

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



Definition of a Veteran

Whether active duty, retired, or Reserve - is someone who, at one point in his/her life, signed a blank check made payable to "The People of Canada", for an amount "up to and including My Life".

Editor's Message

This past summer I, as with many once again began to venture beyond our home locations and take that long awaited trip after a couple of years of COVID isolation. My wife Marty, grandson Bastian and I began our travel plans for a July trip to Nova Scotia. As travel arrangement were made, it became quite obvious there may be disruptions and changes to original plans as we would want it.

First, after making our flight arrangements, Edmonton/Calgary/Halifax, we were notified instead of Calgary we would have to fly to Vancouver and then onward over-night to Halifax. Flying some 1200KM(+) west only to fly back east seemed pretty crazy but what the hell, we would be on our way, so off to the Edmonton airport we go. After securing our boarding passes and beginning our waiting, I overheard another passenger being advised if he were to take the flight he was booked on he would not be able to meet his Halifax connection. That spurred to me on to approach the ticket agent and ask if what he was just telling the earlier passenger would be the same problem I and my family would be encountering. He looked at our boarding passes and advised, it was in fact the same for us. He however, had a solution and changed our flight to an earlier one which would get us into Vancouver in lots of time to meet our connecting flight to Halifax.

After receiving our second set of boarding passes we once again began what was going to be another long wait, which by the way was just minutes earlier confirmed by the agent

who changed our flight. So with new passes in hand we began walking to the new departure gate area, only to hear over the intercom "last call for AC Flight 362 departing gate number 20". Holy shit, did I just hear right, that sounded like the flight we were just rebooked on, it can't be. We rushed to our departure gate and as I was being checked in and showed my boarding pass which read the flight did not leave for another 45 minutes, "sorry, says the agent but this flight departure time was changed and is about to leave, we must get you through now"! We and other passengers are hurried aboard. Once our carry-on is put away, seated with seat belts secured we get the following announcement, "good evening, this is your Captain speaking, due to flight timing change and numerous passengers not being aware, we must await their arrival, unfortunately we will not be departing before the next 45 minutes". After about 45 minutes or so, the doors are secured and we are on our way to Vancouver.

Once we arrive in Vancouver, Bastian and I begin to wander through the airport to find an open concession, and realize it seems all the concessions are closed for the day, all except a Tim's, so we get in-line with the others only to be told by an employee they are closing and would not be serving beyond the person who was making payment, five ahead of us. I, as others in-line was not going to let this happen so we insisted that we get served before she closed. Common sense prevailed with the young man behind the counter who directed that we in line be served, after which they would close. We got our drinks, thanked him and back to our gate area we went to witness our original flight arriving from Edmonton. Oh well we could of waited in Edmonton and got here in time for our connection after all.

The rest of the flight went without interruption or problems until we arrived Halifax the next morning, only to find that Marty's luggage did not come on our flight. After looking through a room full of unclaimed/misrouted baggage

was I told her suitcase has gone to Ottawa vice Halifax. How that happened no one could tell us. Anyway I was advised her bag would arrive Halifax the next day and would be delivered to us. Not totally believing this I gave my contact info and off we go to Truro where the next day I would be parading with other Black Canadian Veterans.

My trip to Nova Scotia was two-fold, to visit family and to attend the federal government's formal apology to descendants and relatives of the men of the No. 2 Construction Battalion (The Black Battalion), 106 years after the formation of the historic battalion that faced anti-Black racism during the First World War, a long unknown segment of our Canadian military history to many a Canadian.



Taking with Sean Fraser, MP Central Nova

The following message was delivered by the PM:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

It is an important day. Today, the Government of Canada will apologize to the descendants of No. 2 Construction Battalion members for the injustice they faced before, during and after their service to our country.

The members of No. 2 Construction Battalion, a battalion made up of entirely Black Canadians during the First World War faced systemic racism and discrimination at every turn. Black Canadians who selflessly wanted to serve their country, a nation that did not afford them full equality were turned away.

It was only after two years and the hard work of Black community leaders to challenge the racist and discriminatory recruitment policies, that No. 2 Construction Battalion was formed. The battalion played an invaluable role in the war by supplying critical lumber to the trenches and railways.



(Members of No. 2 Construction Battalion)

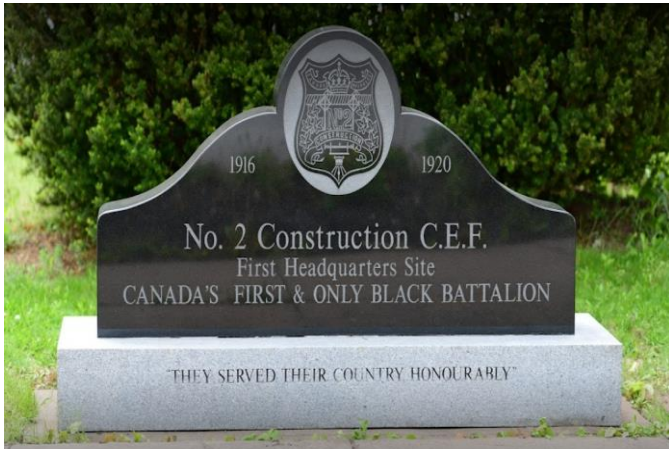
Until recently, the battalion did not receive the honour and recognition they deserved from the very beginning. Thanks to the hard work of members, leaders from Black communities, and advocates we are here, over a century later, to acknowledge the mistreatment of those brave men. I wish to extend the nation's gratitude to member of the battalion, as well as to their families and descendants. I am also grateful to those who planned today's program; The National Advisory Committee and Black Cultural Centre/Society of Nova Scotia, which consistently does remarkable work to protect promote and preserve Black culture in Canada, including by commemorating No. 2 Construction Battalion's centenary in 2016.

