



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHARLES
THE PRINCE OF WALES
COLONEL IN CHIEF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

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Chief of the Defence Staff's Address

I am humbled as the Senior Serving Dragoon to extend my sincere congratulations to The Regimental Family of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

This has indeed been a very busy year for the Dragoons, from your exceptional service in Afghanistan, to the wilds of winter warfare training on OP FROZEN DRAGOON, to canoeing down to Bon Echo Provincial Park, there hasn't been a stone left unturned or a pair of long johns unworn! Welcome back to 'A' Squadron and the OMLT, bringing all Dragoons home.

I must pause to reflect on the tough times and sacrifices you have faced. Your participation in the unveiling of the Afghan Memorial marks an important phase in the transition of our engagement in Afghanistan. You have contributed to create an enduring place of reflection in Dragoon Park, for all Canadians, in memory of our fallen comrades.



But some things never change for Dragoons, exemplary displays of professionalism, dedication, camaraderie and esprit de corps. Your accomplishments and triumphs have continued our Regiment's tradition.

I am proud to be a Dragoon and proud to be your Chief of Defense staff.

Bold and Swift

W.J. Natynczyk

General

Chief of the Defence Staff

Colonel of The Regiment's Address



As November 2011 arrives I have come to the realization that I only have five months remaining in my tenure as your Colonel of The Regiment. Therefore this will be my last opportunity to pass along my thoughts and sincere thanks to all members of The Regiment and their families.

When I was first appointed and I had the opportunity of inspecting The Regiment. I was astounded at how quickly time had passed since my days as Commanding Officer. In the ranks I found quite a number of sons of former officers and soldiers who were now in senior leadership positions. I am sure it will only be a very short time and we will start to see daughters of former members filling these positions as well. There were also a few former RCD Army Cadets from the Lahr period also in command positions. In fact Major General Bob Meating, RCD, is currently the Colonel Commandant of the Army Cadets. Proof that the cadet system is alive and well and fulfilling its role. It should not go unnoticed that the recent promotion of Major General Jonathan Vance, also started his military career as an RCD cadet.

Ever present and doing so much work to support The Regiment are the various chapters of the Association. Who would ever miss the 0700 phone calls from Reg Munden, Freddie Berge, Norm Wood, Doran Vienneau and Tom Urbanowski? My sincere thanks to Bann Price and his executive who toil thanklessly producing the Dragoon, social events and generally keeping some of the unnamed lot

mentioned above within the trace boundaries. So there is the full circle from cadets to regular force to association members. The way it should be.

You will have already noticed that I have chosen a different picture to head my message this year. I thought it most fitting that the memorial to Trooper Larry Rudd, at OP Cliff in the Panjwa'i District represents all our Dragoons who have served, been wounded in action or paid the supreme sacrifice during our nine operational tours. I was most fortunate in being able to attend the intensive training of A Squadron of the Battle Group in Fort Irwin California as well as visiting the large Operational Mentoring Liaison Team composed of many Dragoons. I witnessed first hand the intensity of training of the EOD group ably led by SSM Ferguson [six stitches in my right cheek from his slap shot]. I could feel the bonds between those members of that group and I was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Petty Officer Blake of that team to an IED, shortly after deployment to Afghanistan. Petty Officer Blake spent an afternoon with me explaining all the intricacies of his role as a member of the EOD team.

Just shortly after Leliefontein 2010 I was most fortunate in receiving permission to visit A Squadron in Afghanistan. It was a tour that will remain in my memory for the remainder of my days. My personal thanks to Maj Chris Lillington and SSM Pichie and all the Dragoons of A Squadron and those members of the OMLT that made my tour so informative. I deeply admire you professionalism and fighting skills during this most challenging and difficult war on terrorism. We are all deeply appreciative of your challenges and the manner with which you faced them, some even today. It is most fitting that as our country completes it's operational war fighting tour it is under the command of a Dragoon, Brigadier General Dean Milner.

In 2010 we gathered to view the video, "If I Should Fall" the story of Trooper Marc Diab. I was given the privilege of sitting between the Diab and Bouthillier families to view this wonderfully intimate story of life in the Diab family. Emotions ranged from laughter to tears but what I learned was the strength of those who remain and carry on following the loss of a brother, son, father, daughter, sister or wife. During my time as Colonel of The Regiment I believe I have had the opportunity of meeting the majority of the families of the fallen and I am truly in awe of their strength, commitment and support in what is an extremely emotional and a most difficult time. The last picture, which is below this article says it all and was taken at the Leeuwarden Ceremony in April 2011. I thank the families for also joining our Dragoon family. You will be part of us in perpetuity.

Lastly I must thank our Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness Prince Charles for his devotion and unparalleled support of our soldiers while on deployment and for taking the time to visit The Regiment during a very demanding tour of Canada. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the two Commanding Officers [Col Frank and LCol Cross] and their RSM's [Mr. Head and Mr. Richards] for the support they have afforded me during this all too short return to The Regiment. To all of you I wish you good health and success for the future. I know that we will be seeing one another during the years ahead.

Darrell M Dean CD

Brigadier-General [ret'd]

Colonel of The Regiment



The Senior Serving Dragoon's Address

To all Dragoons past and present, it is a privilege to serve the nation and wear the uniform of this great Regiment. As I sit in my office in the III Corps Headquarters in Fort Hood Texas, I am reminded every day of my time as a Dragoon. Above my desk is my CO's pennant and behind my conference table is the painting of The Regiment receiving its fourth Guidon from the Governor-General on the 19th day of June 1998. Standing larger than life in that painting is Major-General Clive Milner then the Colonel of The Regiment, and the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Walter Natynczyk standing in front of the barracks and our soldiers on parade. Although I do not get to wear a black beret every day with a Springbok attached there is no doubt where I come from. Outside my office are photographs of three other Dragoons besides myself, General Rick Hillier, Major General Matt Macdonald, and General Walt Natynczyk. Later this summer we will add a fifth Dragoon to that wall, Brigadier General Dean Milner when he returns



from duty in Afghanistan. It is not lost on our American cousins that there has been a definite Dragoon connection in the III United States Armoured Corps. Of that I am very proud. That pride is drawn from the soldiers that serve in our ranks, from the soldiers that have made repeated deployments to the Balkans and Afghanistan in recent years, from the soldiers that have been wounded in service of the nation and from those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for those freedoms that we all hold so dear.

As the mission in Afghanistan evolves from close combat to a training mission all Dragoons can be proud of what you have done in that war torn country. You left it better than you found it; you have trained and mentored the Afghan Army and the Afghan Police so that they are better able to take responsibility for their own security and sovereignty. Now is a time to reset and reload for we do not know where The Regiment will be called upon next to serve our great nation. At the same time we must never forget the sacrifice of our wounded and fallen and we must look after them and their families.

I will return to Canada this summer and it will be good to be back on Canadian soil and to be closer to Petawawa and The Regiment. I am proud to be a Dragoon, to serve with you and for you.

Bold and Swift

Peter Atkinson

Brigadier-General

Senior Serving Dragoon

Commanding Officer's Address

As I write these remarks I am cognisant of the fact that we are somewhat behind in the production of the Springbok. This is my fault and my fault alone and speaks somewhat to the way in which things have had to be in the first part of this millennium. I am speaking of our operational tempo, our mission specific focus, our need to have gone short in manning and the cumulative effects of these three factors. I shall speak to these points in the few short paragraphs that follow as a means to highlight our collective accomplishments and to provide the context for where our training focus must remain in the years to come; a task made that much easier having been afforded the time to reflect...



In the seven year period after 2003, we have deployed eight reconnaissance squadrons, the equivalent of a tank squadron

minus, a Task Force HQ and an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team to Afghanistan and a Battle Group to Bosnia. To say that the pace of training necessary to prepare our soldiers for the Bosnian and Afghan theatres of operation was significant would be an understatement. Our soldiers have clearly risen to the challenge and exceeded our expectations in the execution of their mission. Indeed, for the first time in history (I believe) the United States Army has allowed a foreign country to command their troops, a significant measure of professional respect, afforded our Army in light of our collective accomplishments.

These accomplishments have come at a cost. Trooper Larry Rudd was our twelfth soldier to have lost his life in Afghanistan and many more have suffered the effects of wounds and injuries resultant of that conflict. What has become abundantly clear as we have struggled to cope with our losses is that we draw great strength from the collective that is our regimental family and that we must at all costs protect this regimental centre of gravity for we (the collective we that are the regiment) are the living memory of those that have gone before us. Tpr Don White, the driver of the second Staghound that entered into Leeuwarden when our regiment liberated it, is testament to this fact for he has annually joined us in celebrating our heritage as it provided him the means to be close to all that he and those comrades of his that went before him, stood for.

Beyond the very personal costs of our recent tempo has been the effect that the mission specific focus of our training has had on a generation of Dragoons. That which we have trained to undertake in Afghanistan represents but a small percentage of the spectrum of tasks we must be capable of undertaking. We have done very well in Afghanistan but we have had to largely ignore those tasks outside the scope of the Afghan mission. That has been our focus and the focus of our commanders. The effort we must put forward in this regard is significant and it will take many years to sufficiently instil these skills into the intuitive psyche of folks that have either never practised the skill sets or did so two or three ranks ago. This we must do whilst retaining the knowledge mastered during the Afghan mission. Hard work and focus will enable us to do so.

Our soldiers are no strangers to hard work. During the TF 1-10 deployment the vast majority of those that remained within the regiment worked one to two levels above their position and did so while we were horribly undermanned. This shortage in manning was not unique to that period; it was the norm during the Afghan mission. That the regiment continued to function effectively is testament to diligence, determination and drive. Nevertheless it came at a cost as it was necessary to fight the alligators nearest the boat and to leave those less threatening for the future. That future has now arrived and it will take some time to unravel the damage done for our having had to take many, many shortcuts.

Our training must focus on the entirety of our tasks across the spectrum of conflict and it must be based upon those fundamentals that contribute to our core competency of mounted manoeuvre. These fundamentals are gunnery, manoeuvre and communications (move, shoot, communicate). Our troops must be fit and very well led and they must adhere to a solid equipment husbandry plan. Our Brigade, Area and Army commanders have articulated their focus in this regard and continue to set the conditions such that we can well prepare ourselves for whatever eventuality may befall us in the future and I believe that we are well down the road towards accomplishing just that.

Dyrald Cross

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

Regimental Sergeant Major's Address

Another year has come and gone! The Regiment continued to be extremely busy with the OMLT and A Squadron being deployed while the rest of us held down the fort.

The soldiers of the Regiment were well-trained and fit to fight the war in Afghanistan. They have learned to live in the heat and the dust and are true warriors! As for the green training – the exposure and the experience needed improvement. They have lived in a forward operating base but not in a hide. They knew they had a wash basin for washing clothes but not for shaving and they could live in white light but not in the dark. We had to get back to what us 'old guys' know as the basics. So in the training area, they set up tents, started stoves and did night routine. It was not long before this transition of skills sets were in place and as true Dragoons, we were ready for the next phase.



Now that the basics were accomplished we deployed as a Regiment to Meaford, did our battle procedure and conducted tactical road moves back to Petawawa. On our first day the Squadron Sergeant Majors sure learned a lot about time and space! The Squadron had a 30 km frontage which made it significantly harder to resupply. It was a great exercise and we were truly appreciated by the public. One night we stayed in the Arena parking lot in Mindon, ON, unbeknownst to us there was a Junior Curling Bonspiel happening inside and when the games were over there must have been 200 curious kids asking us questions. There were also several occasions where soldiers were in Observation Posts and someone would show up with a Pizza or some snacks. The Regiment was told before the exercise to go as fast as they can but as slow as they need to, for the best training. They were also told that they are Canada's Army and if some of Canada's public asks questions or wants to have a look then take the time to explain what we were doing.

