

STANDING ON GUARD

Study Guide

*Made possible by the generous support of
Veterans' Affairs Canada*

 **Six Films Featuring Manitoba Military Units**   **The King's Players** presents

Disc 1

-  1. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (28:58)
-  2. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles (28:29)
-  3. The Fort Garry Horse (29:22)

Disc 2

-  4. 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (29:34)
-  5. The Winnipeg Grenadiers (29:43)
-  6. 38 Service Battalion (28:00)

**Special Introductions by
HRH Prince Philip and
HRH Prince Charles**

Standing On Guard

Standing On Guard

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For additional DVDs or information please contact tkpwpg@mts.net



Created by Jon Ted Wynne

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ABOUT THE KING'S PLAYERS

The King's Players, Inc. is a production company that was first established in 1988, and became a charitable organization in 1991.

The organization's mandate is to create works that promote high ethical standards and examine subject matter of historical and cultural interest while encouraging civic responsibility. The King's Players also provides opportunities for young people to work with established professionals on all productions.

ABOUT STANDING ON GUARD

STANDING ON GUARD, the 6-film series about Manitoba military regiments, began in 2010 as a commission from MTS TV for part of their "Stories from Home" programming. It was completed in the fall of 2013 in time for Remembrance Day.

STANDING ON GUARD documents the histories of six of Manitoba's finest military units:

- The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada
- The Royal Winnipeg Rifles
- The Fort Garry Horse
- 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- The Winnipeg Grenadiers
- 38 Service Battalion

Manitoba regiments have never before been documented on film.

The films, and this Study Guide, are a learning resource to help teachers educate students about Manitoba's distinguished military history.

Linda Connor, Social Studies Curriculum Consultant, Manitoba Education endorsed STANDING ON GUARD as a learning resource for Manitoba high schools in June of 2016.

"STANDING ON GUARD is an excellent learning resource for Manitoba students. The six half hour documentaries included in this film package accurately commemorate the personal as well as the historical contributions of six Manitoba military regiments. Each documentary encapsulates not only military history but also social history. Furthermore, the series not only features local history but also Canada's global responsibility and roles in the international community. The highlight of each of the documentaries is its ability to offer students archival footage from the past to understand the present. Thanks to this exemplary learning resource, schools such as Dieppe, football teams such as the Winnipeg Rifles Junior Football team, statues such as Winnie the Pooh at Assiniboine Park, and streets such as Vimy Road all take on historical significance for students living in Manitoba today."

Distribution and licensing of STANDING ON GUARD to Manitoba high schools, as well as public libraries and select museums, is made possible by the generous sponsorship of many corporations and individuals, including the following:

- The Winnipeg Foundation
- The Richardson Foundation
- The Thomas Sill Foundation
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- Grant Park Hearing Centre
- Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association
- Manitoba Hydro
- Tim Horton's
- Neil Bardal Funeral Centre

The Study Guide indicates how STANDING ON GUARD fits into current courses being taught in Manitoba high schools. Suggested ideas for application, discussion and research will provide complementary ways of achieving the course objectives and contribute to specific learning outcomes.

THE COURSES

- 1) **Grade 9 History of Canada in the Contemporary World, Cluster 3**
Canada in the Global Context
9.3.2. Canada's Global Responsibilities
- 2) **Grade 11 History of Canada, a Foundation for Implementation**
- 3) **Grade 12 Cinema As a Witness To History**

Grade 9 History of Canada in the Contemporary World, Cluster 3

9-KG-038 Give examples of Canada's participation within international organizations.

Application: Educators might use several segments from two of the STANDING ON GUARD films to specifically address Canada's role with NATO.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

As one of Canada's Permanent Force regiments (and the only Permanent Force based in Manitoba) 2PPCLI has been involved front and centre in international conflicts in addition to the First and Second World Wars from the early 20th Century to the present.

Three segments from this film might be used:

- 1)** The segment on the Korean War and Canada's participation at the Battle of Kapyong will help students understand Canada's vital contribution to NATO during the Cold War. It will also help students appreciate the recent dedication of Kapyong Park in Winnipeg.
- 2)** The segment on the Medak Pocket incident in the Balkans is an unparalleled example of Canada's willingness to "step up to the plate" militarily speaking, when necessary. The Medak Pocket segment clearly shows how 2PPCLI acted on behalf of NATO and Canada to stop ethnic cleansing/genocide and thereby caught the perpetrators in the act.
- 3)** Following the Medak Pocket segment, some of the interviewed personnel speak about their tours in Afghanistan and provide a perspective unfiltered from normal media.

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

This is the last film in the STANDING ON GUARD series and brings the regimental histories up to current times by including actual footage from Afghanistan, provided by the Department of National Defence. It is one thing for students to watch newsreel footage from a bygone era, it is quite another to see current technology on display as well as interviews with veterans of Afghanistan who are still serving and who provide a first-hand perspective on the importance of Canada's contributions to world affairs. There are a number of interviews with Afghanistan vets in the film who talk about re-adjusting to life back in Canada.

Discussion: Given Canada's vital role in the Allied cause in both world wars and its subsequent contributions made to NATO in conflicts like Korea and the Balkans, questions/observations such as the following might stimulate discussion.

- What if Canada had remained neutral during the world wars?
- Having participated in both world wars, why is it necessary to continue our commitment to military intervention in hot spots around the world?
- Weren't the two world wars enough of a sacrifice?
- What if we just stopped participating?
- What would be the consequences for Canada and the world if we did stop?
- It has been observed that Canada's identity as a nation was shaped through its participation and sacrifice in the First World War. If culturally-specific regiments such as The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (which was originally comprised almost exclusively of Canadians of Scottish ancestry) had not formed and had not participated in key conflicts such as Vimy Ridge in the First World War and the Dieppe Raid in the Second World War, might Canadians be less unified today? *(Note how the Camerons have evolved as a multi-cultural unit while maintaining their Scottish roots.)*

Research: Finding out more about individual regiments helps students appreciate the cost of Canada's military commitment. Some suggested clips for research and understanding are as follows.

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

Three segments out of many possibilities are:

- 1) The Dieppe Raid newsreel section of the Camerons film.
- 2) The interview with Ken Smith, a Dieppe veteran.
- 3) The segment near the end of the film when Murray Burt, Camerons historian, speaks about the unit's cultural evolution and the importance of named regiments.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

- 1) The segment on the Normandy (D-Day) landing and the interview with Cliff Chadderton.
- 2) The segment when Paul Martin talks about landing on Juno Beach.

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) The segment on the use of duplex drive tanks on D-Day.
- 2) The segment on Soldier For A Day, which gives students the opportunity to experience a taste of military life.

Fact: *The Royal Winnipeg Rifles and The Fort Garry Horse represented **one third** of the first wave of Canadians landing at Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. This was an extraordinary and vital Allied (and Canadian) contribution to the invasion of Europe during the Second World War.*

Today, both units, along with the Camerons, are Reserve Force, which means that the regiments as a whole do not participate in international armed conflicts; rather individual reservists apply to participate by temporarily joining Permanent Force units (like 2PPCLI). This explains why Corporal Mike Seggie, who was killed in Afghanistan, is cited by Norm Donogh as the single casualty from The Royal Winnipeg Rifles since the Second World War, as well as shown on the honour role of 2PPCLI.

