

THE DUFFLEBAG

COLLINGWOOD LEGION BRANCH #63

April 2023



President's Message

As I write my final report for the last Dufflebag, I cannot help but think back to what this publication meant to our Branch.

I remember vividly my father sitting at the kitchen table typing on a manual typewriter each report before they were sent to the printer, back in the early 70's. Each copy was then mailed to each member. Truman McEachern was the editor back then, and all the information and upcoming events were included.

Over the years a lot has changed. Frank Sheffield took over from Truman, then was succeeded by Elsie Cruickshank. Dennis Smith stepped up for years, followed by Sandy Chater, and finally Sue Payne.

The format changed, color pictures were included and of course mailing to members had to stop due to cost.

As the years have gone by methods of communication have rendered the *Dufflebag* as somewhat obsolete.



Facebook pages allow for real time communication. People are looking to know what is happening right now. Our Facebook page is now the tool to pass on our news and events, so as with so many other things we have adapted.

I thank everyone for your support and interest in our Legion in the past, and encourage you to keep an eye on our Facebook page for your information.

All the best
Rob

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ladies Auxiliary



Nothing to Report

Yours in comradeship

Sue

LA President

A traveler was walking along the side of the road hitchhiking on a dark night in the middle of a thunderstorm.

Time passed slowly and no cars went by. It was raining so hard he could barely see his hand in front of his face.

Suddenly he saw a car approaching, moving slowly and appearing ghost-like in the rain. It slowly and silently crept toward him and stopped.

Wanting a ride very badly, the guy jumped into the car and closed the door; only then did he realize that there was nobody behind the wheel, and no sound of the engine to be heard over the rain.

Again the car crept slowly forward and the guy was terrified, too scared to think of jumping out and running.

The guys saw that the car was approaching a sharp curve and, still too scared to jump out, he started to pray and beg for his life. He was certain the ghost car would go off the road and into the river, and he would surely drown!

But just before the curve, a shadowy figure appeared at the driver's window and a hand reached in and turned the steering wheel, guiding the car safely around the bend. Then, just as silently, the hand disappeared through the window and the hitchhiker was alone again.

Paralyzed with fear, the guy watched the hand reappear every time they reached a curve. Finally the guy, frightened nearly to death, had all he could take and jumped out of the car and ran through the storm to the nearby town.

Wet and in shock, he went into a lighted tavern and with voice quavering, ordered a drink, and then, shaken, he told everybody about his supernatural experience.

A silence came over those listening and everybody got goose bumps.

They realized the guy was sober and was telling the truth. And the sounds of the storm continued outside.

About a half hour later, two guys walked into the bar and one says to the other, 'Look Billy

Bob, there's that idiot that rode in our car while we was pushing it in the rain. 😜🏍️

BRANCH 63 2022 - 2023

Branch Officers

President	Rob Graham		794-9975
1st Vice	Hans Muller	Poppy Chair	445-6771
2nd Vice	Nancy Phillips	Youth Education	445-2489
Secretary		Vacant	
Treasurer	Pat Graham	Membership	444-8043

Executive Committee

(Standing Committee Chairs appointed by Executive Officers/President)

Don Wilcox	Relations/Museum Officer	444-5357
Larry Baulke	Ways & Means	445-6204
Ruby Klinck	Sick and Visiting	445-5153
Ken Templeman	Sgt at Arms/Veteran's Service Officer	444-1307

Standing Committee Chairs

(not actually part of the Executive Committee but appointed by Executive Officers/President)

Chaplin	Reverend Brian Goodings, Trinity United Church	441-0561
Bert Brennan	Sports	445-4116
Cedric D'Souza	Cadet Liason Honours & Awards Committee	
Marie Stephenson	Honours & Awards Committee	
Susan Payne	Editor, <i>The Dufflebag</i>	429-8033

website: www.collingwoodlegion.ca

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
Ladies Auxiliary
BRANCH 63
2022 - 2023



Officers

President	Sue Muller	Bookings/Buyer	445-6771
Past President	Helen Jamieson	Staffing	445-2368
1st Vice	Cathy Kusiar	Membership	445-8187
2nd Vice	Sharon Helmer	Sick & Visiting	445-6785
Secretary	Joan Rainbird-Sharp	Table Convenor	445-1402
Treasurer	Bev Stephenson	Ways and Means	888-8712

