



The Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Association

L'Association du Génie électrique et mécanique

Newsletter 2011-1



See “Memories of Lahr” by Russ Smith, below

President's Message

Greetings from the EMEA President.

As the CF nears the end of the current phase of operations in Afghanistan, many Canadians have started to think about the future. To that end, “Post Afghanistan - Whither EME” was the theme of our AGM last October at CFSEME, which was attended by regular, reserve and retired members of the Regiment.

For a long time, we have been aware of the difficulty of training EME Reservists to the trade standards required for either domestic or deployment tasks. CFSEME can provide the basics, but that must be backed up in reserve units by mentoring and experience. At our AGM, I was extremely impressed by the contributions made by former regular force senior NCMs, who have decided to continue their service in the reserves. I know many EME soldiers have done this, but I really want to recognize two individuals who were active participants at our last AGM: CWO J.P. Lavoie from 37 Service Battalion and MWO Mark Delorosbil from 21/22/23 Service Battalion. They represent what must happen to strengthen the technical and leadership base within the EME Reserves. At the same time they have the opportunity to keep in touch by joining the EME Association.

I direct my second point to all readers who are not members. One of our objectives is “...To provide a forum for the continuation of service friendship, principles, and ideals for all members, including regular, reserves, and retirees...” I note particularly the phrase “for the continuation”. We, and the RCEME associations, link the EME Branch, the EME Reserves, and the retirees. We provide the forums for the “family” reunions, and time and labour for the maintenance of the regimental heritage. I heartily encourage you to recall the good times you spent in the service, and consider adding your voice and support to the Regiment by joining or rejoining us. We would be more than happy to have you. Instructions on how to become a member can be found on our web site <http://www.emea-agem.ca/5Member.htm>.

I also remain active in furthering our relationship with other associations, and will be representing you at the upcoming CDA/CDAI Ottawa Conference on Defence and Security on 24/25 February 2011. I will keep you informed.

Mike Horn

RSM Don Donald Norval Campbell
by Gilles Nappert



RCEME has lost one of its founding soldiers and leaders. RSM Don Campbell, a well known RSM of the RCEME School in Kingston in the 1960s, passed away on 5 February 2011 after a battle with cancer. On Saturday, 12 January, family members, led by Mary, his beloved wife of 72 years, and many RCEME and EME friends, gathered at the James Reid Funeral Home in Kingston to celebrate his life. Reverend Don Chisholm and his wife Helen officiated.

BGen Peter Holt, EME Branch Colonel Commandant, and Col Murray Johnston, President of the RCEME Association made testimonials that highlighted the main features of this life-long member of the RCEME Association. In addition, Reverend Chisholm read a number of email testimonials including one by BGen Jim Hanson. RSM Campbell was indeed a remarkable soldier and leader, who kept the RCEME esprit-de-corps alive during the dark period of integration. As a soldier, he epitomized the look and bearing of an RSM. He brought fear to young soldiers and subalterns, but he was also kind and fair. He looked and lived like an RSM and all those who served during his tenure at the RCEME School would measure other RSMs by the standard he set. In this respect few could equal him.

At home, the husband Don found a good match in Mary, a soft spoken lady with a firm grip. Don, the “king” of the parade square, knew who was in charge in the house. Privately Mary will not hesitate to say that the 72 years of marriage were filled with “ups and downs” and that the success of their long life together was due to the fact that she kept reminding him to leave his “RSM bearing” at the front door. This is quite an accomplishment for any woman.

The celebrations of Don’s life were simple and moving - just like he wanted it. One verse of the handout of the celebrations caught my eyes and reminded me of this great soldier and leader.

When I come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free,
Miss me – but let me go.



From the Colonel Commandant

BGen (Ret'd) P. J. Holt, OMM, CD

My report this time is a quick review of the state of the Branch, plus an update on the EME Heritage Committee documentary project.

I spent two days at the January EME Branch staff meeting looking at where we stand on all of our trades. I will spare everyone the many charts and graphs we looked at, and give my executive summary: the vehicle technicians are still more than 10% understrength, but everything is in place to resolve that shortfall by 2013. CFSEME has been able to increase training throughput, thanks to strong support (and resources!) from the army, and recruiting continues to be strong. We have also been able to recruit quite a few skilled mechanics, and accelerate their “militarization” in order to get more vehicle techs out to our field workshops and units.

For the weapons, materials and electronic-optronic occupations, there are shortages at the junior supervisor (MCpl & Sgt) level, and some concerns about the age/rank distribution, but overall these trades are not looking too bad. EME officers continue to be about as short as the vehicle techs, however there are many young officers in the training system. Once again, the rank distribution is an issue, with shortages at the Captain and Major levels. It is not unusual to find young Lieutenants running smaller workshops, on a “temporary” basis. Looking back on our history, I can recall being one of those myself: it seems to me that we have done this a few times before! Once again, it appears that recruiting is strong, although there is some concern with peaks and valleys in the next few years for officer training.

Finally, the EME Guild has invested \$5,000 in an EME Heritage documentary, and filming of a number of interviews with our veterans is underway. LCol (ret) Fred Chapman was recently interviewed about his experiences as a RCEME officer in the Korean War, and we are trying to arrange an interview with Maj (ret) Jack Wilkin, MC, at the Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto in the near future. Col (ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn is in Afghanistan with a film crew doing a larger Veterans documentary, and will take the opportunity to interview some of our newest EME veterans there. The plan is to have this EME Heritage documentary completed by May 15th this year. It will be “premiered” at Bluebell, and afterwards we hope to give it a wide distribution to serving and retired members of the Branch.

