



THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

SPRINGBOK

2014 - 2015

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

2014 - 2015 Edition

Published by permission of The Commanding Officer



CONTENTS

Colonel of the Regiment's Address	3
Senior Serving Dragoon's Address	4
Commanding Officer's Address	5
Regimental Sergeant Major's Address	6
Regimental Patron's Message	7
The Guild	8
RHQ	12
A Squadron	14
B Squadron	18
C Squadron	22
D Squadron	26
HQ Squadron	30
Cav Cup 2014	34
Ironman 2014	36
Osons Challenge 2014.....	38
Leliefontein 2014	40
Ex Common Ground II.....	48
Ex Bushman.....	50
Men's Christmas Dinner 2014	52
Leeuwarden 2015	58
The Centurion Room	62
The Sgt Holland Room	64
Cadets	70
Armoured School Dragoons	74
In Memoriam	78



On The Cover

MCpl Mason of D Squadron
participates in Jungle Lane
training

Editor in Chief: Maj S.S. Curley
Editor and Chief Planner: Capt A.M. Cyr
Advertising Team Leader: Lt C.M. Smith
Cover and publication design: Cpl K. Langille

www.dragoons.ca

Opposite: Raising the RCD Flag while on deployment.

His Royal Highness Charles
The Prince of Wales



Colonel in Chief
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



Colonel of The Regiment's Message

Colonel Georges Rousseau, CD

The old Latin proverb “tempus fugit” has hit home once again for it is time to bid farewell to the Regiment in this honorary appointment. It has been a tremendous privilege, honour and unimaginable experience that will not soon be forgotten. Many heartfelt thanks to all for your friendship, patience and generosity.

I am delighted that my last task as Colonel of the Regiment is to introduce what will now become our official Regimental Family annual review. The consolidation of the Springbok and Dragoon year books is one more example of our ability to improve Regimental business practices. Once again, this year's publication editorial and managerial staff have outdone themselves and on your behalf I send kudos to all who have contributed.

This magnificent edition will provide you a comprehensive summary of great achievements in, around and far beyond the Regimental Home Station. These moments have demonstrated yet again the competence and tremendous “joie de vivre” of our members, family and friends. Amongst the many remarkable events I wish to attribute a “special mention” to the formidable task undertaken in transforming our Regimental Guild. This colossal historical realization was prosecuted with “brio”. Through sheer tenacity and determination three successive Regimental Second in Command officers, with the backing of many, established a new Regimental Non-Public Fund (NPP) management tool in line with Government of Canada protocols. Although the transformation was not without important challenges the ensuing organisation, and its revisited concepts and mechanisms will improve our ability to manage NPP activities efficiently within a democratic, representational

and proportional environment. This new organizational framework will serve us well into the future.

As always our Commanding Officer and others have provided a superb “tour d’horizon” of this year's activities, hence I will limit my comments. Suffice it to say that the many visits to Petawawa and Gagetown have provided the opportunities to witness firsthand the unwavering enthusiasm and professionalism of all Dragoons as well as our embedded 12 RBC brethren. The collective contribution to their respective Bases and senior Formation is noteworthy. Moreover, the panache and continuous success of all members of our extended Regimental Family (ERE, Association Chapters, Friends of the Regiment and cadets) continue to perpetuate at large those excellent qualities so firmly emblazoned in those wearing and those who have worn our Springbok.

Unfortunately happy times are often overshadowed by the death of dear comrades and friends. 2015 has not spared us as we mourn the many young and old. Among them we grieve the passing of our beloved General Rad; Second World War Tank Ace and the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps' modern day patriarch. We will remember them!

Finally, it pleases me immensely to welcome home and congratulate on your behalf Major-General Matt Macdonald who returns to Regimental duty as our Colonel of the Regiment. His past accomplishments are many and his mentorship will no doubt be invaluable and appreciated by all.



Senior Serving Dragoon's Message

Major-General Dean Milner, OM, MSC, CD

Upon returning home from Afghanistan last year I was honoured to take over as our Senior Serving Dragoon from a good friend and long serving Dragoon, Jim Ferron. Serving outside of the country for over 4 years I was thrilled to be taking over this significant appointment and spending more time with the Regiment. Jim at the time was serving as Commander 1st Canadian Division so we were able to conduct the handover for both Senior Serving and Commander 1st Canadian Division. Jim has since retired and in true Ferron tradition will continue to provide untiring and selfless support to the Regiment.

Our Regiment continues to serve the Army and Canadian Armed Forces with excellence and distinction, and it has been tremendous to observe our soldiers performing so very well no matter what the tasking, exercise or deployment. I have had the opportunity over the last year to visit the Regiment on a number of occasions, the first event being the change of command between LCol's Atherton and Graham. An excellent event to recognize the tenure and outstanding accomplishments of Andrew and the Regiment, and to commence Steve's command of the Regiment. Both are fine officers of which I have had the fortunes of serving with over the years.

Understanding the significance of keeping close ties with our Friends of the Regiment I participated in a well organized couple days where the Regiment displayed its prowess in field and on the ranges for our strong regimental supporters. A well-attended event enabling us to connect with Canadians and as always our Colonel of the Regiment, Col George was present to share the event. The Regiment consistently focusing their efforts on training, I visited Maj Sean Curley and D Squadron during their participation with the 1/71st Cavalry on Ex MOUNTAIN

PEAK, a Brigade Exercise in Fort Drum. A great exercise which afforded an opportunity for our troops to work closely with our US brothers from 10th Mountain Division and demonstrate our excellent reconnaissance skills.

Fully recognizing the importance of our family, Katrin and I travelled for a Dragoon weekend to St Catherines last year for a Dragoon Association gathering that was organized by my first troop warrant Terry Shaw. This was another excellent event and reminder of what a tremendous Regimental family that we have.

On closing, it is another fine day to be a Dragoon and I continue to be proud watching our Regiment in action. In these challenging times throughout the world it is clear that we have great leaders that we have shaped through the years to command our fine troops. The Regiment is absolutely ready to take on these challenges. One of those fine leaders is Col George Rousseau who has been a stellar supporter of the Regiment and has been instrumental in so many ways including recently driving important changes to our Guild which will put us in excellent shape for years to come. We will bid farewell to George and Maureen and welcome another talented and well respected officer in as Colonel of the Regiment, MGen (retired) Matt Macdonald. Col George is moving up as our Colonel Commandant and we look forward to him keeping in close contact with the Regiment in this key position.

Bold and Swift



Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Graham, MSM, CD

With one year of my command now complete, I can look back with satisfaction at what we accomplished last year and look forward with anticipation at the training year to come.

2014 saw the Regiment working mostly at the Squadron level, refining SOPs and building the crew and patrol teams that are essential to our success. A Squadron participated in Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN, the annual 4 Division Reserve concentration, which took place in the Niagara region in Southern Ontario. Under the leadership of Major Enno Kerckhoff and SSM Kevin Theriault, the Squadron was the only formed regular force sub-unit to participate in the exercise, and provided an excellent example for our reserve brethren to emulate. B Squadron, under Major Joe Andrechek and SSM Jeramie Leamon, spent the year in high-readiness as part of the 1 RCR Battle Group. A highlight was the 2 CMBG Exercise SPARTAN BEAR, which saw the Squadron insert by chinook helicopter and conduct long range patrols in front of the infantry. In Gagetown, C Squadron, also in high-readiness, completed the transition to being a fully Leopard II enabled tank squadron. Under Major Marc Lesage and SSM Jeff Brush, they trained with 2 RCR, 5 CMBG, and were a key element to the Combat Team Commander's Course – all of which helped demonstrate the impressive capabilities of Canada's new main battle tank. Back in Petawawa, D Squadron, with Major Sean Curley and SSM John Green, were given the opportunity to train with our sister-unit, the 3rd-71st Cavalry Regiment from Fort Drum, New York. The Squadron and the Americans spent two weeks training together throughout the Upper Ottawa Valley before all heading down to the Fort Drum training area for a major 10th Mountain Division exercise. The lessons that they learned will drive much of our training during

the upcoming year. Lastly, Major Rowena Williams and SSM Brian Sampson kept HQ Squadron busy supporting all of the Squadron deployments while also looking after all the routine work that needs to be done whenever the Regiment is in garrison.

It was also a year when the Regiment demonstrated its level of fitness and ability to compete. We showed we have speed by winning the team event in the Brigade Harrier Race; we showed we have strength by winning the Brigade Tug-of-War (again); and we showed we have skill by winning the Brigade soccer trophy. We also had the largest team in the 2 CMBG Ironman competition, placed very well in the Canadian Army Patrol Competition, represented the Division at the Worthington Challenge, had almost 50 personnel earn their spurs at a Cavalry Spur Ride in Fort Drum, and the list goes on.

Overall it was a great year, with the upcoming year promising to be equally busy as the Regiment trains towards being the OPFOR Battle Group against 1 CMBG during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2016. We are going to work to develop a more aggressive, cavalry mindset within our Troopers, NCOs, and Officers – with our equipment and our training we can do much more than just find the enemy, we can also fix him and then strike him, tactics that we want to be ready to use against 1 CMBG in Wainwright during the Spring of 2016.

Notwithstanding the training tempo, the Regiment is already planning the events for the 115th Anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein. I hope that many members of the Association, retired Dragoons, and ERE personnel will join the Regiment in Petawawa for this important celebration of our history.



Regimental Sergeant Major's Message

Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Mercer, MMM, MSM, CD

Dragoons

I would like to begin by thanking LCol Graham for a fantastic year as part of his command team. It's an honour and a privilege to serve with you as your RSM.

To all the soldiers of the Regiment, I thank each and every one of you for your dedication and service to our Regiment whether it be in Petawawa, C Sqn in Gagetown, on ERE, at RCACS or on overseas operations. There is not a day that goes by, that I do not receive accolades on your performance and professionalism.

There is only one thing I ask of each of you and that is: "To do the next right thing". Regardless where you are or what you are doing, if you exercise the ethics and values that the Canadian Army holds as cornerstone of its discipline, you will never go wrong in military or civilian life.

Continue to focus on your training, your discipline, and always give credit where it is due. Continue to look for leadership styles, ideas and concepts that resonate within you as leaders. Develop those concepts by doing what I call "some deep thinking" and make them part of who you are and how you define yourself as a leader within this fine Regiment. Your soldiers will only benefit from this and you will continue to grow.

Our past shapes our future. Remember the words of then Sgt Roy Messer as he addressed his Centurion tank crew "If you're not training the fella two people below you to do your job; then, you're not doing yours". The things that we do each day are based on the lessons that the great Officers', Sr NCOs' and NCOs' of this Corps trained us to do when we were young subalterns and troopers. It was

sound then. It is still sound today.

The poem "Flanders Fields" by John McCrae asks us to take up "the torch, be yours to hold it high". Each day that you put a Springbok on your head you must remember those that have departed before us. Whether they were old or in their prime, they all had significant impact on us in our development as soldiers and human beings. Continue to honour them and our historical past, as it builds who we are as Dragoons in the future.

Flexibility is one of the characteristics of Cavalry. If you think that the norms of today will be the realities of tomorrow you will be disappointed. Over the next few years you will be faced with new vehicles and new capabilities. Embrace those changes. Remember that change is a good thing. It is the transition towards that change that will challenge your flexibility.

I will also ask you to consider joining a chapter of one of our Associations or become involved with our RCD Guild. These two significant organizations help create what I refer to as "the complete Regimental family".

There is one final point that I will leave you with. An old soldier once told me that: "soldiering is the easiest thing to do in the world because all you have to do is do what you are told". Those words still hold true today.

God Bless and Sleep Warm

SA Mercer
RSM
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



Regimental Patron's Message

Mr. David Batten

The best part about being part of the military is it's also your family.

This year marked my 12th year of giving back my time to support The Royal Canadian Dragoons, a place I have called my family since I was 18 years old.

This summer my son graduated high school and joined the military. As I watched him go through basic training this summer and then RMC's FYOP over the past few weeks, I was watching him being accepted into another family. As a parent this is very moving to watch.

Joining the Canadian Armed Forces as a young person, you truly transform yourself and move beyond everything your parents have taught you. Watching this process first hand as a parent is a proud experience. For all of us who joined the military, the experience of watching your child engaged with the process is quite different than going through this yourself. You see a huge change as your child develops self-reliance and independence. It's a life altering experience for a parent.

These young men and women have a greater respect for and bond with each other than I have seen exist in most civilian families. It's fascinating to watch this happen to your children. The experience is intensely emotional.

This year the Guild made a major leap forward, as it has done each year. The Dragoons are a highly functional family.

