Randy Klein Tour of Europe 17th Hussars War Diary

In preparing this recap of my recent tour, I had to check some facts with Allan Notman who was kind enough to tell me of some of his wartime experiences. My tour started with the arrival in Brugge, Belgium on May 3rd. There, I visited Canada Square and the memorial at the Canadabrug.

From there, I visited the Leopold Canal where 3rd Division fought long and hard to secure the bridgehead that would ultimately doom the German 64th Division. There is a memorial to the 7th Brigade which includes the 17th Hussars.

An excellent museum in Adegem was next on the list. There is a stained glass window showing all the regiments of the 3rd Division. Located near the museum is the Canada War Cemetery at Adegem. I believe Colonel Lewis, who led the 17th from D-Day is buried there. My father spoke very highly of his commanding officer.

Leaving the Adegem area for a tour of an excellent museum in Knokke-Heist. The name of the museum is appropriately titled "For Freedom "and features Canadian and British artefacts from the war.

There, I took photos of a Buffalo and a Staghound Armoured Car. The former led to the name attached to the 3rd Division which was "Water Rats". The latter was, I believe, one of the armoured cars used by the 17th.

After a tour of Arnhem and a Bridge Too Far, I headed to the start line for Operation Veritable which is marked by a stainless steel cairn on the Wylerbaan between Wyler and Groesbeek. It was during Operation Veritable that the 17th Hussars lost one of their best officers, Lt. Don Ayer MC.

Next, a visit to the cemetery in Groesbeek where 2590 Canadians lie in rest. The following day we drove to the German Cemetery at Ysselsteyn. Here, over 32,500 Germans are buried. As one Veteran told me "Randy, the purpose of that war was to build as many cemeteries as possible and fill them with as many Germans as possible". Having visited numerous WW2 cemeteries, I was still amazed at the sheer number of black crosses.

The rest of the trip involved seeing some of the villages, towns and farms cleared of German troops by the 17th Hussars. I tried to follow the war diary as best as possible. Each town is pretty unremarkable but because of the access to a main road, each was very important. Photos are attached of the entrance to Nieweschans and Bellingwolde, both captured by the 17th Hussars in April 1945.

I had a request from an internet buddy to see if I could get details on the loss of his uncle, Cpl D. Morrison. He along with Sgt. H. Dabbs was the last two men of the 17th Hussars to lose their lives during WW2. Both killed on May 4th, 1945, the day before the end of war. Our own Colin Martin, some years back, confirmed that Morrison was killed by a sniper at the entrance to the Ems – Jade canal.

Next, Groningen in the north of Holland. On the city hall is the plaque commemorating the liberation of the city by Canadian forces.

I tried to concentrate on the 17th Hussars but as Allan had mentioned, the 17th was, on occasion, 20 miles ahead of the rest of the Division. And, during many of the battles, were assigned to infantry brigades. Both of which leads me to the conclusion that the regiment did not receive enough recognition for their contribution during WW2.

LOST TRAILS

Unfortunately, we have lost contact with some members, if you know of or if you have contact with any of the members listed below, please have them contact us via mail or e-mail;

Stanley N. Carroll	Gordon E. Docking	John F. Lewis	John F. McGowan
Stewart McKeown	Arthur L. Talbot	Mrs. Magdelene Wright	

RCH Association
4185 Cote des Neiges Rd
Montreal, Québec. H3H 1N2
Attn: Membership
Isabelle.chatillon@forces.gc.ca

WEBSITE DENIS GILBERT WWW.RCH.CA

Bonjour, vous avez peut-être eu dernièrement l'occasion de visiter votre site web et de consulter les nouvelles pages de l'Association du RCH. Si ce n'est pas le cas, je vous y invite.
Vous y retrouverez une liste d'événements à venir, de nouveaux albums photos et, récemment ajoutée, une page nommée ''In Memoriam'' pour rendre hommage à nos compagnons disparus.
Ceux qui désirent connaître un peu plus nos anciens adjudants-chefs peuvent admirer leurs photos sous l'onglet Histoire. Bonne visite et n'hésitez pas à faire part au comité de vos suggestions.

