



# THE FORTYNINER

*First Published in 1915*

Issue No. 109

September 2010

## THE JOURNAL OF THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT

PUBLISHED BY THE 49<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



### **CORPORAL TYLER MYRONIUK MMV THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT (4 PPCLI)**

#### **CITATION**

Corporal Tyler Brian Myroniuk, M.M.V. Edmonton, Alberta, Medal of Military Valour. On August 4, 2008 insurgent forces surrounded an Afghan National Army company in a complex ambush in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan. Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk selflessly remained in the danger zone to extract an Afghan casualty and support another Canadian soldier who was caught in the open. Together, they stood against over 30 insurgents using small arms fire and, when their ammunition was depleted, resorted to hand grenades to hold off the enemy. The courage of Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk saved Canadian and Afghan lives and prevented the company from being outflanked.



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## *The Journal of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4PPCLI)*

*Published by the 49th Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Association*

c/o The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military museum

#118 Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre

10440 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton Alberta Canada T5H 3Z9

E-mail [lermus1@telus.net](mailto:lermus1@telus.net) Website: [www.lermuseum.org](http://www.lermuseum.org) Phone/Fax (780) 421-9941

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# THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

## THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT

### **COLONEL-IN CHIEF:**

**THE RIGHT HONORABLE ADRIENNE L. CLARKSON PC CC CMM COM CD**

**HONORARY COLONEL – DENNIS ERKER**

**HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL - JOHN STANTON**

**COMMANDING OFFICER – LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST CD**

**REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR – CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MIKE BLUDD**

**CD WHO HANDED OVER TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KEITH JACQUARD CD  
IN 2009.**

### **THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT BAND**

Director of Music- Captain Michael Chute CD

### **AFFILIATED CADET CORPS**

1712 RCACC Edson  
1809 RCACC Edmonton  
2638 RCACC Hinton  
2685 RCACC Whitehorse  
2748 RCACC Fort Smith  
2850 RCACC Grande Prairie  
2890 RCACC Slave Lake

### **ALLIED REGIMENT**

**THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT  
(KINGS, LANCASHIRE AND BORDER)**

Regimental Headquarters – Preston, England  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – Osnabruck, Germany  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion – North Yorkshire, England  
4<sup>th</sup> Battalion – Preston, England

### **AFFILIATED REGIMENT**

**PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY**

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – Edmonton, Alberta  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion – Shilo, Manitoba  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion – Edmonton, Alberta

### **THE 49<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

President – Sergeant Brendon Yuill

### **THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

President – Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) L.E.  
Ahlstrom, CStJ, CD, QC

Museum Director – Terry Allison

### **LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Members from the Senate, Museum, Association  
and the Regiment to manage the resources from  
Camp Harris

### **THE REGIMENTAL SENATE**

An advisory committee of all former commanding  
officers of the unit.

### **THE 49<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION PIPES AND DRUMS**

Serving members of the unit operating as a  
Highland pipe band under the auspices of the Black  
Hackle Foundation to preserve the traditions of the  
historical pipe bands of the Regiment.



## The President's Message

*Keep your hands off the regiment, ye iconoclastic civilian officials who meddle and muddle in Army matters - Wolseley*

Once again I would like to welcome everyone to the Forty-niner. I would like to [again] congratulate our current cover model, Cpl Tyler Myroniuk, MMV, MiD on his awards. For those that came through on the previous award system, a Medal of Military Valour is roughly equivalent to a Military Medal while Mentions in Dispatches remain the same. Tyler's modesty makes him feel obligated to downplay his accomplishments but we are all proud of him. As I mentioned before, it's the quiet ones you have to watch.

As I did in our last edition, I would like to pass on my thanks to some people, to start, with our board of directors. Not only do they work very hard on our behalf, but their insight and sage advice has ensured their president stays well-grounded. I would also like to draw attention to Ron Dmetruk, who over the last couple of years has taken the bull by the horns by taking over the running of our regimental kit shop, and finally to Hans Brink for taking over editorial duties of our magazine. This brings the number of my former commanding officers who now report to me to two.

As is mentioned in these pages, our regiment was very busy over these last months establishing a new presence in Yellowknife as well as contributing to the Afghanistan mission. Our normal training schedule has been intensive, to say the least, and our NCOs remain in high demand as instructors.

The association hasn't been idle either. We continue to support a number of community organizations as well as provide an avenue for social events. I would be remiss if I didn't draw some attention to an initiative taken by our Honorary Colonel, Dennis Erker. He has taken the lead in establishing the framework for what will become Valour Place, which will become a place for military families to stay while their loved one is undergoing medical treatment. The launch of the fundraising drive was exceptional, and was attended by no less than the Chief of Defence Staff, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, as well as representation from all three levels of government. It will be the first of its kind in the country and our association is looking forward to providing whatever support we can to this endeavour. You can find out more for yourself at their website, [www.valourplace.ca](http://www.valourplace.ca), or you can corner HCol Erker at one of our get-togethers in the near future.

Sadly, though, the most intensive aspect of our recent activity from my perspective has been the deaths of Corporals Zackery McCormack and Josh Baker in Afghanistan. Though all who have served understand the dangers involved with deployment to a war zone, this does little to lessen the shock and sadness that accompany this type of news. To the credit of the regiment, news of our losses galvanized us into action and I can say as head pallbearer for both Corporals' funerals that our soldiers got a dignified and proper sendoff, which I hope was a small comfort for their families. Some kudos should also go to our hosts in Ontario for Cpl Baker's funeral, a very capable and tenacious regiment, the Queen's Own Rifles, who provided the firing party. We also lost another young soldier, Matthew Radawetz, in a car accident, which meant we had three regimental funerals approximately eight weeks apart for the first three months of 2010. Many of us felt the loss of another popular and capable Edmonton-area reserve soldier, Sergeant George Miok of 41 Combat Engineer Regiment, who was killed in the same





incident as Cpl McCormack. On a personal note, I worked with George many times over the years. He was a fine instructor and a credit to his corps. I will miss his good humour and I've no doubt that come the summer training cycle, his professionalism will be sorely missed by the brigade as a whole.

There are a few silver linings to these tragedies, not least of which was the tremendous performance put in by all concerned in the ceremonial components of the funerals. Though I shouldn't be surprised by the effort, and I wasn't, the troops were flawless. I was very relieved, as pallbearer commander, as it became apparent rather quickly that my only real worry was the sequence of my commands. The work ethic and reliability on the part of my soldiers that I had seen before from years, in some cases, of working together in the field translated so perfectly on the days we had to lay our brethren to rest. What also struck me was the overwhelming public support on the day Cpl McCormack was repatriated while we traveled from the Edmonton International Airport to the funeral home in Sherwood Park and on the day of the funeral itself. There were even letters in the newspaper the next day written by people lamenting the fact that they would have lined the route themselves had there been any advance notice. Cpl Baker was laid to rest in his family plot in Scarborough, Ontario and his final journey along the Highway of Heroes between CFB Trenton and Toronto was similar to that of all of our fallen who have made that journey.

When the initial sorrow and sense of loss diminished, what I took away from these events is the relevance and necessity of our regimental system. When times are easy, the concept of regimental identity is often trivialized as merely a social outlet or old-boy network, former members no different from a sporting club or university fraternity. When times get tough on the battlefield, it's often this very identity as much as any other reason for success, and from our experiences this winter, indispensable when dealing with tragedy and adversity. I'm convinced

that the spirit that has constantly made Loyal Eddies good to have in a tough scrape is the same spirit that brought our regimental family together when the news broke of these terrible incidents. I'm also convinced that there is a valuable service a regiment can provide to the families in the form of moral support and another extended family for them over the long term. We're far from unique in this aspect, as numerous other regiments have done across the country in similar situations. Therefore, it would not only be a sad loss to our collective memory and traditions, it would also be counterproductive and dangerous as well to allow our regimental system to diminish. I hope the challenges in this regard are few and far between but should it come up, I'm sure there isn't a more capable organization out there to deal with such an issue than our regimental association.

Sargeant Brendan Yuill  
President, The 49th Battalion Loyal Edmonton  
Regiment Association

**The Association's Annual  
Reunion Dinner  
will be held  
30 October 2010  
at the  
Dutch Canadian Centre**

13312 - 142 Street Edmonton, Alberta

**Get your tickets NOW!**



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## Commanding Officer's Message



The past two years for the Loyal Edmonton Regiment has been a busy time for all of us. With TF 1-08 we deployed 26 Eddies to Afghanistan as part of Op Athena, in addition two officers were deployed to the Sudan and Darfur as part of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and United Nations Assistance Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). With TF 3-09 the Eddies once again deployed 24 soldiers to Afghanistan as part of Op Athena and one Master Warrant Officer to Sierra Leone as part of Op Sculpture.

These deployments have been consistent with the Eddies support of the Army and the government of Canada's mandate wherever Canadian troops are deployed around the world. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment has consistently deployed troops to Bosnia as part of UNPROFOR and later IFOR and SFOR since the early 1990's. In addition to providing individual augmentees to the UN mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Sadly, these deployments come with a price. The Eddies have suffered three soldiers killed in Afghanistan (MCpl Ray Arndt, 5 August 2006; Cpl Zachary McCormack, 30 December 2009; and Cpl Joshua Baker, 12 February 2010) and over half a dozen wounded or injured. In fact, The Loyal

Edmonton Regiment has had the highest casualty rate of any Reserve unit in Canada and one of the highest deployment rates of Reserve units in the country. All Eddies can take great pride in this knowledge and the sacrifices by their fallen and wounded or injured comrades. These deaths and injuries reinforce to all of us that even though we are Reservists, the part-time profession that we have chosen is a dangerous one.

While our comrades were deployed around the world the Regiment has continued with training and other activities. The Regiment had a number of successful exercises over the past two years including a live fire defensive exercise, Ex Coyote Defender at the end of March 2010. Soldiers on this exercise, including two SALH, were able to test their command and control and shooting skills in a defensive position firing the C6, C7, C9, .50 cal, M203, 60mm mortar and the Carl G. In August 2009, C Company of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment was stood up in Yellowknife. C Company has a current strength (June 2010) of 14 soldiers. Some of these soldiers are new recruits to the Army while others are transfers from the Supplementary Reserve, the Rangers or Regular Force. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment will continue to grow C Company in addition to the Regiment in Edmonton. The Regiment also provided support to the Calgary Stampede, Capital Exhibition and Valour Place.

Over the next year the Eddies will continue to support 41 CBG's efforts to maintain a footprint in the community by supporting ComRel in their efforts to keep the Army in touch with Canadians. More importantly, we will continue to train hard and enhance our combat skills with more live fire exercises.

MJ (Mike) Prendergast  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI)



## From The Editor



Dear fellow Eddies,  
It is an honour to assume the role as the new editor of the "Forty-Niner". I took over from Major David Haas (Ret'd) who has held the position for over ten years. I don't know if

I'll last that long, but I'll give it my best. I have to say that Major Haas has done the Regiment very proud of his stewardship of the Forty-Niner and his editorial wit will be surely missed. I know that filling his shoes is going to be a very tough job. I am looking forward to the challenge and I hope you appreciate what I have been able to do in this edition of the Forty-Niner.

This edition will still be a catch up edition in that it will reach back nearly three years with stories from Task Force 1-08 in Afghanistan, reports from the Regiment's Historical Reports for the training years 2008 and 2009, and stories from Capt Whitebone and MWO Turner on their tours to Africa. I am most pleased with our cover story on the accomplishments of Corporal Tyler Myroniuk Medal of Military Valour , (MMV) while serving on Task Force 1-08.

It was time to write about our Honorary Colonels. Former Honorary Colonel Robert Matheson passed away in 2009 and Honorary Colonel Sandy Mactaggart retired from his appointment after 10 years of service with the Regiment. Dennis Erker was promoted to Honorary Colonel and the new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Stanton will be introduced to the readers. The Regiment has had a tough year with two soldiers paying the ultimate sacrifice while on service in Afghanistan. Another soldier was killed in a tragic accident near his home.

MCpl Raymond Arndt's widow, Darcia, returns to Afghanistan as part of a new program for the "Families

of the Fallen". She writes about her trip to Afghanistan and her story is both amusing and emotional. I hope you enjoy reading it. We also have stories from our Australian Exchange Officer on the history of ANZAC Day, The Regiment has a new cap badge, a new RSM and a new company in Yellowknife.

There will be a photo spread on "Faces of the Regiment" I took the idea from my old Regimental publication the Patrician. I apologize for taking liberties in taking the photos off Facebook. I would like to get feed back on this idea to see if it is worth continueing.

I couldn't get reports from the Band, our Allied Regiment or the Cadet Corps. Something to work on for next issue.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this edition. Ted Howard has scanned every edition of the 49er and has placed them online @ [www.rootweb.ancestrycom/~abwcobit/LER/49er/](http://www.rootweb.ancestrycom/~abwcobit/LER/49er/)

Hans Brink (L Col Ret'd)



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# ANZAC DAY

The spirit, The legend and The tradition.

By

Lieutenant Jason Pascoe  
Royal Australian Infantry Corp  
Second in Command

A Company – The Loyal Edmonton Regiment

*'Every nation must, sooner or later, come for the first time to a supreme test of quality; and the result of that test will hearten or dishearten those who come afterwards. For the fledgling nation of Australia that first supreme test was at Gallipoli' - Unknown.*



ANZAC day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australians and New Zealanders during the First World War and is Australia's most important national occasion. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corp and those same soldiers quickly became known as 'ANZACs'. The pride that these soldiers took in this name endures to this day as the ANZAC legend and ANZAC spirit.

Back in 1914, on the outbreak of war, Australia had been a federal commonwealth for only 13 years and its new government was eager to establish its own reputation amongst the nations of the world. In 1915 an allied expeditionary force was assembled and set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsular in order to open up the Dardanelles to the allied navies. This Expeditionary force was mainly made up of Australian and New Zealand soldiers, who would later fight beside other forces from Great Britain, India and Newfoundland (then was separate to Canada).

At 4:19am, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915 the ANZAC's landed at Gallipoli Cove meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months.

August 1915 bore witness to some of the bloodiest of battles as the ANZAC's attempted to take strategic ridges at 'The Neck' and 'Lone Pine'. These events would later inspire the 1980's film 'Gallipoli' where the final tragic scene shows the ANZACs going 'over the top' in the desperate allied offensive.

September 1915 saw the landing of just over 1000 soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. These 'blue puttees' as they were known, established trench systems and received a baptism of fire but would later go on to be awarded a battle honour for the capture of Caribou Hill in November 1915. The Blue puttees aided twice in the successful withdrawal of troops from Gallipoli and it was in January 1916 they finally left leaving behind 49 fallen comrades.

It was also at Gallipoli that the regiment came under the stern command of Lt Col A. L. Hadow, the same commander who would later lead the regiment into



battle at Beaumont Hamel on July 1, 1916.

At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated, after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers had been killed, 78000 wounded. News of the landing on Gallipoli had made a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in the war and all conflicts that followed.

Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign left us all a powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as the “ANZAC legend” became an important part of the identity of both nations, shaping the ways they viewed both their past and their future.

ANZAC traditions that have stuck fast included the Dawn Service and Gunfire breakfast where veterans, families and community would gather at first light to remember the fateful landing of the ANZACs. Later a coffee with a snifter of Rum added would be shared to remember the last breakfast of many ANZACs over many mornings on the Gallipoli peninsular. Most noticeably the day would end in the celebration of the ANZAC spirit and all would be welcomed to play a



Photo provided by Lt Pascoe  
Members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment on parade ANZAC Day.

game of ‘Two Up’, a game which was an extremely popular past-time amongst the ANZAC soldiers. The importance of this tradition is demonstrated by the fact that though most Australian states have laws forbidding gambling outside designated licensed venues, on ANZAC day it is legal to play ‘Two-up’ anywhere you go.

2009 and 2010 saw great involvement and support from Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the 49<sup>th</sup> Bn LER Pipes and Drums also contributing greatly to the success and enduring spirit of the ANZAC legend.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Australian War Memorial The Australian Department of Defence The New Zealand Department of Defence

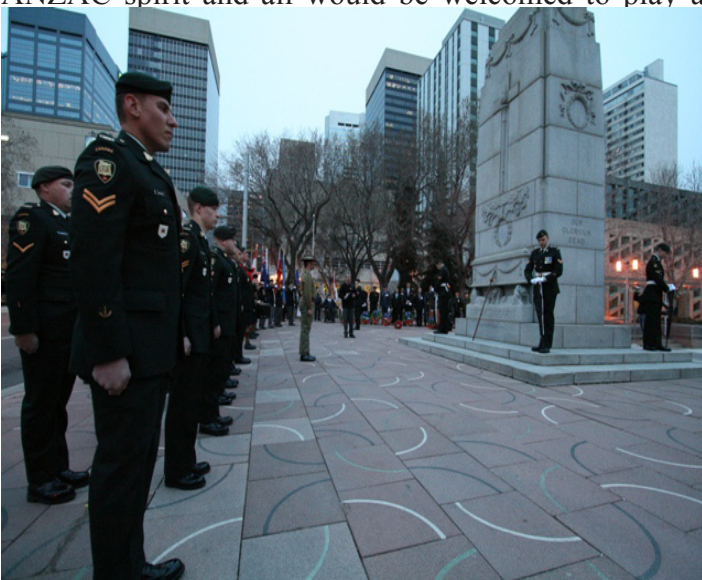


Photo provided by Lt Pascoe  
Members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment on parade ANZAC Day.







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## Afghanistan Canada's Priorities Canada's participation in Afghanistan

*(I thought it would be good to provide the official Government position on why Canadians are involved in Afghanistan. The following information provides a brief history and was taken from the Government of Canada Website).*

### **History of the mission**

Canada's military mission to Afghanistan began soon after the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. A naval task force was deployed to the Persian Gulf in October of that year.

In February 2002, a battle group from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was sent to Kandahar for six months. It assisted the United States and other forces in an offensive against elements of the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the rugged southern regions of the country as part of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom.

From August 2003 to December 2005, Canada's military commitment was largely Operation Athena, based in the capital, Kabul, as part of the International Assistance Force. ISAF had the aim of providing intelligence and security to allow rebuilding of "the democratic process," which eventually led to elections in the fall of 2005.

On July 31, 2006, NATO troops assumed command of all military operations in southern Afghanistan. ISAF already had troops elsewhere in Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul and in the north and the west of the country.

Lt.-Gen. David Richards, a British general, was put in charge of the NATO forces in southern Afghanistan. He announced the deployment of 8,000 NATO soldiers — including 2,200 Canadians — and Afghan units to six southern provinces by mid-September 2006. That

deployment was increased to 2,500 in early September. *(It's now up to 3000 Canadians in Afghanistan)*

### **Other Canadian missions**

**Heavy weapons cantonment:** Helping the Afghan government collect, store and decommission 10,000 heavy weapons left over from decades of war, including artillery, tanks and rocket launchers.

**Demining:** Foreign Affairs says Canada has a target to clear 500 square kilometres of land in Afghanistan of mines and explosive remnants by 2011.

**Microloans:** Money from Canada has been used to provide microloans to more than 140,000 people in Afghanistan, 89 per cent of whom are women.

**Training:** Canada also has a role in training the Afghan police and army. A group of Canadian Forces instructors was in Kabul to train members of the Afghan National Army. That unit remained in Kabul while the rest of the Canadian contingent moved south to Kandahar. Canadian troops are also training Afghan soldiers in Kandahar, and the RCMP has a commitment to train Afghan police officers.

According to the Manley report, the Afghan National Army is growing in strength. It had about 47,000 troops in 2007 and a plan to reach at least 70,000 three years later. The Department of National Defence has also admitted that Canada's secret special forces, Joint Task Force Two, have been operating alongside the American and other special forces units in Afghanistan, but no details about their activities have ever been released.

Seven weeks after the Manley report was released, a confidence motion to keep Canadian soldiers in Kandahar until 2011 passed easily in the House of Commons.

The Conservative motion, which was revised after consultation with the Liberals, called for the mission to be renewed beyond 2009 but with a focus on reconstruction and training of Afghan troops and a





firm pullout date that calls for Canadian troops to leave Afghanistan by December 2011. The extension was contingent on whether NATO allies provide 1,000 extra troops and Ottawa secures access to unmanned surveillance drones and large helicopters.

During the fall 2008 federal election campaign, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper emphasized the “end date” for the Afghanistan mission would be 2011, with the bulk of the Canadian military forces withdrawn by that time.

About a month after that statement from Harper, a government report found that the military mission in Afghanistan could cost up to \$18.1 billion, or \$1,500 per household, by 2011.

The report tabled by parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page also found, however, that a lack of government consistency and transparency make the figures difficult to estimate and said that they likely underestimate the full costs of the mission.

Early in 2009, word emerged of a new NATO order that would see Canadian soldiers targeting opium traffickers and drug facilities when there is proof of direct links to the Taliban.

U.S. President Barack Obama has called on NATO allies to renew their commitment to fight the resurgent Taliban, but extending Canada’s mission in Afghanistan beyond 2011 was not discussed when U.S. and Canadian military leaders met in Ottawa in February 2009.

However, Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated the U.S. was counting on Canada’s military support in Afghanistan over the next couple of years.

