



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Branch & Executive Information	Page 2
President's Report	Page 3
What's new in our Branch Library	Page 4 – 6
SGS Heritage Award	Page 6
New SBSGS Branch Members	Page 7
Metis Genealogy	Page 7
Celtic Night Photo's	Page 8
Discovering Dad's Military History	Page 9 –14

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 21st Regular Branch Meeting  
**Guest Speaker** :Merle Ward, SBSGS member, will give a presentation on Cemeteries in the Saskatoon area. In addition, she will explore other resources which can be used as alternatives for cemetery information
- June 18th Regular Branch Meeting  
 Dessert Social – bring your favorite dessert to share with 3 to 4 other branch members.  
**Guest Speaker** : Lorin Byrnes , SBSGS member, will speak on "Working with Timelines". Lorin will show how to use Microsoft Word or Apple Pages to gather and save your data from the internet or other sources, .you will be able to place important research in chronological order for a number of your ancestors.
- July & August Summer Break—no meetings.

MEETING INFORMATION

**Place:** Albert Community Centre, 610 Clarence Avenue S.  
**Dates:** The 3rd Thursday of each month except for July & August.  
**Time:** The Library is open from 6:00 - 7:00 PM & during the coffee break.  
 The Meeting runs from 7:15 - 9:30 PM. Meetings start with the Presidents' report, followed by member interest discussions, guest speakers or genealogical workshops.  
**Website:** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksgs>  
**Library Website:** <http://www.sbsgs.org>  
**Mailing Address:** Saskatoon Genealogy Society  
 Box 32004  
 3 – 402 Ludlow Street  
 Saskatoon, SK S7S 1M7

## MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER INFO

Branch membership fees are \$15.00/ year for new members and \$10.00/year if you are renewing your existing membership. There is a \$15.00 charge for all NSF cheques. Joining the Saskatoon Branch (SBSGS) requires that you also join the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) which has an annual fee of \$38.00 (senior rate) or \$40.00 (regular rate). Branch membership also includes 10 branch meetings, access to our Saskatoon Branch Library, access to the SGS Library and a copy of this newsletter 5 times during the year.

This newsletter will be published near the beginning of January, March, May, September & November, and it is available in either printed form or as a Portable Document Format file (pdf) version via Email. For those members of our local branch who wish to have a printed version of the newsletter mailed out, please bring a self addressed, stamped large (9x12) envelope to a general meeting or mail them to the branch or newsletter editor. The number of self-addressed envelopes determines how many times a year the newsletter is mailed out to you.

Articles are always required for the next issue and future issues of the Newsletter. Please submit by the third Wednesday of the month prior to publication month.

### SBSGS 2007 BRANCH EXECUTIVE

**RESIDENT:**

Eleanor Ritchie  
eritchie@sasktel.net

**GREETERS:**

Peter Geres

**NEWSLETTER:**

**VACANT**

**FUNDRAISING:**

**VACANT**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**VACANT**

**WEB MASTER:**

Gus Morrow  
gustaveous@mail.com

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Gina Reid  
reidg@shaw.ca

**CEMETERY COORDINATORS:**

Susan Leitch  
Merle Ward

**TREASURER:**

Rene Stock  
rene@stockfamily.ca

**LIBRARIANS:**

Georgiana Chartier  
g.chartier@sasktel.net  
Phone 652-1286

**PHONERS:**

Gina Reid  
Phone 343-9982

**FACILITY****COORDINATOR:**

**VACANT**

**SECRETARY:**

Bonnie Lymer  
Nathalie Threlfall

**LIBRARIANS:**

Elsie Henry  
Dorothy Peake  
Mary Hudson

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

**VACANT**

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Trudy Fisher  
Trisha Heller  
Gerrie Threlfall  
Nathalie Threlfall

**PROGRAMS:**

Terri Chappell  
Marlene Campbell  
Marlene Stratychuk

**REFRESHMENTS:**

Dawn Keddy—Brezinski  
Brenda Armstrong

Our branch will only remain viable if volunteers step forward with fresh new ideas to assist in the running of our society. If you have some ideas on the direction the branch should take and are up to an interesting & rewarding challenge – **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**



THE FAMILY TREE

### Housekeeping Rules:

Everyone is requested to remove their street footwear at the 4th floor elevator entrance, so bring along a pair of indoor shoes or slippers.

