

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Another short issue, primarily to announce the passing of another classmate, **6471 Derek Carrier**.

6471 Derek Carrier

I received the following from Derek's son, Scott, "*I regret to inform the group that Derek Passed away today (7 October 2024) after dealing very well with pancreatic cancer the past year. He was surrounded by people who loved him and we made sure his last year was a good one. Thanks to all of you who might have been his friend. He spoke very highly of his experience at RMC.*"



I have a very vivid memory of Derek who was an outstanding athlete. While at CMR, playing inter-squadron football for Maisonneuve Squadron against Derek and the team from Cartier we were engaged in a tight contest with only a few minutes left in the game with Cartier in possession deep in their end. I was playing safety for Maisonneuve and feeling fairly secure in the knowledge that my 11 teammates in front of me could take care of things. Unfortunately for me, Derek, playing running back for Cartier, was handed the ball and crashed straight through a hole in the line and hurtled straight for me. He didn't fake or make any other move to get around me, but rather, ran right over me for the winning touchdown. I had cleat marks all over my body for a week and endured the shame for much longer.

I am sure you will all join me in expressing condolences to his family on his passing.



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### The 18 Warships that will Dominate the seas from 2030's

6560 Andy Nellestyn forwarded the following interesting YouTube clip on some future warships. Interesting to note that one of them is Canadian. <https://youtu.be/AdlKKxVLwNY?si=pBsF2j8V-SD-R5XF>

### Bombast Politics

By 6533 Gord Forbes

Did you ever wonder why Donald Trump says something outrageous almost every day? Whether it's at one of his rallies or at a news conference or interview, he will have something to say that stretches credulity or decorum. As long as there is a reporter, or better still, a news camera around, there he'll be spouting his lies or exaggerations.

*"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." - George Orwell*

He does it because it ensures that he will be in the news the next day, preferably as the lead story. "At his rally last night, Donald Trump said . . ." He does it to drown out his opponent. He does it on purpose.

I call it bombast politics. Being as bombastic, outrageous or loud as you can so you, and nobody else, gets heard. It is a style that Mr. Trump has mastered. As someone once said, "Bad publicity is better than no publicity at all."

*"No man is exempt from saying silly things; the mischief is to say them deliberately." - Michel de Montaigne*

Unfortunately, we are seeing this same phenomenon of bombast politics being played out in Canada. In this case by Pierre Poilievre. The venues may be different, but the effect is the same. In his case, it's in the House of Commons, where he dominates Question Period, or in the inevitable news conference. Remember when he would not attend any news conferences? Slam you opponent, call the government side any number of names, exaggerate the condition of the country. You know that there are reporters around and that CSPAN is always videoing your encounters. Better yet, get yourself silenced for a day, or even ejected from the chamber. You know right away that you will be the headline in the news cycle. Bombast politics.

Bombast politics does nothing to advance the business of the government. It presents no substantive ideas. It does not include any ideas on how to make things better. Does it not bother you that neither Mr. Trump nor Mr. Poilievre have given us anything but vague promises about how they would do something different to address their perceived problems? Bombast works; plans can come back to haunt you.

*"It's so much easier to suggest solutions when you don't know too much about the problem." - Malcolm Forbes*

Let's silence bombast politics by not supporting it nor giving it anything but disdain.



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### Letters

It was a pleasure to hear from **6490 Ben Besner** who provided the following update: *"I've been one of the "silent" classmates, thinking many times I should drop a line, and then not doing so.*

*On a personal, short bio note, I did serve in the RCAF for 4 ½ years after graduation, at radar bases, (Sydney, Armstrong), then a one year stint as Director of Light and Sound on the CAF Tattoo in 1967, then at Material Command HQ in Ottawa till Sep '69. I then moved to Air Canada, hired as an Avionics Engineer (9 years), then a Supply Chain manager (6 years), then in Aircraft Programs (Aircraft acquisition and sales) where my primary role was as AC's used aircraft salesman for 10 years, then into senior management as Director of Supply Services for 3 years, then Director of Component Maintenance for 7 years. After retirement from AC and a brief hiatus, I worked for 4 years in the business jet world, mainly selling electronic equipment and services to owners. After another brief hiatus, I was employed for 4 years by Hartzell Aerospace as their Tech Rep on the C Series (now the Airbus A220) program at Bombardier's Engineering office - Hartzell supplied the composite Inlet ducting and steel exhaust for the aircraft's APU.*