I was honoured to be able to go on the Force Generation Visit to Afghanistan to visit A Squadron and the OMLT during their deployment. It was an outstanding visit in which I got to see the A Squadron troops in their operations and the Squadron Headquarters at the Panjwayi District Center. The morale was extremely high considering the recent death of Tpr Rudd. I also had an afternoon with the OMLT back in KAF. The majority of the soldiers were out with their KANDACs when I arrived but it was great to see the guys that were in and listen to their stories. Shortly after my return to Canada, the OC (Maj Lillington) and the SSM (MWO Pichie) were in a Chinook helicopter that was shot at and hit then forced to land. The SSM was instrumental in evacuation of the aircraft. The OC and SSM both received a Mention in Dispatches for their actions that day.

In September the CO and I participated in Ironman. Yes, I know, I am not a young man but I got through it! The Regiment also had approximately 80 soldiers participate with us. The CO and I were completers not competitors!

An excursion to Leliefontein, South Africa saw Cpl Hodder and Cpl Linton participating in a hunt for a springbok for the Regimental Headquarters. Thanks to Dave Batton, Ted Averbook, Paul Ferretti and other friends of the Regiment for arranging and supporting this endeavour.

C Sqn deployed to the States to conduct simulator training. They were in Fort Knox using the M1 tank simulators with the intention that they will re-role back to a tank Squadron. We did exceptionally well considering that we have been away from tank tactics for some time.

The Regiment also deployed on a winter exercise to Raymore, Ontario. It was very evident that we had not participated in a winter exercise in a while considering we almost ran out of Naptha and subsequently purchased all the Naptha from North Bay to Sudbury! It was extremely cold (-45 degrees) but the Soldiers had a great time. They built snow defenses, snow shelters, went ice fishing, set snares and went snowmobiling. Despite the cold the morale was very high!

The Regiment also gave the kit shop a face lift – Rick Morrow and company at Amyotte have taken over and have brought in a variety and an abundance of Dragoon paraphernalia.

As the Regimental Sergeant Major, I am very pleased with the Regiment and proud of all Dragoons!

It is always a fine day to be a Dragoon! Bold & Swift!

Bill Richards

Chief Warrant Officer

Regimental Sergeant Major

Regimental Headquarters



The year in Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was no different then any other with regards to tempo. RHQ was extremely busy running Regimental schools and participating in a number of exercises. Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) Dyrald Cross still working as the Brigade (Bde) Chief of Staff relieved a deploying LCol Martin Frank early to become the Commanding Officer (CO) and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Bill Richards replaced a deploying CWO Donny Head to become The Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). The Regimental Second-in-Command (2IC) Major (Maj) Greg Nette returned from Afghanistan and picked-up where he left off before deploying. Most other cells within RHQ went through some face-lifts due to the Annual Posting Season (APS). Captain (Capt) Marc Lesage took over the title of Adjutant (Adjt) from, then Capt now Maj Steve Popowych. Capt Enno Kerckhoff replaced Capt Lokesh Goela as the Operations Officer (Ops O). Capt Derek May became The Regimental Training Officer (Trg O), a position that hadn't been filled in some time. Lastly, then Lieutenant (Lt) now Capt Joey Ring replaced, then Lt now Capt Bryden Pritchard as the Assistant Adjutant. The changeover of Non-Commissioned Members (NCMs) was no different then the Officers: Warrant Officer (WO) Brian Sampson took over as the Operations Warrant Officer (Ops WO) from WO Fabian Poirier, Sgt Tom White replaced Sgt Terry Deveaux as the Training (Trg) NCO. WO Kevin Malott was replaced by WO John Harju as The Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer (RGWO). Sgt Lee Gilbert took over for, then Sgt now WO Jamie Peori as The Regimental Orderly Sergeant (ROS); and finally, Sgt Noon remained as the Field Tp WO.

Due to the demanding tempo of The Regiment, there was really no time to get adjusted to everyone's new positions. The fall training period started off with Field Troop (aka C/S 60) running a Coyote Driver & Maintenance course in August with the intent to train personnel newly arrived from Gagetown who didn't receive their qualifications at the Armour School. The course was successful and had little problems. Following that, RHQ participated in Exercise (Ex) VIRTUAL DRAGOON which was a Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) that prepared The Regiment for the upcoming Brigade (Bde) digitized exercise named Ex VIRTUAL BEAR, which would involve most of the units from 2 CMBG including 2 RCR from CFB Gagetown. Capt Enno Kerckhoff headed up The Regimental Command Post (CP) along with Capt Derek May, Capt Nelson Bath, then 2Lt, now Lt Steven Knowles, and then 2Lt, now Lt Joss Zeisig



employed as Duty Officers. Sgt Russ Storring was the acting Signals Officer (Sig O) and looked after an excellent contingent of Signal Operators (Sig Ops) which consisted of MCpl Boland, Cpl Linehan, Cpl Montague, then Pte, now Cpl Tedford, Pte Lavigne, and Pte Shoebridge. The Ex proved to be very valuable for all participants with each unit taking away a lot of points to sustain and also some points to improve.

After Christmas leave, RHQ along with HQ

Squadron, B Squadron, and D Squadron deployed to the town of Ramore near Timmins, Ontario for Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. The intent was to conduct Winter Warfare training in order to expose soldiers to extreme winter conditions in a tactical scenario. The first week was basic survival skills which were achieved by creating and setting up a number of different training events and stands, in a format that allowed each group time to participate in each. The stands were designed to teach winter survival skills such as ice fishing, trapping, snaring, improvised shelters, and snow defences. The second week was designed to put all the skills learned in the first week into action. The Squadrons all went their separate ways and conducted different types of training. Most RHQ personnel got to participate in the first week and even though at times the temp dropped to a very chilly -50 degrees Celsius, soldiers enjoyed what they were learning and carried on, day after day, with smiles on their faces. During the second week RHQ continued to track the movements of the other Squadrons. Sgt Jamie Noon found time to conduct a Light-Over-Snow-Vehicle (LOSV) course for members of RHQ and a few from HQ Squadron in order to certify soldiers on snowmobiles. There were many important lessons learned during the exercise such as how much NAPTHA and fuel to bring. Furthermore we learned to ensure the FARs are equipped with the correct hoses in order to help prevent freezing in the hydraulic and fuel lines. Although we had to deal with a few issues here and there, the exercise was a success.

From 28 March to 15 April RHQ participated in Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. This was an exercise that saw both B & D Squadrons move tactically from Meaford to Petawawa conducting Route, Area, Point, and Zone (RAPZ) reconnaissance tasks throughout. RHQ participated in both serials and provided The Regimental CP for the exercise. Due to the huge distance that had to be covered, RHQ had to split their CP into two and provide a step-up CP (0B) which consisted of Capt Derek May, Capt Mike Fitzerman,

Sgt Jamie Noon, Cpl Samantha Montague, and then Private now Cpl Kari Tedford. 0B's main task was to push ahead of the main CP and position themselves behind the Squadron CPs in order to maintain communications. Once set-up, the step-up CP would take over and control the battle so that the main CP which was headed up by Maj Greg Nette, had time to move to their next position. Both CP's would leap-frog past one another 2 to 3 times



a day. This made for some long days but was very necessary in order to keep situationally aware of the battle ahead of us. One of the CO's intents was to "Connect with the Public" Everywhere we stopped,

we ran into some fantastic civilians, buying us coffee, snacks and even some members of HQ Squadron had their meals paid for at Montana's in Orillia. We tried to set-up as many vehicle displays as we could and the public seemed to really enjoy them. Overall the exercise was a smashing success and the CO's intent was achieved.

From 25 May to 3 June RHQ finished the spring training period with a bang, supporting 1 and 3 RCR's Ex SPARTAN BEAR. Though a relatively small detachment from RHQ was present for the exercise, they had a large impact on its success and provided a vital function – relaying information from OPFOR recce troops to the Bde CP in order to paint a better picture of the overall battle. From assault boat landings to helicopter insertions, Ex SPARTAN BEAR saw the RCR using a wide variety of equipment and tactics to accomplish their aim. Beginning at approximately 1800hrs on 25 May, the RHQ crew under Capt Enno Kerckhoff quickly and reliably passed information higher to Bde, which soon saw the map board covered with contacts and events looming ever closer as the exercise wore on. Though most of the action occurred late into the evenings and around first light, the CP operators from Field Troop and the Signals detachment were kept busy throughout the day vigilantly maintaining communications with higher. Reception proved to be so atrocious at the FOB that soldiers could be seen at all hours wandering aimlessly through the open area, cell phones in hand, praying for a signal. Cheers of: "I've got a bar! I've got a bar!" echoed throughout camp, accompanied by furious texting to keep the lines of communication open with loved ones.



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A Squadron



The last year has been an extremely busy and exciting time for the soldiers of A Squadron. During this year, A Squadron had the opportunity to experience a full spectrum of operations and training. It saw us complete a long and demanding tour, conducting both traditional reconnaissance and contemporary counter-insurgency (COIN) tasks in the volatile and hostile environment of the Panjwa'i District in southern Afghanistan. Transitioning home in November and December, the Squadron took much needed leave before shaking off the rust on traditional recce tasks and training in the Petawawa area.

Mid-summer of 2010 found the soldiers of A Squadron working out of austere Observation Posts (OPs) in the central area of Panjwa'i District. The unrelenting heat of a southern Afghan summer and the constant threat of insurgent activity and IEDs made for an exhausting experience. Despite this, the soldiers of A Squadron continuously and effectively helped stabilize and secure the lines of communications throughout Panjwa'i. Spread across the central district of Afghanistan these small but vital OPs played an extremely important role for ISAF and ANSF moving through the battle space. Placed on ground covering key routes, avenues of approach and important areas, these OPs controlled canalizing terrain and vulnerable positions that coalition forces regularly travelled. Insurgents quickly learned the effectiveness of these OPs when they attempted to emplace IEDs in areas that threatened ISAF and the innocent people of Afghanistan, nearby. Through constant patrols and over-watch, the dedicated soldiers of A Squadron were able to mitigate the threat of IEDs along the routes within their observation.

Often operating at the patrol level, the Squadron fielded 2 reconnaissance Troops: call signs 61 and 61A, under the command of Capt Al Rodgers and WO Johnny Green, and call signs 62 and 62A, commanded by Capt Andrew McCuish and WO Chester Tingley. Working on a demanding schedule of 9 days in OPs with 2 days in FOB Ma'sum Ghar, the soldiers had the opportunity to work with a number of important enablers that greatly increased the effectiveness of each patrol. Key amongst these enablers were working dog teams. These civilian contracted handlers and their dogs were a welcome addition to our patrols and the effectiveness of the dogs added a peace of mind while on patrol for the soldiers. As well, during our off time, the dogs were a source of entertainment and fun for the soldiers, becoming honourary members of the Squadron and the Recce Troops they worked with.



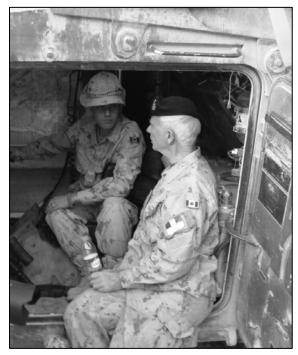
Recce Squadron soldiers were also uniquely placed to interact on a constant basis with Local Nationals (LNs) who farmed and lived in the villages adjacent to our OPs. Unlike most elements of the Battle Group (BG), A Squadron constantly lived and worked amongst the Afghan people. Due to these constant interactions and relationship with the local population, our situational awareness regarding the local people became very high and enhanced our ability to provide information to the Battle Group. The centre

of gravity of an insurgency is the population. Knowing this, the soldiers of A Squadron worked extremely hard to create and build professional relationships with the village elders and farmers who frequented our OPs. We were able to speak directly with these people and acted as informal ambassadors for ISAF and by extension the Government of Afghanistan. By the time that A Squadron left Panjwa'i District in November 2010, these relationships had helped create a more stable and secure environment.