*With files from the Associated Press*

## **PROMOTION NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER**



Photo by Grant Cree, The Western Sentinel  
BGen Mike Jorgensen (centre) presides over the 41 CBG change of command ceremony where Col Paul Bury (left) assumed command from Col Thomas Putt (right). The ceremony occurred on June 5 at Jefferson Armoury in Edmonton.

Colonel Paul Bury, a former Commanding Officer of the Eddies, takes over as the new Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group. Col Bury enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve in 1988. His home Regiment is The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, based out of the J.C. Jefferson Armoury in Edmonton, Alberta. Col Bury has served in a variety of command and staff positions including Officer Commanding A Coy, Admin Coy and Regimental Operations Officer. During the fall of 1999, Col Bury was deployed to the Headquarters Multi-National Division (South West) in Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina, where he held the position of G3 Plans and Training until May of 2000. In March of 2001, Col Bury was selected as Officer Commanding the Composite Reserve Infantry Company (CRIC) that deployed as Delta Coy, 1 PPCLI BG for Operations GRIZZLY and PALLADIUM Rotation XI. Col Bury assumed command of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in June of 2003. During August of that year, Col Bury was tasked as Commanding Officer of Task Force IV for OP PEREGRINE, responsible for the military assistance to B.C. provincial fire authorities in the area of Okanagan Falls, B.C. In February 2008, Col Bury deployed to Afghanistan where he worked in the Directorate of Afghan National Army Training and Equipment Support within ISAF HQ, Kabul. Col Bury



was promoted to his present rank and appointment in May of 2009. On the 5 June 2009 Col Bury will assume Command of 41 Canadian Brigade Group.

Col Bury completed his undergraduate education at the University of Alberta, where he obtained a BA in Psychology. He is currently completing the course work required for a Masters Degree in criminology from Boston University. Col Bury is a graduate of the Joint Reserve Command and Staff Program and the Advanced Military Studies Program, both taught through the Canadian Forces College in Toronto Ontario. During his career, he has been awarded the General Campaign Star (ISAF), Canadian forces Decoration, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal with the "Former Yugoslavia " bar (2), the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the Alberta Centennial Medal. When on Class A reserve service, Col Bury is employed as a Deputy Director with the Solicitor General and Public Security Department of the Government of Alberta.

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***Things you might hear at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Office***

Provided by Cpl Sean Lin.

CFRC recruiter: Sorry but we have to give this back, the applicant needs to put the address of the Edmonton International Airport.

Sean Lin: Seriously? It's the Edmonton International Airport.

CFRC recruiter: Yeah, but they wont accept this if it they don't include the address, you cant just write Edmonton International Airport without an address.

Sean Lin: Seriously? Your not f\*&^\$%g kidding me? Like, no shit? FU\$&\*K





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## Corporal Tyler Myroniuk Military Medal of Valour



Photo provided by Tyler Myroniuk  
The photo of Cpl Myroniuk was taken in Afghanistan while deployed on TF 1-08

In the spring of 2007 a total of 26 members of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment signed up for a tour in Afghanistan. The Battle Group was to be based on the 2 nd Battalion PPCLI from Shilo Manitoba with augmentation and support from 1CMBG in Edmonton and the Reserves from LFWA. The following story is from Corporal Tyler Myroniuk from the LER attached to the Observer Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT), pronounced “omelet”. The tasks of the OMLT are to work directly with the

Afghan National Army as embedded mentors that live eat sleep and operate with the Afghans to effect liaison with the Canadian Forces and to teach them to become effective soldiers and fighters. The OMLT has demonstrated to the Afghans that war-fighting skills go far beyond the ability to pull the trigger on your rifle.

I was going to say that the following story was a typical day for the members of the OMLT however, there was a significant event that occurred which led to Corporal Myroniuk receiving the Medal of Military Valour.

The citation on his award reads:

Warrant Officer Robin John **Crane**, M.M.V., C.D.  
Edmonton and Morinville, Alberta; Bay Bulls,  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Corporal Tyler Brian **Myroniuk**, M.M.V.  
Edmonton, Alberta

### Medals of Military Valour

*On August 4, 2008, insurgent forces surrounded an Afghan National Army company in a complex ambush in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan. Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk selflessly remained in the danger zone to extract an Afghan casualty and support another Canadian soldier who was caught in the open. Together, they stood against over 30 insurgents using small arms fire and, when their ammunition was depleted, resorted to hand grenades to hold off the enemy. The courage of Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk saved Canadian and Afghan lives and prevented the company from being outflanked.*

The following story is a first person account of the event as recalled by Corporal Myroniuk.

### Ambush of 71C on 4 August 2008

## *The Forty-Niner*



As we headed north along a narrow dirt road, we were only few hundred metres shy of our objective. An hour into the patrol everything seemed routine until the two rocket-propelled grenades flew over our heads, detonating in the grape field to our east. I immediately took a knee and then the machine gun and rifle fire opened up on our left. This time I hit the ground flat, as low as I could get while still able to aim and fire my C8A2 carbine.

Our patrol was the normal size, comprised of myself, Warrant Officer Crane (1 PPCLI), Captain Pellerin (1 PPCLI), and 35 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers. WO Crane and I were at the front of the patrol with some four ANA soldiers when we were caught in the ambush at approximately 1800h. Most of our patrol remained out of the kill zone and managed to stay in the fight, but about six of us were stuck on the road fully exposed to enemy fire. The ANA Company Sergeant Major Abraham, next to WO Crane, was shot through the hand while the rest of us began pouring fire into the insurgent positions, using their muzzle blasts to aim.

Around eight to ten enemy lay concealed in the tall grass and shrubs only 30 to 40 metres away, separated from the road by a deep, water-filled ditch. Moments into the contact, we began receiving effective enemy fire from another group about 80 metres up the road to our north. Now in an L-shaped ambush, I looked for any type of cover available. I leopard crawled to a small mound of dirt 1 ½ feet high on the edge of the road where an ANA soldier was also positioned. The cover offered by this little lump of soil was probably trivial. Most of my body was well exposed but it still managed to give me some comfort. Bullets impacted in front of this mound, while others aimed too high made a distinctive “buzz” as they flew over. If there had been any point in the ambush I was convinced that I would not make it out alive, this would have to be it.

Taking a fragmentation grenade from my web gear

and frantically separating it from the pin, I threw it into the grape field on our west with the nearest enemy. In the roar of gunfire, the clouds of dust, and confusion of the battle, I cannot even remember if it detonated. WO Crane then threw a grenade as well, and after hearing the satisfying “thud” this time, we returned to firing more rounds into the dense cover. The ANA soldiers still with us moved to their wounded Sergeant Major and extracted him through a small hole in the wall that ran along the east edge of the road. Meanwhile, WO Crane, just ten metres away, scrambled to my position behind the dirt mound. Here we positioned ourselves like an “L” with me aiming at the enemy up the road to our north, WO Crane aiming at the insurgents immediately to our west, whose shouts we could clearly hear.

It was not long until the Warrant and I discovered that the ANA soldiers had already extracted and we were the only two left in the kill zone. Outgunned, we continued firing, with muzzles only inches away from each other’s heads in an attempt to discourage any assault by the insurgents. After some very nervous reloads, we decided we had to get the hell off that kill zone ourselves. WO Crane ordered me to try for the hole in the wall the ANA went through. As I got up and made a sprint for the hole, small arms fire peppered the wall on my right. Diving for the small opening, I immediately realized that the body armour and web gear I was wearing would not let me squeeze through. All I could think about at this moment was how much I didn’t want to be shot in the ass. I crawled back onto the road and made my way back to the Warrant.

Finally, we both got up and made the ten-metre sprint to the wall on our east, covering each other with rifle fire as we jumped over. Landing on my back, I felt the greatest sense of relief as the wind was knocked out of me. Although it felt like an hour, I want to suggest only 10-15 minutes passed until we got off this kill zone. WO Crane and I made our way through the grape field, still under enemy fire, linking up with





the other ANA and the wounded Abraham. The main body of our patrol, including Captain Pellerin, was now located on a portion of the road 200 metres southeast of the initial ambush. They had also been engaging the enemy, as well as another insurgent element to their south. We remained at this more defensible location for around 30 minutes before conducting a fighting withdrawal under artillery. Our patrol sustained an additional three casualties from a rocket-propelled grenade round and everyone was out or nearly out of ammunition, but glad to be alive. Corporal Tyler B. Myroniuk, MMV, LER



Canadian Forces Appreciation Night at the Pengrowth Saddledome on January 11th as the Flames take on the Colorado Avalanche. There was a pre-game ceremonial puck drop by three members of the Canadian Forces representing Navy, Air Force and Army accompanied by General Walter Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff. Cpl Myroniuk in the background

Later we learned that Cpl Myroniuk was also awarded a Mentioned in Despatches (MID) The citation reads: "On 25 March 2008, a joint Canadian-Afghan patrol was returning from operations in Panjwayi District, Afghanistan, when an insurgent ambush pinned down the rear section. Corporal Myroniuk immediately and instinctively moved towards the enemy to provide sustained and accurate suppressive fire from multiple locations to secure the patrol's flanks. Corporal Myroniuk's courageous and decisive action enabled the section to effectively break contact without suffering casualties." BZ Cpl Myroniuk

## MILITARY VALOUR DECORATIONS

The following is a description of the various Medals of Valour that could be presented for acts of gallantry on a theatre of operations

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, created the three Military Valour Decorations, namely the Victoria Cross, the Star of Military Valour and the Medal of Military Valour, on January 1, 1993. The Decorations may be awarded posthumously.

**The Victoria Cross** is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty, in the presence of the enemy.

**The Star of Military Valour** is awarded for distinguished and valiant service in the presence of the enemy.

**The Medal of Military Valour** is awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

Anyone can propose a nomination for the Military Valour Decorations. If a member of our Canadian Forces meets the criteria, the Military Valour Decorations Advisory Committee, and the Governor General will make a submission through the member's chain of command for consideration. For all three Military Valour Decorations, recipients must be a member of the Canadian Forces or a member of an allied armed force that is serving with, or in conjunction with, the Canadian Forces, on or after January 1, 1993.





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## REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES - 2008

**By Major Chris Chodan  
Deputy Commanding Officer**

The Regiment had an excellent year. Unit strength is stable and the unit was able to participate in training that was relevant to the Operations that are being conducted by the CF overseas. Twenty-two soldiers are currently in pre-deployment training with TF 3-09 for Afghanistan. Twenty-four soldiers returned from deployment on TF 1-08 in Afghanistan and two officers returned from deployment in Sudan as part of Op Safari and Op Saturn. Details are below.

### UNIT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Unit Officer's and Sgts & WOs gathered at their respective Messes and hosted each other on Levee Day. The Officer's and Sr. NCOs then attended the Lt Governor's Levee Day at Government House.

The Regiment began the New Year on the first Wednesday night of the month with a continuation of the previous year's maintenance cycle. This was to ensure that the Unit's weapons, vehicles and general stores were kept at a high serviceability rate.

In January the unit conducted winter indoc at Garrison Edmonton over two weekends. The Honorary L Col D.



Erker and Hon Capt Don McGarvey visited the troops and had an IMP lunch with one of the sections.

In 2008 the Regiment celebrated it's 100th Anniversary and there were several events planned starting with a Business Lunch in February which included the Mayor and Council members from the City of Edmonton. On the same day, 35 members of the unit went to Kamloops to exercise with the Rocky Mountain Rangers from 39 CBG

March saw the start of work up training for the Brigade Ex Western Defender and a gunfighter program was run April to May saw the stand-up of the 41 CBG Battle School at Debney Armoury. The LER were tasked to fill four Sr. NCO and WO positions which were filled by WO Sid Estey, WO Jim Vigue, WO Bruce Zawalsky and WO Glen Balombin.

The weekend of April 4-6 was the 100th Anniversary Celebration weekend and Change of Command from LCol Hans Brink to LCol Mike Prendergast. Both events were well attended by soldiers of the Regiment, Association members and friends of the Regiment.



Photo by Nancy Brink

l to r. L Col H. Brink, outgoing CO, Col A. Wriedt 41 Canadian Brigade Commander and L Col M. Prendergast, incoming CO





From 17-20 April a small contingent of Association Members accompanied by a piper, Pte Jerod Johnson, Veterans Bill Teleske, Maurice White, and Ken Froland, participated in the unveiling of a new memorial to Pte Walter Strang who was KIA in the town of Hoevelaken 19 April 1945, 15 days before the end of the war. Also in attendance were former COs Wally Ross and Hans Brink. The Hon Cols Erker and Mactaggart also attended and assisted with the funding

On 3 May, a 100th Anniversary Magazine celebrating the Regiments history was completed by Capt Whitebone and distributed through the Edmonton Journal to over 300,000 households in the City. Four Regimental personel participated in the Canadian Infantry Association Conference in Toronto. A platoon of troops attended the 41 CBG Exercise Western Defender in Dundurn, Sask in May.

### **DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL – LER**



The Loyal Eddies Dragon Boat Team competed in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival in August 2008.

### **SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER TRAINING**

After the summer break the unit started the second half of the training year with a unit AAG for all personnel. This was followed by the usual ELOC training and preparations for the annual Personal Weapons Test (Range Weekend) on 20 September.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September the troops practiced their patrolling skills at Camp Wright on

Ex Stealthy Coyote.

Ex Coyote Shoot 1 was held 2-5 October

### **DP2A IPSWQ – LER**

A unit run DP 2A Crse - PLSQ 0801 was also conducted over the fall. This course successfully graduated 14 candidates in December.

Every effort was made to get authority to conduct a DP 1 Infantry Course for the 14 soldiers who had just completed their BMQ/SQ this past summer. However, authority to run the course was not forthcoming from Bde HQ. The staff in B Coy were challenged to provide meaningful and interesting training for those members while they wait until next summer for a DP 1 course to be run in Wainwright.

On November 8 the unit held a parade for the Colonel in Chief and a Remembrance Day Parade was held at City Hall on November 11th. November ended with a support weapons weekend, Ex Heavy Metal, conducted jointly with the Calgary Highlanders. As we approached the end of November the Senior NCOs had their annual Mess Dinner and in early December the Officer's had theirs.

December saw a sports day and Soldiers' Christmas Dinner and on December 31<sup>st</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Year's gala at the Officers and Sr. NCOs and WOs Messes.

### **NATO AND UNITED NATION DEPLOYMENTS**

TF 1-08 had already started training in 2007 and continued training into 2008. Training occurred in Edmonton and Shilo (depending on the task). Twenty-six members of the unit deployed to Afghanistan in January and February. A Commendation was awarded to MWO Jacquard for his work in the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Capt Whitebone departed for the Sudan (Op Safari) in May and remained there until November at which point he transferred to the Darfur mission (Op Saturn)



and remained in the Sudan until February 2009. LCol Prendergast deployed to the Sudan (Op Safari) in late July and returned at the end of December.

## **AFFILIATED CADET CORPS**

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment supports seven Cadet Corps. Below is an overview of each of the affiliated Cadet Corps, number of staff, and number of cadets in each Corps as of October.

2850 RCACC Grande Prairie - staff - 4 cadets - 30

1809 RCACC Edmonton - staff - 4 cadets - 28

2836 RCACC Hinton - staff - 5 cadets - 30

2645 RCACC Vermilion - staff - 3 cadets - 20

2890 RCACC Slave Lake - staff - 4 cadets - 21

There has been no recent communication from the Whitehorse and Fort Smith Corps. All the reporting Corps are doing well in regards to staff, numbers of cadets and training programs. The Grande Prairie Corps once again had the best drill team in Alberta in the spring Drill Competition.

The unit has a very positive public footprint as the Corps are active participants in their communities, and by supporting the cadets it allows members of the Regiment opportunities to meet the local citizens. The intent of the Regiment is to continue to provide instructors on a limited basis for cadet exercises and possible opportunities for the cadets to participate in unit exercises. All cadets and corps officers are invited to all unit functions as members of the Regimental family.

The unit Cadet Liaison Officer, Captain Mundorf, tries to visit the Alberta based Corps during exercises, special community events and on Remembrance Day. Visiting all the Corps is not always possible because of distance, weather or when there are two cadet exercises on the same weekend.

## **CEREMONIAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

The unit participated in the following Ceremonial or Social Events within the City of Edmonton:

The Lieutenant Governors New Years Levee, 1 January, Regimental Association Reunion Weekend, 18 October Remembrance Day at City Hall, 11 November, Senior NCOs Annual Mess Dinner, 22 November, Annual Officer's Mess Dinner 6 December; and Soldiers' Christmas Dinner 13 December.

The unit also participated in a Ceremonial event outside of Canada. On 19 April 2008 in Hoevelaken Netherlands, citizens of the town unveiled a monument to Pte. Walter Strang, a member of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment who was killed in Hoevelaken on 19 April 1945.

## **THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT - BAND**

During the past calendar year, the Band continued its regular cycle of training, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings. Enrolment in the Band is currently on the rise. There were 29 members on strength as of 14 Dec 2008. The band has conducted a recent recruiting drive to high schools and has received favourable reports of interest.

From 16 – 20 Dec –Capt Mike Chute attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid West Clinic in Chicago, IL USA.



Photo Provided by Debbie Hockett

The LER Band Remembrance Day 2008



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## **REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES - 2009**

**By Major Chris Chodan  
Deputy Commanding Officer**

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment has had an excellent training year. The unit had a total strength of 256 all ranks, including 26 soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and we have conducted some exciting and rewarding training throughout the year. Unfortunately the unit sustained its second fatal casualty in Afghanistan when Corporal Zachary McCormack was killed by an IED in Kandahar on 30 Dec.

### **UNIT TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

The Officers and Sr NCOs attended the Lt Governor's Levee Day at Government House. Unit Officer's and Sgts & WOs gathered at their respective Messes and hosted each other.

Regular unit parading and training resumed in January and the Officers and NCO's concluded the month with a number of members representing the Unit at the annual Robbie Burns dinner held on January 24th.

The Regiments continued into February with the scheduled maintenance cycle, this was to ensure that the Unit's Weapons, vehicles and general stores were kept serviceable.

March began with a reconnaissance and ambush patrolling exercise in Camp Wright from the 6th to the 8th.

Other spring trg included:

16-20 Mar EX MAPLE SENTRY CAX w/1 CMBG

21-22 Mar - EX VIRTUAL DEFENDER II CAX – Edm

41 CBG Community Relations Unit Edmonton and supporting units, including the L Edmn R conducted Op Canadian Forces Career Fair on 4 April 2009 at the Jefferson Armoury. It was a Military Open House targeting 16-25 year old Edmonton residents looking primarily for summer employment. L Edmn

R involvement was a weapons display that included C-6, SF Kit complete, C-9, C-7 with M-203, 84 mm, Browning 9 mm; M72 (empty), 60 mm Mortar, a toboggan group with 10 men tent, and 6 soldiers to assist with the event.

2-9 May - Ex WESTERN DEFENDER 2009 (41 CBG led)

6-8 May Ex TOTAL RAM 2009 (1 CMBG led)

12-24 May - Ex GRIZZLY BEAST Calgary Annual Op/ Admin Writing Ex for all Units led by HQ 41 CBG

8-9 June Yellowknife Coy Stand up

17-26 July Edmonton Capital Ex.

14-16 Aug EX SENIOR COYOTE, PWT for Snr Offrs and Snr NCOs

### **DRAGON BOAT TEAM -2009**

The 2009 season for the Loyal Eddies Dragon Boat Team was a busy one. The 30 members of the team were once again comprised of serving members of the Regiment, augmentees from our PPCLI mates



and of course family members. The team competed in three events. The first being the Leduc Dragon Boat Festival held at Telford Lake in Leduc in July and The Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival, held on the North Saskatchewan river in August. While no medals were won, the team improved over last years results





with a placement of 11th overall. The conclusion of our season was with the Big Boat Regatta, held once again at Telford Lake in late August. This event marked the first time that the teams own dragon boat was used. It should be noted that prior to the team competing in our own boat, a Buddhist monk was engaged to bless the boat.

### **BLACK HACKLE SOCIETY**

The 49th Bn Pipes and Drums continued to play at unit functions and improve their musical skills.

### **St. Albert 10 Mile Race**

On April 18th 2009, 11 members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment participated in the St. Albert 10 Mile Race.

### **SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER TRAINING**

After the summer break the unit started the season on Sep 2 with a CO's parade and then resumed the usual IBTS training and preparations for the annual Personal Weapons Test (Range Weekend).

11-13 September - EX COYOTE KILL

12-13 September - Army Run

19-20 September - Unit AAG

29-30 Sep EX STAFF GRIZZLY Calgary, Unit OP Staff Briefing

3-4 Oct - TF 3-09 Deployment Parade Edmonton

11-13 EX COYOTE KILL PWT Rge (TFN)

16-18 October EX COYOTE VENGEANCE, Field Firing with The Calgary Highlanders

13-15 November - EX AUTUMN GRIZZLY 3

28 Sep - 4 Oct - Winter Warfare trg

Remembrance Day Parade was held at City Hall. Mayor Steve Mandel attended before going to the

University of Alberta Butterdome. According to City of Edmonton officials the service at City Hall has had higher attendance by local civilians each year. The 2009 initial indoor service filled City Hall and overflowed out into Sir Winston Churchill Square with more than 1100 people. City officials are pleased and are planning to accommodate the anticipated higher numbers for 2010.

20-22 November - EX HEAVY METAL Support Weapon Shoot in Wainwright.