Since Revenue Canada has scrutinized all charitable organizations over the past few years we have had to make sure that as a charitable organization we remained in compliance. Through this process we addressed the various roles on the Guilds board to make sure we had maximum input, exposure and skills, put to their best use. The board at the time agreed to expand this leadership circle to include the younger folks of the Regimental family. It was a courageous step forward and not conventional by military standard - putting senior leaders and junior folks together in the decision making process, each with an equal vote. It is one I have not yet seen anywhere else, especially within a military framework.

This mentoring and leadership for junior officers and young soldiers at a board level will ensure that a decade from now and beyond, the complex workings of this charity that is vital to the support of the larger Dragoon family will not only remain strong but will grow in ways not even imagined today.

But isn't that what families do?

David Batten
Patron
Royal Canadian Dragoons

The Guild.



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) 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.

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.



The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons Volunteer and Community Service Award presented to Corporal McLean.



The Wainwright Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) is presented with a cheque for \$4000 from The Guild.

In 2014 and 2015, 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

RHQ was kept busy throughout 2014-15, whether it was supporting the Regiment with communication expertise, augmenting gunnery skills, or preparing our Regimental archives to be digitalized, RHQ personnel were ready to get the job done throughout the year. Cpl Beer and Cpl Richardson have worked diligently to recover historical documents and artifacts with the help of Alan Halfper of Halfper Productions Inc. The team has been digitalizing photographs and documents in view of creating a searchable database of our Regimental History. This database will be accessible by everyone and ensure our Regimental history is protected.

Members of the Regimental Gunnery cell; WO Travis, MCpl Dubreuil, Cpl D'Andrea, and Cpl Green, ran the Crew Gunnery Trainers (CGT) for each Sqn prior to gun camps, ensuring that soldiers had refined their skills prior to going live. The Gunnery cell also had the additional task of preparing the Friends of the Regiment for live fire familiarization.

Field Troop was tasked with aiding Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT and enjoyed interacting with leaders of industry. Cpl Paquette and Cpl Targonski particularly enjoyed

demonstrating soldier skills, from how to properly wear P.P.E, to jumping out of the mock tower. The members of Field Troop also deployed on Ex FROZEN DRAGON; they were tasked with augmenting the CP with the signals troop. The troops were to provide sentry for the CP and surrounding tents and vehicles, and had to defend the position against an enemy force led by the CO and RSM. Overall it was a great exercise despite minor cases of frostbite and an impromptu rescue mission being called in to search for Cpl Beebe who had gotten lost in the training area.

The Signals troop was tasked with various different duties over the year. Sgt Ansell and the CST technicians took charge of organizing and implementing the B fleet vehicle reduction program within the Regiment, the work completed here paved the way in setting a standard for the Brigade with regards to how B Fleet reduction would be accomplished. When not monitoring radios or establishing equipment Sigs Troop would be found with MCpl Lalonde conducting training to hone skills and troubleshoot communications systems used in the Regiment.

During the CAVCUP competition MCpl Lalonde and Cpl Murray ran the signals stand. There were 3 HF NVIS masts and an HF radio provided to the teams. The sigs set up an HF control station at the stand and another HF station was erected at the main CP. The teams were issued one NVIS mast and an HF radio that was

cleared of frequencies and instructed to program the radio and erect the mast. Time penalties were given if the team required assistance with programming the radio or the mast was improperly set up. The stand was complete once the teams had sent successfully radio checks with the control station.

During Ex GHOST SPRINGBOK II, RHQ Sigs Troop loaned MCpl Edison, Pte Wakefield, and Pte Rutledge to D Sqn to support the training with the soldiers of the 3-71 Cavalry Regiment in Fort Drum. This exercise consisted of armoured recce tasks and emphasized soldiering skill while working as part of a multi-national force.

RHQ is made up of a multitude of trades who all worked arduously within their own troops to ensure excellence is maintained within all areas of the Regiment of The Royal Canadian Dragoons.



Cpl Murphy setting up a Vixam Mast during winter exercise.

BIT O' HISTORY

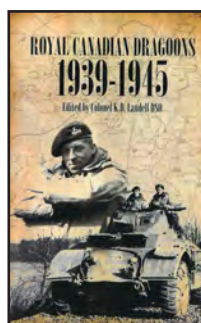
Originally published in The Springbok, April 1937



On March 17th, 1923, the first issue of "The Goat," the predecessor of "The Springbok" made its appearance. It was published as a record of the chronicles of "A" Squadron and as the editorial for that issue points out was essentially "for the Squadron, by the Squadron And with the squadron." The original Editorial Staff was as follows: Editor, QMSI. A.H. Doyle (IC), Assistant Editor, Cpl. T.B. Sheehy; Advertising Manager, L/Cpl. M.J. Gilmore.



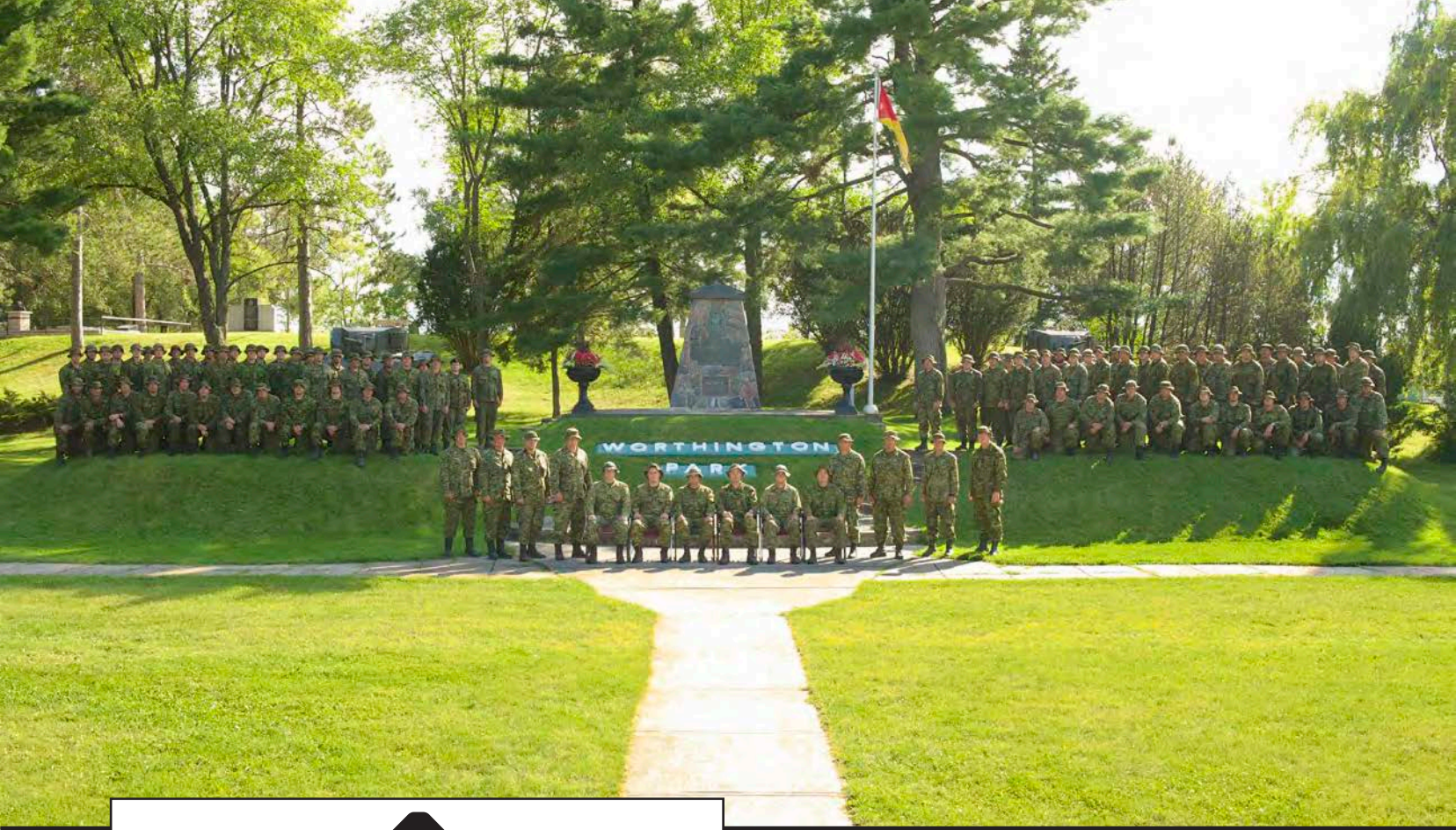
Cpl Beer discussing the Heritage Centre's research activities



Royal Canadian Dragoons 1939-1945

Available at The
RCD Kitshop





After a well-deserved summer break A Squadron (Sqn) returned to C103 in August ready for a busy fall calendar. A Squadron remained under the Command of Major Enno Kerckhoff, and newly promoted MWO Kevin Theriault took over as the Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM). Many new faces were integrated quickly into the troops with little time to spare. Troop administration, vehicle maintenance, and kit checks were high on the priority list for Sqn Ops to ensure the readiness of A Sqn on its first tasking: Ex STALWART GUARDIAN (Ex SG).

The 10-day exercise in the Niagara peninsula included over 2,000 troops from the Reserve Force, Regular Force, US Army and Britain. The intent of the exercise was to confirm the annual training conducted by the Primary Reserve (PRes) Territorial Battle Groups (TBGs). A Sqn operated with 4 Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (4 ARR), conducting recce battle tasks. The exercise saw elements from 4ARR and RCD working closely together, with A Sqn filling the role of armoured reconnaissance. The Sqn operated using observation posts and maintained flexibility throughout the exercise to adapt to the ever-changing situation. The Sqn

operated in a predominantly mounted role, moving through a series of covert observation posts, focusing on key decision areas for the enemy attempting to break through friendly lines. The support from the local communities was overwhelmingly positive with families offering the use of their land and their buildings to the soldiers. The encouragement and appreciation was a truly humbling experience for all the soldiers involved. Sgt Jason Halter's patrol was even able to give the Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Rob Nicholson, a walk around of the vehicle and posed for a picture during a mock attack on an airfield in Welland, ON. Also, at the John Deere Factory in Welland, Sgt Marc Murphy's patrol provided a static display for the citizens from the surrounding area who waited in line for upwards of two hours just to get a tour of the vehicle or take a photograph. The outpouring of curiosity and support was remarkable. Ultimately, Ex SG delivered a different experience from what many of the troops were expecting and tested their abilities to coordinate and execute tasks with the Reserve Force units.

September was definitely the "endurance" month for the Sqn as OSONS challenge, the 2 CMBG IRON MAN, and RCD CAVCUP dominated training for the month. OSONS was a Brigade-wide 36 hour endurance event for all junior officers within 2 CMBG, covering over 62km within the Petawawa training area. It included numerous stands that included fast casting on assault boats, navigation, constructing Molotov cocktails and unknown distance marches with full fighting order, C8s

and heavy rucksacks. Capt Tyler Runnings and Lt Nate "Nat" MacIntosh led their teams, completing the event as the first two subbies from the Regiment. The annual 2 CMBG Ironman was run on September 10th and 11th with outstanding participation from A Squadron. One quarter of the representatives for the Dragoons were made up of A Squadron personnel. Maj Kerckhoff, MCpl Farr, Cpl Brisson, Cpl Bickford, Cpl Begg, Cpl Fauchon, Cpl Fletcher, Cpl Latter, Cpl Maurice, Cpl McKinnon, Cpl Pope, and Tpr Dunn completed the "completer day" while Capt Carruthers, Capt Runnings and Lt MacIntosh competed with the Regimental team. The event over both days was cold, rainy, and had severely high winds that ultimately closed off the canoe portion of the event, unfortunately for Capt Dan Carruthers he was ahead of that cut off and had to push through after his canoe capsized numerous times into the Ottawa River! Only three days later all three fighting Troops were competing in the annual RCD CAVCUP. The dismounted Troop level competition confirmed the soldiering and tactical skills of A Sqn over a 48 hour period. Cpl Hatfield once again attained the "Fittest Dragoon" as he dominated the Army Fitness Test with 25 points out of a possible 28. BFT, PWT 3, Navigation, AFV recognition and point recce are only a few of the stands the Troops encountered. The Sqn did not finish as well as we wanted but we used the difficult and demanding competition as a building block for the next CAVCUP. Concurrently throughout September, Capt Will Lofgren, Capt Trevor Smith and Sgt Marc Murphy assisted with the pre-deployment training for personnel deploying on OP ADDENDA. The operation was stood up on short notice to support the Canadian Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. Approximately 25 individuals were trained on theatre specific training including TCCC, convoy tactics, weapon handling, and the conduct of urban operations.

