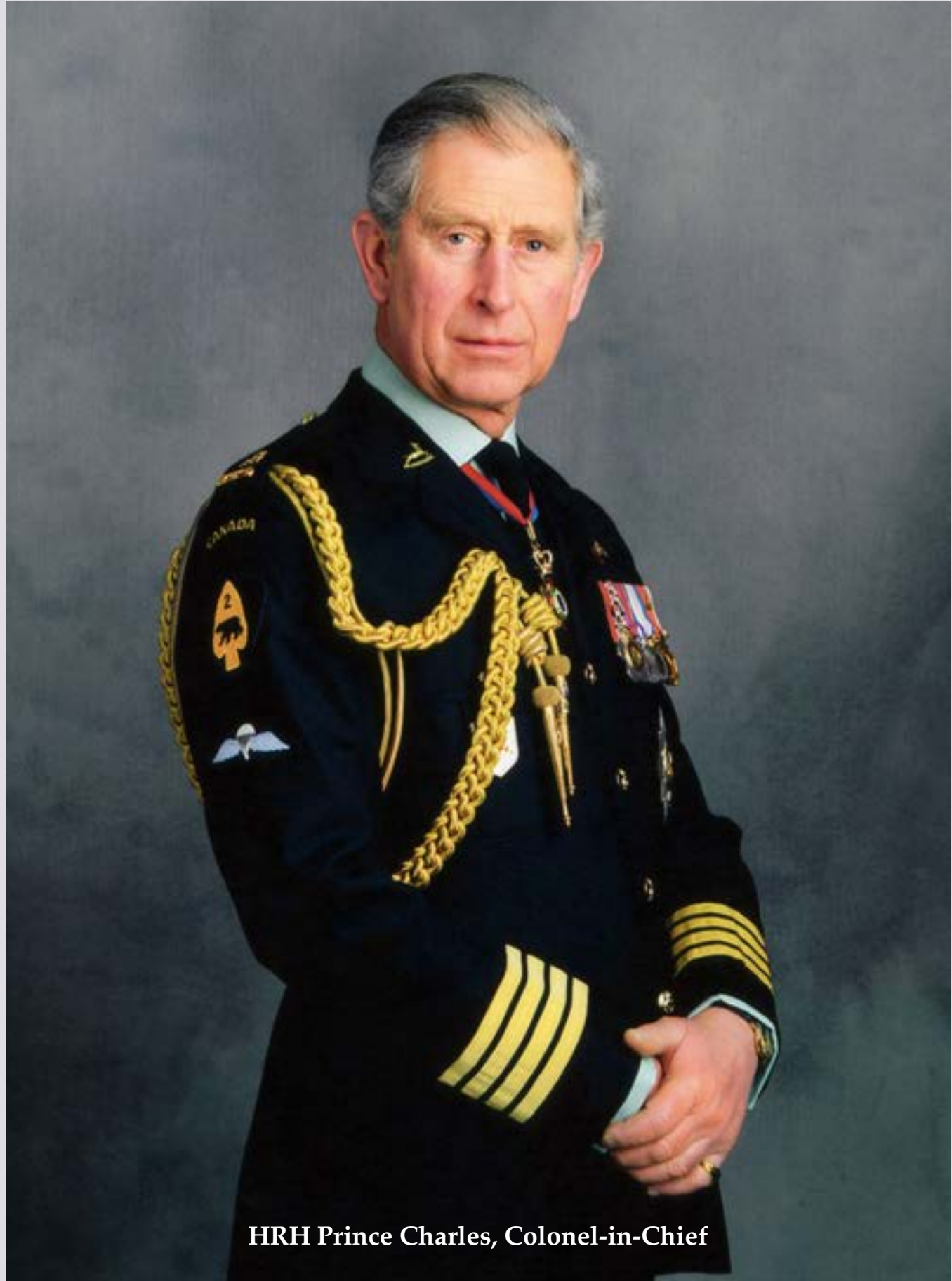




ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS SPRINGBOK

2020-22





HRH Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief



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Springbok 2023

For next year’s edition, please reach out to Editor in Chief, Major Brynn Bennett, OC B Sqn.





COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

ADDRESS 2020

BGen (ret'd) Peter Atkinson, MSM, CD



BGen (ret'd) Peter Atkinson, MSM, CD

This will be my last forward to the *Springbok* as my tenure as Colonel of the Regiment is ending. As I look back over the year 2020, it certainly has been a challenging time for the Canadian Armed Forces and the Regiment. The world changed as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe. It affected every part of Regimental life. Soldiers were forced to wear PPE whenever they were together, and at times they had to work from home to protect the integrity and wellness of the forces. Ceremonies and Regimental gatherings were suspended or conducted virtually over social media. Through all this the Regiment executed another change of command welcoming a new Commanding Officer and RSM, LCol Enno Kerckhoff and CWO Stef Larouche, back to the Regiment. The Regiment trained and prepared for the deployment to Latvia and the home team prepared the Regiment for the move to the new Regimental lines.

In the spring of 2020, the Dragoons Guild published the next edition of our Regimental history, *Into Their Second Century*. This volume is an illustrated history that covers our history from 1983 until present and tells the story of our Regiment in both text and images. This volume is available through the RCD kit shop.

I was proud to be able to participate in our virtual celebrations for Leliefontein, Leeuwarden and the Change of Command ceremony. It was tough not being able to visit C Squadron and the soldiers in training, but the Regiment never stopped preparing for the missions and tasks they were given. The Acting CO and RSM through the latter part of 2020, Major John Maerz and MWO Chris Leblanc, both deserve a round of thanks from all for their leadership and hard work in keeping the Regiment on track with the training, support to operations, and the impending move to the new Regimental lines.

To all Dragoons, I know you will continue to take on whatever challenges the Canadian Armed Forces and our great nation ask of you. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be your Colonel of the Regiment.

Bold and Swift 🐾

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

ADDRESS 2021

MGen (ret'd) Dean Milner, CMM, MSC, CD



MGen (ret'd) Dean Milner, CMM, MSC, CD

This being my first Springbok address, I would like to commence by saying it is a tremendous honour and privilege to serve as your Colonel of the Regiment into which I was commissioned almost 40 years ago. It has been almost a year now since my appointment and the experience has been outstanding. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your loyal support to the Regiment. I took over from Peter in June of 2021 and again I would like to thank Peter on behalf of all Dragoons for his excellent work both with the Regiment and our Guild. It has been a pleasure from the get-go visiting our troops both in Petawawa and C Squadron and as well engaging with our Regimental family across Canada. My motivation continues to be visiting our soldiers training in the field and observing them exceeding the standards of excellence, and spending time with our Regimental family.

It has been another high tempo year despite COVID-19 for the Regiment, with the Commanding Officer and Regiment Sergeant Major and 100-plus of our Dragoons returning in July 2021 from an excellent Battle Group deployment in Latvia. In the fall we saw the Regiment move into its new building and the Regiment held a fitting ceremony parading our Guidon into its new home. The new regimental lines are first-rate and were much needed. The Regiment held a number of squadron field exercises in the fall and the Regiment conducted a superb Leliefontein celebration. It was the first opportunity in two years to gather the Regiment and families together due to the COVID-19 challenges.

Recent months have seen the Regiment supporting the Brigade's Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE and conducting a number of important crew courses. All of these exercises and focus on training have a new sense of urgency and focus due to the situation that the world faces in the Ukraine. Key enablers to the Guild and Regiment are the "Friends of the Regiment," who from time to time join the Regiment for events designed to cement our collective bonds of friendship. The Regiment

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SENIOR SERVING DRAGOON

ADDRESS

BGen Dyrالد Cross, CD



BGen Dyrالد Cross, CD

As I write to you as the outgoing Senior Serving Dragoon, I am grateful for the opportunity to send a note to all of you after a very dynamic time in our Regiment's history. The past two years have seen a ton of challenges and opportunities for us to live and learn together while we adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 environment.

Our Regiment has taken the lead on the implementation of cavalry structure and tactics, bringing a mixed fleet of TAPV, LAV and Coyote to light cavalry squadrons while also continuing the heavy cavalry fight with our Leopard 2s. No other Regiment in the Corps is structured as we are, with the range of qualifications and fleets to manage. But under the leadership of some outstanding officers and NCOs, we have pushed the envelope of what people thought could be accomplished when the cavalry discussion was first begun.

We have also generated forces for all of Canada's major overseas operations and provided the core of the 4th Canadian Division's Immediate Response Unit (IRU) for the majority of the past two years. Leading the NATO Battle Group for Operation REASSURANCE in 2021 allowed our Regiment to show the flag overseas in much larger numbers, but everywhere the Canadian Army goes, Dragoons have proudly served.

Going through the COMMITTED and then the BUILD years of the Army's new Managed Readiness Plan has meant a great deal of pressure on the Squadrons to get their internal work done and to be prepared to integrate with other units. This process culminated with Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright in the Spring of 2022, but even with just C Squadron and augmentees from other elements of the Regiment, 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group would not have been able to achieve its validation without us.

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COMMANDING OFFICER

ADDRESS

LCol Enno Kerckhoff, MSM, CD



LCol Enno Kerckhoff,
MSM, CD
58th Commanding Officer

It's said that no Springbok article is complete without talking about how busy the year has been — doubly so in this case because it's been two years since our last *Springbok*! But the past two years have gone by in a flash. From just before change of command in 2020, operating in a COVID-19 environment has presented its challenges at all levels; soldiers have arrived at the Regiment never having experienced the field, leaders have been driven to find ways to lead at a distance, and overall mentorship has been difficult to achieve under the Force Health Protection Measures that were necessary to protect everyone. But I am exceptionally proud of the way the Regiment has adapted and overcome these constraints to maintain our operational footing.

Preparing and deploying the Battle Group to Latvia from January to July 2021 was one of the first challenges to overcome, but we continued to feel the effects of COVID-19 constraints while deployed. In an international environment, building a cohesive team was made all the more difficult because we found it nearly impossible to work together face-to-face. We persevered and accomplished more than I thought possible, including the very first live fire Battle Group attack and a timely update to the Latvian National Defence Plan. The subsequent Russian invasion of Ukraine highlights how important our mission in Latvia continues to be. For the Dragoons and attachments who provided the core of the Battle Group HQ, the Combat Support Company (including a Dragoon cavalry troop) and a large part of the Combat Service Support Company, the chance to work with so many allies, building capabilities and combat readiness is an experience that will stay with us forever.

Beyond the deployment in 2021, we've endured several Regimental reorganizations during the past two years, as Squadrons had continual demands on their soldiers and vehicles as well as the move into our new Worthington Barracks home! Nevertheless, Dragoons remained responsible for their vehicles and equipment, ensuring that we were ready to respond to Immediate Response Unit (IRU)



A Transfer of Command Authority parade between outgoing enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group (BG) Latvia, Lieutenant-Colonel (LCol) Trevor Norton and LCol Enno Kerckhoff takes place at Camp Adazi training area in Latvia on January 22, 2021.
Image by Sgt Juan Garnacho enhanced Forward Presence Imagery Technician, Ejército de Tierra.

obligations for most of the past two years. We've also supported innumerable individual tasks as the training system strains to accommodate the current recruiting push. While I accept that this places a burden on our unit to support, I am heartened by the positive influence Dragoon instructors and support staff have had on new members to the CAF or junior leaders.

Having Regimental participation at Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2022 (primarily from C Sqn, but also including augmentation) was the first opportunity to see combat team operations in a Brigade context since 2017. There were plenty of lessons learned across the board, given how rarely it is that we're able to bring together units from both Petawawa and Gagetown, but the chance to work with two different battalions in both live fire and simulation absolutely sets the standard for interoperability in the Brigade.

For every Dragoon who toils day after day to take care of each other, to ensure continued serviceability of our kit and vehicles, and who ensures they remain ready at all time, I want to express my thanks. Your professionalism and skill cannot be beat. And for the Regimental leadership, including the senior staff, the OCs, Squadron Sergeants Major, and of course the RSM, thank you for your wise counsel over the past two years. The support our Dragoons receive is due to your attention to detail and your dedication to service.

Lastly, I wanted to recognize the number of people who have passed through the Regiment over the last two years. Whether it was a junior leader posted out to take on an instructional position at the School or a more senior leader moving off to an institutional posting, the experiences passed on during their time will continue to impact future generations of Dragoons. One departure in particular weighs heavy on the 'short hallway' in Muggsie Boland, who retired after nearly 35 years as the CO's Secretary. It's no exaggeration to say that Muggsie has taken care of Dragoons for decades — tracking births, deaths, support to families and overall providing a ray of sunshine to all around her. She retired in the local area, so we should still see her around, despite her well-deserved time to dedicate to her charitable causes.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and support for our Regiment. The stories and updates in these pages represent only a small slice of what we've been up to. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible as we are welcoming guests back to Petawawa again. I would encourage everyone to remain connected via our Guild website and social media pages, as even when we can't share experiences in person, we're continually training and maintaining our readiness.

