



ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS SPRINGBOK 2024



THE FIFTH REGIMENTAL GUIDON



THE HISTORY OF THE REGIMENTAL GUIDONS

KING'S BANNER (OR UNION FLAG):

This was presented to the Regiment by His Excellency, The Earl of Minto, The Governor General of Canada in Toronto on 12 November 1904. Although a cavalry regiment, but having served in South Africa as mounted rifles, the Regiment was so honoured by the King who became Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

STANDARD (OR BLUE GUIDON):

This was presented to the Regiment by King George V (then the Duke of Cornwall and York) in Toronto on 11 October 1901. The battle honours "North-West Canada 1885" and "South Africa 1900" were emblazoned on this standard as was also the badge of that time, The Royal Cypher and, in gold on crimson, "Royal Canadian Dragoons".

SECOND GUIDON:

This was delivered to the Regiment in Belgium and was first carried on parade at Amiens when a detachment of the Regiment dedicated a memorial tablet in the cathedral of that city. It was officially presented to the Regiment at Bramshott Camp, England, by

His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught in 1919. The Springbok was emblazoned on this Guidon. In January 1931, the ten additional battle honours of the First World War were approved for emblazonment on the Guidon.

THIRD GUIDON:

This was presented to the Regiment by His Excellency, The Governor General of Canada, General G.P. Vanier, at Camp Gagetown, NB on 23 May 1964. It carries the battle honours of the Regiment including those approved for emblazonment from the Second World War.

FOURTH GUIDON:

This Guidon was presented to the Regiment during the summer of 1998. It is a replacement of the third Guidon, which was worn from operations in Germany, Cyprus, and the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

FIFTH GUIDON:

This Guidon was presented to the Regiment on 9 December 2022 by Her Excellency, The Governor General of Canada, The Right Honourable Mary Simon at Garrison Petawawa. This Guidon includes the Battle Honour for Afghanistan, recognizing the Regiment's service and sacrifice over multiple rotations to that theatre. It is currently in service with the Regiment.

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COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

ADDRESS

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



The Regiment has had a busy and successful year as I write my message for this edition of *The Springbok* and the RCD Association's *The Dragoon*. At time of writing, I am in Latvia with C Squadron as they train as part of an Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (supported by 10 countries) led by 2 RCR and working for a Latvian Brigade. I am also here to observe C Squadron as it hosts a rejuvenated Canadian Army Trophy (CAT 2024).

This will be my final opportunity to pass on a few written words as the Colonel of the Regiment before I reluctantly hand over the appointment in June. Our soldiers continue to excel with a high tempo of operations and great opportunities as both A and C Squadrons and a Recce Troop with the 2RCR BG are deployed overseas in Poland and Latvia, respectively (early 2024). B Squadron returned home in early February 2024. Another Squadron will deploy to Latvia this coming year. These are excellent deployments, and it enables the Regiment to focus their training and, of course, deploy Dragoons on important operations. The Commanding Officer, LCol Nick Forsyth, and RSM CWO Chris LeBlanc have led from the front and made us proud, training and ensuring the highest level of readiness of the Regiment.

The world is more unpredictable and dangerous than ever, with wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Our troops must be prepared for the challenges that Canada and the world face. Unfortunately, they are not being supported with modern and capable vehicles and equipment. These challenges have unfortunately been shared by our predecessors over the years and, as Dragoons, we continue to rise to the occasion. Despite VOR rates that are extremely high, the Regiment con-



tinues to train to a high standard and get to the field as often as they can. C Squadron, upon its return to Canada, will become a Cavalry Squadron still based in Gagetown. They will end up with a mixture of LAVs, TAPVs and, eventually, the new LRSS (Light Armoured Vehicle Reconnaissance Surveillance System). Due to challenges with Leopard 2 numbers and maintenance, all Leo 2s will be centralized with the Strathconas in Edmonton.

The Guild continues to be active and in full support of the Regimental Family. I have been fortunate to have a hard-working, dedicated team (Jim Follwell, Bill Fulton, Jim Atkins, Tom Skelding, Marty Frank, Paul Riganelli, Kevin Lee, LCol Nick Forsyth, RSM CWO Chris LeBlanc and Major Marsha Reid) that has ensured that we continue to improve the capabilities of the Guild to both support and grow as a professional not-for-profit charitable organization. Our focus has been increasing our financial stability so that we can continue to support all activities of the Regiment. We, the Guild, directly supported the Regimental Gym and new Regimental Canteen over this past year, as well as many other significant Regimental Family events, activities and bursaries. We have been increasing our fundraising and recently held an event at the Canadian War Museum where our General Rick Hillier spoke to us and invited guests. We are supported by our Patron, Marjolaine Hudon, to connect

business leaders with our Dragoons. Next year will be a significant year as the Regiment celebrates our 125th anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein and our 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden. Both events highlight important facets of our history, and the Guild will support both events.

In closing, it has been an honour and privilege to have served our Regiment over the past three years. My most enjoyable times were joining our Dragoons in the field and in garrison, and most recently in Latvia (we won CAT 24!). They continue to make us proud. Once a Dragoon always a Dragoon and, of course, Katrin and I will continue to serve and support this fine Regiment.

Bold and Swift! 🚀

OPPOSITE PAGE: Major General (ret'd) Dean Milner inspects the Regiment. This took place during the Royal Canadian Dragoons Change of Command parade in Garrison Petawawa on June 26, 2024. This event would be among his last as Colonel of the Regiment. Photo by Pte Jennifer Froome, Canadian Armed Forces.

ABOVE: Major General (ret'd) Dean Milner departs the Royal Canadian Dragoons Change of Command parade in Garrison Petawawa in an armoured vehicle. Photo by Pte Jennifer Froome, Canadian Armed Forces.



SENIOR SERVING DRAGON ADDRESS

BGen Steven Graham, PMM, MSM, CD



ABOVE: BGen Steve Graham (centre) addresses members of the Domestic Response Company during Operation LENTUS near Vanderhoof, British Columbia on 5 September 2023. Photo by Cpl Alexandre Brisson, Canadian Armed Forces.

Dragoons everywhere,

It is with great honour that I write this welcome for the 2024 *Springbok* for the first time as the Senior Serving Dragoon. Whether you are serving in the Regiment or not, the *Springbok* is the most visible and accessible summary of what serving Dragoons everywhere are doing across the Army and around the world as part of almost every mission the Canadian Armed Forces is conducting. This enables everyone — whether they are at Worthington Barracks, a member of the Association, retired, or on ERE — to remain connected to each other and the Regiment we all proudly serve.

The past year has been a busy one for the Regiment — and will transform the way it trains and fights for years to come. I started my career on the tanks in Gaagetown, so to see them leave I cannot help but feel a bit emotional. But this also represents a great opportunity for the future. No longer split between different platforms and missions, the entire Regiment can now focus on a single task: providing Armoured Cavalry to the Army. The Army will be conducting a number of experiments and trials to refine the Cavalry concept, but the idea of aggressively fighting for information and acting whenever possible should be exciting to everyone. I look forward to seeing how the idea moves forward over the coming year.



Over the past year, Dragoons of all ranks demonstrated the leadership and tactical skills that the Canadian Army needs today and in the future. Here, Dragoons march during Ex RUCKING BEAR 23.

But no one is standing still and over this past year the Regiment has shown it has the skills and leadership to make the change. A busy and diverse operational tempo — with Recce Tps to Op REASSURANCE in Latvia; B Sqn, and subsequently A Sqn, to consecutive rotations of Op UNION; and of course C Sqn as the first full rotation of a tank squadron as part of Op REASSURANCE — kept everyone engaged. And RHQ showed what it was capable of by coordinating the deployment of all elements while training itself as an integrated and lethal BG HQ. Dragoons of all ranks demonstrated the leadership and tactical skills that the Canadian Army needs today and in the future.

I know that equipment remains a challenge right now, but there are reasons to be optimistic. The LRSS continues to make progress in its development and will be a game-changing new capability once delivered. The Army's procurement of the Spike ATGM and its ability to be mounted on vehicles will dramatically increase the lethality of the TAPV. And other new capabilities the Army is purchasing will soon find their way into the Regiment's ORBAT. Com-

bined, these weapon systems will allow the Regiment to excel in its new, more aggressive mission.

Dragoons everywhere should be excited about the future. Under the leadership of the CO, LCol Forsyth, and RSM, CWO LeBlanc, the transition I describe above is well underway. With our people, new equipment, an updated mission, and countless deployment opportunities in the coming years, it truly is a fine day to be a Dragoon!

Bold and Swift! 

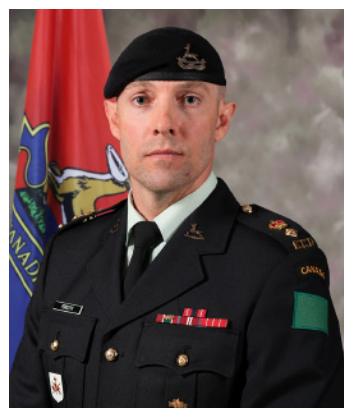


Deployed members from C Sqn took part in Exercise CRYSTAL ARROW, a NATO combat readiness evaluation (CREVAL) training exercise, as part of Op REASSURANCE.



COMMANDING OFFICER ADDRESS

LCol Nicolas Forsyth, CD



Dragoons and members of the Regimental Family,

Over the last year, the Dragoon Team continued its great work as it tackled a busy COMMITTED phase among other important training and institutional tasks. With staffing shortages due to personnel deploying, many were required to step into higher level positions to ensure continuity in daily functions. Not surprisingly, everyone from the young Corporals to the Captains answered the call and showed us all the talent and dedication that resides in these incredible soldiers.