In the fall of 2010, the Squadron began the collapse of 2 of their 3 OPs in Panjwa'i. Due in part to their diligence and effectiveness over the summer, key areas were stabilized and construction efforts increased to provide improved roads. This in turn led to an increase in the frequency and effectiveness of route clearance packages and ANSF patrols. Freed of the static OPs, the Squadron moved into a period of mobile operations in conjunction with both ANSF and ISAF forces. These mobile patrols acted as an

interdiction force for the BG. As well, due to the flexibility, effectiveness and competency that is found within recce patrols, they were used in a number of important tasks, such as providing tunnel security for the CLS when he visited Panjwa'i. Bridging the gap between the BG and Afghan forces, A Squadron soldiers worked hand in hand with ANCOP (Afghan National Civil Order Police) officers establishing snap Vehicle Check Points (VCPs) and helping to curtail insurgent freedom of movement.

One of the final legacies of the Squadron in Afghanistan was the establishment and build up of OP CLIFF. Located at a strategic crossroads near the key town of Salavat, the OP provided unrivalled observation over a large area of Panjwa'I District. As ANSF and ISAF tightened their grip on insurgent movement throughout the summer, the OP became a key part of the overall obstacle plan that severely



restricted insurgent freedom of movement. While originally an ISAF only position, OP CLIFF is meant to become a focal point and vital piece of tactical infrastructure that will integrate both ISAF and ANSF in a forward operating position.



As often happens in a challenging and complex counterinsurgency operation, the Squadron took on roles that it had not originally trained for. However, as any Dragoon knows, flexibility is a critical characteristic of armoured recce. In view of this and on top of the multitude of tasks that can be given to a Recce Squadron, the Squadron was given responsibility for the Operational Coordination Center – District (Panjwa'i), more commonly known as the OCC-D (P). Drawing the staff to run the District Center out of Recce Squadron, the OC, Maj Christian Lillington was given

responsibility of commanding both. Also Recce Squadron 2IC, Capt Dominic Beharrysingh, filled the position of Ops O and Sgt Greg Townsend would initially round out the staff from Recce Squadron as the Ops WO for the District Center.

The challenge for the A Squadron's soldiers, deep in the heart of Taliban territory, was to maintain a non-kinetic focus while still maintaining an adequate level of security for themselves and the local population. While the Squadron was deployed to their OPs in the hot and dusty Afghan countryside, the staff of the OCC-D (P) worked feverishly at coordinating the kinetic and non-kinetic players in an all-out effort to defeat the insurgency in two areas. The first area was the provision of security to the Afghan people through the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), to include the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan Uniformed Police, also known as the Afghan National Police (AUP/ANP). These two forces were the focus of the OCC-D (P) in bringing the security that the people needed in order to feel safe. Coordinating the activities between the ANSF and ISAF in kinetic operations was accomplished through

constant liaison which often occurred at the OCC-D (P).

The second area in defeating the insurgency was the establishment of governance. The people needed someone to go to in order to bring their grievances forward and have that person act as a representative of the larger community. The higher levels of government were established, mainly in the two major cities of and Kandahar, Kabul but Afghanistan's rural society needed a means to connect to those higher levels of government. The rural



population had little contact with centralized government the Taliban filled the void, applying their brutal form of justice as the only alternative. Knowing only one form of justice gave the people some order, despite its brutality, but with the introduction of a democratically elected representative for the people a new way ahead was forged for a more universally accepted rule of law and adherence to human rights.

The 1 RCR BG and Task Force Kandahar (TFK) provide overall support to the OCC-D (P) in the form of enablers detached from its sub-units such as Contract Management Office/Engineer Contracts Team (CMO/ECT), Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Teams and the Police Observer Mentor Liaison Team (POMLT) with added Civilian Police (CivPol) representative(s). Together the sub-units and representatives ensured that security, governance, economic stability and growth were coordinated and applied to the Panjwa'i District.

In mid-November, A Squadron welcomed the soldiers of A Squadron 12 RBC and began the important handover process. Having worked hard over the preceding months, A Squadron was able to give our Quebec-based brethren a thorough and inclusive handover in order to set them up for success. Although the situation in Afghanistan is fluid and changes on an almost daily basis, the basic tenants of success and the lessons learned remain much the same as we wish our Brothers-in-arms a good tour.

Before heading back to Petawawa for a very well earned leave period, all the soldiers were able to spend a short period in Cyprus for decompression. An extremely well organized and operated decompression centre offered the soldiers were a number of activities such as go-karting, golf and excellent Cypriot dinners. For those not inclined to leave the hotel, the pool and bar beckoned, and many soldiers spent the days relaxing around the resort.

The soldiers of A Squadron conducted post deployment leave until early February. As we returned to The Regiment we were quickly brought back into the furious cycle of exercises, courses and taskings. With the combat mission in Afghanistan drawing to a close, the Army continues to focus back on conventional war-fighting skills, something that it has been unable to complete due to the extremely high operational tempo of fighting a counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan. In light of this, the soldiers of A Squadron spent the early spring on exercises meant to reinvigorate traditional recce skills.

From March to April, A Squadron conducted an exercise intended to refocus training away from fighting insurgents back to conventional war-fighting techniques and reaffirming skills that may not specifically apply to Afghanistan, but are fundamental, traditional skill-sets. Exercise WALKING DRAGOON consisted of nine training days. The first three days were spent in the Petawawa training area, living and sleeping in our arctic tents. The first few days were spent getting used to normal routine, re-learning winter kit, such as camping stoves and lanterns in order to keep our tents warm at night and getting used to the cold. Lectures were taught during the days on basic military field-craft and survival skills in our domestic environment. We followed these lectures with a day and night of map and compass navigation, which involved moving from location to location using only map and compass. We culminated our field portion with a final exercise, a point-recce with a hasty attack, which utilized all of the skills that we had refreshed over the previous days. Following our departure from the training area, we continued with lectures specific to the role of a dismounted reconnaissance soldier; from Battle Procedure to establishing The final confirmation, and arguably the highlight of the exercise, was the military skills competition. Patrols raced around an eight kilometre loop and completed military-knowledge stands which challenged them mentally and physically. This exercise gave A Squadron a chance to conduct valuable training and build relationships with their new crews while re-introducing them to traditional reconnaissance tasks and most importantly the opportunity to have some well-deserved army fun.

Looking towards the end of the training year, there was no abatement to the tempo of Squadron tasks and training. The Squadron ran a PLQ (Primary Leadership Qualification) Mods 1-5 and a Mod 6. Mods 1-5 are the classroom based Mods during which the Corporals on course learn things like how to teach lectures, how to instruct drill and the fundamentals of leadership including battle procedure on a



theoretical level. This course is challenging mentally and physically and introduces senior Corporals with leadership potential to the realities of what will be expected of them as a Senior NCO. Mod 6 is the practical application of the training they received in the prerequisite Mods. Candidates are expected to lead small party tasks at the section level (8-10 personnel) from the time they receive orders from their chain of command, to scaling and delivering a set of orders to the section and ultimately executing a mission. These courses

are demanding, rewarding and fun. A Squadron also ran a Turret Operator Course (TOC) in order to give troops not qualified on the 25mm weapons system a chance to learn to be gunners with a view towards improving their soldier knowledge and employability within the Squadronn. It also gave them the opportunity to have some turret time in a non-combat zone and to fire an impressive and powerful weapon.

A small contingent of A Squadron personnel were lucky enough to be selected to participate in static displays at The Memorial Cup in Mississauga Ontario. The Memorial Cup is a junior ice hockey club championship trophy awarded annually to the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) champion. The trophy was created and dedicated in honour of the Canadian soldiers who died fighting for Canada in the WWI. During the 2010 tournament, it was rededicated to honour all soldiers who died fighting for Canada in any conflict. A Squadron had the honour of setting up some static vehicle displays in front of the arena in Mississauga, representing both The Royal Canadian Dragoons and The Canadian Forces. During the ten days of the tournament, the treatment received by our soldiers was outstanding. Our own Warrant Officer Townsend was honoured by being allowed to drop the puck at the championship game. The soldiers were met with a standing ovation from the crowd when the announcer thanked them publically for their service to the country.

In addition to the high tempo of training and tasking within the Squadron, there is a high degree of participation in this year's Ironman competition. At least one quarter of The Regiment's team was from A Squadron. They worked tirelessly under the direction of the Ironman PT programme in order to have a strong showing in this year's competition, which entails a 32 km ruck run, 4 km portage with a canoe, 8 km paddle and finally a 6 km ruck run to the finish line.

The future for A Squadron looks bright and busy for the New Year. After some well deserved summer leave, the Squadron complete will deploy with The Regiment to Wainwright Alberta for a Brigade Level Exercise. This exercise will keep A Squadron running from the moment we return from leave until well after we return from Alberta. Prior to deploying there are a myriad of courses and qualifications that have to be renewed prior, allowing the troops time to hone their troop level tactics, marksmanship, fitness and ultimately load a Regiments' worth of vehicles and kit onto rail cars and ship them out west. As daunting as the task sounds, the hangar lines are buzzing with anticipation to get out onto some unfamiliar territory and get back into a traditional reconnaissance role. Also in the future we look forward to having a fresh crop of new troops, senior NCOs and young officers from Gagetown ready to suck up the wealth of knowledge that is currently housed here within the Squadron.



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B Squadron



B Squadron returned from post deployment leave in August and subsequently kicked off with adventure training. Adventure training saw the Squadron head out into Algonquin park in canoes for a week of paddling, portaging, and camping combined with a number of team building activities designed to help the newcomers to the Squadron get to know everybody.

Once we returned to work the Squadron was tasked to run a Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) Course Modules 1-5 for Cpls from around The Regiment. Under the watchful eye of B Squadron's MCpls, these developing leaders learned a variety of skills; from instructional techniques, to teaching drill and leading PT. Concurrent to the PLQ course the Squadron also went through the annual Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) training including; map and compass refreshers, communications workshops, CBRN refreshers, weapons handling, firing in the Small Arms Trainer (SAT) and firing on the open range. IBTS wrapped up the month of August and rolled into early September.

September saw some members of the Squadron compete in the Terry Fox Sports day as well as the annual Petawawa Ironman competition. B Squadron also sent a number of personnel to Ottawa to compete in the annual Army Run. September and October brought collective skills training in the Virtual Battle Simulator (VBS) on Ex VIRTUAL DRAGOON. Long days were spent in front of computer monitors honing Patrol and Troop level movement as well as voice procedure and Tp and Squadron Level SOPs.

Towards late September and into October the Squadron deployed to the Petawawa Training Area for Ex WALKING DRAGOON. During this Ex troops worked on the skills they had begun to hone in the VBS, as well, the assault troop got some work practicing ambushes and digging in mud OPs. Ex WALKING DRAGOON culminated in a Squadron level operation in which all the individual, patrol, and troop level training was put to the test.

November saw the Squadron head to the range in order to conduct a gun camp with the Squadron's Coyotes. The Squadron's crew commanders and gunners got to practice their drills in the LAV CGT's and on the open range. Following the gun camp the Squadron began gearing up for the annual Leliefontein festivities. Leliefontein week saw the Squadron engage in inter Squadron sports, a drill competition, and other fun activities. The level of competition among the Squadrons was very strong and good sportsmanship was demonstrated by all. The week also saw MCpl Langlois form and drill a

Squadron drill team for the Leliefontein drill competition. The team did very well and impressed the judges. The Leliefontein dinner was quite enjoyable followed the next day by the parade.

Following the Leliefontein festivities the Squadron then participated in a 2CMBG Combined Arms Exercise in the simulation center. Another long week starring at computers, this exercise offered the troop leaders and the echelon a chance to work in a combined arms environment while listening to a much busier radio net then they were normally accustomed to.



