



**AIRBORNE SOCIAL CLUB
NORTHTOWN PO, BOX 71034
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EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5E 6J8**



2021

As I get this publication ready I look back over the Club's activities during the past almost two years, which as the result of COVID was virtually at a standstill until restrictions were lifted to where they are today. In an effort to get back to some sense of normal, the club this past June began once again undertaking activities. The annual D-Day Memorial Ceremony was held at Siffleur Falls, albeit keeping the requirement to mask and maintaining social distancing; and for the first time in many years did not have a historical group photo taken. In September the first social gathering in almost two years was held with a good turnout. Even though these events took place, COVID was always a deterrent and many of our members were reluctant to participate.

This time of year invokes many memories which can get us thinking of "what we could or should have done over the past year". It also gets us thinking of family and friends who may no longer be with us to share the festive with. Even though they may not be with us in person we can remember the times when they shared the love and joy with us, and for that we should have gratitude for those we have today. My gratitude brings me back to two pieces I once came across, which I share here:

Gratitude...No matter the time of year, it is always a season for gratitude, always the right moment to tell people that we appreciate the things that they have done, and all that they are. Christmas is a time when our gratitude is even more present and more profound. As we look back on the year that has been, we should be filled with appreciation, not just for the delights that come wrapped, but for the things we receive every day. This is the time to cherish both the giver and the gift, for they may not always be with us.

Family...This is the time to remember family, be they blood connected or simply as a result of our associations and friendships, have become family. For many of us who served or are serving our families are the people we have built our lives around, the people who know us inside and out and still love us just the same. They're the ones who remind us that wherever we are, however old we are, we need those around us who feel like home.

This season I hope you take a moment to reflect on the old memories and look forward to building new ones. Send a word of appreciation, make that telephone call you often thought about doing, share a favorite photograph, and find new ways to show your love, as the family we have become to each other.

OPERATION BOXTOP 22 - REMEMBERED

On October 30th 1991, at approximately 1630 hrs, during OP BOXTOP's biannual resupply mission to CFS Alert, flight 22, a CC130 Hercules from 435 Transport and Search and Rescue Squadron from Edmonton, with 18 persons including passengers and flight crew with 3400 litres of diesel fuel, crashed on final approach.



The rescue mission was considered the largest and most difficult in the Canadian Forces history, included aircraft and Search and Rescue teams from Edmonton, Greenwood and Trenton.

The MAIJAID team from CABC in Griesbach was called out and deployed, as far as I know for the first and only time that the MAIJAID was deployed on an actual rescue mission. At approximately 1700 hrs, MWO Gilby my CSM at ADTC called me and told me that this was not a drill. Members of CABC consisted of myself, Capt Peary, MWO Fred Martin, WO Mike Lacharité, Sgt's Brian Toupin and Mike Perkins were also called for deployment.

In our plane we had two pallets to be dropped with us, one rigged with an Argo (8 wheeled ATV), the second with large wooden crates, containing survival equipment of food, water, tents, sleeping bags, parkas and winter clothing, heaters, stoves, generators, gasoline, and other miscellaneous tools and equipment. We, the paratroopers would be providing the manpower and support, to set up a small camp, while the SAR techs would take care of the injured.

Although we didn't Jump, due to a blizzard and high winds, we spent many hours flying race tracks around the crash site. I never realized, how many people and aircrafts were involved in the rescue operation until I read the book. A made for TV movie was also made.



A photo of me receiving the the Airforce Transport Group Commander's Commendation for our part in the mission.

Being involved in support of the training of pilots and crews, with TAL schools some of us were aquatinted with 2 of the victims of this tragedy, Pilot, Capt John Couch and Loadmaster. MCpl Roland Pitre, may they both RIP.