Only once the truths of the past are acknowledged, can we begin to dress the wounds they created and build a better, more inclusive Canada for all. As we continue as a country to confront systemic racism, discrimination and xenophobia in all its forms, the story of No. 2 Construction Battalion, and the stories of many other trailblazing Canadians, will play an important role in ensuring this never happens again.

*Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*

Having grown up in Pictou County where the battalion was originally formed, black men

from the area, especially those with the Paris name volunteered and served with the battalion, their story and history was never spoken of, let alone taught at any education institution, civilian or military. It was only after I had been in uniform as a young cadet, militiaman and in the regular force did it become known to me when the book *“The Black Battalion: 1916-1920, Canada’s Best Kept Military Secret”* authored by Calvin Ruck was The No.2’s true story known.



Side note to this battalion. Those who may remember the 1960’s/70’s TV musical program “Sing Along Jubilee” filmed in Halifax; two of the performers, Ann Murray and Lorne White neither knew they had a connection to The No.2. It was only after Calvin Ruck’s book did it become known to both of them that Captain Daniel Murray, Ann’s grandfather was the No.2’s doctor and Lorne’s grandfather was Reverend William White, the Chaplain.

While Captain Murray was a regular army officer, Reverend White was given the rank of Honorary Captain, one of the few black commissioned officers to serve our country’s military during the war.

This further shows how unknown this battalion really was, when one’s family was not aware of it until, again, Calvin Ruck’s book was written.

Participating in this parade and witnessing this apology along with other black veterans, with our families in attendance was without doubt one of the most significant and emotional experiences that I, as a black veteran ever had. This apology was well overdue. Today I thank those who were

instrumental in bringing No. 2 history to light and pushing for that long-overdue apology.

By: MWO (Ret’d) Dave R. Paris, MMM MB CD3

Links to additional information on the No.2 below.

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/no-2-construction-battalion>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/2126>

<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol16/no3/page51-eng.asp>



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.

CAPT (RET’D) HAROLD “RAY” HAYDEN, CD



Ray passed away at the age of 92, on March 15, 2022. Ray is survived by his loving wife, Mary, of 65 years; daughter, Linda (Claude) Gibeau; granddaughters, Jackie (Thomas) Lemoine and Rachel (John)

Richards; special great-grandsons, Dexter and Felix Lemoine; sisters, Gail (Mike) Hale and Sally de Zwaan; nephew, Bruce and niece, Julie; great-niece, Alex; and great-nephews, Troy, Jack, and Ben.

Ray was predeceased by his parents Harold and Alice Hayden; son, Gary (Diana); and niece, Charlene.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Ray was a dedicated member of the military starting in his early teens, first as a member of the Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Corps, and later as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, retiring in 1976.

Ray was posted to units across Canada, and Germany as Quartermaster with PPCLI. After his retirement from the military, he worked as a chief training officer with Alberta Safety Services, travelling to many towns and cities across the province.

A private service and interment was held at the family's request.

SGT (RET'D) LARRY WILLIAM BAILLIE, CD



Larry passed away in Bonaire (the Caribbean Netherlands) on 23 March 2022 at the age of 71. Larry was a well-known Combat Engineer, Combat Diver and Airborne Sapper. Larry's career with the Canadian Military

Engineers included postings to our field units and the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering. He was a member of 1 Airborne Field Squadron in Edmonton during which time he deployed to Cyprus on United Nations peacekeeping duties. Larry also served in 1 Field Squadron in Petawawa in the early 1970s. He entered his Combat Diving specialty when he took his Shallow Water Diver Land Forces course in 1976 and, later, received his Diver Supervisor qualification in 1984. He was the Field Engineer Instructor on several combat diver courses and attended several Exercise ROGUISH BUOYs. Larry was an instructor at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in the 1980s, followed by a tour with 1 Combat Engineer Regiment Chilliwack where he commanded the Dive Section.

On retirement, Larry set up a dive charter business in Port Moody BC. After five years, he moved the business to Bonaire in 1999 where he became known as "Captain" by the local fishermen. Larry initially worked at the Carib Inn until he started his own business, "Larry's *Wildside Diving*" and opened up the diving on the east coast of Bonaire. After his years of Combat Diving and his Port Moody venture, Larry had found his place and proceeded to log many more thousands of dives in this very pleasant surrounding. Larry was also the Managing Director for his wife's "*JanArt Gallery*".