19 December - Men's Christmas Dinner and stand down. WWII veterans Bill Teleske and Maurice White gave a brief description of their experiences on that same date 67 years earlier as they fought their way out of Morro River and "the Gully" into Ortona. Cpl Tyler Myroniuk was awarded the "Soldier of the Year" award in recognition of his receipt of the Medal of Military Valour for his heroism in Afghanistan. The 2009 dinner was also a historic first because members of C Company from Yellowknife were able to attend.

The staff in B Coy are being challenged to provide meaningful and interesting training for those members while they wait out until next summer for a BMQ or BMQ(L) course to be run at the 41 CBG Battle School or a BIQ course to be run in Wainwright. 41 CBG Battle School has assumed more of the responsibility for administering soldiers who are not yet fully trained.

### **DEPLOYMENTS**

25 members deployed to Afghanistan and MWO Tim Turner began his pre-deployment training for Sierra Leone. 4 soldiers conducted workup training for deployment on Op Podium to provide security for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

### **CEREMONIAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

The unit participated in the following Ceremonial or Social Events within the City of Edmonton:



- The Lieutenant Governors New Years Levee, 1 January 2009,
- First Special Service Force Veterans Visit to LER lines & Museum, 17 June 2009,
- Capital Exhibition, July 2009,
- Unit Stand-Up, 2 September 2009,
- Regimental Association Reunion Weekend, October 2009
- Remembrance Day at City Hall, 11 November 2009,
- Senior NCOs Annual Mess Dinner. November 2009,
- Annual Officer's Mess Dinner 4 December 2009,
- Men's Christmas Dinner 10 December 2009 and
- Ortona Day Church Parade, 18 December 2009.

#### **THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT - BAND**

During the past calendar year, the band continued its regular cycle of training, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings and providing musical support for a large number of events throughout the Province. Band strength was 29 all ranks. The band saw the departure of several members and recruited some new members.

#### **AFFILIATED CADET CORPS**

The trips to the Affiliated Cadet Corps spring 2009 were very successful and the Corps were very pleased with the support provided by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

Vermilion Cadet Corps: Cadet LO Capt Mundorf attended their spring exercise and Capt Bowen attended their ACR as the RO in June. Edmonton: the DCO and Capt Mundorf attended their ACR in June.

Hinton Cadet Corps: Capt Mundorf attended their

exercise in May and was their RO at the ACR in June.

Slave Lake: LO did not get to the Slave Lake Corps this spring. They had found their own RO in the community.

Grande Prairie Cadet Corps: The DCO and Capt Mundorf drove out for the day. The DCO was the RO for the parade and presented the Corps with a plaque from the unit to recognize the fortieth year of the Corps being in Grande Prairie.

### **Commanding Officer's Farewell**



49er Farewell by L Col Hans J Brink CD.

Hello fellow Eddies. I thought I would jot down a few words as my farewell to all the unit members who have worked so hard during my tenure as Commanding Officer. I have nothing but fond memories of my eight years with the Eddies and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with a lot of great people. The following are some highlights of my two years as CO.

I think my proudest moment as CO was the visit to Afghanistan in June 2006 to visit the members of the unit on TF 1-06. I didn't get to see everyone due to HLTA but I did get a very good tour hosted by Captain Rob Gliddon. A ride in a Nyala with Cpls O'Neil and Gagnon. MCpl Pantel was the convoy commander. As I sat around waiting for our departure one driver from the Service Battalion commented that, "These guys were great and I am sure happy they do what they do!" referring to the boys in Force Protection



Platoon.

5 August is a day I will always remember as it is the day every CO dreads. I was awoken very early that morning by the 41 CBG duty officer informing me that four personnel from the unit were involved in a serious accident in Afghanistan. The one which took MCpl Rav Arndt's life and seriously injured Cpls



Outside "Canada House" at Kandahar Airfield Afghanistan.

VanLeeuwen and Gagnon. Cpl Keen was driving and walked away. I felt helpless as I was in Kamloops on business and nowhere near Edmonton at the time. Major Mike Prendergast, as acting CO, had to step in to do the notifications. The unit pulled together to help the injured and their families and did a phenomenal job in paying its final respects to MCpl Arndt. Lt. Johnson, 2Lt Bootle, MWO Jacquard and MWO Deegan all played major rolls and should be commended for a job well done.

On 6 September the official Change of Command Ceremony took place between the outgoing CO L Col Paul Bury and myself. L Col Bury moved onto Bde HQ as the Assistant Chief of Staff and would eventually go to Afghanistan with TF 1-08. He has since been promoted to Colonel and is the new Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group.

The fall training program included an air mobile live fire exercise in Wainwright in late October.

My thanks go out to Major John McCully and WO George Parent for executing a great exercise. 408 Helicopter Squadron came through and the addition of a live fire shoot for the door gunners added to the realism of the whole exercise. Even 20 Fd added to the realism by having a night illumination shoot (not coordinated) at roughly the same time. The Honorary Colonel Sandy Mactaggart was flown out to Wainwright on one of the helicopters to observe the unit in training.

That Remembrance Day at City Hall was the best attended event to date (each year the crowds grow). It was very emotional for many as this time many members of the unit personally knew a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice. It was tough as our Silver Cross Recipient, Darcia Arndt, placed a wreath on the Cenotaph. During that week I was able to visit two different schools and participate in their Remembrance Day services.

Honorary Colonel Mactaggart and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Denis Erker hosted another fine evening of Scotch Tasting. This event brought many of Edmonton's elite to the Armoury to speak with the soldiers, and tour the Armoury.

The Annual Church parade and Mens Christmas Dinner was excellent, as always and our Honoraries Colonel Mactaggart and Erker gave each soldier a Regimental licence plate and frame. The licence plates are now roving all over the city letting the citizens of our City know that The Loyal Edmonton Regiment is alive and well.

Just after Christmas the unit was informed that it will form a funeral party that would go to Vimy to intern Private Herbert Peterson, who was found a year earlier after construction near Avion revealed his and another soldier's remains 90 years after they died. Nineteen members of the unit went to Vimy to participate in the week-long series of events. Major Eric Gilson was selected to be the Guard Commander for the event and was awarded a CDS Commendation for his hard work. Details of the event are now a





CBC documentary, called "1917 The Missing".



The Vimy Contingent in Arras France just before the funeral began.

Shortly after our return from France the unit was again preparing to send 26 soldiers to TF 1-08. I interviewed nearly all of those who were selected. You will read some stories from the lads that were serving there. A former member of the Regiment, Captain Rob Peel, now serving on the west coast with the Canadian Scottish, won the Medal of Military Valour (MMV) while on tour with TF 1-08. The citation reads:

### ***Medal of Military Valour***

*Corporals Baker, Ball and Bancarz, and Captains Peel and Snyder were deployed to Afghanistan to serve as mentors to an Afghan company, when they were ambushed by Taliban insurgents on June 4, 2008. With little chance of survival, they exposed themselves to great peril and retaliated against the enemy while encouraging the Afghan soldiers to do the same. Captain Snyder seized control of the situation and ensured that the Afghan soldiers retrieved their wounded comrades. Corporal Ball led a two-man team across broken terrain to secure an extraction route that allowed for the execution of a fighting withdrawal by Captain Peel and Corporals Bancarz and Baker. Because of their dedication, leadership*

*and valour, many Afghan and Canadian lives were saved.*

In May approximately 35 members of the Regiment participated in a Brigade Exercise in Dundurn, Saskatchewan. The weather in Dundurn was horrible and the stories of the exercise all centered around the fight against the weather vice the great training that was organized. Lots of live fire, which all the soldiers love to do. This exercise was the basis for a follow-on Brigade Exercise in Dundurn in the May of 2009.

The summer of 2007 saw the usual number of unit members attend courses, or instruct on courses all over Canada. Those that were part of TF 1-08 were training hard with their new units in Wainwright and Edmonton.

The fall stand-up was not the typical first parade. Numbers were down as many unit members were away on TF 1-08 and a large number did not return. Nearly a dozen or so joined the Regular Forces, and others just moved on. Brigade Recruiting Unit was formed so the units would no longer be responsible for the attraction and recruiting of new people. I don't know if this new plan will work better than the old system. All I can say is that we were shrinking.

On the weekend of 1 December 2007 a small contingent of unit members and veterans of WWII



Photo by H Brink

A new street sign honouring Private Walter Strang in Hoevelaken Holland.

participated in a Street naming ceremony in Hoevelaken Holland. This trip was to help the Village of Hovelaken honour Private Walter Strang who was killed there during the final days of WWII. The details of that trip were published in the last 49er. The one thing that I brought home from that trip, as did everyone who attended, was that the Dutch people were eternally grateful for



the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers during the Liberation of Holland in 1945. The trip would not have happened were it not for the generous donations from The Honoraries, Captain Jack Bowen and Sergeant Steve Boon.

This year we tried to combine the Mens Christmas Dinner and Church parade on the same day. The hope was a higher attendance rate for the Church parade, however numbers were way down for both.



L Col Brink Exchanges jackets with the Youngest Soldier, Pte at the Mens Christmas Dinner

Maybe it wasn't a good idea?

The Lt Governor's Levee was well attended by the Officers and Senior's NCOs. This was the first function of the Regiment's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

In January 2008 we kicked off the 100<sup>th</sup> by inviting the Mayor and all the City Councillors to a luncheon to officially kick off the Celebration. I garnered a proverbial kick in the butt from the Commander by arranging LAVs to pick up the Councillors from City Hall to the Armoury. The Weather was -30, yet they braved the cold standing in the turret, or the back hatch. They all loved the ride despite the cold.

The big event of the 100<sup>th</sup> was the weekend of 4,5,6 April. On Friday evening the messes hosted a Wine Tasting and Meet and Greet. This was a well attended event. On Saturday the Armoury was opened to the public and many civilians, family and

friends toured the building and all the displays. The Small Arms Trainer was very popular. That evening we celebrated in great fashion at the reunion dinner. It was a great party and many old friends got together and shared a pint or two. The Black Hackle entertained us wearing their new dress uniforms and they looked great.

On the Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of April I handed over Command to Lieutenant Colonel Mike Prendergast. It was an excellent end to a great weekend.

I have moved on to help with the Museum, the 49er and to spend more time running my business. This marks the end of a 34 year career with the military. Yes; I do miss it. *FEARS NO FOE*

## *THE NEW SACRIFICE MEDAL*

The Sacrifice Medal was created in the context of increased casualties in overseas operations to fulfill the desire of Canadians and the Government to provide formal recognition, through the award of an official medal emanating from the Crown, to those who die as a result of military service or are wounded by hostile action. This honour replaces the Wound Stripe.

In February 2010 Mrs Darcia Arndt was a guest at the Armoury and she was presented with her late husband, MCpl Raymond Arndt's Sacrifice Medal. Ray's father, Walter Arndt, was on hand to witness the presentation.



Colonel Tomas Putt, Commander of 41 CBG presents the Sacrifice Medal to Darcia Arndt. (more on page 31)

Photo by Hans Brink





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## Report on Operation Safari (Africa) Captain Darby Whitebone

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Things are going splendidly with my new job. This mission is totally different than the previous one. The hours are still long but I believe this is because I am still in the learning curve. The training cell consists of three Canadians, MWO Rick Perrault, WO Andre Lavalee and myself.

Rick is an old(ish) ex-regular but now reserve artillery Master Warrant Officer. He has a wicked sense of humour, which drives the morale of our small squad. He has made great friends with all of the people here and is now passing on these contacts to me. This will undoubtedly make my life much easier. His extreme outgoing personality will be hard to follow and I hope I will stand up to the good name he has made for the Canadians. Sadly, Rick is on his way home next week. I am currently doing a change over with him. He is very organized and intelligent and at times I feel like I am being marked as if it were a Performance Objective Check. This is good though as it keeps me on my toes.

Andre is the youngest of the three of us and is definitely the most fit in the group. Andre is a devoted worker and is performance driven. He is a Van Doo and a hard charger. Andre says he will either leave Darfur having learned Buddhist-like patience or his fuse will run out and he will need years to build up any form of tolerance again. After watching him completing the UN paperwork I am betting it will be the latter. The UN bureaucracy has a way of doing this to people. Andre's mother tongue is French, although he speaks English superbly. He is more

comfortable in French. Most times when Andre and Rick get talking it is in French and I feel a bit lost. Andre has been here for two months now yet I will be leaving before him.

Our job is training the African United Nations soldiers on the medium and heavy machine guns and the Armoured Vehicle General Purpose, our old armoured vehicles. This is part of the lease agreement Canada has as part of the loan of this equipment to the UN. In addition to the training we do checks at the team sights to ensure the weapons and vehicles are being maintained. The training is accomplished here at Camp Zam-Zam. Both machine gun and Driver courses are taught. To help us with this task we have a cadre of African instructors. They do the physical instruction while we mentor them and provide administrative support. We also have a Captain from South Africa who acts as the course officer. The other part of our job is to conduct team site inspections. To do this we fly by helicopter to the fire bases which are manned by the troops we have trained. We ensure the equipment is maintained and that only qualified personnel are using the items. Again this is part of the agreement Canada has with the UN. To assist us with this assignment we have a few civilian vehicle technicians and a civilian weapons tech that affect any repairs. They actually have several workshops at some sites where heavy mechanics can be performed. Spare parts are flown in with us, which can make conditions on these old Russian helicopters a bit tight.

I have visited three firebases so far and have seen a lot of Darfur, although all from the air. The last team site was up against the Chad border and I could not resist in stepping across that unmarked line. Before you start to worry, all this is all very safe as the civilians have strict security rules that prevent them from going into hot areas.

Very soon our team will grow to five people. We are to get a Master Warrant Officer Vehicle Tech and another combat arms Warrant Officer and Sergeant. After Christmas I will be doing a change over with them as I am only here to fill the vacancy until they can deploy.

Accommodations at Zam-Zam are marvellous. Each of



us as has our own small square white tent. These tents have doors built onto them and electrical lines are strung so that we have lights and plugs to power lap tops and other luxuries. The ablutions are a bit tight as we have limited toilets and showers but we make do. The corner of the camp we live in is shared by a company that Canada has contracted in order to maintain the vehicle and weapons on loan. It is called MCAV. (Maintenance of Canadian Armoured Vehicles). They have a large organization consisting of mechanics, supply techs, pilots, tradesmen and administrators. In addition to maintaining the vehicles they do a fabulous job at improving and repairing our corner of Zam-Zam. We are actually the envy of everyone. They use their trade skills for everything from running a water purification unit, maintaining electricity from generators, plumbing, welding, laying cement, creating a Barbeque and many other extravagances. Hey, I can even surf the web from the comfort of my tent via a wireless connection. In addition to the Canadian training team we have several Canadian staff officers living with us. At present we have just the one. Major Cedrick Perron works in the UN HQ as an air operations officer. Two more will be arriving to work in the Logistics centre for the UN and yet two others who will work somewhere else within the large UN organization. That will bring the total Canadian soldiers to 10. (9 when I depart)

As I mentioned above, I have been fortunate enough to see quite a bit of the region in my short time here. At first when searching the horizon from the air one sees only the dry, dirty, desert. The heat dries everything and takes away the life-giving water. I try to look a bit deeper to see some beauty in the landscape, and it is there. Looking down on the landscape from above one can see the traces of river beds. The rainy season has now ended so that all that is showing is silt as it lies at the bottoms of the waddies. (Waddy is the African name for a dry river bed) I find it intriguing to trace the flow of these dead rivers, which can be done for thousands of kilometres. Darfur is truly a huge area. From the high ground one can trace small creek beds as they flow together to form a now-gone stream. These in turn lead to a small river bed and then to a larger river bed. I imagine that these water courses eventually

gather in the low ground where the water eventually evaporates or soaks into the desert. I can not perceive that this water would ever make it to the sea. Although the water is gone from the surface, moisture must exist along these routes as there are tumbleweed-like shrubs that manage to hang onto life. In some places they even appear to be green.

Looking down from the sky it is possible to identify human existence. Krall's (another African word, for a village or group of grass huts surrounded by grass walls) can be located in the most remote locations. Footpaths and animal trails mark the desert soil leading to these Stone Age villages. Very little life or movement is seen if any at all. It makes me wonder if the genocide has swept through this area. In some locations where the waddies have split into now dry river deltas it is possible to see the remnants of agriculture. Patch-like cultivation scars the earth. There are no straight lines dividing these fields as you would see in Canada. This is more random and careless, yet unmistakable in its quilt-like appearance. Within these dust patches one can make out many not so straight lines of some sort of plant spaced about 5 feet apart. Again I find it amazing how anything could live in this dry climate. I ponder, "where do they get the grass to build their houses"? I have discovered that there are three climatic regions in the Darfur. Northern Darfur is hot barren desert with sand with very little hills or life what-so-ever. That is where Zam-Zam lies. Southern Darfur is hot barren desert with sand and a few large stones and barren hills that poke out of the landscape. Western Darfur is, I suppose, more tolerable. As it nears the western border of the country you will find hot barren desert with rocky soil eventually giving way to sparse shrubs and even some trees. The west has many large rocky hills rising from the desert. These hills give shelter to wildlife and rebels alike.

Weather in Darfur is currently absolutely wonderful. The temperature rarely rises above 35 in the daytime and one can even detect a cooling breeze. This is winter here after all. The precious part about the weather is that it actually gets cold at night. My first night here dipped to 15 degrees. I had to crawl into my sleeping bag. I have not seen a cloud in the sky since I have been



here, it is just the sun and the sand and my forehead got a bit burnt the other day. The rainy season has past and there is still below ground moisture that feeds the plant life. Around Zam-Zam and past the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp are fields of what look like tumble weeds and many of the houses in the IDP camp are constructed with these weeds. What the heck, the houses need not be waterproof. The rainy season is only a few days long. I missed it but I have been told it rains hard and then stops. The water does not soak into the soil and flooding is very common. This is why the desert is marked with dry river beds.

Animal life is sparse. There are the usual domestic animals. Camels are everywhere. They are transport beasts and cargo beasts alike. Donkeys are as common as cars. They pull wagons, haul loads on their back, and transport their owners and every other kind of material imaginable. This is truly donkey hell. The poor beasts are beaten with sticks and lengths of hose. They all seem to be malnourished and overworked. All of them appear to have any emotion whipped out of them. They just stand with their heads down and seem to be emotionless. I feel so sad for these animals. There are surprisingly few insects. I did find a small 6 inch camel spider outside my tent. Despite their eight legs these creature are not really spiders, but more closely related to a scorpion but they are very aggressive and they have effective pincers. Andre insists there is a rat living near his tent. He is very paranoid. No one has ever seen so much as a mouse in the camp so we give Andre a real good ribbing. He has set out traps and bait and poison. He has had no luck yet. Poor Andre is a bit afraid of spiders as well. It is funny to see this big muscle bound infantry warrant officer jump at the sight of a tiny bug. I could not resist placing the fake spider into his food locker. I definitely got a reaction from him. In the morning he opened his locker and went to reach for a box of cereal. He yelled a string of obscenities and jumped back a good 3 feet, slamming the door shut. The French poured from his mouth and despite not knowing the words I knew what he was saying. He turned around with eyes as large as eggs and his jaw hanging open. My expression must have tipped him off

to the prank. More French obscenities followed before he began to laugh.

Andre and Rick extracted revenge the following day. We were down at the UN compound in El Fasher and we decided to go to the canteen for lunch. They both had meal vouchers. I had seen on my clearance card that we were to pick up meal vouchers from the kitchen. Andre and Rick instructed me to request them from the cashier. The cashier spoke broken English and I am sure he did not understand that I wanted him to give me free vouchers. Regardless, he was not going to give them to me. I was getting a bit frustrated with the breakdown in communications. I wanted my darn meal vouchers. Just before I lost my cool Rick pulled me aside and told me he was only fooling about the free meal vouchers. One does have to pay for them.

So other than putting up with fellow Canadians, this place is great. I am having a great time. Christmas is coming fast and I have not yet got word back from Thomas the Travel Guy about airplane tickets back to Canada. I am still working on that. When I look at the calendar I figure I am finished here as soon as I begin. This coming week is taken up with UN Indoctrination Training. In December we have a team from Canada that will be taking inventory of the vehicle parts. That will be followed by my leave. When I return in January my task will be to train the new fellows on the job that I have barely done myself. By end January I will begin clearing UNAMID so I can get back to Khartoum in time to fly out on 10 Feb.

Bye for now, Darby







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## NEW RSM

# CHANGE OF REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS.

By Hans J. Brink (L Col Ret'd)

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI) has a new Regimental Sergeant Major. After serving as RSM for four and half years for three different Commanding Officer's, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Bludd handed over his pace stick to newly promoted Chief Warrant Officer Keith M. Jacquard.



Photo by Hans Brink

Colonel A. Wriedt, Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group promotes Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard to his present rank.

Chief Warrant Officer Bludd's Military career started in 1966 at the age of 14 when he joined the Army Cadet Corps. In 1967 at the age of 15 he joined the Lorne Scott's of Canada, Royal Canadian Army (Militia). He served two years and attained the rank of Corporal. In 1969 he joined the Regular Forces. He served with the First and Third Battalions PPCLI and the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Edmonton and Petawawa. He served at the PPCLI Battle School, CFB Gagetown Infantry School and RSS with the Queens Own Rifles.

