

The  Le

MAROON BERET MARRON

La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood



2010
The Year in Review



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We are pleased to announce that the Kitshop has now switched to e-commerce. You can now purchase all your favorite airborne items through our secure website and pay electronically using your credit card or if you wish you may still use money orders or cheques. People are welcome to visit us here in Gatineau, Quebec. We are proud to say that we moved to larger and newer quarters just up the block from our old location.

Everyone is welcome to visit.



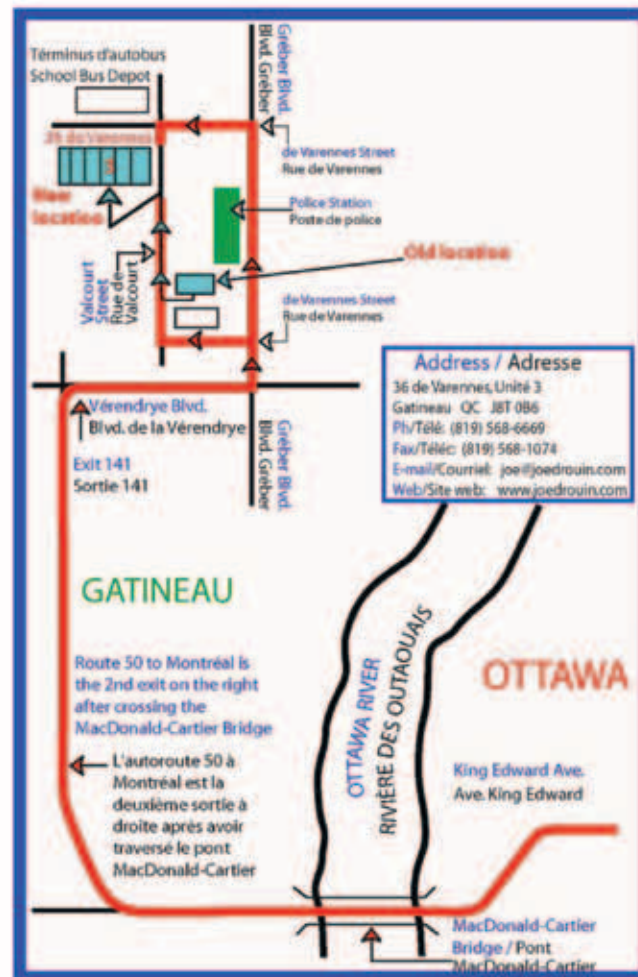
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The Maroon Beret / Le Beret Marron is the "Voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood," and is published on behalf of all Canadian airborne associations.

Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to mb@ca.inter.net. The deadline for the 2011 issue is November 15, 2011. The Maroon Beret welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to mb@ca.inter.net. Please include details and photographer's name.

We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

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CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Canadian Airborne Forces Association
(CAFA) / Association des Forces Aéroportées
du Canada (AFAC)*



This year we joined ARAC for our annual general meeting in Pembroke. This was followed by a joint remembrance ceremony at the Canadian Airborne Forces Monument at CFB Petawawa (although we had to move the event to the museum because of weather). Gen. Maurice Baril and his wife were our distinguished guests. The event was a success and we hope to do this again.

I am pleased to inform you that our financial situation has improved tremendously and the board of directors decided that we do not need an increase in our annual dues. The general membership endorsed the board's recommendation that the *Maroon Beret* would be produced once a year. The membership also approved the production of our magazine to be handled by

Esprit de Corps Canadian military magazine, although editorial responsibility rests with CAFA / AFAC.

The winner of 2010's Airborne Soldier of the Year Award is Cpl. Patrick Cayer of 3RCR. The winner of the CAFA / ARAC bursary is Ms. Michelle Frost, daughter of CWO (ret'd) Ken Frost, ex-Cdn AB Regt; a picture of the presentation by the Edmonton Social Club is included in this magazine.

Again I regret to inform you of the passing away of one of our brothers and long time member of the CAFA board of directors: Maj. (ret'd) Angus Read. His wife also passed away this year.

*Alain Saint-Yves
President*



ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Airborne Regiment Association of Canada
/ Association du Régiment Aéroporté du
Canada (ARAC)*



During the 28 years that the Canadian Airborne Regiment was in the order of battle, more than 15,000 served the colours. We in the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada, as keepers of the regiment's heritage, continue to work on the production of a complete nominal role of our comrades so that we can keep in touch.

Between ourselves, CAFA, and the "Airborne Social Club" in Edmonton, we have about 1,000 former regimental members out of the 15,000 that served. If you know of any troopers who aren't members, please let us know their whereabouts so we can contact them.

Last June, we held the first memorial service in Petawawa to recognize all paratroopers who died in the service of Canada. The service was held on June 6, 2010, and was a joint ceremony with our sister organization, CAFA.

This year's memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 5th, also at the Airborne Forces Museum. We hope you will join us as we again remember those Canadian paratroopers who gave their all in the service of our great country.

This is our first edition of the *Maroon Beret* that

we have contracted out the production and editing functions. We hope this will allow us to produce a more consistent and timely publication. Let us know what you think and please give feedback as to what you would like to see in your magazine. Feel free to write letters to the editor to express your thoughts and ideas.

We put out a survey to you, the membership, to determine what you expected from your organization. Of the 450 surveys we sent out, only 22 members responded. If there is something that you wish your association to do, please drop us a line or an e-mail at kitshop1@airborneassociation.com and let us know.

As we continue our role as the social conduit for those of us who had the good fortune to serve in the Canadian Airborne Regiment, we are in need of volunteers to serve as members of your executive committee. We are looking for people to serve as treasurer, vice president, and webmaster. If you can give some of your time, it would be greatly appreciated.

Fair winds and soft landings.
Airborne!