The Regiment's support to international operations was more complex than a regular cycle given it deployed soldiers on Op UNIFIER (Leopard Training Element, HQ staff), Op REASSURANCE (1x Heavy Cavalry Squadron, 2x ISR Troops, HQ staff), and Op UNION (2x Task Forces). In all cases, the Squadrons, Regimental Ops, and Regimental Orderly Room worked together to develop dynamic pre-deployment training plans and conduct readiness verifications to ensure personnel were ready to go out the door. Despite some challenges, all elements got the job done, with a notable achievement being the deployment of Op UNION Task Forces that included personnel from up to 8 trades across 14 units. Once deployed, Dragoon teams on all missions received high praise from their overseeing elements as they trained or worked with NATO forces and allies. In Petawawa, the "home team" was also exercised as the Immediate Response Unit (IRU) when it responded to a tragic Chinook crash in June 2023. Though they faced a complex task, Dragoons at all levels demonstrated creativity in order to bring together the many elements of the IRU and ensure the 450 Squadron and RCAF team were well supported.

Outside of the regular fall training in the Petawawa and Gagetown training areas, the last year was marked by some new approaches to training multiple levels of Dragoons without burning too much diesel. In October, C Squadron conducted

squadron-level training in Ft Moore, Georgia using the US Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) for the Abrams Tank. In a simulated environment, they were able to fight their tanks and conduct offensive/defensive operations to improve squadron command and control and proficiency in tactics. In late February, a large contingent of Dragoons from Petawawa returned to Ft Moore to use the CCTTs once again, this time as an integrated team with the 4 Canadian Division Reserve units. The group used both the Abrams and Bradley Fighting Vehicle variants and conducted multiple missions to further develop the "ONE Team" Corps approach. Utilizing these methods to conduct training and closely integrating with our Reserve counterparts will be important as the Regiment tackles C Squadron's conversion to Medium Cavalry and prepares for larger deployments in support of Op REASSURANCE in summer 2025.

In closing, I acknowledge that this will be my last address as CO RCD and want to express that it has been an absolute honour to serve with this fine Regiment and its outstanding soldiers, especially my fire team partner, RSM Chris LeBlanc. Thank you for everything you did for me and the Regiment! Thank you also to our incredible families that support us along this journey, and to the Guild for improving the lives of Dragoons through its many lines of effort. Finally, to all Dragoons, from the Troopers to the Majors, over my past two years in the job, I have many times been in awe of your capabilities and will smile as I look back knowing the future is bright for the Regiment.

Bold and Swift! 🚩

RIGHT: CO LCol Nicolas Forsyth proudly leads the Regiment in the Regimental March Past.

BELOW: The CO, LCol Forsyth, during the 79th anniversary of the liberation of Leeuwarden at Garrison Petawawa, April 2024. Photo by Cpl Melissa Michaud, Garrison Petawawa Imaging.





REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR ADDRESS

CWO Chris LeBlanc, CD



ABOVE: RSM CWO Chris LeBlanc addresses the crowd during a change of command ceremony.

Dragoons,

As I reflect on the past year and all of the team's accomplishments, victories and successes, despite the ever-present challenges faced by the Regiment, RCAC and CAF, I am reminded of our ethos, our foundation. The one piece of the puzzle that has remained stable throughout is our way of doing business, the business of mounted manoeuvre warfare. Our Dragoon ethos has provided us with the necessary guideposts during this past year and will continue to do so far into the future. It is certainly the case with our current evolution of the RCAC, and the Regiment as a result. Our current generation of Dragoons is at the forefront of this modernization of our capabilities, tasks, and equipment. It is for this very reason that your RSM reinforces this values-based methodology at every turn and every opportunity I can gather.

While the future is uncertain from a global security perspective, what is certain is that our team will continue to be called upon from both domestic and expeditionary frameworks. We have already experienced this throughout this past year; from the real-time IRU response in support of 450 Sqn, to the multitude of



Dragoons deployed on Operation REASSURANCE take part in a live fire range for the Leopard 2 main battle tank, with high explosive ammunition, at Camp Adazi, Latvia. Photo by Cpl Bryan Bodo, Canadian Armed Forces.



TOP RIGHT: The RSM, CWO LeBlanc, brings the parade to attention. Photo by Cpl Melissa Michaud. / BELOW: RSM Chris LeBlanc during a review of the Regiment. / BOTTOM: CO LCol Forsyth and RSM LeBlanc lead the parade.

expeditionary tasks ranging from our deployed tank squadron and reconnaissance troops with Op REASSURANCE, to the asymmetric employment of our team with Op UNION. Readiness, fitness (across all domains), flexibility, adaptability, and professional development at all levels will continue to ensure our success both at home and abroad. Never lose sight of the importance of your foundational training and expertise within your respective occupations and fields, from both the IT and CT perspective. You are the Regiment of the future; accordingly, all the corresponding duties and responsibilities are, and will be, yours to bear.



It is truly inspiring for me to witness the drive, dedication, passion, and sacrifice made by the entire team, day after day, regardless of task, conditions, or resources. You all truly embody our values for which our outstanding Regiment is known for year after year, mission after mission. For this reason, you all have my utmost respect.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our CO, LCol Nicolas Forsyth, for his steadfast leadership, his unwavering care for our entire team, and his passion for our success. I also certainly want to thank him as my fire team partner during what has been an incredibly rewarding tenure together! You won't be far sir, and as I always say for our departing Dragoons, once a Dragoon, always a Dragoon.

Bold and Swift! 





PATRON OF THE REGIMENT

ADDRESS

Marjolaine Hudon



As your Patron, I have had the immense privilege to meet many of the women and men of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and learn first-hand about your important work. Once again, there were quite a few memorable events this past year.

In September, as Patron of the Regiment, I invited business and community leaders to take part in Op CONNECTION. We spent a day connecting one-on-one with soldiers. We learned about your training and how you prepare for missions. We learned about the importance of teamwork, clear accountability, and communication in a high-readiness organization — all essential so you are ready to deploy abroad or domestically in support of Canadians when the need arises.

In October, the Guild hosted an evening with former Chief of Defence Staff and Dragoon, retired General Rick Hillier, at the Canadian War Museum. He shared some important lessons about leadership under fire — lessons that apply to the business community as well. As Patron, I was so proud to see many business leaders connect with Dragoons.

In November, I joined the Regimental Family on base to mark the 123rd anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein. Once again, I saw the immense sense of duty, respect and trust that exists among you.

In March, I hosted members of the Dragoons at an Ottawa Senators home game. Sens CEO Cyril Leeder dropped by to meet the Dragoons. A great way to salute your efforts and dedication for what you do every day for Canadians.

ABOVE: Patron of the Regiment Marjolaine Hudon poses with members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Regimental Family following Gen Rick Hillier's presentation at the Canadian War Museum.

In June, it was wonderful to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Association Reunion in Kingston. It brought together many members and their family from across the country.

In late June, the Regiment welcomed a new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Chloeann Summerfield as well as a new Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General (ret'd) Stephen Cadden. I look forward to working with them as they lead and inspire such an amazing and talented team. A heartfelt thank you to Major-General (ret'd) Dean Milner, Colonel of the Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Nicolas Forsyth, Commanding Officer, for their dedicated leadership and service to the Regiment.

I will continue my efforts to help Canadians learn more about the work of the Dragoons and their impact on domestic and international missions.

I am truly honoured to be your Patron. I look forward to connecting with many members of the Dragoons throughout the coming year.

Until then, take care.

Bold and Swift! 🚀

TOP RIGHT: Mme Marjolaine Hudon observes members of the Regiment on parade during the annual Leliefontein celebration. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Mme Hudon with CWO LeBlanc and Cpl Bhattacharya in the field. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Patron of the Regiment, Marjolaine Hudon, with Majors Bonacci and Reid at the 2023 Leliefontein celebrations.



LEFT & BELOW: Mme Hudon with serving and retired members of the Regiment at an Ottawa Senators home game.





REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ON POINT



2023 – 2024

By Maj Marsha Reid
Regimental Second in Command

Another year has come and gone, and although the sub-units continue to change, deploy, and train, Regimental Headquarters remains steadfast in providing oversight, support, and guidance to all Regimental efforts.

After a tragic helicopter crash into the Ottawa River in June 2023, the RCD IRU, led by RHQ, provided command and control, camp support, coordinated resources for recovery, and supported 450 THS as they navigated an unexpected loss. This deployment occurred during the annual posting season, so those new to key positions quickly developed internal TTPs to ensure smooth operations.

We remained as IRU HQ and VANGUARD until Winter 2024, and for the first time in what feels like years, we were IRU-free for an extended period, which was much deserved and a relief to all.

Throughout the fall training cycle our Ops and Trg team deployed in support of Ex WALKING/

CHARGING DRAGOON, and WINTER DRAGOON with a skeleton team due to deployments, injuries, and courses, yet still managed to maintain command and control with our sub-units and provided valuable training for all involved.

Credit is owed to our signals team, who managed to find innovative solutions to unparalleled staffing and resource constraints.

In the background, our Canteen and Kitshop team completely revamped how we provide services and food to our soldiers while enabling key events such as family and holiday events, sporting initiatives, and the Leliefontein Gala.

Nothing would be possible without the tireless efforts of the ROS team, who truly keep the Regi-

ABOVE: RHQ members from the BTL — Tpr Roman, Tpr Pind, Tpr Smith, Tpr Mesde, Tpr Vandermale — successfully completed the LAV 6.0 driver course. This completes their DP.



ment afloat while maintaining connections with the community, historical lineages, and keeping Worthington Barracks in excellent working order.