Good day, you might have had the occasion to visit the regimental Web Site to consult the new association page. If this is not the case, then I invite you to do so. You will discover a list of association events, new photo album's and recently added, ''In Memoriam'' page to honour our lost friends.
For members interested to know a little more about our former leaders, pictures of past RSM's have been added. Enjoy you visit and do not hesitated to send your suggestions to the committee.

IMPORTANT DATES

28th June Breakfast at PJ's Pub @ 09H30 AM

26th July Breakfast at PJ's Pub @ 09H30 AM

25th August Annual Corn Roast Regimental Pic-Nic at Hemmingford Legion Branch 244 @ 11h00 AM
Please contact Karl Kramell at 450-247-2545 if you would like to attend.

30th August Breakfast at PJ's Pub @ 09H30 AM

15th September Regimental Cavalry Ball Parade followed by The Ball at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel
Please contact Sgt Steven Barrette at 514-496-2021 ext: 231 if you would like to attend

27th September Breakfast at PJ's Pub @ 09H30 AM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEE CONTACT NUMBERS

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LAST POST

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Julien Benbow May 18th 2012

Julien died peacefully at age 94, in Oakville after a brief illness. He was a devoted husband to the late Rosalind (nee Goodisson) and the late Audrey (nee Hollis). He was a loving father to Catherine (Benbow Plewes), the late Jonathan, Michael (Laurie), Sandra (Laurie) and Deirdre (Laurie- Beaumont), and wonderful grandfather to nine grandchildren. Julian served in World War II with the British Army before coming to Canada in 1947. He lived in Montreal where he raised his family, had a career in advertising with the Robert Simpson Company, and was Commanding Officer of the 17th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars. Julian and Audrey retired to Kingston, where painting and golf became his passions. His wisdom, wit and his kind, gentle and generous spirit will be missed by his friends and family. His many and varied artistic talents have inspired us all.

Jack Hunting May 19th 2012

At home, in the company of his family, Jack passed away peacefully.
Born in Trois-Rivières, he moved to Montreal as a young boy. Jack was a proud Canadian WW II veteran, serving overseas from 1940 to 1945 with the 17th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars. Jack married Carmen (Crumback) in 1948 and together they raised three children in Montreal. He enjoyed his working career as a manager with The Royal Bank of Canada. In 1980, Jack retired to Martintown, South Glengarry, Ontario. Jack will be greatly missed by Carmen, his beloved wife of sixty- four years, and their family. He was a devoted father and father-in-law to Sharon and Michael Moffatt, Susan and Bob White, John Hunting and Leanne Dyer; an adoring Grand- Jack to Julian (Teri), Adrian and Dana (Hayley) Moffatt and to Alex (Anna), Maerin and Annie Hunting. Jack will also be missed by his great-grandchildren Kyleigh, Katelin and Elizabeth Moffatt. Jack was predeceased by his sisters, Isabelle Hunting and Joan White, and his niece, Louise Holubek. Jack was also a loving uncle to Barbara and Frances Holubek and to Lesley, Vivian and Ellen White. Jack was an active member of the Glengarry Historical Society, the Williamstown Horticultural Society and the Martintown Community Centre. He volunteered with the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cornwall General Hospital and Meals on Wheels. Jack enjoyed the company of his good friends at the Martintown Good Timers bridge club. The loving support of family and friends has been greatly appreciated.

Cyril R Martin June 12th 2012

At Sainte-Anne Hospital, on June 12, at the age of 91, Husband of the late Margaret Davies. He is survived by his son Stephen (Fran), his grandson Christopher (Jenny) and his beloved companion Skipper. He was a D-Day survivor and proud member of the 17th Royal Canadian Hussars.

REGIMENTAL CAVALRY BALL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH 2012

Tickets are avaiable by contacting
Sgt Steven Barrette or Sgt Sam Pepin
at the regiment 514-496-2024 local:287
or by e-mail, Steven.barrette@forces.gc.ca

THE ROYAL CANADIAN HUSSARS CAVALRY BALL
SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Dear Sir / Madam,

If there is one military event for your company to sponsor this year, this is the one.

2012 marks the bicentennial year of the War of 1812. On this occasion , The Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston has awarded battle honours to all Canadian military regiments who's lineage goes back to those who fought in that war. The Royal Canadian Hussars is one of those regiments, and will be commemorating and celebrating this historic milestone by hosting a Cavalry Ball.

