

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will probably turn out to be a good news/bad news column, and for that I beg your indulgence. I'm not even going to label the items as good or bad. I'll let you make up your mind.

To begin, we had the good news that LGen Dallaire returned to work just last week. Regrettably, he is not in the same job and so we have lost his direct support for the millenium project. This has meant that we must look elsewhere for funding or change the focus of our plan. Neither the Executive nor the Board have met since the news came out so I cannot say what the project will look like in the future, or in fact whether we will take it on at all. I guess it is enough to say we are still pursuing some options.

The art work for the Coat of Arms has been received and is now gracing the walls of DHH, having been suitably framed. Photographs of the crest have been ordered and will be available, at a cost, in the future. We are looking at a number of other ways to use it, some of which we hope to have available for Course 99.

It looks as though we will have another lively election at the AGM. I am happy to see this, as it means members are interested in the success of the organization and want to have a hand in shaping its future. The nominating committee is hard at work as I write and I am assured they will have everything well in hand. I am also assured by our Course Coordinator that

details are rapidly falling into place insofar as the administration for the course is concerned. Witness to this is the newly designed registration form enclosed. Except for the transportation part even I can figure it out. Please do your part and complete everything required on the forms so that you are not disappointed when you arrive. As I indicated in my last message, I think you will be well pleased with the programme set out this year. You won't have too much time to be bored, and I'm sure you will learn things that will be very useful.

For a number of reasons we were obligated to cancel the conference on: "The Future For Military Museums" that was to be held in conjunction with the Canadian War Museum and DHH this spring. This was a blow to our publicity plans, but all is not lost as we hope to be able to resurrect it next year. This might even be a good thing as we will have that much more time to get your input on the subject. Please let us know what you see as the problems and prospects for military museums in the future.

Our Bursary Programme is well underway and Denis Lavoie assures me we will have the winner as a lecturer during the course. The subject given to the candidates to write on and be prepared to speak about is Deaccessioning. This is always a touchy subject and we will no doubt have the latest in thinking provided by the winner.

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**LCDR Frank J. Dunbar CD, FCMA,
ACIS, (Ret'd)**

On Friday March 5, 1999, Frank Dunbar passed away at his daughter's home in Ottawa after a long, often painful, battle with cancer. Frank was a founding officer and an Honorary Member of OMMC Inc., and as such will be greatly missed by all of us.

Frank was a stickler for detail, and through the breadth of his knowledge and by the strength of his personality kept the fledgling OMMC Inc. on the straight and narrow path to successful operation. He acquired this ability through his career in the Navy and many years as Corporate Secretary of the Royal Ontario

Museum. He was also a life member and Fellow of the Canadian Museum Association and was an "Associate" of the Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in Canada. After his career with the ROM, Frank struck out on his own as a consultant in Non-Profit Administration and Museum Management. Many of us have benefitted from his wise counsel in this latter role.

As a dedicated professional Frank loved to visit museums. In later years he developed an interest in genealogy, especially as it affected his own family. He was elated to find a trace to an early relative in the Klondike during his last

trip to the 1998 CMA conference in Whitehorse. We had the pleasure of his company in Winnipeg where, though he was hurting, he attended most of the lectures.

Frank's funeral was held in Oakville, his home in later years, and a memorial service is to be held in Ottawa. Memorial donations to The Salvation Army, the RCN Benevolent Fund, Missions to Seamen or the Royal Ontario Museum would be appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. David Shirlaw, North Vancouver, BC
Director of Planning Group for a Naval Museum
Complex on the North Vancouver waterfront

Mr. John B. Wilkes, Don Mills, Ontario,
Military Historian

Mrs. Frank Saies-Jones, The Naval Museum of
Alberta, Calgary, Alberta

Dr. Ken Reynolds, Gloucester, Ontario

OMMC Inc. Members' Activities

The Museum of the Regiments is preparing an exhibit to tell the story of the **Canadian Army Wartime Public Relations and Canadian War Correspondents** (World War II and Korea). It will be on display from 7 February to 31 July of the year 2000.

The purpose of the project is to depict the little-known role of Public Relations (PR) Units - first introduced to the Canadian Army in World War II - and the "Warco" colleagues with whom they were so closely associated. Broadly stated, their mutual role was to serve as a credible link between the men at the front and the people at home.

The mandate of PR units included responsibility for facilitating the work of war correspondents in war zones, and having them accompanied by PR officers of journalistic background. Another task was to have soldier-photographers and cine-cameramen produce still-photos and motion pictures of combat action for the news media in Canada.

After August, 2000, this 1600 sq. ft. bilingual exhibit consisting of framed photos, mounted articles written by the Warco's and other three-dimensional artifacts will be available to other museums and institutions.

Anyone interested in displaying this exhibit should contact the Museum of the Regiments, 4520 Crowchild Trail S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Tel: (403) 974-2850 as soon as possible to reserve the desired periods of time.

Transportation costs and insurance are the responsibility of the borrowing facility.

