

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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March/mars 2024

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### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Greetings again from sunny but unseasonably cool Florida. This edition is dominated by the news of the passing of two more classmates. There is also considerable discussion on the current state of the Canadian Forces with links to several opinion pieces that I hope might generate more comment in future editions. As usual, and always welcomed are a couple of updates on individual and group activities.

#### Obituary 6248 Hugh Gordon

(Courtesy e-Veritas 1 Feb 24)

GORDON, Dr. Hugh A. FCPA, FCA, LL.D. 1942 – 2024

Surrounded by the love of his family, Hugh died peacefully on February 4, 2024.

Predeceased by his parents, William Gilbert Gordon and Helen Hughena Gordon (nee McNairnay) and by his beloved sister, Jean; survived by his best friend and wife of 35 years, Lisa, daughters Victoria (Peter) and Allison (Andrew), stepdaughters Lori and Christy (Ian), grandchildren Brandon, Ava, Riza, Paige, Khonner and former wife Michelle. Also survived by his brother Glen, nephews Don (Marnie) and Scott and their families.



For us, Hugh seemed always slightly ahead of his time. He was the first born of his generation in the Gordon/McNairnay clan cousins so that feeling started early. He embraced new technologies throughout his life. For example, at age 9 he rigged up a buzzer system from the kitchen to his bedroom so he could be called when dinner was ready. In 1981 he purchased the first computer to be used in the KPMG Victoria office and wired it through the ceiling so it would print down the hall on his secretary's typewriter. In 1987 he installed used car window controls to open and close venetian blinds in an east facing master bedroom. In 1999 he was an early purchaser of the new digital marine charts, installed a desktop computer under the driving station on the boat and mounted a separate monitor. He read about physics for fun. He epitomized life-long learning.

Hugh lived life large and with a joyful passion. Our first (and only) boat purchased with the Daniel family in 1986 was 42 feet. Multiple dinghies ensued. When the boat was sold in 2002, it was time to try a cottage in Nanoose. 10 years later it was RV'ing. After one season in a 13 foot trailer, a 42 foot motorhome was purchased forthwith. Then it was on to a second home in Mesa, then to Indian Wells. If you hadn't seen Hugh for



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### Gordon Obit (Concluded)

awhile, the conversation would invariably include the question “where are you living now?” Over the years Hugh and Lisa became known as serial real estate renovators of their many homes.

Hugh had such an abundance inside that he could not help but share with everyone. Clients, colleagues, friends and even total strangers! It was phenomenal how much he could talk. He was a natural leader and teacher and for fifteen years enjoyed being one of the three instructors at the Income Tax Practice course of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. His examples of ‘adventure in the nature of trade’ were never to be forgotten.

Hugh attended Royal Roads Military College as a cadet in the 1960’s. 35 years later he returned as the first member appointed by the government to the Board of Governors of the new Royal Roads University. He served the new university as Board Chair and Chancellor for the next eight years.

He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Honours Economics and Commerce and attended the University of British Columbia as a graduate student in Economics. He served in the Canadian Army for 12 years including three years in Germany.

Upon leaving the military in 1971 Hugh articulated with Thorne Riddell in Calgary and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1974. Specializing in income tax, Hugh became a partner in 1978. He transferred to Victoria in 1979 and was the National Director of Taxation for Thorne Riddell from 1983 to 1985; Chairman of the National Tax Committee of Thorne Ernst & Whinney from 1986 to 1988; and, member of the National Tax Committee of KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne from 1988 to 1993.

Hugh presented papers on income taxation to the Annual Conference of the Canadian Tax Foundation on five occasions from 1981 to 1996.

During his career Hugh acted on behalf of clients and governments applying his abilities to a wide range of issues including as Assistant Chief Negotiator for British Columbia on the Nisga’a Treaty Settlement, reviewing governance on several large provincial projects, negotiation of the initial highways maintenance contracts, development of a fair market value stumpage regime, mining royalties, and he provided extensive consultation to British Columbia related to taxation statutes and tax incentives. From 2005 to 2015 Hugh was a consultant to the Federal Government on fiscal issues for First Nation Treaty negotiations and on funding of First Nation self-government.

