



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-Dunc Mills, Past President-Chuck Gerhart

1st Vice-President-Ron Trant

Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-David Burnett,

Directors- Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,

Dan Hasinoff, Martin Marshall, Peter Carter (Ex-Officio)

Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

JUNE 2021

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Warren Garbutt** on the 9th, **Tony Mazzuca** on the 11th, **Jim Lepp** on the 17th and **Heinrich Grosskopf** on the 29th.

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries are **Ray** and **Donna Dallaire**, 42 years on the 2nd; **Ken** and **Barbara Willan**, 55 years on the 4th; **Walter** and **Kay Yakimets**, 62 years on the 6th; **Larry** and **Carol Dobson**, 54 years on the 17th; **Cliff** and **Kathryn Revell**, 51 years on the 18th; **Jim Lochhead** and **Sandy McDonald**, 10 years on the 18th; **Ron** and **Marlene Ramsey**, 61 years on the 24th; **Jack** and **Sylvia Little**, 52 years on the 28th and **Heinrich** and **Carina Grosskopf**, 36 years on the 29th.

President Dunc Mills welcomed 24 Gyros and our guest speaker to the **June 1st** Zoom Video Teleconference.

Allan Warrack introduced our guest speaker **Todd Hirsch, Vice-President and Chief Economist for ATB Financial.**

For 30 years, Todd has worked as an economist for organizations including the Canada West Foundation and the bank of Canada. He spends much of his time delivering dynamic, clear-eyed talks on topics ranging from the economy and creativity to adaptability and the future of work.

Todd has been recognized as one of Alberta's most influential people. He's received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the University of Alberta's Alumni Honour Award, and an honorary degree from Mount Royal University. He previously taught economics at the University of Calgary and for the Executive Education program at the University of Alberta.

He is the author of four books. His latest, Spiders in COVID Space: Adapting during and after the pandemic, was released in March 2021. The book captures the inspiring and compelling stories of businesses and not-for-profits that reinvented themselves during the pandemic. (Source: ATB Website)

Todd began his presentation by stating: **There are 5 Economic Truths to Unlearn.**

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble! It's what you know for sure that just ain't so!

1. Growing the GDP is always good.

It is not the rate or size of growth, but the direction and quality of growth!

Examples of good direction would be **Education** and **Health Care**, bad direction would be **weapons, tobacco, and illicit drugs.**

2. We need to diversify Alberta's Economy.

Challenge that thought! Stability and prosperity should be the goals!

Manitoba has one of the most diverse economies but not necessarily the most stable.

3. Growing the economy by lowering taxes.

Tax rates are important! The more important factors are:

- The reputation and values of the province or regions.
- Culture, Art, Recreation and Sport. Young people now decide where they want to live and then find employment to suit their lifestyle.
- Education and early childhood development services.
- Transportation, including high-speed connectivity. Covid-19 has accelerated this trend.

4. Balance the Environment and the Economy. Balance means one side has to lose something for the other to gain.

Harmonize is a better description as in music! What is good for everyone?

5. Free Trade is Always Beneficial.

"The rising tide will lift some boats, but others will run aground." or sink.

Free Trade is not always beneficial to some parties. There is now much pushback with new free trade agreements.

Canada cannot export our way to prosperity. We are caught in the middle, moving forward we must consider more domestic markets in Canada that are underserved.

The last Alberta forecast projects a 4.1% GDP growth rate in 2021. However, the growth rate is expected to rise even more because of oil price increases. The economy will re-open in Q3 or Q4. The energy sector is stable but not a lot of employment growth is expected.

Growth will be seen in technology and digital activities, agriculture and agri-foods, renewable energy, clean energy, and technology.

Risks include the severity of the third Covid-19 wave and the possibility of a fourth wave. There is also the issue of "vaccination anxiety".

Val Pohl thanked Todd for a highly informative presentation.

Jack Little was the virtual Free Lunch winner for the **third time** in the last four meetings!

President Dunc Mills welcomed 23 Gyros and our guest speaker to the **June 15th** Zoom Video Teleconference.

Warren Garbutt introduced our guest speaker, **Jack Bowen**, who was sponsored by **Bob Bahniuk** and was inducted into our club in June 2016.