Alex Diaz - Airborne Social Club Member

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



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

MARCEL HENRY GREYEYES
APRIL 3, 1942 - SEPTEMBER 21, 2021



Marcel, of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation passed into the glory of his eternal home on Tuesday, September 2, 2021 and is now in the arms of Jesus.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Doris; children: Grant (Corina), Shawna (Danny),

Melodie (Gavin); 9 grandchildren: Jamiee, Murray, Yiko, Nipin, Sean, Cheyenne, Benjamin, Jazmin, and Janaya; 3 great-grandchildren: Frankie, Freddie, and Kevin; his brothers, George and Armand; sisters: Sister Cecile and Marie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Waiting to welcome Marcel are his parents, George and Josephine Greyeyes; his son Marcel Joseph; siblings: Harold, Albert, Helen, Bob, and David.

Marcel served for 26 years in the Canadian Military, serving in Edmonton, Chilliwack, Moose Jaw, Comox, and West Germany. Throughout his career, he played on every sports team and excelled in them all, both in Canada and in Europe.



His first year playing golf, at the age of 24, he brought home the championship trophy at the Chilliwack Open. He was honored with the Tom Longboat Award in 1964 and received numerous other trophies and awards throughout his lifetime. Although he was recognized in all sports, to the day he left, he

would humbly remark, "I was just an average player."

Marcel was a devoted husband and Dad who provided everything so we could experience a beautiful life. We camped and traveled throughout Canada and Europe and enjoyed family ski trips and gatherings. He was a proud Mosom, delighting in his grandchildren's love and achievements, and cherishing their many visits. In his final days, he blessed all his loved ones, each in turn, as he encouraged and spoke lovingly of their future. His thoughts were always on the grandchildren and their well-being.

Marcel touched the hearts of many and will be fondly remembered. He was a man of integrity who was kind and compassionate, a beautiful soul. We have so many wonderful memories that we will cherish forever.

Marcel's service was livestreamed, see: [Obituary of Marcel Henry Greeyes | Funk's Funeral Home \(funksfuneralhome.ca\)](#)

**IN MEMORY 1ST CANADIAN PARACHUTE
BATTALION MEMBER**



LUCIEN (LOU) JACQUES LAMY
JANUARY 3, 1925 - OCTOBER 17, 2021



Over the years members of the Airborne Brotherhood, in particular the Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) has had the pleasure of



meeting a legacy paratrooper, Lou Lamy. During these times Lou had always been willing to speak to the paratrooper that came after his time. He was always eager and willing to pass on his experience as a 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion paratrooper who jumped into battle during WWII.

Lou truly was a remarkable man who promoted the airborne heritage with attending many of our activities and memorials, especially the Annual D-Day Commemoration at Siffleur Falls, Alberta. Lou was someone many of us looked forward to seeing and talking too at these occasions.

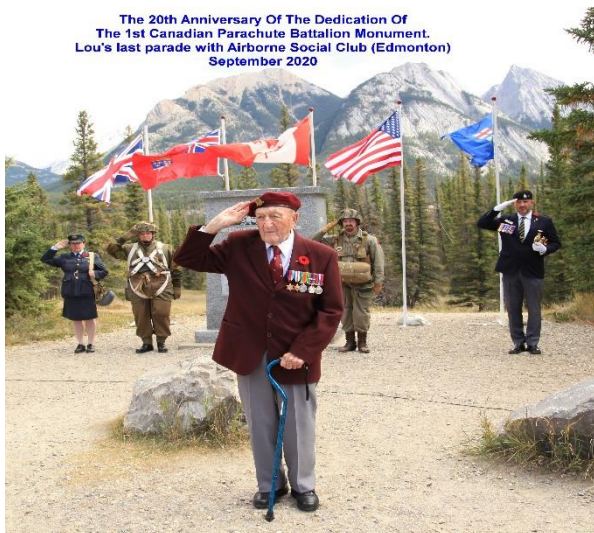
A soft spoken, mild manner man who, when asked to honour us by taking the salute or to laying a wreath, would with pride.

Regretfully, the next D-Day Ceremony Lou will not be with us in person, however, I know his love of “his paratroopers” gone before him and those of us he has left behind will there in spirit.

Lou was born and raised in St. Rose du Lac, Manitoba. The eldest of 3 sons, he had fond memories of his childhood on the homestead. He loved animals, especially horses, and was a hard worker right from the start, often trapping animals to sell on his way to and from school.