*Dan Clarke
President*



CFLAWC

The Hel Ops Course

*by MCpl. Mike Milrod
Instructor, 3 Platoon, Training Company*

3 Platoon of Training Company is responsible for instructing a variety of courses that are specialized and come with their own challenges. Aerial delivery, helicopter operations (Hel Ops), and drop zone/landing zone controller (DZ/LZ Con) are the primary courses the platoon's instructors teach and each course provides successful candidates with unique skills and qualifications. Although army personnel represent the bulk of training students, personnel from all elements of the CF normally attend the courses, which run throughout the year.

Aerial Delivery (Basic) is a three-week course that teaches students how to prepare, rig, and inspect equipment for low velocity airdrop or LVAD. This course is currently changing with the arrival of the new CC-130J model Hercules and CC-177 Globemaster aircraft. Of course, with the arrival of the new airframes comes the complementary arrival of new equipment,

which presents new challenges and has subsequently led to changes in rigging procedures. This is especially true of the heavy airdrop and extraction systems that are in use with either aircraft.

The Hel Ops course is another mainstay of 3 Platoon training. This is a week-long course that gives soldiers the skills and knowledge required to set up helicopter landing and pick-up points in addition to teaching them how to marshal helicopters. Students also learn how to prepare and rig standard and non-standard equipment for helicopter slinging operations – an essential advantage of rotary-wing aircraft operations.

Finally, like the Hel Ops course, the DZ/LZ Controller course is one week in duration, but is only offered to members who have the requisite leadership qualifications. The course provides soldiers with the knowledge on how to select, mark, and control drop zones, landing zones, and austere airstrips. This



Students hook up a sling load to a CH-146 Griffon helicopter.



MCpl. Milrod and some students observe the departure of a CH-146 Griffon with a sling load.

enables units to receive equipment and/or personnel into small and remote areas using various types and sizes of fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft.

The Canadian Forces is currently in the process of equipment evolution by procuring and receiving several new aerial platforms. With the arrival of this new gear comes the careful rework of procedures and training needed to maximize its benefit and use. In

this regard, when teaching personnel from across the Canadian Forces the specialized skills in aerial delivery, Hel Ops or DZ/LZ Con, 3 Platoon is ready to face the challenges that come with change and continue to be a conduit for those focused proficiencies. ■

3 Platoon instructor, MCpl. Charette (right), and a student review rigging for aerial delivery.



Students conduct a practical helo marshalling exercise.





CFLAWC

The Patrol Pathfinder Leader and Operator Course

*by Capt. Victor Mover
4 Platoon Commander*



The army has solidified the importance of pathfinders in the prosecution of adaptive dispersed operations and, as a result, has implemented an order to revitalize patrol pathfinder (PPF) capabilities in all infantry battalions within the 2012 time frame. The new concept bases a framework upon a section of PPFs in every battalion. The innovative PPF leader and operator course offers a series of challenges based on new technology, including a static line square canopy portion, and the army's vision for the soldier of tomorrow. In order to facilitate force generation and fulfill performance requirements, the patrol pathfinder course will be broken down into three modules: static line square canopy (SLSQ), PPF operator, and PPF leader.

The first two modules comprise the PPF operators course. The operator course is open to NCMs that demonstrate unique ability at the private and

corporal levels including completion of a basic reconnaissance course and, ideally, employment within a reconnaissance platoon. Recommendation from the unit's chain of command is also required. Honing unique war fighting skills, the operators will execute insertion and extraction techniques. High altitude parachuting will be taught during the SLSQ portion of the course. Submarine insertion will take place on a Victoria-class vessel and, for surface marine insertion, a surface vessel of the Halifax class will be utilized. Other insertion and extraction techniques include fast-roping, fixed-wing insertion, helo-casting, as well as traditional beachhead, landing zone, drop zone, and tactical airstrip tasks. Upon successful completion of the PPF operator course, a candidate will have the necessary experience required to return to CFLAWC and participate in the PPF leader module, once the leadership prerequisites are met.

The leadership module of the PPF course focuses primarily on three key aspects of operations that will afford the candidate the ability to assist his/her battalion upon graduation. These three key aspects include PPF planning, advising, and conducting during all types of missions. In the past, PPF skills were often used to offer advice to a commanding officer and assist in planning for a large-scale operation. In the future, the PPF leader will be able to offer advice in much greater detail and at a higher level and also provide other less conventional insertion options to commanders at all levels.

Finally, the PPF leader and operator courses will complement each other and afford advance

reconnaissance graduates the ability to participate in the course without experiencing a significant overlap in training. The new PPF leader and operator course provides the soldiers of the army with a human dimension that they can aspire to, much like the PPF courses of the past. In addition to giving commanders at all levels an advisory capability, future PPF leaders and operators will ensure all battalions have the ability to remain extremely flexible in the prosecution of adaptive dispersed operations. The courses will offer challenging, enlivened training by using new technologies and skills that will assist in developing the PPF leader of the future. ■

Patrol pathfinders on a previous course insert via assault boat to establish a tactical insertion area, similar to the insertion/extraction module of the new PPF package.





CFLAWC

Train Together, Work Together

by Cpl. Stephan Desrosiers

I was really excited when I was informed that my Phase I course was going to take place in September 2010, instead of April 2011. This meant that the pinnacle of my training was about to start and would be the ultimate test.

The Phase III course (rigger qualification), takes place between the second and third year of the rigger training progression and includes everything learned during the years as a packer/maintainer and more. The Phase III candidate is required to be 100 percent prepared for the physical and mental challenges of the “packed” and demanding course schedule. So when my soon-to-be-instructor, Sgt. Wall, told me and my co-candidates that our course was going to be run alongside a Phase I Parachute Packer Course, I must have had a big question mark above my head!

