

**AIRBORNE SOCIAL CLUB
NORTHTOWN PO, BOX 71034
9308 - 137 AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8
MARCH 2022**



Editor's Message

Spring is on our doorsteps and with that comes the outdoor activities that we all so enjoy. In particular, I am sure this year everyone will be looking forward to it more-so after having spent the last two springs in COVID isolations. To start off our spring/summer activities, the club is scheduling a social event for April at the St Albert Eagles Club where we hope to enjoy an evening of socializing and a lovely BBQ meal. Finalized details will be distributed once, confirmed.

Now that Spring is on its way and with many of the mandates having been removed, it is time of us to get back into some sort of normal living, once again. Let's get out and enjoy our families, friends and life as we once knew it. One thing for sure, if anything that this last two years of COVID restrictions and mandates has reminded me of - "life is just too short to not enjoy it when we can". Call someone, go for a coffee or just sit and reminisce the good times and let's leave the bad times in the rear view mirror.

As a result of my requesting articles for publishing, Bill Dickson provided me with an article written by Morris Zakaluk of his recollections of the Operation Varsity, Rhine Drop, March 1945 entitled:

PRIVATE M. ZAKALUK'S RECOLLECTIONS OF RHINE DROP - MARCH 1945



The greatest armada of aircraft in the air; different shapes and sizes, circling, getting in their respective formations, ever assembled in history. What a sight! What a feeling of strength!. It was something beyond one's imagination. One must give credit to all the pilots and crews for

getting us to our objectives. A lot of them gave their lives in the line of their duties. There was heroism in their ranks, as well as ours.

We are in a C-47 Aircraft, about 11 or 12 of us heading for Germany. The morning was beautiful over the Channel, and part of the Continent. It was a ride to enjoy, but as time dragged on, I could see puffs of smoke in the air between hundreds of planes. These are anti-aircraft shells exploding, and tracers arcing their way into the sky. I see a ball of fire - one of our aircraft - men are bailing out of it in a quick order.

My turn to leave the aircraft! I am out, chute opened, cascading down. What are all these bees doing at 300-400 feet in the month of March, buzzing all around me? I can't see them, but I can hear them. A little early to be buzzing around at these heights. Hey! These guys are shooting at me!! I made a landing within a few seconds. I notice that these killer bees are down here too! They are kicking up dirt everywhere - too close for comfort. They have gone berserk! I dive into a crater. Hey, there is a parachutist in there. This is great! But he looks kind of still. I utter a greeting - no response; feel his pulse - none there. He is dead. I hear gun fire and see men running and shooting in the edge of the woods, 70 to 100 feet away. These are our guys. They are clearing the Germans that were releasing all the bees that were flying around me on my descent and landing. I dive into the woods and help them to put the bees back to sleep. Now, let me see. Where is my Section? I look and behold I see Headquarters' colour marker at the edge of another clump of woods next to a road, and a couple of farm establishments.

My rendezvous is closer than the beekeeper. We will deal with him later. Must deliver ammo for Vickers gun and I carry a sniper's rifle with a scope. The rifle worked good from the hip, also at close range.

Anyway, I find in this little group of our men D. Hilborn, John L. Chambers, C.H. Clarke, Bob Hampton and myself, just struggled in. What took me so long to get here? Oh yeah, I was delayed in the clump of woods, clearing the beekeepers. The battle is raging. Vickers gun is set up and spitting at hornets at the farm buildings where a company of beekeepers are giving us a hard time. They want to neutralize our Vickers position. Our men on the Vickers are partially dug in and holding their own. I dig like a mad dog. Man! I never thought one could scrape out a hole in the ground as fast as I did. It's not only small arms fire keeping our behinds down, but an S.P. 88 has appeared some 300 yards from our position and started bombarding our position with anti-personnel shells. We are at the edge of a clump of woods which are being topped faster than B.C. High Riggers could have done. This was one hell of a plastering we took!

By now gliders are landing. The Germans zeroed in on them with mortars and set them afire. Men are scurrying out of gliders or blown out mortally wounded. Small arms fire intensified from both sides. We are trying to keep the Germans pinned down to give cover to John Chambers and Clarke who went out, under heavy fire to pull glider pilots that were alive, to the safety of our position.. We are firing back at the Germans holed up at the farm. The stock on my sniper's rifle is getting hot due to rapid firing. Chambers and Clarke were hit. Gliders were lost with whatever was in them. Germans tried to overrun our position but were beaten back. Our Rifle company counter-attacked the farm under smoke screen, and took it with casualties to both sides. Our objective was secured. There is a dog fight in the air. The Germans fighter plane is shot down. The pilot bails out and lands some 100 feet away from my position. Major Hilborn commands to go and bring him in. I go out. I prod him with a rifle barrel, and point in the direction I want him to move. I could not believe my eyes; this pilot is immaculate. I could see my face in his boots, and the rest of him well-manicured and arrogant. I get the idea that he will surrender to an officer of his equal or higher. I poke the rifle to his ribs, and my boot to his pants took the starch out of him; I was able to turn him over to Hilborn.

The S.P. Gun retreated after our mortars zeroed in on it and our Vickers sent hornets in its direction. We went out to the bashed-up gliders and salvaged some supplies. Our section is somewhat under strength and a little low on ammo. We dig in deeper and fashion dirt roofs over our trenches. There is plenty of debris from the shelling we took earlier. We use branches of trees, lay them on top of trenches, and cover with dirt. We are expecting a counter-attack of bombardment from heavy guns during the night. Illumination flares were up in the air during the night. The battle raged on into the next day. We were re-supplied with ammo and tried to clear the spoils of the drop zone. The area, by this time, was pretty well cleared of Germans, although the enemy artillery was lobbing shells at random the following night. Next morning we received orders to move out. Our History Book, "OUT OF THE CLOUDS" covers events from here to Wismar well.

