



Class of 65 Newsletter

Edition 44-December 2011



Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based solely on inputs from members of the Class of 65. It is not an official publication of the Royal Military College nor does it purport to represent the views or opinions of all members of the Class of 65. Articles will be entered in the official language in which they are received. Regrettably the Editorial staff still lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version.

Editor's Corner

It's time to close off another year of publishing this blurb. As always, it has been rewarding and interesting to hear from so many classmates, some for the first time since 1965!

I received the following note from **Steve Burridge**. It seems that the passage of time has not slowed him down a bit.

"Just a quick note to say how much I have enjoyed reading your articles. I have just returned from trekking in Nepal. I did the "Annapurna" circuit and got up to 17,894 feet crossing over the pass. I did this as a warm up to climbing Kilimanjaro sometime like Jim Kempling did. It is about another thousand feet or so higher. The scenery in Nepal is really something. Snow has been falling out here on the west coast so looks like I'll be back instructing snowboarding and skiing again this year at Cypress Bowl."

For those of you with a naval background or with an interest in all things maritime on the West Coast, **Jim Carruthers** put me on to the following web site http://www.nauticapedia.ca/dbase/Query/dbsubmit_Biography.php . I looked myself up and was amazed at what an interesting career I had.

Jim also passed along the following web site, which, if I understand it correctly has been created by **Jim Kempling** and is a history of the PPCLI. Jim, if it is not yours please correct me. www.birthofaregiment.com .

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NEW NAVAL BOOKS

The following is a list of books on naval topics published during 2011 and provided to Jim by Richard Gimblett, Acting Director, Naval History and Heritage at DND.

In response to your query on the subject, below is my list of new books published in 2011 for the discerning Canadian naval historical reader.... All can be purchased most easily through on-line distributors such as Chapters or Amazon (except for the Stephens memoir, separate details provided below). I would be delighted, of course, to learn of any oversights.

-- Barry Gough, Historical Dreadnoughts: Marder & Roskill: Writing and Fighting Naval History (a dual biography of the intertwining and competing careers of two giants of the history of the Royal Navy in the two world wars): http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/?product_id=2529

-- Jack Granatstein and Dean Oliver, The Oxford Companion to Canadian Military History (although not primarily "naval", includes many insightful entries on pertinent subjects):
<http://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780195430882.html>

-- William Johnson, William Rawling, Richard Gimblett and John Macfarlane, The Seabound Coast: The Official History of the Royal Canadian Navy, 1867-1939, Volume I / Du littoral à la mer: Histoire officielle de la Marine royale du Canada, 1867-1939, Tome I (the long awaited rewrite of Tucker's original 1952 volume, with much new information and interpretations):
http://www.dundurn.com/books/seabound_coast

-- James Pritchard, A Bridge of Ships: Canadian Shipbuilding during the Second World War (a major new original study of the challenges and achievements of the industry): <http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2637>

-- Robert Stephens, A Certain E.R.A.: the Life and Times of Engineer Rear-Admiral George Leslie Stephens, C.B., C.B.E., C.D.** Royal Canadian Navy (1889-1979) (a son's memoir of his father who rose from the rank of engine room artificer in HMCS *Niobe* to become the first engineer rear-admiral in

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the RCN, this is an intimate perspective on the first decades of the RCN):
Privately printed by SeaWaves Books (North Vancouver , BC , 2011).
Available for purchase by donation to the Jeanne Stephens Foundation,
details available through Mike Macdonald: mikemacdonald@kpmg.com

CLASS of 65 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS - 2011 & 2012

TEA 2012

The following call for nominations for the 2012 award has been promulgated:

Prix d'excellence en enseignement de la classe de 1965 : Appel de candidatures.

On invite les étudiants(es) (des premier, deuxième ou troisième cycles), les professeurs et les anciens(nes) à poser la candidature d'un(e) enseignant(e) pour le prix d'excellence en enseignement de la classe de 1965.