This has never been done before, but the dire necessity for qualified Phase III riggers left few choices. Generally, a parachute rigger course has six candidates, but with limited numbers, we put three Phase I candidates with three Phase III candidates, and presto

six candidates. Also, with limited instructor resources it left only one option: Sgt. Wall would take care of the Phase III and Cpl. Stalteri would take care of the Phase I. Quite a challenge!

Let me explain the details of each course. The Phase I, or “parachute packer” course, is a nine-week journey through every single parachute packed in the Canadian Forces, minus the emergency seat parachute found in aircraft such as the CF-18. Candidates are taught how to pack each parachute according to the Canadian Forces Technical Orders (CFTOs) and also gain knowledge of specific details in materials and construction.

The Phase III, or parachute rigger course, is a nine-week course as well including a complete refresher on the packing of the parachutes, an in-depth refresher on the specs and construction of each, and also classes on leadership, accountability, responsibility, etc. Both courses have many similarities, so conducting them simultaneously, with a flexible schedule, would be challenging but quite achievable.

From day one, we immediately knew this was going to be a unique experience. Normally, the Phase I candidates “pack” and are given “rigger checks” by the instructors (rigger checks are inspections done by parachute riggers at specific points during the packing process). This process ensures the quality we, as parachute riggers, strive for and is reflected in our motto, “I will be sure, always.”

In this situation, it made more sense to allow the Phase III rigger candidates, under instructor supervision, conduct the rigger checks on parachutes the Phase I packer candidates packed. Thus, instead of Phase III candidates packing and checking for each other, we had the opportunity to check the pack jobs of the Phase I student packers and find real mistakes that occur as a result of the steep Phase I learning curve.

I think we saw it all: From suspension lines stows that looked like a “soup sandwich,” to what should have been a wedge-shaped reserve parachute looking like a “shoe box,” or the canopy stack of a square parachute having the resemblance of a “messed-up



Picasso.” We all had a good laugh after witnessing Cpl. Downer breaking his seventh pack closing tie, or myself, getting a spring-loaded pilot chute in the chest after Cpl. Downer did his “pull-test” on a reserve with a small, but anticipated lack of finesse. And let’s not forget that genuine look of despair from Pte. Tremblay after he saw the deployment bag in which we had to pack the CSAR-7 (I) reserve ... have you ever tried to pack a sleeping bag into sandwich bag?

It was a most rewarding experience for all, with an enormous amount of knowledge gained. For the packers, it was like having three extra instructors, and, for the Phase III candidates, it was challenging to look for actual packing errors, not planting them, and therefore making them predictable. I think the concept of joint courses benefits everyone and hopefully will be seen again in the future. The content becomes much

richer and more interesting, for both candidate and instructor, Phase I and III, getting advice left and right and having the opportunity to find what works best and getting greater perspective on the whole why and how of it all.

As a final word, change is seldom effortless, but every now and then leaving our comfort zone forces us to see the forest. As paratroopers, we are expected to adapt and overcome! And keep our feet and knees together! Safety and perfection!

I will be sure, always! ■

Rear rank (from left to right): Maj. Jean-Sebatien Bronsard, Sgt. Bradley K. Wall, Cpl. Christopher R. Downer, Pte. Joel Tremblay, Cpl. Martin J.F.R. Chapdelaine, MWO Martin A. Lodder.

Front rank (from left to right): Cpl. Robert J. Vulakovich, Cpl. Stephan Desrosiers, Cpl. Jonathan Marcoux.



CFLAWC

*Sixty Years of Excellence
1950–2010
“I Will Be Sure, Always!”*

by Leading Seaman Smith

During the weekend of July 30 to August 1, 2010, the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) Support Company hosted the 60th Parachute Rigger Anniversary / Reunion at various venues within the 8 Wing Trenton area. As a sub-specialty of the supply technician trade, parachute rigger specialists are responsible for the repacking, maintenance, and quality assurance and control of all land forces parachutes and all CF personnel reserve parachutes.

It was a great opportunity for current parachute riggers from across Canada to meet and share stories with former/retired riggers from as far back as 1956. Friday, July 30 was an opportunity for riggers from the past to visit Support Company and see how the business of parachute rigging is conducted today.

Later that day was the meet-and-greet BBQ at the fireside lounge in the warrant officers and sergeants mess. It was a special moment for our newest riggers, as they received their unit coin from two former Canadian Forces senior parachute riggers (CF SPRs) MWO Ted Kilcup and MWO (ret'd) Al Tilley.

On Saturday, July 31, guests had the choice of



Cpl. Pierre-Luc Bouchard completes the inspection of the reserve parachute by adding rigger seal on the safety pin of the CR1. Photo by Sgt. Robert Comeau, Army News.

attending a round of golf at the Murray Hills Golf course in Wooler or a wine tour of Prince Edward County. In the evening, all guests reconvened at the warrant officers and sergeants mess for a semi-formal dinner.

It was an opportune time for all the guests to sit, relax, converse, and take walks down memory lane, enjoying many great laughs along the way. The guest of honour that night was Mr. Sam McGee (a WWII veteran and former member of the First Special Service Force). He was joined at the head table by the OC of Support Company, Maj. Bronsard, the current CF SPR, MWO Lodder, and the guest speaker, LCol. (ret'd) Rick J. Powell.

Finally, on Sunday, there was a farewell breakfast at the Yukon Galley for all who wished to say their final goodbyes to old and new friends. The weekend went very well with everyone having a great time reminiscing. Old recollections were restored and new memories were made.

CFLAWC Support Company looks forward to the next 60 years of parachute rigger excellence and many more parachute rigger reunions. ■



HISTORY OF PARACHUTE RIGGING IN CANADA

- 1950 – The 28 Central Ordnance Depot (COD) stood up to handle all parachute supply issues.
- 1968 – 28 COD was renamed 28 Canadian Forces Supply Depot (CFSD) and personnel involved in the servicing of parachutes became safety systems techs.
- 1970 – 28 CFSD moved from Shilo to Edmonton.
- 1972 – Name was changed to Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot (CFPMD) to better reflect the duties of the unit.
- 1984 – The parachute rigger specialty was returned to the logistics branch and all riggers

were re-mustered on a voluntary basis to Supply Tech (911.06).