I do recollect frontal assaults across open fields quite well, also the night assaults on a town where we were ordered to wrap burlap sacks on our boots to eliminate noise as we entered the town at night. At a whisper command we took the town. There was no resistance. We did not know that the enemy had retreated.

Another time when we were under heavy bombardment, we took shelter from the rain in a big barn. General Montgomery arrived in a jeep to our Battalion. A bit of a battle raged on at the time.

Riding the tanks was fun and the trucks, but I did more walking and hitting the ditch than anything else. There was a time when I was taken on a recon jeep with a machine gun mounted in the middle of it, over a rough road at full speed. It was like riding a bucking horse.

At Wismar there was an encounter with the Russians. Our Vickers was set up at one road block, when two motorcycle riders appeared. We sent a burst of Vickers over their heads. You never saw a couple of motorcycles and riders take the ditch so neat, you would have thought they were stunt men. Their machine guns were at the ready. I was sent out to cue

them in, since I knew some Russian, being a Ukrainian myself.

During our stay in Wismar we uncovered a hidden wine cellar. That was a happy day for a lot of us. There were times that I had acted as an interpreter to impose curfew on the town, through a Russian priest.

There are many other things that happened during action days of our Battalion that I feel should be left in one's memory only, and not printed.



Morris and Pauline Zakaluk

Editor's note:

As I read Morris' article, my thoughts were of Morris, as a young Ukrainian man, born in Poland, who moved to Canada and ended up helping to fight to liberate the oppression of those in Europe because a crazed maniac decided that he wanted to control Europe.

I wonder what Morris and others such as he would be thinking today were they alive and witnessing the atrocities now happening in the Ukraine. Most likely, they would be thinking or saying, "why is the world sitting back and watching a country and its people being destroyed because a "lunatic bully" says if you come to help them, I will hurt you too. They most likely would be thinking, "I thought we had showed the world that we are willing to do whatever it takes, sacrifice whomever, for the freedom of others! Why is the world not doing that again today?"

PETE SPENCER AWARD RECIPIENT 2021

Pete Spencer Award is awarded annually to a member of the club in recognition of their dedication and outstanding support to the airborne brotherhood. The 2021 Award, as selected by the membership was awarded to Honorary Member, Sharon Skwarchuk, our club Treasurer for her outstanding dedication throughout the year.



Club President, Michel Crepeau presents Sharon Skwarchuk with the 2021 Pete Spencer Award

I recently received an interesting article from Ed Haines who takes us back 40 years to Coppermine, NWT and Exercise Manitou Jig.

**MANITOU JIG (40 ANNIVERSARY) -
By Ed Haines**

It sounds like a dance. It was, sort of a dance I did on skis with 40 brothers, we called it the "Big Ski". I'm cold, sitting in a motionless C130 Hercules aircraft on the tarmac in Trenton, Ontario. Broken down waiting for a two-hour repair job, I'm inside the back of the 'Herc' with 40 other soldiers.

We're waiting for take-off on the 10-hour flight to Coppermine, NWT (now Kugluktuk, Nunavut) for a ten-day trek across the Arctic Circle as part of Canada's military presence in the north, Exercise Manitou Jig, an exercise to maintain Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. We're from the reconnaissance platoon of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, 40 paratroopers (at the time Canada's only go-anywhere do-anything Parachute Commando Unit). It is

February 2nd 1982, and while sitting there in my arctic parka and mukluks my mind wanders back to a month of preparation, training for arctic warfare, army cargo skiing on our beloved 'bangy boards', and thinking of



the two enemies we're about to face. The first (and the most insignificant) is the Cold War Warsaw Pact enemy soldiers we're reminded of daily as "The Threat". The second (and real threat) that we are most apprehensive about, are the natural dangers of the arctic, in February no doubt! The Big Ski turned out to be a harrowing experience of survival and accomplishment. This is our plight, and the omen of our broken-down aircraft before we even begin the 250 mile 'march' was a menace we did not need.

Aircraft fixed, ten hours later we land in Coppermine. It was -35C without the wind-chill. As we step off the plane the cold bites into us stinging our bare faces. We quickly cover up and begin to unload (no baggage handlers here). Other than a single half-ton truck, we do not see a thing; it's dark and glacial. An hour later we're set up at the end of the runway in our Arctic ten-man tents with stoves and lamps roaring to keep the tent at a bleak +5C, this drafty chilly meat-locker is our home. This will be the warmest we'll be over the next three weeks, 40 men in four tents and we quickly bed down for the night.

Tent group routine is an art of sorts, ten men squeezed into a double wall tent really designed just big enough, laid out on the floor jig-sawed in sardine style, nine sleeping with one soldier awake on stove watch. We take an hour shift each and every night; it is a constant motion of men moving every hour but critical. The man 'on' keeps our life source supplied with fuel. The hot water is always on, melted snow to fill every man's thermos up

every morning, our only source of hydration for the day. We're always thirsty. Reveille comes early. We eat our ration packs, and arctic cake supplement (normal is 1,800 calories a day) every meal is inhaled, we're burning 2800 calories a day staying warm, breathing, skiing and surviving. We consume almost double calories and we still lose weight (I lost approx. a pound a day when I didn't



have it to lose) We ski all morning, stopping only for navigation breaks. We use our astrocompass, readings from the sun and moon and horizon for finding true north, while on the arctic magnetic fields, we use our rifles as tripods. (Before GPS or Satellite phones).

