

Early In – Early Out? — Wishful Thinking!

Jean Morin

In September 2001, after the 9/11 aerial attacks against the Pentagon and the New York World Trade Center (where 24 Canadians were killed), the Canadian government considered that it might participate in the US-led Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. The Canadian minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton, saw an advantage for Canada in getting involved, but not for a long time. “Early In - Early Out” was his view on how Canada should take advantage of its well-trained but small military in a coalition that appeared to have a long life ahead of itself. As soon as the United Nations sanctioned ENDURING FREEDOM, 17 days after the Al Qaeda attack, Canada let it be known that it would join the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) right away.

In October, a secret deployment of Canadian Special Forces, — Joint Task Force 2, took place as a first move. This led to the sending of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3PPCLI) to Kandahar, in February 2002, — eighteen years ago this month.

The infantry battalion, assisted by a reconnaissance squadron of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) [LdSH(RC)], and elements of its brigade's Service Battalion joined the coalition forces at a time when operations had already succeeded in taking Kabul, the Afghan capital. An invasion of Afghanistan led by US and British forces in December had progressed rapidly around the seat of the overwhelmed Afghan government.

The ISAF had the mandate to assist Afghan national forces in get-

ting rid of the terrorist cells using its territory. The multinational forces were now pursuing the Taliban and the leaders of Al Qaeda toward their retreat in the East and North-East, as they scrambled to reach sanctuaries across the border with Pakistan.

The PPCLI got involved rapidly, and successively took part in Operations APOLLO, ANACONDA, HARPOON and TORII, where its training and professionalism soon caught the eye of senior military commanders.

APOLLO was the Canadian part of the US-led ENDURING FREEDOM and covered the deployment and taking position of the PPCLI battle group in Kandahar, a provincial city of great importance in the Taliban strategy. Kandahar was where the connections of the Pashtuns, the largest and most

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When 3PPCLI first arrived in Afghanistan they were still dressed in temperate green uniforms, it would take another year before arid camouflage clothing was available for wear.

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President's Remarks

Dear reader, welcome to the February 2020 issue of the Torch. As we begin the countdown to the end of the decade, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the SWW and the 15th anniversary of the opening of our magnificent new museum. The theme of this edition is Canada in Afghanistan, a subject close to the experience of many of us and to all Canadians.

Additionally I hope you will enjoy the article about the Supply Line Discovery boxes, a CWM initiative which is reaching students in every Province and Territory of our country and which has been funded, in part by the Friends.

On the governance front we have transitioned to the new BOD committee structure and we find that this equips us well to support the CWM. In this regard, the Museum Support Committee, upon which the CWM DG sits and which I chair is shaping our contribution for fiscal year 20/21. Quoting Caroline Dromaguet, the A/DG, "I think you've put together a strong committee and I look forward to working with them to find the right opportunities for the upcoming gift agreement". Internally, the Corporate Services Committee has strengthened our sustainability and outreach through engaging new volunteers to provide technical, data input and volunteer co-ordination support. Additionally, the Ways and Means and the Communications and Marketing Committees supported by a project team are working to materially improve the Friends website so as to better present our image, to strengthen our messaging and to serve as an effective pipeline for donor contribution.

As we look ahead, I invite you to consider the strategic direction recently established for the CWM by its Board of Trustees. It reads, in part:

Inspire Canadians across the country to engage in a greater understanding of their shared history;

Position the Museum as a trusted source of research and knowledge about Canadian History;

Strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples through respectful collaboration and shared stewardship of indigenous collections and intangible heritage;

Build and share a collection that best reflects Canada's history and distinctiveness; and,

Pursue cultural diplomacy to exchange ideas and values and advance mutually beneficial projects, both nationally and internationally.

So, dear reader, I trust we will all take inspiration from this direction as we support the CWM through both financial donation and volunteer effort. In this regard, I look forward to your continuing contribution.

If you have comments or questions concerning any Friends matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@friends-amis.org.

