



The Spearhead

Inside

66th FSSFA
Reunion - Pages 5
- 6

In Memoriam -
Page 5

Miscellaneous
matters - Pages 6
- 7

"65th First Special Service Force Association Reunion" Summary Report by Bryan Martin

The 65th annual reunion of the First Special Service Force Association was held at the Mayfield Inn & Suites in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from August 10th to the 13th.

The registration desk and the kit shop opened at noon on Wednesday, and as people arrived, they were entertained by the enthusiastic local re-enactment group. This group entertained us throughout the reunion and also had an interesting display of weapons and artifacts from previous conflicts. Also on display was John Clarke's custom painted motorcycle sporting the logos of the FSSF.....thanks John, it was real hit! That evening we all gathered in the Mayfield courtyard for pizza, wings, a complimentary drink and a chance to catch up with old friends.

Thursday morning was business as usual with the directors meeting followed by the general meeting. The registration desk and kit shop remained open throughout the day and again on Friday. Thanks goes to Bill and Gayle Woon and their helpers for all their time and hard work. Thanks also to our effervescent registration trio of Diane, Gwen and Faye for all their hard work. Thursday afternoon was open for registrants to enjoy Edmonton. About 44 people took the pre-arranged guided tour to the beautiful Alberta Legislature buildings and grounds. Several others accepted the challenge to "shop till you drop" at the very well known and very large West Edmonton Mall.

Thursday evening was a real highlight as we gathered in the courtyard for the veterans' book signing. It was quite an impressive sight to see 14 vets lined up at the head table! Those wanting prints or books to sign picked them up in the kit shop adjacent to the courtyard and then got in line....the very long line! In addition to the book signing we had the official unveiling of the new FSSF tartan sported by three members of the Shining Thistle Pipe Band and accompanied by the Edmonton Police Band. Needless to say we all had a great time and the snacks and free beer added to the night. By 10:30 PM most had drifted off to the Gallery Bar or back to their rooms to visit with friends.

Friday morning the directors met early to determine the location of the 2012 reunion and conclude other business. At 9:30 AM busses began to depart for CFB Edmonton where our Canadian Special Operations Regiment was hosting us with the assistance of the 3PPCLI. Due to circumstances beyond their control the scheduled paratrooper drop and F18 flyby did not happen. Although this was a disappointment for all concerned we did enjoy an interesting military vehicle display and some great discussions with current CSOR personnel. The registrants also toured the 3PPCLI building to see the history of the group and then were served a wonderful steak luncheon from the flying kitchen compliments of CSOR. A big thank you to Major Higgins and Cpt. Powers for taking the lead and the rest of their team for all of the support they gave the FSSF Veterans.

Friday night was open for registrants to enjoy a taste of Edmonton nightlife and see the premier showing of "In the Footsteps of the Force". From all accounts everyone had a great time. Big thanks to Faye from the International Order of the Old Bastards (IOOB) for the bussing, drinks and snacks. Faye also made arrangements to have transportation available before and after the premier so that all interested could join the gang at the club. Needless to say there were a lot of interesting stories circulating on Saturday morning and at the banquet that night!

The annual Memorial Service and Parade was scheduled to take place on Saturday morning at 11:00 AM at the Alberta Legislature Band shell. The first busses left at 9:30 AM, and then looped back to pick up the remaining registrants with the Veterans coach leaving last. It was quite a sight to see this coach cruising through Edmonton with city police cruisers leading the way, John Clarke on his FSSF bike following the coach and a cluster of motorcycles blocking traffic so we could run the red lights. There were a lot of curious stares at this coach to say the least! The weather was great and we were pleased to have Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Col. (Ret'd) The Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Alberta's Minister of the Environment and Edmonton's Mayor Mandell in attendance. In addition to our political dignitaries we were pleased to have Colonel David Grosso representing the 10th SFG(A) and Lt. Colonel John Vass representing CSOR in attendance. Our political dignitaries had an opportunity to welcome the veterans and the registrants. Following Mayor Mandell's comments, he presented all of the veterans with a special Edmonton medallion designed to honour all Edmonton area veterans of WWII. Thanks once again to CSOR for their support, to Chaplin Staples for the invocation, to our politicians, to the Edmonton Police Band and Shining Thistle Pipe Band, to our buglar Corporal Flowers, to all members of the parade and to Bill Dickson for being our MC and for organizing the military aspects of this service.

