

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

# SPRINGBOK



2013 - 2014

A u d a x e t C e l e r - B o l d a n d S w i f t



# THE SPRINGBOK

The Annual Journal of The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons

2013 - 2014 Edition

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## On The Cover

CWO Mercer (RSM) and MCpl Dunn wait to board the landing craft during EX Walking Dragoon 2013.

Editor in Chief. OC D Sqn, Maj R.C. Williams  
 Editor and Chief Planner. Lt A. Cyr  
 Cover and publication design: Cpl K. Langille

[www.dragoons.ca](http://www.dragoons.ca)

Opposite: D Sqn disembark the landing craft during EX Walking Dragoon

His Royal Highness Charles  
The Prince of Wales



Colonel in Chief  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons





## Colonel of The Regiment's Message

Col Georges Rousseau, CD

Dear Dragoons, Families and Friends of The Regiment, Already two years have passed since my appointment as COR. I remain honoured by this auspicious appointment and privileged to serve our Regiment. Since my last message much has happened and I am proud to report that our Regimental Family is healthy and prosperous.

Our Association continues to foster Dragoon camaraderie in all regions of Canada and although it is a challenge to visit all our regimental satellites, I have spent some quality time with the Ottawa, Ottawa Valley, Kingston and Atlantic Chapters.

Although not intended to be part of the regimental succession plan, our cadet corps ensure a young presence in our ranks as they continue to support some regimental activities. It is always a great treat to have them parade with The Regiment at Leliefontein. Of mention, I had the distinct pleasure of presiding the first cadet corps mess dinner at Ashbury College in December. My gratitude was second to the joyful pride so vividly apparent on the faces of our cadets and their parents.

The Friends of The Regiment under the tutelage of our Patron have also been very active. They have maintained their interest in our Regiment and continue to provide their time and support to Guild activities. The many positive comments I have received from all ranks within The Regiment have convinced me that their contribution goes further than financial. Their genuine interest in our profession is palpable and

noteworthy. Moreover, they are one more important link The Regiment has with Canadian Society.

At our home station in Petawawa, The Regiment is beavering away within the brigade group. From all accounts, we have spearheaded the other units in accomplishments and performance. As the CO will provide his annual report, I will keep my comments short and suffice to affirm that The Regiment has maintained the high standard we are accustomed to. As in the previous year, I have visited The Regiment while in garrison, the field, during operations, in sports, and have always been impressed by the intense sense of dedication and the pride of being Dragoons. Our members serving away from The Regiment continue to be well sought-out by all. Their accomplishments are many and their service is unmatched. In addition to all their undertakings, this year we rejoice in having Dragoons command two Army formations (1st and 4th Divisions) as well as the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre.

In closing, sadly this year we have mourned the passing of many good friends, one of which was my first Troop Sergeant. Through our fellowship, we celebrate although in sorrow our time together and wish them "god speed" as they rest in eternal peace. We will remember them!

Georges Rousseau, CD  
Colonel (Retired)  
Colonel of The Regiment

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Rousseau'.





## Senior Serving Dragoon's Message

Major-General Jim Ferron, OMM, MSC, CD

Well this will be my last opportunity to address the Dragoon family as the Senior Serving Dragoon as I will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces this summer after close to 39 years in uniform. It has been a huge privilege to serve and I am absolutely thrilled that I will handover command of the 1st Canadian Division HQ and the appointment of Senior Serving Dragoon to my good friend Dean Milner. From the outset I would like to commend Dean, his wife Katrin and their children Stephanie and Derek for their selfless dedication to the Dragoon family.

While getting older and eventually retiring from the Army is mandatory, growing-up still remains optional and my wife Mary continues to ponder the question...what will I do when I actually hang up the spurs? Good question, the answer to which is over the next bound. However, I do know where I have been and what I have grown to become – a Dragoon within the profession of arms, honoured to have been given the opportunity to work with men and women of this great Regiment of ours who remain willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in the service their nation – this home we call Canada. Dragoons are known for many things...the most notable being their drive for excellence and the pursuit of mission success. Having said this, each leader within our Regiment recognizes that without well prepared and equipped soldiers, trained for the mission at hand, we will fail. Directly related to our success is the well-being of our families, those spouses and children whom make up the very fabric of what it means to be a Dragoon. Consequently, my challenge to all our Regimental leaders – before you make a decision consider the impact that decision will have on both your troops and their families ... and then have the moral courage to balance the demands of the mission with the welfare of your people. At Regimental gatherings I have

been known to talk of how proud I am to be a Dragoon. At times I have been somewhat loud in my praise for our soldiers and our Regimental family. This missive is no exception – so Dragoons, let us be PROUD and let us be LOUD....

I ask you ... "WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?"

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

"IT'S JUST ANOTHER FINE DAY TO BE A DRAGOON!"





## Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Atherton, CD

The year 2013, much like 2012, saw a renewed focus on individual soldier skills and fieldcraft for the Officers and Non-Commissioned members of The Regiment. This return to the fundamentals of soldiering allowed us to once again train at the conventional level and really test both the mounted and dismounted abilities of our troops.

After completing a busy training schedule in the past year, May and June saw B and C Squadrons deploy to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1401 to confirm their abilities as the Brigade moves into High Readiness this July. As part of that training, our two Squadrons also participated in Exercise RUGGED BEAR, a Brigade-level live fire exercise. The lessons learned from this collective training will surely be of great benefit to both our soldiers and leaders in the coming months. In addition, it offered our Regiment an excellent opportunity to work closely with the other units of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group.

In garrison, The Regiment has demonstrated that a culture of physical fitness is alive and well within our soldiers. An impressive number of Dragoons have challenged their physical limits in the past year by taking part in events such as the 30th anniversary of the Petawawa Ironman Competition, the Bataan Death March, the Canadian Patrol Competition, and of course Spur Ride with our sister unit, the 1-71st Cavalry from Fort Drum, New York. It gives me great pleasure to have witnessed our soldiers' achievements in each of these events and I am confident that this culture will continue to thrive in the coming years.

I am tremendously proud of our continued partnership with the 1-71st Cavalry, particularly in the level of shared training that we have been able to complete together.

What began overseas as a working relationship between two fine cavalry units has matured into a plethora of opportunities for our soldiers. From attendance at regimental events to squadron-level training such as Exercise GHOST SPRINGBOK, scheduled to take place later this summer, it is my hope that this close bond between our two Regiments will lead to further cooperation and training exchanges in the future.

As I prepare to hand The Regiment over to Lieutenant-Colonel Graham I am filled with immense pride and satisfaction. Our Regiment continues to set an example for others to follow. Looking at the fine leaders and soldiers we produce, our Regiment is well set-up for the future.

Bold and Swift

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Atherton". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Atherton, CD  
Commanding Officer  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons





## Regimental Sergeant Major's Message

Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Mercer, MMM, MSM, CD

To begin, I would like to thank LCol Atherton for a very exciting and at times a very fun-filled first year as his RSM. It was truly a pleasure to have had the occasion to work for such a fine officer. I would also like to welcome back LCol Graham to Worthington Barracks; I look forward to working with you as part of your command team for the next two years.

For all the soldiers of this Regiment – I have only ever asked you to do one thing and that is “to do the next right thing”. You can expect that this ideal will remain in place for some time. I will trust you, as Dragoons, to put it into action.

For our recce Patrol Commanders, you must perfect your ability to obtain timely and accurate information in support of your Commander. This is the key to success for all land operations and it rests on your shoulders. Own it.

For the Sr NCOs – especially the Warrant Officers – this next year I expect you to train your soldiers at every opportunity. I also want you to think hard about mentoring your soldiers through the use of good debate and discussion. In my view, the training and development of our soldiers will only be successful if it includes the following three realms: the physical, the mental, and the professional.

We as Dragoons have a proud history to uphold. We must strive every day to earn and keep the respect of those who have served in this fine Regiment before us. We will do this by perfecting our Corps strengths

and the tactical competencies of move, shoot, and communicate. This is our vital ground. Protect it.

Our Regiment continues to grow in strength because of organizations like our RCD Association and our Guild. They are key contributors to our future, as they have a strong connection to our past. Our Regimental strength will only grow if we continue to support both of these fine organizations.

We are all members of a profession of arms. We must continue to be prepared to deploy either domestically or internationally, so when the time comes, The Regiment will be ready. Our ability to deploy will depend on your strength of leadership. Exercise it.

It is an honour to be your RSM, and it is always a fine day to be a Dragoon.

God Bless and Sleep Warm,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.A. Mercer', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Warrant Officer S.A. Mercer, MMM, MSM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant-Major  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons





## Regimental Patron's Message

Mr. David Batten

I am proud to be the Patron of The Royal Canadian Dragoons and a strong contributor to The Guild of The RCD.

The Guild provides financial support through various fund-raising channels vital to the Dragoons and their families. It has strong charitable support from currently serving soldiers, retired members who have served, as well as funding from ongoing community outreach organizations which work to expand support programs such as "Connect With Canadians" and "Friends of the Regiment". We have gathered a diverse group of outstanding Canadians who provide the leadership required to steward social welfare and education, and to enhance the spirit of this great regimental family.

I would like to personally extend a heart-felt thanks to everyone who has supported the Guild from its inception. The Guild has evolved into an extremely effective organization that ensures that the needs and demands of regimental life are met.

Every time the Regiment hosts an event or organizes a fund-raiser, I hear positive comments from the Canadians who involve themselves in supporting the Dragoon's charity work. They consistently describe the soldiers and officers as impressively professional, "admirable Canadians who serve their country with distinction".

If you have not already done so, please visit the website [dragoons.ca](http://dragoons.ca) (guild) to review how your contributions have positively impacted the regiment. The Guild

photo section is a way we share our latest efforts and memories. Information is provided within the Guild section concerning the ways in which the funds are being deployed and invested for the years to come.

Again I can't thank everyone enough for giving me the unstinting devotion, continued financial support and stewardship which are vital to the men and women and their families who serve in The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

David Batten B.A.A., KStG

Patron  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

# The Guild.



Alyssa Willis , wife of Cpl Cory Willis, receives her 2013 Leliefontein Memorial Bursary

The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons is a private, non-profit corporation with charitable status established by letters patent under the Canada Corporations Act in 1980 with the expressed primary objective "to protect, preserve and further the traditions and heritage of The Royal Canadian Dragoons."

## The **Vision** of The Guild is:

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 promoting 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.

The Guild is funded entirely by donations (Registration Number 119236347RR0001). Donors range from corporations interested in supporting The Guild to voluntary donations by serving Dragoons. The Guild operates four strategic thrust lines: Unity; History and Heritage; Quality of Life; and Operations. Key projects include the annual Leliefontein Bursary for post secondary education, the acquisition and upkeep of our distinctive Scarlet ceremonial uniforms, the production of the Springbok magazine and the operation of the website.





Individuals interested in donating to The Guild can visit our website ([www.dragoons.ca](http://www.dragoons.ca)) or contact The Regimental Second in Command at (613) 697-5511 extension 5649. As a registered Canadian charity, The Guild issues tax receipts for donations.

## Ways to Give

1. **Unrestricted Giving:** Annual unrestricted giving allows the Guild to access direct donations to the most immediate and important programs. Donations can be mailed to the Treasurer or by clicking our link.

2. **Restricted Giving:** Our restricted funds allow donors to donate directly to projects that have been approved by The Guild. Such projects include Unity events, History and Heritage, or Quality of Life initiatives. Further information on such projects can be addressed to the Guild Treasurer at 613-687-5511 ext 5625.

3. **Bequests:** Giving by way of a bequest allow donors to have full use of their money throughout their lifetime, but can dedicate a portion of it in support of a cause they strongly believe in after they are gone.

4. **Trusts:** Some people wish to benefit a charity through their will, but feel they must provide for others first. A charitable remainder trust can help achieve both of these objectives.

5. **Gift Matching:** Many companies encourage their employees to give to charities through Matching Gift Programs. Some programs include matching donations made by current or retired employees, while others extend their programs to include matching the donations made by spouses, or widow(er)s. Please contact your employer for further details.



M. Jean Paul Brunel presents wood from France to create new frames for The Regiment's "Moreuil Wood" paintings.



The RSM and CO pose with copies of "This Army" donated to the Regimental Archives by Mr. Don White.

In 2013 and 2014, the Guild had a successful year. We continued to manage our benchmarks as they relate to our strategic thrusts. We continued to raise our profile within the community, and we have expanded our friendship base. The Guild wishes to thank all of our supporters and we are looking forward to another successful year that will see us in a position to assist our members where there are gaps in public funding.













# RHQ

Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Canadian Dragoons spent another busy year training and developing the fighting squadrons. Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) Andrew Atherton, the Commanding Officer, and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Shawn Mercer, Regimental Sergeant-Major were the Command Team for the year. While usually enforcing their command over The Regiment from either of the two command posts or their vehicles, they did experiment with some new methods, such as issuing orders through the CO's secretary, Muggsie Boland. Under the umbrella of Major (Maj) Ryan Morin, Regimental Second-in-Command, and Warrant Officer (WO) Kevin Theriault, Regimental Operations WO, whom together are the Command Team for RHQ, the many sections assisted The Regiment in their own ways. Even the Adjutant and his assistant were rumoured to have come to the field on occasion.