Hugh was active in his community and over the years served on many boards including the Greater Victoria Economic Development Commission; Greater Victoria Arts Commission; University of Victoria; British Columbia Railway Company, BC Rail Ltd., and BCR Marine; Victoria Foundation; Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award, BC and Yukon Division; Royal Roads University; British Columbia Wine Authority; British Columbia Safety Authority/Technical Safety BC; Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society; and Victoria Hospice.

Hugh was recognized by his peers and admitted as a Fellow of the B.C. Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1995. In 2003 he was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal in honour of his service to the people of British Columbia and to the Victoria community. Also, in 2003 he was the recipient of the Doctor of Laws Degree, honoris causa from Royal Roads University.

His grandchildren describe him as loving, loyal, witty, supportive, generous, wise, an honourable gentleman but also lighthearted and mischievous, always enjoying their reactions to his antics. Hugh was so very proud of his blended family. He leaves an indelible mark on all of us. We thank him for our life together and we know what we have lost. He loved and was loved truly, madly, deeply.



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### Obituary 6600 Doug Busche (Courtesy e-Veritas 1 Feb 24)



Douglas passed away in London, Ontario, on February 14, 2024, in his 81st year. Beloved husband of the late Bev Busche (2023). Loving father to Kristin Busche of London and Kevin Busche (Kirsty) of Calgary. Dear grandfather of Megan (Trevor), Lucas and Heath. Loving great-grandfather of Jax. Also missed by his brother Neil Busche (Joan) of Ottawa, Alan Busche (Jane) of Dorchester and sister Xandra Busche (Peter Cox) of Caledon.

In 1965, Doug graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada. Following his graduation, Doug embarked on a noble path as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving proudly for a number of years. During those years, his fondest memories are of piloting all of the planes that now make up the "Snowbirds Air Team".

Cremation has taken place, and no memorial service is planned at this time. As an expression of sympathy, donations in memory of Doug may be made to a charity of your choice.

### The State of the Canadian Forces

A number of classmates contributed content and/or comment on a variety of current observations on the present state of the Canadian Forces as follows:

**6560 Andrew Nellestyn:** You may wish to put my article below in the class news letter. I have included the link to Mike Maisonneuve's National Post article as it is complementary. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andrew-nellestyn-phd-peng-40a15b14b\\_canada-undefended-our-military-readiness-activity-7164344694653476864-G2C-?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andrew-nellestyn-phd-peng-40a15b14b_canada-undefended-our-military-readiness-activity-7164344694653476864-G2C-?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/canada-undefended-our-military-readiness-is-dangerously-insufficient-heres-how-to-fix-it>

**6539 Nigel Hilliard:** To my friends who are in Florida and might not have seen this latest article from the National Post on recruiting for the CAF. <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jamie-sarkonak-turns-out-open-hostility-to-white-men-isnt-great-for-military-recruitment>, and,

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gunter-canadian-military-in-shambles-thanks-to-liberals-underfunding-and-woke-policies>

**6475 Mike Houghton:** My youngest daughter (Calgary) beat you to the punch, Nigel, and I beat her by reading this article when I got up this morning. Do you suppose our fearless leader or any of his DEI cabinet colleagues even read the Post?? Even if they did, no more than a slight shrug of the shoulders would occur. More sadly in my view anyway is that our Class appointed former Leadership Professor permitted the CMJ (of which he is Editor) to dominate this usually strategic and geopolitical journal with absolute far left BS. Once I get back to Kingston, I will be looking for Christian to challenge his thinking in this regard.

**6541 Fraser Holman:** So, thanks for sharing this rather depressing assessment of what ails the military. I had not seen this article. It should be possible to realign the CF with its main purpose - applying controlled violence or the threat thereof on behalf of our government, or perhaps our king. But it seems irresistible to respond to the critiques from the Arbour type of studies. Thank goodness we are not confronting a shooting enemy, at least not currently.



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### Letters

**6660 Waine McQuinn:** Yesterday Gord Forbes (N) advised John Hilton that he could not make the upcoming Class lunch in Barrhaven because he was in Albufeira, Portugal. Completely coincidental, as I read that message, we too were sitting in Albufeira Portugal. I made email contact with him and today we inaugurated the Albufeira, Portugal Class of 65 Branch over an early lunch with Gord and his friend Lorraine. (photo attached).



