



# THE BULLETIN

## 1st Hussars Association

London and Sarnia, Ontario

### **Bulletin**

Vol 16, No. 03 (Dec 2016)

[www.first-hussars.ca](http://www.first-hussars.ca)

### **Bulletin Address**

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### **1st Hussars Association**

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Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As the New Year is upon us, we reflect on all the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Association has accomplished over the course of 2016. Here are some highlights:

The Association Constitution & By-Laws were rewritten and approved. This brought us into the 21st century.

Collectively, we raised over \$90,000 for the Boots on the Beach exchange and the Sarnia LAV Monument Project.

The Association helped to host two students from the Westlake Brothers Souvenir Association, who visited the Regiment in late May and early June.

The Sarnia LAV Monument was a huge undertaking. It was the monumental work of our Association members who put this together from start to finish.

The Association participated in fundraising with the Play It Forward Program in Sarnia in which the 149th Battalion Rugby trophy was played for the first time in 81 years.

The Association refurbished the Regimental silver at a cost to the Association of approximately \$3000.00.

The Association saved two memorial tablets of soldiers from Sarnia in World War I. We purchased and moved a display case from Museum London to Sarnia to display the plaques and silver. We also acquired over \$3000.00 worth of military history books to add to the library at RHQ.

The Association made a \$5000.00 donation to support the Cavalry Troop.

The Association film on the "Liberation of Holland" was picked up by the National Film Board to be displayed in schools across Canada. The film was also featured as part of the Forest City Film Festival.

The Association put on a BBQ for the troops who returned from Milcon in August.

The Association conducted their own Remembrance Service at Holy Roller on the first Sunday before Remembrance Day, and it was very well attended.

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The Association continues to run the "Kit Shop" and sells accoutrements and other Regimental items.

The Association made a \$500.00 donation to the #9 Cadet Corps to help them go to Vimy Ridge for the 100th Anniversary celebrations.

The Association continues to provide awards to the top troopers from Sarnia and London.

With the written contributions of Association members, we continue to produce a Bulletin that is published & e-mailed/mailed quarterly. Our online presence is maintained through member updates on Facebook and we continue to maintain the [www.first-hussars.ca](http://www.first-hussars.ca) website.

*(Please note recent website address change)*

The Association continues to run the Museum, and the Museum maintains a high profile in the community by sending speakers to schools and community organizations. We actively participate in many of the city's historical events. Many members of the Association are involved in the 100th Anniversary Vimy Ridge Gala that will be held in London in April 2017.

The Association, with the financial backing of the HCol's, purchased presents for the troops for the annual Christmas Dinner.

The Association continues to attend funerals and visit our members who are ill. We continue to support our veterans.

The Association continues to support the Regiment and the serving Officers and NCM's by attending Mess functions, D-Day celebrations, etc.

Not too bad for a group of volunteers. Special thanks to all of our members for your continued support. Please enjoy this year-end issue of the Bulletin - we are very much looking forward to 2017. Happy New Year!

**Joe Murray**  
*President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Association*



## **Meetings and Events**

Our weekly lunches are held on Thursdays 1200 hrs at the Mocha Shrine Centre, 468 Colborne Street, London.

### **1H Association Meetings**

Dress: Good Casual

#### **SARNIA BRANCH MEETINGS**

Thursday 12 Jan 2017, 1900 hrs

Thursday 9 Feb 2017, 1900 hrs

Thursday 9 Mar 2017, 1900 hrs

Location: Sgt's Mess – George Stirrett Armoury  
574 Confederation St. Sarnia

**Sarnia's meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.**

#### **LONDON BRANCH MEETINGS**

Sunday 12 Feb 2017, 1300 hrs

Sunday 19 Mar 2017, 1300 hrs

Location: Byron/Springbank Legion  
1276 Commissioners Rd. W. London



## In Memoriam

### **Ron Carr**

**14 August 2016, age 87, London Ontario**

Ron served with 1H as a Major. He was a geography and phys. ed teacher at Medway High School for 25 years. Ron was also a long time Legion member, and an avid golfer & curler.

### **Wayne Giberson**

**7 August 2016, age 72, Petrolia Ontario**

Wayne was a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars C Sqn and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #68. He was also an avid volunteer and was a founder of the Bluewater Anglers and the Sarnia chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

### **Ron Lepine**

**12 December 2016, age 84, Pembroke Ontario**

Ron was the RSS WO of the Regiment, and served many years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars during the 70's. If you wanted anything made, sewn or repaired, Ron was the guy to talk to.

