

THE TRUMPETER

REUNION SPECIAL



Non Nobis Sed Patriae

April 2007 – The men in the photo would like to meet you at the Annual Reunion which will take place at the Armoury on June 2, 2007



Sitting in the front row; starting from left - Dunc Munro, Saul White, Colin Martin and Hyman Zweig. Back row we have our President, Alan Canavan, Huntley Wilson, Ray Johnson, Oscar Costin, Steve Barrette, Gilbert Hetu, Treasurer Ken Hawkhurst, Curator Don Greene, Stan Highway, and Gordon Weekes. **Most of the men in the photo attend the Coffee Break at Picasso's on the last Thursday of the month. We would love to see others join the group.**

We would love to receive notes from members who can't attend, we will read these notes at the reunion. Send notes to Alan Canavan at 53 Thurlow Road, Hampstead, QC H3X 3G8



ANNUAL REUNION JUNE 2ND, 2007 AT THE ARMOURY ON COTE DES NEIGES ROAD.

It would be so nice to see as many Veterans show up for the Annual Reunion. Beauty fill the Officer's Mess when we add wives, and widows to the mix. This would be a great year to invite son's, daughter's and grandchildren to our classy event. June of course is a great month to be in Montreal. Our Curator Don Greene informed me that the Museum will be open from 11.00 a.m. Visitors are welcome. So many new "Memorabilia/Artifacts" have been added to the museum and what better way to introduce your family than to show off your Museum. ***We sit for dinner at 1.00 p.m.*** Choice this year is Chicken & Roast Beef. It's important to note that younger members of the hussars are joining the Association and we hope to see them as well at the reunion.

Cost this year – Members+ Spouse \$25.00 and Guest's \$35.00

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The date is set for **May 8th, 2007** at the Armoury on Cote des Neiges Road – The purpose of course is to elect a new slate to handle the day to day business. The bar will be open at 1.00 p.m., while the meeting begins at 2.00 p.m. Arrive early and meet your buddies. Although the following names have been submitted , as a member you have the right to propose any member of the Association as a potential candidate for any position. E.J.Wellington submits; Honorary President, ***Lt.Col.C. Lalievre.*** President **Alan Canavan**, 1st. Vice-president **Steve Barrette**, 2nd.Vice-President **Karl Kramell**, Treasurer **Ken Hawkhurst**, Secretary & Membership **Doreen Riley**, Past President, **Ed Wellington**, Editor **Jock Pichette**.

Committee Members; **Dunc Munro, Don Greene, Colin Martin, Leo Cote, Huntley Wilson, Hyman Zweig, Saul White, Alexander Cyr, and Ray Johnson.**

Annual Commerative Ceremony at Pointe Claire, June 3rd, 2007 at the Field of Honour. * Institute Luncheon, every first Friday of the month. * VE Day May 7th, 2007. Membership: - Paid-up & life time members 215, widows 26, with 3 outstanding for a total of 244.

Sick Parade: - Henry Peter Amsden, residence Barileau Mario, St.Leonard,QC, S.Lucas, Bedford Hospital, Bedford,QC, Harold Smith, Parkwood Vet's Hospitals, London,ON., Huntley Wilson, Montreal,QC. Ralph Warren,and Bruce Blandford at St.Anne-de-Bellevue Hospital. ***Last Post:*** - Edmund Gallant, Summerside, P.E.I., John Hickey, New Brunswick.

The executive is contemplating leasing a van to drive members to this years CORN ROAST AT HEMMINGFORD in August. If you are interested in getting a ride, please contact Doreen Riley 1-450-466-2992

Donations: - Doreen and Ken were so pleased with the outpouring of friends who donated recently. Thanks go out to; Vera Young, Alan Davidson, William Thomson, Ray Johnson, Irene Quinn, Donald Thibeault, Norman Yeager, Lorne Stephen, Viola McDonald, Duncan Suttie, Allan Notman, Kenneth Booth, John Taite, Fred McCarthy, Guy Domville, Anthony Kellett, Louis Janits, and Joseph Litko.