**6541 Fraser Holman:** Trust that you and Janet are comfortable on the Atlantic coast again this year. Attached photo as evidence that Bolduc, Colfer, Hilliard, Holman, and Houghton gathered with our partners for an extended luncheon at Tommy Bahama's on St Armand's Circle last Thursday. Good food, good drinks and much energized discussion. TDV.



**6630 Peter Glynn:** See the attached photo taken today. "NOT the February I remember!" +12 C today.







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### Letters (Concluded)

**6339 Phil Bury:** Thanks as ever for this. #165 in particular is a gem. It's a privilege to read it, even the discouraging bits.

- Sad to hear about Vic. Good that we hear.
- Thanks to Rudy for the update on my old friend Paul. Sad and worrying, but important to know.
- Thanks to Ernie for the upbeat news about the P-8A, despite the ominous reminder about China. Good to hear that hypothetical IRBs don't always carry the day.
- Thanks and our sympathies to Tony Goode, but again, reassuring to have the news, and that he sails on.
- Thanks to Ken Kennedy for the precis and skewering of the latest CMJ, which I'm not sure I want to read. There are no doubt some bad currents in the CAF, but they're being addressed, and that's lost in the flaming pile of BS – government BS included, and deeply harmful to the institution and therefore to Canada. Yes, it would be interesting to hear what Christian really thinks.
- I'm not a great movie watcher, but Gerry's review makes it tempting.
- Gord as usual sums up a lot in a few words and is always worth a read. And he's right that there is much to be mad as Hell about, but Gord gives us some bright spots as well.

BZ, digital warrior, for doing all this from the beach. Have a Margarita on me, enjoy the sun and avoid the politics.

*(Ed Note: Thanks Phil. I am following your advice!)*

### Movie Review – The Monuments Men

By 6559 Gerry Mueller

This month's movie recommendation is again one based on a book, but unlike last month's *The Song of Lunch* for which the book (poem) was essentially the film script, for this one there are more divergences than parallels between book and film.

The book is **The Monuments Men** (by Robert M. Edsel with Brett Witter, ©2009, Center Street, Hachet Book Group, New York). It documents the work of a small subset of 350 or so members of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section (MFAA), drawn from 13 Allied nations during the final years of World War II. Most of them were curators, art specialists, conservators, architects, and the like, and while some of them were already in regular military service and reassigned to MFAA, a considerable number were persuaded to leave their civilian posts to join the group and were deployed after brief military training. Initially tasked with mitigating combat damage primarily to structures (churches, museums and important monuments), they quickly pivoted to locating movable works of art and cultural items stolen or otherwise missing. Edsel writes "During their occupation of Europe, Hitler and the Nazis pulled off the 'greatest theft in history,' seizing and transporting more than five million cultural objects to the Third Reich. The Western Allied effort, spearheaded by the Monuments Men, thus became the 'greatest treasure hunt in history,' with all the unimaginable and bizarre stories that only war can produce. It was also a race against time, ... some of the Nazi fanatics holding [the stolen art] were intent on making sure that if the Third Reich couldn't have them, the rest of the world wouldn't either."

The book concentrates on the work of a handful of the Monuments Men, largely American, with one Canadian and a couple of Brits, and on the search for a subset of art stolen from occupied France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. But it is accurate, in fact a note on the publication data page states "Every documented quote in *The Monuments Men* has been referenced in the chapter notes. Most of the dialogue that appears without a chapter note has been culled from research by the authors to provide a sense



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### Movie Review (Continued)

immediacy within a historically accurate context. While the actual words may not be direct quotes, the facts are documented.” In other words the book, which I highly recommend, is a work of history; the film, not so much.

#### **The Monuments Men (2014)**

Director: George Clooney

Producer: Columbia Pictures (in association with 20th Century Fox) and Studio Babelsberg (Germany)

Writers: George Clooney & Grant Heslov

Principal Actors: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville & Cate Blanchett.

