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# Thunderbird



## 50th ANNIVERSARY

Canada

Number 1, 1990

# The Thunderbird JOURNAL



Number 1, 1990

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

The **Thunderbird Journal**, the official journal of the Security Branch, is published quarterly and is an authorized DND periodical in accordance with CFAO 57-14.

The aim of the **Thunderbird Journal** is to provide a focal point for Branch activities, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, and to foster professionalism and esprit de corps.

Items suitable for publication in the **Thunderbird Journal** will vary in terms of topics and format but can include both items of Branch wide interest as well as more informal reports of local events. Articles may be submitted direct or through the normal chain of command subject to the approval of appropriate commanders as applicable.

Letters to the Editor, questions or editorial comment will be welcome, however, the Editorial Board reserves the right to reject articles considered unsuitable for publication.

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## Letter from the Editor

by Maj Sandra Entwistle

A new year, a new decade, 1990 has arrived. With it, some changes to the Thunderbird Journal. You may have noticed some of the changes in the last issue which was published in January.

I would like to hear from you, the readers on this matter. What do you think about the new layout; the new colour; the variety of articles?

In an attempt to improve the appeal of the Journal, we have worked on the technical things as

well as the content. We have standardized headings and titles to balance the overall look. And, the colour! We thought we'd brighten things up a little and use the Branch identifying colour. Hope it worked!

You will notice that this issue is, in effect, a "special" issue. The year 1990 signifies the Golden Anniversary (50th) of the Canadian Provost Corps. The flavour of this issue, then is to focus on C Pro C history and some of the stories of the "good ol' days". We hope it brings back memories for some of our retired members and that it

inspires the younger members of the Branch. The C Pro C history is a proud one. That the present-day Security Branch evolved from it is a tribute in itself. The men and women who today represent the Branch can be proud of their heritage and will continue to bide by the motto: "Discipline by example".

On behalf of all the members of the Security Branch I would like to say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the Canadian Provost Corps. **SECURITAS. O-O**

## Up the Down Route

by Watchdog

HELLO ALL STATIONS. THIS IS 28 ALPHA, HOW DO YOU HEAR ME? OVER.

The last two columns have been based on edited notes provided by two former FPM, Cyprus, circa 1974-75. Now Major RO (Bob) Stevens picks up the story (The following is edited from a private communication dated 25 Feb 87):

"On 16 Jul 75, AMU Lahr tossed me onto an unscheduled flight into the Middle East, with the result that I arrived in Cyprus four days early. It was 130 degrees on the runway at Limassol, and I quickly realized that my acclimatization was going to be very tough. I believe that the handover notes prepared for me were the most comprehensive I've received at any time during my 36 years in the Service. My Op O was a Danish captain, with a Canadian lieutenant as Adm O. Paul Jenkins was already on the ground, to be re-

placed over my year by captains Gary Rheilander and Ed Sanford.

The Company was about 70 all ranks, provided variously by UK, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Finland and Canada. Transport was leased commercial sedans or British-source landrovers. I really do recall one worthy Canadian rushing out of Nicosia MP Station, jumping into the left front seat of a landrover, to stare bemusedly at where the steering wheel should have been!

Traffic control, accident investigation, theft and smuggling, or rather, countering the latter two, occupied most of our time.

The most serious incident of my tour occurred late in 1975 when a Canadian observer shot a Turkish soldier in the head. Two Canadian soldiers were trying to see which one could best take up the slack with his weapon without actually

firing a shot! God save us from bored soldiers. The Turks were convinced we were covering up for the Greeks, and threatened to punish Nicosia for this crime. It took some doing on our part to convince all concerned that stupidity knows no national bounds.

Probably the most interesting event during my year on the Island was organizing the collection and extraction of Turkish-Cypriots stranded in the South by the civil war. Augmented by other personnel and vehicles, UN MP were responsible for collecting these long suffering souls and escorting them North to join their colleagues in the Turkish enclave. The operation was similar to one organized earlier in reverse by the UN Civil Police, but was made more difficult and risky by the recalcitrance of Greek-Cypriot officialdom. Nevertheless, we completed it, more or less on schedule, without casualties.



Ten years afterwards, it remains my opinion that overall our UNFICYP Military Police Company was a credible organization. Our CF MP proved themselves to be second-to-none in a complex environment where we exercised full but very imprecise jurisdiction over a polyglot force. I don't recall any of my Canadian MP letting me

down, indeed I am proud of the way my Company discharged its mission over the course of a very difficult year."

Thank you, Bob Stevens. For some of you younger members who may not know him, Major Stevens was the first air element officer to serve as FPM UNFICYP,

a job he completed with considerable distinction. A good officer is what he is for reasons other than the colour of his uniform. A tip of the red beret to you, Bob!

ALL STATIONS, THIS IS  
28 ALPHA OUT TO YOU. ○-○

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

# Notes from the Branch Adviser

by Col. William J. McCullough, MSC, CD

The Editor (Maj Sandra Entwistle) reminded me last week that it is none too early to be thinking about my notes for our First Edition 1990 **Thunderbird Journal**. Written the last week of November 1989, I can but hope that they are not too stale by the time they get to you.

Early last week I addressed the Security Officers Advanced Course in Borden and discussed with them the more major problems and concerns that trouble us all. There have been some personnel improvements this past year, and this has been reflected in a modestly better overall manning picture, together with far more promotions than were anticipated at the start of 1989. In 1990, I expect that we will promote one new colonel, up to three lieutenant colonels and something in excess of seven new majors. In the same year, we will make up at least one and probably more chief warrant officers and a total of 8-10 master warrant officers or warrant officers. Of course, that is the plan. Last year we had

planned to promote 9 MWO and WO, but actually promoted 38! So much for planning.

I am hearing some gloomy forecasts about the 1990-91 defence budget, but for the moment, I am not able to predict what further realignments should be expected. As you will know by now, I have had to cut my own NDHQ military establishment by ten percent, and I sense that there is more to come.

Security has been centre-stage this past 6 months. We have, to say the least, been under the microscope. In essence, while we have been challenged to explain precisely why we are necessary in a peacetime defence force at all, I do sense that some people think that if you could get rid of the military police, the police and security problems would in some miraculous way disappear! It has been a somewhat vexatious exercise, but I think the principals concerned are learning that there is no point in shooting the messenger!

The RCMP budget-leak case, and the related court revelations, have been a bit of a shock to the bureaucracy. Those of you who know me will know that I am a strong and long time advocate of selective enforcement twinned, with the exercise of discretion. Simply stated, we do not rigidly or randomly enforce all of the law all of the time. Instead, we rely on each individual policeman or woman to decide in a given circumstance, just how formally to proceed. Twice now I have been asked if it is possible to produce a decision chart which would tell persons in authority precisely what action would be taken by the military police for any number of prevalent offences.