Treasurer Ken Hawhurst – Informed the executive that he is pleased with his balance sheet. He reported a net worth of \$ 9,231.68

Did you know – **Ray Johnson, Brossard, QC.** joined the 17th. Royal Canadian Hussars in June 1940. When I enlisted, I was 23 years old, mind you that was 67 years ago, but one can never forget what a person had to go through until you experience it. The Hussars was a reconnaissance Regiment and our job was to locate the enemy and report back of our find. There was an incident that required action - Over one of the dikes, the Germans had built a pill boxes covering the road, our regiment officer decided they have to be taken out, and came to my troop officer and suggested using one of our Anti-Tank guns; this is where I volunteered to use mine. At 4.00 a.m. in the morning we loaded our carrier with shells for my anti-tank gun. I picked two other men to come along. The dike road we were to use was 800 yards away which was perfect but we needed support, so off we went after setting our guns in position. We were ready and waiting for the signal to fire and that order would come to us by radio. We received the ok to fire and shot off 200 shells. I looked through my binoculars and everything appeared quit, to which I signaled my troop officer that my job was complete. I was ordered back to the regiment. The regiment was able to use the road without any further incident. Upon arriving home the Montreal star published names of soldiers who would receive medals for distinguish service; my name appeared in the paper. My wife received a lovely letter from the Belgium military attaché in Ottawa acknowledging her husband's valorous service while in Belgium. Eighteen Montreal soldiers were advised to go to the embassy in the Sun Life Bldg. to be presented the "Croix de Guerre with Palm medal. At that time there were only 20 of us in Quebec to receive this medal.



The photo is of **Doreen Riley** who tried on a Tunic which was donated to the Museum. **Huntley Wilson**, received a nice welcome at our February coffee break. **Oscar Costin** looks great, he still walks at the Cote vertu mall a few times a week. Ray Johnson wins the Half & Half at coffee break. Our dapper **Dunc Munro** and his buddy **Colin Martin** traveled in from the West Island. **Nancy Dunlop** scooted in after a dental appointment with her sister **Doreen**. Great fun was had by all. **Leo Cote** did show up at our last coffee break. Leo is a great friend and he does visit St. Anne-de-Bellevue Hospital almost every Friday. He connects with George Yorgan, Bruce Blandford, and Ralph Warren. Leo tells me that he had an "Eye" operation, and now can see much better

Had a nice conversation with **Randy Phillips, Fredericton, NB**. A former editor of the Trumpeter who misses his buddies since moving to the Maritimes. Randy was with the 2nd. Regiment "B" Squadron. He can be reached at 1-506-454-2228.

Gordon Docking, Cranbrook, BC. Will be sending me some information on WWII, he has a great memory and was involved with Rocky Ryan among others. He is sending me some of his experience by mail. Looking forward to publish some of that data. **Randy Klein** will be attending reunion in June with his Dad and two friends.



Norm and Jack Yeager re-visiting WWII Zone. He sent along a few photos which I will use if space is available in future Trump's. It sounds like they had a great time

The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association (Cavalry) honoured our own Karl Kramell when they elected Karl to **President of the Executive Committee 2007**. President Kramell is Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of The Royal Canadian Hussars Montreal. He brings to the board room a tireless attitude, dedication and efficiency. Another member you will recognize is B.J. Ciarroni. He was elected Vice-President East. Mr. Kramell can be reached at 1-450-247-2545.
E-Mail: - karlheinz009@sympatico.ca

The Association serves as a vital link within the corps between units, serving Regular and Reserve Force personnel, and the large body of retired individuals. Through its Widespread national membership it provides effective contact and liaison with the public at large, with other arms and services and with larger defence community. Newsletters, bulletins, meetings and conferences of varying scope enhance these links.

The following was prepared by Alan Canavan, and we will add chapters in the Trumpeter until the story is fully told.

Camping in World War II - 17th.Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars
7 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment

This is a short history of the various camps that the Regiment stayed at once they arrived in Britain back in 1941. The story is only to awaken memories that were made during our stay in England. When the Regiment left Camp Delbert in Nova Scotia, we boarded a troop train that brought us right to the docking area in Halifax. There we went aboard H.M.T. Stratheden - 25,000 tons. This ship had formerly traveled between Cape town andCairo. It had not been converted to a troopship and it was still

in its normal paint. The "Stratheden" was a P&O liner and still had a few swimming pools aboard! There were incidents that most of us recalled and some of them were Not what you could say was funny. Such things as a lack of hammocks and the fact that this ship served four so called meals per day was somewhat confusing. Aboard with our Regiment were members of the Canadian Scottish Regiment as well as some members of the Regina Rifle Regiment.