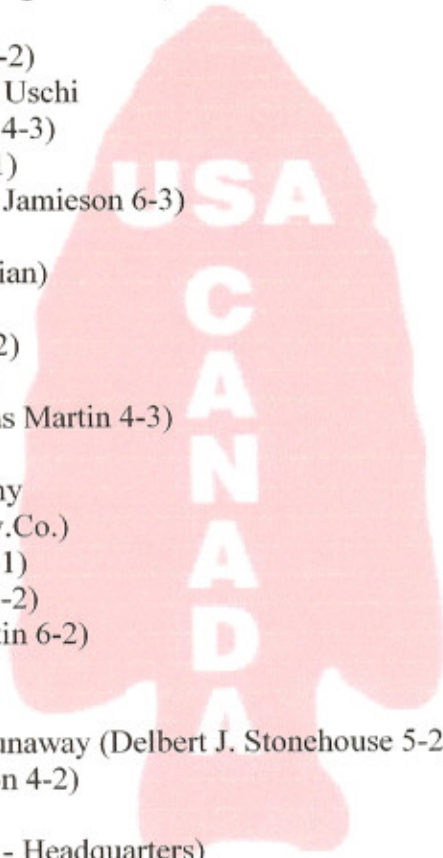
Saturday afternoon was free for registrants to visit and relax.....but not so for those of us trying to put the final touches on the seating plan!! It was a bit frantic for our registration team trying to assign seating for a banquet that grew from an expected 225 registrants to over 280.....but what a great night we had. Our ranking SOF officers, Colonel Grosso and Lt. Col Vass spoke briefly and then our guest speaker Col. (Ret'd) The Honourable Donald S. Ethell had the crowd in stitches. The highlight of the evening however was for sure our Frederick Award winners; CSOR's Cpl Shane Wilson and 7th SFG(A)'s SFC Christopher Corbin. Both of these young men were elegant, articulate and spoke from the heart. After a great meal we were wowed by the very well known Loyal Edmonton Regiments Drum Line under black light.....what a performance.....thanks to Warren Rubin for the support. After a few door prizes and draws the Edmonton Police Band and the Shining Thistle Pipe Band brought the formal part of the evening to a close, but the night was far from over as the crazy antics of our disk jockey Carmon had people up dancing well past midnight.

Thank you to everyone for your support and assistance in hosting the 65th FSSF reunion It is humbling to be in the presence of the elite men of the FSSF, and the men and women of the United States and Canadian Armed Forces who continue to uphold the "Spirit of the Force". We look forward to seeing you next year in Washington, D.C.

The following is a partial list of the people who attended the 2011 reunion in Edmonton.

Anderson, Annetta (James H. Anderson)
Anderson, Jannie and Guest (James H. Anderson)
Anderson, Ken (James (Jim) Anderson)
Anderson, Charlene (James (Jim) Anderson)
Anderson, Stan (Ernest Chipchase 2-2)
Anderson, Jackie (Ernest Chipchase 2-2)
Anderson, John (Ernest Chipchase 2-2)
Anderson, Kristin (Ernest Chipchase 2-2)
Ashley, Ed (Canadian Airborne Regiment)
Bailey, Dick (1st Lieutenant W.R. Bailey 4-1)
Bailey, Janet (1st Lieutenant W.R. Bailey 4-1)
Baker, Chris and Brandy (Dave Woon 2-2)
Battise, Jacquelyn (Daniel Battiste 2-1)
Bhagan, Mary and Elizabeth (SSGT. Frank A. Harvey 1-3)
Boardman, Gail Maich (Gordon Hancock 5-1)
Boardman, Emily (Gordon Hancock 5-1)
Bolen, MWO Billy (3PPCLI) and Dolly