- 1996 – The Canadian Airborne Centre moved from Edmonton to Trenton and was renamed the Canadian Parachute Centre (CPC), with CFPMD moving alongside it.
- 1998 – CFPMD amalgamated with CPC and became Support Company.
- 2006 – CPC changes its name to Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC).
- 2010 – CFLAWC continues its long 60-year history of parachute rigging.



CFLAWC

CFPT SkyHawks

by Capt. Christopher Nobrega
OC CFPT



“S
lip away!” is a phrase that is *not* in the parachute lexicon of a SkyHawk – a team member of the Canadian Forces Parachute Team (CFPT). While other parachutists generally try to avoid each other under canopy and can often be heard giving the aforementioned dire scream to avoid impending doom, it is the aim of each SkyHawk team member to achieve the exact opposite. They, in fact, strive to close with and seize each other’s parachute in order to achieve formation flight. Pretty exciting stuff for the unknowing, the uninitiated, and those who aspire to try it! This type of parachuting is known as canopy relative work (CRW) and it is the signature style of the CFPT.

The CFPT, aka the SkyHawks, was born in 1971 and has just completed its 39th season. Currently, the team falls under Support Company of the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) in Trenton

and its mission is to conduct parachute displays and demonstrations in support of CF public and media relations.

Training this year started in Perris Valley (PV), California before moving onto show and event demonstrations in Canada, the U.S., and Belgium. Throughout its history, the CFPT has evolved from a freefall or relative work (RW) demonstration team to one that is focused on CRW techniques. Both styles require great skill and are differing in nature, but the main reason for the change is that while RW is inspirational (especially to those who are doing it), CRW is a greater spectacle and provides more visual wonder to the main audience – the ground observer. That said, since (as previously mentioned) CRW is a skill that is new to most jumpers in the CF and not taught at CFLAWC, it is imperative for team members (some with as little as 50 RW jumps) to learn CRW in a



Front row from left to right: Tm OC - Capt. Chris Nobrega, Tm CQ - MCpl. Scott (Scooter) Leckie, Tm Jr Rigger - Cpl. Johnnie (Rocket) Shaw, Civ Cameraman Instr - Craig (OB) O'Brian. Second row left to right: Civ Instr - Lyal Waddell, Civ Cameraman Instr - Bundy Taylor, Tm Sr Rigger - MS Dominic (Doom) Dumont, Tm Tpt NCO - Sgt. (since promoted to WO) Trevor (Lav) Lavallee, Tm WO - Sgt. Brad (Mac) McKenzie, Tm PR NCO - Sgt. Travis (Hegs) Hegland and Civ Instr - JP McCann.

location that is conducive to safe, but efficient training.

For the SkyHawks, this location has been PV for the past 22 years. The team normally completes two training camps (cadre and main) in the February to April time frame and this past year was no different. The cadre on average forms the core of the team and this year was represented by seven members of the CFLAWC’s staff while the augmentees or non-permanent members (from across the CF) flushed out the remaining seven demonstrator positions. Two ground support team members (DZ controller and narrator) assist the team when deployed and two administrative staff members (administrative officer and clerk) round out the numbers for a total of 18. At the start of the season the main effort was centered on training the demonstrators. In this regard, training focused on learning the basics of proper “hop n’ pop”

exits, proximity flight under canopy, pilot/pin stacks and progressed to stack rotations and the real meat and potatoes of CRW – formations.

The SkyHawks use a variety of formations to demonstrate their precision skills during shows and demonstrations. In training, each team member must learn the skills required and be proficient in each position of the team’s formations including: The Canadian-T, Parabatics, 3-Stack Drag, Candy-Cane and the Tri-by-Side. Most impressive of these skills and formations is the Parabatics – a two team member effort where the SkyHawks, held together in a leg-lock, perform a series of manoeuvres called pinwheels, butterflies, and barrel rolls that end in a “downplane” with both opposed canopies hurtling facedown toward the ground at up to 65 km/h before breaking just above ground level. The other formations are no less



visually stunning as they require a great deal of skill, team work, and coordination to be successfully held together, manoeuvre, and flown down to just above the ground before breaking in front of a crowd, often times in a restricted drop zone.

Once training was completed at the end of April, the team conducted its first show on May 1, 2010 in support of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Club and

never looked back. The team completed a total of 26 shows and demonstrations across Canada, the U.S., and at the largest civil air show in Europe at Sanicole, Belgium before ending the demonstration season in Little Rock, Arkansas in October.

It was a busy schedule. One weekend in June saw the team deploy to Victoria, B.C. in support of the navy's centenary celebration and the next weekend the team put on a show for the residents of Sydney, N.S. and the Around the World Yacht Race – shows on both coasts within a week! Although the team conducted shows in many large cities like Halifax, we also represented the CF to all Canadians including a show in one of the smallest communities the team has ever supported – Aylesbury, Sask., population 38 (people).

The SkyHawks is a national icon that represents all elements of the CF. The team is in its final preparations for the start of the 40th season and the cycle of training, polishing skills, demonstrating talent, and representing the CF promises to be the continuity of excellence that the team has come to symbolize. Be sure to visit them at their nearest show and have a look at what they do, it is truly amazing.

Now, although a SkyHawk does not use the term "Slip away!", I will leave you with a word that we use to describe the completion of a formation and that word is "Complete!" ■

The SkyHawks are the first parachute demonstration team of Canada. Established in 1971, the team already has more than 5,000 successful jumps that have dazzled more than 75 million spectators throughout the world. The SkyHawks' mission is to promote the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Army at major events.