December arrived quickly and saw a week of festivities including Subbies' Carolling and the annual Men's Christmas Dinner where B Squadron's very own Tpr Latter switched epaulettes with the CO and presided over a number of promotions. December 9th saw the Squadron dismissed to Christmas leave, not to return until January

The Squadron returned in early January and quickly moved into preparation for winter warfare training on Ex FROZEN DRAGOON in Ramore, ON. Once all preparations were complete the Squadron headed 4 hours north of Petawawa to Ramore in order to begin

Winter Warfare training. The training was conducted using a stands format where Squadron members learned snow shoeing, ice fishing, winter navigation, snow defenses, snowmobiling, winter shelters, snaring and trapping, and a number of other important winter survival techniques. The second week saw the Tps within the Squadron begin to conduct winter, force on force, dismounted operations. The Squadron had a brief scare when a Coleman stove malfunctioned, lighting a tent on fire. Luckily the quick reaction of Cpl Sherry saw most of the tent members escape unharmed while he, along with two others, sustained minor injuries and had to be sent back to Petawawa.

Upon return from Ex FROZEN DRAGOON the Squadron conducted necessary post Ex drills and cleaned and returned winter kit. February saw B Squadron 1 Tp Ldr Lt Cushing tasked with running a 25mm Turret Operator Course (TOC) for the Brigade. Along with his course WO, Sgt Power he pulled together a team of B Squadron instructors and ran an effective and engaging course.

February also saw the Squadron depart on Ex ALPINE DRAGOON, a day of skiing in Northern Quebec. Many tried skiing or snowboarding for the first time, or dusted off many years of rust. Some chose to enjoy the beautiful surroundings from the comfort of the lounge with a few Beers to pass the time.



March rolled in and the Squadron went off on March break for a much deserved rest. Upon returning from leave the Squadron quickly moved into another IBTS cycle in preparation for Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. Individual skills were reviewed and re-taught while the Squadron leadership conducted Battle Procedure (BP) in anticipation of the Ex.



The Squadron headed out to Meaford en mass on a road move plagued by a breakdowns and one "flamethrower" experience outside a McDonalds restaurant Collingwood. Upon arrival in Meaford conducted crews maintenance and prepped the vehicles for the task ahead while the Squadron conducted leadership in depth planning in anticipation of their move across Southern Ontario.

Ex CHARGING DRAGOON was a resounding success in which the reality of time and space became the

key lesson learned by all. Spreading the Squadron out along a 30 km frontage enabled the troops to experience the real world impact that dispersed operations have on communications, resupply, recovery, and other admin requirements. The Ex also offered a great opportunity to connect with Canadians, as troops would get approached by locals in a number of towns who wanted to express their gratitude and learn about what the soldiers do. Many members of B Squadron can relate a story of a person bringing them a coffee or opening up their garage for the troops to get in out of the rain. Some of us had towns offer up their arenas for our use as sleeping quarters and shower facilities, an unexpected but welcome boost to morale. By the end of this exercise April was gone and May was quickly passing by.

Directly following the end of Ex CHARGING DRAGOON B Squadron was tasked to set up a number of Observation Post (OP) demos for a Brigade Leadership Professional Development week. B Squadron set up mast, remote, mounted and mud OPs as well as a "full" echelon and an SHQ stand. Bde leadership moved from stand to stand and learned all about the capabilities and limitations of a Recce Squadron from the knowledgeable Patrol commanders within the Squadron.

The month of May also saw B Squadron tasked with another Brigade TOC under WO Peori and Lt Bennett. The course ran smoothly and even managed to wrap up a day early so the students and staff could participate in the Brigade stand down on the Friday of the Victoria Day long weekend.

During May a composite troop from B Squadron departed for Arizona to participate in Ex EMPIRE CHALLENGE. This Ex was essentially a working group of soldiers from across NATO and Commonwealth countries to help defense companies in the development of the future surveillance equipment for our trade.

June saw the Squadron participating in the Brigade Ex SPARTAN BEAR in the Petawawa Training Area. 3 Troop B Squadron was tasked to act as civilian interactors for the Bde in order to give the battle group a more diverse battle space in which to work and train. In addition a composite troop under WO Peori and Lt Shurdha were tasked with providing convoy escort and security for 2 Svc Bn in their efforts to keep the battle group supported.

Overall it was a fun and exciting year of reconstitution for B Squadron after their return form task force 3-09 last year. B Squadron looks forward to the challenges next year will bring.

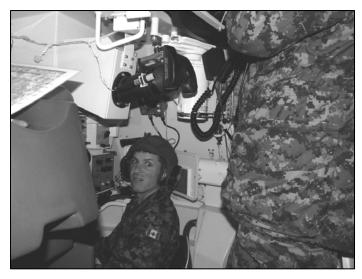
C Squadron



Another busy year of training came to an end for C Squadron, or Recce Squadron as it's known at the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group. With the road to high readiness for Op ATTENTION just around the corner and transformation within the Squadron from reconnaissance to tanks, the Squadron has been busy with training, preparing and experimenting in the realm of virtual reality as well as field training. C Squadron, commanded by Maj Iain Clark and MWO Greg Preston consists of two Armoured Recce Troops, one Infantry Recce Platoon and one Sniper Platoon.

During the summer months, the Squadron ran a Coyote Driver and a Surveillance Operator course for newly arrived soldiers. As always summer also brought postings; with Lt John Wernham and WO Kevin Smith assuming command of 2 Tp and Capt Tim Scantlebury taking over as the Battle Captain. With August came Ex TOMAHAWK STORM, the Infantry School's annual DP 1.2 final confirmation exercise. This was to be 3 Troop's (Lt Duaine Fetzner and Sgt Shawn Rheaume) long awaited mounted reconnaissance task. 3 Troop, along with a sniper det, combat engineers, a tank troop and a FOO/FAC seized this great opportunity to develop and train their own troops. This exercise gave 3 Troop critical exposure to combined arms operations and reinforced the integration of snipers with other sense assets. The final attack culminated when the troop triggered the sniper det to execute their task on a High Value Target in Groningen village at H-hr. Not only did it allow the soldiers of C Squadron to operate in an all arms environment for the first time, it also reinforced previous troop and det level training conducted prior to the exercise.

Towards the final months of the year, C Squadron conducted two serials of Turret Operators Course (TOC), one for the Squadron and another for the Battalion. The Squadron was responsible for a dynamic and detailed live fire level 3 range in a level 4 context for the Battalion. The range reinforced many lessons and provided significant realism for new soldiers. Throughout the fall, Recce Pl (Capt Ryan Salsbury and WO Rod Duffenais) with support form Sniper Pl ran a very successful Basic Recce course, generating new blood for the Pl and allowing other members to return to the Rifle Companies to continue their career progression.



In late autumn it was confirmed that C Squadron would become the tank Squadron for 2 CMBG. This posed a new challenge to the armour soldiers in the Squadron, a shift in mentality and training in order to introduce young soldiers to the wide spectrum that is armoured warfare. A challenge embraced by the leadership, as it not only offers the opportunity to train soldiers in this wide spectrum and thus making them true and versatile armoured soldiers, but also gave the Squadron the opportunity to prove that it is up to any task.

In November, the Squadron deployed for a week on Ex VIRTUAL BEAR to CFB Petawawa in order to conduct a tank exercise

in a virtual environment, and thus began a trend that followed and benefited the Squadron until the end of the fiscal year. The Dragoons in the Squadron also deployed to Petawawa for the Leliefontein parade at the RCD. They performed very well, winning hockey and ball hockey, whilst also setting a single day sales record at the RCD Kit shop.

Capability Development Experiment (CDX) 10 conducted in January was a virtual war game, conducted at the Tactics School at CFB Gagetown. This experiment employed the majority of the Squadron where they got to test possible new developments in tactics and equipment in a future environment in a mix of conventional and Counter Insurgency (COIN) operations. For this exercise, C Squadron was tasked to provide a Tank Squadron with Leopard 2A6 tanks, a Sniper Pl, a Recce Pl and the HICON Recce Squadron. The Sniper and Recce Pl for this exercise operated independent of the Recce Squadron and returned to the Combat Support Coy providing advice to the CO and Ops O directly.

The months of January and February brought enormous amounts of snow to New Brunswick. This offered an outstanding opportunity for the Squadron to take its young soldiers out into the field and conduct winter warfare training at its best. The Alma Cup is the Battalion's ultimate benchmark for soldiering skills and fitness and this year it considerably challenged the soldiers' winter warfare dexterity. A combined team of Recce Platoon with a section of snipers won the trophy, under the leadership of Lt Andrew Goodall and WO Rod Duffenais.

For the armour soldiers, February marked the beginning of lessons in tank tactics and gunnery. The deployment to Fort Knox, Kentucky was around the corner and the Squadron had to step up their tank knowledge in order to take two troops of reconnaissance soldiers and turn them into four troops of tankers, all within a very short period of time. This consisted of presentations ranging from AFV recognition, tank formations and breaching complex obstacles during hasty attacks. The following week saw this supplemented with more hands on training at the LCGTs and on a Leopard C2 conducting crew drills, alternated with traces carried out in the Virtual Battle Space (VBS) to teach and confirm tank and troop movement and formations. By the end of the





week, the troops were eager and ready for the challenge in Ft Knox, where the M1A1 and A2 Abrams simulators were waiting for the Squadron, who were to become the last armour soldiers to train on them in Ft Knox, before being shipped to their new home in Ft Benning, GA.

Ex BLUEGRASS DRAGOON in Fort Knox, KY proved to be an invaluable training experience. All C Squadron Dragoons deployed, along with a FOO and his crew and were organized into four tank tps and SHQ of the OC, BC and FOO. While the first two days were challenging as the Squadron learned how to operate the controls of an M1, the soldiers and leaders quickly adapted.

Executing tactical tasks in a realistic environment against an active and agile enemy was an unparalleled training opportunity. With a dynamic 360 degree view of monitors outside the commander's hatch and a complete replica of the M1 turret along with sliding doors for the ammo stowage and Crew Status Indicator's marking the health of each crew member, allowed the crews to get sucked into the virtual reality of the simulation very easily.

The After Action Review (AAR) room with its ability to play back an overview of the map, radio traffic and a free-moving overview meant that leaders could see mistakes and also well executed maneuvers and discuss ways to improve or note points to sustain. The staff, most of whom were retired company and battalion grade NCOs with over twenty years of tank experience, were an essential part of the AAR process and contributed greatly to the progress of the Squadron. As a result of the AAR process, by the Wednesday of the second week the Squadron had progressed to the point where they could execute advance to contact and hasty attacks in complex terrain against the highest skill level enemy the system could generate. The meeting engagements in particular tested the abilities of the Squadron to adapt to a fluid situation. With a lot of moving parts and simultaneous engagements on multiple axes, the troops were able to repel the enemy attack, re-organize the surviving call signs and consolidate in an all around defense. As remarked by the local operators, it was impossible to tell that this Squadron had not always been a tank Squadron and they were truly impressed with the Canadian's performance. Some of the best they had ever seen, they said; words that certainly made every soldier in the Squadron extremely proud.

With the start of the new fiscal year and marking the beginning of a busy spring/summer period coming up, April was fully dedicated to provide the best support to the Combat Team Commander's Course (CTCC) possible. Several internal changes took place within the Squadron to make this happen. Capt Duaine Fetzner became the Acting Battle Captain and 63 changed leadership to Capt Virgil Dessouroux and Sgt Shawn Rheaume. Support to the CTCC was comprised of 61, Infantry Recce, commanded by Capt Ryan Salsbury and eventually by Lt Andrew Goodall; 62, the Coyote Troop led by Capt John Wernham; and 63, made up of 2 patrols of G-Wagen's and 1 patrol of 1 Bison and 1 G-Wagon.