Executive Committee

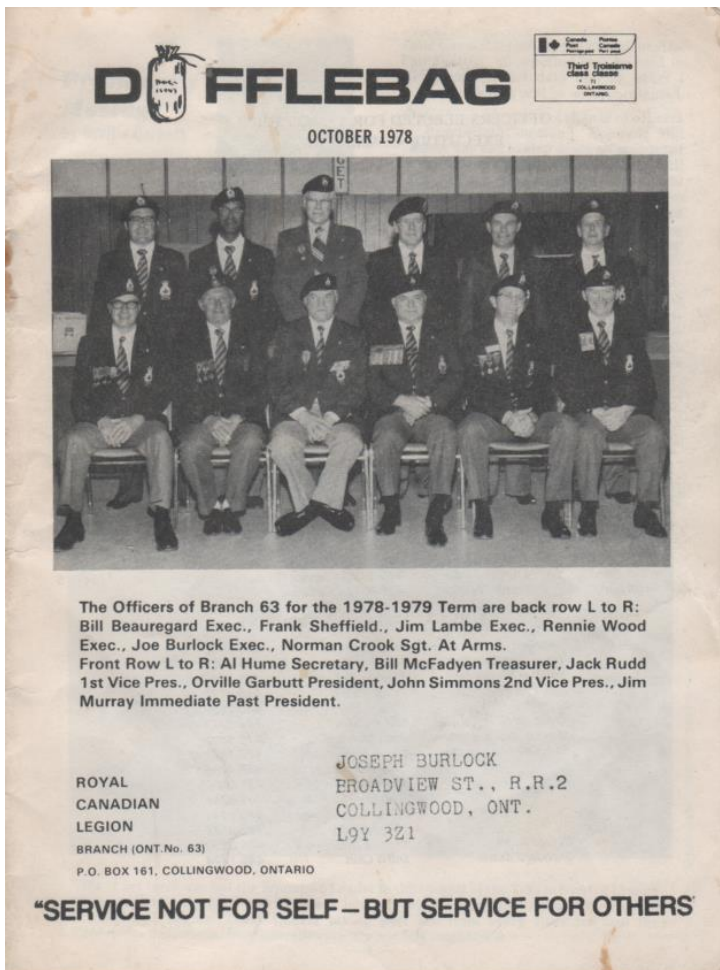
	Sgt at Arms	
Debbie Gruter	Sports	429-1983
Sharon Helmer	Sick & Visiting	445-6785

Standing Committees

EDITOR'S DESK

So the Dufflebag comes to an end what a run it has had! I believe that earlier editions of this publications date back to the 1970's, but Sandy reinvented the *Dufflebag* in 2008. Each month September to June a new story, reports, jokes and games were in the works. When Sandy became sick I volunteered to help out starting with doing the photocopying and stapling and gradually Sandy increased my duties to writing the story, which in reality meant surfing the net and learning about whatever subject was chosen and cut and paste it into a complete story sometimes combining multiple story lines. I learnt so much doing this and found it so interesting.

It was so much fun working with Sandy over the years, I enjoyed her humour and feistiness, she was a curmudgeon but a loveable one and we always managed to get along, well as long as I did things her way, which of course I always did. I always called the *Dufflebag* 'Sandy's Baby'. In 2014 the whole thing got too much for Sandy so she passed her Baby to me but she was always there to give me encouragement and answer any questions. The *Dufflebag* was a great learning experience for me from learning to put pictures into stories to research on war events I increased my computer skills 100%.



So much has changed since Covid, I miss our nights working Bingo and I will surely miss the *Dufflebag* but life goes on and I thank everyone at the Legion for their support and help in making the *Dufflebag* work, diligently writing their reports and inspiring the Legion Membership to stay involved even if it was just attending 'Robbie Burns' dinners put on by the wonderful Ladies Auxiliary.

When I was working the Bingo night Mr Burlock gave me this past *Dufflebag*, maybe there are copies in the Museum, but I was so honoured to be given this copy that Mr Burlock had kept all these years. I can't imagine the work that went into producing this newsletter as Rob mentions, typing this out and then sending it off to be printed then mailed, I reckon I have had an easy life just sitting at a computer how things have changed and now onto Facebook.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND BRANCH 63 IN OCTOBER

Oct. 2	BINGO	Auditorium
Oct. 3	Band Practice	Auditorium
Oct. 3	Executive Meeting	Executive Office
Oct. 4	Dart Night	Auditorium
Oct. 5	Service Bureau (by appointment)	Executive Office
Oct. 7	Dance (Couples only no jeans)	Auditorium
Oct. 9	BINGO	Auditorium
Oct. 10	GENERAL MEETING NIGHT	Auditorium
Oct. 11	Dart League	Auditorium
Oct. 12	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Night	Auditorium
Oct. 12	Service Bureau (by appointment)	Executive Office
Oct. 14	Dance (Couples only no jeans)	Auditorium
Oct. 16	BINGO	Auditorium
Oct. 17	Band Practice	Auditorium
Oct. 17	Executive Meeting	Executive Office
Oct. 18	Dart League	Auditorium
Oct. 19	Service Bureau (by appointment)	Executive Office
Oct. 20	Slo Pitch Banq. & Dance	Auditorium
Oct. 21	Dance (couples only no jeans)	Auditorium
Oct. 23	BINGO	Auditorium
Oct. 24	Band Practice	Auditorium
Oct. 24	Past Presidents Meeting	Executive Office
Oct. 25	Dart League	Auditorium
Oct. 26	Service Bureau (by appointment)	Executive Office
Oct. 28	Dance (couples only no jeans)	Auditorium
Oct. 30	BINGO	Auditorium
Oct. 31	Band Practice	Auditorium

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK by Truman McEachern



Every once in a while when you have a pile of papers with little notes on them, one gets lost, strayed or sneaks under the typewriter. This happened to me last month and I forgot to wish Bill and his wife Billie Schell a Happy Wedding anniversary on Sept. 28th. My apologies and belated Congratulations. And while we are on the belated things, how about the three Comrades who had a 39th birthday all on the same day, no they were not triplets, they are Comrades Ted Russell, Tom Smalley and Jim Woodward on September 26th.

We have two Birthdays to remember in October, Comrade Pauline Akitt and Comrade Ruth Taylor both 39 and holding. Comrade Pauline, Oct. 22nd and Ruth 29th.

Comrades we owe a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Council of Collingwood who have had the Cenotaph facelifted before the 11th of November. All the names have been replaced and the surface has been refinished. The light standards are freshly painted and it is well worth your while to take a stroll down and have a look.

For those of you who missed the occasional dinner at the International Restaurant it

will be open for business on Friday, October 13th at 4:00 p.m.