Bonjour à tous,

Nouvellement muté au centre d'instruction supérieure en guerre terrestre des Forces canadiennes en qualité d'instructeur à la cie d'instruction, j'ai été nommé en août dernier pour le cours de chute libre militaire qui inclut la qualification de cours de parachutiste à voile carré (CT6) à sangle d'ouverture automatique. Jusqu'à ce point, mon expérience de parachutiste se limitait à des sauts avec le parachute rond de type CT1.

Les actions à l'intérieur de l'avion sont très similaires pour les parachutes ronds et carrés. La principale différence se situe en vol puisque l'altitude avec le CT6 est de 4 000 à 12 500 pieds au dessus du niveau du sol, en comparaison avec le parachute rond qui est de 1 000 à 1 250 pieds. La haute altitude permet ainsi au parachutiste de pouvoir faire une approche plus furtive de son objectif. Durant le stage de saut, nous



CFLAWC

Static Line Square

*texte : Cplc. Michel Gagné
training Cie pon 4, Parachute instructeur*

avons sauté de façon progressive tout d'abord à 4 000, 6 000, 8 000 et finalement 10 000 pieds. Lorsque l'avion arrive à une altitude prédéterminée, le chef largeur se lève à l'intérieur de l'avion et donne une série de commandements qui amène les sauteurs à se préparer à sauter.

Jusqu'à ce point pour moi tout va bien, je suis excité à l'idée de sauter. Lorsque je reçois le commandement "stand-by" je suis prêt et j'attends avec impatience le commandement clé "GO" pour enfin sortir de l'avion et voir à quoi ressemble un parachute dirigeable. Quand je reçois le "GO" je sors et j'attends que mon parachute se déploie.

Une fois ouvert, je commence avec mes points de descente c'est-à-dire de regarder que le parachute est bien ouvert, que personne n'est aux alentours et que finalement le parachute fonctionne bien et je vérifie l'altitude. Pour ce qui est de la vérification de la voile



Membre du Royal 22e Régiment, stagiaire sur le cours. De gauche à droite : cplc. Frédéric Viau, adjuc. Sylvain Leclerc, cplc. Michel Gagné et le sgt. David Boursier.

c'est à ce moment précis que j'ai découvert la plus grande différence entre le CT1 et CT6. Lorsque j'ai tiré sur la poignée de droite le parachute s'est tout de suite mis à tourner du côté droit.

Après chaque manœuvre j'ai vérifié mon altimètre pour savoir à quelle hauteur j'étais. Ensuite j'ai fait quelques virages question de me familiariser avec ma nouvelle voilure, soit des 90, 180 et 360 degrés. Rapidement le moment est venu de se rapprocher de la zone d'atterrissage où on essaie d'atterrir sur le «T».

À environ 1 500 pieds d'altitude, j'ai commencé par faire le test de pénétration pour voir si j'avancais ou si je reculais face au vent ce qui m'a aidé à arriver le plus prêt du «T». Pour ce qui est de l'atterrissage c'est vraiment plus plaisant d'arriver debout contrairement au parachute rond où on fait la roulade. Évidemment pour les premiers sauts ce n'est pas évident de s'habituer avec la hauteur où l'on doit commencer à freiner pour arriver sur les pieds.

Étant donné que le CT6 est un parachute avec une technologie beaucoup plus avancée, nous devons faire face à un plus grand nombre de mal fonctions en vol en comparaison au parachute CT1.

Pour ce qui est des sauts de nuit, dans l'avion, au commandement "une minute" chaque sauteur active un système lumineux constitué de lumière stroboscopique et de bâton lumineux. Ce système permet aux sauteurs de se voir en tout temps durant la descente afin d'éviter des collisions tragiques dans l'obscurité de la nuit.

Pour ce qui est de l'atterrissage, les sauteurs effectuent les mêmes actions que de jour à l'exception qu'ils doivent ralentir la descente à 50% puisqu'on distingue mal le sol et que la roulade sera requise au moment de toucher le sol. Pour des raisons tactiques, le système lumineux sera éteint lors de notre arrivée au sol.

Le saut avec équipement est une des épreuves que chaque sauteur devra accomplir. Lors d'un saut avec une voilure de type CT6, le sauteur a le choix d'abaisser son équipement à 200 pieds comme avec le CT1 ou de garder l'équipement en place pour atterrir.

Malgré le fait que le CT6 possède son propre système de contrôle pour se diriger dans les airs, il est aussi possible d'accroître ou de diminuer la vitesse de descente en prenant une traction traditionnelle en avant ou en arrière. De plus, afin d'accroître l'angle de descente de façon permanente du parachute ce dernier est muni de "trimtab" qui maintiendront l'angle d'attaque de la voilure sans aucune intervention du sauteur.

Avant le saut, une stratégie de vol sera décidée afin d'atteindre le but qui est d'atterrir à un endroit précis et tous ensemble. Généralement les sauteurs vont suivre le sauteur le plus lourd qui évidemment sera celui qui descendra le plus rapidement. Ce dernier essaiera de diminuer sa descente afin de permettre aux autres sauteurs de le suivre. Cette technique requière certaines habiletés qui sont développées sur le cours.

J'espère que vous avez appris en lisant mon article et que ça vous a donné le goût de sauter.

Airborne! ■



3RCR

Mike Company (Para)

*by Capt. Kevin Smallshaw
2IC M Coy*



Following the successful tour to Afghanistan as part of the 3RCR battle group (BG) from Task Force (TF) 3-08, Mike Company (Coy) focused on training TF 1-10's battle group, deploying on a domestic operation as part of the security force for the G8, and began the re-energizing of training for parachute operations at the company level in 2010. The reconstitution phase wasn't really in the brochure for 3RCR's paratroopers. Nevertheless, they welcomed the challenge and achieved all that was asked of them.

