Regimental history. Did you know that the Westies had several members serving with the 2PPCLI in Croatia as part of the UN while the Medak Pocket happened? For those of you that do not know the Medak Pocket was an incident where significant fire was taken by the PPCLI prior to helping a village. 2PPCLI received a Regimental citation from the Governor General for their action. The executive sent one member Shaun O'Mara to attend the presentation ceremonies and the Regiment sent 2. I expect Shaun's report either in this issue or the next issue of the Groundsheet. **Pro Regie et Patria Len Wohlgemuth, Association President**

THE REGIMENT

Greetings All. I recently participated in another round of talks about Land Forces Reserve Restructure which were held at the Seaforth Armoury on the 8th of January as part of the “Town Hall” meetings convening across Canada. MGen Ed Fitch made a few interesting comments like “Talks about restructuring the Reserves has been going on since about 1750”. (He was obviously being fascias but his point about this going on since the inception of the Militia is well taken). I should point out that although there has been much idle “talk” over the last 150 years or so, it seems that the Army is quite serious about the way that the Reserves fit into the grand scheme of the Army. With Reserves making up to 25% of a Regular Force Battalion deployed overseas, this has become serious business indeed. Another more serious comment made by MGen Fitch was that he was “not looking for (translation: focusing on) weak units, a fear shared by some COs whose units may be perceived to be on the chopping block but (he) was looking for strong units. His reasoning for this became more apparent as population demographics (potential recruits between the ages of 16-54) were revealed to us as part of his presentation. He posed the question “Why should we support units in areas whose recruiting potential has gone down (in cases of the Vancouver-based units) where we could get more bang for our buck in areas where the recruiting potential is much higher?” He displayed a slide showing that the Fraser Valley was indeed the “hotbed for recruiting potential” in the Lower Mainland. These last comments bode extremely well in favour of the Westies as: a) Our HQ is situated in the geographical center of the Lower Mainland and at the gateway to the Fraser Valley; b) We have a long-standing historical tie to the communities of the Fraser Valley; c) We have established (yet again) a presence in the Fraser Valley (B Coy in Aldergrove has 60 soldiers on their nominal role); d) Our Unit is growing at a rate of 15% annually (we’re at 200 now, if allowed to continue growing, we’ll be over 300 within 3 years!); and e) We turn out “first class soldiers” who we routinely send overseas at a rate of about 10% of our total strength for each rotation which is one of the highest ratios of ALL Militia Units in Canada. I presented the above information to the assembled group, including the Commander of 39 Canadian Brigade Group Colonel Tom Burns and emphasized that we are, and have always been “*the Army of the Fraser Valley*”. I also emphasized the need for the Army to observe one of the military’s basic tenets which is to “reinforce success” and that the Westies must be given the opportunity (and the funding) to grow. I recently attended a Senior Leader Symposium for Land Forces Western Area held in Calgary where ALL COs and RSMs in Western Canada were invited. This was an excellent “think-tank” on the future of the Army and a good forum where Regular Force command staff met and shared ideas with their Reserve counterparts. Funding continues to be the Achilles Heel of what would otherwise be one of the finest armies in the world. The reality is that the Army is being asked to work within the budgets allocated which threatens the deployability of its forces. Without more political pressure being brought to bear in terms of funding being made available, the ability of the Canadian Forces to fight and survive on the modern battlefield will become more and more suspect. Notwithstanding the confines of the current funding model, the members of The Royal Westminster Regiment will continue the legacy of producing “first class soldiers” who pledge to serve both their Community and their Country. Pro Rege et Patria!

(Glen)Richmond,CD LCOL CO The Royal Westminster Regiment

SOME PAST MEMORIES

The following letter was received in June 2002 from **Lawrence Carpick** of Winnipeg. These are his memories from his service overseas.

I was appointed to the police section of the Regiment on September 1, 1943 while we were in northeast England. Sgt. **John Sinclair** was in charge. On July 24, 1944 in Italy, I was appointed Sgt. of the police unit as Sgt. Sinclair had departed. After the war, HQ was stationed in Norg, 22 km from Gronigen. Due to numerous traffic accidents in Holland, five men with motorcycles were assigned to the police unit. A photo of the five are enclosed with names on the reverse. My memory is fading. My birth date is 22 September 1918 so events in Italy and Holland are dim but the best of my recollection are attached.