There were only three ships in the convoy. These were the "Stratheden", The "Dominion Monarch" and the "Empress of Russia". Off we sailed into the Atlantic Ocean. The Royal Canadian Navy escorted our convoy half way across and then the Royal Navy were to take over. One early morning some of us looked out from the stern of our ship and saw what we thought must be a cruiser because it looked so big. It turned out to be a Tribal class destroyer. We were all quite happy to see this vessel. On the 3rd. of September 1941 our ship arrived in Glasgow, Scotland. We were quite excited to see all the activity in this part of the country. The goods trains looked like model trains as the cars were so small in comparison to the Canadian rail cars. We left our ship and got aboard a long train that evening and we traveled right down the middle of Britain and after a 17 hour trip we arrived in Fleet, Hants. We were put aboard busses that had the windows all painted black. We thought that this was a bit odd? In short order we arrived at the Haig lines near Crookham Cross Roads.

This camp had been constructed for the 1914—1918 war and it gave most of us something to think about. In the hut there were iron beds. The bottom of these beds were divided. In other words the bottom of the bed could be pushed under the upper part. The springs on these steel beds were made out of steel slats. The mattress was an odd cotton shape filled with straw. The other exciting Thing in this camp was the ablution room? There was running water - all of it Cold. Shaving in cold water isn't an east task, but you do get used to it!

When we left Camp Debert on the 23rd. of August we had no idea that by the 3rd. of September we would be in a camp such as this, but we were. There was a lot going on here until we had orders to move out on the 2nd. of December 1941. The next camp was in Horsham. We arrived there on the 2nd. of December and it was raining the green lawns in front of the various houses were suddenly made into the muddiest looking places that anyone could recall. Our stay was thankfully short. We moved on the 6th. of December and went to Paxhil Dene Park just outside Haywards Heath. The entrance into this camp was quite striking. There was a lodge keeper's abode and a gate. You entered and drove up an incline and this curved around to a large house. That was where the officer's were. The rest of us were in Nissen huts that served the purpose. One of the interesting things that had to be done in this camp was that drivers of vehicles had to drain the water out of the radiators of their vehicles. It was felt that frost night freeze the water and then crack the radiators. It wasn't too long before Droper anti—freeze was brought in and we didn't have to empty and refill the vehicles every night.

Christmas and New Year's were also spent in this camp. Up to this point you would think that all we did was move from camp to camp. There was also a great deal of training going on. Another thing that a number of us noticed and that we noticed that every tree had a number painted on it. We scratched our heads on that one until we were told that if we cut down any trees the owners would know what had happened and then charge the Canadian Government! The winter of 1941 was a real cold one in Britain. Snow had fallen just before we left this camp for our next one which was in Petworth. we arrived in Petworth on the 14th. of January 1942.

Our camp was on Lord Leconsfield's property. He had his own deer herd. The numbers of this herd fluctuated quite a bit during our stay. One could quite often hear the sound of a rifle being fired - mostly at night! Our Squadron ever saw any deer meat. It must have been another group?

The officer's were located in the estate house and the rest of us were in the woods. The Leconsfield estate stretched for miles and was walled. The writer visited Petworth House five or six years ago and had this to report. The House is owned by the National Trust and contains a vast number of paintings. Far too many for any one house. Part of the House was being restored. Where our camp was has now been returned to woods. When we were there we brought in truckloads of rubble from London and made proper roads so that our vehicles could get around without getting mired in the mud. It was odd to see a full truckload of rubble just disappear in the mud as it came off the truck. None of this can be seen today. The estate looks very proper and you would never know that Canadians had been stationed there at all. Petworth is a small village located between Midhurst and Pulborough. The nearest railway station was in Pulborough. That's how they got the rubble from London. Not too much happened in Petworth except that during the war a German aircraft dropped a bomb which hit the only school in the village. A few were killed in that raid. Other than that we trained a good deal while in this area. We stayed in Petworth until about the middle of May. We were notified that we were going on an exercise and so we did. The only thing that was different was the simple fact that we did not return to our camp. Instead, we moved to a new area around Battle. For a full week there were trucks running back and forth picking up bits and pieces of equipment that had been left at Petworth.

CONTACTS: - President Alan Canavan @ 514-486-7187
Secretary & Membership, Doreen Riley @ 450-466-2992
Treasurer, Ken Hawkhurst @ 514-489-9677
Curator, Don Green @ 450-671-4732

Editor: - Jock Pichette, @ 514-504-4399
3055 Delisle, Apt.105, Montreal, QC H4C 3M5