Chief Warrant Officer Bludd has completed five Overseas deployments. These include four tours in Cyprus 1971, 1974, 1984 and 1991 and one tour in Croatia in 1994.

Chief Warrant Officer Bludd was placed on the Supplementary Reserve List after retiring from the Regular Force until someone convinced him to join the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 2002 and he was appointed QMSI.

Chief Warrant Officer Bludd was deployed in 2003 on OP Peregrine (The BC Fires) as the RSM for Task Force 3 and 4. He then was appointed as RSM of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in March 2004 and held this appointment until March 2009.

Chief Warrant Officer Bludd will move to 41 Bde HQ in Calgary and his first job is to staff the newly announced company for Yellowknife NWT. The new company will be established to ensure a military presence in the North.



Photo by Hans Brink

The Commanding Officer L Col Mike Prendergast presents CWO Bludd with his RSM's pennant.





Chief Warrant Officer Bludd has been married to his wife Mary for 33 years and has two son's, Terrance and Michael.

The ceremony was attended by the Commander of 41 CBG, Colonel Art Wriedt CD. There were over 100 troops on parade. The Honorary L Col Dennis Erker, past COs Col Don Miller and L Col Hans Brink were in the audience. There was also a small contingent of veterans from the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association.

The new RSM for the Regiment is Chief Warrant Officer Keith Jacquard. He was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1962. He was raised as an Army brat and lived in several bases across Canada. He was enrolled into the Canadian Forces in 1978 with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment as a private soldier.

From 1978 to 1987, Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard performed all unit non-commissioned officer duties as he progressed in rank to Sgt. In addition to basic courses and leadership training, he also achieved qualifications as an AVGP driver, Rappel Master and Basic Parachutist. He transferred to the supplementary reserve in 1987 and transferred back to the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1993 where he progressed from Sgt to CWO. From 2001 to 2007, he served as a Company Sergeant Major A Coy, before being appointed QMSI. In 2007, he took an 18 month leave of absence from his civilian job in order to be deployed to Afghanistan as a Civil Military Cooperation Operator as part of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team for Operation Athena for Task Force 1-08. Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard returned to the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in November of 2008 and resumed the duties of QMSI. On 18 March 2009 Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard was appointed the RSM of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI).

In 1980, Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard graduated from High School and started full time employment with the Edmonton Journal as a press cleaner. During the course of his employment with the Edmonton Journal he was employed as a messenger,

apprentice compositor, journeyman compositor, production supervisor, technical analyst and finally senior technical analyst.

Chief Warrant Officer Jacquard lives in Edmonton with his wife Janice. His hobbies include computers, running and motorcycle riding.

He manages and coaches the Loyal Eddies Dragon Boat team and also plans and manages the Annual Black Hackle New Years Gala hosted at the Armoury Sgt and WO's Mess.



Photo by Hans Brink

CWO Bludd hands over his pace to the Commanding Officer, who in turn passes it over to the new RSM as a symbolic hand over of responsibilities.



MWO Keith Jacquard deployed as a member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team on TF 1-08



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## **YELLOWKNIFE THE STAND-UP OF C COMPANY THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT (4PPCLI)**

### **Loyal Eddies perspective**

By Major Chris Chodan Deputy Commanding  
Officer The Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

There is a new buzz of excitement in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. For the first time since the late 1960's, we have an outlying company again. This one is particularly special because it is in Yellowknife, making it the only primary reserve unit to be based North of 60. Like many reserve units, the regiment used to have a number of outlying sub-units, spread from Grande Prairie to Vermillion. Having one located outside of the province we are headquartered in however, is a historic first.

Seven former regular and reserve soldiers have already joined the company and were ready to participate in the official standup. Edmonton members of the regiment flew to Yellowknife on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 to join them and prepare for the official parade marking the establishment of the company on the 17<sup>th</sup>. After a number of rehearsals, the band, colour party and two guards were ready and the 41 Canadian Brigade Group staff had all the arrangements in place for the conduct of the ceremony and to accommodate VIPs and visitors. Land Force Western Area and Joint Task Force North (JTFN) had worked together to smooth out all the logistics including loaning JTFN weapons to the regiment for the parade.

The big moment finally arrived and so did the dignitaries. The Minister of National Defence, The Right Honourable Peter MacKay, Chief of Land Staff – Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Thompson, Deputy Commander LFWA BGen Woiden, BGen David Millar Commander of JTFN, The Honourable Anthony W.J. Whitford Commissionaire of the Northwest Territories, and Gordon Van Tighem the Mayor of

Yellowknife, took their places for the ceremony. After a blessing and an inspection of the troops by the Minister and BGen Thompson the official ceremony began.

Minister MacKay addressed the gathering and reiterated the government's commitment to the North and that the stand up of the company is one part of that increasing commitment. He emphasized the value of reservists to the CF and society and pointed out to employers the value of the training their workers could get if given the time to serve in the CF part time.



BGen Thompson also stressed the CF's involvement in the North, the importance of the reserves and the opportunities that the CF offers reservists.

Commissioner Whitford also extended a warm greeting to all the members of the unit, Yellowknifers and Edmontonians alike. As a former "Loyal Eddie" himself he is a big believer in the value of the reserves and gave an example of how he and other reservists from a unit based in the North during the 1960s were instrumental in conducting search and rescue and aiding the civil authorities at that time.





All of the speakers concluded by inviting Northerners to join the new company. The Company Commander, Capt Conrad Schubert was briefly the most famous Captain in the CF, being mentioned at least once in each address.

The official signing took place and the company officially came into existence. At a gathering after the ceremony it quickly became apparent that the regiment is not the only group to be excited by the new company. The Canadian Rangers, 440 Squadron, Canadian Forces Recruiting, Cadets, JTFN and local community leaders all expressed their support.

Probably the highlight for most members of the unit was the time that Minister MacKay took to just sit and talk with the troops. The soldiers were impressed that he let them take pictures with him with their arms over each others shoulders, and with the large scar on his right elbow from a rugby injury. He talked about the unit, the CF, the North and of course operations overseas and how impressed he was with the reserves and the whole CF.

The evening was free for the Yellowknife "Eddies" to show their Edmonton based comrades the sights in the territorial capitol city. It was a well deserved break for all the troops.



**Sacrifice Medal** Continued from page 24

## ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

The Medal may be awarded to members of the Canadian Forces, members of an allied force working as an integral part of the Canadian Forces such as exchange personnel, civilian employees of the Government of Canada or Canadian citizens under contract with the Government of Canada, on the condition that they were deployed as part of a military mission under the authority of the Canadian Forces, that have, on or after October 7, 2001, died or been wounded under honourable circumstances as a direct result of hostile action on the condition that the wounds that were sustained required treatment by a physician and the treatment has been documented.

The Medal may also be awarded posthumously to any member of the Canadian Forces who served on or after 7 October 2001 in the Regular Force, Primary Reserve, Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service or Canadian Rangers, or any member of the Supplementary Reserve who served in or with one of the components aforementioned on or after 7 October 2001, and dies under honourable circumstances as a result of an injury or disease related to military service.

When a death is obviously related to service, the SM will be issued immediately. When the cause of death is not clear, the SM will only be issued once Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has officially determined that the death was related to military service, in such a case, delays

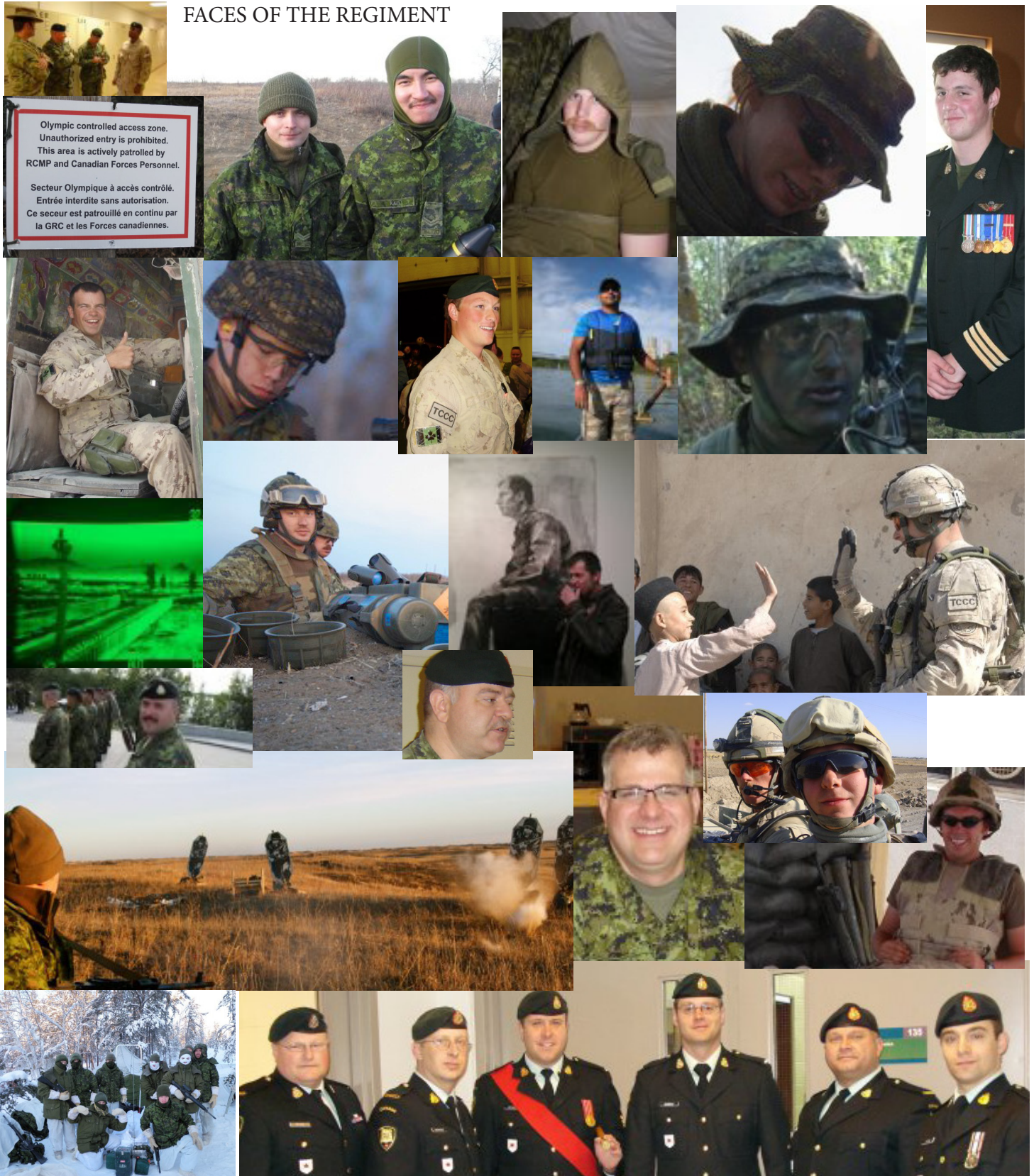




# The Forty-Niner

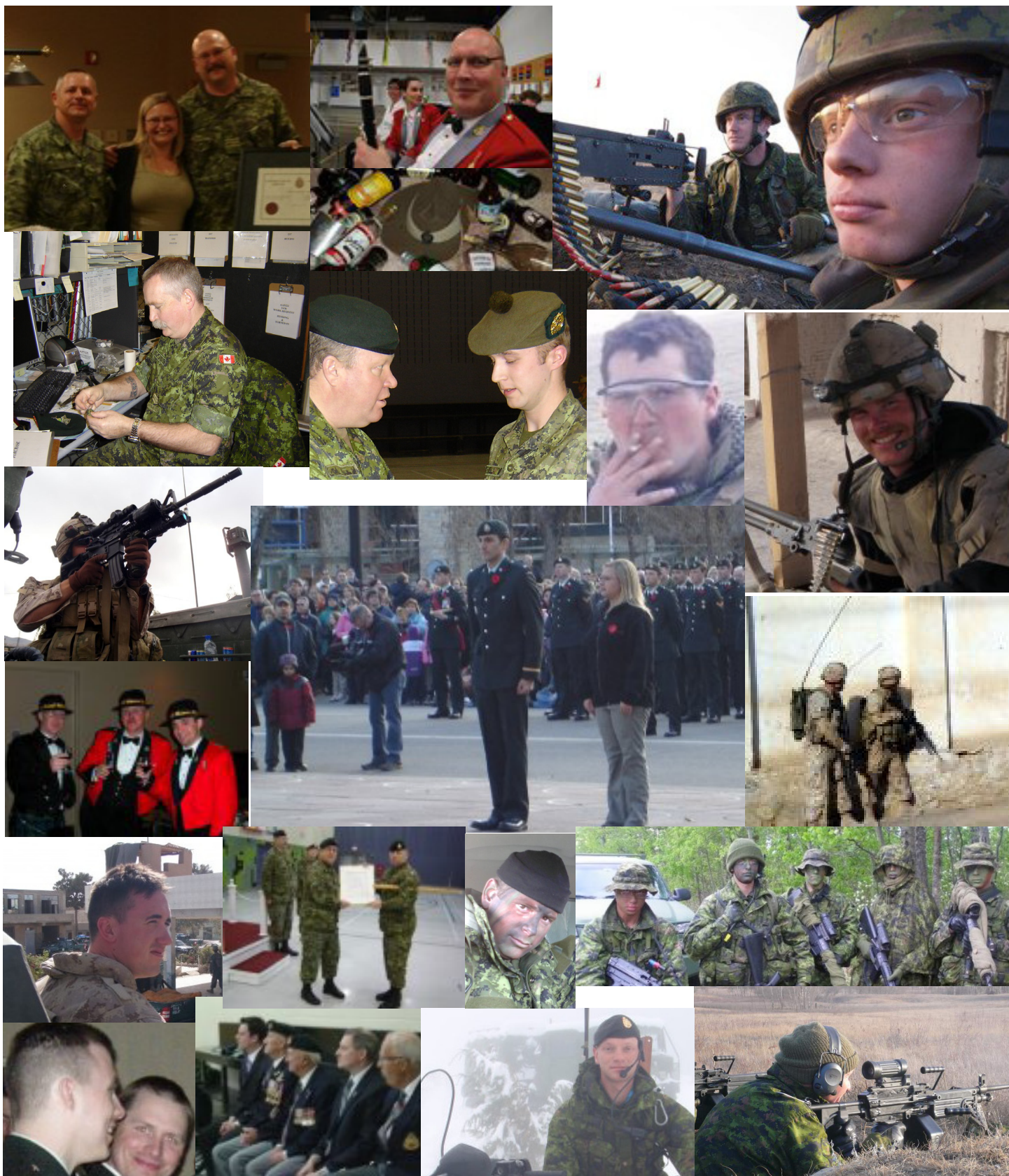


## FACES OF THE REGIMENT





# *The Forty-Niner*







are to be expected before the SM can be awarded. *this journey.*

## Families of the Fallen

By

**Darcia Arndt**

“Families of Fallen”

*The first time I had met Darcia Arndt was at the funeral of her husband Master Corporal Ray Arndt, killed in Afghanistan 5 August 2006. The following story is from Darcia and her recollections of a program that takes the immediate families of the fallen and brings them to Afghanistan in an effort to help them heal, or progress through the grieving process. The program is called “Families of Fallen”*

*DISCLAIMER - This journal is my recollection of events and my opinions on things and no one else's. Some things may be out of order. Also, this journal can never capture the emotion that was felt throughout*

I am in no way a writer and this journal is just mostly so I don't forget this truly amazing experience.

Darcia travelled to Afghanistan with Rays' father Walter Arndt, Sherry Clarke, and Sheila Anderson. They departed Edmonton on the 27 of November 2009.

Malcolm (Sergeant Malcolm Thompson) picked up Amanda and I and off to the airport we went. We met up with Walter, Sherry and Sheila.

We arrived in Toronto around 6:00pm and were met by an Emirates Airlines associate, who took us to the Emirates private lounge to meet with the DCSM people. There was a steak dinner and beverages. Some families had already arrived and others followed us. The families consisted of Jane and Dale Wilson (son, Timothy Wilson, March 5, 2006 – LAV III Traffic Accident); John and Roxanne Priede (son,





## *The Forty-Niner*



Darrell Priede, May 30, 2007 – US Chinook helicopter crash); Ken and Rhonda O’Quinn (son, Ken (Chad) O’Quinn, March 3, 2009 – IED); Sherry Clark and Anna Thede – son/spouse, Joel Wiebe, June 20, 2007 – IED); Amanda and Sheila Anderson (husband/son, Jordan Anderson, July 4, 2007 – IED) , Walter Arndt (Rays’ father) and I.

My goals were the whole touch, taste, and smell of where Ray lived the last 6 months of his life.

November 28, 2009

Arrived in Dubai around 7:00pm local time and did the fast track to get the luggage and then got on the bus to Camp Mirage (CM).

We got to CM and were shown to where we were staying. Converted ATCO-type trailers, with about a dozen or so rooms and men’s and women’s washroom facilities. We had 2 persons per room. I had checked out my room and noticed I was to be by myself. I didn’t want to stay alone, and Anna and Sherry were more than happy to share. I went to move my belongings from one building to the other where Sherry and Anna’s room was and on my way out, I heard someone call my name. I looked up and it was Jerrod. I screamed and dropped my stuff and ran over to him and gave him a big hug. Jerrod (Johnson) had just gone on HLTA and was leaving in the morning to go to New Zealand. He helped me move my stuff and we chatted a bit.

We had a briefing and a little tour by Padre Bob as he pointed out various buildings. We met the commander, Major Cochrane, and he gave us a little talk on where Afghanistan was, etc. Then we were introduced to the escorts assigned to us (Terry – Mine and Walter’s, Paul. I believe we also checked out the memorial they had there.

November 29, 2009

It was an early morning; we had to be up and at breakfast by 6:30am. We were off to Abu Dhabi for a tour and shopping. We visited one of the 3 largest

mosques in the world. Padre Bob described the Islamic Religions and customs.

After the mosque, we went to a mall, which was very expensive and just like going to a mall here. We had lunch at Burger King.

On the way back to CM, we stopped at the Camelicious factory. They make chocolate out of camel’s milk. It is quite tasty, actually.

Later that evening, Paul asked some of us if we wanted to go for a walk with him, not sure who was all there, but me, Sherry and Anna were there. He took us over to the other side and he and Terry showed us where they work and then Paul took us to the tarmac. He told us about the ramp ceremonies there. They don’t go straight through to Toronto/Trenton from KAF; they go through CM. But no one is supposed to know that. So they do another ramp ceremony to switch planes and it has to be done on Canadian soil, and that is why CM. I never knew. I never noticed that they leave KAF in a Herc and arrive in Trenton in an airbus. One piece of the puzzle solved, that I never knew was missing. He told us how they do the ceremony and showed us where the morgue was and where the hearse drove and where the escort stood while they unloaded the casket. It was wonderful to know all this. He also said every ceremony they did, each soldier was treated with dignity and respect. That was a good night.

November 30, 2009

Got to sleep in a little bit today. We had a VIP breakfast with Camp Commander L Col Cochrane, which included all of us, our escorts and the commander’s people.

Went to Dubai to the Madinate Jumeraih, an old authentic market. Then we went to the beach (I assume the Jumeirah public beach) and got to put our feet in the Persian Gulf.

Then we were off to one of the Gold Souks. We went



to the famous jewellery store, Vivienne's (they give awesome deals to the Canadians and that is where all the soldiers go if they are buying jewelery). We got back to CM and had supper. We were all pretty tired and basically just sat around chatting until around 10:30 when we went to bed.

December 1, 2009

Last night was the best night sleep I've had since we got here. Was awake around 6:00 am. Got ready and then went for breakfast. Saw Shaun Collins....he's coming back on the Herc with us too!

We had our first roll call at 9:15am and then the next roll call at 10:15am, where we had to have all our bags ready (only a bag, not the whole suitcase, just what we'd need for the two days), and then go to the RIP building (doesn't stand for what you think it would stand for – but I can't remember what it is (Relief in Place)) to get our tactical vests and helmets.

Emotion was beginning to set in when Sherry found Mike (Brigadier General Mike Jorgenson, Commander LFWA). I never ran so fast in my life. I was already upset, I launched myself at the General and cried even harder while he just hugged me. We chatted with him for a bit and then they had to go for their weapons. Our last Roll call was at 11:15am where we suited up and got ready to board the Herc. We got to watch all the guys get their ammo and this was the first time I cried. Ray would have done exactly this and the reality of what we were all doing really set in. As I watched Shaun waiting in line, it hit me hard. Shaun got his ammo, came over to me and gave me a hug and said "see you in 6 months" and I just wanted to weep. We said goodbye to our escorts, our new friends, and I cried harder. Things are starting to get very emotional and overwhelming. They boarded the soldiers first and then us last. It was a pretty smooth ride with no issues. We all got a chance to go into the cockpit throughout the flight to check things out and talk to the pilot. They even allowed someone up there during take offs

and landings. Amanda got to be in there when they landed in KAF, which was pretty cool apparently, with the whole tactical swoopy manoeuvre landing.

The landing in KAF wasn't really anything. I was so worried. Everyone told me how scary it was and one friend even told me that there was no shame in throwing up on the Herc. GREAT! But it was no way as bad as everyone made it sound. Stepping off the Herc, I just couldn't believe we were there. The whole trip so far has been so surreal and this was 10 times that.

