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JULY 25, 2008**

Greg Bonhert: We want to talk about Canada's forgotten war, the Korean War... that is the title of a documentary put together by Cliff Chadderton the CEO of War Amps who joins us. Cliff, good to talk to you again.

HCC: Yes, how are you?

Greg: I am pretty good, Cliff. I wanted to ask you first of all, with all the interest I think in the different people that have come forward to produce books Cliff and a lot of the oral history, do you feel more is being talked about the Korean War in the past say, five – ten years?

HCC: No, I really don't. There were about 3 good books written on the Korean War but that was 10 – 15 years ago, but in surveys that I've taken when I've been to schools and that type of thing, the kids don't have any idea of what it is all about and I don't think the public have much more.

Greg: Why do you think that is Cliff? Is it simply because it was a war where we fought, some of our troops did not come home from it, but our contingent was simply smaller or what do you think it is about that?

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HCC: Well, I would say firstly that it was largely an American war and I know when the PPCLI got over there, the first thing that greeted them was a band of the docks in Pusan and they were playing American songs. When the Canadians got over there they found that they were having to use used American equipment and, of course, the whole war – and it was a war, not a conflict – the whole war was being run by General MacArthur, Dug-out Doug they used to call him, and he really didn't know that the Canadians existed. I think that is a pretty accurate statement. I think on the other end of it, politics were a little different in those days and I, for one, have always been rather proud of the fact that Louis St-Laurent, who was our Prime Minister, there was no waffling about him. He said 'look the United Nations has asked us to provide troops to fight the North Koreans and we are going to do it,' so he turned to our military commanders and said 'how many troops can you find?' They were on their way. When they got over there, they found that there were very few war correspondents from Canada and it wasn't being followed in the media to any great extent. For example, when the United States Government granted what they call a Presidential Citation to the PPCLI for the Battle of Kayong, it was barely mentioned in the Canadian media. So what can you expect! The kids in the school, they say 'where's Korea, we don't care about that.' Mind you, another reason was that they were just getting over World War II and they said to themselves, a lot of people said to themselves, 'Oh my God, not another war,' but they

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didn't expect there was even going to be a war. They called it a conflict and it was going to be over by Christmas, same old song and dance.

Greg: Well, it was a United Nations action, definitely that was part of it. As there was more coverage, there was more demand for Canada to get involved. You know Cliff, I want to talk about when it is going to air obviously and everything else, but I have just been reading some reports that many veterans of the Korean War are hoping that the better part of history repeats itself for Canadian soldiers currently in Afghanistan because, you know, some are saying what was once called a forgotten war and it's not anymore. They are drawing some parallels between the Afghanistan of today and the Korea of yesteryear. Do you see anything in that comparison?

HCC: I think there is a drastic comparison in the first place, how will I phrase this, in the first place that was a very tough war in Korea and there were no ice cream and coke machines or anything like that. The evacuation of the wounded, I think a lot of people think in terms of the MASH television drama, but the hills in Korea, they were just mud and ice and in the summertime bugs and slush and a lot of diseases that... foreign diseases really, or tropical diseases going around and it was one heck of a war. Now I don't think that... I'm not saying that Afghanistan isn't a tough war either, but it is a different

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kind of war. What happens is that the poor Canadian loses his life and of course there is a big ceremony and we bring him home and bury and we should be doing that, absolutely. But that Korean thing, I mean, they just dug a hole in the ground, wrapped him up in a blanket and that was it.

Greg: Yes, you can't, you know, there are differences, however, but you know the basic premise, I think, for some of that discussion is that for many of the same reasons our young men and women are volunteering to go to Afghanistan. The Korean War ended when, Cliff, officially?

HCC: 1953.

Greg: This is what your documentary talks about obviously. July 27<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary date.

HCC: Yes, that is correct.

Greg: We are going to take a few calls in this and first of all let's get to Don. Don, good evening, go ahead.

Don: Good evening and good evening Mr. Chadderton. I am a big fan of yours and I met you one time years and years ago, but back in

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Toronto and I see a parallel between Korea and Afghanistan in the fact that, you know, we are affording the enemy a safe haven over in Pakistan and if history has any proof of that, you cannot win a war when you give your enemy safe haven. I just wanted your opinion on that and I wanted your opinion on another thing, on the fact that, I know that you are a member of the Legion and so am I, but it seems to me that they are not really going to bat for a lot of veterans of the last 20 – 25 years, especially a lot of veterans that served in Yugoslavia that are having health issues, post traumatic stress syndrome and all that stuff. I have been talking to a young fellow here the last few days and his experiences over there, they don't know what is making these guys ill but the fact that they have this malaria shot before they went over there and it seemed to make a lot of them very ill, a lot of them were filling sandbags with pure boxite, which you know is contaminate and can make people very sick and yet Veterans Affairs keeps giving these guys the runaround.

Greg: OK, you know, first of all, the first question but I just want to add, Don, I know exactly of what you are speaking of because I know someone who is a medic in Bosnia and he is suffering, well let's put it this way, his hands bleed, his whole system is shutting down and he thinks it is something about depleted Uranium that was in the soil there and he mentioned the sandbags.