### **Ted Paisley**

**16 December 2016, age 91, Petrolia Ontario**

Ted was a Lance Corporal with the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division, and was awarded the French Legion of Honour Medal in 2015. He served alongside the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars in WWII – and knew Hussars close to home: Jim Paisley (Brother) and Ann Wilkinson (Niece).

### **John Tinsley**

**18 August 2016, age 76, Sarnia Ontario**

John was a Major with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars. He developed and participated in the International Observer Program with 4 Wing, Cold Lake AB. John's wife Heather bought a round for the soldiers at the Christmas dinner to toast Maj Tinsley.

### **Gordon Zurbrigg**

**13 Dec 2016, age 104, Stratford Ontario**

Gordon was TQMS with the Regiment from 1939 until 1945. He was the recipient of the French Legion of Honour Medal in 2015.

## Good & Welfare

**Art Boyle** has suffered a nasty fall and broke his femur. He's left his home in Cherryhill to get some good care at Parkwood. Art had his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in November.

**Al Englehart** has been ordered by his current CO to lose some weight for his annual combat ruck march. Al thought he was retired, but the Doctor and his nutritionist have other thoughts. Al is soldiering on.

**Father Frank Leslie** had a complete knee replacement and was still in hospital after a glitch in his recovery – we are hoping he is feeling better now.

**Ron Watts** has left his long-time home of Dorchester, and is now living at Secord Trails in Ingersoll.

## **FYI...**

...The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Association participated in a Defence Review panel with **M.P. Peter Fragiskatos** of London North. Thanks to **Don Bondy, Steven Liggett, Erik Morke, Joe Murray, Pat O'Hagan, Richard Shaftoe, Bruce Stock** and **Chris Thompson** for their input and participation.

...BZ goes out to **Lt Jacob Damstra**, who was called to The Bar by The Law Society of Upper Canada - June 17, 2016.

...**John Mills** was honoured at a Sarnia Stings Hockey game on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mills was piped onto the ice and presented with a certificate of appreciation for his service in WWII. He also enjoyed a free supper and a lifetime pass to all home games.

...Well done and congratulations to **Ron Watts**, who was presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship at a ceremony at the beginning of December.

## **Honorary Appointments of 2016**

**Submitted by Joe Murray**



*Current serving Hussars on parade  
D-Day Weekend - Change of Honorary Colonel  
June 2016.*

2016 brought about many changes in the Regiment. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Regiment's new Honorary Colonel:

**HCol Barry Hogan.**

Honorary Colonel Barry Hogan joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars and was commissioned as an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel at the George Stirrett Armoury, Sarnia, Ontario in December 2012. HLCol Hogan was made responsible for the Sarnia members of the Regiment and the Major George Stirrett Armoury, as they had not yet had an Honorary Colonel living in the City of Sarnia.

HCol Hogan is well known to the City of Sarnia. As the Chair and C.E.O. of Gamble Insurance, he retired after 48 years in the insurance business, and in June of 2015, became more involved in volunteer work with his community. Barry can be found on Fridays helping out at the Inn of the Good Shepherd and he is the current Director of St. Joseph's Health Care Society, London, ON.

He is the past Chair - St. Joseph's Health Care Society, London as well as St. Joseph's Health Centre, Sarnia. In addition, Barry is the past Chair of The Investment Centre Financial, Past Vice Chair - Blue Water Bridge Canada, Past President - Sarnia District Crime Stoppers, Past Director and member of the Sarnia Rotary Club, and he is on the Lambton College Business Advisory Board. HCol Hogan remains steadfast in his commitment to the people of Sarnia-Lambton.

In June of this year, Barry was promoted at London Ontario, to Honorary Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Regiment, for both London and Sarnia. He is married to Marcia Hogan and has eight adult children and thirteen grandchildren. Aside from family activities, Barry is actively involved in sailing, travel, biking and kayaking and spends most winters between Sarnia, London and Florida.



*HCol Barry Hogan – Holy Roller – 5 June 2016.*

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We would also like to extend a welcome to the Regiment's new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel:  
**HLCol Larry Myny.**

Larry G. Myny is Vice President and Senior Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy. For more than 30 years, he has been advising clients and expertly helping them meet their financial objectives. He creates a unique asset mix for each client by strategically choosing quality investment managers, service-oriented mutual fund companies, and blue chip stocks. He has been recognized by his peers as a leader in his field, being named to the President's Club for 28 years and the Chairman's Club for two years within the CIBC Wood Gundy group.

Larry began from a grassroots career base in agriculture and commodity trading before becoming accredited as an investment advisor. Today, decades later, he continues to take a practical, strategic and solid approach on behalf of his clients, assessing the economy and its directions from experience, professional credentials, and his own well-developed world view.

