

Airborne Social Club
Northtown PO, Box 71034
9308 - 137 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5E 5P0



FEBRUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Club in process of some interesting activities over the next year or so with the 2013 Reunion planning in progress. Bill Tremain, Reunion Chairman and committee are in full swing on sorting out details. Mark your calendars and plan on attending, as the success of this will depend mainly on your attendance.

Art Brochu, President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would remind all this is the time for your dues renewals, \$10 yearly. If you have moved or had a postal or email address change please let me know so your club correspondence can be delivered to the correct address. In addition, if you know of any member who has moved or not receiving the newsletter contact me at (780) 478-9172 or email dr.paris@shaw.ca

Dave Paris, Secretary

HOSPITAL MEMBER

As the club hospital member, I provide on behalf of the membership notification of known members who may have been hospitalized or recouping at home. If you know of anyone who may not be doing well, please let me know so I can pass on to the Club and at the same time provide amenities as appropriate. I can be contacted at: (780) 457-0646 or email ben.murdock@shaw.ca

Ben Murdock, Hospital Member

Known members currently in hospital are Leo McGrath and Wayne Charlebois. Both are in Long Term Care in Edmonton.



SCULLY, Roger. On Sunday, October 30, 2011, Mr. Roger Scully of Vermilion passed away at the age of 67 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Dorothy Scully; children Dan (Kelly) Scully and Cara (Micheal) Schalin; grandchildren

Jayden and Ethan Scully, Jude and Joel Schalin; brothers Richard (Judy) Scully and Ralph Scully; sisters Lynn Marshall, Pat (Mike) Wilcott, and Terrie Wilcott as well as many nieces and nephews.

Roger served in both 1st and 2nd Battalion of the Canadian Guards in the 60's, the Airborne Regiment and then the PPCLI until retirement. A Celebration of Life was held in Vermilion on November 4, 2011.

FAIRBRIDGE, Peter (1931-2012)...It is with deep sadness that the family of Peter Fairbridge announces his passing after a long battle with asthma. Born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, England, Peter came to Canada in 1949, but returned to England where he and Marjory were married in 1952. In 1953, they moved to Canada where all three children were born. Peter served in the Black Watch and Airborne Regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces for 20 years before becoming the manager and future owner of Canessco Inc. He was very involved with the Masonic family as well as the Gyro Club, but his greatest joy was family time spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Peter was an avid reader, enjoyed fishing and RV'ing, but truly cherished time spent with family. A service to honour Peter was held in Edmonton, on February 7th, 2012.

LAURENCE, Victor Duncan. On November 7, 2011 in Stony Plain Alberta at the age of 76 years. A service to honour Vic was held in Edmonton, on November 15th, 2011.

RICKMAN, David - QOR of C and CDN AB REGT. (Full details unavailable)

GIFFIN, Stephen Richard, December 11th, 2011 at the age of 57 after a short but courageous battle against cancer. During his 20 year military career, he proudly served RCR in Gagetown, Cyprus and London, Airborne Regiment in Edmonton and Petawawa.

This edition may have missed notices of our airborne brethren who may have deceased over the past several months; however we do try to ensure all known announcements are mentioned here within. If you are aware of any deaths please drop me a note with name and whatever details you may have. If I get a notice more than once, it is much better than not having received it at all.

FROM A FALLEN COMRADE

My helmet, now a halo
Wings replace my chute
To fly amongst the eagles
No Soldier would dispute
No aircraft is needed
To take me to the sky
Your prayers from below
Have lifted me so high
My spirit is my engine
No need to refuel
No runway required
A rainbow's edge will do
No need for maps or compasses
My angels are my guides
Their strength and love have gifted me
To soar the sky with pride
The heavens here are endless
My soul's now free to roam
There is no need to cry my friends
This Airborne Trooper found his home.

Author Unknown

ITEMS OF INTEREST

PRESENTATION OF DONATION TO CADET CORPS

On December 12th, 2011 Club President, Art Brochu presented a donation on behalf of the club to 2551 PPCLI RCACC.



In addition to 2551 donations were also made to two other Cadet Corps on other dates, however, regrettably, photos are not available.

REMEMBERING WHEN

The following article appeared in my mailbox from Rick Powell. Thanks Rick for this submission.