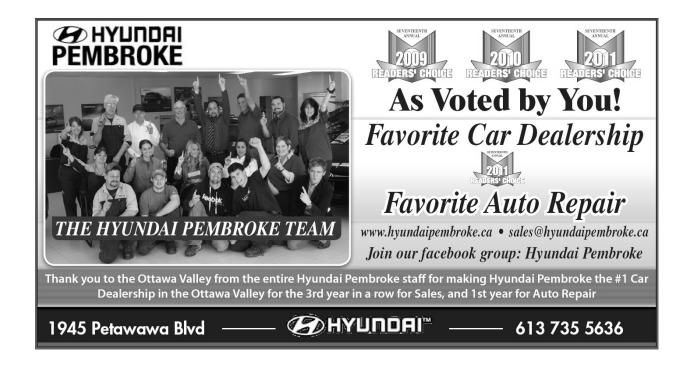
The Squadron deployed to the field for some Troop level and Squadron level training on 26 April 11. The weather in NB decided to show its best side as usual on field training and it started pouring rain from day one, almost consistently throughout to the end of the course on May 17, when just a few hours after End Ex was called, the rain stopped.

The three week course had two serials each with eight advances to contact, one deliberate attack and one stability ops trace. The Squadron, which had an Engineer Recce Element attached, provided target

acquisition, usually done by 62 and close reconnaissance and definition of enemy positions provided by 61 and 63 who in turn hand over the contacts to the Combat Teams. The troops benefitted tremendously from this experience, being involved with and observing a full combat team in action, from Mechanized Infantry Companies to Tank Troops with mine plows and dozers to the Engineers, breaching actual anti tank ditches with an AEV. It was a great experience that highlighted the importance of the role reconnaissance plays within the Combat Team, helping to shape and develop a plan for the combat team Commander to attack the enemy, suggesting and marking fire bases, attack positions and giving detailed information on enemy minefields, anti tank ditches, enemy disposition and other obstacles. On multiple occasions the work of Recce Squadron was recognized and praised by all rank levels throughout the BG, expressing their utmost satisfaction with the quality of the work the troops provided.

Towards the end of May the Squadron started its first ever Leo C2 D&M course and on June 20th ran the first Squadron run Tank Gunnery course, two highly anticipated courses by the soldiers. After July C Squadron will have its first tank troop with Leo C2's under Capt Virgil Dessouroux and Sgt Damian Langdon, supporting both the Armour School's Ex FIRST CONTACT, held in Gagetown as opposed to Sussex, like it used to be the previous years and also this year's Infantry School's Ex TOMAHAWK STORM this coming August.

The year was a great success for C Squadron. The training and experience accumulated over this past year has brought to light capabilities that the Squadron didn't know it possessed before, answered questions about its future and kept the soldiers of the Squadron continuously involved in training, developing them to the high standards Recce Squadron has set for itself over the past years.



D Squadron



For The Regiment, the theme of the past year was characterized by rebirth. For D Squadron, this rebirth occurred in numerous ways as we underwent a complete re-shuffle of personnel and leadership, embraced a new training vision, and welcomed back Support Troop from the annals of history. Our aim was to reawaken a daunting list of basic soldier skills that had long since petered out when the Afghan fight became the key focus of our tactical thinking. With the CO's marching orders, D Squadron clicked its heels together and embarked on a highly rewarding, albeit lengthy journey.

We faced many contrived enemy in a myriad of tactical scenarios during Squadron exercises. In the end, we were steeled by hard training and determined to accomplish any task. But none of the long hours of tactical training or tedious periods of Battle Procedure could have prepared us for our most formidable enemy: the mosquitoes and boredom of Huntsville. In June 2010, we deployed on Op CADENCE to the beautiful resort town of Huntsville, Ontario. Our mission was to augment a joint police powerhouse of OPP and RCMP by providing surveillance of potential belligerent activity in our area of operations, in both Huntsville and Toronto, during the G6 and G8 Summits. Having trained for every possible threat scenario with which he could be faced, the vigilant Trooper sat in his Observation Post (OP), ever at the ready, waiting to respond to a threat that would never come—and thankfully so. This time around, the mighty soldiers of D Squadron would have to wait for another day to see battle, slapping away at the tormenting sound of buzzing as the pretty girls roller-bladed by. But the troops did not have to wait too long for some good hard training.

After a well deserved summer leave, the Squadron returned ready and firing on all cylinders with busy preparations being made for a challenging training year. As the curious noise of chain saws began belching out around the hangar, the young soldiers were excited to learn that the Support Trooper course was underway for the first time in over a decade. With assistance from 2 CER and the vast corporate knowledge retained by an Assault Trooper of old, WO Boudreau, D Squadron successfully stood up a trial serial of the Support Trooper course between late August and September.

Toward the end of September and early October, the Squadron deployed to the training area on Ex WALKING DRAGOON. As the exercise name would suggest, this training event was an excellent opportunity for D Squadron to shake out the rust and re-visit the fundamentals of soldiering at the individual, crew and patrol level. Showcasing its unique Support Troop skill sets, 3 Tp was heavily utilized to emplace hasty obstacles, conduct dismounted patrols, and stage hasty and deliberate ambushes.

In November, the Squadron shipped out to the ranges to conduct a gun camp. And not long after the salvage was cleaned up, we dove right into Leliefontein week. Inter-Squadron sports, drill competitions, mess dinners and a sparkling parade made it an enjoyable week for all. The festivities would continue through December, too. "Silly Week" witnessed a questionable, cowboy-themed Subbies' Carolling and an appetizing Men's Christmas Dinner. At long last, Christmas leave arrived, and the troops were off for another well-deserved break.



Returning in early January, the Squadron prepared to launch into warfare training winter Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. Saving goodbye to their families once more, the troops climbed onto busses and headed four hours north to Ramore. Like WALKING Ontario. Ex DRAGOON, the first week in Ramore was about getting back to basics. Snowshoeing, ice fishing, navigation, snowmobiling, snaring and trapping, constructing improvised shelters and snow defenses, and various other winter survival skills were taught and practiced. The second week culminated in a dismounted patrolling exercise, where the Squadron graduated from

mere survival in the snow to operating effectively in arctic conditions. For many of the younger soldiers, it was the first time they had trained in -48°C. By all accounts, it was a highly valuable training opportunity that tested the resolve of the men, and also highlighted the uncanny ability of the soldiers to maintain remarkable morale, despite the harsh conditions. This could be observed in the form of elaborate snow shacks which, complete with pine bow furnishings, were designed and constructed to comfortably house smokers while they enjoyed a butt. One could also look to the particularly imposing snowmen that stood like towering white sentinels, keeping a careful watch over the camp. But perhaps the truest mark of the Squadron's unwavering morale was the frosty smiles that greeted you warmly wherever you encountered the troops of D Squadron. And thankfully, because we kept up on our stove maintenance, D Squadron successfully avoided starting any tent fires like B Squadron.

For the Squadron, and indeed The Regiment, the past year was also marked by a sharp increase in the emphasis on physical training. With the introduction of LEAP Elite Performance, the Squadron administered a highly structured fitness regime designed to raise the collective fitness of The Regiment. With heightened expectations of physical fitness, D Squadron sent forth a record number of soldiers to complete the annual Terry Fox Run and 2010 Ironman competition, as well as the annual Circuit for the Cause which raised record breaking contributions to the Military Families Fund. The enthusiasm expressed by all soldiers toward the initiative to ramp up fitness was truly refreshing, and it was showcased during Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR, where D Squadron partook in friendly competition against the other units in a variety of winter sporting events.

In February, the Squadron pulled out its skis and departed for northern Quebec on Ex ALPINE DRAGOON. Whether they were skiing, snowboarding, or watching their friends wipe out from the cabin while enjoying a drink, the troops were happy to report to the slopes as their place of duty that day.

The following month, D Squadron was first in the order of march on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. Building upon the baseline of armoured reconnaissance skills practiced during Ex WALKING

DRAGOON, the Squadron was ready to screen a Brigade advance, with a complete echelon in support, across a 30 kilometre frontage. At last, the Squadron was doing the business it had been training for all year long. Beginning with an 8 hour road move to LFCATC Meaford, D Squadron negotiated through several vehicle breakdowns and stops at Tim Horton's. Following their eventual arrival, the leadership began a long day of Battle Procedure while the troops carried out some much needed maintenance on the vehicles. Considering the immense trace that lay before them, it is fair to say the crew commanders would be delighted never to see a roll of map tack again.

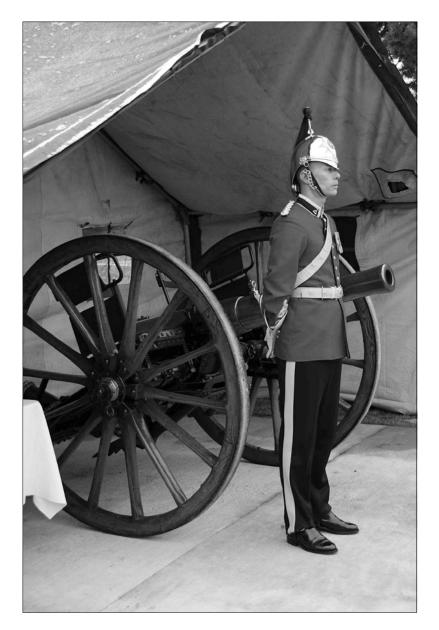
There were many advantages to training in the Rural Manoeuvre Area (RMA). Less experienced crew commanders gained a true appreciation for the challenges of maintaining communications while operating across such vast distances. There was the greater challenge of effectively managing time space for the same reason. perhaps the most valuable dynamic observed while leapfrogging across Ontario was the opportunity to connect with Canadians. Ordinary people across the province watched in wonderment as dozens of big, fantastically cool-looking



armoured vehicles roared up and down their highways and streets. People flocked to them at every opportunity, curious as to what they were up to in their small towns. The impact was remarkable. Soldiers and citizens engaged each other in friendly conversation while countless children received impromptu displays of Coyotes and LAV IIIs. An abundance of pictures and smiles were exchanged and, by the end of the exercise, D Squadron left a lasting impression on all the people they had encountered. That week, the Squadron understood the importance of building relationships, and they did it with class. The troops must have done something correctly, because they could not possibly have consumed all the free Timmy's and donuts people were bringing them.

With the experience of numerous training exercises under their belts, D Squadron had one final fight to finish. From the end of May to early June, the Squadron deployed on Ex SPARTAN BEAR. For two hard weeks, the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment took a battering from bearded, stalwart men in American uniforms. Under the guise of the Moristani Liberation Front (MLF), the soldiers of D Squadron were employed as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) for the exercise. As part of a Squadron delay operation, 1 Tp maintained a screen line in stealth, while 3 Tp engaged the forward edge of battle in dismounted combat operations across the training area. With the lead companies effectively fixed, 2 Tp launched spoiling attacks from the flanks into the rear echelons of the enemy's tactical march. It was a spectacular performance for the Squadron, and it was owing to a long year of tough training.

For D Squadron, it was a challenging year of new beginnings and growing pains. The veneer of theatre and mission specific training was washed away. And while we retained the valuable lessons learned from the Afghan Theatre, our core competencies finally percolated to the surface. With a broadened focus on the full spectrum of operations and conventional doctrine, D Squadron is even better equipped to defend Canada. As the glimmering light of summer leave swiftly approaches, however, let us hope the only thing D Squadron will have to defend against is the threat of sunburn on the beach.























Headquarters Squadron



It's been a busy year for HQ Squadron. The Squadron went through a huge transition of supporting 2 Recce Squadrons as part of Task Force (TF) 3-09 and TF 1-10, as well as supporting the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) which consisted mainly of Dragoons. With minimum manning the Squadron was still able to support Op CADENCE, Op FROZEN DRAGOON and multiple Regimental tasks. A special thanks to the Squadron 2IC, ETQMS, and Ops WO who filled the role of OC and SSM during this time. After Christmas the majority of the soldiers were back from tour overseas and Maj Jeff Monaghan and MWO Ken Pichie took over as OC and SSM in early February. From there the Squadron has continued to support The Regiment for EX CHARGING DRAGOON, SPARTAN BEAR, EXPO 150, Friends of The Regiment and many other taskings. The Squadron is looking forward to a well deserved summer leave and preparing for the fall training period.