Ex COMMON GROUND II was the next major exercise for the Sqn, with the entire Sqn travelling to Gagetown, NB to support the individual training for PRes Armoured Recce Squadron Commander's Course (ARSCC), the Squadron Sergeant Major's Course (DP4 SSM), and the Armoured Recce Troop Leaders course (DP 1.2 ARTL). The Sqn maximized their time in the training area by completing some collective training in Tracy, New Brunswick, an unfamiliar piece of land just west of the training area. The move into the Tracy area put the Sqn out of their comfort zone and let them navigate and operate in terrain they were not accustomed to and it provided a realistic experience to what conducting reconnaissance operations would be like as the first force on the ground in an operation overseas. On return from the Tracy area, the Sqn immediately began working with ARSCC, DP 4 SSM, and DP 1.2 courses. SSM Theriault and his Adm Tp provided the training for the DP 4 SSM course, meanwhile the rest of the Sqn worked with the ARSCC and DP 1.2 students. Major



Cpl Fauchon runs the last few metres of his 1st 2CMBG Ironman.



3 Troop Leader, Capt Tyler Runnings and crew, encountering some mobility difficulties on exercise.



Sgt Murphy (far right) briefs 1 Tp prior to their rappel tower training.

Kerckhoff was employed as directing staff for the student Sqn Commanders, while Capt Smith, Lt MacIntosh and Capt Runnings coached the newly graduated DP 1.2 Tp Ldr's. The nature of the course had students rotating into the "hot seat" every day, forcing the Sqn to remain flexible as the experience and leadership style of the students varied. The final task the Sqn was given was to defend a small village in the training area and to delay the CTCC advance as much as possible. Overnight observation posts, counter-reconnaissance and an inner and outer cordon of the town successfully presented the advancing forces with a challenging objective during an extremely cold night. Attached to the Sqn were a FOO party from 2RCHA, snipers from 2RCR, and a section of field engineers from 2CER to assist with the operation. The CTCC implemented their own plans to probe our defence with CP 140 Aurora Patrol Planes and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which provided surveillance on the village. Around first light, the CTCC began their move, and for few hours, A Sqn was 'fighting' the 2 RCR Battle Group. An outstanding effort by the Sqn provided excellent training for the CTCC as a formidable opponent, testing their ingenuity and flexibility on the attack. To note, none of the 2RCR companies were able to penetrate the village!

In the new year, the Sqn maintained its high tempo with participation in the Regimental winter warfare exercise, Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. This saw the "new subbie" 2Lt Charette thrown right into the breach leading 11 in dismounted patrols to recce and eventually lead a Troop attack on B Sqn defensive position. Concurrently, individuals tasked out during this time participated in brigade training in USA, CFTPOs, countless career courses and instructors to Leadership Company to teach on Primary Leadership Qualification. The supportive role A Sqn assumed through the winter and spring provided training not regularly taught at the Regiment, which proved to be excellent professional development for all soldiers involved.

As a result of last fall's hectic training schedule, the 3rd annual RCD CAVCUP was moved to 4th and 5th of June to allow sufficient time for the battered bodies of the Regiment to rest before the collective training in October 2015. This rendition of the competition had Lt MacIntosh and 2Lt Charette each lead their Troop of 13 soldiers through the stands directed by Regimental Ops. As a result of our disappointing finish last CAV Cup, Sgt Jay McDonald implemented a rigorous training schedule to push soldiers to their physical limits. The hard work prior to CAVCUP showed for both teams during the competition as the Troops moved from stand to stand at the max speed their bodies could handle. 2 Troop despite losing some personnel to injuries; won the shoot house stand, search and rescue stand, AFV and signals stand. 2 Troop were pushed hard by Lt MacIntosh and his 2IC Sgt McDonald and as a result

the team finished in 2nd, narrowly missing out on 1st place. 1 Troop put a good effort forward as well, just missing out on a placing.

This was an extremely satisfying and successful year as A Squadron leadership pushed their soldiers to their physical and mental limits. The hard work of all Sqn personnel throughout all tasks and training has set the Squadron and the Regiment up for success in the future. Despite significant leadership turnover at APS this year, the incoming OC, Major John Maerz and SSM, MWO Murray Robertson will have a motivated and experienced Sqn for next year.



2 Tp Ldr Lt MacIntosh has some difficulty assembling his C8 during the weapons assembly stand on CAV Cup. It may be the sandbag on his head!

Opposite: C16 Range with A Squadron





B SQUADRON

This year B Squadron culminated a year's worth of training on the road to high readiness with Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1401 (Ex MR 1401). As the leading edge of Task Force 1-14, the Bde Recce Sqn deployed to Wainwright, Alberta in April 2014 with 113 all ranks, bringing with it one of the largest echelons of any unit participating in the exercise. With our inherent flexibility and sizable echelon, the Squadron, grouped with an infantry company and other supporting units, proved to be a formidable force against the enemy. It was in this grouping that the Sqn began to appreciate the challenges of working in a combined arms environment and the inherent need to have developed strong SOPs with other sub-units for link ups, handovers and sustainment. Our experiences in Wainwright proved that armoured sub-units, paired with appropriate enablers performed effectively across the spectrum of tasks and excelled in the command and control of multiple tasks.

Certainly, things did not slow down once the Squadron redeployed to Petawawa. Immediately on arrival, planning started for the Regimental Change of Command which was to take place on the last week

of June. At this time the Squadron also welcomed our new OC Major J.E. Andrechek, and were fortunate enough to retain Squadron Sergeant Major(SSM) Master Warrant Officer J. Leamon for his second year. After the Change of Command, it was time for a much deserved summer block leave.

The Squadron returned from block leave in September to complete IBTS. Immediately following the Squadron participated in the annual CAVCUP. The CAVCUP challenge ran the gamut from live ranges to a physical fitness test, a CBRN stand, First Aid and Tactical Casualty Care, and dismounted patrolling scenarios. SHQ and Admin Troop expertly ran the navigation, first aid and CBRN stands under the experienced leadership of Battle Captain D. Silmsier and Squadron Operations Warrant Officer M. Taylor. Once again the Squadron performed extremely well, with 2 Tp placing third and 3 Tp placing fifth in the Regiment.

September also saw the majority of the Sqn compete in the annual Terry Fox Sports Day as well as the annual Petawawa Ironman competition. On the Ironman competitor's day Corporal D. Steele earned the title for the fastest Dragoon in the competition with a time of 7 hours 23 minutes closely following by Corporal A. Critch with a time of 7 hours 47minutes. For the junior officers of the Squadron, this year also marked the revival of the OSONS challenge, an event established to focus on warrior spirit and military skills. It is an endurance event of 36 hours in duration by day and night totaling

62km of movement.

Towards the End of September and into October the Squadron participated in Ex SABOT DRAGOON, the Regiment's annual gun camp. We started the week with static shoots and stab runs, and then transitioned into a Level 4 scenario. This involved a complete set of orders and battle procedure, with all 3 Troops conducting route reces in the west of the training area. As we moved north-west up the trace, we engaged targets with 25mm and 7.62mm coax across a wide frontage. Moving into a screen we adopted hasty OP's waiting to report on the enemy advance. On order, 1 Tp and 3 Tp withdrew under pressure, while 2 Tp, situated on top of a dominating high feature, covered the withdrawal of the Squadron from an attack by fire position. The end result was a dynamic and challenging level 4 range.

Following the exercise the Squadron geared up for the annual Lileiftontein festivities. The week saw the Squadron engage in inter Squadron sports, a drill competition and other fun activities to include the Lileiftontein parade. During the parade the Squadrons very own Corporal C.J. Shell was presented with the award for being the best Crewman Corporal in the Regiment. At the drill competition Sergeant B. Chaytor and Warrant Officer Z. Resal demonstrated exceptional skill with the pace sticks to win the category for the Squadron. During the sports day, the level of competition among the Squadrons was intense and good sportsmanship was demonstrated by all. The Squadron achieved excellent results in Ice Hockey, Volleyball and the Cross fit competitions. Predictably the results from the gun camp, the CAVCUP and the Lileiftontein sports day ensured that B Squadron once again retained right of line for a third year in a row.

Our first airmobile exercise was in November, when we were once again employed as Brigade Recce for Ex SPARTAN BEAR. The Squadron was inserted into the training area by Chinook, and then rucked to our objectives. 2 and 3 Tp established OPs on two separate objectives, and completed handovers, including detail sketches of the objectives as well as written reports, for elements of 1 and 3 RCR. Concurrent to this, SHQ and 1 Tp secured a water crossing with a heavy weapons detachment and an engineer section to facilitate the insertion of the follow-on infantry elements. Once again, B Squadron showed their skills in providing the infantry company commander with the information to plan his attack.

Immediately following Christmas leave, the Squadron deployed into the Petawawa training area for Basic Winter Warfare. The training provided an excellent opportunity to practice additional dismounted tactics as we were inserted by helicopter to train dismounted in the inclement weather. Once the Squadron had



Sergeant B. Chaytor and Warrant Officer Z. Resal competing in the pace stick competition at Lileiftontein.

satisfied the training requirements we participated in a Regimental winter warfare exercise pitted against the other Squadrons for Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. The scope of the exercise tasked 1 Tp with defense of SHQ, while 3 Tp was tasked with finding and destroying A Squadron. It proved to be a challenging and rewarding exercise.

While the rest of the Squadron was fighting the inclement weather, pitted against the other Squadrons, 20 members from the Squadron were fortunate enough to take a slightly different path. Under the leadership of Captain J. De Silva and Warrant Officer L. Lucier, members of the Squadron travelled to New Mexico for 3 weeks to participate in a joint OUTCAN exercise with CSOR called Ex FURY ROAD. The exercise involved live rounds, 360 degree ranges, new weapons systems and a progressively challenging battle rhythm. This uncommon training forced them to perform outside their usual comfort zone and proved hugely beneficial. With the simple idea that practice makes perfect, the level of competency increased dramatically after full days on live fire ranges.

Concurrently, to both Winter Warfare and 2 Tp's OUTCAN exercise, a number of the Squadron Officers were participating in an exercise of an entirely different nature. Exercise WARFIGHTER, hosted by the 38th (US) Infantry Division in Camp Atterbury, Indiana, from 26 January to 13 February, was a computer assisted exercise for the Division HQ and its subordinate Brigades.

The exercise shed light on a number of compatibility issues with American and Canadian equipment and methods. Overall, Exercise WARFIGHTER was a resounding success for B Squadron. The Duty Officers gained valuable exposure to squadron-level planning on continuous operations.

In April, the Regiment once again went to the range. B Squadron first went to conduct small arms ranges with C8, C9, pistol, and shotgun, in a dynamic and challenging range, planned and conducted by Sgt B. Chaytor of 2 Tp. Firing was done in pair's movement in jungle lanes and progressed to live fire section attack and troop attacks. The Squadron performed very well, with Warrant Officer M. Taylor and members of SHQ earning the top Troop attack in the Regiment. Corporal G. Guest and Corporal D. Sawyer also performed well earning top pairs in the Regiment, both of which contributed points for Right of Line. Immediately following, the Squadron got back in the vehicles for the second part of the gun camp at Juliet Tower. During this part, Master Corporal S. Graham and Corporal G. Guest captured the title of top vehicle crew in the Regiment. This range concluded with Tp level Attacks by Fire.

Ultimately, 2014 was an extremely busy and rewarding year for the Squadron. We once again proved that we are deserving of our Right of Line position, and showed that not only are we capable of accomplishing any task in our traditional mounted role, but that we are also the Regimental SMEs for dismounted tactics. B Squadron is looking forward to another year of challenging and fulfilling training, and the chance to show the Regiment and the Brigade what we can do.



Warrant Officer M. Taylor and Warrant Officer L. Lucier during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1401.



Members of the Squadron coaching Friends of the Regiment at Juliet Tower.



OC B Sqn Major J. Andrechek and SSM B Sqn MWO J. Leamon receiving right of line penant during the Leleifontein parade.

Opposite: SSM Leamon in command of the Sqn during the Leleifontein parade





SQUADRON

This past year saw C Squadron participate in a wide variety of exercises, events, and Regimental activities. As the high readiness tank squadron for the 1 RCR Battle Group, C Squadron was highly involved with continuation training and supporting the Combat Training Center in Gagetown. Commanded by Maj Marc Lesage and MWO Jeff Brush, C Squadron consists of four tank troops, a maintenance troop, an administrative troop and Squadron HQ.

In early fall, C Squadron took part in Ex SABRE AUCLAIR in support of the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (12e RBC). Through a series of live ranges, C Squadron's Leopard 2's provided an excellent example of direct fire gunnery for the armoured reconnaissance troops of the 12e RBC. It proved also to be an excellent opportunity at sharpening the Squadron's gunnery skills. While only a short exercise, both Armoured Regiments quickly adapted their SOPs to build an efficient combined arms team. Also tasked with 1 Battalion, Le Royal 22e Régiment, to support Ex CASTOR VAILLANTE, the Squadron took full advantage of this training to prepare itself for the upcoming Combat Team Commanders Course later that fall.