Reservists contribute heavily to Canadian commitment overseas and are a vital means of sustaining our comparatively small military.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

- 1) Major Chris Lunney speaks about the particular sacrifice of reservists when they join the Regular Force for a specific period of time.

Note: *Generally, Reservist equates with a part-time employee, while Regular Force is full-time.*

9-KG-040 Assess the implications of Canada's military role in contemporary conflicts.

Application: Educators might show the introductions by royalty to the first two films, as well as a number of others. Suggestions below are a sampling.

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

- 1) The Introduction by HRH Prince Philip succinctly illustrates the historical and ongoing role of such units in world events.
- 2) Several sections show the Camerons Freedom of the City Parade which is an example of an event that raises public awareness of the military and reminds us that they are "standing on guard".
- 3) The montage sequence at the end of the film presents an overview of the Camerons' (and thus, Canada's military) role in contemporary conflicts.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

- 1) Similarly to HRH Prince Philip's Introduction to the Camerons film, HRH Prince Charles succinctly illustrates the ongoing role of The Royal Winnipeg Rifles in world events.
- 2) The sequence on Exercise Northern Bison shows the training procedures that help to protect Canada's north.
- 3) The end montage sequence includes the comment from Major Richard Desjardins "someone has to be standing on guard".

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) The Fort Garry Horse Freedom of the City Parade, like the Camerons' parade, is an example of an event that raises public awareness of the military and reminds us that they are standing on guard. This segment is more "stand alone" than the Camerons parade which is metaphorically woven throughout that film to mirror the journey of the regiment through the last century. The Garrys' parade also illuminates the montage segment at the end of the film which presents the historical, ongoing significance of the regiment.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

As previously noted, three segments from this film might be also be used to address this application:

- 1) The segment on the Korean War and Canada's participation at the Battle of Kapyong. This would help students understand Canada's vital contribution to NATO during the Cold War. It would also help students appreciate the recent dedication of Kapyong Park in Winnipeg.
- 2) The segment on the Medak Pocket incident in the Balkans is an unparalleled example of Canada's willingness to step up to the plate when necessary. The Medak Pocket segment clearly shows how 2PPCLI on behalf of NATO and Canada stopped ethnic cleansing/genocide and caught the perpetrators in the act.
- 3) Following the Medak Pocket segment, some of the interviewed personnel speak about their tours in Afghanistan and provide a perspective unfiltered from normal media.

Additionally, 4) The montage segment at the end of this film includes footage of the Patricias Roll of Honour in their museum in Calgary.

Discussion: Each of the six STANDING ON GUARD films has footage of military memorials. Some sample questions/ideas are given below.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

1) Throughout all of the six STANDING ON GUARD films there are many shots of military memorials in and around Winnipeg. Leading question: Why are military memorials important?

2) The montage segment near the end of this film shows an excellent example of a military memorial: an angel holding a dead soldier. This statue is located outside the front entrance of Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg. Memorials such as these helped to fill the void for the families of the thousands of fallen who never returned back to Canada. Contrast this statue or any of the other numerous military memorials that are shown throughout STANDING ON GUARD (particularly from the First World War) with Major Lunney's explanation at the end of the 2PPCLI film that today the fallen are escorted home as a gesture of respect on behalf of the people of Canada.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

1) Former Commanding Officer Norman Donogh's interview is used throughout the film. Notice his comment that Canada has never gone to war for personal gain. What does this say about Canada to the world?

2) Norman Donogh comments that since the Second World War only 1 member of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles has been killed. Does putting a face and name to a fallen soldier help us to better understand the sacrifices Canada has made by participating in global conflicts?

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

1) Later in this film, footage from Afghanistan shows the enormous vehicles employed by the Canadian Army. The display of impressive equipment begs the question how much money it costs Canada to provide them and why it is imperative to continue our commitment.

Research: The histories of each regiment show Canada's past and present commitment to world conflicts.

General questions to prompt further research. All six films may be used.

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

- 1) When was The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada regiment formed?
- 2) What Queen is referenced in their name?
- 3) Who is the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief?
- 4) What is a Colonel-in-Chief?

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

- 1) When was The Royal Winnipeg Rifles regiment formed?
- 2) When did they were they granted the addition "Royal" as part of their names?
- 3) What was their regimental name prior?
- 4) What football team is named after them?

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) When was The Fort Garry Horse regiment formed?
- 2) How is this regiment unique from other regiments?
- 3) Who is the only member of this regiment to win the Victoria Cross?

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

- 1) When was this regiment formed?
- 2) Who was the wealthy Canadian businessman who formed this regiment?
- 3) What is unique about the Patricias compared to other Manitoba-based regiments?

Disc 2 Film #5: The Winnipeg Grenadiers

- 1) When was this regiment formed?
- 2) Which theatre of war did the Grenadiers fight in?
- 3) What is especially tragic about this regiment?

- 4) Why was the Japanese apology to Canadian veterans important?

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

The current service battalions are an amalgamation of several services in the military.

- 1) Name three of those services that were originally separate from the others.
- 2) What does a service battalion do and how important is this?
- 3) Explain how the role of women in the military has changed since the First World War.

General Points to Consider:

- 1) Why are there so many different regiments in one province?
- 2) Why not just one?
- 3) What are battle honours?
- 4) What are some other military traditions and why are they important?
- 5) How do battle honours and military traditions impact Canada's role in the world?
- 6) Why are named regiments important?
- 7) Does having a military with rich traditions enhance our contribution to contemporary conflicts?

11.3.4 How was Canada's identity as a nation shaped by the First World War and by its changing relationship to Great Britain and the world?

Canada and the First World War (1914-1918) Canada's military contribution: the Western Front and trench warfare; major battles (e.g. Ypres (1915), Somme (1916), Vimy Ridge (1917), Passchendaele (1917), 100 DAYS (1918)

Application: Educators might use the beginning segment of each film (introduction, first newsreel and regimental origins) to show the formation of the regiments and why they came to be. With the exception of The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the featured regiments were formed in the early 20th Century, spurred by the impending shadow of the First World War. By war's end, their outstanding bravery contributed to Great Britain's recognition of Canada as a nation, not as a colony. Some examples of appropriate segments are listed below.

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

- 1)** Introduction, first newsreel, formation of regiment and why. Note the pride associated with each regiment—determination to stand out. The Camerons, above all other Manitoba regiments, went into the war as an example of Scottish (British) immigrants rising to the occasion.
- 2)** Historian Murray Burt's interview when he mentions the Camerons wearing kilts into battle, which helped to earn them the nickname "Ladies from Hell".
- 3)** The segment with The Honourable Bill Blaikie when he talks about Canada's achievements at Vimy Ridge.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

- 1)** Introduction, first newsreel, formation of regiment and why. The Rifles have deeper roots than the other regiments, going back to the North West Rebellion. Note the pride associated with each regiment—determination to stand out.
- 2)** The segment showing the number of Victoria Crosses awarded to the regiment, mostly in the First World War.
- 3)** Norm Donogh's interview when he speaks about the Rifles' stand at Gravenstafel Ridge at Ypres, an early, vital battle, which earned the unit special mention from Great Britain's Prime Minister at the time, David Lloyd George.