## Ops & Training

The RHQ Ops & Trg cell has had a very productive year, with a focus on tearing down walls in The Regt. This has happened figuratively through our interaction with the Sqns, and literally by throwing out all the cubical walls in the office. While often forgotten by The Regt, tucked up in our corner of the head shed, we have sent out more detailed instructions and emails per capita than anyone else. One big take away from this year, for

the CFTPO Clerk (Cpl Abraham), was that it's easier to change and add positions in CFTPO if the Squadron Ops staffs send a Service number in. Otherwise Cpl Smith or Cpl Smith got tasked instead of Cpl Smith, leading to confusion for everyone. The Trg NCM (Cpl Ward) also had his hardships throughout the year, being tasked with any excel spreadsheet or query the Trg Sgt needed so that the RSM and Career Manager could course load. He also became the go to guy for any other little task that others were too busy to fill. To change up the workload we made sure to have fun, like conducting snowmobile courses while deployed on Ex FROZEN DRAGON in Matawa even though the local population told us it was a little too cold for snowmobiling. Having been kept warm through the winter months by conducting 2 Ex SABOT DRAGONS, one in Gagetown, NB and one in Petawawa, ON, we felt the summer months would be a little less busy with half The Regt gone to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, AB to finalize their High Readiness Training. We were wrong in that sense, having one last CFTPO manning issue before they headed out the door. Once the majority of The Regt successfully deployed out the door it was time to catch up on old tasks or focus on organizing the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition Team's accommodations or any number of unforeseen issues along the way. If you ever worked with 2 RCR, there tends to be a lot of unforeseen issues. The Ops shop's





RHQ on parade during Leeuwarden

last hurrah before the change of command was an ATV course, providing us the chance to go "out for a rip, budz".

## ROS

The ROS cell has the, often overlooked job, of running the face of The Regt day to day. But we have also had a chance to experience some interesting opportunities throughout the year. The first surprise to those new to the cell was the need to know your way around a computer and use excel, mostly to manage the dreaded duty list. The cell has also been a linchpin in Regt'l security, as the Regt'l Police also belong to our cell. While most of our memories are from running around last minute for parades and ceremonies, we also recall Silly week with the legendary "Humphries" chant. We also had a chance to build recuperation kits for the injured and manage The Regt'l Parade Scarlets on behalf of The Guild. The RSM's driver had the chance to take part in a tour of Jeff Mierin's private collection of old military vehicles that have been restored or he is currently restoring, in Ottawa.

## Field Troop

Field Troop, as usual, spent the year providing security for 9Tac and the Regt'l CPs. Most the memories from the year come from exercises, most notable of which for the RSM's gunner, MCpl Leclair, was Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. While he was nervous and reluctant to fill the role, he asked for some refresher training before hopping into the turret. He gained an appreciation of RHQ's role in The Regt, such as the logistics and recce's required to kick all the Sqns out over such an area. MCpl Leclair also watched how, regardless of position, everyone in the crew performs their duties such as starting stoves in the morning. In February, 60 sent MCpl Bigney over to the Leadership School, to help train the next generation of MCpls. After a week of the instructors tearing each other apart during

standardization, the PLQ candidates arrived ready to learn new leadership skills. While the students could be frustrating for the staff at times, a good sense of teamwork helped the candidates band together to become better junior leaders. MCpl Bigney enjoyed his time and would recommend the task to anyone who gets a chance.

## ROR

The year started off for the ROR with the arrival of the new Chief Clerk, WO Kastner, and her cohort, PO2 Shee whom brought his naval sense of "humour" and his east coast accent to shake things up. A pilot project was started which involved a Trooper going "Behind Enemy Lines" and learning the dark side of what actually happens in the Regt'l Orderly Room on a daily basis, however they ended up keeping him around. The summer saw all types of new examples of team work such as "East Coast Sports Appreciation Day" which involved an afternoon full of washer toss and sampling of various sea food. Towards the fall The Regt's operational tempo kicked in to high gear as it does around that time of the year. This meant all the squadron clerks and the ROR staff were to prepare for the annual readiness verification for all personnel in The Regt. This included keeping the clerks very busy as the prepped members for deployment if such an occasion arose.

After a short but much enjoyed Christmas break the staff returned to work to assist and prep Regt'l personnel to fulfill various taskings and winter warfare exercises



RHQ biv site during Ex FROZEN DRAGOON

as the winter was mostly quiet. In March the orderly room supported members as they participated in Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR as it was a nice change to get out of the office and either watch or participate in some very competitive events. During the last part of April the ROR assisted in a Personnel Readiness Verification for



Lunch time in OB during Ex WALKING BEAR

members deploying to CMTC Wainwright to participate in the largest exercise of the year, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE.

## Signals

It has been an eventful year for the members of the RCD Sigs Tp, beginning in the summer of 2013, with the arrival of a new CoC and Tp members. After some adjustments we hit the ground running, literally, into the Petawawa IRONMAN Competition, in which over a quarter of the Tp completed the event. Ex VIRTUAL DRAGOON was the first chance for the new Tp to shake out its legs (and canvas) and figure out how we were going to work together in a CP environment. It was rough, but a great number of lessons were learned, and a finely tuned CP was created. The culmination of 2013 for Sigs Tp was Ex WALKING DRAGOON, which had a rough start with RRBs through tumultuous terrain, where The Regt cursed the near constant sound of "91A1 this is 91A2, radio check over". New SOPs were put into place and the road trip home saw the proper employment of the RRBs and the two CPs synchronized as a Reg't step up through the entire road move back to Petawawa... until Rimouski (C/S OB) died in a field just a few short km from home! With the wait for a low-bed being the only thing holding the crew back from a long weekend, serious thought was put into destroying the vehicle in place. The biggest impact Sigs Tp had on The Reg't came in the form of Ex JIMMY DRAGOON, an HF exercise in April of 2014. It took a lot of scrounging, begging, but no stealing, to get the parts needed to make some HF manpacks. HF Trg was conducted in Sqn lines by the Sqn Sigs Reps with assistance from Sigs Tp pers and during the week of 21-26 April. Each Sqn deployed for a day each, testing skills with short range antenna and the long range NVIS antenna. The Ex culminated with all Sqn's deploying in their respective lines, and establishing comms with C Sqn in Gagetown. All in all it has been an exciting year and we are looking

forward to another great year ahead!

## Canteen & Archives

In July 2013, The Regt took back control of The Reg't I kitshop. This allowed us to bring in substantial changes. First, the medal mounter was brought over to C-57, putting all the needs of the soldiers into one convenient location. We've also brought in better quality gear at lower prices, and allowed new payment options like aquittance roll. We also set up the mobile kitshop at events such as the Garrison Petawawa Family Day. These are great opportunities to show off our wares to new customers, like family members and retired Dragoons. Our mobile kitshop has even made it to the front page of the Petawawa Post.

In March 2014 the RCD Archives had a chance to meet Mr. Jean Paul Brunel, the owner of the property of Moreuil Wood in France, with which the RCD had some soldiers there that fought in the battle of Moreuil Wood in the year 1918. Mr. Brunel offered to bring oak to re-frame three paintings of the Battle of Moreuil Wood from a tree growing at the site of the battle. He presented the finished frames to the CO and the RSM of The Reg't as well as a piece of wood that had bullet scarring from the battle. Every year in March Mr. Brunel flies our Reg't I flag in honour of the battle and of the sacrifices the soldiers made in a small parade.



Mr. Jean Paul Brunel at Moreuil wood





Proud to support The Royal  
Canadian Dragoons.





# A squadron

After the Squadron returned from Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in June 2013, A Squadron turned to a supportive role for the Regiment, as B and C Squadron were tasked for high readiness. A Squadron represented the Regiment on many Brigade taskings, CFTPOs, and provided instructors to Leadership Company to teach on Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) courses. Under the leadership of Maj Kerckhoff (OC A) and MWO Nykorak (SSM A) the Squadron made the best of their training, developing realistic and challenging exercises.

In early September the Squadron participated in Ex SABOT DRAGOON, the two day Regimental gun camp. The dynamic scenario afforded the new subbies, Lt Smith and Lt Runnings time to work with their Troops. The intent of the second day was to participate in a tactical withdrawal. The situation had the two Troops moving through each other's boundaries, and conducting Troop shoots on the advancing enemy. Cohesiveness was built at the crew level, which proved to be an added bonus to the sound gunnery refresher the Squadron received.

In October, there wasn't much time to relax as the Squadron deployed on Ex WALKING DRAGOON. Two days of Troop training in the Petawawa Training area allowed the fighting troops to practice vehicle movement, dismounted obstacle drills, VCPs, TCPs, and running replenishment before heading to a screen for

48 hours. SHQ provided not only a CP, but 19ers crew acted as OPFOR to ensure Troops reacted tactically and communicated to higher quickly and accurately. The effort 2 Troop put into the concealment of their hide was rewarded as they were never "bumped" from their location, despite OPFOR only being 25 meters from the patrol base. The lessons WO Power had taught on the set up and considerations for siting an OP base and post proved to be very valuable. For the road move to the RMA, the Squadron provided three escorts for HQ Squadrons' movement. Despite the loss of Sgt Poppe and Lt McNaughton's vehicles due to mechanical breakdowns, the Squadron performed well in the heavy rain. WO Leblanc and Capt Wong secured CFS Leitrim's gym floor for the Squadron to sleep on. The small gesture was a significant morale boost for the group. The remaining four days of training were spent conducting zone recce's south from Ottawa's suburbs to just north of Highway 401. At night, Troops would move into OPs to report on any adversary activity. Some of 2 Troop will remember when their patrol was efficiently establishing their OP, to their shock they realized the ground wasn't as frozen as they thought, as one of the vehicles was sinking into the mud. An impromptu lesson on patrol recovery was taught by Sgt Poppe to ensure other Squadron assets weren't needed. During the exercise, the Squadron always found time to connect with the local populace. Many patrols planned only to stay for a few minutes but





A Squadron soldiers supervise the 25mm live fire portion of Ex Collaborative Spirit

found they were spending much longer, as the civilian population was eager to see what we do. Throughout, the solid training provided to Squadron personnel was challenging and realistic, most importantly a chance to intermingle with the people of the region that hadn't seen the Regiment since the Ice Storms in 1998.

After Christmas break, A Squadron prepared for winter training in Ramore, including a five day exercise comprised of a 520 km road move, followed by a force-on-force tactical scenario. After enduring the bitterly cold move through North Bay, the Squadron established an admin area to get much needed rest. For many Troopers it was their first exposure to working on the vehicles in these adverse conditions. In the tactical scenario, 1 Troop was tasked to defend a downed satellite, while 2 Troop's task was to recover it. Troop leadership quickly briefed the rest of their crews, and headed out on snowmobiles to recce potential hides. For 1 Troop, WO d'Entremont, Sgt Millner, and MCpl Monaghan sited the hide and developed the defense plan. Both Troops incorporated the occupation of the hides into formalized training, with senior NCO's passing on their wealth of knowledge to the new soldiers. By noon that day, the tactical scenario was on, with 1 Troop moving into their OPs; 2 Troop subsequently set out on recce patrols led by Sgt Landry and MCpl Chatel to probe and find 1 Troop's hide and the downed satellite. Troops were constantly motivated to further develop their Ops; they were given advice on how to properly dress to avoid cold weather injuries and how to look after their kit as everything began to freeze. Tricks of the trade were passed to the next generation of armoured crewmen. To the delight of the Troops, the cooks of the Regiment also deployed and during a short tactical pause the cooks provided fresh hot meals to the Squadron. The cooks also had to battle the elements as their propane tanks

were so cold the gas condensed into liquid! Lack of heat was temporarily forgotten at night when the SQ, WO Smith, and the OC provided a nightly rum ration to all A Squadron personnel. Troop leadership did an outstanding job of keeping soldiers motivated, and the troops, as always, were looking after each other. After all was done, 1 Troop successfully defended their position, and had 2 Troop come into the hide to see what they were up against. Trooper to Trooper, Corporal to Corporal, they explained to their peers what they had done the last three days and why. Overall the Squadron's performance was excellent, as troops showed excellent mental resilience in the face of the cold and were able to perform at a high level during the tactical scenario.

In March, A Squadron had the honour of representing the Regiment, and the Canadian Armed Forces at the 25th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. On the 23rd of March, along with 6,000 soldiers, wounded warriors and civilians, A Squadron began their 42.2 km trudge through the New Mexico desert. 'The Sandpit' was unanimously agreed by all involved to be the "soul crusher" of the march, which required a colossal effort for each step to be made due to the ankle deep sand. The physical toll of the Bataan Death March provided the participants with perspective, resolve, and new-



A Squadron Bataan Memorial Death March Team 2014

found respect for perseverance. The team composed of Cpl Tham, Cpl King, Cpl Hardiman, Cpl Janack and Cpl Fletcher completed the march third overall (of the 25 teams in the Military Heavyweight division who managed to complete the march) while Cpl Farr, Cpl Doucet, Cpl Latter, Cpl Aube, and Tpr Froese finished sixth. Maj Kerckhoff, SSM Nykorak, Lt Smith, Lt Runnings, and Lt McNaughton placed 13th.





# Bsquadron

This year the squadron remained under command of Major Stephan Popowych and welcomed a new Squadron Sergeant Major MWO Jeramie Leamon. In its second year as the Regimental right of line, the squadron began training on the Road to High Readiness as the 2 CMBG Reconnaissance Squadron as a part of Task Force 1-14.

B Squadron returned from summer leave in August and subsequently rolled into the Cav Cup competition. The dismounted competition saw all three of the squadrons fighting troops complete a fitness test, navigation course through the Petawawa Research Forest, an observation post stand, an assault boat crossing, casualty evacuation scenario, reconnaissance tasks and finally a live fire night shoot. Third troop under command of Captain Chris Levan and Sergeant Brian Chaytor finished second overall in the gruelling competition. Squadron Head Quarters and Admin Troop ran the observation post stand throughout the competition assessing each troop in the Regiment on its ability to properly establish a troop level patrol base, adopt an observation post, report on the enemy and coordinate an artillery fire mission.

In September as the winners of the regimental gunnery competition, B Squadron sent its top crew consisting of Master Corporal Judd Walsh, Corporal Chris Sherry,

Corporal Michael Walton and Corporal Andrew Kewley to CTC Gagetown to represent the Regiment in the Worthington Challenge, an army wide gunnery competition. The B Squadron crew finished second overall in the 25mm competition. September also saw several members of the Squadron complete the annual Petawawa Ironman competition with Trooper Ben Noort being the top Dragoon in the Regiment for a second year in a row. B Squadron also sent Trooper Derek Steele as an honoured guest of the Army Commander to Ottawa to compete in the half marathon at the annual Army Run.

