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## Vietnam and Canadian Peacekeeping

John MacFarlane

(co-author with Charles Rhéaume of *Cold War Theatre: The Official History of Canadian Military Observers in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, 1954-1973*.)

When Canadians think of peacekeeping, Southeast Asia is very likely not the first area to come to mind. Yet it was in the summer of 1954, before operations in Cyprus or in reply to the Suez Crisis of 1956, when the Department of National Defence (DND) sent 130 members to observe the application of the Geneva Agreements to end the French wars in Indo-China. Three International Commissions for Supervision and Control (ICSCs) set up in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia with representatives of India, Poland and Canada in Fixed Teams and Mobile Teams throughout the region. As 1777 Canadian military personnel served between 1954 and 1973 (including 290 with a fourth

commission, the International Commission of Control and Supervision or ICCS in South Vietnam in 1973) their experiences contributed greatly to the international understanding of the possibilities and the limits of what became known as peacekeeping.

Despite lack of clarity in the mandate, the experience of the first two years was deemed a success at the time. Canadians helped their NATO ally, France, withdraw from the region by separating combatants, observing cease-fire terms, and assisting in prisoner of war exchanges. All sides found advantages with the presence of international observers. Despite early, and lingering, assumptions that anyone in military uniform assisting to implement

a peace treaty must have the mandate to “enforce” the treaty, the observer commissions had no independent policing or dispute resolution power and authority of their own. Rather, they reported allegations and their own findings to committees comprising representatives of the erstwhile combatants, whose cooperation was also required to allow free movement and to provide equipment. Such essential cooperation faded near the end of the two-year mandate when elections were to be held.

By the summer of 1956 Ottawa had decided to remain on the three commissions but with a very different Cold War mandate over the next 12 years. A vocal minority of uncompromising anti-communists had convinced leaders of the United States to prop up an unpopular regime south of the temporary line dividing Vietnam, which meant preventing democratic elections. Canada, and other NATO democracies, were uncomfortable with the policy but saw a useful role for the ICSCs in the new environment. This included a constantly evolving but rarely defined mix of assisting allies with information and encouraging all sides to negotiate a peaceful settlement. Many questions of appropriate behaviour had to be addressed, through trial and error. Relations with communist ‘enemies’ were difficult, as expected; less expected were the serious tensions with non-aligned Indians and Western allies.

By 1968 DND personnel shifted focus from the declining ICSCs to the mandate for a new commission, this time to help the United States withdraw. The Paris Agreements of January 1973 included a commission with none of the conditions that Ottawa had insisted were essential for effective observation. The ICCS was able to help confirm that Americans received their prison-

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**A Canadian serving with the ICSC conducts a briefing on the hood of a Jeep at the Saigon Harbour Custom Office. DND Photograph**

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**President's Remarks**

Dear reader, welcome to the August Torch. In this edition we continue the popular themed approach and the lead story and focus are upon the four monitoring commissions which served in Vietnam from the 1950s into the early 1970s. In addition, there is material on ordinary Canadian citizens who served with the United States Forces in South East Asia. I'm confident that you will enjoy this material and find it interesting!

In June, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was the concluding event for fiscal year 2018/19 and it's fair to say that we have had a successful year. We produced a magnificent event honouring the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 hostilities, we renewed our memorandum of understanding with the CWM for the next 3 years and we successfully discharged our commitments under the contribution agreement with the CWM. (Indeed, I shared with you the very favourable CWM Fulfillment Report of our contribution). At present, we are on a solid financial footing for supporting the museum in the current year and beyond. Furthermore, the effort over the year to strengthen our strategic and operating framework and to build a more comprehensive committee structure positions us well for sustained support of the CWM. Additionally, during the AGM, our current 2019/20 Board of Directors (BOD) was established including eight new directors each bringing valuable skills, competencies and experience.

With respect to supporting the CWM, we have recently concluded the 2019/20 contribution agreement which details the respective responsibilities of both the CWM and the Friends and in which we are investing \$100K. This year we are contributing to the School Access Program; the World at War Series; the Second World War Supply Line Educational Program; the Gallery Animation Program and Student and Youth Groups Educational Programming. Of course we will continue to support both Adopt-a-Book and Veterans parking. You will recall from the findings of our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis last year of the fundamental importance of remaining relevant to the CWM. This contribution agreement embraces programs where the CWM has actually asked for our support and this is vital to ensuring that we remain essential to CWM needs. Furthermore, these programs will foster constituency building for both parties though broader geographic and demographic outreach; in every program, the Friends contribution will be formally recognized.

