



THE BULLETIN

1st Hussars Association

London and Sarnia, Ontario

Bulletin

Vol 15, No. 01 (Mar 2015)

www.firsthussars.ca

Bulletin Address

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This Bulletin is brought to you by donations from Karen Hall, Art Lesny, Bill Reed, Col J.G. Thompson and Bill Tugwell.

This upcoming weekend we will have the fundraising St Patrick's party, where we will attempt to make enough money to send the Regiment over to Holland to help celebrate the liberation of that nation near the end of the Second World War. I hope to see many of you there.

I would like to say thank you to all the friends and former Hussars who donate their time to make the various committees work. I speak of the Museum and Cavalry Fund committees and those members of the Association who come out to the meetings we have. Without your help and involvement the regiment would be much poorer. Having said that, it would be nice to have a few more volunteers to help spread the load. The demographic has certainly changed over the years and some new blood would help to keep it current. Please join us!

This bulletin contains an article by Perry Kitson on the Humber Scout Car. Perry has joined the Museum committee and spends his spare time restoring old Military vehicles. Sadly, I remember

using some of these vehicles. Nick Corrie relates an anecdote from his time at Ipperwash. It relates to a tank, which is near and dear to all our hearts.

Art Boyle has received the Legion of Honour as have Ted Paisley and Gordon Zurbrigg.

Congratulations to all! I mentioned the trip to Holland which takes place in early May. The plan is to take two veterans, Aris Domnas and John Mills from Sarnia, with 30 members of the regiment and about 20 members of the Association. It should be a good time for all. LCol Joe Murray will guide and talk at the various locations visited.

Hope you enjoy the Bulletin.

A message from the Editor:

I always love when the top o' the mornin' is filled with sunshine and songbirds...spring is near! As this month marches on, members of the Association are hard at work organizing and planning for the St. Patrick's Pub Night. This annual event is a fantastic fundraiser for the Regiment, and known to be a good time. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, comments or ideas of what you might like to see in your Regimental newsletter, please contact 1sthussarsbulletin@gmail.com.

General Meetings and Events – London

PLEASE NOTE:

Our weekly lunches are held Wednesdays in the Officer's Mess.

1H Association Meetings

Sunday 15 Mar 2015, 1300 hrs at the Byron Legion, 1276 Commissioners Road West, London.

Sunday 19 Apr 2015, 1300 hrs at the Byron Legion, 1276 Commissioners Road West, London.

Sunday 10 May 2015, 1300 hrs at the Byron Legion, 1276 Commissioners Road West, London.

D-Day Weekend *(see enclosed sheet)*

Saturday 6 Jun 2015 **1st Hussars Museum**
Open 1300 hrs to 1600 hrs

D-Day Dinner
1830 hrs at HMCS Prevost
Ward Room
***RSVP REQUIRED**
*see enclosed info sheet**

Sunday 7 Jun 2015 **D-Day Parade**
1030 hrs at City Hall
1100 hrs Memorial Service at
Holy Roller, Victoria Park

General Meetings and Events – Sarnia

Sarnia's meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at the Sarnia Armouries, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting is 12 Mar 15.
The following meetings are on
9 Apr 15 & 14 May 15.



In Memoriam

Frances Balmer

25 February 2013, age 80, Camrose Alberta.

Fran was a member of the 1st Hussars Association. She was predeceased by her husband, John Balmer, who was a veteran of the 1st Hussars.

Raymond Cooper

24 November 2014, age 53, Sarnia Ontario.

Raymond was an Association member from Sarnia.

Grant Herrington

20 February 2015, age 90, Arkona Ontario. Grant was not a Hussar, but came with us to France in 2004. He endured many jokes (good-hearted) on his service in the RCAF. He became a member of the Association after the trip.

Daniel Muill

13 January 2015, age 63, St Thomas Ontario. I believe he was a member during the 50's, early 60's.

Anna Paisley

19 December 2014, age 89, Petrolia Ontario.

Anna's husband, Ted, is a WWII Hussar and is the brother of the late Jim Paisley

Vincent Reed

30 July 2014, age 90, Calgary Alberta.

Vince was a WWII tank driver/veteran of the 1st Hussars, and received a degree in law from the University of British Columbia in 1951. He was in practice until his retirement.

Paul Willock

16 December 2014, age 68, Sarnia Ontario. Paul was a Master Warrant Officer in the unit and Squadron Sergeant-Major of 'C' Squadron in Sarnia.