The Greenwood Military Aviation Museum is looking for the following publications - **Chatham An Airfield History**, by A.M. Lee published in 1983 - 430 SQN published by Les Presses Lithographiques, Quebec 1981, - **Canadians in Lahr, Germany**, by Dan or Don Nicks and lastly "**Strick Swift**", **Strick Sure** by Harrison & C. Edwards, 1982. If you could help out finding any or all of these books, it would prove most helpful.

Canada Post is coming out in September with a set of 16 aviation stamps commemorating the 75th year of aircraft used by the RCAF/CF, and a set of 4 aviation stamps to commemorate the Canadian International Air show in Toronto at 0.46 per stamp plus GST.

A wish list was received from Captain M.A. Finerman, Wiltshire, UK for various "Vickers" items as per attached list. Any help would be appreciated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For those of you who have already sent in your 1999 dues for the OMMC Inc. please be advised that your membership card and donation receipt will be sent to you soon. Thanks for your continued support of the OMMC Inc. My month's holidays in Naples, Florida is the cause of the delay. Those who have not yet had an opportunity to send in their \$35.00 Canadian membership fee are requested to do so at their earliest convenience.

While in Florida I always take the opportunity to visit local museums and antique shops and militaria stores. One militaria store that may be of interest to some of our members is one that is the collection of one man who is now disposing of it through this store. He has an extensive collection of authentic German, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Korean uniforms and accoutrements as well as Holocaust items. He also has Canadian, British and lots of American items. If you wish to learn more of this cache of items write to Mr. Homer William Helter, Military Collector, c/o Antique Guild, 5510 Shirley Street, Naples, Florida 34109,

USA. Tel (941) 592-9882 or (941) 434-7535 and Fax (941) 434-5295. Homer's prices are in US dollars and he knows the value of his material. He is a very interesting chap to talk to on military subjects.

For those collecting Britains toy soldiers you will be interested in learning that the Canadian distributor in Toronto, Borgfeldts (Canada) Ltd. will relinquish their franchise as of 1 April 1999. The ERTL Company will control the distribution of Britains items from Toronto but all orders must be placed through their head office in Dyersville, Iowa. To complicate matters ERTL has been purchased by another American toy manufacturer, Racing-Champions. It may be some time before a new price list is made available to collectors.

Greg Evans, Executive Director of the Vancouver Museum, and a member of the OMMC Inc. recently advised that the Vancouver Museum has been allocated a grant of \$35,000.00 Canadian from the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage for the development of a temporary exhibition entitled "Toy Soldiers". There are plans to make this a travelling exhibition. I have the honour of being one of the volunteer consultants for the exhibit. Congratulations Greg for this successful accomplishment.

One of my friends, Mrs. Terry MacDonald, 521-3818 19 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta has done extensive research to locate and photograph the known grave sites of every designated Canadian Victoria Cross recipient. She is now writing a book on S/L Ian Willoughby Bazalette, VC, DFC originally from Calgary, Alberta. If any of our members have information that they wish to share with Terry, please contact her.

President LCol Don Carrington in his remarks has paid tribute to our departed colleague, LCdr Frank Dunbar, CD, RCN, Ret'd who did so much administratively to stabilize the OMMC Inc. after its separation from the CWM and its subsequent incorporation in July 1992. Frank was a dedicated and knowledgeable workaholic who, among other services to the OMMC Inc. prepared our Constitution and By-laws, and served in several executive positions. Frank was determined to live his life to the fullest and as you

are aware attended the 1998 Canadian Museum Association's annual conference in Whitehorse, Yukon and our own annual course in August 1998 at 17 Wing Winnipeg, Manitoba, despite great pain from his ailment. I salute your memory Frank. Per Ardua Ad Astra.

A young artist has created a series of paintings based on a unique set of criteria. He has spent a number of months with various term care War Vets in Sunnybrook Hospital and the Women's College Health Science Centre. From those experiences he developed paintings which reflected the veteran's thoughts and feelings about topics that arose during their conversations. The results are classed in the realm of Art Therapy.

The artist, Christopher Wolfe, would like to share the paintings with a larger audience and so is looking for a museum or museums willing to mount a small display of them. If you have the space, and the inclination, please contact Mr. Wolfe at 26 Lorindale Ave., Toronto, ON, M5M 3C2 for details. He can also be reached on the internet at ctwolfe@interlog.com.

The Military Collectors Club of Canada holds an annual Convention, Bourse and Competition annually. Several members of the MCCC are also members of the OMMC Inc. In 1999 MCCC will hold its Convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba from 10-12 September 1999 inclusive. See enclosed flyer concerning the event. The contact is Alan Locken, 633 Oakland Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2G 0B7 (Tel: (204) 663-5973). If you live in the area be sure to attend.

The MCCC Convention 2000 will be held in Ottawa, 18-21 August 2000 at the Château Laurier. I have the honour of being the chairman of the event. See the enclosed flyer concerning the event. The events of the MCCC Convention 2000 will be augmented by many special events in the Ottawa-Hull Region for the Millenium celebrations. Do not miss this event. For further data as it becomes available please contact me at 16 Harwick Crescent, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 6R1 (Tel: (613) 829-0280 or Fax (613) 829-7673)