We must leave the facilities clean and tidy so please come prepared to help clean up after each meeting.

We are expected to set up and take down all tables and chairs for every event held at Albert Community Centre.

**WE GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE  
FOLLOWING  
ORGANIZATIONS.**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Eleanor Kroczyński Ritchie

Many people hope that good things do not ever change. However, change is a fact of life that affects us all, and the Saskatoon Branch is no exception. Losing Branch officers who are dynamic and energetic in promoting the goals of Genealogy and of our organization is disappointing but at the same time leads to new and exciting directions. Tammy Vallee has begun an exciting new career with the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Registry Department. She is eminently qualified for this position and we wish her well and thank her for her diligent leadership as President. Fortunately she will still be with us. Following her departure, I have agreed to complete her term of office and I hope that I can fulfill the confidence of the membership. You may contact me at [eritchie@sasktel.net](mailto:eritchie@sasktel.net) or (306)653 1285.

Other changes: The position of Secretary will be shared by Nathalie Threlfall and Bonnie Lymer. Cliff Rusk, the Newsletter Editor, has decided to pursue new endeavors. We appreciate his work and time in coordinating the publication and distribution of our newsletter. We have several other vacancies as well. Please see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter. The Library has new times that it is open...see page 1 for details.

To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Branch, we have decided to host the annual SGS Conference and Annual Meeting in 2011. The conference will be held April 14-17, 2011 in Saskatoon. Rene Stock and Gerrie Threlfall are the Conference Co-chairs of planning. They have a committee which is already busy planning all the details. If you have ideas or topics you would like to see included, please feel free to contact them at [rene@stockfamily.ca](mailto:rene@stockfamily.ca) or [ngthrelfall@shaw.ca](mailto:ngthrelfall@shaw.ca).

Fund raising to keep this organization in a healthy financial position to carry out its programs and pay the rent is of ongoing concern. Please give serious thought to leading this committee. We desperately need a coordinator for this committee.

Our Branch remains vigorous, with new members and enthusiasm. We have 11 new members. Attendance at meetings is very good. The programs are very interesting. Members contribute articles to the newsletter that are fascinating and impressive. Our annual Open House attracted 40 interested visitors, members and former members. Some people took advantage of the occasion to take out a new membership or renew their membership.

You will no doubt be making summer plans whether it be for vacation, gardening, family reunion, genealogy research, or cemetery searching etc. In May, Merle Ward, Cemeteries Coordinator, will review the purpose and functions of this committee. Perhaps some of you will volunteer to help Merle and further your own research at the same time.

Happy researching this summer. We'll want to hear about it in the fall. Shake the family tree and see what happens.

**New Material in the Library of Saskatoon Branch SGS**

- BC A 20 Ances Tree. Newsletter of the Namaimo Family History  
SOCIETY 2009 - VOLUME 30, No.1
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre  
and the Centre for MB Studies in Canada  
2009 - Vol. XXXV - No.1.
- HAI/CO/ON H16 HAIMAND PAST TIMES. HAIMAND COUNTY BRANCH OGS NEWSLETTER  
2009 - Vol.20, Issue 1
- ON/LEEDS/GREN N 22 NEWS AND VIEWS. Leeds and Grenville Branch OGS  
2009 - March/April
- SK SGS S 221 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN  
2008 - Volume 39, No.2,3.  
2009 - Volume 40, No.1
- SK S 13 SASKATCHEWAN MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Official  
Periodical of the Sask. Mennonite Historical Society, Inc.  
2000 - Volume V, No.1,2  
2001 - Volume VI, No.1  
2002 - Volume VII, No 1,2, VIII, No.3  
2003 - Volume IX, No.2,3.  
2004 - Volume X, No. 3  
2005 - Volume XI, No.1,3  
2006 - Volume XII, No.2.
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE  
2009 Vol.25, No.7.
- USA/NORTH ND/USA R18 DAKOTA RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
Serving The Red River Valley Of The North Region Of North Dakota And Minnesota  
2009 - January
- LETH/ALTA Y 6 YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS .Lethbridge and District Branch  
AGS Newsletter.  
2009 - Vol. 26, No.1