In October 1943, Lou joined the army as he had finished all the fieldwork on the farm as a hired hand and there were no other jobs available. He very quickly moved on to train as a paratrooper, eventually heading overseas to fight courageous battles in WW2. He parachuted into Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944 and on Christmas Day 1944 the battalion was ferried to Belgium to fight in the Ardennes Battle of the Bulge in the perishing cold. On March 24, 1945 during Operation Varsity, his battalion parachuted across the Rhine River into Germany.

The 20th Anniversary Of The Dedication Of The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Monument. Lou's last parade with Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) September 2020



A Celebration of Life for Lou was held in Calgary, October 16th 2021; several Club and soldiers from Para Coy, 3PPCLI attended.

THE SAD SAGA AT SIFFLEUR

This story began quite a while ago!

In November 2020, Bill Johnston and I were working the Legion Poppy Campaign at the St. Albert COSTCO store. It was quite common for people donating funds to get into conversations with us, and so it was with a retired EPS member. Recognizing we were both retired Airborne veterans, he commented on the fact he had visited the Airborne Monument at Siffleur Falls and what a fantastic monument and wonderful setting it presented. What he did not understand though, was “why did they build a crapper” so close to the monument!

Wow! You know in all the years we have been involved with our ceremonies at Siffleur I never ever connected with that observation. Must be the fact I am always too busy with ceremony details and the MC task! Later that day in our discussions about that comment we said, well, why do not we see if our Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) contacts could get the crapper facility (WC) moved to the other side of the parking area. Logical, say what! In early December 2020, I contacted our colleagues in Rocky Mountain House Division to see, what would be the chance of success if a request were forwarded to have the WC facility moved to the other side of the parking lot. And, if it were possible how would we go about making the request, to whom and through what channels. Anyway, it was considered an unusual request, but it got passed up the line to staff currently in a position to consider such a request. Wait out!

In mid-January 2021, we were made aware that AB Parks planners were working on a project to expand the Siffleur Parking lot to the east of its present location. And in the plans, **quote** “*based on our suggestion, they have drafted up a location for the washroom further away from the monument,*” **unquote**. While in the preliminary stages for action, this was certainly great news.

Fast forward to the 2021 D-Day ceremony in June. Work on expanding the parking lot to the east had begun, but the old WC was still in its original place. What was clear to those of us attending the ceremony, was the fact that under this parking lot expansion project, **there was**

ample room to move the WC to a new location far away from the monument. The future aspect of this happening was encouraging, to say the least. Hope reigns eternal!

And so, it was later in August, I spent a couple of days at the David Thompson Resort to unwind in the environs I have come to love over the past 25 years. Needless to say, during the stay I would go out and visit the 1 Can Para Cairn (Airborne Monument) at Siffleur. The parking lot expansion and project of moving the WC and waste facilities had been completed. Sadly, from what I considered a promise to move these facilities “away” from the monument didn’t happen; **instead, they moved them closer to the monument.** Needless to say, I was extremely disappointed. I could not believe what I was seeing, nor could I believe that anyone in this government department understood the significance of the monument, and its location, and would build a new WC and waste facilities so close to the monument. I had visions of a portable toilet next to the War Memorial in Ottawa, so people could relieve themselves, while attending the November 11th ceremonies! And pig’s fly!

So, what to do now? Within our midst, there was an agreement that placement of both the vault toilet building and waste bins should certainly have been moved away from the monument, given there was an option to do so. There was also doubt there would be much appetite now to move the toilet building again. The picture speaks for itself.



After discussion with a few senior club members, in early October I decided to lean on some political influence for action. I drafted a lengthy brief related to the development and significance of all the military features now located in the Siffleur Falls Staging Area, with an emphasis suggesting the new WC and waste bins needed to be moved further away from the monument. It was meant for the Minister of AEP.

The information was passed (I was told) to the Minister's office, which also requested a follow up meeting with our MLA contact, myself and the Minister. A nice gesture, but I really did not expect that to happen. On October the 21st I sent a tracer to see if anything was moving forward with our request and the information brief provided. It bounced around a couple of department offices in typical fashion per government action, and finally ended up with the Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Environment & Parks (MEP).