I sense that the bureaucracy, somewhat put-off by the prospects of media or political exposure, would like to be able to wash their hands of any responsibility for the things that inevitably go wrong from time to time. I think that my message is starting to be understood, but I am not so naive as to



think that the question will ever entirely go away.

I met with Rear Admiral Porter some time ago to discuss uniforms, identifiers and accoutrements. He is Chief Personnel Services at NDHQ. I found him to be direct, reasonable and approachable, and believe that we have now had a full opportunity to make our case on identifiers, shields and other accoutrements. Certainly, we are well and truly on the record in respect to distinctive dress.

Since penning my last notes, I visited the Royal Military Police Training Centre in England. There, in addition to participating in the Annual March, we also dedicated the Branch Flag, which now hangs in the Corps Chapel. In September, the CO SIU, LCol Peter MacLaren, and I attended the Chiefs of Police Conference in Hamilton. In October, CWO Nolan and I visited our MP in Cyprus and on the Golan, with Mr Nolan also spending a week with our MP in Germany. The Chief and I, together with the Colonel Commandant, MGen Al Pickering, attended the Regional Dining-In at Esquimalt in November, with Mr Nolan and I closing out

the year with a visit to Valcartier. All in all, we had quite a busy Autumn.

Winter's cold embrace has, by now, passed. With it, much work done to consolidate the gains implicit to our occupational analysis. CTS boards were convened to begin reconstructing the training which will no doubt have a major impact on this Branch for years to come. This important work will demand much of us, but it is work that will benefit all of us.

Clearly, whatever the challenges of the Nineties, our strength is in the quality and the professionalism of our individual military policemen and women. That quality and professionalism can only be enhanced and tempered by all that we are going through now. In the end, the best blade is that which was cast in the hottest fire.

While these words are again overly lengthy, I note that 1990 is the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Provost Corps. Formed on 15 June 1940, the Corps had a continuous history through to the formation of the Canadian Forces Security Branch in 1968. Curiously enough, the RCAF formed its original Air Force Police Branch on 19 October 1939, however, it was not maintained continuously through to integration and unification.

In any event, Happy Birthday to the Corps! One of the strengths of our Security Branch is found in the traditions and conventions of the provost whether they wore khaki or blue uniforms.

And finally, a personal note. By the time you read these notes, this Branch Adviser will be passé. With 31 years regular service, plus six years reserve service, my time has come and gone. I am proud to have served with you, and go to retirement with the sense that what we have wrought made it all worth while.

Some of you may be discouraged from time to time; may feel that we do not always enjoy the confidence of those we serve; sense that you are abused and held up to ridicule unfairly; do not always get your fair share of the good as well as the bad. But in truth, I would have to say that we have come a long way in 30 years! You are policemen and women. You act like MP and you look like MP and you talk like MP. You must really be MP and it has been my privilege to have shared so much with you. Good luck to all of you. ○-○



# Charles 1

## Articles of War



**The Prouost** must haue a horse allowed him and some soldiers to attend him, and all the rest commanded to obey and assist, or else the Service will suffer, for he is but one man and must correct many and therefore he cannot be loved.

And he must be riding from one garrison to another to see the soldiers do no outrage nor scathe the country.

Domini  
Anno 1629.

# The Canadian Provost Corps

## A Short History

by Maj Lorne Henderson (ret'd)

— based on excerpts from "the C Pro C Silver Jubilee Journal"; Don Tresbam's "Historical Research of the C Pro C", and Col Ritchie's (ret'd) article "SPECULATORE — The Provost of the Roman Army".

Where did we come from? If that is a question you have asked even once during your career as a member of the Security Branch, then you must read on.

### SPECULATORE

History suggests that the provost first made its appearance within a military force in the form of the SPECULATORE of the Roman Imperial Army, starting with Augustus Caesar, 31 B.C.-A.D. 14. Michael Grant, a noted contemporary author, tells us that they were all men of exceptional physique and stamina recruited from outside Rome and on occasion from Spain and Germany. He also writes that the corps of mounted Speculatore was employed, like their Legionary counterparts for the rapid conveyance of messages and despatches, and the provision of information, secret or otherwise, to the ruler. There is clear evidence to suppose that they were used for undercover activities such as espionage, arrests, guarding suspects and detainees, and (as under Augustus, Antonius and Ptolemy — The Triumvirate) the execution of condemned men.

Since the era of the Speculatore "Caesar's Provost" many countries have employed some form of military police within their armed forces.

### PROVOST

The Canadian Provost Corps was in reality a descendant of older organizations in both the Canadian and British Armies. It is appropriate, therefore, to go back in time to examine the activities of the forerunners of our modern military policemen and women.

It is thought that the Anglo-French word "provost" is derived through the old English "pafost", from the Latin "praefectus" which has always implied one in authority. It is believed that the "Provost Marshall" was first appointed by the King, probably during the thirteenth century. As an assistant to the Earl Marshal of England, he was to relieve that officer of the disciplinary side of his military duties.

### EXECUTION OF PUNISHMENTS

The Articles of War of the various British Monarchs from the Middle Ages until the passing of the Army Act in 1879 make many references to the Provost Marshal and the provost company and their disciplinary duties. The Provost Marshal had as part of his Headquarters establishment a chaplain, two judges, two gaolers and two hangmen. History would lead us to believe that they were all Busy! During the reign of Charles I the provost marshal was responsible for the execution of punishment awarded by military court as well as being allowed to take summary action:

"... hath charge of all manners Tortures; as Gyves, Shackles, Bolts, Chains, Bilbowes, Manacles, Whips, and the like, and may be his Ministers use them, either in case of judgement or com-