We are proud to offer you a wonderful opportunity to sponsor our Regimental Cavalry Ball, which will take place on **September 15, 2012** at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal. We are expecting up to 400 attendees of current and former members as well as veterans of the regiment. Among our guests will be representatives from the Department of National Defence and officers from other regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces.

We are offering four levels of sponsorship. A sponsorship by your company would help ensure that the Cavalry Ball is a huge success and would be an excellent opportunity for you to advertise your business.

Your sponsorship options:

Platinum: Any contribution of 1000$ or more in cash or product value.

- Have your company banner displayed in the banquet room.
- Full screen display of your company logo on PowerPoint presentation during sponsor recognition segment of the evening.
- Full page advertising space on the evening's program.
- Opportunity to include promotional item in the participants' welcome kit.
- Specific mention of your contribution by the MC of the evening.

Gold: 800$ (buying a table)

- Full screen display of your company logo on PowerPoint presentation during sponsor recognition segment of the evening.
- Half page advertising space on the evening's program.
- Specific mention of your contribution by the MC of the evening.

Silver: 500$ (or equivalent in product value)

- Your company will appear on the sponsor's list during PowerPoint presentation during sponsor recognition segment of the evening.
- One quarter page advertising space in the evening's program.

Bronze: 100$ (sponsor a soldier or veteran). Or offer a product / gift certificate of 100$ or more in value.

- Your company will be mentioned in the evening's program.

We look forward to your favourable reply. Please do not hesitate to contact Sgt Steven Barrette at 514-496-2021 extension: 231 or at steven.barrette@forces.gc.ca for any further information.

Thank you in advance and best regards.

Steven Dubreuil, CD
Lieutenant – Colonel
Commanding Officer

Madame, Monsieur,

Si votre entreprise ne devait commanditer qu'un seul événement militaire cette année, c'est le **Bicentenaire de la Guerre de 1812** pour laquelle son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston, gouverneur général du Canada, a accordé la distinction « Honneur de bataille » à tous les régiments militaires qui possèdent une filiation avec ceux qui ont combattu durant cette guerre. The Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) qui compte parmi ces régiments commémorera et célébrera cet important événement historique en présentant un Bal de la cavalerie.

C'est avec fierté que nous vous offrons une merveilleuse occasion de commanditer notre Bal de la cavalerie qui aura lieu le **15 septembre 2012** au prestigieux hôtel Le Reine Elizabeth de Montréal. Nous attendons plus de 400 membres actuels et anciens ainsi que des vétérans du régiment. Notre gamme d'invités comptera des représentants de la Défense nationale ainsi que des officiers des Forces armées canadiennes.

Une commandite de votre entreprise contribuera à faire du Bal de la cavalerie un énorme succès et s'avérera pour vous une excellente occasion de promotion d'affaires.

Voici les quatre niveaux :

Platine : 1**000 $ de contribution et plus en argent ou un produit de valeur équivalente.**

- Logo de votre entreprise affiché dans la salle de banquet.
- Logo de votre entreprise affiché sur une pleine page d'écran d'une présentation Powerpoint reconnaissant les commanditaires au cours de la soirée.
- Article promotionnel fourni par votre entreprise dans la trousse de bienvenue du participant.
- Mention spécifique de votre contribution par le maître de cérémonie de la soirée.

Or : 800 $ - Achat d'une table

- Logo de votre entreprise affiché sur une pleine page d'écran d'une présentation Powerpoint. reconnaissant les commanditaires au cours de la soirée.
- Demi-page d'annonce publicitaire dans le Programme de la soirée.
- Mention spécifique de votre contribution par le maître de cérémonie de la soirée.
- Une pleine page d'annonce publicitaire dans le Programme de la soirée.

Argent : 500 $ ou produit de valeur équivalente.

- Logo de votre entreprise affiché sur la liste de reconnaissance des commanditaires dans une présentation Powerpoint au cours de la soirée.
- Quart de page d'annonce publicitaire dans le Programme de la soirée.

Bronze : 100 $ (commanditez un soldat ou un vétéran). Ou offrez un produit ou un certificat cadeau de 100 $ ou plus.

- Votre entreprise sera citée dans le Programme de la soirée.

Nous espérons une réponse positive de votre part. Veuillez, svp, communiquer avec Sgt Steven Barrette au numéro 514-496-2021 poste: 231 ou steven.barrette@forces.gc.ca pour tout renseignement additionnel.