Knights of Armour:
French Legion of Honour Medal
Recipients – An Update
By Michelle Lundy



The French Legion of Honour Medal
Photo: www.express.co.uk

Since our last issue of The Bulletin, a few more 1st Hussars WWII veterans have been awarded the rank of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour. This award of high distinction came from the French Government for a soldier's participation on D-Day, and ultimately the liberation of France in 1944.

Gordon Zurbrigg was one of six veterans who were awarded the medal in Stratford Ontario in February. Ted Paisley of Petrolia has been deemed a recipient and we have also received word from Ken Boyle, that his father Art Boyle has also been awarded the medal. Sid McLean, a member of the Association in Sarnia, received the medal of the Legion of Honour at a ceremony at the Legion in Petrolia. Sid was not a Hussar, but has been a member of the Mess and Association.

Congratulations to these exemplary veterans!

Ipperwash – January 1960
By Nick Corrie



Photo: 1st Hussars Museum Archives

On the shore of southern Lake Huron sits the remnant of one of the Canadian Army's prettiest bases – Camp Ipperwash. In 1940 it was requisitioned from the Indians for war training but remained an army facility until 1993; today it's again an Indian reserve. Sometime in the late 1950's, the First Hussars were favoured by having three Sherman tanks placed at the Camp for training purposes. One of these tanks developed fuel injection problems which required servicing: delegated to do the work were Cpls Jimmy Secord and Bob "Granny" Grantham along with Tprs Denny Messeroll and me, Nick Corrie. This is our story.

On a Saturday morning in January 1960 (that's 55 years ago for you mathematically challenged people, aka senior NCO's and officers) we rumbled north from the Armouries in a 2 ½ T (deuce and a half). The two corporals pulled rank commandeering the heated cab while relegating Denny and me to sit freezing in the rear – typical!

Jimmy, who was a qualified auto mechanic, thinking it was muck in the tank fouling the fuel injectors, decide to drain the fuel tank which meant the belly plates had to come off. Ever lie on your back on frozen ground with 35 tons of steel just inches from your face? It calls for a degree of courage reinforced by Divine faith, and when the plates finally drop off – oh boy!

Cont'd -

Once that little job was out of the way the next step was to try and start the beast, but to no avail. With the air breathers off, Jimmy cracked liquid ether eggs into the manifold-still no luck. Back in those days on any farm running diesel, the farmer had on hand a spray can of ether. Even though Jimmy was a farmer he didn't think to bring a can, but here luck finally arrived: on the ground was a part can: *(1) can, ether, for the use of.* After a couple of shots – varoom! Nothing to it! (We slave-started the second engine contrary to WO 11 Delaney's express orders. Who's to notice – right!)

Next we did what any smart thinking Hussar would do – take it for a spin! Out to the ranges we went happy as four soldiers on leave with pockets full of money and beer and girls on their minds. At first the ground was hard packed and level until we reached a large ditch empty of any water or reason not to cross it. I guess our efforts to drain the tank of any gunk wasn't very complete because the dipping of the tank stirred up more residue and it stalled, not to be restarted no matter what. We locked up the tank, returned to the truck and back to London. As far as I was concerned, a mere Trooper, the responsibility to follow up with the necessary paper work (three copies) was someone else's problem and I gave it very little thought.

How much time passed I'm not sure, but around the Armouries a story began to circulate about a missing tank. The best minds in charge (can you say: Senior Officers) determined it had probably been stolen and of course just a few miles away was Kettle Point Reserve, conclusion: the Indians stole our tank! I assume the Provost were called in to conduct a thorough investigation and perhaps it was their professional opinion which confirmed the Indian theft theory advanced earlier? I wonder how it was explained that no track marks were seen leading away to the reserve? Did they further theorise it was an old Indian trick? Maybe the tracks were wrapped in blankets or branches laid on the ground? Military intelligence knows no bounds!

When the next chapter in this saga ensued I'm not sure. Perhaps in the following summer someone roaming the Ipperwash ranges noticed something peculiar sticking above the ground. After poking around it was discovered that this odd object was

the top of – A Sherman Tank! You see back where we left the tank on frozen ground in January, it becomes a swamp and bog as it has been for millennia. As the ground thawed it sucked down the 35 tons and covered it with the spring runoff. Voila! Tank gone! I don't know if charges were laid or perhaps the Brass were so relieved and embarrassed by it all that they decided to close the book on "The Stolen Tank". It was just as dangerous in 1960 as it is now to accuse the Indians, *First Nation People*, of anything especially when they were falsely accused and innocent.

