

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

SPRINGBOOK



2016 - 2017

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

2016 - 2017 Edition

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On The Cover

Members of B Squadron
during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE
2017.

Editor in Chief – Capt C.J. Justason
Advertising Team Leader: Capt C. Smith and Capt A. Scott
Cover and publication design: Cpl K. Langille

www.dragoons.ca

Opposite: A Canadian Armed Forces Chinook lands at the F-16 Parade Square

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales



Colonel - in - Chief
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



Colonel of The Regiment's Message

Major-General Matthew Macdonald, OMM, MBE, CD

As ever, the Regiment has had a busy and successful year as this edition of the Springbok and its companion, the RCD Association's Dragoon, will portray.

As this will be my final chance to pass on a few written words as Colonel of the Regiment before I will, reluctantly, hand over the appointment next spring, I thought I would offer a few words on the challenges and opportunities our serving Dragoons will face over the next few years as we once again prepare to introduce new equipment into the inventory while at the same time parts of the Regiment will deploy on various operations around the world in support of missions ordered by the Government of Canada.

These will be challenges shared by our predecessors since the days they first harnessed horses to their will. The Regiment has had many mounts over the last hundred years including all types of reconnaissance and tank platforms. As I look back through our history the one thing I find that Dragoons of every generation have had in common is their uncanny ability to adapt to whatever challenges they have encountered as technology has advanced and new capabilities have been introduced. Former Dragoons have set the standard for understanding and maximizing the potential of new equipment and have always excelled in bringing it into service.

I expect the same will hold true today as C Squadron continues to bring on the latest LEOPARD 2 variant and the Regiment initially accepts the TAPV into service to be followed, hopefully shortly thereafter, by the LAV 6 Recce. I expect that every Dragoon will see to it that whatever part they are tasked to play in the introduction of these new platforms they will tackle it with the professionalism and enthusiasm for which this Regiment is renowned.

Whether a trooper, NCO or officer it will fall to each individual to understand and master their own skill set so that crews, troops, squadrons and the Regiment become much more than the sum of their individual parts. New tactics, techniques and procedures will need to be developed if we are to op-

timize the use of the new platforms and it will be the responsibility of the serving Dragoons to lead the way for the Corps and the Army into the future.

I have every confidence that you will take up the challenge and I wish you all the best for the future and know that the Regiment will continue to go from strength to strength.



Senior Serving Dragoon's Message

Major-General Dean Milner, OMM, MSC, CD

It continues to be a tremendous honour and privilege to serve as the Senior Serving Dragoon. As I complete my third year as your Senior Serving and my first year here in CENTCOM HQ I continue to observe, with pride, the significant number of accomplishments of our Regiment. Life at the Regiment never decelerates and our excellent Regimental family continues to faithfully support the Regiment during these high tempo times.

I have not had the same opportunities to visit the Regiment over the past year, but I have been tracking their numerous exercises and events closely. LCol Fraser Auld and RSM Jim Hebert have led the Regiment through an extraordinarily busy year as 2 CMBG was designated for Road to High Readiness and potential deployments. This afforded the Brigade and Regiment the priority across the army to train and prepare for possible deployments commencing in the summer of 2017.

Almost immediately upon taking command, LCol Auld and the Regiment began demanding Fall preparations. The Regiment was engaged in an important 4 Division Reserve Exercise which proved to be an excellent opportunity to integrate and support our Armour Reserve Regiments. Immediately following the exercise the Regiment competed in the annual Brigade Ironman and the Worthington Challenge. They contended extremely well, with strong showings in both competitions. The remainder of the Fall was dedicated to the traditional Fall training campaign which included some excellent training commencing with individual skills through Troop and Squadron/Combat team level training, culminating in a Brigade/Regimental command post exercise.

The Regiment organized a number of Brigade level training events and performed all extremely well. To cap off the Fall training, the Regiment conducted our annual Leliefontein celebrations where we retired a number of notable officers and NCOs; LCol Barr, Puddister, Smallwood, and Zaporzan, Major Muralt, RSM (Capt) Lee, WOs Hogan and Trainor, and Sgts Doodnauth and White.

Winter through Summer 2016/2017 saw the Regiment complete its important PCF cycle which also included preparing the

fleet of vehicles for movement out to Wainwright, Alberta in preparation for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. Just prior to the Regiment's deployment to Wainwright, they successfully participated in Exercise TOMAHAWK THRUST, 2 CMBG's confirmatory CPX in Kingston, Ontario. The Regiment deployed to Wainwright for two months participating in Exercise RUGGED BEAR, TOMAHAWK FURY and finally rolled into the confirmatory Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. They completed the road to high readiness cycle and successfully confirmed the Regiment for any potential deployment. While the exercise largely went well, it was marred by the unfortunate loss of Sergeant Dwyerowicz.

After receiving some well-deserved leave, the Regiment assumed the responsibility of the 4 Division Immediate Reaction Unit and elements of the Regiment deployed to support Operation ELEMENT, the 2 Division led military contribution in response to increased numbers of asylum seekers coming across the Canada/US border. The CO and RSM led a good size contingent of Dragoons and attachments to Cornwall, establishing an interim lodging site for the asylum seekers. This marked another example of the versatility and adaptability of our fine regiment.

As I write this message, the Regiment is conducting its Fall training activities after receiving welcome news that the Regiment will lead the March 2018 rotation for Operation UNIFIER into the Ukraine. In addition, the Regiment has deployed some of its officers to the Middle East for Operation IMPACT and will also provide troops for our commitment to Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia in January 2018. These all being tremendous opportunities for the Regiment to represent Canada in its role to make sure Canada remains among the safest and most secure countries in the world.

The future looks good for the Regiment with deployments, new vehicles arriving this Fall and Winter, and with the recently announced new Defence Policy.

Always an honour and a privilege to serve with our fine Regiment.



Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant Colonel Fraser Auld, CD

With my first year as the Commanding Officer behind me, I remain incredibly grateful for the honour and privilege of commanding Canada's senior serving Armoured Regiment. Our soldiers are second-to-none, our leaders shine in the face of each and every challenge, and our Regimental family sets the example for their support and encouragement. The Regimental Sergeant Major and I truly have the best jobs in the Army.

To say the Regiment had a busy year is an understatement. As part of 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG), the Regiment advanced through the Canadian Army's "Road to High Readiness" programme. While the training was extremely demanding and the tempo was high, the 2016-2017 training year presented opportunities and excitement not normally afforded during other years of the Army's managed readiness plan. The autumn began with the regular progression of training, with Exercises WALKING DRAGOON and CHARGING DRAGOON focusing on individual, crew, patrol, troop, and squadron skills. But this year, the fall culminated with a challenging live-fire exercise in Petawawa titled Exercise STORMING BEAR. This saw our squadrons integrate live direct fire and artillery, unmanned aerial vehicles, explosive breaching of obstacles, close air support aircraft, Military Police, and medical resources during a dynamic, live-fire scenario. Our Dragoons performed superbly and demonstrated true agility in thought and action.

After a brief respite for the holiday season, the first half of 2017 saw continued high tempo training. Members of the Regiment travelled to Fort Drum, New York to participate in the Spur Ride hosted by the 3rd of the 71st Cavalry (Ghost Squadron), additional live fire training was undertaken in Valcartier, Quebec, and the Regiment deployed over four hundred personnel on a multi-month training deployment to Wainwright, Alberta for more dynamic live fire training. This culminated in the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre driven Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, a force-on-force exercise using the laser-based weapons effect simulator system. The training programme was challenging, exciting, and a great learning experience for all. Again, Dragoons

proved their mettle through the snow, sleet, rain, mud, dust, and heat.

With high readiness training completed, the coming year will see the Regiment provide simultaneous support to a number of Canadian Armed Forces operations around the globe, to include Operation UNIFIER in Ukraine, Operation REASSURANCE in Central and Eastern Europe, and Operation IMPACT in the Middle East. Without question, our Dragoons are ready for these challenges and will make us proud.

The coming year will also see the Regiment receive a new mount – the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV). The TAPV is scheduled to begin arriving in late 2017 and complete delivery by mid-2018. The TAPV and another new vehicle, the Light Armoured Vehicle 6.0 Reconnaissance (LAV 6.0 Recce) due to be delivered in two to three years, will replace the venerable Coyote and LAV 3 fleet in the Regiment. The TAPV and LAV 6.0 Recce will provide us with enhanced battlefield capabilities, and offer improved protection, better communications, and improved threat detection abilities. Integrating the TAPV over the next year will be challenging, but new equipment is always exciting, and our Dragoons are chomping at the bit to get the TAPV into the field.

As I conclude, I must offer particular thanks on behalf of the Regiment to our Colonel of The Regiment, Major-General (ret'd) Matt Macdonald, our Senior Serving Dragoon, Major-General Dean Milner, and our Patron Mr. David Batten. Their tireless energy and selfless dedication to the Regiment is inspiring. I also personally want to thank the Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Hebert, for his unwavering support over my first year as the Commanding Officer. On a daily basis, he sets the example and lives our values of service before self, discipline, integrity, loyalty, courage, and excellence.

I am extremely proud of our Regiment, both its storied past and its bright future, and I look forward to continuing to serve our soldiers as the 56th Commanding Officer.



Regimental Sergeant Major's Message

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Hebert, MMM, CD

Time is flying by. Two years have passed since receiving the honour and privilege to be the 47th RSM of this fine Regiment. I want to take this opportunity to thank LCol Fraser Auld for his fantastic leadership and dedication to our Regiment over the course of this past year. It has been a true pleasure to work alongside him as part of the Regimental Command Team.

The last year was an extremely busy year for the Regiment but, like always, the Regiment, demonstrated professionalism and passion of soldiering which is what it takes to be a Dragoon. Throughout our busy year of training, the Regiment deployed often and faced many challenges which culminated with Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017 in Wainwright, Alberta. This exercise enabled us to successfully complete the Road to High Readiness as part of 2 CMBG and has given us confirmation that we are now operationally ready to deploy Dragoons around the globe. We must continue to train and be better at what we do. We must be ready for whatever the Government of Canada asks us to do. I know we will be ready when called upon and that is a true testament to the leadership our Officers, Sr NCOs, and the dedication of all Dragoons.

To all the members of the Regiment, whether serving in Petawawa or at C Sqn Gagetown, or our ERE and members at the RCACS, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your dedication, support, and professionalism that you demonstrate on each and every event where a Springbok is present.

Continue to focus on our mission to become better every day. Be focused and disciplined, continue to soldier and adhere to our essential values, focusing on "What is a Dragoon?".

A Dragoon is someone who:

- Demonstrates Service before Self;
- Discipline;
- Integrity;
- Courage;
- Excellence; and most of all
- Loyalty.

Loyalty means support your leaders, subordinates and fellow Dragoons. Show mutual respect. These are the cornerstones to our success and with making the health and welfare of our Regiment, taking care of families, and being resilient as priorities, we will become better every day.

To the RCD Association, I want to wish you all the best and it has been wonderful to meet with all of you at the association events. Dragoons, I ask you to take an interest in joining the association to allow it to build in membership and support our old guard. Please support the Guild and become involved as this organization supports not only the Regiment but our Regimental family.

In closing, words cannot express how proud I am to be the RSM of the most senior and handsome Armoured Regiment in the Canadian Army. The Commanding Officer and I are poised and ready to push forward to make sure our Regiment is ready, fit, and motivated to take on any task thrown our way by the Canadian Army and Government of Canada. "We are Dragoons and We are Warriors"



Regimental Patron

Mr. David Batten, MSM

I would like to personally extend a heart-felt thanks to everyone who has supported the Guild again this year. A lot of fabulous volunteers devote hours of their time to ensure the ongoing care, success and stewardship required to keep the Guild healthy and strong. Excellent teamwork has allowed the Guild to evolve into an extremely effective organization that ensures continued support to the Dragoons their families and the local community.

The Guild is structured to provide financial support and leadership through an elected volunteer board. The board's directors and appointed committees, work extremely hard responding to the ongoing needs and challenges of the regimental family, which contributes to our success and ensures a healthy future. The Guild has charitable support from currently serving soldiers, retired members as well as support from ongoing community outreach such as "Friends of the Regiment".

Through the Guild we have gathered a diverse group of outstanding Canadians who provide the leadership required to steward, educate and enhance the spirit of the regimental family.

I continue to be inspired by all who have served on the Guild, in the past as well as those currently serving. It is my hope that we have a continued interest and involvement from the younger soldiers and junior leaders in the Dragoon family, who will continue to motivate and give back. Blending this wisdom and experiences of the senior leadership with the energy and drive of the younger members serving leads to a very powerful team that is committed to great success!

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 Serving Armoured Regiment.