In October the Squadron deployed to the Petawawa Training Area for a 48 hour dismounted exercise where Troop Leaders created training plans that focused on patrol bases with collective defences, patrol base routine and four man recce patrols by day and night. The Squadron then transitioned to Juliet Tower to take part in Ex SABOT DRAGOON, the Regimental annual gun camp. After several days of firing the squadron returned to base to start preparing for Ex WALKING DRAGOON.

The squadron initially deployed into the training area for Ex WALKING DRAGOON and then to the Merrickville, ON area spread out along a 30 km frontage which enabled the troops to experience the real world impact that dispersed operations have on communications, resupply, recovery, and other admin requirements. The Ex was a resounding success with the reality of time





Sgt Plumley and WO Keith strut their stuff during the 2013 Leliefontein Pace Stick Competition

and space became the key lesson learned by all. The Ex also offered a great opportunity to connect with Canadians, as troops were approached by locals in a number of towns who wanted to express their gratitude and learn about what the soldiers do. By the end of this exercise October was gone and Leliefontein was right around the corner.

Leliefontein week saw the Squadron engage in inter Squadron sports, a drill competition, a pace stick competition and other fun activities. The level of competition among the Squadrons was very strong and good sportsmanship was demonstrated by all. The Squadron managed to win the ice hockey, ball hockey, crossfit and most notably Sergeant Jason Plumley and Warrant Officer Chris Keith won the pace stick competition which further solidified the squadron as right of line for a second straight year.

It was now time for B Sqn to start integrating into the Road to High Readiness training with Ex WALKING BEAR, a Brigade level command post exercise. The exercise consisted of a week of professional development lectures followed by a tactical scenario which emphasized planning and communication drills. The lessons learned greatly enhanced subsequent training events.

The Squadron returned from Christmas leave and quickly moved into preparation for winter warfare training and deployment on Ex FROZEN DRAGOON (Ex FD). Once all preparations were complete the Squadron headed 4 hours north of Petawawa to Sudbury, ON in order to begin Ex FD. The exercise was designed to concentrate on winter survival and mounted tactical skills at the troop level. The command post was established at the 2nd Irish Regiment armouries in down town Sudbury. First troop conducted dismounted training in the Burwash Training Area, 40 km to the South concentrating on establishing snow defenses and dismounted patrols.

Second and Third Troop concentrated on mounted recce tasks in a rear area security setting over vast distances, challenging the SSM and SQMS with respect to resupply and support operations.

February saw B Sqn move into its second Brigade command post exercise, Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE. The 3 week exercise was the final Brigade level training event that was designed to prepare TF 1-14 to deploy to Wainwright, AB for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. It was a long and arduous exercise that challenged the Squadron to conduct full scale combat operations within a brigade context. There were many lessons learned and SOPs were further refined which helped the squadron prepare for its deployment on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and complete high readiness training.

March rolled in and the Squadron went off on March break for a much deserved rest. Upon returning from leave the Squadron moved into preparation for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. The Squadron completed numerous weeks of troop and squadron level training in order to prepare for deployment to Wainwright in early May. The Squadron leadership conducted several sessions of professional development including a tactical exercise without troops into Cobden, ON area in order to further develop the common understanding of combat team and battle group tactics and the relationship that Recce Squadron plays.

B Squadron looks forward to the challenges that next year will bring as the Task Force 1-14 Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron and is prepared to deploy anywhere in the world should the Canadian Government require its services.



B Squadron accepts Right of Line during the 2013 Leliefontein Sports Day



# Csquadron

Under the command of a new OC, Major Marc Lesage, right-handed by MWO Mario Doiron, the lone Tank Squadron of Eastern Canada started the year sprinting and have yet to slow down. From Combat Team Commander Course (CTCC) 1301 to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 14, the soldiers of C Squadron undertook a series of field deployments and courses on the Road to High Readiness.

During the summer of 2013, C Squadron deployed to the Gagetown training area, as part of the 2RCR Battle Group, providing the speed, aggression, and violence to the CTCC 1301. There was no doubt of the presence of C Squadron as the soldiers tirelessly showcased the firepower and mobility of what a Tank Squadron is capable of.

Upon their return to garrison from the summer holidays, C Squadron participated in various competitions such as the Cavalry Cup (CavCup) and Worthington Cup. Despite the Reconnaissance nature of CavCup, the team of tankers from C Squadron not only participated but dominated the competition as they placed 2nd overall with a very small margin between themselves and the 1st place team.

The annual Worthington Cup, a mounted gunnery competition between the three regiments and the

Royal Canadian Armour Corps School, was another event where the soldiers of C Squadron proved to be the best in Canada as they placed 1st overall in the Leo 1 C2 category.

As you cannot be the best without proper training, C Squadron conducted a gun camp firing well over 1000 rounds through varieties of Tp shoots and half-Sqn shoots simulating a fire base during Ex SABOT DRAGOON. Once again, C Squadron deployed to the infamous 'Lawfield Corridor', for Ex WALKING DRAGOON as part of their Road to High Readiness. The exercise proved to be challenging in many ways as the Squadron conducted offensive and defensive operations, fully tactical. Despite the long days and nights, the soldiers continued to learn and foster the lessons, as they knew, once the Squadron was at High Readiness they could potentially be called to deploy abroad.

After another visit to the Regiment in Petawawa for the annual Leliefontaine celebrations, C Squadron was back in high gear to kick off another exercise; this time with live ammunition. Ex SABOT DRAGOON II was yet another exercise with its challenges, but keeping in mind the lessons learned from previous exercises, the improvement of the soldier's tactical ability was uncanny. C Squadron battled through the harsh winter weather as the booming sound of 105mm rounds

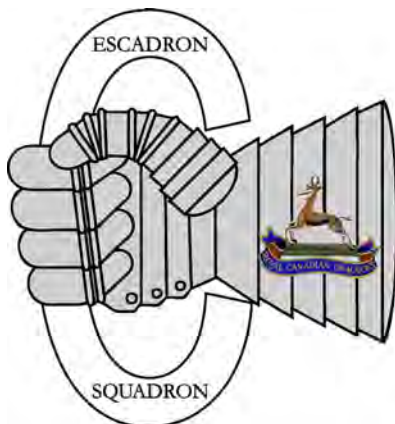


echoed in the town of Oromocto.

When C Squadron came back from their well-deserved winter holidays, the training tempo only intensified. The Squadron was thinned out as it conducted four internal courses: Leopard 2 gunnery conversion, Leopard 2 D&M conversion, Leopard 2 D&M, and a TLAV D&M course. The effort for these courses was simple; C Squadron was converting from a Leopard C2 Squadron to a fully functional Leopard 2 Squadron equipped with the A6M, A4M, and the A4 variants.

With the soldiers of C Squadron converted to the newly received Leopard 2's, it was time to put their training to the test during Ex SABOT DRAGOON III. C Squadron conducted their very first Leopard 2 continuation training gun camp in March 2014. That week ended with an exceptional day where the Friends of The Regiment visited C Squadron at Firing Point 4 in the Gagetown Training Area. C Squadron hosted seven members from the Ottawa community, who are now a part of the Regimental Family. They experienced the driving and shooting capabilities of Canada's finest Main Battle Tank. It was also an excellent opportunity for the soldiers of C Squadron to demonstrate what they do and how they do it. The special day ended with a memorable dining-in with the new Regimental family members and senior soldiers of C Squadron. The following day, C Squadron conducted a family day where the soldiers had the opportunity to show off their expertise once again.

With High Readiness just around the corner, C Squadron never ceased to train and prepare. Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1401 was yet another challenging test for the young Tank Sqn operating within the 1RCR Battle Group. With high mental resiliency, the soldiers of C Squadron will continue to overcome the future challenges and prove, once again, that we are Canada's best Tank Squadron.







# Dsquadron

This year's training calendar saw D Sqn taking part in or leading a variety of exercises, tasks, operations, and Regimental activities. With the new command team of Major Rowena Williams and MWO Brian Sampson at the helm, D Sqn returned from Summer Leave and prepared for Ex CAVCUP. CavCup saw 1, 2, and 3 Troop trekking through the Petawawa training area for 24 hours, completing an array of stands to include: navigation, CBRN threat, observation posts, calling indirect fire, water crossings, First Aid, point reconnaissance, and the night shooting package of PWT 3.

As Fall approached, drivers and surveillance operators disappeared into hulls and crew-commanders and gunners mounted into turrets to prepare for Ex SABOT DRAGOON I and Ex WALKING DRAGOON. Ex SABOT DRAGOON was a regimentally run gun camp which saw each Squadron completing static and lane firing at J-Tower, followed by a Sqn level live withdrawal. Two weeks later, D Sqn marshalled its vehicles at C-53 and deployed onto Ex WALKING DRAGOON, a two week exercise in the civilian areas south of Ottawa.

The weeks after Ex WALKING DRAGOON were busy with the celebration of Leliefontein, Remembrance Day at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa, and finally the annual silly week activities before Christmas. The soldiers of D Sqn enjoyed the array of activities

throughout the months, and though it kept the Sqn's tempo high, it was all with enjoyment. Also within this time, D Sqn sent a patrol team to the first ever Canadian Patrolling Concentration, which occurred in Wainright, AB, at the end of November. With Lt Cyr and MCpl Mason in the lead, the 8-man patrol defied the odds and freezing temperatures and captured a bronze medal, placing among the top third of all teams, and coming out as the best non-infantry team in the concentration.

The first few weeks back from Christmas leave saw D Sqn conduct a road move to CFB Meaford in order to exercise their readiness and response capabilities as the 2 CMBG IRU Vanguard Company. With the entire Sqn being called in over the weekend before, it took only a day to prepare all of the vehicles and necessary kit, and was able to roll out and head to Meaford the next morning. In Meaford, all MCpls and above had the opportunity to sit in on a valuable PD session with the IRU Vanguard Commander and his Sergeant-Major, who were the first boots on the ground for the relief efforts in the Alberta floods in 2013. This experience lead much insight to the various levels of commanders in D Sqn, who all were able to take back a few lessons learned that could better prepare the Sqn incase of a real-time Request for Assistance. The road move back to Petawawa proved to be the most challenging part





Members of the squadron parade with 1-71 CAV at Fort Drum (NY)

of this exercise, as the Sqn pushed through a blizzard outside of North Bay, but luckily made it back with all their vehicles in one piece.

The IRU exercise was soon followed by a Sqn winter warfare exercise in the training area, in which soldiers fought against frigid temperatures for 5 days, learning how to not only survive in extreme conditions, but how to still be tactical and be employed as recce soldiers in such conditions. Next, after several gun camps, the Sqn took over as OPI for Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR, the annual 2 CMBG sports tournament. With SHQ set up in Dundonald Hall, and many of the Sqn's personnel playing on the sports teams, D Sqn provided a great deal of the work and participation into the exercise.

This finally led into the lead up training and deployment of 27 of D Sqn's finest, who went down to Fort Drum in New York and took part in 1-71 Cavalry Sqn's Spur Ride competition. All members of the Sqn finished the competition, surprising all of our American counterparts as we could all bellow "Fiddler's Green" without hesitation. The camaraderie and friendships built during this short excursion have set the example and laid the foundation for future joint exercises the following summer and fall.

In late May, D Sqn deployed on Op VERDANT SOLDIER and aided 4 CDSG in the removal of unexploded ordnance from J-Tower and Alpha Ranges. The end of the training year finished in June with the Sqn preparing for the Change of Command ceremony in early July, and a very well-deserved Sqn party, graciously hosted by the Sqn Sergeant-Major.

The first few months of 2014 saw D Sqn conduct an IRU road move to Meaford followed by winter warfare in the training area, several gun camps, and the OPI for Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR. In May, 27 members of D SQN

travelled south to Fort Drum, NY for a Spur Ride. After a gruelling 24 hour challenge they were awarded US Army Cavalry Spurs by 1-71 Cav.

In late May, D Sqn deployed on Op VERDANT SOLDIER and aided 4 CDSG in the removal of unexploded ordnance from J Tower and Alpha Range. June saw the Sqn preparing for the Change of Command parade and eagerly anticipating a new training year to commence after a well-deserved summer leave.







# HQsquadron

Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) once again had a busy year supporting the Regiment in training and operations.

The first major exercise of the year for HQ Sqn was Ex WALKING DRAGOON in which HQ Sqn was deployed in Petawawa for a week and then Richmond for another week. This exercise was focused on Squadron level training and HQ Sqn played a vital role in providing combat service support to the Sqs that were deployed throughout the greater Ottawa Valley area.

Ex FROZEN DRAGOON was one of the more challenging exercises HQ Sqn supported this year. The exercise saw squadrons deployed in Sudbury, Raymore and Mattawa. HQ Sqn graciously used the accommodations of 22 Wing North Bay as its support base and worked in close concert with 2 Service Battalion for all combat service support across the long lines of communication. In -40°C weather with the wind-chill, maintenance was kept busy thawing diesel lines and repairing vehicles. One of the larger challenges was keeping up with the large fuel demand imposed by the extreme temperatures. The weather was unexpected and resulted in a large overture of the forecasted fuel expenditures as the diesel gelled if the vehicles were not kept running. The success of the exercise was directly attributable to the excellent work

performed by all ranks of HQ Sqn!

Leading up to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1401, the Sqn was presented a challenge with the Canadian Armed Forces B Fleet Reduction Plan, which saw a significant amount of support vehicles removed from the Regiment. This reduction forced the Sqn leadership to innovate workable solutions in the reallocation of vehicles. This reallocation also saw a reorganization of the Sqn echelon system which was well received by Sqn SSMs. While the Regiment hopes that there will be replacement for our aging B Fleet soon, we are confident that the reallocation will alleviate many of the burdens imposed by the reduction plan.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1401 was a very busy time for HQ Sqn as maintainers worked over-time to ensure B Sqn's Coyotes and support vehicles were in excellent condition to hit the ground running and lead the Bde in battle. The hard work and dedication of the maintainers was showcased in their ability to take B Sqn from a high VOR to a 0% VOR despite the B Fleet Reduction. Further, the vehicles performed excellently in Wainwright proving the ability of this dedicated group of maintainers.

