



26/XII Museum Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1 Brandon's Military Museum November 2012

26 FIELD REGIMENT RCA/XII MANITOBA DRAGOONS MUSEUM • BRANDON MB

Veteran's Week 5th to 11th November 2012



Fig 1 An 18-pounder field gun from the Canadian Field Artillery parading through Liege at the end of the war

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Friends of the Museum who wish to make a donation or a bequest of Artefacts or financial assistance to the Museum are always welcome. Please contact the Museum Treasurer, Lorna Ball at rgball@myvmts.net or call 204-728-7665. The Museum will be closed for the Christmas New/Year from 12 Dec 2012 to 8 Jan 2013. If you are donating for the year 2012, please have all donations to the Museum by 1 December 2012. Tours will still be provided, but the mail will be closed and the Museum will not be able to receive and process your donations until 8 Jan 2013.

While for many Canadians the CEF attack at Vimy Ridge in April 1917 is Canada's defining moment in WWI, in many respects the more important period was the final Hundred Days from the Battle of Amiens on 8th August 1918 until the Armistice came into effect on 11th November 1918. During this time four Canadian Divisions fought more than 50 German divisions in the field, and were in action almost every day of that hundred day period, including the last moments of the war when the final British and Empire casualty was a Canadian; George Lawrence Price, who died at 10:58am. Commanded by Sir Arthur Currie, the Canadians exemplify the changes in the British Expeditionary Force of which Canadians were a part and showed that by 1918 commanders in the field were able to fight and win modern battles, using all arms of service working together in a modern and innovative approach. But while there was success on the battlefield casualties were high; more than 45,000 soldiers of the CEF were killed, wounded or missing during the last 100 days.

Diamond Jubilee Medal

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

A new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians will be recognized. The Chancellery of Honours, as part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal program.

Queens' Diamond Jubilee Medal

On the first of July 2012, the Queens' Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to Don Berry, CD Colonel retired the Board President of 26 Field Regiment RCA/XII MB Dragoons Museum by the Honorable Merv Tweed Member of Parliament for Brandon Souris, at the Canada Day celebration at the Riverbank Discovery Centre.

On the second of November 2012, at the Army Navy Air Force Veterans Unit 10 the Honorable Merv Tweed Presented Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Rick Felstead, CD, CStJ the Museum Board Vice President and Curator Emeritus Ross Neale, CD Chief Warrant Officer retired.

These three gentlemen are to be congratulated on the recognition they have deservedly received. They display the calibre of volunteers who serve the Museum.



Fig 2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

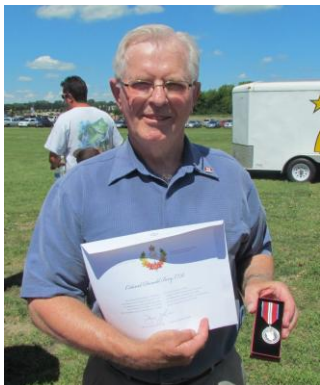


Fig 3 Don Berry received his QDJM on 1st July 2012



Fig 4 Hon LCol Felstead received his QDJM on 2nd November 2012



Fig 5 Ross Neale received his QDJM on 2nd November 2012

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Service to The 26 Field Regiment RCA, Honorary Colonel Betty Jean Coleman