Cont'd -



*LCol Bernie Scheid & HLCol Larry Myny at Installation Ceremony - Sarnia – Dec 2016.*

In his free time, Larry Myny is a generous mentor, a learned business leader, and an active community builder. He is a member of Forest City Community Church, Highland Golf & Country Club and the London Executive Association. He believes strongly in giving back to his community and supports a wide number of charitable groups, health organizations, cultural causes, and sports teams.

We are fortunate to have both HCol Barry Hogan and HLCol Larry Myny as Honorary Colonel and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars. Thank-you for taking on such an important & vital role within the Regiment.

**WWI Battle of Iwuy Information Sought**  
**Submitted by M.R. McNorgan**

I received an e-mail from Michel Lespagnol, a local historian in Iwuy France. Michel and I have been corresponding since the production of the book "More Fighting For Canada" which included a chapter on the October 1918 Battle of Iwuy - the last time that Canadian Cavalry fought on horseback and the first occasion on which Canadian troops faced enemy tanks in action.

Michel is organizing a centennial commemoration for 2018 and is looking for connections with the Canadian regiments that served at Iwuy. I can certainly recommend Michel and his group if any people associated with the Canadian Light Horse wish to examine this fascinating little engagement in greater depth.

Please contact Michel: [michellespagnol@sfr.fr](mailto:michellespagnol@sfr.fr)

**Don Black Memorial Golf Day**

**By Michelle Lundy**



*Hussars ready for the course!  
 Bill McTavish, Terry Mills, Chuck Draper  
 and Don Mills*

The annual Don Black Memorial Golf Day was held on July 24, 2016 at Caradoc Sands in Strathroy. It was a beautiful day on the links and a good round of golf for everyone – especially the winning team.



*The winning team:  
 Roy Bross, Jerry Lindsay,  
 LCol Bernie Scheid  
 and Erik Morke*

*Photo: Naz McLawrence*

Many thanks to Ken Johnson for donating the plaques and Kevin Taylor for looking after the logo golf balls and the trophies.

A special thanks goes out to Wayne & Nola McGregor for organizing the event.

# **1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Museum Report**

**By Steve Liggett**



*Major John Stephens of The Queens Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum has a tour of the 1H Museum with Steve Liggett. Doors Open 2016.*

After a very successful summer & fall, the Museum has been closed for winter, and is once again only open by appointment. We will reopen on Saturdays in April 2017.

There were 301 visitors on Canada Day, the most we have had since moving to our present location. We also took part in Warriors Day at the Western Fair. Mike Steele manned the indoor display at the Progress Building, and MCpl Balicki, Cpl Gamble and Cpl Russell took care of the Regiment's outdoor display.

The Museum was again part of Doors Open London on Saturday 1 October and Sunday 2 October. The Regiment provided a vehicle and personnel for the event, and a newly married couple stopped by and had their photo taken with the soldiers and the G-Wagon. Thanks to the soldiers who participated: Cpl Putherbough, Tpr Rankin & Tpr Wilson-Hodge.

We have received a couple interesting donations in the recent past. An acquaintance of mine, Bea Hamilton, donated a World War I belt decorated with buttons and badges. It is the first one I have seen with items from the United States Army.

Another donation came from George Ingram, a Catholic priest from Detroit. His father was Donald Ingram, who served in the 1st Hussars during World War II. He gave us his father's pay book, service record and a copy of the original regimental history. However, the most interesting gift was a photo album. Mr. Ingram had a camera with him for all of his time in the service. So there are pictures during training at Camp Borden, training in England as well as places he visited there, and finally campaigning in Europe. He was wounded and as a result there is a gap while he was in hospital. He also bought postcards to help illustrate where he had been and what he had seen. Remarkably, when he filed all this material in the album, he arranged it in order and labelled every picture. As a result you know where he is, the date and, if there is anyone in the picture, who they are. It is a truly amazing record of one Hussars' service.

To arrange a visit to the Museum, please call Steven Liggett: 519-455-4533

## **Commemorative Vimy Coins**



Produced by the Vimy Branch 145 of the Royal Canadian Legion, these are a definitive piece of Canadian memorabilia. On 9 April 2017, Canadians will commemorate a defining moment in our history, the centenary anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge.

**Commemorative Vimy Ridge Coin - \$25 each**  
Specs: 45mm x 4, die struck cartridge brass, bronze & 24k gold finish.

Remember these brave Canadians with your purchase of an official Vimy Ridge commemorative coin. The proceeds will benefit Legion programming and projects of the Royal Canadian Legion.