We open only one thermos at a time for every ten men and pour every man a half cup of hot water. I mix mine with powder juice crystals and melt snow in the hot water to produce double the volume of liquid. I'm still thirsty, like every soldier, but that's all there is until the next stop. We eat our lunch on the trail, emergency gelatin cubes and granola bars, packed with calories, but we're always hungry. We tear down camp, ski, then set up camp becomes routine, snow wall-tent up-water boiling, 20 minutes of a symphony of action, every man dedicated to his job.

Ten days we've been skiing, cold beyond cold, numb most of the day; we stare at our bleak existence, the tundra, barren, uninhabitable, a frigid wasteland of glacial desert. The penetrating wind has my extremities stinging, as if bitten by the non-existent frost flies, right to the bone, through thick layers of thermal underwear and wool that is submerged under my double layered army parka.

My feet are aching in my mukluks, blistered beyond blisters, sensitive and chafed to the cold bones of my feet under the bandages strapped into the ski harness. What am I

doing here? I see the same question in every man's eyes. Just keep going we tell ourselves. We know we are being watched; Canada's reputation of being able to patrol her arctic is being exercised by our platoon. We band together at every halt, we drink from each other's cups, we work as one erecting our snow walls and tents every night. Our Platoon, we are a special interest group, our subculture, harmonizes en masse and unite to push ourselves beyond the limits we previously knew.

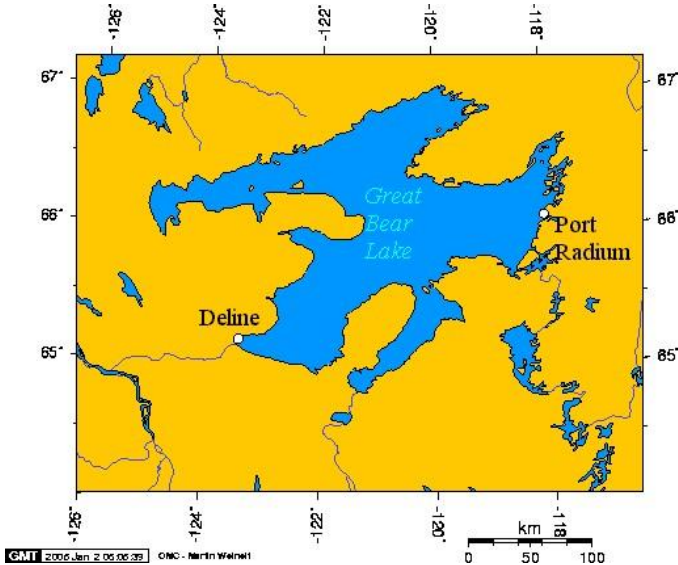
Another white out greets us eleven days into our ten-day patrol. We've had two other whiteouts and lost three men so far from cold weather injuries. We were supposed to be resupplied every 3rd day by aircraft. However, in eleven days we've seen the Twin Otter aircraft on skis land once to take out casualties, and its attempt to land again three days later failed due to severe winds. The aircraft load master would just kick out our rations and fuel over our heads as we scrambled across the tundra shoving broken ration packs into our parkas as if we were children on an Easter egg hunt.

Another three days and no aircraft, running low on fuel and rations we were down to our last meal and talk of doubling 20 men in each 10-man tent to save fuel, then our Inuit CF Rangers headed out to hunt with a couple troops and a few hours later are back to camp dragging three fresh killed Caribou, if it wasn't for that passing herd of caribou, I believe we would still be out on the frozen land. We grabbed onto fur and carved out a cone of a meat popsicle each. Every man a beast devouring a fist size of raw Caribou. Best meat I ever ate in my life! Then again...when hungry, you know!



Day 13 or 14 and it is the last night in this 3rd storm, and it is my duty as section second in command to crawl out to the toboggan for fuel. Up goes the zippered door and all I see is a wall of snow. My best buddy in the section is Cpl Ernie Hall. We dig out a tunnel, and Ernie ties a line around my waist and out I go. Crawling on hands and knees, completely blind from the whiteout, I dig for the toboggan. Getting cold now, -62C and wind howling, I dig to find the toboggan two feet down and grab a few cans of fuel. I reach for my line to direct me back and it is gone! I crawl four paces back, no tent, back track and go four paces the other way no tent. Getting nervous and disorientated I crawl in every direction for the tent that does not seem to be there. I'm starting to get so cold I'm having hard time moving now. I looked through the slits of my eyes, but am instantly blinded by snow and dark. I'm beginning to think when the storm ends, I hope they can at least find my body. I spot a faint reddish glow which I crawl toward. Holding a red filter flashlight (Ernie's quick thinking as we were only using white light) six paces away and it's Ernie! I got in the tent and gave him a big hug! He saved my life that night. I will never forget him. As I grow older this incident has become more and more relevant to me. (RIP Ernie, killed by a wreckless driver in Pembroke Ontario, January 12th, 2015).

Just like a movie, the sky cleared after 3rd day and re-supply arrived. There were a few more days of endurance, but we made it. So of course, I survived as you can see as I'm writing this little story and after that 3rd whiteout and those few more days on the skis and we finally hit the tree line. Not far to the end, we now just have to cross Great Bear Lake NWT, no small task in itself.



We arrived at Port Radium (Eldorado Mine-Port Radium reopened in 1942 to supply uranium ores for the effort of World War II). I believe it was 16 or so days on the tundra and a couple more to get home we hung out there for a couple days and our Herc came in landing on the lake's frozen runway. Home and another adventure in the books. This one will remain with me my entire life and of all things, winter is till my favorite season. If you ever run into Scotty Collins (our Platoon Quartermaster) an old Airborne soldier like us, he can verify the betting that was going on in the Yellowknife bars as to if we would make it or not, those betting against us lost big time! Airborne, All the Way!

I would be remiss if I did not mention our Leaders: Capt. Clyde Russel Pl Comd, WO Ralph Goebel Pl WO, Sgt Ian Husk HF Radio, MCpl Duke Cuthbert Sect Comd, Sgt Scotty Collins resupply out of Yellowknife.