MAJ (RET'D) ROBERT (BOB) JANIK, MMM, CD



Little Green Monster, Paratrooper, Ultralight Aviator, Rabble Rouser, and Argument Winner. Beloved Husband of 61+ years to Joanne and Father of Anthony (Karen). Bob made his final

jump from this world to the next, April 6, 2022.

Bob joined the Canadian Army in 1953 as a Soldier Apprentice, made his first parachute jump at the age of 18 and served this nation honorably for the better part of 4 decades, including service in Egypt 1965 - 1966, Cyprus 1974 and Germany 1984 - 1987. In 1968 he was an original member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Bob was a lover of animals; strays were attracted to his Inverary yard knowing they would find sanctuary or at the very least, treats. An avid reader, Bob considered learning to be a continuous process. The Salvation Army held a special place in his heart for the assistance they gave his family when he was young and his was a familiar face around Kingston manning a Kettle every Christmas. Service was in his blood.

Also left to mourn his passing are sister Dianna Stewart (Howie), sister Carole Brown, brother Bill Janik, all of Winnipeg, MB, sister-

in-law Ruth Lewis (Bert) of Ottawa, sister-in-law Sharon Fraser and brother-in-law Frank Manzer (Bonnie) of Fredericton, NB. Numerous nieces and nephews, Jo's great friend Sharon Palmer, his Airborne Brothers, and his flying buddies.

There will be no funeral however, a celebration of Bob's life will be held at a future date.

**CWO (RET'D) WILLIAM "BILL" TREMAIN, CD
OCTOBER 18, 1948 - MARCH 25, 2022**



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of William (Bill) Tremain on Friday, March 25, 2022. Bill will lovingly be remembered and deeply missed by his

wife and best friend Michele, three children Darrin Tremain, Kim (Tremain) Brochu and Kelley Tremain, son-in-law Cam Brochu and the loves of his life his grandchildren Avery Brochu, Isabel Brochu and Mercedes Kennedy, grandson-in-law Andy Kennedy and his great grand-children Sailor, Wylder and Jett. He also leaves to mourn him his brother Jack, Sandy and sister Delores.

Bill was predeceased by his parents Vern and Fern Tremain and his brothers Al, Ray and sisters Carol and Wendy.

Bill was born on October 18, 1948, in Quill Lake, Saskatchewan. Bill served 24 years in the Army and achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He served the Royal Canadian Artillery units in Canada, Germany and 2 UN tours in Cyprus and with the Canadian Airborne Regiment. With great strength of character and an admirable work ethic he had a second career for 22 years as a Construction Safety professional, with PCL for 6 years and joined the ACSA for another 16 years in Safety and training. Bill taught safety courses for the Alberta Construction Safety Association and was considered one of their top Instructors due to his knowledge, listening and communication skills.

Bill and Michele loved travelling, the outdoors and spending time at the lake. Bill was a very proud father who placed a lasting inprint on his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren's lives, empowering their self-worth.

Those close to Bill would describe him as a good and happy man, a man of character on whom they could rely on. He will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life was held July 30th at the St. Albert Legion, St. Albert, Alberta.

MWO (RET'D) ALPHONSE (AL) LARADE, CD



Al Larade passed away *May 20, 2022, at the age of 69.* Originally from Nova Scotia, Al enlisted in the CF on January 10, 1972. Following basic training, he was posted to Cdn AB Regt where he deployed with the Regiment to Cyprus in 1974.

After nine years with 1Cdo. he was posted to Gagetown Training Centre. Three years later, he was posted back to 1 Cdo, Petawawa where he once again was did a Cyprus tour in 1986/1987. This posting was followed with a posting to 2R22eR Valcartier where he spent the next two years. July 1989 saw Al being posted to CABC Edmonton, July 1990, he returned to Petawawa as the CSM 1 Cdo. During this posting he once again was deployed, this time on the Somalia mission.

In July 1993 he was posted back to Gagetown, followed with a posting back to CABC Edmonton in July 1994 where he remained for two years until his posting to Army HQ, Ottawa.

Al retired, September 1997 after a 25 year career.

It was clear that he loved his life and focused his attention and energy on ensuring that his high school sweetheart, Adele was always happy. Al is survived by his wife, Adele; their children, Tim and Melanie; his siblings, Therese, Yvonne, Isabelle, Marie-Helene and Georgette, Gordon, Claude and Gerard. He was predeceased by his mother, Beatrice (Poirier); and his father, Leo T. Larade; and his siblings, Marie-Cecile, Eveline, Robert and Joseph.

Funeral service was held July 8th, 2022, Cheticamp, NS.

**CWO (RET'D) JOHN ROBERT (BOB) CAIN, CD
MARCH 26TH, 1946-JUNE 16TH, 2022**



Bob joined the RCAMC in 1964. He served in various positions and environments in Canada and under both the NATO and UN Flags over his 32+ years of service. Bob did tours in Cyprus (1974), Alert (1981) and a six month tour in Kandahar Afghanistan with the CF Personnel Support Agency (2007-2008).

