

Colonel R. S. McLaughlin Armoury

53 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, Ontario L1G-4R9

Phone: 905-721-4000 Ext. 4007

Association President: Ian Golding, 905-576-2154

July 2008



Group Photo in front of Old College—Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

EMAIL ADDRESS

All members who would like to receive their "Cat Tales" and other event notifications via email, please email Donna Stam, Editor at stamco@rogers.com to add your email address to our list. This will save the Association money for printing and distribution. You will receive your editions with colour photos in a more timely manner.

President's Message

This issue of Cat Tales is dedicated to our trip to Wales to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of our Alliance with the Welch Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Wales and hopefully in the near future with The Royal Welsh Regiment. Fifty members and friends of the Association left on May 11, and returned on May 19, 2008.

I have asked several members of the executive who were on the trip to write an article about different days of our itinerary and include some pictures they took during our trip that are specific about their article. The articles are in chronological order with a summary by Bill Davies who chaired the Organizing Committee for this trip.

As you can tell by the articles, our schedule was very busy with many interesting day trips.

I would also like to remind everyone that we will need your replies for the reunion no later than September 5. The application form is on the last page of this newsletter. Last year we had 170 attend and are hoping to increase the attendance this year. The dedication service for the new Colours will also be part of our ceremonies at the start of the dinner program.

Fidelis et Paratus
Ian Golding
President

Thornhill, Philip George, MM, M.Sc., P. Eng. — Died peacefully at home surrounded by his family at 7 p.m. on June 16, 2008. Phil was born in Maidstone, England on July 7, 1918, and was just shy of his 90th birthday. Phil fought in the Second World War, serving with the Ontario Regiment in the Canadian Armoured Corps from 1941 to 1946, achieving the rank of staff sergeant. He was recognized for his heroic actions while commanding a tank in Italy and was presented the Military Medal by King George VI for leading wounded soldiers to safety across enemy gunfire. He was also a hero in the eyes of everyone who knew and loved him and is deeply missed. His sense of humour remained intact until his final days. But then, no one expected anything less.



REUNION 2008

September 12th, 2008—Meet & Greet

September 13th, 2008—Dinner & Dedication Service

September 14, 2008—Parkwood Promenade

SEE LAST PAGE FOR DETAILS & REPLY FORM

TRIP TO WALES 2008

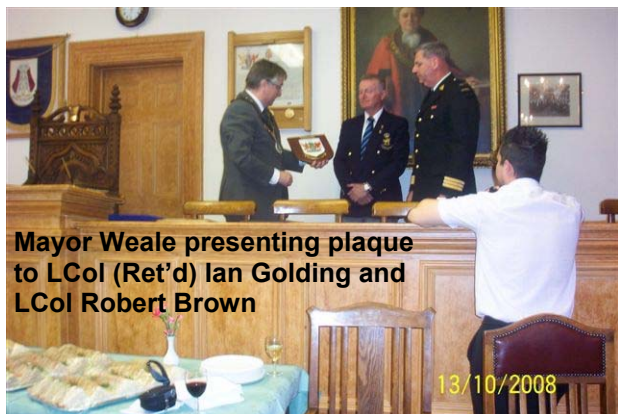
May 11,12 & 13 By Ian Golding

We Left Oshawa on May 11 at 3:30 p.m. to catch our plane to Wales. We had a very good flight and landed in Cardiff at 8:00 a.m. Monday and proceeded to our hotel to unpack and catch a little sleep. That evening we had a reception at the hotel with some members of the Royal Welsh.

On Tuesday we had a long day, departing from the hotel at 8:30 a.m. to visit Big Pit, which is an old coal mine that has been turned into a tourist attraction. Many of us took the tour into the coal mine where we were informed as to how miners worked and how many of the children of miners also spent their days working in the mine. Originally pit ponies were used to pull the cars of coal to the shafts that took it to the surface. These ponies were only allowed out of the mine once a year. There were slide shows and many static displays. All the coal mines in Wales are now closed.



The Big Pit Coal Mine
Tourist Attraction



Mayor Weale presenting plaque
to LCol (Ret'd) Ian Golding and
LCol Robert Brown

After we left Big Pit we traveled to Brecon where His Worship Martin Weale, the Mayor of Brecon welcomed us to a reception at the city hall. The Association presented a Regimental Plaque and a presentation was also made to the City of Brecon from the City of Oshawa. We were also presented gifts from the City of Brecon.