After B Sqn deployed to Wainwright, the Sqn was able to take some time to host an appreciation BBQ.



Maj Lokesh Goela (OC) and MWO Ingo Herbst (SSM) presented departure gifts and tokens of appreciation to recognize the hard work and efforts of the departing members of HQ Sqn. Further, the cumulative efforts of all ranks in HQ Sqn were highlighted in memorable speeches delivered by the Sqn leadership. The BBQ was well received and the food prepared by the Kitchen Officer and her team was outstanding!

HQ Sqn continues to prepare for another busy year supporting a high Regimental training tempo. There is no doubt that Headquarters Squadron is the backbone of the Regiment, and members of the Squadron take pride in knowing that their hard work and efforts are translated time and again with successful training exercises!







# THE ASSOCIATION

So you have heard of the Association but are not sure who they are or what they do? Have you, perhaps, met a couple of retired Dragoons in the Mess or Club, people who are quick to offer advice on how it was done in the past and who tell a good war story if the sufficient inducement is provided? These people are probably members of the Association and while the social connection is important, their role in the Regimental Family goes far beyond war stories and the good old days.

The RCD Association is an integral and thriving part of the Regimental Family. Made up largely of retired and former serving Dragoons, the Association endeavors to foster the traditions, customs, spirit and well-being of the Regiment and promotes and assists the well-being of individual Members, both serving and retired, of the Regiment. Through the auspices of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Association offers advice and guidance on matters of custom and tradition and provides advice, assistance and guidance to the Colonel of the Regiment upon request.

Having said all of that, at the (relatively) advanced age of most of the Association members, the social side of the coin is one of the important ways we keep in touch with each other and of the goings on at the Regiment. The Association is loosely organized into 10 Chapters which are spread across the country and each Chapter has an organization and funding to keep in touch with its members within the Chapter and with any Dragoons who may be in the area. There is a National Executive, headed by Bann Price, and ably assisted by Michel Vezina (1st Vice President), John Moyer (Secretary/ Treasurer), the regional

representatives and the Chapter Chairmen from across the country. The Association annually produces a newsletter (The Dragoon) which is a compendium of the past and present in the Regimental family. There is also an Association page on the Regimental website and many Association members on the Dragnet. The main event in the Association happens every two years when we all get together for a National Reunion – always well attended and a lot of fun.

The Chapters are the core of the Association. Each has its particular events and over the past year there have been many highlights. The National Capital Region Chapter annually celebrates Leleifontaine in the Army Officers Mess and follows it with the Regimental Birthday celebration later in the year. The Petawawa Chapter, headed by Bruce Prendergast holds monthly luncheons as does Tom Urbanowsky's Atlantic Chapter. The Alberta Chapter, led by Reg Munden, holds mini-reunions of their own on occasion and the Kingston and Region Chapter, led by Denis Levesque assist Clive and Shirley Milner to hold the RCD Annual Picnic at the Milner's residence. There are similar events being held at all of the Chapters with many being relatively small but none the less enjoyable and all accomplish our aim of maintaining contact with other Dragoons and with the Regiment. Much charity work usually goes along with these functions with monies raised going to a number of deserving organizations.

The year 2014 will see the next National Reunion, RV2014, hosted by the South Central Ontario Chapter, led by Terry Shaw. Held in the wine country of the Niagara Peninsula, it promises to be a great event and all of the details can be found on the website.



With about 20% of the Association membership being currently serving Dragoons we should have a great mix and have a great time. Make plans to attend one of our functions meet the members of the Association –now that you know who we are and what we do. Good shooting!



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From August 19th to the 23rd, 2013, The Royal Canadian Dragoons held their first Cavalry Cup competition in nine years. This dismounted reconnaissance-based competition was designed to test the soldiers of The Regiment, as well as determine the Top Troop amongst eleven teams competing.

The competition itself was comprised of two days of various tests to determine the best troops in The Regiment. The first day, soldiers were tested in physical fitness, military knowledge, and shooting skills. At the end of the first day, the soldiers carried on with their preparations to get ready for the second and most challenging part of the competition. The "long day" as it came to be called, started in the early hours of the morning and had the troops begin with a navigation course through the Petawawa Research Forest. Having visited their navigation points, the troops then met up with an actor playing a local partisan, who directed everyone to their next stand and tested the reaction time for gas attack drills. Once the all clear was given, soldiers set up an observation post and a patrol base, ensuring they worked quickly under the pressure of the clock.

When the competition staff was satisfied with the observation posts, the next stand saw the troops portage 10-man assault boats down to the Ottawa River, crossing at King's Bay. When they reached the other side and started marching to their next objective, the troops were surprised with a mine strike and casualty evacuation scenario, stressing reaction times and life saving procedures. While most of the participants were working in darkness by now, there was still more

to be done – a point reconnaissance on two culverts along Deluthier Road brought the teams to the range for the final activities of the day. Once everything else had been completed, the troops completed a military vehicle recognition test then completed a night rifle shoot to end their long day.

Late Friday morning, The Regiment held their closing parade to announce the winners. While everyone still looked a little sore from the events, everyone seemed pleased with their accomplishments. The winning team came from 60 Troop, Regimental Headquarters, lead by Captain Liam Roach, Sergeant Mike Mackenzie, and Sergeant Matt Edwards. Congratulations to everyone for completing such a difficult competition.













# The Citadel

The Royal Canadian Dragoons was organized as a permanent Force unit by Lieut-Col. J. F. Turnbull at The Citadel, Quebec, in 1883. Colonel Turnbull commanded the Regiment from its inception as 'A' Troop Cavalry School Corps and School of Cavalry, equipped as Hussars, until November 1, 1895, when he retired owing to ill health. During his command The Regiment grew to two squadrons and took part in campaign in North West, Canada, thereby gaining its first battle honour "North West Canada 1885" and became successively; Cavalry School Corps and Royal School of Cavalry (1887), The Canadian Dragoons (1892) and The Royal Canadian Dragoons (1893). The Cavalry School Corps in 1883 included personnel from The Queen's Own Hussars and Colonel Turnbull noted that through these men there existed a succession which definitely linked the Corps with the French period in Canadian History.

Referring to the organization of 'A' Troop, Colonel Turnbull wrote in 1884; "I proceed without delay to form a permanent troop of Cavalry, which, while performing its own regular duties, would act as a military school of instruction to it's special arm of the Service, besides supplying first class drill-instructors to any corps that might wish to make use of their services during the period of annual drill". The ideal embodied in these words was difficult of attainment, Colonel Turnbull continued:

"I commenced by the appointment of a sergeant-Major from the 4th Dragoon Guards and two sergeant-instructors. One of these came from the 7th Dragoon Guards and the other from the 15th King's Hussars. All three non-commissioned officers, in their respective Regiments, and are in possession of very high testimonials from their Commanding Officers and also from the General Officer Commanding the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, who said: "They were about the smartest and best drill instructors there".

The remaining men of the troop I recruited, one half in Ontario and the other half in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces - no difficulty whatever being experienced in obtaining recruits, three times the number offering what I would accept - with this excellent result that I was able to select a very superior class of young men and as fine material to make good cavalymen as I ever saw".



Lieut-Col. J. F. Turnbull

Originally published in The Goat (June 1933)







# IRONMAN 2013



This year's competition marked the 30th anniversary of the Ironman competition and took place on September 11th for completers and September 12th for competitors. The men and women of The Royal Canadian Dragoons once again came out in droves to participate, with this year's team numbering 25 for competitors and 46 for completers. As always, C Squadron from CFB Gaagetown, New Brunswick also sent a small contingent. Extra special to this year's event was the fact that Major James Browning, Captain Joshua Sider and Staff Sergeant Tom Dennehy of our sister unit, the 1-71st Cavalry from Fort Drum, New York came up to participate in the race.

The team, captained by Major Lokesh Goela, trained hard all summer long to prepare. A vigorous regimen of Crossfit, portaging, running and ruck marching ensured that team members would be in the best condition possible to battle the 50 km course. In terms of the competition, as always it began with a 32 km forced march complete with a 40 lb rucksack. After the march the real fun began with a 4 km canoe portage followed by 8 kms of paddling on the Ottawa River. Once team members reached Jubilee Lodge it was time again to ruck up, with a final 6 km loop around Garrison Petawawa's golf course before culminating in a glorious finish at Dundonald Hall in front of cheering friends and family members.

While most Dragoons were simply relieved to cross the finish line a few were in it to win it, as evidenced by the breathtaking pace at which they finished the course. The fastest Dagoon for the second year in a row was Trooper Ben Noort from B Squadron with a time of 6:58:00. Second-fastest was Officer Commanding B Squadron, Major Stephan Popowych with a time of 7:11:00. Rounding out the top three was Captain Simon Johnson of Headquarters Squadron at 7:21:00. As with last year, fundraising efforts were held in conjunction with the event, with each team member soliciting donations that went towards the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation and their efforts to purchase an MRI.

All in all, this year's Ironman competition for The Royal Canadian Dragoons was a resounding success, with The Regiment's team once again numbering amongst the biggest in 2 CMBG and proving to Garrison Petawawa that The Dragoons remain a force to be reckoned with.









# Leliefontein 2013

On 9 November 2013, The Royal Canadian Dragoons paraded before family, friends and dignitaries on the Worthington Parade Square at Garrison Petawawa to honour the 113th anniversary of The Regiment's actions at the Battle of Leliefontein.

The parade is the focal point of our annual Leliefontein commemoration, which allows us the opportunity to formally honour past and present Dragoons for their achievements and share our pride in what it means to be a Dragoon today. The battle of Leliefontein may have been a small part of a distant war long ago, but our History continues to define us as Canada's most senior Cavalry regiment and why we celebrate it as our most revered Regimental event.

In the Fall of 1900, The Regiment was tasked to cover the withdrawal of the larger British force in a fiercely contested withdrawal from the banks of the Komati River. The Dragoons, barely one hundred strong, were holding a plateau two miles long when they learned they were almost encircled by the enemy. The heroic actions of Sergeant Edward James Gibson Holland,

Lieutenant Richard Ernest William Turner and Lieutenant Hampden Zane Churchill Cockburn prevented the artillery guns from being captured by the Boers and facilitated the withdrawal, earning the three men the Victoria Cross and The Regiment its second battle honour.

Aside from remembering the Battle of Leliefontein, the parade also gives The Regiment a chance to reflect on the past year and recognize achievements in soldiering by several of our troops. This celebration emphasizes our competitive spirit and also serves to strengthen ties with the greater Regimental Family.

We began the week competing in the Commanding Officer's Harrier Run, with over three hundred strong emerging in a sea of red shirts, navigating the eight kilometre circuit through the Petawawa Golf Course.

The competitive spirit continued into Wednesday morning, with individual squadrons pitted against each other in inter-squadron competitions. Each squadron put forth their very best drill teams and pace

Opposite: Colonel Rousseau addresses the parade





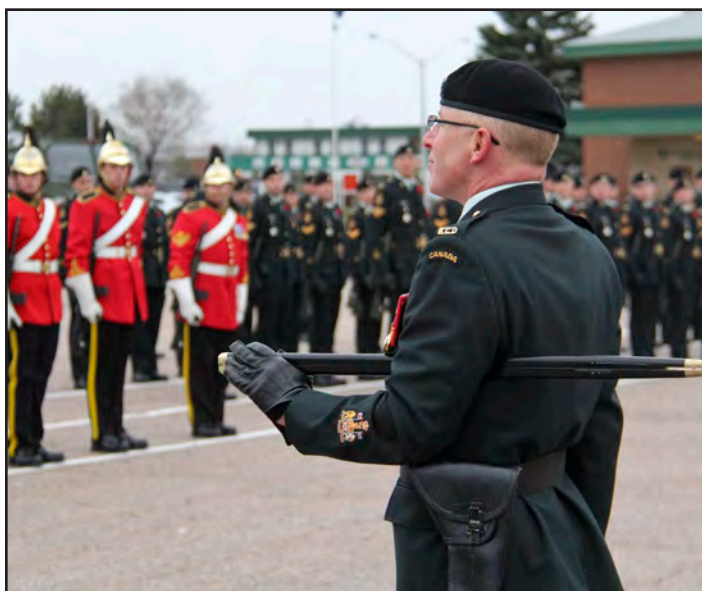
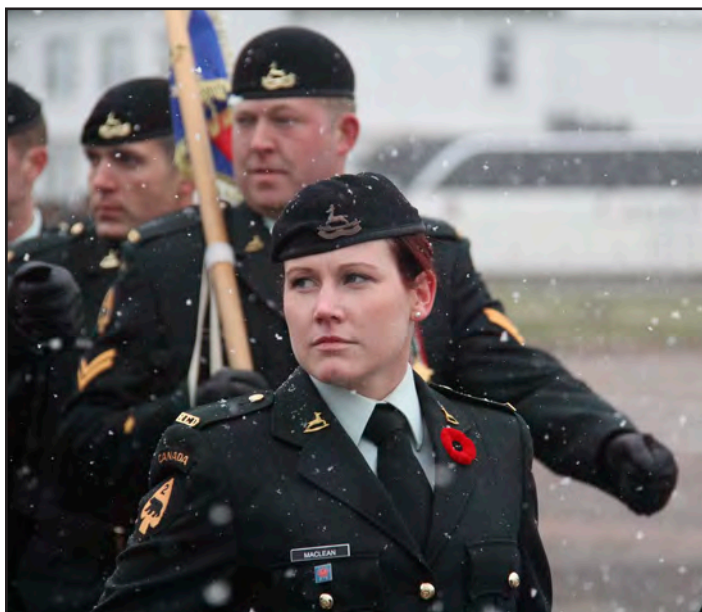


stick competitors in a splendid display of finesse and coordinated discipline.

As celebrations rolled into Thursday, The Regiment kicked off its annual inter-squadron sports day with individual squadrons competing in hockey, football, volleyball, and a variety of fitness competitions, all seeking to be the top squadron in The Regiment. This year once again saw B Squadron come out on top and retain its Right of Line status under the command of Major S.G. Popowych and Master Warrant Officer J.G Leamon.