To order, e-mail: [RandyWarden@sympatico.ca](mailto:RandyWarden@sympatico.ca)

## Photo Ops - D-Day Weekend

Photos by J. Greenshields

D-Day weekend this June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> was a remarkable few days for the Regiment. We celebrated the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, the presentation of the Afghanistan Sword, and 160 years of continuous service to Canada. The Regiment said farewell to RSM Phill Warner and welcome to RSM Tim Park. All of this in addition to the change of Honorary Colonels. It was a packed weekend for all involved!



*Official farewell to HCol Maas & official welcome to HCol Hogan.*



*Change of RSM.*



*1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Cavalry Troop on parade.*



*1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Association on parade.*



*Presentation of Afghanistan Sword.*

**Photo Ops:**  
**Regimental Ball – 4 June 2016**



*Regimental Ball 2016 – Delta Armouries, London*



*Ladies of the Ball:*

*Ann Wilkinson, Sheila Dejaegher, Jill Randall  
 Linda Smith, Marjorie Paisley, Dianna Dawson*



*Men of the Ball:*

*Ian Haley, Steve Hearn, Joe Murray*

Please be sure to view the collection of photos taken by Jarrett Spriet and Snapd London here:  
<https://london.snapd.com/event/963135#/>

**Playing It Forward**  
 Submitted by Ron Prior

Sarnia Saints Rugby Club presents  
**The 2016 PLAYING IT FORWARD DINNER & AUCTION**  
 Gateway Room  
 St. Clair Corporate Centre  
 Front Street

ONE PLATE \$40  
 TWO PLATES \$75  
 TABLE OF EIGHT \$280

**JUNE 22 2016**  
 Special Thanks to the 1H Association

All proceeds to the Sarnia Afghan War LAV III Memorial

Cocktails 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm  
 Meal prepared by Sarnia's Celebrity Chef Paresh Thakkar

Live auction begins 8:00 pm  
 Auctioneer services graciously provided by John Stephens

Silent auction closes at 9:45 pm  
 Cash Bar on Site

Attire: Smart casual; Regimental Jackets & Ties welcome

Email: sarniarugbyplayitforward@gmail.com

2016 IS OUR 7th YEAR of PLAYING IT FORWARD within our Community 150

The Sarnia Saints hosted a fundraiser for the Sarnia LAV III Monument. The dinner for the Wednesday night was a sellout within the first two days. However, between the Regiment and Association, we were able to purchase three tables and had an excellent turnout, including Major Al Finney and his wife Nicola, Joe & Nancy Murray, Mike & Colleen Steele, Pat & Danelle O'Hagan and HCol Barry Hogan & Marsha. Myself & Valerie, Ken Johnson & guest, Ron Janus, Ann Wilkinson, D. Anderson and some younger members of the Regiment were also in attendance. I apologize if I have left anyone out. The silent auction items all had bids and were sold along with a number of Saint's Desert CADPAT Jerseys with the LAV III on them.



*Sarnia Saints at the "Playing It Forward" fundraiser games - June 25, 2016.*

Cont'd -

On Saturday afternoon, the Sarnia Saints rugby team played against the Brampton Beavers and were beat 33-27. The Sarnia Saint's Women's rugby team played against the Stratford Blackswans and won 43-7. The Teams were awarded the 100 year old 149th Battalion rugby trophy. As well, the winner received a metal LAV III trophy.



*The 149th Battalion Rugby Trophy*



*HCol Hogan & Steven Liggett with members of the winning Sarnia Saints women's team.*

The Saints were given a replica cavalry sword, and engraved letter opener as a thank-you for the fundraiser. The out of towners Stratford and Brampton were thrilled to be playing to raise money for the Monument.

Everyone had a great time and Chris Groombridge - President of the Sarnia Saints Rugby Club reported that it was the most successful fundraiser that they have had in seven years. He turned over to the LAV III Afghanistan Monument Committee a cheque in the amount of \$10,000. We also received a \$5000 donation from the Mayor and Council of St. Clair Township. Port Lambton was the home of Pte William Cushley, KIA, Afghanistan.

### **Tracking Down a Trophy Case**

Ron Prior had been on the hunt for an antique display case fitting enough for all the trophies that were found and refinished. It was felt that the case should be aged to fit the trophies, some of them going back to 1918 and 1921 for the 149 Battalion and Lambton County Regiments from the First World War.