Yours aye

Robert Hamilton



important tribal group in Afghanistan, had their epicenter.

Operation APOLLO also involved the deployment of Canadian naval forces in the Persian Gulf to prevent maritime trade and reinforcement in support of the terrorist groups. In January 2002, six Canadian vessels with 1,500 personnel were involved in the naval interception operation.

In March, Operation ANACONDA was the pursuit of the Taliban in the mountains beyond Kabul. Elements of the Canadian Battle Group moved to the northern province of Paktiya to join in the pursuit of the fleeing Taliban. It was while serving with ENDURING FREEDOM that the snipers of 3PPCLI set new world records by hitting individual Taliban fighters at the unheard-of distances of up to one and a half miles away (2400m).

Then Operation HARPOON lasted seven days, between March 13 and 19, when the battle group under the command of the CO of 3PPCLI, Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Stogran, made its own pursuit, fighting in hills and caves where the Taliban had found refuge. The unit blew up bunkers and sealed passes to hamper their enemy's movements and defences.

Upon return from the north, on 18 April, the unit was involved in a tragic friendly fire accident when four soldiers were killed and eight wounded by a 500-lb bomb launched by a USAF F-16 that had mistaken their identity.

Sixteen days later the unit was involved again in the pursuit of the Taliban, this time in the Tora-Bora region, where their efforts were coordinated so as to gain intelligence on the remnants of the ter-

rorists. Operation TORII was again successful in pushing the front line.

Then in early July the Battle Group moved from its Kandahar base to the north west, in the Zabul province. It is from there that the first Canadian units were repatriated at the end of July.

"Early In—Early Out" would have been nice. But it was not to be.

Canadians were involved in Afghanistan ten more years (to December 2011), making it the longest war in which this nation was ever involved. The numbers of dead (159 military and five civilians) and wounded (more than 2,000) and the amount of treasure involved in this war (\$18,000,000,000) were well beyond what could be imagined eighteen years ago.

Jean is a member of the Friends and is also the Volunteer Coordinator.



CANADIAN WAR
MUSEUM
-
MUSÉE CANADIEN
DE LA GUERRE



Photo: Philip Cheung, 2017

THE CANADIAN FORCES ARTISTS PROGRAM - GROUP 8

FEBRUARY 14 TO MAY 18, 2020



National Defence
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An exhibition created by the Canadian War Museum
in partnership with the Directorate of History and Heritage.

Canada

Editor's Comments

Welcome to the first edition of The Torch for the 2020s! I cannot believe how fast time passes as it only seems like yesterday when I was sitting in on the planning sessions for Operation ABACUS, the Canadian military's contribution to Y2K. Time has also moved on with respect to the War in Afghanistan and Canada's contribution began by participating in the U.S. lead and UN sanctioned Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in late 2001. Jean Morin, our Friends Volunteer Coordinator and 'staff writer' for *The Torch*, has written the lead article for this edition which encapsulates the opening moves of a war that for most Canadians defined the first decade of this century. I didn't get into 'the sandbox' until 2009 when I was working as the command historian for Canadian Expeditionary

Force Command Headquarters (CEFCOM). My job under Operation KEEPSAKE was to identify, collect and recover historical artifacts for repatriation back to Canada and this task eventually also included the returning home of the memorials to the fallen.

During the run-up to Remembrance Day the Ottawa Citizen was publishing a series of military related articles and one of these was on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Ted Patrick, a Veteran who served with the 1st Battalion, The Irish Regiment of Canada, as part of 5th Canadian Armoured Division during the Second World War was one of those whose post-war battle with PTSD was reported in the paper. Sadly Ted passed at the age of 94 in February 2015 and he is missed as he was a popular fixture at the CWM as both a Friend and a volunteer.