The Museum sends a big BRAVO ZULU to Honorary Colonel Betty Coleman on her retirement as Honorary Colonel of 26 Field Regiment RCA. Mrs. Betty Jean Coleman was born in Brandon Manitoba and has lived here all her life. She trained at the Winnipeg General Hospital as a Registered Nurse, and has worked as a surgical nurse in the operating rooms at the Brandon Mental Health Centre of the Brandon General Hospital. Betty married LCol Jack Coleman, also from Brandon. Their two children, Bob and Susan, live in Kentucky and Victoria respectively. They have provided Mrs. Coleman with seven grandchildren. Mrs. Coleman has maintained a keen interest in the military, and was involved with her late husband (the Honorary Lt. Col. Of the 26th Field Regiment) in working with the 2520 Army Cadets. She continues her association with the Cadets and was the director of the Western Region. Her interest in the youth of the city has also come to the fore by serving as a Leader in Girl Guides and Brownies Canada. Her interest and her commitment to her church, St. Matthew's Cathedral, bring her a great deal of joy. She has served as Rector's Warden, president and member of the Mardi Club, Vestry, Altar Guild and a delegate representing St. Matthew's for the Diocese of Brandon. Mrs. Coleman keeps up to date on political affairs. She is an avid reader, enjoys music and gardening. Her artistic talents are exercised as she does calligraphy, watercolor painting and needlework. She has and continues to travel extensively in Canada, USA and Europe. After selection as Sponsor of HMCS BRANDON, Mrs. Coleman has been continuously involved with her ship. She meets regularly with the "Friends of HMCS BRANDON Committee", and keeps detailed records on the comings and goings of the ship and its company. Mrs. Coleman was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 26 Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) in 2003, a task she carried out with energy and concern for the soldiers of the Regiment until 16 Oct 2007. The very next day Mrs. Coleman was appointed as the Honorary Colonel of 26 Field Regiment RCA. Mrs. Coleman served in this position for the next five years and greatly enhanced the relationship between 26 Field Regiment RCA and the community of Brandon. As of 16 Oct 2012 Mrs. Betty Jean Coleman officially ended her tenure as an Honorary Colonel but she will always remain part of the 26 Field Regiment RCA family. Betty has been a stalwart supporter and organizer of the Regimental Military Ball since its inception in 1949.



Fig 5 Exercise Prowling Gunner



Fig 6 Betty, Debbie, Jacquie Carol in Kenora 2009



Fig 7 Betty enjoys a laugh at 2011 Mil Ball



Fig 8 LCol Dave Dalal CO presents Betty with a token



Fig 9 Betty and the late LCol Ross Thompson



Fig 10 Betty and Hon Merv Tweed



Fig 11 Betty and Hon LCol Rick Felstead



Fig 12 Betty a true Patroit

Susan Armstrong OC and QGJM head home



Fig 13 Susan Armstrong and Order of Canada And Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal



Fig 14 26XII Museum Curator Edd. Mc Arthur with Susan Armstrong OC and QGJM parcel ready for shipping home to her family.

Susan Armstrong, OC.

Ms Armstrong was the founding director-general of the Missing Children's Network. Her community work was recognized in 1999 when she received the Order of Canada from the Governor General. Ms Armstrong was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1999. The OC and QGJM have been generously loaned to the Museum by her Daughter.

The story of how the medals ended up at the Museum began when The OC and QGJM were found in a thrift store on Vancouver Island by a Museum Volunteer who knew they should not be there and brought them back to Brandon. Volunteers wondered why awards presented to a lady from Montreal ended up in BC. The OC and QGJM were checked for authenticity and research was carried out by Museum Staff. The next of kin of Susan Armstrong was found in BC. The Curator contacted her and it was found out that the medals were sent to the thrift shop in error when she moved. It was an unfortunate error that had a silver lining for the museum as we were able to display the OC and QGJM for two years.

Our thanks to Ms Solona Armstrong for allowing the Museum this great honour.

Identify the Artefact



Answer to last Identify the Artefact; is Imperial Yeomanry Tunic Button from the W.E. Maxwell collection



Identify the Artefact:

Answer is in next issue of the 26XII Museum Newsletter

Bennett Collection update

The Bennett Collection of, rank insignia, cap, badges, unit crests and pictures is very extensive and an exceptional collection. The Museum has had two display cases built to display the Collection. Display cases as seen below were built by Craftsman Brian Robertson and will house the impressive and unique collection. The Bennett Collection is in process of moving into the new display cases.



Fig 15 Brian Robertson assembles the new Display Cases for the Bennett Collection



Fig 16 26XII Museum Volunteer George Haggerty removes the protective covering from the new cases.



Fig 17 Bennett Collection display cases.



Fig 18 Bennett Collection display cases.

Name that Ribbon

In this section different ribbons will be shown. The names of the ribbon and its associated medal will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Note these ribbons will be world-wide.