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1)** Introduction, first newsreel, formation of regiment and why.
- 2)** The first interview with historian Gordon Crossley when he explains the perceived need for a cavalry unit. As a cavalry unit, the Garrys reflect the Old World mentality of having a cavalry unit in the first place, then their success in adapting to changing times and military tactics.
- 3)** The segment on the battle of Cambrai and Marcus Strachan being awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions give a startling account of warfare at that time.
- 4)** The segment on the First World War also shows the early use of tanks on the Western Front, which revolutionized warfare and helped to make the use of cavalry as it was then known obsolete.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

- 1)** Introduction, first newsreel, formation of regiment and why.
- 2)** Segments with interviews with Historian Professor David Bercuson discuss how The Patricia's are unique for many reasons, including their origins (being financed and raised by a rich Canadian businessman).
- 3)** The segment on the Battles of Frezenberg and later Bellewaarde Ridge gives a graphic account of fighting on the Western Front.
- 4)** Interview with Major Wright shows the Patricias promotion to Permanent Force following the First World War, which reflects their impact on Canada's relationship with Great Britain.

Disc 2 Film #5: The Winnipeg Grenadiers

- 1)** Introduction, first newsreel, formation of regiment and why. The introduction succinctly conveys this unit's contribution to the allied effort during the First World War.
- 2)** Interviews with George Peterson and historian Vince Lopata explain because The Winnipeg Grenadiers stood out for their achievements during the First World War, they were personally selected by Winston Churchill to be part of C Force, a Canadian Force sent to guard Hong Kong from possible invasion.

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

Note: *38 Service Battalion's origins also stretch back to the First World War, but the actual named regiment was not identified until 1965. Conditions and challenges of a supplying Canada's fighting troops are discussed and shown.*

Discussion: Some further questions.

- A number of regiments have royal names—why is this important and what does this say, now and historically, about Canada's relationship with Great Britain?
- The morality of war is a difficult subject. How is it complicated when weapons like chlorine gas are employed? (Germany's use of poison gas is discussed in the segment on the First World War in the film about The Royal Winnipeg Rifles).

Research: Ideas for further research.

- Discover the strategic significance of the battles featured in each film's segment on the First World War.
- What are the names of the Victoria Cross winners mentioned in the films and are there any memorials standing in their honour? (Robert Shankland of the Camerons was one of the Pine Street boys in Winnipeg—Pine Street later being name Valour Road, a truly unique aspect of Canadian military history).

11.4.2 How did the establishment of national institutions contribute to defining Canadian identity?

Canadian citizenship and identity; impact of two world wars (and Korea) on Canadians' sense of national identity

Regiments are national institutions. Each regimental formation was akin to an imprint on the cultural life of Canada. There are numerous examples throughout the STANDING ON GUARD series that illustrate this point. One in particular stands out.

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

1) The segment near the end of the film when Murray Burt, Camerons historian, speaks about the cultural evolution of the Camerons from an almost exclusively-Scottish immigrant membership to a contemporary reflection of Canadian multiculturalism. He also speaks about the importance of named regiments as opposed to merely having numbers. This promotes *esprit de corps* and a strong sense of identity, something shared by every regiment featured in the STANDING ON GUARD series.

Application: STANDING ON GUARD makes thorough use of the Canadian Army Newsreels which document the achievements of Canada from the First World War to the end of the Second World War. Additional newsreel footage obtained from The War Amps document Canada's enormous contributions in Korea.

Canadians traditionally do not trumpet their achievements. But the collective impact of two world wars and Korea on Canadians' sense of national identity is evident when watching STANDING ON GUARD. For once we are presented with Canada's accomplishments and sacrifices—and not those of our allies.

War and conflict on an international scale draw people together. Two world wars and Korea helped Canada to emerge as a great nation and remain the equal of any and the envy of many.

Virtually any segment of STANDING ON GUARD will show each regiment achieving, sacrificing, building or helping. The work of the military defines who Canadians are. Two random examples follow:

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

1) The segment nearing the end of the Second World War shows members of the regiment helping the people of the Netherlands by rebuilding roads, supplying food and clothing, as well as toys for the children, and even providing a makeshift school bus.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

1) The segment towards the end of the film that shows members of the regiment sandbagging around the home of an individual whose house was in the path of oncoming flood waters.

Discussion: Some suggested questions related to battles.

- What was the objective of the Canadians in the battle of Vimy Ridge?
- What was the objective of the Dieppe Raid?
- How significant is it that Canadians were assigned Juno Beach as part of the 5-beach attack on Normandy on D-Day?
- Of the six first wave of Canadians who landed on Juno Beach, two were from Manitoba. How important an achievement is this and how does it affect the world's opinion of Canada, historically speaking?

Research: For further research.

- How many Battle Honours do each of the featured regiments have?
- The Battle of Kapyong in Korea was a critical action, though relatively small compared to some battles in the two world wars. However, Kapyong was important for what reasons? (Hint: the Kapyong barracks formerly in Winnipeg was given its name to serve as a reminder of this historical importance of this battle.
- Why was Kapyong an important battle?
- How did the topography of the location contribute to the success of the battle for Canadians?
- What high honour was awarded to the Patricias by the American President? (2PPCLI is the only Canadian regiment to have been thus awarded.)
- What is the nickname the Patricias have given to this honour?

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

1) The segment on the Korean War and Canada's participation at the Battle of Kapyong will help students understand Canada's vital contribution to NATO during the Cold War. It will also help students appreciate the recent dedication of Kapyong Park in Winnipeg.

11.4.3 How was Canada's presence on the world stage shaped by its role in the Second World War and its growing participation in the international community?

The Second World War: Battle of Hong Kong (1941); Dieppe Raid; Allied Invasion of Italy; Normandy Invasion and Campaign in NW Europe (D-Day, June 6, 1944 Juno Beach)

Canada in the Post-War World: Korean War (1950-1953)

Application: Virtually the entire STANDING ON GUARD series can be applied to this essential question. Canadians participated fully in the Second World War, on land and sea and air, from the Far East to throughout Europe. Each film has a significant section on the Second World War. Some samples are below:

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

1) The segment on the Dieppe Raid tells this story from a first person point of view, with veteran Ken Smith's recounting of the raid (in which he took part). Newsreel footage from this tragic episode is in abundance as the Germans

documented their success in defending against the raid and the film was eventually captured by the Allies.

Disc 2 Film #5: The Winnipeg Grenadiers

1) The tragic story of the Battle of Hong Kong is told from different perspectives including that of George Peterson, one of the last surviving Grenadiers who survived the battle and subsequent incarceration in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp. George's first-hand account is supplemented by Grenadiers historian Vince Lopata, as well as by children and grandchildren of former Grenadiers. Virtually the whole film references this sad but valiant and ultimately triumphant chapter in Canadian military history.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

1) The segment in this film on the Italian Campaign features some of the best combat footage to be found in the Canadian Army Newsreels collection. It's riveting and frustrating too when it is learned that a British politician, Lady Astor, accused the soldiers involved in the Italian Campaign as being "D-Day Dodgers". This segment shows how brutal and costly the Italian Campaign was for Canadians, a responsibility we bore without complaint.