Jack was born in **Pictou, Nova Scotia** on July 1, 1953, one of a family of 12, four brothers and six sisters (one died at birth. Jack joined the **Nova Scotia Highlanders** in 1968, graduated from Pictou Academy in 1970 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the same year. He then married and moved out West in 1975.

Jack joined the **Loyal Edmonton Regiment** in 1975 and achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. In 1986, he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major and then retired in 1988, moved to New Zealand for two years and returned to Edmonton in 1990.

After returning to Edmonton, Jack took various courses from NAIT and the University of Alberta and tried his hand as a sand blaster, warehouseman, estimator, construction superintendent, construction manager, project manager and contracts manager. Jack also challenged the exam and became a Journeyman Carpenter.

He **rejoined** the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 2000 and was promoted to Captain, Operations Manager, Acting Company Commander and Regimental Affairs Officer. **He retired in 2013 after 33 years of service.** Jack is currently President of the 49th Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Association President and Editor of the forty-niner magazine.

Jack will be presenting information about the military activities of The **Loyal Edmonton Regiment during World War II in Europe.**

OVERVIEW

Edmonton Regiment Off To War

England

Sicily

Italy

Northwest Europe

Battles

Summary

SUB UNITS -Units

Section- 8-10 men

Platoon- 3- sections (30 -45 men)

Company- 3-4 Platoons plus Coy HQ-120 +

Battalion-4- 5 Coys Plus BnHQ- 600 Plus

Brigade- 3- 4 Battalions- 2500 Plus

Division- 3- 4 Brigades- 10,000.

Edmonton Regiment First Division- 2nd Brigade

The Edmonton Regiment travelled off to war in England on December 15, 1939. B Company, commanded by **Major James Curry Jefferson** consisted of 26 officers and 805 other ranks. Jefferson was promoted to Lt. Colonel on January 6, 1940, at the age of 37.

Jim Jefferson had enlisted in the Edmonton Fusiliers at age 16. In 1923, he began a 43-year career with Northwestern Utilities rising from meter reader to Associate General Superintendent. **He also joined the Edmonton Gyro Club on November 20, 1933.** Jim was president of our club during 1949-50 and became District Governor in 1950.



Officers of The Regiment

"WE TRAINED HARD

but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganised I was to learn later in life that we tend to

meet any new situation by reorganising; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

PETRONIUS; 65 A.D.

CANADA DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ARMY

THE EDMONTON REGIMENT – DESIGNATION

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the alteration of the title of the Edmonton Regiment to **“The Loyal Regiment”**.