We are now in the process of transitioning to the new committee structure while at the same time dealing with our strategic objective challenges of optimizing support to the CWM through building constituency and strengthening financial position. I am very conscious of the fundamental role played by volunteers on the one hand and a healthy bank balance on the other. We are blessed with the necessary to continue to make a meaningful and relevant contribution this year but sustaining this level of support will demand the diligence of the BOD, the BOD committees and the Friends membership including you, dear reader!

Yours aye

Robert Hamilton





ers from Hanoi, and that they then left, but the commission would have no free movement, limited control of the required equipment and no international body to accept reported violations. Instead of three members, with one larger non-aligned (India) to organize, the ICCS had four including two predictably obstructive communist-bloc members (Poland and Hungary). This left Canada, with Indonesia, the organizational challenge of setting up the commission as the war continued. Ottawa agreed to a two-month trial (twice extended to July 1973) while documenting the need for more practical terms.

Experiences in Southeast Asia helped change views of peacekeeping at DND from 1954 to 1973. One of the main lessons, related to the growing political considerations involved with this work, was the need for more formal diplomatic training. The ICSCs had been led by commissioners from the Department of External Affairs but

officers from DND frequently acted in this role for months at a time. In the field well-timed interventions could prevent escalation of tension. Contacts with civilians and military of other countries confirmed the great advantage, as well as the great shortage, of bilingual officers. Fewer than one quarter of the ICSC officers spoke French, which seriously handicapped daily activities, the building of relationships, the gathering of intelligence and led to changes in the 1970s.

Gradually, as Canadians developed a talent for the patient diplomacy required to deal with the many political aspects involved, they also

acquired a detailed knowledge of how and when to intervene more forcefully to prevent the escalation of conflicts. Rules of engagement had to be clear to all and had to be applied, despite the risks: two Canadians in uniform died in a 1965 helicopter crash and another was killed in 1973. By then, after 19 years of evolving mandates in Southeast Asia, Canadians were recognized by most analysts as having effectively sought peace, with various expressions of force. Along the way the Canadian Armed Forces solidified a well-earned reputation for logistical efficiency and expertise with the latest military equipment.

**John MacFarlane is a historian at the Directorate of History and Heritage at DND and co-author with Charles Rhéaume of Cold War Theatre: The Official History of Canadian Military Observers in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, 1954-1973. He also contributed to volume 1 of the Official History of the Royal Canadian Navy, The Seabound Coast, and wrote Triquet's Cross: A Study of Military Heroism, which was The Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award for biography in 2011.**

## Editor's Comments

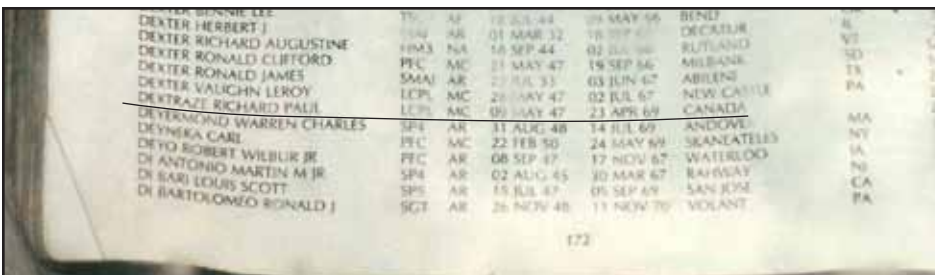
For most people Vietnam conjures up images of an ill-fated war in South-East Asia fought in the 1960s and early 1970s which was intensified by the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union and bitterly divided Americans. Very few people know that from 1954 until 1973 Canada provided military personnel to three International Commissions for Supervision and Control (ICSCs) and one International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). It is these international commissions we will focus on in this edition of The Torch.