Ron looked at number of display cases, including the possibility of obtaining one from the demolished St. Patrick's Catholic High School. Ron got lucky when he found an antique oak and glass front, lockable display case for sale on Kijiji for \$500.00. After some lack of communication with the owner, Ron finally tracked him down and advised him that we were very interested in the display case. It was explained who we were and what the display case was going to be used for. A gentleman named Kevin - who was acting on behalf of the owner - turned out to be the Historic Department Curator with Museum London and advised that they had always had a good relationship with the First Hussars. They donated the display case to the Regiment to put in the Major George Stirrett Armouries - free of charge. We would only have to pick it up and transport it.

Ron made some calls and two young fellows with a large moving truck picked up the display case and transported it to the Armoury in Sarnia.

## Cadet Corner

Annual Cadet Summer Training had over 60 of our 1H affiliated Cadets training across Canada and internationally, and many were stand outs. They started their new training year the first week of September. Here are some snapshots from 2016:



Starting in June, LCol Scheid was the RO for the 2563 1H Army Cadet Corps Annual Ceremonial Revue in Petrolia. Also in attendance was 1H 2IC Maj Allan Finney, 1H Association President LCol Joe Murray and Maj Gene Smith. Maj Finney also attended the Annual Ceremonial Revue for the 9 1H Army Cadet Corps held at Beaver Hall.



Both 9 London and 2563 Petrolia 1H Cadet Corps supported the Cadet Guard and members of the pipe band that marched with the Regiment on the D-Day commemoration held in Victoria Park.



Cdt/MWO Jacque Primeau (102 Sarnia) and Cdt/MWO Tanner Bryce (Cdt SSM 2563 Petrolia) both attended the 6 week Leadership & Challenge course run in the Rocky Mountains near Cochrane, Alberta. The course focused on mountain climbing/trekking, glacier, mountain biking and whitewater based training.



Cdt/Sgt Ben Lester (102 Sarnia) attended the 6 week Expedition Instructor run out of Whitehorse, Northwest Territories. The course focused on expedition related training, including an 18 day expedition combining trekking, canoeing and mountain biking.

Cont'd -



Cdt/CWO Buster Thiel (Cdt RSM 9 London) attended the 6 week Outward Bound Scotland Exchange. It primarily focused on infantry based tactical training in Catterick, England and mountain adventure training in the Scottish Highlands. The final week of the exchange included significant WWI battlefield visits in France and Belgium, such as Vimy, Somme and Passchendaele.

LCol Scheid was a guest at the 9 London Christmas dinner held at Victory Legion in London on December 12. He presented the cadets in attendance with a brief outline of the Regiment's 160 year history.

HCol Hogan was a guest at both 102 Sarnia's and 2563 Petrolia's Christmas Dinners, held separately in Sarnia and Petrolia. He presented 2563 Petrolia with their first official Army Cadet Corps Ceremonial Flag, which was recently produced in the U.K. by Newton Newton Flags.



Our 1H affiliated cadets attended the LAV III Afghanistan monument installation in Sarnia in October. Cdt/Cpl Spencer Anderson is pinning the poppy in the photo above. In November, our affiliated cadets took part in many Remembrance Day services and parades throughout Lambton & Middlesex Counties.



The 2563 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Royal Canadian Army Cadets have launched their first website: <http://petroliacadets.com>



## **1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Stalwart Guardian '16**

**Submitted by Lt Hakim Ouzzif**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars participated in yet another year of Stalwart Guardian; an exercise based to test and develop the skills of the soldiers over a two week period. This year consisted of all the reserve armoured recce regiments in 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division being integrated in with the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) in the Meaford training area from 13-26 Aug 16. The First Hussars were attached to B Sqn RCD for the duration of the exercise, spread out amongst all three troops. During the first week of training the main focus was on completing individual battle task standards (IBTS). This included a C7 range, C9 range, pistol range, grenade range, pairs range, and a mounted C6 range. Once that was completed it was time to move out into the field portion, which consisted of a four day exercise with First Hussars being integrated into the B Sqn RCD troops.

The exercise focused on both dismounted and mounted skills. During the dismounted portion, soldiers enhanced their navigation skills by reviewing navigation principles and practiced navigating throughout the training area. They then put their skills to the test by leading and conducting dismounted recces. They also reviewed and conducted vehicle checkpoints, as well as traffic control points, which included the safe search of individuals. They also participated in the construction of mud observation points, which were later used as an example for the entire Sqn. During the mounted portion, the soldiers were employed as either gunners or gibs within the Coyote armoured recce vehicles. They practiced mounted drills, including a VIP escort that involved Honorary Colonel Hogan as the VIP. On the last day of the exercise all three troops linked together to conduct a successful raid on an enemy forward operating base, which concluded the exercise.

