

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Issue/Numéro 83



April/avril 2015

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based primarily 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. Unfortunately, the Editorial staff lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version. Items are published in the official language in which they are received.

Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Another busy edition that includes some preliminary information about a proposed new Class initiative. **Terry Colfer** provides an interesting article on his recent experience embedded with a Search and Rescue Squadron. **Gaetan Dextras** has reported on another book that he has enjoyed, and **Steve Crutcher** has some thoughts on the article in Edition 82 by **Gord Forbes** and his struggles with depression. But first we must deal with the passing of one of our most distinguished classmates.

6454 LGen (Ret'd) William (Bill) Leach

Bill Leach passed away suddenly at home on 1 April. Bill served more than 40 years in the Canadian Army and the Canadian Forces (Regular). In September, 2000, he retired from his last positions of Chief of the Land Staff and Commander Land Force Command, in the rank of Lieutenant-General. He graduated from The Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, in 1965 with a degree in Economics and Commerce. Subsequently, Bill graduated from the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College (PSC) and numerous other Canadian and allied schools, courses and seminars.



During his career, he held appointments at all levels. In the field of logistics, he held positions in supply, finance and operational support. He served in Service Battalions in Germany and Petawawa. He served in 4 (UK) Armoured Division with the British Army on the Rhine in Germany and in United Nations missions and their headquarters (UNEF II). During the 1990/91 Gulf War, he was the Director of Logistics Plans and Operations on the National Joint Staff. He served in Air Command HQ as the Command Comptroller and in Land Force Command HQ as the Deputy Commander. At the national level, he was in the Finance Group and he was Associate Assistant Deputy Minister (Materiel)/Chief of Logistics Doctrine and Operations in the Materiel Group. In his last position as the Canadian Army Commander, he was a member of Armed Forces Council and Defence Management Committee; as such, he dealt with Department of National Defence and Government of Canada policies, processes and operations. Between 1990 and his retirement at the end of 2000, Bill was a member of every NDHQ/CF resource and organizational review – NDHQ Functional



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 2

6454 LGen (Ret'd) William (Bill) Leach

Review, MCCRT, Op Excelerate, Reserve Restructure, etc.

He was a recipient of the Canadian Order of Military Merit (Commander) and the US Legion of Merit (Commander).

Following his retirement in late 2000, Bill spent 10 years in the private sector; first with Honeywell as Vice President Operations, Honeywell Canada Logistics Services; and, later with Mincom, Australia's largest software company. He left Mincom in December 2010 to devote more time to his volunteer interests.

Bill was on the Executive Committee of Support our Troops (SOT)/ the Military Families Fund (MFF); he was the Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Royal Canadian Legion. In early June, 2011, Bill joined the Board of Directors of the University of Ottawa-Royal Ottawa Hospital Institute for Mental Health Research. Later in June 2011, the Minister of National Defence appointed Bill to be the Colonel Commandant of the Logistics Branch of the Canadian Forces. In February 2012, Bill was appointed to be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation (Canadian Museum of Civilization and Canadian War Museum).

Bill was born in Sarnia, Ontario, the son of a career Army officer. He leaves two daughters and a son. The Class of 65 joins in offering its condolences on the loss of this fine gentleman and genuinely nice guy.

Speaking personally, Bill's loss strikes hard. He and I were room-mates at CMR and retained close contact and friendship throughout our CF Logistics careers and latterly, through our volunteer activities with the Canadian War Museum. Several other classmates have already offered their personal condolences. He will be sorely missed.

First Light by Geoffrey Wellum— a Book Report by 6332 Gaetan Dextras

This book that I recommend is the autobiography of a WW2 RAF fighter pilot, Geoffrey Wellum. Some of you may have heard that life as a fighter pilot, particularly during the Battle of Britain, was "long hours of boredom interspersed with minutes of sheer terror". Well, this is what he describes. He joined the RAF at age 17 in 1939. His first tour was during the Battle of Britain, from Biggin Hill. His second tour was in 1941, escorting bombers over France and doing fighter sweeps. After a break as an instructor, he went back on ops, in Malta in 1942. This tour was cut short by illness and battle fatigue – what we would call today Post Traumatic stress disorder.

This book is very well written, using a lot of British lingo of that period. Many positive reviews on the Internet.



