

*Royal Canadian Dental Corps
Association Newsletter*



*Bulletin de l'Association du corps
dentaire royal canadien*

December 2021 décembre



Officers of the Association

President – Major (retired) Richard Groves, rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com

President-Elect - Chief Warrant Officer (retired) Mario Bizier

Vice President – Major (retired) Tony Nguyen

Secretary – Colonel (retired) Kevin Goheen

Treasurer – Colonel (retired) Scott Becker, rcdcatreas@icloud.com

Special Projects - Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Frank Hedley

Archives & Historian - vacant

RCDC Liaison Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Joel Doucette

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to another edition of the RCDCA newsletter. This will be my last time writing the President's column, but I will continue to serve as Newsletter Editor for future editions. My tenure as RCDCA President has been very rewarding in many ways. I've corresponded with members that I would have never met, and now consider friends. Many of you have sent the occasional note with feedback, always positive. Representing the RCDCA at the Conference of Defence Associations, the Canadian Dental Association, and RCDC Senate has kept me engaged with the defence and dental communities. When Susan passed away, the support I received from the dental community was invaluable – I really don't know how I would have coped without it.

I am very pleased that CWO (ret'd) Mario Bizier has come forward as our President-Elect. I have worked with Mario many times over the years, and have always been impressed with his professionalism and obvious devotion to the Dental Corps. While serving as 1 Dental Unit CWO and Dental Branch CWO, he was one of the biggest promoters of the RCDCA. It is comforting that I am passing the torch to somebody who has the talents and dedication to continue our efforts to keep the future of the RCDCA healthy and secure.

The focus of the historical articles this year is the Second World War. The story of Captain Roy French came to light due to a Facebook post by a woman from Yorkshire who is a Coordinator with the Commonwealth Graves Commission. The intertwined stories of Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Armstrong and Private Edward Comeau were generated by Gary Comeau, who decided to delve into his father's service history and found my email address on our website.

In keeping with our mandate to preserve the history and heritage of the Dental Corps, you will note that we are now including articles written by serving RCDC personnel about more recent deployments.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard

Sanitas in Ore

Major (retired) Richard Groves, CD

President

[Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association / L'Association du Corps dentaire royal canadien](http://rcdca.cfdental.ca)

<http://rcdca.cfdental.ca>



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dear RCDCA members,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself but first, I want to acknowledge the contributions and dedication of our current President, Maj (ret'd) Richard Groves. In June 2022, Richard will have served as President of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association (RCDCA) for over eight years and the work that he has accomplished over the years has been absolutely paramount in our Corps' realizations and successes. His corporate knowledge of our organization's history will be tough to match but the RCDCA's Executive members and I know that we will still be able to count on him for advice and guidance once he hands over the presidency. The fact that Richard has accepted to continue to work on some files after his presidency has clearly inspired me to accept this new function. We will soon start the transitioning process and be ready to officially take over from him in June 2022.



Since my retirement a year ago, I continually remind myself how fortunate I was to have had such a diverse and rewarding military career in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. Looking back, I have made so many long lasting friendships, met outstanding leaders along the way that I would do this all over again in a heartbeat. What I am mostly proud of is making the decision to join the Regular Force in 1989 and selecting the Dental Technician as a profession as this has given me the privilege of working alongside the most amazing military and civilian professionals within the Dental Corps. Although I am newly retired from the Canadian Armed Forces, I quickly recognized that it is of the utmost importance to remember and showcase our rich history as well as maintain the relationships and friendships that have made us all proud of serving this class organization. Trust me, I will always have the highest respect for all of you and will be there for all RCDCA and current serving members, both military and civilian. We have all served with pride and our Association is there to support and keep this family united and together.

In closing, it is my honour to be appointed President-Elect of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association and look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

SANITAS IN ORE

Mario Bizier, MMM, CD

Chers membres de l'ACDRC,

J'aimerais prendre un moment afin de me présenter, mais je tiens d'abord à souligner la contribution et le dévouement de notre président actuel, le Maj (retraité) Richard Groves. En juin 2022, Richard aura été président de l'Association du Corps dentaire royal canadien (l'ACDRC) pendant plus de huit ans et le travail qu'il a accompli au fil des ans a été absolument primordial pour les réalisations et les succès de notre Corps. Sa connaissance de l'histoire de notre organisation sera difficile à égaler, mais les membres de l'exécutif de l'ACDRC et moi savons que nous pourrions toujours compter sur lui pour des conseils et nous guider une fois qu'il aura terminé sa présidence. Le fait que Richard ait accepté de continuer à travailler sur certains dossiers après sa présidence m'a clairement incité à accepter cette nouvelle fonction. Nous allons bientôt entamer le processus de transition et être prêt à lui succéder officiellement en juin 2022.

Depuis que j'ai pris ma retraite il y a un an, je me remémore continuellement de la chance que j'ai eue d'avoir eu une carrière militaire aussi diversifiée et enrichissante au sein du Corps dentaire royal canadien. En regardant en arrière, je constate que j'ai noué de nombreuses amitiés, que j'ai rencontré

des leaders exceptionnels en cours de route et que je referais tout cela encore une fois sans hésiter. Ce dont je suis le plus fier, c'est d'avoir pris la décision de joindre la Force régulière en 1989 et d'avoir choisi la profession de technicien dentaire, car cela m'a donné le privilège de travailler avec des professionnels militaires et civils les plus extraordinaires au sein du Corps dentaire. Même si je viens de prendre ma retraite des Forces armées canadiennes, j'ai rapidement constaté qu'il est extrêmement important de se souvenir et de mettre en valeur notre riche histoire ainsi que de maintenir les relations et les amitiés qui nous ont tous rendus fiers de servir cette organisation de classe. Croyez-moi, j'aurai toujours le plus grand respect pour vous tous et je serai là pour tous les membres de l'ACDRC ainsi que les membres actifs, militaires et civils. Nous avons tous servi avec fierté et notre Association est là pour soutenir et préserver cette famille unie et soudée ensemble.

En conclusion, c'est un honneur pour moi d'être nommé Président élu de l'Association du Corps dentaire royal canadien et j'ai bien hâte de vous rencontrer dans un avenir rapproché.

SANTAS IN ORE

Mario Bizier, MMM, CD

Mario Bizier commenced his military career in 1986 as a reservist with HMCS Champlain in Chicoutimi, Quebec. After serving three years as a Naval Communicator, he proceeded with a component transfer to the Regular Force in 1989 as a Dental Clinical Assistant. During his 34 years of service, Mario has had the privilege of deploying to Bosnia-Herzegovina, has served with several 1 Dental Unit Dental Detachments, 5 Field Ambulance and 5 Health Services Operational Training Unit in Valcartier, 1 Canadian Field Hospital in Petawawa, the Canadian Forces Health Services Training Center and served with 1 Dental Unit Headquarters and at the Directorate of Dental Services in Ottawa.

Mario was promoted to rank of Chief Warrant Officer in June 2013 and assumed the duties of the 1 Dental Unit Chief Warrant Officer. He was appointed the Royal Dental Corps Chief Warrant Officer in May 2016 and from July 2017 to January 2018, also served as the Acting Canadian Forces Health Services Group Chief Warrant Officer.

Member of the Order of Military Merit since 2016, he was appointed as the Materiel Group Chief Warrant Officer on 17 May 2019 and retired from the Canadian Armed Forces on 7 December 2020. He now is employed as Policy Officer at the Directorate of Honours & Recognition in Ottawa.

At home, Mario is supported by his wife Anik Benoit and together have four children: Marielle, Alexandra, Jessica and Nickolas.

Mario Bizier a entrepris sa carrière militaire en 1986 à titre de réserviste au NCSM Champlain à Chicoutimi au Québec. Après avoir servi pendant trois ans en tant que Communicateur naval, il procède à un reclassement à la Force régulière en 1989 en tant que technicien dentaire. Au cours de ses 34 années de service, Mario a eu le privilège de se déployer en Bosnie-Herzégovine, a servi avec plusieurs détachements de la 1^{re} Unité dentaire, la 5^e Ambulance de campagne et la 5^e Unité d'entraînement opérationnel d'appui à la santé de Valcartier, au 1^{er} Hôpital de campagne de Petawawa, au Centre d'instruction des Services de santé des Forces canadiennes à Borden, avec le Quartier général de la 1^{re} Unité dentaire ainsi qu'au directeurat du service dentaire à Ottawa.

Mario est promu au grade d'adjudant-chef en juin 2013 et a assumé les responsabilités d'adjudant-chef de la 1^{re} Unité dentaire. Il est nommé l'adjudant-chef du Corps dentaire royal canadien en mai 2016 et de juillet 2017 à janvier 2018, a aussi occupé les fonctions d'adjudant-chef intérimaire du Groupe des services de santé des Forces canadiennes.

Membre de l'Ordre du mérite militaire depuis 2016, il est nommé l'adjudant-chef du Groupe des matériels le 17 mai 2019 et a pris sa retraite des Forces armées canadiennes le 7 décembre 2020. Il occupe maintenant le poste d'officier des politiques au Directeurat des Distinctions honorifiques et reconnaissance à Ottawa.

À la maison, Mario est soutenu par son épouse Anik Benoit et ensemble ont quatre enfants : Marielle, Alexandra, Jessica et Nickolas.

