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THE SPRINGBOK

THE ANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE GUILD OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

Published by permission of Lieutenant-Colonel A.J. Atherton, CD
Commanding Officer

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



COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT'S ADDRESS

This being my first opportunity to address the Regimental Family in this forum, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your generous confidence in me as well as your loyal support to The Regiment. It has been more than a year since my appointment and the experience has been "tremendous". With the Commanding Officer's support I have spent much time with our serving men and women both in Petawawa and Gagetown. The highlight of those visits has been the opportunity to speak one on one with as many Dragoons as possible. The ensuing exchanges were always to my liking "genuine and unabashed". What is most apparent is the continuous vigor and commitment shown by of all our serving brethren notwithstanding the end of the combat mission in Afghanistan. The return to general purpose training is well underway and to date its associate high

intensity tempo has kept our Regiment hopping. War no war soldiering remains the same!

I am also greatly encouraged by the selfless commitment of all those retired "Dragoons" who have kept up the camaraderie through membership and active participation in the Association. Without this energetic collectivity of elders our Regiment would lack the "family luster" that is so important in maintaining our tradition and ethos. They are the custodians of the immediate past from which future chapters of our Regimental history will be written. "Rendez-Vous 2012" in Kingston was certainly indicative of the dedication of this vibrant collectivity. I look forward to our next gathering in St-Catherines, Ontario on the 13-14 June 2014 and encourage all to attend.

I suppose most of you, since joining The Regiment, have as I wondered what may have been the origin of the Springbok. Well here is a bit of trivia: Our history states that a monthly Regimental journal named "The Goat" was created in 1922. Not much more is known and/or was written regarding this journal. Curiously while attending a recent meeting of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation (with General Clive Addy among others) I was provided a document by a colleague who denoted that our annual Springbok may have initially been a daily newspaper written and edited by our Padre while serving in Marsfield, Sussex during WW2. LCol W.J. Gilling, MBE recounts in a letter that after serving with Infantry units he was delighted to be posted to the Royal Canadian Dragoons where he opined that the "intellectual standard of the Armoured Corps is higher" than what he had experienced in the Infantry (interesting how things haven't changed). Noticing a genuine interest among the soldiers for information, Padre Gilling began operating a small newspaper which he posted on walls and special notice boards in the men's canteens. He named the newspaper "Springbok" and the rest is "history"!

In closing, I wish to commend on your behalf Brigadier-General (ret) Darrell Dean who I have succeeded. His successful tenure as COR denotes his selfless dedication and tremendous loyalty to our Regiment. He continues to serve us well as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

Georges Rousseau CD
Colonel (ret'd)
Colonel of the Regiment



SENIOR SERVING DRAGOON'S ADDRESS

I would like to open by thanking all those who stayed in touch with me during my year in Afghanistan... your words of encouragement continually reminded me of the value of the Regimental family and the strength it brings us all when we are separated from our families and friends.

Principally there were two things that drove me during my year leading both Canadians and coalition members participating in the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A)...those being the overriding requirement for mission success balanced by the needs of our people. While the mission was complex, the demands of our troops were relatively simple; provide the resources necessary to get the job done and mitigate the threat by continually providing for their force protection. In all this, what quickly became clear was

that once again Canadians proved their “mettle” in a combat operation – they were second to none in finding a way to make a difference...in finding a way to motivate the Afghan National Security Forces to strive for success and to achieve their potential.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tremendous job our Contingent did in restoring the monument in Kabul commemorating the sacrifice made by Canadians since the outset of the Afghanistan mission. Major Fraser Auld, Captain Tyler Peitzsche and I took a moment to remember those Dragoons who had fallen – they will never be forgotten.

Throughout the tour I often asked our troops to reflect upon what they had accomplished and to then take a moment to be proud of what they had done. This message applies to all Dragoons, both serving and retired... be proud of what you do for this great nation of ours on a daily basis – thank your families for their support as we cannot do what we do without their commitment...and never forget, “it is always another fine day to be a Dragoon”.

Major-General Jim Ferron, OMM, MSC, CD
Commander 1st Canadian Division Headquarters
Senior Serving Dragoon



COMMANDING OFFICER'S ADDRESS

Since 21 December 1883, Dragoons have served Canada with pride and professionalism, performing admirably in operational theatre while representing the values and ideals of both the Regiment and the Canadian Forces. With Afghanistan complete and budget cuts an ever increasing reality, the focus of The Regiment, much like the rest of the Canadian Forces, is to get back to basics in regards to training and physical fitness. As my first year as the Commanding Officer of The Royal Canadian Dragoons draws to a close, I look back and reflect on the remarkable training tempo which took place and the exceptional conduct of our members.

This return to the fundamentals of soldiering allowed The Regiment to train once again at the conventional level and really test both the mounted and dismounted abilities of our troops. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of overseeing the various Exercises conducted by The Regiment, which emphasised the importance of Troop, Squadron and Regimental level tactics. Both Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and Ex DYNAMIC SPRINGBOK clearly demonstrated the culmination of training and abilities of each Squadron. 2012 had many highlights, but none greater than the return of C Squadron under Regimental control. It was a long time coming and it is great to have our brothers in the East back where they belong. By the end of the year, C Squadron will be completely outfitted with the new Leopard 2 and ready for operations.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to three of our comrades: WO Kevin Malott, Cpl Nicholas Braam, and Tpr Tyler McRae. We will always remember them and hold dear the relationships that have been built with their families.

Special thanks have to go out to The RCD Guild in recognition of all of the activities undertaken on our behalf. From providing educational bursaries to family members, to supporting events such as the Leliefontein All Ranks Dance, the Guild and its members continue to ensure that the sacrifices of our soldiers are not forgotten.

I am confident that as we continue to move forward in the next training year with our emphasis on a conventional means of training, both the leadership and the troops will continue to work together to build a strong foundation of knowledge and experience in preparation for future operations. As always, the Association will be relied upon to continue to keep current and former Dragoons connected, and to support The Regiment and its goals in any way possible.



A.J. Atherton
Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding Officer



REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR'S ADDRESS

I will begin by saying thank you to the Canadian Forces, the Canadian Army, and the Armour Corps for considering me for the appointment of the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. It is truly an Honour.

Our Regimental centre of gravity is the core competency of crew commanding, with the focus clearly directed at the tactical competencies of move, shoot, and communicate.

As your RSM, I want you to continue to self motivate and develop your disciplines in the areas of training (professional and individual), physical fitness and the recognition of your peers and subordinates for noteworthy performance.

I have always found Dragoons to be among the most dedicated, professional, and talented soldiers in the Corps. We must continue to be motivated towards all our tasks and strive to perfect the tactical and technical aspects of armoured soldiering. It will be through this training, and your dedication to mission, that we as a Regiment will be successful in any domestic or international operation that we face.

I will ask of you only one thing. That is for you, each and every day, "To do the next right thing". You will find that once you start doing these both in your personal and professional life that you will begin to find your decision-making easier; and when faced with some of life's tough challenges your courage to do "right" will be much easier.

Our profession is not an easy one. You have been asked to carry the torch. I expect you to take it and hold it high. I expect you to lead.

God Bless and Sleep Warm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SA Mercer".

SA Mercer
RSM
Royal Canadian Dragoons



UNITED in RED
THE OTTAWA SENATORS







RHQ

This year the Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) of The Royal Canadian Dragoons stayed very busy sustaining the squadrons. RHQ was in charge of several Regimental courses and participating in most of the exercises. Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) Andrew Atherton had recently replaced LCol Dyrld Cross, and began his first full year as Commanding Officer (CO) of the Regiment. Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Bill Richards completed his last year in the position, being replaced by CWO Shawn Mercer at the end of his tenure.

In order to support the busy training tempo of The Regiment, RHQ quickly started their Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) training, to ensure all soldiers had the required skill levels. After a few ranges and confirmation training was complete, the members of RHQ could be signed off for the year and focus on supporting the other squadrons of The Regiment. In the middle of this training was a short break for some sporting activities, which included a Brigade run and sports day for Terry Fox and the Petawawa Ironman competition. RHQ then deployed the Regimental Command Post (CP) for the first time in the year to support the squadrons on Exercise (Ex) VIRTUAL DRAGOON II, this was a computer assisted exercise (CAX) designed to allow the squadrons to practice their battle rhythm and manoeuvres before deploying out into the world. Just after the completion of the CAX, the CP was deployed once again to support The Regiment on Ex WALKING DRAGOON. This exercise saw The Regiment spread out over the Ottawa Valley to practice their patrol and troop level manoeuvres in real time after their practice on the computers. When everyone returned from the exercise, WO Travis and his gunnery team lead The



Regiment through Ex SABOT DRAGOON, a regimental guns camp designed to allow everyone to practise and hone their gunnery skills with the 25mm cannon found on the Coyotes and Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) IIIs. This quickly rolled into the annual celebration of Leliefontein, providing everyone with a much needed break from the high training tempo.