Formal celebrations continued Thursday night with the Senior NCOs' Mess dinner at the Reichswald Warrants' and Sergeants' Mess, and the Officers' Mess Dinner at the Normandy Officers' Mess, giving a chance for former serving and serving Dragoons alike to gather with family and friends, catch up and reminisce on years past. This year was also particularly significant as it marked the formal retirement of Dragoon and former Chief of the Defence Staff General Walt Natynczyk from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Saturday Night brought with it a fitting end to the week with the annual Leliefontein All Ranks Dance, giving all serving members and their families a chance to gather and celebrate the week's festivities. All in all it was a week of spirited and unifying events that saw Dragoons come together from all across Canada to celebrate their past and look forward to a bright future.





## Leliefontein Awards



**The G.G. Bell Award**  
Presented to Cpl Malloff



**The Leliefontein Award (Top Support Trade Cpl)**  
Presented to Cpl Vanhorne



**Leliefontein Award**  
Presented to Cpl Halloran



**The Commanding Officer's Shield**  
Presented to Sgt White



**The Courage Trophy**  
Presented to Tpr Thomas











# Lelifontein

Regimental All Ranks Dinner & Dance 2014





# Leliefontein

## A View from The Rear Guard

Excerpts from "With The Guns in South Africa" by Lieut E.W. Morrison RCA (Hamilton 1901)

The following account of the action on November 7th 1900 is by Lieut. Morrison (RCA), later Major-General Sir E.W. Morrison, who commanded two Canadian guns with the rear guard.

*Satisfactory thing about it was that it was a purely Canadian affair - Canadian mounted troops pitted against five times their number of mounted Boers. We fought a hard fight against an enemy whose dash and bravery exceeded anything yet done by the Boers in this war; we repulsed a well planned attack which, if it had been successful might have meant a serious disaster to British arms, and our losses while heavy for the number engaged, were wonderfully small considering the odds we fought against and the wild melee that followed the charge and repulse of the Boers. The fight was one of the finest military spectacles of the war. One Canadian trooper who was severely wounded lay on the ground watching the charge and fight at close quarters, which concluded the engagement on the second day, said that he would not have missed being wounded for the privilege of being a spectator of the scene. Anything more thrilling or fine in the military spectacular way has been put on canvas....*

*Well the Boers commenced to press us and my guns were moved back alternate to better positions. Up to this point we were holding our own nicely on the rear guard, thanks to Colonel Lessard's excellent disposition of his force. Though the Boers were numerous we weren't worrying much because we had fought together enough to entertain a sublime conviction that the Dragoons, our guns and the colt (R.C.D. Gat Howard) could go in on one side of the Transvaal and out the other.*

*....Meanwhile it looked as if we had the whole Boer force on our hands.*

*About 11 am a courier came "hell-for-leather" from the rear to say that Lt. Cockburn who was holding that corner with two weak troops was being heavily pressed. Colonel Lessard ordered me to take a gun and go over to help him. Things were certainly hot over there when we arrived. The Boers were swarming up from the West and coming on with determination. As our shells drifted into the Boers, they dismounted and took cover, but still continued coming on - rushing from cover to cover and firing. I asked Lieut. Cockburn to extend some more men further to the front to keep them off the guns until we put the fear of the Lord into them. He did*





Above: "Saving the Gun" by Peter Archer (1982)

so and we kept soaking in shrapnel. We had fired a dozen rounds when Colonel Lessard came galloping across from the other flank, and as he got up he shouted "For God's sake Morrison, save your guns!" It was certainly warm around there, but I did not see any cause for serious alarm as we were holding them nicely but the Colonel's manner suggested that there was something up. I asked if I should fire another shell or limber up. "Limber up" he shouted, "They are coming down on our flank to cut us off" and he pointed towards our left rear. One glance was enough, for over half a mile back on our left flank the Boers were swarming over the hills from the West. Good old Cockburn looked too, and without a word he turned and shoved the rest of his two troops against the enemy he had been firing at. Not a man hesitated. One chap, as he jumped off his horse and unslung his rifle looked at me with a cheerful grin and said "I guess we can see our finish Sir".

Colonel Lessard rallied all the men who were left and rode towards the left flank to try and hold back the flanking force. They were a mere handful and the Boers were in strength.

There was a Dragoon who had been riding with us all the time, all that was left of our escort, and when we halted to go into action he would halt and blaze away..."

By this time the line of Boers was not much over three hundred yards from us and a handful of the Canadian Dragoons were engaged in

a mounted melee with them all across the plain. Riderless horses galloped about and men staggered along with dripping wounds. Col. Lessard's little force which had been so gallantly holding the flanking force off our left was now rolled back fighting desperately. The messenger I sent (the RCD trooper that was left of the escort) saw Lieut. Turner, first and the brave fellow (Turner), though wounded in the neck and arm, went energetically to work pulling his men from the flank fight to cover us. They threw themselves from their horses and poured a close fire into the Boer line behind us, but there were not a dozen of them all told.

A few reinforcements came up and a position was taken up across the Spruit. After we had ceased firing, Colonel Lessard came up, he looked ten years older. "Elmsley is killed" he said simply. "Turner wounded in two places, Cockburn and the two troops that were with him are gone - wiped out".

But there was no time to be sorry then, the pom-poms and the 84th Guns (RFA) with some infantry, reinforced us and we had to move back to take up another position to cover the column, for the Boers were supposed to be meditating another rush. But they had had enough and about five o'clock we got into camp.

Later in the evening we heard that Lt. Elmsley was not dead, the bullet had entered his breast below the heart, but passed through the lungs. Turner fought on with his two wounds until Colonel



*Lessard ordered a sergeant to take him to the rear. Of Cockburn's two troops (about thirty men) only six escaped. The rest were killed, wounded or captured.*

*About ten o'clock at night, most of the men who had been prisoners came in, having been released by the Boers, and an ambulance went out and got the wounded some of whom had fallen into the hands of the Boers who used them very well.*

*The Boers are reported to be a very superior lot (numbering over a thousand). They were splendidly mounted, well dressed and most of them had Kaffir servants.*

*Though the Colt carriage was captured, Sergeant Holland pluckingly saved the gun by taking it off and riding away with it when the Boers charge was almost up to him. Then a funny thing happened, the Boers thought they had captured the gun and tried to turn it on my gun. They could not understand how it worked and even turned it upside down. When they found the gun was gone, they were so angry they burned the carriage.*

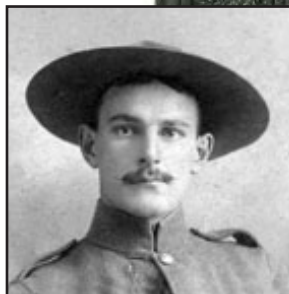
Originally reproduced in The Goat September 1933



Lieut Cockburn



Lieut Turner



Sgt Holland



Owing to earlier casualties, The Royal Canadian Dragoons went into action on November 7th less than one hundred strong. Casualties in the action, officially known as Leliefontein were:

#### Killed

No. 26 Cpl E.A. Filson  
No. 102 A/Cpl W.J. Anderson

#### Died of Wounds

No. 105 Sergt N.L. Builder

#### Severely Wounded

Lieut J.H. Elmsley  
Lieut R.E.W. Turner  
No. 30 Sergt F.F. Metcalfe  
No. 42 Pte H.H. Loosemore  
No. 157 Pte W. Dougall  
No. 327 Pte A.H. Roberts  
No. 185 Pte W.A. Kinsley

#### Wounded

Lieut H.Z.C. Cockburn  
No. 312 Sgt (Farrier) C.E. Cope  
No. 370 Pte M. Berg  
No. 325 Pte G. Richardson

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER 2013**







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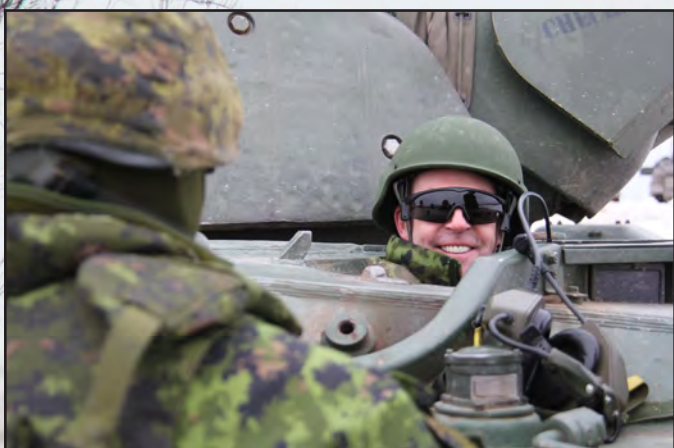




The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons hosted another successful Friends of the Regiment (FOTR) event, 27-29 March 2014. C Sqn RCD hosted seven members of the Ottawa community, in which they had the opportunity to connect with these Canadians and showcase the capabilities and Soldiers of C Sqn. These guests, who are now a part of the Regimental Family, experienced the driving and shooting capabilities of the Leopard C2. The event culminated with a Dining-In where Regimental traditions, toasts, the odd joke, and merriment were had. We would like to thank these fine gentlemen for taking the time out of their busy schedules to come to Gagetown and witness our Soldiers in action















**FAREWELL TO AN  
OLD FRIEND**

**Last Firing of the C2**



# His name was TEDDY



Teddy in war paint with Art Galloway 1935

Taken from "Reminiscence" by Jim Ross. Originally published in The Springbok December 1970

Ted was foaled in 1910. He and his buddy "Dutchie" joined the RCD in 1916 to do their part for King and Country. Dutchie met with an unfortunate accident early in his service and had to be destroyed. Teddy must have mourned the loss of his pal, as they were the only two greys in The Regiment, but being a great old trooper he settled down to the serious business of performing his duties.

The information I have about Teddy from the year 1916 to 1924 is hearsay from the boys who soldiered with him during that period. I speak of close association with Ted having joined A Squadron in 1924.

Teddy never made the high jumping ring but he could clear 3'6" in his stride, which was the required qualification for a troop horse. He never did make the big time such as musical rides, escorts, and all the pomp and glitter that goes with it - not because he wasn't smart enough and good enough but he didn't fit into the colour scheme. For these occasions they select the blacks, the bays and the chestnuts. I don't think this worried Ted very much for while the others were out rehearsing, fighting the bit to do the right thing, with the "Joe" on the top pulling the other way to do the wrong, he was being peacefully exercised around the polo field.

He had the speed and the brains - Yes Sir. Teddy was second to none. I recall our combined training at Petawawa back in the good old days when the RCHA used horses to draw their guns. One of the first



questions from the boys was "Have you still that old so-and-so Teddy the Grey with you?" In those days camp sports meant a big thing to the mounted units.

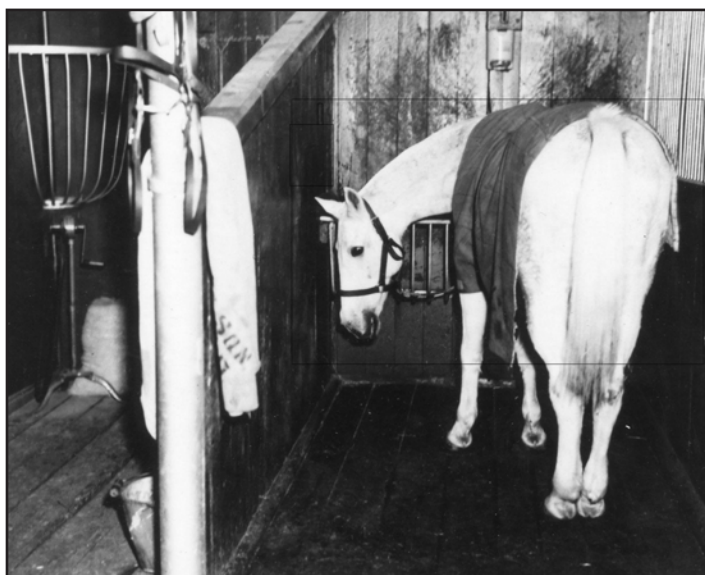
I was talking to Comrade Bob Harris the other day. He was Ted's troop sergeant. He was telling me about riding him in the Sergeant's Steeplechase at Petawawa in 1928 and coming in first by a big margin. He gave all the credit to Ted as he was too busy hanging on.

Ted had one highlight in his life that even the musical ride horses didn't make. He was Guest of Honor at the Officer's Ball on the occasion of his 20 years of service with The Regiment. A special stall was built in the alcove of the Officer's Mess for this gala night. I had the honour of escorting him. After each dance many high ranking officers and their ladies came to admire him and feed him sugar. This led to a sugar hangover for Ted the next morning. I told him that night but he wouldn't listen - he just had to have one more lump for the road.

Then came that dark October day in 1940 when The Regiment formed up on the barracks square and Ted was led through the gate to the drill field where he had performed his faithful duties as a cavalry horse for so many years - now to be destroyed.

After the shot was fired The Regiment was brought to attention and the last post sounded. Two minutes of silence was observed and the trumpeter sounded Reveille.

The trumpeter on this occasion was Trumpet Major Galloway who rode Ted before the end of the first Great War and on his last mounted parade in June 1940.



Teddy the Grey - April 1935

Ted was outstanding from the other horses in The Regiment in so many ways:

1. He was the only grey;
2. He was a veteran of World War 1;
3. He wore 3 first Great War ribbons on his browband;
4. He had more service than any other horse in The Regiment.
5. He was never absent off parade to my knowledge. I wish I could say the same for yours truly, but Ted never attended the canteen or smokers;
6. He was about the best all round horse on mounted sports with a kit bag full of ribbons to prove it.

Yes Sir, Ted was the finest.

The following is a poem composed by a member of The Regiment (name unknown) as a tribute to Teddy following his "*retirement*" from The Regiment.