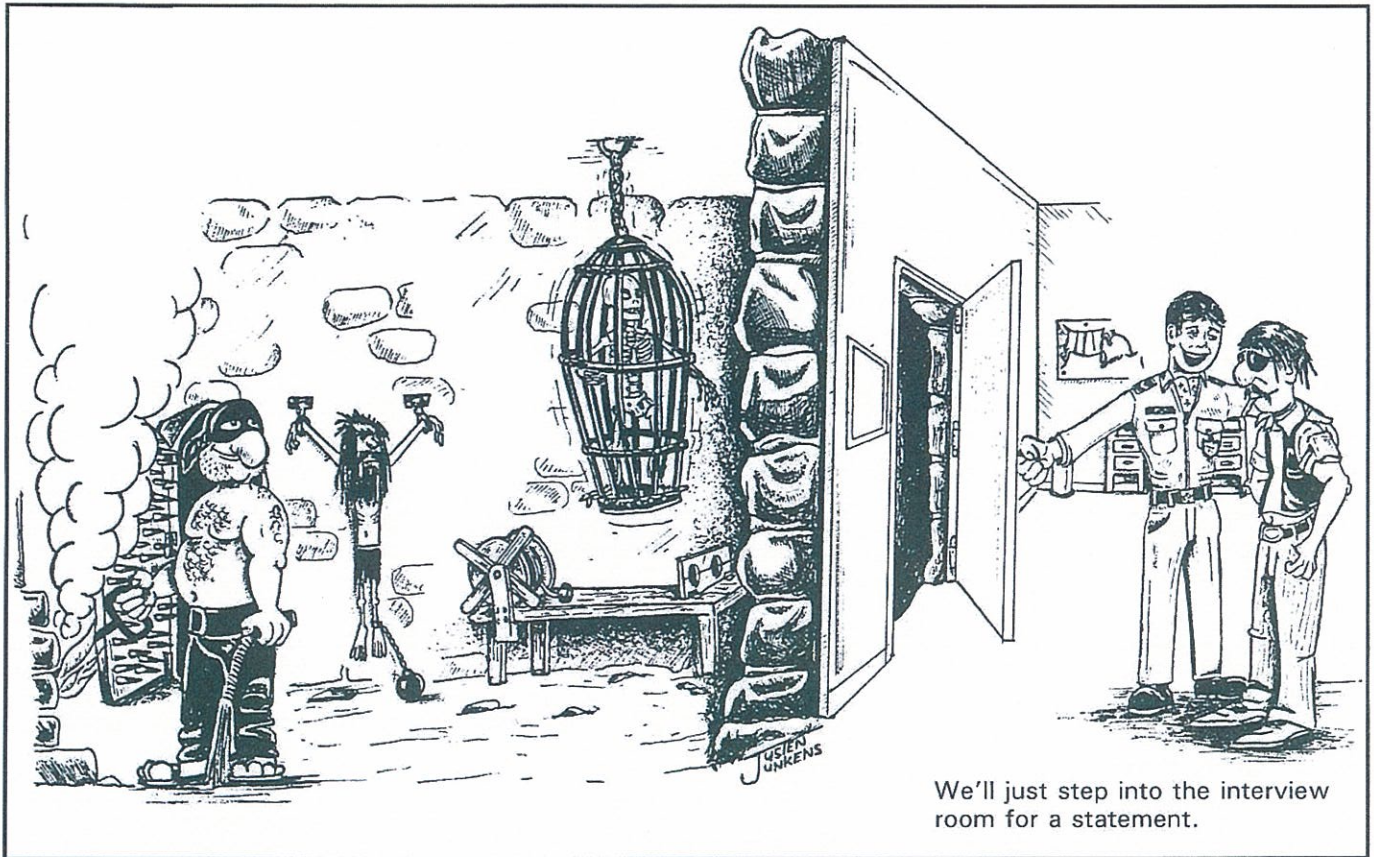
mandment from a Marshall Court, or otherwise upon unruliness at his own discretion. He is by his officers to see that all places of Execution are prepared and furnished with engines fitting with the judgement; whether it be gallows, Gibets, Scaffolds, Pillaries, Stocks or strappadoes, or any other engine which is set up for terror and affright to such as behold it".

Overseas the Provost Marshal was not forgotten. In the Colonial Empire there were semi-permanent and permanent Provost Marshals. The earliest known provision of a permanent Provost Marshal was for the colony of Virginia in 1611. Others that are recorded include St Helens 1687, Gibraltar 1724 and various appointments throughout India in the eighteenth century.

### BIGGER AND BETTER

During the Napoleonic Wars and in particular the Peninsular War there was notable importance placed on the Provost Service and as a result, it was expanded and allotted new tasks. Besides a Provost Marshal in each army, assistant provost marshals were recruited from the supporting arms and services and distributed throughout each Army. Provost sergeants were also appointed to command detachments of police. The Provost Service also got support from two newly formed organizations: the Corps of Mounted Guides (1809-1820) and the Staff Corps of Cavalry (1811-1820). They were formed to support and supplement the Provost Service. Their specific duties included reconnaissance, acting as interpreters, providing dispatch riders and orderlies, and to act as military police.





British and American armies are replete with historical accounts of the duties and importance of the Provost Service. In campaigns, such usual duties as requisitioning and control of wagon trains were added to the usual aspects of impressment, discipline and supervision of camp followers.

### THE MODERN ERA

Canada did however, have a para military police force, the North West Mounted Police (NWMP). The NWMP was modelled after the Royal Irish Constabulary, a force of trained cavalymen with powers of peace officers. Military discipline and deportment were paramount.

Since its organization in 1873, the NWMP and its successors, the RNWMP and the RCMP have contributed much to the establishment of a Canadian military police force. Their contributions included fighting as a cavalry unit in the North West Rebellion of 1885, and during the South African War (Boer War), providing personnel to the Strathconas Horse and the South African Constabulary. During World War I, they provided a Calvary Squadron which served in France. During this conflict, military police were employed on detachments at the various military districts in Canada. On April 3rd, 1918 the Corps of Canadian Military Police, with an establishment of 850 in Canada,

294 in England and 160 in France was formed.

On November 1st, 1918, Colonel Gilbert Godson-Godson DSO, DCM, ADC, was appointed as Provost Marshal, Dominion of Canada. He held this appointment until March 9, 1920 when the Corps of Canadian Military Police ceased to exist.

At the outbreak of the war in September, 1939, each District Depot had a number of garrison military police on its war establishment. These, together with battalion and other regimental police, patrolled streets in the larger cities and operated guardrooms at the



various centres of troop population. From this inauspicious start, what was later to be the Canadian Provost Corps grew to a strength of approximately 8,000 officers and men at the end of the war.

## THE FIELD FORCE

During the First World War, traffic control in active theatres gradually became the responsibility of the mounted policemen. With the decline of the horse and the advent of mechanization in the British Army, the military policeman and his motorcycle became an integral part of the division.

In Canada, there were no military police in either the permanent active militia or non-permanent active militia but the mobilization plan included a provost company with each formation. On November 1st, 1940, Canada's first, No 1 Provost Company was formed from volunteers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This small force congregated at Rockcliffe Barracks in Ottawa, spent three days being outfitted, one day learning military law and three days transferring their equestrian abilities to Norton motorcycles. Their "basic training" completed, they went overseas with the main body of the First Canadian Infantry Division. Of this original group, more than fifty percent were later commissioned and served with the different provost units overseas and in Canada.

As the Second Canadian Infantry Division was being mobilized, No 2 Provost Company was formed and trained by sections in the different military districts. This company had a high percentage of civil policemen. It congregated at Halifax in May, 1940 and arrived in Aldershot, England at the time

of Dunkirk. At this time, No 3 Provost Company arrived overseas with the advance contingent of the First Canadian Corps.