Administratively, our level of output is second to none, supporting countless force generation efforts, administering the daily activities of our soldiers, and keeping everyone apprised of policies and their potential impact on each member of the Regiment. Members of Admin Tp planned and executed Ex RESILIENT DRAGOON, which saw experts of various backgrounds provide guidance and training on mental and physical health, relationships, and the resources that are available to members and their loved ones.

Finally, RHQ wouldn't be complete without the efforts of 9er TAC, whose dedication, flexibility, and responsibilities keep our Command team up

RIGHT: Tpr Vandermale lights a Coleman stove during Cold Weather Operator training, February 2024.

ABOVE: Members of RHQ stand at attention while the Operations Officer, Capt Erica Young, welcomes the CO and RSM during the Annual Technical Inspection.

and running while also supporting several initiatives and volunteer events.

Overall, it was a busy year for RHQ, but the team is excited to face the challenges of the upcoming BUILD year as we prepare to deploy Recce Sqns to Latvia beginning in 2025.

Bold and Swift! 🚀





MCpl Howell instructs candidates on cold weather operator.



SQUADRON

2023 – 2024

By Lt Maximilian Morse
3 Troop Leader

The 2023-24 training year for A Sqn covered the full spectrum of tactical activities and showcased the ability of the Sqn to thrive in a variety of unique situations and circumstances. Irrespective of task, the Sqn approached each challenge with the same grit and determination indicative of its fine soldiers and leadership. From the delivery of Primary Combat Function courses (PCFs) and individual battle task standards (IBTS), to unique equipment trials, collective training, and force generation in support of domestic and deployed operations, the ‘Goat’ Squadron achieved excellence in assigned tasks and learned a thing or two along the way.

The year began with the Sqn on the range during Ex SABOT DRAGOON, where seasoned gunners and crew commanders alike imparted their knowledge to the new gunners of the Sqn, who were equally eager to prove their skills. The Sqn sup-

ported the CP TOPAZ trial, where all ranks had the opportunity to work with General Dynamics in testing a new Blue Force tracker.

Tasked as the Vanguard Company of the Immediate Response Unit (IRU), the Sqn reacted swiftly in support of a Bde callout in responding to a June 2023 Chinook incident on the Ottawa River, working with other units and outside agencies in support of the recovery operations.

Taking some much-needed time with friends and family over the summer block leave period, the Sqn hit the ground running in August, rapidly executing IBTS-level ranges, concurrent to delivering LAV 6-based 25mm PCF courses. During this time frame, soldiers of the Sqn also had the opportunity to complete several challenging physical fitness events, including the Spartan Race, and an excellent turnout during the Petawawa IRON WARRIOR competition.

In early September, as the days became shorter and the fall colours proliferated, the Sqn rucked-up and pushed into the Petawawa RTA during Ex PATROLING GOAT, where all ranks became



well acquainted with the diverse topography and dense foliage of the Petawawa RTA during dismounted operations. The culminating event — a 14-kilometre forced march out of the training area — marked the end of this dismounted phase, and the Sqn poised to climb into their hatches for the mounted phase of fall training.

Embracing its Armoured Cavalry identity, the Sqn achieved Level 3-4 dry, while executing a wide variety of tactical tasks in both the Petawawa RTA and the Restricted Manoeuvre Area (RMA). The November time frame was bittersweet for the Goats, as all ranks took the time to reflect during Leliefontein and Remembrance Day activities, before splitting the Sqn into two distinct lines of effort: the headquarters stood up Task Force UNION Roto 3, while the remainder of the Sqn continued to hone its proficiency in dismounted operations and prepared for winter warfare.



Cpl Villard cuts down a tree to help make a winter fortification on Ex WINTER DRAGOON.



Sgt Pope directing 2 Tp A Sqn during Ex CHARGING DRAGOON.

At the time of writing, the Sqn has 31 soldiers deployed in Eastern Europe while the remainder continues to hone their collective proficiency during Ex WORTHY PERSICA in Fort Drum, New York. As the Regiment prepares to transition to the Build year of the MRP, the soldiers of the Goat Squadron remain ready and eager for the next bound.

Bold and Swift! 🇨🇦

TOP LEFT: Lt Irwin, Cpl Bal and Tpr Fraser of A Sqn prepare to depart on Ex WINTER DRAGOON.

BELOW: WO Joe jokes with Sgt Nault during Ex WALKING DRAGOON.





Members of B Sqn at the gas hut conducting CBRN training.

B SQUADRON

2023 – 2024

By Maj Chris Levan
OC B Squadron / Task Force
Commander Op UNION Roto 2

In July 2023, B Squadron began the process of force generating a Task Force for an expeditionary deployment as Rotation 2 of Operation UNION in Eastern Europe.

Pre-deployment training kicked off with the Squadron onboarding a significant number of external personnel from across the CAF to join members of B Squadron who made up most of the Task Force Headquarters and Mobility Support Platoon. These enablers provided unique skillsets aimed at rounding out the Task Force to ensure it could function independently and be capable of executing its assigned tasks along extended lines of communication while in theatre. These specialists included a Close Protection Team, an Intelli-

gence Cell, Medical Technicians, Signallers from CFJSR, uniformed Polish and Ukrainian linguists, and Logistical Support personnel.

Although the Task Force was newly formed, it was able to quickly build cohesion and teamwork during the short but comprehensive training program required ahead of the deployment.

The nature of the mission offered some familiar tasks that RCD soldiers were well prepared for — such as convoy movement and escorts, route reconnaissance, and mounted navigation — while other force generation requirements provided new training opportunities for members of the Task



ABOVE: From left to right: B Sqn soldiers Cpl Caissie-Stone, Tpr Kellough, and Tpr Aitchison-Weston training on the Sig Sauer 225 pistol during pre-deployment training.

RIGHT: B Sqn officers Lt Rogers and Maj Levan learn wound packing techniques during Combat First Aid training.

Force. These included the employment of a Sig Sauer pistol, tactical combat casualty care courses, basic evasive driving courses, and learning to employ new communication and positional awareness systems that were being employed in theatre.

A highlight of the pre-deployment training saw members of the Mobility Support Platoon — using civilian pattern vehicles and clothing — conduct a convoy movement exercise that took them from Petawawa through North Bay, Toronto, Ottawa, and back over the course of several days. This was aimed at simulating the extended road movements and unconventional command, control, and communication procedures that would be employed while in theatre.

Upon completion of the Task Force's training cycle and administrative verification, Rotation 2 was declared operationally ready prior to commencing a well-earned week of pre-deployment leave before heading overseas during the first week of September 2023.

After arriving in Warsaw, Poland, the Task Force immediately began its handover and the important task of providing CAF support to the Global Affairs Canada Request for Assistance. Throughout the nearly six-month rotation, the Task Force provided outstanding support in a unique oper-



ational environment which enabled Canada's diplomatic mission.

After conducting the relief in place in early February with the A Squadron-led Rotation 3, the members of Op UNION Rotation 2 began their return to Canada in late February 2024, following a short stint of decompression in Cologne, Germany. After landing back on Canadian soil, Task Force members went their separate ways to home units across Canada and the Dragoons returned home to Petawawa. The impacts achieved by all members of the Rotation, providing support to another government department, was recognized by the Canadian ambassador.

Bold and Swift! 🚓

BELOW: Cpl Ghafoor from B Sqn on the Basic Evasive Driving course at CFB Borden as part of pre-deployment training for Op UNION.





C SQUADRON

2023 – 2024

By Capt Emmanuel Hayes
2IC, C Sqn

C Squadron's past year was excitingly busy as its members worked to meet the demanding requirement for tankers on the world stage. As a result of not deploying as part of Op REASSURANCE 23-02, the Squadron shifted focus to conversion to a Light Cavalry Squadron as tank centralization loomed. The sun was undeniably setting on C Squadron's tank identity, yet greater opportunities arose that gave its members a breath of motivation.

In July 2023, C Squadron answered the call and deployed 17 soldiers to Świętoszów, Poland on Op UNIFIER with the mission to train Ukrainian crews on the operation and maintenance of Leopard 2A4s.

The pinnacle of the mission came during the qualifying range: Three Ukrainian crews worked as a troop and conducted an orchestra of fire and control as they engaged a variety of targets. The Ukrainians became the lethal operators of the Leopard 2A4s as they mastered every

role in the vehicle, ready to return home and defend their country from Russian aggression.

Concurrently back home, excitement followed the announcement of the first Canadian tank deployment since Afghanistan. From June until November 2023, 110 C Squadron soldiers, including 15 reservists and 6 augmentees, trained feverishly to ensure readiness and excellence before arriving on Op REASSURANCE 24-01. A unique training opportunity arose through a Squadron trip to Fort Moore, Georgia in October to participate in Ex CHARGING LEOPARD. This two-week Squadron-level simulator exercise gave members of all ranks valuable experience in armoured operations prior to deployment to Latvia.