Senior Promotions and Appointments

The following promotions and appointments have been announced.

Major General Ian Poulter, DCOS Mat, has been seconded to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary, Government Operation Services, with the Treasury Board Secretariat for the next six months.

Colonel Shawn Myers is posted from DAVPM to DMGSP and is also acting as DCOS (Mat).

Lieutenant Colonel Ken Moore was promoted to Colonel and appointed DAVPM behind Colonel Shawn Myers.

Colonel Tom Temple is retiring in February 2011.

The EME Coin of Excellence



The EME Coin of Excellence is designed to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond their normal duties. Firmly believing that its greatest strength is its people, the EME Branch committed to ensuring proper and fast recognition of individuals who, by their actions or behaviour, have contributed beyond the call of duty to instil a sense of pride in our Branch. The flexible and rapid process of



awarding the EME Coin of Excellence allows the Branch Advisor to recognize quickly individuals who would not otherwise be acknowledged by other national awards and recognition programs. The EME Coin of Excellence is not designed to replace other awards, but rather to provide another means to convey quick recognition for achieving “EME excellence”. This can include, but is not limited to the areas of initiative, integrity, leadership, teamwork, dedication, flexibility or perseverance reflected in the excellence of their work, exemplary behaviour, the positive results that they achieved, or the positive impact they had in their community. EME Branch military personnel and, in exceptional circumstances, civilian employees are eligible.

The Coin's unique design is representative of the EME Branch. The hexagonal perimeter, signifying the shape of a bolt's head, is common to all four trades. One side of the Coin has a border with the EME motto “By Skill and By Fighting” in English and French and the colours of the EME flag in the background. The motto is symbolized by the crossed wrench over the bayonet, reminding us that our technical skills make us relevant. The words “for excellence” explain the Coin's purpose. The other side displays the EME cap badge. The words “Presented by the EME Branch Advisor” give the Coin its significance, making it clear that it must be earned. The serial number makes each Coin unique, allowing the Branch to keep a record of the individuals who earned it and their citation. Finally, the overall look and feel reinforces the level of excellence one must demonstrate to receive the EME Coin of Excellence. The following coins have been presented. [Note – space in the newsletter precludes repeating the citations in full - ed.]

Coins 001 and 002 have not yet been presented.

Coin 003 – Warrant Officer Jeff Morris for his impact on maintenance operations within Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

Coin 004 – Chief Warrant Officer Jacques Thibault pour l'efficacité de tous les membres GÉM du SQFT tout au long de son séjour à la cie de Maint du 5e Bn S du C.

Coin 005 – Master Corporal Jason Papineau for his demonstrated excellence in ARTE.

Coin 006 – Warrant Officer Eric Drouin pour son leadership dynamique et sa planification exceptionnelle lors de sa contribution à la création et la planification d'EX CHIRON APPRENTI et de l'entraînement technique de la Cie de Maint.

Coin 007 – Master Corporal Robert Carr for his mentorship of Kandak 5 Maintenance Company.

Coin 008 – Corporal Nathan Barbary for his determination and ingenuity displayed while returning a mission essential piece of equipment back to service in Afghanistan, 2010.

Coin 009 – Master Warrant Officer Tim Relihan for his unmatched leadership and dedication to the welfare and morale of all EME troops through his graphic design art.

Honours and Awards

Since August 2010, the following honours have been awarded to EME members:

CDS Commendation

Major Berube for his professionalism as the operations officer of the national support element in Afghanistan from February to September 2008.

Sergeant Facey for his leadership and dedication as the commander of a combat service support detachment in Afghanistan from March to May 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Ken Moore for his work as a task force commander in Darfur between October 2007 and April 2008. [This is an earlier award that I missed – ed]

CANOSCOM Commander's Commendation:

Lieutenant Colonel Regush and Lieutenant Colonel Beaulieu for their efforts in planning reconstitution activities in preparation for redeployment from Afghanistan

CEFCOM Commander's Commendation

Major P Heebner for his support of Canada's humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti from January to March 2010.

Meritorious Service Medal

CWO PJ Earles for his leadership and dedication as the RSM of the national support element in Afghanistan from January to August 2006.

The EMEA Annual General Meeting, October 2010

by Gilles Nappert

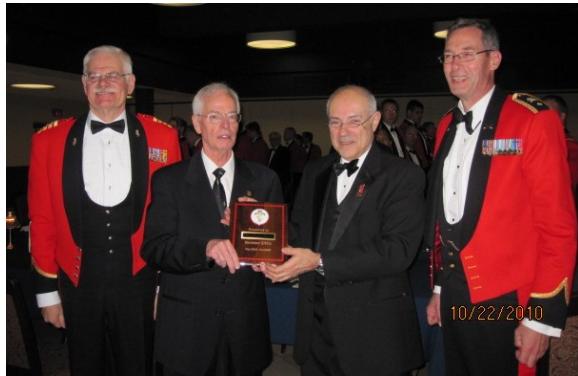
Under the theme "Post Afghanistan – Whither EME", the EMEA met at CFB Borden for their Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the period 21-23 October 2010. Our host was LCol Paul Fuller, the new Commandant of CFSEME. We were looked after very well by the school staff, with special thanks to Ann-Marie Sturgess, who once again did most of the coordination for the gathering. She suggested that a "Meet and Greet" with



young PATs (Personnel Awaiting Training) on Thursday evening would be a good way to kick off the weekend and she was right. It was a case of the retirees finding out what motivates young soldiers to join the army today, and the many steps they go through before becoming Craftsmen. For the young soldiers, it was a pleasant break from their long wait for course loading. There was plenty of reminiscing during the evening and, from all accounts, the future of the EME Branch will be in good hands.