Each successive formation arrived overseas accompanied by its own provost unit. By the end of 1941, in addition to the field companies, there were two base companies, a detention barrack, a field punishment camp, a training depot and a special investigation section.

On August 19, 1942, the Canadian Provost Corps was blooded at Dieppe. Their role was to be in control of the beach and guarding prisoners of war, but in the debacle that followed the landing, the men joined and fought with the infantry and engineers. Twenty-eight of the 42 who embarked were casualties.

## C PRO C IN ITALY

In 1943, No 1 Company landed in Sicily and were joined in Italy later in the year by Nos 3 and 5 Companies with the First Canadian Corps. At the Moro River in December 1943, LCpl Butler was awarded the Military Medal. This was the first of 67 British awards, 13 foreign awards and 111 Military Intelligence Decorations (MIDs) won during the war.

As the provost in Italy were "at rest" just North of Naples, word came out that D-Day for France had just arrived. No 4 Company landed with the Third Canadian Infantry Division and was joined at intervals by Nos 2, 13, 8, and 11 Companies. These companies, backed up by the British traffic control units with the First Canadian Army, had virtually no rest from the time they landed on the continent until the following summer.

The history of the Canadian Provost Corps in Europe is naturally bound up with its work on traffic control, the prime function of provost in battle. Despite battle, however, the need for disciplinary patrols never ceased and the investigators were always kept busy. The work of the Special Investigations Section and investigations successfully completed by company NCOs is a history in itself.

## ON THE HOME FRONT

As the field force grew, so did the numbers of military police at home. The term "MP" was dropped and the name "Provost" substituted. A new badge, embodying the Royal Cipher, was authorized and on June 15th, 1940 the Canadian Provost Corps was born.

For the first few months, provost duties consisted entirely of disciplinary patrols but as new jobs of a quasi-police nature appeared, these responsibilities were undertaken. In the Spring of 1941, the Canadian Provost Corps assumed the responsibility for the movement of prisoners of war and internees, and during the next two years, 26,000 prisoners were taken over at ports and moved under escort to various camps across the country.

The administration of detention barracks was a provost responsibility from the start. At one time, 31 barracks with a staff of over 800 had rooms for 2,000 "non paying guests".

In July 1942, the responsibility for apprehension of absentees and deserters was taken over from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and special powers were granted by Order in Council to provost personnel so that they could



require any person to produce his national registration. That these sweeping powers were used wisely was attested to when the National Defence Act of 1951 also gave special powers to all trained provost.

One further duty of the provost was the policing of all dock areas, railway stations and main line trains.

The A-32 Canadian Provost Corps Training Centre was established on November 1st, 1942, to produce 80 reinforcements for field units and 50 for home units each month. Finally, in September 1942, the Canadian Women's Army Corps Provost were added to the list. By 1945 the strength of the Canadian Provost Corps in Canada reached 3500.

## POST WAR

In 1946, the peacetime strength of the regular Corps was cut to

17 officers and 222 other ranks. Further reduction in 1947 of other ranks brought the figure down to 118. These were supposed to do the normal provost duties, including special investigations; operate six detention barracks; and conduct training at a corps school.

The Korean War, followed by the NATO European contribution, again built up the strength to its peacetime peak of 100 officers and 1400 other ranks.

The Canadian Provost Corps School at Camp Borden, Ontario was one of the best in the Army and training throughout the Corps had reached a very high standard. Despite the dearth of provosts in the regular Army after the Second World War, an excellent Militia organization was established. Twelve companies across the country kept the Corps spirit alive and through these units, a large number of young men found their way into the Regular force.

During the UN operations in Korea, a C Pro C force of 150, integrated with the British and Australians, were a part of the famous Commonwealth Division. The Corps operated the only Detention Barracks in Korea and supplied police and criminal investigators from Tokyo to Seoul.

This experience in Korea proved to be the forerunner of a United Nations Force. The proud bearers of the Corps badge have been seen on duty in places such as Egypt, the Congo and Cyprus. Officers from the Corps have also served in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Palestine and Yemen.

The traditions started by the Provosts of old are deep-rooted. We, the members of today's Security Branch, carry on those traditions started by our comrades at arms, the Canadian Provost Corps. ○○

# SOLE SURVIVOR: The Canadian Provost Corps Hong Kong Detachment, 1941-45

by: Maj Arthur S. Bird (ret'd)

## SOLE SURVIVOR

No doubt it will come as a surprise to many former members of the Canadian Provost Corps to learn that a C Pro C Detachment, consisting of one sergeant, one corporal, and six lance corporals, was included in the Canadian Army Contingent which sailed for Hong Kong on 27 October, 1941. Lance Corporal Robert Patrick Warren was one of the lance corporals, and he is now the sole survivor of that eight man detachment.

Bob joined the Army at age 22, and it is interesting to note that he had no military or police training prior to his enlistment; nor did he receive any when he did join. To think that five months later he was to become a prisoner of war!

## HEADING FOR HONG KONG

Bob joined the Canadian Provost Corps in Montreal in July, 1941. Shortly thereafter he became one of a C Pro C eight man overseas draft. Unexpectedly, he was sent to Vancouver and boarded

the Australian ship, "AWATEA." They sailed on 27 October, 1941, and several days later, after much guessing as to their destination (all the guesses were wrong), they learned that they were heading for Hong Kong. On arrival there they lived and worked with the British Corps of Military Police. Conditions were excellent; tea was served to them in bed each morning, and servants polished their boots, cleaned equipment, etc. This pleasant life came to an abrupt end when the Japanese attacked on 7 December 1941. Bob was sent to



guard "Battle Headquarters." Here he was issued with a Thompson machine gun and given a short course on how to load and fire the weapon. He was required to guard and escort "Wang Ching Wei Troops" – Chinese who were Japanese sympathizers. The area was under enemy bombing and shelling daily.

### PRISONER OF WAR

On 25 December, 1941, the Allies surrendered to the Japanese, British, Canadian, Indian<sup>1</sup> and Chinese<sup>2</sup> soldiers became prisoners of war. A week or so later they were transported across the bay to Kowloon and interned in the former Sham Shui Po (Warm Water Bay) British Barracks. Here, British and Canadian troops paraded together for morning roll call.

### A LIVING HELL

Living conditions were terrible. The barrack rooms were infested with bed bugs, lice, fleas, and mosquitoes. Food consisted of inadequate portions of rice and a soup made only of greens – no meat or fish. Not surprisingly, there was a great deal of sickness, mostly dysentery and malaria. There was little contact with Japanese troops since, for the most part, they remained outside the perimeter fence. Their first view of Japanese brutality was when they witnessed Chinese people being bayoneted for little or no reason, and British officers being knocked to the ground for the alleged offence of giving an incorrect count of their troops on morning parade. Soldiers were warned not to run to the defence of their officers as such action would only give the Japanese guards an excuse to open fire.