EX MAPLE GUARDIAN SUPPORT

Early January saw Para Company working to prepare the 1RCR BG for their deployment on TF 1-10. What better way to support the training of our sister battalion than with the experience and enthusiasm of those who

just returned from fighting insurgents months before. Mike Company, under Maj. Sean Trenholm and CSM Master Warrant Officer Doug Sheppard took this job to task as the company arrived in Fort Irwin, California. The United States' National Training Centre (NTC), with its strikingly similar geography, is arguably one of the most well-equipped and thoroughly supported training venues the Canadian paratroopers had ever seen. Whether it is the mountainous region that replicates Afghanistan or its host of Farsi-speaking actors or its improvised explosive device simulators, Fort Irwin lent the soldiers of Mike Company the resources to provide state of the art training.

The company was responsible initially for stand training. M Company platoon commanders, coupled with their experienced NCOs fresh from theatre, were set to bring realistic training events ranging from the clearance of urban villages and cordon and searches



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Para Coy officers conduct equipment checks on the first jump of the day!

to reaction to catastrophic mass casualties scenarios. The second month of training had many of the soldiers from the company playing the part of Afghan National Army soldiers and police for the BG full spectrum operations validation.

The only seizing of ground that took place from the air was the social assault on the city of Las Vegas. Commander 2CMBG authorized leave for 24 hours in America's playground as a reprieve from the busy training schedule. Mike Company's LGoPs (Little Group of Paratroopers) found themselves isolated within the urban setting, with strict time constraints, little food, and only their initiative to keep them moving forward. Short of divulging Company Rules of Engagement in Las Vegas, we can only confirm their insertion and extraction...

OP CADENCE

The ability to anticipate future tasks was never far from the minds of Para Company's leadership as the March Break drew to a close. A paradigm shift from fighting in the heat and dust of Afghanistan was required as the company was tasked with the partnered security of the controlled access zone (CAZ) for the G8 Summit, coined Op CADENCE. The spring training cycle saw a new focus on developing the vital skill sets of de-escalation and strategic questioning of civilian protesters.

Following a workup in both Petawawa and Meaford, Para Company was ready to take their positions inside the CAZ for nine days of rain, mud, routine patrolling at the section level, and plenty of mosquito bites ... a

true light infantry experience in a domestic setting. While the boredom and low level activity encompassed most of Op CADENCE, the experience to work closely with the RCMP and as part of a security force was considered another successful mission from Para Company's perspective.

JUMPING

In light of the busy tempo and requirement for 3RCR to be prepared for the G8, the maroon berets of Mike Company still managed to find some willing CH-146 Griffon pilots to fly them over DZ Anzio for two days of jumping. In usual paratrooper fashion, the recently qualified jumpers were welcomed with an assault of cam paint to their face, ears, hair, and teeth! When all was said and done, many of the new members were happy to have between five and seven helicopter jumps under their belt. The Griffon jumps, while not in a tactical setting, provided the soldiers with a needed refresher in being back under canopy.

On the heels of Op CADENCE, command of the company was exchanged from Maj. Sean Trenholm to Maj. Sean French. Both the incoming OC and CSM Master Warrant Officer Dave Hood were no strangers to Para Company having both served there in years past. The temporary reprieve from army-level tasking gave the new leadership time to begin drawing their plan for the way forward.

August gave way to another day of Griffon jumps for Mike Company. Regrouping on the DZ, jumper awareness, and RV drills were the focus. Several of the senior NCOs felt that it was going back to the days where aircraft was readily available.

The Spring PCF cycle provided time for many of the



Para Coy soldier exits CH-146!

company's junior NCOs to acquire many deserving qualifications. Infantry platoon support weapons qualification and primary leadership qualification courses provided the company with the needed expertise and leadership at the core level.

From a parachute perspective, we also qualified four static line jumpmasters, six military freefall parachutists, one military freefall jumpmaster, and one military freefall parachute instructor. To top it all off, Cpl. Pat Cayer was also presented with the Airborne Soldier of the Year award. The prestigious title being awarded to a Mike Company soldier once again reinforced the great deal of pride that wearing the maroon beret entails.

Even while the busy training schedule continued, Pte. Thomas Demandt proved that Para Company does lead the way by placing 1st overall in the 2010 2CMBG Ironman. The team led by 2 PI Commander Lt. Chad Hansen also brought home the overall major unit team first place award that revived the battalion's winning tradition in the event! With their company squared

away in new qualifications and awards, OC and CSM Mike began working towards their goal of re-vitalizing Para Company.

BACK TO BASICS PARA COY TRAINING

Back to basics was the premise of the training to be conducted for the fall. New platoon commanders arrived and began looking through Para Company *aides-mémoire* to teach new soldiers and refresh the experienced jumpers. Drop Zone RV drills were talked through at the platoon level, then walked through, then increased to company level walk through.

Mike Company has also made the transition from PELS to the parachute drop bag. Basic jump course candidates underwent an introduction to airborne spirit by getting the experience in aircraft drill, flight racks, landings, and mock tower prior to arriving in Trenton. Result: Soldiers putting on their maroon berets with pride and confidence. In spite of aircraft cancellation

Para Coy soldier exits CH-146!



company beer call surely helped with the motivation.

The real incentive strike was found in the OC and CSM's closing remarks at the dismissal parade when it was all but confirmed that Mike Company was slated to participate in a joint forced entry exercise with 82nd Airborne Division elements in the new year.

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION THE WAY AHEAD FOR PARA COMPANY

As this article is being written, the company is busy finalizing many of the details of this incredible training opportunity with our American counterparts. The lines are filled with talk of how many jumps we may see, how many aircraft are being allotted, what type of aircraft, and how big this final exercise will actually be! This, coupled with the revitalized Para Company Group, consisting of patrol pathfinders, snipers, FOO/FAC team, engineer section, and medics is good news as both commanding officer 3RCR and commander 2CMBG look to rebuild the capability with these and more of the enablers.