Bob's career was highlighted with two terms as RSM, 2 FD AMB Petawawa (1987-1990), a four year term at the Canadian Forces Training System Headquarters Trenton (1990-1994) as Staff Officer Medical Operations, and Admission and Discharge Officer at the National Defense Medical Centre (1986-1987).

Surrounded by family, Bob passed June 16th, Bob leaves behind, his beloved wife of 55 years, of Phoebe, his cherished children Tracey (Aaron) and Jennifer (Elroy). Sadly missed by grandchildren Shelby, Jordan, Mitchell and Sophie and great grandfather to Mason and Eli. Predeceased by his parents

John Francis Cain and Ethel Adelaide Wells and brother Edward.

Survived by siblings Larry (Sandi), Jim (Carol), Linda Parks (Allan), Thomas (Heather), William (Judy), Patricia Inwood (late Wilson) and Ronald (Theresa) and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held June 25th, Pembroke, Ontario.

**BSM (RET'D) ROBERT (BOB) SAWATZKY
NOVEMBER 21ST, 1932 - AUGUST 7TH, 2022**



Bob passed away peacefully in St. Albert surrounded by his loving family, August 7th, 2022.

Bob was a Korean War Vet and a Career Gunner. He served in various Regiments of The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, as well as 84th Field Regiment and The Royal Canadian School of Artillery (Shilo). As a qualified jumper, he was posted to 1 AB Bty, RCA CDN AB Regt. He was appointed BSM from 1972 - 1973.

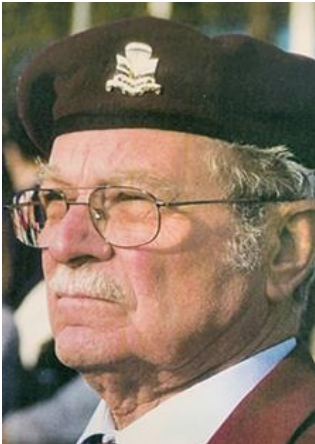
Bob retired from the Army in 1974 and embarked on a very successful second career in Occupational Health and Safety. He also pursued Human Resources.

Bob is lovingly remembered by his wife Diana, his children David (Hendi), Gail, Donald (Michele), step-children Stephen (Lin Lin), Christine (Jim), and Andrew (Susannah); 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; brother Don (Bonnie), as well as numerous nieces, nephews and close friends. He was predeceased by his first wife Lois.

Funeral Service was held August 15, 2022, St Albert, Alberta



ALBERT (KNOBBY) CLARK
DECEMBER 24, 1924 – MARCH 3, 2022



A full and happy life of 97 years, Our beloved father Albert (Knobby) Clark passed away in the early morning hours of March 3, 2022 at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, following a short illness. He was pre-deceased by his loving and patient wife Marion in 2009, and is

survived by his brother Doug, children David (Paulette), Dennis (Sharon), Karen (Paul), Patti (Rick), and Gregg (Lisa) as well as many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren. While he worked in many professions he was unquestionably first, last and always a soldier.

When war raged in Europe he lied about his age and joined the army in 1943. On arrival in England, he was assigned to the British Airborne. Fatefully this decision became a life-long, and life-defining moment, forever shaping everything about his future and his approach to life until the moment of his passing.

Following training Dad and his comrades were dropped into enemy territory in France on June 5, 1944 with the assignment to capture and hold a bridge for the D-Day invasion the following day. While the paratroopers suffered horrific losses, their successful mission (and many others like it) made it possible for Allied forces to move inland with soldiers and supplies. During his parachute descent he received bullet burns to both legs but remained on active duty. Near the end of the war, he also received shrapnel in his right arm near Ardennes. His experiences in battle led him to become a lifelong blood donor.

On returning to Canada, he enlisted in the permanent Canadian Army, where he served

for 27 years before retiring. Twice posted in Rivers Manitoba at the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre he was responsible for both developing and testing parachutes, and training paratroopers. Between stints in Rivers, he was posted to Camp Borden Ontario as a college instructor.

During his second posting in Rivers, he was seconded to serve as a United Nations peacekeeper in Africa in 1963-64 (later receiving a Nobel award and medal), and finally served as a warrant officer at Gagetown, New Brunswick.

When Dad retired from the services, he and Mom fulfilled their ambition to move to British Columbia, choosing Mission for their new home. Over the following decades he worked as a prison guard, realtor, tugboat hand, and furniture store manager before finally retiring permanently as a dispatcher at the RCMP detachment in Maple Ridge.

Dad loved family gatherings, on special occasions or really any time at all. He was a very gregarious man, with more friends than we can count. He loved to have a good time and could always be found telling his latest joke to gales of laughter. He was a natural comedian and entertainer, and never let the facts spoil a really good story.

He was a long-time member of the Mission branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, while also presiding over his own local "branch" in his large Rec Room at home. For many years he hosted a weekly gathering of friends called the "Thursday Nighters" where glorious tales of battle and life in the armed services were told and re-told, often with varying degrees of accuracy. He also hosted a large annual Remembrance Day gathering following the Legion ceremonies, which always lasted well into the night.