### RE-LOCATED

The Canadians returned to Hong Kong about the end of February, 1942, and were located in North Point Camp, a former Chinese Refugee Camp, which, to say the least, was filthy and provided little or no facilities. The huts in which they were housed contained double-tier wooden bunks, with the usual population of lice, bed bugs, etc. There were inadequate washing facilities. The toilet/latrine consisted of a long narrow wooden platform extending out over the sea from the sea wall. A rope stretched the length of the platform acted as a safety measure. It was now almost impossible to maintain a minimum standard of personal hygiene. If possible, the food was worse, as the rice was contaminated with weevils, rat feces, and grit. In addition to dysentery and malaria, constipation and boils became problems. Major Crawford, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC), only had Epsom salts and Mercurchrome to dispense. Of note is that while they were held at North Point Camp, one Provost member died and another suffered a complete mental collapse.

### UNPREDICTABLE GUARDS

The actions of the Japanese guards at the Camp entrance were very unpredictable. They seemed to enjoy beating those who could not defend themselves. Quite often they practiced judo on Chinese civilians who passed by their positions with some of these encounters resulting in the death of the civilians. The same guards also amused themselves by firing their weapons at human targets.

During this period Bob received his first, but by no means his last,

beating at the hands of his captors. He left the camp on rice detail and while loading the truck he put some rice in his pocket. Back at camp he was caught in the act of boiling the rice at the camp incinerator, and was knocked to the ground several times with rifle butt and fists.

### BACK TO KOWLOON

In September or October, 1942, the Canadians crossed the bay back to Kowloon and this time were put to work improving a runway of the Kai-Tak Airport (the present Hong Kong Airport). Due to the lack of proper food, everyone continued to lose weight at an alarming rate. Pellagra was added to the diseases already mentioned, and then came diphtheria. Fearing the diphtheria might spread to them the Japanese opened the Bowen Road British Military Hospital, but not before a number of prisoners died. Bob was hospitalized here and treated for both pellagra and diphtheria.

### WORK IN JAPAN

In the spring of 1943, Bob was told that if he joined the line-up on the Kowloon parade square he might be selected for work in Japan. This he did and soon found himself on a boat en route to Japan, along with the Provost Sergeant and two other lance corporals.

<sup>1</sup> The Indian troops were separated and may not have received the same cruel treatment suffered by the British and Canadians.

<sup>2</sup> A Hong Kong University student unit, comprising many nationalities including Russians.



The ship docked at Nagasaki and they travelled by train to Yokohama, where they were put to work building coastal freighters. Bob's first job was heating and shaping pipe; then he drilled holes, held rivets, and finally became employed as a riveter. Despite the starvation diet and lack of medical care, Bob admits that he did not mind the work. However, he did not escape without beatings. One morning when reporting for work, Bob passed a Japanese co-worker who was squatting nearby. He greeted him in Japanese and at the same time reached down from his impressive height and patted this co-worker on the head. He was immediately seized by the guards, beaten, and then forced to stand at attention in the Guard Room for an indeterminate period. He later collapsed. Shortly after this incident his career as a shipbuilder ended.

### CONDITIONS WORSEN

In March or April, 1945, about 350 Canadians left Yokohama and travelled north to Sendai, where they joined about 150 British and Japanese prisoners. At this stage of their confinement they became coal miners, and, although it would not have seemed possible, conditions in every respect were worse than those they had previously endured. Eighteen men lived and slept on the floor of a small hut, and they slept in the same uniforms they had worn on the day of their capture - these uniforms now of course were torn and covered with patches. Due to the lack of a proper diet and illness, all of them suffered great weight loss. Bob now weighed only 108 pounds and, at six feet, two and one half inches, he must have looked like a walking skeleton!

The mine extended two kilometres into the side of a mountain. Many hot water springs existed in the coal seams making it necessary to shovel coal out of these sereinge. Naturally it was hot and humid in the working area and some of the prisoners worked naked. Most Canadians wore a type of loincloth fashioned and supplied by the Japanese. The mine operated twenty-four hours per day with three eight hour shifts. Food was the same three small portions of rice daily, plus one portion of greens. There was now more bickering and fighting among the prisoners while at work, and considerably more beatings administered by the guards using rifle butts and fists.

### COLLAPSE

Some time in June or July Bob collapsed and was moved to the medical hut which was staffed by Captain Reid, RCAMC, and a couple of orderlies. He was suffering from "idiopathic pleurisy with effusion". In lay terms, the outside lining of his left lung was filled with fluid which collapsed the lung. His heart was pushed out of its normal position. In addition to this, he was suffering from intestinal parasites and malaria. Needless to say there was no medication available to treat these conditions.

### RELIEF AT LAST

Not long after this there were rumors flying about the camp that the war was over. It was, but the prisoners were not advised until three weeks after the fact. At this time US Navy fighter planes flew over the camp and dropped messages. One of these requested that a sign be placed on the ground indicating the number of prisoners

of war present. The number "500" was marked and soon tons of food, clothing, medicine, etc. were dropped by parachute. The prisoners all but went mad, Penicillin, which of course was unknown to the prisoners, became available curing many ailments as if by magic. Mercifully, Red Cross personnel arrived in camp to give assistance, and then, four weeks later, the camp was evacuated and all personnel were taken to Tokyo.

Bob was put on board a hospital ship, the "US BENEVOLENT", where he remained for a week or so. He was then transferred to the "US RESCUE" which sailed to San Francisco, from whence he and other prisoners were conveyed by train to Montreal via Vancouver. Bob then spent eighteen months in the Queen Mary Veterans Hospital in Montreal, and the Naval Hospital at St. Hyacinthe.

### BACK TO WORK

On release from hospital, Bob resumed work with Uniroyal Limited in Montreal where he became an industrial safety engineer. In 1977, he took early retirement and, together with his wife Lucile, moved to beautiful Victoria, B.C. where, among other things, he tends his garden and plays golf.

We hope in his pleasant life in Victoria that Bob will be able finally to forget his dreadful experiences as a prisoner-of-war, although you can see from the foregoing how vividly those experiences must be etched in his memory. ○-○



# Thinking Out Loud

— reprinted from the book *"The Canadian Provost Corps Silver Jubilee 1940-1965"*

## PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

The Lance Corporal sat dejectedly in his car which was parked in the driveway of a private home. He wasn't in uniform and the driveway wasn't his. How he wished it were, because he hadn't been home since 0745 that morning. It was now 1930 hours and all he had to do was wait. He had long discarded the book he had been reading, and the children who had inspected him in detail for the umpteenth time had lost interest and departed on more interesting pursuits. He had exhausted the standard wave band on his car radio and could quote the commercials of the last few hours verbatim. Off hand he wondered why the car manufacturers marked speedometers up to 120 miles per hour when firstly, the car could not nearly reach that speed, and secondly, only a fool would drive that fast even if it were possible. He concluded that the additional figures were put there just to round out the face of the clock.