Taking a brief respite from training in early November, C Squadron made the long trip to Petawawa, Ontario to celebrate the 114th anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontaine. Enjoying the Ottawa Valley's usual cheerful November weather, the Squadron competed with the other Cavalry Squadrons for the coveted right of line position. C Squadron claimed first place in ice hockey and second place in flag football. Closing out a busy week was the All-Ranks Dinner and Dance before C Squadron began its trip back to Gagetown.

Upon returning from Leliefontaine, C Squadron immediately returned to the Gagetown training area in support of Ex COMMON GROUND II, the Combat Team Commander's Course. Despite harsh weather conditions and a high exercise tempo, morale remained high within the Squadron, therefore providing reliable support to the future sub-unit commanders. Still fresh from the lessons learned during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, C Squadron soldiers displayed their skills as specialists in combined arms operations.

When C Squadron came back from a well-deserved Christmas break there was still much to do. Similar to previous years, the Squadron thinned out to conduct necessary primary combat function courses. While the Squadron had converted to a Leopard 2 fleet during the previous year, crewmen still remained within the Squadron who did not have Leopard 2 qualifications. In order to maximize the Squadron's manpower,

four courses were run: Leopard 2 Crew Commander Gunnery, Leopard 2 D&M, Leopard 2 Gunnery Conversion, and a TLAV D&M course.

With February came the preparation for winter warfare training and deployment on Ex FROZEN DRAGOON. Departing from previous years, the Squadron incorporated all Individual Battle Task Standards necessary for the training year in its dismounted winter exercise. Further, C Squadron created a competitive environment, whereby the top two troops from the exercise would represent the Squadron in the 2015 CAVCUP Competition.

As usual, the weather in Gagetown showed its ugly side during the exercise with temperatures dipping down to -35 degrees Celsius on the first night. When the troops were not conducting live ranges, they participated in a tactical force on force scenario with Admin and SHQ troops playing the opposition force. Finally, when the sun rose on the fifth day the troops were given the order to collapse their Patrol Bases and establish a Helicopter Landing Site. The CH-146 Griffon helicopters, provided by 403 Squadron, conducted a swift exfiltration of the exhausted troops. Regardless of being taken out of their comfort zone, C Squadron soldiers once again proved their mental and physical resiliency. Coming as a welcomed respite, C Squadron soldiers spent their March Break thawing their limbs and spending time with family.

With winter warfare out of the way, work continued in the tank hangar for C Squadron. While preventative maintenance is usually a full time job, the Squadron still had to finish divesting the Leopard 1 C2. Often lacking appropriate infrastructure and tooling, C Squadron's maintainers, under the supervision of WO Slocum, worked tirelessly to divest the fleet. Their hard work paid off, with the Squadron's last Leopard 1 C2 divested on 15 April 2015.

It is difficult to adequately express the level of dedication displayed by WO Slocum and his team of maintainers. Maintaining an operational tank squadron is a never ending battle of preparing tanks for a field ex, maintaining them during the exercise, and dealing with the repairs afterwards, only to start the process over again. The fighting troops all quickly gained a level of admiration for the maintainers because they often worked longer and harder hours than the fighting troops themselves.

While the level of effort needed to maintain a tank squadron is enormous, in March 2015 it became a little bit easier with the arrival of the new Leopard 2 Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV). From changing power packs to recovering immobilized tanks, the new Leopard 2 ARV is an essential addition to the C



C Sqn providing direct fire support for the 12e RBC during Ex SABRE AUCLAIR.



Just a normal Wednesday morning for C Sqn with tanker PT.

Squadron fleet.

The month of May saw the Squadron widely dispersed on several different tasks. Maj Marc Lesage, along with other members of the Squadron leadership were tasked as OCTs for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15 in Wainwright, Alberta. Meanwhile, 1 and 2 Troop were busy training for this year's Cavalry Cup Competition. Additionally, 3 Troop was preparing to be tasked to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School to support the new Armoured Officer DP1.1 pilot course. Finally, 4 Troop conducted training for the Worthington Cup Challenge.

On the 2 June 2015, 1 and 2 Troop from C Squadron travelled to Petawawa in order to compete in the annual Cavalry Cup Competition. For the previous two years, C Squadron's team has placed 2nd in the competition by a close margin. C Sqn's contribution this year consisted of 1 Troop, commanded by Lt Homerski and WO Buisson, and 2 Troop, commanded by Lt Brown and WO Robichaud. The year's competition ran for 24 hours on 4 June 2015, testing basic soldier skills through a series of strenuous stands ranging from a Search and Rescue scenario to Armoured Fighting Vehicle recognition tests. Testing both the physical and mental resiliency of the soldiers, C Sqn's came away from the competition with a better appreciation for basic soldiering skills.

During the summer of 2015, C Squadron will be conducting a change of command for both the OC and SSM. Maj Marc Lesage has served the Squadron for two years and under his leadership the Squadron has accomplished much. When Maj Lesage was appointed as the Officer Commanding C Squadron, it was still in its infancy as a tank squadron but was given the mammoth task of converting its entire fleet to the new Leopard 2 platform. On top of this, the Squadron concurrently prepared for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 14. It is without a doubt that Maj Marc Lesage will be leaving C Squadron in a better state than it had been two years prior.

MWO Jeff Brush was appointed the Squadron Sergeant Major in the summer of 2014. Hitting the ground running, MWO Brush kept the squadron focused on the basics. The task that faced him was monumental: oversee the maintenance of the tank fleet; deal with manning issues in the fighting troops and, prepare the squadron for the fall exercises, all the while maintaining the Squadron's basic soldier skills. C Squadron had a busy and successful year in no small part due to the hard work and dedication of MWO Brush.

This summer C Squadron will stand down from high readiness along with the remainder of the 1 RCR Battle Group. It was a challenging year featuring a high tempo and frequent growing pains. The experience

that we have learned as a tank squadron, through challenging yet realistic training, will be pivotal in preparing C Squadron for new challenges in the future. While the Squadron learned valuable lessons from major exercises such as Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 14 and Ex COMMON GROUND II, it also reinforced the basic competencies required in a Cavalry Regiment through Ex FROZEN DRAGOON and the CAVCUP Competition. The diversity of training undergone by the Squadron has encouraged versatility and adaptability. The reality is that soldiers from C Squadron do not always remain in Gagetown and very well could be posted to a Cavalry Squadron. The Squadron's training must therefore continue to develop soldiers capable of fixing and striking the enemy, regardless of platform – it is just simply much better done with a tank.



A Leopard 2A4M crew enjoying the beautiful Gagetown weather.



Comd 2CMBG, Col Dawe, takes the new Leopard 2 ARV (ARV 3) for a test drive.

Opposite: C Sqn conducts an airmobile exfiltration during Ex FROZEN DRAGOON





D SQUADRON

This year's training calendar began much like countless others, fast and furious, upon returning from summer leave, D Squadron was immediately thrust into the fall training cycle. D Sqn made several forays into the Petawawa training area and deployed to Fort Drum New York, all the while maintaining personal readiness with IBTS and projecting a positive influence on to the civilian community with various events. All of this was done under the command of new OC, Major Sean Curley, and returning Squadron Sergeant Major, MWO Brian Sampson.

From the 11th to the 20th of August, the Sqn participated in the inaugural Ex GHOST SPRINGBOK I, an exercise which saw 3-71 (US) Cavalry Squadron (then 1-71) Make the long road move from Fort Drum, NY to conduct an exercise in the Petawawa training area and surrounding RMA that saw both Squadrons compete against each other as near-peer counterparts. This exercise would provide the kindling for what has quickly become a close Brotherhood of warfighters, spawned from the two Squadrons' collective mindsets and Cavalry backgrounds.

The basic concept of the exercise was simple, both Sqns exchanged a Troop (or Platoon) for the sake of learning and interoperability after which one Sqn would deploy and set itself in a screen in order to defend its assigned ground and gather as much information as possible on the advancing force. After a "short" few days, the role would reverse and the Sqn previously in a screen would conduct an advance towards the now defending Sqn.

The exercise proved to be one of the more challenging exercises in recent memory for D Sqn. For the first time the Sqn was exposed to an opponent with very similar capabilities and tactics but different enough as to be unpredictable. Perhaps the greatest experience for the Sqn went to 3 Troop, who were attached to 3-71 and operated as more of a traditional dismounted Cavalry Troop, conducting raids, water crossings, and traditional reconnaissance.

Ultimately, the exercise went as expected with neither Sqn being able to claim decisive victory over the other. Despite the stalemate outcome, many lessons were learned on both sides, and evidently how effective 25mm is against Humvees and light armour! A lesson that the D Sqn would take to heart when they would later deploy on Ex GHOST SPRINGBOK II.

September passed quickly with a myriad of small-scale events such as Ironman, and OSONS, both being represented well by D Sqn. This was especially true

during the CAVCUP competition, which saw 2 Tp, under the leadership of Lt A. Cyr and Sgt M. Edwards, coming away with the title of top team, and adding a little bit of hardware to D Sqn's repertoire. It was during this time that the Sqn was perhaps at its least busy, which is a testament to the high tempo of the fall season as September was anything but relaxing. September also saw the Squadron quickly prepare for and towards the end of the month deploy on Ex GHOST SPRINGBOK II (known as Ex Mountain Peak locally) in Fort Drum. Reunited with the members of 3-71, the Sqn enjoyed a short period of time in garrison before deploying to the local training area to begin 10th Mountain Division's annual Div exercise, Mountain Peak.

This exercise afforded the Sqn a unique opportunity to be employed as a US Brigade Combat Team level asset, and offered our American counterparts a unique look into a Canadian Reconnaissance Squadron's capabilities. Armed with their Coyotes, D Sqn were the big guns within the training area that week, and 10th Mountain Div would soon learn what efficient and determined crews are capable of. Quickly moving into a screen along the various routes of the training area, it wasn't long before D Sqn met the Vanguard elements of the opposing forces, mounted in nothing heavier than Humvees and MRAP style vehicles. D Sqn was able to quickly and effectively neutralize the enemy threat from their screen positions without calling forward many of the considerable division assets that were behind them; so much so that only after 36 hours the exercise was abruptly paused and D Squadron was moved to the far right flank to provide local security, effectively removing them from the enemy's main axis of advance (and mercifully removing their cannons from targets of opportunity!)

Three weeks passed by quickly and upon exchanging gifts and having what can only be described as an incredible smoker, D Sqn redeployed back to Canada and prepared to enter the final stretch of 2014. Those final two months included the traditional week of drill and competition that constitutes Leliefontein as well as D Sqn helping to run a large portion of Ex SPARTAN BEAR. November passed quickly and December went just the same, and after returning from Christmas leave, the Sqn once again hit the ground running, this time under the watchful eye of MWO Green who took up the mantle of Squadron Sergeant Major from MWO Sampson.

Like every January, the Regiment quickly began preparing to conduct winter warfare upon return from Christmas leave. This winter warfare would be different from the past however as the Regiment deployed to the field not to learn how to survive but to conduct operations against one another. Having spent a



Tpr Adam Klamar takes point on patrol.

good chunk of the fall training with their American counterparts, D Sqn was eager and amply prepared to conduct dismounted operations against other Sqn's. Setting up within terrain that could only be described as "difficult" the Sqn set about manning OP's and conducting dismounted patrols with the aim of identifying the location of the other Sqn's, all the while defending and concealing their own location. As always, D Sqn performed this task exemplary, having found A Sqn while never truly being found by B Sqn. The exercise culminated in a final attack against A Sqn during which the Sqn drew upon its time with 3-71 to take A Sqn completely unaware, putting the exclamation point on what was a challenging but rewarding experience.

D Sqn finished the remaining training year as it often does, supporting and participating in a Regimental PCF cycle that saw a large portion of the Sqn leadership tasked to various places around the Regiment and base, teaching the vital courses that enable the Brigade to maintain its high level of readiness and sharing the considerable knowledge that they have learned through their experiences within the Regiment.

With summer quickly approaching and its soldiers returning to the Sqn, D Sqn is looking to the immediate future with several events and exercises. CAVCUP, Ex WALKING DRAGON, Ex STALWART GUARDIAN, Ex CHARGING DRAGON, Iron Man, OSONS, and a variety of other events loom ever closer, and like always, D Sqn will meet the challenge head-on, with sabres drawn and scabbards cast aside.



MCpl Selway captains DSqn's Hell or High Water team.



Sgt Matthew Edwards briefs the Sqn on trapping techniques.



MCpl Chad McDiarmid takes a friend of the regiment on a Coyote ride.