I am fortunate as I have a small cadre from the Friends which I can call upon to write short pieces for *The Torch* on a number of various topics. In this issue we have a report by Tom Kari on the Supply Line Discovery Boxes of which the FCWM is a sponsor. The hallmark of the Friends is the membership's vast wealth of knowledge and experience so I cannot stress enough that I am always looking for more Torch authors. If you feel you have something to contribute to the pages of The Torch please do not hesitate to contact me at edstorey@hotmail.com.



WO Storey waiting at Kandahar Airfield for the Chinook to finish refuelling before proceeding to FOB Mas'um Ghar to check on some memorials to the fallen.



Ted in full fighting order during his wartime basic training before proceeding overseas and how we knew him at the war museum.



Silvia Pecota – Artist



Fallen, of which there are two bronze copies. Both were on memorials to the fallen, one at Camp Mirage in the UAE and the other in the Canadian compound at Kandahar Airfield. They have since been repatriated to Canada. The Camp Mirage memorial to the fallen was shipped back to CFB Trenton in 2010 and was opened to the public at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in the spring of 2011. The Kandahar memorial now rests in the recently dedicated Afghanistan Memorial Hall at National Defence Headquarters (Carling) in Ottawa. Visitations to the hall must be registered at least 48 hours in advance.

Silvia is still busy honouring the soldier and has published a book entitled “Remembering Our Fallen” in 2015 and she recently released a series of prints depicting figures from the different units which landed in Normandy on D-Day in 1944.

Ed Storey

There was no artist better known to the Canadians who served in South-West Asia than Silvia Pecota. From her website Silvia describes herself as Toronto-born, an award-winning artist and photographer whose work covers the four corners of the world. She has exhibited in Canada, the United States, Germany, Italy, the former Soviet Union, and Afghanistan. Since 1985, her photographs have appeared internationally in several top publications.

But there was more than that. For a decade, she focused her work on the “soldier”. Being embedded with the troops, she was able to document their efforts, appreciate their dedicated service and witness the sacrifices soldiers endure when putting themselves in harm’s way. Her experiences from the Afghanistan Mission have inspired over 50 compositions, five large format art calendars (from 2009-2013), as well as the various end-of-tour gifts and medallions given to soldiers finishing their overseas deployments. I experienced first-hand the popularity of her work during my trips into Camp Mirage and Kandahar, her artwork was everywhere and hung not only in the mess hall but also the hallways of the headquarters. From large framed prints to a series of postcards that were for sale in the CANEX there was no escaping her work and it was obvious that Silvia understood the soldier and the environment in which they fought. I personally collected a set of the postcards and even mailed a number of others to friends and family in Canada.

Perhaps her most important and best known work was the bas relief she sculpted in 2008, dedicated to the



Kandahar Airfield memorial



Camp Mirage memorial



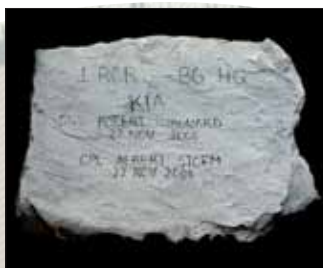
It Was Written on Stone

Ed Storey

Richard Johnson wrote in June 2007 for the National Post that “Ma’Sum Ghar camp is an island in a sea of threats. From the top of the peak that sits at its centre you can see south over Panjwai District to the edge of the Rigestan Desert, west into Panjwai town and the Arghandab river and Pashmul beyond, north back towards Kandahar city, and east-ish over farmlands quickly turning to dust. None of it is safe.

The camp contains soldiers from most combat areas: Medics, drivers, tankers, cooks, engineers, infantry, and all the specialists within these groups. It also contains a large contingent of Afghan National Army (A.N.A.) soldiers. No artillery though. For that I will have to travel on to Sperwan Ghar a few kilometres down the road.”