"Just another fresh recruit", they said  
So full of pranks and play,  
Had a cocky way of walking,  
Wore a coat of dapple-grey,  
The fellows names him "Teddy",  
We called his buddy "Dutch",  
Just a frisky pair of fellows,  
Who didn't mount to much,  
Sometimes I'd have to call 'em down,  
or check 'em in a row,  
With "Take it easy rookies",  
You're in the Army now.

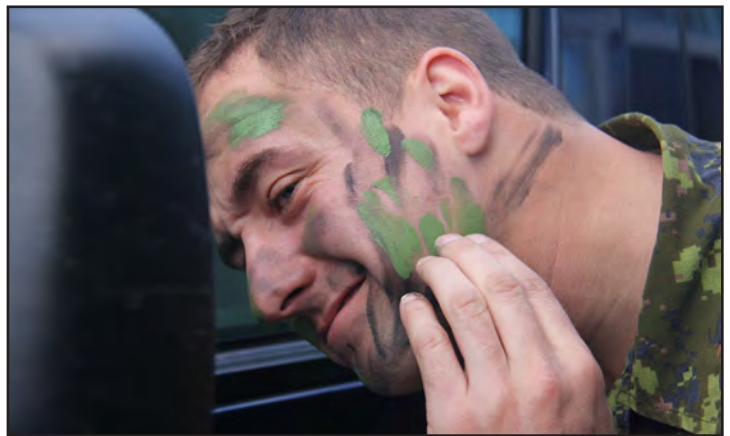
More then twenty years ago, boys,  
We laid old "Dutch" away,  
And Teddy's coat is snowy white,  
Instead of dapple-grey.

So send him like a soldier,  
Let drums and trumpets roll and ring,  
For Teddy's going home;  
Let the "Last Post" and the "Reveille"  
Be the music that he'll hear,  
They'll thrill him, even cheer him  
With a pistol in his ear.  
Maybe up in "Horse's Heaven",  
They'll be wings for horses too;  
And there'll be a pair for "Teddy",  
A soldier tried and true.













# Leeuwarden 2014

Despite an unseasonably cold and snowy day, The Regiment formed up in front of Worthington Barracks on 15 April 2014 to celebrate an important part of the unit's history.

The liberation of Leeuwarden, commemorated annually in Petawawa as well as in the town of Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, remembers the events of 15 April 1945 during the Second World War.

In April of 1945, with The Regiment consolidated near the town of Leeuwarden and B Squadron stretched out to the northeast in the area of Dokkum, troops discovered that the Germans had left Leeuwarden and quickly passed this information on to the Regimental Headquarters (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.

This year's parade saw the presentation of several promotions and medals, including the presentation of a sacrifice medal by the Commander of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, Colonel Dawe, to Sergeant Jon Whitehead. Colonel Dawe took a moment to orate the significance of this medal and his personal pride in Sergeant Whitehead's resolution during and after his tour. This year's parade was also attended by a special guest, Mr. Don White, who is the last surviving Dragoon to have participated in the emancipation of the city of Leeuwarden. Mr. White was joined by his family to observe the ceremony and later accompanied the Commanding Officer to inspect the parade.

Following the reading of the action at Leeuwarden, the Dutch national anthem was played as The Regiment's flag was lowered and replaced by the flag of the town

Opposite: Don White, Second World War veteran, inspects the troops







of Leeuwarden. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Atherton, concluded the ceremony with a short speech to reinforce regimental pride. With that, The Regiment marched off the parade square while the Leeuwarden flag blew in the wind.

## LEEWARDEN

In February 1945, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, as part of the 5th Canadian Division, ceased activities in Italy and under code name Operation GOLDFLAK, began the move to Northwest Europe. There was to begin the final campaign of the Dragoons in the Second World War.

On the 8th and 9th of April 1945, the advance began with The Royal Canadian Dragoons leading 2nd Corps advance on the east side of the IJsselmeer. The Regiment met sporadic and demoralized resistance. By April 10th, a breakthrough was achieved across the River Vecht at Ommen and the order was sent out for the Dragoons to push through at best speed. They were to proceed cross-country, in a north-westerly direction, through the province of Friesland toward its capital Leeuwarden. Their task was to cut all main communication routes originating from the city, then isolate and if possible, capture the city.

Through the 12th, 13th and 14th of April, the Regiment moved northeast towards Leeuwarden meeting and capturing small groups of Germans as well as liberating 20 Allied POW's from a hospital. As they passed through the small Dutch villages, the town's people pulled out their orange banners and flags to welcome the RCD.

Sunday, the 15th of April 1945, found the Regiment consolidated on the territory gained in the previous day's push. "B" Squadron, stretching west from Dokkum (northeast of Leeuwarden) received word that the Germans had left Leeuwarden. Word was also received that the Dutch was engaging remnants of the German Garrison Resistance. "C" Squadron was sent to reconnoitre.

"C" Squadron entered Leeuwarden at 1100hrs, 15th of April 1945, under drizzling rain. They found the streets deserted except for isolated groups of armed Dutchmen. Sporadic gunfire was still being exchanged, but with the approach of armoured cars, the remaining Germans withdrew. Cheering crowds began to fill the streets and national flags were taken from their hiding places as the people cried, laughed and embraced the Canadians.

Word was sent back to Regimental Headquarters, who promptly moved into the city and set up in the finest hotel. By the day's end, the Dragoons were established in and around Leeuwarden. RHQ and "C" Squadron spent the night of April 15th in the city, with "D" Squadron twenty miles east on the Groningen highway, and "B" Squadron twenty miles north in the Dokkum area. All the jails in the area were bulging with German prisoners, for by now, the count had risen to 3000 and still the weary Wehrmacht poured in under escort. Vast stocks of munitions, parks of artillery and vehicles were taken as well as dumps of gasoline and other fuels. Huge stocks of food were captured and promptly turned over to the Dutch Patriots. Dutchmen turned against collaborators in their midst and violence and local unrest swept the area so that in addition to their military duties, the Dragoons became temporary local administrators, judges and policemen. "A" Squadron rejoined the Regiment after being relieved from its flank guard task.

After the celebrations of 15th of April 1945, the war carried on and the RCD pushed east. However, neither the Dutch nor the Dragoons have ever forgotten the Liberation of Leeuwarden.





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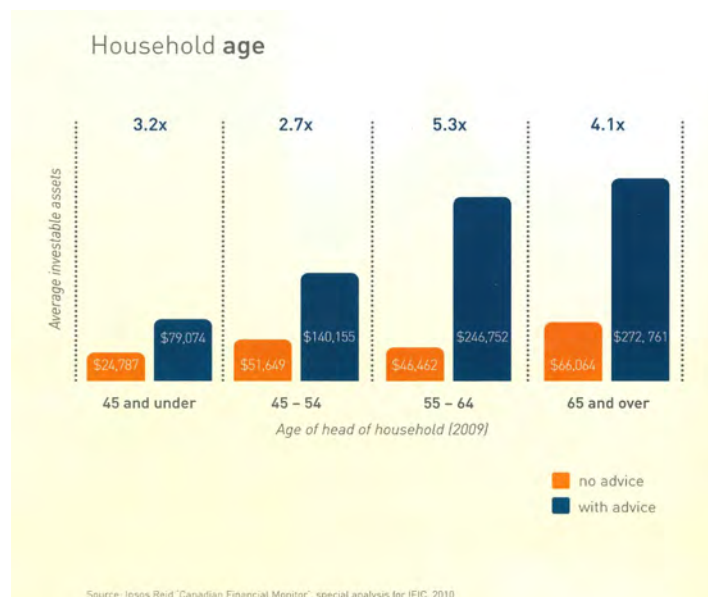
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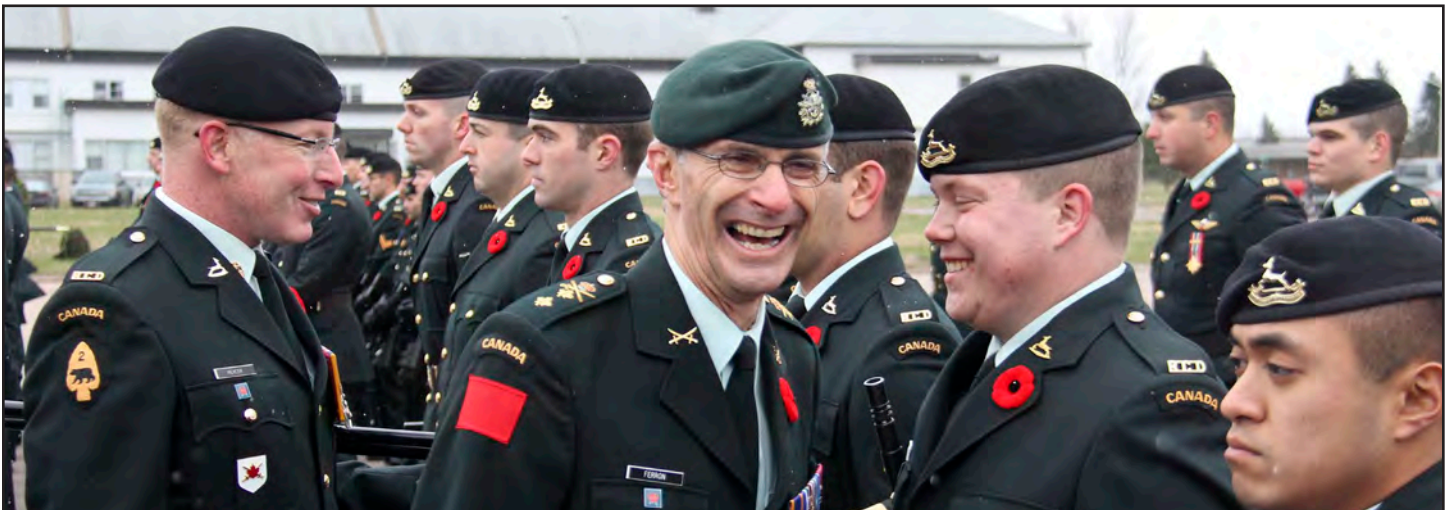


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# THE REGIMENTAL HISTORIES

by Maj (ret'd) M.R. McNorgan



In its 131 years of existence only six books have ever been written about the RCD, at least as far as this writer has been able to discern. First off the mark was Sergeant William Jones who published a personal memoir of the Great War in 1918 titled 'Fighting The Hun From Saddle and Trench'. It was not great literature but it was an entertaining and informative read; so much so that the Regiment later re-printed it in paperback.

Next up was the first attempt at a comprehensive regimental history. This was published in 1932 and titled 'A Short History of The Royal Canadian Dragoons'. The authors were F.C. Fetherstonhaugh and T.A. James. Fetherstonhaugh was a well-known and prolific author of regimental histories of Great War units. His co-author, Major James, was a serving officer in the Regiment who sadly died just before publication from the effects of wounds sustained in 1918. The book lived up to its title, being only 52 pages in length. Nevertheless the authors managed to tell the Regiment's story in outline form.

It was not until another world war had come and gone that another work emerged. 'Royal Canadian Dragoons 1939-1945' told the story of the Regiment's service in the Second World War. Written by a regimental committee it was published in 1946 under the name of the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K.D. Landell, DSO. This fine book, like 'Fighting The Hun', was also later re-printed by the Regiment.

Incidentally, all three books mentioned now come under the rare book category and trade for hundreds of dollars in the rare book market.

In 1968 a new comprehensive history appeared: 'The Spur and the Sprocket'. The author was Clara 'Larry' Worthington, widow of Major-General F.F. Worthington, founder and 'father' of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. 'Spur and Sprocket' was in the tradition of 'A Short History' in that it was a straightforward account of people and events without much in the way of background or commentary.

With the Regiment's hundredth anniversary looming the unit looked into having a full-length, comprehensive history prepared. A professional historian, Brereton Greenhous, was hired to carry out the project. The end product was 'Draught: The Centennial History of the Royal Canadian Dragoons 1883-1983'. 'Draught' was and remains one of the finest regimental histories ever produced in this country. It, like 'Fighting the Hun' and 'RCD 1939-1945', was the subject of a later re-print.

The final work in this list was 'The Royal Canadian Dragoons Pictorial History 1883-2000' by Captain David Muralt which appeared in the millennial year.

Since Captain Muralt's work appeared the Regiment has endured another war, as well as several operational deployments to troubled parts of the world. It is time to update the record.

The RCD Guild has decided to commission a new work which will cover the period 1983 to date. The chosen format is an illustrated history. This means a work that as well as text will include, on average, one illustration per page. These illustrations might be photographs, or maps or cartoons or paintings, etc, etc. In doing this the problem is not so much the illustrations, which are relatively easy to come by, but rather the text. The tours in Germany, Cyprus and Yugoslavia have been covered in the secondary literature, if not too extensively. They are a manageable problem. More difficult is the Afghanistan campaign. Because it has been so relatively recent there have not been many books published about the Canadians in Afghanistan. The present writer knows of just 18 to date. None is a comprehensive history of Canada's part in the war but are, for the most part, snapshots of a particular aspect of the conflict with an understandable emphasis on the role of infantry units. If the RCD, or indeed any armoured units, are mentioned in these works it is usually just to say that they had been there. The only way to get the armoured / RCD story out is through interviewing veterans of Afghanistan and telling their stories in a book dedicated to the Regiment's story.

How can you help? Every member of the Regiment is a part of the story, whether you have been operationally deployed or not. If you deployed operationally and kept a diary, consider loaning it, or rather a photocopy of it, to the author. If you have an interesting story to tell, either yours or that of a comrade, consider putting it on paper. Any material gathered, whether or not it ends up being used in the new book, will go to the Regimental archive where it will prove of value to future researchers. You may well think that your experiences are of no particular interest to anyone but yourself. That is probably what the soldiers who served in North West Canada or South Africa over a century ago thought. If only we had a Trooper's memoir from those campaigns our understanding of those experiences would be so much better! Thank heavens we have Sergeant Jones' book from the Great War. It is certainly not great literature but it is a priceless Regimental relic!

Opposite: First shipment of "The Spur and The Sprocket" arrives at The Regiment in 1969.