With L/Cpl. **Ted Law** in April 1944, we were at a location off Casino. It was mentioned by others as a rocky place that mules were used at night and I recall the password was used at night. True or not, one of the Westies was shot when he didn't know the password. Ted and I had our photo taken by an ambulance person who was changing plugs on his jeep. He returned my camera and Ted and I went back to a safer location. Note we wore berets! I had a Thompson 45 or Sten, while Ted had a rifle. A direct hit on the red cross jeep was made minutes after the photo was taken, killing the person of #90 CP. We were lucky as Germans had a view of us.

Another event was in May 1944 at the Melfa. I was stationed at an opening from a roadway to the Melfa. A few days before May 24, 1000 guns were fired by the allies with the Germans giving us their 88s and meany minnies. I was very busy with the wounded as the MO was a short distance away. TAC HQ was there also. We lined up the wounded in the rut of the roadway. Help arrived and took care of our wounded (and dead). While this was going on, I spotted a tall blonde haired male dressed in sandals, a t-shirt and shorts. It turned out to be a German and I turned him over to the others. At night we had orange colored flares up to May 24th. An awful sight. This opening to the Melfa may have been the start of a roadway as mentioned by Mr. Hurley to determine where A Coy crossed the Melfa.

Two serious events took place. A tank (LdSH) came from the rear, crossed the road way and was hit. On fire, men getting out with clothes burning. I crawled over and gave as much help as I could. I had two large bandages in my helmet and applied to the wounded. Help arrived and the wounded were removed.

Second event, not too far off was our own Scouts in the whitre vehicle got hit the same as the tank. They were probably dead and wounded looked after. After all these events, I crawled up to the river and saw an old barn on the other side with a snout sticking out that caused all the problems.

There were other occurrences that I recall but to me I was very lucky to survive. On the Adriatic front, the rear echelon boys would send up jerry cans clean, asking for Vino! One thing no one mentions is the stand-to, 1/2 hour before sunrise etc where a shot of rum was given in the morning and the mush. marge, hunks of bread and tea were brought to us. A refreshing bit after the stand-to.

One other occurrence I recall was at the Gustav Line. I think a deep valley separated us from them. Midway along, the convoy stalled and the 88s started landing. we could not move but later we made it into

a village. Enemy fire struck, wounding Tiny Robertson (?). He was struck in the face and his jaw was sagging. He was in shock. It took four of us to handle him plus first aid, to get him on a jeep stretcher and tied him on and away he went. Tiny returned to us later. Excuse the writing.

Thank you, **Lawrence Carpick**.



Ted Law (l) Lawrence Carpick (r). Italy 1944. Person who took photo was killed only minutes later.



Bert Wright in Norg Holland 1945.



Bill Dennis, Dave McPherson, Lawrence Carpick. 1945. Notice '54' on trailer.



Philbrook, Williams, Dashwood, Wright, Strand. 1945 in Holland.

Ed. Note: Thanks for the letter and photographs. They've been turned over to the Museum for safekeeping.

COL. MOODY MAKES PRESENTATION TO RWR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On November 3, 2002 a unique ceremony occurred in the Regimental Museum. An organization called the Royal Engineers Living History Group arrived in the armoury to make a special presentation to the Regimental Museum. What was unique about this group is that whenever they represent the organization they role play actual members of the Royal Engineers. Each member within the organization is responsible for researching and learning whatever is recorded about a member of the Royal Engineers.

Col. Moody, for example is played by Al Wheatley and Todd Birch does a masterful portrayal of sergeant McMurphy, M.C. One must be careful if you include the Royal Engineer ladies in your invitation. These ladies will only venture out in their Sunday best and to fit more than three ladies with their magnificent hoop dresses in the mess at anyone time is a crushing experience. They need room to manoeuvre.

Col. Moody presented the Museum with a Lancaster rifle. "The weapon was an experimental one at the time (1859). It was one of the first rifles that had a rifled barrel rather than a smoothbored barrel. There were very few in existence and most have simply disappeared" says curator Basil Morgan.