Ways to Give:

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. There are many different ways to give, including:

- 1. General Donations.** For donors who wish to support the Guild's overall activities. Funds are placed into the general investment fund, and both principal and interest are applied broadly across the Guild's activities.
- 2. Directed Donations.** For donors who wish to support a specific Guild activity. Funds are placed in to the general investment fund. Interest is applied broadly across the Guild's activities, while the principal of the donation is applied specifically to the Guild activity that the donor wishes to support.



The Guild had a successful year, transitioning and updating a number of the Guild policy frameworks, in order to improve on delivering on its Vision. 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 Publicly and Non-Publicly funded programs.



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.







REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The annual training tempo of the Regiment is never slow, and the 2016-2017 Road to High Readiness (R2HR) training year was no exception. Following the Annual Posting Season manning changes and block leave in July 2016, the Regiment quickly hit the ground running. The initial training event was a deployment to Meaford, Ontario for Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN in August 2016. This was a Level 1-3 Reserve Force integrated exercise focused on core soldier skills, while incorporating Individual Battle Task Standards training throughout the two week exercise. While still deployed to Meaford, the RHQ Operations Staff quickly shifted efforts to mapping out a very busy fall training period starting with Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT in order to showcase our capabilities to the Canadian Armed Forces and Canadian public. With all hands on deck, the Regiment displayed our full complement of weaponry and kit to include Leopard 2s in the Petawawa training area. The Regiment then focused efforts on meeting the required gateway training during our Road to High Readiness. This saw the Regiment train to Level 4 dry and Level 3 live during Exercise WALKING DRAGOON and Exercise SABOT DRAGOON respectively. This training laid the groundwork for Exercise STORMING BEAR, a 2 CMBG mandated Level 4/5 live fire exercise

in Petawawa. To top it all off, the Regiment was the lead planner for Exercise STORMING BEAR, overseeing all 2 CMBG subunits through their Level 4/5 confirmation as a part of their R2HR. Given the complexity of the range and the heavy burden of safety staff required to execute such a range, RHQ was consumed for the better part of the month of November 2016. Dovetailing into the end, RHQ and leadership from all Squadrons took part in Ex SHARPENED TOMAHAWK, a week long Level 6 Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX). The exercise was particularly important for the foundation of the R2HR gateway training, as it was the first time this year that the RCD Command Post (CP) and staff was fully functional. This included normal CP operations, as well as the application of step-up CPs.

Winter 2017

In January, Exercise TOMAHAWK THRUST, a Level 7 CAX, was held in Kingston. This exercise built upon the progress made during Exercise SHARPENED TOMAHAWK, allowing the RHQ Operations Staff to fine tune any last adjustments before the Regiment deployed to Wainwright, Alberta. Following the winter's collective training, RHQ oversaw the execution of a variety of Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses,

which built capacity amongst the Regiment with courses such as 25mm gunnery, LAV 3 driver, Bison driver and Tactical Combat Casualty Care to name a few. This was a crucial block of individual training, which set the conditions for a successful R2HR.

Spring 2017

Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, Exercise RUGGED BEAR, and Exercise TOMAHAWK FURY saw the majority of the Regiment deployed to Wainwright, Alberta for the final confirmation exercises during the R2HR. The two month deployment included a Level 5 live fire, live fire convoy ranges, a defensive exercise, and finally a two week force-on-force Level 6 confirmation. The training was invaluable for all ranks of the Regiment, as Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017 lived up to its expectations, providing a challenging training environment. The Regiment performed exceptionally well during the culmination of the R2HR, resulting in the validation of Level 5-6 for the Regiment and Squadrons.

Summer 2017

Once back from Wainwright, Alberta the Regiments tempo did not slow down prior to block leave. Including post-exercise drills and movement of soldiers and equipment back from Wainwright, Alberta, the Regiment was preparing to assume key positions as the lead unit in 4th Canadian Division's Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU). These positions consisted of the IRU HQ, a Vanguard Company (Coy), and an Administration Coy. The Regiment's diligent planning proved beneficial once again, as the IRU deployed to Cornwall in August 2017 in order to assist with asylum seekers coming from the United States of America.





A SQUADRON

A Squadron, hot on the heels of returning from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2016, quickly re-rolled as the Task Force TOMAHAWK (TFTH) Reconnaissance Squadron and was immediately hit with the reality of an exceptionally busy fall training period.

After the brief respite of summer block leave, A Squadron deployed to Meaford, Ontario for Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN and concurrently sent a contingent to 29 Palms, California for the Large Scale Exercise during the month of August. There was no break for A Squadron, as while the September calendar appeared clear, members of A Squadron immediately stepped-off on the IRONMAN competition, provided members for the Regiment's 25mm Worthington Cup Team, and ran the Regiment's first independent Armoured Reconnaissance Patrol Commander's (ARPC) course in conjunction with another All Terrain Vehicle operator course.

Without a break from ARPC to re-cock and reorient, A Squadron shifted gears to collective training. Commencing TFTH high-readiness work-up with Exercise WALKING DRAGOON, A Squadron completed Level 3 live training in Petawawa and Level 4 dry training

both in the Petawawa training area and the civilian battlespace around Foymount, Ontario. Taking a week off from training for Leliefontein, A Squadron was back at it in November, getting confirmed Level 5 live as TFTH's Reconnaissance Squadron during Exercise STORMING BEAR. Moving straight from exercise to exercise then post-exercise drills, A Squadron continued its forward momentum into Exercise SHARPENED TOMAHAWK, the first Unit level computer aided exercise (CAX) for TFTH.

Finally, after nearly four months without designated "white space", A Squadron took a break to focus on the Christmas Silly Week activities and other non-operationally focussed items. Foremost of agenda items was the retirement of Athena as the A Squadron mascot. After some deliberation, A Squadron went retro chic and adopted Peter the Goat, a First World War member of A Squadron, as its mascot. In addition to paying homage to their past, the goat was chosen as a fitting reminder of the independent, hardy and resourceful nature of the A Squadron soldier, and recognized A Squadron's longstanding service to the Regiment.

A Squadron returned to battle in January, rested and



Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017 brought an extremely busy training year to a close, and set the conditions for a return to Petawawa for a much appreciated period of rest, refit, and summer leave. Looking forward, A Squadron's compliment of skilled reconnaissance professionals eagerly await the challenges of the new training year, chiefly amongst them introducing and institutionalizing the TAPV fleet within 4th Canadian Division. There should be no doubt that A Squadron will succeed, surpassing expectations and working through another outstanding year.

FEED THE GOAT

ready to coordinate a number of Regimental Primary Combat Function courses and individual tasks, while concurrently sending a team to Kingston, Ontario for the TFTH confirmation CAX and final gateway training event prior to Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. Once complete, A Squadron took some time in February to hone soldier skills during Exercise FROZEN GOAT, a series of focused winter warfare training sessions spread amongst the myriad of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017 preparations and vehicle movements. This exercise included an advanced shooting and camouflage and concealment package coordinated with 2 CMBG's Master Sniper and team, as well as a session on electronic warfare (EW) capabilities and EW defense, provided by the team from 212 EW Squadron. A Squadron also travelled to Valcartier, Quebec to conduct Exercise SABOT GOAT, a Level 3 live practice designed to confirm the Regiments new troop leaders and crew commanders freshly qualified during the fall.



After a quick post-exercise breather during March Break, A Squadron deployed to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. Completing a second Level 5 live fire training event and the force-on-force portion, A Squadron demonstrated its prowess. A Squadron soldiers effortlessly transitioned between sneak and peek reconnaissance tasks and bold and swift killing tasks, indicative of the flexibility of mind and tactical acumen of the soldiers of A Squadron. These exercises were not without its challenging moments, however. A Squadron lost a good friend and warrior during its time in Wainwright, Sgt Robert Dynierowicz, who was tragically killed in a vehicle accident during training. Dyno will always be remembered as a proud Dragoon, and will not be forgotten by the men and women of A Squadron.





B SQUADRON

Demonstrating flexibility of thought and agility of action, this year saw B Squadron conduct a variety of different tasks, in varied operational contexts, and over the course of multiple exercises culminating in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017.

The year kicked off following B Squadron's return from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2016. After a period of rest, which saw most of B Squadron take leave during the month of July, soldiers quickly transitioned into training for the Road to High Readiness (R2HR).

In August, B Squadron deployed to Meaford, Ontario in order to conduct mounted and dismounted IBTS and BTS training up to Level 2. B Squadron participated in a number of ranges and training activities including pairs jungle lanes, and patrol level battle runs in Coyotes and LAV 3s, all integrated with Armoured Army Reserve Forces from across Ontario.

Upon its return, B Squadron began preparations for Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT and IRONMAN. In September, many members of B Squadron competed in the annual IRONMAN endurance race, notably B Squadron Sergeant-Major MWO Barrett who placed

1st in the master's category and B Squadron 2IC Capt Fetzner who finished in the top 10. With ice packs and blisters still intact following IRONMAN, B Squadron quickly shifted gears and established the small arms stand for Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT including the construction of multiple trenches and firing positions at Juliette Tower from which to demonstrate various weapons systems to industry and government representatives.

In October, B Squadron deployed on Exercise WALKING DRAGOON which was conducted in three distinct parts. The first portion saw B Squadron deploy to the Whitewater Region and conduct training throughout Beachburg, Cobden, Forrester's Falls, and Eganville. The space available in the RMA allowed B Squadron to test its communications and replenishment abilities while enabling the troops to focus on troop tasks within a squadron context. The next portion saw the troops confirmed to Level 3 live in the RMA, testing their ability to shoot, move, and communicate. After all the troops were confirmed to Level 3 live, B Squadron transitioned to Level 4 dry training under the direction of RHQ.

The hectic pace continued through the fall with B Squadron spending Remembrance Day in Eganville,



building, arctic tent routine, ice fishing and snaring, as well as snowmobile training. The fun and challenging exercise was capped off on the final evening with a large bonfire and rum ration.

March saw B Squadron focus on final preparations and vehicle shipments to Wainwright, Alberta as well as a much needed March break. At the end of March, much of B Squadron began to deploy to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise RUGGED BEAR, Exercise TOMAHAWK FURY, and Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017.

April to June saw B Squadron participate in the culminating R2HR training exercises. During Exercise RUGGED BEAR, B Squadron participated in a Level 5 live fire range while acting as the Regiment's OPI for 2 CMBG's live fire convoy range. The convoy range was a success with many 2 CMBG units participating in and receiving valuable training which would be put to the test during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. During Exercise Ex TOMAHAWK FURY, B Squadron deployed in support of the Brigade level area defence. The Squadron then stood-down for a few days of some much needed rest and relaxation in Edmonton before beginning preparations for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. In a variety of real world scenarios and situations against an opportunistic and cunning enemy force, B Squadron was put to the test during a challenging and dynamic Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. B Squadron acquitted itself well and was confirmed operationally ready for the coming year of high readiness.

Following Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, B Squadron redeployed to Petawawa for a quick break before preparing to participate in the 2 CMBG Change of Command parade followed by a much needed summer leave period.

Overall 2016 and 2017 was a challenging, high tempo year which saw B Squadron tested in many ways under demanding circumstances. The successes of B Squadron are a testament to the dedication and commitment of its soldiers and the high standard of leadership of its senior NCOs and Officers. B Squadron stands ready for whatever the coming year may bring.

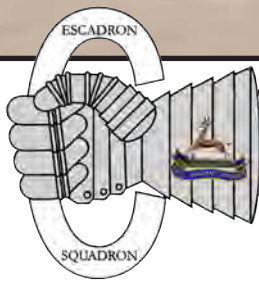
HIT HARD, HIT FAST

Ontario. After a sombre ceremony, the reception downstairs at the legion was shaping up to be quite lively; unfortunately SSM Barrett decided to sing with the band and this resulted in the electricity to all of Eganville being knocked out.

B Squadron spent the duration of November studying and training for the right of line competition. The hard work paid off and B Squadron was awarded Right of Line at the 2016 Leliefontein parade. The remainder of November saw B Squadron conduct a Level 4 computer aided exercise (CAX) over 2 days. The first day saw everyone perform their normal positions, while the second day had all crew commanders and above step up one level to expose them to the duties and responsibilities of the next level of command. The month culminated with B Squadron participating in Exercise STORMING BEAR, a Level 4 live fire integrating direct fires with live artillery, explosive breaching, and culminating with a live attack by fire on an enemy position.

In December, much of B Squadron's leadership was involved in a Level 6 CAX while the remainder of the Squadron conducted post-exercise drills and ran a 25mm crew commander upgrade course in order to prepare some of the Regiment's gunners to go on their crew commander course in the New Year. The month of December culminated with B Squadron participation in silly season activities, conducting a final clean-up and preparation for Christmas leave.