Representatives of five reserve service battalions and three EMEA chapters (including the embryonic Huronia chapter) attended the AGM. Keynote briefings included the state of the union in DGLEPM by BGen Alex Patch, an update on EME Branch activities and challenges by the Branch Advisor, Col Shawn Myers, and a report on the troops in the field from the Colonel Commandant, BGen Peter Holt. Col Jean-François Prévost, Commandant of 202 Workshop Depot presented an update on the Guild of the EME Charitable Trust. Andrew Nellestyn gave a briefing on “Veterans”, a series of documentaries about veterans that he is co-producing [see separate article – ed]. The presentations covered a wide scope of CF and related activities, and those attending, including Phase IV students, received interesting and unfiltered information about the CF and its many challenges.



A key event of the AGM was the Friday evening mess dinner. The keynote speaker was BGen Patch who provided, in a light-hearted way, his philosophy about the military. Doug Knight was presented with a plaque for his tireless efforts as secretary of the EMEA from May 2003 to October 2009. He continues to devote much of his time to preserving the historical documents of the RCEME Corps and EME Branch, and in digitizing key documents. Pat Read, who could not attend the AGM, was also honoured for his work as the outgoing President. He will continue his work on the National Executive as Past President.

The National Executive of the EMEA remains essentially the same for the forthcoming year with the notable addition of Ken Jones who was elected Vice President. Also Al Adams was elected Honorary Vice President of the Association. The accompanying photo shows the National Executive and the leadership of the Branch.



The Chapters

Toronto Chapter

by Jim Hutchison

Pictured is the chapter executive working on the programme for 2011. The 32 Service Battalion Local Headquarters Training provided the venue and thus the opportunity to meet and enjoy some fellowship with members of the maintenance company. The meeting agenda and discussion focused primarily on the chapter's 2011 annual general meeting and dinner scheduled 14 May. Any EME or RCEME individual has a standing invitation to attend. All we request is email or telephone notice of interest and we will respond (Jim Hutchison "jlhemea@rogers.com" or (905) 884-9628). The initial mailing of membership 2011 renewals has been forwarded along with the most recent EME Journal. Sadly, through that mailing we received notice that long time Chapter member and World War II Veteran Major JB (Bruce) Annand, MBE, passed away February 2010.



1Toronto Chapter Executive left to right: Captain (Ret'd) Trevor Brenham, Sergeant (Ret'd) Jim Bebell, Major (Ret'd) George Chabrol, Captain Wade Sett, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Hutchison, and Second-Lieutenant Reza Sepahi.

National Capital Region Chapter

by Howie Higuchi



Pat Reid receiving his plaque from Gilles Nappert

This year, the NCR Chapter held several informative meetings, which included presentations on subjects ranging from personal experience at the Vancouver Winter Olympics to the work being carried out by EME in Afghanistan. There was a joint meeting with our friends in the Logistics Association, which was highlighted by a talk from LGen (Ret'd) Bill Leach. The year closed with the annual visit to the Rideau Carleton Raceway. We continue to hold meetings every six weeks to two months.

At the November 2010 meeting, Gilles Nappert described the activities at the AGM. In particular, the social with the EME PATs the evening before the meeting was very successful and will likely be continued in the future. As the outgoing National President, Pat Read, could not attend the AGM, he was belatedly presented with a plaque for his past service to the Association by Gilles Nappert, the National Senior VP.

The guest speaker for the EME in Afghanistan presentation was Major Martin Corriveau, who described his tour as the Maintenance Company Commander in Afghanistan. His organization comprised both civilian and military technicians with repairs being carried as far forward as possible. As expected, the work "outside the wire" was performed by military tradesmen. The level of work carried out ranged from first to third line, with a good deal of "gum and wire" EME resourcefulness. There were many modifications to be carried out, with a major difficulty being the availability of the vehicles due to the heavy operational usage. The workup training prior to deployment is long, and includes a good deal of "soldier" as well as EME work. In the Afghanistan environment, the EME tradesman must be prepared to carry out combat logistics patrols, which are among the most hazardous tasks. Major Corriveau's description of how his personnel had to carry out battlefield recovery of an



overturned armoured vehicle with a soldier still pinned under the vehicle was an indication of the scope of the tasks faced by EME personnel. It was a wide ranging and insightful presentation which was enjoyed by all present.



Lucas and Anita Hellemans, Bill Svab, Suzette Nappert, and Kathy Higuchi



Ken Jones, Bill Svab, and Howie Higuchi



Shirley and Peter Holt, Bob Fischer, Rose and Gord Crookston

The December meeting traditionally has no guest speaker and is intended to end the year by celebrating the holiday season. There is usually a good turnout for this event and this year was no exception with several members as well as spouses in attendance. One of the highlights of the evening was the raffle for a variety of prizes which were donated by the members and supporting corporate sponsors. The proceeds of the raffle, which amounted to \$740, went to support the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund. Of particular note was the attendance of Col (Ret'd) Bill Svab, a former Colonel Commandant, who managed to win a pair of Senator hockey tickets, and subsequently re-raffled them for a significant donation to the Snowsuit Fund.