Approximately 30,000 Canadians are recognized as having volunteered to serve in the American military during the war with at least 134 reported killed or missing during that conflict. One of those killed in April 1969 was a 22 year-

old United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal, Richard Paul Dextraze; the oldest son of Canadian Major-General Jacques Alfred Dextraze who passed away in May, 1993. Both are interred in Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery in Montreal, Quebec and LCpl Dextraze's name can be found inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. I first had the privilege of visiting this emotional memorial in 1991 while on a five-month Terrain Analysis Course with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and on one of my many weekend excursions into D.C. made a point of looking up LCpl Dextraze.

For those of you who visit the Friends website you may have noticed that the current banner images are rarely seen Canadian photographs from Operation NEPTUNE. This is

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**USMC LCpl Richard Paul Dextraze's name as recorded in the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial ledger. His name is inscribed on Panel 26W Line 31.**



only possible due to the work of our webmaster Joe Bedford and the close relationship that we have with the Canadian War Museum's Military History Research Centre. I am therefore pleased to announce that in August we will be changing the banner images with those which show Canadians in Vietnam. So if you have not already, take a few minutes and have a look at the new content on our website, as I am sure you will find something of interest.

I had big plans of launching an additional but smaller digital newsletter entitled "Aliquem certiorum facere" in which we could publish some of the additional content which did not make the pages of *The Torch*. Unfortunately this has not happened yet, but I want to have this material on our website for August so keep checking!

Once again this edition of *The Torch* is a collaborative effort and I would like to thank John MacFarlane for

writing our lead article and to Tim Smith for providing us with his Reflections on Service with the ICSC. There is also the ever-helpful Allan Bacon who not only 'has my back' by proof-reading all of the text but he has also written an article on a stalwart of the Friends and a past president Jarrott Holtzhauer. And finally I would also like to recognize the assistance provided to me by the staff of the Canadian War Museum Military History Research Centre who is always willing to help me out and are responsible for providing many of the images being used in this publication and on our website.

We have been receiving some feedback on the past editions of *The Torch* and we are always interested to hear what you like or don't like, so if you have any questions, comments or would like to write an article for *The Torch*, then please feel free to contact me at edstorey@hotmail.com.

## Two Ways of Expressing a War

Ed Storey

The American war effort in Vietnam peaked in 1968 as public support started to fall after the Tet Offensive which began on 30 January and ignited some 21 weeks of intense combat. This decline was sparked by Peter Arnett, a New Zealand born journalist, who quoted an unnamed US major as saying, "It became necessary to destroy the town to save it." Eddie Adams' iconic image of South Vietnamese General Nguyễn Ngọc Loan's execution of a Viet Cong operative was taken in 1968 and the year also saw Walter Cronkite's call to honourably exit Vietnam because he thought the war was lost. This negative impression forced the United States into the Paris peace talks with North Vietnam.

American troop numbers peaked in 1968 with President Johnson approving an increased maximum number of U.S. troops in Vietnam at 549,500. The year was the most expensive in the Vietnam War with the United States spending US\$77.4 billion (US\$ 557 billion in 2019) on the war. The year also became the deadliest of the Vietnam War for America and its allies with 27,915 South Vietnamese (ARVN) soldiers killed and the Americans suffering 16,592 killed compared to around two hundred thousand of the communist

forces killed. The deadliest week of the Vietnam War for the U.S. was during the Tet Offensive specifically February 11–17, 1968, during which time 543 Americans were killed in action, and 2547 were wounded.

These two posters dating from 1968 show two sides to the conflict and are good examples of the type of mementoes brought back to Canada by Canadian military personnel who had served as International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC) observers in South-East Asia.



One a sarcastic souvenir, uses soldiers' humour to express their dislike and danger of serving in Vietnam under the guise of a simply rendered airline travel poster. The other, a more sterile official briefing poster, illustrates in great detail the over two-dozen American military formations assigned to Vietnam but does not document the South Vietnamese, South Korean, Australian, Thai, Philippine and New Zealand formations who were also engaged in the region.