Bold and Swift! Audax et Celer! 🇨🇦

LCol Enno Kerckhoff, MSM, CD



REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR ADDRESS

CWO Stéphane Larouche, CD

It is a great honour for me to have been appointed as the 49th Regimental Sergeant Major of our great Regiment back in October 2020. I would like to start by thanking my CO, LCol Enno Kerckhoff, for his leadership and trust. It has been great to work with him over the last two years and I wish him all the best for his next chapter.

I don't think I need to remind you that the last two years were quite different due to this pandemic. After a reduced road to high readiness and preparation, the CO and I, with a group of over 100 Dragoons, deployed on TASK FORCE WOLVERINE to Latvia, right in the middle of COVID-19. We had to work hard to protect our soldiers and remain ready for our mission, but in the end we had a great success.

On our return from tour, we had the unique opportunity to benefit from the work of so many Dragoons back home and had the privilege of returning to a new building that finally meets our needs. On 22 September 2021, we made our new home official by marching the Guidon from F-104 to Y-137. Having the Regiment line the route up to the new Worthington Barracks made for another great day to be part of this Regiment. Later in the fall, we were able to hold a Leliefontein parade; unfortunately, this parade was only for serving members less C Squadron and included a very short list of spectators and invitees. You don't see it often, but the soldiers were excited to be on parade and be reminded of some normalcy as Leliefontein brings us together every November.

Spring 2022 has also been quite busy in Petawawa, with many Squadrons conducting ranges and training. The Regiment didn't deploy to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE as a unit, but we sent C Squadron with their own tanks from Gagetown, who supported every live fire range and provided unparalleled tank support to 2 CMBG. C Sqn soldiers should be extremely proud of their ability to send their tanks from



**CWO Stéphane
Larouche, CD**



LATVIA 2021

Incoming enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Enno Kerckhoff and incoming enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Stéphane Larouche arrive in at Camp Adazi, Latvia on January 19, 2021.

Image by MCpl Stuart MacNeil, enhanced Forward Presence - Latvia Imagery Technician, Canadian Armed Forces.

Moncton, NB to Wainwright, AB with the most functional tanks in the CAF!

The Light Armoured Vehicle Reconnaissance Surveillance System (LRSS) is about to be in our lines, starting with the initial trials in September, when soldiers from the Regiment will test this vehicle at its maximum capacity for a period of four months, putting enough wear and tear on the vehicle to simulate its entire life cycle. During the same period, we should also see the delivery of the first production vehicles as the newest platform for the Armoured Corps, completing the replacement of the Coyote.

A special thanks to the Guild for their continued support to our Regimental family, especially with the gym equipment. This has been a huge morale boost for our soldiers, and I wanted to say thank you for that on behalf of all the troops. A huge thanks to the family; the success of our missions only happens with family support. We cannot thank you enough for being alongside us.

Even in this environment, the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School (RCACS) is still doing an outstanding job, as we are still receiving newly qualified Armoured soldiers almost every two months and the Regiment is healthy at the junior rank levels. It is great to see new members at the Regiment, building their own traditions and developing a sense of family that only the Regiment can offer. On that, I would like to thank the leadership of the Regiment for their non-stop work to welcome, train and educate those new soldiers on becoming part of an Armoured crew.

In closing, I would like to express how proud I am to be the RSM of this great unit. As I await the arrival of LCol Forsyth, I have no doubt the CO will make sure the Regiment is ready for the next bound and I am really looking forward to being his fire team partner for the next year.

Bold and Swift! 🚀

Chief Warrant Officer J.B.S. Larouche

HIGHLY ANTICIPATED LRSS ON ITS WAY!

The Dragoons await the arrival of the Light Armoured Vehicle Reconnaissance Surveillance System (LRSS). The LAV 6.0 Recce variant will provide the same level of survivability, mobility and firepower as the baseline LAV 6.0. It is designed to carry a crew of five (driver, gunner, commander, operator, fifth occupant).



Photo courtesy of manufacturer General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada.



PATRON OF THE REGIMENT ADDRESS

David Batten, MSM

Being a part of this tight-knit family is not just simply an honour, it's also an incredible privilege to serve. As the Patron of the Regiment, I'm pleased to act as an ambassador to the Guild, informing and educating Canadians on our mandates, and connecting with those willing to support The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons has continued to evolve over the past years to become a stronger and more effective enterprise — going beyond basic fundraising for the soldiers and the extended Regimental family, the Guild has built greater tools to move forward into the future and deliver successful programs. This, by the way, was no simple task, and required many years of continued progress and hard work. During the year 2020, for example, we published the second volume of our Regimental history, *The Dragoon*. This huge accomplishment was the culmination of seven years of hard work, spearheaded by our former serving COTR, BGen (ret'd) Peter Atkinson, underpinned by the accomplishments of continued fundraising support and our investment effort managed by Jeff Hull of Manulife Securities Incorporated.

The Guild's directors and appointed members work extremely hard responding to the ongoing needs of the Regimental family, maintaining the Guild's goals to ensure a healthy future. The Guild has charitable support from currently serving soldiers and their families, retired members through the Dragoon Association, as well as support from ongoing community outreach like the "Friends of the Regiment" initiative.

I would like to personally thank our Friends of the Regiment. In 2020, we lost a dear friend, Mr. Covell Brown. Covell was on the ground, working to support the Guild since its infancy. He was wise counsel to many of us over the years, and most of all, a very dear friend. The Regiment said goodbye to Covell in an outstanding fashion — as Dragoons do — at his funeral in February 2020.

Again, I would like to personally extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the Guild again during the past two years of COVID-19. 2020 and 2021



David Batten, MSM



In 2020 the Regiment lost a dear friend, Covell Brown.

were challenging for everyone, to say the least. In spite of these challenges, the Guild's Board, Members and Friends of the Regiment have devoted hours of their time to ensure the Guild can deliver and keep the Regiment healthy and strong. Excellent teamwork under their leadership has allowed

the Guild to evolve into an extremely effective organization that continues to support the Regiment, their families and the local community.

I am extremely proud to be a small part of this journey and its wonderful progress. It is my hope that we continue to motivate, support and give back to ensure our Regiment's great success now and into the future!

Bold and Swift! 🇨🇦

David Batten, MSM

Continued from page 6

Regarding those Dragoons not posted to the Regiment, we continue to be well represented at all levels of the Canadian Armed Forces, both at home and overseas. We have benefited from key leaders and staff personnel to show our skills and contribute to joint teams in Latvia, the Middle East, various NATO headquarters and elsewhere. Springboks continue to be worn where we're needed!

Lastly, I want to recognize the outstanding resilience of all Dragoons, who continue to get the job done during the pandemic. Despite frequent requirements for isolation or shifting tasks to ensure business continuity, the job got done in all areas. New soldiers have been brought into the Regiment and our strength continues to increase day by day — all because of the efforts made to ensure we could continue to train and fight, no matter the conditions.

As I hand over to BGen Andrew Atherton this summer, I am very proud to have been the Senior Serving Dragoon. Thank you to all Dragoons, wherever you serve.

Bold and Swift! 🇨🇦

BGen Dyrالد Cross

Continued from page 5

conducted an excellent day of training for our cohort of friends in April and it was followed by a very well organized and attended family day.

One of my focuses has been The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. The mission of the Guild continues to ensure that the many sacrifices made by Dragoons and their families are acknowledged, commemorated, and celebrated. Our Guild is focused on supporting the Regimental family and there have been many opportunities, including a recent significant contribution to the new weight room in the Regimental lines. A huge part of the Guild team and a great teammate of mine and former RSM is Denis Levesque, who has lead the Dragoons Association so very well for the past 6 years. You can always count on Denis for his excellent advice and support to our Dragoons.

The mark of a Dragoon is our soldiering and our professionalism, and I continue to admire the talents and initiative that they demonstrate. In the fall we conducted the change of appointment for the Colonel Commandant of the Corps, where we recognized two more exceptional leaders and Dragoons, outgoing Col Georges Rousseau and incoming Gen Walt Natynczyk.

In closing, I wish to thank Muggsie on behalf of all Dragoons for her unwavering dedication and support to all Dragoons over the past 34 years. You will never be forgotten and we have been so very fortunate to have your thoughtfulness, your inspirational contact with all, and your absolute enthusiasm and optimism. No one cares for and knows the heart and soul of the Regiment like Muggsie!

It is another fine day to be a Dragoon! 🇨🇦

MGen Dean Milner



THE GUILD A PROUD TRADITION

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

VISION

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.

ACTIVITIES

The Guild operates along a number of key thrust lines in order to focus its actions toward achieving its Vision:

- **Unity and Communications:** Under this thrust line, the Guild ensures it is remaining active within

the Regimental family, and assisting in outreach on its behalf to the broader defence and civilian communities. Specific activities include supporting publication of The Springbok, the maintenance of the Regimental website, and support to the affiliated Cadet units.

- **History and Heritage:** The Guild's history and heritage activities are largely related to the maintenance and upkeep of Regimental artifacts and support to participation in ceremonial events. The uniforms of the Scarlet party and the Regimental Historical Vehicle Troop are the most frequently seen examples of Guild support, though it should be noted that both of these require the ongoing support of the serving members of the Regiment.

- **Quality of Life:** Here the Guild aims to make a tangible difference in the lives of the Regimental family through activities and initiatives such as the Leliefontein Memorial Bursary, support to the broader RCAC Association, support to deployed soldiers, and the initial issue of accoutrements

to all soldiers newly joining the Regiment. Other initiatives include recuperation kits to support soldiers recovering from injuries, and deployment bears to offer a means for soldiers deploying on international operations to leave their children with a tangible reminder of their parents while they are away.

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) 687-5511 extension 2424503. As a registered Canadian charity, the Guild issues tax receipts for donations. There are many ways to give, including:

- **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 Guild activities.
- **Directed Donations:** For donors who wish to support a specific Guild activity. Funds are

placed in the general investment fund where interest is applied broadly across activities while the principal of the donation is applied specifically to an activity the donor wishes to support.

The Guild continues to build and implement modernisation of our governance structures and procedures. This will ensure the Guild continues to diligently deliver services to its beneficiaries through its various lines of initiatives. This has become especially important considering the increased operational tempo of the Regiment over the past years. 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 (Charitable Registration Number 119236347RR0001). Donors range from corporations interested in supporting the Guild to voluntary donations by serving Dragoons. 🇨🇦



THE REGIMENT IN ACTION

September 2020 – September 2021

THE GUILD: A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

Through its fundraising efforts, the Guild continues to support the Regimental family in many tangible — such as the procurement of new gym equipment (pictured below) — and intangible ways.



Following a very low-key Change of Command from LCol R.V. Marois to LCol E.A. Kerckhoff and a rapid summer leave period that included many travel restrictions, which meant some soldiers could not go home or visit family, the Regiment found itself under the leadership of Maj J.C. Maerz as the enhanced Forward Presence 15 Battle Group (eFP 15 BG) stood up in September 2020. In the absence of critical levels of leadership within the Regiment, the tough decision was also made to collapse A Squadron mostly into B Squadron, with some going to D Squadron and eFP 15 BG.

Under the guidance of Maj Maerz and MWO C.C. Leblanc, the Regiment commenced individual and collective training, the first since the initial COVID-19 lockdowns and cancellation of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 20 in spring 2020. During the onset of fall 2020 training, the Regiment completed its routine Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) synchronized with many Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses required for both the Regiment and eFP 15. This robust PCF cycle included LUVW driver, Bison Driver,

LAV 6.0 Gunnery Conversion, AVCC, TAPV RWS, and Coyote surveillance operator.

In preparation for PCF courses and fall training, the Regiment completed an intense maintenance surge as the fleet remained static during the initial 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The Maintenance Officer Capt E. Normandin and Equipment Technical Quartermaster Sergeant MWO S. Caillie ensured that vehicles were ready to support both fall training and the force generation of eFP 15, laying the groundwork for the preservation of a portion of the TAPV fleet later in the fall.

Notwithstanding, the Regiment competed in another gruelling IRON WARRIOR 2020, which included a slightly different route with revised completion rules due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety requirements.

Capt A. Burke (Team OPI) and MCpl J.L. Martin (Team 2IC) led the large team to a 2nd place finish within all major units, with



MCpl Martin finishing in the top ten competitors.