MWO Johnny Green, Lt Kenny Panza, Cpl's Kyle Ladouceur and Dave Hardiman compete in the 2CMBG Indoor Soccer finals.

Opposite: Maj Sean Curley leads Cpl's Dave Hardiman and Andrew Deutsch on the Sqn Ski and Shoot team





HQ SQUADRON

Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) took part in a variety of exercises this year in support of the Regiment. The new command team of Maj Rowena Williams and MWO Rene Tremblay followed by MWO Brian Sampson were eager to conduct training as a Sqn as well as to provide support for the Regiment.

The first major exercise of the year for HQ Sqn was to support Ex SPARTAN BEAR by running two camps for 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG). The camp, run out of Kilo Biv, was home to 2 CMBG HQ as well as the HQ Sqn support staff with Sgt Christianson as the Camp SSM. The second camp at Paquette Landing was home to the rotating sub-unit Primary Training Audience as they prepared to complete the live fire exercise with Sgt Plumley as the Camp SSM. HQ Sqn faced some new challenges. There were many planning considerations for running a large camp supporting various units and sub units of the Brigade. From a feeding perspective, there was a wildly complex feeding plan which saw the Kitchen Officer, WO Wells and her team, comprised of RCD Cooks and cooks from other Bde units, providing fresh meals to up to 600 personnel per day so as to keep the morale high!

Not only was HQ Sqn able to support the Regt as a complete organization, we also provided flexibility to the Regt by sending customized support elements in support of Sqn training. For example, when D Sqn went to Fort Drum, NY to train with 3-71 Cav, HQ Sqn sent MCpl Murphy double-hatted as the LPO buyer and SPSS rep. MCpl Pountney, MCpl Couteau-Lenoir, Cpl McLean, Cpl Truchon, and Cpl Robertson worked tirelessly to ensure that maintenance was complete on the Coyotes as required, supplementing the Sqn echelon. Similarly, when A Sqn went to Gagetown, NB as a part of Ex COMMON GROUND, HQ Sqn sent MCpl Green, MCpl Courteau-Lenoir and Cpl Thompson to conduct maintenance while Cpl Squires was the SPSS rep to ensure A Sqn's exercise ran smoothly. For both of these exercises, HQ Sqn verified the feasibility of deploying SPSS in sea containers as our spare parts bin trucks were cut as part of the rationalization plan; we've found it to be an acceptable work-around.

After Christmas, HQ Sqn was able to deploy to the training area as part of Ex FROZEN DRAGOON, where we were able to set up our own command post and conduct winter survival training. During the exercise, HQ Sqn personnel took advantage of the opportunity and conducted dismounted patrols, an experience quite foreign to the support trade personnel in the Sqn. Luckily, there were some experienced crewman such as MCpl Norquay, to help lead the way. The next

week we continued to support the line Sqns who were conducting force on force training.

The next significant activity for HQ Sqn was Ex ANALYTICAL DRAGOON, where the Regt exercised the Cavalry concept through a computer assisted exercise. The scenario had two Cav Sqns leading two separate infantry battalions, with the remainder of the Regt configured as a Battle-Group responsible for clearing the west flank of the Brigade area of operation. The complexity of the operation brought significant logistical challenges to the forefront; specifically, resupplying the Regt with widespread forces over three separate Battle-Group areas of operations, recovering vehicles and evacuating personnel back towards the Brigade Support Area, and maintaining communications with both supported sub-units forward and supporting units in the rear. These challenges were thoroughly discussed through the exercise after action review; however, solutions will require coordination at higher levels, especially in light of the recent B fleet reduction. As we continue to transition to the Cavalry mindset, the aspect of service and support will be a vital planning consideration.

Just prior to summer block leave, a combined HQ Sqn and RHQ team participated in the annual Cavalry Cup competition. A team of 13 soldiers, led by Capt Braden, the Maintenance Officer, and Sgt Plumley, the Transport Warrant Officer, took part in the physically demanding challenge. They competed as a team, working through nine stands, including a maintenance stand run by HQ Sqn. After the grueling event which took place over 27 km, they, along with the rest of the Regiment, were able to enjoy a fantastic surf and turf BBQ put on by the KO and her cooks Sgt LeBlanc, MCpl Jameison, Cpl Lundquist, Cpl McDow, and Cpl Bannatyne, as well as Cpl Carpenter, an augmentee from 2 Svc Bn.

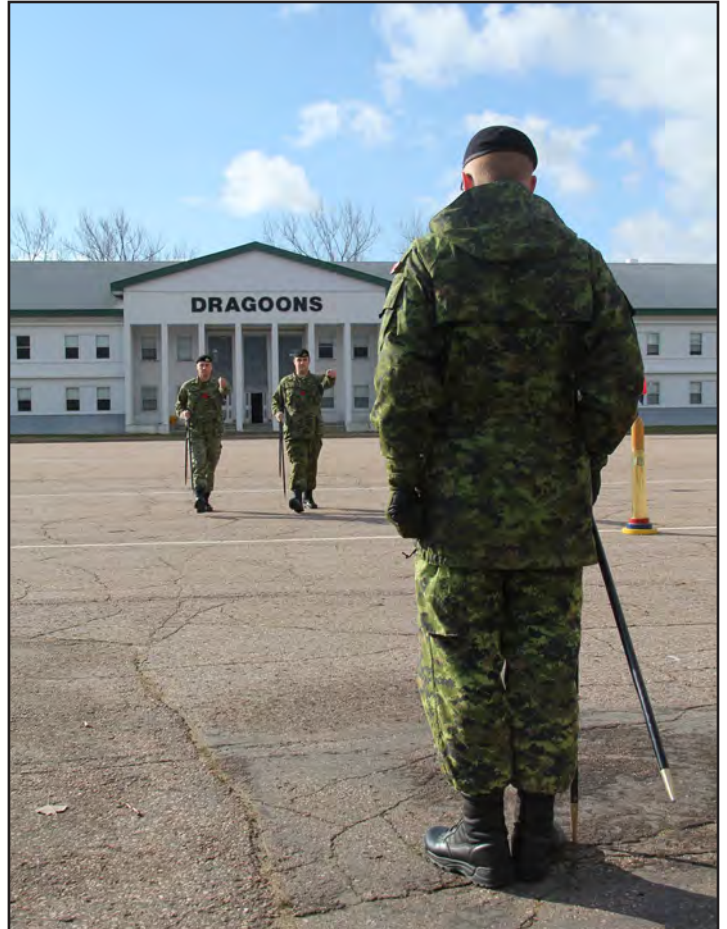
Over and above all the activities here at the Regiment, HQ Sqn saw several members deploy on international operations. Capt Mitch Atkinson and Sgt Andrew Fenton deployed to Kuwait, where they worked in the Task Force HQ as part of Operation IMPACT. Capt Krys Dallaire, our Quartermaster, was also able to deploy with the Disaster Assistance Response Team to Nepal to assist with relief following the earthquake. All of these deployments were very short notice but due to our focus on IBTS training, the individuals were ready to go. They represented the Regiment and their country well!

The upcoming year looks like it will continue to be busy for HQ Sqn as they support a full training calendar. The main event next year will be Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1601, where the Regiment will be forming an RCD Battle Group. There will be large challenges for the incoming HQ Sqn

team, such as ensuring maintenance is up-to-date on our aging fleet, planning for the supply consumption rate throughout the exercise, deploying the correct resources, and developing and coordinating the transport to and return from Wainwright. There is a strong leadership team coming into HQ Sqn next year, who will surely be up for the challenge. It should be an exciting year!







2

1

0

9

8

7

6

5

4

3



The second annual Cavalry Cup (Cav Cup) Competition was held the week of 14-19 September 2014 in Garrison Petawawa. The Regiment conducted a dismounted Troop level competition to confirm the soldiering and tactical skills of its fighting troops; each Squadron (Sqn) rotated through the 48-hour competition that was designed to push soldiers to their mental and physical limits while fostering esprit-de-corps.

Day one started with an early arrival to the first stand of the competition, the Army fitness test, which consisted of a 5km run, push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups. Immediately after the test, troops moved back to Sqn lines before moving on to the next task, the Load Bearing March. The 13 km march was to be completed in less than 2 hours 26 min with each soldier carrying full fighting order, their personal weapon and a ruck sack. On arrival at D range, troops dropped their rucks, quickly hydrated, and prepared for the shoot. Troops zeroed their C8s, and under the Range Safety Officer, MCpl Monaghan, careful watch completed the application. RCD troops showed their proficiency with their personal weapons scoring very high on the shoot. Afterwards, troops moved to the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) recognition and Regimental history test. Day one concluded with troops moving into a bivouac for some well-deserved rest.

Day two proved to be the more challenging day of the competition. As competitors departed for the Navigation (Nav) stand at 0600hrs, they arrived to find that there was also a first aid stand. The scenario indicated that a Coyote had crashed into a woodline and the crew were severely injured. Afterwards, troops navigated to eight Nav points over an 8km route through dense forest. Troop leaders divided their troops into smaller teams to quickly finish the stand. The CBRN stand followed with troops donning the dreaded "bunny suit", answering 5 questions on CBRN, reacting to a gas attack, marching 4km in CBRN dress, and finally - decontaminating their equipment.

The tactical portion of day two was run by D Sqn. Troop Leaders received orders, conducted battle procedure, and provided their back briefs to D Sqn OPIs. The troops paddled assault boats across Chalk Bay infiltrating enemy territory to conduct a point recce of their objective. After all critical information was confirmed at the objective, the troops still had to "hump" it to the release point (RP). The enemy force, operating in mounted patrols with LAV III, G wagons, and ATVs ensured that the competitors' route to the RP wasn't an easy one. After a 3km march through challenging terrain each Troop reached the last stand; weapons assembly, HF radio assembly, and a patrol report. All three tasks were conducted simultaneously, which proved to be difficult in the dark for some.

Once again, Cav Cup proved to be a difficult and demanding competition that pushed Dragoons to their physical and mental limits. Each member of the Regiment was proud to have completed the competition and will continue to build upon the lessons learned.







IRONMAN
2014



This year marked the revival of the Osons Challenge for all of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG) Junior Officers, including those of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. The challenge itself was established to focus on warrior spirit and military skills and the junior officers of the Brigade carried on this proud heritage. The Osons Challenge was a 36 hour endurance event totaling 62 kilometers of human-powered movement. Its design was originally meant to cement the bonds that tie all elements of the Brigade together into one cohesive team. In total, 104 Junior Officers rendezvoused in the drill hall of the 3 RCR lines at 0500hrs on the morning of 3 September 2014 for our event briefing. At the time, we felt that we already had something in common – none of us would get any sleep for at least the next 36 hours. We were to be grouped into random teams of four Jr Officers from other units across 2 CMBG. Little did we know, we were to spend the next two days with our newly formed teams, enduring challenges including proficiency in various small arms weapons, navigation, water obstacles and ultimately testing our ability to work as a team, travelling significant distances while loaded down with our heavy packs.

We certainly had very little information to go on concerning our next 36 hours, and we were only told upon the completion of one task where the next was going to take us. One thing that quickly became evident was no matter how hard we attempted to stay dry, the challenge was designed to keep us soaking wet throughout. In my case, the plan was to use my “waterproof” bivy bag to keep my ruck sack dry.

After our very first event, fast-casting from an assault boat into the Ottawa River and swimming to shore, I discovered that a mere pin-sized hole in that bivy bag could cause my entire ruck sack to be just as wet as the rest of me – who knew! This set the stage for the next 35 hours; I was not the only one in this predicament.

Wet or dry, we continued on from one stand to the next, each spread out across the training area. We walked through the day and into the night, getting to know our peers with each kilometer, most of whom were total strangers just a few short hours ago. We quickly learned of each unit’s unique skill sets, and of each individual’s strengths and weaknesses. We taught each other, mocked each other, and ultimately learned from each other as we completed each stand. By 0400hrs Friday morning our resolve to complete the Osons Challenge was strong and we could not help but laugh at the river crossing that had us, once again, wringing out our socks out and continuing to march into the unknown.

By the time it was all said and done we had rucked from one side of the training area to the other. We had paddled, swam or waded through the majority of Petawawa’s water features, and had been hit with simunition rounds, ascended and rappelled off towers, fired various weapons systems and completed each and every obstacle thrown our way. Most of us were battered and bruised by the time we jumped out of the mock tower to signify the completion of the challenge, but all of us were proud of our accomplishment. Osons is latin for “We Dare” - we dared and we succeeded.



EGM INSURANCE

Serving our Community over 70 Years

**Home - Auto - Life
Commercial - Farm
Travel - Boat**

613-687-SAVE (7283)

Exclusive Discounts for Retired Military, Chamber of Commerce & USW





"Never let it be said that Canadians
let their guns be captured."