Breakstone, Angie (Morris Breakstone 4-2)
 Breski, Roger and Darilyn (Matt Borodenko 6-1)
 Brissette, CWO Daniel (CSOR)
 Brown, Doug (Ernest Brown 3-1)
 Brown, Sheila (Ernest Brown 3-1)
 Brown, Tyler (Ernest Brown 3-1)
 Brown, Jodie (Ernest Brown 3-1)
 Burbidge, Allan (S.W. Burbidge 3-1)
 Chisholm, Duncan and Gwen MacKinnon-Chisholm (Malcolm Mackinnon 2-2)
 Clarke, John (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Clarke, Theresa (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Clarke, David (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Clarke, Gordon (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Clarke, Jean (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Connell, Kenneth and Pamela (Emil Brodufski 4-3)
 Copeland, Robert (75th Inf Airborne Ranger Retired) and Catherine
Corbett, Leonard (4-2) and Family
 Crispin, Don and Roma (Jack Martin 6-2)
 Dickson, Bill (1 Can Para Retired) and Uschi
 Dove, Bob and Joyce (Douglas Martin 4-3)
 Elliot, Faye (Fayne L. (Spud) Elliot 4-1)
 Feltmate, John and Jennifer (Joseph T. Jamieson 6-3)
 Fisher, Susan (Douglas Martin 4-3)
 Freve, Marc (Canadian Military Historian)
Glass, Joe (1-2) and Chuck Glass
 Graffen, Chantel (Ernest Chipchase 2-2)
 Graham, CWO John (CANSOFCOM)
 Gregoret, Lawrence and Mary (Douglas Martin 4-3)
 Grosso, Colonel David (10th SFG(A))
Gutierrez, Eugene (Sv. Co.) and Penny
 Gutierrez, James (Eugene Gutierrez Sv.Co.)
 Hancock, Donald (Gordon Hancock 5-1)
 Hart, John and Ingrid (Geoffrey Hart 1-2)
 Hartridge, Peter and Sherry (Jack Martin 6-2)
 Innis, Quenton (DCO 3 PPCLI)
 Irby, CSM Robert (10th SFG(A))
 Jeffers, Christine and guest Geneva Dunaway (Delbert J. Stonehouse 5-2)
 Johnson, Laurie (Harold "Ted" Johnson 4-2)
Kasoff, Herman (3-2) and Sylvia
 Keating, Marla R. (Frank W. Keating - Headquarters)
 Kindle, Bob (attending for John L. Kindle - 2-3)
Knight, Jack (2-2) and family
 Knipe, Kara (Jack Martin 6-2)
 Krus, Frank Jr. (Frank Krus, Sr.)
 Kuiper, Gerda
 Lance, SGM David (5th SFG(A))
 Loughheed, Susan, Jamie, Joey, Susan and Allan (Jack Martin 6-2)
 MacKinnon, Maureen
 MacNeil, Michael (Cecil Littster)
 Martin, Janis and family (Douglas Martin 4-3)
 Martin-LeBlanc, Amy and Matt (Jack Martin 6-2)
 Matarazzo, Lt. Colonel (1st SFG(A))



Martin, Jack (6-2)

Martin, Bryan and Marilyn (Jack Martin 6-2)

Martin, Howard and Mickey (Jack Martin 6-2)

Martin, Ron (Jack Martin 6-2)

Martin, Traci and Ryan Tebb (Jack Martin 6-2)

Murphy, RSM Robert (CFB Edmonton)

Nicol, Ian and Lou

Olson, Corliss (Andrew & Karl Olson 4-1)

Onno, Kendra and Brad Greve (Jack Martin 6-2)

Pagnucco, Bret (John Izatt 3-2)

Paquette, Wilfred (4-2), family and guest Marie Ladouceur

Picken, Jon and Anne (Capt. Weldon B. Perry 2-3)

Planger, Brian (Henry Planger 3-3)

Planger, Henry (3-3)

Planger, Lyle (Henry Planger 3-3)

Planger, Jerry and Joyce (Henry Planger 3-3)

Pratt, Frank and Joan (Howard D Pratt)

Ringo, Richard (Lt. E. A. Ringo, SVC CO)

Rudick, Hazel (Walter J. Rudick 6-1)

Rusconi, Garth and Gloria (Gerry Rusconi 2-1)

Rusconi, Gerry (2-1)

Schiedl, CWO Jerome (Jerry) (CSOR)

Schiedl, Jerome and Leah Posluns

Schober, Robert (Albert Schober 6-1)

Scoggin, Tamar (Lt C.R. Scoggin 5-3)

Shelton, Don (Sgt Leslie Shelton 3-3)

Siemens, Tennile (H.D. Borodenko)

Smith, Sara (Myrle T. "Buck" Woolman 6-3)

St. John, Jessica (1st Sgt Charles F. Johnson 6-1)