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 3

The Class of 65 is Seeking Your Support to Continue **Promoting Educational Excellence at Canada's Military Colleges with an Exciting New Initiative**

The *Class of 65* Endowment Fund has collectively supported educational excellence at RMC and CMR to the tune of \$113K since 2000. This year again, the Fund will pay for the *Class of 65 Teaching Excellence Award* at both RMCC and RMCSJ. Also, it continues to support the *Class of 65 Professorship in Leadership* which enabled RMCC to recruit Prof. Nik Gardner from the USAF Air War College, whose positive impact on teaching and research at the College has been noteworthy.

In anticipation of our 50-Year Class Reunion this September, your *Class of 65 Gifting Committee* considered options to mark this anniversary in a notable way. We are pleased to propose a third major initiative in support of educational excellence at Canada's military colleges: the *Class of 65 Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)*.

After a year-long effort led by classmate Steve Arnold, RMC's academic leadership has enthusiastically endorsed this initiative. The end-state vision for the *CITL* is to be an innovation catalyst in the development of new courses, creative teaching and learning skills, improved student mentoring and counselling, student academic success services and the development of advanced teaching/learning technology.

Phase 1 of the project, which will include participation from both RMCC and RMCSJ academic staffs, will establish a *CITL Committee* whose first task will be to conduct a pan-Canadian 'best practices' study estimated to cost \$10K. For example, universities to consider which have centres similar to the *CITL* model include UBC, McMaster, Queen's, Ottawa, Ryerson, and McGill.

At this point we don't know what the eventual operating budget for the *CITL* will be and how the funding will be shared between the Colleges and the Class of 1965. We do know that the 2014 year-end value of the *Class of 65 Endowment Fund* stands at almost \$1M. Given the rough rule of thumb that an Endowment Fund can pay out about 4% of its value annually into the indefinite future, we already have some financial room, approximately \$10K yearly, to support the *CITL* initiative start-up without prejudicing our continued support of the *Teaching Excellence Awards* and the *Professorship*.

While the *Class of 65 Endowment Fund* can currently fund some of the expenses associated with the start-up of the *CITL*, additional funding will be needed to support its operational effectiveness. As we contemplate our 50-Year Class Reunion, it is time to reflect upon what impact the Colleges have had on our personal successes and to consider making an investment in maximizing the potential of the next generation of officer cadets by supporting the creation of the *Class of 65 Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning*.

So Classmates, we will be asking you to join your *Gifting Committee* in opening your wallets to support this exciting new *Class of 65* educational excellence initiative at Canada's military colleges!

The Class of 65 Gifting Committee

John Adams, Keith Ambachtsheer, Steve Arnold, Jim Carruthers, John Cowan, Charlie Emond



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 4

La Promotion de 1965 Sollicite Votre Appui Pour Une Nouvelle et Passionnante Initiative pour Continuer de Promouvoir L'Excellence en Education aux Collèges Militaires Canadiens

Depuis 2000, la Fondation de la promotion 1965 a investi 113 000 \$ pour soutenir l'excellence en éducation au CMRC et au CMRSJ. Encore cette année, la Fondation 65 appuiera le Prix d'excellence en enseignement de la promotion de 1965 au CMRC et au CMRSJ ainsi que la « Chaire en leadership de la promotion de 1965 ». Cette dernière initiative a permis au CMRC de recruter le professeur Nik Gardner du USAF Air War College, dont l'impact positif sur l'enseignement et la recherche au Collège a été remarquable.

En prévision de la réunion du 50^{ième} anniversaire, ce septembre, le comité des dons de la promotion 1965 a réfléchi sur quel geste poser pour commémorer cet important anniversaire. Nous sommes fiers de vous proposer une troisième initiative en faveur de l'excellence en éducation dans les collèges militaires canadiens, soit le Centre pour l'innovation dans l'enseignement et l'apprentissage (CIEA) de la promotion de 1965.

Suite à une année de discussions dirigées par notre camarade Steve Arnold, la direction des études du CMRC et du CMRSJ ont appuyé avec enthousiasme cette initiative, dont, la vision est d'être un catalyseur dans nos deux collèges de l'innovation dans le développement de nouveaux cours, pour promouvoir la créativité dans les compétences de l'enseignement et du savoir, améliorer l'encadrement des étudiants afin de promouvoir la réussite académique et dans le développement de technologies de pointe.