Note: Currently (Feb 2024) available on Netflix (rentable on Prime Video)

First, the positive; this movie is a good yarn; it showcases an aspect of World War II in Europe that is quite unknown, and yet historically important. There are no grand battle scenes, no impossible heroics, just dedicated people doing a necessary job, with not much cooperation from the rest of the Allied Forces. Simply as a good war movie it is worth the roughly 2 hours it takes to watch, and with an ensemble cast that includes six Oscar winners the acting is impeccable.

The not so positive; while the movie follows the book’s material loosely, it changes some episodes for dramatical reasons so that they become significantly ahistorical, and adds episodes that are not in the book and probably never happened, again for dramatic reasons, or worse, for comedy. Seemingly, the director (George Clooney) could not decide what he was making, a historical, dramatic, or comic film, and decided on all three. For good measure he throws in a hint at romance, which also never happened in history, and doesn’t go anywhere in the film. I couldn’t help but mentally subtitle the film “Saving the Brugges Madonna and the Mystic Lamb” as both these art pieces feature in the film.

For reasons I have not been able to determine (but probably the advice of lawyers!) none of the names of the characters in the film match those of the actual historical persons of the book, although the major characters are loosely based on their historical counterparts. There are also characters that have no equivalents in the book or in history, introduced for dramatic reasons.

The most ahistorical episode is at the film’s end, which depicts a totally fictitious race with Russian forces to a salt mine in Altaussee, Austria (incorrectly described as within the Russian Zone). There not only the Brugges Madonna but also the Gent Altarpiece, the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* were hidden, along with other thousands of stolen art works. There were probably no Russians within a hundred miles during the relevant time, and the mine had already been secured by American forces before the arrival of the Monuments Men. While there was real drama involved in entering the mine (which had been rigged with explosives and saved by the action of locals), the stolen art therein was recovered at a leisurely pace, packed for safe transport, and taken out over a period of weeks. And within that episode is another inaccuracy; the Ghent altarpiece is depicted as discovered complete, when in fact one panel went “missing” in 1934, has never been recovered, and was only replaced with a copy after the altarpiece had been returned to Belgium.

There are other variations from the book which are less jarring, but also have historical errors. An episode just prior to Christmas 1944 in the book is in the context of the Battle of Hürtgen Forest, while in the film it is in the context of the Battle of the Bulge. Not a major issue except for dating, but the film injects a Christmas gift parcel, including a seemingly 45 rpm sized record of family greetings, a recording medium nonexistent at the time. More, on the record is also a sung “Have yourself a merry little Christmas” using a text not written until 1957.



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### Movie Review (Concluded)

There are also the usual errors of maps that are incorrect for their time, major mispronunciation of German place names by English speakers who should know better, as they are experts in art with graduate degrees (to be fair, German-speaking characters speak good German). Also the odd weapon that has the capability of firing rounds well beyond the capacity of their magazine (although for a war movie there are very few shots fired in anger). As part of the action is in Paris, there are the usual establishing shots of the Eiffel Tower, illuminated, during a period when blackouts would still have been in force, and in any case the Tower was not illuminated until the late 1950s. And for good measure, a bi-plane stored in a French barn, with a G (Great Britain) registration number.

If you only watched the film, had not read the book, little of this would matter. It probably still doesn't. As it is, it is a good story that the film tells well, it is just not **the** story. For that you have to read the book. Thus, I recommend them both; watch the film, read the book, and the order really doesn't matter.

#### Postscript:

[WWII Monuments Men weren't all men. The female members finally move into the spotlight | AP News](#)

The above Associated Press article appeared in today's Toronto Star. Aside from adding to the material of the book, there are a couple of interesting notes:

- Rose Vallant's memoir (the actual person behind Cate Blanchett's character in the film) is to be translated into English and published (finally 60+ years after it was published in French) this Fall;
- The US Army is raising a new generation of "heritage and preservation" officers, with the 1<sup>st</sup> group graduating in 2022. While in one sense this is welcome news, the fact that they see a necessity for this kind of activity (they didn't for Korea or Vietnam) is another straw in the wind pointing to a not so happy future in (probably) Europe.

You might want to add a short note to my review of book and movie with this link included, as it might be of interest to some in the class. I don't know what other Canadian papers it might have been carried by.

Gerry

### Closing Notes

Thanks as always to those who have taken the time to contribute. There should be some good grist for comment on some of the cited links.



HMCS Sackville