Staples, Michelle

Stonehouse, D.J. (5-2) and Monica

Story, William (4-2) and Dianne

Summersides, Jim (4-1) and Margaret

Sutherland, Don and Mary (Jack Martin 6-2)

Tillack, Judy

Tomas, Michael and Rita (George Rainville 2-2)

Trotter, LTC Michael (5th SFG(A))

Trumble, Ken (Dave Woon 2-2)

Vass, Lt Col John (CSOR)

Vandoremalen, Peter

Wallace, Major

Weaver, Jim (Harry B Weaver 3-1)

White, Maurice (3-1) and Elsie

Williams, Lynn Mann (Sgt. William T Mann 5-1)

Williamson, James Lee (Col Donald D Williamson)

Williamson, Paul (Col Donald D Williamson)

Wilson, Al (6-3) and Madge

Wilson, Geoff (John Izatt 3-2)

Woolman, Marian (Myrle (Buck) Woolman 6-3)

Woolman, Steve and Elaine (Myrle (Buck) Woolman 6-3)

Woon, Bill and Gayle (Dave Woon 2-2)

Woon, John and Charlotte (Dave Woon 2-2)

Wraith, Teddy (Sgt Donald A. Wraith 4-2)





Memorial Service and Parade at the Alberta Legislature Band shell in Edmonton, Canada during the 65th reunion of the First Special Service Force Association

What a great looking group of men!

66th FSSF Reunion 2012 in Washington, D.C.

Sept. 26 through Sept. 29, 2012

We are excited to inform you that we have booked our hotel for next year's reunion. We will be staying at the Sheraton National in Arlington, Virginia. With the expense of staying in Washington, D.C. itself, we find this hotel to be great for many reasons. We have negotiated a room rate of \$119.00 per night. They also offered us \$7.00 a night parking for those of you who will be traveling by car. Parking in D.C. was anywhere from \$30.00 - \$48.00 per night. If you are making a longer vacation out of this trip, the room rates will apply to dates three days either side of our reunion.

If you will be flying to Washington, D.C. our hotel provides a shuttle to and from the Ronald Regan Washington National Airport. They do not have shuttle service to Dulles Airport. They also provide free shuttle service to Pentagon City where there is a Metro stop that connects you to many points of interest in and around Washington. It is very convenient, affordable and easy to use. Shuttles leave the hotel every half hour.

In making reservations, you should call 1-800-325-3535 or go online to www.starwoodmeeting.com. Please tell them that you are with the First Special Service Force to get the price they are offering our group. If you wish to upgrade your room to the Club Level they are offering us rooms at \$149.00 on secured floors which include the Club Lounge where you can get complimentary breakfast and happy hour.

We are working on the details of our upcoming reunion. We will supply a registration form and more information in the next Spearhead.

If you have any questions, please call:

Cindy Hofeld (651) 285-2983
Tricia Hofeld (612) 807-6281
Bill Woon (406) 495-0382

You can also contact Cindy or Tricia by email at Fssfwashingtondc2012@hotmail.com

ITALY AND NORWAY TOURS

From John Hart: Greetings. Here is the latest update on the tour from May 28 thru June 7, 2012

The main details are still to be worked out and will be available soon. We meet at the Leonardo da Vinci airport at the arrival gate before noon May 28 to catch the noon bus to Cassino for the meet and greet at the Edra Palace (Force tour headquarters).

Between May 29 and June 7 we will be going to locations that we have been to before and also some exciting new sites, including Monte la Difensa, Monte Majo, Hill 720, possibly the 1000 meter mark on Sammucro, the Memorial Day celebration at Nettuno, the Winterline Museum in Venafro, the local cemeteries in the Liri Valley, Artena and Anzio. It is looking very good that we will be able to go to Cabbage Castle at Anzio. This has been off limits for many years so we would be very fortunate to be able to go there. We will also visit the Domora DelPrete Di Belmonte Castle in Venafro.

Gianni Blasi, Luciano Bucci and Alessandro Campagne are working hard to secure not only Force sites but taking in local festivities as well.

We are adding a special optional tour to Oslo, Norway at the end of our Italian leg. Anyone wanting to take part would leave June 7, 2012 to Oslo from Rome by plane.