2) The participation of the Canada in the Korean War is a very exciting segment from this film and can convey in a relatively short period of time the unique challenges of this war and the tenacity and resilience of Canadian troops at the Battle of Kapyong.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

1) The segment specifically on the Normandy Invasion is very useful as it includes first-hand accounts from Cliff Chadderton of the War Amps and Paul Martin, both of whom landed with the first wave of Canadians to hit the beach. There is nothing more riveting than a veteran's first-hand account of a battle.

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

1) The segment on the participation by The Fort Garry Horse on Juno Beach is utterly fascinating as it includes an explanation as well as incredible newsreel footage of the use of duplex drive tanks—floating tanks! This tactic has to be seen to be believed. The terrible cost of war has rarely been so poignantly told.

2) The segment featuring former trooper Stan Butterworth, who survived the fighting in North West Europe as a member of a tank crew, is powerfully conveyed when he reads from a letter he wrote to his parents in 1944 informing them of the death of his brother, also a member of a tank crew who was killed helping to liberate the Dutch village of Groningen.

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

1) There is considerable use of Second World War newsreels in this film, much of it showing how essential services like the delivery and making of food, to a visit to the traveling dentist, to laundry services and more were organized and accomplished. Wherever the Canadian Army served—Hong Kong, Normandy, Dieppe, Italy—the Service Battalions were at hand.

Discussion: Some possible subjects and questions for discussion are suggested by the STANDING ON GUARD series:

- What was the real purpose of the Dieppe Raid? (D-Day testing ground)
- Was the raid doomed from the start? (poor planning, hard lessons learned)
- What was a particular physical impediment that was not taken into account in the planning of the raid and which contributed to Canadian casualties? (large round stones on the beach which prevented the Allied tanks from getting traction)
- Why were The Winnipeg Grenadiers sent to Hong Kong? (to guard the garrison)
- Where else did the Japanese attack when they attacked Hong Kong? (Pearl Harbour)
- What were some particular hardships the POWs faced? (lack of food/medicine, and beatings)
- Following D-Day, what tragic circumstances were encountered by The Royal Winnipeg Rifles? (capture and murder by the SS)
- What are WASPs? (mounted flame throwers)
- How were they effectively employed in the Netherlands? (firing in a line across the canals)
- What problems did the duplex drive tanks face? (choppy seas, launched from too far out)
- How did the Garrys assist some of the villages they liberated? (built roads and transported children to school)
- What song is considered the regimental song of the Princess Patricias? (It's A Long Way To Tipperary)
- How did the Patricias spend Christmas during the invasion of Italy? (Pulled out of the line to have dinner, then sent back in)
- Who was Lady Patricia?
- Who is the current Colonel-in-Chief of the Patricias?

- What essential services did the Service Battalions provide? (laundry, medical, dental, postal, etc.)
- What was the role of women in the army during the Second World War?
- What acronym were the women soldiers known by? (CWACS)

Research: Suggested topics for further research:

- What were conditions like for Canadian POWs in Europe compared to Japan?
- The Fort Garry Horse formerly sponsored Soldier For A Day, an event for students that is documented in their film. View and discuss how this exposure to military life can help a young person appreciate the role of the military.
- What is the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association?
- How important was Japan's apology to Canadian veterans?
- When did this apology finally take place and what were the details?

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) The segment on Soldier For A Day, which gives students the opportunity to experience a taste of military life.

Grade 12 Cinema as a Witness to History

Students will recognize cinema as: an art form, a product of history and an interpreter of history.

Application: Learning Outcomes will be achieved as follows:

Viewing *STANDING ON GUARD*, students will recognize cinema as:

- **an art form** - while working within the documentary format, *STANDING ON GUARD* resists the standard practice in a documentary of **telling** in favour of **showing**. This is accomplished primarily by not using a narrator (or on camera presenter) to tell the story. Rather, selected historical images (newsreels and photos) combined with contemporary interviews **show** the events. This achieves a more balanced audience reaction rather than a solely intellectual response, especially when artistic elements such as poems, pertinent music and creative editing are factored in. Additionally, each film ends with a montage sequence set to relevant music. These sequences are "artistic" in design and intent and serve as a summing up of the events of the film and as a final, emotional punch for each film.
- **a product of history** – *STANDING ON GUARD* is exactly this, for the historical story it tells has never before been told on film. The newsreel footage documented specific events or situations involving the featured regiments. *STANDING ON GUARD* collected all of these newsreels together and without comment presents them alongside complementary interviews in a chronological overview of each regimental history. Everything on hand in each *STANDING ON GUARD* film is a product of history, not imagination or artifice.
- **an interpreter of history** - although eschewing narration, *STANDING ON GUARD* still interprets its historical content by focusing on Canada, and, for much of the time, specifically Manitoba. This is important because we have traditionally been fed a steady diet of the key events of both world wars from an American perspective, or a British perspective and, more recently, various European perspectives.

Suggested clips:

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

- 1) The segment around the cenotaph.
- 2) The montage segment near the end of the film, beginning with the piper playing inside the Legislative Building.

Disc 1 Film #2: The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

- 1) The montage segment near the end of the film, beginning with “Amazing Grace”.

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) The montage segment near the end of the film, beginning with the Trooping the Colours in front of the Legislative Building.

Disc 2 Film #4: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry

- 1) The segment towards the end of the First World War chapter that used poetry over battle imagery.
- 2) The segment at the end of the Invasion of Italy that uses the regimental song “It’s A Long Way to Tipperary” at a slow tempo over battle imagery.
- 3) The sandbagging segment (this is lighter in tone)
- 4) The montage segment near the end of the film, beginning with the reprise of “Tipperary” and starting with the Patricias’ Roll of Honour.

Disc 2 Film #5: The Winnipeg Grenadiers

- 1) The segment near the end of the film, beginning with “Who Would True Valour See?”

Disc 2 Film #6: 38 Service Battalion

- 1) The montage segment near the end of the film, beginning with the regimental march “Wait For The Wagon” over the Change of Command ceremony.

Students will observe how films reflect the values and perspectives of the society in which they originated.

Students will observe in STANDING ON GUARD how these films reflect the values and perspectives of the society in which they originated.

Period newsreel footage can be compared to contemporary interviews, coverage of events, etc. to show, for example, how the perspectives of those who participated in the First World War were generally one of intense patriotism, whereas our perspective nowadays leans towards a deeper recognition of the tragedy of war, while still recognizing the need for force in specific circumstances (Afghanistan, ISIS, etc.)

Suggested clips:

Any of the newsreel footage segments would be appropriate.

Students will learn how to conduct research into historical sources through the use of a wide variety of sources.

Students will learn how to conduct research into historical sources through the use of a wide variety of newsreel sources in the STANDING ON GUARD series.

Most of the newsreel footage used in STANDING ON GUARD is from the Canadian Army Newsreels collection, but some other sources include Allied and captured Axis footage as well as other public domain sources like the Frank Capra WHY WE FIGHT series which in turn utilized captured footage and, in some cases, smuggled footage. While STANDING ON GUARD often selects portions of existing newsreels and frequently re-edits to enhance (though not distort) their effect, it provides a good starting point for students who may wish to explore newsreel sources further. Library Archives Canada and The War Amps are acknowledged as the primary sources for STANDING ON GUARD.