Ray talked about the dust all the time, and I've heard others talk about it. But you don't really know until you've been there. It's choking. It's

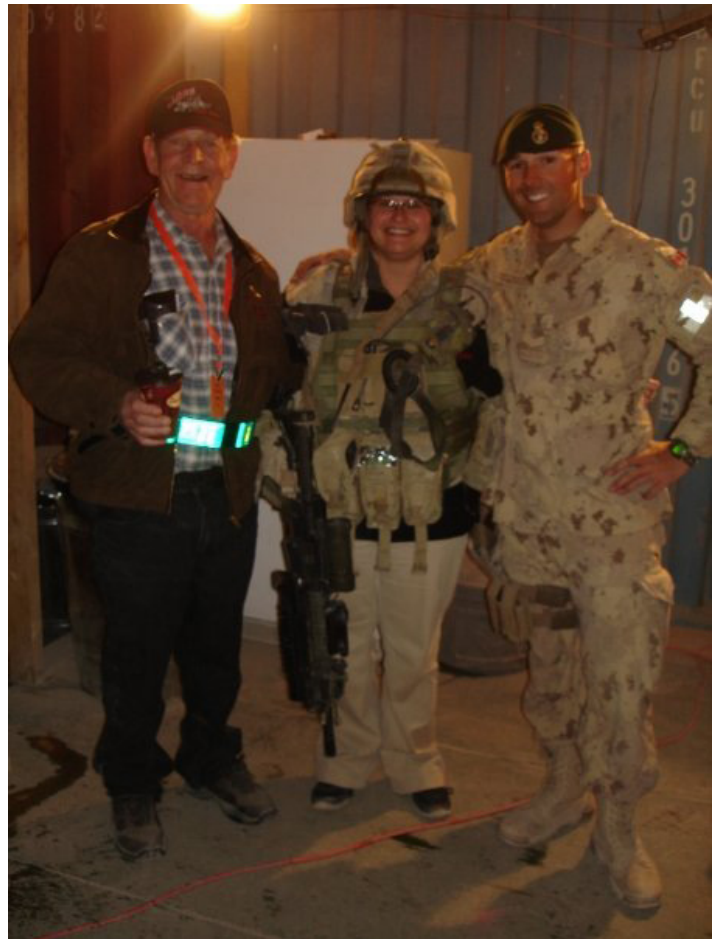


Photo by Dacia Arndt

Cpl Ashley VanLeeuwen dresses up Darcia with his kit. Walter Arndt was also able to try on the equipment.



everywhere. Trying to keep anything clean for more than 30 seconds is an impossibility. And wearing anything black is stupid. So much for my brand new black running shoes. Met a bunch of officials (the commander, General Menard and a bunch of others) who welcomed us there and then got on the dusty ass bus to our accommodations. We got to our accommodations and were getting off the bus...AND...ASH WAS THERE!!!! *(Corporal Ashley VanLeeuwen was with MCpl Arndt on 5 Aug 05 and was seriously injured in the same crash)* Walter and I had 2 escorts...Ash and Dan Kim (an old Eddie – gone Navy now).

Having Ash was so awesome and unbelievable. I mean, I knew that he knew I was coming and that it was a possibility that I'd see him, but to get to have him as my escort, that was special! We got into the accommodations, received meal cards and phone cards and our reflective belts, keys, etc. I lost my meal card after the first meal. We visited for a bit and then went to the memorial so we weren't shocked for the ceremony. It was very emotional. I had seen pictures of it before but it's very different seeing it in person. Along the building was where the guys received their medals.

Then we went for supper in the Mess. Ran into Gordie and Matt. Matt, being typical Matt, picked me up for a big Matt bear hug....in front of all the people in the mess....nice (not).

We had to go to a CIED presentation. If I had known at the time that it was optional, I wouldn't have gone. It wasn't something I really wanted to see, however, looking back, I am glad that I went. There was some pretty good information there. They showed us how the various IED's are made and how they are detected. They also showed us the stats on how they are improving in detecting the IED's from previous years. That was really good to know. Sherry, Anna, Amanda, Sheila, Walter and I went with Ash, Cole, Glen and Dan to where the three guys work at Secfor, as Sherry wanted to see and hold what kind of gun Joel carried (C9, I think). The guys outfitted

us in all their gear, minus the ammo and rucksack. Apparently, I looked like a turtle. I was amazed at how heavy everything was. I mean, I had an idea, but never really knew. We had so much fun and so many laughs. We got to see their big map and Cole pointed out the different areas on it. Ash showed me the general area where the accident was – half an hour out of KAF. They also showed us their NVG's and had the gun with the laser on it so we could see it. That was pretty cool.

Then they got a Nyala and took us for a night tour. Ash is the funniest tour guide ever. I sat in the front passenger seat and Amanda sat in the back where Jordan would have sat, right behind the driver. They had the screen in there and everything. The first thing Ash said was "don't touch that button". LMAO. Which button? There were 500 hundred of them. The button in question is the one that apparently, if you push it, the air force comes out....or something.... anyway, they really hate false alarms. We took a little cruise by the airfield and Ash pointed out "the wire". We drove by some weather havens but Ash said theirs were all gone. Lots of people had been telling me that, but I was really upset about it.

Padre Mills gave us all homework, in that she provided us all with paper and cards so that we could write something to our loved one to place at the plaque during the memorial ceremony. So I wrote my card. I also had with me a wedding photo and a poppy. I have no issues sharing. It kind of helps explain this experience.

*"Hey babe,*

*What a crazy adventure we're on. It's definitely been enlightening to see what you've seen and experience even a small portion of what you've experienced. I'm sure you guys are up there watching us and getting a kick out of us as we tried on all the gear that you would have worn. It was a lot of fun and Ash has been wonderful. He's watching out for me as I know you are watching out for him.*



## The Forty-Niner



*This has been a very strange journey – scary, overwhelming, exciting at times and powerfully emotional. We’ve met some very amazing people.*

*In a way, I feel closer to you here, even though I’ve only been here for 6 hours. I already hate the dust.*

*This has truly helped fill in some of the gaps for me in how some things happened and where.*

*Give me strength to get through the rest of this trip.*

*Always wishing it didn’t have to be this way.*

*I love you with all my heart and soul.*

*Darcia”*

December 2, 2009

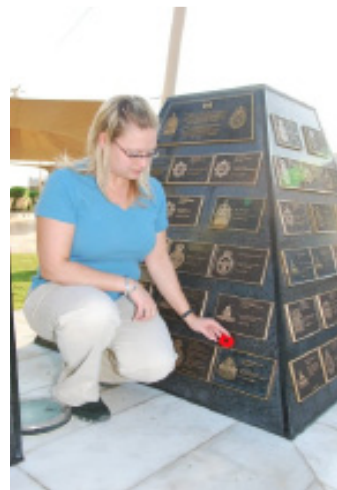
We had to be up and ready by 8:15 and then off to breakfast. Ash had to sign me in.

We went to the board walk and had some Timmy’s and went shopping. It was awesome to spend some time in places where Ray would have spent time. Bought a cashmere pashmina and another pashmina that I don’t know what it’s made out of and a blanket all for \$40 US.

They took us on a dusty ass bus tour of KAF and then we went to the air force part of the air field. We got to look at the UAV’s (not sure if that is right) – the ‘remote control’ planes; the Chinook and the Griffin. Ash really enjoyed himself, as that is stuff he doesn’t usually get to see. One of the girls that works with the UAV’s was a really nice lady by the name of Sgt. Renay Groves. She was very huggy and I never met her before. We also went to the KAF terminal where we took some group photos and were all presented with a Tim Horton’s Afghanistan Hat. Apparently these hats are so sought after that they are going for \$500.00 on Ebay.

After the tour, we went back to the boardwalk for another coffee. Ran into Rob Gliddon, Wolfi Brettner, Chris Ariel, Nick Turner, Jordan Butjas, and Donald Loewen. Donald works on base, but the rest of the guys knew we were coming and practically begged to be able to come in for the ceremony. MIA was Justin Johnston, Sean Acheson and Bucky (on leave). I also didn’t get to see Monique.

After lunch, we went to the memorial. The soldiers were all standing along the wall and sitting in rows behind our chairs. They had some speeches and some prayers and then each soldier’s name was read as the piper played and our escorts came up and met us with a wreath that we laid by each soldier’s plaque on the wall. After the wreath was placed, if we had something to leave at the plaque we were to place those items as well – the cards, photos, poppies and whatever other items people brought.



Darcia Arndt places a poppy next to the plaque of her late husband MCpl Raymond Arndt at the Memorial in Kandahar Airfield.

It was a tough ceremony. You’d think they’d get easier, but they don’t. And in all honesty, I wanted to shoot the piper. All I could think about while he was playing, and while I should have been thinking about other things, was that the one song he played sounded like crap and how much I hated Amazing Grace. And he played them over and over and over until everyone was done. Then they had another prayer and it was over.

On a table to the side, were 6 books with the pictures of the soldier on each one. Went to look at them and they were really beautiful, almost an inch thick and had some poems and pages for people to write comments on. In the back of the book, were all the guestbook postings. And on the inside back cover was a photo (it was a random photo) of a ramp



ceremony and signed by Rick Hillier. That choked Ash up a bit. Spoke to a man named Jim (or Tim) Jensen (apparently Ray lived in the basement of his brother-in-law's house when he was younger). Jim had received an email from John Conrad and he gave me a copy of the e-mail. It was very nice to hear from John (more on that later). Then we met a guy named MacKinnon, who was overseas with Ray in 2006. We were chatting and somehow the weather havens were mentioned in conversation and that I was upset that I wouldn't be able to see them because they were gone. He told me that they were still there. I said I'd give my left arm to be able to see them. He agreed to take us there as it was only a short walk. I told the Col, JL, that we were going and he sent Padre Bob with us. We couldn't go in because people were living there, and quite frankly, I doubted that the furniture would still be there, but I was able to take a picture of the inside. It was wonderful to be able to see where Ray spent his time, in person, when he was not out on the road. I could just see him sitting here in his shorts, with the rifle across his lap, trying to get a tan or sitting there by the guys, smoking cigars. Or seeing where the guys with pipes would stand in the middle of the row. I walked exactly where Ray walked. That was the one thing I wanted to see. And I saw it.

Supper was a BBQ dinner outside. I ate with my guys and then did some group entourage photos. Anna made fun of me because they all had 3 or 4 or 5 guys and I had 8. LOL. Visited with the guys for a bit and then they all had to go. I started thinking about the email from John Conrad and had been looking for Jensen all day, when I got a better idea...I went over and sat with Mike Jorgensen and broached the subject with him. I told him how I struggled with the

fact that most of the soldiers killed have died from IED's or gunfights, etc, and how it was hard for me to accept that Ray died in a motor vehicle accident and that perhaps his job wasn't as important as everyone else's jobs had been and maybe his sacrifice wasn't as big as the others'. I know that isn't true, but it was something that just wouldn't go away. I explained that after reading John Conrad's book, "What the Thunder Said", it gave me a better understanding of just how important the NSE was to the mission and that the battle groups wouldn't have survived if it hadn't been for the NSE. I read how much Ray was admired by Conrad and that he was a valuable soldier. I felt better knowing all this and realized that he was just as important as the rest. I wanted to know if there was some way I could contact Conrad or pass my info along to him so that he could get in touch with me. Jensen happened to be sitting right behind me and so I retold the story. He took my information and said he'd be happy to pass it on to Conrad.



photo by Darcia Arndt

Darcia meets up with some Eddies and former Eddies in Kandahar. (l to r) Cpl Chris Ariel, WO Warren Loewen, Cpl Nick Turner, Capt Rob Gliddon, Cpl Daniel Kim, Darcia, Cpl Ashley VanLeeuwen, Cpl Matt Nilson, Cpl Gord Legarie, Cpl Wolfi Brettner and Sgt Butjas



Then we were ushered into a room by the BBQ area and were greeted by a Col or Gen of Afghan Army 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. I can't remember what his name was. That was pretty neat. He seemed very sincere in his speech by his facial expressions and hand gestures. He reacted to our reactions and would say things like "I see you crying and I am very sorry for that". Most of it was hard to understand as the language doesn't translate easily and the interpreter kind of lost some of the meaning and sincerity. The one thing we did get was "your husbands and sons will be golden forever in the history of Afghanistan" and that "it hurts the Afghan people when we lose Canadian soldiers, after all the help they have provided to the people", "the Afghans and Canadians are family" and how "sorry they are". We were all presented with a flag of Afghanistan and shook his hand. Then we all got to have our pictures taken with him and say a few words if we wished.

We were all so tired and our feet were so sore, all we wanted to do was just go to bed. But they were not finished with us yet. We had to go back to the conference room. Up there, all the books were laid out on the table, along with frames. Sgt. Groves did a presentation to each family of the book with her guys, Cory Hood (and can't remember the other guy). Then she gave each one of us a pocket notebook that she made, that fits in the top pocket of your combats. Inside the book is a place to write who the book belongs to and all their information. In the back of the book it says that if it is lost or no longer required, to please forward to the Museum at Vimy Place, with the address. She also gave us a military rosary and me a St. Christopher's Medallion. Her instructions were to give these items to a soldier going outside the wire. She had already given Ash some, so I gave him mine to give to either Rob or Wolfi, whoever he saw first. There were 2 photo frames, one for each family member. In the frame was a picture of our guy, the dated KIA and a map with the map grid numbers over a Canadian and Afghanistan flag watermark type thing. They were presented to us and then we were done.

December 3, 2009

VERY early morning. We had to be packed, downstairs and ready to go by 6:00am. Cole and Glen had to leave to go on a run, but were there to say goodbye to us. That started the waterworks all over again. Suffice it to say, once I started, I couldn't stop and cried until 8:30 – 9:00am, when we boarded the Herc back to CM.

The rest of us went for a very quick breakfast at the Mess and then it was on the bus and off to TLS (Taliban's Last Stand). I said goodbye to Dan and Ash but I couldn't bear to leave Ash and clung to him until the last moment, crying my face off. Ash told me this will be the best and most meaningful part of his tour. We had to walk to an area where we had to go through a gate. And then I believe we were in the security area. Crying as I threw my gear on the belt, crying as I walked through the security thingy, crying sitting waiting to go out back to the area to catch another bus to take us to the other air field. We went outside to wait to get the bus, still crying. I just couldn't stop. Took some pictures in front of the sign and was still crying. We got on the bus for about a 10 minute ride to the Herc and you guessed it, still crying. The Col, JL, came and sat with me and he said to me "if I offered for you to stay here for 6 months, what would you say?" Crying, and hiccupping, I managed to get out a "no". We got to the Herc and were getting ready to board. Yep, still crying. Yep, still. Got on the Herc and by that time, I just had nothing left.

At CM after dinner we had a memorial at the monument at KAF. It was very simple and quick, but very nice. I talked to Mike and Morrison after the ceremony and they gave each of us (Me, Amanda, Anna and Sherry – or as he called us his "perfect four") the Joint Task Force West LFWA Commander Coin. Holy Cool!!!! We chatted for a bit and then had to go to the chapel for a round table sort of thing to discuss if we all got what we said we were looking for at the beginning of the trip. Most said they did.





One thing the Col mentioned was that on this trip he noticed how much our presence affected the people in KAF. Whether he meant just the soldiers in general, or the escorts we were with, because we all knew our escorts, I'm not sure. But he said it was very profound.

Then we all kind of dispersed. One by one we all went back into the chapel to sign the board for 2009 for the families of fallen trips, which they will put into a frame with glass and hang it on the wall in the mess. I have a picture of it.

I had a heart to heart with Terry and he got our 'shineys' which he held for us in his safe while we were gone and then it was off to the shower and bed. Just a note about the weather at CM – I'd say 30 to 40 degrees with the humidity the whole time.

December 4, 2009

We didn't eat breakfast. It was too damn early. We were up at 4:25am to be ready by 5:00 and on the bus to the airport. We met some awesome people and it was very hard not to cry again.

In Edmonton the snow was fantastic (ya right). Thank goodness Malcolm had the H2. He had no troubles.



#### Highlights and reflections:

- Seeing the weather havens where Ray lived
- Commanders coin
- The herc
- All my guys
- Getting all geared up in Ash's kit
- All the gifts we received
- The Afghan army guy
- The memorial at KAF
- Overall, it was a wonderful trip. Too emotional and overwhelming at times, but it was amazing. I will always remember this experience.

I got to see what I needed to see and learned some things I had no idea about. I hope that in the long run, it does even more for me.





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***McCORMACK, Corporal Zachery W.  
March 14, 1988 – December 30, 2009***

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On the 11 January 2010 The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI) had gathered again to bid farewell to a fallen comrade of the Afghanistan war. Corporal Zachary McCormack was laid to rest in the Glenwood Memorial Gardens Field of Honour following a celebration of his life at the Sherwood Park Alliance Church. Nearly 2000 people attended the church service. The local police, firefighter and Emergency Medical Technicians lined the street with their lights flashing to honour our fallen hero.

The funeral service was conducted by (Captain) Padre Ian Olive of CFB Edmonton. Eulogies on Corporal McCormack's life were presented by his fiancée' Nicole Brisson his aunt, his wrestling coach Glenn Purych Privates Abby Davies and Brandon Kelly of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. The Regiment's honour guard was commanded by Sgt Hafiz Virani. The Bearer Party was Commanded by Sgt Brendan Yuill, Cpl Abby Davies, Insignia bearer Cpl Josh Regnier, Headdress bearer Cpl Brandon Kelly, Headdress bearer Pallbearers: Cpl Tyler Myroniuk, Cpl Matthew Iverson, Cpl Mike Keats, Cpl Todd Thorhauer, Cpl John Savage,

Cpl Ryan Shudra, Pte Justin Yassoub and Cpl Jason Jardine. Corporal Wolfgang Brettner was given the task to escort Zack's remains back home.

The following is a very moving eulogy presented by a friend and fellow soldier Private Abby Davies.

"Zach McCormack was a good guy. That isn't a line that can be said for just anybody. Kind hearted, determined, tough. Always wore a smile, always has an air of pride, chest up, shoulders back, as if to say, here I am, this is MY place in the world. I met Zach when I came to the LER's in October of 2007. This regiment is tough, and it's tough to fit in. Both being fairly new, we were outsiders, which made us immediately friends. I know the mentality of a soldier who has the disadvantage of being smaller than your average soldier. It is one word, tough. Zach was no exception. They are the underdogs and have been for their whole lives. Teasing has made them stronger, and they have to be twice as strong mentally to pull their own. Like pit bulls they bare down, hang on for all it's worth, and stick it out with the big dogs. Zach was the kind of guy that no matter how miserable the job, he always approached it with positivity, which goes a very long way in the army. Not just for him, but for the benefit of a high morale for those around him. That is a highly valuable trait for a soldier to have. One does not join the infantry without contemplation of seeing their training though to action. One does not sign on for a tour without pondering the risk it entails. The chance that it could be you is small, but very real. But we risk ours lives every day. As we step out of our homes we face a world of danger. We are not as untouchable as we think we are, and often take for granted the security we enjoy. Ask yourself how you would rather leave this world. A car accident, a brush with someone who had bad intentions, a work accident, or even the smallest mistake, a wrong turn, an incident that could have been avoided if you had just been at that place in the world a few seconds later. If you were to ask a soldier how they would rather go, and I'm sure he





would say he would want to go doing something he believed in. He'd weighed the risks and gone anyway, because he has a soldier's heart.

I was speaking with our Sergeant Major, and we were talking about where a soldier's strength comes from. I pointed to my muscle and said it's not from here, and I pointed to my head and said it's here. But the Sergeant Major shook his head and pointed to his heart. A soldier's heart. If you ask a soldier why he takes a tour he may not know the answer, or at least not right away. I believe a reason why we go is for each other. The unexplainable bond that melds soldiers together, and explains the heroic actions that take place every day, unmentioned, in Afghanistan. We may have our disagreements at times with different trades, regiments, Reg Force Vs. Reserve, but when a fellow soldier falls in action, our hearts cry out for them. A nation cries out for them. I can only offer my most sincere condolences to Zach's family, and Nicole, and to anyone who has ever been touched by Zach's kind personality. Respect, Zach, respect. I'm proud of you, very, very proud. I'm proud to have been in the LER's with you, and it is an honour to call you my friend. Here's to you Zach. Rest in peace buddy."

The following obituary was published in the Edmonton Journal :

It is with profound sadness and regret that we announce the passing of our Zach, who was a kind son, big brother, loving fiancé, caring cousin, joyful nephew, and friend. He was killed in action serving Canada just outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan on December 30, 2009. Zach grew up in Sherwood Park, Alberta and his life long dream was to serve in the Military. He joined the military in 2006 with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment 4PPCLI, and in 2008 he enlisted to serve in Afghanistan.

Zach paid the ultimate price to protect not only the freedom of us Canadians, but served to protect the

freedom of those oppressed in Afghanistan. His courage and bravery were exemplified by his words and actions to his fellow soldiers and all that knew and loved him.

He leaves proud parents Robin and Armande, and two younger sisters, Courtney and Isabelle; his loving fiancé, Nicole; his grandparents Wilfrid and Virginia, and Lillian and Andrew; great-grandmother, Doreen, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Zach is predeceased by his great-grandfather, Walter, and grandfather, Armand.