The Cent Room has had a very active year!

This past year, the Cent Room has hosted many functions and saw a new PMC, VPMC and Treasurer take over the Cent Room; Maj Lokesh Goela, Captain Dustin Silmsen, and Captain Colin McNaughton have been the driving force behind the scenes to ensure the success of all events.

Participation in Cent Room events has been at an all-time high in recent years. Every Friday prior to going to the Normandy Officers' Mess, the Cent Room is populated with officers of the Regiment enjoying a cold beverage and discussing regaling tales of the work week. Further, regular Professional Development afternoons have made the Cent Room the place to be!

The PMC, in concert with the CO, have increased the amount of social functions in the Cent Room much to the pleasure of the membership. Spouses are often invited to the events which has proven popular as it enables the membership to indulge for a bit longer than they may have been permitted to! There have even been more than a few occasions where the bar fridge has been critically low on stock in the late evening!

With all the increased activity in the Cent Room, the operating budget has also increased and this enabled the membership to vote in two major infrastructure improvements. The first was the acquisition of four reclining leather sofas to replace some of the aging furniture. This purchase has proven extremely popular, and seats on the sofas are becoming hard to come by.

The second acquisition was a new bar to replace the worn one that was in service. The bar is a finely crafted maple and oak structure designed with long-term usability in mind. It was expertly constructed by the Regimental Carpenters and there are plans to place non-serviceable 25mm cannons as foot rails! With the improved quality of life in the Officers' Stand-Easy, it is not outside the norm to find Capt Steve Boire and Capt Chris Hillier enjoying a mid-day siesta on the new sofas (or if you were to ask them "re-arranging furniture")

The first key social event of the year was the Cent Room Meet and Greet, which preceded the wider base and brigade Meet and Greet at the Normandy Officers' Mess. 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 the hard-work of the Subbies was evident in the organization of the base-wide event!

The next key social event The Black Hatter's Mess Dinner that was held at the Normandy Officers' Mess and was tremendously successful. Black Hat Officers from across Eastern Ontario and the United States of America attended and a great time was had by all! For those not in attendance, the night slowly transpired into shenanigans to include some officers parading around in mixed Canadian / USA mess kit. Further, our American brothers-in-arms were introduced to a long-standing Canadian tradition – Subbies' Court. This methodical, impartial and justice-delivering mechanism of law always saw senior officers found guilty of various

## The Centurion Room.



offences and sentences were delivered in the most law-abiding way –a round for the Subbies!

Overall, there were too many 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.



## A DIFFERENT TAKE...

The question is often very often asked as to why the Royal Canadian Dragoons, a Canadian regiment, wear as a badge the "Springbok", an animal which is native to South Africa. This distinctive badge was awarded to the Regiment after the South African Campaign as an official recognition of the splendid services rendered by The Royal Canadian Dragoons while serving there. Previous to this the Royal Cypher was worn as a badge. With all other regiments the men of the R.C.D. have a fairy tale of their own as to how the Springbok came to be adopted for the badge. Here is the story:

*"While the Regiment was performing an outpost duty one night a sentry heard some noise to his front, his challenge to "Halt" being ignored and thinking it was some wily Boer crawling up to surprise him, he fired, thus alarming the picquets, which immediately had to "stand to". There was no return of fire, but the sentry was confident he had heard a movement. When dawn came a patrol was sent out to investigate and a short distance in front of the post a "Springbok" was found lying dead. Hence the "Springbok" badge which is so proudly worn by the Royal Canadian Dragoons."*

Originally published in The Goat (March 1923)

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Over the past year the Sgt Holland Room has hosted several functions, and seen the changes of appointments of both the PMC and VPMC and the addition of the newly appointed treasurer; MWO Sampson, WO Smith and WO Phillips. The highlight of the year was the "At Home to the officers" at Christmas. It was a huge success and a good time was had by all.

The members of the Sgt Holland Room welcomed several newly promoted Sgts into its membership. This was conducted with the traditional "Shinning" ceremony under the watchful eye of the DSM/TQ and the entire membership.

The Sgt Holland Room conducted several mess dinners this year, starting off with the Leliefontein week, followed by the semi-formal mess dinner with the officers in C-40. This was a more relaxed dinner and was a great opportunity for both the officers and NCOs of the Regt to socialize in a casual setting. The MCpl training Mess Dinner was held to show the future Snr NCOs of the Regt the mess protocol.

The year came to a close with the CoC mess dinner where the Snr NCOs bid farewell to the current CO, LCol Atherton and his wife in a relaxed dinner setting.



## The Sgt Holland Room.

















# Recollections of Moreuil

By Major R.B. Nordheimer, MC (Originally published in The Springbok - Winter 1948)

In these days of mechanized warfare, memories of cavalry action are almost in the same category as recollections of the Victorian era. On the other hand, the counter attack on Moreuil Wood by the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, supported by the 3rd British Cavalry Brigade, is considered one of the most important cavalry actions of World War I, (although few of us realized it at the time). It is for this reason that the part played by the Regiment should prove of interest to those now serving and conjure up memories of by-gone days to those of our "old comrades" who were among those that saw action on that bleak March morning.

Twenty years is a long time to remember clearly all that took place on that historic occasion. Of necessity, the action taken by the squadron under my command remains first hand knowledge. The doings of "B" and "C" Squadrons are gathered from official documents I have at hand at the time of writing. There can be little doubt however, that it was the concerted action of all who participated from both Brigades, plus the vigorous

tactics of the Brigadier General J.E.B. Seeley, which made the recapture and holding of Moreuil Wood possible.

To those who may think that I am over-emphasizing the importance of this engagement, I will digress for a moment to quote official references to Moreuil Wood. Sir Douglas Haig, British Commander-in-Chief, wrote in his dispatches, "a brilliant counter attack carried out by the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, supported by the 3rd Cavalry Brigade". General Sir Henry Rawlinson, Commanding the Fourth Army, asked that a cable be sent to inform the Canadian people of the Brigade's "splendid deeds", and the Brigadier received a letter from Generalissimo Marshal Ferdinand Foch, in which he said, "I shall never forget the valour of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. In the highest degree thanks to the Brigade, the perilous situation that had existed since the battle opened was restored".

If any further proof is necessary, it was furnished on a trip which I made to the U.S. Cavalry Training Depot at





Above: "Charge of The RCD" by S.Q.M.S. King (RCD)

Fort Riley in 1941, where General Strong told me that the Moreuil Wood action was a text book operation by cavalry through out the United States Army. In order that my readers might understand why this action was considered so important, I will sketch briefly the events leading up the March 30th.

Early on the morning of March 21st, the long expected German attack was launched against the Fifth British Army. In spite of defenses in depth, a thick fog permitted the penetration of large bodies of the enemy past these fortified zones and even the rear artillery positions were soon made untenable. The Canadian Cavalry Brigade had been withdrawn from the line and was resting not far from Amiens. As soon as the attack developed, the Brigade was on the move and was rushed from place to place to fill in gaps in our lines and to launch counter attacks by mounted and dismounted parties. The German strategy was to drive a wedge between the British and French Armies and to cut the railway between Boulogne and Paris. How close they came to success will be seen when only Moreuil Wood and its surrounding high ground remained between them and the positions which would enable them to dominate the railway by artillery fire. With this picture in mind, I will set down what happened on March 30th and by the

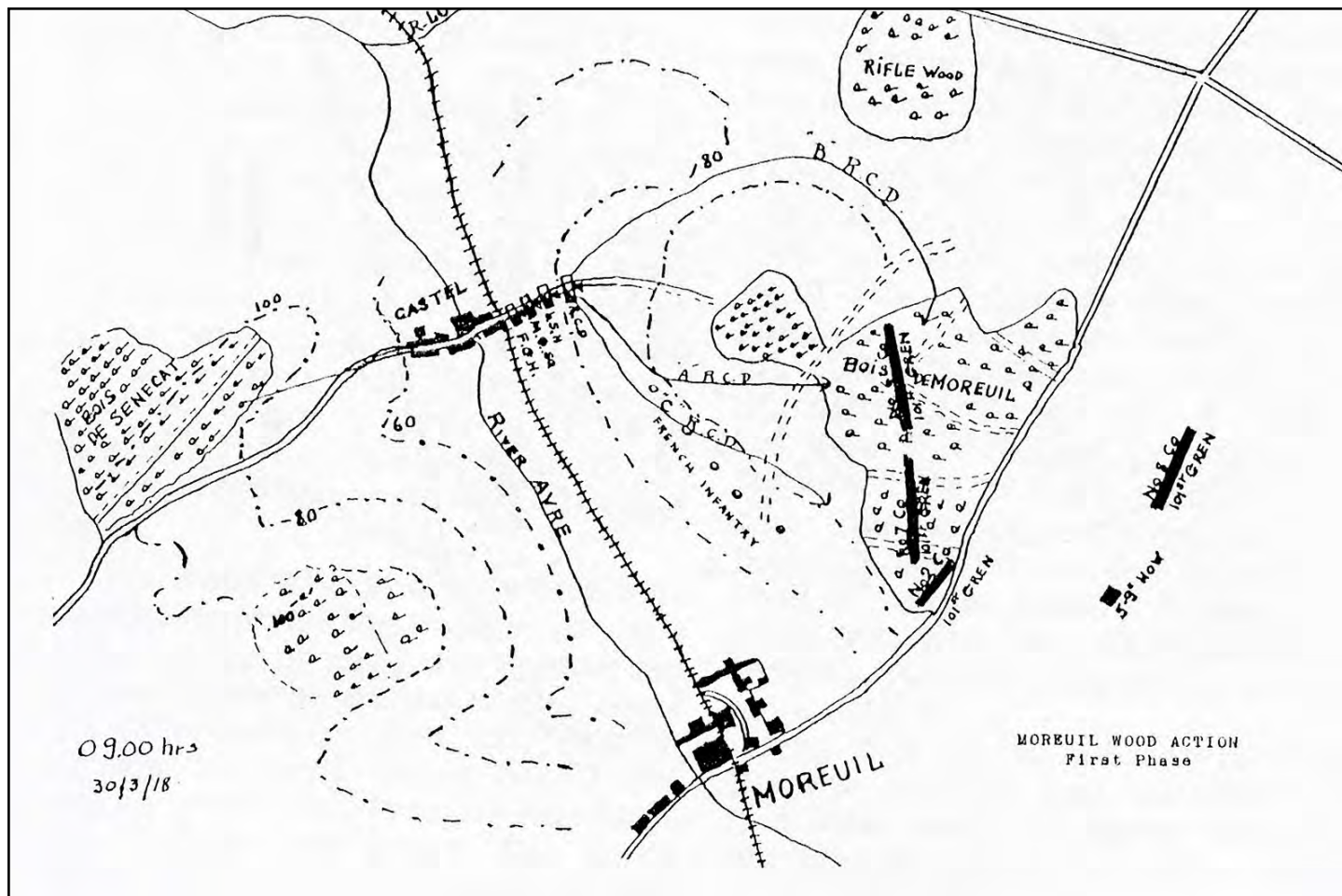
three sketches show the various phases of the attack from the time we received our first orders to move.

At about 1900 hrs on the evening of March 29th, 1918, The Royal Canadian Dragoons bivouacked in Bois de Senecat just north west of Castel. After nine days of continuous moving and fighting, the latter being done by a mounted group known as General Harman's Detachment and dismounted men under Major R. S. Timmis, both men and horses were worn out.

The Regiment was put on a four hour "alert" and after the horses had been off-saddled, watered and fed, all ranks ate what was available and made themselves as comfortable as possible in the wet, soggy wood. At about 0800 hrs on March 30th, the order came to saddle up ready to move, and this was done with a minimum of delay and confusion. The XIXth Corps was issued the following instructions to the 2nd Cavalry Division under Major General T. T. Pitman: "Enemy reported in large wood NE of Moreuil on right flank of 20th Division. Cross Avre River at once and move SE across River Luce to clear up the whole situation in the wood and secure the line as far as Moreuil".

The 3rd Cavalry Brigade and the Canadian Cavalry





Brigade being closest to the objective, General Pitman motored to their respective headquarters at Cottenchy and Guyencourt and ordered an immediate advance. The orders were to seize the high ground overlooking Moreuil, the operation to be carried out by whichever Brigade arrived first, supported by the other. The 3rd Cavalry Brigade was to cross the River Noye at Fouencamps and the Canadian Cavalry Brigade was to cross the River Avre at Remiencourt and Castel.