Words from the Colonel Commandant

As this Newsletter was being distributed last year at this time, most of us optimistically entertained visions of a welcome end to the pandemic that had affected our lives and daily activities in such profound ways.

Instead, we are now facing its unwelcome prolongation and disturbing news about case resurgences and the appearance of troubling variants. One can only hope that vaccination efforts, promising therapies and other counteractive measures will soon produce much more positive results.

That having been said, it is most encouraging and extremely gratifying to acknowledge the admirable manner in which our Dental Corps has dealt with the many challenges it has had to contend with in the ongoing prosecution of its important mission, be it clinically, operationally or administratively, over the past year.

Thanks to its strong and capable leadership, dedicated and resolute personnel, creative training and traditional flexibility and adaptability, the RCDC has managed to maintain the great standard of care and exceptionally high level of readiness for which it has become notorious.

Like everyone everywhere in the CAF over the recent past, my physical presence as Colonel Commandant has had to be somewhat curtailed.

However, rest assured that hasn't in any way diminished my continued enthusiasm for and commitment to all for which our Corps stands proud. If anything, it has effectively increased that commitment and refocused my energies toward maintaining effective working relationships with all levels of the Health Services organization.



Mots du Colonel Commandant

Lors de la distribution de ce bulletin à cette même époque l'année dernière, la plupart d'entre nous entretenions avec optimisme la vision d'une fin de la pandémie qui avait affecté nos vies et nos activités de manière si profonde. Au lieu de cela, nous sommes maintenant confrontés avec sa prolongation et à des nouvelles inquiétantes de resurgences et d'apparition de variantes

troublantes. On ne peut qu'espérer que les résultats de la vaccination, des thérapies prometteuses et d'autres mesures contre-productives produiront des séquences plus positives.

Cela dit, il est très encourageant et extrêmement gratifiant de reconnaître la manière admirable avec laquelle notre Corps dentaire a relevé les nombreux défis auxquels il a dû faire face dans la poursuite de sa mission importante, soit sur le plan clinique, opérationnel ou administratif, au cours de la dernière année.

Grâce à son leadership assidu et compétent, à son personnel dévoué et déterminé, à sa formation créative, à sa flexibilité et à son adaptabilité traditionnelle, le CDRC a réussi à maintenir le standard élevé de soins ainsi que le niveau de compétence exceptionnel pour lesquels il est devenu célèbre.

Comme tous partout dans les FAC au cours des derniers mois, ma présence physique a dû être quelque peu réduite. Cependant, je peux vous assurer que cela n'a en rien diminué mon ardeur et mon engagement continus envers tout ce que le Corps dentaire représente. Au contraire, cela a effectivement accru cet engagement et recentré mes énergies sur le maintien de

Thanks to the various modalities of virtual communication, briefings, and presentations and like collaborations have continued throughout the year. For example, with the recent Base Dental Officer and Dental Technician graduating courses, Dental Corps Senate meetings, Health Services Honorary Colonels sessions, Colonel Commandant Awards presentations, external communications with military and civilian agencies, and so on. In fact, rarely a week goes by without some degree of involvement and participation in Corps matters of one form or another.

With that in mind, I can verily attest to the vibrancy, enthusiasm and energy that exude at all levels of the Corps and marvel at the high degree of perseverance and can-do attitude that prevails, in spite of the challenges brought about by problematic overriding circumstances.

In that context, I would like to take this opportunity to again express my admiration and personal congratulations to all serving and retired members, both military and civilian, who have contributed to those successful efforts and thus maintained the remarkable reputation that the RCDC has garnered and enjoyed over the years.

To all of you, may I forward greetings and best wishes, along with the hope that we shall soon be able to meet face to face and interact more directly once again, without worrisome health encumbrances, within the very near future.

May the New Year bring us all closer together, in peace and good health!

Warmest collegial regards,

Brigadier-General (ret'd) Victor J. Lanctis
MB, SBStJ, CD, BA, DDS, MFICD, FADI, FPFA
Colonel Commandant RCDC



relation de travail constante et efficace avec tous les niveaux de l'organisation.

Grâce à diverses modalités de communication virtuelle, les séances d'information, les présentations et collaborations similaires ce sont poursuivies tout au long de l'année. Par exemple, avec la graduation des dentistes militaires et des techniciens dentaires, les réunions du Sénat du Corps dentaire, les sessions des

Colonels honoraires des Services de santé, les présentations de prix du Colonel Commandant, les diverses communications avec agences militaires et civiles, etc.

En fait, il se passe rarement une semaine sans un certain degré d'implication ou de participation aux affaires du Corps sous une forme ou une autre.

Avec tout cela à l'esprit, je peux vraiment témoigner du dynamisme, de l'enthousiasme et de l'énergie qui se dégagent à tous les niveaux du Corps et m'émerveiller du degré élevé de persévérance et d'attitude dynamique qui prévaut, malgré les défis posés par des circonstances si problématiques.

Dans ce contexte, j'aimerais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer à nouveau mon admiration et mes félicitations personnelles à tous les membres actifs et retraités, militaires et civils, qui ont contribué à ces efforts et ainsi maintenu la réputation remarquable que le CDRC s'est bâtie au fil des années.

A vous tous, puis-je transmettre mes salutations et mes meilleurs vœux, ainsi que l'espoir que nous pourrions nous rencontrer face à face et interagir à nouveau, sans encombrement sanitaire, dans un avenir très proche.

Que la nouvelle année nous rapproche et apporte bonne santé et paix pour tous et toutes!

Meilleures salutations collégiales,

Brigadier-général (ret) Victor J. Lanctis
MB, SBStJ, CD, BA, DDS, MFICD, FADI, FPFA
Colonel Commandant CDRC

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

What have you been up to lately? Your colleagues would like to hear from you. Please email your submission directly to rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com (it is easier for me to cut and paste from an electronic submission) or include a note with your membership form.

Ron McWade, Kanata, ON

February 2021

Hello Everyone, It has been quite a while since I submitted any news so I will try to catch up.

I can't believe it has been 10 years since I retired from my orthodontic practice here in Kanata, after 27 years, but I guess time flies when one is having fun.

I have been keeping busy trying to improve my golf game and taking care of our cottage in Quebec and our house here in Kanata. I enjoy gardening and growing some vegetables in a small garden. During the pandemic I have been reading a lot more books and Maureen and I have been going for daily walks as our jogging careers are over.

Also, it appears that our travelling plans will be on hold for a while. We normally spend January at our time share in Barbados, then the rest of the winter in Naples, Florida, but not this year. In the fall we usually travelled to somewhere in Europe, but again that is all on hold.

Our oldest son was married in October 2019 and they are expecting a child in July, 2021. This will be our first grandchild and Maureen and I can't wait. They live not far away so once this pandemic is over we hope to see him or her often. Our other son and his twin sister both live in Toronto and both are doing well, but unfortunately we haven't been able to visit them for quite some time with this pandemic.

The big news for 2020 was that I had a right knee replacement in October, after it had been cancelled in May due to the pandemic. I didn't mind as I still got in a full golf season, so it worked out great. Unfortunately, this occurred 3 weeks after Maureen broke her wrist after a fall on the golf course. Life was a little strange for a while, but we managed to get by with 3 good legs and 3 good arms! I first hurt my knee on a ski trip to Les Arcs on one of the ski trips from Lahr.

As I write this in February we are waiting for more vaccines to arrive so hopefully by the end of the year we will all be vaccinated and life will return to somewhat normal. I hope everyone stays safe until then.

Also, a big thank-you to the executive of the RCDCA for all the hard work they put in on our behalf. It is much appreciated.

Keith Davis, Edmonton, AB

February 2021

A lot has transpired since 1976 when I felt that I should leave the military. At present I have my own accounting services company called Tips Financial Service in Sherwood Park, Alberta, doing tax preparation, tax filing, bookkeeping and debt consolidation services.

Klaus Jennerman, Comox, BC

March 2021

Klaus is still a happily retired Comox Valley dentist who keeps busy tending honeybees and backyard chickens. In the Fall he fishes for salmon in the Puntledge River, then proceeds to smoke them to yield a tasty product. He immensely enjoys the company of his two grandchildren: a two-year-old girl, Kate, and a four-year-old boy, Miles, who are happy to collect Grandpa's eggs and sample his honey. Klaus has taken up cooking and baking in a big way which Carol, his wife of 45 years, appreciates most of the time. In February and March 2020 Carol and Klaus had a great trip to the Philippines to visit their youngest son Kyle (aka Kulas), a becoming Filipino v-logger who lives in Mindanao. When the pandemic is over the Jennermans are looking forward once again to travels, handshakes and hugs.

Ron Gish, Lacombe, AB

March 2021

Donna and I are retired and split our time between Lacombe (kids and grandkids) and Comox, BC. We enjoy golf, fishing and walking. I still ski and hunt although the body is not moving as quickly as it did in the past. I enjoyed Mike Bouris' comments about Bev Gilkes as she tuned me up on occasion when we were in Lahr. Two years ago we travelled across Canada and spent time with Tom Ringland and Echert Schroeder (sp), friends we also met in Lahr. Best wishes to all,

Ron and Donna Gish

Al Charlebois

March 2021

It has been some time since I have submitted anything to the RCDCA newsletter. Terry and I are doing fine and are enduring the pandemic. We are still in Kingston living in a condo and enjoying it. Like many other people, our yearly treks to Florida in April have not been happening, but hopefully they will eventually continue.