And, now I have some Wedding Anniversaries on time I hope: On October 3rd, Jack and Bessie Saunders and on the same day Terry and Wendy Barber. On October 5th Paul and Mary McEachern. On October 6th, Truman and Margaret McEachern and on October 7th, Peter and Marion Scott. Now, last but by no means least, Comrades Jack and Flo Rowe will celebrate their 59th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 29th.

Now let's go back to September and Comrade and Mrs. Duncan McIntyre were married 51 years on Sept. 17th, and Comrade Clare Troit and his good wife have been married 56 years on Sept. 20th. Nice going folks. It seems nowadays three weeks is a long time to be together. Congratulations Comrades, and have fun while you are still young.

Truman McEachern
Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

Every Monday night is Bingo night in Collingwood Legion. Every Wednesday night is dart night in Collingwood Legion. Every Saturday night is dance night in Collingwood Legion with some reservations for Legion functions. Please no jeans and couples only at the dances.

Editor

International Restaurant
LICENSED DINING ROOM
CANADIAN & EUROPEAN CUISINE
* steaks * schnitzel * lasagana * etc. — home styled for the taste of perfection
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PIZZAS TAKE OUT SERVICE

Located on Highway 26 - 3 miles E. of
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Below are the stories that the *Dufflebag* has covered, copies can be found in the Legion Museum.

Thank You Everyone

In comradeship

Sue

DUFFLEBAG 2008

February	2008	Who is This?
March	2008	Passchedaele 1917
April	2008	St Julien Memorial
May	2008	Hill 62 Memorial

DUFFLEBAG 2008-2009

November	2008	Cenotaph Rededication
December	2008	Nursing Sisters Memorial, Hall of Honour, Parliament Hill (Ottawa)
January	2009	Peace Warrior Afganistan War Peace Tower on Parliament Hill
February	2009	Memorial Chamber
March	2009	Who is Canada's most Decorated War Hero?/Lieutenant Colonial William Barker
April	2009	Peace Keeping
May	2009	Branch 63 Legion Collingwood/Our Legion, our History
June	2009	Juno Beach 65 Years Ago

DUFFLEBAG 2009-2010

September 2009	Happy Birthday Mr Babcock
October 2009	In the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Pusan, Korea stands a Memorial to Commonwealth Soldiers whose Burial Places are Unknown
November 2009	Memorial Cross ER 11
December 2009	Christmas in Kandahar
January 2010	HMCS Frederiction/Piracy Counter-Operations
February 2010	Canadian Forces Respond to the Earthquake in Haiti
March 2010	The "Great Escape" Memorial to "The 50" at Stalag Luft III
April 2010	1939-1945 Cassino Memorial
May 2010	Halifax Memorial
June 2010	Groesbeek Memorial

DUFFLEBAG 2010-2011

September 2010	Canadian Soldiers Fire an M777 at Taliban/(Canadas Role in Afganistan War)
October 2010	HMCS Charlottown/(Battle of the Gulf of St Lawrence)
November 2010	Then and Now
December 2010	Christmas in Holland/Liberation of Holland
January 2011	National Aboriginal Veterans Monument
February 2011	Second World War Recruiting Poster/WW II 1939-1945 in the Air
March 2011	Royal Newfoundland Regiment
April 2011	War Dogs
May 2011	The Grey and Simcoe Foresters
June 2011	Sai Wan Memorial Hong Kong

DUFFLEBAG 2011-2012

September 2011	Words are not enough/(New War Vets)
October 2011	Canadian Tri Service
November 2011	Libya: Life in Tripoli
December 2011	"Cristes Maesse"/Origins of Christmas
January 2012	Search and Rescue
February 2012	Canadian Korean War Memorial Garden
March 2012	Tom, Dick, Harry and George/The Great Escape
April 2012	War Brides April 1946
May 2012	In Memory of the Canadian Merchant Navy
June 2012	Royal Military College of Canada

DUFFLEBAG 2012-2013

September 2012	The Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal 1952-2012
October 2012	War of 1812/History of
November 2012	HMS Audacity/First Escort Carrier
December 2012	Christmas in Canada/History of
January 2013	300,000 Students need Education in Afghanistan
February 2013	The Maple Leaf Forever/Sea to Sea
March 2013	Canadians/Where are we Now
April 2013	Monument to Canadians Fallen in Korea
May 2013	Canadian Volunteer Monument/The Story of Forgotten Decoration Day
June 2013	Maintiens le droit/The Establishment of the NW Mounted Police

DUFFLEBAG 2013-2014

September 2013	Response to Wild Fires
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October 2013 Honor the Fallen, Help the living (Wounded Warriors Canada)
 November 2013 Till the Day Break and the Shadows flee away
 December 2013 Ho Ho Ho 'under Santa's Hat'
 January 2014 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 February 2014 Flying the Secret Sky: The Story of the RAF Ferry Command
 March 2014 The Importance of the Letter in World War I
 April 2014 This in your Flag WW I (Beginning History of WWI
 May 2014 The Reporters Path in WW I
 June 2014 Black Canadians in Uniform A Proud Tradition Profiles of Courage

DUFFLEBAG 2014-2015

September 2014 The Past 100 Years & more & more & more but Human Animals cannot find PEACE
 October 2014 Honouring Equine Heroes from WW I
 November 2014 The Story behind the Remembrance Day Poppy
 December 2014 The Spirit of Christmas
 January 2015 The Canadian behind Iraq's Supergun
 February 2015 The Ice Ship Fiasco
 March 2015 Was Banting's Death an Accident?
 April 2015 Camp X Canada's Spy School
 May 2015 The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall
 June 2015 The Forgotten Blimps of World War II