Notes: - Every member who completed the Big Ski was presented with both the SSF and Order of Arctic Adventurers.



CWO Ernie Hall, RIP and MWO Ed Haines, Rideau Hall - 2005



**LAST POST
GONE FROM US, BUT
NOT FORGOTTEN
IN MEMORY OF OUR
DEPARTED**

This edition may have missed notices of airborne comrades who passed since last publication. We endeavour to acknowledge those who have passed, regrettably full details are not always known or available at time of publication.

CWO GILBERT (GIL) TRINQUE, MMM, CD
December 22, 2021, at the age of 84



A native of Porcupine, Ontario, Gil enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces on January 11, 1957. Following his basic training, he was posted in June to the 3e Battalion Royal 22e Regiment in Valcartier. Shortly thereafter, in November of the same year, he left Canada for Werl, Germany, still with the unit, and spent the next two years there.

In November 1959, he returned to Valcartier with the battalion. He remained there for five more years before being transferred to 2

R22eR in November 1964. In March of the following year, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and returned to Germany a second time, this time with the 2nd Battalion. , for a period of two years.

He returned to Canada with the unit in 1968. In March 1969, he left the country again to participate in his first United Nations mission to the island of Cyprus, during Operation SNOWGOOSE . He will be back in Valcartier in September. As soon as he arrived, he left Canada and returned to Werl, Germany. He took part in the relocation of the military base to Lahr in 1970. In 1973, then at the rank of adjutant, he won the Medal of Military Merit (MMM).

In June 1974 he was promoted to the rank of Master Warrant Officer and posted to 1 Commando in Edmonton, Alta. He returned to Lahr, Germany, with 1 R22eR in June 1977. He successively held the positions of Company Master Warrant Officer and Training Sergeant Major. On July 1, 1979, while still in Germany, he was promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. The following month, he was transferred to CFB Montreal where he served until March 1980, after which he was transferred to the position of Chief Warrant Officer of the School of Languages in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu. On June 1, 1982, he was transferred to Valcartier as regimental sergeant major of the R22eR combat school, he thereby became the regimental adjutant. He held both positions until February 1985, when he was posted to 3 R22eR as the unit's SMR. During this transfer, he participated in his second United Nations mission to the island of Cyprus from March to July 1987. On July 10, 1987, he was appointed Chief Warrant Officer of the 5th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 CMBG) in Valcartier and held this position until the summer of 1990. Subsequently, he was transferred to Germany on June 15, 1990, to serve as the Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer in Europe. After his term ended in 1992, he remained in Germany to assist in the logistical repatriation of Canadian materiel following the announcement of the closure of CFB Lahr. He would return to Canada shortly before his release from the Canadian Armed Forces on July 19, 1993, after a career spanning more than 36 years.

MICHAEL "MIECZYSLAW" ANTHONY WOWER



January 1, 2022, at the age of 74.

Michael will be remembered by his loving wife of 49 years, Diane; daughters, Eva, and Cecilia (Ryan) Tomko; son Mathew (Abby); three grandchildren, Declan, and Nadia Ross, and Henry

Tomko; brother-in-law, Boleslaw (Maria) Holik; a niece, numerous nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Mike was predeceased by parents, Janina and Antoni Wover. Mike was born in Helmstedt, Germany in 1947 and immigrated as a young child to Winnipeg with his parents. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces, (Fort Garry Horse/Airborne Regiment) from 1968-1971 as a paratrooper, where he "jumped out of perfectly good airplanes". He later dedicated over 20 years of his life in the Canadian public service, working for Corrections Canada.

Mike was happiest when he was surrounded by his family and friends. He loved car trips to the mountains in Alberta and B.C. and was a voracious novel reader and an avid fan of Edmonton sports teams. Mike was also an active member with Knights of Columbus and was the President of his church Seniors club.

A Funeral Mass was held January 8, 2022, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Edmonton, with interment to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

STEPHEN (STEVE) ROBERT MITCHELL



May 16 1962 - January 27, 2022

Steve's death was completely unexpected, resulting from a massive heart attack. Born and raised in Toronto. He joined the military on April 23,

1981 signing on in the infantry with the PPCLI. Steve spent the next twenty-one years of his life dedicated in service to his country. He served with 3 PPCLI, the Canadian Airborne Regiment, and the Canadian Forces Parachute Display Team (Skyhawks). His final posting was as Regular Force Cadre with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. He completed operational tours of duty in Cyprus (3 PPCLI) and Somalia (Airborne Regiment). As with everything in his life, Steve was passionate about soldiering, which is reflected in the many soldiers who had the opportunity to serve with Steve. Steve retired from the military as a Warrant Officer on May 21, 2001.

Following his time in uniform, Steve continued to serve. As a civilian contractor with the United Nations, Steve was involved in supervising Afghanistan's first general election in 2004. In 2008, Steve joined the newly established Mental Health & Operational Stress Injury Joint Speakers Bureau. He attended the very first instructor course and began work immediately after as Peer Educator. Over the next five years, Steve presented to thousands of active and veteran Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members to help educate and change the culture with regards to mental health. In 2012, Steve started work with the Mental Health Commission of Canada, as a Mentor Master Trainer, where he was instrumental in developing, and rolling out the Working Mind and the Working Mind First Responders programs, designed to promote mental health in the workplace.

Steve was first and foremost the devoted husband of Joyce, and extraordinary father of Kathleen and Daniel. He will also be remembered by his sisters, Barbara (David Anderson), Ann (Greg Dabrowski), and Patricia; and nieces and nephews, Paige, Andrew (Susan), and Moira (Alexander); and grandniece and grandnephew, Scott and Alexandra. Steve was predeceased by his mother, Donna Mitchell.