Our eldest son, Andy is living in Lethbridge with his wife Robbie and blended family of four kids. Andy has left the teaching profession and is now a mortgage and insurance broker. He is doing fine and is very busy. Robbie is an administrator with the board of education in Southern Alberta.

Our son Daniel is a Commodore in the RTCN and is currently the Commander of CFT-150 based out of Bahrain. It is a multinational task force policing Middle Eastern waters for contraband. The deployment so far has gone very well. Dan's wife Nancy and their two daughters remain in Ottawa where Nancy is a teacher. He will hopefully be home in July.

We are looking forward to the time when we will be able to travel and visit with our family. Hopefully, the covid vaccines will allow that to happen. Stay healthy and happy everyone! Cheers

Willy Wilson, London, ON

June 2021

My son Mike asked me to say hello for him. He and his wife Linda still live in Montreal and are both well and happy. Both his sons are fine and doing well in their chosen fields.

I don't know if you knew Mike decided to take his release a few years ago. He was commissioned to Captain and was the Adjutant of No. 51 Fd Amb in Montreal on his release.

Sgt Bob Wormington, Kingston, ON

August 2021

Just a note to say I'm on this side of the grass and will be 81 this year.

The Dental Corps was a big part of my life, during the 10 years from 1964-1974 I was posted to Goose Bay, St Hubert, 4 Wing Baden, Germany and lastly Ottawa in 1974. With the knowledge gained the Corps I went on to work for dental companies Ash Temple, Health Co and lastly as Manager of the Ottawa Branch of Canadian Dental.

Any of my Corps friends passing through Kingston give me a call at 613-634-7007 or email me at dianawormington@gmail.com.

Again, I want to thank the Corps for the knowledge it gave me to have a successful sales career from 1974-2000

Laurence Pion, Burns Lake, BC

August 2021

Following a short (1958-1962) stint with the 3rd and 1st Regiments RCHA, I transferred to the RCDC and, after a largely unremarked career, retired in 1983. Well, perhaps my time was not entirely dull - Cold Lake and the CFDSS postings did have their moments. But I leave my time at those surroundings for others to observe upon.

Vowing never again to labour for other's benefit, my civilian interests had an auto repair/machine shop as goal. Fate had other plans.

Soon after settling in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, I found myself counting tiles on a hospital ceiling; my second heart attack now laid waste to the aforementioned shop plans. For a year. Never one to accept counsel (I can hear the comments, guys!) that recovery year had turning a minor interest onto a path which, some years later, saw the publishing of a newspaper. (Hint: When Opportunity knocks, never ask: "Who's there?" Just open the damn door!)

My sometime bookbinding hobby morphed into hot foil stamping, which led to letterpress printing, that later birthed my newspaper - The Reviewer. Now that was a fun time! Picture this: my own press, a big mouth, opinions galore. What a combination! Toss that into the that salad my decided small 'c' conservative bent served to a decidedly large 'S' socialist town, and the mixings presented a most interesting bowl. Until.

Karen died in August of 1999. Curious how Life's turnings so suddenly clarify one's meaning and purpose. I sold house and business, packed books and tools, and, in September 2000, arrived at Stuart Lake, BC. My 'Walden Pond'. There, in a small cabin mere feet from that northern water, I regrouped. For ten years.

But, one cannot forever sit still lest ennui becomes mould. Thus, 2010 saw a relocation to Danskin, BC, where renovation of a farm house occupied my days. However, I had forgotten my old nemesis - Fate. Not he, me. Possibly annoyed at my having earlier squirmed out from under the elephant upon my chest, Fate gambled that a one-two punch should strap me to the gurney for good this time. Close - but No! A burst appendix, mis-diagnosis, and subsequent peritonitis did show in Fate's favour for a time, but, heck! I had a farmhouse to complete. Which I did.

However, escaping Fate for a time does in no way free one from the wearings of Father Time. Where once little thought was given to drop-staring a chainsaw or splitting cords of wood, such activities now require careful planning, paying special attention to liniments, aspirins, and heating meds, not to mention the now required daily meds. Frustrating!

And so it was that I moved from my little six-acre oasis to a less demanding locale some 30 miles from Danskin. There, on a 30 acre property overlooking Ootsa Lake and the Tweedmuir Mountains, I set up a sawmill where, to this day, I chew bark and spit sawdust - albeit at a slowed pace.

Mind you, I did have another go-around with Fate, determined fellow that he be. But, the heart surgeons at Victoria's Jubilee Hospital fought and won that bout for me. I suspect Fate will eventually have his way, but with the number 80 now marked on my life score - a small victory for him.

Anyway, my time in the RCDC was interesting and rewarding. I interacted with many people over that time - from Privates to General, and later, in civilian mode, Dregs to Premiers - and determined that, regardless of stature, some were a real pleasure to know and others not so much. But, that is Life's cast. It is our choice with whom we walk. We are, after all, authors of our own book.

I thank CWO (Ret'd) Brian Rector for sending information about the RCDCA; it stirred long-cold ashes.

Regards to all from one of those faces in the fading photos tacked on the CFDSS coffee room walls.

Laurence H Pion, CD. MWO (ret'd). lpion@telus.net

Scovil Brown (Brownie), Hampton, NB**August 2021**

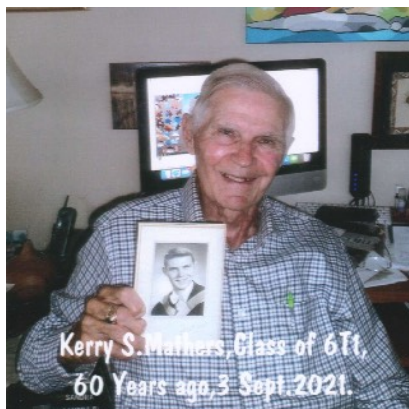
I was a Corps transfer from Armoured to RCDC in 1962-63. Had to reduce from 15 year Corporal to Private upon transfer. Became an assistant, later a lab tech. I served at HMCS Naden, Work Point Barracks, Royal Roads Military College, Comox and CFS Holberg, then posted to CFB Vancouver (Jericho Beach) and to CFB Ottawa (Rockcliffe)/100 Gloucester St Clinic. Final posting was as the senior lab tech at CFB Valcartier. Retired as a WO in 1975 and returned to Hampton, NB, my original hometown. I opened a dental lab and practiced as a denturist until I retired in 2012, at 78 years old. Now just a spring chicken of 87.

I could not have enjoyed my time in the RCDC more - a wonderful experience and great friends too! Scovil Brown (Brownie).

Corrinne Leek, Halifax, NS.**September 2021**

Still happily in Nova Scotia.

Last November got a triple whammy of a serious fibromyalgia, shingles and Lyme Disease all at once. The Bells Palsy was a sign of the Lyme. Am recuperating but slowly. Concerning the pandemic, I have been "staying the blazes home" as our Premier told us to do. Which has also the effect of missing my nephew's wedding and with the 4th wave coming on, I am also missing the Renewal of Vows, since it would be foolish of me to risk getting sick despite being fully vaccinated.

Kerry Mathers, Kitchener, ON**October 2021**

I am enclosing a photo of me holding my grad picture of me 6-T-1 Dentistry, 60 years ago.

I was posted to Ottawa - the National defence Medical Centre and RCAF Rockcliffe. Andy Andrews was my CO at Rockcliffe, He became an oral surgeon and taught at UofT after leaving the 'Corps'.

John Brick was the CO at #1 Clinic on Sussex Drive and told me was in the Dieppe Raid in WWII. Col Gordon Shillington was at HQ and was a close friend of my Uncle Jack Armstrong.

Keep Well, Kerry

LCol (Ret'd) Euan Swan, Ottawa, ON**September 2021**

Euan and his wife Gillian continue to enjoy life in rural Ottawa. Since 2005 they have lived on the Ottawa River on the outskirts of Cumberland Village. They are fortunate to have four grandchildren; two in Toronto and two in Ottawa. Winter activities include skiing in the Gatineau hills, skating on the Rideau Canal and square dancing with the Orleans Village Squares. Euan's third career, following CFDS 1974-2004 and CDA 2004-2016, was instructing skiing at Camp Fortune from which he retired last ski season to focus on skiing with his grandchildren. During the summer they can be found sailing their boat Swan Song on Lac Deschenes. Euan has been living with Parkinson's Disease since 2015 and is a volunteer participant in research studies designed to better understand the disease.



The Maurice Freedman Memorial Golf Tournament at the Ranch Golf and Country Club

From MWO Anna Aldrich, Dental Detachment Edmonton.

It is hard to believe that more than a year has gone by since we learned about the death of Lieutenant Colonel retired Maurice Freedman. In that year, we have had an opportunity to absorb this loss and reflect on what he meant to each of us. As a tribute to his life, his wife, Donna, organized a special Celebration of Life event. The Maurice Freedman Memorial Golf Tournament at the Ranch Golf and Country Club located outside of Edmonton, in Acheson AB was scheduled for Monday, 23 August 2021.