DUFFLEBAG 2015-2016

September 2015 Coming Home/WW I Soldiers Returning Home a very bitter victory
 October 2015 Come from Away/Gander Newfoundland after 9/11
 November 2015 Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red/Ceramic Poppies at the Tower of London
 December 2015 A Surprise Visit to the White House 1941
 January 2016 The Hideous Aftermath of World War II
 February 2016 Meet Judy, the Hero Dog, who was a WW II PoW
 March 2016 The Dead Tramp who Won World War II
 April 2016 The Canadian Caper
 May 2016 The Last Unfinished Business of WW II
 June 2016 Lawrence of Arabia How the British divided up the Arab World

DUFFLEBAG 2016-2017

September 2016 The Heroes of Telemark
 October 2016 Terrorism in Canada (FLQ)
 November 2016 World War I in Pictures
 December 2016 Christmas in War
 January 2017 The Milk for Britain Story
 February 2017 The Great Escape North of Superior (German POW's)
 March 2017 The Killing of George S Patton
 April 2017 Miss Nancy Wake Proud Spy and Nazi Foe
 May 2017 Who Killed the Lindbergh Baby
 June 2017 Happy 150th Birthday Canada

DUFFLEBAG 2017-2018

September 2017 History of Canadian Nursing Sisters During War
 October 2017 Did an Avro Arrow Escape Destruction?
 November 2017 Remembering our Soldiers in Afganistan
 December 2017 Free French Seize St Pierre Miquelon Islands Christmas Eve 1941
 January 2018 Israel
 February 2018 Blood Transfusions in War

March	2018	Guantanamo Bay History and Omar Khadr
April	2018	The Warsaw Zoo
May	2018	Looting, Robbery, Theft and Murder during World War II
June	2018	Squadron Leader Len Birchall – ‘the Saviour of Ceylon’

DUFFLEBAG 2018-2019

September	2018	London Calling - The BBC During World War II
October	2018	Audrey Hepburn - Growing Up Among the Nazis
November	2018	Remembering Our Soldiers in Korea
December	2018	Christmas Deployment
January	2019	The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis
February	2019	Douglas Bader Legless Legend
March	2019	The Story of Canada's Hong Kong Veterans
April	2019	Animals and Humans in Espionage
May	2019	Vietnam
June	2019	Murder at the Munich Olympics

DUFFLEBAG 2019-2020

September	2019	Canadians Land on Juno Beach June 6 1944.
October	2019	Bicycles in War
November	2019	Tomb of the Unknown Warrior
December	2019	Operation Christmas Cargo/I'll be home for Christmas
January	2020	Homes for Heroes
February	2020	It's a Wonderful Life
March	2020	The Volunteer

DUFFLEBAG 2020-2021

September	2020	Honouring Rob Graham-Vaccine Blog
November	2020	Remembering How Things Were and Will be Again

YOUTH EDUCATION



Junior Winner- Jade Carscadden, Mountain View School



Junior Runner Ups
 Sophie Jorgensen - Admiral
 Collingwood,
 Claire Seibel - Cameron School,
 Ainsley Geier - Nottawa School



Intermediate Winner
 Graeme Huycke - Mountain View School

Intermediate Runner Ups
 Cameron McDermid - Nottawa School
 Veronika Proctor - Admiral
 Collingwood School



Youth Education chair
 Yours in Comradeship
 Nancy Phillips 705-445-2489
 Shirley Martin 705-445-1975

LAST POST



Kenneth Carr

Kenneth passed away peacefully, on Friday March 3, 2023, at the age of 87.

Beloved husband of Shirley for 66 years. Loving father of Karrie-Jean Voss (John) and devoted Poppa to Stephanie Campo

(Jason) and great grandfather to Bella, Jayden and Khaleesi.



Ken was an Ordinary Member of Branch 63 for 14 years. He served in the Navy in the early 50s. Ken will be missed all who knew him.



Donald Kelly

Don Kelly passed away on January 23, 2023 at the age of 85. He was predeceased by his wife Betty in 2021 and is survived by his 4 children, Alison(Pete), Martha (John), Stephen (Elizabeth) and Sean. He was the proud grandfather of Darcy, Sebastian, Regan and Matthew.

Don spent time in the navy and then worked on ships around the world. He obtained his first mate certificate and was in high demand working for the Royal Dutch Shell, running oil tankers up through the Panama Canal and also on a research vessel for Columbian University on the coast of South Africa.

Don went to the University of Toronto and obtained his B.Sc and then started a long career in the Insurance industry. He returned to his home town of Collingwood in the 1980's to work for Co-operators Insurance.

Don joined the Legion in 1998 as an Ordinary Member. He will be missed by his family and many friends and by all of us at Branch 63.



Ola Swanzey

Ola died peacefully at home Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in her 77th year. Ola was the loving wife of Jim for over 54 years. She was the proud mother of Ryan and his wife, Jodi and adored grandmother of Kendra.

Born in Collingwood to the late Arnold and Phyllis Bellinger, Ola was predeceased by her sister Phronsie Cameron.

Ola was a member of Collingwood Branch for 30 years. She was a proud member of the Branch and she will be deeply missed by all of us at the Branch.