Ribbon 1



Ribbon 2



Ribbon 3



Ribbon 4



Ribbon 5

German Prisoners of War at Riding Mountain National Park IN WWII

Who would have thought a fire wood shortage would have been the reason for a German POW Camp to be built in Riding Mountain National Park in the second World War. Historian and Volunteer Michael O Hagan presented and in-depth presentation to a pack house of interested people in August



Fig 19 Michael O'Hagan giving an excellent Presentation on the German POWs at RMNP.



Fig 20 German POWs uniform with red disk on back of tunic and wide red stripe on leg.

Whitewater was a labour camp for German Prisoners of War (POW) in Riding Mountain National park (RMNP). The camp was open from 1943 to 1945, the camp was built on the northeast shore of Whitewater Lake, approximately 100 kilometers north of Brandon Manitoba. The camp consisted of fifteen buildings and housed 440 to 450 prisoners of war. The decision to have a prisoner of war labour project in Riding Mountain National Park was the result of a fuel wood shortage in the winter of 1942 and 1943. To free up men for the war effort it was decided that German prisoners of war would be employed. The majority of the prisoners were former members of the Afrika Corps sent to Canada after being captured in battles like the Second Battle of El Alamein in North Africa. Internees were paid 50 cents per day to cut down trees; prisoners were allowed to use their wages to order from the Eaton's catalogue. On one occasion, the prisoners threatened to strike because "pajamas they'd ordered from the Eaton's catalogue failed to arrive on time" (they thought the guards might have stolen the order). However, relations between the prisoners and their guards were often amicable. Whitewater was the only POW camp in North America not to be bounded by a fence or barbed wire, as its isolation made escape unfeasible. Members of the Veteran Guard of Canada served as guards at the camp. However, prisoners quickly took advantage of their relative freedoms to explore their surroundings and fraternize with the locals. Many of these civilians were of Ukrainian descent and it is believed they were sympathetic to the German prisoners as they hoped that the Germany Army would overthrow the Soviets in Ukraine. As such, prisoners went drinking in town, courted local women, and attended dances. Following the end of the war and the achievement of a fuel wood surplus, the camp closed in late 1945. The remaining prisoners were transferred across the country while the buildings were removed from the park. Today, little remains of the camp. In 2010 and 2011 Brandon University ran an archaeological project at the site.

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Museum Booth at Brandon Summer Fair

The Brandon Summer Fair saw the Museum Volunteers at the town Centre in the UCT Pavilion. The booth had many visitors and was well received with many positive comments about the Museum and its role in the city of Brandon.



Fig 21 Museum Librarian Sandy Armstrong hands out information at the museum booth.



Fig 22 60 RCSCC Swiftsure Sea Cadets visit the Museum booth while on break from community service



Fig 23 Grizzly Armored Personnel Carrier



Fig 24 C1 105 MM Howitzer and 2 1/2 Ton Truck

United Commercial Traveler's (UCT) Travelers Day Parade June 2012.

Brandon and Winnipeg Museum bus tours

Bonnie Korzeniowski, Manitoba's Special Envoy for Military Affairs and Gary Solar, MSM, OstJ, CD, Colonel retired were instrumental in arranging federal funding for Museum Bus Tours. On the eleventh of July the first bus tour from Winnipeg arrived in the Brandon area. Participants visited the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum at the Brandon Airport complex, 26 Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum in the Brandon Armoury where they had great lunch and finished the day at the RCA Museum in CFB Shilo. The second through fourth tours were Brandon to Winnipeg and involved several Military Museums in the Capital. The Museums visited included the following: the Naval Museum of Manitoba located at HMCS Chippawa stone frigate, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Museum and The Combat Service Support Museum all three of Museums are located in the Minto Armoury, The Legion House Museum located in the Royal Canadian Legion Norwood / St. Boniface Branch 43, The 17 Wing Heritage Collection located in the Manitoba Military Aviation Museum at 17 Wing and the Royal Canadian Legion, St. James Branch 4. Tour two on the 26th of July was well

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attended by staff and volunteers from Brandon's Museums. The Legion House provided an excellent lunch after we toured the museum. The third tour was for the Cadets of Brandon and Virden. Cadets enjoyed the Museums and the stop at Polo Park food court for lunch. On the fourth tour several people from various Brandon Senior and Church groups had a great time on a lovely day. Lunch was supplied by St James Legion where Bonnie Korzeniowski presented the Museum a poster of the four hundred years of Manitoba's Military History. All the tours were well received by all the attendees. The host museums provided excellent displays and their tour guides were well versed and knowledgeable. Thanks to the Museums for their participation in the tours, also a big thank you to Bonnie Korzeniowski and Gary Solar for all their valuable assistance.