---

QUINTE/ON N19	THE NEW SEARCHLIGHT. Quinte Branch, the 18 <sup>th</sup> Branch of the OGS 2009 – Vol.4, Issue 1
WEYBURN/SASK WEY H 5	HERITAGE ECHOES. The Weyburn Branch SGS Newsletter 2009 - March
MAN P 10	PRESEVINGS. Being the Journal of the D.F.Plett Historical Research Foundation Inc. 2005 – No.25
OTTAWA ON OTTA O 202.01	OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS. 2009 Volume 42, No. 3
HALTON/PEEL/ON H 16	Halton-Peel KINnections. Halton-Peel Branch OGS Newsletter 2009 – Vol.XXXIV-Issue 2
ONT O 71.19	OGS NEWSLEAF. 2009 – Volume 39, No. 2
ONT F 1.139	Families OGS Newsletter 2009 Volume 48, No.2
PERTH/COUN/ON P 3	PERTH COUNTY PROFILES. Newsletter of the Perth County Branch OGS 2009 – Vol. 27, No.2
WELL/ONT T 20	TRACES & TRACKS. Newsletter of the Wellington County Branch OGS. 2009 – Vol.9, No.1
EURO/EE E 119	EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST. 2009 - Vol.17 No.3
GB F 114	FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009 - Vol.25, No.8
REG N 15	NOW AND THEN. Newsletter Regina Branch of SGS 2009 – Vol. 27, No.2
BC C 14	CARIBOO NOTES. Quesnel Branch British Columbia Genealogical Society . 2009 – Vol.26 – 1
CAN F .113	FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine for Families Researching Their Roots. 2009 – May/June
CAN D 6	DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY. A Guide to Exploring Your Genealogy. 2009 – May/June
BIG B 97	BIGGAR ROOT BOOSTER Newsletter Biggar Branch of the SGS. 2009 – Vol.15, No.1

---

**Withdrawn from the Branch Library, May 2009**

SK G 514.185	GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARIES. 1999. Paper.
SK SGS S 1351.3	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS INTERESTS. 1989.
SK SGS S 1921	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SURNAME SUPPLEMENT #2 1974.
SK SGS S 1921	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SURNAME SUPPLEMENT #4 1981.
SK SGS S 1921.18	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SURNAME SUPPLEMENT 1977.
BATTL H 1.13	HAMBROOK HEROLD, THE. North Battleford, Sask. Sept. 1983, No. 24
SK SGS L 9	LIBRARY LIST OF THE SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. 1985.

**SGS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

Another year and another conference! This year we celebrated the SGS's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Regina from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>. The speaker line up included some familiar faces, Dave Obee, Laura Hanowski and some new speakers, Louis St. Denis and Dick Eastman via the virtual sessions.

We were brought up to speed on the Sask Vital Stats from ISC. Let's just say there is a lot work ahead of them and don't expect the indexes to move forward quickly at this point in time. The Sask Archives Board was also on hand and confirmed the Post 1930 homestead files now have name index but it is only available in the office at this time.

We heard stories of the past, present and future of the SGS. At the Saturday banquet our very own branch member Susan Leitch was one of the recipients of the Saskatchewan Heritage award. Susan is an active volunteer for many of the SGS projects and she has just finish serving on the SGS board. Susan has been part of the Saskatoon Branch executive for many years and currently is part of the SBSGS cemetery committee.

Congratulations to Susan,  
a true supporter of genealogy!



### *Welcome our New Members*

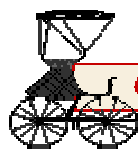
Brenda Armstrong  
Bev Folkerson  
Tricia Heller  
Ted Laplante  
Bonnie Lymer  
Ken Murray  
Sam Robinson  
William Stock  
Linda Suveges  
Dot Vangiel  
Lexie Walther

### **Métis Genealogy Centre**

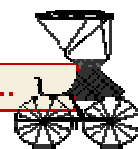
*Submitted by Tammy Vallee*

As you all know I am busy with my new job but it has been an exciting time. The groundwork has begun for Saskatoon's own Métis Genealogy Centre. Since the article appeared in the March edition of the Neighbourhood Express a lot has happened. The gathering of resources has been the biggest job, the next biggest is the cataloguing! To date there are over 800 books, guides, and rare books in the collection. The majority of the books are local histories from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. A microfilm reader that scans the image will be available for use with the Métis scrip reels, newspapers and church records once they have all arrived.