Harry Robert Mills

Harry Mills passed away on Feb.12, 2023 at the age of 90. Predeceased by his wife Anita Lockhart. Loving father of Nicole Ferri (Luciano) and Anita Lynn Studley. Proud grandfather to Tristyn, Gillian (Joe) Alexander (Brie) and Robert (Ola).

Harry served in the Royal Canadian Signals and then went on to become a firefighter for the Borough of York (now Toronto Fire). He went on to become a Captain.

Harry transferred his Legion Membership to Collingwood Branch when he retired and moved to Wasaga Beach. He was a member for 29 years. Harry will be missed by all who knew him.



Albert "Ab" Walmsley

Albert "Ab" Walmsley passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, on Monday, January 16, 2023, at the Campbell House in Collingwood, Ontario. He was in his 90th year. Beloved husband for 55 years of Gladys May Wilson, who predeceased him in 2009. Loving father of Karen (Roger) Galipeau, Patricia (Brian) Houlton and the late Sandra (Andreas) Bushbeck. Cherished grandfather of Ryan Hammond (Heidi), Sam Buschbeck (Christena) and Matthew Buschbeck (Leslie). Brand new great-grandfather of Scarlett Marie Bushbeck.

Albert was born in Collingwood on May 1, 1933. He grew up playing hockey on the outdoor rinks of Collingwood and played both Juvenile and Junior C hockey. He was one of only two men who played on all four winning Junior C championships teams, the Collingwood Greenshirts, between 1949 and 1953. He was inducted into the Collingwood Sports Hall of

Fame in 1992, joining his brother Barry Walmsley, his uncle Bobby Morrill and his cousins, Allan Morrill and Albert Kirby.

Albert had many good friends and was well liked by all who met him. He was humorous throughout his life and loved to tell a good story. Albert was a member of the Collingwood Legion for 24 years. He will be missed by his family, friends and all of us at Branch 63.



Sandra Chater

Sandy passed away peacefully on Monday, January 2, 2023 at the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital in her 83rd year. Sandy was predeceased by her husband Thomas Chater and will be remembered as the proud and loving mother of Daniel (Cheryl) and Matthew (Carolyn) Chater. She is also survived by her granddaughters, Rachel and Trinity.

Sandy was a great lover of family and fun. She enjoyed all her time with the family on ski vacations and camping. She enjoyed golfing with the girls in addition to the 19th hole with them.

Sandy joined the Legion in 2006 as an Ordinary Member, having served in the Canadian Air Force from January 1958 to December 1959. She immediately got involved with the Legion. She was Secretary for a number of years, Poppy chair, Membership chair and Editor of the Dufflebag. The Dufflebag was her pride and joy, which won several awards over the years. Sandy was named Collingwood Branch Legionnaire of the Year in 2010 in recognition of her dedication and hard work and also was Silver Cross Lady in 2017.

We will miss Sandy greatly but will never forget her. She was a fiesty hard working member of the Collingwood Branch. Meetings have not been the same without having Sandy telling Rob not to mutter so she could get the minutes right. He in return would (laughingly) tell her that he didn't mutter. Sandy was quick to volunteer to help out at any Legion event. Her standing guard at the front door at a few Green Beer Days was enough to keep more than a few patrons in line. Thank you Sandy for your service to Branch 63, we will miss you.

SICK AND VISITING

Since my last report sympathy cards were sent to Dick Den Bok in the passing of his wife Linda, to the family of Don Kelly in his passing, card to Steve Berman in the passing of his mother, to Jim Swanzey in the passing of his wife Ola, also to Beverly Heron in the passing of her son. to John Bennett in the loss of his wife Janet, and a Get well card was delivered to Walter White with his broken foot.



If anyone needs assistance from sick and visiting, you can either call the Legion or myself. To all that are sick, or to the ones in retirement homes, or shut-ins we are thinking of you.

I believe Spring is in the air.

Yours In Good Health and Comradeship
 Ruby Klinck
 Sick and Visiting Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome new and transferred members to Branch 63 Collingwood. James Winchester, an Affiliate Voting, John Patterson, an Associate, Kelly Ironside, an Affiliate Voting, John Dowsley, an Associate and Brian Saunderson, an Associate Member. Also welcome Sebastian Aquanno, an Affiliate Voting from Branch 414 Woodbridge.

If you know any of our new members or meet them in the Branch, please extend a big welcome to them.

Any questions from any members that cannot be answered in the Branch can be emailed to me at membership@collingwoodlegion.ca and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

If you have not renewed your 2023 Renewal, they are still available at the bar. The renewal cost is \$65. You can also renew on line at Legion.ca. You will need your membership number and will need to set up a profile. Your renewal sticker can be picked up (with a copy of your receipt) or it will be mailed to you.

The Legion has introduced a Virtual Card which will be sent to your email and can then be put on your phone. New members applying in person can indicate if they would rather have a Virtual Card or a Plastic membership card (you cannot have both). Members applying on line will automatically be issued a Virtual Card. This new service is new but will provide different options for members in the future

Pat Graham
 Membership Chair

**You don't have to be a Veteran to join the
 Legion!**



When you join the Legion, you support the many services we offer to Veterans, serving military, RCMP members, and their families.

POPPY REPORT



Nothing to Report

Yours in Comradeship
Hans Muller and Jamie Berman,
Co-Chairs of the 2022 Poppy Campaign

MUSEUM and PRO REPORT

Nothing to Report

Comrade Donald Wilcox
PRO and Museum
Chairman



SICK AND VISITING LADIES AUXILIARY

In 2023 two get well cards were sent to Doris Larkin and one to Cathy Kusiar.
Two sympathy cards were sent, one to the Mary Jane Morrish family and one to Bev Heron on the passing of her son.