Pour plus de détails, jetez un coup d'œil à la présentation « Power Point » préparé par le vice-recteur, le Dr. Phil Bates, en réponse à notre proposition. Notez en particulier, la réponse enthousiaste qu'a suscitée notre proposition chez le corps professoral du CMRC et du CMRSJ et comment il pense que le CIES pourra améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement et du savoir dans les collèges militaires canadiens. Jetez-y un coup d'œil!

La première phase de ce projet sera d'établir un comité du CIEA, qui rassemblera des représentants du CMRC et du CMRSJ, et dont la première tâche serait de mener une étude pancanadienne des « meilleures pratiques », à un coût estimé de 10 000\$. Les universités UBC, McMaster, Queen's, Ottawa, Ryerson et McGill ont déjà un tel centre.

À ce stade, nous ne connaissons pas le budget de fonctionnement éventuel pour le CIEA, ni comment le financement sera partagé entre les deux collèges et la Fondation de la promotion de 1965. Par contre, puisque la valeur en fin d'année 2014 de notre Fondation s'élève à près de 1 million de dollars et compte tenu de la règle empirique qu'un fond de dotation peut payer environ 4% en perpétuité, nous sommes assuré qu'un seuil de financement d'environ 10 000 \$ par année sera disponible pour démarrer l'initiative [du](#) CIEA, sans diminuer notre soutien continu des deux Prix d'excellence en enseignement et de la Chaire en leadership de la promotion 1965.

Bien que nous ayons actuellement assez de fond pour financer une partie des dépenses liées au démarrage du CIEA, un financement supplémentaire serait nécessaire pour assurer l'avenir de cette initiative. Ceci ne peut se faire sans votre appui financier. Depuis que nous avons quitté le collège militaire, il y aura bientôt 50 ans, et même pour ceux qui ont fait un plus court passage, nous avons bénéficié de la qualité unique de l'environnement académique au collège militaire. Voici une occasion pour nous de faire un investissement personnel



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 5

La Promotion de 1965 (conclu)

pour améliorer les chances de succès académique de la prochaine génération d'élèves-officiers en soutenant la création de ce Centre pour l'innovation dans l'enseignement et l'apprentissage (CIEA) de la promotion de 1965.

Donc, chers camarades, joignez-vous à votre comité des dons et prêtez votre aide financière pour soutenir cette belle initiative dans la mesure de vos possibilités!

Le comité des dons de la promotion 1965

John Adams, Keith Ambachtsheer, Steve Arnold, Jim Carruthers, John Cowan, Charlie Emond

Rescue by 6523 Terry Colfer

A few years ago, I renewed my pilot's license after a 'short' interruption of a few decades. Since then, I have flown (out of Ottawa/Rockcliffe) mainly in the eastern ON region. However, I have completed a couple of single engine, round trip long haul flights from the nation's capital (to Victoria/Seattle and Florida).

Anyway, I am now a member of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association or CASARA. Briefly, by way of background, CASARA is a national volunteer organization which is funded by DND to assist the RCAF in its mandate of providing air search and rescue (SAR) in Canada. CASARA also has a mandate to promote flight safety for general aviation.

CASARA members are pilots, navigators, spotters, search coordinators, radio operators and so on who are trained to carry out searches using light aircraft. We are tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre at CFB Trenton working with 424 Transport and Rescue Sqn.

As a member of the Ottawa CASARA unit, I had an opportunity to spend last week (9 Mar 15) at CFB Trenton 'embedded' with RCAF 424 Sqn, flying C130Hs (Hercules). We conducted night SAR missions; sometimes using NVGs (night vision goggles).

Below are a few pics, taken during the deployment, of the cockpit (or front office) with and without illumination; dropping flares and beacons from the ramp to identify and mark the target (it was cold, dark and windy out there); para rescue team (SAR Techs) getting ready to bail out; and a side view of Mr. Herc.

Just for the record, fondly recalling my army night para drops, I did ask permission to jump with the SAR Techs but my request was politely refused. Must have been something to do with my age because my physique is perfect (I only wish!). CASARA members are pilots, navigators, spotters, search coordinators, radio operators and so on who are trained to carry out searches using light aircraft. We are tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre at CFB Trenton working with 424 Transport and Rescue Sqn.



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 6

Rescue by 6523 Terry Colfer (concluded)





Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 7

Depression by 6616 Steve Crutcher

It was both refreshing and frightening, reading Gord (Navy) Forbe's courageous, personal and moving admission in Issue 82 of our class newsletter. Gord, I salute your courage, openness and honesty!