Op REASSURANCE 24-01 became a reality as C Squadron hit the ground running. Long days and nights were spent servicing the Leopard 2A4M fleet into operability to participate in the eFP BG

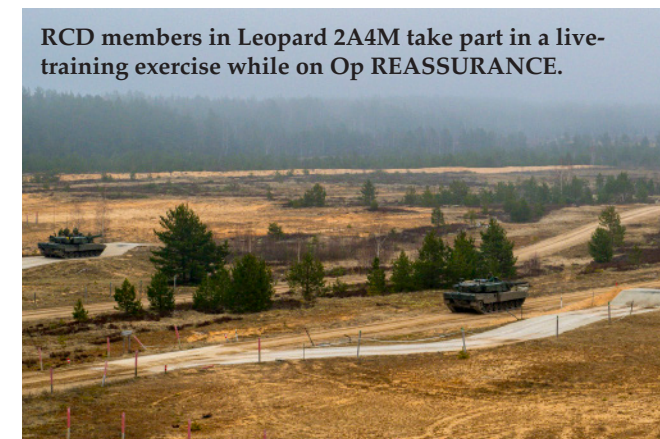


RCD members in a Leopard 2A4M jockey after engaging targets during Op REASSURANCE training.

validation exercise Ex CRYSTAL ARROW in the spring of 2024. In a proud moment of RCD history, Canadian Leopards prowled the NATO countryside, ready to meet any challenge they faced.

While most of the Sqn was deployed in Latvia, the stables back home were maintained by the 35-soldier-strong Rear Party. The overarching ongoing task for this group was to prepare the remaining Leopard 2s and TLAVs for shipment to Edmonton, Alberta to meet tank centralization requirements. Any white space was quickly filled with Light Cavalry training, including the winter warfare Exercise CHILLY DRAGOON, which helped begin the refamiliarization with dismounted tasks. To help facilitate the conversion, Rear Party members were sent on LAV 6 and TAPV courses with the intent of employing them as instructors for the soon-to-return deployed Squadron.

RCD members in Leopard 2A4M take part in a live-training exercise while on Op REASSURANCE.



In conclusion, the past year was an exciting chapter in C Squadron's history. Two international deployments involving the Leopard 2 was an appropriate way to mark the end of the era of RCD tank squadrons (for the time being). Overall, an excellent year for C Squadron as we look forward to the transition to medium cavalry and the receipt of the LRSS.

Bold and Swift! 

A Leopard 2 fires down range in Latvia.



C Squadron's Leopard 2 tanks, lined up and ready for action.





Col Cmdt RCAC, Gen (ret'd) Walt Natynczyk addresses Ex WORTHY PERSICA's PTA in Fort Moore, Georgia.

D SQUADRON

2023 – 2024

By Maj Phil Trimble
OC D Squadron (Acting)

D Squadron has demonstrated remarkable agility, strength, and readiness throughout the year, consistently overcoming challenges on the path to mission success. In 2023-2024, D Sqn executed individual battle task standards (IBTS), foundational and collective training, and theatre-specific training, all in preparation for the COMMITTED phase. During this time, D Sqn maintained a robust presence in support of international operations, undertook various tasks, including Unmanned Aerial Systems operations, and provided vital training and command support to the Regiment.

D Sqn maintained a year-long presence on Op REASSURANCE through the consecutive deployments of Troops 41 and 42. Both troops enhanced their individual and collective skills and fostered strong cohesion, ensuring readiness for their overseas missions. Troop 41 returned over the winter period, while 42 is just beginning to return from

deployment. Both troops excelled in their missions, reflecting great credit on the Squadron and Regiment.

In addition to the deployments, 43 played a crucial role in maintaining our readiness and advancing our technical skills. They, along with soldiers from Admin and SHQ, managed key tasks and courses, including TAPV Driver qualifications, Requisite Qualification Master Corporal, and IBTS refreshers.

During the fall training cycle, D Sqn participated in Exercises WALKING and CHARGING DRAGON, which allowed members to refine technical skills and enhance team cohesion. Junior leaders had the chance to operate independently and lead opposing forces (OPFOR) to support Regimental training objectives. A highlight of the fall training was exposing soldiers to larger operational areas, mirroring the scale of modern-day battlefields. Following WD/CD, much of D Sqn engaged in mounted live-fire training at Ex SABOT DRAGON, showcasing their expertise in firepower and manoeuvres at the troop level.



Members of D Sqn during Cold Weather Training in the Petawawa RTA.

In the new year, D Sqn undertook cold weather training that tested individual and collective skills in a harsh winter environment. This training included dismounted operations, clearance patrols, reconnaissance missions, and the construction of winter hides and defenses. The training culminated in a force-on-force event against A Sqn, where D Sqn was clearly victorious despite the untimely death of the acting OC during the final attack on A Sqn's hide and the 'official' score indicating a draw.

Following cold weather training, many D Sqn soldiers had the unique opportunity to escape the cold and collaborate with their Army Reserve counterparts during Ex WORTHY PERSICA (WP24), a simulation exercise at Fort Moore, Georgia. Over ten days, soldiers engaged in increasingly complex scenarios, benefiting from the mentorship of experts across the Armoured Corps. Key contributors included Dragoons such as the CO (LCol Forsyth), Acting OC A Sqn (Capt Martin), RCD Technical Quartermaster (MWO Barnett), and our own D Sqn Sergeant Major (MWO Berube).



Members of D Sqn, led by Acting BC Lt Allen, on the march during Cold Weather Training in the Petawawa RTA.

The exercise concluded with presentations at the US Army Armoured & Cavalry Collection, featuring insights — that were very well received — from Col Auld (Director RCAC) and Gen (ret'd) Natynczyk (Col Cmdt, RCAC). Ex WP24 not only enhanced our soldiers' skills but also strengthened our relationships and interoperability with the armoured reserve units who hosted us.

Throughout a demanding year of high readiness, D Sqn has faced all challenges with determination and unity, consistently rising to meet each challenge as a cohesive team. As we reflect on the past twelve months, D Sqn stands proud of its contributions to the RCD, the CAF, and the wider NATO alliance, and looks forward to achieving even greater success in the future.

Bold and Swift! 🚀



D Sqn and RCD participants of Ex WP24 pose in front of an Abrams MBT in Fort Moore, Georgia.



HQ

SQUADRON

2023 – 2024

By Maj Brynn Bennett
OC HQ Squadron

ABOVE: An A Sqn TAPV being brought into Maintenance (2).

The past year was a very hectic one in the sustainment realm. In July 2023 HQ Sqn was required to quickly come together, mid APS staffing re-organization, in order to respond to the tragic crash of a Chinook helicopter into the Ottawa River just off Wagner Point. The Sqn rapidly responded and established the sustainment supports necessary to enable the search and recovery efforts. It was a challenging and dynamic operation, but the skilled sustainers of C/S 8 rose to the occasion. It was a privilege to contribute to the support of our neighbour unit in their time of need. The remainder of the summer was spent on leave and conducting B Fleet PCFs.

The fall training cycle saw the bulk of HQ Sqn deploy to the field for Ex WALKING DRAG-

OON. SHQ (C/S 8), Maintenance and Transport established a CSS hide location at Clement Point. Maintenance and Transport focused on cementing Tp level SOPs and developing their teams, Log Tp conducted field craft and supported the Regiment with fresh feeding from their MKTs, while SHQ worked through the establishment, operation, and movement of sustainment C2 nodes. After a week of sorting ourselves out at the Sqn level, we transitioned into Exercise CHARGING DRAGON, which saw C/S 8 move down to the Irving Big Stop in Pembroke in order to exercise longer lines of communication and work through time and space challenges while supporting A & D Sqn as well as RHQ in the Training Area. The exercise culminated with a BBQ back in unit lines prepared by the KO and her team of culinary experts. Over-



all, it was a challenging and demanding training opportunity which improved HQ Sqn members skills, not only as sustainers, but also as soldiers. The rest of the fall passed relatively quickly with highlights such as Ex RUCKING BEAR, support to Ex SABOT DRAGON, and leading the preparations for the Command Team inspection.

December brought a much-needed break for HQ Sqn members and January saw the team return refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2024. The winter training period saw much of the Sqn participate in Cold Weather Operator Training as well as Ex WINTER DRAGON. During this time the Sqn also began developing the support estimate necessary to enable C Sqn's transition from Heavy to Light Cavalry as well as the completion of the movement out of all Leo 2 & TLAV specific parts and tooling out of C Sqn lines.

The remainder of the late winter and spring period was spent supporting assorted low level and PCF training as well as the movement of personnel and equipment into and out of theatre for a variety of different missions Dragons were deployed on.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Cpl Lutz leads the preparation of haybox pasta out of the MKTs. / Cpl Chappell and Cpl Telfer ensure ammo is delivered on time and on target. / SSM HQ Sqn looks impressed during an update from the team at CS/8.

Throughout the year members of the Sqn demonstrated resiliency, innovation, and resourcefulness in order to achieve the mission. I am proud of the work of HQ Sqn over the past year and am confident the team will continue to excel as they transition into the BUILD year this August. I am grateful to have served with them and appreciated their support and advice throughout the year.

Bold and Swift! 🚀





CENTURION ROOM

It was a busy year in the Centurion Room. Looking back on the past 12 months, we had a number of enjoyable events. We kicked things off with the Annual Centurion Room links and drinks. An event which replaced the jacket and tie dining in, it has become a favourite. Organizers Lt Cowan and Lt Janzen put together an enjoyable afternoon of competition and camaraderie.

We celebrated Leliefontein in traditional style, returning to a mixed combined dining in that was cohosted by the Centurion Room and Sgt Holland Room. This event was the first full-scale mess dinner since the COVID-19 pandemic and was enjoyed by over 145 guests. This was followed by the All Ranks Gala and Dance the following evening. At Christmas time we hosted the Sgt Holland Room members at Jubilee Lodge for an evening of drinks, games, camaraderie and fun in a relaxed setting.