The centre will serve as an archive for people of Métis ancestry. The donations of records, photographs or other printed material will help create a unique source for future genealogist interested in their Métis ancestry. If you have items you wish to donate email [tvallee@mnsask.ca](mailto:tvallee@mnsask.ca) Since the set-up will take some time, a list of the holdings and when the centre will be open to the public will be announced at a later date.



*Genealogy..Life in the Past Lane...*





## Celtic Night Festivities – March 2009

The Celtic evening held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 drew a large crowd of around 200 people. Back of the Bus rocked the night away Celtic style while the Queen Mauve Irish School of Dance performed several different dances.

Thank-you to the following businesses for all the support:  
Clans, Celts & Clover <http://www.clansceltsandclover.com>  
Queen Mauve Irish School of Dance <http://www.qmsid.com/>  
Summit Meats <http://www.summitmeats.com/>

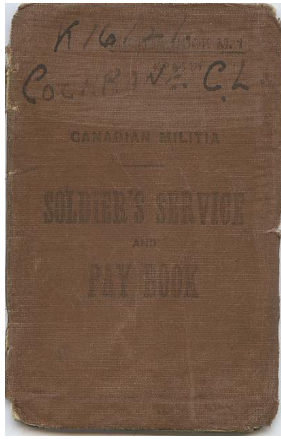
Thank-you to the students, parents, and staff of Sutherland School and the Sutherland Voyagers for all the hard work and support. Good Luck on the 2009 canoe trip to Anglin Lake!





## Discovering Dad's Military History

Submitted by Michelle Rusk



My genealogical quest for my Dad's military history has been ongoing for years now. First it was little bits of information I found from documents and items I found after both his and my mother's deaths. Amongst these were his Soldier's Service and Pay Book, one of his shoulder flashes, his discharge form, and what turned out to be very important, his Permission to Marry in which it listed not only his service number, but also his Battery number - 16<sup>th</sup> - and his Regiment the 3<sup>rd</sup> LAA (Third Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment).

Recently, I had the opportunity to do something that my Dad didn't get to do - reunite with some of the men who served in the same artillery battery in which he did during World War II.

Sadly, this 57<sup>th</sup> reunion on April 29, 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia, may have been the last, as only five of the twelve still living Veterans were able to make the reunion. It was also attended by a few like me, who were there in honour of their father's memory. The primary organizers were Archie Sudbury, and his son, Bob. My excitement to attend was driven largely by the opportunity to meet someone who remembered my Dad, C. (Chamberlaine) Lloyd Cochrane, service number K16121. As a former gunner and later officer with the battery, Archie Sudbury did - unfortunately, he was unwell that day and we are finding alternate ways to connect. Another gentleman, George Chow (see [his story](#) at Veterans Affairs) remembered my Dad slightly, he said he was quiet and didn't talk much. They were both in "A" troop, but were on different guns.



The 3LAA was composed of a Regimental Headquarters and four Batteries of three Troops, each Troop having a complement of four guns. *"The smallest sub-unit within an artillery unit is the Gun Detachment which is made up of 7 members. Detachments, like all units within the military, have a designation to make them distinct from other detachments. These designations are a letter related to a word in the phonetic alphabet; ie. A Gun would be Alpha Gun while B Gun would be Bravo Gun. Above that is the Troop, forming from 2 gun detachments. Troops also follow the same naming scheme as detachments. Above troops is the Battery. Batteries are generally the unit you will associate the most with. A battery is made up of 6 guns or 3 troops. Batteries already have a numerical designation. A Regiment can have more than two batteries; in fact some have up to 4 batteries."*