With all Squadrons operating with substantially less leadership across all rank levels and junior leaders rising to the challenge, subunits transitioned to collective training. Throughout October 2020, the main effort of the Regiment was to complete baseline collective training up to Battle Task Standards (BTS) Level 3 at the troop level, while supporting gateway collective training requirements for eFP 15. The re-commencement of collective training in a COVID-19 environment was enabled by the existing trust between the Regiment and 2 CMBG, and the careful planning and implementation of measures to safeguard the soldiers within the Regiment.

B Squadron deployed to the Petawawa Training Area, integrating crew commanders and armoured soldiers from D Squadron. Over the course of

several weeks and with some soldiers and leaders in/ out of COVID-19 isolation, B Squadron completed Exercise SPARTAN RISING, and both B and HQ Squadrons conducted Exercise WALKING DRAGOON. HQ Squadron focused on individual troop and limited Squadron training activities, with Exercise WALKING DRAGOON enabling the establishment of standard operating procedures for Regimental sustainment. Setting the conditions for future collective training during Exercise CHARGING WOLVERINE, the Tn O Capt A. Burke and Tp WO WO C. Monaghan collaborated with SSM B Squadron MWO N.J.N. Nickerson to demonstrate Regt A echelon to Squadron A echelon replenishment via delivery points.

B Squadron took the lead as opposing forces (OP-FOR) for eFP 15 BG BTS Level 4 dry validation, executing a robust mobile defence which culminated in a Pl defensive position supported by T-72s and an air mobile insert of defensive stores and

C/S 43. B Squadron also took advance of the exercise to practice advance to contacts, hasty attacks, and an early morning short-notice vital point security of a “downed” CH-147 Chinook.

In recognition for performing extremely well as a Patrol Commander and acting SQMS on short notice, during both individual and collective training exercises, MCpl C.H. Prinsen and Cpl D. Sukonthapanich were awarded CO's coins.

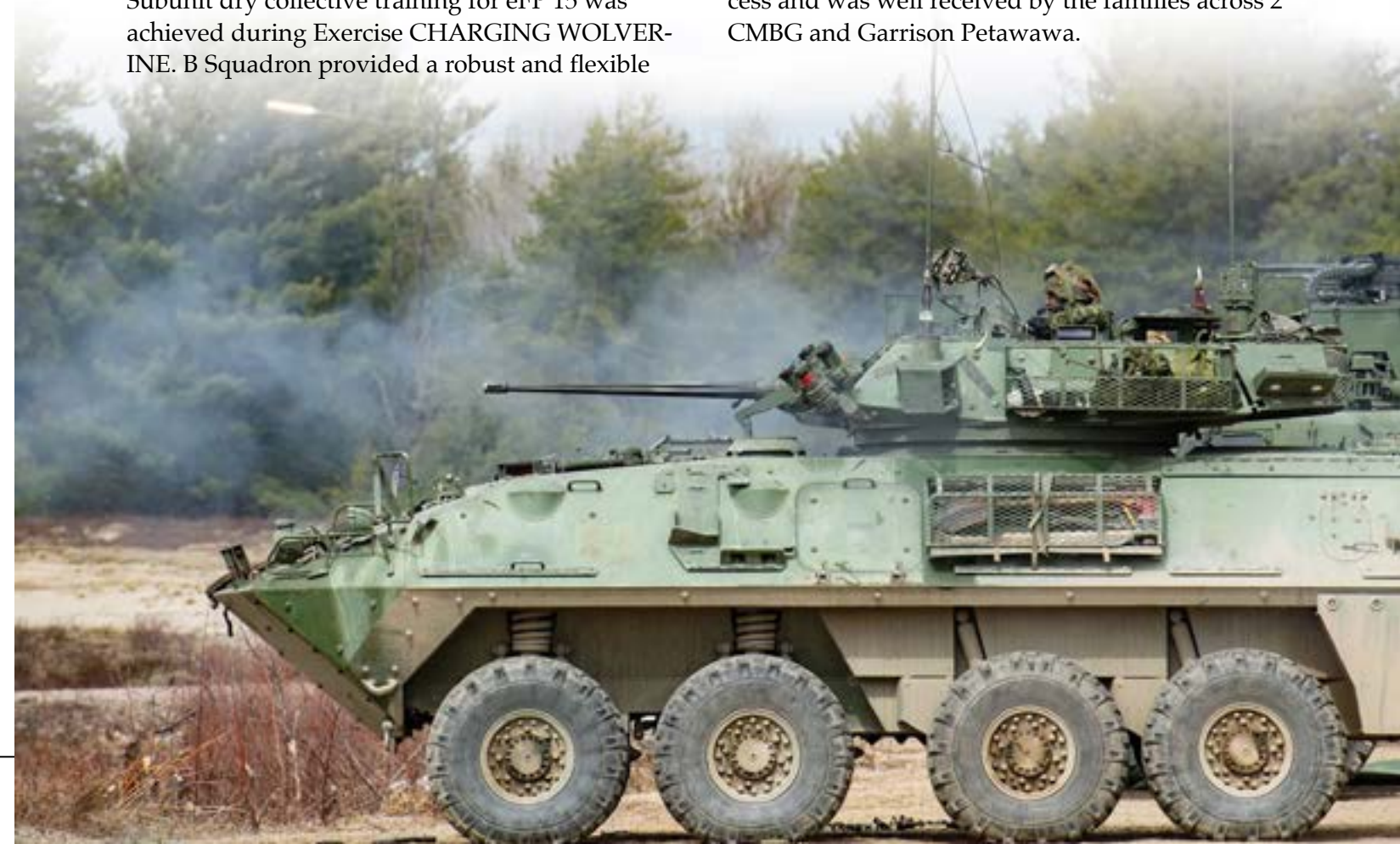
Upon completion of collective training, the Regiment shifted its focus to supporting gateway training and validation for eFP 15 BG. B Squadron executed a troop level live fire range to validate eFP 15 reconnaissance troop (60 Troop), led and organized by Capt N.E.S. Scott. Leadership from across B, D, and HQ Squadrons supported the virtual validation of the eFP 15 BG HQ during Exercise VIRTUAL WOLVERINE. In between training and with COVID-19 restrictions still in place, the Regiment briefly paused for a dispersed Remembrance Day service and for a very small Leliefontein celebration.

Subunit dry collective training for eFP 15 was achieved during Exercise CHARGING WOLVERINE. B Squadron provided a robust and flexible

enemy force and HQ Squadron achieved troop level training. Simulating a Forward Logistics Group, HQ Squadron enabled training for eFP 15 Combat Services Support Company, while supporting all training audiences and the remainder of the Regiment with a reduced maintenance, supply, and transport capability.

For their efforts in supporting the training of the eFP 15 BG, Capt D.A. Macdonald, WO D.R.J. Chatel, and Sgt M.A. Aube were awarded Commander 2 CMBG coins.

The fall training period finished with support to several Primary Combat Function courses, including Bison driver, aimed at increasing qualifications across the eFP 15 BG. Although the festive season was unable to proceed as normal, under the leadership of Capt D.A. Macdonald and Cpl C.B.R. Clouthier, many volunteers designed and built a wonderful Regimental light display for the inaugural Petawawa Festival of Lights. The 2-kilometre-long light display was set up by various units and was open to families to drive through in the absence of traditional unit family and children's holiday parties. The event was a large success and was well received by the families across 2 CMBG and Garrison Petawawa.



For their extreme dedication to a successful event and for displaying Dragoon values, Cpl Clouthier was presented with a CO's coin.

Following holiday block leave, Ontario fell into another lockdown with soldiers forced to work from home yet again, delaying a much needed PCF cycle. Once the Regiment was able to return to work, several PCFs were executed including 25mm Gunnery, Coyote Driver, ALAQ and a reverse conversion from LAV 6.0 gunnery to 25mm Gunnery.

Sgt T.W. Neaves was recognized for their dedication and leadership as Coyote Driver acting Course WO, along with Sgt E.M. O'Rourke for juggling duties as 25mm Gunnery Course WO, Squadron Gunnery Warrant Officer for Exercise SABOT DRAGOON II, and Tp WO C/S 23A.

The ongoing COVID-19 environment continued to impact the local area, and at the end of February 2021, 2 CMBG responded to a request for assistance in support of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The Regiment provided a section of soldiers commanded by Lt D. Chennette and

WO A. Grant to establish a PHAC testing site at the Gananoque Thousand Islands International Border Crossing. The team deployed to the area to conduct planning, secure resources, and then construct a first-rate testing site to enable cross-border travel for essential workers.

Due to the persistent need to support institutional tasks such as 4 CDTC Leadership Coy, B Squadron was forced to complete a second round of collective training to ensure that baseline requirements of BTS Level 3 were met prior to Exercise SABOT DRAGOON II. Jumping between PCFs and then dry collective training, B Squadron was ready to validate its 3x Troops up to BTS Level 3 live along with supporting elements from D Squadron. This was accomplished via the two-week execution of Exercise SABOT DRAGOON II, during which crews completed Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) Operational Shooting Program (OSP) practices and live cavalry centric traces within the Garrison Petawawa Training Area.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of Lt B.S. Preston (OIC Practice), Capt M.R. Barber (BC B), Sgt M.J.E. Pope (RSO), Cpl M. Domingo (the voice of enablers and C/S 2), Tpr R.A.L. Huseby

(Squadron D&M rep), and Tpr Morgan (Troop D&M rep), the Regiment was able to complete BTS Level 3 validation.

With all troops now trained and a very small Leeuwarden celebration concluded, Regimental Ops & Trg shifted its focus to the summer and fall training calendar while HQ Squadron finalized the planning and collaboration required for the Regimental move from existing to new infrastructure. This process was led by Capt C.J. Levan who handed over to MWO N.J.N. Nickerson for execution and direct coordination with external agencies such as PCL, RPOU(O) Det Petawawa, SSC, and DDC. The QM Capt N. Coutu and acting RQMS Sgt S. Rodrigues enabled the smooth transition from current to new buildings via meticulous inventory counting and sorting in a phased approach, ensuring that there was little disruption to services. Sgt J. Ferguson, the only member of Signals Troop at the time, ensured that IT infrastructure was accurately catalogued and moved in accordance with the move sequence, while simultaneously supporting the Regiment's training events. Within the same time period, B Squadron was tasked to run an exported DP3 Armoured Crew Commander (ACC) course while D Squadron executed PCF courses including airbrakes, LAV 6.0 Driver, and TAPV DRWS.

Under the guidance of Capt M.R. Barber and WO A.R. Grant, B Squadron with elements of HQ Squadron established a camp in the Petawawa Training Area to house the ACC students, staff, and support team for several weeks, including augmentation and students from C Squadron. The shift from a reconnaissance to cavalry mindset during Ex CHARGING WOLVERINE and Ex SABOT DRAGOON II enabled the team to grasp cavalry tactics and manoeuvre prior to executing the DP3 course.

After completing multiple weeks of learning to shoot, move, and communicate via advance to contact and defensive traces, along with dozens of hasty attacks, the DP3 ACC graduated all 12 students with MCpl C.E. Smith selected as top candidate.

Following ACC and PCFs, as well as support to a 32 CBG ARTL 1.2 in Petawawa, the Regiment realigned itself so that A Squadron could officially stand back up and be ready to execute fall training concurrent to the move into new Regimental lines including Y-137, and welcome the return of the eFP 15 BG. With now the bulk of the Regiment having received their first and second COVID-19 vaccinations thanks to the careful planning and tracking from the Adjutant Capt R.J. Brown and the acting Chief Clerk Sgt D.L. Dafoe, the Regiment was ready to take a much-deserved summer break. As the reins of the Regiment were passed between Maj Maerz and incoming R2IC Maj M.S.W.G. Boire, the bulk of the Regiment commenced summer leave while the remainder rapidly began the move into Y-137 and renovated infrastructure.

Throughout the year, many members of the Regiment were recognized for their professionalism, dedication, and leadership.

Sgt J.A. Nault received a Commander 2 CMBG Commendation for their change initiatives regarding ammunition management within 2 CMBG and the 4th Cdn Div. For their commitment to the Regiment and 2 CMBG, WO A.D. Edmunds, Cpl A. Krzywania, and Tpr R.C. Organ were presented with 2 CMBG Sergeants-Major's coins. Finally, Maj Maerz, MWO Leblanc, and WO S.A. Black were all recognized individually for their efforts during the initial onset of COVID-19, including Operation GLOBE, and the integration of ARes across the 4th Cdn Div. 🏆



HEAVE HO!

D Squadron test their mettle by pulling a LAV during training.