Around this time, Armoured Reserve Squadron Commanders, and those soon to be, from across Canada began their distance learning for the Armoured Reserve Squadron Commander's Course (ARSCC.) All of this preparatory work made sure they were ready for their arrival in Petawawa to practice leading a squadron of their own. After a few days of CAX, the reservists took hold of their borrowed squadrons to deploy them once more into the Ottawa Valley. For about a week RHQ and the CP supported all three Petawawa squadrons manoeuvring around the Ottawa Valley to test the students on their abilities to command and control an armoured squadron. All said and done, the 15 students returned to their home units with a great experience. This brought The Regiment to the end of the fall training plan, and gave everyone a chance to relax with a week of Christmas activities.

After the holidays, RHQ spooled right back up, participating in the Headquarters Squadron driving road move, Ex ROLLING DRAGOON, which saw every moving vehicle in the Regiment work their engines by driving through Algonquin Park, then looping around North Bay on the way back to Petawawa. Afterwards RHQ practiced surviving in cold conditions on Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. This was a survival style winter warfare exercise held in the Petawawa Training Area.

In the spring time, The Regiment celebrated the liberation of Leeuwarden, then RHQ prepared to deploy to Wainwright Alberta to assist in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1301. During this exercise RHQ functioned as the main command and control piece for the Opposing Force Battle Group. This involved supporting A Squadron and a number of external elements to provide realistic training to 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) to prepare them for future missions.



Shortly after their return from Wainwright, RHQ began to practice and prepare for the Change of Appointment Parade from Regimental Sergeant Major CWO Bill Richards to CWO Shawn Mercer. The next week members of RHQ were attending the Change of Command Parade for the Commander 2 CMBG from Colonel Simon Hetherington to Colonel Peter Dawe. Afterwards RHQ had a squadron party to celebrate the year and say goodbye to everyone before summer block leave.







A Squadron

A Sqn had a fast paced and exciting training year in 2012/13. The year began with simunition training in built up areas in the sweltering heat of July. The last task of the training year was catch parties for vehicles returning from Wainwright in June while the remainder of the Sqn prepared for the RSM

Change of Appointment ceremony. A Sqn soldiers can testify to the trying times they faced, as well as the memorable moments you had to be there for. It is impossible to describe the year without an honourable mention to our unofficial sister unit, the 1-71st CAV (US) out of Fort Drum, NY. A Sqn soldiers will always remember the added combat power they brought to the table on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. Similarly, no crew commander on the Ex will ever forget having to relay comms from US call sign white one, to call sign one, through one-one...

After a Christmas leave that wasn't long enough, and a Regimental road move that was more than long enough, A Sqn found itself in Burwash, yet again with our comrades, the 1-71st. This time dismounted, the two platoons fought to identify one another's patrol base. Chance close contact often became the name of the game. Moving back towards recce tactics, it was an excellent opportunity to teach our allies how to conduct winter warfare, while at the same time trying out their kit.



However, of all the exercises and gun camps throughout the year the capstone event had to be Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright throughout the month of May. Living out of a FOB, and battling 1 CMBG day in, day out, proved to be a training experience that every soldier in every job learned from. Maintaining OP's with enemy infantry not more than 100m away was a nervous adrenaline rush that crewmen in 1 Troop may not have again for some time. 3 Troop soldiers will reminisce for years the morning they crashed out of a hide, narrowly escaping an artillery barrage, only to be chased through open country by two Griffon helicopters. 1 Troop's decisive action to strike enemy OP's at first light as part of a mini combat team is not something the Recce Sqn from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) will stop talking about either, even if they might like to. All in all, no soldier walked away from Wainwright without learning something valuable. That being said, effort was required at all levels to achieve such results. The Trooper who spotted the glint of enemy surveillance gear 6 km away contributed exponentially to mission success. The Crew Commander who fought his vehicle so well he achieved a mobility kill on a Leopard accomplished the same. A year for the books, A Sqn soldiers can take away their experience, new skills and stories and look forward to another year of the same or better.







B Squadron

This year the squadron welcomed a new command team, Major Stephan Popowych and MWO Ingo Herbst. Under their leadership the squadron embarked on preparations for the fall training period, focusing on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON.

Upon returning from Ex WALKING DRAGOON it was time to practice gunnery skills as the squadron moved out to Juliet Tower for Ex SABOT DRAGOON. An interesting part of this year's fall gun camp was the inclusion of a 36 hour live-fire exercise in the Petawawa training area that tested the ability of crews to move, shoot and communicate.

November saw B Squadron deploy with the rest of The Regiment on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON, which doubled as a Reserve Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron Commander's Course. Ex CHARGING DRAGOON was without a doubt the high point of the fall training schedule with the area of operations centered on the Ottawa Valley. B Squadron's corridor focused on an area running south from Petawawa to the communities of Beachburg, Renfrew, Arnprior and the Ottawa suburb of Stittsville. While the operational tempo of the exercise was high B Squadron's troops maintained a good level of focus throughout, exercising their reconnaissance abilities on a wide variety of missions that were both challenging and realistic. The end result saw the course's students walk away with both a new qualification and a great appreciation for the level of professionalism and job knowledge put forth by all members of B Squadron.



During this year's Leliefontein activities B Squadron was highly successful, capturing top place in the sports day and drill competition. The end result was that B Squadron was bestowed the honour of being Right of Line for the year. This was particularly important as B Squadron was Right of Line during the Regimental Sergeant-Major Change of Appointment parade in June.

A busy fall training schedule saw the time fly and before we knew it Silly Season was upon us. All members of B Squadron took part in the related festivities that included a sports day, the much-enjoyed At Home and the traditional Men's Christmas Dinner. Once these events wrapped up it was time to go home and enjoy a few weeks of well-deserved rest.

The New Year saw B Squadron conduct winter warfare training in the Petawawa training area. Ex FROZEN DRAGON, while unpleasant sounding, was actually very enjoyable as the squadron was able to practice such skills as snowshoeing and tent routine in relatively mild weather. B Squadron also had the privilege of seeing its 1 Troop, led by Lt Nick Ouellette and Sgt Darren Ferrie, deploy to Northern Ontario as part of Ex TRILLIUM RESPONSE, an annual exercise that tests the Canadian Force's ability to respond to domestic situations and emergencies in austere conditions.

With winter warfare over it was once again time to return to the ranges for the Regiment's spring gun camp. After several days of shooting, a composite troop known as 4 Troop led by Captain Chris Levan and Sgt

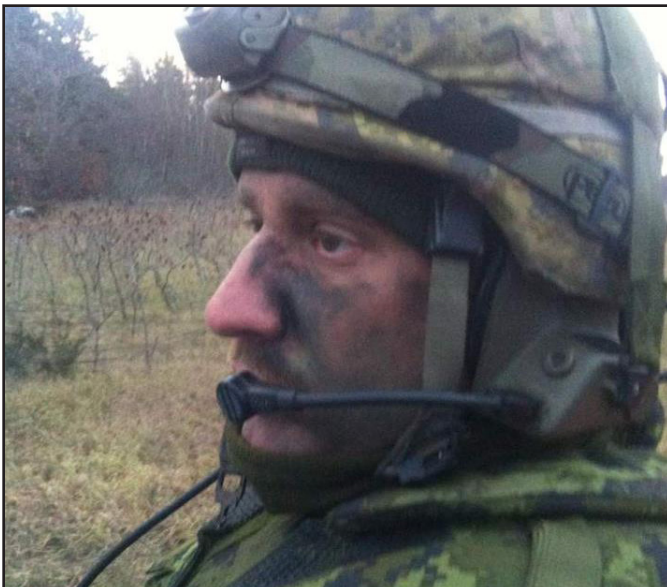
Bobby Doodnauth took home The Regiment's gunnery competition that was held in conjunction with the gun camp, further solidifying our Right of Line status.