- Lt. Richard Turner VC, DSO



During the week of 3-8 November 2014, The Royal Canadian Dragoons celebrated the 114th anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein. On 7 November 1900, during the Boer War, Sgt Holland, Lt's Turner and Cockburn acted valiantly and courageously in preventing the capture of the guns from the Boers. They were each awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions, and 114 years later we still remember the grit and fortitude displayed that day.

Throughout the week, many events took place including the 10 km Harrier run, a Drill and Pace Stick competition, and the much anticipated Sports Day. Each event awarded the Squadrons with points based on their performance. The final points challenge was the Chain of Command race. Each Sqn fielded a team with a member from each rank level; they were then required to complete a physical and mental obstacle course for time. Squadrons anxiously awaited the results of the sports day as the points throughout the week, and from the Cavalry Cup held earlier in the year, would determine the prestigious "Right of Line" Sqn for the remainder of the year. With 1st place finished in weight lifting, the Harrier Run, Chain of Command Race, and the Pace Stick competition, B Sqn defended their title for the second consecutive year. The week culminated on Saturday with the Regimental Leliefontein parade and the All-Ranks Dinner and Dance later that evening.

The highlight of the week was the parade at Worthington Parade Square that brought numerous dignitaries including General (ret'd) Rick Hillier, Major-General (ret'd) Ferron, and Major-General Dean Milner, the current Senior Serving Dragoon. As is becoming tradition, the skies opened during the parade and a heavy dusting of snow fell during the morning. The CO, LCol Graham, and RSM, CWO Mercer, led the Dragoons through a very impressive parade. Several honours and awards were presented including the Eckhardt Memorial Plaque, which was awarded to Sgt Sean Murphy who was voted the most outstanding crewman Master Corporal in the Regiment, and the Commanding Officer's Sword to Captain Jon De Silva who was voted the top subaltern in the Regiment. This year, the Victoria Crosses were marched through the ranks of Dragoons by Lt Trevor Smith and his Lance Guard for all those on parade to remember the heroic actions all those years ago.

Despite inclement weather, The Royal Canadian Dragoons held their heads high and displayed a tremendous amount of pride during these week-long celebrations. Accompanied by their family and friends, near and far, it was certainly a fine week to be a Dragoon.

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.

Opposite: LCol Graham leads the Regimental March Past

Leliefontein Awards



The G.G. Bell Award
Presented to Cpl Steele



The RCD Association Award
Presented to Cpl Schell



Top Non Crewman MCpl Award
Presented to MCpl Vaillancourt



The Commanding Officer's Shield
Presented to Sgt Murphy



The Commanding Officer's Sword
Presented to Capt De Silva



The Leliefontein Bursary
Accepted by MWO Sampson (on behalf of his daughter)

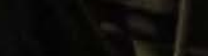
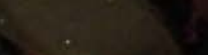
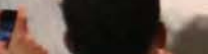
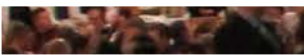


The RCD wait to board the S.S. Milwaukee on route to South Africa

The Action at Leliefontein

In the fall of 1900, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, then down to a single Squadron, were participating in Lord Roberts' move against the last remnants of the Boer Army in eastern Transvaal, South Africa. A small group of brave men manning remote outposts, suffering through blistering heat, dampness, cold nights, lacking sufficient clothing, shelter and rations, gave birth to a key part of our Regimental pride. While on lookout, it was the springboks of the Transvaal valley that warned an RCD outpost of an impending Boer attack. The springboks gave away the Boer's position and alerted the Dragoons. Because the Dragoons at the outpost were ready, the Boers were repelled.

An attack, near a farm called Leliefontein also holds history for The Royal Canadian Dragoons. During the battle, Lt Cockburn and a gun from D Battery were being surrounded by Boers. All but six of Lieutenant Cockburn's men were either killed or captured, Lieutenant Cockburn himself among the latter. The gun team managed to begin its escape and a running fight ensued. Lieutenant Morrison turned the Gun against the Boers to hold a ridge. Realising the tenuous spot he was in, Lieutenant Morrison dispatched a single trooper to ask for reinforcements. The first officer he ran into was Lieutenant R.E.W. Turner, who was already wounded in the shoulder and the neck. Lt Turner launched his troops between the advancing Boers and the Gun, giving it a chance to make its final retreat to safety. Sgt Holland, alone and under heavy enemy attack, continued to operate his Colt Machine Gun causing devastating losses, but not stopping the Boers. At the very last moment, Sgt Holland picked up his Machine Gun, still searing hot, under his arm, mounted his horse and rode away. Having failed to capture any guns, the Boers retreated back to their camp. Canadian casualties were heavier than any other previous Boer War engagement. Lieutenant Cockburn, released by the Boers later that day, Lieutenant Turner and Sgt Holland were all awarded The Victoria Cross for outstanding courage, valour and devotion in the face of the enemy. Private W.A. Knisley was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Lieutenant Morrison was awarded The Distinguished Service Order for his part in the day's activities. Since that day The Royal Canadian Dragoons have celebrated the Battle of Leliefontein.





LELIEF ONTARIO

Regimental All Ranks Dinner & Dance





EX COMMON GROUND II



A SQUADRON

During the month of November 2014, members of A Squadron (Sqn) travelled to Gagetown to take part in Exercise COMMON GROUND II (Ex CG). In the past, individual combat arms courses were run in Gagetown with minimal integration; the intent this year was to have multiple courses operate together to maximize resources and training opportunities for all personnel involved. A Sqn deployed to not only assist with the individual training, but also to complete some collective training. A Sqn was directly involved with this large scale exercise by providing support to the Armoured Recce Squadron Commander's Course (ARSCC), the Squadron Sergeant Major's Course (DP4 SSM), and the Armoured Recce Troop Leaders course (DP 1.2 ARTL).

During the first few days of the exercise, A Sqn "shook out" by conducting Troop level training to ensure that vehicles and crews were ready to conduct tasks for the upcoming ARSCC, confirming Tp SOPs were standardized. Additionally, A Sqn was given the unique opportunity to leave the Gagetown training area to conduct operations in Tracy, New Brunswick, an unfamiliar piece of land just west of the training area. Due to the countless hours the officers and senior NCOs had spent in Gagetown, most personnel were

familiar with the ground in the training area - as many armoured courses are run there. The move into the Tracy area put the Sqn out of their comfort zone and let them navigate and operate in terrain they were not accustomed to. The Sqn quickly adjusted to the narrow roadways and high rate of traffic, adapting their plans and completing their tasks. This was a highlight for the Sqn as it provided a realistic experience to what conducting reconnaissance operations would be like as the first force on the ground in an operation overseas.

On return from the Tracy area, the Sqn immediately began working with ARSCC, DP 4 SSM, and DP 1.2 courses. SSM Kevin Theriault and his Adm Tp provided the training for the DP 4 SSM course, meanwhile the rest of the Sqn worked with the ARSCC and DP 1.2 students. Major Enno Kerckhoff was employed as directing staff for the student Sqn Commanders, while Lt Trevor Smith, Lt Nate MacIntosh and Lt Tyler Runnings coached the newly graduated DP 1.2 Tp Ldrs. This was the most time intensive portion of the exercise, as traces dominated the day and battle procedure at its fullest form was conducted late every night. The nature of the course had students rotating into the "hot seat" every day, forcing the Sqn to remain flexible as the experience and leadership style of the students varied. As well, DP 1.2 students were placed into SHQ and the fighting Troop

to give them insight to operating with trained troops before they were posted to their respective Regiments. With assistance from the senior NCOs, Tp Ldr's were able to develop their plans, brief their troops, and implement their plans. Six newly appointed Dragoon officers (2Lt Marc Charette, 2Lt Kenny Panza, 2Lt Andrew Chapman, 2Lt Leroy Aqiqi, 2Lt Sean Spence, and 2Lt Chris Smith) were given the opportunity meet and lead troops before arriving at the Regiment.

Upon completion of the ARSCC, the Sqn conducted more collective training before being employed by the Combat Training Centre (CTC) as Opposing Force (OPFOR) for the Combat Team Commanders Course (CTCC). The Sqn was given the task to defend a small village in the training area and to delay the CTCC advance as much as possible. Overnight observation posts, counter-reconnaissance and an inner and outer cordon of the town successfully presented the advancing forces with a challenging objective during an extremely cold night. Attached to the Sqn were a FOO party from 2RCHA, snipers from 2RCR, and a section of field engineers from 2CER to assist with the operation. The CTCC implemented their own plans to probe our defence with CP 140 Aurora Patrol Planes and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which provided surveillance on the village. Around first light, the CTCC began their move and for few hours A Sqn was 'fighting' the entire combat team. An outstanding effort by the Sqn provided excellent training for the CTCC as a formidable opponent, testing their ingenuity and flexibility on the attack.

C SQUADRON

To mark the start of Ex COMMON GROUND II (Ex CGII), C Sqn, as part of H-Coy Combat Team received Battle Group orders, for Op GARDINER, from the CO of 2 RCR, LCol R.N. Washburn, on 16 November 2014. With a Sqn (-) deployed, Troops 1, 3 and SHQ began their preparation for the first iteration of Ex CGII. Tanks marshalled and radio checks done, the well-trained soldiers of C Sqn were ready for the upcoming challenges.

In the early morning of 17 November, H-Coy Combat Team deployed from Worthington Tank Park to commence their advance to the North. Shortly after H-hour, C/S T31 came under contact with an enemy equipped with BMP3s and T80s. With the firebase in place, H-Coy Combat Team Commander began his planning cycle for a hasty attack. Under orders, direct and indirect fire from the firebase began to suppress the enemy position while the rest of the Combat Team manoeuvred aggressively and destroyed the remnants of the enemy.

Due to the heavy resistance from the enemy in our AO,

H-Coy Combat Team averaged three hasty attacks daily as well as deliberate operations. Due to the robust capabilities of the Combat Team, mission success was achieved throughout the first week of Op GARDINER. From the 17th to the 20th of November, H-Coy Combat Team successfully conducted 12 hasty attacks and 3 deliberate tasks such as raiding enemy airfields and seizing villages.

Throughout the first iteration of Ex CGII, C Sqn proved to have the best trained and professional soldiers in the battle field. Still fresh from the lessons learned during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, C Sqn displayed that they truly were the professionals in combined arms operations. The Sqn leadership continued to seize every opportunity to train their soldiers and to further master their own skills. Despite the harsh weather conditions, morale maintained high and everyone continued to "soldier on" providing nothing but the best to the future sub-unit commanders. The first week of Ex CGII being a success, the half-Sqn deployed back to conduct maintenance on the tanks, regroup, and prepare for follow-on tasks. The CTCC implemented their own plans to probe our defence with CP 140 Aurora Patrol Planes and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which provided surveillance on the village. Around first light, the CTCC began their move and for few hours A Sqn was 'fighting' the entire combat team. An outstanding effort by the Sqn provided excellent training for the CTCC as a formidable opponent, testing their ingenuity and flexibility on the attack.





EX BUSH MAN

On 15 August 2014 ten members of C Squadron participated in Ex Bush Man on a cold and wet day better suited for the fall. This competition, hosted annually by 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment at 5 Canadian Division Support Base Galetown, is often used as a stepping stone to those competing in the Ironman competition held at Garrison Petawawa. This gruelling challenge is comprised of four main elements which have competitors travel a distance just over 33 km. The first portion consisted of a 19 km march while carrying a 40 lb rucksack in and around the town of Oromocto. After the initial march, competitors then picked up their canoes to complete a 2 km portage followed by a 9 km paddle around Oromocto Island. Once off the water, participants rucked the remaining 3 km to the finish line.

The ten participants from C Sqn were broken down into two man teams consisting of Trooper Joel St. Onge and Corporal Ryan Folkes, Corporal Alexandre Barlow and Corporal Ryan Elliott, Corporal Mathieu-David Pompilio and Corporal Raymond Villeneuve, Master Corporal Matthieu Gagnon and Corporal Derek Szydlo, and Lieutenant Warren Lambie and Corporal Corey Roberts. As the race began, the team was encouraged by a sea of red as C Sqn showed its

support in their Regimental shirts. Throughout the race, and through to the finish line, the wall of red was there motivating those C Sqn team members to the end. The top participants for the squadron, Corporal Barlow and Corporal Elliott, finished with a solid timing of 5:29:13.

All Ex Bush Man participants have been training hard for the upcoming Ironman competition and this race served as a gauge for each individual, revealing what they need to improve before they complete the even more difficult Ironman. The team can now continue on with their hard work, to represent both the Regiment and Squadron with as much vigor and pride as they did during Ex Bush Man when they finally make it to the big one – Ironman 2014.