J-Tower at night.



LATVIA 2021

OP REASSURANCE

Rotation 15, January – July 2021

Between 12 January and 17 July 2021, 322 soldiers from 2 CMBG at Garrison Petawawa deployed to Adazi, Latvia as members of the Land Task Force for Operation REASSURANCE — Canada’s contribution to NATO’s assurance and deterrence mandate in the Baltics. This rotation was commanded by CO and RSM RCD, LCol Kerckhoff and CWO Larouche, where 131 of the 322 soldiers deployed were Dragoons.

The enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG) in Latvia is one of four defensive, multinational NATO battle groups positioned in the Baltics to deter aggression and promote peace and security in the region. The Battle Group is a lethal and agile fighting force that reports directly to the Latvian Infantry Mechanized Brigade based in Adazi, Latvia. The Battle Group is comprised of approximately 1,300 soldiers from a total of nine contributing nations including: Canada, Spain, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Albania. Canada leads the battle group in Latvia as a framework nation. Our key contributions include:

the Battle Group headquarters, an Infantry Company in light armoured vehicles, a Combat Support Company (intelligence and communications), and a Support Company (transportation, supply and medical). This organization is supported by a Communications Squadron as well as a National Support Element that enables the BG’s support requirements and reports directly to the regional Task Force Headquarters, which is now co-located in Adazi.

The Battle Group represents the strength of the NATO alliance. Its motto is *Strength in unity*, which is achieved by ensuring interoperability, not only between the contributing nations of the Battle Group, but also between Latvia as the host nation and other NATO Battle Groups in the region. Such interoperability is only achieved by conducting a series of progressive and large-scale training activities in dry and live fire environments. As such, the Battle Group trains and exercises regularly. The exercises are multinational in nature and often integrate with the Latvian national defence forces and

other allied forces from outside the Battle Group to further enhance complimentary capabilities and other assets that aren’t inherent to the Battle Group organization.

The goal of this deployment was to continue to strengthen that interoperability with our NATO allies while maintaining a credible deterrence across the sovereign territory of Latvia. Working in a multinational context also allowed the soldiers of the Battle Group to learn from one another, benefit from unique national experiences and adopt best practices as each contributing nation brought their own unique capabilities.

It is this collaboration that the soldiers from 2 CMBG found most significant when reflecting on their time in theatre. The opportunity to train and exercise alongside members from other nations ensured a common understanding of organization and tactics, but also some hands-on experience with the unique capabilities and equipment that each nation brought to the fight. Opportunities to learn and develop from one another were built into the deployment with firepower demonstrations, professional competency competitions and smaller scale collective training opportunities occurring

across the countryside to hone our operating procedures, get to know one another and ensure our continued readiness.

During the off-duty hours much time was spent with team building activities and promoting a healthy competition between the various company level organizations. Such activities included fitness competitions, sports leagues, small arms seminars, individual skills competitions, and adventure training. During the evenings, contributing nations would often host cultural nights in which national cuisines would be showcased or national holidays explained and celebrated. Emphasized throughout was the requirement to ensure continued and sustained interoperability to train and, if necessary, fight as a cohesive force in the defence of Latvia.





REGIMENTAL HQ ON POINT



The team in **Regimental** Headquarters performed extremely well over the past year. Whether the team was enabling the move into our new home in Y-137, planning and coordinating Regimental and Brigade events, moving the CO and RSM throughout the battle space, or ensuring administration was completed in time for taskings and deployments; the team did it all and did it well. As a group, we continued to support one another through the trials and tribulations that the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on us, and we worked out paradigm shifting ways to move forward.

The Regimental Orderly Sergeant, Sgt Bishop, supported by MCpl Vincent, led a team of personnel (Cpl Bradley, Cpl Littlewood, Cpl Schofield, Cpl Brammer, Cpl Richey, Cpl Ramm, Cpl St-Amour, Cpl Philips, Cpl Malloff) as they kept the lights on, secured our Guidon, and completed tasks that varied greatly.

In fact, on any given week they could be troubleshooting parade and ceremonial requirements, building memorials, and finding a home for

important Regimental artifacts, and helping new visitors navigate their way through Y-137.

Life was no different for 9Tac. Sgt Thomas, MCpl O'Meara, Cpls Allen, Burke, Muir-Bateman, French, and Depano, when not keeping 9TAC vehicles deployable, coordinated the movement of the CO and RSM and filled the gaps in tasks issued to RHQ. They helped set up the new Regimental gym in Y-137, helped the Assistant-Adjutant, Capt Bryce Preston, in administrative and ceremonial tasks and, when necessary, reinforced other sections within RHQ.

The Adjutant, Capt Jenny Silmser, with her fireteam partner WO Dafoe, tirelessly kept the Regiment administratively afloat. They, with the Orderly Room team of MCpls Presseau and Voisin, Avr Livingstone, and Pte Allaby, ensured that members of the RCD updated important personal data, were prepared for courses, and were a central nexus where squadron staff could seek out important advice to better support their members.

Sgt King and the crew at the Canteen made sure we had good food for lunch, that incoming troops

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

R2IC Maj Steve Boire and TQMS MWO Christopher Keith pay service to our fallen soldiers, Remembrance Day 2021.



received their initial PT kit and accoutrements, and that the medals that soldiers were awarded for recent tours were mounted. Canteen personnel included MCpl Bray and Cpls Grech, Hunt, Kelly, and Sukonthapanich.

The Ops and Training team, led by Capt Colin McNaughton and WO Edmunds, made sure that ranges were booked, templates were created, plans reached out into the future, and that the RCD were poised to meet and support tasks from across the brigade, garrison, and Corps. Lt Kim, Cpl Johnson and Cpl Wollenschlager kept the RCD aware and attuned to the threats and challenges that the RCD could face during exercises as well as analysis of real life COVID-19 trends and possible domestic operations. The Regimental Ops and Training team includes WO MacDonald, Cpl Daras, Capt Cyr, Sgt Hatfield, MCpls Martin and Martz, and Cpls Milwain, Umberg, and Kruize.

While every year is the 'busiest year ever,' it cannot be stressed enough that

the soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and junior officers of RHQ worked on a multitude of different tasks within their own domain, often outside of regular hours, in order to make The Royal Canadian Dragoons better — better at meeting its operations requirements and better at supporting our soldiers.

The CO, LCol Kerckhoff, followed closely by the RSM, CWO Larouche, and Adjutant, Capt Jenny Silmser, leads the Regiment during a march past, Leliefontein 2021.





A

SQUADRON

2021 – 2022

As posting season 2021 approached, it was time to stand A Sqn back up following its temporary disbandment during Op REASSURANCE. Maj Duaine Fetzner, having recently redeployed from Op IMPACT, took command of the Sqn and together with MWO Troy Phillips laid out the plan for forming the Sqn team. Work began on organizing members of rear-party into troops based on qualifications and experience. Equipment and vehicles were transferred from other Sqns and inspected to confirm functionality. Finally, TAPVs were removed from preservation and made operational, resuming their maintenance schedules. The majority of the Sqn was in place, waiting on

the remaining pers redeploying from eFP 15 Op REASSURANCE, with plans for fall training being developed.

Fall training was a challenging and rewarding experience. The Sqn adopted a crawl, walk, run approach as we incorporated individuals from around the Regiment, and formed them into a cohesive team.

Training started with Ex VIRTUAL GOAT, a computer-assisted exercise focusing on training Tp Leadership. This was followed by Ex WALKING GOAT and Ex GALLOPING GOAT, field exercises focusing on Tp and Sqn training. These exercises took place while the Sqn adapted to be a Cavalry (Light) Sqn, organized around 4 troops of 4 vehicles (two Tps Coyote, two Tps TAPV). The new

organization and tactics provided lots of opportunities for professional development discussions and training while the Sqn developed standard operating procedures. The Sqn then transitioned to Ex SABOT DRAGOON, allowing the Tps to conduct patrol and Tp level live ranges by day and night. This was the first opportunity for many of the young soldiers to operate in a dynamic range at night, which allowed for a great training opportunity.

Throughout the year, A Sqn was tasked as the Vanguard Coy for the Immediate Response Unit, ready to respond to domestic operations. Kit checks and phone fan-outs were conducted regularly to ensure the Tps were ready to deploy on short notice. Leave and tasks were monitored to ensure the Sqn had sufficient personnel available to fulfill the task mandate.

Each soldier in the Sqn showed a dedication and willingness to assist Canadians if called upon.

Christmas silly season offered a much deserved break and boost in morale. Although COVID-19 forced many changes to the traditional events, the Sqn was still able to enjoy some sports, with A Sqn winning Ultimate Frisbee, and the Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, served by the Sqn NCOs and Officers. Tpr Gagne stole the show with the reading of a poem developed by SHQ.

After the Christmas break, there was a new approach to training. With the surge of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, the Sqn developed a decentralized training approach. Tps conducted winter survival classes virtually and in small groups outdoors. The Sqn ensured its readiness for domestic

response by enforcing strict cohorting and adherence to force health protection measures. The soldiers of A Sqn demonstrated their flexibility and creativeness to learn valuable skills using non-traditional methods.

With the news that A Sqn would not be involved with Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, we took the opportunity to utilize the less busy Petawawa Training Area to conduct another Tp and Sqn level field exercise. This was a great opportunity to practice some of the skills which had been discussed through virtual classes, and to practice the skills for which there is seemingly never enough time to exercise. It was mostly appreciated as an opportunity to come together and train as a team for one last exercise.

With posting season approaching again, A Sqn took the opportunity say farewell to Maj Duaine Fetzner and MWO Troy Phillips. They excellently led the Sqn through a challenging year and they will be missed. The members of A Sqn are better as a result and can't wait for the next challenge. 🚁



LIVE TRAINING

Getting back to basics

The troops of A Squadron took the opportunity to undergo live field exercises as often as possible when not limited by COVID-19 restrictions. These live training exercises were the perfect opportunity to put into practice some of the skills learned in virtual classes.



B

SQUADRON

2021 – 2022

B Sqn's motto "Hit Hard, Hit Fast" was exactly how the 2021-22 training year began. After a much deserved summer break, where many soldiers were able to travel and visit family for the first time in well over a year, the Sqn hit the ground running.

Commanding the charge was Maj Marsha Reid, whose clear-eyed decision-making and no-nonsense direction set an early pace for the Sqn, complemented by the leadership of SSM Jason Dunnett, whose encyclopedic knowledge of CAF policy and convention helped keep the Sqn complete between the hedges.

Together, they set the conditions for a Sqn culture that emphasised fairness, empathy and approachability — setting the troops up for success right from the get-go.

To kick things off, as part of Regimental IBTS in August 2021, B Sqn coordinated and executed the 9mm pistol range and attended other live fire ranges and dry training. Soon afterwards, the Sqn participated in a 10km 2 CMBG ruck march, which looked quite different from previous years, but was the start of what felt like getting back to a sense of normalcy. In the midst of getting ourselves dusted off to prepare for field training, the Sqn said goodbye to its latest home (C-103) and moved into Y-137.

In early September 2021, B Sqn continued to demonstrate why it has held Right of Line within the Regiment, with outstanding performances from British Exchange Officer and Sqn 2IC Capt Rory Beatty, and B Sqn 1st Troop Leader Lt Meredith Faulkner as top finishers in their categories as part of Ex IRON WARRIOR 2021.



Dry training with enablers prior to Ex INTREPID BEAR 3.

Unfortunately, due to a surge in Individual Training (IT) requirements, the Sqn was tasked to provide almost half of its junior leaders to support leadership company, and although the Sqn missed having those Sr Cpls, MCpls, and Sgts for the first half of the fall training period, our junior members really stepped up to the plate and demonstrated that we really are in fine shape. This task cut into the Sqn's ability to train during the live fire for Ex SABOT DRAGOON, but we made it up with our performance as part of Ex SABOT DRAGOON 2 in March 2022.

The lack of personnel didn't stop the Sqn from achieving its goals throughout the fall; we used this time to really focus on the basics for many of the Sqn members had never spent more than 24 hours in the field! It was an excellent opportunity to discuss mounted and dismounted drills, Cavalry TTPs, and to shake the cobwebs out after a long hiatus. We practiced running resupplies, which luckily the Sqn rarely got lost getting to as we

were able to use Sgt Pope's vape plume as a guide! However, the Sqn leadership (ahem, the OC) learned the hard way that words matter, but what she really learned was that grids matter more!

Some of our junior members learned the importance of camouflage and concealment, dress standards, and the limitations of our vehicles. It turns out that making mistakes are really where we grow as a unit, and can laugh over experiences afterwards.