Quartermaster Troop HQ Squadron RCD 2010-2011

It has been a busy year, as usual, for both the Food Services and Regimental Quartermaster Stores (RQMS) staff. We have provided Combat Service Support (CSS) for several exercises and courses throughout the year.

In September 2010 The Regiment participated in Exercise WALKING DRAGOON and, as it is with every exercise, the Quartermaster Troop (QM Tp) had a lot of planning and organizing to support this task. The RQMS had to ensure that all kit and equipment was ready and serviceable and the Cooks had to ensure the mobile kitchen trailers (MKT) were operational and that there was enough food supplies ordered to ensure that everyone participating in the exercise was well fed.



During the months of November and December 2010, there was a Brigade exercise called Exercise VIRTUAL BEAR for which the Royal Canadian Dragoons Cooks provided food services support. Although there was no snow on the ground it was mighty cold setting up the MKTs and getting ready to feed the masses. Of course that was nothing compared to the cold that we all experienced Exercise FROZEN DRAGOON during the months of January and February. The Regiment deployed to Ramore, Ontario where we experienced temperatures of minus 40°C. It was

pretty cold for camping. Cooking off of the MKTs in very cold weather is especially challenging when there is a high possibility of the propane freezing. The RQMS had similar challenges during this exercise as it was a challenge to keep enough naphtha on-hand to satisfy The Regiment's requirements. The next big challenge for QM Tp was preparing for Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON where The Regiment deployed to Meaford, Ontario in order to complete a reconnaissance screen back to Petawawa. This exercise was taxing on the QM Tp's capabilities as The Regiment was advancing rapidly. We were also supported by a Forward Logistic Group from 2 Service Battalion and had not exercised this concept since 2002.

During the course of the year there are always different training or mess dinners that require our services, and there are also certain commemorative events that we celebrate yearly. In November, we celebrated Leliefontein. This celebration included a parade practice, pre-parade reception, the actual parade, a post-parade reception, and mess dinner at the Normandy Officers' Mess. The Cooks section provided sweets and beverages for the pre and post parade reception and had several different food choices such as sandwiches, fruit, cheese and crackers, as well as beverages and sweets. Not unlike our Leeuwarden celebrations in April where we had another parade and mess dinner to commemorate the special occasion.

With the deployment of A Squadron and the OMLT for TF 1-10, QM Tp was busy ensuring that adequate Combat Service Support (CSS) was provided for the pre-deployment, deployment and re-deployment of those soldiers and their kit, meanwhile providing support to the remainder of The Regiment as well. This was coupled with many ranges and training events in preparation for the upcoming exercises and deployment to Wainwright in the fall.

The Spare Parts Supply Section (SPSS) experienced some employment altering challenges during the year with the rollout of the Defence Resource Management Information System (DRMIS) in November. Also, with the Coyotes getting tired and the lack of spare parts at a national level, the SPSS remained focused and creative, providing the support required to meet The Regiment's deadlines.

In December, the Soldiers Festive Dinner gave us all a chance to slow down a little, with all of the Senior Non Commissioned Officers and Officers providing service to the Junior Non Commissioned Members. It always feels great to be recognized for a job well done.

This year all of the units in the Brigade took part in Exercise SPARTAN BEAR. It has been the first time since 2003 that we have participated in an exercise of this magnitude. Since deployments to Afghanistan began, our training has been focused on the battle group. It has been interesting to be able to get 'back to the basics' as set out in the 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group's mission by the Brigade Commander, Colonel W.D. Eyre. Many of our new soldiers have never had the opportunity to participate in an exercise of this level. So, seeing what happens when all the different units are doing what they are trained to do is quite a sight to be seen. We set up delivery points, fed troops from the MKTs, and set up a main camp with a supply tent, first aid tent, etc. It was a lot of hard work, and the weather and bears did not cooperate at the time.

It's been a year of many obstacles, some difficult, some easy. Overall it has been a year of great accomplishment for QM Tp, and we look forward to another busy year as we prepare for Operation ATTENTION, rotation 1.

Transport Troop HQ Squadron RCD 2010-2011

Transport Troop has been busy over the past year. The Troop was involved in an Operation, two Regimental Exercises, as well as supporting Headquarters Squadron for taskings during Recce Squadron training.

The summer season started off with the Troop deploying to Huntsville in support of Op CADANCE during the G8 summit. Transport was instrumental in moving the needed supplies to the Recce Troops deployed for the operation. Upon completion of the operation and summer leave, the troop had a change

in its command team. WO Cairns joined the troop in the beginning of August as the Tp WO and Lt Isenor took over as the Transport Officer at the end of August. During this time, MCpl McRae ran a Driver Wheeled Course for The Regiment to qualify soldiers on the workhorses of the support vehicles, the LSVW, MLVW and the HLVW.

During the fall months, the Troop continued to support The Regiment by providing troop lift to ranges, transporting fuel and any other equipment required to allow training to continue. Also, Transport Troop provided support the 2 CMBG by



running a brigade wide HLVW FAR and T-FAR course out of the Transport lines. After running a successful FAR course, the Troop was ready to relax for the Christmas block leave. The New Year would be bringing a busy period in training for not just the Troop or Squadron, but The Regiment as a whole.

The New Year began with the preparations for deploying on Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. Squadron deployed on 18 January 2011 to Ramore, ON for the exercise and would enjoy the winter wonderland for 10 days. During the Ex, Transport was tasked not only with resupplying the Recce Squadrons in the field, but also conducting a Light Over-Snow Vehicle (LOSV snowmobile) stand for



Squadrons and participate in the winter warfare stands conducted by the other Squadrons. The troop worked around the clock to ensure heaters and generators had enough fuel at all times and filling up the water buffalos at the local fire hall. It was a constant battle against the cold to keep the trucks up and running during the Ex, but the soldiers were up to the task and always had the needed supplies to the Squadrons. Upon the return from Ramore, the Troop continued to support The Regiment for training and prepared to deploy for the next big task, Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. In February, Transport welcomed back its Mobile Support Equipment (MSE) Operator, Sgt McLeod who had deployed on TF 1-10 with the OMLT. His knowledge and expertise was a big asset and he hit the ground running on his return to the troop.

After returning from March Break, the troop geared up for Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. The Ex would take place over 2 iterations, involving a majority of The Regiment. Headquarters would deploy to Meaford, ON in late March 2011 and would provide support to the Recce Squadrons as they conducted a trace back to Petawawa. The trace would stretch over a distance of 400 km. The troop spent the daytime refuelling jerry cans of diesel and preparing vehicles to conduct drop points with the Squadrons in the evening. Some days the soldiers would be driving close to 200 km to the drop points and back. In the end, the Ex provided excellent training in the fundamentals for Transport and how it operates within a Regimental exercise.

After returning from Easter Leave, Transport continued to support The Regiment and prepared for the upcoming Regimental Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses. Transport will be running a driver wheeled course to get new soldiers qualified on the vehicles required. In July, the troop will see another change in its command team, as WO Cairns is posted to the Armour School in Gagetown and Lt Isenor moves over to A Squadron as 2 Tp Ldr and will be replaced by Lt Cushing as the incoming Tpt O. The troop also has a number of soldiers moving to the Recce Squadrons to allow them to continue their development as crewman. Even with the upcoming changes, Transport Troop will continue to be the backbone of support for The Regiment.

Maintenance Troop HQ Squadron RCD 2010-2011

The 2011 summer posting season wraps up a busy and challenging year for the RCD Maint Tp. The summer 2010 posting season brought with it a new Maint O, Capt McRobbie, and a new ETQMS, MWO

Stein. A third of Maint Tp was deployed on TF 1-10, returning to work in February 2011. Despite the high operational tempo the undermanned maintainers were able to successfully prepare The Regiment's kit for all the exercises and courses throughout the year.

The fall training season started off with Ex WALKING DRAGOON, an opportunity for the RCD soldiers to go back to the basics and practice their core competencies. Maint Tp capitalized by deploying a Bison MRV and MRT and giving four technicians from the A Veh Shop the freedom to work independently of the Tp. These technicians prepared their vehicles with tooling and spare parts in order to be able to operate self-sufficiently for as long as possible. This exercise allowed everyone involved to relearn lessons and polish their skill sets.

Maint Tp paused with the rest of The Regiment in early November to celebrate the RCD's proud heritage in South Africa at the Battle of Leliefontein. The Tp proudly paraded along with HQ Squadron as they commemorated the 110th anniversary of the battle. MCpl Genoe was recognized on the parade as the Top Technician MCpl in The Regiment.

Maint Tp returned from the Christmas Block Leave and quickly went to work preparing for Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. The maintainers shone as they completed last minute preparations for the Ex despite having only a few days to do so. The temperatures dropped sharply once The Regiment deployed to Ramore, ON for the exercise. In true EME fashion the technicians braved the cold and frozen metal of the vehicles to keep the fleet running. They rewarded themselves every evening by building a bonfire for HQ Squadron and enjoying a rum ration.



In February, Maint Tp was bolstered by the return of its technicians who had been deployed on TF 1-10. The soldiers quickly returned to the business of fixing kit and preparing The Regiment for the upcoming Ex CHARGING DRAGOON commencing at the end of March. The entire Tp was able to deploy on the Exercise which allowed The Regiment to practice using HQ Squadron in a support role. The exercise wrapped up in May as a success having completed the learning from Ex WALKING DRAGOON.

Maint Tp is once again undergoing changes as the summer posting season begins. Capt Sridiran will be replacing Capt McRobbie as Maint O. The next year will undoubtedly bring with it many challenges including the addition of 16 LAV IIIs and deploying on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, AB. The training opportunities and hard work of the last year will ensure that Maint Tp capably meets these challenges.



















Leliefontein 2010



The Battle of Leliefontein may have been a small part of a distant war long ago, but our History continues to define us as a Regiment. This is why we still celebrate it as our most revered Regimental event.

One hundred and ten years later we continue to honour our heritage and traditions with our annual Leliefontein Parade and festivities. The nearly week-long celebration included many activities and events. This year we were honoured to include C Squadron who are currently located CFB Gagetown, where they serve as Reconnaissance Squadron for the 2 RCR Battle Group. The Parade was the focal point of our annual Leliefontein commemoration and allowed us to formally honour past and present Dragoons for their achievements and share in our sentiments and pride in what it means to be a Dragoon today. There was an Inter-Squadron Drill Competition, a formal Mess Dinner and an All Ranks Dance.

This year in particular, with A Squadron and the OMLT deployed to Afghanistan, having lost soldiers in combat operations, our history becomes even more relevant as we can understand first-hand, the sacrifices made by those who came before us. This year, LCol Cross had a Regimental Family Photograph taken at the end of the parade, bringing our immediate families together on the parade square to honour them and the important part they play in The Regiment. That photo served as the cover our Christmas Card this year. Most importantly, we come together to celebrate not only our pride in our historical past but to celebrate our pride in the history we are making right now for Dragoons yet to be.







As always, The Regiment recognized its top soldiers during the Leliefontein awards presentations and the following deserving Dragoons received these awards:



The RCD Association Award

Presented to Cpl Halloran



The Leliefontein Award (non-crewman)

Presented to Cpl Rollinson



The RSM's Pace Stick

Presented to WO Sampson



The Commanding Officer's Sword

Presented to Capt Butler



The Courage Trophy

Presented to Cpl Bergeron



The G.G. Bell Award

Presented to Lt Fetzner

The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons annually awards \$1000 bursaries to Dragoons and their dependants who are posted in The Regiment, Extra-Regimentally Employed, or Retired. This year's recipients of the Leliefontein Bursary were Chelsey Santer and Alex Storring.