If all continues according to plan, Mike Company will see a deployment down to Fort Bragg, N.C. for several weeks of work up training including some great live fire ranges, several jumps, and the opportunity to be part of brigade combat team during an airborne exercise. The fact that Mike Company may see itself attached to 2nd Battalion from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the renowned 82nd Airborne Division during a brigade-sized airfield seizure will be a unique opportunity.

Airborne! ■

Static line square jumpers enjoy a solid day of jumping!



and availability, Mike Company cracked on with DZ rehearsals, SOP refresher, and is looking forward to the opportunity to put the practice to execution.

In keeping with the spirit of returning to basics, M Company turned to the field for three weeks of training. The first week focused on platoon SOPs with an emphasis on patrolling. Week two increased in tempo and expectation when platoons conducted advance to conducts on the Mattawa only to find themselves in hasty defensive positions with 50 km/hour winds to remind them of why they love being light infantry. The third week combined all the skills and SOPs established in the previous weeks into a company-level exercise.

The comforts of previous exercises and work up training were exchanged for old school hoochies, strict noise and light discipline, and a company CP that consisted of a map and a 522 radio. The fall training culminated with a company raid that fought through the objective in that aggressive paratrooper manner, extracted with the same vigour and speed, consolidated, and marched back to the exfiltration point without even a mention of End Ex, even while the rumour of a



3PPCLI

Airborne Refresher Course

*by Lt. Jason Hudson
3Pl Comd, 3PPCLI*



Since October of 2009, Alpha Company, 3PPCLI has conducted numerous parachuting activities in order to maintain their jump capability as the jump company in the Western Area. Much effort was put into conducting an airborne refresher school leading up to jumps from CH-146 helicopters in early December. More recently, Alpha Company sent soldiers to Trenton, Ontario on the basic parachutist course in an attempt to qualify more of its members with much success.

Soldiers passing the basic parachutist course only receive instruction on the rigging of basic equipment, aircraft drills, flight drills, and proper methods to landing. Therefore, the parachute company conducted an airborne refresher school in November of 2009 with a goal of teaching the fundamentals of jumping to include the rigging of summer and winter loads, drop zone rendezvous drills, and conduct following descent. The refresher school included all members of the

company regardless of whether or not they were jump qualified, giving unqualified members a look at the skills required by a parachutist, and passing necessary knowledge onto qualified parachutists that they may not have acquired during their basic parachutist course. The refresher school was a success and the lessons sparked the interest of all soldiers involved regardless of whether or not they were parachutists.

On December 2, 2009, the parachute company culminated its airborne refresher school by conducting three insertions onto Drop Zone Buxton via CH-146 helicopters supplied by 408 Squadron out of CFB Edmonton. All qualified members of the company, including other parachutists within 3PPCLI, conducted two jumps free of equipment and one

Above, Lt. Hudson gets initiated by Sgt. Johnson as he is cammed up. Photo taken by MCpl. Morton-Popiel.



Soldiers wait while the CH-146 approaches the drop zone. By performing jumps, parachutists continue to hone their acquired skills. Photo taken by Lt. Younghusband.



Maj. MacKeen, the Airborne Force Commander, eagerly awaits the "go" from the jump master. Photo taken by Lt. Younghusband.

with full equipment. New jumpers were traditionally welcomed to battalion jumping as experienced jumpers "cammed up" the new parachutists prior to their first jump. Surprised by the form of initiation from the experienced jumpers, the new parachutists were happy to get their first battalion jump behind them. This was also the first time the parachute company jumped with the new CTS rucksack. Despite the time taken to rig the new rucksack, the company experienced minimal difficulty employing the new piece of kit. Overall, the day was a success and there were many satisfied jumpers maintaining their parachute capability prior to the Christmas holidays.

Recently, the parachute company has qualified 14

new paratroopers and they have been welcomed to the elite brotherhood of military parachuting. They completed their basic parachutist course in January of this year despite experiencing adverse conditions throughout the duration of their jump stage. They were required to spend an additional three days to complete all of their jumps due to weather, but in the end, they were all able to get through with five jumps granting them their qualification. The remainder of the company are excited to traditionally welcome the new paratroopers.

To conclude, the parachute company have been remaining current by conducting jumps, but are eager to carry on with more. It is anticipated the company will be jumping onto Drop Zone Buxton via CH-146 helicopters in mid-March. ■

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3PPCLI

Alpha Company

*by Lt. Jason Hudson
3Pl Comd, 3PPCLI*



Despite its high operation tempo, Alpha Company, 3PPCLI was able to maintain its currency while maintaining their jump capability as the jump company in the Western Area. With assistance from 408 Squadron, parachutists from the battalion conducted both free fall and static line descents from two CH-146 helicopters prior to spring break.

On March 16, 2010, the parachute company conducted various descents onto Drop Zone Buxton in order to maintain its currency. Prior to the jump day, two parachute instructors from CFLAWC, WO Martins and Sgt. Caldwell, instructed all jumpers on rigging and jumping the new parachute deployment bag (PDB), as the majority of parachutists were only used to jumping the 64 pattern and CTS rucksack. All jumpers were eager to learn how to employ the new piece of equipment and it set the tone for the descents on the following day. The jump day was initiated by one free freefall descent

followed by three static line descents. The jumps consisted of one without equipment, one combat light, and one full equipment descent with the new PDB. It was a great day to jump and both the helicopter crews and parachutists enjoyed themselves for the duration of the day. Further, the majority of the jumpers enjoyed using the PDB and found it to be a useful piece of equipment for jumping the new CTS rucksack.