A Celebration of Steve's Life was held in Calgary February 5, 2022.

SYLVAIN JOSEPH MAURICE JUTRAS



April 9, 1966 -
January 31, 2022

Sylvain passed unexpectedly in his home in Douglas Harbour, NB. The son of Richard and Pierrette (Guay) Jutras, Sylvain was born on April 9 1966, in Verdun, Quebec. He is survived by his

wife Josette (Richard) and stepsons Nathan and Julian Corey; sister Johanne Jutras; brother Daniel Jutras; his goddaughter Audrey-Maude Jutras; nephews Francis Grenier and Ugo Jutras and niece Mia Jutras. Sylvain will also be greatly missed by his many brothers and sisters-in-law, and nieces and nephews on Josette's side of the family.

Sylvain served in the military for many years and was especially proud of his posting as an Airborne Jumper (parachutist) in the prestigious Canadian Airborne Regiment. For the past 15 years he worked with Calian as an Information Technology Instructor and System Engineering Technician.

Sylvain loved being out on the water and could often be found cruising around the lake with his friends and dog, working with the COJO Rescue Team or diving for moorings in the Harbour. He was a coach and mentor to many, a talented craftsman, and a skilled broomball player. As dedicated to his friends as he was to the Habs, Sylvain will always be remembered as a generous man who would help anyone in need. Above all else, Sylvain was a loving and caring husband to Josette. His loyalty and devotion will always be cherished and his laughter never forgotten. A service honouring Sylvain's life will be held this summer in Douglas Harbour, NB.

D-DAY CEREMONY - SIFFLEUR FALLS 2022



The plan for this year's D-Day Ceremony at the Siffleur Falls Staging Area is underway to cover period June 5th-7th, 2022. There is no change to the ceremony format on the June 6th and it will follow the normal parade line up as we have done in the past. The parade will commence at the Staging Area by the 1st Can Para Bn Cairn at 1330 hrs on the June 6th.

With respect to the other activity, we normally conduct at the David Thompson Resort (DTR) during this period, the Meet & Greet on the 5th, BBQ after ceremony on the 6th, etc., we are in a sort of "watch and shoot pattern" right now. I have not been able to get a clear response to my request from the DTR to give us a package deal total for the period June 5th-7th, which has always been the case in the past. However, it is under new ownership, and things do change. So, until I can get a clear and confirmed agreement for a package deal for our event, we may be faced with a situation this time where there won't be a Meet & Greet, or BBQ in the DTR total costs, and we'll just have to cover meals ourselves and make our own party arrangements too. Something the Airborne Family doesn't have any problem doing.

I was advised there is no change to the room rates/camp site costs this year, and there are a specific number of each **block booked for us under the code AIR 22** until May 15th. Reservations can be made by through the following sources, Tel: 1-888-810-2103 or booking@davidthompsonresort.com. After that you pays your money and takes your chances to get a room, etc.

Based on the scenario as it sits now, DTR accommodation bookings for June 5th - 7th should be done soonest.

At present there are three sets of ashes from the Brotherhood ready to go up Normandy Peak. As the climb is normally done on the June 5th, for anyone bringing ashes, or accompanying the climb, remember you have to be at the Cairn site by 0730 hrs (time TBC) on the 5th of June. Of course, this usually means being booked into local accommodation on the June 4th, unless you travel to the site from afar very early.

The overall news on the accommodation plan at DTR is not the best, but it is the best I can give you now. Any changes, or updates will be forwarded via the social club news means, as soon as possible.

I look forward to us carrying on the tradition we have established with this ceremony over the past 21 years. Our Airborne Brotherhood is strong, and we know how to honour those who have gone before us. Let's not break the trend. See you at Siffleur in June. Stay well. Airborne!

Capt (Ret 'd) Bill Dickson, CD
MC/Coord 2022 D-Day Ceremony
Siffleur Fall Staging Area

CYCLING AGAIN - By Art Brochu



March 26th it will be one year since I had both knees replaced and looking forward to getting back out on the road helping sick children and their families.

I know it's been a very hard year for a number of people; however, the families of sick children have had a very terrifying year not knowing when or if treatment were going to be available. Setting by the phone watching your sick child and

getting a call only to find out the treatment or surgery, etc. would be cancelled again. I cannot imagine what that situation would you like; however, there are thousands of families that have been living that situation with the last two years.

It is my desire and wish to do what I can for these families; however, it is impossible for me to do anything without the love and support of all of the people that care, love and would want to help these families.

I have been blessed with two new knees and the ability to cycle. Therefore, with your support I am again cycling to raise funds that can provide the treatments that is necessary to help better the lives of those sick children and their families. In doing so, I have registered for the Enbridge tour Alberta for Cancer ride that will be taking place on July 23rd and 24th. The ride will travel from Lethbridge to fort McMurray. To donate go to [Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer](#), click on donate, put in my name (Arthur Brochu) it will take you to the site.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and hope you have a wonderful 2022....**Art**

COMMEMORATION - CYPRUS 2024

The following email has been received from the Cyprus 2024 Committee highlighting their continuing planning for the Cyprus 2024 tour. A detailed bilingual communicatee is attached.

From: Walter Holmes
Sent: February 3, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Dave Paris
Cc: Jim and Anne Holsworth
Subject: CYPRUS 2024

Good morning Dave:

This is a personal note wearing my Co-Chair hat of the committee that is plotting a return to Cyprus in 2024. I arrived in Edmonton in July 1974 thinking I was heading off to Cyprus when I was told that I would be remaining on the Rear Party. I wasn't pleased, but, the Rear Party job ended up being an important one as casualties occurred and family anxiety grew.