After Christmas we began planning for the first Petawawa Black Hat Officer Mess Dinner, which was unfortunately cancelled due to CFMWS labour disruptions. The year continued and we had the opportunity to plan and execute the Change of Command Mixed Combined Dining In. The event was well attended and offered Regimental NCOs, officers and their spouses the opportunity to bid farewell to LCol Nicolas Forsyth and Gemma as well as welcome LCol Summerfield. The event also marked the change of Colonel of the Regiment from Major General (ret'd) Milner to Major General (ret'd) Cadden.

There were many improvements over the past year, with the Centurion Room implementing freshly



2023-2024

By Maj Brynn Bennett
Centurion Room PMC

ground whole bean coffee, an espresso/latte machine, a small satellite canteen, new logo, merchandise, and reformed Operating Guidelines. Through our partnership with garrison NPF, we have professionalized and ensured the continued operation of the Centurion Room well into the future.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank those whose hard work made this all possible. Capt Trimble, as VPMC, was instrumental in the success of all our social functions; Lt Frampton, the Mess Secretary, dutifully produced minutes after each meeting as well as supported the Gala execution; Lt Madore, the Treasurer, endeavoured to bring some semblance of comprehension to the NPF statements we would receive each month; and Lt Cowan was instrumental in the Gala planning and execution as well as the development and rollout of our Cent Room merchandise and farewell gifts. All of the success of the mess this past year was a credit to the hard work of these individuals and many others. The other essential ingredient to our success was our close collaboration and partnership with the Sgt Holland Room, co-hosting the Leliefontein and Change of Command Mixed Combined Dining Ins was essential to the success of both events. To both Holland Room PMCs, MWO Monaghan and MWO Berube, thank you for your advice, input and for sharing the workload.

Bold and Swift! 🚢



2023-2024

By WO Jason Mitchell
Sgt Holland Room VPMC

As another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the memorable moments and events that have brought members of Sgt Holland Room together in camaraderie and celebration. From the farewell of posted members to the thrill of the first annual golf tournament, the elegance of the Leliefontein Mixed Mess Dinner (LLFN MMD) and the festive cheer of the Christmas At Home, each event played a significant role in fostering a sense of community and belonging among its members.

As we bid farewell to our posted members, like the TQMS MWO Nickerson, and welcomed new members in, we kicked off the year with great excitement as the Sgt Holland Room hosted its much-anticipated first Snr NCO Golf Tournament. With blue skies overhead and the lush green fairways stretching out before them, members gathered for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie on the golf course. Everyone came together to tee off, swap stories, and enjoy the thrill of the game. The event not only showcased the skill and sportsmanship of its participants, but also provided an opportunity for members to bond over a shared love of golf.

Following the success of the Golf Day, the Sgt Holland Room embraced elegance and sophistication at the LLFN MMD. With the room adorned in traditional military regalia and the tables set in a unique fashion, members dressed in their finest



SGT HOLLAND ROOM

attire and gathered for an evening of fine dining. Amidst the ambiance of camaraderie and friendship, guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal accompanied by lively conversation and laughter. The event was a testament to the strong bonds that unite members of Sgt Holland Room and Centurion Room, transcending ranks and backgrounds to create a true sense of belonging.

As the year drew to a close, the Sgt Holland Room was welcomed by the officers hosting the festive season with its annual Christmas At Home. The room was transformed into a winter wonderland, with twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the sound of holiday music filling the air. Members came together to celebrate the spirit of the season, sharing laughter, memories, and good cheer. Enjoying delicious food and drinks, the At Home provided a joyful opportunity for members to come together and celebrate the bonds of friendship that define leaders of the RCD.

As we look back on the year that has passed, it's clear that the Sgt Holland Room has continued to exist as a welcoming community. Through events like Golf Day, LLFN MMD, and Christmas At Home, members come together to forge friendships, create memories, and celebrate the spirit of camaraderie that defines the Sgt Holland Room. As we look ahead to the year to come, let us continue to cherish these moments and celebrate the strong bonds that unite us as members of this remarkable community.

Bold and Swift! 🚢



TESTING YOUR METTLE

2023 – 2024

By Lt Carter Gladman
Team OPI

The Royal Canadian Dragoons' Iron Warrior team performed incredibly this year. We placed two competitors in the top 20 for the full marathon and one competitor in the top 20 for the Sprint event.

Sgt Jude Martin of B Sqn was the fastest currently serving Dragoon of the Marathon event with a time of 4h18m26s. Cpl Derek Edgell, from A Sqn, was the fastest Dragoon of the Sprint event with a time of 2h22m6s. With these impressive performances, and the showing of the rest of the team, the RCD won the event out of all major units on the base.

The 40th iteration of the Iron Warrior competition took place 25/26 August 2023 and had two race categories: the marathon and sprint. Both events consist of the same component —: a ruck run followed by a canoe portage, then a paddle, and a final ruck run — but they differ in distance, with the marathon totalling 42km, and the sprint totalling 21km. Competitors were allowed to race

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Cpl Dennique. MCpl French. Pte Lefebvre and Tpr Paradis. Cpl McLennan. Tpr Rainforth. Lt James Allen.

in the footwear of their preference, and rucking weight was determined by their body weight, with classes carrying 25, 30 or 35 lbs.

The training season was long, arduous, and methodically planned out by the team's captain, Cpl Derek Edgell. The team began training in April, and interest was very high from across the Regiment. The team was prepared and focussed during the training period and was subject to periodic performance checks. The training consisted of early morning weighted and non-weighted runs ranging from 5 to 20 km, group portages, paddle training, and timed events to promote friendly competition within the team.

Cpl Derek Edgell and Sgt Jude Martin deserve full credit for the success of the team this year. They designed, implemented, and led the team through



the five-month training grind, ensuring that team training was organized, challenging and progressive. The major unit award is a success the team hopes to repeat next year.

Below is a complete list of competitors, times, and placement for the 2023 Iron Warrior:

MARATHON:

2nd - Sgt Jude Martin 4:18:26
18th - Lt James Allen 5:22:16
23rd - 2Lt Brandon Cowan 5:36:49
43rd - Lt Nathan Frampton 5:59:35
46th - Cpl Oliver Caborn 6:02:27
47th - Lt Taylor Janzen 6:02:34
53rd - Sgt Katelynn Brennen 6:05:15
62nd - Cpl Laura Dennique 6:14:57
66th - Cpl Connor Dague 6:18:40
93rd - Tpr Ethan Paquette 6:39:12



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Sgt Martin with 1st and 3rd place finishers and Comd 2CMBG. Major unit champions! Cpl Caborne closing in on the end of the paddle.

95th - Maj Jonathan DeSilva 6:40:03
96th - MWO Chad Monaghan 6:40:04
106th - Lt William Beaupre 6:48:01
120th - Cpl Eric Morse 7:01:02
129th - Sgt Dave Wilkinson 7:06:47
165th - 2Lt Matthew Irwin 7:37:10
171st - Lt Carter Gladman 7:48:42
176th - Cpl Daniel Todd 8:06:02
180th - Tpr Joel Dionne 8:12:49
197th - Cpl Alexander Van der Starren 9:19:38

SPRINT:

8th - Cpl Derek Edgell 2:22:06
22nd - Tpr Andrew Rainforth 2:34:07
34th - MCpl Zack French 2:39:52
44th - Cpl Jordan McLennan 2:48:10
52nd - Tpr Matthew Paradis 2:53:57
71st - Cpl Jan Agdan 3:03:41
72nd - Tpr Matthew Huddy-Richer 3:03:43
74th - Pte Nathan Lefebvre 3:06:20
90th - Tpr Andrew Fraser 3:12:07
106th - Cpl Corey Juck 3:20:00
113th - Cpl Joshua Muir-Bateman 3:27:06
117th - Lt Preston Roberts 3:31:21
128th - Cpl Jean-Tracy Fillion 3:56:41

Bold and Swift! 🚣



LELIEFFONTEIN

ABOVE: The Guidon party at Garrison Petawawa.

CELEBRATING 123 YEARS

The Royal Canadian Dragoons commemorate the 123rd anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein.

By Lt Hamilton

Throughout the week of 30 October to 5 November 2023, the Royal Canadian Dragoons recognized the 123rd anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein. The Regiment commemorates this battle annually to reflect on past achievements, highlighted by the three Victoria Crosses awarded to Lt Turner, Lt Cockburn, and Sgt Holland for their actions. Their achievements display the endurance, perseverance, and determination that Dragoons strive to embody and uphold.

The week kicked off with Ex RUCKING BEAR (RB), which saw all able members of the Regiment participating in a 15+ km ruck march. The ruck offered different levels of challenge for each Dragoon, but all remained focused and motiv-

ated throughout. The completion of Ex RB not only demonstrated the Regiment's capabilities and readiness, but also their ability to encourage each other and overcome physically demanding tasks as a team.

Following Ex RB, the Officers and Senior NCOs gathered for a dining-in event at the Normandy Officers' Mess (NOM). Thanks to the efforts of the NOM staff, Ulrich's, Centurion Room and Sergeant Holland Room organizers, as well as the one-time return of Angie LaForge as acting manager for the event, the evening was a great success. It provided an opportunity for Officers, Senior NCOs, and their guests to socialize, build relationships, and celebrate the anniversary of

Leliefontein. Attendees were in high spirits and enjoyed the occasion to connect with members of the Regimental Family.

On November 4, the Regiment carried out its annual parade in remembrance of Leliefontein. The Regiment displayed Lt Turner's and Sgt Holland's Victoria Crosses alongside the twelve-pounder field gun which "D" Battery used as part of the rearguard at Leliefontein. We took the time during the parade to present several awards to soldiers and families for their exceptional efforts at work and in the community.