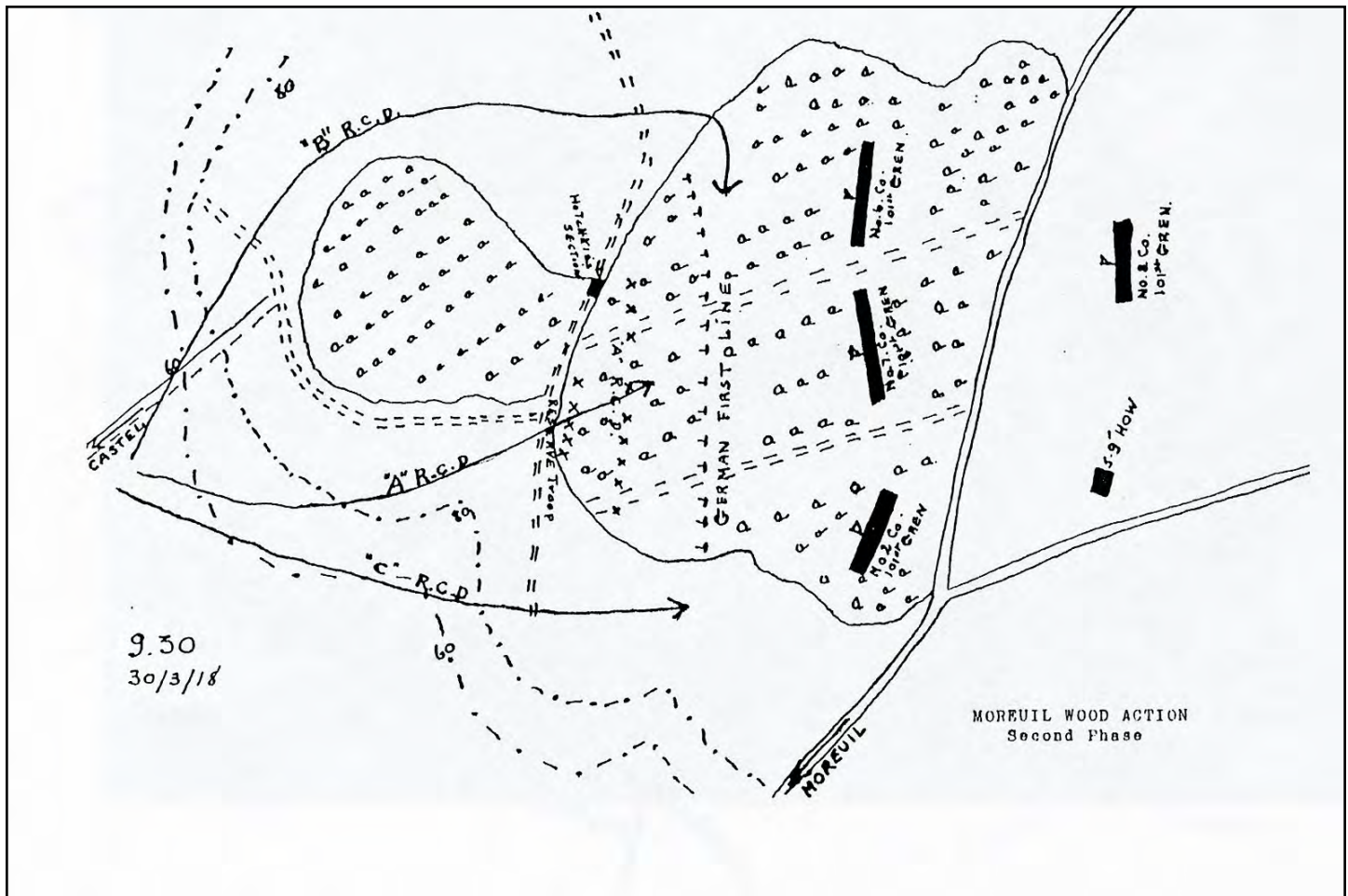
In the dim light of a cold misty morning, The Royal Canadian Dragoons as the leading Regiment and "A" Squadron as Advanced Guard, moved through Castel and crossed the River Avre. As they passed through Castel, General J. E. B. Seeley, riding his favorite charger "Warrior" and as unperturbed as ever, issued the following verbal orders: "A" Squadron (which I commanded at the time) was to gallop and seize the NW corner of Moreuil Wood and clear it of enemy troops; "C" Squadron under Captain "Terry" Newcomen, to Gallop and occupy the SW face of the wood and to gain touch with the French, who were still thought to be holding Moreuil. "B" Squadron, under Major R. S. Timmis, was to gallop round the NE face of the wood. The Lord Strathcona Horse, following close behind the Dragoons, were to develop the attack one squadron under Lieutenant G. M. Flowerdew to move

around the NE edge of the wood and engage any of the enemy who might be reinforcing from the east. The remaining Squadrons under Lt. Col. D. J. MacDonald, a classmate of mine at the Royal Military College, were to press the attack dismounted, in a SE direction through the wood.

I mention these specific orders as taken from the official history of the Moreuil Wood action, because there was some subsequent criticism as to who was to do what and where. It should be clearly understood therefore, that whatever orders were given, were issued verbally and as rapidly as the situation required. Cavalry leaders are supposed to be permitted a certain amount of initiative in handling situations as they arise and the maximum benefit has never been derived by holding them to limited objectives, especially in a situation where the success or failure of the venture in a large measure depended on the speed with which the attack was pushed home. It may be argued that by pushing on and advancing towards the further edge of the wood, we left ourselves vulnerable to attack from the flanks. It would be just as true to say that by our advance we threatened to cut off the enemy troops in the wood and forced them to withdraw.

"A" Squadron with Lieutenant Cochran's troop in the





lead, emerged from Castel and galloped up the sloped of the high ground leading to Moreuil Wood. In doing so we passed through the outposts of the French infantry of the 133rd Division, who were dug in between Castel and Moreuil. They cheered lustily as we galloped by, no doubt relieved to know that someone else would bear the brunt of the German attack for a change.

Moving over the crest of the ridge, Lieutenant Cochran dashed for the NW corner of the wood proper, where it was separated from the Bois de Ballon by a fairly wide track. On entering the wood, he encountered heavy fire and finding it impossible to advance further mounted, he withdrew his troop and gave the order "dismounted action". In the meantime the rest of the squadron had come up, and after sending two Hotchkiss rifle sections up the track to protect our left flank and rear, I gave a similar order and we advanced into the wood with bayonets fixed.

The enemy were clearly visible through the trees and their heavy marching order made them good targets. It was our first experience of wood fighting and the noise produced by bullets striking branches and trees was intense and was not conducive to peace and comfort. As we advanced, the enemy stubbornly retreated. We had reached a point which I judged

to be half way through the wood in a SE direction. When some mounted men from "B" Squadron dashed through from the left flank. They said that the squadron had come under heavy fire while galloping around the eastern edge and had been forced to take cover in the wood itself, where they rode down parties of the enemy whom they encountered. Sergeant E. A. King made a very fine drawing of the incident, a copy of which is one of my most prized possessions. It was during this action that my cousin, Lieutenant A. V. S. Nordheimer, was killed by a German infantry man whom he had sabered. Some months later, after the advance at Amiens a party of officers motored back at Moreuil Wood and found both him and his opponent as they had fallen. A simple burial service was read and a cross erected to mark the spot.

The German infantry was now putting up a stubborn fight but the threat to their retreat from "C" Squadron on their left and The Lord Strathcona Horse on their right accelerated their withdrawal. As a party of about 300 emerged from the SE corner, they were charged by Lieutenant Flowerdew's squadron of the L.S.H.. This gallant officer was killed at the head of his men and was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

As we reached the edge of the wood we could clearly







back across the river to enfilade the enemy from the high ground west of Morisel. The R.C.H.A. brought one battery into action about 0900 hrs., and the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade set up guns at Castel but saw no action.

Throughout the entire engagement, nothing was more remarkable than the extraordinary bitterness of the fighting. The German morale had been raised to the highest pitch by the successes of the last week and although, according to German sources, "there were many young soldiers taking part in their first action", even the spectacle of charging horsemen caused terror nor dismay. Desperately wounded Germans refused to surrender and even seized rifles with intent

their would be rescuers. On the other hand, the enemy has paid tribute to the corresponding bravery of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade: in an account of this action published in the "Militar Wochenblatt, 1927", a German officer present tells of a mounted attack being met by "murderous" fire; and of troopers, on foot and refusing to surrender when their horses were shot, fighting it out in isolated groups to the bitter end. Not a man surrendered throughout the whole action and no unwounded prisoners were taken on either side.

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade saw plenty of mounted action again at Amiens in August 1918 and in the closing days of the war in October 1918 but in neither action did so much depend on what it did.



Above: Members of The Regiment visit Moreuil Wood Cemetary 13 Dec 1959













# RCD CADETS

2332 2870 Ashbury College



The cadets at Connaught Ranges in Nepean, ON, have been more than busy this year. Relying on support from the local community and family and friends to ensure a successful training year, the cadets understand the importance to give back. The cadets marched in three Remembrance Day parades, assisted in serving at five veterans' dinners, spent three weekends canvassing poppies, and numerous fundraising activities including their annual Tag Day. The Corps assisted the Senators Foundation with their 50/50 sales during twenty games with up to fifteen volunteers per game. The impact that the cadets have on the community is noticeable when it comes to the turnout they see at weekly parade nights, and weekend training events.

The cadets have been able to plan and execute two field training exercises, including one cold weather exercise, giving them an excellent appreciation for training in different environments. Additionally, the cadets participated in a two and a half day adventure training exercise in Gatineau Park in May that comprised of canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, and caving. On top of the exercises, formal training occurred in the form of a Senior NCO development day, emergency and standard first aid courses, a visit to the National War Cemetery for Wreaths Across Canada, and the

opportunity to send a number of cadets to receive training towards their Master Cadet qualification. As busy as the cadets were this year, they were sure to leave enough room in their calendar for more relaxed outings.

Throughout the year, the cadets seized every chance to develop and maintain their unit cohesion and morale by participating in exciting outings. On 30 April, they travelled to Skyzone for a day spent jumping around on trampolines, to include 3-D dodgeball. Cadets spent their final training night at Funhaven for a night of games. Finally, to go out with a bang, the cadets made the trip in June to Montreal for a roller-coaster day at LaRonde and participated in Operation Father's Day at the Diefenbunker. The cadets at 2870 RCACC in Nepean have mastered the importance of giving back, professional development, and maintenance of morale throughout their last training year. The Corps support committee, consisting of volunteers, was selected by the Army Cadet League of Canada - Ontario Branch as the Top Large Unit Support Committee for the past year. As this year winds to an end and cadets prepare themselves for summer camp, one can only wish them all the same next year.









Above: A course conducts maintenance at Worthington Tank Park

For Dragoons currently employed within the RCACS, the past year was comprised of an intense training schedule, mixed with a wide range of memorable events. After the completion of summer courses in 2013, the RCACS commenced with its fall indoctrination period. In addition to standard IBTS, instructors recently posted-in underwent Armour School Instructor Cadre Training, which focused on effective coaching techniques and the method of assessment. Fall 2013 was also highlighted by the second annual Worthington Challenge, which saw teams from across the CAF compete in either 25mm or 105mm ranges. Dragoons from the RCACS were well represented, with Capt Dessouroux and Cpl Tuttle participating as part of the tank fire team and Sgt Corbiere leading the 25mm team.

After the indoctrination period, the RCACS began its fall training period, delivering a wide variety of courses, including the new Armour Crew Commander Course. For the first time, students were able to become qualified tank crew commanders, without having the reconnaissance pre-requisite. With many of the

students on these courses coming from Petawawa, this provided Dragoons posted to the RCACS with the opportunity to discuss current issues at The Regiment. In addition to the numerous courses run during this timeframe, those Dragoons that could not make it back to The Regiment celebrated Leliefontein at the Oromocto Legion. A healthy turn-out was achieved between the serving Dragoons employed at 5 CDSG Gagetown and members of the RCD Association in order to celebrate the occasion.

After Christmas leave, the RCACS began delivering winter serial courses. Throughout one of the most brutal winters in recent memory, course staff remained determined and successfully delivered effective field training, despite the adverse weather conditions. Winter 2014 was also highlighted by the decommissioning of the Leopard C2. On 26 March, RCACS Staff and dignitaries participated in the last Leopard C2 range which featured a troop shoot conducted by LCol Andrews (Cmdt, RCACS), LCol Lussier (G3, CTC), LCol Malejczuk (Comd, 5 CDSG) and LCol Newton (Sect Head, Army Collective Training). After shooting



massive amounts of ammunition, there was no doubt that spectators and participants were left satisfied with the day's activities.

Several Dragoons, under the leadership of Capt Bastien, including Cpl's Crook and Godin also participated in the Sullivan Cup, an annual tank crew competition held in Fort Benning, Georgia which focuses on tank crew manoeuvre, sustainment and gunnery skills. This realistic and challenging four day competition was comprised of physical and mental challenges, small arms ranges, offensive and defensive operations within the simulator and live-fire ranges. Overall, the RCACS' involvement in this event was a success and Dragoons at the RCACS look forward to further involvement in this competition for years to come.

While the past year has been demanding, the future looks even more eventful. Plans have been set in motion to expand the Worthington Challenge to include multiple events focusing outside gunnery skills. Furthermore, with the new TAPV set to be distributed within the upcoming year, this will undoubtedly result in new and interesting challenges that will require continued resolve and ingenuity. It is through these qualities that Dragoons at the RCACS continue to represent The Regiment in fine fashion.

**Bold and Swift.**



Capt Allie Delmonte listens to her student issue a FRAG O during the DP3 ARTW Course













# 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  
June-December 2012

Charlene Atkinson  
Ruth Baldwin  
Isabel Best  
\*Jack Binns  
\*Bobby Dow  
Ed Exley  
\*Harry Graham  
\*Bill Hood  
WO Kevin Malott

\*Ken Maybee  
Tpr Tyler McRae  
Dusty Miller  
Donna Muelaner  
\*Jack Sager  
\*Steven Sloan  
\*Gord Stephenson  
\*James Watson  
Ernie Wesson

2013

\*Jessica Aitken  
\*Joan Archibald  
Ed Beals  
John Best  
Cpl Nicholas Braam  
\*Raymond Camley  
\*Ronald Clark  
\*William Crawford  
Marty Denny  
\*George (Scotty) Dwyer  
\*James Gibbons  
Don Hyland  
Ed Johnson  
John Knight  
Velma Lloyd  
\*William Lock  
\*Leroy MacAdams

Doreen MacDonald  
Roxy MacIsaac  
\*Ken Meeker  
\*Brad Monroe  
\*Derald Prosser  
Mike Pushkarenko  
\*David Robertson  
\*Bruce Rutherford  
Winston Rutledge  
\*Robert Shearer  
\*Harry Sutton  
Linda Taylor  
Ron Taylor  
Richard Thody  
John G. Ward  
\*Ivan Warner  
\*George Wooley

2014  
(to 30 May 14)

Alfie Borker  
\*Art Barratt  
Henny Buist  
Walter Draeger  
Terry Gibson  
Jim Godden  
Pat Hannan  
\*Axel Kuus  
\*Barbara Marshall

Maj Danny McLeod  
Ki Morgan  
Moe Morrison  
Douglas Oakes  
\*Larry Perron  
John Russell  
Edna Sutherland  
LCol Charles Thomas

\* denotes a Member of the RCD Association









# *The Royal Canadian Dragoons*



*Audax et Celer - Bold and Swift*