It brought back memories of a similar situation that I was faced with after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in Jan. 2000. After extensive research and consultations I elected to have brachytherapy treatment (Google it) instead of the radical prostatectomy option. This was recommended by a number of surgeons as the side effects are less severe and the recovery is much shorter. It may also have been tempered by the fact that I had only a little over two years to go before mandatory retirement and I really wanted to fly the Boeing 747-400. This would not have been possible if I had elected for the surgery because of the recovery period and re-licensing requirements. To cut to the chase, the cancer returned and the options were limited! Primarily hormone treatments to slow the cancer's advance!

After badgering the doctors about reasonable life expectancy, their reluctant best guess was that I had approximately five years! There are many psychological factors that occur to varying degrees. Because of all the hormone medications required to reduce testosterone, which is the fuel that feeds the cancer, the first thing that goes through your head is "why me"? The only answer I could find to that is "why not"? "Life is not fair, so suck it up cupcake"!

The next is the ramification of "loss of manhood" and all that entails. The single biggest fear of most prostate patients is "my wife will leave me."

Within a very short time I too became enveloped in the dark cloak of depression with almost identical symptoms as had Gord. A good friend noticing this new, not so nice me, strongly recommended a psychiatrist he knew and even made an appointment for me. There was little choice but to go!

The Company health plan allowed for up to five visits, so at the end of number five, the discussion went as follows! I said, "You're a nice guy; a good listener; don't say a hell of a lot; but you haven't got IT, do you"?

"Got what" he replied. "The wand" I said. "What wand" he replied? "The magic wand with which you can go bing and everything is fixed"! "All I have learned from you is that the only one who can fix me, is ME"!

"Well congratulations" he said...you figured it out all by your self, without resorting to drugs or alcohol or other abuse"!

That was our last visit!

Thank God I have an amazingly patient, loving and supportive Bride, who would put up with all the hell I have put her through! Without her incredible support, I probably would not have come through this! Truly "The Wind Beneath My Wings"!!!!!!

I am a great believer in fate! In fact my whole life has been governed by fate!

My wife and I took a road trip down south and stopped for lunch in a restaurant in Charleston SC. On the wall, visible throughout the place was a very large plaque of their motto, which is as follows....



Issue/Numéro 83

April/avril 2015

Page 8

Depression by 6616 Steve Crutcher (concluded)

“ATTITUDE”

by Chuck Swindol

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.

It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...

we are in charge of our ATTITUDES

There is a lot of waiting time in any restaurant, and with little else to do, I kept re-reading it. The more often I read it, the more it affected me. At the cash there was a pile of copies of their motto. When I asked if I could have some the cashier said "how many"?

"How many can I take?" was my reply.

"You realise that you must give away to others, all but one" she replied.

I took all she had and they are ALL gone except for two I always keep in my wallet!

To me this should have been titled "The Secret to Life" because it is! I ask you all to re-read this a number of times, and if it affects you in a similar way, to Google, copy and distribute it to those that you feel it could help. It totally changed my life!

It has now been over fifteen years since my "five year" prognosis! Each new day is a gift to be cherished and appreciated! Each and every one of us has been blessed!

We are all, true "Outliers" in the truest sense of the word!

When people ask me how I can be so cheerful under my medical circumstances I reply "It is a conscious choice I make each time I greet the new day"! This has kept me going through radiation, chemo and a multitude of drugs, all with their own adverse side affects!

I write this, as did Gord, in the hope that it might help, in some small way, any of you who may be going through somewhat similar. Gord triggered this response from me and it is, I am sure, our hope that it may help someone else!

In closing, I leave with one final thought. Every black cloud does have a "silver lining", although some are exceedingly difficult to find. With prostate cancer the only "silver", is that at last, the "little head", has absolutely no say whatsoever over the "big head"!



Edition/Édition 83

April/avril 2015

Page 9

Closing Notes

In addition to Steve Crutcher's thoughts on Gord Forbes' Edition 82 article on Depression, a number of other classmates expressed their appreciation to Gord for addressing this important issue. Thanks as always to all contributors. I hope that this issue's readers will give serious thought to the proposal for a Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning. I forgot to add the following tribute to Terry Colfer's SAR article, *"This is submitted with the highest admiration and respect for the men and women of our Air Force who perform this important SAR role for a living"*. On those notes I will offer a final, personal farewell to my friend Bill Leach who left an indelible print of service and humanity behind him.