It was Maurice's love of golfing that inspired this fun day; golfers were going to be placed in teams to play 9 holes of best ball and to mingle. Afterwards, the Memorial tribute would start after the last team comes in off the course, with stories from family and friends followed by a buffet dinner (complete with some of Maurice's favourite foods, especially spaghetti) and you can't have a tournament without prizes! They were to be awarded after the buffet dinner.



*LCol Benoit Caouette, Detachment Commander 1 DU Edmonton,
and Mrs Donna Freedman.*

Looking at Edmonton's weather all summer long and well into the fall had been dry, sunny and warm... except on this Monday, where 14C with lots of rain caused the game to be rained-out. While this was a disappointment to fans of the sport; the tribute scored an ace / hole in one.

Despite that it is often difficult to say goodbye or to find words to express how you feel about a loved one who is no longer with us, the afternoon commemorated his love of life, people and sports. Readings and stories about touching moments and happy times focused on how he lived. It was all about compassion and love of family and friends; friendships with neighbours from Cochrane AB, friends who have known each other since their teens and the TVs in the room had slide show that spanned his life.

Other mementos on display included a glass from his tour in Lahr Germany, a golf trophy that was passed between the Freedman foursome and kept by the winner until the next intense game. Overwhelmingly, love and happiness radiated as we all learned a little more about him... that he facilitated the closure 35 Dental Unit Lahr (Germany) as part of his military service; a memory board with condolence messages from his obituary validated how respected he was as friend, dentist, and a guest book to sign for all the attendees.

Dental Detachment Edmonton's Command Team (LCol Benoit Caouette, Dental Detachment Commander and Master Warrant Officer Anna Aldrich, Dental Clinic Coordinator) were invited to this event. As serving Royal Canadian Dental Corps (RCDC) members, we were honoured to be invited to be part of this commemoration of his 30 years of military service across Canada.

Sanitas in Ore.

RCDC Collaboration with University of Alberta Dental Clinic

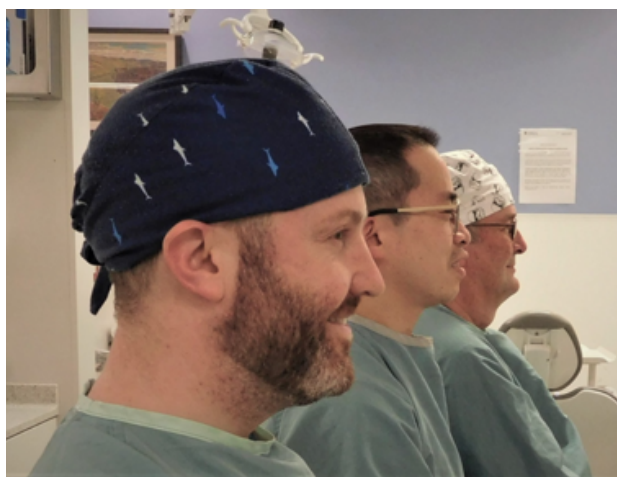
Submitted by Major (retired) Gregory W Austin DDS MSc FRCD(C)

On Thursday 18 February 2021, Royal Canadian Dental Corps members and support staff from 1 Dental Unit Detachment Edmonton, both past and present, participated in the University of Alberta Continuing Dental Education IV Conscious Sedation Program clinical component held at the U of Alberta Dental Clinic. Clinical instruction in the Integrated Single and Two-Drug IV Sedation program was given by retired Majors Austin and Trache while supported by Ms. Hunt and Ms. Hymanyk. Serving military members Major Yee and his sedation team members Lt(N) Beaton and Cpl Valdez were participants on the course, upgrading to two drug IV sedation techniques. In accordance with infection control protocols in these times of CoVid 19, all staff wore full face shields and Level 3 surgical face masks when treating patients.

This group of dedicated individuals has a combined total of 77 years of military service and 14 years of support staff service to the Canadian Armed Forces. Without their support, this particular clinical session of Dental CE may not have been possible.



Left to Right: Ms. Amanda Hunt (RN), Major Jason Yee (Periodontist), Ms. Kathleen Hymanyk (RDA), Major (retired) Gregory Austin (Periodontist), Major (retired) Antonella Trache (OMFS), Lt(N) Kelly Beaton (RN) and Cpl Grace Valdez (RDA)



Front to Back: Major Bryant Roy (Periodontal Resident, University of Alberta, Edmonton); Major Jason Yee (Periodontics Specialty Officer, 1 Dent Det Edmonton); Major (retired) Gregory Austin (former Periodontics Specialty Officer, 1 Dent Det Edmonton)

A unique event occurred at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Dentistry on Thursday 18 March 2021 in which all three stages of military Periodontal Specialty Officer were involved. Future, present and past RCDC Periodontists were involved in the University of Alberta Continuing Dental Education IV Conscious Sedation Program. Major Byrant Roy was participating in the course as part of his Post-Graduate Specialty Training in Periodontics at the University of Alberta. Major Jason Yee, current Periodontal Specialty Officer at 1 Dental Detachment Edmonton, volunteered to help Major (retired) Gregory Austin instruct for a day during the clinical portion of the IV sedation course for the Periodontal Residents at the University of Alberta.

Major Yee's assistance in clinical sedation instruction was much appreciated as the sedation program was short one instructor that day. The added bonus was that he brought valued insight into sedation and periodontics to the Periodontal Residents.

The future looks bright for Periodontics in the RCDC.

"Old periodontists never die, they just recede and lose their attachment" Unknown

A Few Photos from Scovil Brown



Taken about 1964-1965 at Gorgevale Links, Victoria, BC. These are all members of the clinic staff situated at HMCS Naden, HMCS Dockyard and Work Point Barracks. Standing: WO2 PercGoulay, Cpl Red Kerr, Sgt Gordie McKay, WO2 Bill McMichael, Major Sid Muller, Staff/Sgt Merv Fediuk, Maj Pyne, LtCol Len Pierce. Front: Sgt Denny Hughes, WO2 Chuck Johnston, Sgt Scovil Brown (Brownie), Capt Marshal Krichen

Taken circa 1967/1968 at RCDC School lab (PL6?) by Scovil Brown.
Back row: Bob Goodman, Harry Peck, Bill Buxton, Norm Hope, Fred LaRouch
Front Row: Frank Reid, Hans Gapman, Bob Stenabaugh, Richard Roy





LAST POST

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Juno Beach, by LCol (ret'd) Yves Ayotte

Dr K Gordon Chisolm
Maj (ret'd) Mike Pilon
John Hopkins, Jr
LCol (ret'd) Ian Allan Cameron MacDonald
Douglas Walter Pettigrew
CWO (ret'd) Andy Baird

Dr K Gordon Chisolm. We were recently informed that Dr Chisolm, an RCDCA life member, passed away on October 28th, 2018.

Major (ret'd) Mike Pilon. We were recently informed that Dr Pilon passed away in January 2020, after a short battle with cancer.

John Douglas Hopkins Jr. - 73, of Springhill, surrounded by his family, passed away after a lengthy and courageous battle with illness on January 11 at 0111 hours. John is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Carol (nee Demings), Springhill; son, John Douglas "JD" Hopkins III (Cheryl Taks), Springhill; daughter, Tanya Hopkins (Bob Honkoop), Alliston, PE; and many grandchildren. John was predeceased by his father, John Douglas Hopkins Sr.; mother, Goldie Hopkins; and identical twin brother, George Hopkins.



John joined the Canadian Armed Forces at the age of 18 eager for adventure and exploration fueled by his dedication, patronage and honour to serve his country. And what grand adventures he had! To know John was to know that there would be no shortage of any conversation or jokes! His ability to fit in anywhere and capture an audience with the recanting of his tales is one characteristic many will fondly remember. His outgoing personality earned him rare privileged invitations to participate in ritualistic and honorable hunting practices while posted to Germany. He learned to speak the language, studied the culture and made lifelong friendships while there. He often spoke of his hunts and his vast experiences of the German culture. His love of all things outdoors, hunting and wild game cooking remained with him until the end. John went on to complete a combined 40 years of service to his country between Regular and Reserve Force. But one thing he didn't know how to do was 'retire'.

He was more active after his retirement than before! He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department in Springhill for 15 years. He also toured around the country teaching fire safety to schools with 'Chief Life Line'. The only other thing John loved more than hunting was golfing! John was an active member of the Springhill Golf Club for many years. He was most proud of his not 1, but 2 hole in ones!! His many years of efforts and contributions to fundraising and event organizing on behalf of the club recently earned him an Honorary Lifetime Membership. He loved to get together with his friends, especially his dearest friend John Clark, and golf as often as time circumstances and health would allow.

In recent years one of John's proudest accomplishments was the fundraising and hard work he put into the restoration and preservation of his hometown's Cenotaph. He worked endless hours, knocked and talked at countless doors, left no stone unturned, no avenue unexplored to achieve his goal. John felt it his mission and honor to have this Cenotaph, something near and dear to his heart, brought back to its former glory for all future generations to enjoy for many years ahead. For all to remember and pay tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of our country and our freedom. He loved his motorcycle and in recent years enjoyed riding with the Defenders. He will be sadly missed by many. John's wish was to receive a glorious military send off.

Douglas Walter Pettigrew May 11, 1944 - October 25, 2021



Dr. Douglas W. Pettigrew, 77, of Edmonton AB, passed away on October 25th, 2021 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital after a long illness.