Students will discover historical films provide a fertile resource when pondering historical thinking concepts to analyze representations of history in film.

STANDING ON GUARD:

- establishes the historical significance of Canada's role in 20th-Century armed conflicts, specifically the contribution made by Manitoba regiments.
- uses historical evidence by employing ample newsreel footage and on camera interviews with survivors and historians.
- identifies continuity and change i.e. continuity in the value attached to ceremony; change in the evolution of women's roles in the military.
- analyzes the cause and particularly the consequences of armed conflict.
- takes historical perspectives i.e. the use of newsreels to show the perspective of bygone years towards participation in war; our contemporary perspective to armed conflict.
- helps students understand the ethical dimensions of history by giving a feel for how people used to live i.e. their perspectives on patriotism.

Suggested clips:

Any of the interviews with veterans would demonstrate this. Of particular note:

Disc 1 Film #1: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

- 1) Ken Smith's account of his experiences at Dieppe.

Disc 2 Film #5: The Winnipeg Grenadiers

- 2) Any of George Peterson's accounts of his experiences as a Prisoner of War.

Further suggestions for Discussion:

- In documentary films, is it better to present historical fact unadorned, or should the filmmakers use artistic means to convey information? (poetry, music, stylized visuals, etc.)
- What is the difference between documentary and propaganda?

Further suggestions for Research:

- What other Manitoba regiments contributed to Canada's success in two world wars and beyond?
- What is 17 Wing?
- Who are some of the well-known military people associated with Manitoba? (Sgt Tommy Prince, William "Intrepid" Stephenson, etc.)

Disc 1 Film #3: The Fort Garry Horse

- 1) The segment on Soldier For A Day, which gives students the opportunity to experience a taste of military life.

Final Thoughts:

If history is implicitly present in most of the repertoire of cinema, it is the *raison d'être* of documentary film.

Of course any documentary film's accuracy is only as good as its resource material (as well as its intention—blatant propaganda is another story i.e. *DEREWIGE JUDE*). *STANDING ON GUARD* is meticulously accurate. Working closely with regimental historians, the films were always shown to historians and commanding officers first. Whenever an observation was made about accuracy, it was always corrected. The moment a filmmaker loses their objectivity and allows information that is inaccurate, that's when they become self-serving or subject-serving, to the detriment of the audience. *STANDING ON GUARD* is subject-serving up to a point—after all, the intention was to document and share the achievements of our regiments—but it does so without comment from the filmmaker. It is never a bad thing to assume the audience has enough intelligence to make up their own minds about the matter at hand!

Two ways in which *STANDING ON GUARD* encourages students to engage their critical faculties are: first, not using "tell-you-what-to-think" narration; second, being meticulously accurate about the historical facts. The assumption that cinema should be a credible interpreter of history is thereby reaffirmed. As students develop a new way of looking at film (through the engagement of their critical faculties) *STANDING ON GUARD* will be valued as a reliable source of information.

STANDING ON GUARD ENDORSEMENTS

"I am delighted to endorse STANDING ON GUARD. The films are factually correct, and history has been faithfully recorded, and now will never be lost."

HCol Robert H. Vandewater
The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

"STANDING ON GUARD is one of the best documentaries of its kind. It fills a vital gap in the documented history of Wpg's military and provides a valuable learning tool."

LCol Brett Takeuchi, CD
Instructor, Canadian Army Command & Staff College (CACSC)

"STANDING ON GUARD is a unique educational opportunity to learn about the history of distinguished Wpg regiments and to honour the memory of all those who served."

The Hon. Bill Blaikie, P.C.
Member of the Cameron Advisory Board & former member of the regiment

"We are grateful for Mr. Wynne's efforts to preserve history."

Carol Hadley, Past President
Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

"STANDING ON GUARD should be a feature of every high school curriculum in the province."

Murray Burt
Author, WINNIPEG'S LADIES FROM HELL

"I highly recommend STANDING ON GUARD. It is, in my opinion, very suitable for junior and senior high, university students and also the general public."

Michael Czuboka
Formerly of 2PPCLI, Veteran of the Battle of Kapyong

"History can be boring but your films bring the history of six famous Manitoba regiments to life. Thank you!"

HLCol Bob Williams
The Fort Garry Horse

"Jon's STANDING ON GUARD captures the essence of several of Manitoba's most famous regiments."

Lt-Gen, (Ret'd) RR Crabbe
Colonel of the Regiment, PPCLI

"Every student in the province should see these films."

Bruce Tascona
Military History Society of Manitoba

ROYAL INTRODUCTIONS

One of the true joys of creating *STANDING ON GUARD* was the participation of their Royal Highnesses Prince Philip and Prince Charles, who are Colonels-in-Chief respectively of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and The Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

Early in the making of *STANDING ON GUARD*, The King's Players sought Royal involvement by asking if both Philip and Charles would provide introductions for the films about their Regiments.

Both agreed.

Prince Charles paid to have a professional crew come to Clarence House where he recorded his introduction. Prince Philip invited Jon Ted Wynne to Buckingham Palace to personally film his preface. Both introductions are transcribed below.

HRH Prince Philip's introduction to STANDING ON GUARD, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada:

"In democracies, armies are there to protect the state and to ensure the freedom and well-being of all its law-abiding citizens. The history of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada is one of voluntary service to Canada. It is a shining example of true patriot love. The Regiment derives its name from a regiment first raised in the Highlands of Scotland in 1793 and reflects the origins of so many of the pioneers that made their homes in the prairies. The Regiment has recently celebrated one hundred years of service to Canada both at home and abroad. Those are the bald facts. This film is intended to reveal the dedication and commitment of the volunteer members in their preparation for service and to illustrate how their active service has contributed to the development of the Canadian nation."

HRH Prince Charles' introduction to STANDING ON GUARD, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles:

"It gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce this film, which explains the very proud history of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and their remarkable contribution to the culture and heritage of the city of Winnipeg. During the last 30 years as Colonel-in-Chief, I have been consistently impressed with the high quality of devoted service that members of the Regiment have exhibited throughout its long and distinguished history. Where the need has arisen, the Regiment has served with great distinction—in Egypt, in Western Canada, in South Africa, in two devastating World Wars, in Peacekeeping missions, and latterly in Afghanistan. The Regiment is, if I may say so, a great credit to Canada and the Commonwealth. Their long service and commitment to Queen & Country has been, and continues to be, second to none. I extend to all members of the Regimental family, past and present, my warmest good wishes and heartfelt thanks. God bless you all."

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS ON THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG

KAPYONG







AN OVERVIEW OF THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG

“The Chinese onslaught, led by the 118th and 60th Divisions of the 40th Chinese People's Volunteer Army, engaged the two forward battalions of South Korea's 6th Division on the evening of the 23rd April. 20,000 men of the 118th Division went on to attack 1,400 men of 3RAR and 2PPCLI, blitzkrieging 40 km in 36 hours. In the early part of the battle the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and the 16th Field Regiment of the Royal New Zealand Artillery were all but cut off. The forward positions, held by the **2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)** and the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, by force of arms, permitted the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment to withdraw. It moved into place to provide a reserve. The 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, also managed to withdraw, finally positioning behind 2PPCLI to provide close supporting fire. The 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, United States Army, supported 3RAR.