In the New Year, B Squadron was tasked as the OPI for a 25mm Basic Gunnery course. The winter months also saw B Squadron deploy some of its members in support of a Level 7 CAX in Kingston, Ontario. The highlight of the winter training period was Exercise FROZEN SPARTAN, a Squadron led basic winter warfare exercise. The exercise included basic survival training, shelter



C SQUADRON

From validating Canadian combat teams to qualifying their commanders, it did not happen this year unless C Squadron was there. With participation in 14 major exercises and independently running 7 tank and TLAV primary combat function (PCF) courses, 2016-2017 was yet another busy year for the RCD Gagetown Detachment. When C Squadron did occasionally have some spare time, they took the time to perfect their dodgeball skills and helped the Strathconas fix their tanks.

2016 saw a critical mass of C Squadron leadership move on to other postings. This included three troop leaders, two troop Warrant Officers, the Operations Sergeant, the Maintenance Sergeant, three other crew commanders, the SQMS, the Squadron 2IC, and the Officer Commanding. Many new faces joined the ranks of C Squadron, some just off tank qualification courses and even some not yet qualified. Just as Task Force Tomahawk (TFTH) stood up, C Squadron was in a frenzy of training and reorganization, rebuilding itself in order to make good on a remit to no less than four Divisions. From supporting Combat Training Center IT to 2 CMBG Road to High Readiness (R2HR), members

of C Squadron stepped-up to deliver on a tall order. Out of necessity, many performed to a level exceeding rank, experience, and comfort zone. With a marathon of a Fall training cycle looming, SHQ and the troops got to work in rebuilding the Squadron. During the summer, with the OC and some Squadron leadership deployed to the LARGE SCALE EXERCISE in California, Captain Pompili and Master Warrant Officer Larouche led the "C-Team" through rapid Troop re-organisation, tank maintenance, PCF courses, IBTS, and other High Readiness gateway training.

In early fall, Captain Barber, Warrant Officer Trubela, and 3 Troop deployed to Petawawa for Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT. Crewmen and supporters had the opportunity to conduct dry and live-fire combined arms operations with 1 RCR. The exercise also provided 3 Troop the occasion to showcase the Leopard 2's mobility and firepower to military, government, and civilian VIPs observing the exercise.

At the same time, C Squadron stood up two tank crews as part of the 4th Division Team for WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE. Under the leadership of Captain Panza



and Warrant Officer Bard, team members underwent a rigorous two month training plan prior to the competition. Hard work paid off, particularly on the tank range, with the crews' cumulative score being the highest in the history of the competition. Overall, this solid performance placed C Squadron crews first amongst their Canadian counterparts and second overall, next to a very deserving Danish Army contingent. Their turnout also contributed to 4 Division's top standing in the competition.

Immediately following WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE, C Squadron launched into its month-long gun camp. Multiple training goals were achieved in a relatively short time. C Squadron simultaneously executed Leopard 2 gunnery courses for gunners and crew commanders, crew and troop level simulator and live fire ranges, as well as Level 4 live fire attacks. At the same time, several troops and SHQ elements rotated through dry combat team operations with 2 RCR during its R2HR Battle Group exercise, Exercise STORMING ROYAL 17. The gun camp and 2 RCR's exercise culminated with a 10 km long squadron-level live-fire advance to contact operation through the LAWFIELD CORRIDOR. A welcome change from typical conventional ranges, crews engaged realistic enemy targets while maneuvering in complex terrain. For many it was their first experience doing contact drills and hasty flanking attacks with live rounds. Many Squadron members, not even tank-qualified months prior, completed the exercise as experienced crewmen. At "END-EX", C Squadron deployed to Worthington Tank Park for a quick maintenance cycle and joined the 12e RBC for their next task.

C squadron fell in with the 12e RBC Battle Group just in time for Exercise COMMON GROUND II in November. Its members quickly integrated into the Regiment with a short but intense battle group exercise, followed by

rehearsals with A Company, 2 R22R in preparation for the Combat Team Commander's Course. Though the primary training audience were students on the Combat Team Commander and DP4 Squadron Sergeant-Major courses, it was an excellent training opportunity in combined arms integration and battle group operations. Besides the Gagetown weather, C Squadron's biggest challenge was maintaining respectable force strength of tanks given the numerous maintenance and sustainment issues plaguing Canada's Leopard 2 fleet. For some RCD members, the exercise was their first exposure to the 12e RBC. Many friends were made on and off the field – particularly with members of A and D Squadrons in the canteen at the Worthington Tank Park.

Following Christmas Leave, C Squadron commenced preparations for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. From January to April, dozens of technicians and crewmen went to Edmonton to lend a hand to the LdSH (RC) maintaining the tanks we were destined for use in Wainwright, Alberta. Other preparations continued throughout the Winter and Spring including TLAV driver and crew commander courses, as well as another Leopard 2 gunnery course. In March, C Squadron was back at the tank ranges to complete the Leopard gunnery course and final gateway training prior to MAPLE RESOLVE. While on the range, C Squadron was visited by the RCD Regimental Patron, R2IC, DSM, and



members of the Friends of the Regiment who gladly partook in the exercise by firing off a few rounds as gunners, test driving the Leopard 2 and even a TAPV (special thanks to the RCACS). At the end of their visit, the Friends of the Regiment also got to experience a uniquely Maritime phenomena, that is, getting "fogged-in" at the airport for two days. The gun camp concluded with C Squadron family day. Despite the fog, the event was a hit, with the kids giving two thumbs



up for the live fire demo, tank rides, and the car crush.

After some much-needed time off, C Squadron joined the rest of the Regiment and 2 CMBG in Wainwright, Alberta for the longest Wainwright exercise in recent memory. Key to validating most of 2 CMBG's units and sub-units, C squadron was fortunate to benefit from a lot of high class training. That privilege came, however, with very little rest. During Exercsie RUGGED BEAR, troops experienced day and night live combat team attacks maneuvering through kilometers of the Wainwright Badlands, much of the time while hatches-down. C Squadron's 120mm ammo set fire to several hectares of the training area, as well as most of the live fire range target stores (sorry 1 RCR). Following Exercise RUGGED BEAR, 2 CMBG shifted focus from offensive to defensive operations. Mobile and Area defensive operations were practiced during Exercise TOMAHAWK FURY, against a smart and innovative enemy force, composed mostly of A Squadron. Planning and rehearsing armour counter-moves at the Brigade and Battle-Group levels was rewarding training. C Squadron's time in Wainwright wrapped up with the Squadron acting as the decisive element in both serials of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, dividing its time and combat power between the RCD, 1 RCR, and 2 RCR Battle Groups.

Upon redeployment and a short break, C Squadron capped off a long Spring and Summer with an inter-troop dodgeball tournament and mug-outs for its posted out members. C Squardon also bade farewell and good luck to the initial six C Squadron members deploying overseas with 3 RCR to Ukraine. While most

of 2 CMBG takes a breath with another training year at an end, C Squadron is pounding track and turning wrenches on its tired tanks, bracing for yet another training cycle, ready to support another list of clients needing the Level 5 "check in the box". This year saw C Squadron maintain its reputation as the Army's go-to sub-unit. From designing and managing its own training, to assuring the preparedness of many others, its members have reason to be proud.





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D SQUADRON

This year, D Squadron took on a new role within the Regiment, trialling a Combat Support Squadron concept under the command of Major Chloëann Summerfield and Master Warrant Officer Troy Corbett. The D Squadron ORBAT changed and shifted significantly as D Squadron formed Combat Support Troops, taking command of some of RHQ including MUAS and Signals Troops.

Initial reorganization saw the traditional Coyote Troops move to specialized functions under the eager leadership of troop leaders and warrants: MUAS Tp(C/S GHOST, Captain Chapman and Sergeant Mason), Direct Fire Support (DFS) Troop (C/S OGRE, Captain Smith and Warrant Officer MacKenzie), and Regimental Reconnaissance Troop (C/S 60, Captain Aiqi and Warrant Officer Edwards). Combining specialized forces and administratively caring for members of D Squadron in garrison definitely created some lessons learned throughout the year, keeping the Operations team (Captain Justason, BC and Warrant Officer White, Ops WO) and Administration Troop (Captain Dunn, 2IC and Warrant Officer Langdon, SQMS) extremely busy. Readily pushing forward, D Squadron demonstrated its ability to not only master

crewman skills, but to lead the way as subject matter experts in MUAS, direct fire including C-16, and close reconnaissance tactics for the Regiment.

D Squadron's fall schedule was similar to the other Squadrons but as always, D Squadron added a little flair. The majority of MUAS Troop was sent to Gagetown to participate in 2 RCR's Level 5 live ranges while the remainder of D Squadron took part in the Regimental fall training exercises and annual tasks. This culminated in Exercise STORMING BEAR, 2 CMBG's Level 4/5 live ranges, during which D Squadron used its own integral resources with the addition of a Mechanized Infantry Platoon from 1 RCR, FOO/JTAC, and Engineers, to FIND, FIX and STRIKE the enemy as an independent Squadron.

Following the fall training period, D Squadron underwent further reorganization in anticipation of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, this time adding Signals Troop (Captain Myers and Warrant Officer Brophy) and rerolling the DFS Troop into a Defence and Security (D&S) Troop, where the troop developed and practiced command post (CP) protection, movement, and reconnaissance. Without this shift, the RCD Battle Group would have been left vulnerable during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE



Course ran by the Royal Canadian Artillery School. Corporals Deutch and Meena were awarded CO's coins for their leadership during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017 whereby their dismounted reconnaissance patrol infiltrated 3 RCR's Battalion command post and single handily disabled their communication, command, and control infrastructure. Sergeant Selway, Corporal Hewitt, and Corporal Slattery participated as a part of the Regiment's 2016 Nijmegen Team. D Squadron also saw 15 of its soldiers endure IRONMAN 2016, with all of them finishing despite the persistent rain on Day 1. Although the Squadron lost the battle for Right of Line, D Squadron produced some of the best soldiers in the Regiment.

without vital command, control, and communication functions. The D&S Tp proved to be invaluable during the movement and establishment of the Regimental CP, while GHOST and 60 excelled in providing the Regiment with a vital FIND function.

Upon return from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, D Squadron was once again rerolled, this time as the mounting subunit for the unique task of providing an ISR Troop in support of Operation REASSURANCE, NATO's Canadian Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group in Latvia. Fall 2017 will see a continuation in the R2HR cycle, as D Squadron prepares its soldiers for integration with Battle Groups who will be relying on these soldiers to be experts in surveillance, MUAS, and close reconnaissance capabilities. 41 will likely deploy in January 2018 with the 2 RCR BG and subsequently 42 in June 2018 with the 1 RCR BG. In addition, D Squadron will inevitably provide the bulk of Signals Troop and some well-deserving soldiers for key positions on operations, particularly as the Regiment begins to stand-up for Operation UNIFIER.



In addition to its major training events, D Squadron continued to excel in extra-curricular activities. Corporal Figueiredo competed on the Garrison Petawawa ice hockey team and went to Nationals, where he and his team came in first place. Trooper Haines placed second overall at Squash Nationals. Trooper Legare competed in the National Military Combative Grappling Championships where he placed first overall in his category. Sergeant Monaghan led his WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE team to victory with Master Corporal Latter as his gunner. Master Corporal Travis and Corporal Shattraw were awarded the 2017 Trailblazer Coach Excellence Award for their continued commitment to volunteering with the Ottawa Valley Youth Football League. Recognized for excellence in the Regiment, Master Corporal (Sergeant) Mason was awarded the Top Crewman Master Corporal Award and Trooper (Corporal) Figueiredo was named the Top Crewman Trooper during Leliefontein 2016. MCpl Orr earned Top Candidate on the MUAS Detachment Commander





HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

In late July, members of HQ Squadron began returning from a well-deserved summer leave. Though many soldiers had remained in HQ Squadron after the Annual Posting Season changeovers due to their skill sets, the Squadron welcomed new members from the line squadrons and outside postings. Amongst them were the incoming Officer Commanding (OC), Major Nicolas Forsyth, and incoming Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM), Master Warrant Officer John Green, as well as newly arrived drivers, maintainers, logisticians and cooks. Once the introductions were made and the job familiarization was complete, HQ Squadron embarked on what would be a busy Road to High Readiness (R2HR) training year.

The Squadron's first major training event was Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN, which took place in Meaford, Ontario. It began with a Regimental road move through Algonquin Park and eventually saw the Regiment established in weather havens in Garrison Meaford. Thanks to 2IC HQ Sqn, Captain Dustin Silmsier, and SSM Green, the squadron made excellent use of the local facilities to house maintenance and the Quartermaster, while providing sustainment to the

Regiment concurrent to its own IBTS training. This was also the first opportunity for Transport Troop (Tpt Tp), commanded by Captain Blair Wilhelm and Warrant Officer Matt Taylor, to get the troop in the field and practice its drills.