Douglas was born in Kingston, Ontario, son of the late Andrew and Helen Pettigrew. He is survived by his son, Dr. Jordan Pettigrew, and his daughter, Lorinda Pettigrew. He is also survived by his two siblings, and a niece.

Douglas graduated as a Doctor Of Dental Surgery from the University of Toronto in 1968. He continued his studies and specialized as a Periodontist in the city of Edmonton, Alberta.

Douglas will be remembered professionally for his mentorship, scholarship and his outstanding commitment and contribution to the field of dentistry, periodontics and the diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular joint dysfunction. Across his career, Douglas left an indelible mark on many students, associates, professional colleagues, those who worked along side him, and people who entered his life through various pathways. He impacted his field through his research, innovation, authorship, professional presentations, offices held and his teachings. Douglas taught at the Canadian Forces Dental Services School in Borden, Ontario, as a demonstrator in Periodontics and at the University of Toronto as a clinical instructor and lecturer. He was also a demonstrator and professor at the University of Alberta. He had a thriving periodontal practice in Edmonton, Alberta for many years and was very respected in his field.

Douglas was larger than life and lived life to the fullest. His parties were the stuff of legend! He enjoyed mountain biking, running- he completed the NYC marathon in 1987 beating his son's 1996 time by 1 second. He was also a black belt in Judo. Writing poetry, playing golf, being in the company of friends, the absolute best food and wine and spending time with his beloved canine companion Peaches were his absolute passions.

Due to Covid-19 a funeral will not be held at this time. A memorial and celebration of life will be held at a later date. Douglas will be laid to rest with his parents and beloved Peaches in Kingston, Ontario.



LCol (ret'd) Ian Allan Cameron MacDonald March 1, 1922 – October 9, 2021



It is with sad hearts that the family announces the passing of Ian Allan Cameron MacDonald at 99 years of age. Ian was a long-time RCDCA member.

Ian was born in Mermaid, Prince Edward Island, and is predeceased by his parents, Leo Joseph and Annie Helene (Cameron) MacDonald and his wife Sheila (Ryan). He leaves behind four children - James, Mark, Alexander (Michael Arnoldi) and Janet (Paul Klements) - and two grandchildren (Ian and Michael MacDonald), his sister, Sr. Anne RCND and his brother Dunstan, both of Charlottetown, PE. He is also predeceased by four brothers Leo, Atholl, Eric and Gerald.

Ian was educated at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown and then went on to Dalhousie University, where he graduated with a doctor of dentistry. The friendships he forged as a student at Dal lasted his lifetime and he was a proud alumnus. Upon graduation he established a dental practice in Hantsport, NS.

Ian had a long and successful career in the Canadian Armed Forces, starting with the Canadian Infantry Corps in 1944-45. He re-enrolled in the regular force (Royal Canadian Dental Corps) in 1953, with his first posting attached to The Black Watch at Camp Aldershot in Nova Scotia. His military life took Ian and family to postings and adventures across Canada (including Calgary, Whitehorse, Toronto, Kingston, Cornwallis) and Europe (France - 2 Fighter Wing). His extensive travels throughout Europe during his time stationed in France proved to be an enriching experience for Ian and family. One of the highlights of his career was taking courses in oral surgery at the US Naval Hospital in Bethesda Maryland. He retired from the military as a Lieutenant-Colonel (base dental officer CFB Cornwallis) in 1977, and then subsequently started his private dental practice in Dartmouth Nova Scotia which he owned until 1984.

Upon retirement from dentistry Ian took incredible pleasure in spending time at his summer home in Stanley Bridge, PE. He honed his woodworking skills by making many furniture pieces that still furnish the cottage today. He was a lifelong sportsman and loved curling and golf. He was a regular golfer at Anderson's Creek and made many friendships through his passion for the game.

Ian encouraged his children to appreciate their Scottish heritage and took pleasure in playing the bagpipes and as a member of the Clan Donald Society. In later years he was a benefactor of the College of Piping in Summerside, PEI. Every summer included a visit to see "Highland Storm" with Dad.

Ian was a long-term member of the RCDCA.

Chief Warrant Officer (ret'd) Andrew Baird, October 1, 1948 - December 9th, 2021



It is with profound sadness we announce Andrew, age 73, passed away on December 9, 2021 at the Dartmouth General Hospital following a two year courageous battle with cancer. He was the only child born to Harry and Mary Baird (deceased) on October 1, 1948, in Grand Falls, NL. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his Father-in-law Arthur Dawe and his youngest son Harry, age 25 (killed by a drunk driver) in 1999.

Left to mourn his passing is his proud and loving wife of 53 years, Rita (Dawe); he was so very proud of his children and family and their accomplishments; his son, Andrew (Victoria) of Leamington, ON; daughter Daphne Love (Stephen), Ottawa, ON and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his fur-baby, Sophie, his chihuahua who gave him so much love, comfort and laughter during his journey.

He joined the CAF in 1965 and retired in 2002 as the Dental Branch Chief Warrant Officer.

Following retirement he continued employment with Dental Services as Deputy Director Clinical Facilities and Technical Standards, for a total of 49 years. His postings included NDHQ Ottawa; NATO CFB Baden, Germany; CFB Gagetown (3 times), CFB Halifax (twice), CFB Shearwater, CFB Greenwood and CFB Gander/St John's and a six month United Nations tour in Cyprus. His family were very proud supporters of the military. Andrew and his family are also members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Andrew was an avid volunteer, supporting the many activities of his children and grandchildren. His passion was his music - playing guitar and singing. He enjoyed playing with a band at numerous senior homes in Halifax Regional Municipality. His greatest privilege and honour was playing on the boardwalk in Eastern Passage. With his 'Famous Musicians' - Hayward Strickland and Johnny Drakes of Lukeys Boat (who produced his CDs) and his "Best Bud" Allan Cox, he hosted a weekly jam session in his apartment complex and entertained many tenants. His friends called him 'Social Director' as he planned and organized trips, dinners and special events parties for his friends. Many Saturday evenings he could be found at the Newfoundland Club dancing the night away with 'The Gang'. He was a proud Newfoundlander.

Donations in his memory would be appreciated, to the SPCA 13 Duggan St, GFW, NL or to the animal shelter of your choice. His wish is 'be kind to animals'

Cremation has taken place. A military service will take place in the Spring 2022.

Special Thank-you to the palliative care team of doctors and nurses, 4 East, who gave very professional care and compassion to Andrew and his family.

Editors note: Andrew was a very active member of the RCDCA and regularly organized luncheons for fellow dental corps retirees.

Canadian Dental Corps Captain Roy French Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate, Yorkshire

Research courtesy of Elizabeth Smith, CWGC

Elizabeth made this Facebook post on 16 July 2021: "Hello from Yorkshire, England where I am the Public Engagement Coordinator for the North East. One of the cemeteries I work in, Harrogate, is the final resting place of over 600 Canadians. Most of them served with the RCAF but we do have a casualty from the Canadian Army Dental Corps. It's his anniversary today and I thought you might be interested to hear a little about his story. Captain Roy Howard French, who had been in England just 5 months before the fatal accident, left a wife in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is looked after by the CWGC at Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate." Elizabeth then provided many documents and photographs to assist with the telling of his story, including his enrollment papers, identification card, death certificate, newspaper clippings, and military correspondence concerned with the event of his death.



Captain Roy French joined the Canadian Army as a Clerk, and was assigned to #15 Company, CDC at the time of his death. He was 29 years old, and had only been overseas for five months at the time of the accident. Captain French and a fellow Canadian officer were off duty and cycling towards Harrogate on the rainy night of July 16th, 1944, both on the same bicycle. A local man, Alec Dawson, was driving to report for duty with the Royal Observer Corps when he hit both men. Roy died at the scene and his companion was seriously injured. Unfortunately, the driver did not stop, not being aware that he had been involved in a crash. Two days later, having heard of the death, went to the police. In court he admitted that he had drunk 5 half-pints of beer in the pub that evening and was already late for his night shift. In his defence, the bicycle had no visible rear light nor reflector, probably covered by the rider's overcoat. Alec was found not guilty of manslaughter and dangerous driving.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the grave, and erected a plaque to highlight his story. There were two errors on the plaque, and I have reported them so they can be corrected. The plaque indicates that he was an Army Dentist, which is not the case. It also erroneously calls the CDC the Canadian Army Dental Corps, the pre-Second World War name.



This Stonefall Cemetery contains war graves of both world wars. The large majority of the war burials occurred during the 1939-45 War. Nearly all are airmen, two-thirds of them belonging to the Canadian forces. Many of these men died in the Military Wing of Harrogate General Hospital. Of the many airfields established in Yorkshire during the War, a number were situated in the vicinity of Harrogate. Such were the R.A.F. station at Harrogate itself, and those at Linton-on-Ouse, Tockwith, Rufforth and Marston Moor. Nearly all the Canadians buried here belonged to No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Bomber Group, whose headquarters were at Allerton Park. All the stations controlled by this Group were in the area north of Harrogate in the Vale of York, the largest base having its headquarters at Linton-on-Ouse. During the early months of the war a piece of land was set aside by the local authorities for service war burials near the north-west corner of the cemetery. This group of war graves is in Sections 20E and 21E within the northern boundary. In July 1943 the Air Forces Section was opened at the north-eastern corner of the cemetery, where men from airfields in Yorkshire and the north-eastern counties were brought, most of whom died in the great bomber offensive on targets in Germany.