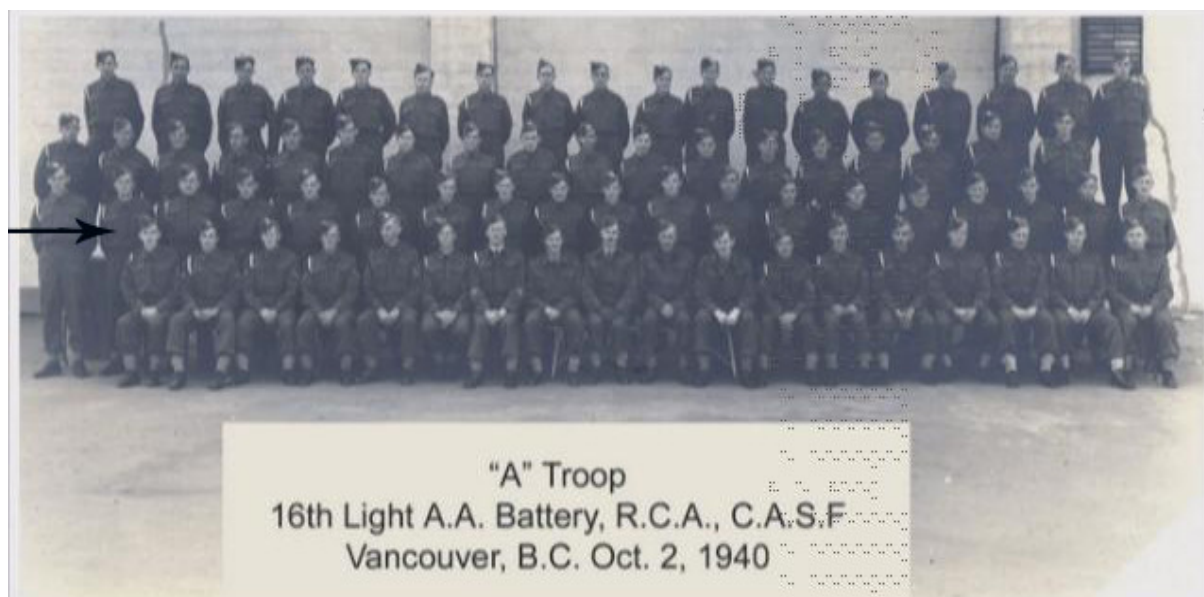
<http://www.fivetribe.ca/files/Booklet.doc> . By 1942, British and Canadian artillery regiments came to be organized in three eight-gun batteries, each composed of two four-gun troops.

<http://www.junobeach.org/e/4/can-tac-art-org-e.htm>

Approximately, 3 years ago while searching online, I typed in 3 LAA, as I had done over the previous several years to no avail. This time, I had the virtual museum of the Royal Canadian Artillery [http://rcamuseum.com/English/eng\\_home.htm](http://rcamuseum.com/English/eng_home.htm) pop up within their book store area with the [The History of The Third Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment](#) for \$5.00. I couldn't believe my good fortune. I quickly ordered it, as well as the two-volume set [The Gunners of Canada](#). As I read these histories, I began to piece together my father's movements and experiences from the summer of 1939 through July 1945.

It was my transcription of this non-copyright book to a World War II Forum <http://www.ww2f.com/wwii-general/25386-history-third-canadian-light-anti-aircraft-regiment-3laa.html> that connected me with Bob Sudbury, and the children of other Veterans of the 3LAA and of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battery. By the time I attended the reunion, I had only obtained the genealogical version of my father's military file, as he only passed in 1996 which is under the 20 year restriction. While it is only an outline of his service time, it did confirm some of the information I had already found. I was glad I had this minimal amount. As I viewed and listened to the history as it helped to explain why his war was different than that of many of the men within the Battery.

The Veterans told various stories and displayed the incredible records they had compiled over the years into several extra large scrapbooks. I only found two records of my father. One was the Nominal Roll for the 16<sup>th</sup> LAA on November 27, 1940 and a photo taken of "A" Troop in Vancouver on October 2, 1940.

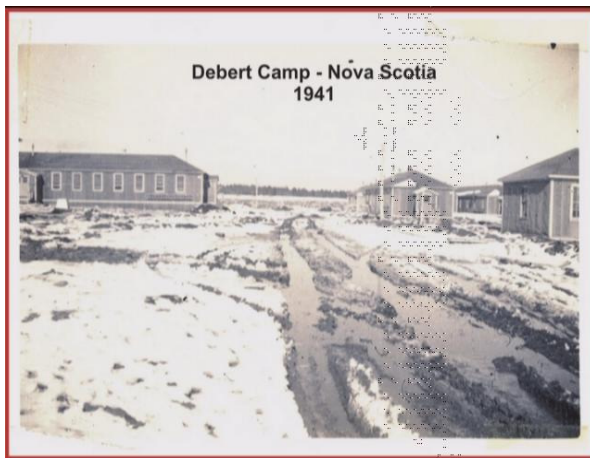
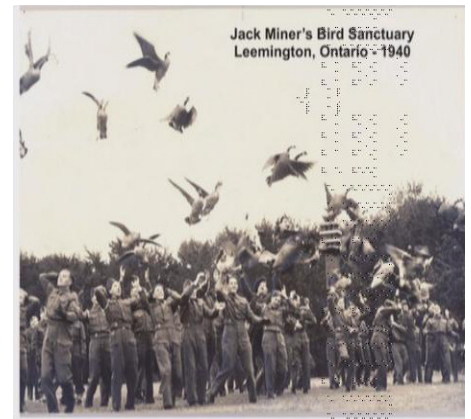