After coming out of the field and completing post exercise activities, the RCD was kind enough to invite all of the reserve regiments to the mess for their regimental smoker which included good food, and company. Before we knew it, it was the 26<sup>th</sup> of August and we were headed home. We arrived home to a warm welcome from the CO, Association, and the SM Canteen who had provided us with a smoker of our own, which was greatly appreciated.

### **Photo Ops:** **Reunions**



*Summer 2016*

*Wayne McGregor, Paul Hodgert  
Joe Murray, Erik Morke, Mike Steele  
Photo: Susan Morke*



*First time together in 40 years!  
Steve Hearn, Gary Cambridge, Melanie Hammond,  
Paul Keating*

**Photo Ops:**  
**LAV III Afghanistan Monument**



*Before the concrete is poured.  
Photo: Ron Prior*



*After concrete is added.  
Photo: Ron Prior*



*Placement of LAV on finished concrete pad.  
Photo: Ron Prior*



*Putting it all into place.  
Photo: Ron Prior*



*The official Sarnia-Lambton Afghanistan Monument  
Dedication Ceremony – 30 Oct 2016.  
Photo: Nick Thiel*

**Hussars 2016**

**Photo Ops:**



*Erik Morke, Joe Murray, Ron Nutt, Nick Corrie,  
Bill McTavish and Wayne McGregor*



*The Murray's, The Steele's, The O'Hagan's,  
Ann Wilkinson and Ron Janus*



*LCol Chris Thompson, who works for GDLS in the  
Middle East (Qatar). On the right is Ken Johnson.*



*Bill Chafe, Harvey Gingras, Kevin Garrett,  
and Lee Randall*



*Capt Jay Hancock & son  
1H Remembrance Ceremony  
6 Nov 2016*

## **A Veteran's Story Discovered**

**Submitted by Nick Corrie**

Once in a while through regimental contacts, something occurs which makes a one time Hussar glad for the connection, recently such a treat sprang forth. The following compilation of e-mails will introduce you to 94 year old Russell Phillips of Toronto, a WWII veteran and member of the Association. If I can claim his clarity of mind should I live to this age, I'll consider myself most blessed; at the end of this passage I think you will agree he is unique.

A short introduction on Russell is warranted here: In 1941 Russell joined the Irish Regiment of Canada. Rebadged and renumbered, the infantryman became a "tanker" with the First Hussars where he received training as a loader/wireless operator. This training marked him as a recruit for the Three Rivers Regiment which fought with distinction in Italy. As if that wasn't enough war, the TRR moved to more war in NW Europe. Thus, at war's end he was in the same proximity of all three regiments in which he served, a fabulous record! With some small editing, here is the short engrossing history of Russell Phillips:

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**I am a 94 year old former First Hussar and have meant to send this for some time. I joined the Hussars in 1941 along with a group transferred from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Toronto Irish, we were all posted to C Sqd. and I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> troop for two years. Roy Lilley was the only Troop Sgt. I had at that time. He was the best NCO you could ask for, always put us first in all our training, we couldn't have had a better NCO. I did hear about how he lost his life but was not surprised to hear of the accolades he received. They were well deserved.**

**Also at that time Art Boyle was in C Sqd. and was just a great guy. I kept in touch with Jim Richards after the war and heard all the great things Art did in France and elsewhere. Glad to hear he made 100 years and hope he has many more. He won't remember me but he might remember Jim.**

**Along with several other First Hussars, I was again transferred to the Three Rivers Regiment and sent to Sicily where we were greeted by Col. Booth.**

**He must have heard we were in the group and gave us a warm welcome. The Three Rivers were also a great Regt. and we all fit right in because we had had good instructors for the 2 years we were in England. Col Booth also did well for himself as Brigadier.**

**After Booth left our group, Dick Markham, also a former Hussar, came to give us the latest news. He was with L.A.D. and had gone out to recover knocked out tanks. His news was that the most killed were loader operators. This was of course not the kind of news a newly arrived in combat zone bunch of operators wanted to hear. Terry Kennedy and Jim Armour were picked that night to go to A Sqd. and both survived the war. I stayed in HQ. Sqd. as a radio operator and had some busy times at Ortona and Casino among others.**

**When our group went to Borden in May of 1941, we had all volunteered one night when we were on parade at the Armoury in TO. We were in the Irish Reserves and were nearly all under age to join up. There was also a Company from Aurora who went at the same time. We had "B" numbers but were given "A" numbers when we joined the Hussars, mine was A 714. We all went to C Sqd. and a fairly large group of us took training in radio procedure, in R talk and Morse code both in Borden and in Aldershot in England, and if I do say so myself, we all got damn good at it but I never used the key in all the time I was operating.**