Leliefontein Bursary Winner: Alex Storring



Leliefontein in Afghanistan



With the tour rapidly coming to a close and the first batch of A Squadron soldiers having already left theatre, amidst the flurry of handover preparations and ongoing operations the Squadron still took the opportunity to celebrate Leliefontein in true Dragoon style. With half the Squadron still deployed in OPs, Major Lillington and SSM Pichie made sure that no one missed out on the festivities, conducting a run to each OP to deliver steaks, cake, and a handful of promotions. At each OP, an update was provided to the troops on The Regimental celebrations going on at home and Trooper Hardiman read the action of Leliefontein for the assembled troops. The OC and SSM also took the opportunity to promote a number of Troopers to Corporal and the following soldiers received the honour of receiving this important rank on Leliefontein deployed in the field: Corporal McKenzie and Corporal McDiarmid were promoted in OP SALAVAT and Corporal McCluskey was promoted in OP CLIFF.

At Forward Operating Base (FOB) Masum Ghar (MSG), the remaining half of A Squadron along with other Dragoons from the OMLT and a hand full of special guests celebrated Leliefontein with a specially prepared meal of steak, shrimp, rice and cheesecake courtesy of the FOB cooks. After a reading of the action of Leliefontein for all present by Trooper Hatfield, further promotions to Corporal also took place with Corporal Williams, Corporal Haygard, Corporal Davis and Corporal Malloff receiving their second hook. The Squadron also took the opportunity to thank a number of personnel who had provided outstanding support to the Squadron throughout its deployment. Major MacKenzie and SSM Jones of A Squadron LdSH (RC) were presented with Squadron coins as well and the MSG cooks were presented with tokens of the Squadron appreciation for the excellent support they had provided over the last six months. Having shared some great food and laughs the Squadron wrapped up the celebrations on a truly memorable Leliefontein.

At Kandahar Airfield, a large contingent of Dragoons was hosted by Col Frank, deputy Commander of the OMLT, to a Steak and Lobster BBQ with all the trimmings. After opening remarks by Col Frank and Task Force Kandahar Commander BGen Milner the action at Leliefontein was read and all in attendance enjoyed a fine meal. Special thanks was given Jeff Train, a food suppler and former Dragoon, for be able to supply the key meal ingredients making an enjoyable and memorable Leliefontein.

Soldiers' Christmas Dinner 2010



The craving of the Christmas turkey





Spirits were high as The Regiment enjoyed Christmas dinner and Trooper Latter as youngest trooper in The Regiment becomes CO for the day.

RCD Christmas Hockey Challenge 2010



In the opening match of the tournament the MCpls took on the Cpls/Tprs. This was a very chippy, hard fought match for both teams. Surprisingly the Cpl/Tpr team took an early two goal lead into the second period. The MCpls responded in the frame pulling even with two quick goals. In the third the MCpls edged ahead and held off a late charge by a determined Cpl/Tpr team sending them into the finals with a 5-4 win.

The second game of the tournament saw the short manned Snr NCO team take on the Officers. This was a one sided match from the start, the Officers scored early and often building a huge lead by the end of one period. Never looking back the Officers won 6-1 sending them into the final against the MCpls for the second straight year.

Arguably the most exciting game of the tournament came in the third place match between the Snr NCOs and the Cpls/Tprs. A spirited affair which saw the game ending up in an eleven-round shootout, eventually won by the Snr NCOs 6-5. The game was back and forth and both teams had their share of the lead. With the Cpls/Tprs clinging to a one goal lead late in the third, WO Peori scored a late tally to send the game into a shootout. In the shootout, both teams exchanged chances to win, round after round the two teams remained tied, seeing both goalies standing on their heads until the eleventh round when the hero in regular time once again rose to the occasion. Looking like a young Denis Savard, WO Peori scored a spin-o-rama goal to win it for the Snr NCOs. Honourable mention goes to Lt Steve Knowles for scoring 5 goals in the game. WO Peori eventually won the tournaments MVP award.

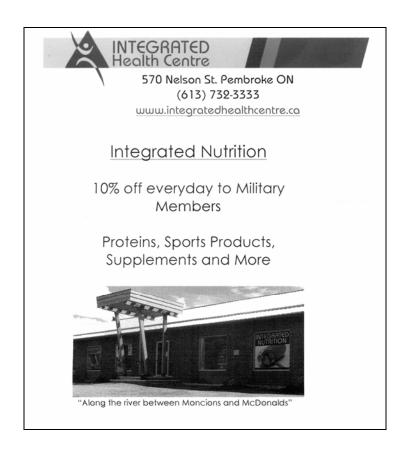
Once again it was bitter sweet victory for the MCpls as they defeated the Officers for the second straight year in the championship game. After last year's shootout loss, the Officers were looking for revenge, it was not to be. The MCpls jumped out to a quick lead scoring in the first minute of play. MCpls Mike Landry and Jonathon Whitehead lit up the score board and by the end of the first period the MCpls had a commanding 5-0 lead. The Officers woke up in the second and won the period 2-1, making the score 6-2 heading into the third. In the last frame the Officers scored once and held the MCpls scoreless; however, it was too little, too late. The final score was 6-3 for the MCpls, making them back to back champions of The Regiment.





Accepting MVP Award - WO Peori

Accepting Champion Trophy - MCpl Landry



Leeuwarden 2011



The Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) liberated the Dutch town of Leeuwarden on 15 April 1945, marking the start of a relationship between The Regiment and the town that continues to this day.

In the spring of 1945, RCD was the Reconnaissance Regiment leading the 2nd Canadian Corps as they advanced through the Dutch province of Friesland. The 1st Canadian Army was advancing north, through Holland, against strong resistance. The Germans, acknowledging that defeat was inevitable, fought hard. Knowing their east escape routes were blocked, they fell back on the North Sea. On 11 April, the breakthrough of the German lines was a success. The RCD had a key role to play in this, guarding the flanks of the 2nd Division. At Mildam, D and B Squadrons fought local actions, and claimed stores, equipment and prisoners. This went on for the next few days. By April 15, after several cold and rainy days, the Dragoons had consolidated near the provincial capital, Leeuwarden. B Squadron stretched out to the northeast, in the area of Dokkum and discovered that the Germans had left Leeuwarden and quickly passed this information on to RHQ. C Squadron pushed into the town late in the morning, followed by RHQ. Ironically, B Squadron never actually entered the town. They remained 20 miles to the north, securing its area of responsibility, subsequently missing the liberation festivities thrown for the war-weary Dragoons by the appreciative Dutch townsfolk. The streets were soon filled up with cheering crowds and national flags were proudly flown. The Dragoons were applauded and thanked by the citizens, and proceeded by handing the supplies and food belonging to the Germans to the people of Leeuwarden. RHQ remained in Leeuwarden while C Squadron moved east to assist D Squadron in the battle of Groningen.

Every year on 15 April, wherever The Regiment may be deployed, members of the RCD commemorate the liberation of Leeuwarden. At CFB Petawawa, Ontario, the RCD Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) flies the town flag, while the Dragoons' camp flag is flown over the town hall in Leeuwarden. This tradition has been carried on since 1945 and when possible RCD representatives are sent to Leeuwarden to partake in their festivities.

At the conclusion of the Leeuwarden parade, The Regiment was marched off the parade square and onto the grounds behind Dragoon Park for the dedication of the Afghan Memorial Forest. The Regiment took up a hollow square surrounding the trees planted to commemorate each of the fallen. As The Regiment stood in place, the honour guard, in scarlets, posted one man by each of the trees. The CO, LCol Cross and the Padre, Capt Turner accompanied each family to the tree that they selected to be planted in memory of their loved ones. One by one the family members of the fallen laid soil onto the newly planted tree, while the honour guard stood at attention, as each plaque was unveiled, The Regiment saluted each of the brave soldiers who gave their lives for Canada. It was obvious how much this Afghan Memorial Forest meant to the families as we watched one mother of the fallen kiss her hand and touch the tree. These soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and now each fallen Dragoon has a living memorial to remind us that they may be gone but never forgotten. May they rest in peace.



Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony held in Dragoon Park following the Parade.

Centurion Room



With A Squadron, B Squadron and the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) having returned to The Regiment from Afghanistan over the course of the year, a semblance of normalcy began to take hold in The Centurion Room. With a large population of officers and several Centurion Room improvements, including a long-awaited new (okay...not new...slightly used) bar fridge and a tap system for kegs, the Centurion Room was hopping during coffee breaks and Friday afternoons. To connect with other units, the membership happily hosted several outside units for Friday fun, including 2 CER, HQ 2 CMBG and the CFB/ASU Petawawa staff. In August 2010, the Centurion Room hosted its annual fall Meet'n'Greet immediately before the 2 CMBG Meet'n'Greet at the Normandy Officers' Mess. The Centurion Room also had the distinct honour of hosting several Jacket and Tie dinners as part of Operation COHORS AMICORUM ("cohort of friends" in Latin) in November 2010, May 2011 and June 2011. Operation COHORS AMICORUM saw a number of civilian friends visit The Regiment to learn about the soldiers, equipment and our role on the battlefield. The dinners were a great success and the camaraderie of the Officers and Warrant Officers of The Regiment was thoroughly enjoyed by our guests. In November, we helped mark our Leliefontein celebration with a packed Mess Dinner at the Normandy Officers' Mess. The capacity crowd and relaxed atmosphere made for a fun and enjoyable dinner. In December, The Centurion Room hosted the Sr NCOs and WOs in The Centurion Room during the annual At-Home festivities. December also saw The Centurion Room host a number of Dragoons for a light lunch to celebrate our Regiment's 127th Birthday. Despite raging snow storms, the event was very well attended and the German-themed lunch brought back 4 CMBG memories for many. As the APS wound down, The Centurion Room bid farewell and good luck to a record number of posted members (31!). Another busy year, but camaraderie and Dragoon spirit prevailed!



Sgt Holland Room



Since its inception the Sgt Holland Room has provided the WO's and Sgt's of The Regiment a place to raise a jar and share stories of the past and of the present. This year has been no exception. We welcomed new, and bid farewell to those departing in true Holland Room fashion.

In September the Holland Room hosted a Meet and Greet for the members and their spouses. Unfortunately A Squadron and members of the OMLT were unable to attend as they were deployed to Afghanistan. Their spouses, as always, were invited to attend and enjoy this annual event. This provided an opportunity to renew old friendships and forge new ones. It also provided a venue for the outgoing PMC, MWO Darryl Bush, to reluctantly take part in some Karaoke.

As is Holland Room tradition, each Sgt promoted in The Regiment was inducted into the Holland Room with a "Shining". This year the first "Shining" took place after Christmas providing an opportunity to induct all those promoted to Sgt, including the soldiers of TF 1-10. The "Shining" took place under the watchful eyes of the WO's and SR NCO's of The Regiment, with a final inspection by the RSM (CWO Bill Richards) and the DSM (MWO Kevin Mathers). We look forward to the next opportunity to welcome new Sgt's.

This year also saw the renewal of an old Regimental tradition, with the conduct of a Regimental MCpl's Training Mess dinner in March. The dinner was well received by the MCpl's and gave them an introduction to the WO's & SR NCO's Mess and Mess Dinners.

As another successful year in the Holland Room draws to a close a new PMC (MWO Sean Beckett) and VPMC (Sgt Steve Travis) have been appointed to carry on the traditions of the WO's and Sgt's of the Regt. We look forward to many more "Shinings" and to bidding farewell to those leaving and welcoming to those posted back in.



RCD Sports



IRONMAN

For the lucky few, training for the 2010 Ironman started in April and May, but for a large majority of the Dragoons deployed on Op CADENCE, training started after summer leave was over in August. Trying to train properly for the Ironman is difficult enough, but trying to cram a few months of weight training, canoeing and running into one month is, as many can attest, down right painful.

Whatever training the Dragoons managed to get in over the summer months, it would all come to a close in the early morning of 16 September 2010. Thirty some odd Dragoons gathered in the chilled morning air, with another 200 (plus) competitors from all the Bde units.

Dressed in combat boots, combat pants, unit t-shirt and wearing a 40 lbs rucksack, all the competitors shuffled forward to the start line in the cold morning air. For those who had done the gruelling event before, some probably wondered why they were doing it again, while those who were making their Ironman debut were likely wondering what they had signed up for.