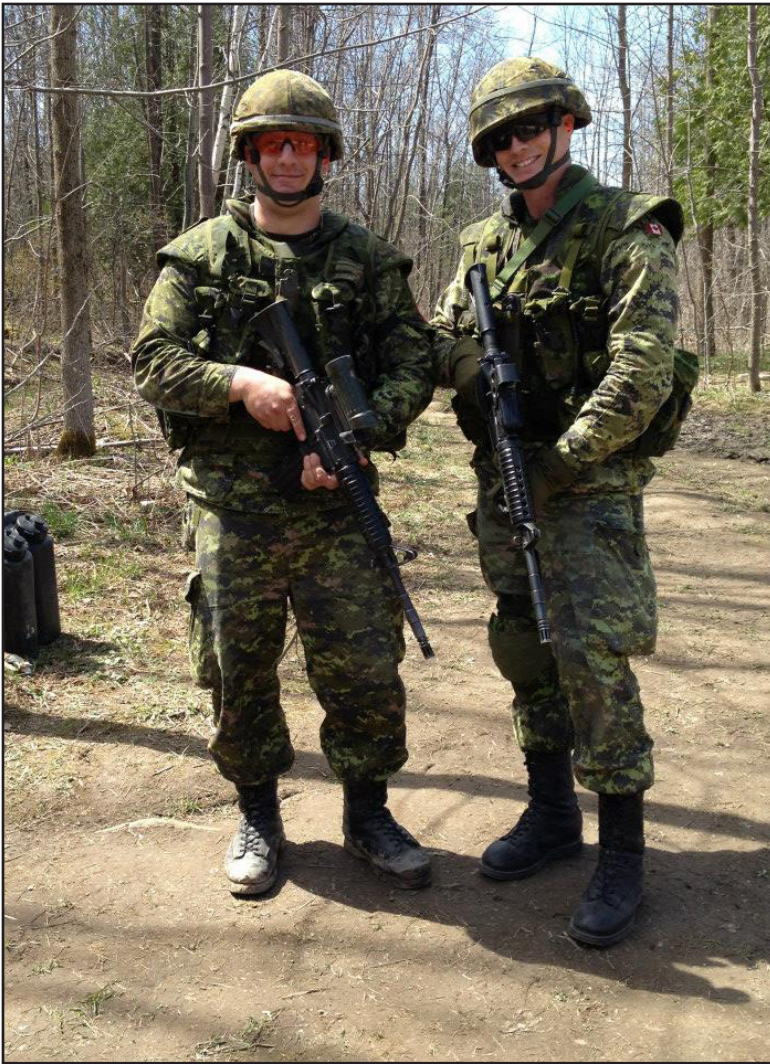
In late April, while much of The Regiment was engaged in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, B Squadron deployed to Meaford for Ex DYNAMIC SPRINGBOK along with D Squadron to hone their dismounted operation skills. Ex DYNAMIC SPRINGBOK saw the conduct of jungle lanes, live fire section attacks, a dynamic urban assault range and "killhouse" training using simulated ammunition. The highlight for most was the 48 hour force-on-force exercise that saw 3 Troop pitted against the rest of the squadron.

With the year's training activities concluded it was finally time to enjoy some well-deserved some time off as B Squadron's members embarked on their summer leave. While the 2012-13 training calendar had an extremely high tempo next year's promises to be even more demanding as B Squadron transitions to its role as the high-readiness squadron and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright in Spring 2014.











C Squadron

The word 'busy' falls well short of defining this year's tempo for the members of C Squadron, as troops put Canada's newest tank squadron firmly on the Army's radar through a series of training events and exercises within both Canada and the United States. Commanded by Maj Sean Pires and MWO

Mario Doiron, C Squadron consists of four fighting tank troops, a maintenance troop, an administrative troop and a squadron headquarters.

As of April 1st, 2012, C Squadron was no longer considered a sub-unit at the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group (2 RCR BG), officially falling under the command of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. Just one week after receiving their first five Leopard 1 C2 tanks, C Squadron deployed on April 10th, 2012 for the Gagetown Training Area for Ex LION INTRÉPIDE; a month long 5 CMBG field training exercise.

Upon their return to garrison, C Squadron worked tirelessly to complete their post exercise maintenance as well as prepare for their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, who visited CFB Gagetown May 21st, 2012 in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. C Squadron was privileged with providing a fifty soldier guard, and His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales took the time to speak with its members as he conducted his inspection.



C Squadron then deployed for two weeks of training at Fort Riley Kansas for Ex IRON DRAGON. While in Kansas the squadron trained on American M1A1 Abrams simulators at the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT), using full crew simulators and experiencing the different types of operations a tank squadron might have to conduct on the battlefield. Four weeks after their return from Kansas, twenty-five lucky squadron members deployed for Ex DRAGON CLIMBER, a week long adventure training event organized by Sgt Greg Denton. Activities included cycling, canoeing, rock climbing, zip lining, and “deppelling” where troops deppelled down a 135ft cliff thanks to the extensive, personalized instruction, and motivation from the highly trained and friendly staff.

The fall months saw some changes in troops as well as leadership, as MWO Jim Hebert handed over his responsibilities as the Squadron Sergeant Major to MWO Mario Droion. C Squadron’s United Way campaign took on a life of its own as members were encouraged to donate through several incentives. On Friday, November 9th,, 2012 just shy of their \$10,000 goal, C Squadron held an auction for their leadership’s hair and reached their final goal, effectively stripping all command teams of their hair and raising \$10,000 for the United Way and supported charities.

In November, C Squadron once again deployed to the Gagetown Training Area for Ex STEEL DRAGON was a historical event for the squadron as it had been more than a decade since the tanks of C Squadron rolled

out with four fighting troops. Ex STEEL DRAGOON's gun camp served to "merge the technical with the tactical" and from that point on, game faces were firmly in place and a realistic, challenging and memorable Leopard C2 gun camp began.

Christmas saw squadron soldiers return from Afghanistan and Op ATTENTION to a very different squadron. However the returning troops had no difficulty falling back onto the high tempo. On January 29th, 2013, members of C Squadron did something that most tankers vow to never do – dismount - as C Sqn conducted its annual dismounted winter warfare training exercise, known as Ex POLAR DRAGOON, in the Gagetown Training Area.

During the month of February, C Squadron conducted its first two serials of the Leopard 2 Gunner and Loader Conversion Course. While the course was busy experiencing the awesome power of the Leopard 2, troops back at the squadron were beginning preparations and work up training for Ex TUNGSTEN DRAGOON, C Squadron's spring live fire continuation gun camp.

The end of the gun camp was marked by a special appearance and participation of seven Friends of the Regiment (FOTR) on Friday, March 22nd, 2013. Led by former RCD soldier and current Regimental Patron, Mr. David Batten, a contingent of FOTR joined C Squadron at the live-fire range. Alongside David Batten, volunteering to take a day from their busy schedules to spend a day in the life of a tanker were Ted Averbook, Paul Riganelli, Paul Ferretti, Dale Corman, Shaun McKaigue, and Stephen Roman. A little different from their daily grind in Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC, these seven gentlemen underwent an action filled day of learning how to move and shoot in a main battle tank.

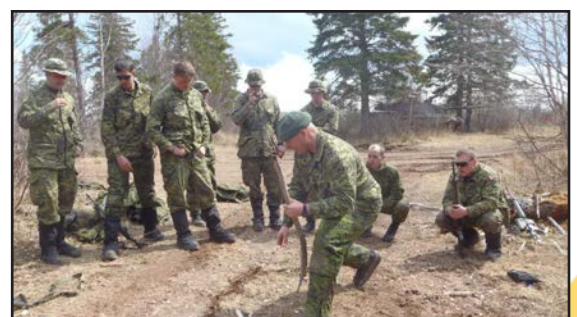
When the Combat Team Commander's Course 1301 (CTCC) began on April 20th, 2013, the tempo skyrocketed and troops conducted upwards of five hasty attacks per day in various locations throughout the Gagetown Training Area. Two weeks and forty-five hasty attacks later, the members of C Squadron were incredibly well versed in combat team tactics and ready to participate in a final battle group level attack. The CTCC allowed troops to not only prove their skills but showcase them skills on a daily basis, solidifying their confidence in the fact that their transition from reconnaissance to tanks was complete.

Overall, a very busy year for C Squadron translated into a very successful output of highly trained and skilled soldiers. The diligent and determined efforts of all troops allowed the squadron's development to reach a new level and cement the capabilities of Canada's newest tank squadron. There is still much work to be done, however, the members of C Squadron can be proud of their accomplishments as they enter the road to high readiness.











D Squadron

The past year has been a busy one for D Squadron. Upon our return from summer block leave and after a week of maintenance and post-exercise routine, the squadron commenced our PCF tasks. D Sqn was in charge of running the Turret Operator Course and Bison Driver. Following the PCF Cycle, the Sqn underwent a shuffle of leadership and personnel, which introduced many new faces to D Sqn. With this complete, all members of D Sqn went their separate ways for some much needed summer leave.