Inside St. Lukes Barracks - Windsor - 1940



The Battery was formed from members of the Non-Permanent Armed Militia mobilized into the Canadian Active Service Forces in August 1939, and other anti-aircraft units in Vancouver and Victoria-Esquamalt. Dad had been one of those in the militia. He was also only 17, not the 18 his records indicated. From 1939 to September 1940 the men of what would become the 16<sup>th</sup> Battery manned guns on Ferguson Point at the western-most tip of Stanley Park into English Bay. In September 1940, the Battery was moved to Windsor for training. They were billeted in the St. Lukes Barracks where they sometimes trained with the Essex Scottish Infantry Regiment. During their time there, they were often entertained by the people of Windsor, as well as Detroit.

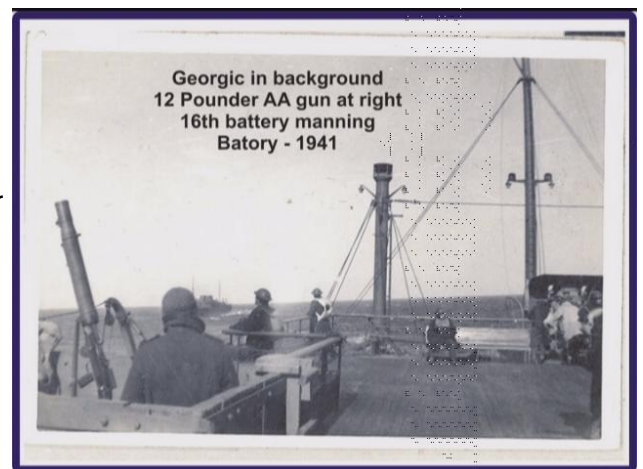
They were often written about in the Windsor and Vancouver newspapers. Amongst the articles was a newspaper spread showing them visiting the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary. It was also while in Windsor, that Sergeant (later Lieutenant) Sudbury received a call from the U.S. Military Police. They had nabbed two of the Battery's gunners who had snuck across the Ambassador Bridge to attend an NHL game in Detroit. As a neutral country, they were supposed to incarcerate them for the rest of the war, or if that neutrality changed. Archie and the MP talked further, and luckily for the AWOL gunners, the MP was sympathetic enough that he told Archie he had 30 minutes to be at the Canadian end of the bridge and he would send the two errant gunners across the bridge into his custody for disposition.



In February, 1941, the Battery was once again moving eastwards to Halifax where they boarded the ship *Orontes*. Within 24 hours, a number of the unit fell ill with the measles. They were immediately disembarked and placed in quarantine in the incomplete Divisional Camp being constructed in Debert, Nova Scotia. After arriving to no heat and burst water pipes, they moved into the artillery section and spent 6 weeks in great boredom. During this time they tried to find activities to do amidst the mud and snow. One officer managed to arrange for them to be issued rifles in order that they could at least practice shooting. As spring arrived, some of them were able to use motorcycles within the camp. Finally on April 10<sup>th</sup>, they were

embarked on the ship *Batory* and sailed for Great Britain. After 6 weeks of mutton every day for supper, they were horrified when for breakfast, lunch, and supper they were issued – mutton – every day for the nine days of their sea trip.