A lengthy phone call discussion ensued on October 28th where I had to explain the scenario covered in the brief again. Messages followed advising me they were "following up with the department and would keep me in the loop as they try to get this bathroom removed." This was at least encouraging news!

It did not take long for their department to decide on our request, and on November 1st I was informed; ***"the reason the washroom facilities could not be relocated is because the new washrooms are permanent, concrete structures with concrete underground vaults, so it is not possible to move them."*** That was followed by the statement that advised us, "the department however was prepared to move the monument in the spring"!

I was not really sure I heard that right! Needless to say, a flash message back to the department made it abundantly clear, ***"we had no interest, nor do we support any suggestion that proposes a move of the 1 Can Para Bn Cairn (Airborne Monument) from its present location."***

And so, if the toilet facility cannot be moved now to a more suitable location away from the monument "so be it", we have to live with this

decision. However, we did stand by our request to have the waste facilities moved away from the monument. On the November 10th, I received a message stating, "the move (waste facilities) had been completed." We will confirm that fact next June!

And so ended the exercise.

I know you are encouraged, as I am to know that MEP Planning Department offered to move the "Airborne Monument" away from the WC next spring. Is not that amazing, we'll move a National War Memorial, in lieu of a shit house!

I guess we should not expect more from Provincial Bureaucrats. It certainly does not say much for the respect of our war dead!

The Sad Saga at Siffleur should not have happened. It did not need to happen! R.I.P.

Bill Dickson
D-Day Ceremony Coord/MC
Siffleur Falls Staging Area

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

With COVID restrictions being somewhat lifted the club held an annual Christmas Party at the Eagles Club, St Albert on December 11th. A good crowd was in attendance and love was in the air.



A big thanks to Michelle Laframboise and her helpers for organizing and putting on a great function that included a silent auction, door prizes, good food, live music and dancing.



We even had Elf show-up and wish Ollie a very happy birthday.



Club President Michel Crepeau with 50/50 ticket draw winner Marge Bailey



Those in attendance check their tickets as the 50/50 ticket number is announced.



Thanks to donations from club members and others, there was a vast variety of items for the silent auction.

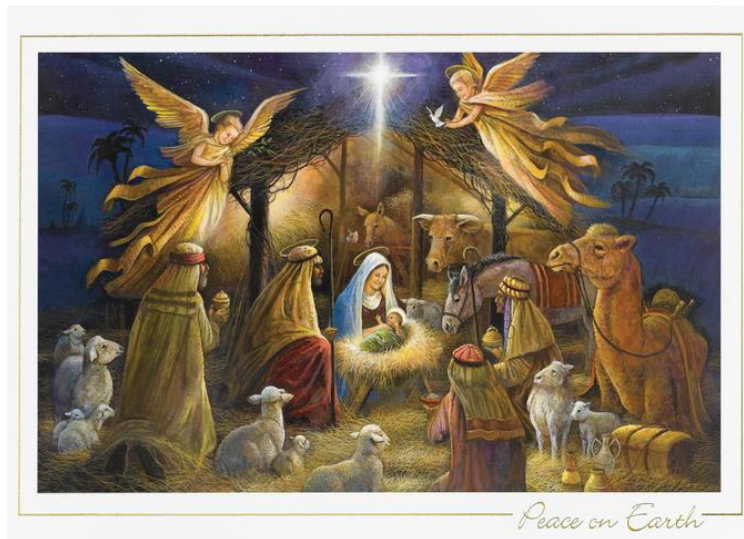
HUMOUR CORNER

Vaccine Warning...This happened yesterday and is important information for our age group.

A friend had his booster dose of the vaccine at the vaccination center after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home.

When he got home, he called the vaccination center for advice about seeing a doctor, or be hospitalized. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination center immediately, and pick up his glasses.

*Personal best wishes to you and your families from our household to yours.
Let's continue to remember the true meaning of this time of year,
"family, friends and loved ones".*



Dave & Marty