I WAS A SOLDIER ONCE

I liked the idea that as the commercial said; we did more by 0700 than most people did all day. I loved as range safety officer getting shots down range by 0800. I loved the brutality of route marches because they set us apart from my civilian friends, as most of them could never have hacked the pace. I liked standing in an United Nations observation

post just before dawn in a far away land, realizing that I and other soldiers in my unit were doing something very special by representing Canada and the Canadian people, undergoing physical and mental strains that many could not or would not face to keep our country safe and ready. I loved climbing up cargo nets in full battle order and repelling down cliffs. I loved running the assault course. I liked the early morning runs and the late night polishing before a parade.

I liked the smell of the quartermaster stores, an odd mixture of gun oil, canvas preservative, leather, hemp rope and cigarette smoke. I liked the racks of rifles and sub machine guns and I loved the gun sheds and tank hangers where the vehicles and weapons of war gleamed dully and exuded strength and capability and the power to "get er done" if need be.

I loved the name of the equipment when I started off, Sherman, Fabric National, Sten and Bren because they spoke to me of the proud days when our Fathers used them successfully in WW2. Our #36 Grenade was the same as our grandfathers used in WW1 for God's sake! I also loved when the 105mm and the M109 gave way to them M777 and the guns could shoot accurately over 30 kilometres.

I loved it when the old lady "the duce and a half" was finally replaced by the modern MLVW. The Centurion tank gave way to the Leopard and within weeks our tankers showed NATO they were the best.

I liked our soldiers, from all parts of the land, from cities of Upper Canada, small towns of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. They came from the mountains and from the prairies from all walks of life. I trusted and depended on them as they trusted and depended on me for professional competence, for comradeship, for strength and courage. In a word we were "soldiers", then, and forever. I liked the surge in my heart when word was passed that a unit was deploying, and I loved the infectious thrill of riding homeward in convoy waving at the cars we passed and at pedestrians who I was sure looked at us with envy as we rolled through their villages on our way back to Base. I loved waving

from the back of a truck at the kids in cars that would trail us for a while before finally passing.

The work was hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; and the parting from family painful, but the companionship of robust army laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the military was ever present. I once enjoyed the best 2 hours sleep in my life laying on the ground at a rest halt while doing a patrol. The weather was overcast but warm and a slight drizzle did not deter my snoring, which could be heard 4 men down the line. Another 4 or 5 hours would have been nice, but there was work to be done.

I liked the fierce and dangerous activity of the Infantry Rifle Coy as we began an advance to contact. I liked doing the recce for a harbour where I had to hide up to 40 pieces of wheeled and tracked equipment from the enemy. I hated having to run ahead of our vehicles in complete darkness and trying to be quiet as the drivers and co-drivers tried to back vehicles and trailers into a black hole as quickly as possible so others in line could pass and find me and also be properly positioned and put away. One could hear cursing and unmeant bitching as crews stumbled in the dark to erect cam nets and digging in for protection from an enemy attack, we cut and poked branches holding up the nets to break the vehicle outline so as not to be recognised. The lucky ones had a relatively small vehicle, others, a two and a half or a 5 ton to cover that even in day light would take an hour or more. At night it was dangerous, demanding and extremely hard work. In the rain or freezing snow this necessary chore was brutal.

Watching my fellow soldiers as they took down the cam nets, loaded fuel, ammunition and rations for yet another long day. Feeling truly exhausted and knowing it was going to get a lot worse before it got better, actually added value to the experience. We were soldiers and this is what it was like. I loved the name and the history of my Regiments;

"The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Of Canada"

"The Royal Canadian Regiment"
"The Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers"
"The Royal Canadian Engineers"
"The Royal 22^e Régiment"

I loved the parades, the colours on parade and the guidon presentation, the march past, the roll past, the advance in review order and the sound of my hand slapping the stock of my rifle during the Present Arms. I could feel the National Anthem inside me while the band played it. Some liked "The Queen" or "O Canada". I loved "The Maple Leaf Forever".