Dad was a devoted husband, a wonderful father, a loyal and generous friend, and a kind and compassionate man who welcomed strangers into his home as though they were life-long friends. He had a life full of adventures, and actively lived every minute of his time on earth. His story could fill several novels.

Everyone who knew Dad will mourn his passing. We will all smile and think a kind thought whenever we speak his name, or when a thought of him crosses our minds. No man could ask for more than that.

At Dad's request there will be no public ceremony.

**LCOL (RET'D) MICHAEL (MIKE) GENTLES
MAY 28, 1936 ~ AUGUST 10, 2022 (AGE 86)**



Michael came to Canada in 1958. Having paid for his travel and his first semester at UBC, he staked out his new life with \$10 in his pocket. What a life it would be. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. It wasn't long before he

joined the regular force where he served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, The Canadian Airborne Regiment, The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He served at home and abroad for 35 years. He deployed twice to Germany and two tours of Cyprus when tensions were at their worst. Regardless of regiment he served in, he was a ruthless administrator, an innovative trainer, and most of all, a respected leader by all who he served or served under his command.

Wherever he served, he turned his considerable abilities to wildlife conservation; he reintroduced bison to Camp Wainwright, helped the Peregrine Falcon to recover, and rebuilt salmon spawning beds in local rivers.

Mike retired from the Army in 1992. He and beloved wife Aileen, made one final move to Sicamous where at long last they built their beautiful log home. Lifelong supporters of the arts, they fostered a thriving creative community in the Shuswap. From singing with the Aura Chamber Choir to producing local musical theatre, Mike and Aileen lived their final years together, doing what they both loved.

Daughters Kate, Cynthia and Ka Pui will establish a forest ecological sanctuary in British Columbia, in the Gentles

name. Donations will be gladly accepted via eTransfer to Kate at kpgentles@gmail.com.

Mike and Aileen were interred at the Solsqua Cemetery.

**REMEMBERING
OUR DEPARTED WIVES AND PARTNERS**

Not only do we remember our departed airborne brothers and sisters, we also acknowledge the passing of wives and partners who, over the years stood by us as we ventured off to parts known and unknown. Most often, they were mother and father, nurturer, educator and disciplinarian. Many times these independent women moved themselves and families from one location to another during our absences. Where would many of us be today if it were not for these stalwart women, and for that, we honour their memory.

**MARIE "ADELE" MCDONALD, 1936 – 2022
(MRS "BOOTS")**



It is with great sadness and much love, our family announces the passing of our loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Adele McDonald.

She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Dan; daughter, Danita; grandchildren, Brianne, Brian (Kelli), Michael (Jaime), Kyle (Paige) and Jay; great grandchildren, Rory and little Blake; brother, Leo (Mary); sister, Marcella (Ian); sister in law, Ann, as well as numerous relatives and many dear friends. Adele was predeceased by her husband, John Brian (Boots); daughter, Lynn; parents, Philip and Gilberte Lessard; sisters, Jacqueline and Albertine; and brothers, Raymond and Roland.

Adele was laid to rest July 20, 2022, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

JEAN DAVIS, 1924 – 2022



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Jean Davis on Friday, July 8, 2022, at the age of 98 years.

Jean was born in London, Ontario and lived there until 1965. She then married the

love of her life, Ron and together they moved to Germany where they spent the next three years. In 1968 they settled in Edmonton and called it home up until her passing.

Jean was a member of the Kingsway Legion and Moose Lodge for years, where she was an avid dart player and won many trophies.

Jean's was celebrated by her children, Larry (Michele) and Jay (Denean); numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; as well as many friends whose lives she touched over the years. She will be sadly missed and forever remembered.

Funeral Service for Jean was held July 23rd with interment following in The Northern Lights Cemetery, Edmonton.

D-DAY CEREMONY THE 2022 SIFFLEUR EVENT

As I reflect on the difficulties and problems we faced preparing for the past couple of Pandemic Era parades at Siffleur, I realize we actually did pretty well! A mini-D-Day event in 2020. The 20th Anniversary Ceremony of the Dedication of the Cairn in September 2020 – a dandy! And, a reasonable D-Day Ceremony in 2021, including a snowstorm departure day! We kept the faith and never let our brothers on the mountain down, and we added to the numbers of the Guardians of the Monument too. Given that, and all the past successes over the twenty plus years we've been doing this event, you would think preparing for one now that the pandemic restrictions were lifted would have been a breeze.

It looked good for a while, with planning and all the SITREP's out and the key position commitments filled, the only blank file was getting the David Thompson Resort (DTR) to give us a package deal. The current costs and increases to various aspects of the economy seemed to be a sticking point for them.