2. Consequent upon the above approval, Active and Reserve Units of the Edmonton Regiment will adopt the new title.

3. General Order No.253 of 1920 is amended accordingly.

(Effective 7th July, 1943) H.Q. 7-107-35

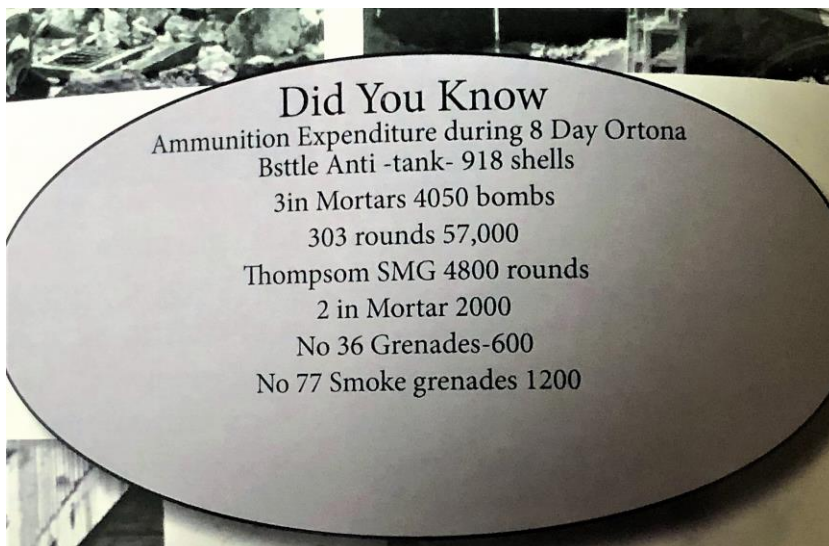
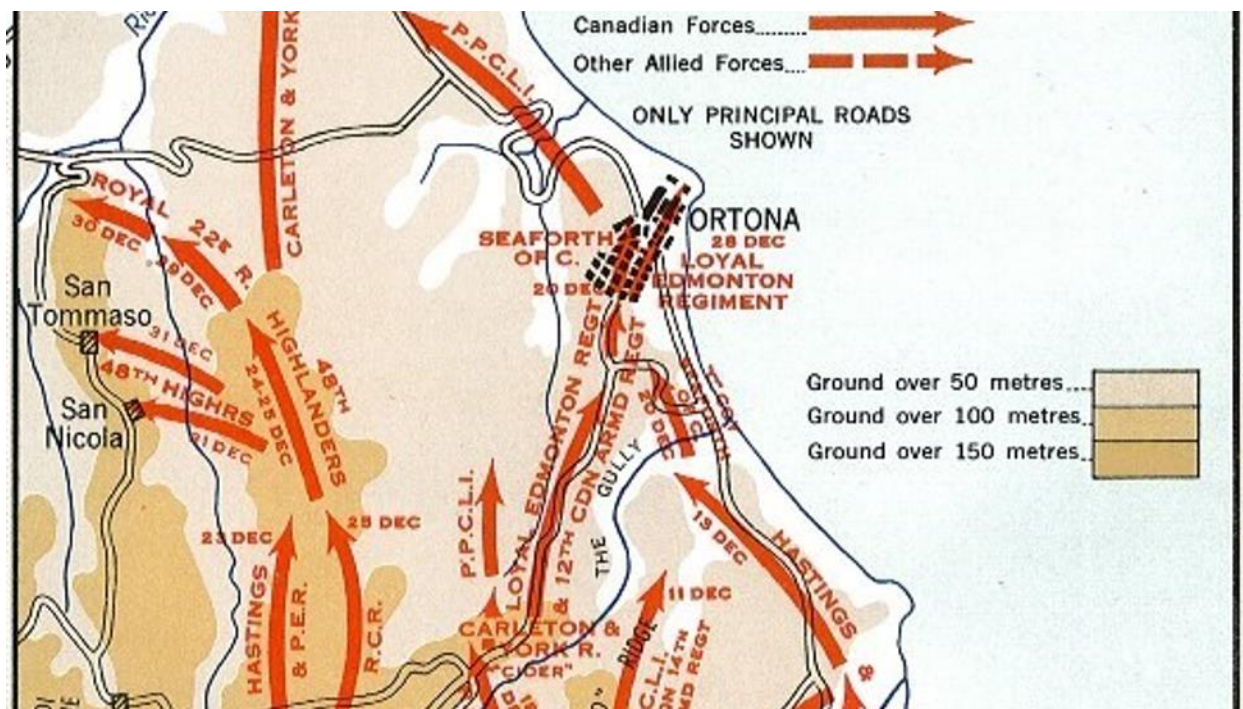
Jefferson led the Loyal Eddies in their baptism of fire in the July 1943 invasion of Sicily. On July 21st, the battalion invaded the town of **Leonforte** under heavy fire from enemy mortar and machine gun posts, tanks, and snipers. In the confused fighting that followed, Lt. Colonel Jefferson personally led a detachment of his battalion in clearing the town with house-to-house fighting, destroying large numbers of the enemy. He was decorated with the **Distinguished Service Order** (DSO) by British General Sir Bernard Montgomery in the shade of an olive grove in Italy, within the sight of and sound of battle.



Lt. Colonel James Jefferson

Jefferson was appointed Acting Commanding Officer of the 2nd Canadian Brigade later in 1943.

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment figured prominently in the **Battle for Ortona**. Aided by the Seaforth Highlanders, the Regiment managed to defeat highly trained German Forces, who withdrew from the seaport on 27 December 1943. Ortona would be considered as "Bloody Sunday" by Canadian forces because of the numerous casualties in and around the town. As well, over 5,000 Canadians were evacuated due to battle exhaustion and illness.