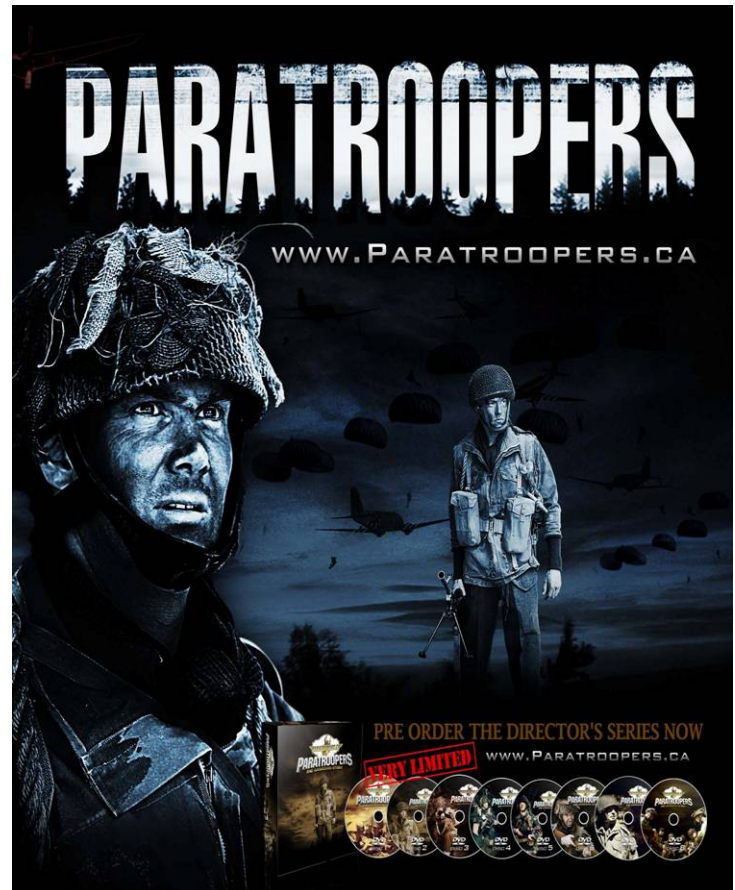
I loved walking through our position in complete darkness checking the welfare of my men and NCO's and ensuring them that they were not alone, as we stood in our trench at first light, on stand to. I liked the weight of my steel helmet on my head and the embrace of my webbing. It made you feel like superman though in your heart you surely knew you were not.

I loved the weight of my rifle or pistol and knowing I could outshoot a lot of my men. It was an ongoing competition during range practice to out do your friends as well as your superiors. There was pride in self and country; and growing mastery of the soldier's trade. An adolescent could find adulthood. A man could find fulfilment and old man finds great joy. I will never forget that I was once a soldier. There is no higher calling. I would do it again in a heart beat. I liked the traditions of the Army and those who made them....."*I was a soldier once*".

PARATROOPERS - THE CANADIAN STORY MAKING THE MOVIE: THE LAST THREE YEARS

By Dixon Christie

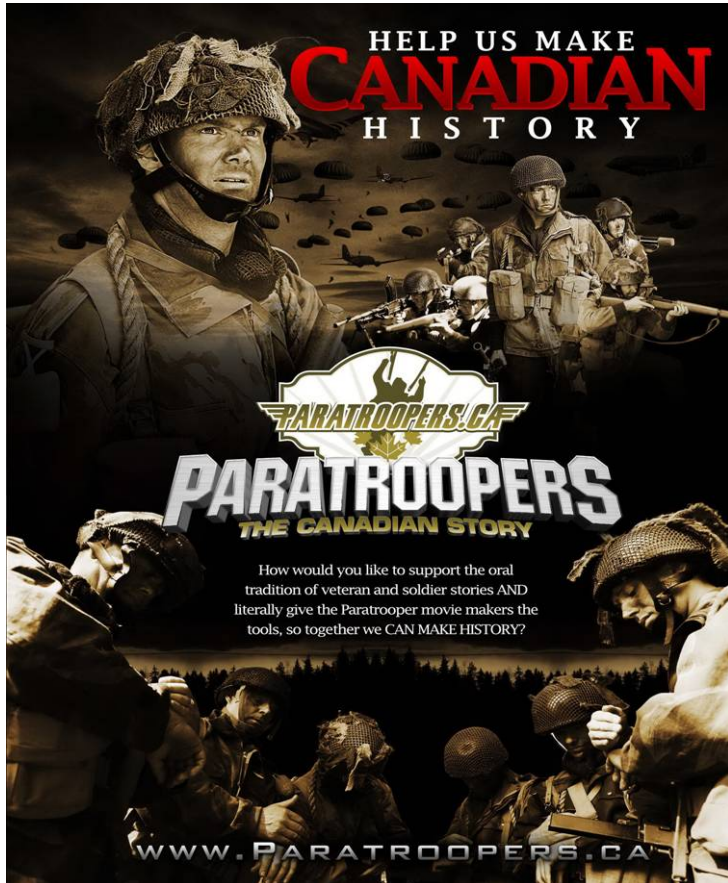
When we first set out on this path, there was no way I could have ever known the depth and breadth of life lessons which this subject would reveal to us. What started out as a made-for-TV style documentary developed to represent the