(l to r) Fred West, immediate past president, Al Wheatly (Col Moody), Herb Hamm, president RWR Historical Society and Jerry Gangur, past president.



LETTERS FROM OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS

(The following letter was sent via email to **Capt. McKinnon**) Greetings from Bosnia Sir;

This is Cpl. **Friesen** writing from Bihac, Bosnia, where I am currently a member of 3 Section, 11 Platoon under the command of Lt. **Reekie** (a Westie). Myself and the other Westie's that are in Bihac have been here for almost six weeks now and things are still quite busy. Over the first month here, 11 and 12 Platoon have gone on more patrols than all of C Coy. The area we are in was the scene of a lot of heavy fighting during the war and is now home to 5 Korpus of the Bosnian Federation Army. I was out on patrol with MCpl. **Singer** (of B Coy Westies) and we observed a number of old trenches and bunkers along our patrol route. We had a visit from the Minister of National Defence a couple of days ago but I was doing road security so I didn't even see the Minister. The area is pretty quiet, especially as some colder weather has set in the last week or so. Twelve Platoon did an OP Harvest (an operation to collect weapons, ammunition and UXO's from private homes) a couple of weeks ago and they managed to collect a missile. It's fins were bent and it had no warhead but it was apparently just sitting on the person's front patio. We had a short parade for Remembrance Day on the Camp and I must say that was the first time that I really missed being home and with the guys from the Regiment. I have my HLTA coming up in December (my first break of the tour) and I am flying my little sister out to join me on a tour of Europe. We had our first little snow fall the other day but it melted quickly and it has been sunny ever since. The locals tell us that it is unusual for it to be this warm at this time of year. Our camp has been helping a single mom with three kids as well as a homeless boy and is planning to adopt a school soon. Anyway, there is a gate that needs to be watched here but I thought you might like to know what the ROTO 11 Westies are up to and perhaps put some of this information in The Groundsheet. In the meantime you can pass it on that all the Westies in Bihac are in good spirits and good health.

Sincerely, Cpl. **Friesen, D.** November 2002



Westies awarded ‘Commander-in-chief Unit Commendation’ from Governor General in Winnipeg on December 1st for peacekeeping service in the former Yugoslavia during (roto 2, 1993.) ‘The 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group (2 PPCLI BG) is awarded the Commendation for courageous and professional execution of duty during the Medak Pocket Operation in the Former Yugoslavia in September 1993. Under conditions of extreme peril and hazard, facing enemy artillery, small arms and heavy machine gun fire as well as anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, the members of the 2 PPCLI BG held their ground and drove the Croatian forces back. The exemplary actions of the 2 PPCLI BG caused the Croatian Army to cease their ongoing tactics of “ethnic cleansing” in the sector, without question saving many innocent civilian lives.’

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson presented the award to serving and former serving members of the regiment. Sgt. **Stu Stephenson**, Sgt. **Curtis Beglaw**, Sgt. **Dean Baron**, **Shaun O’Mara**, M/cpl. **Mike Scott** (currently 3PPCLI) were in attendance at the ceremony held in Winnipeg arena and hosted in Kapyong barracks. Absent but remembered were **Jason Syverson Carl Stewart**, **Shane Stern**, **Rick Lowe**, **Bill Herrington** and **Rick Badgely**. The ‘Medak’ guard was made up of three hundred Serving and ex-soldiers who were presented with a pin (bearing the Governor General’s emblem in gold) in front of many family and friends (2000 in attendance) as well as the 2Bn PPCLI. Serving members will wear the award on their uniform and the 2bn ranks will wear it during their service with the battalion. The governor General introduced herself to the troops as ‘your commander-in-chief’ and gave a moving speech. For those returning to cold Winnipeg it was a great opportunity to have a reunion and speak to comrades from all over the country. It was also time to bury a few old hatchets; and I think we were very pleasantly surprised by the genuine welcome the second battalion extended. It’s always nice to get a pat on the back for a job well done in trying conditions and it was a proud moment for all of us to represent The Royal Westminster Regiment. Below are some excerpts from the Governor General’s speech.