Anyway, after a recce to DTR in early May, I was able to finally get an agreement for a package deal covering the 5-7 June, similar to how we did it in the past, with the bubble tent activities thrown in; a Meet & Great, a BBQ and the breakfasts in between. Finally, we were "good to go," all the principles were in place, bookings could proceed, 3rd Bn PPCLI contingent was on deck, and the plans for the climb up Normandy Peak on the fifth with the ceremony on the sixth were on.

Capt. Alex Rabicki, 2 Pl A Coy(Para) would be leading the climb team from the 3rd Bn this year. They conducted a recce climb up Normandy Peak on Sunday 22 May. While they made the top, to quote Alex, "It is real hairy up there. The snow covers the bulk of the approach and creates significant hazards on the climb!" The hope for weather improvements by June 5th was certainly needed. In the meantime, bookings at the DTR had started.

No sooner had I gave our secretary Dave Paris a green light to go ahead with the program, and the first flat tire message arrived on May 30th. Our Padre Dave Prouse was in Peterborough, ON, visiting his daughter and got caught up in the bad storm in that area. With no comms and a problem getting out, I received a message from Dave regretting he would not get back in time to attend the

ceremony. Sucks not to have a Padre! Does the 3rd Bn PPCLI have a Padre?

A hectic phone call later, and once again the 3rd Bn came to the rescue. On May 31st, we welcomed their Unit Padre, Capt Mark Kalvaitis, who will now join us for the D-Day Ceremony on June 6th. Not being able to make it for the morning of June 5th to bless the ashes prior to the climb, Mark kindly prepared a few words of scripture for me to read prior to the departure from the Cairn.



Preparations for the Siffleur Event continued. Parade positions are complete and confirmed except for the bugler. Had not heard from Todd Gow our bugler, but then I never had to worry about him. Climb Team and 3rd Bn participation was complete. Legion involvement was complete. Alberta Parks support was complete. Even the Rocky Mountain Horse Artillery Gun Crew had a clearance to do the vintage gun salute, but unfortunately the forest fire situation in the area reached an extreme level, and they were cancelled. Anyway, let 's get this program done!

A couple of days prior to leaving for Siffleur, I received a message from Todd advising me there was a transportation problem at his end, and he might not make it to the ceremony. That was like having all my tires go flat at once. We had no time to recover and find another bugler. I began to wonder if Spot Norris could play taps on the bagpipes? Lordy, the program will be screwed up, the ceremony will be screwed up, I did not need this to happen so close to the event. So, it was SIU as they say in the Airborne. Time to pack up and head to Siffleur.

I was five minutes out of St. Albert on the morning of June 4th, when I got a call from

Todd telling me his sister will be bringing him up on June 6th! Jez, is there anyone out there ready to take over planning this annual event? That said, "Hallelujah and Amen" it really was a go now.



After all these years of having this event, when you arrive in the David Thompson area, especially around Abraham Lake, it almost feels like you are home again! After checking in at DTR, I did a recce on the monument site. Mt. Ex Coelis was clear, but a fair amount of snow was visible on all peaks. A number of members had checked into the DTR campsite areas, and quite a few rooms were booked. The DTR staff had set up the bubble tent, so we were ready for the Meet & Great tomorrow. A heavy rainstorm developed that night, and I could not help but think how it might affect the climb? But the morning was clear, but cloudy around the mountain tops.

Those involved in preparing to take the deceased members ashes up Normandy Peak gathered at the 1 Can Para Bn Cairn in the Siffleur Falls Staging Area about 0700 hrs on the 5th of June. There were four sets of ashes going up this year: 1 Can Para WW II veteran Lou Lamy, CWO (Ret'd) Bill Tremain, CD, MWO (Ret'd) Clint McGregor, MMM, CD and WO (Ret'd) Steve Mitchell. They would become the newest members of the "Guardians of the Monument." The 3rd Bn Climb Team was present and led by Capt. Alex Rabicki and included: WO James, MCpl Wynne, Cpl Burleigh, Cpl Kaplanchuk and Cpl Kang. The 3rd Bn CO LCol James Thamer now joined the team, along with RSM Lawrence Schurr, and civilian member Devin Lamy. Devin is 1CAN PARA veteran Lou Lamy's great nephew and would carry Lou's ashes up Normandy Peak. There were a number of family members of the

deceased also present for the send off. I read the message of Blessings given to me by Padre Kalvaitis and we all joined in a moment of silence prior to the team's departure.

As people arrived, and DTR began to fill up, plans for the event were taking shape. The meet and greet went off as planned on Sunday evening. The finger food was good, and the bar set up by the DTR staff was kept busy. It was great to see the veterans and family's gather, laugh and have conversations together; some obviously reflecting on times gone by; good and bad. The members of the 3rd Bn Climb Team arrived to debrief us on the days climb. It was a successful climb and the spreading of ashes on Normandy Peak achieved. Beers, stories about the climb followed. The kit shop was open, it was a good evening all around. But, no question, many of us are getting older, so it was a short night as tomorrow would come soon enough.

It was clear blue skies that greeted us on the morning of June 6th. What a sight to see the snow pitted mountains around us. After the morning breakfast, the advance party headed out to Siffleur to check out the sight and see how the parking lot barriers set out by Alberta Parks personnel, was done.