Je vous remercie à l'avance et je vous prie de recevoir, Madame, Monsieur, mes salutations distinguées,

The Royal Canadian Hussars Association

Dear fellow Hussars,

It is now time to renew your membership with the RCH Association. A regimental Association plays an essential part in a regiment's life, because it is the link between the past and the present, through its activities which reunite former and active members. These activities such as the annual corn roast, breakfasts at PJ's, Association meetings, the Trumpeter (news letter), are there to promote cohesion and networking.

The association also provides financial support for many of the regimental activities such as the museum, the Troup of Cavalry and the Cavalry ball, etc. Life members may also have special privileges in their respective messes.

If you wish to get involved, the Association is looking for dynamic members or non members to coordinate or help out with its activities. These activities may be writing articles for the Trumpeter (i.e.: a story on the last exercise, a former member, Regimental history, etc.). Organising a wine and cheese, special sporting events, 5 à 7 etc. as long as it is fun and focused on networking and getting members together.

Finally, one of our priorities this year is locating and contacting former members. Help us, spread the word!

Cheers!

L' Association du Royal Canadian Hussars

Cher confrères et consœurs Hussars,

Il est maintenant temps de renouveler votre adhésion à l'Association RCH. Une association régimentaire joue un rôle essentiel dans la vie d'un régiment. Elle crée le lien entre le passé et le présent par le biais de ses activités, visant à réunir membres anciens et actifs. Ces activités telles que : l'épluchette de blé-d'Inde annuelle, les petits déjeuners chez PJ's, les réunions de l'Association, le «Trumpeter » (Bulletin de l'Association), sont là pour promouvoir la cohésion et le réseautage.

L'association fournit également un soutien financier pour de nombreuses activités telles :, le musée, la troupe de cavalerie, un bal régimentaire etc. De plus, les membres à vie peuvent aussi avoir des privilèges spéciaux pour leur Mess respectif.

Si vous souhaitez participer, l'Association est la recherche de membres ou non-membres dynamiques pour coordonner ou aider avec ses activités. Ces activités peuvent être l'organisation d'un vin et fromage, d'écrire des articles pour le Trumpeter (Bulletin) sur des sujets comme le dernier exercice, un ancien membre, histoire du régiment, etc. Cela peut aussi être l'organisation d'un événement sportif, un 5 à 7 etc., le but recherché est de promouvoir le réseautage et la cohésion dans une atmosphère détendue.

Enfin, une de nos priorités cette année, est de localiser et contacter le plus grand nombre possible d'anciens membres. Aidez-nous à atteindre cet objectif, passez le mot!

Au plaisir!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ I wish to apply/renew membership please find my fee enclosed
J'aimerais prendre/renouveler mon adhésion, veuillez trouver ci-joint, ma cotisation:

☐ 15$ for one year
15$ pour une année

☐ Payment for subsequent year
Paiement pour l'année subséquente; _____

☐ I wish to get involved in writing articles, activities etc.
J'aimerais m'impliquer pour l'écriture d'articles, activités etc

☐ I am not interested in maintaining my membership with the association.
Je ne souhaite pas maintenir mon adhésion avec l'association

Suggestions for activities and/or name and contact info of a former member you would like us to reach.

Please confirm your coordinates / S'il vous plait, confirmer vos coordonnées:

Surname, name / Prénom, nom: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

Telephone number / Téléphone: _____

Email / Courriel: _____

Date of service / Période de service: _____

I agree to have my address (specify) published in the RCH Association's Member's Directory.
Je permets à l'Association du RCH de publier mon adresse (préciser) dans le bottin des membres.

☐ Postal / Postale

☐ Email / Courriel

☐ Professional / Professionnelle

You can mail this form with your check to the address below or it can be dropped off at the regimental Orderly room to the attention of RCH Association Membership.

Vous pouvez envoyer ce formulaire avec votre chèque à l'adresse ci-dessous ou le remettre à la salle de rapport régimentaire a l'attention du Adhésions d'Association RCH.

Isabelle Châtillon
Adhesions/ Memberships RCH Association
4185 Côtes-des-Neiges, Montreal Québec, H3H 1X2
http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/rch/AssociationBienvenue.aspx