This is as much as Captain Greene and myself knew about Forward Operating Base Ma’sum Ghar (FOB MSG) as we prepared to board a Chinook at Kandahar Airfield for the flight out to investigate what had been described to us as ‘Canadian marker stones’. Our visit was part of a 36-day Operation KEEPSAKE trip into theatre in April-May 2011 to identify, catalogue and collect historical material for repatriation back to Canada. My report to Canadian Expeditionary Force Command Headquarters from June 2011 on the marker stones and memorial recorded that “It consists of a large Canadian flag approximately 50 m x 30 m in size that is constructed from hundreds of small painted stones. At the base of the flag, there are approximately fifty hand-painted commemorative rock markers in memory of fatal casualties, some dating as far back as early as 2006. Scattered amongst these markers are smaller mementos such as faded Poppy pins, numbered rotation coins and name tags of the fallen. The stones



Corporal Albert Storm



Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard



Master Corporal Jeffrey Walsh

themselves are of various sizes and many are weathered to the extent where the writing or affixed plaques are no longer legible. At least half-a-dozen of the stones have deteriorated to the extent that they would likely flake apart if moved.”

Capt Greene and I spent a day-and-a-half in MSG recording and photographing the flag and the memorials. It would have been nice to have been able to have brought these soldier inspired memorial stones back to Canada, but their state of deterioration along with the Agriculture Canada rules concerning bringing soil and rocks into Canada meant that they had to stay in theatre. The solution was that when the Canadians pulled out of the base in June and it was handed over to the Americans that there would be a parade and the memorial stones which commemorated about 70 Canadians who were killed in theatre would be buried near the flag.

I was always curious about what had been written on the sun-faded bare white rocks that I photographed on that hot day in April and it wasn’t until a few years later that I located half-a-dozen DND photographs taken in 2007 of some of the MSG stones. By matching up the shape of the stones with my photographs, I have been able to identify what was written some four years before I visited the site.

Corporal Albert Storm and Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard, were both part of the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR) Battle Group, based out of CFB Petawawa, Ontario, when they were killed on 27 November 2006, by a suicide bomber who drove an explosive laden vehicle into a Canadian Convoy. At the time of the incident the 36 year-old Cpl and 46 year-old RSM were in a convoy that was travelling along Hwy 4, toward Kandahar city

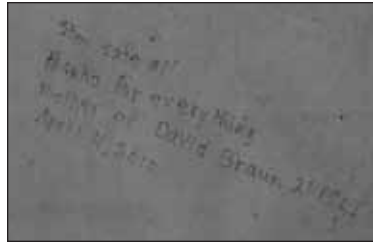
on its way to Panjwai.

The 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI), was based in CFB Shilo, Manitoba and these five ‘Patricias’ were with A Company. Jeff Walsh, a 33 year-old Master Corporal was killed as a result of a weapons related accident on August 9, 2006 while conducting routine operations on Highway 1, about 20 km West of Kandahar City.





Corporal David Braun



Corporal David Braun was 27 when he was killed by a suicide bomber in a vehicle attack in Kandahar City. Cpl Braun was travelling in a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV III) as part of a Canadian re-supply convoy passing through Kandahar City when the suicide bomber exploded his vehicle near the convoy. His mother visited Kandahar in April 2010 as part of a program initiated in 2002 to fly next-of-kin into theatre in order to honour their fallen loved ones and wrote an epitaph on a blast-wall near the visitor's quarters which was still visible a year later. In 2008 Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Walter Natynzcyk told CTV, "It's important for the families to understand where their loved ones were when they died. It's also important for those soldiers who are there now... to explain to those parents, to those family members and friends, what their loved ones went through and what they sacrificed their lives for."