The Sqn returned to work with gradually increasing workloads in preparation for upcoming exercises. The Regiment participated in the annual Terry Fox Day Run and Brigade Sports Day. The weather was excellent for some healthy competition amongst the base during the 11 km run in efforts to raise money for cancer research. A number of the soldiers and officers of D Sqn participated in the 2 CMBG Ironman Competition.

The fall training period commenced with Ex WALKING DRAGOON. This exercise was designed for the crew to Sqn level to fine-tune some fundamental skills and tactics while practicing select BTS. Following this Ex, the Sqn found themselves on the ranges taking aim on developing marksmanship skills, where we got to fire weapons such as shotgun, 9mm, M203, C6, C9, and 84mm.

Ex SABOT DRAGOON followed. The troops were excited to get rounds on target and the work within a crew setting created a cohesive live fire event. Following the gun camp, all members of D Sqn got their DEU's



prepared for the Leliefontein week-long celebrations. The competition for Right of Line was fierce, and included a drill competition and a day of sports competitions. The Leliefontein parade was successful yet again, and the evening ended with a dinner and dance for all ranks to enjoy.

Following the Leliefontein celebrations, D Sqn jumped right back onto the range to conduct exciting jungle lane shoots. For Remembrance Day, D Sqn paraded at Beechwood National Cemetery in Ottawa.

Before you knew it, D Sqn was back on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON in the RMA. This Ex was run for the Army Reserve Squadron Commander Course (ARSCC) where D Sqn was one of the Sqn's used to train Reserve Squadron Commanders.

After a very busy fall that saw very little white space on the calendar, D Sqn received the chance to unwind and settle down with some Sqn kit checks and inspections right before Christmas and "silly season". The Sqn got to watch the annual Christmas Hockey tournament between all ranks – where the MCpl Team won it all. The Men's Christmas Dinner was a great time to fill up on turkey and wash it down with a few beverages before departing on much needed Christmas leave.

The Sqn returned energized after the Christmas leave and eased back into the routine with stables and turret monthlies. February arrived quickly and with that came the winter exercise, Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. The

Sqn stayed in the Petawawa training area where we put our basic survival skills to use in a winter environment. From building improvised shelters, to snow defences, to patrolling and navigation in snowshoes, all members of the Sqn gained confidence in conducting dismounted operations in extreme conditions. The troops displayed great sprit, under physically demanding tasks in cold conditions.

In March the Sqn prepared for Gun Camp again and Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR. The month closed out with a Regimental Gun Camp that culminated in Troops from different Sqns competing in a competition to determine the best Troop in the Regiment, with this competition serving as part of the overall competition for Right of Line.

Overall, it has been another busy, but good year in D Sqn and we are well prepared for whatever future tasks or operations come our way. The soldiers of D Sqn are ready.











HQ Squadron

After coming together as a Squadron in July, Headquarters Squadron jumped right into training with Exercise WALKING DRAGOON. Deploying to the Petawawa training area at K Bivouac for the 2nd phase, we were able to develop solid Squadron and Troop SOPs as well as support The Regiment through the DP cycle and provision of fresh food. The Cooks employed their MKTs (Mobile Kitchen Trailers) masterfully and even managed to prepare a special steak and shrimp dinner for The Regiment. After a quick refresh with family for Thanksgiving, we were back at it again only this time deploying to the Rural Manoeuvre Area (RMA). With the help of our resourceful and crafty Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant (SQ), we were able to secure the fiber board factory on Highway 17 to live and operate from.

Exercise SABOT DRAGOON (Ex SD) soon kicked off and crews from across The Regiment got onto the range so they could hone their gunnery skills, with Headquarters Squadron having ten of its crews firing. The SQ's boys were busy supplying the ranges with rations and all the other goodies the Cooks could provide. Following Ex SD The Regiment was getting into Leliefontein festivities and what could be considered the most competitive week of the year. The variety of competitions, including drill and the Leliefontein Sports Day, would decide which Squadron would have the Right of Line on regimental parades. After a close finish, a combined Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (RHQ/HQ) finished a close third. Various sports were played in a round robin tournament until the finals,



which ended in exciting finishes, drawing a sizeable crowd. With the addition of the pacestick competition this year, it gave the Sergeants of The Regiment their own battle royal and this year, the trophy was taken by the RHQ/HQ team with an amazing show of grace and finesse. After all was said and done, The Regiment got together for an all ranks dinner and dance, taking well-deserved time to wind down and swap stories of the past week's events.

November quickly approached and The Regiment was at it again, with Headquarters Squadron supporting the Armoured Reserve Squadron Commander's Course (ARSCC). With the whole regiment deployed throughout the RMA and Petawawa training area, Headquarters Squadron was kept busy providing real-time support to the training. Finally with holidays approaching, the Squadron had a chance to settle down and get ready for Christmas season, or silly season, as it is best known. This included another round of sports followed by a dinner served up by the Cooks in conjunction with the Senior NCOs.

After Christmas vacation, Headquarters Squadron pushed out again in advance to prepare for The Regiment's rollout, dubbed Exercise ROLLING DRAGOON. With temperatures reaching -40°C on what was to be one of the coldest days of the year, Transport Troop was stretched out over 500 Km, manning short and long halt locations, while Maintenance Troop was out clearing the trail. The road move would end with the recovery party returning after spending 28 hours on the road, and Transport Troop returning finally after two days in the cold.

After months of preparation and planning, Headquarters Squadron was ready to deploy to Wainwright, Alberta as the Royal Canadian Dragoons COEFOR Battle Group (RCD BG). On April 26th, the advance party arrived to view the site that would be home to the RCD BG for the next five weeks. Headquarters Squadron headed up the monumental task of building the camp and preparing the facilities required to house 500+ soldiers and 200+ vehicles. The biggest and best element of the camp was the mess tent which served as the place to eat, drink, and take in the Stanley Cup playoffs. After a long five weeks supporting the RCD BG, Headquarters Squadron was amongst the last to redeploy back to Petawawa, ready to get out on the parade square and properly welcome the new Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM) on his Change of Appointment Parade.





REGIMENTAL OPS AND TRAINING

The 2012-13 training year saw The Regiment heavily engaged in training activities at a very demanding pace. The high operational tempo saw the Squadrons either engaged in or preparing for the next bound almost without pause with attention divided between training, exercises and ceremonial tasks. The year was unique in that it saw the return of C Squadron to the control of The Regiment and the inclusion of 2 Military Police Platoon under the wing of The Regiment for administrative and logistical support.

In the third week of August 2012, The Regiment returned from a well deserved period of summer leave that saw new members posted in. The first order of business was a week of orientation and administrative briefings provided to all members. Topics presented included updates from the support agencies throughout CFB Petawawa and important annual administrative briefings. All members also had the opportunity to update pers files to ensure that everything was in good order.



With administrative matters out of the way The Regiment collectively turned its attention to Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS). This year saw the introduction of a two part IBTS process consisting of an initial week of Core Competency IBTS followed by more traditional IBTS tasks for the next two weeks. During the Core Competency IBTS period, the soldiers received advanced communications instruction, maintenance briefings and were introduced to the concept of equipment husbandry. Equipment husbandry reintroduced the concept of pride of ownership in our Regiment's kit, and harkens back to the horse, saddle, man mantra. This is intended to maximize the lifespan of our vehicles and equipment.

IBTS General included more traditional IBTS tasks, including simulator shoots in the Small Arms Trainer and LAV Crew Gunnery Trainer and the soldiers being reacquainted with artillery via the Indirect Fire Trainer. Once the simulators were completed the troops moved out into the training area and over the course of a week fired personal and crew served weapons in a round robin format. Concurrent with IBTS, The Regiment also participated in sports events at the Brigade level, beginning with the Terry Fox Run and Sports Day and ending with the annual 2CMBG Iron Man event. This year's Iron Man saw 68 Dragoons ruckmarch, portage and paddle over a 50 km course. This year's team proudly represented The Regiment to other 2 CMBG units and guest participants.

As the fall season approached the focus turned from individual to collective training, employing progressive training intended to prepare the Dragoons for the field. Ex VIRTUAL DRAGOON was a week long level 5 Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) intended to confirm SOPs at both the Squadron and Regimental Level in a virtual environment. Ex WALKING DRAGOON built upon the lessons learned in the CAX environment. Over a two week period (5-12 Oct 12) The Regiment completed training first at the Squadron level and in the second week at the Regimental level. The focus of this training was to exercise Squadron Headquarters

elements. The Dragoons used most of the Petawawa training area during the first week and moved into the civilian land surrounding the base for the second week, reaffirming skills and nailing down SOPs at all levels.