Photo by Hans Brink

Photo of Cpl MacCormack's funeral in Sherwood Park



The MacCormack Family with fiancée' Nicole Brisson, in the centre, at the repatriation at CFB Trenton





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***Baker, Corporal Joshua C.  
12 February 2010***



A few short weeks after the funeral for Cpl McCormack the The Regiment was again practicing and preparing to lay to rest another member of the LER. Corporal Baker was killed in a training accident near Kandahar. Apparently this was continuing weapons training, which is standard training to keep a soldier's skills honed and keep him sharp. "This type of training is normal for soldiers in theatre and essential in helping them to maintain high levels of expertise," Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, the top commander in Kandahar, said Saturday in a release. Corporal Baker was serving with the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. Brigadier General Menard said that Corporal Baker was mentally tough, loved his job and had a laugh that lit up a room. Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement on Saturday, urging Canadians to remember Baker "who served to make life better for others." "Baker served valiantly in order to build a better future for Afghanistan," Harper said.

Corporal Joshua Caleb Baker was the 140th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan

The follow eulogy was given at Cpl Bakers funeral by his best friend Chris Gratton. "Hi, my name is Chris Gratton, Josh and I knew each other for about 3 ½ years. I still remember the first day I met Josh, it was at a job interview for Securicor. He was already sitting in the waiting room when I arrived. We said hi, and he headed into the interview. I waited for about 20 minutes, Josh then came out and started writing his IQ and physiological test, I went in and did my interview and came out 20 minutes after and started my test. Now to hear Josh's version of this story, this is how the rest of it goes. Well a half hour goes by and I finish my test and get up and say bye and walk out, now Josh with half of his test still left, says to himself, wow, look at that goof, he must have left half of his test blank. Well two weeks go by and I show up to my first shift and who do I see with a dumb founded look on his face, but Josh.

From that moment we became very close friends, and he was soon a groomsman in my wedding. The day I asked him if he would be part of our special day, he was very excited and honored to be asked. This is where he became family, he was my brother, he became a 3rd son to my mom and dad. And he always referred to my mom as his adoptive mom. He would always stay at their house when he was in town. I even recall a few times where he would cook them dinner and one of those times I got sick from the chicken. It became an inside joke with our family and he would get all flustered when I would tease him about trying to feed me raw chicken.

But who was Josh Baker, He was a Son, Grandson, Brother and a ladies man, and Josh loved the ladies, but no matter what, Everyone loved him, even people that only met him once, he left a lasting impression on them. He was loving, caring and would do anything for a friend. Josh was one of the most polite people I had ever met. Even af-



ter he bought my house, he would ask if he could have a glass of water. That's just the kind of guy he was. I recall a story that his sister had told me. The two of them went out for lunch before he went over seas, and when the cute waitress came up to take their order, before she could say anything, Josh piped up and said "just so you know, she's my sister." Well the waitress took their order and his sister then asked, "Josh, why did you do that?" he simply replied "I got to keep my options open".

But I think my wife said it the best. It doesn't feel right saying "rest in peace", because Josh never rested in life, but I will say, "Be at Peace my Brother" "and I won't say goodbye, but I will see you soon."

I Love You Josh

The following statement was released from Corporal Joshua Caleb Baker's family:

The full statement from the family is as follows: "Joshua Caleb Baker was soft-spoken man, with a great sense of humour, who loved his family above all things. We'll remember him as someone with a big heart, someone who got along with everyone he met and someone who would do anything for anyone.

Josh was proud to be in the military and looked forward to pursuing all the opportunities it gave him. While he was frustrated that progress was slow, Josh was hoping to make a difference in Afghanistan. He valued the experience working with Afghans gave him. We were surprised to find out he developed a real taste for tea from his short time there.

Josh was hoping to start a new chapter in his life when he returned from Afghanistan. He looked forward to applying to The Edmonton Police Service, but vowed to maintain his service with The Loyal Edmonton Regiment as a reservist. He was most excited for the house he just purchased and continuing to foster a budding relationship with his girlfriend.

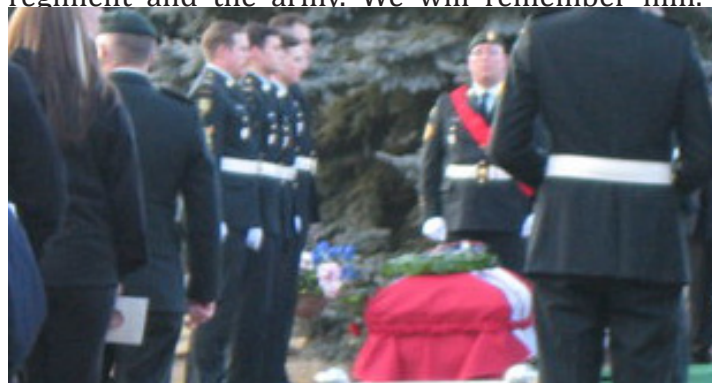
We were blessed to have Josh home from Afghanistan for an early Christmas. He never missed a Christmas with our family and he wasn't going to let his vacation in November change that. Josh was very excited for the simple pleasures of decorating the Christmas tree and playing with the kids. Josh was a wonderful uncle to his niece and two nephews. He bought a new bike for his niece and cheered-on his eldest nephew at hockey games. Josh loved kids and would have been a great father someday.

While Josh was in Afghanistan, he posted a Bible Verse on Facebook:

(Isaiah 41:10) "Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am the Lord your God. I will strengthen you, yes I will help. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Josh will be missed always and loved forever. His memories will always live on in our hearts.

A statement by Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Prendergast, Commanding Officer of the The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI). "The entire Loyal Edmonton Regiment joins me in expressing our sorrow at the loss of Corporal Joshua Baker. Our deepest sympathies go to Joshua's family and we will grieve with them. Josh loved being in the army and was avidly enthusiastic about serving his country overseas. He was an easy person to talk to and the kind of person that other soldiers wanted to have around. His death is a great loss to the regiment and the army. We will remember him."





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## MISSION OP SCULPTURE

by

**Master Warrant Officer  
Tim Turner**

**MWO Turner was deployed to Op Sculpture and writes these few words about the mission.**

OP SCULPTURE is also known as Task Force Freetown. The mission is based in Sierra Leone West Africa in the capital City of Freetown. The mission consists of 7 Canadians, 1 Jamaican, 1 Nigerian and 1 Liberian. As part of a British lead team call IMATT. International Military Assistance Training Team. The British have 35 posted to this effort. The mission's main effort is to train and advise the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF). The mission so far, has paid off after ten years of training.

The RSLAF now have a Recce Coy deployed on operations. The former British colony's first international peacekeeping tour marks a remarkable turnaround for a country that only nine years ago had to submit to the world's largest peacekeeping force, when 17,000 UN troops were sent in to hold the ring after a gruesome civil war that had gone for a whole decade. But Sierra Leone is now considered safe enough at home to send 160 of its soldiers to help the mixed force of nearly 22,000 soldiers and police from the African Union and the UN that are keeping the peace in Darfur. This contribution is expected to earn Sierra Leone \$2m a year.

The Sierra Leonean peacekeepers are drawn from the same army that carried out two coups during Sierra Leone's civil war. Nicknamed "sobels"—soldiers by day, rebels by night—many of them were found by the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to have tortured, raped and even forced their victims to eat each other during the conflict.

Since then, a lot has changed. IMATT arrived in 1999 and remains here today, five years after the UN

peacekeepers withdrew. The international community have spent more than \$30m to revamp the army, reducing it from 20,000 men to 8,500, including the former rebels.

The Sierra Leoneans are sending some of their best troops to help out in Darfur. Britain, Canada, the Netherlands and America have coughed up \$6.5m to equip and pay for the batch of peacekeepers. Their equipment will dwarf that of their entire army back home. How we got here is through hard work and as you can appreciate, patience. The RSLAF have their challenges still, infrastructure, logistics and still some corruption. As part of IMATT we deliver excellent instruction, guidance and mentorship at all levels from Pte to the Chief of Defense staff.

We are at the point now, where we have placed most of the responsibility on the RSLAF. We provide guidance and input and try and let them figure out the solutions and mechanics. It is hard as a professional soldier to watch them struggle at times, but we have to break that umbilical cord at some time and let them do it on their own. As it stands now the mission for Canada will end in 2012 and for the British Army the end date of 2012 is under review. I do recommend this deployment to anyone who wishes a different dynamic from Afghanistan.



Photo provided by Tim Turner

MWO Tim Turner in Bo Sierra Leone





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## THE INFORMATION WAR

by

WO Donald Loewen Task Force 3-09 Battle Group Information Management

*(This is WO Loewen's second tour. He was deployed on TF 1-08 with the Provincial Reconstruction Team)*

My primary task as the Battle Group Information Management Warrant Officer is to ensure the operational information collected from the sub-units within the Battle Group is categorized for compilation within our database. This data is then available for viewing by any personnel who have access to our database through the use of the Tactical Net, or TacNet for short.

TacNet is a secure system used to communicate electronically and includes a protected email system. Compilation of all operational data on TacNet allows for situational awareness at all levels of command within the Battle Group, as well as other Canadian organizations and NATO nations using the TacNet system.

Selected documents from the database are also collected and compressed into an organized format for the War Diary, which is sent out each month to Ottawa for a historical accounting of the Battle Group's actions, events, milestones and accomplishments while in Afghanistan during Operation Athena Rotation 8.

My secondary task is to assist in developing the skills of certain members of the Battle Group Headquarters staff, in regards to software program application.

The main programs, which I provide assistance and training on, are Falconview which is a mapping tool, mIRC and Transverse which are chat programs, and Battlevue, a new application which permits commanders to view friendly force locations on the battlefield.

This training allows the staff to apply their skills in a more professional, self-sufficient, and efficient manner, in order to support the sub-units in their tasks within our area of operations.

I also act as a "helpdesk" with any software issues of the programs we use. Providing basic troubleshooting helps to reduce the volume of support requests sent to Signals Platoon or higher headquarters.

By providing hands-on assistance to a user, not only is the technical issue rectified on the spot, but the user is also able to better understand the problem and how to correct it on their own should they encounter it again.

WO Donald Loewen is responsible for Information Management within the Task Force 3-09 Battle Group.

## German Bunkers World War Two

By Ken Froland WW2 Veteran LER

During the Second World War, the Germans built a series of underground bunkers in Germany as well as Holland, Belgium, France, Poland, Romania and Estonia. These were used for ammunition storage, communication centres, and Headquarters. Army Group Headquarters operated out of the bunkers in Holland. Antwerp had bunkers to protect against air raids and Estonia had an observation bunker, which doubled as underground protection.

Most of these bunkers were constructed underground with four feet thick concrete, to withstand Allied bombing. They were camouflaged with earth to make them invisible from the air, and difficult to detect from the ground. Usually the entrance would be through the back alley. A long tunnel was dug toward the street, therefore the street traffic would not be aware of the activity



underground. The top of the bunkers would be seeded with grass and shrubs to further add to its camouflage. Even the locals living in the area would not be aware of the activity or that the bunker was there.

I have personally been in one of these bunkers located in Bilthoven Holland, near Utrecht. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment liberated this town in 1945, but we didn't know of the bunker back then. I returned to Holland for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland, and Eindhoven. We travelled "Hells



Standing in front of the bunker (LtoR) Is Ken Froland WW2 veteran, Mr Bruggman who maintains the bunker, and Kens sister Inez.

Highway" from the border to Arnhem. During my visit I had the opportunity to go back to Bilthoven, in search of the house where we had stayed and set-up the Signals HQ. My friend from Eindhoven drove me around, we talked to the older people who were here during the war. We asked them if they knew where the Loyal Edmonton Regiment was billeted. We met Mr. Hans Bruggman, he mentioned the bunker on his property and took us to see it. It was a very thick concrete bunker that was covered with earth, landscaped and after 50 years the trees were a good size. The entrance to the bunker was protected by a large steel door and a machine gun porthole to cover a section of the front area.

This bunker was the headquarters for the German 88th Army Corps. It was also the communication centre for all of western Holland. The commander West, as he was called, was General fieldmarshall Karl Rudolf Gerd von Runstedt. He was Germany's most successful and decorated commander and head of all the German forces in the Netherlands. He had spent much of his time at this bunker and a few weeks before the end of the war Heinrich Himmler had inspected the facility.

The bunker had about a 100 foot long hallway, with rooms leading off of it for offices, sleeping quarters, kitchen and rest rooms. When I was there the lights seemed to be working in the front part, although further back it was kind of dark. There was a lot of cable and wires strewn about from the communications rooms. Floors and partitions were solid concrete.

Mr Bruggman had the entry walls covered with German maps, posters and other memorabilia, some included the shoulder patches of the British Tank Regiment. The Polar Bears that were there when we stormed through and some of the Canadian units that had given him their stuff. I gave him my cap badge, so the Loyal Edmonton Regiment is represented in his collection. I understand now that he organizes tours through the bunker and may even have a cover charge. It's probably fixed up real good and even more lights in the back. (I visited again in 1995 with my sister Inez and her late husband.)

I have included a picture of the bunker that is above ground, in the form of a country house. This one is located in Driebergen, which is also in the Utrecht area. On the main highway from Utrecht to Arnhem is a solid concrete bunker that is painted to look like a house. The windows are fake and have been painted on. The chimney is also fake. This bunker was built for the Luftwaffe as a Headquarters. It was completed in 1943. Due to some reorganization of the German forces the Luftwaffe never moved into it. In late 1944 the Royal Dutch Air Force took it over. I took this picture standing



right next to it and it is amazing how real the painted on windows look.



Photo by Ken Froland

Luftwaffe Headquarters Building with fake windows and Chimney

You can see all the bunkers in Holland by going to [www.bunkerpictures.nl](http://www.bunkerpictures.nl).

## **Task Force 1-08, Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team Force Protection Company Kandahar City Summer 2008**

By Cpl Justin Johnston The Loyal Edmonton  
Regiment.

*(This was Cpl Johnston's first tour he also deployed  
on TF 3-09. I am still waiting for his next story.  
Editor)*

April 2007. Myself and several other members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment were attached to Bravo company, 1 PPCLI to form a reserve platoon as part of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team Force Protection Company. After an extensive workup training, including two major field exercises, we finally deployed to Afghanistan to start the work we had been training for.

We arrived at Kandahar Airfield in the middle of the night, after a long flight spanning half the globe. Tired and miserable, we set about the arduous and tedious process of the dreaded DAG. Paperwork, photos, more paperwork, some more paperwork, and finally more paperwork, and then it was off for a couple of hours of sleep prior to heading to our final destination, Camp Nathan Smith, home of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction team.

Our job was multifaceted once we got into the camp. We had camp defence and security to attend to, QRF (quick reaction force) duties, Convoy escort duties, Close protection, route clearances and foot patrolling, just to name a few.

Our primary AO (area of operations) was Kandahar City. Trips to Saraposa prison to facilitate Corrections Canada and Specialist Engineering Team objectives, or taking individuals for meetings with governors and provincial council members. If someone needed. o go somewhere in the city, we were the way to get it done. We also conducted foot patrolling around the PRT, working with CIMIC teams to establish the sentiment around the camp, and see what improvements could be made for local people.

June of 2008 proved to be a very intense month for our platoon. Saraposa prison, a regular stop for us, was suicide bombed and most of the prisoners released. So started the time of long days, longer nights. Myself and several other members of my platoon were moved out of our regular camp defence duties, and seconded to be GIBs (guys in back) for some of the LAVs from the other platoons and headquarters in the company. Our job was to





provide disruption patrols in the city, denying the enemy the ability to move and organize. We would roll out after dark, and return in the early hours of the morning. Then, after a few hours of much needed rest, it was back to it during the day, delivering VIPs, resupplying the British 3 Para troops stationed in the city, and doing the usual runs. Then back for some food, refill the water, and out again after dark.

It's very difficult work, to say the least. The amount of armour and equipment we carried was in the 65 to 70 pound range, and temperatures were often in the high 50s or low 60s. And yes, that is in centigrade. Bottles of water left in the sun would get so hot you can make tea, and any metal surface was impossible to touch without gloves on. Dust storms were also a bane on our existence. The dust would invade everything, weapons, vehicles, living spaces, clothes hair and equipment. It was like a fog, only made of dust. Visibility was reduced to just a few hundred metres, sometimes as low as fifty metres when it got really bad.

Camp Nathan Smith had several amenities to make life more bearable. Being much smaller than KAF, getting around was easier, and the amenities were much closer. The camp had a decent gym and cardio room, outdoor crossfit and punching bag setup, a concrete ball hockey rink for the CNS hockey league, Mess hall with TV, a small movie room, internet, phone, webcam video conference, computer gaming trailers, and a running track. We also had a small Canex store to buy things we required, or to rent movies from the selection they had.

The camp also had a 25 metre rifle range for doing checks on weapon zero, as well as keeping our training up. We also did shoots with other weapons, including AK47 rifles (borrowed from our ANP).

The major selling point of the camp, however, is it's fire fighting water reservoir that has been allowed for usage as a swimming pool. It was an excellent place to escape when you could, get some sun, cool off, and try to forget where you are.

Finally, Our replacements started to arrive. Then began the duty of making sure they were up to speed on how the routine of the camp went, insuring they knew how to do the job, and filling them in on changes we had been making, and what worked well, what didn't, and the situation in general. In September of 2008, after seven and a half months in country, we left Afghanistan, and headed towards home. After a few days of decompression in Cyprus, we finally arrived back on Canadian soil, escorted by CF18 fighters from cold lake, and then with a police escort back to the Edmonton Garrison for a long awaited reunion with friends and family. Bye for now.

Justin



Photo by Justin Johnston

Cpl Johnston all dressed up in Afghanistan near Kandahar City TF 1-08.



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# THE HONORARY COLONELS OF THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT (4PPCLI)

The Regiment has been well served by the Honoraries and last year we saw one retire after an eleven year tour of service, another two passed away, one promoted and a new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel has joined the fold. So we will say good-bye, pay our respects and welcome the new.

## **Honorary Colonel Sandy Auld Mactaggart CD, OOC, AOE**



I first met Colonel Mactaggart in 2000 shortly after I joined the Regiment. He was what Ottawa wanted as an Honorary Colonel in that he had the influence and the ability to connect with the citizens of Edmonton and Alberta and he was passionate about our military. Colonel Mactaggart retired after 11 years of service with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. He was appointed as the Honorary Lt Col when Bob Matheson was promoted to Hon Col. When Bob Matheson retired in 2005 Sandy Mactaggart was promoted to Hon Col and Dennis Erker was appointed as the Hon Lt Col in 2008, our Regiments 100th year.

Colonel Mactaggart worked very hard at promoting the Regiment to Edmontonians. He also provided significant support to the Regiment, its Museum and other interests of the Regiment including the Pipes and Drums, The Black Hackle Society.

Colonel Sandy Auld Mactaggart was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1928. He was evacuated to Canada at the age of 12 in 1940 from Islay during World War II. After schooling in Ontario at Lakefield College School and in New England at the Choate School, he graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture. In 1952, he received his Master of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta in 1990.

He came to Edmonton in 1952 and two years later incorporated Maclab Enterprises Ltd. with the late Jean de La Bruyère. This company is engaged in property development and venture capital activities in Western Canada, the United States and other parts of the world. Sandy Mactaggart was one of the four founders of the Citadel, Edmonton's first professional regional theatre and remains a governor.

Mr. Mactaggart served as a pilot in the Calgary Canadian Navy Fleet Air Arm Reserve Squadron VC 924 from 1954 to 1957, and on the founding boards of the present Edmonton Art Gallery, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Alberta and Tempo School. He is, or has been, a director of several organizations including the C. D. Howe Institute, the Chief Executives Organization, the Lakefield College School and the Choate Fund in Ontario. In 1993, he was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Royal Society of Canada and the Donner Canadian Foundation, which he served until 1998. From 1997 to 2001, he served as Alberta nominee to the national roster of panelists who adjudicate provincial disputes under the Agreement on Internal Trade.



Mr. Mactaggart is a Trustee emeritus and former Treasurer of the American University of Beirut. At Harvard, he served on the Committee on University Resources, the Canadian Advisory Committee of the Business School until 2006, and is a former Director and Vice-President of the Alumni Association. In 1995-96, he served the Association as director of the Harvard Clubs in Canada.

From 1983 to 1994, Mr. Mactaggart served on the University of Alberta Board of Governors. During this time, together with the province, he donated the 257-acre Mactaggart Nature Sanctuary to the University and the City of Edmonton. He chaired the University of Alberta Foundation for the first five years of its existence until 1994. On July 1, 1990, he became the University's 14th Chancellor and interim Chair of the Board for the last six months of his term. In 1995, he became one of only two Canadians to receive The James L. Fisher Award for Distinguished Service to Education from CASE in Washington DC.

In 1997 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and in October 1998 he was honoured with the Alberta Order of Excellence. In December 1998 he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, promoted to Colonel in 2005 and re-appointed in 2007. He received his Canadian Forces Decoration in April 2008 and resigned from the Regiment in April 2009.

On the Occasion of the Centenary of Edmonton in 2004 he was designated as one of the 100 Edmontonians of the Century.

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Province of Alberta in 2005, Sandy and his wife Cécile donated their extensive collections of Chinese paintings and textiles to the University of Alberta. The valuation by the Canadian Cultural Board, (\$37,000,000) was matched by the Province of Alberta to create an endowment for the University's China Institute, founded to encourage academic and cultural exchange and understanding, between China and Canada.