Warrant Office Frank Mellish



Warrant Officer Richard Nolan



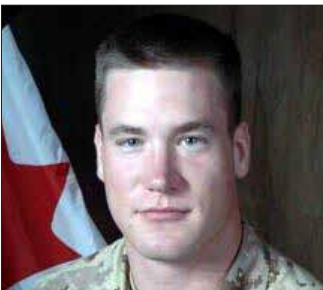
Corporal Shane Keating



Corporal Keith Morley



Private David Byers



Private Joshua Klukie



Corporal Shane Keating, a member of 2 PPCLI, was 30 when he was killed in the Panjawi District of Afghanistan on September 18, 2006. He was one of four members of the Canadian Armed Forces killed that day as a result of a suicide bicycle bombing while on foot patrol in the district. The attack wounded another 10 Canadians and killed several Afghan civilians. The other three were Cpl Keith Morley who was killed five days before his 31st birthday and Private David Byers who was 22. The third, not listed on the stone was Cpl Glen Arnold, a 32 year-old medic from 2 Field Ambulance out of Petawawa, Ontario.

Josh Klukie was a 23 year-old Private serving with 1 RCR in B Company when he was killed on 29 September, 2009 after he had stepped on an insurgent's explosive device while on a foot patrol in the Panjawi District of Afghanistan.

The stone representing C Company 1 RCR contained the names of five Canadians.

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Private William Cushley



Private Mark Graham



Sergeant Darcy Tedford



Private Blake Williamson

38, WO Richard Nolan, 39 and Pte William Cushley, 21, who along with 30 year-old Sergeant Shane Stachnik from 2 Combat Engineer Regiment were all killed on September 3, 2006 during Operation MEDUSA while fighting against Taliban insurgents approximately 15 km west of Kandahar City. Private Mark Graham, aged 33 was killed the next day. Pte Graham was a world-class runner who had competed for Canada in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Sgt Darcy Tedford, 32, along with Pte Blake Williamson, 23 were killed on October 14 when their patrol was ambushed near the new Panjwayi development road, 25km West of

Kandahar City. The road, Highway 1, was often referred to by Canadian soldiers as "Ambush Alley".

The stone memorials on display in MSG were not only a visible tally of the fatal casualties being inflicted on the Canadians but also served as a means of closure for their friends and colleagues. But sadly like life itself, magic marker on stone fades with time leaving us with only the memory of those lives lost.

For more information on the Ma'sum Ghar stones please go into the Friends website and check the latest edition of "*Aliquem certiozem facere*".



The flag and commemorative stones at FOB MSG as photographed in 2007 and again by the author in 2011.

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Names for February 2020Torch, Covering the period October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, (Donations made through the CanadaHelps website after December 17, 2019 will be recognized in the next issue of the Torch.)

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 on behalf of Canadian Army Staff College Class of 1963-1965
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 Killed in action, 5 November 1944, 424 Squadron
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 A Signals dispatch rider in the First World War
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 Miss Amanda Moore, in memory of Captain Eric Cross, a Captain in the Royal
 Canadian Air Force during World War II. He passed away in July 2019.
 Ms. Colleen Morrison, in memory of
 Petty Officer Christopher Archibald Morrison
 Ms. Lori Parent, in memory of Mr. Robert Parent
 Ms. Patricia Pollak, in memory of Major Fred Pollak
 Col Christopher Poole, in memory of Vincent Poole, my grandfather,
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Adopt-A-Book Final Report 2019

The Adopt-a-Book was concluded effective December 18, 2019. 43 of the 47 titles on the list submitted to the Friends were adopted, for a value of \$1,625.00. A sum of \$2,000.00 to cover the cost of the titles on the list was included in the \$100,000.00 cheque recently presented to the CWM. Each adoptee has received a thank-you letter, and income tax receipts have been sent separately.

The 43 titles were adopted by the following 22 Friends: John H.B. Anderson, Robert Argent, Allan Bacon, Pat Barnhouse, John C. Bauer, Robert Brett, Larry Capstick, Mimi Chan, Linda Colwell, Steven Dieter, Brenda Esson, Robert Farrell, Eva Hammond,

Arlene Hensel, Marilyn Joseph, Bruce Judge, Peter Mace, Terence Moore, Elizabeth Reynolds, Richard I. Thorman, Diana Tremain, Sylvain Trudel.