LCol (Ret'd) Leo Morin with
Major (Ret'd) Martin Everett

The next stop was to the museum of the South Wales Borders (24th). Here we met with Major (Ret'd) Martin Everett who is the Curator of the Museum. Martin took time to explain the museum and we had plenty of time to look at many of the artifacts, of special interest are the many spears and shields from the Zulu Wars. LCol (Ret'd) Leo Morin presented a Regimental Plaque to commemorate our visit.



L to R— Leo Morin,
Sandy Morin, Martin
Everett, Nancy Golding,
Bill Davies

Our last stop was for supper at the Infantry Training Centre Sergeants Mess, Derring Lines, Brecon. It was a very busy day, but there were more to come.

May 14—Ian Golding—Bovington Tank Museum

After a full day in Brecon on Tuesday, we are up early again to catch the bus to the Bovington Tank Museum. We arrived at 11:00 a.m. and because the Canadian Government had recently donated a Leopard I Tank and a Cougar AVGP we were all given free admission to the museum.

There are tanks from all countries from WWI to the present. There was also a replica of a WWI Trench position built inside the building, that we could walk through seeing how soldiers survived during WWI. There was a Centurion Tank movie that gave you the impression that you were a member of the crew with all the noises of the tank as it maneuvered and fired and also gave you the feeling of the rolling motion as it moved from the different firing positions. There were not enough hours in the day to do a proper tour in the time we had available. At the end of our tour we were greeted by the curator Mr. David Whilley and had a group photo taken outside in front of a Sherman Tank.



At 3:30 we boarded our bus and headed to the Royal Tank Training Centre, Sergeants Mess where we were greeted by the Garrison RSM (WOI) Andy Newman. We also had a chance to meet some of the Sr. NCO Staff at the Training Centre. After supper we boarded the bus for our trip back to Cardiff, tomorrow we meet the Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

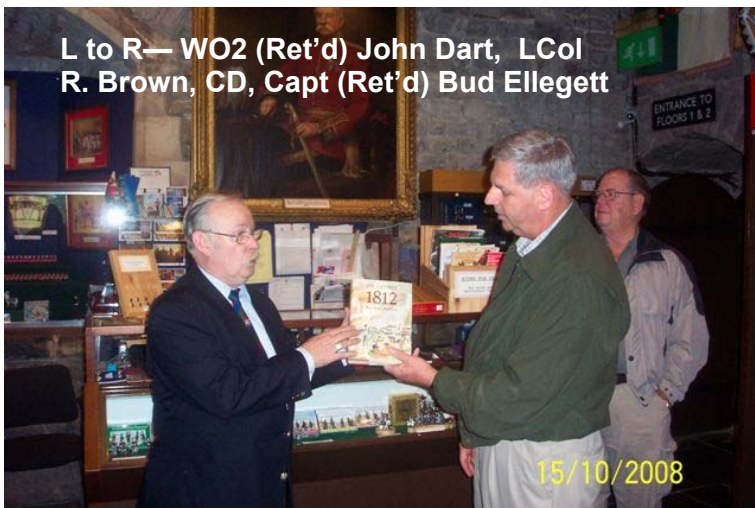


May 15 - Ian Golding - Mayor of Cardiff, Museum & Medieval Banquet

We left the hotel at 10:30 a.m. to attend a reception at the Cardiff City Hall which was hosted by Her Worship Councillor Gill Bird, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. Ian Golding presented a Regimental wall plaque to the Mayor, and LCol R. Brown presented greetings from His Worship John Gray, Mayor of Oshawa. Mayor Bird presented all the members with a book "Cardiff, The Rebirth of a Capitol", to commemorate our visit. We were then given a guided tour of the City Hall.



LCol (Ret'd) Ian Golding presents a Regimental Plaque to Councillor Gill Bird, The Lord Mayor of Cardiff



L to R— WO2 (Ret'd) John Dart, LCol R. Brown, CD, Capt (Ret'd) Bud Ellegett

After returning to the hotel to change, we again headed into Cardiff to the Cardiff Castle where we were welcomed and given a tour of the Welch Regimental Museum by WO2 (Ret'd) John Dart. Following our tour of the museum we were given a short tour of the castle. Many members even climbed the Castle Keep where one could have an excellent view of the City of Cardiff.