The 0400 start was marked by 2 RCHA firing one its guns, and the runners headed off into the dark, their headlamps lighting the ground at their feet. It would be a long 6-8 or more hours before they would see the start / finish line again.

32 km later, over near the Petawawa Pilot Training Tower and with daylight finally lighting their way, the runners neared the portage start point. Although the Kevlar canoes may seem light compared to the aluminum or fibreglass ones, after running 32 km with a 40 lbs rucksack, the last thing anyone wants to do is pick up a 49 lb canoe and portage for 4 km.

Normally after the portage, the 8 km paddle down the Ottawa River gives the competitors an opportunity to catch their breath, and stretch their legs in preparation for the final 6 km run to the finish, but this year the weather and water was not going to cooperate. For many what would normally only take 70 +minutes, it was on average an agonizing 90 - 110 minutes of brutal cold wind and non stop waves.



The final 6 km run from the yacht club, along the golf course, and through the quarters to Dundonald Hall is marked by family members cheering on the runners from their front steps, which always gives strength to even the most tired competitor, and makes for some last minute changes in the results.

The Dragoons, although not able to finish strong enough for the team event, had some good representation in the top 50 competitors with Peter Hamilton coming in 18th, Maj Fraser Auld in 30th, and Capt Corey McRobbie coming in at 53rd.

Ultimately finishing the Ironman is an accomplishment in itself, but even as the 2010 Ironman was winding down, the Dragoons were planning on drawing from some of the 2010 competitors to put a determined effort into the 2011 Ironman.

LELIEFONTEIN SPORTS DAY

Leliefontein is not only commemorated on the parade square and during the mess dinners, but through competitive camaraderie on the sports field as well. With A Squadron deployed to Afghanistan with TF 1-10, and another large part of The Regiment deployed with the OMLT, the remaining Squadrons were



left to task their troops to cover off on Ball Hockey, Volleyball, Ice Hockey, and the Chain of Command Race.

C Squadron vying to earn Right of The Line, managed to send up 100+ troops for Leliefontein week to partake in the sports and drill competition.

As with any unit sports day, all the Squadrons put in a determined effort but the events were clearly dominated by C and D Squadrons. Despite the on-ice tussles, heated

disputes with the referees, and a few close calls presided over by the CO, the Squadrons had a fun filled sports day that C and D Squadron managed to sweep.

The winner of both the Leliefontein Sports Trophy and more importantly the Right of The Line Pennant, was to C Squadrons dismay, decided by the winner of the Annual Drill Competition, which went to a well deserving D Squadron.

BRIGADE SUMMER SPORTS

With a large number of soldiers deployed on TF 1-10, and D Squadron deployed on Op CADENCE, the Brigade summer sports teams were definitely struggling to meet their sporting obligations, and all the games kept getting pushed to the right.

Although the Dragoons couldn't provide enough players for every summer sports event, we did manage to field Golf, Soccer and Softball teams that represented The Regiment with a strong showing at all games

BRIGADE WINTER SPORTS

With limited manning, Brigade Winter Sports wasn't off to a good start, with the Dragoons initially only fielding one ice hockey team, and 2 ball hockey teams. Basketball and Volleyball unfortunately, or so it seemed, were not going to be played by the Dragoons this year.

However as the fall training cycle started to wind down, and with the help of some newly posted in soldiers, the RCD relooked at its current team manning and with some urging of troops to represent the unit, we managed to expand our representation to an A, B and C Division ice hockey teams, a couple of ball hockey teams, and a volleyball team as well.

Holding our own, but knowing we will be bolstered by the return of A Squadron and the OMLT troops, we head into the culminating Brigade Sports event, Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR, knowing that we will make The Regiment proud regardless of how we finish on the court, because we are Dragoons!

HELL OR HIGH WATER



Saturday, May 7, the first boat of many was launched into the waters of the Petawawa River marking the official start of third annual Hell or High Water weekend in Petawawa. The event celebrates the wild rivers of the Ottawa Valley, and raised nearly \$8,000 for three charities; Soldier On, Petawawa Military Family Resource Center, and Whitewater Ontario. The RCD entered four teams in the Ottawa Valley Rafting Champ, which featured professional and amateur teams from around the region.



James J. Hickey

REALTY / GENERAL INSURANCE

Deep River, Ontario

613-584-3377

RCD Cadet's



<u>Cadets – Building Better Citizens</u>

The purpose of the Army Cadet movement is not to train soldiers, but to "Build Better Citizens". The Cadet activities are designed to develop self-discipline, self-reliance, physical fitness and other useful skills for Canadian youth. Many of the activities are military in origin and the programme of personal and social development is based on discipline, but the overall objectives go far beyond learning how to master any one particular skill.

The Royal Canadian Army Cadets are not a part of the Canadian Forces. Cadets enrol and train on a voluntary basis and are not obligated to serve for any specific time.

The Regiment supports the Cadet movement and believes it plays an important role in the development of Canada's civilian and military leaders of tomorrow. While the operational tempo during 2009 – 2010 was arguably the highest it has ever been for The Regiment in the last 50 years, we endeavoured to continue our support and sponsorship of two Royal Canadian (Army) Cadet Corps (RCACC), 2332 RCACC and 2870 RCACC.

E Squadron – Royal Canadian Dragoons

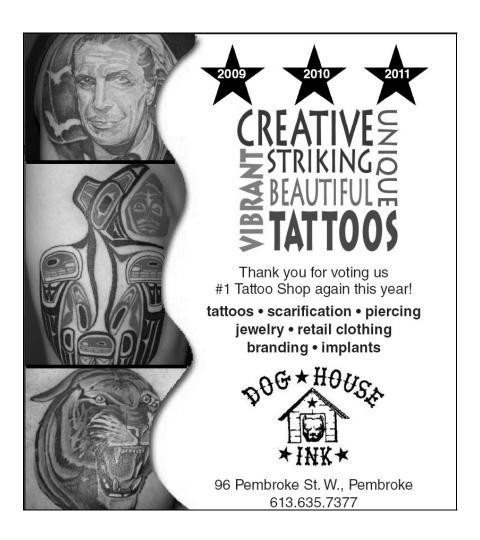
2870 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

Training Year 2009-2010

E Squadron started the year off with a strong recruiting campaign, bringing the strength up to 90 cadets. September and October were devoted to Basic Training for the new recruits. October saw the Squadron move to The Swords and Ploughshares Museum (30 acres) for Exercise SILENT THUNDER where practice was put to the test in the field. B Squadron of The Regiment was now deployed to Afghanistan with TF 3-09. The cadets of E Squadron gathered together many gift items for the soldiers overseas and sent them overseas for Christmas to be enjoyed by all. November saw the Squadron supporting three legion branches with their respective Poppy campaigns and Remembrance Day parades. The E Squadron Family Dinner rounded out 2009.

In February 2010, the Squadron travelled to Quebec City for an Interprovincial Cadet Exchange. The cadets were billeted at the Citadel (former home to The Regiment). This was a cultural tour hosted by a Cadet Corps from Ste Marie de Beauce. The cadets took in the Winter Carnival Parade, toured the city, and played competitive Kin-Ball, rock wall climbing and other sports activities. On return to Ottawa, the Squadron conducted Exercise ROVING TROOPER, a spring exercise designed to introduce and practice navigational skills. The Squadron Biathlon Team performed so well that they advanced to the provincial level of competition for the first time.

Rounding out the year, the Annual Ceremonial Review was held at Connaught in May. This was the culmination of the year's training with many awards being presented. In June the Squadron's year-end adventure activity was to go white water rafting on the Ottawa River. Great fun was had by all. In all it does, E Squadron always works to represent itself and The Regiment with pride and achievement.



Expo 150

The County of Renfrew celebrated their 150th Anniversary this year and held a high profile and unique celebratory event in the form of EXPO 150, 9 - 12 June 2011, in the area of the Pembroke Airport. Organizers for Expo 150 predicted an attendance of 15,000 - 20,000 people for the four-day event, but when the numbers were totalled up, more than 40,000 people took in EXPO 150, more than doubling attendance predictions. This was definitely a "feel good about Renfrew County" event that highlighted the past, present and future of Renfrew County and included several VIP guests as well as dignitaries from Renfrewshire, Scotland. EXPO 150 presented an excellent opportunity to showcase the soldiers and equipment of RCD.



In Memoriam



Trooper Troy Barnes

1986 - 2011

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Last Post

2009 Mary Prouse

Ross K. Gould Ray Putt

2010 *Ian Murray Rettie

Ernie Barrett Trooper Larry Rudd

Barbara Barron Fred Smith

Eric Binns *Ellen May Stanford

Arnold Boyd Gloria Van Leeuwen

Murray Brennan Henry Weir

Jim Brown <u>2011</u>

John Butterworth *BGen Ned Amy

*Phoebe May Christiani *Jim Ayers

LCol Chuck Conway *Darlene Brown

David Cooper *Ray Cook

*Ann Day Jean Duffney

*William A. Dickinson *LGen René Gutnecht

Homer (Ed) Fisher *Major Brian Hook

HCol Kit Graham *Alfred Jamieson

Col Ian Haldane MGen JPR (Bob) Larose

*Elmer E. Haney *Patrick Mcardle

Mary E. (Betty) Haskett *Marven Springer

BGen Owen Lockyer *BGen George Wattsford

Jim 'Tooner' Martin *Arnold Lukala

*Marie Louise Murphy

Bill Power * denotes a Member of the RCD Association

Gordon Price

Guild



The Guild is the *only* registered Charity in Canada dedicated to preserving our history; promoting the present, and securing our future as a Regimental Family.

Vision Statement

"One strongly united Regimental family of former and serving Dragoons, encompassing the Unit, the Association Chapters, all past and present members, families and friends, dedicated to family Quality of Life and upholding a proud tradition of outstanding service to the country by honouring our heritage as Canada's senior armoured Regiment."

Lines Of Operation

History and Heritage - Ceremonial Uniforms, Vehicle Restoration, Regimental History, Dragoon Memorial Park, Museum and Archives.

Unity – Annual publications (Springbok and Dragoon), Website, Accoutrements, Regimental Celebrations.

Quality of Life – Operational Voices Teddy Bears, Soldier Recuperation Kits, Leliefontein Memorial Bursary, Support to Families of the Fallen.





Leliefontein Memorial Bursary

Effective 2011, the Guild will award 2 bursaries of up to \$5000.00 to members of The Regimental Family.

Details are available online at www.dragoons.ca.

Support the Guild

Tax deductible donations can be made in the following ways:

Pay Acquitance Roll Deduction to Y007

Online at www.dragoons.ca (via Canada Helps.org)

United Way Contributions (Charitable Registration No. 12194 8038 RR 0001)

Direct contributions

Estate Bequests

More information is available online at www.dragoons.ca



The RCD Association

The RCD Association is an organization which seeks to provide a means to keep current and former Dragoons and their families connected, while serving to support The Regiment and its goals in any way possible. The Association is an integral part of The Regimental Family and a tangible link to The Regiment's recent history.

The Association is comprised of a collection of chapters located in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, the National Capital Region, the Ottawa Valley, Kingston, Toronto, Southern Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Each chapter conducts a series of meetings and events designed to keep Dragoons linked together socially, keep Association members informed of current Regimental events and support the serving Regiment.

The Regiment is extremely fortunate to have a strong and vibrant Association, whose members regularly attend Regimental events. In addition, the RCD Association provides a strong presence at high-profile military events such as the Toronto Warriors' Day Parade, World War Two, Korea and Peacekeeping Veterans' commemorative ceremonies. It is a common sight to see RCD Association members visiting The Regiment Lines and passing on the fruits of their wisdom and experience to young Dragoons.

The Regiment is proud of the RCD Association and grateful for the continued support and excellent service that it continues to provide to every Dragoon.













THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS



Audax et Celer - Bold and Swift