Maggy and Normand Marcil



René Laliberté and Francine Boivin



Lucien Roy and Yves Egglefield

Quebec Chapter

By Léandre Vachon

This time, I would like to write about two different subjects. As in previous years, the chapter was dormant during the summer period. The first activity was the general annual assembly on 10 September 2010. There, we discussed the activities to be held during the next period. The president of the Montreal Region of the Logistics Association invited us join with them for some of their social activities and in turn we do the same.

Our first activity was a supper held 22 October at one of the Casa Grecque Restaurants in Longueuil. This was followed by a presentation organized by Pierre Desnoyers, the president of the ALOG. Our guest speaker was LCol Denis Martel who spoke about new equipment acquisitions. The briefing was followed by a lunch at the Longue-Pointe garrison Officer and Warrant's mess, and the last activity before Christmas was a mixed supper at the Vieux Duluth restaurant in Boucherville. Again, some members of the ALOG joined us. On 6 February, the president Pierre Desnoyers of the ALOG had organised a brunch

at Brossard. We were 22 participants, but only four from the AGEM. At this period some are vacationing down south and two were leaving to go to Haiti on volunteer assistance mission.

Being interested in sailing, I have over the last two years been reading the adventures of a few families who have sailed to various locations around the world. Usually, it is a retired couple who has chosen to live on a sailboat and navigate in tropical zones, while evading the storm period. Then I was directed to René and Dany's web site. It turned out that this René was EME LCol (a la retraite) René Bourassa and his wife, Dany Giguère retired from the Logistic Branch. René and Dany with their four children, Thomas, Catherine, Nicolas, and Antoine have been sailing the seas with their Catamaran. They left Quebec City in July 2008, and have since sailed approximately 30,000 nautical miles. They first crossed the Atlantic to Laroche (France) and then to the Caribbean, Panama, Galapagos Islands, New Zealand, and reached Sydney, Australia, early in December 2010. As they did in New Zealand, they visited inland, living and traveling in a motor home. In June 2011, they will leave the coast of Australia for good. They are scheduled to complete this round the world voyage by the end of July 2013. It is my firm intention to be at Quebec City to welcome them when they arrive. You can follow them through the reports posted on their web site <http://www.catmousses.ca>. This is a text written by René summarising their first year at sea.



Pierre and Cosette Richard and Francine Boivin

EME at Sea

by René Bourassa

[I have printed both the English and French versions as provided by Len Vachon. Editing has been minimal – ed].

Captain's notes – one year in... I can't believe it's been a year since we left Quebec City. More than 15,000 nautical miles have passed under our keels in a year. What wonderful places visited and how many meetings and smiles in such a short time. Tahiti is straight ahead, at 75 nautical miles and we can finally complete the necessary maintenance of our catamaran. We can't hide the fact that so many nautical miles use in a year have taken its toll on our floating home. Throughout our journey, I did some repairs with what I had on board, with the help of sailor friends we met.

Our catamaran, a Privilege 39-footer, has clearly demonstrated that it is a solid and safe boat for all the members of our crew. However, as I often say to Dany, the best way to ensure not to break something is not to use it. So you can imagine the number and wide range break downs we have suffered over the past year. I keep a detailed list of all maintenance performed and of the items purchased. For the first seven months, we were always near to boating supply shops and able to replace the damaged parts. If a part was unavailable, I contacted my brother Luke who bought it in Canada and had it in the next mail package. But the last package received was last February and the last boat supply shop we had access to was in Panama City. So you can understand why I can't wait to arrive to Tahiti.



August 2009 - the Bourassa family at Maupiti, Polynésie Française



**Cat-Mousses in front of the
Sydney Opera House, Australia**

The engines have been very reliable and have so far only required routine and preventive maintenance. However I have had recurrent failure of the water pumps. The electrical generator has not failed despite the hours of operation. The rigging did not show any weakness apart from replacing the roller furling drum at Martinique. Several ropes had to be replaced which is normal, having used them a lot. The electronics is holding since the repair of the autopilot at La Rochelle. Adding a propane-fired baking oven has been a wise investment for all involved with cooking. Knock-on-wood, but we have had no problem with the toilets. The sails have only required minor repairs (in France, at Martinique, at St.-Lucia and at Tahiti shortly). Our antifouling paint is in excellent

condition, but we should do it again in New Zealand. The trampolines have given us a lot of concern but ultimately we believe we have found the solution. The coming months will tell us if we were right. The desalter unit has been very helpful in the Pacific but its production of 5 litres of water per hour is far insufficient for our large family. So we have a new one that awaits us in Tahiti (a Water Maker Spectra - 30 litres per hour). We could always do without it but we decided that enough was enough. Our dinghy and its 25 HP outboard motor, despite their advanced age are very reliable. This motor has made the envy of other boat owners we met. Once at Tahiti, we will buy a wakeboard for the children. They first tried this sport at Fakarava in Polynesia and have become addicted to this sport!

With the type of family life we live, it's easy to procrastinate, but if we want to continue to sail the seas of the world, we must make the maintenance a priority.

Are you surprised to hear such a statement, especially from a former maintenance officer! Our number one enemy is salt water! We can't just ignore it as it is our closest neighbour, so we keep a constant eye on its corroding effect of our equipment!