Our last event for the day was to attend the Medieval Banquet held in the basement of the Castle. The evening started with a glass of mead and then we went to the banquet room where the feast began. We were treated to a 4 course meal with plenty to drink. During the meal we were entertained by Welch singers and some of our members were subjected to various degrees of embarrassment at the hands of the Master of Ceremonies. At the end of the evening we presented the Welsh Banquet Manager Mr. James Price with a Regimental plaque and he reciprocated by presenting us two bottles of mead.



Serving The Mead

May 16- Sandhurst—by Leo Morin

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has a national and international reputation for leadership. We were welcomed by Major (Ret'd) Iain Park-Weir, formerly of the Argyll and Southerland Highlanders Regiment. His introduction was followed by a video presentation illustrating the sights and sounds of the Academy and its characteristics which make it so effective in the moulding of each successive generation of Army Officers. In the picture right, Maj (Ret'd) Iain Park-Weir presented with a Regimental Plaque by Capt (Ret'd) John Richardson a WWII Sandhurst graduate while serving with The Ontario Regiment.



Major (Ret'd) Iain Park-Weir with
Capt (Ret'd) John Richardson



The Officer Cadets are falling in. They still wear hob-nail boots which can be very slippery on the pavement.

A coach tour allowed us to view the Academy's magnificent landscape and architecture.

Our tour guide, Major Park-Weir, was an Officer Cadet in Bill Davies' platoon when he served at Sandhurst as a Senior NCO instructor in 1959 and 1960.

Highlights of the tour included King's Walk, Old College Parade Ground, the scene of each year's three Sovereign's Parades and the Royal Memorial Chapel. Viewing the Chapel's commemorative windows, honour rolls and artifacts illustrated its important role in the Academy's contemporary life.



Bill Davies and Knobby Clark enjoying
strawberries and cream at lunch.



Old College and parade square.

On the way home we stopped at a local pub "THE WOODSHAW INN" where our hosts Mr. Jeff Chandler and Ms. Pat Bingham arranged for the group to have dinner. The pub served us a splendid meal, known as a "CARVERY" with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast turkey with all the trimmings, roast ham and potatoes. Assortment of vegetable and a sumptuous dessert of cheesecake, all you can eat no less.

With this fine meal, good beer and lots of cheer we headed home on the bus, while Bill serenaded us with some of his favorite Welsh Songs. It was a "GRAND DAY OUT "

Saturday 17 May 2008 – Visit to Pontypridd Comrades Branch—By John Drygala & Knobby Clark

After a very full & busy day at RMA Sandhurst on the day before, Saturday was a planned quiet day for rest, shopping or private visiting. Until the evening that is.

At 1900 hrs our reliable coach and driver arrived to take us to the Royal Welsh Drill Hall in Pontypridd, where President Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Gareth Pennell and the members of the Pontypridd Comrades Branch of the Association hosted a social evening of horse racing, eating and yes, mandatory drinking. Some of us who had been to Wales before were able to renew old friendships and catch up on old times.

Over 100 members of their Branch laid on a fantastic evening for us. Each male from Canada received a branch tie and a hand made tie pin of Welsh Slate and the ladies received a scarf and a brooch, also of Welsh Slate. In return, our President presented Gareth with a plaque and a framed print to commemorate our visit.

Following the presentations our Welsh hosts proceeded to liberate vast quantities of our ££££s on the horse racing which was achieved by betting on the films of actual horse races in UK.

The evening came to a close far too soon and 51 well oiled Canadians had to stagger up the hill to the awaiting coach, which couldn't get down the hill, and also to Bill's nightly detailed "O Group" which kept us all informed of the next day's activities. It was a wonderful evening and for some the highlight of the trip.



L to R. Col (ret'd) Neil Jones, Ex. Deputy Comd 160 Bde, Gail Drygala, Capt (ret'd) John Drygala, WO2 (ret'd) Graham Webb, Ex CSM 3 Bn RRW

May 18 - Bill Davies - Church Service & Reception at Maindy Barracks. THE LAST FULL DAY