Well that's my "War Story" such as it is. I self-proclaim my innocence of any wrong doing, me just a lowly Trooper; the axe belongs elsewhere. Sadly, my other three mates have already gone to the big tank range in the sky leaving me to claim: I am the only First Hussar alive today who ever lost a tank in Canada.

1st Hussars Museum Report

By Steve Liggett



The Museum is still closed at this point. If you wish to visit, get in touch with me (519-455-4533) and I will arrange for someone to open up, when you are available. The Museum will start opening up regularly on Saturdays and holidays from 1-4 pm, starting 18 April 2015.

We have applied for two summer students so that we will be able to open Monday to Friday during June, July and August. The Museum will once again be open on Canada Day and we have applied to be a part of Doors Open London. If we are accepted, we will be open from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday September 27 and Sunday September 28.

This is your Museum and we would be happy to see you.



Association News

- On Family Day, February 16, the family of the late RSM Don Black gathered in the home of Don's wife Julie to watch the film "From Horses to Horsepower". Gathered were his daughter Karen and son-in-law Art Lesny, Don's son Doug with wife Susan, and their daughter Laura. Special guests were long time friends Rick and Lou Shepherd. The significance of coming together on this special day was heightened as everyone marked Don's passing just one year ago, February 20, 2014, by recounting stories and anecdotes all emphasizing Don's great sense of humour. Don's commitment to the Regiment was only surpassed by his love for family and friends.
- Ric and Lou Shepherd celebrated 50 years of marriage on February 14, 2015 at the Berkshire Club. Congratulations!
- Mark Poland has been appointed as the Crown Attorney for the Judicial District of Waterloo in Kitchener. Major Mark Poland was the 2IC of the Regiment when LColonel Brown was CO. He is now the 2IC of the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada based out of Kitchener.
- Col Rob Shaw was ill for a while but is now on the road to recovery.

- George Fortin of Sarnia, is in Parkwood Hospital (4th floor) for rehab. George had an operation on his back and neck with some adverse complications and is spending this cold weather in the warmth at Parkwood. He expects to go home on 24 March.
- Tim Winslow has moved to New Zealand.
- Change of Command is 19 September 2015.

A Photo Op...



Sid McLean, Bill Tugwell and Inge Seneco (back) at a museum in Amsterdam.

Photo submitted by:



Gary Mulholland and Bob Beamish drop the puck at a hockey game during Vet Week in Dorchester, ON.

Photo: The Dorchester Signpost

The Humber Scout Car

By Perry Kitson



*Near harbour – A soldier & Humber Scout Car
Photo: Red McCormick Collection*

The Humber Scout Car was one of the regiment's smallest and lightest armoured vehicles to be used during the Second World War. It was employed in a liaison and light reconnaissance role. The Humber was developed to supplement production of the Daimler built Dingo armoured car, which could not be produced in sufficient numbers to satisfy demand.

The Humber was crewed by 2 men, a driver (on the right) and a commander/gunner, who also operated the No. 19 radio. There was a small provision for a third crewman if needed. It was armed with a .303 in. Bren machine gun, which was pintle mounted on the roof, forward of the crew compartment overhead cover, and the crews personal weapons, usually 9mm Sten SMG's.

The Humber was well liked by its crews. It had the advantage of being more spacious than the Dingo, and had overhead cover which the Dingo did not have. The Dingo was however more heavily armoured, with 1.18 ins. (30mm) of frontal armour. The scout car was rear engined, powered by a Humber, in line, 6 cylinder gasoline engine developing 80HP. The engine was coupled to a 4

speed manual transmission with a transfer case to give either 2 or 4 wheel drive. Top speed was 60 mph (100 kph), with a range of about 190 miles (300 kms.) on a full complement of 20 gallons (90l) of fuel. Hydraulic brakes were fitted at all four wheel stations. Fully stowed, the Humber tipped the scales at just over 4 tons (3,700kgs). The armour thickness was .55 ins. (14mm) on the hull front and sides, .47 ins. (12mm) on the rear, and .16 ins. (4mm) on the roof.