Once back from Meaford, HQ Squadron rolled into a busy September that included the Terry Fox sports day, 2 CMBG IRONMAN, and Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT, where its junior leaders like Corporal Kyle O'Meara acted as Fire Team Partners for the Brigade's visitors. Then came October, where HQ Squadron was able to tactically deploy and practice hide routine as part of Exercise WALKING DRAGOON. For two nights, it fought off attacks by the other Squadrons' patrols, while still practicing its internal drills. Tpt Tp also took the opportunity to conduct joint Delivery Point training with 2 Svc Bn and then took part in a live convoy range.

The end of October saw the Regiment transition to preparations for Exercise STORMING BEAR, which it would run on behalf of 2 CMBG. Under the direction of SSM Green, groupings from the Regiment began building the camp that would house EXCON/HICON.

HQ Squadron then took over the task of sustaining the camp on a daily basis for the duration of the exercise. Only Maintenance Troop (Maint Tp) assets saw action during the Level 5 live traces as part of the Squadron echelons. However, near the end, Tpt Tp was once again able to conduct a convoy live trace to build on its success from the previous exercise. The following weeks included low-level Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses, a computer aided exercise (CAX) that tested HQ Squadron CP, and the usual pre-Christmas activities.

Upon returning from Christmas leave, HQ Squadron began preparing for its PCF courses and coordinating the movement of the Regiment's vehicles and equipment to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. In late January, a small group led by Captain Silmsier headed off to Kingston, Ontario for Exercise TOMAHAWK THRUST, a CAX that once again exercised the CP as it sustained an armour Battle Group (BG). In Petawawa, HQ Squadron ran a number of driver and First Aid courses, while concurrently preparing stores, spare parts, and other equipment for Wainwright. After March Break, HQ Squadron's lead elements began deploying to Wainwright to establish the RCD camp and prepare everything for the arrival of the Regiment.

By early April, HQ Squadron complete was in Camp TOMAHAWK in the Wainwright Training Area and was prepared to sustain the Regiment during its training. For most troops, it was business as usual; however, with C Squadron on the ground, Maint Tp had to quickly get accustomed to sourcing tank parts and POL in a deployed setting. During the initial portion of the exercise, the Squadron was busy sustaining the line squadrons on the Level 5 live range with battle resupplies and maintenance support. It was then able to deploy off the camp and practice forward sustainment during 2 CMBG's defensive exercise. When it came time for the RCD BG to deploy into the "box" during the force-on-force, HQ Squadron was ready to go. It had honed its tactics over the previous weeks and become an agile yet robust sub-unit. It moved 7 times in 7 days while still resupplying the BG sub-units daily and providing maintenance and casualty evacuation support. When probed by the enemy, it maintained a secure perimeter and was never compromised. Overall, HQ Squadron's success throughout the force-on-force was a testament to the warrior mentality instilled by SSM Green, and the hard work and dedication from all members towards getting the job done despite the weather or enemy situation.

At the conclusion of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, HQ Squadron began its redeployment back to Petawawa. With only a few weeks to go until summer leave, it was busy receiving vehicles and taking part in numerous

Regimental and Brigade functions. Now, as it looks forward to another hard-earned summer leave, it stands poised to build on the lessons learned from the past year. Under the leadership of the incoming OC, Captain Silmsier, and incoming SSM, Master Warrant Officer Troy Corbett, HQ Squadron welcomes the challenges that high readiness and the eventual receipt of new TAPVs will bring.









100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

From the 25 June – 5 July 2016, Warrant Officer “T” Snyder had the honour and privilege to represent not only the Regiment, but all Canadians, during the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel in France. The battle of the Somme 1916 started on 1 July and lasted until 18 November 1916. Fittingly, the official Government of Canada’s ceremonies for the battle of Beaumont-Hamel took place on Canada Day, 1 July 2016.

After a few days of parade practice in Ottawa, Warrant Officer Snyder travelled to Belgium with more than 100 soldiers, sailors, and airmen and airwomen from across Canada, representing both Regular and Reserve force personnel. The majority of them came from Regiments that had participated in the Battle of the Somme 1916. The group was lodged in Mons, Belgium and travelled by bus into France to participate in the ceremonies at Beaumont-Hamel and Courcellette. During those two parades, Warrant Officer Snyder

was tasked as a Guard Division Warrant Officer, and prior to the Beaumont-Hamel ceremony, was also privileged to act as the Quarter Guard Commander for the arrival of HRH Prince Charles, our Regimental Colonel in Chief.

The Battle at Beaumont-Hamel was fought by soldiers from the First Newfoundland Regiment. It was a tragedy from the beginning. Allied artillery failed to breach the German wire obstacles and barbed wire. This was confirmed by Allied reconnaissance patrols the night prior however, this was dismissed by Commanders as untrue, they believed that their artillery was effective and that the reconnaissance patrols were inexperienced. As the soldiers climbed over the tops of their trenches they soon found themselves suffering heavy casualties from German machine gun fire. The Germans were in defilade and easily killed the soldiers from the First Newfoundland Regiment with enfilade fire. It was what could



only be considered text book tactics. Of the 801 soldiers from the First Newfoundland Regiment that left their trenches that morning, only 68 men answered roll call the next morning. The Regiment suffered over 700 killed, wounded, or missing in action. On the memorial wall at Beaumont-Hamel situated beneath the majestic Canadian caribou monument are the names of all those who did not answer roll call the following morning, the youngest being only 14 years old.

Following the ceremonies at Beaumont-Hamel the group moved to Courcellette. During a break in the parade practice, Warrant Officer Snyder was approached by the Contingent Commander and asked if he, as well as his Strathcona counterpart, would like to visit Moreuil Wood being that they were black hatters. The two eagerly said yes and

were driven to the site of one of history's last cavalry charges.

Following the ceremonies at Courcellette, the group was able to enjoy a few days of battlefield and cemetery tours. At each site, Warrant Officer Snyder was educated by a professor from the Royal Military College of Canada who gave an in depth history lesson at each stop.

Warrant Officer Snyder also had the privilege of visiting several places where Dragoons before us had fought and earned the battle honours that are now emblazoned on our Guidon. What Warrant Officer Snyder did not realize was just how close some of these places actually were to each other. Somme, Bazentin, Pozieres, Flers-Courcellette, Cambrai, and the Hindenburg Line were all within close proximity and demonstrates how hard fought these battles were and how long it took to defeat the enemy and then retain ground.

To finish the trip, Warrant Officer Snyder was able to visit the Vimy Ridge memorial, including a tour of the trenches and tunnels that are usually off limits to tourists. "The feelings one gets inside those tunnels definitely makes you think of the struggles, horrors and pain those soldiers endured. But when you are standing in front of the Vimy memorial, those feelings become one of immense pride. It truly is an awesome sight and for some it was hard to hide their emotions" – WO Snyder.



Warrant Officer Snyder was honoured to be apart of Operation DISTINCTION and to represent both former and serving Dragoons. "It is our duty to preserve our Regimental history going forward. We must ensure those that will come after us understand the sacrifices Dragoons made during the Battle of the Somme and all other battles and conflicts we have been engaged in throughout the years" – WO Snyder.



NIJMEGEN 2016

The International Four Days Marches Nijmegen has been an ongoing event for 100 years, and for each of the past 64 years, the CAF has marched as representatives of their Nation, recognizing the special bond shared between Canada and The Netherlands since the Second World War. The march is an open event and sees over 45,000 marchers from over 50 countries complete varying distance marches over the course of 4 days. The military portion of the march consists of 4 days of 40km weighted marches throughout Dutch cities and countryside. During the 2016 marches, over 200 CAF personnel from throughout Canada and Formation Europe partook in the event, including 11 Dragoons.

In early January 2016, 15 teams from across the Forces were chosen to travel to The Netherlands in July to complete the marches.

The RCD team, captained by Captain Nate MacIntosh and Sgt Tom Matthews, began a Regiment wide selection process. Out of the 60+ candidates, the team of 11 was chosen in early April and began the team specific training, culminating in two back to back 40km marches throughout Pembroke and Petawawa. After training for over 500km and with all the final preparations in place, the team was ready to depart for the challenge ahead.

Before the marches, the Canadian Contingent flew into France to take part in two war memorial parades at Vimy and Beaumont Hamel. Both events saw the contingent participate in battlefield tours where they honoured the sacrifice made by the Canadians in the First and Second World Wars. Filled with a reinvigorated sense of pride

and humility, the team made the final leg of its journey from France to Camp Heeumensoord, Netherlands where they would camp during the marches.

On Day 1 of the marches, the team took part in the opening ceremonies and marched out along with the entire Canadian contingent for the first leg of the event. The first 40km saw the Dragoons march through the city of Nijmegen itself and through several small surrounding communities. The initial support from the Dutch people was overwhelming and further drove the Dragoons to succeed. After a very warm and challenging first day of marching, the Dragoons returned to Heeumensoord to bandage their blisters and soak their feet in preparation for the next day.

Day 2 took the team through Nijmegen again, but this time they travelled EAST out to the Dutch countryside. Despite the blistering temperatures, men, women and children lined the streets to hand out snacks and water to all marchers, and the cheers and jubilation seemed a little bit louder every time a Canadian flag marched past.

The third day of marches is said to be the most challenging and put the RCD team to the test. The route, like the previous days, saw the teams march through a seemingly never ending stream of supporters in small communities, many of which had streets lined with cobblestone. While such a small detail like stones does not seem like much of a hindrance after all that preparation, the varying heights and shapes of the streets further tested the marchers, as at this point everyone's feet were beginning to feel the effects of the previous 80km. During the course of Day 3, the contingent marched by the Groesbeek cemetery, where the teams paused for a brief ceremony to remember those who have given their lives in service of their country.

By Day 4 many of the countries teams had experienced dwindling numbers, mainly due to heat related injuries; yet at this point not a single CAF marcher had fallen out. In keeping with "military tradition", day 4 saw the marchers walk through several hours of torrential rainfall. With pride in their voices, the Dragoons sang and marched along with an American and Dutch team to push through the grueling conditions. As the team approached the town of Cuijk, approximately 10km from the finish line, the sky's broke and the Dragoons were met with an overwhelming site. Over 30,000 Dutch citizens lined the streets and rooftops of the city cheering on the marchers to the final stage of the march.

The last 10km seemed like the longest portion of the march, but as a team, all 11 Dragoons crossed the finish line and were presented with their Nijmegen Medal by the Contingent Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Kristiana Stevens, along with her Commanders coin. In addition to the individual medals, teams could also be presented a team completion medal if all members finished the four days. Not only did all Dragoons finish the march, but so did every other member of the Canadian Contingent. After the medals were presented, the team was given the option of participating in the Gladiola Parade, a 5km weightless march from the military finish line, across the official event finish line for all non-military marchers. All those that were able adorned their berets and walked through thousands and thousands of supporters who freely handed out refreshments and gladiolas; a Dutch flower given to soldiers during the liberation of Holland. This small ceremonial gesture was an emotional experience for all and further reaffirmed the strong ties our two countries share.

Following the parade, the team retired to Heeumensoord (by bus thankfully) and spoke the entire way of their plans for celebration that night; however, upon returning to camp they all promptly fell asleep. Before returning



to Canada, the contingent travelled to Harscamp, a Dutch Military camp located near the city of Arnhem, for two days of rest and relaxation. The team had a day to themselves to take in the local community and the next day had planned to take advantage of a unique opportunity.

The city of Leeuwarden is located an hour and half away from Harscamp. Through Regimental contacts, the team was able to plan a day trip to the city that holds such a significant place in The Regiments history. After a short bus ride the team was met by Mr. Piet Prins, Mr. Marco Kalmijn, and their small contingent from the Canadian Liberators Foundation. This is a group that aims to maintain relations between Canadian veterans, their families, their Regiments and Friesland, and focuses on the promotion of awareness, especially of young people, in both Canada and the Netherlands on the important role that Canadian soldiers played during the Second World War in the liberation of their country. After a quick cup of coffee, Mr. Prins took the team on a walking tour of the city. The Dragoons were able to see famous landmarks and buildings as well as comparing pictures from the liberation of The Netherlands during the Second World War, with what the

sites look like today. They were also able to view the plaque located near the center of the city, recognizing the role the RCD played in the liberation of Leeuwarden. Following lunch, the group continued their trip with a boat tour of the city from its famous canals and were taken to a house on the outskirts of town, where an RCD camp flag is proudly flown year round. As the day wound down, everyone came together for a BBQ and some refreshments before saying their goodbyes. The hospitality was unparalleled and the camaraderie that developed in such a short period created relationships that will never be forgotten, and only further cemented the bond we share with the citizens of The Netherlands.

The Nijmegen Marches are truly an indescribable experience. The community, support and encouragement, atmosphere, and sheer emotion of the marches are unlike anything else. All the training, all the blisters, all the kilometers covered, seemed insignificant when compared to the sense of solidarity felt between the Canadians and the Dutch. The feeling of pride when the cheers got that little bit louder as a Canadian flag marched past, will be carried with these 11 Dragoons for the rest of their lives.