Mr. Mactaggart's interests have included sailing, (circumnavigating the world 1975-1977) scuba diving, flying, (he has owned 10 aircraft and piloted around the world in a Grumman Mallard Amphibian), Hot Air Ballooning (License #1 in Western Canada) shooting, car racing and collecting books, oriental textiles and Chinese paintings. He was married in 1959 to author Cécile Erickson of Greenwich, Connecticut and Inagua, Bahamas. They have three children - Mara, Fiona and Alastair - and four grandchildren, Kestrel, Cleodie, Yarmony and Jack.

## Honorary Colonel Dennis Erker



Photo by Nancy Brink

Colonel Art Wriedt, Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group, presents Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Erker with his Commissioning Scroll during the Change of Command Parade between L Col Paul Bury and L Col Hans Brink 6 Sep 2006.

Dennis Erker assumed the duties of the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in May 2006 after Hon Col





Bob Matheson retired and Sandy Mactaggart was promoted to Hon Col. Dennis was invited to a lunch by Sandy in the spring of 2006 where he was introduced to the Commanding Officer designate, Maj Hans Brink, and Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO Mike Bludd. This is when he was asked if he wanted the job and what was expected of him. It didn't take long for Dennis to accept and the paperwork was launched. A year later he was approved by the Commander of the Army, General Leslie. He was officially welcomed to the Regiment on 6 September 2006 at the Jefferson Armoury at the Change of Command Ceremony from Col Paul Bury To L Col Hans Brink.

Honoorary Colonel Erker grew up on a farm in Alberta near Paradise Valley. He attended the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. He is a partner in the Fairley Erker Advisory Group and FE Benefits Consulting.

Stemming from his involvement in the business community, H Col Erker has had the opportunity to participate on both voluntary and corporate boards throughout his career. H Col Erker has been very active in community roles with the University of Alberta, 2001 World Championships of Athletes, and Edmonton Community Foundation. He has served as Chair on the Board for the Edmonton Eskimos, Governor of the CFL, Workers Compensation, The Citadel Theatre and Alberta Securities Commission; and the Board of Income Alberta. He is currently a Board Member of Corus Entertainment, First Canadian Insurance and Millennium Insurance. Dennis also recently finished serving as Board Chair of Canadian Hydro Developers and served as chair of the Special Committee for the sale of this company to Transalta.

Honorary Colonel Erker's latest endeavour is the construction of Valour Place in Edmonton. A home for veterans, soldiers and their families to stay while undergoing treatment in Edmonton at one of the major hospitals or institutes.

## **Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Stanton**

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Stanton is the newest member of the Regimental family. He became the Regiment's Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 2009. Hon L Col is the founder of The Running Room and Walking Room Author of Six Books on running and his new Canadian Best selling book, *Running: The Complete Guide to Building Your Running Program*. Hon L Col Stanton has supported the "Army Run which a 5k and 1/2 Marathon Run conducted in Ottawa in September. It's an opportunity for Canadians to join soldiers in fun and fitness.

In May 2009, upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff, John Stanton, President of the Running Room was appointed as the new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4th Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) Dennis Erker was promoted to Honorary Colonel after Sandy Mactaggart retired. John Stanton is a best-selling Canadian author of six books on running, John Stanton released his newest book in April 2010, the much anticipated *Running: The Complete Guide to Building Your Running Program*. Maclean's magazine's 2004 Canada Day Honour Roll named the Running Room founder one

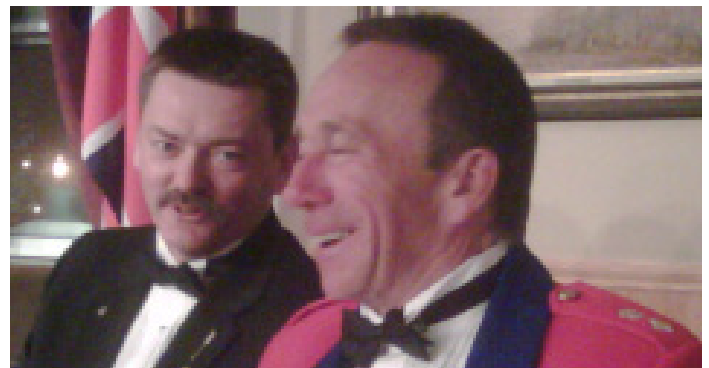


Photo by Hans Brink

The new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel John Stanton (r) shares a laugh with The Honorable Doug Horner Deputy Premier of Alberta and former Eddie.



of 10 Canadians making a difference in our nation for his contribution to health through fitness. He is the 2009 recipient of the Dr. Harold N. Segall Award of Merit, recognizing his significant contribution to the prevention of cardiovascular disease and the promotion of cardiovascular health in Canadians. Most recently John Stanton was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. John has also been featured as a guest on CBC , CTV, Canada AM, CHUM Television, Global Television, A Channel, Rogers, the Weather Channel, the National Post, the Globe and Mail, and numerous radio and television programs across Canada and the United States.

A three-kilometer fun run with his sons in 1981 was the catalyst for the then out-of-shape, overweight John Stanton realizes he had to change his lifestyle. A food industry executive who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, Stanton began running secretly before dawn because he felt self-conscious about having his neighbors see “this chubby little guy” who could only run from lamp post to lamp post before having to take a walk break. In 1984 Stanton opened a store and meeting place for runners in an 8x10 foot room of an old house shared with a hairdressing shop in Edmonton. Twenty years later, the Running Room is one of North America’s most recognized names in running and walking. In 2004, to be more inclusive, the Walking Room was launched—a mirror of the Running Room concept. The store caters specifically to the needs of walkers. His sons John Jr. and Jason are now partners with John, in the family company, with over 100 stores in Canada and the USA.

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment would like to welcome John Stanton to the Regimental Family. There is a Regimental connection to the Eddies as a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, L Col Bernie Stanton, was John Stanton’s uncle. John Stanton’s father also served during World War 2 in the Calgary Tanks. The Running Room also offers a 10% discount to all military personnel. Just show your ID when making a purchase.

## **HONORARY COLONEL ROBERT S. MATHESON, C.M., OOC, C.D., Q.C., B.A., L.L.B.**

MATHESON, Robert S. C.M., C.D., Q.C., B.A., L.L.B.  
December 11, 1919 - November 21, 2009 With  
courage and grace and with his loving family by his



Hon Col Robert Matheson and his wife of 58 years,  
Gerri Matheson

side, Bob Matheson, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, November 21st, 2009 just short of his 90th birthday. He leaves to



cherish his memory his five children: Linda (Mattie) Matheson, Susan and Don Hickey, Rob and Ann Matheson, Duncan and Sherry Matheson, Scott Matheson; grandchildren: Kenna Manley, Scott Manley, Ryan and Christine Hickey, Kyle Hickey,

Jocelyn (Hickey) Love and Kent Love, Andrew and Jennifer Matheson, Brandy (Matheson) Grenier and Joel Grenier, Adam Matheson, Alexander Matheson, Aran Matheson, Sarah Matheson, Andrew Matheson; as well as six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his loving wife of 58 years, Gerri Matheson, grandson Kevin Matheson, brother Douglas Matheson, and sister Janet McLaughlin. The Family wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Bernard Agustin who never left Dad's side; he became a loved family member. Robert was born and lived in Edmonton his entire life. Bob served in WWII in the RCAF, and was appointed as Honorary Colonel of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1998. Bob had a long distinguished career for 50 years as a lawyer. Bob and his brother Douglas Matheson joined their law firms in 1962 to form Matheson and Company. He presided as President of the Edmonton Law Society, was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1966, and practiced law until 2003. Bob served as an Alderman on the City of Edmonton Council from 1974 - 1977. His efforts as a leader with the Edmonton Crime Stoppers program and assistance in fighting crime were recognized with an Order of Canada in 1989. Bob was given the distinguished life time member designation of the Edmonton Police Service. He formed and was President of the Alberta Taxpayers Federation, and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, as well as many other political associations. Bob was Honorary Council to the Boy Scouts of Edmonton and Canada; Honorary Council for the Shrine Club of Edmonton, and was involved in Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. Bob was President of the Royal Overseas League, the Kiwanis Club and many other charitable organizations. He was active in sports: Western Canada Swimming Championships, as well as lacrosse and football - on Provincial Championship

Teams. His passion for politics and his contribution to the community made our world a better place to live.

Above all else he was a family man. He placed family before anything else which was enriched with memories of the lake and the joy and laughter of his children and friends. His wonderful humour, friendship, loving care and support will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service was held on November 26th, at Robertson - Wesley United Church.

In the Second World War Colonel Matheson joined the 2nd Battalion of The Edmonton Regiment in the Spring of 1940 as a reservist. He rose to the rank of Corporal in 1940, was selected for officer training in June 1941, but instead his eye sight led to his discharge on medical grounds the next month.

Things change rapidly in wartime. A month or two later the call came out that people were needed by the Royal Canadian Air Force for training in radar work.

Colonel Matheson volunteered. Despite his eyesight, he was accepted. The medical officer was someone he had known through swimming. He trained in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and England, then saw service in India, Ceylon, arid Burma. He was an airborne radar technician, putting in many hours aloft, mostly in Beaufighters and Mosquitoes. He was released from duty returned to Universtiy and became a lawyer.

Although he was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Col Matheson did not become involved in the military until his appointment as Honorary Lt Col in 1991. On Col Chapamn's retirement Col Matheson was promoted and assumed the appointment of Hon Col. A positon he held until he retired and handed over to Hon Col Mactaggart.





## EDDIES GET NEW CAP BADGE

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 members of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI) were presented with a new cap badge and collar dogs by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel M.J. Prendergast and the Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer K. Jacquard.

The critter in the centre of the cap badge has never looked like the Regiments mascot it was designed after. Lestock was a coyote pup that was acquired by the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion while at a rest stop in Lestock Saskatchewan while enroute to fight in France. The pup was eventually smuggled onto the ship and made it to England. Before the Regiment went to France the pup was donated to the London Zoo. *Winnie comes to mind.*

After the Battalion's arrival in the Flanders area the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion held a competition to design a more appropriate and individualistic badge. The winner of this competition was Private George Brown, who's many drawings appear in early editions of the "Fortyniner". His winning design centered upon the Flanders windmill, a very familiar landmark in the units locale. On either side of this windmill was placed a maple leaf signifying the 51<sup>st</sup> and the 63rd Battalions. The number of the Battalion was displayed beneath the windmill and the words "Canada" and the "Edmonton Regiment" were inscribed on scrolls beneath. The centre of the badge consisted originally of a coyote's head, adopted from the unit mascot "Lestock". However, when the

design was submitted to the College of Heralds for certification it was discovered that a coyote had no heraldic standing. The design of a wolf's head was substituted.

There were five versions of the cap badge, the original from 1916, updated in 1920, around 1934, the 49<sup>th</sup> was dropped and replaced by a Maple Leaf. The Rose was added in 1943 to signify our affiliation "The Loyal Regiment, (North Lancaster)" and the banner had the word Loyal added to its name and the 49 was again part of the badge. The badge changed again in 1960 to the Queens crown. In each iteration, the design of Lestock moved further and further away from the Coyote it was based on until many people thought it was a bobcat.

The new cap badge design was approved by the Director of History and Heritage (DHH) in 1997. At that time DHH wanted colour cap badges for all the CF units and the older line drawings were updated to provide the detail as described in DND publications. The drawing of Lestock now looked like a coyote. L Col Don Millar was the Commanding Officer at the time. The new cap badge design had not been



Photo by Hans Brink

Cpl Lancot gets his new capbadge from the CO, L Col Prendergast.

incorporated into the metal cap badge when approved in 1997. The significant change in the new metal cap badge was the centre figure "Lestock".

In 2007, nine years later a letter was sent to DHH from the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel H.J. Brink requesting that



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a new metal badge be issued based on the 1997 drawings. It was approved and nearly two years later a new badge was struck and issued to the Regiment.

Finally on 6 November 2009 the new metal badge was issued to the now serving members of the Regiment. A brass version will soon appear in the kit shop.

## **Annual General Meeting Minutes of**

### **The 49th Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Association 24 October 2009**

Attendance List: The attendance sheet was circulated to all members.

Call to Order: Brendan Yuill opened the meeting at 1410 hrs.

Moment of Silence: All stood to pay tribute to fallen comrades with a moment of silence.

Previous Years Minutes: Minutes of the 2008 AGM were moved, as read, by Lem Mundorf and seconded by Warren Hall. Carried.

Financial Report: Tom Reaume gave the report on behalf of Terry Allison. We have good control of our finances. Thankyou cards were read by LemMundorf from St. Angela's School and Teen Time of Edmonton for donations to them from the Casino Account to support their youth programs.

CO's Report: Col. Prendergast mentioned that the regiment is involved in winter warfare right now. Lots of training coming up. January and February/2010 will be patrolling exercises. May 2010 there will be an exercise in Yellowknife with B Coy.

49er Report: Brendan gave the report for David Haas. The 49er is being printed as we speak. We were hoping to have it available for today. It will be mailed in the next few days.

Oral History Book: Hans Brink updated us. John Matthews mentioned that the book will be published in 2010. The manuscript is 15% complete. It is filled

with WW 2 anecdotes.

Museum Report: Tom reported that the museum is open again after the renovation. Two new displays are coming up. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays. The next museum casino will be held February 24 & 25 in 2010. Contact the museum to help out.

Camp Harris Report: Homes are very close to the old Camp Harris. Camp Harris has been sold for a fair price. John Mah, a lawyer and ex LER, will be looking after the funds for now. Ed Bootle, an officer in the regiment, will give us financial guidance for the use of the funds.

Kit Shop Report: Ron Dmetruk reported that the transfer of the kit shop to the association is coming along very well. Thanks to all involved. His committee has added new stock and deleted some old stock. Be sure to get a price list to fill out for orders.

### **New Business**

Election of Officers: Murray Ferron was elected by acclamation as a Director and general member of the Board of Directors. Thanks Murray. Murray did a great job on the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Warren Bard moved / seconded by Warren Hall to volunteer to lay a wreath in remembrance of Ed Morano, who was killed in uniform in the 1960s





during training. Carried. Warren Bard also wanted interested members to sign a petition re The Governor General Volunteer Service Medal after the meeting.

Ajournment: Chuck Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 1525 hrs

## News from the Association

The Association has been active over the past year. The executive meets every month on the first Tuesday to discuss issues that effect the members of the Association etc. The Association had a Casino in February in which many members of the Association helped out. We could always use more help. The next Casino is about a year away.

The Association gave out \$10,000.00 in Student Bursaries this year. Each Bursary is for \$500.00 and is awarded to any member of the Regiment, including past members, who make application. (Almost every applicant is approved unless they are not members in good standing). Donations were also given to the Kipness Centre and The Little Bits.



Photo provided by the Kipness Centre  
L Col (Retd) Tom Reaume accepts a certificate of appreciation for the Associations donation to the Kipness Centre from Debra Melanson Director of the Kipness Centre.

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner was held on 24 October 2009 at the Jefferson Officers and Senior NCOS Mess. It was a well attended dinner. Ken Froland travelled up from California to attend. He was joined by his sister Inez from Edmonton. Ken and his bother both served in World War 2. Bill Teleske turned 90 years old a few weeks later so a cake

was made for him. It supported two photos of Bill, one in his World War 2 uniform and a more recent photo.



Photos by Kathleen Haggarty

Bill Teleske cuts into his 90th Birthday cake. LtoR Eva Mcphee, Tom Reaume, John Mathews, Bill, Dan Rose Lem Mundorf, Hans Brink.

Below: Bill Teleske waits to cut the cake.



The biggest issue that the Association is dealing with is the sale of the Camp Harris lands. As of writing the land is being listed by a realstate agent and we are looking for buyers. It is hoped that the money from this sale will go into a fund and that the Regiment will be able to draw on the interest each year to support activities of the Regiment and the Museum.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 30 October 2010. All the members of the Regiment and





the Association are encouraged to attend.



Photo by Kathleen Haggarty

Lem Mundorf led a sing along following the Association Dinner. Songs were from an old Regimental Song Book.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

Have you served at sometime in the Regiment? Have you ever wanted to know what has happened to your Regimental buddies? Becoming a member of the 49th Bn Association gives you the opportunity to visit with past commrades at our Annual Reunion Dinner, at Remeberance Day and Ortona Day Celebrations. You may want to help support the members of the Regiment who are serving overseas. As a member of the Association you will also recieve a copy of the Forty-Niner Magazine. All of this for \$20 a year. We have three membership categories:

**Regular Member:** Serving and former serving members. \$20.00 per year.

**Associate Members:** Any individual who wants to be part of and support the Regiment and Association. \$20.00 per year.

**Life Time Member:** \$500.00 one time fee.

## THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM

*The following story was written by one of our volunteers Sandy Kamminga.*

My name is Sandy. I am a volunteer for the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum.

That is one sentence that I never thought would be connected to me. I have never been a volunteer in my life but have been involved with volunteers in other areas. It always amazed me that there were people who would give up their valuable time to help out others and receive only their personal satisfaction in return. I have never before felt strongly enough about anything to even consider volunteering.

My Grandfather, Fred Park, served in WWI as a member of the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force and my Dad, Fred Kelly Park, his son, served and was killed in WWII and served as a '49er in C Company. For many years I have kept my Dad's medals and one day I decided to do something with them. I wanted to mount them but they were in a deplorable state from lying around for over 50 years. I needed to find out the best way to clean them and also wanted to find out what they stood for.

After doing some surfing on the internet, I came across the Military Museum phone number. I called and spoke with a young woman who was so helpful, friendly and seemed genuinely interested in my story. She invited me to come down and visit with some gentlemen who would be able to help me. So I did.

The next day I arrived at 1000. I met two very interesting and helpful guys, went on a tour of the Museum and – THAT WAS IT!!! I was hooked and the next thing I knew I was volunteering two days a week. (I don't want to tell them, but I definitely would do more - all they have to do is ask). They all welcomed me and were so full of information. Anything they didn't know, they knew where to



find it and would go immediately to some reference material and pull out what they were looking for. I was amazed.

The tour really opened my eyes. There are items that are amazing and things I would never have the opportunity of seeing anywhere else. I must say I spent the entire time with my mouth hanging open and saying "Oh my gosh" and "That's amazing". I'm sure they hear that all the time but I was truly overwhelmed.

The Museum is grateful for any donations or help that anyone can give. The work they do is amazing. People call asking for information and there always seems to be someone around who can answer the questions or they know when and where the information can be obtained. They are generous to a fault with their knowledge, material and resources.



Photo by Dan Rose

Volunteers working in the weapons vault are (l to r) Maurice White, Tom Reaume, Sandy Kamminga, Elsie White, Eva McPhee.

I recently read that the British Columbia chapter of the LER had to close down because they were running out of resources to keep it going. My immediate thought was 'I sure hope that does not happen here'. This facility is such a necessary part of

history, both personal and historical. We definitely need to keep it going. If I can be of any help, even on a small level, I will continue to assist as long as I am able. It is something I am extremely passionate about. I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with the following fellow volunteers: Bill Teleske, Eva McPhee, Maurice and Elsie White, Ted Howard and Jane Todd. Their personal knowledge of the War and the resources available are invaluable.

Thank you all for your dedication, commitment and caring. You have brought my Dad and Grandfather back to me and I am truly grateful.

Sandy Kamminga, Museum Volunteer

## MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

The past two years have been very busy since we reopened after the construction repairs to the roof were completed. In the last edition we showed you some pictures of empty Galleries. Well, we are now open to the public with both galleries open. The Stone Gallery displays depict uniforms, medals and artefacts that depict Garrison Duties. The Griesbach Gallery depicts the history of the Regiment and its warfighting artefacts. We have displays of firearms, uniforms and other equipment used by soldiers from before World War 1 to the Present.

There are plans to update both Galleries once the volunteers get their act together. Terry Allison is our Museum Executive Director, Tom Reaume coordinates the volunteer support. Other volunteers include Hans Brink, Ted Howard, John Mathews, Don Millar, Lem Mundorf, Maurice White, Elsie White, Bill Teleske, and Sandy Kamminga. Our paid employees are our Collections Manager Kathleen Haggarty, and our summer student/volunteer Dan Rose. There is always plenty of work for volunteers. If you have some time to help out we organize work for Wednesday afternoons.

One of the new exhibits is the Arid Cadpat man, which is still a work in progress. It appears we can't seem to get all the pieces needed to outfit him for battle AKA





Afghanistan. So, the call is going out to my fellow Eddies for the following pieces of equipment. Frag vest, Chest rig/tactical vest and cadpat and a shemagh. If you had some unofficial piece of kit you wore and would like to see it displayed on Arid CadPat man see Hans.

The museum was very busy with a number of School and off site exhibits. The Dutch Canadian Club, The Association Dinner, Sylvan Lake School, and the Morinville Community Association.

The Dutch Canadian Club of Edmonton hosted a special event on the 5th of May to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland. Our World War 2 Vets, Bill Tleske and Maurice White received a Medal from the Dutch Government in recognition of their service in Holland 65 years ago. The Association is securing some additional medals for any living WW 2 veteran who could not attend. Lem Mundorf will be seeking out those veterans to pass on their medals. If you know of someone who is still living and served with the LER let Lem know.