I would like to express sincere appreciation, not only to those who adopted titles, but also to Robert Farrell, Joe Bedford, Julia Finn and Phyllis Kiss for their invaluable assistance

It is to be hoped that this initiative will continue to be well supported when the list of titles requested by the MHRC for 2020 is made available.

Allan Bacon
Adopt-a-Book Coordinator

Supply Line Discovery Boxes

By Tom Kari

On November 28, Sandra O'Quinn shared the results of the project that she started in 2013. This wonderful activity has created "Discovery Boxes" which are shared with schools around the country. The FCWM is also a major supporter and has donated \$33,000 towards the project to help cover the shipping.

Sandra, who is a Learning Specialist at the Canadian War Museum, has filled these boxes (actually big,

black, rugged, packing cases) with clothing items, military equipment, personal items, and other odds and ends to bring the reality of the war, and the families left behind, to today's generation of students. Boxes have been created for both the First and Second World Wars. The authentic and reproduction articles have been carefully selected to expose students to a wide variety of experiences, both of the military and

the civilian populations.

Instead of dry lectures and memorizing dates, the students get "hands-on" with a SWW vintage camera, an RCAF Service Dress jacket, a field dressing, or a Mk II helmet, among many other fascinating pieces of clothing and equipment. They help the students to understand the significance of their lessons pertaining to the wars.

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The reproduction Mk II Helmet is important to the Discovery Box as it lends itself to multiple stories such as those issued to military nurses and for home front use. W.E. Storey Photograph



The R.C.A.M.C. Mk III First Aid Dressing was an essential item issued to front-line soldiers and medical personnel; each Discovery Box contains a copy. W.E. Storey Photograph



Enclosed in each Supply Line Discovery Box is a replica Battledress Blouse badged to represent Le Régiment de la Chaudière which served as part of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The BD blouse was not only an iconic uniform worn by the Canadian Army but similar versions were also worn by the R.C.N and R.C.A.F. W.E. Storey Photograph



This RCN Cap is an excellent reproduction and sources within the CWM mentioned that finding a supplier for the cap was not too difficult but finding a company who could accurately replicate the H.M.C.S. cap tally was the challenge. W.E. Storey Photograph



Original items include an example of an RCN Lifeboat and Raft Ration. The CWM has such a large quantity of these rations in their Living History Collection that they could afford to open them up and encase the contents in resin so that they can be handled and not lost. W.E. Storey Photograph

Carefully packed in their travel containers, these items move from school to school. Each school keeps the box for two weeks, and they are encouraged to share the boxes between classes.

In addition to the fascinating articles in the boxes, the Museum supplies a number of resources to help teachers bring the conflicts to life, including bilingual lesson plans, expanded background descriptions, and photographs.

At the end of the presentation, the attendees were invited to explore the SWW box that Sandra brought. Everyone had great fun, and it's easy to imagine what a change this must be for students from the usual classroom routine.

One teacher was moved to write: "Our school is located on an isolated Northern Reservation in Alberta. One of the greatest struggles with our school is making the curriculum meaningful for the stu-

dents. When we had the discovery box my students became more excited than I have ever seen them."

The success of the CWM Supply Line Discovery Boxes has not only generated increased demand for material covering other periods but has shown that the museum is able to effectively outreach to students in the farthest regions of

Canada and provide them with a learning experience which relates to Canada's involvement in both the First and Second World Wars. More information on the Supply Line Discovery Boxes can be found at <https://www.warmuseum.ca/s1/supplyline/>.

Tom Kari is a Friend and a regular contributor to The Torch.



The complete contents of the SWW Supply Line Discovery Box contain not only examples of uniforms and personal items but also reproductions of posters, games and artwork. The Baby Brownie camera is of particular interest to the current generation of Canadians who all carry a digital camera and have never had to purchase film or wait for it to be developed.
W.E. Storey Photograph



To the right, everything is stowed and shipped in one rugged plastic box in which the bilingual packing instructions are affixed to the inside lid and all of the individual pieces along with the educational material are packed in separate trays.
W.E. Storey Photograph