

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

I seem to have missed April in the upheaval of returning home after three months in Florida. We enjoyed the sunshine offered by our southern stay, but it is always very satisfying to get back home again, particularly nowadays when it provides an escape and some relief from the uncivil and uncompromising partisan politics of our southern neighbours.

Once again I am pleased to provide a thought provoking timely article by **6533 Gord Forbes**. Also, picking up from Edition 148, I have included the link to another opinion piece by **H24263 John Cowan**. Once again, with apologies to John, I have not reprinted the complete article, which is a little long for this low budget tract, but rather, left it to you to open up the link.

**6339 Phil Bury** has provided an impassioned and practical plea for assistance to Ukraine as it struggles to defend itself from the unwarranted Russian invasion.

Our secretary, **6439 Hugh Spence**, has passed along information on the creation of a new RMC Alumni Connection App that may be of interest to some of you.

I don't think I mentioned it in a previous issue, but with the assistance of a number of other classmates I had submitted the nomination of **6604 Jim Carruthers** for inclusion on the RMC Wall of Honour. I will report on the response received from the nominating committee later in this issue.

Finally, before getting into the details of the above items, I noted with sorrow in a recent e-veritas, the passing of **5758 Michael Morris**. Mike was not a member of our class, but as a member of the Class of 63, he was one of our seniors and familiar to most of us, particularly those of us who served in the Navy. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family.

### Wall of Honour Submission—Jim Carruthers

In recognition of Jim's significant and lasting contributions to the Navy and to RMC, I forwarded a submission to the Wall of Honour Nominations Committee recommending him for inclusion in this year's selection.

I received the following reply from the Committee: *"The Wall of Honour Nominating Committee would like to thank you for your submission of **H6604 James Franklin Carruthers**. The nomination was strong and well received by the Committee who forwarded it on to the Selection Committee as one of four we recommended to be placed on the wall this year. The Selection Committee limits themselves to two selections each year. After some discussion, James did not get selected this year. However, because it was sent to the*



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### Wall of Honour (Concluded)

*Selection Committee this year, his submission will be reviewed again next year (and of necessary for three more years thereafter) along with any other submissions, to be returned to the Selection Committee for consideration.”*

The response also included some helpful suggestions for strengthening the submission. I will, therefore, be pursuing this further and seeking selected assistance along the way. I will keep you all posted in future newsletters.

### Apologies to 6709 Lyn Zelmer

Lynn very kindly provided a thorough update of his life post Royal Roads—the sort of thing I have been trying to get all of you to do to bring us up to date with your lives since leaving CMC. Lynn also included several examples of his own artwork, one of which (*Incarcerated*) I carelessly displayed upside down. Sorry, Lynn—a reflection of my own poor art appreciation.

### RMC Alumni Connection App

Class Secretary, **Hugh Spence**, has passed along the following communication from the RMC Alumni Association:

“Over the past year, the RMC Alumni Association has been working behind the scenes to develop a new connection point for Alumni. We are happy to announce, after months of trial and error and further development, the launch of the RMC Connect App (Insert picture).

RMC Connect will serve as your one stop shop for all things Alumni related. You can find and post jobs for other alumni to see, search for events in your area through the Branch feature, connect with classmates from your year of graduation, or connect with other Alumni in a particular interest group you share.

The RMC Alumni Connect App also features a mentoring section that allows you to become a mentor, find a mentor, or create a mentoring relationship with current cadets at the Colleges, or other alumni that are seeking support.

We invite you to connect with us and your fellow Alumni using the following link: <https://rmc-connect-cmr-connecte.com/>

While this is a soft launch designed exclusively for (classes) (branches), we are hoping to fully launch the Connect App in June for all Alumni. Your insights and suggestions will be critical components of the efforts to serve the greater military college community.”



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### Alumni Association App (Concluded)

“Au cours de la dernière année, l’Association des ancien(ne)s des CMR a élaboré une plateforme de réseautage pour les diplômés. Après plusieurs mois d’essais et d’erreurs, nous sommes ravis d’annoncer le lancement de l’application CMR Connecte (insérer une photo).

CMR Connecte est votre guichet unique pour tout ce qui touche les anciens étudiants. Vous pourrez l’utiliser pour consulter et afficher des offres d’emplois, parcourir les activités organisées par votre division locale et communiquer avec vos anciens camarades de classe ou d’autres diplômés qui partagent vos intérêts.

L’application CMR Connecte propose également une section d’encadrement qui vous permet de devenir un mentor, d’en trouver un ou de bâtir une relation de mentorat avec les élèves-officiers actuels des Collèges ou avec d’autres diplômés qui cherchent du soutien.

Nous vous invitons à renouer avec vos confrères et consœurs diplômés en utilisant ce lien : <https://rmc-connect-cmr-connecte.com/>.

Pour le moment, l’application s’adresse exclusivement aux promotions (divisions), mais nous espérons élargir l’accès à l’application CMR Connecte en juin afin que tous les diplômés puissent y accéder. Vos idées et suggestions sont indispensables pour nous aider à mieux servir la communauté des collèges militaires.”