“Peace has her victories, no less renowned than war”. ‘A famous commander wrote this in the 17th century and it is the description of what you of the 2nd Battalion PPCLI Battle Group have done. The renown of the peace that you brought is the reason for which you are receiving the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation today for the Medak Pocket Operation in the former Yugoslavia in September 1993. This Commendation, created in early 2000, is being presented for only the second time. It is the means by which I, as your Commander-in-Chief, publicly recognize the performance of a military deed of “a rare high standard in extremely hazardous circumstances”. A deed which brings great honour to Canada and benefits the reputation of the Canadian Forces.

At home in our safe, clean, beautiful country, we watched with horror as these events unfolded. And as you – our peacekeepers – attempted to bring order to a hideous situation. In those fifteen hours on September 15th, you represented the concerns and the credibility of the United Nations, putting yourselves in harm’s way, exposing yourselves to deliberate, sustained machine gun fire from Croat forces. To which you rightfully and skilfully replied. Finally, a ceasefire was agreed, at the instigation of your commanding officer, Colonel Calvin, and a small group of soldiers of the PPCLI. Joining your battalion for this mission were reservists from across Canada, who made up nearly forty-five percent

of the Battle Group. This, to me, is testimony to the quality of our reservists, who today have also earned the honour of the Unit Commendation. It's been nearly ten years now since the earliest days of the brutal Balkan conflict, when Yugoslavia crumbled as a country. The vicious horrible slaughter, to which every side delivered themselves, gave the world that dreadful term – “ethnic cleansing”. The problem is – and I think all Canadians are beginning to recognize this – that keeping peace is not simple. Keeping peace means that the peacekeeper not only stands up to the battle line: he is the battle line. The peacekeeper takes affronts from both sides. The operation at Medak Pocket demonstrates beyond any debate that today's peacekeeping can, and does, involve armed struggle. And you lived up to the task in the way that all who understand the difficulties, the compromises, the grey areas in this world, recognize. That you must solve conflict peaceably if you can, but forcibly if you must. Defying intimidation and direct fire, you showed what it was to perform armed and determined peacekeeping. You helped to bring into focus what peacekeeping really involves. You know, all of you, that it was the only way to bring peace and to discharge the UN mission with which you had been tasked. Yet the simple fact remains that very few of us as Canadians knew what you did in 1993. Your actions were nothing less than heroic, and yet your country didn't recognize it at the time. Now I hope that the Canadian people will celebrate you for what you did, for what you represent, for how you have contributed to the pride we have in being Canadians. As Commander-in-Chief, I commend each member of the 2nd Battalion PPCLI and all those from other units who served in the Battle Group. Your actions are not forgotten. Your actions will not be forgotten. For the honour you have brought to us, we Canadians thank you.'

Shaun O'Mara.

RESERVE FORCES GET NEW 'JEEP'

The following story was taken from the DND web page news release dated November 5th, 2002. OTTAWA-The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of National Defence, and General Ray Henault, Chief of the Defence Staff, today announced the awarding of a \$49.7 million contract for 861 new Light Utility Vehicles, Wheeled (LUVW) to General Motors Defense Military Trucks. The new LUVW contracted today is an “off the shelf” vehicle based on the GM Silverado Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle series. It has militarized components and will be used primarily by Reserve Force units within Canada; these vehicles are not intended for deployment. “This announcement demonstrates our ongoing commitment to provide our full- and part-time military personnel alike with the tools they need to do their job,” said Mr. McCallum. “I am extremely proud of the dedication shown by our reservists and am therefore especially pleased to see them receive this much improved capability,” said General Henault. The LUVW will replace the 17-year-old Iltis light-vehicle currently in use by the Canadian Forces, primarily those used by the Army Reserve. The new vehicle will be larger and more mobile than its predecessor. Delivery of the first vehicles is expected in the spring of 2003. The awarding of this contract is the first in a two-step process; a separate contracting process is underway to procure 802 “standard military pattern” (SMP) LUVWs designed to meet specific operational and training requirements. The funding for this initiative was provided for in the December 2001 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.