Every few moments he concentrated his gaze on a clump of pine trees about two hundred yards from the perimeter of the married quarter area. As the shadows lengthened, his eyes began to discern movement in the trees. Was it someone moving, or was it only the changing configuration of the trees in the approaching twilight? His reverie was disturbed by a sound behind him and a panel truck bearing Military Police markings cruised the block and

stopped out of sight beyond the corner of the house. A Corporal appeared with a small white box and said, "Your wife came in with your supper, we told her we would deliver it. She wanted to know when you would be home." "So do I", answered the Lance Corporal. "If I had my way I would go now." With a terse "We will relieve you at 2100", the Corporal disappeared.

The white box looked inviting and even if the contents were not caviar and champagne, it was a diversion trying to guess what it contained. It killed a little time and stimulated his interest, even though he wasn't very hungry. Carefully he opened it and inspected each small package with great concentration. Suddenly he decided on one which seemed to hold promise. He was savoring the first bite of a cold chicken sandwich when two figures entered the shadow of the pines. There was no doubt now. This was it! This was what he had been waiting for! Jolted wide awake, sandwich discarded on the seat, he stepped silently to the back door of the house and asked permission to use the telephone. A short time later two Military Policemen emerged from the pines with two men in custody, both of whom were protesting the injustice of it all. They were insisting they had no connection to the cache of stolen hardware found in the pines and were only taking a short cut to the Camp gate.

The Lance Corporal was delighted, not that the culprits had been caught, but that his lonely vigil was over and he could now go home. Whatever thoughts he entertained about a few hours of relaxation were shattered by the Corporal in charge. Now all he

had to do was escort the men in custody to the detachment office, and write a report on his part in the incident — then he could go home.

## TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

The Military Police Sergeant was very polite. The housewife was furious. "It's not enough," she said, "that Joe comes home from his regimental birthday party at four o'clock this morning, all slopped up and falls into my china cabinet, now these damn dogs have dug up my garden and scattered garbage all over the lot, and more than that, that mutt next door is a menace and if he ever sets foot in my yard again I'm going to get Joe to blast him!" "By the way, how often does a regiment have a birthday? Is it like people? I mean like only once a year, or do they have them every few months? It seems to me that the last regimental birthday party Joe attended was about four months ago. I know it was because it was just before I had my gall bladder operation. Boy was that painful. Have you ever had a gall bladder operation, Sergeant? If you ever have one, get Dr Plook; he's a dreamboat. It's worth getting sick just to see him!"

"Pardon me madame", said the Sergeant. "What would you like me to do about the dogs that have been bothering you?"

"The dogs?" "Oh yes. Well I'll tell you. I'll speak to Maisie next door and ask her to keep that mangy mutt of hers tied up. Maisie's a real card, you know. Not a bad type, but she talks an awful lot. You know, when Maisie's around, you can hardly



get a word in edgewise. Thanks for calling, Sergeant."

With a knowledge born of patience, understanding and many years service, the Sergeant returned to his patrol vehicle and picked up the radio microphone. In the approved radio parlance he reported to the detachment that the lady who had complained about dogs at 13 K9 Crescent had withdrawn her complaint. As he drove towards the detachment, his face lit up in a wry smile. He wondered if his wife remembered the date of the last Corps birthday celebration. If his luck held, he would have a night off duty next week.

## DECISIVENESS

The Provost Corporal sat huddled under a poncho made into a makeshift lean to. The rain poured down in torrents and the night was ebony black. In the distance the muffled sound of moving tanks could be heard between peals of thunder. The sound was getting fainter now and the Corporal knew that the tank sounds he heard came from the Squadron that had passed his point ten minutes earlier. Behind him there was no sound except that of the elements.

This was the first mission as acting Section Sergeant. Perhaps if he did well, that elusive third stripe might somehow arrive. He thought of his section scattered on the remote trail someone had called a tank track at the briefing. They were without radio and had to rely on him for orders. What orders should he give them. All tank serials except one had passed his point. The last one was overdue and he pondered whether or not he should report to regulating headquarters for instructions or go

back along the route. Perhaps they had taken a wrong turn. If so, where were the pointsmen he had placed along the route? If he left his point, which was little more than two trails crossing each other in the dense woods, the squadron might conceivably pass by and take the wrong route. Funny, he had always thought Sergeants did nothing but give orders to those of less exalted rank and visit the Sergeants' Mess where they drank great quantities of beer and told one another lies about their war service. Secretly he had always known he could do a better job than the most of them. But this was different; maybe Sergeants weren't as obsolete as he had thought. Maybe they did know something. He wished that one would show up right now and tell him what to do.

The traffic on his C42 Set was becoming more garbled and he had great difficulty in understanding the messages being passed. Mostly, he could hear only one side of a conversation and it didn't make that much sense. Secretly he wished he had spent more time studying voice procedure and the codewords allotted for the exercise. Better still he should have stayed back in the Camp detachment where all they do is dress pretty and ride around in fancy vehicles looking superior. Hind sight is great stuff, but then, there was that third stripe to consider.

Suddenly the radio was silent, and there was no sound save the beating of the rain on his poncho and the eerie sound of a woods at night in a storm. The dim dial lights on the face of his radio seemed to blink at him questioningly as if to say, "What now, Corporal?" The chilling thought struck him like a hammer blow.

The Brigade had moved on towards the assembly area and out of radio range. He was the only link between the missing Squadron and the Brigade. He had to act now. He had to do something, but what? On impulse he switched the radio to send and nervously called Regulating Headquarters. Over and over he repeated his call — no reply, and he knew there could be no reply. Somehow his actions seemed to bolster his confidence. He was more alone than he had ever been in his life, but now he knew what he must do.

Three miles back down the trail he found the Squadron. A washout on the approach to a small bridge had forced the Squadron to ford the stream. Not a difficult operation, but a time consuming one. The steep bank on the near side had imposed the delay.

The Squadron Commander, a boyish looking Captain, approached his jeep, map in hand. Casually, as if nothing had happened, he said, "Corporal, take me to MR 976723." The place he had selected was a high point on the landscape about three miles away. With obvious relief and enthusiasm that he did not really want to reveal, the Corporal said, "Yes Sir." As the first evidence of daylight showed in the sky the Squadron, the Corporal and his men reported to their assembly area; cold, wet, tired, and late but with an air of confidence that can come only from personal achievement.

## THE PROVOST

Central Command? It could be, and it could also be any Command in Canada or the brigade in Europe or elsewhere. The duties of Service



Policemen don't really change too much, only the locale. Always demanding, sometimes uncomfortable, perhaps discouraging at times, seldom glamorous, but always interesting. And so it will remain so long as people are the principals involved.