LAPOINTE

CHRYSLER

RENFREW

CHRYSLER

BAD CREDIT, GET APPROVED NOW!
NO CREDIT, Let us lower your Interest rate, best financing team in the Ottawa Valley

Proud to Support Our Troops



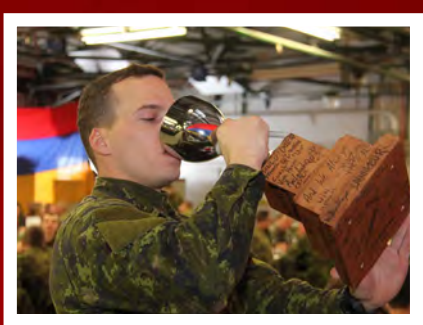
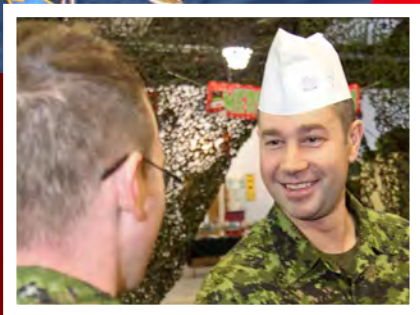
Support Our Troops
Appuyons nos troupes



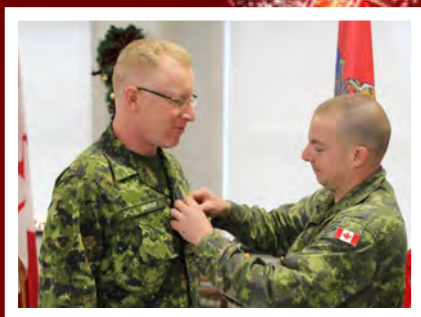
Thank you!

**Royal Canadian Dragoons for
serving our country and all that you
do in our community.**

**Management & Employees
of Lapointe & Renfrew Chrysler**

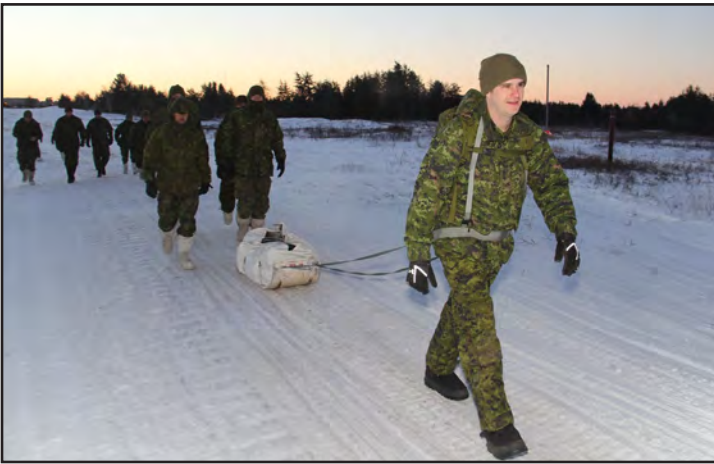


Christmas Dinner



with The RCD











In early April of 1945, the 1st Canadian Army was advancing north through Holland against stiff resistance. The Germans fought stubbornly, knowing that defeat was only a matter of time.

Their escape routes to the east were blocked by the 4th Canadian and the 1st Polish Armoured Divisions. Having no other alternative, the Germans fell back on the North Sea. But here, their retreat was hampered by allied airborne troops who dropped behind enemy lines and seized bridges, ferries and airfields.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons were involved in wide, encircling movements that cut deep into enemy positions and guarded the flanks of the 2nd Division. On 11 April, the hard fought-for breakthrough of German lines was achieved. There was now no opportunity for rest. At Mildam, "D" Squadron forced a bridgehead over the Fonyer Kanal during a bitter five-hour struggle. They were joined by "B" Squadron who fought a series of sharp local actions, capturing stores, equipment and prisoners. Actions of this nature continued for the next few days.

During the night of 14-15 April, word was received of bitter fighting in Leeuwarden between the Dutch Resistance forces and the German garrison. Immediately, "C" and "HQ" Squadrons set out to reinforce the Dutch patriots. They entered the City at 11:00 am in the fine drizzle of rain and found the streets deserted, except for groups of armed Dutchmen. The Dutch and Germans were still exchanging gunfire over the rooftops, but

with the approach of the Staghounds and Dingos of the Dragoons, the Germans withdrew hastily. Cheering crowds soon filled the streets. National Flags were flown, and the Dutch embraced the Canadians.

The Dragoons, cheered and celebrated by the citizens, turned over the supplies and foodstuffs of the German occupation garrison. "HQ" Squadron remained in Leeuwarden while "C" Squadron moved east to assist "D" Squadron in the battle of Groningen.

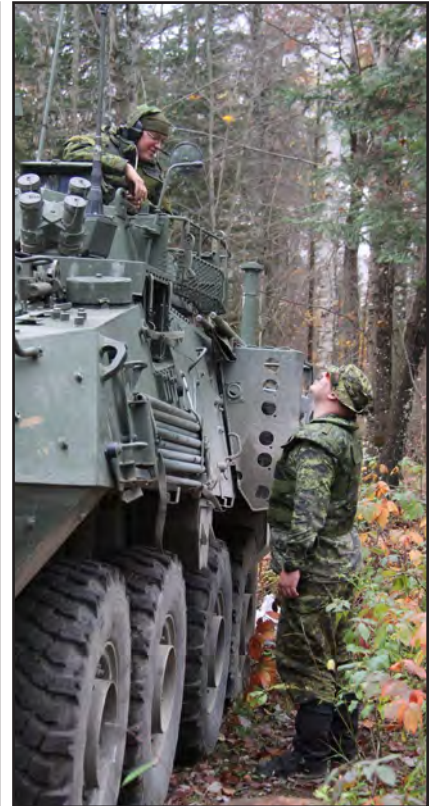
Since that day, every April 15th, the town of Leeuwarden flies the camp flag of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. As well, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, wherever we are deployed in the world, fly the flag of the city of Leeuwarden.

This year's Leeuwarden celebrations slightly differed from years past. To begin, the Regiment formed up on Worthington Parade Square bright and early and embarked on a ruck sack march as an entire formed group, including the Colonel of the Regiment. Upon returning back to F-104, they formed back up around the flag pole and continued with the Leeuwarden parade. It was a special event to have back again not only our Leeuwarden veteran, Mr. Don White, but also in attendance was Mr. Kees DeGraaf who was living in Leeuwarden, Holland, as a young boy when Mr. White and the Regiment drove their Staghounds through on April 15th 1945, liberating the city.

Opposite: Mr Don White and Mr Kees DeGraaf speak together before the parade.









This past year, the Cent Room hosted many functions and saw a new PMC, VPMCs (emphasis on the 's') and Treasurer take over. Maj Rowena Williams (PMC), Captains Dan Saucier, Marsha Dunn and Travis VanRyswyk (VPMCs), and Colin McNaughton (Treasurer) 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. On a weekly basis, the officers frequent the Cent Room for daily morning coffee and culminate the week with Friday Happy Hour prior to going to the Normandy Officers' Mess. This year, the PMC has put a little more flair in the Cent Room air with maximum flowers and decorations for Cent Room events and introducing a great new selection of beverages to the Cent Room repertoire. It is fair to say that Maj Williams succeeded in taking the "board" out of the F104 boardroom. Her efforts have increased the Cent Room's ability to host a wide range of officers, spouses, and friends.

This year, the membership voted to increase the discretionary fund of The PMC, which proved to be a great decision if only for the ability to dial-in the ever-important late-night pizza order. The healthy finances of the Cent Room also permitted additional funding for events such as the very successful first annual wine tasting event with spouses and the Cent Room family ski and snow-shoe night.

Other significant social events included the Garrison and Brigade Meet and Greet, preceded by the Cent Room Meet and Greet. This annual semi-formal event always kicks off the fall training year and is a time for those posted in to bring their spouses out for a spectacular evening.

The next key social event, The Black Hatter's Mess Dinner, was held at the Normandy Officers' Mess. It was tremendously successful, thanks in no small part to the decadent bacon-themed meal catered by Ullrich's. Black Hat Officers from across Eastern Ontario and the United States of America in attendance will surely be talking about the meal and overall event for years to come. Special appearances by the "Bunny" and an attempt by the subbies to conduct Subbies' Court topped off a great night.

In early May, we also hosted a mid-week reception for the RMCC cadets, who were up in Petawawa for an environment preparation training. As usual, the officers of the Cent Room took full responsibility for their hosting task and committed to a long and entertaining night.

The last event of the APS is generally one of the most entertaining. This year did not disappoint with a great officers' mug outs, where the Cent Room magically transformed into Petawawa's best nightclub, DJ'd by none other than Captain Mitch Atkinson and his trustee iPhone.

The Centurion Room.

Overall, this year has been quite eventful on the training side. And since we all worked so hard, in good RCD Officer fashion, we also played hard. The challenge to duplicate last year's success now rests on the shoulders of Major Sean Curley after the official hand-over of the Cent Room crown. We are all confident that the new OC Cent Room will maintain its reputation as the "2CMBG place to be".



Madameek Restaurant Inc.

1024 Victoria Street
 Petawawa, Ontario
 K8H 2E3
 Tel: 613 - 687 - 6872

244 Pembroke Street W
 Pembroke, Ontario
 K8A 5N2
 Tel: 613 - 732 - 1000

www.madameek.com



This past year, The Sergeant Holland Room enjoyed hosting several events and functions which also saw a new PMC, VPMC and Treasurer take over responsibilities: MWO Green, WO Keith and Sgt Plumley have been the driving force to ensure the success of all events.

The Holland Room Rest Easy had recently been given an interior face lift which saw the VPMC, with assistance from the Sqn Reps completely redesign the wall layout. The new look fills the wall with many pictures and artifacts which support the regimental timeline during all phases of operation in every theatre of war the RCD took part in. This will continue to be a work in progress as the mess committee will look further to enhancing the atmosphere for all members and guests.

The PMC, in concert with the RSM have successfully held multiple Professional Development (PD) sessions at the Holland room. A highlighted PD session was when we were very fortunate to have the Brigade SSM, CWO Olstad join us. Designated members from each Squadron were chosen and in a group setting discussed in their own views how aspects of leadership applied to them as a Snr NCO and how they are able to exercise this leadership point during day to day operations. It is important to have professional discussions at our level in order to stimulate thought and interaction. Members of the Holland Room thoroughly enjoyed events like this as it keeps the Holland Room Smart Serve Subject Matter Expert (SME): Sgt Berube, fairly busy.

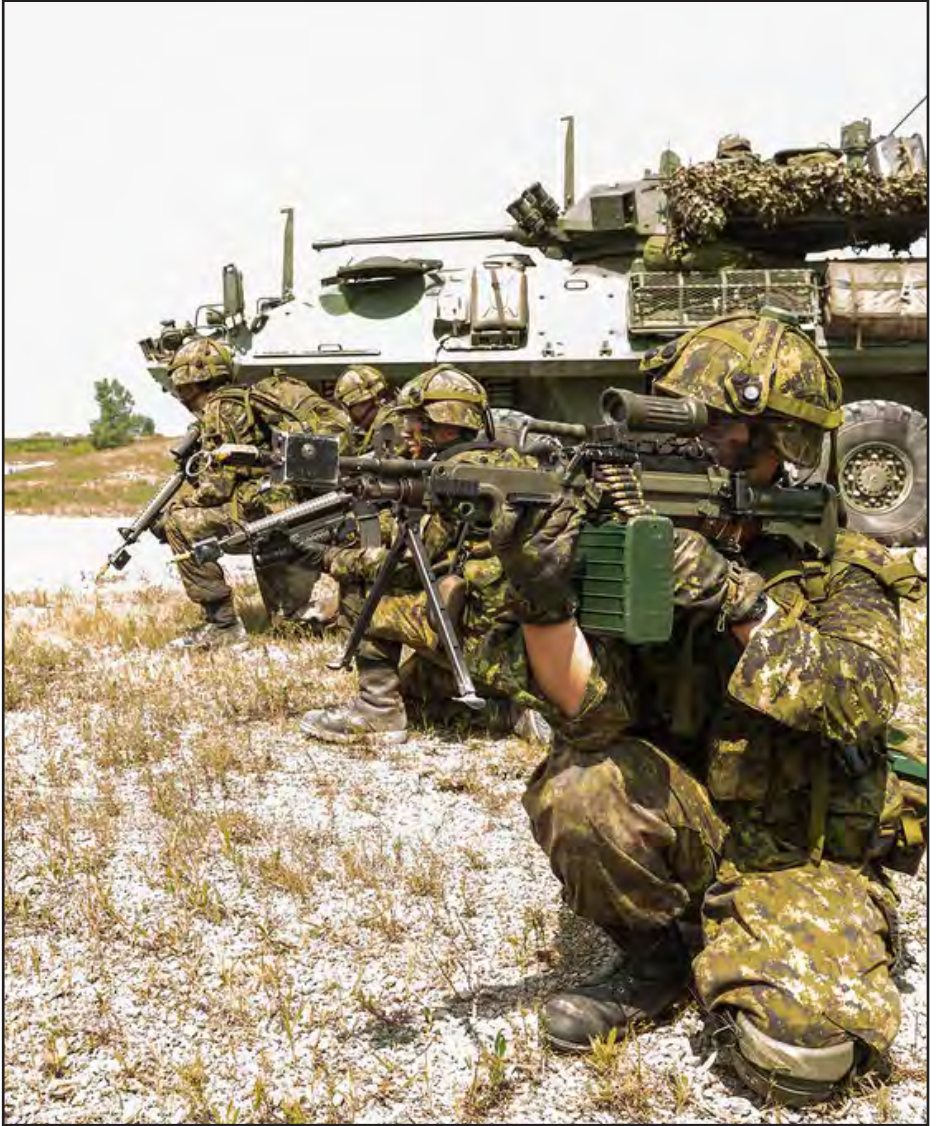
A key focal point and event was the Holland rooms opportunity to celebrate and honour the Corps 75th anniversary as well as host the Regimental MCpl's during a mess dinner held at the Reichwald WOs' & Sgts' Mess. The event was a complete success with thanks to the KO's staff, who prepared a fabulous meal. The entire dining facility showcased a complete representation of all of the Royal Canadian Armour Corps (RCAC) units with the excellent support of the RCACS and Regimental Archives. A unique bit of history was captured as the dinner menu created by the VPMC and polished up by Cpl Langille (Regt graphic design SME), this table menu was signed by all in attendance. This act will ensure that the celebration of the Corps 75th was executed and captured for the archives, with a view that in 25 – 50 years' time, members of the RCD will reflect back on that event.