# Reflections on Service with the ICSC, Vietnam, May 1970-1971

Tim Smith

The International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), generally referred to as the International Control Commission (ICC), was a project in making throughout the Viet Nam (VN) War. As the military and political environment radically changed, so did the tasking and abilities of the ICC. Members of prior Canadian ICC Delegations would find the situation as described herein, both in the North and South, much different from their time of service. The period, May 1970-May 71, was characterized by the policy of "Vietnamization", wherein the U.S. began the hand-over of responsibility for the conduct of the war to the South Vietnamese. During that time the remit of Canadian military members of the ICC was to observe and report upon the progress of this evolution, but road travel in North or South Viet Nam was so severely curtailed that gathering information and reporting proved very difficult. Frequently it necessitated resort to ingenuity to get around in the South, which usually meant relying on American military aircraft; in the North, movement was almost entirely confined to limited areas of Hanoi.

The 1970-71 Canadian military component of the ICC, located principally in Saigon with a small outpost in Hanoi, was much reduced from earlier years. The group comprised a Brigadier-General Senior Military Advisor (SMA), a Lieutenant-Colonel Deputy SMA, and three Majors, Assistant Military Advisors (AMAs), two of whom rotated individually to Hanoi on a six-month basis, returning to Saigon for a week each month. The third AMA remained permanently in Saigon to maintain continuity and facilitate relationships. The Hanoi element of the ICC consisted of the one rotational AMA, a Senior NCO (Sgt), and an External Affairs (XA) diplomat. The military component also had a Medical Officer, a Paymaster, and an Administrative Officer whose responsibilities included support for both Saigon and Hanoi staff. In Saigon the SMA and each AMA had a vehicle with a Vietnamese driver, the latter being a very fortuitous allocation given the crowded and confusing traffic conditions; in Hanoi, the Staff had to make do with bicycles (which actually proved very useful when attempting to gather information).

In an effort to cope with the travel constraints in both North and South Viet Nam the SMA hosted weekly buffet luncheons at his residence, a villa, to which a broad spectrum of individuals was invited. The SMA would personally select guests from among persons he met during his duties, as did each of the other officers, providing an impressive representation of military and diplomatic members from all the Embassies, facilities, and intelligence communities in Saigon. Canadian External Affairs (XA) members of the Canadian Delegation also participated in this arrange-



**Two Vietnamese young ladies (probably teenagers) on a motorized bicycle. Tim Smith Photograph**

ment. The gatherings became very popular, featuring food and drink, and generated many opportunities for the AMA's to visit various locations outside Saigon and thereby serve the purpose of gaining information and intelligence.

Although vehicle travel was very restricted outside Saigon because of the Viet Cong threat, ICC members could drive the short distance north along the newly constructed highway to the large US Base at Bien Hoa. On several occasions the AMA visited the military hospital to spend time with a wounded Canadian, one of a significant number of Canadians who enlisted in the U.S. military. In a lighter vein, trips south to Vung Tau, a former French beach and resort area, were also permitted as well as those to the nearby Australian Base at Nui Dat. A visit to the Aussie base felt like returning to a Canadian field exercise area because the environment, especially the signage, was so familiar. The Anzac Officers' Mess located at the Base had an 8-inch Howitzer parked nearby for "Harassing and Interdiction" (H&I) purposes, manned by the New Zealand contingent. The favourite sport was to ensure a visitor had a fresh full drink in hand and then to signal for the New Zealanders to fire a round, the result was usually at least considerable spillage of the contents of the glass.

Reflecting on the experience of the year-long tour of duty with the ICC brings to mind a plethora of specific memories too expansive for this brief space, but also worthy of note. In an attempt to encompass those thoughts the following is a series of visions that come immediately to mind: the principal method of travel in VN was helicopters, making the sound of

*continued on page 7*

Covering the period April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, (excluding CanadaHelps donations received after April 22, 2019)

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## Friends Forum

Thursday, September 26, 2019  
 Atelier "D", Canadian War Museum  
 1:30pm Presentation

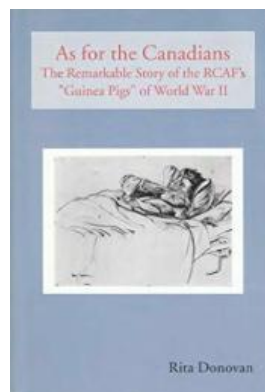


**Featuring Rita Donovan** — an award-winning author of eight books, as well as short stories and essays. She lives in Ottawa and teaches at Carleton University.