What kind of men are they; these soldiers who wear the badge of the Royal Crest and go under the name Provost? They are certainly not supermen. They are not a special breed, designed precisely for their task. They don't have tanks and they can't attend battalion parades and march behind their regimental band because they are not numbered in battalions. In war you will see them at the cross roads, defiles, in the towns, and at river crossing sites. In peace time you will find them in the garrisons and camps, in the cities, and if you travel you will find them where help is needed. They are steadfast in their loyalty, and they try hard to live up to their motto.

King Charles I said something about giving them a horse. Wellington recognized their value in war. In peace time they frequently disappeared entirely, only to reappear when hostilities commenced again. So it has been down through the ages. Few win personal honours and seldom are they mentioned in news dispatches from the battlefields, but their service is no less because of this. There is certainly no question of personal gain because there are many other callings which are less dangerous and more remunerative.

They are not tough fellows except in the physical sense. They don't go around with night sticks commanding all to obey. Neither are they intolerant and devoid of the milk of human kindness. They are unpopular at times, but only with those who refuse to conform with the established order of things. At other times they are extremely popular, particularly with the blind children who they

teach to swim, and with the small boys and girls who they teach to play baseball and hockey. Handicapped children are their great love and no effort is spared to bring a little happiness into their lives.

These then are the men called Provost. Just Canadian soldiers with a different mission. Their desire to help may have been generated by long exposure to the misfortunes of other people. Perhaps some of it is endemic. In any event it is a quality worth preserving and perhaps through helping others they become better people themselves.

The Lance Corporal had learned patience and perseverance, the Sergeant tolerance and understanding and the Corporal decisiveness. There are many other qualities which are required by the men called Provost and undoubtedly as many ways to acquire them, if we are interested enough to try. ○○

## MEMORIES



## Where are they now?

MWO George Roper (Retired) and two Palestinian children are seen at the grave of Cpl GS Porter, C Pro C. The photo was taken at the opening of the Canadian Cemetery in Gaza, Palestine, 29 Jan 61. Anybody who has information about either MWO Roper or Cpl Porter, please send what you can to the editorial staff of the **Thunderbird Journal**.



## “An Old Guard”

by Lt Lorna Fisher, *Thunderbird Journal*

Can you guess where this is? The year is 1943. The place? The guard house in Goose Bay, Labrador. The “Old Guard” were members of #37 Provost Detachment from CFB Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their duty was to “police the non-active member of the Army”.

Seen in the doorway is Percival Nichols who is now retired from the Lancaster Township Police Department and is a former Chief of Security of the Eastgate Square in Hamilton.

Seated in the rear on the top step, is Ed Cavan who is now retired from the Toronto Township Police Department.

In the middle are (left) Bill Armstrong and (right) Ab Blair. Ab Blair is now a retired member of the Ontario Provincial Police Department.



Photo by Mr. Percival Nichols

Seated in the front of the group is George Sampson.

No further information is known about either Bill Armstrong

or George Sampson. Any information regarding these two members or anything else which may be of interest regarding Goose Bay's early days would be welcomed.

## IN MEMORIAM

### “We Shall Remember Them”

Fatal Casualties — Canadian Provost Corps — Second World War

Rank	Name	Date of death	Rank	Name	Date of death
Lcpl	ALLAN, Joseph	13 Sep 42	Lcpl	CLARK, Donald F	29 Nov 44
Pte	BARKMAN, George R	23 Feb 44	Capt	CLARKE, Thomas E	17 Apr 45
Lcpl	BEDLINGTON, James H	30 Apr 43	Sgt	CLEAVER, William G	25 Sep 43
Cpl	BETTENSON, Harold M	24 Jun 45	Pte	COLBOURNE, Clarence W	1 Oct 45
Pte	BIRCH, Donald H	11 Apr 45	Lcpl	COLLINS, Ernest A	18 Feb 41
Lcpl	BONDURANT, Gordon E	8 Jan 44	Sgt	COOK, George E	5 Jun 41
Lt	BRADFORD, Howard R	12 Apr 44	Lcpl	COTE, Joseph G	19 Mar 41
Ssgt	BROWN, William H	8 Dec 45	Cpl	CRAIB, Alexander W	24 Nov 41
Lcpl	BURGESS, George D	14 Jul 43	Cpl	CRAIB, Thomas	3 Jan 44
Sgt	BURTON, Jack R	18 Mar 45	Cpl	CRAIG, Allan B	19 Dec 44
Sgt	BUTTIMER, George E	10 Apr 45	Lcpl	CRAWFORD, Henry	19 Aug 42
Lcpl	CAMERON, Edison A	28 Dec 43	Lcpl	CROSSON, Douglas	17 Jun 43