The All-Ranks Gala followed the parade and acted as the finale for the week. Key highlights of the evening included an excellent dinner, dance with a live DJ, and a photo booth. A shuttle service was provided to allow attendees to return home safely after enjoying the event. HQ Sqn successfully facilitated an evening packed with excitement, memories, and safety considerations for all.

In conclusion, the Regiment continues to commemorate the Battle of Leliefontein, reinforcing the values of courage, determination, and perseverance that were on full display on 7 November 1900.

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- The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association Award (presented to the best all-round armoured Tpr) – **Cpl Bhattacharya**
- The Leliefontein Award (presented to the top non-armoured Cpl) – **Cpl Perreault**
- The Leliefontein Award (presented to the top armoured Cpl) – **MCpl Johnson**
- The ETQMS Plaque (presented to the best all-round non-armoured MCpl) – **MS Quismorio**
- Eckhardt Memorial Plaque (presented to the most outstanding armoured Master-Corporal) – **Sgt Tully**
- Commanding Officer's Shield (presented to the most outstanding crewman Sergeant) – **WO Padvaisakas**
- RSM's Pace Stick (presented to the most outstanding crewman Warrant Officer) – **MWO Monaghan**

- Commanding Officer's Sword (presented to the subaltern who, as judged by officers of the Regiment, displays the highest qualities of leadership, integrity, and ability) – **Lt Allen**
- RCD Guild Award for Volunteer and Community Service (presented to member of the Regimental Family who demonstrates outstanding commitment to community service through volunteer work) – **Cpl De Pano**
- The Leliefontein Guild Bursary (presented to Dragoons posted in the Regiment, Extra-Regimentally Employed, or Retired and their dependants) – **Evan Nickerson**, child of MWO Nickerson, and **Caroline Cameron**, child of LCol Rick Cameron
- Leliefontein Courage Award (presented to recognize a courageous act by a member of the Regiment) – **MWO Phillips**



A Leopard 2 sends a training sabot down range.



OP UNIFIER



C SQUADRON

Leopard 2 Training Element

By Captain Adam Paulhus
Battle Captain, C Sqn

In spring 2023, C Sqn received the call to deploy a training team to Świętoszów, Poland in late July as part of Op UNIFIER. The team was given the task of teaching Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) soldiers to maintain, drive, shoot, load, and command the Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tank (MBT). Seventeen members of C Sqn deployed as the Leopard Training Element (LTE) into an unknown and mostly independent environment nearly 500 kilometres away from their headquarters element, and with no clear timeline or direction on when the AFU would arrive.

For the first month, the training team made the most of their opportunities, living in the small Polish village and working on the Polish Armed

Forces (PAF) base. Members participated in rigorous instructor training, were taught and qualified to operate the Leopard Gunnery System Trainers (LGSTs), and took advantage of professional development opportunities to visit Berlin and the tank museum in Munster, Germany.

After a month of training and preparation, and amid constant speculation of an early shutdown of the LTE, the warning order finally arrived on 27 August: five crews, totalling 20 students, would arrive on 5 September for a 30-day serial. Coordination with the Polish was swift, with the PAF providing the LTE with tanks, classrooms, maintainers, and day-to-day support for the duration of the course.

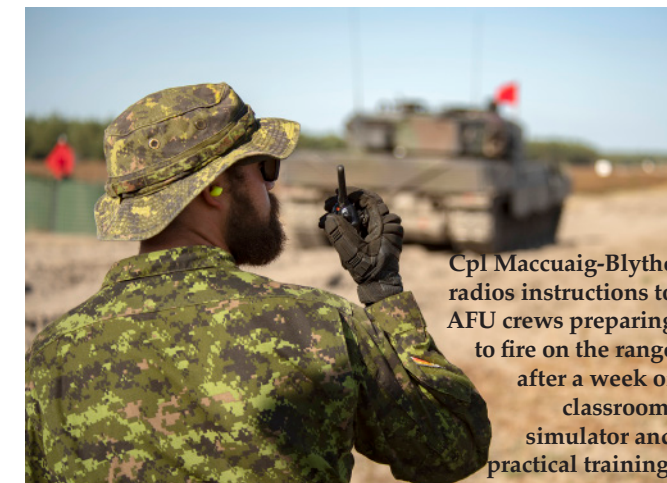


AFU crews, with CAF crew commanders, mount up and prepare to return to base after a day on the range.

By the end of the course, which encompassed single-vehicle manoeuvres, crew commanding, a full-scale crew-level live-fire range, and an ad hoc troop-level live-fire range, the AFU candidates became cohesive crews, equipped with the drills and ability to make effective and deadly use of the Leopard 2 against their enemy. Throughout, they challenged the LTE's instructors with questions — ranging from the high-speed manoeuvrability of the tank to deeply specific questions on maintenance and emergency repairs — all of which tested the knowledge of the LTE and armed the AFU candidates with life-saving battlefield skills. The LTE could not do it alone, however, and C Sqn's maintainers in Gagetown were keen to answer the critical maintenance questions — questions which the AFU tankers needed to fix tanks stranded on the battlefield and save lives when recovery was unavailable.

As LTE Roto 16's only serial entered its final week, the decision was made to discontinue Canadian tank training in Poland. With training completed, the LTE said goodbye and offered well wishes to their AFU colleagues, tankers just like C Sqn's own, who were returning to Ukraine to continue the fight against the Russian invaders. That began a short, closing chapter to the LTE. LGSTs were shipped north for future use on Op REASSURANCE, two of C Sqn's own departed for other training elements to continue Op UNIFIER's mission for another three months, and tankers once again said goodbye to tankers — this time to the PAF soldiers of the 10 Brygada Kawalerii Pancernej, who supported the LTE across three rotations and to whom we owed so much gratitude and praise.

Bold and Swift! 🇺🇦



Cpl Maccuaig-Blythe radios instructions to AFU crews preparing to fire on the range after a week of classroom, simulator and practical training.



Cpl Tetu and Cpl Read pass instructions to their students from atop the turrets of their Leopard 2s.



Cpl Read and Cpl Wentzell observe students in the turret of a Leopard 2 while another AFU student works on their MRS.



OP REASSURANCE

RCD WITH ISTAR COY

By Capt Jordan Carmichael
1 Tp Leader, D Squadron

While deployed on Op REASSURANCE Rotation 23-02, soldiers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons took part in multinational training opportunities, deployed both with 1 RCR Battle Group's ISTAR Company and the Battle Group Headquarters. Soldiers who deployed with the ISTAR Company were uniquely equipped to provide the 1 RCR Battle Group with persistent and efficient surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance through the use of the Raven B uncrewed aerial system (UAS) which the operators employed to great effect. Working in concert with the 1 RCR

dismounted reconnaissance platoon, the UAS detachments, Shadow 1 and Shadow 2, consistently allowed the Battle Group to defeat OPFOR plans and enabled the Battle Group to take decisive action.

The ISTAR Company was further supported through the employment of the remaining Dragoons mixed in with the 1 RCR reconnaissance platoon personnel. Drawing on experience from Armoured Reconnaissance, the Dragoons found themselves conducting dismounted reconnaissance patrols with the infantry in order to find the enemy, as well as the provision of a mounted reconnaissance patrol made up almost entirely of RCD personnel.

Maintaining a high degree of flexibility, the Dragoons proved themselves an

ABOVE: MCpl Robitaille and MCpl Sanderson, MUAS Det Comds, host a static display of the Raven B MUAS.

LEFT: Cpl Downey, WO Hatfield, and Cpl Kirkwood in CS 69C at an ISR Coy Leaguer.



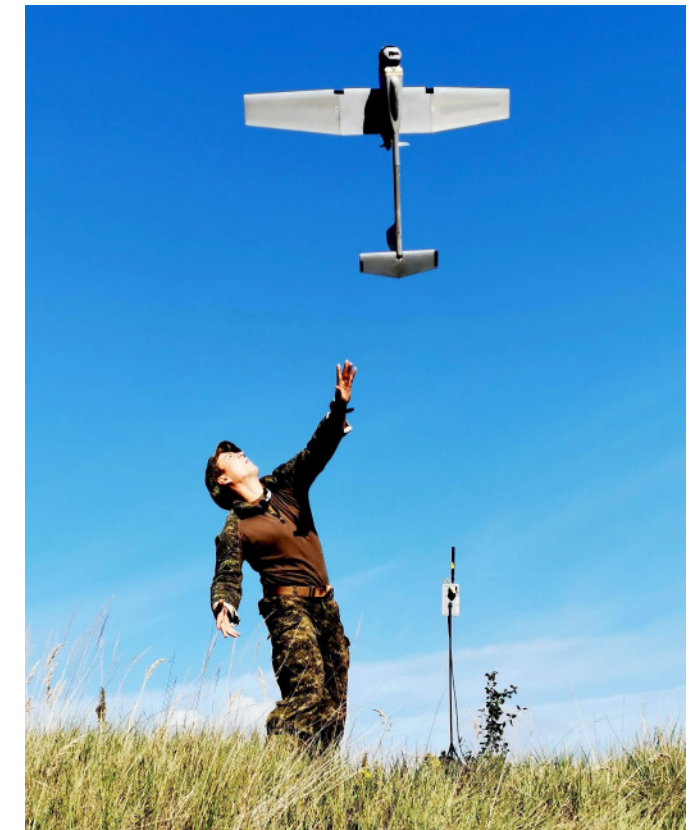
indispensable asset to the 1 RCR Battle Group while also developing new ways in which the CAF will use UAS in the future.