Leliefontein celebrations did not include Right of Line competitions this year, so the Sqn eagerly awaits an opportunity to defend its title in the near future. For the first time in anyone's recent memory, the parade was less than 90 minutes and it was above 5 degrees Celsius.

Additionally, B Sqn's very own MCpl Guzman was awarded the Volunteer Award for their work coaching the Valley Warriors, a charitable organization that makes the game of hockey accessible to children with autism and other learning difficulties; continuing to demonstrate the Sqn's excellence in a variety of areas.

Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON saw the Sqn out in full force, where

we tackled a delay, two distinct raids, and presence patrolling. It also included several hundred dollars in canteen hamburger sales, thanks to the entrepreneurial efforts of Cpl O'Hara and Cpl Ryan.

The holiday season was cut short due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19, but we were able to hold a few small events, most notably a Sqn-sized Soldiers' Appreciation Dinner, where the leadership could formally thank the soldiers for their hard work over the fall training period. The assembled Sqn also received a holiday well-wishing from Maj. Gen (ret'd) Milner, who impressed officers and soldiers alike by effortlessly plucking a hurtling beer can from mid-air — offered up by an over-enthusiastic B Sqn trooper in the back row — and opening it to share in a drink with the troops as they broke up for their winter holiday. Legend has it that the beer didn't even fizz.

As 2022 approached, the Sqn deployed to Calabogie Resort to conduct Cold Weather Operator and Winter Survival Training. It was the first time 2 CMBG soldiers deployed to the Rural Manoeuvre Area (RMA) since prior to the pandemic, and we certainly did it right!

The Sqn hiked up the ski hill, conducted tactical operations, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and topped everything off with through the ice drills. It was such a popular affair that several of our soldiers made CTV News that very evening. It was the exercise needed to bring everyone back together and reinvigorate the Sqn after a few months of leave and working from home.



Cpl Lidwell, after successfully completing gas hut training.

Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR was back on the books for 2022, where B Sqn once again demonstrated top performance by snagging the Combat Fitness banner thanks to the Sqn 2IC Capt Beatty, Sqn LO Lt Pynn and member of 22 Tpr Prenovost.

B Sqn Troop leadership completed Ex SABOT DRAGOON II in March 2022, where our Troops demonstrated their ability to work under pressure with live ammunition and succeed in a variety of tasks. This range set the conditions for level 4 training as part of Ex INTREPID BEAR III, where the Sqn, led by the 2IC, BC, and SSM, executed a phenomenal live fire given the restraints of the Petawawa training area. 🏠



MCpl Lyon crawls out of the ice during Ex FROZEN SPARTAN.



C SQUADRON

2020 – 2022

C Squadron had the fortunate opportunity to be able to return to training and the execution of squadron events much quicker than the rest of the Regiment after the initial waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. We've kept busy, with the primary focus being on the preparation of the tanks and vital workup training as C Squadron goes to high readiness next year, with the capstone being Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in April 2022. Commanded by Maj Blaise Saint Amour and MWO Richard Larocque, who took over the Squadron Sergeant Major position from MWO Francis Thibeault during summer 2021, C Squadron consists of four tank troops, an administration troop, a maintenance troop, an SQ troop, and a Squadron HQ.

During the late fall of 2020 the Squadron was finally able to return to work and continue tasks in a (more or less) normal state. In November 2020 and January 2021, the Squadron conducted level 2 ranges, allowing the soldiers to immediately get back to working on their crew skills after a long period of not touching the tanks. The range introduced dynamic elements including simulated jockeys, battle resupply from the echelon, and a tactical bunker reload within the call signs behind cover.

The scenarios allowed for the Squadron to time exactly how long a resupply lasts and give a benchmark for crews to try to beat, as well as allowed for crews to have a more realistic range in comparison to years past.

With all troops successfully completing level 2 ranges, the Squadron moved into the Lawfield Corridor in February 2021 to complete the level 3 range. Over the period of five days, troops conducted dry training at troop discretion. Upon the completion of those five days, the Squadron moved into the level 3 live. The live range also took place in the Lawfield Corridor, in the form of a dynamic scenario.

Troops went through complex terrain, a road move, had an objective to effect fire into, and conducted a delay while getting a battle resupply from the echelon. This dynamic range allowed for all Squadron members to test the capabilities of the vehicle and conduct a more realistic approach to training.

After the successful completion of the level 3 range, C Squadron's attention shifted to primarily vehicle maintenance and courses. Over the course of the spring and early summer, the Squadron conducted a multitude of courses, including Basic Winter Warfare, TLAV and ARV RWS Operator, AVCC, and MSVS Driver. The Squadron also sent seven of

its Master Corporals to Petawawa and Valcartier to get their crew commander qualifications, allowing for more depth within the Squadron.

During this period, C Squadron also celebrated a number of anniversaries, including the 150th birthday of the 12^e Régiment blindé du Canada, the 121st anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein, and the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Day.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, C Squadron was unable to travel for any of the events this year. This period culminated with the OC's inspection in May 2021, where the troops were able to show the stewardship and pride that they had of their vehicles. C Squadron was able to celebrate having one of the best VORs in the whole of the Corps.

Prior to summer leave the Squadron had a re-organization, where the Squadron wished the best to those who departed and graciously welcomed all of the new members who were posted in. The summer block leave period gave the Squadron a time of much-deserved rest and, with the lifting of many COVID-19 travel restrictions, allowed Squadron members the opportunity to travel and see loved ones again for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Upon return from leave the Squadron kicked right into more cours-

es, including DFIG, Leopard 2 Crew Commander and Gunnery, TLAV Driver, Leopard 2 Driver, and another AVCC.

Fall of 2021 saw a continuation of workup training for C Squadron. Over the course of October, the Squadron conducted ranges up to and including a level 4.5, in conjunction with 2 RCR. The fall training allowed the Squadron to see how it can work in the field as a sole entity, living in an austere environment with conducting maintenance in hides and determining SOPs for resupplies with the echelon under strict EMCON states. It also gave the Squadron the opportunity to work on lessons learned from the previous level 3, and afford the





ability to continue practicing in a combined arms effort. Following the ranges, C Squadron assisted DLR in a number of trials, including a semi-indirect range with live HE and shooting a live Sabot for the first time in Canada. Following the holiday leave period focus shifted completely to the preparation for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, with kit being packed and the tanks being loaded on rail to be transported to Wainwright.

Overall, C Squadron has had a busy but extremely effective past year. Under the leadership of the OC and SSM, the Squadron has had the opportunity to

improve on skills that have not been trained in a long time, as well as further develop and improve their understanding of their vehicles in order to continue to gain confidence and solidify as a tank squadron. Further, with COVID-19 restrictions lifting more every day, the Squadron is hoping to be able to visit the Regiment to maintain those ever-important regimental ties. It has been a busy year up to this point, and will continue to be in the upcoming year, but C Squadron is more than happy to resume training after a long working-at-home period and is excited for the challenges and learning opportunities that the upcoming year will bring. 🚀



D SQUADRON

2021 – 2022

D Squadron continued to be the regimental experts for ground-manoeuvre reconnaissance, UAV operations, and command support. Training throughout 2021 and 2022 was focused on improving the Regiment's decision-action cycle while denying the enemy's. The soldiers of D Squadron never faltered from their missions and proved to be the Regiment's most agile.

60 Troop exercised their mounted and dismounted reconnaissance capabilities, moving rapidly and stealthily into position to feed information back to a supported force. The intelligence provided by 60 allowed the supported squadrons to quickly and decisively destroy their enemies. 60 embraced working in blackout conditions, training their drivers and dismounted soldiers to be more confident at night in order to remain unseen. The troop was able to internally conduct dismounted night

raids on targets of opportunity as well as provide support to the cavalry squadrons conducting their own raids. While playing OPFOR during CHARGING DRAGOON, 60 was able to demonstrate gaps in the defensive capabilities of the cavalry squadrons by sneaking through their lines at night, sometimes even getting into their vehicles. 60 also exercised their capability as an early warning element, moving fluidly from screening to delaying, allowing the Regiment to gain the time and information it needed to present a determined defence.

During the spring of 2022, 60 supported the Basic Tactical Aviation Course (BTAC) run by 438 Squadron. BTAC is a course run for pilots to qualify

ABOVE: WO Eamon O'Rourke and MWO Dustin Barnett are proud of D Sqn's quick pace up the mountain. Note the space between D and B Sqns (background, behind MWO Barnett).



them as commanders of helicopter patrols. 60 coordinated and executed multiple convoys with CH-146 Griffon support that included calling in and adjusting live artillery and supporting troops in contact. The main training event was a large combat team air mobile assault on a village. 60 and Ghost Troop operated with a company from 3 RCR, JTACs from 2 RCHA, CH-47 Chinooks and CH-146 Griffons. Ghost provided the surveillance of the target prior to the assault while 60 secured

BELOW: Tpr Austin Kirby and Cpl Vic Teofilovic launch the Raven MUAV as part of troop-level training in August 2022.



the landing zone, effected an isolation on the target and provided the intimate support for the infantry's advance into the village.

Ghost Troop (UAV Tp) provides intelligence to the Regiment's ground troops with a long range screen that keeps them informed of enemy movement. Working with 60, Ghost fills intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) gaps and enhances the ground recce to make a seamless line while providing different angles to create better situational awareness for the Regiment's planning.

During the fall, a UAV Det, led by MCpl Robitaille, trained with 2 RCR for Ex INTREPID BEAR.

Throughout the duration of Ex INTREPID BEAR, 2 RCR was afforded the full opportunity and tactical advantage that Ghost Troop's Raven B offered, proving the capability to other members of the Brigade. Commanders were given real-time intelligence that only the MUAV platform could

provide, allowing them to make timely decisions and win the battle space. The detachment was pushed forward of the fighting elements, screening withdrawals and marking targets to prepare for counterattacks. When not flying their UAVs,

BOTTOM LEFT: Raven MUAV in flight.

BELOW: Donovan colonels "The Sheriff" and "Big Joe" were captured during Operation HIPSHOT during Ex WALKING DRAGON.



O Coy leadership issues orders while 60 provides intimate support.



Ghost Tp would operate as OPFOR, disrupting A and B Squadrons’ “cunning” plans, which challenged the training audience to think and react to an adaptive enemy.

Signal Troop rounds out D Squadron’s capabilities by enabling unit-level command and control (C2). This is achieved through the deployment of the Battle Group Command Post (BG CP) and the operation of communications systems, including tactical radios and secure data.

Despite being severely understaffed, the strength of Sig Troop is found in the quality of the few soldiers that work within it. Cpl Mundy and Cpl Terts are prime examples.

Working in the BG CP during Ex CHARGING DRAGOON 21, Cpl Mundy demonstrated his creativity and advanced technical knowledge on numerous occasions. He quickly responded to

communications issues while on shift in the CP to ensure C2 was maintained.

Cpl Mundy even “bush fixed” the CP’s gear mechanism using a key chain, which proved to be far superior to the cotter pins sourced by DLR. On one night during the exercise, Cpl Terts independently operated a Radio Rebroadcast Station to ensure redundant communications with B Squadron were maintained.

Both his dedication and foresight were extremely valuable to the success of the mission.

Sig Troop is a valuable and prized member of D Squadron. While the fighting troops were on the ground training, the BG CP was working behind the scenes to provide overall C2. The RCD Sig Troop provided numerous timely solutions to ensure communications were upheld and that battle tracking continued successfully.

CLOCKWISE: (1) Cpl Steven Mundy proudly displays his superior cotter pin for the CP winch. (2) Capt Adam Rymes enjoys a cold one in a survival suit while the remainder of the troops jump in the water in their long johns. (3) Sgt Gareth Guest, MCpl Brandon Cross, and MCpl Alex Pulak conduct their reconnaissance plans in order to support a regimental raid on Ortona Village. (4) Admin Tp conduct troop-level training on the MSVS Load-Handling System. (5) Cpl Eric Young launches the Raven MUAV while conducting troop-level training in preparation for Sqn live fire exercises.