The Airborne Social Club would have received previous correspondence of our intent to mark Canada's contribution to the Cyprus mission totally more than 60 years, on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war. We will return to Cyprus in November 2024, near Remembrance Day, to honour the 28 Canadians who fell there since 1964. Participants will be Veterans who served in Cyprus, and their families, with a focus on members of the Airborne Regiment and attached troops who were there in 1974.

Although the program in Cyprus will be a blend of battlefield tours, reunion of comrades, professional presentations, remembrance ceremony and memorial dedication, the true value of the commemoration is the capturing of stories, stirring of memories and leaving a legacy of the actions of many in that war. We are also trying to cater to those Veterans and their families who are not able to travel to Cyprus through pre-tour events in Canada.

Our organizing committee has embarked on an ambitious program to make sure that Canada's Cyprus commitment in general, and the actions of the Canadian Airborne Regiment battle group in 1974 specifically, will never be forgotten. In this regard we are seeking AB Social Club support as follows:

- Reunion 2023. We would like to present an overview of the Cyprus 2024 commemoration during the 2023 reunion. Myself, Jim Holsworth and Ron Bragdon are planning to attend and we would be more than happy to give a short briefing on the Cyprus program and events leading up to it. Postings on the Reunion 2023 Facebook group would, in our view, benefit the promotion of this commemorative event and the significance of the 1974 War within our Airborne history.
- Greisbach Memorial. It has been suggested that in addition to the memorial plaque that we plan to dedicate in Cyprus, that we also add a plaque at the Airborne Memorial in Greisbach Barracks (and include it in our fundraising). It is hoped that the AB Social Club would take this on to do a

ceremony either at the Airborne Reunion or Remembrance Day in 2024.

- Oral History. Finally, we are putting together an oral history project to capture the memories and stories from many of the Veterans from 1974 (sadly, before its too late). We are engaging professional interviewers to lead that project, but would need local assistance, particularly around Edmonton to find folks and set up interview opportunities. This would ideally take place during the reunion as it is anticipated that a good number of 74 Veterans will attend.

Our fundraising for all this will start in the summer or fall of this year once the Canadian Airborne Forces Association charitable objectives are approved by CRA. The fundraising campaign will be focused on: (in priority) Airborne soldiers and cadet travel, dedication of a plaque in Cyprus and Edmonton, the CAFA-ARAC scholarship, and the Airborne Museum Petawawa (which may include the oral history project).

To make it affordable for many of the Veterans, our travel agency is negotiating the best possible price, plus we are attempting to get VAC support to assist Veterans with travel costs.

We are well ahead of the power curve in our planning and we have built a superb and valued network including VAC, DND, the Canadian War Museum, our High Commissioner and Hon Consul in Cyprus, our Defence Attaché to Cyprus, to name a few. There are no political overtones to our endeavour, our committee is composed of Airborne Regiment Veterans whose only desire is to make sure that Canada's Cyprus commitment, and the 74 war in particular are remembered as they deserve to be. We are simply a few grey-bearded, dedicated folks who have stepped up to help bring this commemoration together, all during a global pandemic!

There is no intention of distracting from the regular Airborne reunions. On the contrary, we sincerely hope to enhance those gatherings, by creating a once in a lifetime opportunity for a return to Cyprus. we

sincerely hope to enhance those gatherings, by creating a once in a lifetime opportunity for a return to Cyprus.

It would be appreciated if you could arrange to have our requests considered by the leadership of the Airborne Social Club and that I be advised of the results of your discussions when convenient. I am available on my landline if a telephone conversation is preferred.

Very best regards and Airborne, Walter Holmes

PARATROOPER'S REUNION 2023

Planning phases for the reunion is well underway and being confirmed on a regular basis. The committee has been meeting monthly and will continue to update as plans and activities are confirmed.

The reunion will be held at the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre Hotel, June 2-4, 2023. Room rates for the reunion has been established at \$99, single and \$109 as double. These rates have been guaranteed for the period June 1st - 4th inclusive. When registering one is to advise they are attending the Paratrooper's Reunion (**Reunion 2023**). Room rates prior to and after these dates will have to be individually negotiated with the individual and hotel requesting them.

Registration. This reunion has an early registration incentive. All early registrants will have their name included for a chance to win back their registration, plus one other person they have registered (max of two persons (\$300)). Drawing will take place at the Saturday dinner.

Early Registration: \$150 Per Person (Prior to April 1st, 2023) or \$175 per person registered after April 1st, 2023.

A Facebook group has been setup as: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/552488172635068/events>.

See attached for additional information.

HUMOUR CORNER

A Sense Of Humour Can Be Contagious.

Lt. Colonel Robert Maclaren retired from the British Army in 2001 after a long fulfilling career. On the day that he retired he received a letter from the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defence setting out details of his pension and, in particular, the tax-free 'lump sum' award, (based upon completed years of service), that he would receive in addition to his monthly pension.

The letter read:

Dear Lt. Colonel Maclaren:

We write to confirm that you retired from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on 1st March 2001 at the rank of Lt Colonel, having been commissioned into the British Army at Edinburgh Castle as a 2nd Lieutenant on 1st February 1366. Accordingly your lump sum payment, based on years served, has been calculated as £68,500. You will receive a cheque for this amount in due course.

Yours sincerely, Army Paymaster

Col Maclaren replied:

Dear Paymaster:

Thank you for your recent letter confirming that I served as an officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards between 1st February 1366 and 1st March 2001, a total period of 635 years and 1 month. I note however that you have calculated my lump sum to be £68,500, which seems to be considerably less than it should be bearing in mind my length of service since I received my commission from King Edward III.

By my calculation, allowing for interest payments and currency fluctuations, my lump sum should actually be £6,427,586,619.47p. I look forward to receiving a cheque for this amount in due course.