Immediately following the completion of field training The Regiment moved back to Squadron lines, prepared their vehicles and moved into Ex SABOT DRAGOON (Ex SD). The Regimental gun camp saw the Squadrons complete a 25mm and coax machine gun static shoot before moving into in a 36 hour tactical phase. Static shoots were completed on the pad with both day and night applications, moving from crew shoots to patrol and finally to collective troop shoots. The tactical phase incorporated increasingly complex fire and movement that tested all of the crews' abilities. Throughout this same period C Squadron in Gagetown completed Leopard maintenance followed by tank specific IBTS.

With the end of the range shoots, The Regiment returned from the field to celebrate Leliefontein during from 29 October to 2 November. This week offered the troops a welcome break after nearly 2 months of non-stop training. Events during the week included a sports day, drill competition as well as a mess dinner and parade. For Remembrance Day ceremonies, The Regiment provided support to communities throughout the area and also saw individual soldiers representing the Regiment in their home communities where possible.

On the evening of November 11 senior Captains and junior Majors of the Primary Reserve began to arrive from units throughout Canada to begin the field phase of the Armour Recce Squadron Commanders Course (ARSCC). The course consisted of Squadron level screen and guard tasks practised first in the CAX environment and again during a six day field training exercise that gave the students the opportunity to command an Armour Squadron in the field. During the ARSCC The Regiment covered a large swath of land as it manoeuvred from Petawawa all the way to the Ottawa suburb of Stittsville. The Regiment was augmented with elements of 1-71 Cav from Fort Drum, New York allowing for both American and Canadian Regiments to become familiar with each other's capabilities and SOPs. All student Squadron Commanders reported receiving excellent training and collectively The Regiment learned important lessons in coordinating movement, logistics and communications in a rapidly changing battle space.



With the end of the fall training and the arrival of snow in Petawawa, The Regiment took advantage of a lull in field training to repair their vehicles, service their equipment and to look ahead to Christmas with their families. After a fall spent largely in the field or on the ranges our equipment needed to be maintained and our soldiers took advantage of garrison routine leading towards the Christmas season. Prior to Christmas block leave The Regiment undertook a series of mandatory briefings on safety, base services and received guidance from the CO and RSM with regards to the direction The Regiment would take in the New Year. The traditional Men's Christmas Dinner was the culminating event of The Regimental holiday season as the Regiment went home to their families for 3 weeks of well-deserved leave.

The Regiment hit the ground running with the return from Christmas block leave. The first order of business was to once again move through a series of briefings and a complete DAG intended to ensure that everyone

was well informed and had all mandatory administration completed before returning to the busy pace of training. C Squadron was equally engaged, beginning a 2 month period of conversion to the new Leopard 2 platform.

On 7 January, The Regiment began a series of two Turret Operator Courses to fill the demand throughout the Brigade for qualified crew commanders which would be completed in two blocks from January to April. It also began preparations for the Basic Winter Warfare training cycle to be completed by all Squadrons over a 2 week block from 4 - 15 February. Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) training consisted of

an initial weeklong period of classroom instruction involving cold weather effects, dress and equipment maintenance in extreme cold. The field training portion saw B, D, HQ and RHQ squadrons operating in the Petawawa training area for a week, practising snow shoe movement, construction of improvised shelters and subunit tactical training. A Squadron hosted a troop of soldiers from 1-71 Cav in Fort Drum and completed their field portion of BWW in CFTA Burwash, South of Sudbury. B Squadron sent 1 Troop to participate in Ex Trillium Response, a Northern Ontario-based Immediate Reaction Unit exercise running from 11 February to 7 March.



Prior to March Break, all Brigade units participated in a week of sports competitions including hockey, snowshoeing, pugil stick and a number of indoor events in an environment of competitiveness and team building. Dragoons fared well in the competition, representing The Regiment proudly in every event. Concurrently, soldiers were setting up ranges and cycling through LAV Computer Gunnery Trainers to prepare for the next event, a Regimental gun camp set to take place immediately upon return from leave.

Ex SABOT DRAGOON II took place between 18-28 March and like the prior Ex SD was broken up into 2 phases. The first phase consisted of static shoots from the firing pads with applications occurring both during day and night. From these shoots each Squadron identified their best troop to compete for their Squadron as part of the right of line competition. Phase 2 saw the Squadrons return to the ranges for battle runs with applications taking place both during day and night. Each of the Squadrons' top troops also had the opportunity to complete a scored shoot as part of The Regimental right of line competition to be awarded during the next year's Leliefontein week.

The month of April saw all portions of The Regiment begin to spool up for major training events. RHQ, HQ and A Squadrons began preparations and professional development building toward Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1301 (Ex MR). Meanwhile B and D Squadrons prepared for Ex Dynamic Springbok (Ex DS) and in Gagetown C Squadron completed initial link ups in support of the Combat Team Commander Course (CTCC).

Ex DYNAMIC SPRINGBOK was a 10 day intensive dismounted exercise in LFCA TC Meaford which took place over the period of 29 Apr – 10 May 13. It included progressive live fire ranges, gas hut and urban assault training that culminated with section live fire for assault troops. C Squadron supported the CTCC under the

lead of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment in Gagetown for the period 15 April to 03 May 13, the purpose of which was to train Combat Team Commanders in a challenging and realistic environment.

While this year's training calendar was an extremely busy one it was highly rewarding as The Regiment was able to fine tune its skills with exercises that were both enjoyable and challenging. The end result was a highly flexible fighting force that is ready to assume any task assigned to it









Leliefontein 2012

Recently, members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons from across the country travelled to CFB Petawawa to participate in a week

of competitions, events and a parade that commemorated our actions at the Battle of Leliefontein during the Boer War. During the battle, which took place on 7 November 1900, Lieutenant H.Z.C. Cockburn, Lieutenant R.E.W. Turner and Sergeant E.J.G. Holland were awarded the Victoria Cross for their heroic actions that prevented two guns from falling into enemy hands. The weeks events, held from 29 October to 3 November, included several drill competitions, a Sports Day, mess dinners, an all ranks dance and a Regimental parade. Although the atmosphere and spirit between Squadrons was friendly, competition was fierce as the Squadron that came out on top would have the honour of forming up Right of Line during the culminating Regimental parade.

The week kicked off with an 8 kilometre Harrier Race on Tuesday morning. The event was a huge success with all competitors received a ranking from first to last in accordance with their finish; over 400 Dragoons ran for personal and Squadron pride. The winning soldier was Sergeant Steve Burtch of A Squadron while the overall Squadron winner was D Squadron.



The drill competitions held on Wednesday were very clearly the crowd favourite with the entire Regiment observing the Squadrons in what turned out to be a closely contested event. B Squadron, led by Master Corporal Mike Landry, took first place in the team competition while Sergeant Jamie Noon and Sergeant Mike Trubella of RHQ/HQ Squadron were best in the Pace Stick competition. The Pace Stick competition marked the first time in over 15 years that this competition was held by the Regiment and it proved to be a huge success; the RCD senior NCOs left it all on the parade square.

The Sports Day on Thursday contained the bulk of the events that would determine which Squadron would be Right of Line on parade. It was a day of entertaining and competitive matches that saw B Squadron awarded first place in both the Fitness Challenge and the Bench Press Competition. An honourable mention went to Corporal Christina Schram who was the top female competitor during the Fitness Competition and Trooper Elliot who was the top male competitor. RHQ/HQ Squadron won both the volleyball and ball hockey tournaments while D Squadron was crowned champions of flag football. Some of the most hotly contested action took place on the ice during the ice hockey tournament. After a full day of games at the Silver Dart Arena, C Squadron, who had traveled all the way from CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick for the week's events, won a gruelling final game against A Squadron and was awarded first place.

The Sports Day culminated in a Chain of Command race where Squadrons, led by their Officer's Commanding, were represented by a member of every rank and competed in a team challenge. A Squadron took home first place with an impressive finish that saw participants complete a variety of activities that included a physically gruelling obstacle course, answering trivia questions on Regimental history, setting up Arctic tents and igniting a Coleman stove. Upon completion, the closing ceremonies for Sports Day were held in the Dundonald



Hall gymnasium. Squadrons took turns in cheering and celebrating their victories as winners from the past week's events were announced by the Commanding Officer of the RCD, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Atherton. Finally, with great anticipation, the final points were calculated and B Squadron was declared the overall winner; the Squadron Commander, Major Steve Popowych and Sergeant-Major Ingo Herbst accepted the award on behalf of B Squadron. The honour of Right of Line during Saturday's Leliefontein parade, as well as for all parades during the next year was B Sqn's.