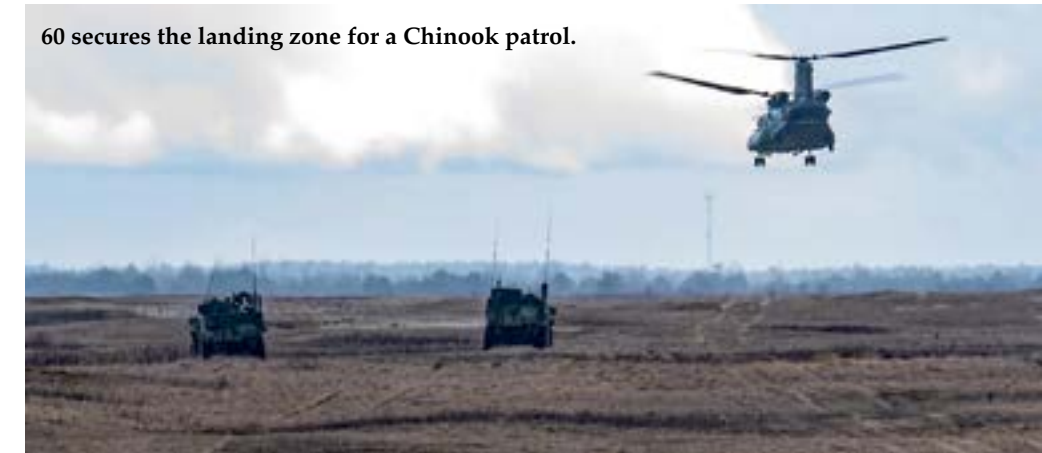
Despite the unique nature of D Sqn’s troops, they all understand that cohesion and coordination are essential to sustained operations, which is led by Admin Tp and SHQ. Admin Tp keeps the Squadron moving forward while SHQ ensures efficiency and purpose. Of equal importance is when the Regiment commands a battle group where Admin Tp and SHQ lead the command and sustainment of C/S 0.



D and B Sqns also conducted an exhausting winter warfare exercise where teamwork and camaraderie were tested. The determined soldiers hauled their tent groups to the peak of Calabogie Mountain, plunged through the ice of Calabogie Lake, and established a bivouac routine for three cold nights. As is tradition, D Sqn led the way for B Sqn, and despite breaking the trail, D Sqn summited the mountain much faster than B Sqn. 🏔️



60 secures the landing zone for a Chinook patrol.





HQ

SQUADRON

2021 – 2022

This year saw Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) rebuild individual skills and institutional expertise that had been eroded by the loss of training opportunities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Enhanced Forward Presence Rotation 15 (eFP 15) deployment. While HQ Sqn's mission was to SUSTAIN the Regiment throughout fiscal year 2021-2022 in order to ensure mission readiness of the Regt and its subunits, the Sqn's intent was to work in close cooperation with support dependencies while balancing sustainment of the Regt with achieving internal training aims including specialist, collective, and leadership progression.

The year also saw a significant turnover of many dedicated officers and senior non-commissioned officers who had been supporting the Regt, including Acting Officer Commanding (OC) Capt C.J. Levan and Squadron Sergeant-Major (SSM) MWO J. Power.

Amidst planning and coordination for an impending move of the Regt to Y-137 and other renovated infrastructure, summer leave offered a fleeting moment for all to rejuvenate. Following summer leave, the Regt rolled right into Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) and Primary

Combat Function (PCF) training concurrent to the return of eFP 15 personnel and the movement of the Regiment into Y-137. This saw the new Administration Officer, Lt L.A.M. Grant, running both PWT 3 and pairs live ranges, with Transport Troop (Tn Tp) supporting the movement of the Regt and ammunition to and from the ranges.

The Maintenance (Maint) Officer, Capt E. Begin, organized driver training on the Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS) logistics truck with instructors from Maint Tp, Tn Tp, and A Sqn. While HQ Sqn provided crucial support to the Regt in the achievement of IBTS, it also set out to rebuild and develop both Sqn and Regt standard operating procedures (SOPs) for sustainment through a series of professional development sessions led by the OC Maj C.J. Justason and the Battle Captain (BC) Capt L.F. Aqiqi. This set conditions for fall Collective Training (CT) field exercises.

An exciting time for the entire Regimental family, this year was marked by the completion of the RCD Y-137 project in September, the long-anticipated inauguration of the Regt's new home for generations to come.

Spearheaded by HQ Sqn under the leadership of SSM MWO J.N. Nickerson, the move of the Regt from its old, dislocated infrastructure under one new roof was orchestrated and brought to fruition through the tireless work, coordination, and perseverance of the transition team, which also included WO J.F. Whitehead (D Sqn), Sgt J.D. Ferguson (Sigs Sgt), and Sgt S.A. Rodrigues (Tech Sgt). This move was equally meaningful to Tn and Maint Tp, who also inherited newly renovated maintenance workshops and hangars out of C-50 and C-53 respectively. As many members of HQ Sqn returned to the unit from eFP 15 in late September, they were greeted with the site of the



Regt's old horse stables and previous Sqn lines already raised to the ground and Y-137 raised from the ashes.

Exercise WALKING DRAGOON in early October was a great learning opportunity and return to the basics for HQ Sqn. The Squadron deployed to the Petawawa Ranges and Training Area (RTA) for four days to brush off the cobwebs and cement their drills.

HQ Sqn focused on operating the Command Post (CP), individual field craft, coordinating sustainment, as well as maintaining local defence in a decentralized harbour posture. Tn Tp had the opportunity to conduct resupply and delivery point demonstrations with Sqn A echelons, as well as with 2 Service Battalion (Svc Bn) Supply and Transportation Company as part of Exercise SKILLED SUSTAINER. Overall, these exercises saw the blending of the Service Battalion field SOPs with our own to streamline resupply operations.

Maint Tp deployed to the field for the duration, focusing on basic skills, testing their ability to conduct repairs in a field setting, and organizing recovery support demonstrations with other Sqns which eventually became real-time recoveries.

The following week, the Sqn culminated its troop-level training with the conduct of live fire convoy ranges led by the BC, Ops NCO Sgt A.G. Tan, and Tn O, Lt C.J. Davis with participation from members of all trades across the Sqn as well as elements from 2 Svc Bn, 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, and 2nd Military Police Regiment Field Platoon.

November brought slight reprieve amidst the Leliefontein and Remembrance Day ceremonies, though juxtaposed between the Regt's troop-level live fire ranges and squadron-level field training, Exercise SABOT DRAGOON and CHARGING DRAGOON.

This year saw Cpl J.D. Jenkins and MCpl P.M.W. Marrocco from Maint Tp awarded top non-Armoured soldier Cpl and MCpl at Leliefontein, as well as Lt C.J. Davis, who received the CO's Sword as the top subaltern.

The Leliefontein mess dinners were spearheaded by the Centurion Room and Sergeant Holland Room PMCs, Maj Justason and MWO Nickerson respectively, which proved to be an evening to remember. Following Leliefontein, the Squadron moved into a focused maintenance period in preparation for Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON.



Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON was staged in the Petawawa RTA and took place over the course of two weeks. This exercise saw HQ Sqn come together as one cohesive team to exercise its sustainment function in support of the Regt and confirm the CSS doctrine and operating procedures it had built upon. Throughout, Food Svcs Section, under the initial leadership of Sgt I.A. Chalmers and then the Kitchen Officer WO R.S.M. Kind, ensured that the Regt was well fed, with fresh rations being provided daily. The busy exercise allowed the Sqn to shake out and prove its established concept of sustainment between the Sqn A echelons, Regt A echelon, and Regt B echelon. The Quartermaster (QM) Capt N.D. Coutu ran the Regt rear CP, Call sign (C/S) 8P, exercising the rear link and forward sustainment between a notional 2 Svc Bn and C/S 8.

There was nothing but praises from A Sqn for the excellent dedication, preventative maintenance support, and corrective maintenance skills of their Bison MRT crew, which consisted of MCpl D.J. Alie, Cpl J.D. Jenkins, and Cpl V.A.R. Hunt.

HQ Sqn finished the fall training cycle supporting Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE II, where BC HQ, Tn O,





Maint O, MCpl Z.H.A. Lussier, MCpl C.J. Haines, and Tpr D. Simard valiantly sustained the RCD pixels in Donovia; all gained a deep understanding of the collaboration and integration needed to support a battle group.

Immediately prior to the holiday leave period, HQ Sqn led the majority of festive activities.

Of note, Capt L.F. Aqiqi was OPI for the Officers At-Home; Lt C.J. Davis facilitated Regt sports, including the traditional ice hockey games; Capt N.D. Coutu and WO Kind enabled the soldiers' festive dinner, with Cpl K.



Balling and Pte H.J. Joyce providing technical support to the Home Fires Festival of Lights.

Once all vehicles were marshalled inside and the Regt lines cleaned up from all of the Sqn-level turkey dinners, HQ Sqn closed the hangar doors to spend the holidays with friends and family, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

Returning from leave, HQ Sqn hit the ground running in January as the Regt embarked on another cycle of PCF training, while navigating another round of provincial COVID-19 restrictions that limited those in the workplace. Though the unit's involvement in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE had been scaled back to only include C Sqn, HQ Sqn still faced concurrent fleet-wide issues from the fall and reduced staffing. In February, QM Tp, under the supervision of the RQMS MWO P.J.P. Boisvert, set out to complete all stocktaking verifications to set the stage for the Regt's incoming CO, LCol N.B. Forsyth, a monumental task undertaken with deliberation and weeks of effort. In addition to institutional support,

HQ Sqn facilitated another MSVS driver course with WO S.O. Berube leading the charge as the Tn O entered COVID-19 isolation for the fourth time this year. Due to the Tn O's fifth isolation period, Capt Aqiqi self-handedly led the HQ Sqn team through a condensed Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE III to enable the validation of 2 Svc Bn and 2 CMBG HQ.

Throughout the spring, HQ Sqn's aim shifted to supporting preparations for the Regt Change of Command and level 4 live fire Ex INTREPID BEAR III in May. As the Regt moves into a "hold year" as part of the Canadian Army Managed Readiness Plan, HQ Sqn will continue to provide unmatched CSS to the Regt and its subunits. With the CO Change of Command ceremony completed and summer leave commencing, HQ Sqn experienced a lot of turnover and bid farewell to its OC, SSM, 2IC, BC, AO, Ops NCO, Admin NCO Sgt G.R. Lachaine, QM, and RQ.

Lt Luke Grant, Capt Leroy Aqiqi and Lt Cole Davis.



TWO YEARS LIKE NO OTHER Snapshots from recent RCD events





IRON WARRIOR

RISE ABOVE

By Lt Chennette

This year's Iron Warrior ran differently than many we have seen in the past, but the competition itself maintained its reputation as an extreme physical and mental challenge, not for the faint of heart. The RCD team was coordinated by OPI Tpr Edgell, assisted by the oversight of Maj Fetzner and MCpl Martin and Lt Chennette for administrative support. Together they managed the training of 51 successful RCD finishers and assisted in the planning and preparation of the event with the event OPI.

The two-day event saw two different race distances, deemed Sprint and Marathon. The Sprint was an 11.2 km ruck march/run, 1 km canoe portage, 4.7 km solo paddle, and finishing with another 3.6 km ruck march/run for a total of 21 km. The route started in the parking lot of Dundonald Hall and remained on the base until the end of the paddle, where participants exited the water on the beaches of Petawawa Point and raced to the finish at the

Petawawa Civic Centre. The shorter distances of this event made for fast times from the top competitors, making it exciting for spectators and competitors alike.

The RCD top male finisher was Scottish exchange officer Capt Beatty with a time of 2 hrs 31 minutes, and top female finisher was Lt Faulkner with a time of 3 hrs 18 minutes.

The Marathon event was the longer, more classic, distance. This had a 27.2 km ruck march/run, 2.6 km canoe portage, 8.2 km solo pad-

dle, and followed by another final 3.6 km ruck march/run, for a total of 42 km. The start and end points remained the same, however, the extra distance the route took competitors off base and down trails running parallel to Petawawa Blvd, before reaching a turn-around point and heading back onto base to commence the portage. The longer distance caused a larger spread amongst the competitors, but finishing this race is a feat in itself, time aside.

MCpl Martin led the charge for the RCD, coming in 2nd place overall with an impressive time of 4 hrs 15 minutes.



Capt Beatty reaches the beach to begin the paddle.

The RCD showed excellent participation with 15 members completing the Sprint and 36 members completing the Marathon. There were so many that pushed through the months of training leading up to the race(s) that members got permission to take spare canoes and gear from other teams so they could compete. While there was no scored team component, the RCD competitors represented the Regiment well with 21 people finishing in the top 100 between the two days. Everyone put their best foot forward throughout the training and the race, making for another successful year of Iron Warrior. BZ all.



MCpl Martin presented 2nd place by Bde Comd, Col Landry and Bde SM, CWO Leamon.



Left to right: Tpr Gardner, Tpr Edgell, and MCpl Martin at the front for the 0500 hrs Marathon start.



Tpr Dague races to the finish line.



LELIEFFONTEIN

BRAVO ZULU

Recognizing members who distinguished themselves during the year.