Considering the past problems, where an over burden parking lot full of cars was always a threat to our ceremony, we arrived to find the best arrangement around the Cairn controlled and blocked off we've ever had! Talk about superb support; they had cleared enough room for us, we could have "Trooped the Colours", and still had room for a ball game!

And they also controlled the incoming non-related vehicles for us. We rely on support from Alberta Parks personnel every year, prior to and during this ceremony. Trust me, what they do for us is not taken lightly, and we thank them for that service.

The truck from DTR arrived with chairs and flag poles. Another support resource we fail to credit enough. DTR stores the flag poles for us and bring the chairs and poles out to the ceremony and back, every year. A free-bee worth noting! Ross McGregor brought out his new slim line sound system, so we got rid of the cumbersome multi speaker, technical command board and noisy generator. An improvement to say the least! The set up did not take long, and most of the guests had arrived, accompanied by the usual roar of the arriving VPMC members!

With RCL 271 President Tim Penny whipping the Colour Party together, the ceremony was called to order by Sgt (Ret'd) Art Brochu, and the formalities began. Major Coady Summerfield (OC Para Coy 3rd Bn PPCLI) took the General Salute, and Todd Gow, our Bugler, played the National Anthem. Padre (Capt) Mark Kalvaitis, did the Invocation.

Over the years, we have had added inputs into our D-Day ceremony: medal presentations, para wing exchanges, etc. But for me the highlight this year was having to give up the podium for 1 Can Para veteran Lou Lamy's great granddaughter, Meirah Tidlund, who read the Airborne Prayer for us. Class act, superbly done!



Then LCol James Thamer, CO 3rd Bn PPCLI addressed the parade and I read a message from the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay,

Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of Defence. The bugler played Last Post and after the two minutes silence, our piper MWO (Ret'd) Colin Norris did the rest. Wreath placements were done. Significant here: Col (Ret'd) Bill Fletcher, for DVA; Mark Smith, MLA Drayton Valley, AB, for the Province; Denis Lamy and Bob Spisak, sons of 1 Can Para vets for 6th Airborne Div/1 Can Para Bn; for 3 PPCLI MWO Osmond and WO James; for the FSSF and 2/75th Rangers, Bob Copeland and Al Cameron placed a wreath on behalf of Veterans Voices of Canada.

The Colours were retired, and the Parade dismissed into the capable hands of our photographer Dave Paris who would herd the masses in his inevitable way for the group photo.

Once the dust settled and the goodbyes said by those not staying, it was time to pack up the kit and take down the barriers. It was thanks to those who helped and especially the Alberta Parks personnel who stayed until the end. As I headed back to DTR to prepare for the BBQ that night, I reflected on how lucky we were again with the weather. Ha! Five minutes away from Siffleur a 15-minute deluge started that nearly took us off the road. Had that happened an hour ago, we might have had to cancel the parade! Like I have said before, when it comes to weather at Siffleur "you never know what you'll get!"

The BBQ took place at the Bubble Tent. The steaks were good, and the bar kept busy again. There were a few group gatherings and conversations going on, but eventually it was over. The gatherings for some may have continued much later! It was a good day. It was a good event. I counted 82 in the group photo. When you add the onlookers and the straphangers, we had well over a hundred at the ceremony.

The normal departure breakfast on the morning of the seventh was filled with the usual goodbyes and the hope to see you again next year comments. The DTR did a good job in support, and the overall event was as close to back to normal as you could get. Like I said, it was a good event. I think we should do it again!!

So, what about next year? With the Airborne Reunion themed Edmonton, The Airborne Story happening June 2nd-4th 2023 and a follow, June 5th-7th, Siffleur 79th Anniversary of D-Day Ceremony, it could prove to be too much! We already know there are a couple of planned additions for the Guardians on Normandy Peak. Critical here that the Para Coy, 3rd Bn PPCLI members continue to support this activity. The combined ceremonies could make for an interesting Airborne week, and those coming from afar could make it a real holiday visit.

Something to think about. Definitely something to plan for. Stay well. Airborne!

Bill Dickson
Coord/MC Siffleur Falls Staging Area, AB

CANADIAN AIRBORNE MEMORIAL CAIRN 8TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On the evening of August 10th, a few Airborne Social Club (Edmonton), PPCLI Assn and family members, gathered for a memorial service at the Cairn in Griesbach. After a short review briefing on the Cairn, the Airborne Prayer was read by Mike Bludd, we observed a few moments of silence followed by the reading of Binyon's Verse.

We were honored to have Edmonton City Councillor Karen Principe join us for the ceremony and escorted by Bill Dickson, she assisted by placing a wreath at the Cairn, in memory of the fallen.



The ceremony also gave us an opportunity to see the repairs done on the Cairn after the finding of a major crack in the center of the

Cairn caused by weather and rain seepage. Everything looks good now. Had it not been fixed this summer, the Cairn would have split this winter, due to the freeze and thaw factor.