Private Jacques Edward Comeau, Canadian Dental Corps

By Richard Groves, research by Gary Comeau

I recently had an email from Gary Comeau, who was researching his father's Second World War service. His father, Jacques Edward Comeau, and his four brothers all enlisted and volunteered for overseas service in Comeau Settlement, NB. They were all Acadian French farm boys who worked as lumberjacks and fisherman to support the farm, with educations ranging from Grade III to Grade VIII. Two of his uncles ended up in the infantry, one became an AA gunner and the other an electrical maintenance engineer. Due to their lack of education and work experience none received a decent post-war recommendation for a civilian career beyond manual labor. The four uncles returned to New Brunswick and a life of manual labour. His father, Edward, was assigned to 1 Dental Company, and his war experience was very different.

Edward enlisted in Moncton in September, 1941. He was 24 years old, and had completed Grade VIII. After basic training, he was sent to Fredericton, NB for four months to train as a cook. A year later, in August 1942, Edward was assigned to #27 Dental Company of the Canadian Dental Corps, immediately proceeded overseas, and by November 1942 was part of #15 Base Dental Company in the UK. In June, 1943 he took a one-month driving and maintenance course. He proceeded to Sicily with #8 Dental Company in November, 1943, and served in Italy until March 1945. He then went with #1 Dental Company to France, returned to Canada, and was discharged in February, 1946, back in Fredericton, NB. He was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the Italy Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defense Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and the War medal 1939-1945.

One uncle who was in the Carlton & York Regiment was reported KIA on September 19th 1944 in Italy but later the Red Cross reported him as a POW at Stalag 7A. They had already held a memorial service in NB when they found out he was still alive. At the time Edward was with #1 Dental Company in Italy; we don't know if he even knew that his brother was serving in the 1st Canadian Division at the time.

At some point of his service with the CDC, Edward must have been trained as a dental laboratory technician. His personnel assessment papers stated, "Employed as driver 1 ½, cook 7 months, dental mechanic 7 months." His VA papers state "Employed for two years as a Dental Laboratory Assistant." After his discharge, Edward moved to Toronto, ON and began work as a dental laboratory technician. The 1947 Toronto phonebook stated he was a dental technician employed by Stuart A. Moore dental labs, in 1948 the phonebook stated he was a dental technician working directly for Dr J.J. Armstrong at 120 Bloor St East.



Edward is top row, 2nd from left. Photo taken 12 Jan 1945 near Russi, Italy.

Dr JJ Armstrong was Edward's #1 Dental Company Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Armstrong, who was also the uncle of RCDCA member Kerry Mathers. He appears in several Comeau family photos, including one as a guest at Edward's wedding, on the back of which Gary's mother wrote, "Dr Jack Armstrong (Colonel), who brought Eddie to Toronto." Obviously Private Comeau had impressed his overseas Commanding Officer, who was a major factor in this success story. Lt-Col Armstrong's war-time service is also very interesting, and part of this story is included at the end of this article.

Edward earned his certificate as a Dental Technician in Ontario in 1950. In 1957 he started his own business, Raven and Comeau Dental Laboratories. Lloyd A Raven and Edward were CDC war buddies, and Lloyd was also Edward's best man. Gary Comeau remembers working for his dad in the summers delivering packages to dentists in downtown Toronto, many who were his dad's colleagues from the war.

In 1973 they sold the business to Posen & Furie, who were the largest Dental Lab in Toronto at that time. Edward worked as the General Manager of Posen & Furie until his death in 1979. Unlike his brothers, Edward was now set up with a trade and a career he could never have imagined as a young man in Comeau Settlement.

While researching his father's war time service with Library Archives Canada (LAC), Gary uncovered a lot of other material pertaining to the CDC and the Second World War. He is likely now the foremost expert on the activities of the CDC overseas! This includes movie footage taken by a CDC dentist on his personal camera; many editions of the 1 Dental Company newsletter, *The Molar*; and many captioned photographs. Gary has also been accepted as a volunteer at LAC in their digi-lab. Once it opens again he will have access to their archives and facilities and the ability to digitize the LAC's holdings on the CDC.



First Canadian Division Dental Corps, taken in Utrecht the summer of 1945, before disbandment. Pte Edward Comeau is in Row 2, 4th adult from the right. Lt-Col JJ Armstrong is front row, centre.

Now a little bit about Lt-Col John James (Jack) Armstrong. He enlisted from Toronto as a Lieutenant in November 1939, a dentist with eight years clinical experience. He was promoted to Captain three months later. What is remarkable is that only 18 months later, as a Captain with no previous military experience, he was selected to lead a CDC contingent in Operation Gauntlet, as an Acting Major. The vast majority of dental officers selected for command positions had previous military experience, usually from the First World War or in the Reserve Force. Those enlisted for their technical abilities as dentists tended to remain Captains for the entirety of their service.

Op Gauntlet was a successful raid on Spitzbergen, an arctic island just north of Nazi occupied Norway. This would have been Captain Armstrong's first combat experience. He obviously did well, as he was promoted to Major upon his return. Only a year later, in September 1942, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer of No 9 Dental Company in Canada, which he took to the UK.

While in the UK, Lt-Col Climo, the Commanding Officer of No 1 Dental Company in Italy, was promoted and returned to Canada as Assistant Director Dental Services. Lt-Col JJ Armstrong was named as his replacement. Gary Comeau uncovered a letter, in which Canadian Military HQ in London is asking special authority to have Lt-Col Armstrong transported to Italy by air, instead of the normal method of travelling by ship. Major-General Montague signed the letter, which details the lack of suitable dental officers for

command positions, which is why the new Commanding Officer is coming from England instead of being promoted from within the officers already in theatre, and explains that he “fully realizes that air travel should be kept down to a minimum, and no application for air passage should be put forward if the apparent delay is not unreasonable or wholly unacceptable.” Major-General Simpson, Director Military Operations at the War Office in Whitehall, approved the air travel.

Lt-Col JJ Armstrong spent the rest of his military service as CO of No 1 Dental Company. The Company was very active, delivering dental treatment services as close as possible to the front lines, with a dental section for every 500 soldiers. They moved with the 1st Canadian Infantry Division through Italy into Holland, ending up in Utrecht by the end of June 1945. It was from Utrecht that the repatriation process started, with Lt-Col Armstrong and Private Comeau returning to Canada that winter.

RCDCA Members receive OMM

Colonel Genevieve Bussiere was awarded the Order of Military Merit in December 2020. At the time of award, she was posted in CF H Svcs Gp HQ at the Dental Directorate. Congratulations Col Bussiere!

Le Col Genevieve Bussiere a reçu l'Ordre du mérite militaire en décembre 2020. Elle est actuellement affectée au QG Gp Svc S FC. Félicitations Col Bussière!



Colonel (retired) Dwayne Lemon, OMM, MSC, CD was presented with his OMM at Rideau Hall in August. He was selected for this honour in 2019, but the ceremony was delayed due to pandemic restrictions.



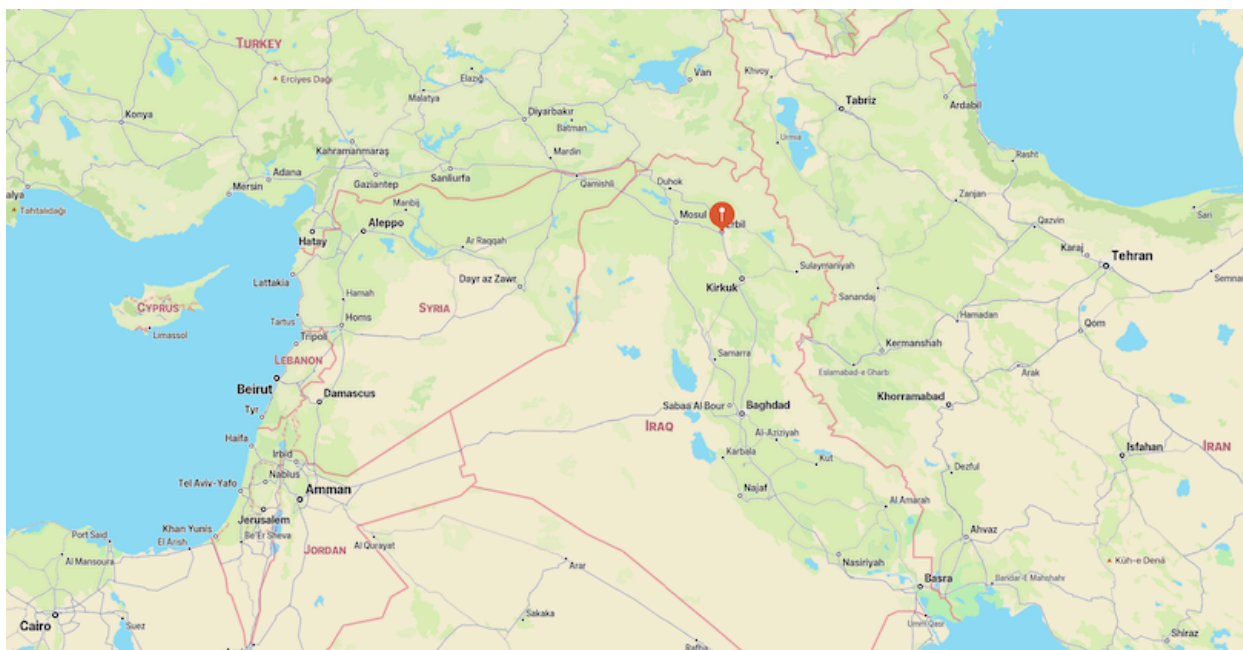
Op IMPACT December 2018 to June 2019

By Captain Alexandre Vo

As a comprehensive dentist in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), I had the opportunity to deploy to Erbil, capital city of the Iraqi Kurdistan, as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. This Combined Task Force comprises military forces and personnel from over thirty countries, whose mission is to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and increase regional stability. Teamed up with Sergeant Wendy Krause, Dental Technician, we served for a total of six months, from December 2018 to June 2019.