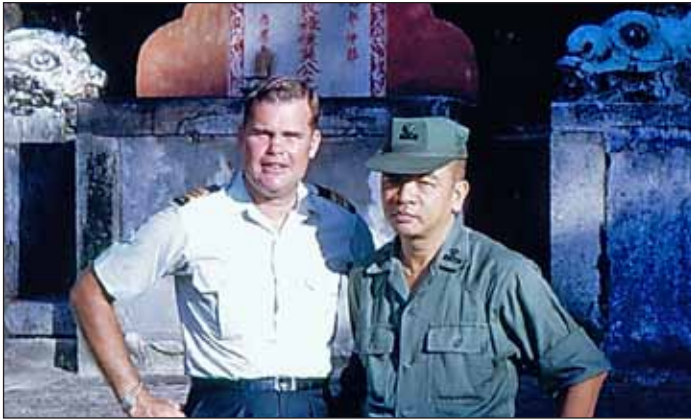
### As For the Canadians: The Remarkable Story of the RCAF's Guinea Pigs of World War II

This book tells the difficult story of the badly burned and disfigured airmen of the Second World War, their lucky encounter with the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, Sussex and their membership in The Guinea Pig Club. In light of the injuries to modern Veterans, this is an opportunity to examine what was done then to see if there are any lessons to be learned.

**This event will also be Livestreamed on The FCWM Facebook Page**







*This photograph was taken on a visit to Sa Dec, a South Vietnamese town in the Delta region, on the border with Cambodia. The chap with me is member of the Army of South Viet Nam (ARVN) who was the government escort for my brief visit. We are standing among some religious artifacts. Tim Smith Photograph*

rotary-wing aircraft (mainly Hueys) a constant daily noise that soon became the norm; the attractive and self-assured young Vietnamese ladies wearing their distinctive AO-Dai's driving Vespa scooters with aplomb and competency; the large 6x6 trucks mounting freezer bodies, with signs above the vehicle cab saying "Morgue Vehicle – Do Not Delay"; the huge plume of pollution vividly marking Saigon when viewed from a helicopter; the horrendous Saigon day-time traffic featuring fume-spewing three-wheel cyclos and small cream-and-blue Renault taxis; the vibration from B-52 strikes at night and the sight of bomb craters across the jungle on occasional flights to Vientiane aboard the unique Boeing Stratoliners leased to the ICC by a French company; the delicious French cuisine and baguettes available in Saigon restaurants; the sight of locals using knives and forks when dining in a popular excellent restaurant in Cholon, the Chinese portion of Saigon, and the westerners using chop-sticks; the blast of damp hot air that struck on arrival at Saigon's Ton Son Nhut airport the moment the aircraft doors were opened; the inescapable onset of Saigon Tummy experienced at least once by everyone who served with the ICC; the peculiar sound of exploding 122mm rockets on nights when the VC unsuccessfully walked them toward the Presidential Palace; Viet Nam was an environment of contrasts, not the least of which was the atmosphere at Tan Son Nhut Airport which shared the arrival and departure of major civilian airlines with active operational military aircraft.

Canadian members of the ICC held varied opinions about

## Don Allen typo

The May edition carried a report about a scale model of the Great Eastern Ramp which had been built under contract for the CWM. The builder was Don Allen and unfortunately his name was spelled incorrectly in that report so I would like to extend an apology for the error.

the Viet Nam war, largely centered upon U.S. involvement, and not infrequently those of the military and diplomatic staff differed. Personal memories and notes from that time feature many lengthy and wide-ranging discussions with a cross-section of individuals, including military, diplomatic, media, religious, and academic personnel. The depth of feeling engendered by the time spent in Viet Nam was clearly evidenced by my profound sense of loss experienced in response to TV coverage of the NVA invasion of Saigon. Even now, 48 years after departing Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport at the end of the year-long tour of duty, thoughts and emotions remain very strong. Having participated in two Peacekeeping operations (UNEF/UNFYCIP), in my opinion the lessons learned from ICSC experience could only be judged as negative.