Keep well ladies.

Yours in Comradeship
Sharon Helmer
Chair

How War Criminals Escaped Justice

After Allied forces defeated Germany in World War II, Europe became a difficult place to be associated with Adolph Hitler's Third Reich. Thousands of Nazi officers, high-ranking party members and collaborators—including many notorious war criminals—escaped across the Atlantic, finding refuge in South America, particularly in Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

Argentina, for one, was already home to hundreds of thousands of German immigrants and had maintained close ties to Germany during the war. After 1945, Argentine President Juan Perón, himself drawn to fascist ideologies, enlisted intelligence officers and diplomats to help establish “rat lines,” or escape routes via Spanish and Italian ports, for many in the Third Reich. Also giving aid: the Vatican in Rome, which in seeking to help Catholic war refugees also facilitated fleeing Nazis—sometimes knowingly, sometimes not.

As thousands of Nazis and their collaborators poured into the continent, a sympathetic and sophisticated network developed, easing the transition for those who came after. While there is no evidence that Hitler himself escaped his doomsday bunker and crossed the ocean, such a network could have helped make it possible.

Below, a list of some of the most notorious Nazi war criminals who made their way to South America.

Adolf Eichmann

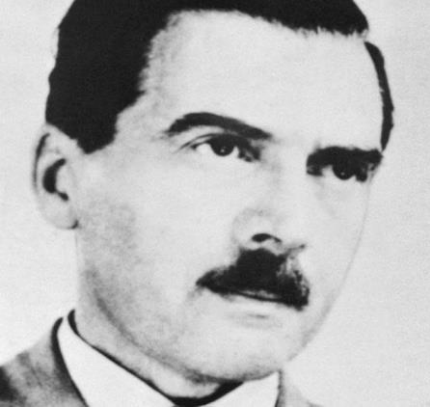


WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: The “world's most wanted Nazi,” Eichmann was the architect of Hitler's “Final Solution” to exterminate the Jews from Europe. The notorious SS lieutenant colonel masterminded the Nazi network of death camps that resulted in the murder of approximately 6 million Jews. Eichmann orchestrated the identification, assembly and transportation of European Jews to Auschwitz, Treblinka and other death camps in German-occupied Poland.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: After World War II ended, Eichmann went into hiding in Austria. With the aid of a Franciscan monk in Genoa, Italy, he obtained an Argentine visa and signed an application for a falsified Red Cross passport. In 1950 he boarded a steamship to Buenos Aires under the alias Ricardo Klement. Eichmann lived with his wife and four children in a middle-class Buenos Aires suburb and worked in a Mercedes-Benz automotive plant.

HOW HE WAS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE: Israeli Mossad agents captured Eichmann in a daring operation on May 11, 1960, then snuck him out of the country by doping and disguising him as an El Al flight crew member. In Israel, Eichmann stood trial as a war criminal responsible for deporting Jews to death and concentration camps. He was found guilty after a four-month trial in Jerusalem and received the only death sentence ever issued by an Israeli court. He was hanged on May 31, 1962.

Josef Mengele



Dr. Josef Mengele in Paraguay, 1960. Nicknamed the “angel of death,” he is infamous for conducting macabre experiments on pregnant women, twins and others at the Auschwitz death camp. He eluded capture in South America for 30 years.

WHAT HE’S INFAMOUS FOR: Second only to Eichmann as a target of Nazi hunters, the doctor nicknamed the “Angel of Death” conducted macabre experiments among the prisoners at the Auschwitz death camp. An SS officer, Mengele was sent at the start of World War II to the eastern front to repel the Soviets and received an Iron Cross for his bravery and service. After being wounded and declared unfit for active duty, he was assigned to the Auschwitz death camp. There, he used the prisoners—particularly twins, pregnant women and the disabled—as human guinea pigs. Mengele even tortured and killed children with his medical experiments.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: After World War II, Mengele spent three-plus years in hiding in Germany. In 1949, with the help of a Catholic clergy member, the “Angel of Death” fled via Italy to Argentina where he owned a mechanical equipment shop and remarried under his own name in Uruguay in 1958. The doctor lived in various Buenos Aires suburbs, but after hearing of Eichmann’s capture, went underground, first in Paraguay, then in Brazil.

HOW HE ELUDED JUSTICE: West Germany had sent an extradition request to Argentina, which dragged its feet, claiming a review was necessary because the doctor’s crimes had been “political.” Nazi hunters pursued him for decades, but Mengele ultimately drowned off the Brazilian coast in 1979, felled by a stroke. Because he had operated under an assumed name in Brazil, his death wasn’t verified until his remains were forensically tested in 1985.



Walter Rauff

Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal holding photographs depicting former Gestapo chief Walter Rauff and a mobile gas-chamber van he created to execute Jews. Rauff was protected from prosecution by Chilean president Augusto Pinochet.

WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: An SS colonel, Rauff was instrumental in the construction and implementation of the mobile gas chambers responsible for killing an estimated 100,000 people during World War II. According to the United Kingdom's MI5 intelligence agency, Rauff oversaw the modifications of trucks that diverted their exhaust fumes into airtight chambers in the back of vehicles capable of carrying as many as 60 people. The trucks were driven to burial sites, and along the way victims would be poisoned and/or asphyxiated from the carbon monoxide. After persecuting Jews in Vichy France-controlled Tunisia during 1942 and 1943, Rauff oversaw Gestapo operations in northwest Italy. There, as in Tunisia, Rauff gained a "reputation for utter ruthlessness," infamous for the indiscriminate execution of both Jews and local partisans.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: Allied troops arrested Rauff at the end of the war. He escaped from an American POW camp and hid in Italian convents. After serving as a military adviser to the president of Syria in 1948, he fled back to Italy and escaped to Ecuador in 1949 before settling in Chile where he lived under his own name.