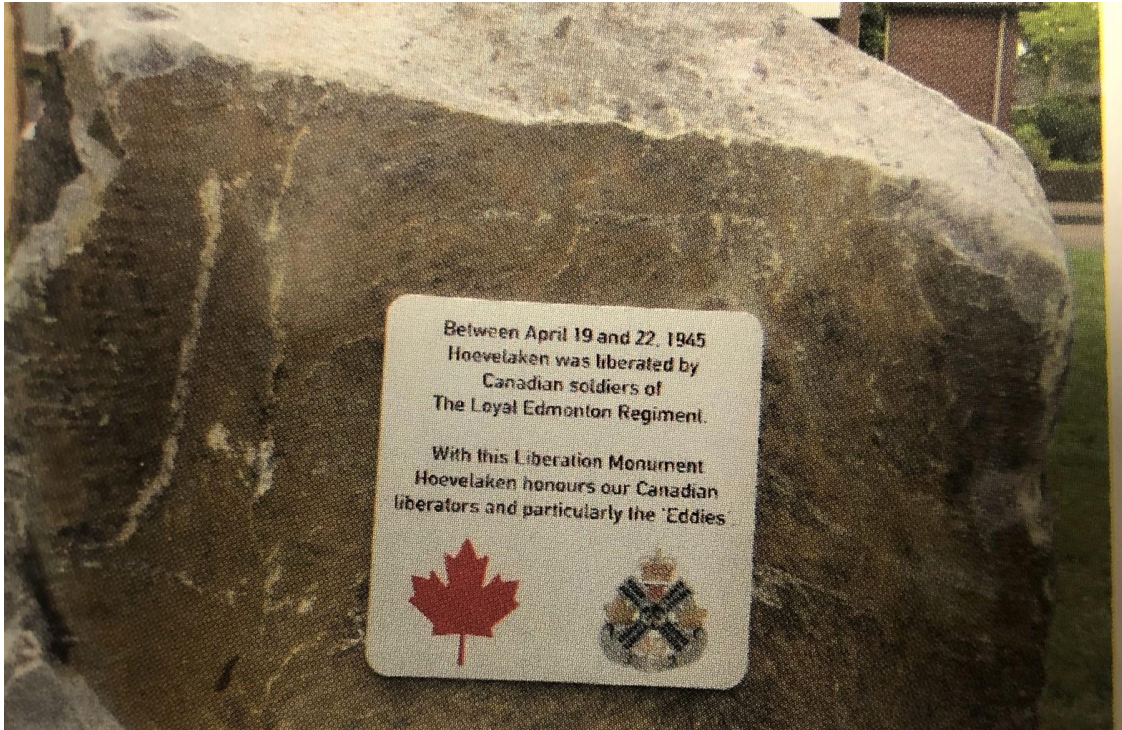


Moro River Cemetery shortly after the Battle for Ortona



Moro River Cemetery Today

Brigadier Jefferson was a quiet, serious, and popular officer who saw two years of constant combat. He led the 5th Canadian Brigade and then the 10th Canadian Brigade in France and Germany. In 1944, he was one of six Edmonton soldiers to win the **France's Croix de Guerre** after his troops became the first Canadians to cross the Seine River.



Liberation Monument in Hoevelaken, Netherlands. The rock is from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Eddies Return



Return of Loyal Edmonton Regiment, 6 October 1945.

On December 5, 1950, Jim Jefferson became the City of Edmonton's volunteer Coordinator of Civil Defence, before going to the federal government as Deputy Director of Civil Defence. He moved to Victoria in 1966 and died in 1973.

Ken Willan thanked Jack for a highly informative presentation.

BREAKING NEWS!!!

We have just been advised that **1st International Vice-President Peter Carter** has been presented with the **Award of Merit** for his Website, Zooming and Technology Chair contributions.

Well done, Peter!

Fast Fred"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, University (Faculty) Club, July 6th

Time: 12 noon, Cost: \$25

**Gyro Club of Edmonton Centennial Gala, Fairmont Hotel Macdonald
July 29th.**

**Gyro District 8 Convention, Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Gyro Club of
Calgary September 23-26th**