Notes du capitaine René - Déjà un an. J'ai peine à croire que ça fait déjà un an que nous sommes partis de Québec. Plus de 15000 miles nautiques sous nos quilles en un an. Que d'endroits magnifiques visités et combien de rencontres et de sourires en si peu de temps. Tahiti est droit devant à 75 miles nautiques et nous pourrions finalement prendre un peu de temps pour effectuer un peu d'entretien sur le bateau. Il ne faut pas se le cacher, tant de miles nautiques en un an et bien ça use un bateau. Tout au long de notre route, j'ai fait avec ce que j'avais à bord comme pièces de rechange et avec l'aide de mes amis navigateurs.

Notre catamaran, un privilège 39 pieds a clairement démontré que c'était une embarcation solide et sécuritaire pour tout notre équipage. Toutefois comme je le dis souvent à Dany, la meilleure manière de s'assurer de ne pas briser quelque chose, est de ne pas l'utiliser. Vous pouvez donc vous imaginer que des bris, nous en avons subi toute une panoplie au cours de la dernière année. Je conserve une liste détaillée de tous les entretiens et achats à effectuer à chaque escale. Tout au long des premiers sept mois, nous étions toujours près des boutiques de bateaux et lorsqu'une pièce brisait, je la remplaçais. Si je ne trouvais pas quelque chose, je contactais mon frère Luc pour qu'il me trouve les items recherchés au Canada et dans le prochain colis, le tout y était. Mais notre dernier colis remonte au mois de février et la dernière boutique de bateau, à Panama. Donc vous pouvez comprendre pourquoi j'ai bien hâte d'arriver à Tahiti.

Les moteurs tiennent bien mais j'ai un peu de misère avec mes pompes à eau, la génératrice fonctionne à merveille, le gréement n'a pas démontré de faiblesse mis à part le remplacement du tambour de l'enrouleur en Martinique. Plusieurs cordages ont dû être remplacés mais c'est normal avec l'usage que nous en avons fait. L'électronique tient bon depuis la réparation du pilote automatique à La Rochelle.



L'ajout d'un four encastré au propane s'est avéré un investissement pour tous. Je touche du bois mais nous n'avons eu aucun problème avec les toilettes. Les voiles ont tenu le coup malgré des petites réparations au génois (en France, Martinique, Ste-Lucie et prochainement Tahiti). Notre peinture antisalissure est en excellent état mais nous devrions la refaire en Nouvelle-Zélande. Les trampolines nous ont donné notre lot de soucis mais nous croyons finalement avoir trouvé la solution alors les prochains mois nous dirons si nous avons eu raison. Le désalinateur nous a été très utile dans le Pacifique mais sa production d'eau de 5 litres à l'heure est de beaucoup insuffisante pour notre grande famille. Alors nous en avons un neuf qui nous attend à Tahiti (Spectra - 30 litres à l'heure).

On aurait toujours pu s'en passer mais nous avons décidé que c'était assez le camping. Notre annexe et le moteur 25 forces, malgré leur âge avancé sont très fiables. Notre moteur 25 forces fait bien des jaloux et nous profiterons de Tahiti pour nous acheter un wakeboard au plaisir des enfants qui ont essayé ce sport à Fakarava en Polynésie dont ils sont maintenant accros!

Avec la vie de famille que nous vivons, il est facile de remettre à demain l'entretien mais si on veut continuer à naviguer sur les mers du monde, on doit en faire une priorité. Êtes-vous surpris d'entendre ça surtout provenant d'un ancien officier de maintenance!!! Quel est notre ennemi #1 .. l'eau salée!!! Le pire c'est que c'est notre plus proche voisin alors on garde un œil dessus!!!

The Guild of the EME Branch Charitable Trust *by Gilles Nappert*

Posting season always bring about changes, especially for the Chairman position of the EME Heritage Committee, which oversees the activities of the Guild. Col Jean-Francois Prevost, the new Commandant of 202 Workshop Depot, took over the chairmanship responsibilities of the EME Heritage Committee from Col Nick Eldaoud, who was posted to the "NDC-like" one year course in Toronto. Sincere thanks must be extended to Col Eldaoud, who so effectively structured the EME Heritage Committee and also launched a number of projects. These were described in the last EMEA newsletter.

A new initiative that Col Prevost presented at the committee meeting in October 2010 was the publication of a semi-annual newsletter. The newsletter will provide a status of the various projects undertaken by the EME Heritage Committee under the auspices of the Guild. Another aspect is the continuous need for volunteer help. This is where the retirees can be most useful. If you have time and interest in the preservation of the RCEME/EME heritage, then consider lending your talent - **the Guild can use you**. Simply let me know of your interest and availability and I will see how you can best help. As the EMEA representative on the EME Heritage Committee, I know where the needs are most acute.

The Guild is barely one year old, hence many of the projects are still in the starting blocks, primarily because of lack of talent to do the work. If you have been served well from the Corps and Branch, then consider giving some of your time back to preserve the EME heritage.

Colonel Gordon Bruce - former EME Colonel Commandant *by Al McDonald*



Al McDonald and Col Bruce

Colonel Gordon Bruce currently lives at the Remembrance Pavillion 2A, St Anne's Veterans' Hospital, St Anne de Bellevue, QC.

My first meeting with him was in the fall of 1968, when my Phase IV 6801 visited 202 Workshop Depot when he was CO. Our last meeting before St Anne's, was CFB Winnipeg in 1985 when he was colonel commandant, and we found ourselves snowed in for a few days as the Trans Canada was closed by the RCMP. Col Bruce is now the last colonel commandant who served in WWII. His regiment was the 8th New Brunswick Hussars in both Italy and North-west Europe.