### Unite with Ukraine by 6339 Phil Bury

Many of you know that I have Ukrainian-Canadian family, and a respect and affection for Ukraine. But that’s not the only reason I want to support that country in its fight for survival. Ukraine is a peaceful democracy that has struggled hard to recover from Soviet times. Ukraine and Ukrainians are victims of an unprovoked and savage attack by the vastly greater forces of Russia. Vladimir Putin’s aim is to destroy Ukraine as a nation and exterminate Ukrainians as a people. He is resorting to unprecedented attacks on civilians, the bombing, murder and enforced displacement of civilians and the utter destruction of Ukraine’s culture, economy, and heritage. No one who sees even a small part of the death and destruction can remain unmoved. It rivals the worst of the Second World War, and is moving with much greater speed, aided by the newest and most deadly weapons in Russia’s arsenal.

If Ukraine falls, so does the international order. So does the assurance of democracy. Who will be next?

Sanctions may make a difference in years or even months, but by then it will be too late. The only reason that Putin’s plan has not succeeded as quickly as planned has been the courage of the Ukrainians, aided by the donations of friendly nations. But courage alone can not be enough. Aid in equipment and supplies is coming too slowly, and in amounts that won’t be sufficient. Given the tools, Ukraine can survive. But help must come soon.



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### Unite with Ukraine (concluded)

*Unite with Ukraine* is buying **bulletproof vests, helmets, thermal vision and communications equipment, and medical items** for the Defenders of Ukraine, especially for the Territorial Defense Forces. These are new combat formations made up of civilian men and women who are defending Ukraine against Russia's atrocious war. They have only the most basic equipment, against one of the world's biggest and best equipped armies.

### I am asking for your support today! Time is of the essence.

How can you help?

1. Share this initiative widely – forward this email, share on Facebook, Instagram, etc.
2. Donate ([www.unitewithukraine.com](http://www.unitewithukraine.com))
3. Organize fundraisers and donate proceeds to Unite with Ukraine
4. Follow @unitewithukr and @uwcongress on Instagram

### Delusions of Adequacy: How Russia and Pakistan Lie to Themselves in Similar Ways by H24263 John Cowan

The following is a link to the subject article printed in the 8 April 2022 edition of Ottawa Life.

[https://www.ottawalife.com/article/how-russia-and-pakistan-lie-to-themselves-in-similar-ways?set\\_lang=en](https://www.ottawalife.com/article/how-russia-and-pakistan-lie-to-themselves-in-similar-ways?set_lang=en)

### War is Hell by 6533 JG Forbes

Some have asked me about writing a blog about the war in Ukraine, but up until now I have been reluctant. Things seemed to be moving so quickly that I was concerned that whatever I said would be out of date by the time you read it. However, I now feel that some things are becoming obvious so that I can write something cogent about what is going on.

It seems quite obvious that this war (no matter what Mr. Putin calls it) is taking longer and proving more difficult than Vladimir anticipated. Ukrainians are not just giving up or welcoming the Russians as liberators. They are fighting very hard and apparently quite skillfully. The Russian Army is suffering significant casualties. However, the Russians are becoming more brutal as things become more difficult, amounting to an all-out assault on the Ukrainian civilian population. There are recorded cases of Russian military firing on civilian ambulances in addition to the bombing at the Mariupol maternity hospital. Both are clear violations of the Geneva Conventions. And yet one writer in a news story the other day accused Ukraine of such a breach because there were some videos of Russian prisoners talking to their families back home. Is this supposed to be equated to Russian atrocities against Ukrainian civilians?

The response by western nations has been, shall we say, less than overwhelming. Economic sanctions have been imposed which will eventually impact the Russian people and to some extent the so-called oligarchs. They will be of little concern to Mr. Putin who will continue to have all of the comfort and



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### Ware is Hell (Concluded)

personal convenience of any potentate. It is only if the oligarchs and people of Russia rise up against him will it become an issue with him. Meanwhile, he will hide under the power of the state apparatus and continue his war. For some reason, the Russian people have proven themselves willing to accept the depravations of war and the casualties that go with them. A large uprising seems unlikely.

*“... the principle of dictatorship; perhaps human nature was incapable of using power arising from dictatorship without succumbing to the temptations of its abuse of power.”*

*- John Toland, from his book “The Last 100 Days”*

Russia has used the threat of nuclear retaliation to remove western military action from the chess board. The statement that Ukraine is not a NATO member seems pretty thin to me. Neither Iraq nor Afghanistan were members of any alliance, but western countries waged war in those places. So, it would seem that the mere threat of nuclear weapons has neutralized the west. If Putin gets away with it in Ukraine, no country in Europe is safe. The Baltic States, Moldova and Romania will likely be future targets. The west has to do more than devalue the ruble.

*“The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who stand neutral in times of great moral conflict.”*

*Martin Luther King*

### Closing Notes

That's it for another month. I would be delighted to hear from that silent majority out there who I haven't heard from since 1965. What did you do after leaving military college? How is retirement treating you? Nothing is too trivial. I think we are all at that stage in life where memories are becoming more important as we assess our own impacts on friends and love ones and wonder about what happened to old what's his name.