Captain Vo and Sergeant Krause



Erbil is marked by the red pin on this map

The Royal Canadian Dental Corps (RCDC), along with its medical counterpart, has contributed to the Canadian effort ever since the CAF assumed the lead over the Coalition Role 2 medical facility in Northern Iraq in November 2016. The Canadians worked alongside a German Army surgical and anesthesiology team, and also a U.S. Army Behavioral Health Care team. Thanks to the concerted effort of a succession of CAF dental teams during this campaign, the RCDC has quickly made itself known among the coalition partners for providing top-tier dental care to their soldiers. As the sole provider of dental care within a two-hour flight radius on rotary-wing, patients would often be flown in from places as far as Northern Syria. Some would venture on a two to three-hour drive to find some relief for their dental



The Role 2 hospital crew: The Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit (NEMU), the German surgical team, and the Canadian dental duo.

pain. Due to the sensitive nature of their work, I would not always get to know the patients' real identity nor where they are travelling from.

Most of the treatments rendered were basic dental emergency procedures; replacing missing restorations, repairing chipped or fractured teeth, re-cementing loose crowns, root canal therapy, incision and drainage, and extractions. Fortunately, other than one case of self-inflicted injury, there were no maxillofacial trauma cases as part of my tour. As the majority of soldiers in the joint operations area were Americans, communication with U.S. Army Dental Officers in the region became invaluable in obtaining patients' panoramic radiographs and relevant dental history. A special thanks to MAJ Ben Thompson at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center for returning my numerous requests.

As of March 2019, the tactical command of the Role 2 medical facility was transferred back to U.S. command. The Naval Expeditionary Medical Unit will be carrying the mission after three years of Canadian leadership. While the Canadian medical personnel began packing up, the dental section and its two members would remain. The decreased Canadian presence on camp resulted in changes to the logistical and technical support that the dental section had relied on. Sustainment flights would now take up to three months to re-supply the clinic (from two originally), making stocktaking critical. Dental unit waterline testing and unforeseen repairs of dental equipment and infrastructure were outsourced to coalition partners on the ground.

Another challenge faced by being attached to a Role 2 medical facility is the lack of choice of where to install the dental facility. Located adjacent to the runway, we were exposed to a significant amount of ambient noise. Aircraft would have their engines running all day, drowning out the sound of our handpieces, especially during take-off and landing. The proximity to the airfield also led to very poor air quality and resulted in a significant amount of fine air particles that made their way into our cabinets and drawers. It was difficult, but we still managed to maintain high levels of cleanliness.

Working alongside many nations was quite a rewarding experience. Despite any language barriers and cultural differences, we would always find a common ground, whether it was sipping coffee with the Italians, or drinking the "near beer" with the Germans. The tireless determination of all personnel working toward the same purpose was truly phenomenal and highly motivational, solidifying the simple bond we established with the variety of people we encountered.

Captain Alexandre Vo, DMD, is a 2009 graduate of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Université de Montréal, and a 2017 graduate of the 2-year AEGD Program at Fort Hood, TX. He is currently serving at CFB Edmonton, Alberta.

From the CAF website: *Operation IMPACT is part of Canada's whole-of-government approach to the Middle East. The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) mission to build the military capabilities of Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, and set the conditions for their long-term success. Op IMPACT complements the work of other Canadian government agencies such as Global Affairs Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.*

Op IMPACT began as the CAF support to the Global Coalition to degrade and ultimately defeat Daesh in Iraq and Syria. The coalition has been effective. Under the command of Brigadier-General Timothy Arsenault, Op IMPACT, on behalf of the CAF, is continuing to work with partners in the region to set the conditions for stability and security.

Canada plays an important role in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, alongside its partners. In Iraq for example, the CAF efforts in support of the Global Coalition and NATO improve Iraqi security forces' capabilities. These efforts help Iraq to achieve long-term success in keeping its territory and people secure.

A maximum number of 850 CAF members are approved to serve on Op IMPACT. This number includes those assigned to train, advise, and assist the mission in support of the Iraqi security forces and those supporting NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). As of November 2020, 17 CAF members support NMI.

Op IMPACT Feb 2020 to Sep 2020

By Captain Zachary Zeiler

I was deployed on Op IMPACT in Erbil, Iraq from February – September 2020. During this time, I was supported by one of two dental technicians: Sgt Carla MacNeil and Sgt Cheryl Legault. Located on the Erbil Airbase in the Kurdistan region, we were the sole dental care providers for US and Coalition forces in the area of responsibility. Alongside the Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit (NEMU) at the Role 2 hospital, our dental team worked to maintain the fitness of deployed personnel—often providing emergency treatment that would have otherwise resulted in a costly and occasionally dangerous MEDEVAC out of theatre.

There is no aspect of healthcare that wasn't impacted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It would ultimately go on to characterize nearly every facet of our deployment. Although initially deployed on a one-month TAV, the disruption to movement into and out of theatre caused by the pandemic shortly after arrival resulted in a seven-month deployment. In early April, the Canadian Armed Forces also withdrew a significant portion of its assets from Iraq, the result of which was that there were only a few remaining personnel occupying the Canadian camp (Camp Erable), none of whom had held camp management or maintenance positions previously. During the following months, our primary focus became re-establishing a support network to maintain our operations at the mobile dental clinic (MDC) and at Camp Erable. Tracking and receiving dental supplies, re-supply of camp consumables, MDC and camp maintenance, IT and comms, and waste management were just some of the challenges we faced as part of this transition. To address these items, we forged new connections with the remaining assets in Erbil and with conventional forces in Kuwait, as well as relying on our NEMU colleagues and their resources in theatre.

In addition to the logistical challenges posed by the pandemic, we had to adapt the provision of dental care to the novel infectious threat posed by COVID-19. The global PPE shortage in the first months required collaboration partners to effectively use critical supplies and support each other when needed. During this time we also relied on creativity and resourcefulness to bolster our PPE supplies—even using Tyvek painter's coveralls that were found in Camp Erable warehouses. By early summer, the supply chain overcame these challenges and we were fully supplied PPE solely from Canada.

We also received cutting-edge upgrades for the MDC. Powered Air Purifying Respirators, chairside aerosol filtration units and an ambient HEPA filter were retrofitted into the existing HVAC system. These were timely, as in July and August COVID manifested in earnest, with an outbreak on base which spread to our patient population—including a portion of our fellow healthcare workers at the Role 2 hospital. Thanks to the efforts of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps COVID-19 Task Force and the Canadian Joint Operation Centre, our dental team was among the best-equipped, prepared and protected healthcare workers in the joint operations area.

I am extremely proud of the resiliency and dynamic resourcefulness that our dental team displayed in the face of the challenges posed by this chaotic operational environment. I feel privileged to have made long-lasting friendships with outstanding individuals whom we served alongside. It has been the most rewarding experience of my career in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Captain Zachary Zeiler, DMD, is a 2015 graduate of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of British Columbia. He is currently serving at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta.

Op REASSURANCE July 2019 to January 2020

By Captain Lucy Xu

Operation REASSURANCE enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Latvia is part of NATO's initiative to reinforce collective defense and demonstrate the strength of allied solidarity in Central and Eastern Europe, in order to deter conflict and protect stability in the region. The Canadian-led NATO battlegroup is composed of Albania, Czech Republic, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain, working alongside the Latvian Land Forces Infantry Brigade. Designated as the framework nation, Canada has the mandate to provide support and assistance to other sending nations. From July 2019 to January 2020, I deployed as a dental officer under Op REASSURANCE eFP Latvia, as part of the Health Services Support Company. The dental team is composed of one dental technician and one dentist.

As the only dental team on the ground, we were privileged to meet soldiers from multiple countries and cultural backgrounds. It was sometimes difficult to communicate with our patients and we used 'Google Translate' and hand gestures as required. Another challenge was the varied dental deployment



treatment standard from one country to another. Once, a sending nation soldier presented with a toothache that prevented him from sleeping for three days. He seemed very anxious, he was sweating profusely and his face was pale. After taking the time to explain the procedure and answering his questions, we discovered that he has never had local anesthesia for dental procedures. After completing the pulpectomy, he was happily surprised that it wasn't painful and very thankful to our team. Consequently, we gained a greater awareness of the nature of our service and were inspired to continue to provide high-quality patient-centered oral health care while ensuring the most pleasant experience for every patient.