He has just finished celebrating his 92nd birthday with his neighbours at St Anne's, where the smile when he saw his cake with candles and chocolate ice cream was his recognition that it was going to be a good day. Col Bruce has been a patient at St Anne's for the past seven years, and visits are now limited with the passing of his wife this past spring. I visit each week when I am in town, and he still shows recognition of "202" and the mention of former members of the shop when he was CO. When possible, I also include news of former members of his regiment, such as Hunter Dunn in Ottawa who will be 93 in February.

The staff at St Annes has been most helpful in making me aware of how to provide some stimulus in his life. My knowledge of the shop, having served just after he turned over the command to Col Swab, and the friends that I had there all bring back many smiles. I request that anyone who has served anywhere with Col Bruce send me anecdotes or even photos so that I can include them in my visits. I am trying to locate anyone who can make the trip or send me a video clip to play in the lounge for all to enjoy.

The Vimy Dinner, 2010

Again this year, the Vimy gala dinner was held in Lebreton Gallery of the Canadian War Museum – a great venue to present the prestigious Vimy Award. It was the largest gathering to date with over 700 participants. The EME Branch was well represented in the audience, which included a table sponsored by the EME Association. The accompanying photo shows participants at the EMEA table – a well dressed crowd.

The guest of honour, his Excellency the Rt. Hon. David Johnston presented the Vimy Award to the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson. The Vimy Award is presented to a Canadian who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the defence and security of our nation and preservation of our democratic value. Mrs Clarkson is also the Honorary Colonel of the PPCLI regiment. At the end of her inspiring



EMEA table attendees. Front row: Julia Motl, Joan Johnston, Anita Hellemans, Gilles and Suzette Nappert. Second row: Peter Holt, Lucas Hellemans, Claude Lussier, Tom Temple, and Murray Johnston. The photo is taken in front of the German Panther tank.

remarks, in which she paid tribute to serving members of the Canadian Forces, she joined a group of more than 100 attending PPCLIs in the singing of the regimental march past. It was well received by all.

Since 2002, the event also serves to present the Russ Monro Media Award to a Canadian journalist who made a significant and extraordinary contribution to increasing public understanding of Canadian defence and security issues. This year the award was presented to Mr. Murray Brewster who is the defence reporter and senior war correspondent of the Canadian Press news agency. Mr. Brewster could not attend the event as he is currently doing a sixth tour of duty in Afghanistan as a war correspondent. He addressed the attendees in an excellent pre-recorded message. There were many distinguished guests at the event. Of particular interest to the younger crowd was the presence of actor Paul Gross who produced and starred in the well known film *Passchendaele*. Capt Julia Motl could not resist having her photo taken with a movie star!



Capt Julia Motl and actor Paul Gross

The Veterans Project

by Andrew Nellestyn

The Veterans is a documentary that illustrates the impact of Canada's participation in foreign conflicts and attendant crises on Canada, Canadians, and the Canadian Forces (CF). The documentary also records veterans and serving men and women of the CF talking of their experiences and conveying the legacy for which they wish to be remembered. The target audience is today's and tomorrow's young men and women, tomorrow's leaders, so that they may know not only of the sacrifices made by those who served Canada in war but also how veterans shaped and build a proud nation. It consists of 52 episodes, each 40 minutes in length, and has two main streams. There is no RCEME episode in the documentary proper, although one segment deals with CSS. However, there will be a separate EME Heritage documentary, including RCEME.

The first theme is the history and evolution of the CF from WWII through Afghanistan, and deals with all aspects of operations in these theatres. It examines the impact on doctrine, operations, education, training and equipment. Every branch of the three services is detailed as well as the contributions of such organizations as the Salvation Army, St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, CANEX, Tim Horton's, and the non-government organizations. The impact of defence science and technology and the formation of the defence industrial base are discussed, as are the evolving and changing nature of warfare.

The second theme examines the history and evolution of Canada from the First World War through to and including Afghanistan. The war was chosen as the starting point, because that was when Canada first exercised full sovereignty (the command of the Canadian Expeditionary Force by General Currie and his reporting channel to Ottawa vice the British Foreign Office in London) and when Canada became an industrial nation. The documentary touches on the impact on Canadian society, changing lifestyles and values, governance, and Canada's increasing and influential role on the world stage.

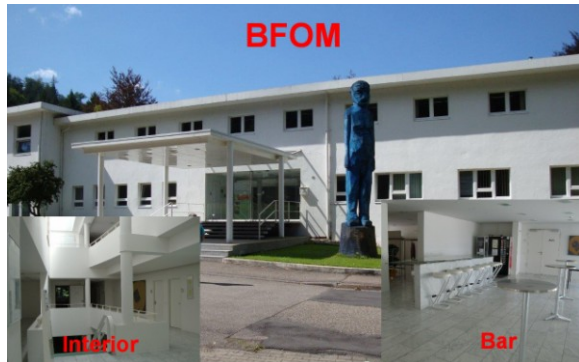
The documentary will be officially released in November 2011, and will be gifted to the people of Canada. It will be available free of charge from a number of organizations, and will be accessible on the Internet in both official languages and will be shown by various television broadcasters.

Memories of Lahr - A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Russ Smith

They say you can never go back. Well, you can always go back, but things will probably not be the same. My wife, Barbara, and I returned to Germany to visit friends in September 2010. We had been stationed in Lahr from 1973 to 1977 and I had last visited CFE in late 1991. The CFB Baden-Soellingen airfield closed on March 31, 1993 and most personnel had left by that summer. At that time the base became a detachment of CFB Lahr and then was permanently closed on December 31, 1993. CFB Lahr was closed on August 31, 1994.