Fig 25 Bonnie Korzeniowski presents the poster to Lorna Ball, Museum Tour OPI Celebrating the Quadricentennial of Manitoba's Military History.



Fig 26 Rev Harvey Hurren looks at a model of the HMCS Kingston Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel (MCVD) at the Naval Museum of Manitoba



Fig 27 A Variety of Highland uniforms.



Fig 28 Model of a P51 Mustang Fighter at 17 Wing.



Fig 29 Visitors climb on the Brandon Bus Lines highway cruiser for the next museum on the tour.



Fig 30 A display case at the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum showing artefacts for the 1800s.

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RCACC 2528 XII MANITOBA DRAGOON CADETS

On the 30th October 2012 Manitoba Branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada Executive Committee President Mr. Sandy Will, CD (LCol retired) visited the XII MB Dragoons Cadets in Virden. Mr. Will travelled from Winnipeg to present to Cadet Warrant Officer Cole Ramsey "The President's Trophy for being the Most Outstanding Manitoba Army Cadet". This very special award was presented to Cadet WO Ramsey at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 in Virden Home of the Dragoons. This is the first time in many, many years a Cadet from Virden has received this prestigious award. Cadet WO Cole Ramsey was in competition with Cadets from ten other Royal Canadian Army Cadets Corps across the Province. Cadet Warrant Officer Cole Ramsey is the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Cadet Corps located in Virden. He has been a Cadet Dragoon for four years. He has attended a Sports and Fitness Three Week Course at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake Alberta and an Adventure Leader Course at the Cadet Summer Training Facility at Vernon, British Columbia for six weeks. Cadet Dragoon Ramsey lives in the Rural Municipality of Wallace on a farm just outside of Elkhorn. Cadet WO Ramsey is a Grade Twelve student at Elkhorn K-12 School in Elkhorn, Manitoba.



Fig 31 and 32 Cadet Warrant Officer Cole Ramsey Receives the President's Award from Sandy Will, CD (LCol retired)

2528 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps is the only organization that perpetuates the name and insignia of the XII MB Dragoons Regiment. The cadet corps formed October 19, 1954 as the Virden Collegiate Cadet Corps affiliated to and using the insignia of the XII Manitoba Dragoons. In 1964 the regiment was placed on the Supplementary Order of Battle the corps affiliation changed to that of the 71st Field Battery and shortly after the 26th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Branch Number 8 of Royal Canadian Legion became sponsor of the corps May 26, 1975 and housed the unit on its premises. On the 3rd of October 1994 the Corps resumed its original affiliation and was renamed the XII Manitoba Dragoons Cadet Corps. The 26 Field Regiment, through its Senate, is an active supporter of the Corps. The Corps continues to parade in the Virden Legion Hall and is composed of youth from many surrounding communities. RCACC 2528 parade every Tuesday evening at Branch Number 8 of Royal Canadian Legion. Youth between 12 and 18 interested in joining the Corps or adults with any questions please contact Captain Kel G. Smith Commanding Officer at Postal Box 2288 Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0.



Catch a bus, Drive a car, Ride your bike or walk.

The Museum is open every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For tours at other times call:

Edd. at 204 726-3498 or

Gord at 204 727-7691.

Thanks to our Donors for their donations

January to November 2012

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XII MB Dragoons 2528 RCACC Cadet Corps

The Museum is located on the South West corner of 11th Street and Victoria Avenue. For Information on the Museum and tours. Be sure to check us out on the web at: www.26fdregmuseum.com or www.12mbdragoons.com

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This News letter is published by SDI under the authority of the Commanding Officer of 38 CBG ATG and by The Board of 26 Field Regiment RCA /XII MB Dragoons Museum Board. Please forward any inquiries to 26fdregCurator@wcgwave.ca. My thanks to Don Berry, Sandy Armstrong, Lorna Ball and Gord Sim for the valuable help with putting the Newsletter together, Editor.

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