Le prix a pour but de reconnaître l'excellence en enseignement et d'en promouvoir la qualité à travers le collège. "Enseignement" est interprété dans son sens le plus large et inclut tout ce qu'un enseignant fait pour promouvoir l'apprentissage des étudiants. Tous les membres du personnel enseignant (temps plein, temps partiel, contractuels et ceux au sein de la division des études permanentes), militaire et civil, sont éligibles.

On peut poser une candidature par une lettre qui décrit et justifie cette candidature. La lettre doit être soumise au signataire avant **17h00, le vendredi 9 décembre 11** et peut être envoyée soit par le courrier ordinaire ou courriel (kristin.topping@rmc.ca). Elle doit être signée et appuyée par au moins cinq membres du groupe susmentionné.

On encourage les personnes qui posent une candidature à soumettre également tout document qui appuie la candidature. Une personne ne peut poser qu'une seule candidature par année et ne peut pas poser sa propre candidature.

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Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award: Call for Nominations.

Nominations are invited from students (undergraduate and graduate), academic faculty and alumni for the Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award.

The purpose of the Award is to recognize excellence in teaching and to promote good teaching throughout the College. Teaching is to be interpreted in its broadest sense to include everything done by an instructor that intentionally promotes student learning. All academic faculty members (full-time, part-time, sessionals and those within the Division of Continuing Studies) military and civilian are eligible.

A nomination is made by letter outlining the reasons for the nomination. It must be submitted to the undersigned before **1700h, Friday, 9 December 2011**, either by regular mail or by email (kristin.topping@rmc.ca). A nomination must be signed and supported by a minimum of five members from any of the above groups.

Nominators are strongly encouraged to submit supporting material with the nomination. A person can sign or support only one letter of nomination each year. Self-nomination will not be entertained.

TEA 2011

The winner of the 2011 Class of 65 Teaching Excellence Award is Dr Huw Osborne whose biographical information follows.

Huw Osborne -- Biographical Information



Huw Osborne (BAH, MA Queen's, PhD Alberta) has been teaching in the English Department at RMC since 2003. He did his doctoral work on the Anglo-Welsh author Rhys Davies. This research concerned the negotiation of Davies's economic, sexual, gender, and national identities in the context of the literary marketplace and the idea of the author as a marketable commodity. His book of Davies, which has been described as a "landmark contribution to the study of Rhys

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Davies" (Brown), was published by the University of Wales Press in 2009. Osborne continues his work in Welsh literature, focusing on the gay and lesbian literature of Wales. He is currently the Vice-President of the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History.

The research from which this talk derives began during a post-doctoral fellowship at Queen's university. This project concerns the independent bookshop as an important cultural institution and focuses on one bookshop in particular: Charles Lahr's Progressive bookshop between 1921 and 1941.

2011 TEA Lecture

Dr. Osborne will be giving his lecture in Currie Hall at 1800, 11 January 2012. Classmates in the Kingston and Ottawa area are encouraged to attend this important class-sponsored event.

The following is an abstract of Dr. Osborne's lecture:

Abstract and Context: "The Republic of Holborn: The Progressive Bookshop and Literary Culture by Dr. Huw Osborne

This research from which this talk is drawn concerns the role of Charles Lahr's Progressive Bookshop in facilitating the production, dissemination, and reception of literature between 1920, when the shop opened for business, and 1941, when the shop was destroyed in the Blitz. It provides a biographical analysis of Lahr as a key institutional figure, maps the literary networks that Lahr enabled, examines the material production of books as contributions to literary meaning, and discusses The Progressive Bookshop as a socially symbolic space.

At a time when Canadian companies like Research in Motion and Kobo Inc. are introducing their e-book answers to Amazon's Kindle and Sony's Reader, in an educational environment where Canadian students increasingly carry out research through online databases and Google Books, the physical spaces that are required to transmit knowledge in the form of physical books are becoming less central to the intellectual lives of readers. With the

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departure of the intimate cultural space of the independent bookshop, we lose the unique space of sociability that has traditionally centred on books and reading. As Laura Miller points out in *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption* (2006), the independent bookstore is a dying institution in contemporary cultural life. The rise of book chains and online bookstores has led to the rationalization of the book within commodity culture. The consumption of books is an increasingly uniform experience that removes the "idiosyncratic, personal judgments of numerous individual booksellers" (Miller 14). We no longer encounter the book as we did as recently as twenty years ago. How will the current generation of young consumers conceive of the book as it is delivered to them within the matrices of internet advertising, box store displays, and Starbucks cross-merchandizing? As we become accustomed to the rationalization of the book industry in the twenty-first century, we must consider how our relationship to books and literature is affected by the physical changes to the reading experience; doing so will require that we have a strong basis of comparison. This study of a representative independent bookshop will contribute to this understanding.