The 16<sup>th</sup>'s trip to Britain was not passed in leisure. As an anti-aircraft unit, they spent their time as naval anti-aircraft gunners until they arrived off Gourock, Scotland on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. One of the comments made at the reunion was the concerns of their Battery Major that they ensure that they not hit any of the battleships or the other troops ship in their convoy! Another Veteran, Fred "Skin" Mitchell mentioned hearing a request for people from WWII to report any known caches of ammunition. He said it "...reminded me of a little incident sitting in Halifax harbour. I was on the gun crew – 4 or 5 of us – this British naval guy was setting up this shell – I think 4" – anyhow you had to manually set the timing device. He went "Oh my goodness" as it went out of his hand and over the side of the boat – the *Batory*. I should tell there's a 4" shell in the bottom of Halifax Harbour where it is probably sitting today."





While we talked and had lunch, we viewed the DVD of photos of the Battery's history which Bob Sudbury had prepared. The photos concentrated on Canada, England, and Dieppe. I never knew my Dad was in the artillery until after his death. All my life, though, I knew my Dad had more than usual sad feelings about Dieppe. I came to realize that he did not serve at Dieppe, but that he had lost friends there. My Dad was in a plastic surgery hospital in England for a large part of 1942 as a result of a parachute bomb dropping at the intersection of a road at which he and a steamroller arrived at the same time. In his service records, I learned it occurred in March and that he returned to his unit in September 1942. The ill-fated and deadly raid by Canadian Forces on Dieppe occurred August 19, 1942. Until I read The History of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment and The Gunners of Canada Vol. II, I had not realized that artillery was at Dieppe. Some members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery were there, but the majority came from the 3LAA. The Battery most involved was the 16<sup>th</sup> – my Dad's battery.

From The Gunners of Canada Vol II p105 "...Colonel Ker's remaining Party, comprising two officers and 24 other ranks of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battery, was to get possession of a certain model of enemy anti-aircraft gun for the purpose of investigating a new type of sight which Intelligence reported the Germans to be using. The group embarked with The Royal Regiment of Canada, which was to make a landing on Blue Beach, at Puys, just east of Dieppe. As the result of a mix-up in the landing arrangements, assault craft beached more than half an hour late, a delay which cost the attackers the protection of darkness and a smoke screen laid down by the navy. The defenders of Blue Beach opened fire while the leading craft carrying the infantry were still off-shore. Casualties were heavy...Of the 554 of the Royal Regiment who had sailed from England, 227 were killed or fatally wounded. Among the small handful of Canadians who were evacuated from Blue Beach were seven men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> L.A.A. Regiment. Lt. F.B. Carpenter and eight of his men had been killed. The other officer, Lt. M. C. McFetridge, who had been wounded, and the remaining nine other ranks, were all taken prisoner."

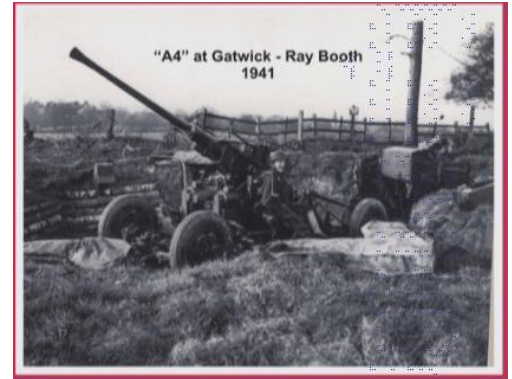


I had seen horrific black and white photos of the body strewn beaches of Dieppe and the state of survivors on their return to Dieppe. Watching the DVD at the reunion, the photos of survivors had names on them because these had been men that many of them had personally known. I finally knew why my Dad had felt so bad for not sharing in the darkest days of his unit.



During its time in Britain, the battery spent much of its time training on anti-aircraft and other personal types of guns such as the Bren and Sten guns, for some they trained on radio equipment and motorcycles. While at Goojerat Barracks in Colchester, "A" Troop even helped dig sugar beats! During the summer of 1941 when light anti-aircraft guns were scarce, each gun issued to the 3 LAA had to be kept in use at all times. After training hours, a Troop with a gun would be deployed along the coast near Clacton-on-Sea. On the night of 6/7 August, 1931, when the 16<sup>th</sup> battery was deployed at Walton-on-Naze they heard an aircraft approaching the coast. Once it was identified as a German Junkers 88,