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Don: Well, that's just it and I think we are going to come to the point in this country... I was in the Golan Heights and I did a small tour there in Lebanon and I was in Cypress but that really wasn't really that serious when I was there and I think it is going to come to the fact in this country where we are going to have a veterans organization, there is a new one called Veterans of Canada and they are not doing anything for these guys either. So I think now the time has come where we need a new veterans organization in this country, one that has peace, one that doesn't take no for an answer and one that takes these people to task.

Greg: Well, Cliff, you have been down that road many times, whether it was for the Hong Kong veterans and, but anyway to Don's question.

HCC: Well, firstly I would bring out the case of a fellow by the name of Ken Barwise who was PPCLI in Korea. He died in March, his daughter who was looking after him went to the Last Post Fund which is run by DVA and said your catch-word is that no soldier will go without a proper funeral and if they can't pay for it, we will. They paid \$900 out of a total bill that the daughter had to sign with a contract with the funeral director of \$9,000.

Don: Isn't that disgusting, that is completely disgusting.

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HCC: That's right.

Don: ... and Veterans Affairs Canada is filled with so many pencil pushers and do nothings that it's pathetic, it's just a math of red-tape and BS that these guys... the practically have to walk on water before they get any help. I know guys that were wounded in that firefight in Maddox in Croatia, they are still fighting to get something out of the Government. One guy got \$400.

Greg: Ok, Don, thanks for that. We have to take a quick break. When we come back, more with Cliff Chadderton and that is a big issue. Treating our veterans as they should be treated. Cliff, you fought many battles on those fronts. We are back right after this.

Greg: We are back talking with Cliff Chadderton. As you heard Cliff, we all know, I think, there is ... very briefly, there is probably still a lot more work to be done and a lot more public awareness of some of the problems some of the veterans are facing. They can't get answers, they can't get support.

HCC: Yes, that is quite right. I agree 100%.

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Greg: Alright, well hopefully we can turn that around but we have a few minutes left here Cliff but I want to get to Kap'Yong, Cliff, just kind of nutshell Kap'Yong for us because this is where the Canadians held their ground, this was the major battle for our troops in Korea.

HCC: Yes, what happened was the PPCLI, the second battalion, they weren't really ready but Doug MacArthur and the Americans said you got to get up and do something about this blockage that the North Koreans and the communists are setting up so that the Koreans can't get back from the North to the South because they were being held virtual prisoners. So the CO of the PPCLI, Karl Stone was one of them, he's from Edmonton, he said look we are not going to go into battle until we are ready but they had to go anyway and what they did was just marvellous and bearing in mind that they got up on Hill 227 and they held that and they blocked the North Koreans from access to anymore invasions of the south... bearing in mind that it had already been a military operation run by the Americans and they failed that. It put the Canadians in great prominence in the States and with the general command of Korea so I will give President Truman a full marks because he studied the war, he was after MacArthur anyways, he studied the war and he said 'look whatever the Canadians have done, we've got to recognize it.' That was a tremendous military victory for troops who were not really fully trained at all, not used to the armaments that they were being given, certain

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artillery pieces they didn't know how to operate them and the conditions were just absolutely frightful and they were jumping from stone caves out into the open and the North Korean army was slaughtering them right, left and center and they couldn't get the men. Just a hell of a war and that's when the Canadians said look and I quoted in my film, the Canadians said 'look, with all these tragedies and these wounded' ... we had 12,000 troops over there before it ended, 'somebody has got to recognize what we do.' So it was a political situation, of course, and our own Prime Minister said 'no, no, this is a war and let's call it that no matter what it costs us in votes or anything else.' I think we have got to thank people on the political side for that, but now when we come to the present day... oh, look out.

Greg: Ok

HCC: The present day, I will give you a situation, there was a gentleman who was in World War I died. He left a house and he left it to a veterans organization, it was sold for \$500,000. The Federal Government took every penny of it, they said it really belonged to the Queen and as a matter of fact, my organization is fighting it in the courts right now. You explain this to people... you know. No matter how good a veterans organization might be if the government isn't listening to them and don't really give a darn then it makes it tough.

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Greg: Well, you know, unbelievable Cliff, you know we could go on for hours about things like that but certainly I think the main message for anyone listening, Don and others, to start demanding that some of these situations are looked into and cleared up in a more reasonable amount of time. Your documentary will air on the Canadian Public Affairs Channel, it's a War Amps award-winning documentary that's coming up on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11 Eastern and I think again on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 in the morning Eastern, so check your listings for that. Cliff Chadderton, a pleasure talking to you again. You know as we know Cliff, old soldiers never die, they just fade away.

HCC: We are not ready for that yet.

Greg: Not by a long shot. Keep up the good work. Always a pleasure Cliff and we will talk to you again soon.

HCC: Thanks a million Greg. Bye for now.

Greg: Bye for now. Alright, Cliff Chadderton as you heard through personal experience basically it is an ongoing issue, the treatment of some of our veterans and this comes from Korea, even the families of our world war veterans and certainly families in Afghanistan right now and as we heard, and I know personally about, troops that did serve

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in Bosnia, trouble is sometimes they are only a small group, maybe 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50 of them. To me, that doesn't matter.