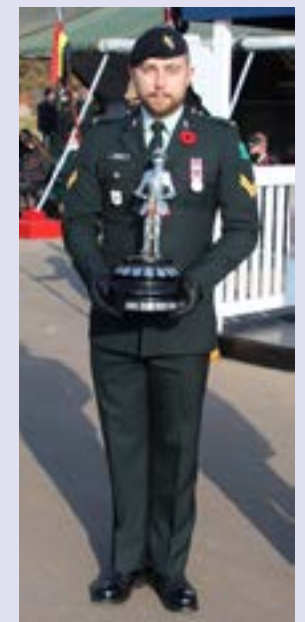
ABOVE: The Commanding Officer's Sword is presented to the top Subaltern in the Regiment, Lt Davis, as voted by their peers.



The CO's Shield is presented to Top Armoured Sergeant, WO O'Rourke



The Eckhart Memorial Plaque is awarded to the Top Armoured MCpl, Sgt Nault



The Top Non-Crewman Cpl Award is presented to Cpl Jenkins



Leliefontein Memorial Bursary Award
is awarded to Mr. Daniel Poirier



The **ETQMS Plaque** is presented to the top
Non-Crewman MCpl, **MCpl Marrocco**



The **Crewman Cpl Award** is presented to
Cpl Kryzwania



The **Volunteer Award**
is awarded to **MCpl Guzman**

RCD Association Award
is given to the Top Trooper
in the Regiment,
Tpr Buchanan (no photo)

The **Courage Trophy**
was presented to **Tpr Buchanan**
and **Tpr Wentzell**
(no photo)

RSM's Pace Stick
is presented to the Top
Armoured Warrant Officer,
WO Edmunds (no photo)



HOMEFIRES 2021

By Lt Pynn, B Sqn

The **COVID-19 pandemic** put a wrench into a lot of peoples' winter plans near the end of 2021, not least of which being the run-up to the holidays and all the traditional 'silly week' festivities that the RCD and its periphery of supporters usually enjoy.

In order to combat these pandemic blues, 2nd Canadian Engineer Regiment had the excellent idea to establish a drive-thru style Festival of Lights that would create a temporary winter wonderland in the southwestern sector of Garrison Petawawa to give a festive 'thank you' to all the unsung supporters of the base's military personnel.

The Festival of Lights ran as follows. Each major unit on base was allocated a strip of land along a given route, upon which its soldiers built a well-lit display showcasing their unit's Christmas spirit and imagination. With the quality of a unit's decor-

ations a clear proxy rating of combat ability (obviously), the display of the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) was a clear and early front-runner.

Head elves for this year's planning and construction was the Regimental Orderly Room's MCpl Presseau and B Squadron's Cpl Clouthier, who definitely made their way on to Santa's nice list this year. Preparations were made with Sgt King holding the purse strings as MCpl Presseau and Cpl Clouthier set out to update, mend and repair all the decorations, as well as make new displays and generate new ideas that can be worked into next year's display. Yes, that one will be bigger and better given the opportunity.

Set up went relatively smooth as the snow held off long enough to allow an easy start to the construction phase of the event — but fear not, there was no chance of a green Christmas this year as the

snow made for a beautiful backdrop for the twinkling lights to reflect off the snow, adding to the magic. The RCD display consisted of thousands of lights adorning an assortment of vehicles from the Regiment —Coyotes, LAV 6.0s, TAPVs, and even the odd MSVS. The gateway to the event was flanked by arching Coyotes with TAPVs pulling ‘Santa’s’ sleigh through a village on his way to deliver presents to all the troopers of the Regiment. Even the Regiment’s historic Staghound armoured car made its way to the party.

More than a thousand visitors managed to snake their way through the kilometre-long route along Sapper Way during the event, which stayed open for a full week. Some lucky kids even received a present from the Commanding Officer, RCD, under the watchful — if unusually jovial eye — of the Regimental Sergeant Major. The RCD Guild generously donated funds to provide gifts for families and help offset the cost to purchase decorations and extra lights that can be used for future regimental events. Despite COVID-19 being the reason behind a drive-through event, it remains of utmost importance that the Festival of Lights continues to be a part of the winter traditions held by the Regiment and the Brigade for years to come.

So grab that hot chocolate, a warm blanket and enjoy the ride, from all the Dragoons of the Regiment past, present and future... 🍷



C SQUADRON

January – May 2022

The Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 22 adventure began for C Sqn in January 2022, when the Sqn prepared all vehicles and kit to be moved to Wainwright, AB. During the months of January and February all vehicles and kit were transported to the Moncton rail yard, where they stayed until they could be loaded onto the rail cars.

Once the rail contract was awarded, which was cut close, around three quarters of all kit and vehicles were shipped with the help of 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown (5 CDSG) and CN Rail. The loading of the rail cars was a tremendous learning experience for the Sqn, and all members were proud that it was them who loaded their

own vehicles, and that the exercise was to be conducted on their own vehicles.

The next step of the exercise started with the advance team, comprised of 55 personnel from the Sqn, arriving at CFB Wainwright on 10 April. The advance team met all of the Sqn’s 53 vehicles that were shipped from Gagetown and started prepping them for the following month’s activities.

ABOVE: A Leopard 2A6 advances to support soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment as they hold a defensive line at CFB Wainwright Training Area during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 22 on 13 May 2022. Photo: Corporal Jonathan King, Canadian Forces Support Group (Ottawa/Gatineau) Imaging Services, CAF.



Thanks to the hard work and dedication of WO Mabey and his maintenance team, as well as some augmenting maintenance staff from Edmonton, the Sqn was able to have 15 tanks ready to be used for support to Ex INTREPID BEAR II with 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Royal Canadian Regiment — three troops of three tanks, the NATO standard, with two tanks in SHQ.

Of note, this was not only one of the largest entities of working tanks that the exercise has ever seen, it was also the largest group of working tanks within the country! Even with all of the supply issues that the Sqn faced, we are extremely proud of our complete team for achieving this feat. Concurrently to vehicle preparations, Camp Springbok was prepared, headed by the SQ WO Beauchamp and the very large Admin Tp. The remainder of the Sqn arrived at Camp Springbok on 21 April, eager to see our beloved tanks again.

With level 5 live ranges, Ex INTREPID BEAR II kicked off on 29 April. The first two and a half days were with Bravo, Charles, and Delta Companies from 1 RCR. While the ranges were successful, there were plenty of learning opportunities throughout due to our difference in geographical

location and inability to work together often. This required flexibility on the part of the Sqn, however we were always ready to adapt and successfully completed all iterations with 1 RCR. For the last two and a half days, we cycled through Golf, Hotel, and India Companies from 2 RCR. The Sqn was excited for this iteration, as we were back to working with our Gagetown partners in crime. The Company iterations went smoothly, and the range was finished.

Of note, throughout Ex INTREPID BEAR II we had the pleasure of working with 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, specifically Maj Marchand and MWO Rousseau's field Sqn.

The learning experiences that we were able to share due to the close nature between the tanks and the engineers approaching obstacles, as well as preparation for working together once again on CTCC this fall, were phenomenal. A huge thanks to them and their team, and we look forward to seeing you again this fall!

After the culmination of Ex INTREPID BEAR II, the Sqn had around a week to finish any maintenance and remediate issues that came up on the tanks from the ranges. Through hardship from a lack of POL and any spare parts, including requiring ordering parts in from Edmonton and Montreal, the Sqn proved itself once again and had 15 working vehicles up and running for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 22.



For the first time in recent years, there was going to be a full NATO remit tank Sqn participating in Ex MR!

The Ex kicked off on 10 May, with convoy orders prepared and delivered by the 2IC, Capt Spence, and the AO, 2Lt Nikolae. The Sqn complete (including maintenance, supply, and SQMS) was to move to a TAA in the southern part of the training area, around 30 km away from the camp, and stage out of a B1 echelon in preparation for any possible deployments.

The aim was to prove that it can be done, and to highlight any friction points to remediate after the Ex. Both goals were achieved.

Once the Sqn was in the TAA, we parked in dispersed hides, finished the last pieces of our BP process, and waited for the word to launch.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE looked a little different compared to previous exercises. This year, 1 and 2 RCR took turns acting bluefor and redfor, with a 5-day iteration for each and a 1-day SOBE (suspension of battlefield effects) between the two iterations. All the supporting elements, including C Sqn, 23 Field Engineer Sqn, the Royal Welsh Regiment, and 2 RCHA, were bluefor for the duration of the exercise. The Sqn had a long 11 days in front of us, however it was the perfect condition to train for

the real thing, an opportunity that is rarely ever afforded to us.

The first iteration of the Ex consisted of 1 RCR acting as bluefor. The iteration started with an advance to the MDA, which may have been a bit too slow for our liking but was completed regardless. Once at the release point, the battle group was switched to EMCON 2 and pushed to our own tasks. For the Sqn, this meant pushing out into completely dispersed hides close to our defensive positions and preparing the positions on foot (a key learning point of how not to prepare a tank position). For the following two days until the defensive battle, the Tps remained in their hides.

A key takeaway from this time was the effectiveness of proper cam and concealment — even when an enemy company passed within 200 m of each Tp, they were still not spotted!

After the defensive battle and delay, along with around 56 hours of fighting from the Sqn and the advance and seizure of Rocky Ford were complete, the first iteration was finished. An average of 13 vehicles were kept up during the first iteration of the Ex, a strong proud point for the Sqn. With the iteration complete, we returned to the TAA, got our first night of good rest since the beginning, did the little maintenance that we could, and had some well-deserved fresh food and showers — a



point that was well noted would be completely erased the following day.

The second iteration commenced on 17 May. There was excitement in the air, even though the Sqn was feeling the effects of the first iteration; we were reunited with 2 RCR and knew that, with our previous training together in Gagetown, we would prove to be a force to be reckoned with. This time, the starting advance also came with two objectives to seize, which was able to be completed in an astounding three hours. Once the advance was complete and the guard was set, we withdrew back to our counter-moves hides for the night. The next day was spent preparing our block positions for the covering force battle, as well as coordinating the counter-moves pieces with the infantry on their defensive positions.

The lack of true maintenance time was beginning to become apparent however, and the Sqn was slowly but surely losing tanks due to the work conditions that they were being put through. However, through the rest of the iteration the Sqn was able to maintain at least seven tanks, enough for an effective half Sqn.

Aside from a quick crash and a couple of interesting Wes interjects, the day was fairly smooth. Then, however, came the night of the covering force battle.

That night it was not the Donovians who were our enemies, but Mother Nature herself instead. We battled

through pitch darkness, a constant rain, howling wind, and cold temperatures throughout the night.

We were fortunate to have our hatches to protect us; there was much sympathy felt towards our brothers and sisters in the trenches. Even with the low visibility, the Sqn was able to meet the intent of the destruction of a CDet. The MDB followed, where the battle group was able to impressively destroy a BDet plus, including an unsuspecting flank of the enemy conducted by the Sqn. The MDB was followed by a short delay, with a day of BP and, finally, the advance back to and seizure of Rocky Ford. The battle group had amazing momentum during the advance, and were even required to be reset after moving too aggressively. Finally, the objective was seized — the Ex was over.

Preparation for the journey of the vehicles and personnel back home started as soon as the Ex was finished.

Concurrently, there were also some Bde activities to be completed as well: the Bde parade, where WO Mabey was recognized with Bde CO coin and the Sqn was able to take pictures with 2 RCR and 32 Field Engineer Sqn, as well as the Bde and 2 RCR smokers, where BBQ and beers were enjoyed by all.

After the festivities, Camp Springbok tear down took place while flights left on 25, 26, and 31 May to get back to Gagetown.

Even though we're back on the ground in our home, the schedule still remains busy: much-needed maintenance is required to be done, PCF cycles will be completed starting in July, and preparation for CTCC this fall has already commenced. The Sqn will be able to enjoy their summer leave and come back prepared to continue the thing that makes C Sqn so special — the hard work ethic and, in the 2IC's favourite word, "FLEXIBILITY."

BZ C Sqn! 🇨🇦



CENTURION ROOM 2021-2022 REVIVAL

The summer of 2021 saw a revival of Centurion Room social functions due to the ever-changing COVID-19 Force Health Protection Measures at Garrison Petawawa. Since March 2020, the Centurion Room has only been open off/on for officers' coffee and some small gatherings for professional development. When the province of Ontario began to return to normal activities in the summer of 2021, the Centurion Room did as well, beginning with mug-outs of officers posted out of the Regiment at annual posting season 2021.