the guns opened fire and shot it down, with the battery becoming the first all-Canadian artillery unit to shoot down an enemy plane in England. The Veterans at the reunion were proud of their accomplishment. Also in the summer of 1941, the 3LAA was dispatched to protect fighter airdromes and important factories and industrial areas south of London and along the coast of Kent. The 16<sup>th</sup> was deployed to Gatwick and Red Hill. "A" Troop was at Gatwick. Through June of 1944, the battery participated in numerous exercises and schemes.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> LAA, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division did not land in France until the beginning of July 1944. They took part in some of the heaviest fighting by Canadians in North-West Europe. They were also the most bombed artillery unit – particularly by friendly fire, in which many gunners were killed and wounded. The gunners of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battery, unlike the rest of the Regiment, did not perform as infantry later in 1944 and into 1945 when the need for anti-aircraft gunners was reduced. Perhaps, because of Dieppe, their unit was considered to have given all that was expected of them as infantry.

The route of the 3LAA would take them through the following locations in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany from July 4, 1944 though July 9, 1945: Grayes-sur-Mer, Carpiquest, Caen, Bretteville, Falaise, Vimoutiers, Bourgtheroulde, Rouen, Malaunay, Dieppe, Eu, Abbeville, Montreuil, Samer, St. Omer, Bergues, Isenburgh, Ostend, Wormhoudt, Poperinghe, Ypres, Rouler, Gehnt, Termonde, Antwerpe, The Scheldt, Goes, Kapeelen, Putte, Woensdrecht, Mechlin, Perck, Lierre, Braweschaet, St. Job, Turnhout, Tilburg, s-Hertogenbosch, Grave, Nijmegen, Reichswald, Cleve, Xanten, Calcar, Udem, Rees, Millingen, Doetinchem, Vorden, Hoogeveen, Assen, Groningen, Coevorden, Neuenhs, Lingen, Haselunne, Loningen, Cloppenurg, Dohlen, Oldenburg, Westeerburg, Sande, Leer, Aurich, Hude, Bremen, Hellendoorn, and finally Deventer.

My skeletal genealogical version of my Dad's records gives me just enough to know that my Dad's path in World War II diverged from the rest of the Battery on September 12, 1944. It was at this time that he was struck off strength from the 3<sup>rd</sup> LAA and attached the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Artillery as a signaler, and this headquarters was attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Divisional Headquarters. And the 2<sup>nd</sup>'s HQ was part of Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Army, which in its turn was part of 21 Army Group (2<sup>nd</sup> British Army, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army), the Headquarters of combined armies of Canada and Britain General Montgomery. During this time, the birth of his son in England on November is mentioned in the daily activity dispatches of 21 Army Group Headquarters. As well as being signaler, it was during this time that he also became driver to Brigadier F.D. Lace who in November '44 became Commander Royal Artillery for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

Toward the latter part of his life, Dad mentioned that only eight of the men with whom he had joined survived the war. He never rejoined the 3 LAA, eventually being mobilized back to England where he had 15 days in England in June 1945 to see his wife and son before being sent back to Canada. They joined him in Vancouver in June 1946.



The men of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battery began their reunions in 1955, with at least several hundred former members, but by this time Dad had for nine years been posted all over Canada and Europe as a member of the RCAF. He would never know how many of those he mourned had in fact survived the war. When I initially contacted the Sudbury's, Bob told me that it had been emotional for his Dad. Some of his former battery mates probably thought he had not survived either.

Our genealogy research encompasses so much more than just finding names – our family histories are part of the story of our country – and sometimes they are as important to others who are not relatives as they are to us.



Sandman Inn, Vancouver BC April 29, 2009 – Luncheon Reunion 16<sup>th</sup> LAA.

Back Row: A Son, **Jimmy Hare (16<sup>th</sup>)**, Guest Veteran, Guest Veteran, Guest, A Son, A Daughter

Middle Row: Pauline Hare (wife of Jimmy), **Mr. Oliver (16<sup>th</sup>)**, ? (16<sup>th</sup>), **Fred "Skins" Mitchell (16<sup>th</sup>)**,  
**George Chow (16<sup>th</sup>)**, Bob Sudbury (son of Archie Sudbury, 16<sup>th</sup>)

Front Row: Son of Mr. Scott (16<sup>th</sup> Battery, deceased), Michelle Rusk (daughter of Lloyd Cochrane, 16<sup>th</sup>),  
Daughter-in-Law of Mr. Scott, Son of Mr. Oliver