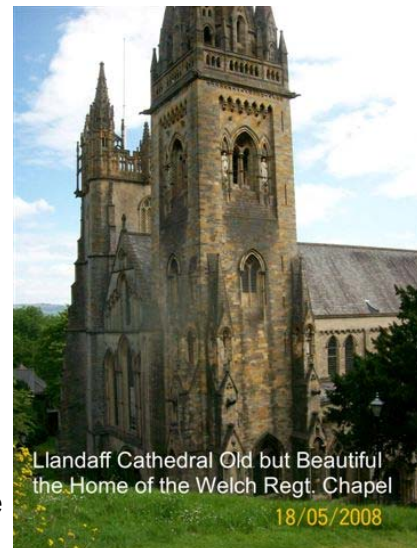
After a very busy week of the 80th Anniversary of the Alliance trip to Wales and having covered about 1000 miles by Coach visiting the RMA Sandhurst, Bovington Tank Museum, Big Pit Blaenavon, The Lord Mayor of The City of Cardiff, Cardiff Castle Medieval Banquet, Both South Wales Borderers Museum at Brecon, and The Welch Regiment Museum at Cardiff Castle, The Woodshaw Inn at Wooten Bassett, The Mayor of Brecon, The WOs & Sgts Mess at The Infantry Training Centre in Dering Lines Brecon, The Royal Armoured Corps WOs & Sgts Mess at Bovington, The Pontypridd (s'Hertogenbosh) Branch of the Royal Welsh at Pontypridd and finally Landaff Cathedral Cardiff, and The Officers Mess at Maindy Barracks. Yes, it was a very busy week, but oh how we all enjoyed it.

This being the last full day of the tour, it was good to have a late start, and no *early calls to our rooms* (someone said that I had packed a *Bugle* in my case before we left Canada Not True? I promise.... Breakfast 8.30am of Bacon, Eggs, Sausage, Tomatoes, Beans, Mushrooms, Coffee & Tea, Toast & Butter, oh, I forgot the Cereals, & Porridge with milk, Fresh Fruit. This was the best way to start our days in Wales -- but I don't know about our waistlines????? I have been told since returning to Canada, quite a few of our group are still doing "The morning Run" each day? Why? I'm Fine!!!!

We left our Hotel (The Park Inn) at 10am for the Church Service at Landaff Cathedral all dressed in our Sunday Best, Blazers Greys and Medals, and all our lovely ladies were a sight to be seen in their beautiful dresses and suits, before entering the Cathedral we were invited to take morning coffee with the ladies guild of the Cathedral. At 11am The Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier General R.J.M. Porter MBE. BA. met us at the Main Door with Colonel Peter Gooderson TD. JP. DL. The Regimental Secretary and Major (Ret'd) Mike Hooley Asst Regimental Secretary.

Standing at attention at the Main Door was Sergeant J. Joseph BEM (The Goat Major) and L/Cpl Shenkin The Goat Mascot of the Regiment, What a great welcome to Church. Landaff Cathedral is some 500 years old, and during the Second World War in 1941, it was heavily bombed during an Air Raid on Cardiff Docks, and rebuilt as the original in the 1950s.

The Cathedral also houses the Regimental Chapel, which was officially dedicated and opened by The Colonel of The Welch Regiment – Major General C.E.N. Lomax CB.CBE.DSO.MC. on 22nd September 1956. At this official opening was Captain J.A. Sheriff. MC. Who became the Hon. Lieutenant . Colonel of The Ontario Regiment some years later. The Service was over by 1215pm and many of our group toured around the Cathedral looking at the many artefacts Plaques and Colours deposited therein.



L to R. Brig. Porter, Major M. Hooley, Mr. W.H. Davies BEM, LCol L. Morin CD, LCol R. Brown CD, LCol I. Golding CD

It was about 1pm when we finally left the Cathedral for the short drive to Maindy Barracks, the Regimental home and Headquarters of The Welch Regiment 1719 – 1969, and the Royal Regiment of Wales 1969 – 2005 and Now The Royal Welsh from 2005—

On our arrival at Maindy Barracks, I was very well aware of the first time I had been there was in 1944/45 when I was in the Army Cadets of The Welch Regiment (Abercynon Detachment), I was a Sergeant Instructor in Maindy Barracks from September 1955 to October 1957 training the National Servicemen, Yes, I remember it well, but I digress.

Major (Ret'd) Mike Hooley the Assistant Regimental Secretary had very kindly arranged a reception/ Buffet for the whole group in The Officers Mess in Maindy Barracks of The Royal Welsh 23rd 24th 41st 69th of foot on our last full day in Wales. Along with our group of 51 there were a goodly number of Officers of The Royal Welsh awaiting our arrival.

The Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier General R.J.M.Porter MBE.BA.

Colonel Peter Gooderson TD.JP.DL. The Regimental Secretary

Lt.Colonel Martin Leader, Commanding Officer of The 3rd Battalion,

Captain & Mrs Owain Luke Adjutant of 2nd Battalion, Captain & Mrs Matthew Lewis Adjutant of 3rd Battalion,

Major Mike Hooley Assistant Regimental Secretary, Major Martin Everett TD, Captain (Retd) and Mrs Trevor Iles and Mr & Mrs John Dart.