Several Mess Dinners at both the Normandy Officers Mess and the Reichwald Sergeants and Warrant Officers Mess were held on Friday night that provided a much needed social event after a week of competition. Saturday morning was the annual Leliefontein Parade that despite the cold temperatures saw hundreds of spectators and families attend. Members of The Royal Canadian Dragoons had practiced all week and the result was a very impressive display of drill and pageantry including a roll pass of two troops of Coyote reconnaissance vehicles. Numerous dignitaries were in attendance including the former Chief-of-Defence, General Walter Natynczyk and Commander of Land Force Doctrine and Training Systems, Major-General Steve Bowes. The Royal Canadian Dragoons Guild also took the opportunity to present bursaries of \$5,000 to family members to be used towards post-secondary education. This year's recipients were Dawn Bride and Brittany Stewart. A highlight of the parade was the presentation of a Winchester rifle that had been used by Sgt Holland during the Boer War to the Regiment by members of Sergeant E.J.G. Holland's family who attended the parade.



The final event for the Leliefontein week was the All Ranks Dance which was held at the Y-101 drill hall on Saturday night. Members and their guests were treated to a full buffet supper, drinks and entertainment provided by a DJ and the band The Ghost Town Cryers; the party went on well into the early morning and was the perfect culminating event for a fantastic week.



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 Tpr Elliott



THE LELIEFONTEIN AWARD (Top Support Trade Cpl)
Presented to Cpl Hisman



THE COMMANDING OFFICERS SHIELD
Presented to WO Rheame



THE COMMANDING OFFICERS SWORD
Presented to Capt Murphy



THE ETSM PLAQUE
Presented to Sgt Bertrand



THE G.G. BELL AWARD
Presented to Sgt Burtch

The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons annually awards \$5,000 bursaries to Dragoons and their dependents who are posted in the Regiment, Extra-Regimentally Employed, or Retired. This year's recipients of the Leliefontein Bursary were Dawn Bride and Brittany Stewart.



Leliefontein Bursary Winner: Dawn Bride and Brittany Stewart

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How Do We Remember Leliefontein?

How do we remember Leliefontein?
We can't bring them home now or hold them again!
There is little there now except graves untended.
A few curled old photographs and discussions most ended.

There are few of us left, except for Reid, BA.
To hold on to the memory of that yesterday.
That epic battle when bravery shone out,
As Canadian Gunners and Cavalry stood proud and stout.

Oh, there was recruiting bravado, men lying in lines.
Political meddling; interference of all kinds.
The "active militia", the "North West Police",
Trappers and cowboys, farmers and thieves.
But that wasn't Leliefontein.

There were "Goodbyes" at Brandon and Kingston, Quebec.
Speeches by Minto and Laurier, but heck,
That wasn't Leliefontein.
There were handpicked policemen and veterans with "stories",
Men from the prairies and the "East" with its dories.
But that wasn't Leliefontein.
There were old ships and hard storms,
There was bad food and faith worn.
Good horses that died from the cold into rain.
Laughter and good times then hardships again.
But that wasn't Leliefontein.

Leliefontein was a withdrawal with a 3:30 start.
A close-held fiasco on leadership's part.
Horse sweat in darkness, a long march in pain,
Whist the Boers held the ridges time and again.
The first glimpse of Leliefontein!

The Boers were nobody's fools, war hardened Dutch,
Good horsemen with rifles, they had given so much.
The British soon learned they had "stuck-in" too far.
No one could win this, deep wound and scar.
There are two sides to Leliefontein.

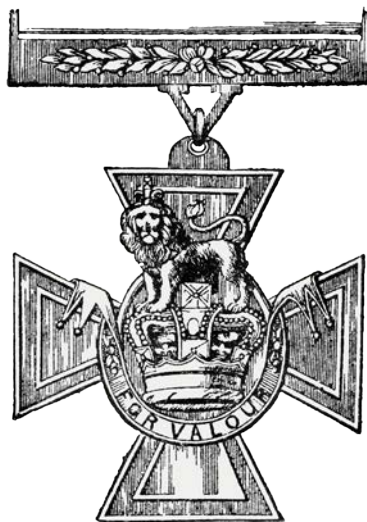
The Boer Commandos had grown through the night,
The RCD were ordered to rear-guard the fight.
It called for a desperate retreat on a long road to home;
That depended on a rearguard cut to the bone.
Now you see what they saw at Leliefontein.

The Dragoons were depleted and constantly pressed,
Ride hard and dismount, try to rally the rest.
Just one hundred Dragoons to the muster call,
Two twelve pounder field guns and one "Colt", that was all.
Now you are part of Leliefontein.

Time after time the Boers massed for the take.
Shooting from saddles, trying to break.
But the D Battery guns and Dragoons held the line;
Time after time, after time, after time.
That was Leliefontein.

Nineteen hours of combat, parry and thrust.
Exhausted and bleeding, down to the crust.
The rear guard withstood, we all mourn their losses,
And stand here in awe of three Victoria Crosses.
That's how we remember Leliefontein.

Fredrik Keith LaForge, OMM, CD
Colonel (Retired)
Royal Canadian Artillery



MEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER 2012



Silly Season once again concluded with the traditional Men's Christmas Dinner where the troops were able to relax while the set-up and serving duties were handled by The Regiment's Officers and NCOs. As always The Regiment's oldest MCpl assumed the duties of acting RSM, with MCpl Watkins from HQ Squadron receiving CWO Richards' epaulette. Meanwhile Tpr Bolduc from D Squadron, as The Regiment's youngest trooper, traded epaulettes with LCol Atherton and was appointed acting CO for the day. Holiday cheer reigned supreme as the dinner was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.







Leeuwarden 2013

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, The 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 a 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 to hand out the supplies and food belonging to the Germans to the people of Leeuwarden. The Regimental Headquarters 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 flies the flag of the town of Leeuwarden, 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 the festivities.

During this past year's Leeuwarden festivities, The Royal Canadian Dragoons awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals (QDJM) to 53 recipients on parade. The QDJM commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Medal is awarded to outstanding Canadians whose exemplary actions have exceeded the norm. The Leeuwarden Ceremony began with the 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commander, Colonel Hetherington, awarding the QDJM to the recipients on parade. Each member of The Royal Canadian Dragoons looked sharp as they received their award in front of both their colleagues and family.

The 2013 Leeuwarden parade followed the awards ceremony as the Squadrons, under their Officers Commanding, reformed and paid tribute to that faithful day. Following in the annual traditions, the town of Leeuwarden's flag was raised as the entire Regiment stood at attention for the Dutch national anthem. A small gathering took place at the Coriano club after the parade to allow RCD members and guests to congregate.



Cpl McDiarmid and Sgt Tyrie raise the Leeuwarden Flag during the parade.

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THE CENTURION ROOM



The past year the Cent Room has hosted several functions and saw a new PMC, VPMC and Treasurer takeover the Cent Room; Major Rob Marois, Captain Steve Boire, and Captain Tyler Murphy. The PMC, VPMC and Treasurer put together several social events and made for an excellent year at the Cent Room.

The first social event was the Cent Room Meet and Greet, which preceded the wider base and brigade Meet and Greet at the Normandy Officer's Mess (NOM). This was a semi-formal function where members of the Cent Room were able to bring their spouses and introduce themselves to new (and newly returning) members of the Cent Room. The RCD Officers proceeded to the NOM Meet and Greet, where lobster, crab, and an assortment of other shellfish was thoroughly enjoyed.

One of the most memorable (and for some, regrettable) social functions was the Cent Room Officers Dining In. This Cent Room Officer-only event was hosted in the Cent Room and catered by the KO and his staff. It was a sight to see. The culminating point of the evening was when Travis Vanryswyk (the newest Officer of The Regt) clearly illustrated his new found joy to the Officer Mess life.

The Cent Room membership gathered for our Viking themed Halloween party in the Russia House. Most people got the memo and dressed up as Vikings or Spartans. However, Captain Marsha Dunn decided to go against the grain and showed up in a cheerleader outfit with her guest who was dressed as Steve Urkel. It wasn't painfully obvious, but it was noted. Overall it was a good opportunity to enjoy some delicious food, drinks, and laughter.

Leliefontein celebrations for this year included a superb Mixed Mess Dinner. This mixed function allowed spouses the opportunity to showcase their ball gowns (or male equivalent) in a formal setting. Fine wine and good company made for another memorable evening for all to enjoy.

The "Silly Season" of December was comprised of two main social events. Firstly, was Subbies' Carolling (arguably the best event of the year). This was another successful and memorable festive gathering. Apparently, "egos" were part of the kit list, as Major Marois foolishly challenged everyone in arm wrestling. This was short-lived however, as Captain Simon Johnson easily managed to beat him (and nearly break his arm).