The most challenging aspect of our deployment was supply replenishment. At one point, we ran out of local anesthesia and urgent patients had to be referred to Latvian civilian dentists. The situation rapidly improved as the Royal Canadian Dental Corps (RCDC) operations cell (D Dent Svcs 3) reached out to Canadian Joint Operations Command medical authorities to advocate for special approval to purchase essential dental supplies locally. Simultaneously, 1 Dental Unit Detachment



Geilenkirchen shipped several boxes of lidocaine from Germany in support of our daily operations. I'm very proud to be part of the RCDC and the Canadian Armed Forces. As a team, we can achieve so much and I am grateful to my colleagues for providing us with the most needed and timely helping hand.

In December 2019, the Canadian Health Services Support company moved from mobile clinics into a newly constructed NATO Multi-National clinic where multiple sending nations' healthcare teams became co-located under the same roof. The dental suite has two spacious dental operatories equipped with intra-oral and panoramic radiography units, an integrated dental lab, and a modern sterilization room.

This new environment enhanced quality of care, promoted clinical excellence and facilitated NATO health professionals' integration. This integration had a significant impact on Op REASSURANCE eFP Latvia as the allies' solidarity and teamwork are fundamental for the operation.

In conclusion, as we counted down to New Year's 2020, soldiers from Operation REASSURANCE eFP Latvia gathered to celebrate under the canvas of a giant tent in Camp Adazi, Latvia and I reflected on my deployment. It was an extremely gratifying experience to be deployed on Op REASSURANCE. As a dental officer, I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to connect with soldiers from different parts of the world. By relieving pain and promoting oral health, we established trust and engendered comradeship with our allies. The mission is still ongoing and surely there will be challenges ahead. Our commitment to the strength of the alliance will ultimately guarantee the success of this mission and as long as we stand together, we grow together.

Captain Xiuhui "Lucy" Xu, DMD, is a 2014 graduate of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Université de Montréal. She is currently serving at CFB Edmonton, Alberta.



RCDCA TREASURER'S REPORT FY 2020/2021

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the Period
1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

GENERAL FUND

Revenue

Dues	\$3,910.00
Donations	\$945.00
Social Events	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 5.44
Merchandise	\$ 25.00
Bank account forwarded from 30 September 2019	<u>\$21,923.31</u>
TOTAL	\$26,808.75

Disbursements

Office Supplies (1)	\$314.87
Printing (2)	\$1,293.94
Postage	\$0.00
Meetings	\$0.00
Social Events (3)	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Donations and Memberships (4)	\$0.00
Trophies & Historical	\$0.00
Merchandise	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,608.81

Opening bank balance 30 September 2020	\$21,923.31
Closing bank balance 30 September 2020	\$25,199.94
Net Gain for FY 2019/2020	\$ 3,276.63

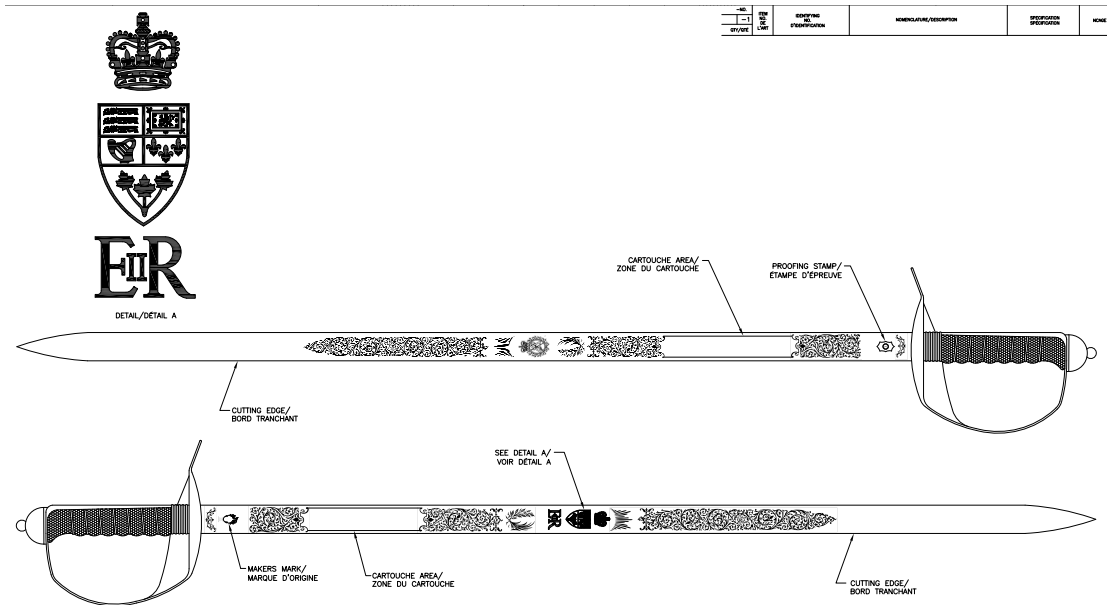
SUMMARY

RCDCA Association has current cash assets of \$25,199.94 for FY ending 30 September 2021.

- 1 - Includes website hosting costs
- 2 - Printing and postage costs for the annual newsletter
- 3 - There were no social events during this pandemic year.
- 4 - Due to the cancellation of outside organization activities, no dues were charged to nor paid by the RCDCA this year

Generous donations from our members have continued during this difficult year. The only substantive differences in the revenue and expenditures from past year's was the lack of social events over this summer and fall. Our financial records and the bank records balance exactly. The RCDCA thanks all its members for their continuing support.

RCDC Sword



RCDC, through Canex, is offering an RCDC Sword. It is a CAF Universal Pattern sword for the Army, with the RCDC primary badge embedded on the approved sword blade etching pattern and room for individual inscription, supplied by Pooley Swords in the UK. The exact price is not available, and will fluctuate with the Pound Sterling.

Purchasing instructions are as follows: Customer first contacts Pooley Sword via the following options:

Web Enquiry: https://pooleysword.com/en/Web_enquiry_form Email: enquiries@pooleysword.com

Telephone: (International): +44 1273 467277

Pooley Sword will work with customer on customization and provide artwork if requested, and then provide a quote in British Pounds Sterling. This quote will include the cost of the sword plus the cost of shipping.

Customer confirms that they want to move forward with purchase.

Pooley Sword sends the customer's quote to Canex Labelle (this will be the only store handling Pooley Sword purchases).

Customer contacts Canex Labelle to set up, [CANEX Credit Plan](#) via email to provide their scan of their credentials:

- Military ID, CF1 number, driver's license, and if in the Reserve - a void cheque or PAD (Pre- Authorized Debit) agreement from their bank.

Labelle will verify customer's credentials.

Labelle will convert the quote from British Pounds Sterling to Canadian funds and create the CANEX No Interest Credit Plan – Federal and Provincial tax will not be added to Credit Plan. Taxes will be paid with customs and duty.

Labelle sends the Credit Plan to the customer for their signature.

Labelle responds to Pooley Sword's quote email informing them that the customer's credit plan has been created and they can commence production of the sword.

Customer is cc'd on this email and is informed of the following:

The credit plan quote includes cost of the sword, plus the cost of shipping Customer is responsible for any duties, customs charges and sales tax.

All further communication regarding production of the sword, approximate order timeline, and Pooley Sword.

Return Policy will be between Pooley sword and CAF customer.

Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association 'Kit Shop' / 'Kit Shop' de l'Association du Corps dentaires royal canadien

The RCDCA is pleased to offer the following items to RCDCA members and to civilian and military serving members of the RCDC. Please order from Major (retired) Richard Groves at rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com

RCDC Regimental Silk Tie: Cost is \$35. The length is 60". This tie is for all serving and retired members of the RCDC and CFDS.



RCDC Lady's Brooch: Cost is \$75.

RCDC Blazer Crest: Cost is \$25. Crest is 2-3/4" x 4". This crest is authorized for wear by all current members of the RCDC and retired members of the CFDS.

RCDCA Blazer Crest: Cost is \$25. Crest is 3-1/4" x 4". This crest is authorized for wear by all RCDCA members or members of the RCDC pre-1968.



RCDC / CDRC

L'ACDRC est heureuse d'offrir les articles suivants aux membres de l'ACDRC et aux membres civils et militaires du CDRC. Vous pouvez les commander du Major (retraité) Richard Groves à rcdca_acdrc@icloud.com.

Cravate régimentaire du CDRC faite en soie: Le coût est de 35 \$. La longueur est de 60 po. Cette cravate est appropriée pour tous les membres actifs et retraités du CDRC et du SDFC.



Broche du CDRC pour dame: Le coût est de 75 \$.

Cimier du CDRC pour blazer: Le coût est de 25 \$. Le cimier mesure 2-3/4 po x 4 po. Ce cimier est approprié pour tous les membres actuels du CDRC et les membres retraités du SDFC.

Cimier de l'ACDRC pour blazer: Le coût est de 25 \$. Le cimier mesure 3-1/4 po x 4 po. Ce cimier est approprié pour tous les membres de l'ACDRC ou les membres du CDRC qui ont été en service avant 1968.



RCDCA / ACDRC