Yours sincerely, Robert Maclaren (Lt Col Ret'd)

A month passed by and then in early April, a stout manila envelope from the Ministry of

Defence in Edinburgh dropped through Col Maclaren's letter box, it read:

Dear Lt Colonel Maclaren:

We have reviewed the circumstances of your case as outlined in your recent letter to us dated 8th March inst. We do indeed confirm that you were commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by King Edward III at Edinburgh Castle on 1st February 1366, and that you served continuously for the following 635 years and 1 month. We have re-calculated your pension and have pleasure in confirming that the lump sum payment due to you is indeed £6,427,586,619.47p.

However, we also note that according to our records you are the only surviving officer who had command responsibility during the following campaigns and battles:

- ❖ The Wars of the Roses 1455-1485 (Including the battles of Bosworth Field, Barnet and Towton);
- ❖ The Civil War 1642-1651 (Including the battles Edge Hill, Naseby and the conquest of Ireland);
- ❖ The Napoleonic War 1803-1815 (including the battle of Waterloo and the Peninsular War);
- ❖ The Crimean War (1853-1856) (including the battle of Sevastopol and the Charge of the Light Brigade);
- ❖ The Boer War (1899 -1902)

We would therefore wish to know what happened to the following, which do not appear to have been returned to Stores by you on completion of operations:

- ❖ 9765 Cannon; / 26,785 Swords;
- ❖ 12,889 Pikes; / 127,345 Rifles (with bayonets);/ 28,987 horses (fully kitted)
- ❖ Plus three complete marching bands with instruments and banners

We have calculated the total cost of these items as £6,427,518.119.47p. We have therefore subtracted this sum from your lump sum, leaving a residual amount of **£68,500**, for which you will receive a cheque in due course.

Yours sincerely- Army Pay Corps



Communiqué #3 18 fev 2022

From the Cyprus 2024 Committee / Du Comité Chypre 2024



Mission:

***...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974;
...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.***



Interest is growing, and preparations are coming together, for this memorable pilgrimage to Cyprus in Nov 2024. This is a quick update; see SITREP03 and **details at: [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)**

- **Up to 200 veterans** of Cyprus, their families, and colleagues, will 'deploy' in Nov 2024, near Remembrance Day to honour the 28 Canadians who fell in Cyprus since 1964.
- **Memorial plaques** will be dedicated in Cyprus and at the Airborne Memorial in Greisbach.
- **Veterans and historians** are researching the events of 1974 to find stories and stir memories of those who were there; a wealth of photos, videos, articles, and writings are being collected.
- **Oral history** project will reach out to capture veterans' memories on video.
- **Pre-tour events** in Canada, such as Toronto Airborne Luncheon, Airborne Reunion in Edmonton 6 June 2023, will share the commemoration for those unable to go in 2024.
- **Cyprus program** will blend professional talks, battlefield visits, excursions, and camaraderie.
- **By Migrations Travel [Home \(migrationstravel.ca\)](#)** at the Hilton Nicosia, with pre / post tour options.
- Battlefield tour team is building storyboards for visits to sites of Canadian actions in 1974.
- **Operational maps** from 1974 have been digitized and translated onto Google Maps to identify locations
- **Dr. Robert Shipley** will return to redraw sketches from 1978 for a Canadian War Museum exhibit.
- **Contingents** of British, Swedish, Finnish, Danish veterans will join the reunion in 2024.
- **Recce team** will go to Cyprus 31 Oct – 7 Nov 2022 to confirm plans, visit sites, meet UN & Cypriot officials.
- **Itinerary** and cost will be offered for registration in early 2023. Travel subsidy for veterans is being explored with VAC.
- **Fundraising**, under CAFA charitable status, has **four main goals**: sponsor soldiers & cadets, fund memorial plaques, augment the Airborne scholarship, and help the Airborne Museum Collection.
- **Cyprus 2024 coins** and other items are available at: **[Cyprus 2024 -50th Anniversary \(denisringuette.com\)](#)**
- **VAC commemoration directors** are assisting with veterans' travel, funding of memorials, oral history project, and event communications.
- **Canada's High Commissioner**, Defence Attaché and Honourary Consul for Cyprus are coordinating with UN and Cypriot authorities to facilitate the Recce and participation by the Cypriot community.
- An opportunity for Canada to remember the 1974 War, the Cyprus mission and our nation's legacy.



Join 'Straphanger Update' Zoom 1:00 pm ET 23 Mar 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5665908159?pwd=OTRxa1F4UjhJWUdTWGFUQ3JZRDI2QT09>

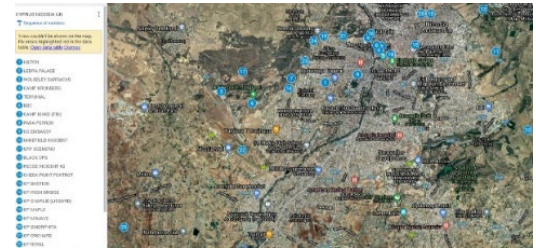
Meeting ID: 566 590 8159 Passcode: Cyprus



L'intérêt grandit et les préparatifs se préparent pour ce pèlerinage mémorable à Chypre en novembre 2024. Ceci est une mise à jour rapide ; voir SITREP03 et détails sur : [Cyprus2024](#) | [Facebook](#)