Vehicle dimensions are:

Length	151 ins. (3.83m)
Width	73 ins. (1.85m)
Height	65 ins. (1.65m) to top of hull
Wheelbase	91 ins. (2.31m)
Turning circle	35 ft. (10.6m)

Humber produced 4,298 scout cars in two versions. Approximately 1700 MK I's and the remainder MK II's were built between 1942 and 1945. The Mk II had an improved transmission and slightly thicker armour on the hull front and radiator cover, as well as changes to stowage.

Canadian troops handed in all Humbers at the closing of the war. The British, Belgians and Dutch all went on to use the Humber well into the 1950's

There are currently only about 20 examples remaining worldwide, the other wartime survivors having met their fate as hard targets on gunnery ranges.



*A Humber Scout Car with British markings,
restored by Lance Varga.
Photo: Lance Varga*

From Horses to Horsepower – on DVD

By Nick Corrie



A packed house at HMCS Prevost for the film screening.

Photo: Joe Murray

The world premiere of “From Horses to Horsepower” was held on January 22, 2015 at HMCS Prevost. This important first showing was well attended: the audience which was comprised of Regimental members from both London and Sarnia along with Association members and special guests, enjoyed a good evening together.

Much praise was expressed on the presentation of this thirty minute film gleaned from Museum archival film with added inserts to depict 158 years of history, from 1856 to 2014. Free copies were distributed to all serving Hussars in attendance. The Cavalry Fund is pleased to now offer copies to the Association and general public at a nominal cost:

Mail Order: \$20.00 shipping included.

Send cheques made payable to:

The First Hussars Cavalry Fund

701 Oxford Street East, London ON

N5Y 4T7

PayPal Credit Card: \$20.00 shipping included.

Visit www.firsthussars.ca

Go to the Cavalry Fund page and use the

“Buy Now/PayPal” button.

Be sure to include your current address for mailing.

1st Hussars
St. Patrick's Irish Pub Night
Saturday March 14th 2015
HMCS PREVOST 19 Becher St
8PM - 1AM
Live Band - Three Penny Piece
Irish Dancers
Food available for purchase

A Pilgrimage to Holland

By Joe Murray

We are pleased to announce that we will have two veterans of the 1st Hussars joining us on our trip to Holland in May.



Aris Domnas, was a firefly gunner with “A” Sqn and fought through France, Belgium, Holland and was supporting the British Army in Germany when the war ended. After the War, he graduated from Laval in chemistry and then went down to the States and was awarded his PHD from Illinois Polytech. He taught at Indiana University and then was offered a position at North Carolina, where he finished his career. He is 91 years of age and still lives in North Carolina.



John Mills (pictured above with CO Rick Phillips), was originally from Chatham and joined the Essex Tank Regiment before being sent overseas. He became a driver and while in Belgium ended up in a hospital. After released from hospital, John was posted to the First Hussars “B” Sqn as the OC’s driver, and served with the Hussars until the end of hostilities. He was with “B” Sqn occupying a Luftwaffe field in Germany when the end of the war was announced. John currently lives in Sarnia.

We are extremely honoured to have these 2 veterans of the 1st Hussars accompany us to Holland.

ITINERARY & TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, May 01

Evening departure from Toronto, overnight flight to Amsterdam.

Saturday, May 02

Arrive Amsterdam Schiphol, board the coaches and some sightseeing in area/en route to Zutphen. Lunch and check in at hotel – stay 5 nights

Sunday, May 03

Groesbeek Cemetery ceremonies, Nijmegen area, Liberation Museum and Arnhem visit. Return to Zutphen.

Monday, May 04

Holten Canadian War Cemetery ceremonies, visit Apeldoorn and area. Return to Zutphen

Tuesday, May 05

Wageningen – official German surrender ceremonies and parade. Visit Zetten (Hemmen Castle) for official visit and lay wreath and plaque. Return to Zutphen

Wednesday, May 06

Visit Overloon – Oorlogsmuseum. Travel to Kepplen, Kalkar and Udem, Germany. Return to Zutphen

Thursday, May 07

Early departure to Breda/ Roosendaal. Visit Bergen op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery. Continue to Amsterdam, and enjoy a canal cruise. Stay 2 nights

Friday, May 08

Walking tour of Amsterdam. Visit the Resistance Museum. Farewell dinner.

Saturday, May 09

Transfer to Schiphol Airport for the return flight to Toronto.



THE 1ST 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.