The Museum set up a display at the Dutch Canadian Club. There were many Dutch souvenirs that were obtained in 1945 that were on display. We also had our World War 2 uniforms on display. Kathleen said that several people were tearing up looking at the memorabilia.



Photo by Hans Brink

Maurice White from the Museum explains to a student at Ecole Marie Steffie about artefacts from the Museum. In the foreground students tried on helmets and uniforms.

A field trip was conducted by the Museum to The Ecole Marie Steffie in Sylvan Lake. We had three war veterans along to speak to the kids. Maurice White World War 2 Veteran and Cpls Sean Lin (TF 1-06 and 1-08) and Cpl Wolfi Brettner (TF 3-09). L Col Brink went along for the ride and help with the museum artifacts that the students were allowed to view.

The students of Madame Leah Rawlings class wrote to some of the soldiers from the LER and they responded. A whole bulletin board in the classroom was dedicated to Afghanistan and Canadian soldiers. The group ate lunch with the class and were totally in awe of our three vets.

The unit assisted in this visit by providing a van and allowing Cpl Lin's and Brettner to attend.



Photo by Hans Brink

Right: A Student from Ecole Marie Steffie tries on the latest fashion trend. Left: Cpl Wolfi Brettner helps a student don a tac vest.

The museum conducted an off site visit to Morinville to participate in the The End of an Era Ceremonies on 11 April 2010. The End of an Era Ceremonies were held across Canada, at the Canadian Vimy Memorial in France and at the Canada Memorial at Green Park in London, England. Lucy Roy from Morinville submitted some photos of the event along with some commentary.





Photo and Story submitted by Lucie Roy

Retired British Forces member W02 Ira Austin, who was also part of the Morinville Legion Color Party had a few minutes to speak to retired Senator Dr. Thelma Chalifoux. They also took time to look over the First World War items on display from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum. The Legion also had information on the WWI soldiers who served from the area. The End of an Era Commemorative Ceremony took place Sunday April 11th and included a cenotaph service. The displays were available for viewing after the Service.



Photo by Sean Moir Royal Alberta Museum

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum assisted the RAM with a loan of the Cad Pat Man for the 2009 Remembrance Day display at the RAM.

## **DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGED**

The museum would like to acknowledge the donations made over the past two years to the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum. the donations range from documents to medals to articles of clothing to firearms.

### ***2009 Donors were:***

Mr Piche, Mr, Knudsen, Mr. Browning, Mr. A. Vanterpool, Mr. Maurice White, The Telephone Historical Society, Mr. Peacock, Mr Don Miller, Mr. Jim Hodson, Mr. C. Goodman. Ms. Iva Fedorovich, Mr. S. Ziegler, Mr. V. Gowin, Mr. D. Burns, Mr A. Meldrum, Ms Eva McPhee, D. McDonell, P. Jarvis, D. Riddell, Kingsway Legion, J. Barnes, J. Zenchyson, E. Howard, L. Deines, C Povaschuk, D. Bracuk, A Kerr, Mr. Bill Teleske, S. Heath, Mr. Don MacGarvey, Mr. John Weingardt, Mr Terry Allison, Mr Lee Ahlstrom, Mr. Maurice White, D. Drader, Mr. A. Vanterpool, The Black Hackle Foundation, Mr. David Haas, Mr Ken Dilley, L Waldron, A Meldrum. J. Rabchak, G. Holmees, D Beckett, and S. Villett.

### ***2010 Donors were:***

Mr R Bradley, Mr Hans Brink, Mr B Clifford, Mr Mike Prendergast, Ms Susan Ziegler, Mick and Norma Walsh, Mr Josh Laing, Ms Kathleen Cormack, Mr Barry Browning, Ms Rita Goudreau, Mr David Haas, Mr. Don St. Croix, Mr Chris Atkin, Ms Dorothy Smith, Mr John Cairns, Ms Margaret Scott, Ms Anna Mae Gibson, Mr Bill Teleske, Mr Blaine McGowan, Ms Mary Briscoe, Ms Ken Dilley, Ms Laurel Deedrichs-Mayne, Ms Arlene Meldrum, Mr Robert Proudfoot, Mr R. Jack Casey, Mr Atkinson, Ms Kathleen Haggarty, Ms Sheila Holzer, Ms Eva McPhee. Mr Malcolm Thompson, Mr Pat Grier, Corporal Pankemich and Jane Todd

### ***Please Donate to the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum***

The Museum is a non profit organization and we survive on donations to improve displays and maintain programs. If you would like to make a donation to the Museum please contact any of the Museum staff. All donations will receive a tax receipt.



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# The Last Post

## **Auger, Edward (WWII)**

AUGER, Edward A Proud Veteran of the Second World War, a member of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment and Tug Boat Captain. Edward Auger passed away peacefully at the age of 87. Edward will be lovingly remembered by his three sisters, Bella Kumpf of Sherwood Park, AB, Rose Liddicoat of Merritt, B.C. and Martha Everatt of Edmonton, AB. He leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews and families. Edward was predeceased by his parents Eli and Virginia Auger; and brothers William George, Gilbert and Lawrence; and sisters, Fee Jenkins, Eva Golosky and Ida McKercher and Maxine Auger. Visitation will be on Friday, August 5, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in St. John Catholic Church, Hospital St. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the same church. Father Gerard will officiate. Burial will follow at the downtown cemetery. Lunch to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Waterways. In lieu of flowers, donations to be made to the Royal Canadian Legion. .

Published in the Edmonton Journal on 8/4/2005.

## **Duquette, Richard (WWII)**

Mr. Richard Duquette of Edmonton passed away peacefully at the age of 91, January 14, 2010. He is lovingly remembered by his four children; Lorna (Gordon) Lien, Roland (Linda), Denise (Chris Cain) and Richard George (Bernadine), four grandchildren; Laurel (John) Kuhn, Michelle, Jenna and Richard David, two great-grandchildren Hannah and Davis Kuhn as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Predeceased by his wife Dorothy in 2001, his parents Ella and Edward, his sister Denise and brother Raoul. He was born in St. Paul , Alberta in 1918. He served overseas for five years in WW II.

Returning home in 1945 he resided in the Didsbury area where he met and married Dorothy Clarke in 1947. In 1953 he was hired as one of the original employees with Trans-Mountain Pipeline (Kinder-Morgan) where he continued until his retirement in 1979. Richard enjoyed a variety of interests including hunting, fishing, gardening, watching hockey and playing crib. He took great pride in the many accomplishments of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In honour of Richard's last wishes cremation has taken place with his final resting place to be with his wife Dorothy. A Celebration of his life was held on Sunday, January 24, 2010. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Royal Alexandra and University Hospital Foundations. *Richard Duquette's son also served in the Eddies in the 80's.*

## **GRANTHAM, R. D. C.M., B.Sc., P.Eng (WWII)**

GRANTHAM, Ronald Douglas, C.M., B.Sc., P.Eng. August 8, 1925 - September 16, 2009 On September 16th, 2009, Ronald Douglas Grantham died peacefully at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 84. He will be lovingly remembered as the devoted husband of the late June Vivian Vera Grantham, his wife of 50 years, whose support enabled him to achieve and reach his goals; as the loving father by his children Susan (Alan) Hobkirk, David, Laura Grantham-Crosley, and Nancy (Shandip) Saha; as a caring Granddad by his grandchildren, Michael, Steven, and Brian Hobkirk; Andrea, and Lyndon Crosley; as loving brother to his sister Phyllis (Frank) Leighton; friend to former son-in-law, Stuart Crosley; Ron is also lovingly remembered by his special friend, Noreen Sernyk, with whom he shared much love and joy in recent years; and as a friend to many. He was predeceased by his parents, Douglas and Dora Grantham and his brother, Harry. Ron was born on August 8th, 1925 in Vancouver



British Columbia where he attended UBC and was known as "Big Red." He married June Collins in 1951. After receiving his B.Sc in Civil Engineering from UBC, he continued his post graduate work in Advanced Structural Design at MIT in Boston, after working in various cities in both Canada and the United States.

### **KILLIPS, George Stanley**

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010 George Killips of Edmonton passed away at the age 78 years. He will be lovingly remembered and missed by his family and his numerous nephews and nieces. The family would like to give special thanks to the staff at Capital Care Lynnwood for all their love and special care shown to George. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Edmonton Region,

### **Kirkpatrick, Wilbert (WWII)**

Wilbert Goldwin Alexander "Pat" Kirkpatrick, April 3, 1921 - January 16, 2010 It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Pat Kirkpatrick following a brief illness. Pat is survived by Shirley, his loving wife of thirty-nine years; his son John (Helen) Kirkpatrick; four grandchildren, David Skistod, Tracy Mundell, Jason Kirkpatrick and Ashley Kirkpatrick; and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Barbara Klymchuk and Mary Burton, and many other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his dear daughter, Sherrill-Ann; Iris, the mother of his children; parents Goldwin Kirkpatrick and Jean Brown; sister-in-law Joyce Goodall; brothers-in-law Len Burton, Jim Goodall and Ernie Klymchuk.

### **KRELL, Peter D (WWII)**

KRELL, Peter D. May 2, 1923 - September 13, 2009 The Lord Jesus took Peter home to heaven on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Peter is survived and will

be greatly missed by his sons, John (Carolynne), David (Kristie), and Barry (Sandra); twelve grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sisters Esther Wilkinson, Margaret Schroeder, Ida (Jim) Franks, Ruth (Fred) Wozonowski and brother Henry (Ruth), as well as many nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his wife Evelyn, grandson Timothy, brothers Leo and Ed and sisters Sarah, Lydia and Dorothy. Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the staff at Harbours of Newport Seniors Residence and the Agape Hospice (Salvation Army).

### **MOORE, Edward John (WWII)**

Jan. 7, 1920 ~ April 26, 2010 Edward passed away peacefully at 90 years of age. Edward was wounded during the Second World War while serving in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in Ortona, Italy, December 1943. He was predeceased by daughter Lynda. Loving and missing him is his wife of 63 years, June Moore, His children: Catherine & (Jim) Scott, David & (Pam) Moore, Grandchildren: Chad & (Mel) Scott, Clint Verigin, Jeremy Verigin, Jesse & (Casey) Moore, Dylan Moore & (Cindi), Great Grandchildren: Austin Verigin, & Keanna Moore, and numerous nieces and nephews. The Family would like to thank the staff that was so kind to Ed during his stay during his stay at Holy Rood Manor. A celebration of life was held on Saturday May 15th, 2010. You're welcome to make a donation to your choice.

### **RADAWETZ, Matthew Walter**

RADAWETZ, Matthew Walter Pte. January 3, 1990 - March 6, 2010 Matthew, a proud member of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, passed away suddenly on March 6, 2010. He was just 20 years old. He leaves behind to cherish his memory: his parents Darrell and Eileen, his brothers and sisters, Jason and Leah, Amanda, Jessica and Dustin, Nicholas, his two nephews, Antonio and Judah, his grandpa Joe; his great-grandparents, his aunts, uncles and cousins, his girlfriend Alanna and her family, the "wreck show",





his innumerable friends, and his regiment. A Celebration of his life will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at New Sarepta Community High School at 2:30 p.m. Cremation to follow. If you wish, donations may be made in his memory to The 49th Battalion Loyal Edmonton Regiment 9550 Benevolent Fund, P.O. Box 501, Stn. Main, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2K2.

### **Rinker, Henry Ernest (WWII)**

Wednesday, 16 December 2009 Mr. Henry Ernest Rinker of Medicine Hat, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away on Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 at the age of 88 years. Henry leaves to cherish his memory one son, Ken (Cheri) Rinker of Longview, Washington; one daughter, Brenda (Jerry) Aberle of Rhein, Saskatchewan; four grandchildren: Michelle (Brian) Stapleman of Forest Grove, Oregon; Michael (Mara) Rinker of Longview, and his special great-granddaughter, Kaylee Lorian; Mae Colin; and Cole Aberle, both of Rhein; two sisters-in-law, Betty Rinker of Buffalo, Alberta and Lily Rinker of Delburne, Alberta; several sisters and brothers-in-law, Allen (Donna) Habich, Betty (Merril) Munro, and Leona (Hugo) Stoltz; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Henry was predeceased by his loving wife, Lorian in 2004; his parents, Henry in 1968 and Mary in 1987; and two brothers, Clarence in 2002 and Leonard in 2007. Henry was born at Empress on July 27th, 1921. He grew up at Cavendish and worked with his father until 1942 when he joined the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. He served overseas, mainly in Italy, until March 1946. Henry married the love of his life, Lorian Habich in 1955 and together they raised two children on their farm. Henry retired from the farm in 2004 and moved to Medicine Hat. In his retirement, Henry enjoyed traveling with his best friend, his wife, Lorian. He loved going to the cabin at Elkwater and all the social gatherings in the community which meant a chance to visit and dance. Henry and Lorian are once again reunited in love and friendship. The Officers and Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Robertson Memorial Branch

#17, will conduct a Poppy Service for their departed comrade. Memorial gifts in Henry's memory may be made to the Medicine Hat Palliative Care Society, 666 - 5th Street SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 4H6.

### **Stables, Victor George (WWII)**

Victor George Stables was born at Altario, Alberta on July 19th, 1921, the second of eleven children born to Frank and Clara Stables. He lived and worked most of his life on the farm, where he enjoyed all of the aspects of farm life. Vic was a hard worker, but always had time to enjoy the company of others; in fact, a trip to town for the mail could take up most of the day (and night)! The only time he was away from the farm for any length of time was during the War. He enlisted in 1942, and was part of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment. He was stationed in Wainwright and Port Alberni, B.C. for basic training and to wait orders. In 1945, just when the war was ending, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment was sent to Belgium and Holland to help enforce the Armistice. In February, 1946 he was discharged and returned to the farm where he spent the following fifty-two years, with the exception of some work in logging camps during the winter months. In early 1998, he moved to the Consort Seniors Lodge, living there until 2000. At that time, failing health necessitated a move to the Consort Long Term Care facility, where he passed away on February 14, 2003. Active pallbearers were David Stables, James Marcinek, Ernie Dewald, David Marcinek, Frank Stables and Todd Stables. Honorary pall bearers were Stephen Johnston, Clarence Grobel, Glen Vert, Alex Makranoff, Keith Caldwell, Dennis Vert, Donald Cameron and Val Dewald. If friends desire, memorials may be made to the Consort Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 310, Consort, Ab. T0C 1B0.

### **Williams, Leigh (WWII)**

Mr. Leigh Williams of Medicine Hat, formerly of Arrowwood, passed away on February 17, 2010 at the



age of 88 years. He is survived by his loving wife Irene, his children Donna (John) Graham of Vulcan, Jack (Wendy) Williams of Arrowwood, Cheryl (Don) Hartwell of Calgary, his step children Garry Nelson of Craigmyle, Judy (Al) Cruickshank of Medicine Hat and Wendy (Terry) Jacobsen of Hanna. From his two families he is survived by eighteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He also is survived by his sisters-in-law Phyllis Williams of Vulcan, Marion McNeill of Medicine Hat, Verna McNeill of Strathmore, Lorna Mueller of Drumheller and brother-in-law Howard Hoover of Craigmyle. Leigh was predeceased by his first wife Myrtle, his brother Bert, his sister Margaret Cameron, brother-in-law Eddie Cameron, and step children Deanna Stainsen and Kevin Nelson. Leigh was born August 9, 1921 at Gleichen, Alberta, the second child of Bob and Abbie Williams of Arrowwood. His early years were spent on the farm where he attended Swazitika school in the Buffalo Hills. In 1935 the family moved to Banff for two years, spending the winters at Banff and the summers back on the farm. From there they moved to Calgary where Leigh attended Western Canada High School. While there he played football for the school team the year they won the city championship. After high school he attended technical school, now SAIT, and then returned to the farm at Arrowwood. In 1943 Leigh joined the army and went overseas with The Loyal Edmonton Regiment. During the war he did tours in England, France, Italy and Belgium. In 1945 he was wounded in Belgium and was returned home. In that same year he married Myrtle McRae of Arrowwood and they started their farming life together. After a career in farming they retired on the farm and Leigh took up the full time hobby of wood working. In 1993, following the death of his first wife, Leigh married Irene Nelson of Craigmyle. They continued to reside on the farm until 2008 when they moved to a retirement residence in Medicine Hat. Leigh was an active member of his community. He worked as the repairman of the Arrowwood/Mossleigh Mutual Telephone Co. He was a charter member of the

Arrowwood Lions Club where he served both at the local level as well as the district level when he was elected Governor for District E in 1968/1969. He was a 4H Beef Club leader for 12 years, was active in the building and operations of the Community Hall, was a member of the Arrowwood United Church and served on the board for the Mossleigh Rural Electrification Association. In addition, almost every Sunday in the summer he went fishing. A memorial Service and celebration of Leigh's life was held at the Arrowwood Community Hall on February 22, 2010 with Reverend Sue MacDonald officiating.

The following Deaths were reported in the Legion Web Site.

**BAYDALA**, Private Marshall (WWII) died in 2009.

**DANIELSON**, Private Alfred (WWII) Died in British Columbia in 2008.

**DEMANCHUK**, Private John. (WWII) Died in Alberta in 2009.

**FIDDICK**, Private Thomas. (WWII). Died in British Columbia in 2008.

**GAUMONT**, Private Joseph. (WWII) Died in Alberta in 2008.

**GRAMS**, Private Lloyd C. (WWII)

Date Deceased: 1/12/2007, Age: 82, Units: Loyal Edmonton Regiment. Camrose Alberta

**GERHARDT**, Trp. Theodore (WWII)

Date Deceased: 4/11/2006 Age: 87, Service Number: M17358 Units: Loyal Edmonton Regiment

**GRAHAM**, Corporal Thomas (WWII)

Date Deceased: 3/26/2007, Age: 87 Units: Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

**LA MOUREAU**, Private Leonard. (WWII), Died in Alberta in 2007.

**LARSBACK**, John J. Died in Alberta in 2008.

**MUTLOW**, John S. (Sam). (WWII) Died 2008.

**PAULSEN**, Warrant Officer Ralph C. (WWII). Also served in the Royal Canadian Artillery and the Royal Canadian Navy. Died 2008.

**THOMAS**, Private John W. Served in World War 2. Died in Calgary in 2008.



**THOMPSON**, Private John A. Served in World War 2. died in Quebec in 2009.

**TRENHOLM**, Oswald. Served in World War 2. Died in New Brunswick in 2008.

**WILSON**, Captain Warren. Served in World War 2. Died in Gibbons Alberta in September 2009.

**YOUNG, Private Jack** (WWII)

Location: Nanaimo, British Columbia Date Deceased: 3/16/2006 Age: 84 Service Number: M60799 Units: Loyal Edmonton Regiment

## WHERE IS MY WANDERER

**Ronald Graeme Dmetruk.** Has been seen busying away in the kitshop. He only asks one thing. Buy Buy Buy and come by for a chat.

**Ken Froland.** Served with the Regiment in World War 2 and has made several trips back to Europe to revisit old sites in Italy and Holland. He currently lives in California where he enjoys driving his Rolls Royce convertible. He was back in Holland for the 65 Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland and he has written a story for this edition on the German Bunkers of World War 2.

**Will Gatward.** Served with the Eddies 2000 to 2006 when he moved to England to study. He is now serving in the colonial Army of the British Forces as a Reservist. His comments are often seen on FaceBook (FB).

**Ashley VanLeeuwen:** Recently of the Eddies and has moved onto the Regular Force and now wears a Patricia Cap Badge. He went back to Afghanistan with the First Battalion for TF 3-09 (Oct 09 to April 10)

**Mike Mornault;** Now retired and lives in the Red Deer area. He has been seen working in Wainwright for Cubic. He was a PPCLI and Airborne Officer who served as the RSSO for the Eddies in the early 80's. He was there when the Jump Platoon was formed. He says hi to all those

who might remember him.

**Sharon Barkley** now lives in Red Deer. Okay, I'll start! I was in the Reserves for 16 years. I joined as a Clerk, with the LER's!!! I was the first Clerk to obtain my marksmanship. I received the Commander's Achievement Award and obtained the rank of Sergeant. I was in the 2551 Canadian Airborne Cadet Corps for approx 4 years before joining the LERs. It is a shame how the Regiment has faded into the background. I live in Red Deer and never hear anything about the Cadets, or Reserves who still exist here. Sharon

**Shawn Whelan.** Served with the Eddies from 89-91. He writes "I still work for the Gov of Can. Was doing tactical work with Corrections but now I do case work. Other than that I just try to keep active and not get toooo fat! LOL. As for messages too the readers, none really that I can think of just wish all the best."

**Edmond (Ted) Howard.** Has recently begun work at the Regiment's Museum. He is now retired from Corrections Canada and as a hobby does genealogical searches, and he is good. He has also scanned every edition of the 49er since the first edition in 1915 and it is now on line. He served with the Eddies from 1970 to 1986 and retired as a WO.

**Honorary Colonel Sandy Auld Mactaggart CD, OOC, AOE.** Is enjoying retirement travelling the world and enjoying time at one of his three homes. He is now involved with the Military Museum of Calgary as a member of their Board of Directors.

**Cpl Simard** was a member of the LER Band. She has joined the Regular Forces as a Clerk and is working at the 1 MPU Headquarters at Edmonton Garrison.

**Cpl Christian Lambotte** was seen at the Lecture Training Facility supporting a PPCLI cap badge. Do your thing and come back when you are a Sergeant.