THE MILITARY HERITAGE OF A SMALL CANADIAN TOWN

By: 6364 Mike Braham

Carberry, Manitoba (population 1500) is located 40 kilometres east of Brandon and about five kilometres south of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Incorporated in 1882, Carberry is in many respects a typical Manitoba small town. It has a wide Main Street containing among other things two grocery stores, two banks, a pharmacy, a hotel, a coffee shop, a hardware store, a post office and a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

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Carberry Main Street

Carberry has a recently expanded high school that serves the town and the surrounding area; a small, modern hospital that handles the immediate medical needs of the area and which includes a long-term care facility. Five churches meet the religious needs of the inhabitants. There is a well groomed, challenging nine-hole golf course and an interesting local museum.

The economy of Carberry is based primarily on the potato. The principal agricultural crop is potatoes and there is a large potato processing plant that employs 500 local people.

Both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific rail lines pass through or near Carberry and mile-long freight trains rumbling along the northern perimeter of the town are a frequent sight and sound.

Another common sound in Carberry that is not a feature of most other Manitoba communities is the rumble of artillery fire coming from the ranges at nearby CFB Shilo.

This ominous sound is an audible backdrop to Carberry's significant military heritage. Just to the west of Carberry, one can find the remains of what was Camp Hughes during World War I.

Camp Hughes was a huge training area for the Canadian army that, at its peak in 1916 was the second largest (by population) community in Manitoba, after Winnipeg.

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Main Street - Camp Hughes, 1916

All that remains of this site is a small cemetery and evidence of the trench system that was used for training - the only remaining trench system in North America.



Camp Hughes Trenches - 1916



Camp Hughes Trenches - Today

On the south-east side of Carberry, where the potato processing plant is now located, one can still see vestiges of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) Base that was #33 Service Flying Training School.

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#33 Service Flying Training School, Carberry (c. 1940)

Carberry's contribution to both war efforts came not only through the provision of space for training. The people of the town responded themselves - both as hosts for the large numbers of trainees far from home looking for some respite from their arduous routine, and as volunteers for military service.

The town cenotaph has the name of 60 local men inscribed who gave their lives in World War I. Over 160 Carberry natives served during World War II and the names of those that did not return are remembered on a plaque in the town hall.



Carberry has at least one famous native son whose exploits are known nation-wide. Wilfrid "Wop" May was born in Carberry in 1896.

During World War I, as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps, he downed thirteen enemy aircraft and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was instrumental in the formation of the first Flying Club in Canada, the Edmonton Aero Club, in 1927; established Canada's first commercial airport, Blatchford Field; flew the first airmail to the Canadian Arctic in 1929;

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worked with the RCMP in tracking the "Mad Trapper" in 1932; formed the Para-Rescue Service for the RCAF; and was awarded the Trans-Canada (McKee) Trophy for 1929 and the Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm by the US Government in 1947.

During World War II he commanded #2 Air Observer School of the BCATP in Edmonton.

"Wop" May was inducted as a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974.

The small town of Carberry has played its own unique and important role in the complex mosaic that comprises Canada's military heritage.

Author's Note: I have been visiting Carberry for about the last fifteen years for the annual beer and golf orgy with my two brothers, one of who lives in the town. He is a retired member of the RCMP and his last posting was as the detachment sergeant in Carberry. My mother also moved there from Nova Scotia so that she could be in the geographic centre of her family - my other brother lives near Calgary.

Closing Notes

Janet and I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to hearing from many of you in the new year with updates on your lives and other topics of general interest.