HOW HE ELUDED JUSTICE: Never captured, Rauff worked as a manager of a king crab cannery and actually spied for West Germany between 1958 and 1962. His whereabouts became known after he sent a letter requesting that his German naval pension be sent to his new address in Chile. He was arrested in 1962 in Chile but freed by the country's supreme court the following year. Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet repeatedly resisted calls from West Germany for Rauff's extradition. The Nazi died in Chile in 1984. German and Chilean mourners at his funeral gave Nazi salutes and chanted "Heil Hitler."

Franz Stangl

The former commander of the Treblinka and Sobibor concentration camps Franz Stangl sits in the dock of the Düsseldorf Assize Court on December 22, 1970. Stangl emigrated to Brazil via Italy and Syria in 1951 after the Second World War and worked there under his name in a branch of the Volkswagen factory. He was tracked down by Simon Wiesenthal and extradited to West Germany in 1967.



WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: Nicknamed the "White Death" for his proclivity to wear a white uniform and carry a whip, the Austrian-born Stangl worked on the Aktion T-4 euthanasia program under which the Nazis killed those with mental and physical disabilities. He later served as the commandant of the Sobibor and Treblinka death camps in German-occupied Poland. More than 100,000 Jews are believed to have been murdered during his tenure at Sobibor

before he moved to Treblinka, where he was directly responsible for the Nazis' second-deadliest camp where 900,000 were killed.

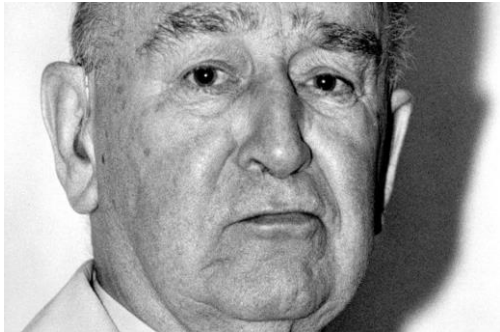
HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: After the end of the war, Stangl was captured by the Americans but escaped to Italy from an Austrian prison camp in 1947. Assisted by the Nazi-sympathizing Austrian bishop Alois Hudal, Stangl traveled to Syria on a Red Cross passport before sailing to Brazil in 1951.

HOW HE WAS CAPTURED: He was employed by Volkswagen in São Paulo under his own name when he was arrested in 1967 after being tracked down by Simon Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor and well-known Nazi hunter. Extradited to West Germany, Stangl was tried and found guilty of the mass murder of 900,000 people. Sentenced to life imprisonment, he died of heart failure in 1971.

Josef Schwammberger

Former Nazi concentration camp commander Josef Schwammberger during his trial in Stuttgart, Germany in 1992. He was convicted for killing hundreds of Jews during his time as commandant at several labor camps in Nazi-occupied Poland between 1942 and 1944.

WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: An Austrian Nazi, Schwammberger was an SS



commandant in charge of three labor camps in the Jewish ghettos of Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II. Brandishing a horsewhip and a German Shepherd trained to attack people, he arrived in 1942 at the Rozwadów forced-labor camp, where prisoners died by the hundreds, many shot by Schwammberger himself. In 1943, he organized the mass execution of 500 Jewish prisoners at the Przemyśl camp. He personally executed 35 people at

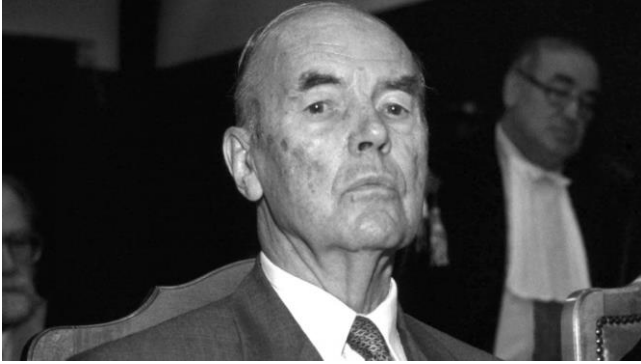
Przemyśl, shooting them in the back of the neck, and dispatched Jews to the Auschwitz death camp. In Mielec in 1944, he cleansed the city of Jews. "His path was littered with corpses," said the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: Arrested in Austria in 1945, Schwammberger escaped to Italy in 1948 and months later arrived in Argentina, where he lived openly under his own name and obtained citizenship.

HOW HE WAS CAPTURED: Sought by West Germany for extradition in 1973, Schwammberger went into hiding but was eventually arrested by Argentine officials in 1987 after an informant responded to the German government's \$300,000 reward. He returned to West Germany in 1990 to stand trial. Witnesses at the trial said they had seen Schwammberger throw prisoners onto bonfires, kill Jews kneeling beside mass graves and slam children's heads against walls "because he didn't want to waste a bullet on them." In 1992, he was found guilty of seven counts of murder and 32 cases of accessory to murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Schwammberger died in prison in 2004 at the age of 92.