Thank you to Lieutenant Luke Grela, Major Popowych, Captain Chris Hillier, and the CO for hosting these shenanigans. A special thank you to Captain Hillier and his garage.

This year, the Officers hosted the Senior NCOs in the Cent Room for the Annual At-Home. This event highlighted the camaraderie and trust that exists between the leaders of The Regiment with a few cold beverages and delicious salted lamb, provided by our Regimental Patron, Mr. David Batten.

In February, the Cent Room Membership hosted the Black Hatters' Mess Dinner. This formal function saw the attendance of eight former (and our current) Commanding Officers of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, including Gen Hillier (Ret'd), Gen Natynczyk (Ret'd), BGen Dean (Ret'd), BGen Atkinson (Ret'd), Col Appleton (Ret'd), Col Cadden, Col Frank, LCol Cross, and LCol Atherton. This high-ranking event included members of the 1-71 Cavalry Regiment from Fort Drum, NY who attempted to keep up with the Cent Room membership throughout the night. Suffice to say, the 1-71 Officers need more practice with Canadian beer. The summer kicked off in June with the CO's BBQ. This event was hosted by the CO and Mrs Victoria Atherton in their exceptional home. Officers of the Cent Room ensured to bring their spouses, wives, kids and drinking games. Chris Levan and Nick Oullette did a great job on the BBQ where they cooked up burgers and hot dogs for hours on end. By the end of the night, nearly everyone had made their way into the pool (voluntary or not).

This year's final formal function was The Regimental Ball (also known as the Enchantment Under the Sea / The Prom). This event enabled all of the Officers of the Cent Room and their spouses to enjoy a relaxed evening of gourmet food, fine wines, and good company before the APS. This splendid evening also marked the official handover of the PMC position to Major Lokesh Goela.

Overall, there were too many weekly happy hours and Friday beer calls to list and recall; likely as a result of the number of beers consumed. The Cent Room had another successful year and is ready for another busy social calendar in the upcoming year.

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THE HOLLAND ROOM



Over the past year the Sgt Holland Room has hosted several functions and seen changes with the appointment of both a new PMC and VPMC; MWO Herbst and WO Gigacz. In November 2012 on the completion of the Armoured Recce Squadron Commanders Course, the Sgt Holland Room hosted the course party for both staff and students. We had an opportunity to share stories and toast the students on the successful completion of their final trace.

The Members of the Sgt Holland Room also welcomed several new members by carrying on with the tradition of the “Shining”. This tradition was started a few years ago by WO Carl Cox and a number of Sr NCO’s within The Regiment. This shining occurs when a newly promoted Sgt enters the Sgt Holland Rm. He is asked to polish the casings of an 8 inch coastal gun until meeting the approval of the TQ/DSM. This symbolizes the respect the Sgt has for his predecessors, and an awareness that his new rank brings with it new responsibilities.

The Sgt Holland Room held several Mess Dinners this past year. November saw one occur during Leliefontein week while the second was a MCpl training Mess Dinner where mess dinner protocol was introduced and reinforced to future Sr NCO’s.

This year’s culminating activity was the change of appointment dinner where we bid farewell to CWO Bill Richards and welcomed back CWO Shawn Mercer as RSM.





REGIMENTAL SPORTS

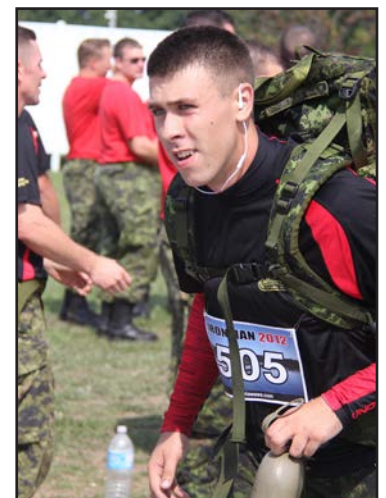
BRIGADE SUMMER SPORTS

Having a late summer block leave due to the handover of the IRU task in late July, The RCD had to come back from vacation right into a playoff schedule. The Dragoons did very well coming in first for Tug-of-War.



IRONMAN

The 2012 Petawawa Ironman took place over 6-7 September 2012, there was again for the second year in a row a complete day and a competitor day. The RCD Team had 62 participants over this period including C Sqn members from Gagetown. The top team member, Trooper Ben Noort, had a commendable time of 6 hours and 39 minutes. Training started late May, with Major Morin and then Capt Curley organizing the resources and practices for the team. Dragoons could be seen during the summer months running with rucksacks up and down Petawawa Blvd in preparation for the gruelling 50 kilometre race.



LELIEFONTEIN SPORTS DAY

The 2012 Leliefontein Sports Day was on 1 November 2012 and organized by A Sqn. C Sqn managed to send 100+ troops for the Leliefontein week to partake in the sports and other activities.



CHRISTMAS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Junior NCM's won the annual Christmas Hockey Tournament this year, but getting to the Finals was not without injuries. MCpl, now Sgt Landry sustained a cut to the leg that required him to be carried out of the rink.





Change of Command

On the 6th of July 2012, LCol Dyrالد Cross handed over command of The

Royal Canadian Dragoons (The RCD) to the incoming Commanding Officer (CO), LCol Andrew Atherton. After numerous parade practices and time spent preparing their uniforms, Dragoons from across The Regiment were ready to take to the Worthington Parade Square and put on an incredible display of tradition and precision drill.

Under blue skies and a temperate climate, the handover certificates were signed, the Regimental Guidon was passed, and a bouquet of flowers was presented to both Mrs. Victoria Atherton and Mrs. Connie Cross on behalf of The Regiment. In his final address to The Regiment, LCol Cross proudly commended his soldiers for rising to both the every-day and the unique challenges required by their service in the Canadian Army. He also thanked the senior leadership of The Regiment for its support and guidance, before concluding by saying that "The Regiment will be in very good hands under the command of his successor".

With those kind words, LCol Atherton took the podium in his inaugural address to The Dragoons. He congratulated LCol Cross and the outgoing Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM) Bill Richards on the



outstanding work they had done since taking their command and appointment respectively. LCol Atherton then took control of the parade, leading The Regiment in one final March Past to salute LCol Cross. In fine Dragoon fashion, LCol Cross and his family departed the parade square in the back of a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) III, ending a memorable and successful two years in the history of The RCD.

LCol Atherton, no stranger to service at The Regiment, commissioned in 1991 and was posted to C Squadron in Gagetown, NB as a Leopard Tank Troop Leader. He then went on to serve as an Exchange Officer to the British Army with the Household Cavalry Regiment. LCol Atherton has held such positions at The Regiment as Second-in-Command of A Squadron, Adjutant, and Officer Commanding D Squadron during its deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan. Promoted to the rank of LCol in 2009, LCol Atherton has also served as G3 of Land Forces Central Area, now known as 4th Canadian Division, in Toronto, ON.





THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to mark the 2012 celebration of the 60th anniversary of her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for the service to our country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

This year, 62 deserving Dragoons were awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal by Commander of 2 CMBG Col Hetherington.



LCol Atherton

LCol Atherton recieved the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for remarkable leadership and dedication at leading the G3 Branch in LFCA. He has superbly overseen the very complex Force Generation of two task Forces as well as the unforecasted training, preparations and deployment of various expeditionary troops.