Throughout the fall period, the Centurion Room hosted several key social events, including the Officers At Home function. The tightening of public health measures in Ontario beginning in January 2022 once again saw a brief pause of Centurion Room functions, but these loosened up in time to

conduct Centurion Room professional development, the Commanding Officer's Farewell BBQ, mug-outs and a Chain of Command Mess Dinner. The Centurion Room Mess Committee thanks all of its members for supporting the social calendar and making the Centurion Room a welcoming and relaxing place for the officers of the Regiment.

Back row (L to R): Lt Pynn, Lt Powell, Lt Faulkner, Lt Banks Batten, 2Lt Prud'homme, Lt Davis (Mess Treasurer), Lt Marshall, Lt Hudec, Lt Chennette, Lt McCarty.

Centre (L to R): Capt Begin, Capt Coutu, Capt Beatty, Capt Johnson, Capt Cyr, Capt Mcnaughton, Capt Silmsier, Capt MacIntosh, Capt Waters, Capt Barber, Capt VanRyswyk, Capt Mosnier, Capt Eddy, Capt Coxwell, Capt Aqiqi (Mess Secretary), Lt Marsh, Lt Conant, Lt Preston, Lt Kim, Capt Foster.

Front (L to R): Maj Ring, Maj Reid, Mr. Batten, Gen (ret'd) Natynczyk, LCol Kerckhoff, MGen (ret'd) Milner, Maj Boire, Maj Fetzner, Maj Justason (PMC).



MGen (ret'd) Dean Milner (Colonel of the Regiment), Mr. David Batten (Patron) and former Chief of Defence Staff (ret'd) Walt Natynczyk.

This could not have been accomplished without the hard work of Lt Joarl Belleza and Capt Andrew Powell among others.

The Centurion Room officially welcomed ordinary members on the evening of Friday 17 September 2021, along with honorary members MGen (ret'd) Dean Milner (Colonel of the Regiment) and

Mr. David Batten (Patron).

The evening began with opening remarks from the Commanding Officer and the Colonel of the Regiment with appetizers provided by Ullrich's, followed by a catered meal from J&E's Bored and Saucy. The Bunny made its first appearance in two years to read humorous, exaggerated stories of Centurion Room members that occurred throughout the spring and summer training cycles. The CO's Jacket and Tie formally opened the Centurion Room and allowed its members to relax and enjoy each other's company.

The event could not have been a success without the meticulous planning and support from Lt Luke Grant and their team of subalterns.

LELIEFONTEIN MESS DINNER — NOVEMBER 2021

On 5 November 2021, Dragoon officers, guests, and spouses attended a mess dinner at the Normandy Officers' Mess to celebrate the Dragoon contributions during the Battle of Leliefontein. Special guests of the dinner included former Chief of Defence Staff (ret'd) Natynczyk, Senior Serving Dragoon BGen Cross, Regimental Colonel, Colonel Renahan, and Commander 2 CMBG Col Landry. Attendees arrived at the mess and were welcomed by the Commanding Officer, Colonel

of the Regiment, and Patron before taking the annual photograph of the Centurion Room members. The food was superb — a steak dinner catered by Ullrich's.

Vice president of the mess committee Lt Liam Marshall toasted the Queen, the Colonel of the Regiment toasted the Regiment, the Senior Serving Dragoon made a toast to fallen comrades, and the president of the mess committee toasted spouses and families. Both the catering staff of Ullrich's and the serving staff from the mess were thanked for their service of both the food and wine, before the dinner was adjourned. The first formal mess event in two years brought together serving, retired, and local ERE Dragoons to victoriously celebrate the Battle of Leliefontein.

A special thanks to Capt Leroy Aqiqi and Lt Cole Davis for putting together such a great mess dinner as part of the Mess Committee; unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was no combined function this year.

FESTIVE DRAGOON & OFFICERS AT HOME — DECEMBER 2021

Prior to holiday block leave, Ex FESTIVE DRAGOON was conducted by the Regiment to celebrate soldiers' contributions and efforts during the fall training cycle. This included the soldiers' festive dinner, subbies carolling, the Homefires Festival of Lights, sporting events, and the revitalization of the Officers At Home function.

This year, the officers of the Regiment hosted the senior non-commissioned officers at the Normandy Officers Mess on 16 December 2021. Officers prepared platters and beverages, with all atten-



Maj Fetzner and Maj Ring.

dees gathering on the patio for opening remarks from the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeants Major. The Officers served drinks to all of their senior NCO counterparts and thanked them for their continued support.

Everyone proceeded to the dining hall to play "Crew Commander", a game created by Capt Leroy Aqiqi. The game pitted officers vs senior NCOs, with one team member blindfolded and the other navigating them through a pre-placed obstacle course of scattered chairs and tables. Marshmallows were thrown at the opposing team, which escalated into a marshmallow food fight, to the displeasure of the subalterns, knowing they would be responsible to clean the inevitable marshmallow mess under the watchful eyes of Angie the Mess Manager. Proceeding the game was the serving of a luxurious dinner consisting of McDonald's chicken nuggets, Wendy's junior bacon cheeseburgers, with a plethora of dipping sauces to choose from.

The Officers At Home celebrated the achievements of officers and senior NCOs throughout the year. It was a great way to send everyone off for a much-deserved holiday block leave period. Once again, the team planned and executed a great social event, with a special thanks to Capt Leroy Aqiqi. 🍷

MUG-OUT CEREMONY — JUNE 2021

The officers of the Regiment conducted a mug-out ceremony 23 June 2021 on the makeshift F-104 outdoor patio, with Dragoons in Latvia joining in via Microsoft Teams. Tables and chairs were organized outdoors, along with shawarmas and salad ordered from Madameek's, and of course with some not surprisingly skunky beer from the Centurion Room bar. One by one, posted officers were brought to the mug-out chair, either virtually or in-person, to enjoy a drink and share a few laughs.

Thanks to Capt Dunks, who organized the gifts and mug-out event.

Despite some connectivity issues, as per usual with the Signals Troop, the mug-outs were a success, with those departing the RCD being properly celebrated and thanked for their service. The mug-out ceremony was the first and last major COVID-19 Centurion Room social event prior to the Regiment moving into Y-137.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S JACKET AND TIE — SEPTEMBER 2021

The Regimental move to Y-137 saw the development of a new Centurion Room. The Centurion Room committee worked hard with the subalterns to transfer supplies and furniture from F-104 into Y-137, and to prepare for its official opening.



SGT HOLLAND ROOM

WELCOME BACK

By Sgt Martin Pope

Another year gone by and, while much has changed, somehow I get a feeling of déjà vu. The new year has given us yet another COVID-19 variant, and much like last year we are still covering up with masks, limited on interpersonal contact, and restricted on indoor gatherings. Looking back at last year, we had a rough start, but we have come a long way. This time last year, I was newly promoted to Sgt and looking forward to being welcomed to the Holland Room by the NCOs of the Regiment, but the restrictions in place would put that on hold for several months. At that time, the Holland Room was still housed in C40, now a parking lot, but I'm getting ahead of myself — a lot has happened in a year. The Holland Room lay empty for the first half of the year until, finally in July 2021, restrictions had lifted enough for us to be able to gather outdoors for a BBQ. Not only could we get together for burgers and beers, but we also got to say hello to old friends deployed on Op REASSURANCE R15 in Latvia through teleconferencing. After their long wait, Sgts Michael Thomas and Mark Kowalkowski were officially welcomed to the mess while still more waited their turn.

In late summer, our new building was nearing completion and it was time to say goodbye to the old Holland Room. The NCOs gathered their screwdrivers and crowbars and started taking down all the mem-

ories off the walls and packing them up for the big move. For the next couple months, the move to the new building was the focus, while C40 was demolished and turned into a parking lot. The new Holland Room looked great, and with the help of MWOs Nickerson and Keith, WOs Selway and Grant, Sgt Joe, and others, the new space began to take shape and the memories got back up on the walls. Thursday morning coffee breaks, which had fallen off the radar of our busy schedules, were revived, and the NCOs once again got together for coffee and pastries set out by duty Squadron representatives.

With the annual Leliefontein celebrations nearing, the Snr NCOs hosted a mess dinner at the Reichwald WOs & Sgts Mess. Special guests included the Colonel of the Regiment, the CO, and their spouses. A good time was had by all, and the night seemed a great success.

Hurray! Shinings are back. Finally, restrictions in the province had relaxed enough that we could get together in our new space in a large group and officially welcome new members. Sgts Jesse Marion, James Chin, Guy Lachaine, Jeff Nault, and ... yes, I finally got my chance to get dirty shining those massive shells. The new Holland Room looks great, and I believe we can look forward to many more great events in our new rest easy space. 🛋️



CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS

A NEW ERA

By Captain the Reverend Laura Coxworth

In the fall of 2021, many important things were happening, the main one being the move from the old building. We marched the Guidon over to Y-137 and began to settle into the new Worthington Barracks.

As we walked new hallways, forging new memories and traditions, the historical artifacts began to arrive and be displayed. Once again, we were surrounded by the deep history and tradition of the Regiment even while working in a new location.

Often, we hold onto the past because it provides us a touch point and reminder of who or what we have always been. As we discovered in the move, we don't have to jettison or forget history or tradition in order to update our surroundings.

With the new building and updated environment, it seemed like the right time to look at our historical prayers and invocations.

A prayer or invocation should join all within its hearing to a common goal, a common hope, and

a common purpose. To have the desired effect, all must be able to find themselves within the phrases. All present must be able to resonate with the ideas expressed.

Most historical prayers and hymns within the CAF were written and adopted at a time in our nation’s history when the working “language” of religion in Canada was Christianity. As we know, those times have long passed. Occasionally, these historical prayers exclude many present when their words, by hubris, neglect or apathy express the ideas of one world view.

The historic Regimental Prayers, Graces and Invocation have been part of the narrative of every major parade and event since they were adopted. Different voices have spoken them in various

locations, and in diverse circumstances. They have been the familiar refrain passed down through the generations — a common goal, a common hope, a common purpose.

It is my sincere hope (and prayer!) that these new verses will be like our new building — familiar as well as updated and refreshed for a new generation.

This was a task we did not undertake lightly, and as much as was possible, we have retained the ideas and sentiments expressed in the original. It has been my great honour to facilitate the updating of these treasures so that a new generation of Dragoons may rally around them and feel part of the RCD. All are welcome in the Regiment, and all must be able to find themselves in our common language. 🏰

AN UPDATED VERSION OF GRACE FOR ALL

Updated Grace

May we be strong in virtue,
Firm in time of trouble,
always ready to help others
in time of need.
As we share this food,
And live and work together,
May we always work toward
the good of all.
Let us never forget
Not all around us live
In the freedom and bounty
we enjoy today.

Original Grace

May we be strong in
virtue,
Firm in time of trouble,
And always ready to help
others in time of need.
May we be blessed by
God,
As we share this food,
And as we live and work
together,
For the good of all.
AMEN



Updated Prayer

Recommended preamble for public prayer (can be adjusted by the speaker). In the way that aligns with your conscience and tradition, please join me for a moment of silent reflection.

We are thankful for the challenges of this life,
Where there is doubt, despair or oppression,
May we be used as instruments of goodwill.
Inspire us to give our best in the cause of truth
and goodness
And to take every opportunity to serve others.
Make us bold and swift in defence of our nation
and our allies
As we dedicate ourselves to the welfare of
humanity,

The preservation of justice and love through the
good we may do.
Let us be bringers of a renewed hope
That brightens the present and lightens the
future,
Even as we fight on behalf of others, keep us
mindful
To care for our families, ourselves and one
another,
Upholding excellence in all areas of our lives.
Let us wear the cloak of privilege lightly,
Stand confidently in places of honour
And communicate our values in the way we live
and fight
May we be strong in virtue,
Firm in time of trouble, always ready to help
others in time of need.

Original Prayer

Blessed and Eternal God,
In whose providence our days are constantly
surrounded,
We thank you for the challenge of life.
We praise you for the good we may do.
Help us to lay hold on every opportunity to serve
others
Inspire us to give our best in the cause of truth
and righteousness.
When we carry the torch of enlightenment,
Or wear the cloak of privilege,
Or stand in the place of honour,
Enable us to dedicate ourselves to the welfare of
humanity,
And the preservation of justice and love.
We thank you for the renewing of hope

That brightens the present and lightens the
future.
Through this hope, make us not ashamed to
defend your laws
And extend your kingdom.
Help us to improve the extent of our gratitude to
you
By the depths of our devotion.
Use us as instruments of goodwill:
While there is doubt, or despair or oppression:
Teach us to communicate faith and hope and
courage.
Let the beauty of the Lord be upon us,
And establish the work of our hands in
Righteousness and peace.
AMEN