KNOW YOUR RIDE

TACTICAL ARMoured PATROL VEHICLE (TAPV)



The TAPV is a wheeled combat vehicle that can perform a variety of roles on the battlefield, such as reconnaissance and surveillance, security, command and control, cargo and armoured transport of personnel and equipment.

RECONNAISSANCE (RECCE)

193

to be delivered

> **138** will be equipped with a remote weapons system

> Crew of **3** personnel (driver, crew commander, gunner) and **2** passengers



GENERAL UTILITY (GU)

307

to be delivered

> **226** will be equipped with a remote weapons system

> Crew of **3** personnel (driver, crew commander, gunner) and **3** passengers



- > Multi-purpose wheeled combat vehicle
- > Reconnaissance and surveillance
- > Armoured transport of personnel and equipment
- > Mobility in tough terrain
- > Equipped with a remote weapons system

Dimensions:

6.81 m

Length

2.75 m

Width

2.39 m

(roof)

3.21 m

Height

(with remote weapons system)

Combat load:	18 500 kg (gross vehicle weight) (40 785 lbs)
Maximum forward speed:	110 km/h
Range:	650 km @ 88 km/h
Fuel type:	Diesel or JP-8 (jet-fuel)
Fuel capacity:	272 L (main) + 19 L (reserve)



Large Scale Exercise 2016 (LSE 16) is a multinational computer assisted exercise that spans the majority of August each year. Every year, the designated Road to High Readiness (R2HR) Canadian Brigade command team, Brigade HQ staff, and LOCON staff provided by various Units, travel to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Centre, Twenty Nine Palms, California. The training facility is centred in the Mojave Desert situated at just north of latitude heat exhaustion and a little south of latitude consistently dehydrated.

LSE 16 was staged out of Camp Wilson, a training facility located directly in the middle of the training area and houses thousands of Marines conducting training year round. The Marines welcomed the Canadian contingent

to their camp with open arms and a game of football.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons provided two LOCON groupings and also filled various roles within 2 CMBG HQ. The LOCON groupings were comprised of four members from A Squadron and three members from C Squadron. A Squadron provided the Brigade with an Armoured Reconnaissance element, operating well forward of the remainder of the Brigade throughout the duration of the exercise. C Squadron acted as a tank Regiment and alternatively provided the

LSE 16

Brigade with a direct firepower capability wherever required.

During off hours, the Dragoon team whiled away their time by starting a running club that met every evening, where they began working their way towards completing a ten kilometer run in the blistering heat. With the 3000 feet of elevation and above average temperatures typically ranging in the mid-forties, it took a while for the Dragoons to find their stride. Yet, much to the chagrin of all the other Units present, the running club met their goal and put the outdated stereotypical joking about the fitness of Armoured Corps personnel to rest.

LSE 16 utilized the DATE model scenario, a relatively new scenario to the CAF which focuses on conventional warfare fought against a near peer enemy in a complex multi-cultural landscape. In this new scenario, each culture and subculture had competing ideals, beliefs, governmental structures and intents, meaning that all the personnel from both the Canadian and Marine contingents had their work cut out for them.

The tactical scenario was a seven day advance over several hundred kilometers, fighting an enemy established in a defensive posture. The first portion of the advance saw the Marine Corps leading from a coastal urban area and propelling the Canadian Brigade forward to the mountains and subsequent desert, culminating in a final enemy strongpoint in another built-up area.

It was not until the fourth day of the advance that 2 CMBG officially departed the rear area and pushed past the Marine Corps' forward edge. The fighting that ensued, through the rocky mountain passes and open desert, enabled a unique training opportunity for both the members of HICON and LOCON. Both groups performed with the utmost proficiency much to the surprise of the Marine Corps, but even more so to the personnel acting as the

enemy force. At the conclusion of leading the advance for three days the enemy was forced into a mass surrender in which they released the following statement:

"We have laid down our arms, not due to the underwhelming might of the United States Marine Corps, but due to the overwhelming fighting power and aggressiveness of 2 Brigade of the Canadian Armed Forces."

With that message of congratulations the exercise ended and the members of the Canadian contingent bid a fond farewell to the scorching heat and increased elevation of Twenty Nine Palms, California. They returned to their units with lessons learned and ready to continue their training in preparation for their high readiness rotation.

Our HISTORY.



Trooper Steve Michlosky, who grew up on a farm southeast of Lake Winnipeg, died at age 21. He wrote many letters home to family and friends. In one he wrote: "I feel miserable and down for some reason.

There is a girl in Portage la Prairie who writes me often, about every three days. I guess I told you about her when I was back in Canada. She's beautiful and good and she's in love with me very much... I honestly don't know how I'll ever repay her for all her kindness and loyalty to a Soldier who is not worth any of it." Michlosky Lake, northeast of Lac Brochet, is named for him.





On 8-9 September, members of the Regiment participated in the annual 2 CMBG Ironman competition. Again, the RCD saw a large turnout for both days of the competition, with 67 participants, including 5 members from C Squadron. Once again, the RCD provided the largest team in the Brigade.

Training for Ironman 2016 started in early April with B Squadron taking the lead. The initial focus was to build the cardio endurance of members to prepare for the initial phase of the competition, being the 32km rucksack march. The training continued to escalate in distance and intensity as the month progressed. In May, with the majority of the Regiment deployed to Wainwright, Alberta, training became a personal responsibility to maintain. Upon return from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 16, the training was again increased in duration and intensity to include the use of rucksack to allow team members to get used to the weight load. However, team training was paused to accommodate the summer block leave period and Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN in Meaford, Ontario. As race

day approached the team held information sessions on proper canoe rigging and race day tips to allow first time participants some much needed guidance; with approximately 60% of the team being first time participants, this time was invaluable to preparation.

On 8 September at 0400hrs, 41 members of the Regiment, including the CO and RSM, stepped off to complete the Ironman on the first day of the competition. If the task of completing this challenge was not enough in itself, Mother Nature decided to add a little twist. At the start line there was a light rain which did not look promising for the day. As the day progressed the weather took a turn for the worse and the drizzle picked up to a strong steady rain. Even though the weather was making the day more challenging, this did not diminish the resolve of the competitors. All members of the Dragoon team made it through the 25km mark by 1000hrs to allow them all to complete the 32 km march the first portion of the race under the cut off time. Not failing to break tradition, there was a large turnout of spectators wearing the Springbok





at each point, now colloquially known as “the sea of red”. The day continued again with all members completing the portage and then again all members completing the canoe portion. With only a 6km ruck march left, the RCD were set to have a very successful day. Trooper Fess from A Squadron was the first Dragoon to cross the finish line on Day 1. At the end of the day, all 41 members that started crossed the finish line. This highlights the determination and relentless drive of the Regiment to never back down from any challenge despite the obstacles that may stand in the way.

On 9 September, a similar story unfolded except this time it was the Regiment's competitive team stepping across the line

at 0400hrs. This team of 26 was comprised of all rank, age, and experience levels. Mother Nature decided to co-operate and provide the competitive team perfect conditions to complete the race. The team goal was to have an average time of 7 hrs, calculated by the top 8 finishers of the day. The team took off looking strong through the first portions of the race with many members making it quite early to the 25km mark where once again “the sea of red” was waiting to cheer them on. The team continued to push hard to make the goal of an average time of 7 hrs or better. This goal looked to be in sight when Captain Fetzner, the first Dragoon across the line, was well under the 7 hr mark. Dragoons continued to flow in under the 7 hour mark. In the end the team achieved its goal with an average

time under 7 hrs. Although the Dragoons did not win the major unit award, one Dragoon managed to secure a place on the podium. Master Warrant Officer John Barrett crossed the line as the top masters male.

Over the 2 days of competition, 67 Dragoons stood up to the challenge of the Ironman race and for those who have not done so, that is a challenge in itself. For 40 of the participants, this was the first time they had completed this challenge, the majority of which were Troopers with not much time in the Regiment. The team also saw many members from the Chain of Command, to include the CO and RSM, complete the race. This demonstrates the dedication and drive of all members of the Regiment starting from the lowest rank to the highest. The Regiment can only hope to continue on with the tradition of these large teams and strive to bring our team average time down, while demonstrating our pride with our "sea of red".





WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE 2016

Worthington challenge is a dynamic and challenging military skills competition that takes place in Gagetown, New Brunswick. The competition entails physical fitness, navigation, Tactical Combat Causality Care, reconnaissance, obstacle course both mounted and dismounted, weapons skills, live fireranges, battle procedure, and various other rigorous tasks that fall within the realm of the combat arms. The competition is conducted over a 4 day span in a team construct that is organized by crews comprising of a vehicle crew commander, gunner, surveillance operator and a driver. It is broken down into 3 categories with teams from all over the world. The categories are tanks, armoured fighting vehicles (AFV), and light utility vehicle wheeled (LUVW) for the Army Reserves.

There were 2 AFV teams from the RCD and 1 tank team from C Sqn that competed in the competition. AFV team members included: Team 1 – Sergeant Monaghan Commander, Corporal Latter Gunner, Corporal Leberge Bedard Surveillance Operator and Corporal Jerome driver; and Team 2 – Master Corporal Aube Commander, Corporal Vincent Gunner, Trooper Ledignham Surveillance Operator, and Trooper West driver. Both teams were coached by the 2015 AFV category champion, Sergeant Geoff Hollis. The C Sqn tank team was commanded by Captain Panza and coached by Warrant Officer Baird.

Training started a month before the competition and was fast and furious, filled with learning and physical fitness. During this



time, the average training day consisted of 2-3 hrs of physical fitness and 4-5 hrs of lectures and practical lessons on the tasks that were going to be tested during the competition.

The competition started off very early Monday morning in a round robin format. 4 Division was first up for the physical fitness/range day. This consisted of completing the obstacle course as a team under time stress, followed by a 7 km run dressed in full fighting order (FFO) to the range where they completed a variety of tasks such as causality extract, KIMS game, and a very dynamic range with carbine and pistol.

Day 2 saw the teams move to the training area to complete battle procedure and the 25mm range. Each team was given a set of orders based on the current situation and concurrently had to upload vehicles, complete bore sighting, and get the vehicle ready for live fire operations. Once completed,

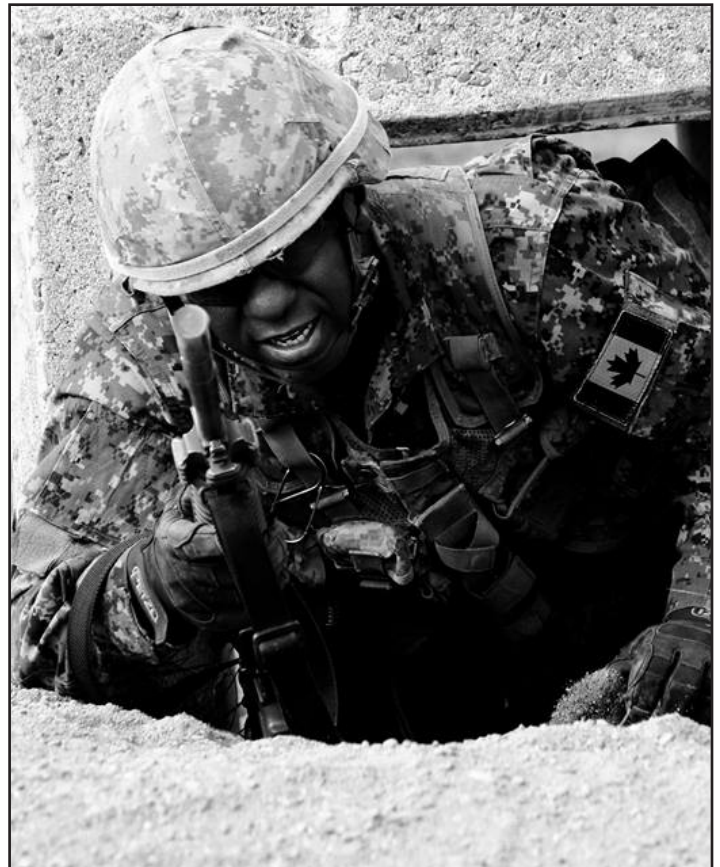
the team mounted up and moved to the range pad to complete the range. The range was very fast and challenging with a very wide arc of fire that challenged the gunner and commander to not only identify targets, but effectively engage them on the move.

The third day was the mounted obstacle course with various stands consisting of combat causality care, vehicle maintenance, physical fitness, reports and returns and the vehicle obstacle course. The day started with a hasty set of orders and then a 3 km run in FFO to the vehicle. Once mounted, the teams had to navigate the obstacle course that was littered with mine obstacles and various challenges. During the stand, the team reacted to injects such as a vehicle malfunction and a causality situation, where each team had to react quickly and effectively to rectify the issue under time constraints.