The change to the Kaserne is shocking. The area looks as if it could be used as a set for a war movie. Of the original buildings, only four or five have not been completely destroyed or gutted. Gone are the Canex buildings, the curling club, the Arrowhead Arena (which was destroyed by fire), the gas station and garage, and most of the schools. The buildings that housed 4 CMBG HQ, signals squadron, and CFE Headquarters are still standing. Most of the other buildings appear to have been vandalized, and for the most part are in extremely rundown condition with many windows broken and doors missing. There were piles of rubble, concrete and rebar everywhere, with grass and weeds growing up through the cobblestones and pavement and around the buildings.



However, something good is going to rise from the rubble. The land has been sold to a development consortium that plans to build new housing. Construction has already started, and a few of the original buildings are now being converted to condos and/or apartment buildings. There definitely is hope for the future for this land but it doesn't change the terrible feelings you have when you enter the grounds.

The Black Forest Officers Mess has fared extremely well. The building and grounds now house The "Akad" education unit for their employees. The

interior is beautiful. It has been fully renovated with marble floors, a modern bar and, of all things, an elevator. An impressive glass staircase occupies the center of the building. The former Canadian Forces Hospital is now the MediClin Heart Center Lahr/Baden and is one of the most modern specialist clinics in Germany.

The Lahr Airfield has seen both construction and neglect. On the Marguerite side, a number of commercial facilities have been constructed, including a huge building housing DHL, the express courier service of the German Post Office. Most of the hardened aircraft shelters are victims of neglect, although a few have been utilized by construction companies as logistic warehouses. One of the USAF



buildings just outside the north margin is now the clubhouse of the local chapter of the Hells Angels. The buildings that housed much of 4 Service Battalion and 4 Combat Engineer Regiment are still recognizable. While some are vacant, others are in use by German companies. The Europahof was converted to a large scale catering service and a number of restaurants now occupy the former sites of various buildings along and around the main road entering the airfield. The Globe movie theatre is now a very successful nightclub called the Universal Dog.



5 AMU and the airfield runways belong to a private company and is known as Black Forest Airport, Lahr. I was told the complex sees very limited use because of refusal by the provincial government to issue an airport license. There were signs indicating that a flying school or club may be using the facilities. Most of the old growth trees on the airfield have been felled & the remaining ones are being neglected. Located at the former main entrance to the airfield is, of all things, a pedestal mounted Russian Mig fighter aircraft, chosen for the pedestal because of its small size. Further down the road towards the autobahn is a Canadian CF-104 Starfighter with a plaque

commemorating the Canadian presence in Lahr.

The PMQs were taken over by the city and upgraded by the installation of insulation, water & electric meters & a comprehensive paint job. This occurred just in time to receive the massive influx of ethnic Germans from Russia. Marktstrasse hasn't changed a whole lot. The bratwurst and pomme frites stand is still in business, and the food tastes just as good as it did in the mid-70s.

There is a small monument erected by Canada in a courtyard off one of the Marktstrasse side streets to recognize the Canadian-German association over the years the Canadian military was in Lahr. There is also an official Obelisk in the courtyard of the new Rathaus, inscribed in three languages representing the deep regard between the Germans & Canadians that evolved over the years of Canadian presence in the area. To this day the Germans still talk wistfully about "their" Canadians and the good old days and the happy times enjoyed by both nationalities. Some things, however, do never change. The Stork Tower still looks as great as ever. During the month of November Lahr has become famous in Europe for its "Chrysanthema" or chrysanthemum festival of which the Stork Tower is the centerpiece.

The changes at the Baden Airfield have been mostly positive. The former base is now known as the Baden Airpark, and a few of the hardened shelters have been converted for commercial use. Porsche has done a wonderful job of refurbishing one of the shelters and has established a sports car driving school. Another shelter houses a Canadian-German Air Force museum. A number of other buildings have also been refurbished and house a variety of businesses. The former Canadian Forces golf course and ice rink are still in use.

The biggest change is the establishment of a commercial airport with a beautiful air terminal, built on the site of the former Base Supply buildings. I'm sure the terminal is between 300 and 400 meters in length and houses, in addition to the airlines' facilities, a very large number of travel companies, all competing with each other for the vacationing tourist business. In addition to commercial airlines, air charter services and private aircraft also operate from the airport.

What is perhaps the most interesting observation we made was that the streets still use the former Canadian names, such as Calgary Ave, Laval Ave and Yellowknife Ave that were assigned when Canada took over the base many years ago. All in all, it was a very interesting nostalgic visit, one that I would not hesitate to recommend to those of you who do not believe in the saying "you can never go back".

The EME Archives by Doug Knight



Archives and Heritage Room Storage

This article summarizes the status of the archives following work performed during the week of the EMEA AGM in October 2010. The heritage committee has decided that the documents in the EME archives must be relevant to EME, not be commonly available elsewhere, and be of potential use to the future EME historian. Documents that do not meet these three criteria may be included in the archives on a case-by-case basis. Any document that shows any sign whatsoever (smell, appearance, dampness) of mould or mildew shall **NOT** be included in the archives, although if it is of significant value, it may be copied and the copy included. Sheer volume mandates that EME Instructions or Canadian Forces Technical Orders will not be included, unless they apply to equipment that is part of the EME Heritage Room.