Erich Priebke

Former SS officer Erich Priebke during the trial at Military Court for participating in the 1944 Ardeatine caves massacre in Rome, where 335 civilians, including 75 Jews, were killed in retaliation for an ambush on German soldiers. He operated a Viennese deli in Patagonia until a 1994 street interview by journalist Sam Donaldson brought him to authorities' attention



WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: A mid-level SS commander and member of the Gestapo, Priebke participated in the 1944 Ardeatine Caves massacre in Rome in which the Nazis slaughtered 335 people in retaliation for the killing of 33 German SS members by Italian partisans. Priebke

admitted killing two of the Italians, but claimed he was only following orders. Priebke also signed off on the transport of 2,000 Roman Jews to Auschwitz and served as the Nazi go-between with the Vatican.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: Priebke escaped from a British prisoner of war camp on New Year's Eve in 1946 by cutting through barbed wire while his guards were drunk. With the help of Bishop Alois Hudal, Priebke fled to Argentina on a falsified Red Cross passport in 1948. He settled in the idyllic mountain town of San Carlos de Bariloche in the Patagonia region, where he operated at a Viennese deli and worked at a German school, living under his own name.

HOW HE WAS CAPTURED: In 1994, Priebke's past was revealed to the world after an ambush interview by ABC newsman Sam Donaldson. As a result of the uproar following the interview, Priebke was extradited to Italy where he was convicted of war crimes and sentenced to life imprisonment, to be served under house arrest. Priebke died in 2013 at the age of 100. His funeral resulted in a clash between fascist and anti-fascist protestors, and he was buried in a secret location after Argentina refused to have him interred on its soil.

Gerhard Bohne



Gerhard Bohne (right) arriving at Frankfurt Airport from Buenos Aires, accompanied by two officials of the district criminal board of Wiesbaden. Bohne would be prosecuted for administering the Nazi's euthanasia program aimed at purifying the Aryan race of people with physical infirmities and mental disabilities.

WHAT HE'S INFAMOUS FOR: A lawyer and SS officer, Bohne headed the Third Reich's Work Group of Sanatoriums and Nursing Homes and was responsible for the administrative logistics of Hitler's Aktion T-4 euthanasia program. Claiming to be a "mercy killer," Bohne was instead among the leaders who carried out a systemic extermination in order to purify the Aryan race and avoid state expenditures on those with mental and physical disabilities. All told, the program killed some 200,000 Germans with incurable diseases, mental illnesses and other handicaps. The victims were led to gas chambers in the institutions and then cremated. The program served as a trial run for the mass extermination camps later operated by the SS. Bohne was thrown out of the Nazi Party after submitting a report accusing his agency of fraud and corruption.

HIS PATH TO SOUTH AMERICA: Bohne fled to Argentina in 1949 disguised as a "technician" for the military under the country's president, Juan Perón. He later admitted that Perón's helpers gave him "money and identify papers."

HOW HE WAS CAPTURED: After a coup deposed Perón, Bohne returned to Germany and was indicted by a court in Frankfurt in 1963. Released on bail, Bohne once again fled to Argentina from where he was finally extradited three years later as the first Nazi criminal surrendered by Argentina. Declared unfit to stand trial, Bohne survived another 15 years before his death in 1981.

The old lady handed her bank card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$500".

The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than \$2,000, please use the ATM."

The old lady wanted to know why ...

The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her, "These are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a line behind you."

The old lady remained silent for a few seconds, then handed the card back to the teller and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her, "My apologies Ma'am, you have \$35 million in your account and our bank doesn't have so much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come again tomorrow?"

The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately.

The teller told her any amount up to \$250,000.

"Well, please let me have \$250,000 now", she requested. The teller did so quickly, then handed it very friendly and respectfully to her elderly client.

The old lady put \$500 in her bag and asked the teller to deposit the balance of \$249,500 back into her account.



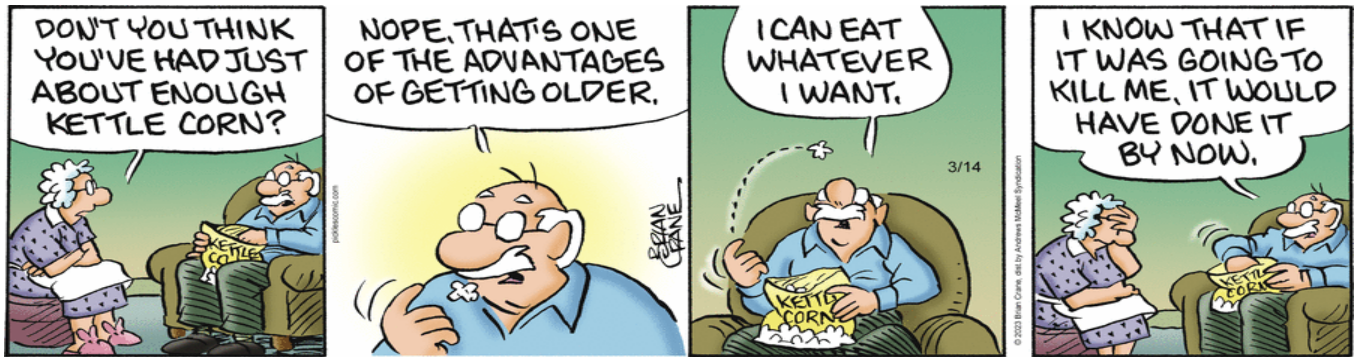
Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning the skills.

CARTOONS FOR FUN

ANDY CAPP



Pickles



Garfield



Calvin & Hobbes