Meanwhile, Dragoons employed in the Battle Group Headquarters found themselves thrust into long days and tight time lines, which were necessary to make the organization function. The Battle Group plans cell quickly became the nexus of the Headquarters, liaising with other departments to facilitate the planning of Battle Group exercises and the defence of the host nation.

The successful execution of these activities, coupled with the near constant "what ifs" that came with planning for the defence of Latvia, served to illustrate the value of not only the Dragoons' presence, but that of every soldier in Latvia participating in Op REASSURANCE.

Bold and Swift! 🚀

ABOVE: Sgt Garner, and Cpl Mineault in CS 61 conducting a road-move on exercise with the Latvian Army. / TOP RIGHT: Cpl Bradley launches a Raven B UAS during an MUAS flight camp conducted while deployed on Op REASSURANCE 23-02. / MIDDLE RIGHT: Capt Bove (ITA) and Capt Carmichael prepare carbonara for the BG plans team during Ex SILVER ARROW 23-02. / BOTTOM RIGHT: Cpl Downey, Cpl Wiens, Cpl Mineault and Cpl Lal participate in an international small arms range with soldiers from the Italian and Latvian armies.





OP REASSURANCE

ABOVE: CAF members of NATO's eFP BG in Latvia participate in Ex CRYSTAL ARROW, a series of small arms ranges to increase the platoon marksmanship and war fighting skills. Photo by MCpl Genevieve Lapointe, CF Combat Camera.



RCD WITH EFP BG

By WO Travis Livingstone
2IC, Armoured Recce Platoon
Troop Warrant Officer, 2 Tp D Sqn

It was with great pleasure that members from 2 Troop, D Sqn had the opportunity to deploy on Op REASSURANCE 24-01's Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG) in Latvia with 2 RCR from December 2023 to June 2024. The Regiment contributed by sending an Armoured Recce Troop as part of Combat Support (CS) Company alongside nine members of 2 RCR Recce section. The Canadian Armoured Recce Platoon was led by Capt Hass (2 RCR) and Pl 2IC WO Livingstone, who had the honour of commanding two different units while deployed.

The RCD soldiers hit the ground running to integrate quickly, not only with other Canadians within the BG and NSE, but with many other nations. CS Company alone consisted of Canadian, Italian, Czechoslovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, Montenegrin, and North Macedonian soldiers, with each country providing a unique asset and skill for the BG. The opportunity to share knowledge within the multinational company provided unique learning experiences that members of the troop would not otherwise have had the opportunity to benefit from.



ABOVE: Between December 2023 and June 2024, several members from 2 Troop, D Sqn served with 2 RCR BG's Canadian Armoured Recce Platoon in Latvia.



RIGHT: Sgt Bickford receives a CDS Coin from General Eyre and CWO McCann.

Sgt Bolduc, Sgt Bickford, MCpl Montgomery, and MCpl Evans developed their capabilities alongside the dismounted Recce Section from 2 RCR that was led by Sgt Pineault and MCpl Mortimer. This team helped develop the Platoon's ability to be just as effective dismounted as mounted.

The Pl effectively employed mounted, dismounted, and MUAS capabilities during all the BG exercises. During Ex CRYSTAL ARROW, MUAS Section, led by MCpl Evans as the MUAS Det Commander, had a large effect on the outcome of the battle, providing early warning and critical information to the BG and vectoring indirect fires at the decisive moment. Having successfully completed the NATO-level exercise, the Pl moved on to platoon-level training.

Over a two-week period, the Pl conducted small

arms ranges to include barricade shooting and urban operation with simulated ammunition. The RCD soldiers, along with members of 2 RCR Recce Section and snipers, deployed out of Latvia into Estonia for a five-day NATO-wide exercise in the RMA involving 10 other countries with goals of training and building team cohesion. Having accomplished international relations with some of the most experienced soldiers within NATO, it was time to pack our belongings and head back to Canada for some well-deserved time off with family and loved ones. We handed over to the soldiers of the Royal 22nd Regiment and headed home.

On reflection it was a unique experience that tested our abilities and flexibility while enabling us to learn from the Recce Soldiers of 2 RCR and numerous allied partners.

Bold and Swift! 🇨🇦



A Canadian soldier takes aim during Ex CRYSTAL ARROW. Photo by MCpl Genevieve Lapointe.



OP REASSURANCE

CHAOS SQUADRON

By Lt Jonas Rodger
2 Troop Leader, Chaos Squadron

ABOVE: Cpl Grech strikes a pose during Ex WEEKEND WARRIOR.

In the frosty months of November and December 2023, 116 personnel from C Squadron deployed to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE 24-01, a mission that would test their mettle and showcase their unwavering dedication. Known as CHAOS Squadron in theatre, the squadron represented a unique amalgamation of members from all three regular force armoured regiments and several armoured reserve units from across Canada. As the Canadian tank element of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment-led enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG), CHAOS Squadron entered theatre with a clear mission and an indomitable spirit.

Upon their arrival, CHAOS Squadron faced the harsh reality of operating in a challenging environment with limited infrastructure. Undeterred by the icy rain and snow, they plunged headfirst into their duties. With no hangars to shelter their tanks, the Squadron's tankers and maintainers toiled tirelessly in the elements, demonstrating maximum dedication in ensuring operational readiness despite the adverse conditions.

The journey was marked by rigorous training exercises alongside NATO allies, setting the stage for the pinnacle event, Exercise CRYSTAL



ARROW. From 4 to 12 March, CHAOS Squadron showcased its prowess on an international platform, shaping the battlespace through the aggressive use of firepower and battlefield mobility. Their tactical manoeuvres, including a guard, a delay, a countermove task, and a punishing counterattack, underscored their significance in combined arms operations.

In a historic moment in May, CHAOS Squadron had the privilege of hosting the Canadian Army Trophy (CAT), a prestigious tank gunnery competition revived after three decades. Welcoming eight teams from seven nations, including Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Poland, Norway, and Canada itself, the competition not only highlighted international cooperation but also reaffirmed CHAOS Squadron's status as world-class tankers. Representing Canada in this event, a crew from CHAOS Squadron clinched the first-place victory in the Canadian Army Trophy. In a timed competition, where every second counted, Canada outperformed the next best team, the United Kingdom, by over 45 seconds, showcasing unparalleled skill and precision on the battlefield. Furthermore, CHAOS Squadron surpassed three



TOP LEFT: Lt Rodger and Cpl Moody wait for a countermove task atop their Leopard 2A4M during Ex CRYSTAL ARROW. / ABOVE: Tango 59er – Maj Jordan Lapointe – pushes through a woodline on Ex CRYSTAL ARROW.

other Leopard 2-using nations, demonstrating absolute and unchallenged mastery of the Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank.

As their six-month tour on Operation REASSURANCE 24-01 draws to a close, CHAOS Squadron reflects on the challenges overcome and the milestones achieved. Their unwavering commitment to duty and excellence has not only bolstered NATO's presence in the Baltics, but also strengthened the bonds of camaraderie among allied nations — all with a touch of organized chaos.

Bold and Swift! 🚀

BELOW: A Canadian Leopard 2 MBT tank fires at a target during the Canadian Army Trophy Competition in Latvia. A crew from CHAOS Squadron clinched the first-place victory, outperforming the next best team by over 45 seconds. Photo by Lt Jennifer Kusche. / BOTTOM LEFT: Tango 59B – Capt Ben Bennett – jockeys hard left during an engagement on Ex CRYSTAL ARROW.





The Guild of the Royal Canadian Dragoons



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD



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

This is my final letter as your Guild President as I hand over the reins to Steve Cadden. It was a successful year for the Guild and great to see the Regiment at full tempo with some outstanding achievements at home and abroad. It has been an especially impactful period for the Guild with some personnel changes and further focusing of our efforts to better serve our Regimental Family. I encourage everyone to read through our articles to get a sense of the meaningful impact your Guild makes, all made possible by the dedicated efforts of our members as well as your input and continued support.

I can comfortably say that the Guild continues to be running smoothly, and all our main lines of operation are effectively supporting the Regimental Family. Over the last year, our primary focus continued to be the quality of life of the Regimental Family through bursaries, support to our cadets, support to Regimental living conditions, and support activities to soldier and family activities/needs including a departure support program that is now finding its feet. We have also been excited by the involvement and impact of our Regimental Family Advisory Council (RFAC), a team of volunteers representing all elements of the Regiment Family that meets to discuss the needs of, and ideas from, across our beneficiary community for potential acceptance as a Guild activity. It is quickly becoming a key enabler to delivering our programs and continues to look for your ideas and participation.

Over the past year, we have also created a wall of recognition project to recognize supporters of our Guild and Regimental Family. This wall, in the Regimental Headquarters, has the names of our donors etched onto a wood plaque for all to see. We

also continue to focus on improving our communication and Jim Follwell has been masterful at getting the right timely information out on our website and other social media platforms to ensure all Dragoons are kept up to speed on our Regimental news.

Our Patron, Marjolaine Hudon, has become an excellent ambassador for the Regimental Family and her support to the Guild, in conjunction with her team at RBC, is greatly appreciated. With our current fundraising and donations that come in from Y007, CanadaHelps and other donors, our Guild revenues are stable but more income equals more charitable support.. I must note that we are especially thankful to a few of our significant supporters from this year like Gene Lake, Jeff Mierens, RBC, Ian Turner, and the estate of Warren Beatty. Your donations have enabled the Guild to effectively support our Regimental Family, but there is always more to do.