Space for the regimental archives has been found in Vehicle Company at CFSEME. The space will be shared with storage for the heritage room. The room was originally designed as a wash bay. It has a vehicle size rollup door that opens to the outside, and a personnel door that opens into a training garage. When vehicles are running in the adjacent recovery training space, exhaust fumes enter the archive room. The exterior door is not a tight seal, and rodents could enter the archives. However, while not ideal, the room is better than the sea containers where the archives spent the last few years.

Ms Ann-Marie Sturgess has managed to replace most of the filing cabinets that were returned from the museum, and the Guild has agreed to purchase additional cabinets. If suitable heavy-duty shelving can be acquired, cabinets that will be rarely accessed will be wrapped and placed on high shelves. The LORE/EME archives (previously stored in Regimental Company) have been co-located with the RCEME archives and combined into a single archive. Books and documents that did not meet the inclusion criteria were segregated for disposal (for example, for sale with the proceeds going to the Guild). Duplicate documents were also segregated for disposal. Some duplication remains and will be addressed in the future. The EMEA Huronia Chapter have agreed to assist in the organization of the archives.

Colonel Murray Johnston's archives have been moved from his basement to the EME archives. This special collection occupies two filing cabinets and includes source documentation and unpublished photographs for the Canada's Craftsmen books, the EME Honour Roll, and files from his Colonel Commandant appointment. His filing system was by chapter in the book and this has been retained.

The EME digital archives (about 25 GB) have been transferred to the Branch heritage computer. Howie Higuchi has digitized Col RH Hodson's nominal roles of RCEME personnel in 1946 and 1964. These are very large files, are not digitally searchable, and are available on CD only. He is also digitizing Murray Johnston's video and audio tapes from his interviews.

Some procedural problems still exist. A Regimental Archivist needs to be appointed. The Association should not provide the archivist. We are volunteers and if a volunteer stops for any



The other side - mostly Heritage Room storage. The stuff in the middle awaits processing.



reason, there is no guarantee of providing a replacement. The Regimental Archivist should be an assigned secondary duty within the regular force. The associations, subject to finding willing personnel, can provide assistant archivists to do most of the work. There needs to be a proper authority and procedures for access to the archives and the acceptance/deaccession/culling of the files. Standards, location, and backup procedures for the electronic storage of the digital archives are required. The project continues.

Ann-Marie Sturgess has been a major driving force in the setting up and organization of the archives. Her performance cannot be praised too highly.

EMEA Finances

by Lucas Hellemans - EMEA Treasurer

At this point in time, we are a financially healthy Association. Each year, we get our income from three sources: individual memberships, unit (i.e. reserve service battalions) memberships, and interest from our investments. Although for some years this income has been declining, it has been matched by an equal decline in our annual expenses, with the happy result that we manage to have some “net income” each year. I don’t foresee much change in this in the near future.

Why the decline? The income from investments is obvious; the other two are the result in declining memberships. This is a problem that is discussed regularly, and we need everyone’s input. The decline in expenses is partially due to greater use of electronics (e.g. this Newsletter; and the annual Executive meeting is now done by a conference call), and partially due to fewer costs (some Annual General Meeting (AGM) attendees do not claim expenses, even though entitled).

The question has now become: “What do we want to do with our accumulated cash (currently, some \$90,000, about 95% of which is invested in Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) which have varying maturity dates). Does anyone “out there” have an idea for improving our Association or our Branch? Although the Branch is relatively healthy, we may want to think about problem areas and how to assist the Branch in these.

Another area deserving some attention (financially) may be our history. We all know about Murray Johnston’s excellent book. What about our artefacts: flags, uniforms, weapons, and vehicles? What about historical documents – sorting and storing them?

Feedback on all this would be appreciated by your executive. A copy of our annual financial statements is distributed at the AGM (October each year). Come and join us at this event.

Closing the Work Order

The Editor

The newsletter now goes well beyond the Association and, to me, that is a good thing. Even though there is no single Regimental association, the overall membership in the RCEME Associations and the EME Association (and the “coffee clubs”) indicates that retired EME folks still retain an interest in the Regiment/Branch/Corps (under all our names and cap badges).

As you know, I have a strong interest in the preservation of our heritage. And heritage is extremely fragile. One of my big regrets is not turning on a recorder when my father told his tales of working with GG Simmonds in the Second World War. Today, this again comes to mind with Al McDonald’s article on Colonel Bruce, and the fact that we have not yet unearthed enough information on him to do a decent bio. EME has been at war since the mid-90s in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. I have seen little information or stories collected from those who served there. I am sure they exist, but unless they are collected and preserved, they will not form part of our future heritage. You who read this – write down or



record your experiences and send them to the regimental archivist. Don't worry about length or language. They will be the flavour for *Canada's Craftsmen – the Centennial!*

At the peril of accusations of crass commercialism, Service Publications www.servicepub.com have just published *Machinery Lorries in Canadian Service*, which is a brief account of how RCEME operated in the Second World War, and the specialist vehicles they used. No, I do not get royalties! Now, if we could find an author for *Recovery Vehicles in Canadian Service*. Does anyone have a yearning to get published?

Doug Knight

The EMEA Newsletter

Editor - Doug Knight
Associate Editor - Gilles Nappert

The EMEA Newsletter informally distributes current events and news concerning the EME Regimental family – regular, reserve, and retirees. Letters and articles are welcome and will be published in the language submitted (French or English). Articles should be short and submitted electronically to dougknight@sympatico.ca. Supporting pictures (color or B&W) are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length or content.

The EME Regiment - A Regiment of Many Small Units - Everywhere.

Arte et Marte