The initial Chinese attack at Kapyong engaged the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, on the evening of the 23rd. ***The Chinese managed to infiltrate the brigade position by the morning of the 24th.***

The Chinese struck at the Canadian front early on the evening of the 24th. Wave after wave of massed Chinese troops kept up the attack throughout the night. This resulted in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry being completely surrounded. It had to be re-supplied by air drops during this desperate time.

Throughout April 24th the battle was unrelenting. It devolved, on both fronts, into hand-to-hand combat with bayonet charges. This was some of the bloodiest and most

ferocious hand-to-hand fighting of the Korean War. The Australians made an orderly withdrawal to new defensive positions late in the day of April 24th. ***The Canadians defended their position until eventually the Chinese assault collapsed.*** By the afternoon of 25th April the road through to the Canadians had been cleared of Chinese, at which time the 2nd Battalion, PPCLI was relieved by the American 5th Cavalry Regiment, who suffered heavy casualties. The actions by the Australian and Canadian forces prevented a massive breakthrough that would certainly have resulted in the 3rd rape of Seoul, and splitting the 8th Army into two separate entities.

Two incidents, one involving the Australians and one involving the Canadians, indicate the overwhelming situation in which they took a stand. After a night of fierce fighting an Australian major managed to get through on a radio phone to a general of the 1st U.S. Marine Division. The general was incredulous, thinking it was an enemy agent speaking. He told the major that the unit no longer existed, that it had been wiped out the night before. The major replied "I've got news for you, we are still here and we are staying here."

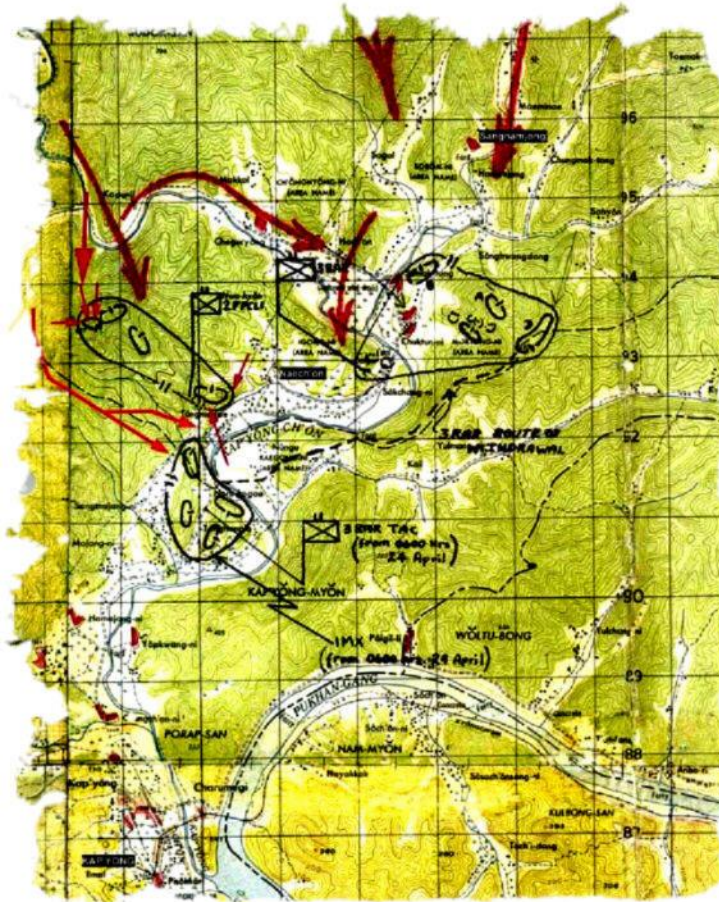
Lt. Levy, of D Company, 2nd Bn, PPCLI, was forced to call down artillery fire on his own positions on Hill 677 a number of times during that night to avoid being overrun. With the Chinese 7 metres in front of 10 Pl, Levy called for a barrage to descend on his position that lasted 40 minutes. The Chinese, desperate to take Seoul, sent hordes of men to their Waterloo—a seemingly endless assembly line of fifty men every 30 yards.

The Chinese had an enormous advantage in numbers and equipped every man with an automatic weapon. They massed their men on a limited front to overpower their enemy. The Patricias had a single shot bolt action rifle designed in 1914. Late in the day of the 24th, 56 U.S. Army howitzers arrived to support the existing 24 New Zealand 25 pounders.

The courage and tenacity of the Chinese could not overcome the well-trained and well-disciplined Australians and Canadians. In the end, the battlefield was a cluttered mass of corpses of the attackers, a silent testament to the ferocity of the fire that had rained down on them. Australian losses were 31 killed, 59 wounded and 3 captured; Canadian losses were 10 killed and 23 wounded; New Zealanders had 2 killed and 5 wounded. Of the 20,000 soldiers of the 40th Chinese Peoples' Volunteer Army who attacked at Kapyong, losses are estimated at in excess of 4,600 casualties.

For their brilliant conduct of this engagement, Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Ferguson of Australia and Lieutenant-Colonel James R. Stone of Canada were each awarded the Distinguished Service Order. ***The 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment were both awarded the United States Distinguished Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Kapyong.***

STRATEGIC MAP OF KAPYONG



COLONEL STONE AT KAPYONG



BATTLE HONORS—Citation of units 1



BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Sec. 1, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following units is confirmed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2, Army Regulations, 260-15, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

3D BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

2D BATTALION, PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

COMPANY A, 72D HEAVY TANK BATTALION (UNITED STATES)

are cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy near Kapyong, Korea, on the 24th and 25th of April 1951. The enemy had broken through the main line of resistance and penetrated to the area north of Kapyong. The units listed above were deployed to stem the assault. Early on the 24th of April, the 3D BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT, moved to the right flank of the sector and took up defensive positions north of the Pukhon River. The 2D BATTALION, PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY, defended in the vicinity of Hill 677 on the left flank. COMPANY A, 72D HEAVY TANK BATTALION, supported all units to the full extent of its capacity and in addition, kept the main roads open and assisted in evacuating the wounded. Troops from a retreating division passed through the sector which enabled enemy troops to infiltrate with the withdrawing forces. The enemy attacked savagely under the clangor of bugles and trumpets. The forward elements were completely surrounded going through the first day and into the second. Again and again the enemy threw waves of troops at the gallant defenders, and many times succeeded in penetrating the outer defense, but each time the courageous, indomitable and determined soldiers repulsed the fanatical attacks. Ammunition ran low and there was no time for food. Critical supplies were dropped by air to the encircled troops, but still they stood their ground in resolute defiance of the enemy. With serene and indefatigable persistence, the gallant soldiers held their defensive positions and took heavy tolls of the enemy. In some instances when the enemy penetrated the defenses, the commanders directed friendly artillery fire on their own positions in repelling the thrusts. Toward the close of the second day, the 25th of April, the enemy break-through had been stopped. The seriousness of the break-through on the central front had been changed from defeat to victory by the gallant stand of these heroic and courageous soldiers. The 3D BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT; 2D BATTALION, PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY, and COMPANY A, 72 HEAVY TANK BATTALION, displayed such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating in the campaign, and by their achievements they have brought distinguished credit on themselves, their homelands, and all freedom-loving nations.



BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

WM. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army

LIST OF COUNTRIES COMPRISING THE UN FORCES IN KOREA

The Republic of Korea
The United States of America
The United Kingdom
Canada
Australia
India
Thailand
Philippines
France
Greece
New Zealand
Netherlands
Columbia
Belgium
Ethiopia
South Africa
Luxembourg
Denmark
Italy
Turkey
Norway
Sweden

THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG



IMPRESSIONS OF THE PPCLI 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION – SEPT. 2007

My first impression as I seated myself at a table for one in the hotel restaurant, was the obvious camaraderie—the buzz, the excitement, the emotion that was in plentiful evidence.

Having caught the 7:15 AM flight to Calgary from Winnipeg, I'd had a pretty early day, so the exuberance I was now suddenly in the midst of felt like a shot of much-needed adrenalin. Not only did it fend off any tendency to feel drowsy, it fuelled my appetite—for food, and for the adventure that lay ahead.

How many Canadians know the significance, let alone the story, of the Battle of Kapyong during the Korean War? A battle, some have said, that was one of the defining moments in Canadian history.

That and a hundred other questions raced through my mind as I tried to catch the eye of the nearest waitress. How many of the assembled PPCLI vets crowded in this small restaurant fought in Korea? At Kapyong? How many would I have a chance to meet and interview before the weekend was over?

Everyone seemed so happy. Greying men in blue legion jackets straining to hear one another over the din, their aging ears reflecting the legacy of the deafening noise of battle (which, I'm told, was particularly relentless at Kapyong); dutiful wives, some apparently bored to be there but most seeming to share in the joy of reunion and fast friendships revisited.

How could people who had been through the horror of war and the resultant physical and mental devastations seem so happy, so alive?

Maybe that was it. They were all still alive. Maybe it was the sheer joy of survival, the euphoria of existence, undeterred despite the gradual slowing of old age.

My fascination with merely observing lasted through my rejuvenating power breakfast, though I was becoming a little anxious at not yet having connected with my host, the man who had invited me to attend the 60th PPCLI Association Anniversary Celebration in Calgary. In addition to keeping an eye out for him, I found myself trying to read everyone's name tag, in the hope of spotting a familiar name or two.

No sooner had I implemented this strategy when two older gentlemen made their way past my table on their way to the cashier. "Brian Munro," I read. And "Ron Bourgon." Those were names I recognized from my previous research. I almost wanted to shout "bingo," for here was my entry point into the realm of the celebrants. My passport to active, not passive, participation.

"Hello," I said, and eagerly introduced myself, hoping to make a positive first impression. Their mutual enthusiasm towards me was a genuine relief. "Hub told us you'd be here!"

Ah, Hub. Hub Gray, my host, and the gentleman who'd invited me to this conference a year ago, the author of a wonderful book on Kapyong, and a Kapyong survivor like Mr Munro and Mr Bourgon.

Not three minutes later the mystery of Hub's delayed appearance was explained and I secured an invitation to visit Brian and Ron in their shared room to begin the first of what would prove to be several interviews with Kapyong vets over the next two days.

Like many Canadians, I grew up hearing the name "Kapyong" but not knowing what it meant. One day, curiosity got the better of me and I decided to investigate. After all, if a former military barracks in Winnipeg was named "Kapyong" it must mean something important?

Kapyong, Korea, in 1951 became the site of a battle which prevented the South Korean capital city of Seoul from falling into Communist hands. One has only to consider how today North Korea continues to be one of the most underdeveloped and oppressed countries in the world, and how South Korea has grown into a modern, prosperous and globally competitive country, to appreciate why the people of South Korea venerate Canadian veterans of Korea with the same regard that the people of Holland esteem Canadian World War II veterans: as liberators and heroes.

The Canadian stand at Kapyong, when the South Korean army, the British, the Americans and even the Australians (who only withdrew when they ran out of ammunition) all retreated is a defining moment in Canadian history. It was as if the Canadian character was being tested. The valour, resilience, determination and fortitude of the Canadians who fought at Kapyong reflected, in the eyes of the world, the character of Canada as a nation. The fact that the 2nd Battalion PPCLI received a United States Presidential Citation (never before or since awarded to a Canadian regiment) says it all. Comparable to the Canadian achievements at Vimy Ridge and D-Day in the First and Second World Wars respectively, Kapyong was an action of equivalent significance in a "Police Action" that very nearly escalated into World War III, where, as is usual in war, the sacrifices and heroics of our very young men won the day.

Almost an hour into my interview with Brian Munro (a Lieutenant at Kapyong) and Ron Bourgon (his batman, or orderly), Hub Gray, also a Lieutenant at Kapyong, called and invited us up to another room where a handful of other Kapyong vets awaited us.

As Brian, Ron and I entered this new arena of initiation it became clear to me why the camaraderie was so strong. These men were in high spirits because the bond they shared—the bond of battle and the celebration of survival—was akin to a secret brotherhood, the very best embodiment of what is understood in military circles as "esprit de corps."

First, a round-faced, very fit older gentleman named George Skelly balanced himself precariously on a chair and recited the rudest poem I have ever heard. This segued into

a song celebration lauding Banglestein's Bar, the Officers Mess that provided a haven for homesick young men far from home and facing almost daily danger.

I asked questions about Korea and specifically the Kapyong engagement. Some of what I heard was very humorous. Some quite horrific

Throughout the rest of the day and into the next, over lunch, in the hotel lobby, in meeting rooms, at Hub's magnificent home and on the telephone with those vets unable to attend the reunion, I gorged myself on all things Kapyong. Even meeting Lady Patricia herself, and her successor, former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, could not match the excitement of being accepted into this hallowed fraternity, this noble band of brothers.

The Sunday morning excursion to the PPCLI military museum (which includes a stirring replica of the Kapyong action) was followed by a moving outdoor Service of Remembrance. I had forgotten how moving "Taps" is when played well and with conviction, in the presence of men and women for whom this sombre bugle call has all the significance in the world.

The last gentleman I spoke with late Sunday afternoon told me he didn't like to talk about Kapyong. His preference was to forget. Yet he told me he was happy to talk to me because, he said, "You're trying to do something good."

Researching a mammoth project such as the action at Kapyong is a daunting task, for the responsibility to "get it right" is huge. Meeting the vets face to face and sharing their laughter and sorrow arms me with the incentive and drive to share this treasure of a story, to bring it to life in a way that is meaningful for all Canadians.

And as I consider the age and developing frailties of many of the men I interviewed, I am compelled by a sense of urgency—not only regarding the accuracy and truthfulness of their story—but regarding the timeline that will allow as many of these forgotten heroes the opportunity to see their achievement on the bloody slopes of a Korean hill so long ago brought into the forefront of Canadian consciousness, so that recognition and reverence can be duly given and enjoyed. "You're trying to do something good," sticks very much in my mind.

I have one other memory from the museum. It is the pictures of the Canadian soldiers recently killed in Afghanistan, and the blank marble slab where their names have yet to be inscribed. A sign beside the wall indicated that the museum's official Book of Remembrance—wherein the names of Canadian soldiers killed in the line of duty are recorded—was unavailable for viewing as it was "being updated".