The last day was by far the most exciting day

of the challenge, the dismounted navigation to include other tasks such as observation post stand, UAV stand, all arms call for fire stand, AFV recognition stand, and finally the helicopter landing site stand. The construct of this day is what made it exciting. All the teams started at a central point with each team having a different stand to hit first. At the sound of the whistle the teams stepped off navigating dismounted to their stand location under very strict time constraints. After completion of each stand, the team would navigate their way back to the start point where they were given the location of their next stand.

The teams had a very challenging and exciting completion where all crew members were challenged differently. In the end, Team 1 from the RCD was victorious, winning the AFV category and having the best overall score in all Divisions, and the C Sqn tank team finished 2nd overall in the tank category. Overall, the teams from 4 Division performed extremely well, receiving several trophies and awards.







The late Lieutenant-General Richard E.W. Turner, recipient of the prestigious Victoria Cross, was an iconic member of The Royal Canadian Dragoons and remains an integral part of The Regiment's identity. On 26 October 2016, twenty Dragoons clad in ceremonial scarlets gathered to honour the memory of Lieutenant-General Turner alongside his family at Mount Hermon cemetery in Quebec City.

The Dragoon contingent travelled to Quebec City the day prior to prepare for the ceremony and receive a tour of La Citadelle, the oldest military fortification in Canada, home to the Royal 22e Régiment. The personnel selected for this task were chosen based on merit to enjoy this chance to represent The RCD in one of Canada's most historical cities, and enjoy a brief reprieve from an arduous Regimental fall training cycle. True to their nature, the

personnel continued to work on their uniforms upon arrival in Quebec City and conducted final checks the morning of the ceremony. They did not disappoint as the Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Hebert, remarked on how well the guard was turned out, recognizing the impressive state of their uniforms.

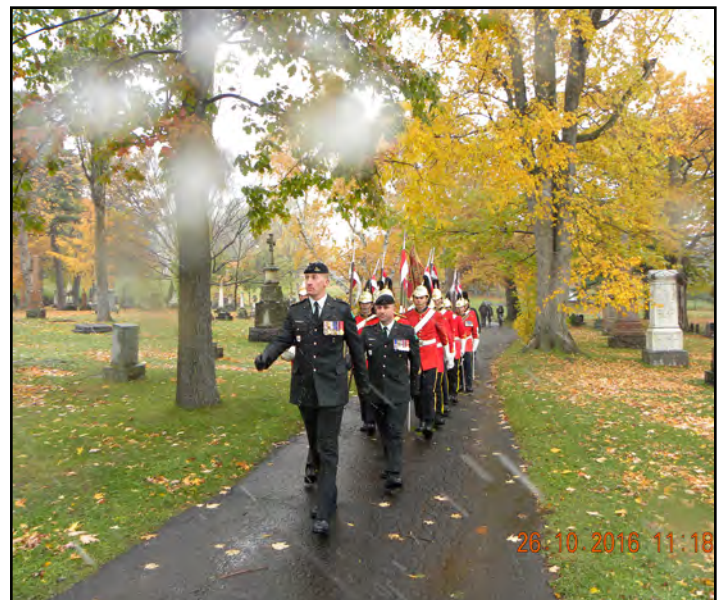
The executive director of Mount Hermon cemetery, Mark Brennan, arranged for two dias to be set-up, one near a collection of Canadian soldiers' graves, and the other beside Lieutenant-General Turner's burial site. The air was cool that morning and snow fell peacefully in Quebec City. The scarlet guard, led by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser Auld, marched in reverent silence to the first dias. Mr. Brennan gave a speech highlighting the sacrifice

Lieutenant-General Turner Memorial

Quebec City

made by many Canadians in the past and those currently serving. Several dignitaries were invited to lay wreaths honouring the fallen, followed by a brief address by the Commanding Officer. The scarlet guard then marched, followed by spectators, to the burial site of Lieutenant-General Turner, where his Victoria Cross was laid before the grave stone. Respects were paid to the Turner family with Mr. Robert Ross, grandson of Lieutenant-General Turner, offering words of thanks to The RCD for participating, and to the Regimental family and dignitaries who were present. Padre James Lee gave spiritual wisdom to the congregation, and all gave a moment of silence for all those honoured that day.

Following the ceremony, the Dragoons, spectators, and honoured guests gathered for a reception. The discussions naturally transformed into an information session about what The RCD and soldiers do. Some of the guests came away with a much greater understanding, and more importantly, an appreciation of what soldiers do and the sacrifices they make at home and on operations around the world.





Leliefontein

Parade 2016



Sandwiched in the middle of a 2 CMBG's Exercise STORMING BEAR, Leliefontein looked a little different this year. Instead of having an entire week to compete for the coveted Right of Line (RoL), our competitions were spread out throughout the fall. First off, the Harrier Race was executed in September. Unfortunately, the drill competitions were on hold due to Operational Tempo of the Regiment. That being said, we found other ways to keep the competitive spirit alive. Incorporated into RoL competitions this year were a series of tests to challenge the knowledge of the soldiers in several disciplines: AFV, international relations and geography, Regimental History, and ORL inspections. The idea behind expanding RoL competitions is to ensure that our soldiers continue to develop their physical, emotional and professional abilities. These tests enabled each Squadron to participate fairly through a sequence of study packages and training sessions. Needless to say, the tests provided a new challenge to the serving soldier, but it was also clear that the Sports Day and Chain of Command Race were missed by all. Once the scores were finalized and tests signed off, B Squadron came out with the lead and resumed RoL from the reigning champions, D Squadron.

On Friday night, the Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers hosted a mixed, combined dining at Y-101 drill hall to celebrate Leliefontein, but to also use the venue to Mug-Out fellow Dragoons who were retiring. They even had the opportunity to bring in a TAPV as part of the décor so people unfamiliar with the vehicle could see what the Regiment will look like in the near future.

On a sunny Saturday morning, The Regiment marched on to parade and once again demonstrated its superb drill and discipline. The parade saw several VIPs and honoured guests address the crowd and to hand out the yearly awards.



Leliefontein Awards



Top Non-Crmn Corporal in the Regiment
Presented to Corporal Hughes



The RCD Association Award
Presented to Corporal Figueiredo



ETQMS Plaque
Presented to MCpl Leroux



Eckhardt Memorial Plaque
Presented to Sgt Mason



The Commanding Officer's Sword
Presented to Captain MacIntosh



Guild Volunteer Award
MCpl Travis and Cpl Shattraw



THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS - THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

Sr. NCO REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY DINNER

On 1 December 2016, the Senior NCOs of The Royal Canadian Dragoons were invited to take part in 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment's mess dinner celebrating brotherhood and 133 years of shared Regimental history. The last combined mess dinner between these two Units was in 2008.

Since the formation of both the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) and the RCD on 21 December 1883, both Regiments have deployed on every conflict and peacekeeping mission, sharing 19 battle honours over their long and storied histories.

The Senior NCOs also had the privilege

of hosting two special guests, the 37th Regimental Sergeant Major of the RCD, Mr. Sterling Mercer, and the 42nd Regimental Sergeant Major, Mr. Levesque. Their presence echoed the sentiments of once a Dragoon, always a Dragoon, with stories and laughter shared by all.

The Senior NCOs were given the opportunity to take part in one of many RCR traditions, the Ortona Toast, which dates back to the Battle of Ortona (21 December 1943). The Ortona Toast is mixture of dark rum, warm water, and 1 teaspoon of brown sugar and it is consumed from a "plain white china mug" because that is what they used at Ortona. The brown sugar and warm water was used to increase



the portions of rum ensuring all members of the Regiment were able to part take in the Regimental birthday celebrations.

The event ended with the exchanging of gifts between the two Regiments. The Senior NCOs of 1 RCR presented the RCD with a framed portrait of their most treasured painting (Dawn of Majuba). The painting memorializes the RCR victory at the Battle of Paardeberg in South Africa during the Boer War. The Senior NCOs from the RCD presented 1 RCR with an engraved plaque explaining the events that happened during the Boer War and why Dragoons wear a Springbok on their berets. Overall, it was a joyous evening, with the Senior NCOs reconnecting with friends and reaffirming the Regimental ties between the RCD and the RCR.







RCD

Christmas Dinner



The traditional festive dinner was held this year during the Regiment's last work week prior to a well-deserved Christmas Block Leave period. Having known the training year was consistently steady with high tempo training events, this year's Soldiers Appreciation Dinner took on a different theme than those of the past.

The overall concept and customs remained the same; however, planning and coordination began early in the year in order to ensure the evening would be a success. The event OPI, Master Warrant Officer Green and his event 2IC, Warrant Officer Keith planned for a few surprises including a live band, comical entertainment, and small gifts for the soldiers. With the support of the Commanding Officer (CO) and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), along with the Regimental Affairs Committee, they were given the green light and a healthy funding envelop to make things happen. To give the dinner a different twist, the RSM had the dinner scheduled for the evening timeframe. This concept allowed the dinner to take on a new feeling, one which unfolded into a successful evening of socialization.

As the soldiers of the Regiment rendezvoused for their first timing of the day, 1645hrs, the

eldest Regimental Master Corporal (MCpl Pope) formed up the Dragoons in anticipation to be marched in. Led by the piper (Corporal Mulholland), the soldiers entered a spectacularly decorated C103 hanger (thanks to the assistance of the Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants of the Regiment) to a receiving line eager to greet and wish them Season's Greetings. This year the soldiers were honoured with some special diners, two former RSMs and a special guest. (Ret. RSM's Sterling Mercer, Bruce Pendergast, and Mr. Andrea Chabut).

As the soldiers filed in and took their seats, the band played seasonal music which set the conditions for a festive feeling. This sequenced into the next series of traditions, when the CO and RSM called upon the youngest Trooper (Tpr Legere) and the eldest MCpl (MCpl Pope) forward to receive their evening appointments as CO and RSM from LCol Auld and CWO Hebert. Once the appointments were finished and exchanged, the honorary CO called forward the KO (Warrant Officer Lipp) and the Regimental turkey to conduct the official cutting ceremony. Following a few photos and handshakes, the CO addressed the Regiment and congratulated them on a fantastic training year as well as wishing them



Promoted to MCpl



32 CBG Awards

a relaxing full vacation with their families. Following the evenings opening remarks, the CO and RSM welcomed the 9 new Troopers that had arrived earlier in the week. They were called forward and presented with a new set of PT gear courtesy of the Regimental Guild. Along with the presents to the new Troopers, there were several awards and promotions that again heightened the excitement of the evening.

The final presentation which held the soldiers away from the aromatic turkey dinner was a gift that the RSM had been collaborating throughout the year. The motivational release of "The Grind" was presented to the soldiers on the large wall sized screen. The soldiers watched and listened in awe as the video displayed narrated motivational dialogue along with photo captions which highlighted the years training. Filled with fierce aggression and intensity, it ended with celebration and cheers.

The serving brigade kicked off as did the band, bringing delicious plates of turkey dinner to the soldiers. Along with the waves of food and music, the soldiers were also treated with social beverages to accompany their meal. Throughout the dinner period the Master of Ceremonies, Master Warrant Officer Green,

kicked off some of the light entertainment. As the soldiers continued to enjoy their meal, selected volunteers from each junior rank level were called to the stage, which was strategically placed in the center of the hanger for all to view. The events included a dance off, a starrng competition, and a blindfolded limbo competition. The events brought on several laughs and shouts of encouragement from their peers. In the end, the soldier who received the greatest cheer took away the trophies and gifts as they played in good spirit. Several other soldiers received prizes and gift cards as the prize raffle was conducted concurrently.

Upon conclusion of the meal, the tables were cleared and the soldiers moved out of the dining area and closer to the stage where the band began to "kick it up a notch". The social environment was at full peak, the cash bar was open, and the soldiers settled in to some live entertainment from Matt Lemay, a local music artist. The music was fantastic as the setting was much appreciated late into the evening. The Soldiers Appreciation Dinner turned out to be an absolute success. With positive reviews, the soldiers will undoubtedly look forward to the 2017 Soldiers Appreciation Dinner along with the 2017 version of "Back to the Grind".



3-71ST CAVALRY REGIMENT

SPUR RIDE

On 14 February 2017, 22 brave Dragoons made their way to Fort Drum, New York for the 3-71st Cavalry Regiment's annual Spur Ride competition. The group was broken down into fourteen "Spur Candidates" who participated in the event and eight "Spur Holders" who ran an RCD stand. The event was an individual accolade, in line with US Cavalry tradition, where troopers earn the right to wear silver spurs. As part of the preparations, The Regiment executed pre-Spur Ride training which consisted of a US Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and military skills training. The threshold physical training (PT) test resulted in over 50% of volunteers from the Regiment unable to achieve the gateway PT standard. Once the list of volunteers was finalized, the group of "Spur Candidates" and "Spur Holders" packed their kit and drove to Fort Drum in anticipation of the 24 hr Spur Ride event.