**Tim Smith, is a long-time Volunteer Interpreter at the CWM, is a former Armoured Corps Officer who served 13 years with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and The Royal Canadian Dragoons before completing PhD studies and spending seventeen years as a counter-terrorism specialist with CSIS.**

## Colonel (Ret'd) Jarrott W. Holtzhauer

It has been said of Colonel (Ret'd) Jarrott ('Jerry') Holtzhauer that his middle name is 'volunteering.' Born in Galt, Ontario, Jarrott was an Army brat who spent his formative years in Camp Borden. In 1955 he entered Royal Roads Canadian Services College, graduating in 1957. This was followed by two years at the Royal Military College, Kingston (1957-1959) and entry to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, where he was to serve until 1990.

The RCASC, affectionately known as the 'humpers and dumpers,' was responsible for providing all transportation and Supply services to the Army. In 1968 when Canada's Armed Forces

*continued on page 8*



*Jarrott Holtzhauer photographed talking to a member of the public at a FCWM book sale. FCWM Archive*

were amalgamated to form the Canadian Forces, the RCASC was merged with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, together with the RCAF Accounts Branch, RCAF Air Movements, RCAF Supply, Canadian Army Pay Corps and the RCN Supply and Secretariat Branch, to form the Logistics Branch. Jarrott enjoyed a distinguished career, commanding the 3rd Service Battalion based at Gagetown, and the 4th Service Battalion on two tours of duty, first at Soest in Germany and later at Lahr. He also served on a one-year tour as an Observer with the United Nations (UNMOGIP) on the India-Pakistan border, and held a number of positions at NDHQ.

Retiring from the Army in 1990 after a 35-year career, Jarrott threw himself into volunteering. A long-time member of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, he was one of the original team led by General Paul Manson that raised almost \$17 million towards the building of the new War Museum. He served as President of the FCWM from 1997 to 2006 and remains a Director. He has served on the executive of a

number of veterans' organizations, most notably the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada as President, and the Canadian Association of Veterans in UN Peacekeeping, where he has been a tireless advocate on behalf of veterans. He is a life member of the RMC Club of Canada and Class Secretary for his RMC graduating class. A member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the RCASC Association, he serves as Chair of the Fund-Raising Committee of the Orleans Cumberland Community Resource Centre, for which he has raised funds for more than 22 years. He delivers food, collects coin boxes and helps out on occasion at the Food Bank.

Along the way, Jarrott has been recognized for his many significant contributions. In 2017 he received recognition from the Board of Directors of the FCWM and in the same year was presented with a Quilt of Valour. In 2018 he was honoured at Ottawa City Hall, where Mayor Jim Watson presented him with the award of a Sovereign's Volunteer Medal. Then, most recently, he received

the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, "awarded to individuals who have performed commendable service to the Veteran community and who represent commendable role models for their fellow veterans." It is fitting that Jarrott's life of commitment and dedication over the long haul has been recognized in this manner. As Friends of the Canadian War Museum we are proud to count him as a friend and colleague, and offer our thanks and congratulations to him.

**Allan Bacon is a Friend and member of Board of Directors. He served as a Captain in the British Territorial Army and had a diverse teaching career as a teacher (History, Law and Music), a Grammar School Principal in UK, a High School Principal in Northern Nigeria and a University lecturer in UK and Canada. He was also President and CEO Canadian Teachers' Federation (1993-95) and Director of Overseas Development for The Salvation Army Canada (1996-2003). He has resided in Canada since 1975.**

## E-Communications (well in this case 'snail mail')

I received a letter from John Marchant the other day along with a few photographs. John lives near Milton Keynes in the UK and I have been honoured to call him my friend since we first met in Portsmouth some 35-years ago. Not only is John a member of the Friends but he is one of the pioneers of vehicle restoration/collecting and since the end of the Second World War has owned a number of ex-

Canadian Army vehicles. At the time we met in 1984 he was driving a Canadian Heavy Utility Wireless (HUW) that had served in Northwest Europe with the Toronto Scottish Regiment and it was in that vehicle that we went to Normandy for the 40th Anniversary events. John also owned the unique C15AA (Armoured Ambulance) which now resides within the Lebreton Gallery and one of the photographs he sent me was of the ambulance taken just after the war when it was still serving with the British Army in Berlin. A 'Happy Birthday' is also in order as John just celebrated his in July.



*John's C15AA on display in the Lebreton Gallery and photographed serving just after the war with the British Army in Berlin.*