**In Italy, the TRR, Ont. Tank and Calgary Tank were a brigade on their own and worked with different Regiments at different times. We supported the English Indians and any Regt. that needed support. The Irish Regt. was part of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Armoured Division which the Hussars were part of when I was a member. Things changed later but the Irish had their own support and we never saw much action with them.**

**When our group went to Borden, the first one to go in for his medical was under age and when he told the officer this he was immediately told the age he was to be from then on as far as the army was concerned. SSM Smith came out and asked how many were under 19 years of age. Most of us put up our hands and were told to become 19 or more when asked our age. So for the rest of the war I added a year to my age. It was for so long I almost believed it.**

Cont'd -

You wondered about my post war life so I'll give you a little background first and go from there. On my first leave in Feb. '42, I went to visit a family whose address I was given before going over. There was a young girl in the family (16) that got the job of showing me the city. I stayed 2 weeks (that's a whole other story) but she kept in touch with me all through the war and I visited as often as I could, then in Oct. '45 we were married. Following the custom, I came home alone in November.

When I got home none of my friends were home yet and I took a job loading freight cars for the C.N.R. for the Xmas rush. I was still in the army and it filled in time up to Xmas. I was discharged on Jan. 24, 1946, and looked for a job. Most places were not hiring because they had to keep the jobs open until they saw if former workers came back to their jobs. I had one job lined up at Bell until they found out I was married and was told they didn't pay enough for married men. My dad was on the Toronto Fire Dept. and learned the city was going to hire about 250 men for the TFD so I got my name in and started in March, after a week's training I went to a station. Everyone hired came out of the service, from navy and air force and even a couple of WWI vets, so we had lots to talk about. I stayed on the TFD for thirty nine and a half years, made the rank of Captain before I had to retire because of a work related injury in 1986.

My wife had come over in April '46 and we lived with my parents until we bought a house in '53 where I still live today. By that time we had 2 children: a girl born in '46 and a boy in '50. Our children both did well for themselves. My daughter was a school teacher in Toronto having two children and my son was married and found his vocation in insurance and accounting. Unfortunately my wife of 69 years died on December 31, 2014, or Hogmanay as she would have called it. My entire family live nearby and keep an eye on me.

Just a small point of interest: the TFD's War Veterans Assoc. was formed in 1935 of 1<sup>st</sup> WW vets and we all joined in 1946. We meet once a month and now have only 14 members that were in WWII. We still have many associates so we can carry on for awhile. The Assoc. has attended Prospect Cemetery sunrise service on Nov 11 every year since 1935.

I enjoy getting the Bulletin every time although there aren't many names I know now. The Regiment certainly does well. Keep up the good work.

Signed: Tpr Russell Phillips

Postscript: Many of us have read how Sherman tanks brewed up so badly they were euphemistically known as "Ronsons." No doubt Russell witnessed this tragedy too many times and yet, he chose as his life's career – fireman! A gutsy guy is Russell that's my guess. *Lang may yer lum reek!*

A footnote on Col. Booth mentioned above: Brigadier Eric Booth, DSO and Bar, was a serving officer in various cavalry regiments during the 1930s, eventually becoming the 2 I/C of the Hussars. Transferring from the Hussars, he assumed command of the TRR in Italy, Russell's regiment, and eventually became Commander, 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade in NW Europe. On August 14, 1944, while serving in France he was killed, thus affording him the unfortunate distinction of being one of the three highest ranking Canadian officers killed in action in WWII. Also on the same day, Sgt. Roy Lilley, BEM, MiD, Russell's earlier Hussar Troop Sergeant, died with distinction in his tank. Personally, I find it amazing how in such a big, big war one finds so many small coincidences.



***SPECIAL NOTE:** If you as a family member or friend of a former First Hussar veteran and find Russell Phillips' biography interesting, perhaps even inspiring, so much so that you feel compelled to write one of your own, now is your chance. In the coming year as part of the Regiment's expanding museum records, we are beginning to collect all the material you care to send to us. These biographies will be catalogued and made available to the general public on suitable military web sites. Please begin to think about and begin to write the story that only you know and are able to record for future generations.*

Please contact [nick\\_corrie@hotmail.ca](mailto:nick_corrie@hotmail.ca)

## **Call Out The Cavalry!**

**By John C. Leistra, Acting Quartermaster  
1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Cavalry Troop**

I have some time to bring everyone up to date as at the time of this writing some of the "Troopers" of the Caradoc Line are in Kentucky, U.S.A. I am sure that they are practicing cavalry manoeuvres on their trail ride.