# IN MEMORIAM

Rank	Name	Date of death	Rank	Name	Date of death
Sgt	CURTIS, Clifford J	7 Nov 43	Lcpl	MCFAULL, Simpson D	31 Aug 44
Lcpl	DALBENAS, Kenneth L	15 May 44	Pte	MCFEAT, Alexander R	19 Sep 45
Lcpl	DEMCHENKO, Max E	31 Aug 44	Lcpl	MCINTYRE, Norman	6 Sep 44
Pte	DEUCHARS, Grant	17 Nov 44	Sgt	MCLELLAN, Alexander	31 Mar 43
Lcpl	DEVLIN, John O	21 May 43	Pte	MELNYCHENKO, Walter	19 Sep 45
Lcpl	DICKSON, Lloyd A	31 May 43	Pte	MERIFIELD, Earl E	5 Feb 46
WO2	DINNIE, Alexander	4 July 46	Lcpl	METIVIER, Roland E	18 Apr 44
Lcpl	DRISCOLL, Robert JW	9 Nov 45	Lt	MEYER, John T	12 Mar 44
Sgt	EDGEWORTH, James	8 Feb 45	Lcpl	MILLER, William A	10 Dec 45
Pte	EISENMAN, Leonard A	28 May 44	Lcpl	MOON, David CG	28 Dec 43
WO2	EMO, James T	29 Apr 44	Ssgt	MOORE, Fredrick J	14 Feb 46
Sgt	FIFE, Donald M	7 Apr 45	Sgt	MOORE, Sterling A	8 Jun 44
Lcpl	FLEET, Christopher	23 Apr 42	Lcpl	MOWER, Joseph	18 Feb 45
Lcpl	FOSTER, Emerson J	13 Jul 44	Lcpl	MURPHY, Joseph R	12 Oct 40
Cpl	FRANCOEUR, Arthur	17 May 42	Cpl	MURRAY, Wilfred F	18 Aug 44
Lcpl	GAUTHIER, Gerald W	6 May 44	Cpl	NELSON, John FJ	22 May 44
Lcpl	GAY, Leicester W	3 Jul 46	Pte	NOEL, Jules	1 Jul 44
Lcpl	GILLIS, Alexander H	6 Apr 44	Lcpl	OBRIAN, Peter D	21 Dec 41
Lcpl	GORDY, Lorenzo P	11 Sep 41	Lt	OLIVER, Peter S	19 Aug 42
Lcpl	GRAHAM, William J	23 May 44	Pte	PARR, John E	26 Sep 44
Lcpl	HATCH, Wesley	24 Nov 44	Lcpl	PATTERSON, Charles F	25 Nov 41
Lcpl	HERON, Harry A	20 Jul 44	Lcpl	PAUL, Charles W	31 Aug 46
Lcpl	HIGGINS, Leonard J	5 Dec 43	Lcpl	PENNYCOOK, Elmer J	1 May 44
Sgt	HOPE, Alexander	17 Jun 44	Lcpl	PHILLIPS, William H	2 May 42
Lcpl	HORTON, Hillson M	1 May 43	Sgt	POPKEY, Hubert E	1 Jul 45
Lcpl	HUMPHRIES, Edward J	4 Dec 43	Pte	PORTER, George	15 Mar 46
Sgt	IRVINE, Robert D	5 Jan 45	WO1	RAMAGE, James	24 Jul 43
Lcpl	JACQUIER, Aime	4 Oct 44	Lcpl	ROBERTSON, Donald O	1 Jan 46
Sgt	JOHNSTON, Samuel	15 Apr 44	Pte	ROHLOFF, Henry	21 Apr 45
Pte	JOHNSTONE, Charles	1 May 41	Lcpl	ROWE, George	24 Mar 41
Cpl	KAVANAGH, William F	11 Jun 41	Sgt	SMITH, Leslie W	30 May 45
Cpl	KIDD, John S	1 Feb 45	Lcpl	SMULAND, Albert P	6 Feb 45
Lcpl	KRASNUIK, Anthony	31 May 44	Lcpl	SMYTHE, Lorne N	17 Dec 44
Lcpl	LADEROUTE, Kenneth A	14 Nov 44	Sgt	SOMBERT, Edward	5 Aug 45
Lcpl	LANDRIAULT, Philorum	12 Jan 42	Cpl	STACKHOUSE, Donald G	31 May 44
Lcpl	LAVOIE, Joseph ER	2 Nov 42	Lcpl	STEWART, William L	2 Sep 46
Sgt	LAWS, Arthur J	22 Nov 46	Pte	STRUTT, John H	6 May 42
Lcpl	LEA, Sverre	12 Jun 44	Lt	STURROCK, Edwin G	30 May 45
Cpl	LEBLANC, Edgar	26 Jul 42	Pte	TENEYCKE, Charles HD	9 Mar 42
Sgt	LEMIRE, Joseph R	16 Dec 42	Lcpl	THOMAS, Norman LW	29 Jun 41
Lt	LENAGHAN, Albert T	10 Aug 44	Pte	TUTTON, William P	9 Nov 42
Cpl	LOVETT, William J	10 Feb 46	Pte	VANDERVEN, William A	14 Sep 44
Lcpl	MACINTOSH, Andrew W	3 Dec 43	Lcpl	VINCE, Edward A	18 Jul 44
Ssgt	MACKENZIE, William K	25 Dec 43	Sgt	WATTS, Terence GN	28 Dec 43
Lcpl	MACLEAN, Harold F	26 Sep 44	Lcpl	WHITE, Raymond A	22 Mar 45
Sgt	MADDEN, Matthew	25 Sep 44	Lcpl	WHYTE, Douglas J	16 May 43
Lcpl	MALLET, George E	7 May 45	Lcpl	WILLIS, John	30 Nov 43
Sgt	MARTIN, William JC	9 Sep 44	Lcpl	WILLIS, William AJ	24 Feb 42
Pte	MASSON, John M	6 Jul 43	Sgt	WILSON, William M	3 Aug 45
Lcpl	MATHESON, Malcolm J	11 Nov 42	Sgt	WYATT, Alastair C	11 Oct 41
Lcpl	MATHESON, William H	4 Sep 45	Lcpl	WYATT, William JL	29 Jul 45
Sgt	MATTHEW, Alexander	12 Nov 45	Lcpl	ZACHER, Frank X	13 Aug 42
Lt	MCATHEY, Jack M	10 Aug 44			





No. 13 Cdn Provost Coy 2nd Cdn Corps, Oldenburg Germany June 1945, CO Capt T. Jamieson Quirk, R.S.M. (W01) T. Giles 2 Lt. D.K.T. Reid



# It is my Dying Wish

by *LCol Don Johnson,*  
*Commandant of CFSIS*

When the 'Last Roll Call' is invoked for service personnel and service veterans, it is often requested in their wills that their ashes be scattered at CFB Borden, the home or staging post of many a sailor, soldier or airman of the Canadian Forces, past and present. To ensure that these desires are fulfilled in a meaningful way, the Base Commander at CFB Borden has initiated a procedure for the spreading of ashes.

Locations where ashes can be scattered at CFB Borden are limited to the immediate vicinity of Worthington Park, the Royal Cana-

dian Army Services Corps Monument in Waggoners Park, the Canadian Forces School of Intelligence and Security Cenotaph, the Medical Services Memorial, the RCAF Memorial and the Base Borden Airfield where ashes may be scattered from the air, and Blackdown Park. No other location is available.

An Honour Roll will be maintained at the Museum, and the curator will provide a 1½' x 4' brass plaque containing the name, regimental particulars and decorations of the deceased member. There will be no financial charge for persons who were members of Service Associations (ie CMPA and CISA), however, a \$10 minimum

charge will be requested from the kin of other persons. This facility is restricted to military association members or retired members of the Armed Forces.

A form letter is available from CFB Borden authorities if one requests the spreading of ashes to take place.

Advice that ashes are to be spread should be directed to Headquarters Canadian Forces Base Borden, Attention: Branch Administrative Coordinator (telephone 705-423-3857) or in his absence, to the Museum Curator (current telephone 705-423-3531), who will advise the Chairman of the Museum Committee.



*photo courtesy of CFSIS*





# ATTENTION!!

## ALL EX-MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS!!

The Canadian Provost Corps will celebrate its 50th (Golden) Anniversary in Ottawa, 15-17 June 1990. All ex-members of the Canadian Provost Corps, widows of ex-members, members of other Corps who served with any element of the Canadian Provost Corps, families and friends are invited to attend.

Please write:

**The Canadian Provost Corps  
Association, P.O. Box 3145,  
Station "D", Ottawa, K1P 6H7 or  
telephone (613) 829-4312 or  
(819) 568-9606**