*On the family side, my wife Beth and I raised 5 wonderful kids, and are now blessed with 10 grandkids, ranging in age from 23 to 5 years old, 5 boys and 5 girls. Never a dull moment with that brood. Otherwise, health is reasonably good so far, no major issues, doing lots of Volunteer work, maintaining the house and garden, and occasional travel. I am also forever grateful for the formative years I endured at CMR and RMC, and the RCAF... A great start in life!!*

**6611 Doug Cope:** Interesting to hear your views on the scruffy cadets from CMR. (*Correction: they were recruits at the Recruit School and not CMR Cadets*)

I feel the same whenever I read articles on the Canadian forces in the NAC news and see the long hair on those in service

Also the idea of 'uniform' and 'uniformity' seems to be lost. In one of my recent book selling sessions at RMC a few years ago I was watching the Saturday parade and wondering at the variety of head gear. One group of female cadets marched by wearing tams. I asked who they were and I was told they were the 'Highland Dancers'. My comment was – so what – I played rugby at RMC but I did not wear my scrum cap on parade. Although it would have been a lot easier to wear than a pill box.

And I also want to tell of another incident related to the sad state of our armed forces. I recently visited one of my nieces near Hamilton. She told me that her grandson had recently joined the army and really liked it.

However, although he had completed phase 1 and phase 2 of his training he could not move on to phase 3 because of lack of instructors. So in order to fill time they had his unit filling sand bags and emptying them out again. It would be funny if it were not so pathetic.

Also in these days of social media, if his grandmother knows about this then so do all his friends back home. Great for recruiting when he tells them all the skilled things that he is learning in his army training.



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### Letters (Concluded)

Thanks to both Ben and Doug. I think it makes the Newsletter a lot more meaningful with material that brings us all up to date on our individual activities and thoughts on current issues.

### Editorial: An End to the War in Ukraine

Like all of us I have been watching the war in Ukraine with concern and a growing despair that that beleaguered, valiant country cannot prevail in the long run and must finally succumb to the sheer numbers possessed by Russia.

This has led to my latest flight of fancy that I have passed along to the Minister of Global Affairs for consideration. Frankly, I don't expect much in the way of a reply but I would be interested in some thoughts from you. Is there any merit in the following idea or is it simply wacky?

**"I am a retired naval officer with almost 30 years service spent entirely during the Cold War, and a further 20 years in DND as a Director in Emergency Preparedness Canada and as the Director responsible for occupational health and safety in the Department. In the latter two jobs I was involved in cooperation with former Warsaw Pact countries in both fields of endeavour. I also remain involved and interested in military and political history through personal and volunteer activities.**

Based on my experiences, I would like to propose what may be considered, a rather outlandish idea toward ending the current war between Russia and Ukraine.

To set the stage for my proposal, it is my belief that Vladimir Putin and other members of his clique have retained the Cold War fear that NATO represents an existential threat to Russia, a fear that has been heightened by the expansion of the Alliance by a large number of nations, many of which were former members of the Warsaw Pact.

It is this belief that I think is the basis for the Russian invasion of Ukraine, designed to provide a buffer zone on Russia's south west border; to send a message to other new NATO nations; and, to redress historical Russo-Ukrainian claims to Crimea and the Donbas region.

There are no signs that this war is going to end in the near future and that both combatants will continue to suffer huge human and infrastructure casualties. In the long term, I think Russia will emerge with a pyrrhic victory simply because it has more human resources that it is willing to sacrifice



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### Editorial (Concluded)

A recurring thought on resolving the war has been for NATO to intervene. This option, in my view (and one generally shared) is that it would have the potential of escalation to a nuclear exchange and all the apocalyptic results associated with such an option.

With this as background, I would like to propose the following broad approach:

- require Russia to retire to positions prior to commencement of the war, in exchange for which,
  - all economic sanctions would be lifted; and,
  - both Russia and Ukraine would be invited to join NATO!

This approach, if accepted by Russia, would in a single stroke remove the perceived threats to both Russia and to the NATO Alliance and could, in the longer term lead to significant arms reductions including nuclear arsenals.

It could also set the stage for an enlarged stronger economic union within Europe based on the existing European Union.

It might also set a useful examples for other theatres of current/potential conflict - particularly the Middle East and China/Taiwan.

Surely it is time for the human race to turn its back on wasteful, non-productive conflict **and to start meaningfully focussing on global warming and associated threats to the planet.**”

I would be happy to receive your thoughts on this however critical they may be. I have developed a thick skin to go along with advancing senility.