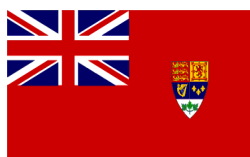
- **Jusqu'à 200 vétérans** de Chypre, leurs familles et leurs collègues se 'déployeront' en nov 2024, près du jour du Souvenir, pour honorer les 28 Canadiens tombés à Chypre depuis 1964.
- **Des plaques commémoratives** seront dédiées à Chypre et au Airborne Memorial à Greisbach.
- **Les vétérans et les historiens** font des recherches sur les événements de 1974 pour trouver des histoires et remuer les souvenirs de ceux qui étaient là; une multitude de photos, de vidéos, d'articles et d'écrits sont collectés.
- **Le projet d'histoire orale** cherchera à capturer les souvenirs des anciens combattants sur vidéo.
- **Les événements pré-tournée** au Canada, tels que le Toronto Airborne Luncheon, Airborne Reunion à Edmonton le 6 juin 2023, partageront la commémoration pour ceux qui ne pourront pas y aller en 2024.
- **Le programme** chypriote associera des conférences professionnelles, des visites de champs de bataille, des excursions et de la camaraderie.
- **Par Migrations Travel Home** (migrationstravel.ca) au Hilton Nicosia, avec des options avant/après la visite.
- **L'équipe de la visite du champ de bataille** construit des scénarimages pour les visites de sites d'actions canadiennes en 1974.
- **Les cartes opérationnelles** de 1974 ont été numérisées et traduites sur Google Maps pour identifier les emplacements
- **Le Dr Robert Shipley** reviendra pour redessiner des esquisses de 1978 pour une exposition du Musée canadien de la guerre.
- **Des contingents de vétérans** britanniques, suédois, finlandais et danois rejoindront la réunion.
- **L'équipe de reconnaissance** se rendra à Chypre du 31 octobre au 7 novembre 2022 pour confirmer les plans, visiter les sites, rencontrer les responsables de l'ONU et chypriotes.
- **L'itinéraire** et le coût seront offerts pour l'inscription au début de 2023. Une subvention de voyage pour les anciens combattants est à l'étude avec ACC.
- **La collecte de fonds**, sous le statut d'organisme de bienfaisance CAFA, a quatre objectifs principaux : parrainer des soldats et des cadets, financer des plaques commémoratives, augmenter la bourse Airborne et aider la collection du Musée Airborne.
- **Les pièces Chypre 2024** et d'autres articles sont disponibles sur : [Cyprus 2024 -50th Anniversary](#) (denisinguette.com)
- **Les directeurs de la commémoration d'ACC** aident aux déplacements des anciens combattants, au financement des monuments commémoratifs, au projet d'histoire orale et aux communications sur les événements.
- **Le haut-commissaire du Canada**, l'attaché de défense et le consul honoraire pour Chypre se coordonnent avec les autorités des Nations Unies et chypriotes pour faciliter la reconnaissance et la participation de la communauté chypriote.
- C'est l'occasion pour le Canada de se souvenir de la guerre de 1974, de la mission de Chypre et de l'héritage de notre nation.



Rejoignez "Straphanger Update" Zoom 13h00 ET 23 mars 2022
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5665908159?pwd=OTRXa1F4UjhJWUdTWGFUQ3JZRDI2QT09>
 ID de réunion: 566 590 8159 Code d'accès: Chypre

PARATROOPER'S REUNION

JUNE 2-4, 2023
EDMONTON,
ALBERTA



“Edmonton – The Airborne Story”



The Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) will be hosting a “Paratrooper’s Reunion” in Edmonton during the above period. This reunion will highlight parachuting units and activities as they existed in the Edmonton area over the years.



This reunion is open to all former members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment; current and former members - Regular and Reserve Force Parachute elements; former members of the Canadian Airborne Centre; Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot; 1 Canadian Parachute Association; and former members - The Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre; current and former members of Search and Rescue Squadrons/Elements; Allied Paratroopers; and all other paratroopers, whether or not they have served in an active parachute role or not.



In addition to the above members themselves, a grateful welcome is extended to all Honorary Club members, wives, spouses and partners of members no longer with us.



Although we are endeavouring to reach as many as possible via all means possible, it is requested that you pass on this information to those you are in contact with and who we may not have already reached out too.



SkyHawks

Hope to see you here, Airborne!
E: airborne-reunion-2023@shaw.ca





**REGISTRATION FORM
PARATROOPER'S REUNION
"EDMONTON - THE AIRBORNE STORY"
JUNE 2ND - 4TH, 2023**



NAME: _____
(Preferred Name To Be Used)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ / **EMAIL:** _____

**REGISTER EARLY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN BACK YOUR REGISTRATION
(MAX OF TWO PERSONS FROM YOUR REGISTRATION)
DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SATURDAY DINNER**

Early Registration: \$150.00 Per Person (Prior to April 1st, 2023)
\$175.00 PER PERSON AFTER APRIL 1ST, 2023

Number of registrations required: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Name Of Spouse (Or) Accompanied Person(s): _____ / _____ / _____

NOTE: PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARDS NOT AVAILABLE	MAIL REGISTRATION AND MAKE PAYMENT TO: PARATROOPER'S REUNION 2023 BOX 71034 9308 - 137 AVE NW EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8	E-TRANSFER THRU: Sharon Skwarchuk sharonskwarchuk@gmail.com
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**Reunion Location:
Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre Hotel
11834 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB T5G3J5
<https://www.edmontoninn.ca>
Toll Free: [1-888-747-4114](tel:1-888-747-4114) / Local Tel: 780-454-5454 / Fax: 780-453-7360
E: reservations@edmontoninn.ca**

The hotel has established a per night reunion rate of \$99 Standard / \$109 Deluxe for June 1st to 4th inclusive.

ANY PERIOD PRIOR TO OR AFTER THESE DATES TO BE NEGOTIATED INDIVIDUALLY WITH THE HOTEL

			
	<p>Email: airborne-reunion-2023@shaw.ca</p> <p>Web: http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca</p>		

Airborne kit shop items will be available for sale,
including a Reunion 2023 Serialized Commemorative Coin

