



Class of 65 Newsletter

Edition 60-May 2013



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 Editorial staff still lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version.

Editor's Corner

Welcome to the 5th Anniversary edition of the Class of 65 Newsletter with thanks to all of you out there who have kept it alive by providing an interesting and varied supply of inputs.

This is a relatively short edition highlighted by a brief description of a *magnum opus* produced by **Doug Cope**. We will also be seeking your assistance in identifying a number of naval classmates. Finally, there is a report on the festivities associated with **Jim Carruther's** recent 70th anniversary. Frankly, I didn't know there was anyone in the class that old!

The Roadants

by 6611 Doug 'Copious' Cope

After several decades in the making, I have finally completed and published a historical fiction book about my time at Royal Roads. The book, titled "THE ROADANTS", covers one academic year at Roads and combines stories from my first and second year. However, it is not just a series of vignettes, but a novel that follows the first and second year cadets from their arrival to graduation.

And, while all of the stories are fundamentally true, none of you should worry about being slandered or maligned (even though you may deserve it), because the book is truly a work of fiction. For the purposes of the story and to protect myself, I have changed the names of all of the cadets and the staff plus I have altered a few of the events.

For example, to add a little colour I have the seniors meeting the new recruits on day one dressed in their scarlets whereas they were really

wearing their battledress. Also, I made the #1 Squadron Commander an army officer just in case the real guy is still out there lurking as he often did. I also did not give the story a specific year since it truly melds events and stories that roughly cover a period from 1960 to 1963 and could relate to any specific year in that period.

However, that said, all of my old Fraser Flight comrades and the other Roadants of the day may find a character that they think they recognize. Also, as I mention in the Author's Note at the beginning, not all of the stories may be as you remember them, but they should be close.

Some may say, why did you bother to write the book? I did it because that period at Royal Roads is truly 'gone with the wind' and as time goes by the story and the legend fade. However, it was a unique experience and one that I think needs to be remembered and the story told. I hope this book helps in a small way to preserve that history.

I think this is required reading for all ex-Roadants and a must if you are heading to the reunion at Roads in September. However, I think the CMR and RMC types should enjoy the book as well. It will give them a chance to see what a tough military college was all about.

The book is big, 830 pages, (there were a lot of stories) and sells for \$35 plus shipping.

You can buy it from Baico Publishing in Ottawa - they have a store front on Albert Street:

Baico Publishing Consultants Inc., 294 Albert Street, suite 103
(Corner of Kent), Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6E6 T: 613.829.5141
www.baico.ca/ Email: baico@bellnet.ca

Or order from me directly - email dlcopious@gmail.com or 613-258-5009.

I have discovered that the shipping prices for a single book that weighs a kilo are high. Ergo, if you are in the Ottawa area it would be best if you pick it up at one of the Class lunches or I can arrange to get it to you some other way. If you are in the hinterland then shipping four at a time is a lot cheaper

than one. I can ship to four guys in the same area, save money and sell more books.

For those who buy a copy, I think you will enjoy the read.

Editor's Note: I have a copy signed by Doug and look forward to reading it. One day, I might even pay for it!

Doug also provided a pdf version of the cover of the book. Unfortunately, my limited technical skills did not allow me to reprint it into this document.

I made my own modest attempt to have a book published but it ended in a rather ignominious failure. I had written a research paper for the Friends of the Canadian War Museum on Canada's Victoria Cross winners. One of my colleagues encouraged me to have it published so I hooked up with an on-line publishing company.

Everything went swimmingly for a while. I was told what needed to be edited, what pictures needed higher definition, etc. A cover was selected and a proof copy sent to me for my review. What a thrill to see a book with one's own name attached! I made a few changes and sent it back for the final revision. When I was informed it was ready, I ordered 5 copies for myself and my kids and they were duly delivered.

It was about then that the wheels came off. I received a rather curt e-mail telling me that my sources (over 200 of them - mainly from electronic sources) were too readily available and that readers would be disappointed to find that they could get the same information by simply going over the same sources. My response that the point of the book was to collect a widely diverse array of information into a single package fell on deaf ears.

My hope now is that those five copies might become valuable collectors' items!