Between the events that the Troop is called out to, there are training sessions. Each mounted training session begins after the morning chores are finished. The first order of business is to "catch the horses". Sometimes it goes quickly, and sometimes it can take up to an hour, depending upon the mood of the horse and the size of the field it is in. The next step is to load the horses into trailers and safely transport them to the training area. A warm up for both riders and horses is essential. The saddles, bridles, bits and other equipment checked over for condition and safety. Once the horses have had their saddles fitted, they are walked around to get the air out of them and tighten the saddle girth straps again. Some horses do not like to be saddled and will expand their chests with air and once they are saddled, they release the air and try to slip the saddle off.

Once the sections of four are sorted out, the training begins. Just imagine parade square drills, but using a horse instead of your feet. There is a lot going on between each horse and rider when each command

is given. Forming up and right dressing can be a challenge. Some of the drills are very familiar, as are some of the errors, but it is practice to get it right so that the troop can move efficiently and look smart on formal parades.

Even the trail rides are an exercise for both horse and rider. The "Green Riders" and the horses that they are riding become accustomed to each other and learn to work together as a two member team. As time progresses, each rider and horse grow in confidence and skill. The Troop has slowly been getting me onto one of the horses. Who knows? Maybe this old tanker might just be a late blooming horse soldier.

The search continues for authentic equipment and there has been some initial networking with some of the Wallenstein Mennonite harness shops to source new, high quality bridles and other equipment. It is an unwritten mandate to try and source new equipment from Canadian sources and employ the most qualified craftsmen in that field.

We may not be the Household Cavalry, but someday we hope to make the Regiment proud of the Cavalry Troop by being just as polished in our drills and field craft as they are proven and put into service.



## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> HUSSARS KIT SHOP

Following are the items currently available in the kit shop. These prices do not include shipping costs. If we have to send the item to you, please remember to enclose adequate postage. Schedule at the moment: Open most Thursday training nights. **Please phone ahead if you are planning to visit.**

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Kit Shop  
701 Oxford Street East, Wolseley Barracks  
London, ON N5Y 4T7  
Phone: Ron Janus (519) 649-1947 or [ron.janus@rogers.com](mailto:ron.janus@rogers.com)  
or Mark Fitz-Gerald (226) 448-9169 or [fitzy.74@hotmail.com](mailto:fitzy.74@hotmail.com)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Belgique berets	\$20.00
Officers' cloth cap badge	\$20.00
Cap Badge (Brass)	\$20.00
Regimental Tie	\$25.00
Blazer Crest	\$25.00
Large and small buttons - gold plated	\$ 3.00 each or all 8 for \$20.00
Black belt with Gold or Silver 1H buckle	\$25.00
Lapel Pin (1 H)	\$ 7.00
Tie clip	\$15.00 – on back order
1H key chain – Gold or Pewter	\$ 5.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Hussars regimental coin (numbered)	\$10.00
1H Ball Caps	\$15.00
T-shirts – black embroidered	\$15.00
T-shirts – Army green	\$10.00
T-shirts – brown “Keep Calm & Hussar On”	\$15.00
Sweat shirts	\$25.00
Windshield Decals (I H-Gold)	\$ 3.00
License Plate Frames	\$10.00 – on back order
Coffee cup Porcelain (Black)	\$ 5.00
Ladies Brooch	\$25.00
Royal Canadian Armoured Corps History	\$50.00 – 1 remaining
1 <sup>st</sup> Hussars New Regimental History (2004)	\$50.00 contact for shipping charges
Bronze plaques (1H)	\$50.00
Miniature Guidon (unframed)	\$250.00
Miniature Guidon (framed)	\$350.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Hussars Silver Ring	Contact for pricing
1 <sup>st</sup> Hussars Gold Ring	Contact for pricing
1H Guidon Pin	\$ 5.00
1H Flag Pin	\$ 5.00
Riggers Belts	\$20.00
Sunglasses	\$15 to \$35 depending on style
Tactical Gloves (half finger)	\$20.00
Tactical Gloves (full finger)	\$25.00
Shemagh	\$15.00 – on back order
Hockey Jersey - Woodland or Desert	\$125.00
Embroidered Crest (on your own shirt or jacket)	\$10.00
Pewter Stein engraved	\$95.00
Track Suits	\$85.00
Tactical Boots	Contact for pricing
Jerry Can Flask	\$15.00 – 2 remaining