history of Canada's modern military experience as told through filmed interviews with about 300 of Canada's para-qualified soldiers. The project took us across the country into Royal Canadian Legions and Canadian Forces Bases. Slowly the layers of the story became apparent. As we started to interview our veterans and soldiers, we were able to look at a very large seven-decade canvas from a highly focused perspective.

With some effort, Paratroopers - The Canadian Story would develop into its current 15-hour tome of work that would cull content from the interviews with men of every rank and file. We developed the plan of delivering the movie in an eight part documentary series. To top it off, we chose to film 30 additional segments on all the Bases and museums in the process so we could create a series of bonus segments on all of the important people, places and things related to the Canadian Forces.

As a visual reference, I had considered the seemingly simplistic and honest approach that the documentary filmmaker Ken Burns takes with his American legacy film projects like The Civil War, The War, Baseball and other movies like that. I had



seen the Band of Brothers just before meeting the 37 year-old proud Airborne veteran, Captain (ret'd) Bill Dickson, and was characteristically overly-optimistic in my approach. Since the story was already there, it would be a simple process, right? Wrong. Dead wrong.

Boy did I learn a thing or two. Bill was the first one to suggest that I "slow my roll", so to speak, when it came to thinking that we could complete the project in a year. Of course, he speaks in his unique Airborne parlance which would be more like Walter Matthau talking to Tony Randall - tolerating Tony Randall and all his many eccentricities. This powerful analogy speaks to the differences we have in how we communicate, think, and deal with things. There are more differences in fact between civilians and soldiers. Soldiers carry themselves

differently. It would take us into the fourth year on this project before I started to get my mind around how different we were, and yet somehow I would be slowly welcomed into their brotherhood.

Strangely enough, our combination worked. Bill's methodical career soldier approach mixed with my analytical production style and somehow produced a good result.

So by the middle of 2011, we decided to expand the scope of the movie series and through that decision, things seemed to fall in place. The eight parts of the movie series would be; WWII Normandy, WWII Varsity, WWII FSSF, Korea, The Cold War, Cyprus, Somalia and Afghanistan. I'd have to repurpose all the back-story I had written on the invention of the parachute and the future of the para-role into their own separate movies for the bonus DVD. The eight movies will each feature interviews with soldiers and veterans from their respective time periods. The stories would be from first hand accountings and war diaries. The archive footage and video will be all period and accurate. All the scripts will be vetted and approved by our advisory committees of soldiers and veterans. The artwork is and has always been faithfully and meticulously original usually utilizing real soldiers and overseen by uniform consultant Rob Patterson.

Due to the success of the military segments that we have produced and posted on our website, we've managed to begin talks with a broadcaster and, starting in February of 2012, our Battle Scars TV series will be airing on Shaw TV.

Failure and giving up has never been an option for us and really, we are just too dumb or too stubborn to quit. Speaking for myself, I'd say it was both. We hope to see you in 2012. Follow the blog at www.paratroopers.ca

2012 AIRBORNE MONUMENT CEREMONY (SIFLEUR FALLS)

It seems like it was only a short time ago we were planning "again" for our annual ceremony at the

Airborne Monument, Siffleur Falls Staging Area!
Guess what...we are doing it again!

Last year we broke tradition and held the parade ceremony on the 5th of June. Not so this year as we revert to our usual format of having the event from the 5 – 7th June...with the parade ceremony on the 6th of June as it should be. Detailed information on the actual ceremony will be posted prior to the event. Additionally, plans are in progress to have acknowledgement in honour of Fred Topham at the bridge on the 6th June.