Vimy Ridge. D-Day. Kapyong. And one day, Afghanistan. These are all stories worthy of our time and very best efforts to tell them. Lest we forget."

--Jon Ted Wynne, Calgary, September 2, 2007

Preserve Kapyong memory

IT is a curious thing that the government of Canada under the leadership of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien should have re-opened diplomatic relations with North Korea. Nations that are at war with each other do not usually have diplomatic relations and the Korean War, in which Canada took part — took a great and glorious part — is still officially in progress.

Fifty years ago today — July 27, 1953 — a ceasefire was signed. That saw Canadian soldiers come home to Canada, Americans go back to the United States, Chinese “volunteers” pack up their guns and go back to China. It began five decades of hostile confrontation — actual eyeball to eyeball confrontation — across the demilitarized zone in Korea, with Americans and South Koreans on one side and North Koreans on the other. It perpetuated 50 years of increasingly bizarre and oppressive government in an ever-more impoverished North Korea, 50 years of accelerating democracy and expanding prosperity in the Asian Tiger that South Korea became. What it did not do was end the war.

The fighting has stopped, to be sure, except for the occasional flash-fire along the demarcation zone or in the waters off the Korean peninsula. But the fact is — and the thought will not be far from the minds of Korean War veterans who gather across the country today in remembrance of their fallen comrades and, although they would not say so themselves, their own valour — that this war never ended.

That is a fact that is usually forgotten, in much the same way as the war itself is Canada's forgotten war, the Korean veterans Canada's forgotten heroes, the hills and valleys of Korea this nation's forgotten graveyards.



da's forgotten heroes, the hills and valleys of Korea
this nation's forgotten graveyards.

It is odd, it is unforgivable, that the Korean War should be forgotten. By almost any standard, but particularly by the standards of the last 50 years, it was a brutal and bloody conflict.

For an occasion that was not even officially a war, the list of dead is stultifying. Almost a million Chinese soldiers dead; 500,000 North Korean soldiers dead; almost 400,000 South Korean soldiers dead; about 30,000 American soldiers dead; more than 300 Canadians dead. Add in the losses from the other allies who took part in that UN intervention and you get pretty close to two million dead soldiers. And that does not take into account the largest, most tragic loss of life — three million Korean civilians, the fathers and mothers and children who were the collateral damage of communism.

There is no excuse for Canadians to forget the Korean War and not just because theoretically they are still fighting it. This country needs to remember it as the last — at least one hopes the last — full-scale war that it will ever have to fight.

The people of Winnipeg in particular have a reason to remember it, a special reason for reflection today. At the corner of Kenaston and Grant is a Canadian forces base. It is popularly known as Kapyong barracks, named after an obscure battleground in a largely forgotten war. But it was at Kapyong in Korea that soldiers of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry did what no other soldiers in the United Nations coalition of the willing could do — they stood fast, they held their ground, they held a hill in the face of overwhelming odds, against the human wave of soldiers that the North Koreans and the Chinese used as their battle tactic.

The Patricias' courage at Kapyong, the Canadians' contribution to the success of the war — if a war that never ended can be called a success — was recognized in a rare presidential citation given to them by the United States. It was not, however, the first time or the last time that Canadian soldiers stood where no one else could stand. At Vimy Ridge in the First World War, it was the Canadian army that succeeded where every other army failed, although the loss of life was huge. Four generations later, at the Medak Pocket in the Balkans, when the UN balked, a handful of Canadians held off an army to protect a civilian population, risking their own lives but saving many.

Vimy Ridge, Kapyong, the Medak Pocket — these are three defining moments in Canadian history, moments when Canadians stood for truth and glory. More accurately, perhaps, they are moments that defined what being Canadian should mean.

Of all these moments, the one closest to the heart of Manitoba is the truth, the glory, the courage of Kapyong. Soon, Kapyong barracks will be no more, the army gone and the land put to other purposes. The city, the province, the nation cannot forget Kapyong, not allow the “forgotten” war to be a truly forgotten thing. Somewhere, in the centre of that place where soldiers now parade but where some day lovers will dawdle and children play, there must be a monument to remind us all of how it came to be that in this city, in this province, in this nation, lovers are free to dawdle, children are free to play — an enduring reminder of the soldiers of the Korean war, the heroes of Kapyong.

MICHAEL LEVY: WAR HERO

His selfless action helped save Seoul

By JIM FARRELL
CanWest News Service

EDMONTON — Pinned down under enemy fire just outside Seoul, the situation looked bleak for Michael Levy and his platoon of Canadian soldiers.

It was April 24, 1951 — the middle of the Korean War — and the troops were dug into their trenches, as Communist Chinese forces surged toward them.

The Battle of Kapyong, as it would come to be called, would help the Allies save Seoul and turn Levy, who died this month, into one of Canada's unsung war heroes.

With the Chinese surging, and with no other option, Levy called down an Allied artillery strike.

Levy used his hand-held radio to call out distances, bringing shells and mortar rounds raining down ever-closer until they exploded only 15 to 20 metres from his platoon's trenches.

Throughout the barrage, Levy crawled between those trenches, keeping up his men's spirits and urging them to fight.

The Canadian line held, and Seoul was saved.

Maj. Michael Levy lived a life richer than most Hollywood screenplays. He was laid to rest last week.

Flags outside the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry headquarters in Edmonton flew at half-mast to commemorate the burial one of its own.

"Maj. Michael Levy was an exceptional man who had a long and distinguished career that began with his escape from a Japanese internment camp in 1943," said Maj. Eric Liebert, regimental major.

Hub Gray is the author of *Beyond the*

Danger Close: The Korean Experience Revealed. He was a young officer in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry's 2nd Battalion and a friend of Levy's.

He said Levy's barrage of 4,500 artillery rounds stopped the Chinese advance a mere 16 to 18 kilometres from Seoul.

But it wasn't until 2004 that his exploit was recognized when then-governor general Adrienne Clarkson bestowed on Levy his own coat of arms.

Levy was born in India in 1925, the son of a British geologist. His family moved to Shanghai the following year.

When the Japanese captured Shanghai in December 1941, the 16-year-old was imprisoned in Lungwha, the internment camp made famous by the movie *Empire of the Sun*.

After two and a half years imprisonment, Levy and four friends escaped and made their way by foot and by junk 3,200 kilometres across occupied China to an Allied airbase.

Levy would later join the British army and learn the art of guerrilla warfare.

"The British taught him how to blow up things and slit throats, then parachuted him behind the Japanese lines into Malaya along with seven Chinese, most of them Chinese Canadians," Gray said.

Because of the friendships he made, Levy and his family would choose Canada as their new home after the war.

When the Canadian government put out a call in 1950 for a special volunteer force to help push back the Chinese forces in South Korea, Levy sold the restaurant he'd opened in Vancouver and signed up.

Levy died June 4 after a lengthy illness and was buried in a small private service in Vancouver.

Canada Remembers

The Korean War



Le Canada se souvient

De la guerre de Corée



Monument au Canadien d'acier
Monument dédié aux Canadiens qui sont tombés au champ d'honneur



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

WWW.VAC-ACC.GC.CA

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