We now look forward to next year's Airborne Reunion, when we will hold a ceremony here at the Cairn to dedicate another pedestal and plaque, in honour of those killed over the years in Cyprus.

PARATROOPERS REUNION 2023



Registration for the reunion has been slow coming in. The committee suspects COVID uncertainty remains in effect. The reunion committee has been diligently planning activities for this reunion and will be providing a detailed update for the next monthly meeting after which this will be widely disseminated to all.

See enclosed registration form for details.

COMMEMORATION - CYPRUS 2024

I recently received an email from the Cyprus 2024 Co-Chairs asking I further disseminate to a wider readership:

From: Walter Holmes
[mailto:wholmes_strategos@yahoo.ca]
Sent: August 20, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Dave <dr.paris@shaw.ca>
Subject: CYPRUS 2024

Dear Dave:

As you are aware, in November 2024 approximately 200 Veterans of UNFICYP and family members will make a pilgrimage to Cyprus to mark the 60th Anniversary of Canada's commitment to Peacekeeping on the Island and the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 War that saw two Canadians KIA and many more severely wounded.

We have reached a significant milestone in that we have launched our formal fundraising campaign to raise the funds necessary to ensure the success of this very important pilgrimage and the historical collection that will result. Fundraising is being facilitated by the Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA), a Not-for-Profit charitable entity. The attached shows our fundraising goals and the means by which donors can make a contribution. To date our committee members alone have contributed in excess of \$5000 to the campaign.

It is requested that you consider making a donation to the Cyprus 2024 project. You will see that there are three different ways for you to make a contribution with an income tax receipt provided for donations of \$20.00 or more. If you choose to make an e-transfer, please provide your mailing address by email to Dave Pentney, cafatreas_mbrshp@yahoo.ca the CAFA Treasurer. This will allow him to send you an income tax receipt. You can send your address along to Dave with the password you plan to use for the e-transfer.

The Cyprus 2024 Committee appreciates your consideration of this ask and hopes that you will be able to contribute to what promises to be a once in a lifetime event for the Veterans and families who will make the pilgrimage to Cyprus in November 2024. As important is the historical record that will be produced by our team for what we describe as one of Canada's forgotten wars. A full historical account of the actions of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Cyprus in 1974 will be catalogued and well supported by the oral histories of those who served there at the time. The historical record will be available to future generations so that they may gain a full understanding of what took place on the Island of Cyprus those many years ago.

Airborne!

Walter Holmes
Major-General (Ret'd), MStl, MSM, CD, MBE

James Holsworth
Colonel (Ret'd) CD, LOM



Commémoration Chypre 2024



Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Cyprus 2024 will commemorate Canada's contribution to the Cyprus mission on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war. Historical material and veterans' stories are being collected. Up to 200 veterans, and their families, will reunite in Cyprus in November 2024, for remembrance, battlefield tours and camaraderie. Participants will pay their flights and land program provided by [Special Travel International](#) . See details at [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#) .



Donate by:

- **CanadaHelps:** [CAFA | Charity Profile | Donate Online](#) Select 'Cyprus 2024 Commemoration.'
- **E-transfer:** Treasurer CAFA at cafatreas_mbrshp@yahoo.ca (cafatreas underscore mbrshp), provide a password to the recipient, and note 'for Cyprus 2024.'
- **Cheque:** Canadian Airborne Forces Association, annotated Cyprus 2024, to CAFA Treasurer, 874 Unity Road, Glenburnie, ON, K0H 1S0.



Fundraising goals:

- **Soldier & Cadet Travel:** subsidize five soldiers and two cadets to go to Cyprus. **\$35K**
- **Memorials:** at Perron-Berger Park, Griesbach, Petawawa Museum, and Dhekelia Cemetery Cyprus. **\$13K**
- **Oral History:** virtual and in-person interviews, to capture veterans' stories. **\$40K**
- **Scholarship:** augment the [Airborne Forces Scholarship](#) supporting youth education. **\$6K**
- **Museum Archives.** Historical material to [Canadian Airborne Forces Collection](#) for exhibits, education. **\$10K**
- **Memory Book:** opportunity to sponsor a souvenir book for participants. **\$8K**
- **General Expenses:** administration, printing, thank you gifts, wreaths, technical services. **\$6K**

Revenue generated, donation of portion of sales:

- **Les Enterprise Denis Ringuette** memorabilia (caps, stemware, coins) [Cyprus 2024 -50th Anniversary](#)
- **'Peacekeeper'** Cyprus 2024 beer [Spearhead Brewing Company](#)
- **Glass Treasures** by Bonnie Saunders [Cyprus 50th Anniversary Commemorative Plate](#)





**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**

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](tel:780-454-5454) / Fax: [780-453-7360](tel: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



Email: airborne-reunion-2023@shaw.ca

Web: <http://www.airbornesocialclub.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/552488172635068>



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





***D-DAY CEREMONY
SIFFEUR FALLS, ALBERTA - JUNE 6TH, 2022***





Lou Lamy, Bill Tremain, Clint McGregor and Steve Mitchell added as Guardians of the Monument



Family members of "The Guardians"