While I am stepping away from an official role, be assured that I will stay active in supporting the Guild in any way that I can — it means too much to me. I encourage you to consider supporting your Guild,

whether it's a financial donation (or other donation mechanism), bringing your project ideas to our attention, being a long-term volunteer on the RFAC, or volunteering to help deliver one of our activities.

Bold and Swift!

BELOW: Dean Milner hands off the presidency of the Guild to Steve Cadden.





THE GUILD IN ACTION

PROGRAMS

ABOVE: Leadership briefs the Regiment on the Guild, its programs and how it helps the Regimental Family.

YOUR GUILD'S STATUS

Like all things in life, change is constant. Having come into existence 44 years ago, the Guild has certainly experienced change. This has been driven by the requirement to remain in compliance with the legal framework that defines charitable organizations within Canada as well as the changing nature of life in general for members, veterans and their families. What has not changed though, is the unwavering and steadfast support to the Regimental Family by the members of the Guild.

Guild members are also your board of directors who fundraise, plan, organize, undertake programs and execute activities for its beneficiaries: the Regimental Family. Would it surprise you to know that the Guild accomplishes this with a maximum membership of just 20 people and a few volunteers?

Guild members are a mix of serving and retired members, spouses of members and civilians. They volunteer their time, talent, energy and, in many cases, their personal finances for the morale and welfare of the Regimental Family. For them, it's about contributing to their community; not the one they live in (though they

likely do it there too) but the one for which they feel an inextricable link: The Royal Canadian Dragoons. Their considerable and continuing commitments are willingly undertaken because they believe they can make a positive difference. Our recently created Regimental Family Advisory Committee and their inputs will help focus and prioritize efforts towards the greatest needs. Your support of these efforts through donations, volunteering, encouragement and ideas will help us succeed.

In this publication, as we capture the essence of this past year for the history books of tomorrow, we must say thank you to Steve Boire, Andrew Fenton, Rowena Williams, Mark Aube, Bill Fulton and Paul Riganelli for their service to the Guild and welcome to Marsha Reid, Jim Atkins, Franca Gagliano, Andy Coxhead and Dyrald Cross for having taken over the responsibilities of their predecessors. And as we head into another year, we know that with the annual posting cycle and changes to Regimental leadership, more changes to our membership will soon be upon us. What will remain constant though is the dedication, devotion, drive, commitment, energy and excellence that will enable the Guild to continue to deliver on its mandate of supporting our Regimental Family.



QUALITY OF LIFE

As the key focus area for the Guild, the Quality of Life (QOL) charitable program has continued to mature several important initiatives to support Regimental Family esprit-de-corps. Over the past year the Guild supported the renovation of the kitchen in the Regimental Canteen with a substantial payment. We also continued supporting the Regimental Gym to sustain and improve the equipment as well as establishing a similar gym in C Squadron. Of note, the Guild still buys the initial issue of accoutrements for new soldiers and are investigating the same for our cadet units.

Several important initiatives have taken place over the past year to support families during the deployment of soldiers. We continued to support the distribution of deployment bears for the children of personnel deploying on operations Op UNION, Op UNIFIER and Op REASSURANCE. As always, we stand ready to expand this support to fill information/support gaps where appropriate. Additionally, when needed the Guild provides emergency help including financial assistance and a professional referral network to Regimental Family members when other resources and/or funding streams are not available in a timely manner to meet family emergency needs.

Working closely with our RCD Association, our funeral support activity (including kits) has been excellently received by families and strongly supported by all elements of the Regimental Family. It provides an important Regimental aspect in paying respects that cannot be understated. Particularly noteworthy was the passing of some of our WWII veterans, including Trooper Don White. Unfortunately, and sadly, we had many funerals over the past year and we know that we missed some.



TOP LEFT: The Guild provided funeral support for Tpr Don White. Joining the Regiment in Italy in the fall of 1944, Don served continuously in C Sqn through the Italian and NW Europe Campaigns. He will always be remembered as being in the lead Staghound when our Regiment liberated Leeuwarden. A true Dragoon, he inspires generations of Dragoons to this day.

TOP RIGHT: Evan Nickerson, one of two 2023 Leliefontein Bursary winners, receive their award on parade.

We rely heavily on the Regimental Family to inform us of passings to ensure their family is offered our support.

The Guild also was very excited to introduce a project to better support Regimental Family members who transition from military life into the civilian community. The first phase of this program has been initiated through our retirement recognition activity, including the Long Service Coin and recognition of a person's contribution to the Unit and Regimental Family. More activities are being developed to provide our members the best support during transition while not duplicating official programs, but we need everyone's support to inform us of releases/retirements — we can't help if we don't know. Our goal is to make sure that we fully recognize our releasing/retiring Dragoons and ensure that they are well informed and prepared to transition into their next chapter.

The awarding of our bursaries continued to be a successful cornerstone of our program. At Leliefontein, \$10,000 in education bursaries were awarded to two individuals (5K each). Three cadet bursaries of \$1,000 each were awarded and will be presented at the next Leliefontein parade. The Guild is very excited to support Regimental Family members in their pursuit of post-secondary education. Finally, this year we were honoured to provide awards to Regimental Family



TOP LEFT: Royal Canadian Dragoons in their Scarlets with the descendants of Sgt Holland, VC.

TOP RIGHT: A volunteer with the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) in period uniform with our Staghound.



members in recognition of their support and sense of community, including a \$1,000 Volunteer and Community Service Award.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The History & Heritage program has remained active over the year to promote, protect, and preserve the traditions and heritage of The Royal Canadian Dragoons. A small group of volunteers has been very busy managing our efforts with great success, but they always have room to welcome more volunteers to support our efforts!

The relocation of the regimental archives and artifacts to the new Regimental HQ has been completed but further organization, preservation and digitization efforts are required to properly protect our collection. The team is also looking to collect more operational information from members and will be initiating a call-to-action collection plan across the Regimental Family.

The maintenance of our ceremonial uniforms is an ongoing requirement. Right now, we have approximately 75 uniforms for use, but replacement parts are always needed so thanks to the Regiment for carefully tracking uniform condition. We will also continue to purchase new uniforms and accoutrements to reach our goal of fielding a 100-person guard and have spares.

The Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) has worked extra hours keeping the Staghound and Ferret scout car in running condition, maintaining the Leliefontein gun,

ensuring our vehicle monuments remain in good shape and supporting the base museum with their vehicle monuments. The HVT also showcased the Staghound at The Ontario Regiment Museum's Aquino weekend in Oshawa and supported Trooper Don White's funeral service with the Staghound.

The H&H team continues to work on a concept plan to refurbish and update the RCD Gallery at the Garrison Petawawa Military Museum with new display cabinetry, storyboards and artifacts. The concept plan includes the consolidation of our Guidons for better access, less the one that hangs in the Beechwood National Military Cemetery.

Ninety-five monuments, memorials, plaques etc., directly or indirectly related to the RCD, have been recorded in a database with many more to be added. The RCD Last Post and Honour Roll is maintained by H&H and can be found on the Guild Website. Additionally, we are working on enhancing our presence on the website with more articles, artifacts and stories from The Regimental Family.

AWARENESS

This past year has seen the Guild mature its ability to connect with Canadians and enhance our communications across the Regimental Family. Through the continued efforts of our communications and marketing teams, the family has aligned multiple platforms to share information, recognize people and share stories. The Guild also supported family-oriented events



such as our contingent at the Spartan Races. All were successful in raising the visibility of the Regiment and Regimental Family.

Whether you are a web, social media or even traditional email user, we have you covered and will continue to get information to you. Having said this, our website at www.dragoons.ca remains the cornerstone of our communications strategy, but with your help we will continue to work hard at integrating more aspects across the Regimental Family. We need your help though to keep our lists up to date so you get the information you want/need — please help us keep you informed!

We have also been working hard to better market ourselves through the distribution of brochures, pins, sponsorships and briefing packages to inform Canadians about the Regimental Family and the Regiment. Moving forward, we are also planning more growth on the website and social media. We encourage everyone to visit our sites often. We are looking for suggestions and articles to add to our Regimental Family story so don't be shy, share your stories today!

FUNDRAISING

Connected with awareness efforts in raising the Regimental Family's profile, we have successfully re-energized our fundraising efforts this last year. While there is still much work to do to reach the levels of past success, we are on the right trail with a dedicated fundraising team of volunteers.

Over the year we successfully executed one "Connecting with Canadians" event in Petawawa and one fundraising event in Ottawa with General Rick Hill-

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Thanks to Mr Ian Turner, descendant of Lt Turner, VC for his generous contributions to the Guild. / Guild President Dean Milner presents the Distinguished Service Award to Gene Lake. / Scarlets parade.

ier. Both events were very well received, with great connections being made and several valuable lessons learned to inform our path moving forward.

As we continue to grow the team, we are excited to focus our efforts to support core activities through enduring fundraising efforts like the Wall of Recognition, Y007 pay deductions for serving members, and our CanadaHelps platform that offers a Y007-like monthly donation platform. Feel free to contact us for a way you can help support your Guild by giving or volunteering.

CONCLUSION

As a not-for-profit charitable organization, we fully understand the requirements and mandate, and we are effectively reaching out to support the Regimental Family. While we continue to work towards a balanced, self-sustaining financial model, we still need your continued involvement.

We have a good vision and are well poised to support important events that are coming up, with your help. Our 125th Leliefontein celebration and the 80th anniversary for our Liberation of Leeuwarden in 2025 are well into the planning stages and your assistance is always welcome.

On behalf of the entire Regimental Family, we would like to thank the Team of volunteers who have been doing outstanding work supporting the Regimental Family. Please visit our website at www.dragoons.ca and consider supporting your Guild. 🚩