LOOKING FOR ALL VERNON ARMY CADET CAMP VETERANS

Were you ever a cadet, staff or civilian member of the Vernon Army Cadet Camp? Whether you were Cadet, Reserve or Regular, the VACC Alumni Association is looking for you. A book is about to be published of with every name possible of people who attended the camp from the beginning. You can also check the VACC Alumni Association web page where there is a list of names as well. Or help with the fundraising at the Vernon Museum where they are going to add a new room especially for the history of the camp. Check out www.vaccalumni.ca Here is the actual press release. Read for yourself. (Sorry, had to make the print small to fit page.)

Vernon and Banff Cadet Camps Nominal Roll History Books to be Published A pair of rather unique Canadian books will be published in the spring of 2003. What makes them so unique is the cross section of Canadian communities and people they will represent. Scattered across Canada and around the world are some 95,000 former Royal Canadian Army, Air and Sea Cadets and staff that have trained at least one summer at Vernon or Banff Army Cadet Camps. Nearly every single community in Canada has had at least one individual train at either of these camps, from Bell Island, Newfoundland to Port Alberni, BC to Frobisher Bay, NWT to Gaspé, Qc; Canadian youth 12 to 18 years of age, both male and female would volunteer to spend a summer away from home and family to learn. Many would come back several years. Researcher/historian Francois Arseneault was one of those cadets some 24 years ago and has been working on this project for four and half years finding the names. Banff National Army Cadet Camp was opened in 1948 just north of the town of Banff, Alberta where 100 cadets and staff first camped for several weeks under canvas. A few years later, log cabin barracks replaced the tents and 280 cadets would learn mountain climbing, hiking, glacier and canoeing every summer for six weeks. The Banff camp was moved in 1999 to some 45 kilometres northwest of Cochrane. Vernon Army Cadet Camp first trained cadets in 1949, using a former WWII basic training camp, each summer since then 1500 cadets have come to learn drill, first aid, hiking, rock climbing, camping citizenship and leadership. The friendships made at both camps have often stood the test of time. Vernon is still known for its hot summers, Friday night parades on Dieppe Square; field training at Glennama; beautiful beaches and open air movies on Coutts' Common (named after famed PPCLI Captain Jim Coutts CD). Banff was famous for its incredibly scenic log cabin camp at the foot of 9835 foot Mount Cascade; elk grazing along the camp fence and the occasional mid summer snowfall. Many interesting and even famous individuals have attended the camps; Calgary Flames trainer Jim "Bearcat" Murray attended Vernon in 1949, NHL Linesman Randy Mitton in 1966-67, and even a future Hollywood film star, Tommy Chong of "That 70s Show" was an Edmonton based army cadet who attended Vernon in 1954. Attending Banff in 1986, Myriam Bedard started her biathlon career as an army cadet from Québec City. She went on to win double gold at the 1994 Olympic Games in Lillehammer and a bronze medal at the 1992 Games in Albertville. As well, international exchange cadets at Banff have included: British CCF and ACF cadets; German youth; French (France) cadets; Jamaican army cadets and US Civil Air patrol and Young Marines. Vernon had a successful exchange program with American USMC Junior ROTC cadets from 1977-1990. We're looking for anyone who ever attended either camp. To date we have accumulated 41,501 names, nearly 55% of the known 80,000 cadets and staff since 1949 for the Vernon book and 7339 names, about 50% of the 14,500 cadets and staff since 1948 for the Banff book. These books are now nearing completion, the first edition publication for both of these books is planned for spring 2003. What are we looking for? Any former cadet; reservist, regular force; Cadet Instructors Cadre; Cadet Instructors List; Cadet Services of Canada officer; civilian instructor; civilian support staff that worked or trained at either camp. Camp (ie. Vernon or Banff); full name; cadet corps; hometown; year(s) at camp; later military or para-military career; post-nominals educational and military (if applicable). We will not publish personal information such as email; phone number or address. However, these books could become very interesting additions to collections and libraries across the country next spring. You can visit the VACC Alumni web site at www.vaccalumni.ca to find your name on the nominal roll page. You can contact Francois Arseneault by email: vacchistory@telusplanet.net or regular mail: 4515 North Haven Drive NW Calgary, Alberta, T2K 2J1. Many cadets went on to serve in virtually every reserve and regular force units across the country. We hope you can help us out.