We finally took our leave and said our 'good bye's to our Hosts and thanked them for a superb reception and the beautiful gifts they presented to Ontario Regiment and the Association, and we in turn gave to The Royal Welsh. It was with much sadness, and a tear in our eyes, that we made our way to our awaiting coach parked on the Barrack Square, when I looked up at the Barrack Clock (not to check the time) but to read the Gold Inscription beneath which proudly says, "Stick it The Welch". This famous 'battle cry' comes from Captain Mark Haggard of The 2nd Battalion The Welch Regiment on 23rd August 1914 when leading a charge of his Regiment crossing the Aisne River to attack "Chemin des Dames Ridge, He was mortally wounded and died the following day. I was taught all about this fine Officer when I served in the 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment.

The 51 members of our group on this 80th Anniversary trip of the Alliance with our Allied Regiment will look back on this visit with much pride and many happy times and feel that the trip was a resounding success, and I am sure they will remember 'Bill's P.P.P.P. which he kept reminding our group. (*Planning and Preparation makes for Perfect Presentation*) it all worked out perfectly.



THE 62nd ONTARIO REGIMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION – 12, 13, 14 September, 2008

On Friday, 12 September, at the Ferret Club and Regimental Museum there will be a “Meet and Greet” Party from 1630 hours to ???????. Plan to attend to see old friends and exchange stories. Good, hearty food available, cash bar.

On Saturday, 13 September, at the Armoury, Simcoe Street North, there will be a “Pancake Breakfast” from 0900 hours to 1100 hours. Proceeds go to the Oshawa Santa Claus Parade.

On Saturday, 13 September, at the Oshawa Armoury, 53 Simcoe Street North, Registration for the Reunion will take place from 1500 hours. Unsold dinner tickets will be available if any are left. Dues for 2009 may be paid. Draw tickets will be on sale (3 for \$5.00). Name Tags may be obtained.

The “Kit Shop” will be open with Henry Perry in Charge. The Officer’s (Members & Guests) & Jr. Ranks Messes will be open.

At 1600 hrs the Band of the Governor-General’s Horse Guards will be in attendance and will be providing appropriate music during the afternoon and evening.

Please be seated by 1700 hours, those at the Head Table will be paraded to the Armoury drill floor and a Memorial Service will be held including the dedication of the new flags. Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Haylock in charge.

At 1830 hours, the Regimental Reunion Dinner will commence under the chairmanship of Bill Davies. Draw Prizes will end the evening after a concert & sing-along by the Band of the Governor-General’s Horse Guards Regiment

On Sunday, 14 September at Parkwood Estates, Simcoe Street North, the Annual Parkwood Promenade will take place from 1500 to 17:30 hours. This is always a very colourful affair and well worth attending.

At 1800 hours for 1900 hours, at the Officers’ Mess, The Armoury, The Promenade Dinner for Mess Members will be held. For reservations call Mess Manager, John Walker, at (905) 728-8321.

We hope that you will consider attending our 62nd Reunion Celebration. Not many Canadian Military Units can boast of an Association that has been active for so long and is still as strong as The Ontario Regiment Association. **Please Note:** It is imperative that dinner tickets be purchased before September 5, 2008. This gives enough time for tickets to be sent by mail. We must know how many meals to order, and prior information is necessary. The cost of the meal is \$35.00 per person which includes an excellent entrée with salad, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, dessert, tea and coffee and wine on the table. It should be an excellent evening with the music of the Band of the Governor-General’s Horse Guards and with the toasts, fine food and fellowship.

THE ORDER FORM BELOW HAS A SPACE TO ORDER Draw tickets as well as Tickets for the Reunion Dinner. Return this form ASAP CUT HERE - THE REVERSE SIDE IS BLANK.....

For more information call Bill Davies at 905-436-7448 or email him at whdavies@rogers.com. Send this form along with payment to The Ontario Regiment Association, 53 Simcoe Street N, Oshawa, ON L1G 4R9.

Name:.....

Street Address:.....City.....

Prov./State:.....Postal/Zip Code.....Phone:.....

Email

Number of Meal Tickets:.....@ \$35.00 each. TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$.....Cheque or M.O.

Draw Tickets: 3 tickets for \$5.00 TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$.....Cheque or M.O.