Fats Turns 70

On Saturday, 11 May, Jim Carruthers' partner, Gail hosted an open house to celebrate the bald one's seventieth birthday. A large turnout of classmates; colleagues from his former company, Norpak; Naval Association of Canada confreres; neighbours and family turned up to wish him well. A good time was had by all. Doug Cope and Gail tried their best to say something nice about the birthday boy and in his response, Jim clarified why that was so difficult. Happy Birthday Jim.

Dr Heather Evans.

Some of you will recall that Heather Evans was a former recipient of the Class of 65 Teaching Excellence Award. The following is a nice exchange of correspondence between her and **Charlie Emond** as Charlie thanks her for her participation on the selection committee over the past three years.

Dear Heather,

Allow me to express to you my most sincere appreciation and that of my classmates for your highly engaged and most thoughtful contribution to the selection of the Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award recipients these past three years.

There is no doubt that your role as Chairperson this year represented a significant additional workload, however interesting and gratifying the work might have been. I congratulate you on the completeness and timeliness of the administration process and your very effective leadership of our group during yesterday's challenging deliberations.

Enjoy a fine single malt whiskey (well maybe not this morning) to celebrate a difficult job, well done.

Charles

Dear Charles,

Thank you very much for your lovely note. It has indeed been a pleasure to work with the TEA Committee throughout the past three years. As I mentioned on Friday, the experience has given me opportunity to meet and work with members of the college community with whom I likely would not otherwise have had much contact, and it has been tremendously enlightening to review of the TEA candidates' files. I have learned much about both the college and about teaching through my participation on the committee.

Thank you also for all of your contributions to the selection process. We have very much benefited from your thoughtfulness and wisdom as we have grappled with some challenging issues and difficult decisions.

I certainly look forward to raising a glass in honour of the TEA Committee and the Class of 1965.

All the very best,

Heather

CMR Swabbies

By 6439 Hugh Spence

The following is an extract from an e-mail I received from Hugh:

"...wee Georges Wilson has compiled a lot of neat stuff concerning the naval recruits in the CMR entry class of 1960 for display on the Internet. Why a former army engineer would do this, I don't know, but he's evidently keen on setting up web-accessible information sites about various CMR recruit groups, and "ours" is one of them.

Anyway, I sent him scans of a bunch of black & white photos that I've kept all these years from our less-than-wonderful but eye-opening first naval summer, including the one attached that includes almost all the CMR lads who joined *Cap de la Madeleine* in the summer of '61. (There are one or two guys missing...sick bay, whimpering in their rack or whatever, and it's likely one or two said fuggit before we boarded the *Cap* and were already on the

train back to their homes.) Georges subsequently asked me to identify the faces therein, presumably so he can add a caption to the photo's reproduction in his website collection.

I've done my best, using old "Dayfeelay" yearbooks containing individual Flight photos plus the alphabetical names of all navy prep years, and I sought help from Rod MacKinnon because he's standing next to the two least identifiable characters, (on the left end of the 1st and 2nd rows as you look at the picture.) Their physiognomy matches nothing in any reference photo I have nor in my ageing brain, though the front row guy could be Morin if he's a red-headed francophone.



... (below) ... are the names that seem right for the faces....there's no guarantee that they (all) are correct. The following are names that include those known to be missing from the picture, or candidates for the two

puzzlers: Basile, Bovey, Dedicik, Guertin, Hadfield, Jackson, Milot, Pecho, Thackray, and Zarins.

HMCS Cornwallis photo of CMR naval cadets, June 1961

[prior to joining the frigate HMCS *Cap de la Madeleine*]

Back row:

DeBaets, Thompson, Johnson, Dodd, Demiany, Walker

Middle row:

_____, MacKinnon, Auns, Ouellette, Braham, Gaucher, Landerkin, Kincaid, Goode, Bruce, Jetté, Gratton, Rigby, Wilson, Spence

Front row:

Morin ? , Reichelson, Hick, Carrier, [Commissioned Officer Cole*, Lieutenant Comeau**,] MacDonald, Belhumeur, Bélanger, Bacon

* Cornwallis training staff

** CMR staff; officer accompanying

Is anyone able to help out with the missing names or to correct those that might have been mis-identified?

Thanks to Georges for the considerable work that he has done to collect and to catalogue pictures from the Class of 65.

Closing Notes

Thanks again to all who have contributed to and/or enjoyed this rag over the past five years. Remember, nothing is too trivial to be reported, so keep those entries coming. In some cases, a short article would serve as proof that you are still alive.