Jan Roll, the nephew of Finn Roll, will be guiding us in Norway. We will be there approximately 5 days. Day 1- sightseeing in Oslo, Holmenkollen ski jump, Military fortress, Akershus Fortress and the resistance museum; Day 2 - Oscarsborg Fortress, the battle of the Oslofjord and the German heavy cruiser "Bulcher", a visit to the headquarters of Wehrmacht and Joseph Terboven; Day 3 - Kontiki museum, Fram museum, Vikingskipet museum and Norwegian Folk museum; Day 4 - Trip to Gaustad toppen [mountain] by cablecar. Day 5 - The "Heroes of Telemark" the heavy water plant.

The costs for the Oslo trip are: 110-120 euros for the flight from Rome to Oslo; \$1,500 American dollars per person for the hotels, meals and bus transfers. These costs may change by the time we start to book.

As I said earlier, the Italy tour goes from May 28 to June 7, 2012 at which time some will depart back home or, those who wish, will carry on to Oslo and depart for home when we are finished in Norway.

The costs for Italy are yet to be decided. The tours in 2008, 2010 and 2011 were between 100 euros and 120 euros per person per day which included 3 traditional Italian meals daily, hotel room and bus transfers per person. I believe that the costs will be similar.

There will be an additional charge of \$150 per person for miscellaneous costs payable to Don Shelton weinshel@hotmail.com who will disperse as needed [veterans need not pay this].

All of our past tours have been incredible life experiences and this one will be no exception. I hope that many of you will join us as you will not be disappointed. We have the honor of having Joe Glass joining us this time, which I am very excited about.

There will be more details as they come available and I will pass them along. I look forward to taking your calls at (403) 526-7343 or emails at johnhart@telus.net

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The First Special Service Force (collectively) has been nominated for the Congressional Gold Medal by Senator Max Baucus (D) Montana. Senate Bill 1460 was introduced by Senator Baucus to award this prestigious medal to the FSSF as a unit. To view the bill go to <http://e-lobbyist.com/gaits/text/348123>. More information will be included in the next issue of the Spearhead.

From Steve Woolman: I wrote my local MPP and here is the response - Good morning Mr. Woolman, Mr. Miller will be delivering a Statement today in the Legislature at approximately 1pm. Mr. Miller would be pleased to send you a copy of Hansard, the official record of daily proceedings of the house as well as forward a copy to the US Congress, perhaps to Senator Baucus. Would you kindly provide your mailing address? If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Miller's office. Thank you. Marcia Morrison, Office of Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound – Muskoka.

From Bob Schober: Hi FSSF family and friends. For those of you who want to contact your senators or representatives regarding Senate Bill S.1460 to award the FSSF the Congressional Gold Medal, here is a website that does it automatically for you. All you have to do is click on the "support" button on the right side of the page where it says "send your senator a letter" and enter your zip code, name and address! You will have to create an account, but it is free. You can also write your own text into the "letter" which is at the bottom of the "write your letter" screen. Obviously our friends north of the border can't do this, but perhaps they can pass it on to appropriate people. <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-s1460/show>

FLORIDA MINI REUNION

The Florida First Special Service Force Mini Reunion for 2012 will be from February 22(Wednesday) thru February 26, 2012 (Sunday). It will be held at the Days Inn Orlando Airport Florida Mall in Orlando at: 9301 South Orange Blossom Trail (also known as #17, #92 or #441). Complimentary Shuttle Service is available from and to the airport. Call 407-855-9308 or email General Manager09574@wynhg.com. There will be **NO REGISTRATION FEE.** Please send your information of Reservation, Number of People Attending, and Dates Attending to Fred Conrod, P.O. Box 5984, Lighthouse Point, Florida 33074, email to fredconrod@bellsouth.net, or call Fred at 1-954-943-1990 or 1-954-942-0761.

In Memoriam:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the following men who did not make the last issue of the Spearhead or who have died since the reunion in Edmonton in 2011:

Burley, Douglas J. (3-1) Bournemouth, Dorset, UK
Melvin A. Matthias (2-1) Tacoma, WA
Ernie Brown (3-1) PT Colborne, ON
Bernhard K. Alvestad (4-3) Puyallup, WA

Sam Eros (1-2) Gibsons, BC
William Leaver Glace Bay, NS
Millard C. Rector (6-2) Truro, NS
Preston M. Patch (4-1) Lake Elmore, VT

If you have anything you would like to be considered for submission in the next issue, please provide it to me no later than February 15, 2012.

THE SPEARHEAD

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