Former Tpr Klimo



Sgt Dickson



MCpl Dunn



Cpl Halloran



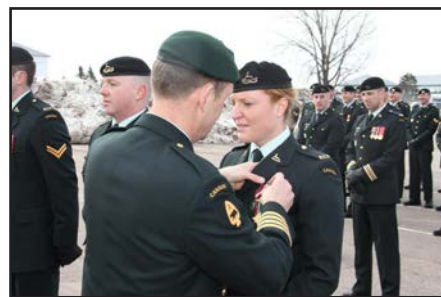
Capt Hillier



MCpl McNeil



Cpl Monaghan



Capt Summerfield



Cpl Bennett



Capt Curley



Cpl Larson



Sgt Noon



Sgt Ward



Sgt Whelen



Sgt White



Cpl Bellamy



MCpl Cassidy



Cpl Hardiman



Sgt Johnston



WO Leblanc



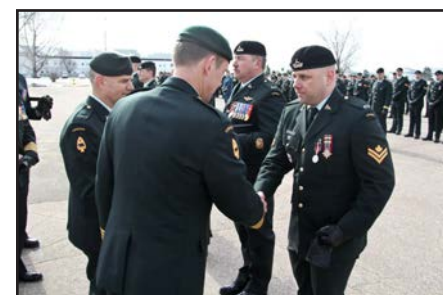
Cpl Malloff



Sgt Murphy



MWO Nykorak



MCpl Poppe



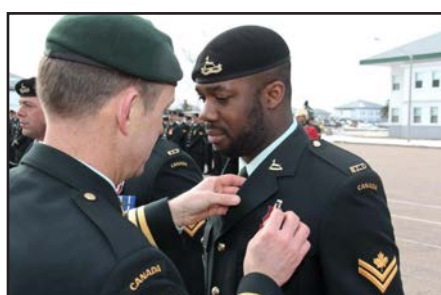
Cpl Shubert



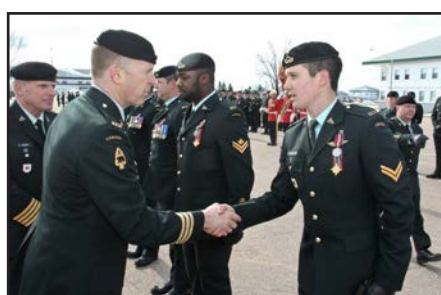
Cpl Tham



Sgt Bishop



MCpl Grant



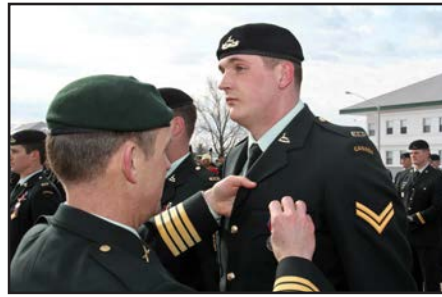
Cpl Hiltz



MCpl MacDonald



Sgt Nickerson



Cpl Ramm



Cpl Rector



Maj Clark



Sgt Delroy



MCpl Erickson



Cpl Finch



MWO Hebert



MCpl Leroux



Sgt Payette



MWO Stein



Sgt Trubela



WO Walton



MWO Herbst



Tpr Weekes



Sgt Dill



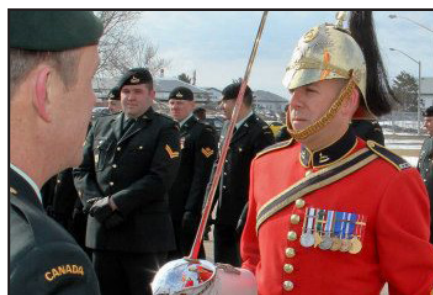
Cpl Selway



MCpl Turtle



Cpl Ruttan



WO Tingley



MWO Beckett



EMBLEM FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE
OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

EMBLÈME DU JUBILÉ DE DIAMANT
DE LA REINE ELIZABETH II





Change of RSM

On June 13th, 2013, The Royal Canadian Dragoons said farewell to Chief Warrant Officer Bill Richards, marking the end of his tenure as Regimental Sergeant-Major

(RSM). With C Squadron from Gagetown, New Brunswick on parade, as well as many family and friends in attendance, all aspects of the Regimental family were well-represented.

Throughout the week leading up to the parade, the Dragoons worked hard to perfect their drill. On the final day of practice, following a photo taken of The Regiment, RSM Richards gathered everyone together for some personal kind words of goodbye, as well as encouragement for the years ahead. Having serving for the past three years in this prestigious appointment, it was an emotional goodbye for both the soldiers and the outgoing RSM. After handing over the RSM's pace stick on parade to the incoming RSM, Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Mercer, RSM Richards left the parade in style – driven off in the back of a Light Armoured Vehicle, accompanied by his wife Veletia and their two daughters, Madalyn and Malika.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons now welcome Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Mercer back to The Regiment in his new appointment as RSM. RSM Mercer's father, Chief Warrant Officer Sterling Mercer, also served as RSM of The Royal Canadian Dragoons from 1990 to 1993. Excited for a busy fall ahead, the Dragoons look forward to new memories and experiences with RSM Mercer.







IN MEMORIUM



WO Mallot



Tpr McRae



Cpl Braam





THE LAST TRUMPET CALL

“They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.”

2012

*Busher Bennett
*David Crook
*Arnold Lukala
Tpr Tyler McRae

*Daniel Mann
*Frank Mears
Charlene Atkinson
WO Kevin Malott

2013

Ruth Baldwin
Isabel Best
*Col Bob Billings
*Jack Binns
*Eddie Blais
Bert Casselman
*Jerry Cluett
Bill Claggett
*Bobby Dow
*George Dwyer
Ed Exley
*Harry Graham
*Bill Hood
*Bill Laird
Ed Beals
Cpl Nicholas Braam
*William Crawford
*George Dwyer
*James Gibbons
Doreen MacDonald
Roxy MacIsaac
*Derald Prosser

*Chuck Mann
*Ron Marriott
*Ken Maybee
Col Ian McNabb
Dusty Miller
*MGen Pat Mitchell
Donna Muelaner
*Gardner T. Robertson
Jack Rothenburg
Inge Steele
*Gord Stephenson
*Al Wade
*James Watson
Rose Waugh
Ernie Wesson
*David Robertson
*Jack Sager
*Robert Shearer
*Steve Sloan
Ron Taylor
Dick Thody
*Ivan Warner
*George Wooley

* denotes a Member of the RCD Association



THE GUILD

The Guild is the only registered Charity in Canada dedicated to preserving The Regiment's 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.



CADETS

On Sunday, June 9th 2013 members of A Sqn RCD were graciously invited to attend the final inspection parade of the cadets of 2870 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, E Sqn, RCD based at Connaught Ranges in Kanata, Ontario. Maj. Lokesh Goela, OC A, was invited as the Reviewing Officer and accompanied by A Sqn officers. The hard work and dedication of the cadets was witnessed through the march past, drill team demonstration, drum exhibit, as well as the performance of the band. As the cadets marched past, Maj. Goela received the salute while proud parents and family looked on. Additionally, Maj. Goela, Capt. Wong, and Lt. Grela presented awards to the top cadets. The parade finished with the departure of Maj. Goela and one final march past before everyone was invited to partake in refreshments and snacks at the cadets' regular drill hall. Everyone was happy to see a number of promotions presented to select cadets during the refreshments.



ARMoured SCHOOL DRAGOONS

This past year has been both a busy and exciting one for all Dragoons currently serving at the Armour School. Upon completion of a busy summer training cycle, the fall indoctrination period began with the roll out of the Leopard 2 Tank which also coincided with the Worthington Cup Challenge. School indoctrination was then concluded with the inaugural Recce Skills Competition. The Regiment was well represented by the winning teams for both the Recce Skills competition and the Worthington Challenge, as their ranks were filled by a good number of Dragoons.

Once the indoctrination period was completed, courses immediately began. This saw the majority of Dragoons scattered over the Gagetown training area. With many of the students coming from Petawawa, this allowed Dragoons posted to the school to remain current on life back at The Regiment. When annual events such as Leliefontein and Leeuwarden were celebrated in Petawawa, there was always a healthy contingent of Dragoons who made the trip back in order to partake in the festivities. For those Dragoons who were unable to make it back to Petawawa due to training commitments, events were held in Gagetown to ensure that all Dragoons came together to celebrate and pay their respects to The Regiment's accomplishments.

Overall, The Regiment continues to be well represented here at the Armour School. While the school is an exciting place to be all Dragoons here look forward to their eventual return to The Regiment.

Bold and Swift.



EX MAPLE RESOLVE

There are thousands of stories circulating throughout the army as each soldier from both 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) and 2 CMBG made his or her way home from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301 (Ex MR) this year. Ex MR showcased the best of the Canadian Forces with contributions from our American allies.

The purpose of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) based in Wainwright is to provide troops with demanding and realistic training in order to ready them for overseas deployment. What is the best way to prepare a highly trained group of soldiers to be ready for overseas deployment? Pit them against another group of equally matched warriors. The Royal Canadian Dragoons Battle Group on Exercise MR 1301 combined soldiers from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, 1RCR, 23 Field Squadron, 2 Service Battalion, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian), 2 Engineering Support Regiment, 2 Field Hospital, and various smaller units. The BG of roughly five hundred soldiers spent the month of May providing the best possible training to their counterparts in 1 CMBG as they are on the road to high readiness.

The commander of CMTC, Colonel Jocelyn Paul put it best when he said "Training at this level saves lives on operation, this is why we conduct these events. The complexity of this exercise mirrors that which we find in real operations. It's not an easy task to replicate but the end result is phenomenal." The BG used combined arms team to complete a variety of tasks including screen lines, combat team attacks, and counter moves forces depending on the tactical situation. Throughout, the air and electronic warfare threat made for a 360 degree battlefield. 1 Bde may have one the war, but each soldier in 2 CMBG headed home with a sense of pride knowing he had done his part, never going down without a fight.











THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS



Audax et Celer - Bold and Swift