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

Major George Stirrett Armouries
574 Confederation Street
Sarnia, ON N7T 2C3
The Sarnia Kit Shop is currently going through reorganization. Contacts will be updated when available.

<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
1H key chain – Gold or Pewter	\$ 5.00
1 st Hussars regimental coin (numbered)	\$10.00
1H Ball Caps	\$15.00
Golf shirts	\$40.00
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 (1 H-Gold)	\$ 3.00
License Plate Frames	\$10.00
Mug Porcelain	\$ 5.00
Beer Coolers	\$ 2.00
Water bottle	\$ 4.00
Plastic coffee travel mug	\$ 5.00
Ladies Brooch	\$25.00
Royal Canadian Armoured Corps History	\$50.00
1 st Hussars New Regimental History (2004)	\$50.00 contact for shipping charges
Bronze plaques (1H)	\$50.00
Miniature Guidon (unframed)	\$200.00
Miniature Guidon (framed)	\$350.00
1 st Hussars Silver Ring	\$350.00
1 st Hussars Gold Ring	Contact for pricing
1H Support the Troops 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
Hockey Jersey	\$125.00
Embroidered Crest (on your own shirt or jacket)	\$10.00
Pewter Stein engraved	\$90.00

1st Hussars Camouflage Hockey Jerseys

Sizes from Small to 3XL Goalie



Pricing:

Basic Jersey – No Logos \$80

Jersey with Crest - \$90

Complete Jersey as seen – \$125
(includes crest, name and number on the back and sleeves)

Additional smaller crests on the shoulders - \$15

See the kit shop for ordering and to try on samples for sizing.
Orders will be placed as they come in.

Association Dues

Please use this form for address changes as well

Bill McTavish
229 Woodworth Ave
St Thomas, Ontario
N5P 3K9

Here's my cheque for \$20.00 for 20____ dues. I was in the 1st Hussars from _____ to _____

Name e-mail address

Apt # Address

City Prov/State Postal/Zip (_____) Telephone number

May we send the bulletin to you by e-mail? Yes _____

Donation to the Regimental Museum / Cavalry Fund / Association

1st Hussars Cavalry Fund (select one) ____ (Museum) ____ (Cavalry Fund) ____ (Association)
c/o Mike Steele (Select one)
4 Golfview Crescent
London, Ontario N6C 5M9

Here's my cheque for \$ _____ to help support the Museum / Cavalry Fund / Association
Send tax receipt to:

Name Telephone Number

City Prov/State

Apt # Address Postal/Zip

Donation: Make cheques payable to the 1st Hussars Cavalry Fund

Yes _____ I would like to donate some time to the Museum. Please have someone contact me.

1st Hussars

D-Day Reunion Weekend

6 – 7 June 2015

To all Association members and Unit members:

Here is the timetable for the upcoming D-Day weekend. Please take note of the information at the bottom of this form. It is imperative that you let us know if you plan to attend the D-Day Dinner. Please help us manage this event by co-operating with this request. If you are a widow of a 1st Hussar, please complete the form as well. Thanks to a bequest from the late Don Black, all WWII veterans will attend at no charge. Thank you.

Saturday, 6 June 2015 - **1st Hussars Museum** will be open from 1300 to 1600 hours.
1 Dundas Street, (Parking off King Street).
London N6A 2P1

D-Day Dinner – 1830 to 1930 hours.
Ward Room, HMCS Prevost (Upstairs)
19 Becher St, London N6C 1A4
Dress – blazers with regimental tie or smart casual. (No medals)

Sunday, 7 June 2015 - **D-Day Parade** – 1030 hours
Association members meet at London City Hall before 1030 hrs
Parade moves to Victoria Park for the 11:00 Memorial Service
Reception and Family Day to be announced.
Dress – blazers with medals, berets etc.

Please take a minute to complete the attached form to confirm your attendance at the D-Day dinner. If you plan to attend, we must have your name and cheque by 1 June 2015. If you do not reply, we cannot guarantee that we will have a meal for you.

Reply to: Bill McTavish
229 Woodworth Ave
St Thomas, ON N5P 3K9

_____ will attend the 1st Hussars D-Day Dinner on 7 June 2015
Please print

Enclosed is my cheque for \$_____ (\$35 single / \$70 couple).
(payable to the 1st Hussars Association) Number of guests attending _____

It has been an Association custom that widows attend the dinner at no expense. If you are a widow and plan to attend, please print your name in the space above and tick this box. ☐