A continued and respected event takes place periodically; "The Shining", this introduces a new Sgt to the Holland Room. The Shining is always a fun and entertaining function. With the assistance from the members of the Holland Room, new Sgt's are welcomed into the Sgt Holland Room through a wide variety of events. This year's highlighted entertainment was demonstrated by Sgt's Brush, Brown and MacDonald. During this event the successfully navigated a pylon obstacle course, although hand signals were not observed, the use of pylons were the last resort in order to pass the message. This event will be remembered by all.

The Sgt Holland Room.

The next key social event the Holland Room see's their sights set on hosting the Regimental Officers during the Christmas silly season. Work has already begun to ensure that alike the last time we hosted them, this will sure be one "At Home" to remembered. Be sure to picket and maintain contact with this event in the next issue of the Springbok.













RCD CADETS

2332 2870 Ashbury College



2332

The past year was a great one for developing the relationship between the Royal Canadian Dragoons in B Squadron and 2332 Maj EJG Holland, VC Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

On May 28, 2015, B Sqn sent a Coyote Armoured Vehicle with a full surveillance suite from Petawawa to the Holland Armouries in Ottawa to establish a static display of the Regiment's equipment and personnel. As the cadet programme emphasizes citizenship and public service, it was a really great opportunity for MCpl Hollis, Cpl Cardinal, and Cpl Guzman to represent the armed forces and the Regiment to the cadets. The members of 2 Tp demonstrated how they prepare and operate the Remote Mounted Surveillance System, and answered a number of questions from the cadets on the equipment we use, the Regiment itself, and life in the Army. Throughout the presentation, the cadets of 2332 relished the opportunity to learn more about the life of a Trooper in the Regiment, as did the Cadet Instructor Cadre staff of the Cadet Corps.

Maj Andrechek, and SSM Leamon, OC and SSM of B Sqn respectively, represented the Regiment with Cpl

Cardinal at the 2332 RCACC annual ceremonial review on 10 June 2015. At the close of the cadet training year, two of the cadets from the Corps have chosen to join the military themselves, with one senior cadet having been accepted to attend the Royal Military College in the fall. He was selected to train as an Armoured Officer, and hopes to one day become a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons himself.

This year sees a transfer of command of 2332 from LCdr Roland Vaillancourt, CD to Captain Debra Parsons, CD. We look forward to working with her and the Corps following the summer break, and to further develop the relationship between B Sqn, RCD, and 2332 Maj EJG Holland, VC RCACC.



Top: Members of 2870 assist The Regiment during activities at the Diefenbunker

2870

The cadets of 2870 E - Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, Royal Canadian Army Cadets, have had an exciting and busy year. The Connaught Range in Nepean, ON, where the cadets train and parade has seen a flurry of activity over the past 12 months.

The cadets were very active within the community. They conducted a variety of fundraising activities in order to support local charity and fund their training for the year. To commemorate Remembrance Day, the cadets sold poppies and paraded in ceremonies held in Stitsville and at Bell's Corner. The Annual Christmas Dinner took place at the Kanata Legion where the cadets enjoyed an excellent meal and reflected on a solid year of training and community service.



The cadets took part in two field training exercises this past year; one in the fall and one in the winter. The fall exercise focused on basic outdoors skills such as map and compass, orienteering, stoves and lanterns, knot tying and basic survival skills. The winter exercise was the first opportunity for many of the cadets to experience winter camping and survival. MCpl Tony Neaves and Cpl Jordan Bickford, of A Sqn RCD, went on the winter exercise with the cadets to help with their training.

The cadets competed in numerous biathlon and marksmanship competitions. The team from E Sqn won third place in a marksmanship event. The team consisted of MWO Plowan, MCpl Zinck, Tpr Bergman, Tpr Brown, and Tpr Eskibashian.

The final activity of the training year for the cadets of E Squadron was the Annual Ceremonial Review. LCol Steven Graham, CO of the RCD, travelled to Connaught to preside over the parade. After the CO inspected the cadets, the drill team performed a routine that demonstrated the cohesion and professionalism the squadron had developed over the course of the year. After parting words from LCol Graham, the cadets marched off the parade square and began preparing for the next year of activities.

Ashbury College

The Cadets of 137 Ashbury RCD RCACC began the 2014/2015 training year on a high note. They began with learning navigation, radio communication, and how to prepare for spending days in the field.

Community service is a large component of the Cadet Program and our cadets go above and beyond! They participated in the Cleaning the Capital event for the second consecutive year and have already signed up for the third. As well, they were visible in grocery stores "tagging" to raise money for our Corps for extra events that would normally not be covered.

After the return from a well-deserved Christmas Break, the Cadets of 137 Ashbury RCD Army Cadet Corps participated in a cold weather exercise. On this exercise they learned how to transport equipment via sled, how to pitch and strike an arctic tent, navigate trails by snow shoe and learned about staying warm in cold conditions. One of our Senior Cadets had the opportunity to participate in a Winter Expedition which took her dog sledding, snow shoeing and more in the Mattawa area north of Petawawa.

In the spring, the Cadets continued to hone their skills with instructional techniques, drill and navigation. They received valuable First Aid Training delivered by Sgt M. Edwards and Cpl M. Slattery from D Sqn of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, and exposure to the Ottawa Police Service during a visit by a member of the tactical team. The Cadets gave back to their community by participating in events at the Greek Embassy, the French Embassy and Irish Embassy and an event for the Pearly Rideau Veterans Home as well as the commemoration of the Korean War armistice. Our Level 3 Cadets had their first Area Expedition weekend in Bon Echo Park in mid-May. During this weekend they mountain biked, trekked and learned canoe skills.

The training year culminated with our Annual Ceremonial Review weekend. The Cadets along with their parents and invited guests took part in a formal mess dinner. Members of The Guild of the RCD along with the Honourary Colonel of the Governor General's Foot Guards were also guests of the dinner. The parade was attended by numerous local dignitaries as well as representatives from The Royal Canadian Dragoons.





FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS FROM THE TIRES UP!

OK TIRE™
Honestly driven.

*Owned by Larry Delaurier
 Serving the Ottawa Valley for over 41 years.*

FULL MECHANICAL SERVICE

- 2 & 4 Wheel Alignment
- Brakes
- Suspension
- Tune-Ups
- Full Diagnostics Service
- Licensed Motor Vehicle Safety Inspections
- Tires (Wide Variety of standard, luxury & high performance)
- Rims (We specialize in Rim & Tire Packages)
- Complete Line of Automotive Accessories



857 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke, ON K8A 3M3
 613-735-4139 / 613-735-5104



CONGRADULATIONS TO THE SENIOR SERVING DRAGON



MAJOR GENERAL JIM FERRON
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES



This year was a particularly busy year for Dragoons working at the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School. In addition to the normal business of teaching Corps courses, training up the annual intake of newly-arrived instructors, and making sure IBTS qualifications were kept current, this year the School contributed teams to three separate military skills competitions – including hosting one whose scope and international visibility is ever-increasing.

Fall kicked off the training year at the RCACS with three activities: IBTS training for School pers freshly returned from summer leave; Armour School Instructor Cadre Training, which teaches newly posted-in instructors how coach, mentor, and assess students; and hosting WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE, now in its third iteration, the international Armoured skills competition.

WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE consisted of a tank gunnery competition, a 25mm gunnery competition, a march-and-shoot, and a Driving and Maintenance stand. This year saw teams from each Canadian division, plus a team from the United States. Representatives from the UK and Australia attended as observers and the international participation for 2015 is projected to be much larger, with participants from the US, the UK, Australia, Denmark, and Germany invited to compete. WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE is poised to become the premier international Armoured skills competition, much the same way the Canadian Army Trophy competition was in the 1990s.

In addition to planning and organizing the competition, the RCACS provided a tank team as well. Dragoons Cpl Joshua White, Cpl Serge Godin, and Cpl Mike Crook all competed, and the RCACS team took top spot!

With WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE completed, the focus switched to providing courses, which ran fall, winter, spring, and summer. Serials of Armoured Crew Commander, Armoured Recce Patrol Commander, Armoured Troop Warrant, DP4 SSM, and Armoured Troop Leader (mods 1.1 and 1.2) all ensured that the next generation of Corps leadership were trained and ready. 25mm TOC, Leo2 Gunner, and Advanced Direct Fire Specialist courses kept gunnery skills current, and DP1 Crewman serials provided a steady stream of newly qualified Troopers for the Regiment. Running all these courses keeps School staff busy all year, as no sooner was one course complete than the next course starts up.

WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE was not the only competition School Dragoons participated in. This year, the School sent teams to Gainey Cup and Nordic Challenge, and Dragoons participated in both:

The Gainey Cup "Best Scout Competition", held in Ft. Benning, Georgia, pitted 19 six-man teams in 13 stands. Dragoons MCpl Taylor Smith and Cpl Jason Weir travelled south with other soldiers from the RCACS to represent the Corps. Notwithstanding their unfamiliarity with American equipment and TTPs, the team placed

6th overall, taking top spot in the AFV Recognition, CBRN, and Route Recce stands.

The Nordic Cup is a Leopard 2 skills competition, held in Holstebro Denmark. Teams from six nations competed: Denmark, the UK, Germany, Sweden, Norway, and Canada. The Canadian team was provided by the RCACS; two crews, one commanded by Dragoon Capt Tom Watson, with other crew members Dragoons Cpl Joshua White, Cpl Michel Westelaken, and Cpl Justin Ritchie also competing. Stands ranged from gunnery, to D&M, to physical fitness. At the conclusion, the two Canadian teams placed fourth and tenth, a very respectable showing.

Notwithstanding the heavy Op tempo, Dragoons still found time to have fun, with the annual Leliefontein celebration at the Oromocto Legion well attended by all those who could not get free to come home to Petawawa. Leeuwarden was celebrated with a combined RCACS and C Sqn RCD coffee and donuts event, with refreshments provided by the School.

All in all, a busy year, in which Dragoons pulled their weight and represented not just their Regiment, but the entire Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, in the manner expected of a Dragoon.



This is the spot where we chased those dumb bears...

BIT O' HISTORY

Originally published in The Springbok, October 1936



The following telegram was recieved by the Regiment:

“Sir:

I am desired by His Excellency the Govenor-General to express to you his thanks for the Travelling Escort provided by the unit under your command on the occasion of the visit of the President of the United States of America to Quebec on July 31st.

His excellency would be glad if you would convey to the Officer-in-Charge of the Escort, his appreciation of the smartness and efficiency of the N.C.O.'s and men forming the Escort.”

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) A.S. Redfern
Secretary to the Governor-General



**PERKINS
GUNS & AMMO**
Large selection NEW & USED
1106 Pembroke St.,
W, Pembroke


Lance Perkins
perkinspembroke@yahoo.ca
613-735-6690





In Memoriam



MWO Tim Bennett



Gen Radley-Walters





Proud to support The Royal
Canadian Dragoons.

