

Veteran of the Week 13 (24-30, October, 2021)

Lieutenant Colonel Iver Gordon Clifton

14th Canadian Hussars & 8th RCCE Regiment



Lt-Col Iver Clifton was born in Hodgeville, Saskatchewan on the 11th of February, 1930. He attended the Elementary-Ensz School District #10 and the Luxor School in Neidpath, Saskatchewan. As a young man he joined the Herbert Army Cadet Corps in 1945. The start of a long and storied military career. In 1947 Clifton graduated Grade 12 at Herbert High School and the same year he joined the 14th Canadian Hussars, the local Reserve unit. He would also go on to receive a Post-Secondary Diploma in Agriculture from the U of S.

From 1948-1949 he served at the Command Contingent Officer Training located at Camp Borden in Borden, Ontario. While there he qualified as a Lieutenant. In 1950 he was given the opportunity to serve with Canadian Armoured Corps Units that were going overseas to the Korean War, but unfortunately, his plans changed when his father became ill and he stayed to help on the family farm. He continued with his training and after completing many courses he was promoted to the rank of Lt-Col. He then was appointed Commanding Officer of the 14th CH. A position he held until the disbandment of the regiment in 1968. Besides serving in the Canadian Army Reserves, Lt-Col Clifton worked as a Grain Farmer and Cattle Rancher as in 1958 he purchased his own farm, located just outside of Swift Current. He married his wife Glennis on the 9th of June, 1962 and celebrated with a military wedding. Together they had four children, three sons and one daughter.

From 1965 to 1969 Lt-Col Clifton served as the Commanding Officer of the 14th Canadian Hussars, which was headquartered in Swift Current. He also served as an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to three Lieutenant Governors of Saskatchewan (1976-1989); The Honourable George Porteous, Irwin McIntosh, and Frederick Johnson. Lt-Col Clifton was the highest-ranking officer in Southwest Saskatchewan. The decorations he was awarded throughout his career are: the Centennial Medal (1867-1967), Confederation Medal (1867-1992), the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal (1952-1977), 60 Year Medal (1952-2002), 50 Year Medal (1952-2002), and the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) with one Bar. He was just one day short of the second bar.

Lt- Col Clifton's other achievements are: Past President of the Army Cadet League (1988-1990), President of the Saskatchewan Army Cadet League 1981-1984, President of the Swift Current and District Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Provincial Chamber of Commerce, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme, President of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56, the Drum Major of the Swift Current Shrine Drum and Bugle Band, and Drum Major and 25-year member of the Swift Current Shrine Club. He also was a life member of the Swift Current Masonic Lodge, Royal Arch Masons, Damascus Preceptory, and the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association. Clifton was also a founding member and organizer of the Swift Current Emergency Measures Organization (EMO), a member and organizer of the Saint John's Ambulance, President, Vice President, and Lifetime member of the National Army Cadet League of Canada. In addition to being involved with these organizations Lt-Col Clifton organized the fund raising and purchase of the Swift Current Mayoral Chain of Office in 2003, and organized and financed the retrieval as well as placement of Dora the Tank -a Second World War Sherman tank that sits out front of the Lt-Col Clifton Center and overlooks 6th Ave N.E.

In 2012 the former 14th CH Armouries and recreational center (the Rec Center) was renamed The Lt-Col Clifton Recreational Center in his honour. A fitting tribute to a remarkable man who served his community well and was a loyal Canadian Citizen. On Tuesday March 26th 2013 Lieutenant Colonel Iver Gordon Clifton passed away at the age of 83 years in the Herbert and District Integrated Care Home. This week we honour the service of Lt-Col Iver Gordon Clifton. Thank you for your service fellow legion comrade Lt-Col Iver Clifton.