Once in Fort Drum, the Spur Candidates made final preparations to their kit while the Spur Holders fine-tuned their RCD stand in line with direction from the staff at 3-71 Cavalry Regiment. The next morning arrived quicker than expected as Spur Candidates formed up in their respective ten person Spur Ride teams, meeting their American counterparts for the first time. The first event, a PT challenge, started at 0600 hrs which consisted of a 3 mile run and a variety of push ups, pulls ups, and squats. Spur Candidates were then given time to shower and eat breakfast with their next timing being the kit check.

Spur Candidates lined up with their kit for 0830 hrs, prepared for the day's activities. Each team's "lane walker" checked over his team's kit. Any deficiencies were substituted with extra weight in the form of additional MREs, tire chains or memorial bricks dedicated to



fallen 3-71 Cavalry members. Once team's underwent remedial PT (read: push ups) as a result of their abysmal kit inspection, they received marching orders from the 3-71 Operations staff. Soon thereafter teams began their journey with toboggans in tow. The journey extended upwards of 50 km through the Fort Drum training area where teams were restricted from using roads. Each Spur Team was equipped with a Fort Drum map, two toboggans and full fighting order (to include rucksack and radio). Teams then navigated to a series of stands, which coincidentally had a group of American NCOs at each navigation point eagerly waiting for the next Spur Team to arrive. Chaos ensued as Spur Teams were challenged in a variety of military skill type stands including All Arms Call for Fire, observation post, medical aid, winter warfare, and weapons handling. Each stand was executed under the veil of a military skill type activity; however, the real challenge was the physical component the American NCOs induced at each stand.

The competition culminated with a "murder board" which consisted of a panel of Sergeants Major testing each Spur Team with a series of Regimental history questions. As if the task was not already challenging enough, it was even more daunting as it was at the end of the 24 hr competition. All successful Spur Candidates were then awarded their Spurs in a "Spur Ceremony" in front of the 3-71 Cavalry Regiment.

In US Cavalry tradition, the Spur Ride was topped off with a grog ceremony and an "all-you-can-eat" chicken and rib dinner. Special recognition was made to the staff making this year's Spur Ride a success. The Dragoons presented a miniature replica Staghound to the 3-71st Cavalry Regiment as a thank you for their generous hospitality.

In the Shadows! Bold and Swift!



2017 MAPLE RESOLVE

After a long year on the Road to High Readiness (R2HR), the Royal Canadian Dragoons were ready for their final confirmation exercise. In early April, the entire Regiment deployed to CFB Wainwright, Alberta in order to certify themselves ready for operations through a series of named exercises that culminated with Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. After a short period to shake the rust off and establish the extensive camp needed to support 2 CMBG, the Regiment began its extensive training.

The Regiment began its training with Exercise RUGGED BEAR, a dynamic live fire range designed to certify combat teams ready for operations. A and B Squadron conducted a live mounted raid behind enemy lines, engaging successive enemy objectives within the enemy depth and then withdrawing quickly back to friendly lines. Aided by both 60 and Ghost (MUAS) Troop, both Squadrons demonstrated the manoeuvre and strike



capabilities that armoured subunits are known for. C Squadron was an integral part of the Brigade's live fire ranges, providing unrivalled direct fire support for each combat team. C Squadron too had the chance to lead a combat team through the live fire range, showcasing their ability to fix and strike the enemy positions.



Concurrent to Exercise RUGGED BEAR, the Regiment was tasked with executing a convoy range designed to test 2 Service Battalion and the Brigade's Combat Service Support subunits. B Squadron, assisted by members of A Squadron, constructed and ran a complex live fire convoy range. The realistic scenario and dynamic challenges tested all members of each convoy that went through, earning praise from 2 CMBG and the participating Units for yet another job well-done.

The second exercise was Exercise TOMAHAWK FURY, a 2 CMBG level defensive exercise that involved all Brigade Units. A Squadron was employed as OPFOR on behalf of the Brigade, challenging the covering force and the main defensive area as an aggressive, intelligent, and capable peer adversary. B Squadron was tasked to delay the enemy as the Brigade's covering force, where for nearly 24 hours they delayed a numerically superior enemy. C Squadron provided the Brigade with its shock action, consistently called upon to hit the enemy the hardest. The tanks were instrumental in the break clean

of B Squadron and then formed the Brigade countermoves force, ensuring the success of the defensive battle. D Squadron provided the Regiment with several key functions. Ghost Troop provided the Commander and Commanding Officer with unparalleled situational awareness through the dynamic use of the Ravens. Ogre (Direct Fire) Troop readily supported B Squadron in the covering force battle, enabling B Squadron to break contact with an overwhelming enemy and effect the delay. 60 Troop was attached to A Squadron, providing the dismounted close reconnaissance required for the enemy's decision-action cycle to take place.

During the first week of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, the RCD was designated as a support unit to 1 RCR and 3 RCR who acted as the primary training audience. A Squadron remained at the forefront, acting as the Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron, while C Squadron had elements detached to 2 CMBG and provided the mobile fire power needed to destroy the enemy.

During the second week, the RCD Battle Group took center stage as the primary training audience alongside of 2 RCR. In the opening hours, B Squadron had to contend with a CBRN attack and decontamination while leading the Brigade's right flank through enemy held territory. Participating in a cordoning and capture of a small town, the Battle Group switched to the defensive, delaying the enemy as they counter-attacked, inflicting heavy losses and subsequently becoming the Brigade reserve. C Squadron remained an essential part of the defense, providing the countermoves that finally halted the enemy attack. When the advance resumed, the RCD pushed hard, ending the exercise with a challenging yet successful assault on a complex enemy objective.

The successful completion of all of these exercises showcased the Regiments capability as a versatile and competent

manoeuvre force that brings a unique skill to any combat force. After a year of intensive training, the RCD was declared operationally ready to accept any mission or operation that is required of them.



THE REGIMENT



The Regiment is not the officers and men who serve it. The Regiment is not those officers and men who originally founded it or who served it in war and the intervening years of peace. The Regiment is not those officers and men who will proudly carry its name in the years to come. The Regiment is above and beyond those who serve it.

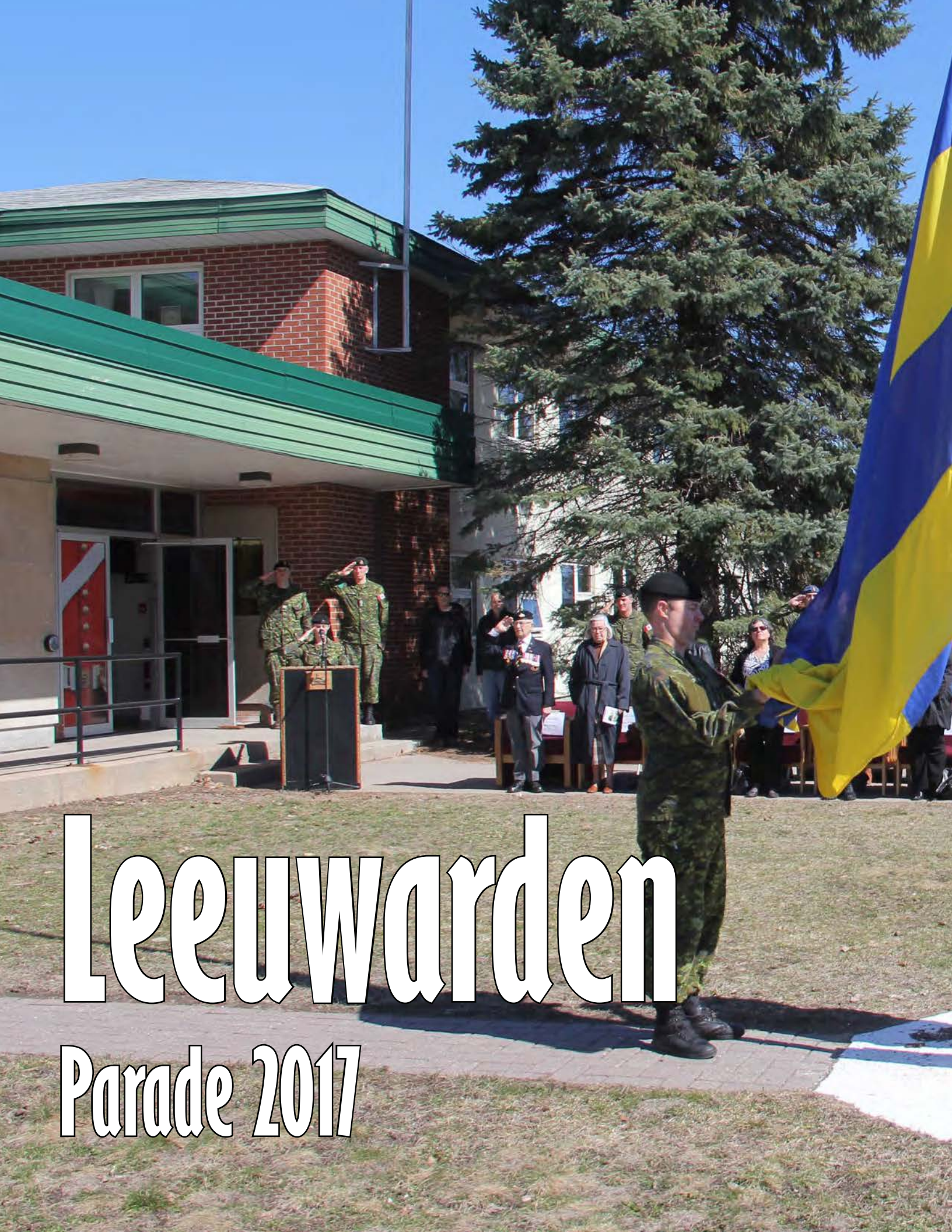
The Regiment is tradition - the Regiment is service - the Regiment is love of country - the Regiment is unswerving loyalty to our Queen and all that she stands for - the Regiment, above all else, is sacrifice.

Those who served it yesterday, those who serve it today, and those who will serve it tomorrow, have added and will add, glory to its name. They are honoured in that opportunity.

Year by year the faces in our ranks change. Year by year young men come forward to take the places of older men, but the Regiment goes on.

When all are but a memory, the Regiment will still stand - famous for past deeds, ever ready for new duties.

These are the words of BGen Bill Murphy, British Columbia Regiment and were quoted in part by BGen P.V.B Grieve, Colonel of the Regiment, on the Leliefontein Parade 1980.



Leeuwarden

Parade 2017



The Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) commemorate the liberation of Leeuwarden, April 15th, 1945, annually. On this day in April each year, the RCD fly the flag of Leeuwarden instead of the Regimental flag, and Leeuwarden, in a shared act of recognition, displays the RCD flag to pay compliment to the Regiment. Regardless of location or deployments, members of the Regiment proudly celebrate Leeuwarden each year. This year, the bulk of the Regiment celebrated Leeuwarden in Wainwright, Alberta with the remainder of the Regiment celebrating back in Petawawa.

On 15 April, the Regiment was partaking in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017, the largest exercise of the year. Nonetheless, the Regiment formed up in the weather havens of Camp TOMAHAWK to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of Leeuwarden. As the Commanding Officer took over the parade, the Regiment was being livestreamed to Leeuwarden so it could be viewed online as part of their ceremonies. The Commanding



Mayor of Leeuwarden Ferd Crone raises the RCD flag

Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major spoke to the significance of the commemoration of the liberation of Leeuwarden as Canadians, the Dutch people, and the Regiment as a whole. The Regimental Command team emphasised that Leeuwarden should be a reminder of what type of soldier Dragoons are and should continue to strive to be.

On the morning of 13 April in Petawawa, the Regimental rear party formed up outside F104. With the guest of honour seated, the ceremony began. Among the guests were Casey DeGraaf, who was 10 years old when the city was liberated, and of course our Leeuwarden veteran and guest of honour Trooper Don White. The formal portion of the celebration was marked with the playing of Oh

Canada, then the raising of the Leeuwarden Flag accompanied by the playing of the Dutch National Anthem (Het Wilhelmus). Speeches were then made by Regimental Second-In-Command Major Rick Cameron and former Commanding Officer, Colonel Steve Graham, emphasizing what it means to be a Dragoon. Stories of the liberation were shared by Trooper Don White, who then presented coins to Corporal Michael Slattery and Corporal Christopher Bradley in honour of them completing the 180 km Nijmegen March during the summer of 2016. The rear-party was then dismissed to the Coriano Club for refreshments, which concluded the 2017 Leeuwarden celebrations in Petawawa.