The basic format for the event then has not changed. We will gather and centre on the David Thompson Resort where our hosts, the Killick's have once again kept the rates for the package deal unchanged! I'll repeat here the information that was in our February 2011 Newsletter:

"Package deal consists of two nights accommodation, the meet 'n' greet on the 5th, the

breakfast, lunch and steak BBQ on the 6th, and departure breakfast on the 7th. The cost for two people is \$424.68 (Cdn) tax, gratuities included. Cost for one person in the motel is \$332.24 with tax and gratuities included.

For those of you who are booking RV or tent locations at the Resort please call the DTR for rates and information, 1-888-810-2103 or e-mail info@davidthompsonresort.com

Of course, anyone with any questions about accommodation, etc, at the DTR can use this contact information."

So that's it for this year! We hope to see you all there. Remember it is now up to us to carry the torch in honour of those para's that went before us!

Also, keep in mind the plans for 2013 for the 45th Anniversary Reunion of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Edmonton will include the 6th June Ceremony at the Airborne Monument. While separate events, it will make for a great opportunity for us to look forward to having a full week of Airborne activity together!

Bill Dickson
Coordinator, Airborne Monument Ceremony

AIRBORNE REUNION 2013 (EDMONTON)

2013 will mark the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Airborne Regiment and as such the Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) is in the process of planning a Reunion to be held at the Air Museum Edmonton during 7, 8 and 9 June 2013. The Reunion will follow the Annual D-Day Ceremony at the Airborne Monument, Siffleur Falls.

Mark your calendars as more details will be announced once finalization of initial plans are put into place.

CYPRUS TOUE - MAY 2012

NEW WEST Travel has put together a tour of Cyprus with the intent to get as many former

soldiers who did a tour of duty on the island. The proposed dates would be early May 2012. The Social Club has no direct involvement how are providing contact information in event there is interests from our membership.

For those interested contact:

Kari-Lynn Thiel, Travel Consultant
NEW-WEST Travel and Cruises
Oakwood Towers
Suite 102, 10150-117 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5X 1X3
Phone; 780-432-7446 / Toll Free; 1-800-661-7281
/ Fax; 780-432-1387
E: www.newwesttravel.com (or)
karilynn-newwest@shawbiz.ca
A LITTLE HUMOUR

The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands. The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path." "Gentlemen,

remember you're in this together. It would not hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both." The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

Brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it? This kind of sensitivity just cannot be taught.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

The Club welcomes airborne stories and original contributions to our newsletter, particularly articles accompanied by photographs or artwork. Articles may be submitted to me at dr.paris@shaw.ca or postal to the Club Secretary. Please ensure that you title it "Newsletter". Published for and/with your cooperation and support, Dave Paris.

AIRBORNE SOCIAL CLUB
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
MILITARY / FORMER MEMBER

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAMES: _____

SPOUSE NAME: _____

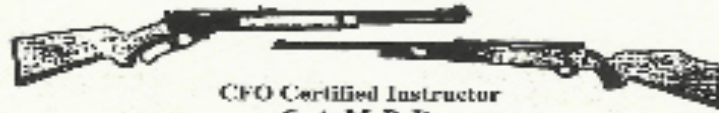
ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ TEL: _____

AIRBORNE UNITS (SERVED IN):

UNIT	DATES

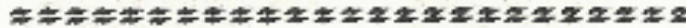
FIREARM SAFETY COURSES & CHALLENGES



CFO Certified Instructor
C. A. M. B. D.
Free Family & Group Seminars
Edmonton Fish & Game Association

Ken Lyons

Ph (780) 478-7821



P&C ELECTRICAL
SERVICES LTD.

COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL & MAINTENANCE

PIERRE JM RACINE, CD1, C.P.S.M.
OWNER/PROJECT MANAGER

PHONE: 780-418-1139 CELL: 780-231-5157
FAX: 780-651-8297 (E: PIERRE@PCELECTRICAL.CA)

WWW.PCELECTRICAL.CA

PRUD MEMBER OF THE ST. ALBERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jan A. Nicol

Barrister & Solicitor

127 Seneca Road
Sherwood Park, AB.
Canada, T8A 4G6

Bus: (780) 467-3342
Res: (780) 467-8899
Fax: (780) 464-4586

e-mail: nicoljan@connect.ab.ca

TAILGUNNER MILITARIA

BILL DICKSON
Tel: (780) 459-6215
Email: abn339@shaw.ca

PO Box 414
St. Albert, AB
T8N 7A2