This past year was a busy one for the Centurion Room Officers. Upon returning from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2016, it was right into the end of year functions, starting with the Family Farewell BBQ at Colonel Graham's house. Located right on the water, there were plenty of watersports and games for the kids to enjoy while their parents socialized and indulged in the fantastic food and drink. Less than a week later, it was time for the Mug Outs. Our departing members were once again required to sit on the "Tanker Chair" while their supervisors regaled the membership with amusing stories and praise. The formal portion of the event was then followed by games, which may or may not have included throwing a tomahawk at a wooden target, an homage to our higher formation, Task Force Tomahawk.

After a well-deserved summer leave, the Centurion Room conducted its yearly General Mess Meeting at the end of August and soon after welcomed the new members and their spouses during the Centurion Room Meet and

Greet. Then came mid-September, when the membership gathered in the well-decorated Centurion Room for the jacket and tie Dining In. This year's theme was "backyard BBQ", where members enjoyed a delicious meal by Ulrich's, which required everyone to wear bibs, accompanied by buckets of beer! The Bunny, Captain Chris Justason, also made an appearance and did not disappoint.

October was a quiet month for the Centurion Room membership, less the PMC, Major Nick Forsyth, and Mess Secretary, Captain Nate MacIntosh, who, along with their Holland Room counterparts, were busy finishing up the planning for the upcoming combined mixed Leliefontein Mess Dinner. The dinner itself was then held in Y101 in early November and was a great opportunity for Officers, Senior NCOs, and their spouses to socialize and celebrate the Regiment's achievements at Leliefontein. A TAPV was even brought in from Valcartier as part of the vehicle displays.

With December came Silly Season, kicking off

The Centurion Room.

with Subbie Carolling. The night began with visits to the subbie and Captain houses before heading to Major Chris Hillier's house for some intense games and competitions (some included fireworks). The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Auld, eventually arrived with a kit bag full of McDonalds burgers which completely disappeared within the hour. Later in the week was the Officer/Senior NCO At Home, hosted by the Centurion Room Officers. Using the C40 hangar, the Officers built an Airsoft shooting range, an obstacle course, and a sumo ring, all of which became the 3 competitions for the night. After some hard fought battles, the Senior NCOs came out victorious, though it should be noted that they held on to the Horse's Ass trophy for the second year in a row after being beaten in hockey by the Officers earlier in the week.

Winter 2017 was less busy for the Centurion Room membership due to the training and preparations for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. In late February, the Regiment hosted the Black Hat Mess Dinner for local Armour Officers, serving and retired. This year's dinner was smaller in numbers due to the fact that the Armour Army Reserve computer-aided exercise was not conducted in Petawawa. However, Officers from 3-71 Cav in Fort Drum still managed to make the drive up, and the Bunny once again put on a show where not even the Commanding Officer was safe. With the coming of spring, the Regiment began its deployment to Wainright for another Brigade exercise. A number of pre-APS events once again await the Centurion Room membership when they return in June. Beyond that, it will surely be another fun and entertaining year under the new PMC, Major Mitch Atkinson.





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The Sgt Holland Room is a rest easy for the Senior NCOs of the Regiment and their guests to raise a glass and celebrate their accomplishments. This past year, the Holland room committee was very busy organizing many successful events. The membership would like to thank Master Warrant Officer Tingly PMC, Warrant Officer Langdon as VPMC, and Sergeants Dolmovic and McDonald who were responsible for the food and drinks, of which there was never a shortage.

The Committee was very busy this past year helping in the planning and organization of the annual mixed Mess dinner celebrating the heroic actions of the Royal Canadian Dragoons at the battle of Leliefontein. This battle had particular significance for the members of the Holland room as it is named after Sergeant Edward James Gibson Holland, who was one of three members of the Regiment who were awarded the Victoria Cross as a result of their actions at Leliefontein.

A committee, led by the PMC, VPMC, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, introduced the

very first Holland Room coin this year. With a portrait of Sergeant Holland on one side and the Victoria Cross on the other, there were 69 coins cut and sequentially numbered for the first press, with all members of the Holland room receiving a coin. Going forward, future members will also receive one. Coin number 001 was to be the RSM's coin; however, after the tragic training accident in Wainwright, Alberta during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE that took the life of Sergeant Robert J. Dynierowicz, the RSM gave the first coin to the honorary pall bearers who placed it in his casket.

Some of the other events which took place this year included the return of RSM's Coffee Break, offering the members toast and coffee. This affords the RSM and the Senior NCOs a chance to get together and talk shop under a more casual setting. It is also a unique opportunity to provide feedback as to how training is going and discuss possibilities for future training opportunities.

The Holland Room welcomed 11 newly promoted Sergeant's by a traditional "Shining

The Sgt Holland Room.

In" under the watchful eye of the DSM/TQ and the membership, with a lot of fun being had during these celebratory events. The Holland Room also cheered the arrival of one new and 5 returning Sergeants just posted in or back to the Unit. This year the Holland Room membership has also presented Depart with Dignity or "mugged out" retiring members, Warrant Officer Woodcroft and Sergeant White.

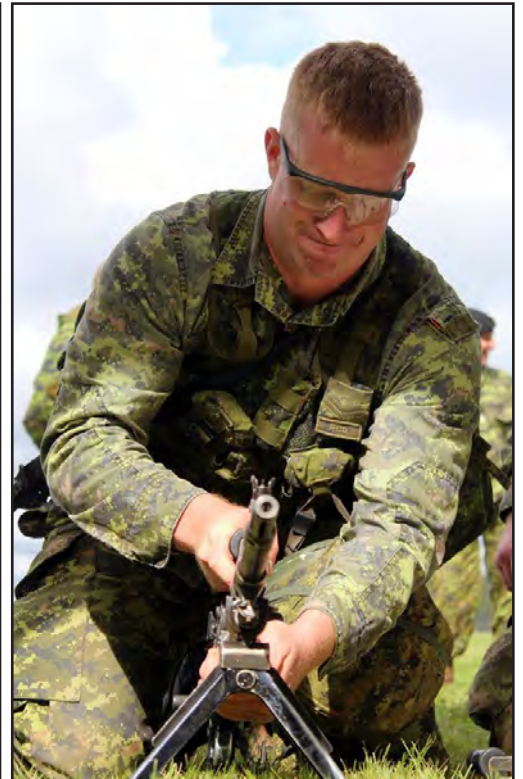
At the end of the year, the Holland room committee changed hands. Under the new direction of PMC Master Warrant Officer Gigacz and the VPMC Warrant Officer Edwards, they will have their hands full with the planning of monthly social gatherings and the upcoming training mess dinner and Leliefontein mixed mess dinner.

Under the watchful eyes of all the past RSM's displayed on the wall, as well as the accomplished and proud history of the RCD, our Senior NCO's speak easy will always be a place where laughter will be heard and stories told.













RCD CADETS



*To develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership;
promote physical fitness; and stimulate the interest of youth in the sea,
land, and air activities of the Canadian Forces*

2332

Major EJG Holland, VC Royal Canadian Army Cadets participated in a very productive training year that commenced on September 3, 2016 and ran until June 24, 2017. Our training year focused on Community events, support for our two sponsoring Legion Branches, Barrhaven Legion Branch 641 and Bells Corner Legion Branch 593, Team Competitions, the Mandatory/Optional Training and Summer Training.

In September 2016, cadets of 2332 Major Holland VC Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps embraced a new civics project. Their aim was not only to become more aware of the homeless and less fortunate in their

community, but also participate and aid in the solution. In conjunction with Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada (VETS), 2332 engages in a monthly event referred to as "Boots on the Ground" (BOG) walk. The objective of the BOG walks is to assist the homeless in the hopes of meeting a veteran and provide a means to allow the Veteran to get in contact with VETS. The ultimate goal is to get Veterans off the streets and we are proud of our members who are participating in this project.

The 2332 Brass and Reed band had an amazing year under the directions of the Drum Major and CI Jean-Louis as they went from 3 cadets to 25 musicians. This year at the Band

& Drill Competition, they placed 6th out of 12 teams. Now they are focused on improving that performance and we have no doubt that they will do even better next year.

On April 25, 2017 the 2332 Drill Team without Arms participated in the Eastern Ontario Area Drill Competition at CFB Kingston. Civilian Instructor Arnaud Jean-Louis and the Team Captain Master Warrant Officer Ahadi led the Drill Team without Arms to first place in the drill demo and best dressed. The drill team placed 1st overall in the Eastern Ontario Area competition on 27 May 2017. On May 27th the Drill Team placed 2nd overall in the Provincial competition.

In past years 2332 has had a strong history in competing in the Canadian cadet biathlon championship series. This year was no exception, WO Ryan and Sgt Hayden made it all the way to Nationals. There the pair left everything in the snow and came back to the unit with a top 6 finish in the unit relay race. We are so proud of their success and the success of all competitors from the 2332 who gave it their all this year.

Over the past few years under new leadership, 2332 has been given the freedom to start transforming its focus and training environment to include a more innovative and robust program. We participated in a fall adventure training exercise in a new location at Bon Echo Provincial Park – with a focus on hiking over long distances in a race format, a winter exercise at Connaught Training Centre, and a spring exercise at Irvine Lake that included improvised shelter training and an involved night navigation.

2332 is in the process of ramping down and closing its doors for the summer as our Cadets get ready to attend their summer training programs. The corps will have over 60 Cadets attend a range of junior, senior, advanced camps, and international exchanges. We will continue to strive to be an active participant in the community, a force at every competition,

and continue fine tune our training.

Ashbury College

The Cadets of Ashbury and members of D Sqn RCD kick started the year with memories to build upon. This year saw a focus on development of imagination, creativity, leadership and mentorship. Each visit enabled members of D Squadron to learn a thing or two about their cadet counterparts. In turn the cadets learned about Dragoon history and lineage, life within the Regiment, and the various skills each soldier showed to the cadets. This year also saw a healthy growth of new recruits joining the ranks, all eager to experience the many adventure yet to come as an RCD Cadet.

The soldiers of D Squadron personally had the pleasure of seeing the Cadets of Ashbury grow in the last two years. Each visit saw them interacting in different ways to create an environment of imagination and a sense of adventure. Tracing a few months back, I Master Corporal Tan was approached by a Cadet asking about the lineage of our cap badge, and why it shined from a distance. He offered a detailed explanation about the origin of the Springbok cap badge and why we worked so hard to keep it in good order. The effect was a surprise on Master Corporal Tan's first visit this year, when most of the Cadets arrived with polished and properly placed Springboks on their berets. That same day 6 new Cadets received their Springboks, proudly presented by Warrant Officer Edwards.

The Regiment's busy schedule limited D Squadron involvement, however, Ex FRIGID DRAGOON was one event not to be missed. Akin to our annual winter training, the Cadets of Ashbury conducted a 2 day outdoor activity focusing on pitching arctic tents, snowshoeing, lighting stoves and lanterns, navigation and eventually nestling in for the night in their sleeping bags. This year however brought a bit of surprise to the Cadets when soldiers brought with them our MNVGs, Coral

C and Crew Helmets for the last night's attack. Groups of cadets crawling, sneaking, and moving tactically through the snow to avoid being caught, and in turn become the hunter was quite a sight. Their enthusiasm was truly inspiring! Although the night was frigid, not a single Cadet went to bed without an exciting story to tell about their adventure.

Thanks to volunteers of D Squadron and the support of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, this training year would have been impossible, if it wasn't for the dedication and time of D Squadron soldiers. To members of The Ashbury Cadets "It's a fine day to be Dragoon!"

2870

The 2870 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, E Sqn, RCD had a successful 2016-2017 training year. Throughout the year, cadets participated in a variety of orienteering, drill and marksmanship competitions. They sent ten cadets to the Zone Orienteering Competition, which resulted in three cadets - MWO Amber Preston, Sgt Arielle Grakist and Cpl Darion Brown scoring high enough to represent the Corps at the regional competition in early November. During the winter months, they sent ten cadets to the local zone biathlon competition and two - Sgt Madeleine Simard and WO Nicholas Roberts scored high enough to represent 2870 RCACC at the regional competition. In April, the unit sent 2 teams of 5 cadets each to compete in the local zone marksmanship competition. Both teams did well, with one team placing 3rd and the other finishing 6th. In May, 2870 RCACC had the opportunity to compete in the local zone drill competition; the first in over four years; which was a great learning experience for all of the young cadets.

The 2870 RCACC went on a trip to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with 30 cadets and six staff members wherein they toured the HMCS Fredericton, Shubenacadie Wildlife Park and briefly visited the C Squadron in Gagetown. Overall it was an excellent year with a number of great training activities and competitions.



In Memoriam



Sgt. Robert Dynerowicz





Proud to support The Royal
Canadian Dragoons.