Immediately following the battalion's support to the combat team commander's course in Wainwright, Alta., selected parachutists from across the brigade deployed to CFB Cold Lake for Ex PEGASUS SPARTAN II as part Ex MAPLE FLAG where parachutists were introduced to both foreign aircraft and equipment. In addition, 3PPCLI conducted in-house basic parachutist and jumpmaster courses with support from 408 Squadron and CFLAWC organized by Major J.A. MacKeen.

Ex MAPLE FLAG is a realistic large force employment



Major J.A. MacKeen organized the in-house basic parachutist and jumpmaster courses with support from 408 Squadron and CFLAWC.

NATO air force exercise conducted out of CFB Cold Lake. As such, there was an increase in fixed-wing air transport aircraft in Western Area from various NATO countries that were willing to dispatch Canadian paratroopers for continuation parachute training. From May 24 to June 4, selected parachutists from the brigade conducted various descents on Ex PEGASUS SPARTAN II as part of Ex MAPLE FLAG. Most jumpers were able to get nine to 10 descents onto both Drop Zones Archer (Meadow Lake, Sask.) and Cougar (Cold Lake, Alta.).

We conducted static line descents while being dispatched from New Zealand, German, Danish, and French C-160/130 Hercules aircraft marking the first time in almost a year where we have been able to conduct fixed-wing parachute descents. The types of descents ranged from no equipment, to combat light and combat heavy utilizing both double door mass and ramp exits.

In addition to the descents, a number of Canadian parachutists conducted two wings-exchange descents



A French paratrooper explains to Canadian paratroopers how to properly employ the French parachute prior to the mass wings-exchange on May 28, 2010.

with French and German parachutists while a member from New Zealand and Denmark jumped with us and received our wings. On May 28, 2010 (the second of the wings-exchange), this marked the first time where we have conducted a multi-ship, multi-plane, and multi-drop descent in Canada. The exercise was a major success and increased the experience of our jumpers as well as created excellent relationships with other NATO countries. Members of the parachute company eagerly await Ex MAPLE FLAG 43 and hope to add in a tactical scenario into next year's exercise.

From July 19 to August 6, 2010, 3PPCLI was granted the authority to run an in-house basic parachutist and jumpmaster course out of the battalion lines. The majority of the parachute instructors were sourced from within the battalion, however some came from CFLAWC. The new parachutists conducted up to 14 descents from both CH-146 Griffons as well as CASA aircraft onto Drop Zone Buxton.



Member of A Coy give the thumbs up after clearing a notional grape hut during a live fire section attack on Ex AGGRESSIVE SPARTAN.

For descents from CASA aircraft, the course candidates staged out of the City Centre Airport while staging for Griffon descents was done from within the battalion lines. The course went exceptionally well and would not have been possible without the professional support and instruction from all of the course staff. Because the course candidates were able to finish all of their jumps early, the course staff invited other paratroopers within the battalion to jump on the last day of the course.

In order to cover much of the annual individual battle task standards (IBTS) requirements, A Coy conducted Ex SPARTAN DAGGER II throughout the month of August. The company completed basic military skills including rappelling, weapons zeroing, first aid, and urban operations training, culminating with three platoon-sized attacks on the base's "sea can" village. The four-week exercise was an excellent refresher for all involved and the troops' hard work was reflected on the final attack. However, A Coy's busy schedule didn't end there and, after a short week, we started our own LAV III turret operator, crew commander, and driver courses.

Due to the IBTS requirements for deployment on TF 1-11 and/or 2-11, we had to balance the mechanization of the Coy while maintaining the parachuting role. In order to do so, the Coy had leveraged every aircraft that came close to Edmonton. Most notable was when we sought approval from CMTC to use the American National Guard C-130 that was supporting the R22eR on Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN with aerial resupply tasks. A Company was able to sneak in a couple of parachute



descents in between the LAV III courses on one of the few weekends off in order to maintain currencies and get the newly-qualified members a C-130 descent.

The task to support Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN with CDS loads was received at 3PPCLI in early September. Within days, the unit received approval and commenced the necessary planning and preparations to line up the continuation parachute training. The parachute refreshers had to occur after normal working hours in order to accommodate the paratroopers that were undergoing LAV III mechanization training. Our riggers provided the aircrews with the CDS loads for the morning mission and the aircrews were able to return



to Edmonton later in the day to conduct personnel drops onto DZ Buxton. The company staged out of the Jefferson Armouries thanks to some great help from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and used the City Centre Airport for two descents on September 25-26. The scheme of manoeuvre saw the paratroopers complete two double doors mass descents – a no-equipment drop followed by full equipment with the new parachute drop bag. Overall, the weekend was a huge success.

Simultaneous to the LAV III courses, the 3rd Battalion deployed to Wainwright for Ex AGGRESSIVE SPARTAN to continue IBTS training after the Thanksgiving long weekend. For the first four days, the LAV III course training was juggled with the company weapons training that was occurring concurrently. Needless to say, the company was very busy. However, all of the troops were eager and excited to get rounds down range. The training encompassed the firing of all our basic weapon systems, as well as both dismounted and mechanized platoon live-fire attacks. For many, this was the first time they had participated in live-fire mechanized attacks. A huge shout of excitement could be heard from the troops through the air sentry hatch when the LAV IIIs started firing as the platoons crossed the line of departure. Despite the tempo of the training, the majority of our IBTS was covered, and it was good to get into the weeds and work on the basics.

As expected, training never ceases for A Company and, immediately following post-exercise drills for Ex AGGRESSIVE SPARTAN, the company carried on with road-to-high-readiness training focussing on Afghan cultural awareness and platoon and company-level standard operating procedures. The cultural awareness training was delivered primarily from

the platoon leadership. However, a devout Sunni Muslim, who was born and raised in Afghanistan, gave many of the language and customs briefs. We were extremely fortunate to have him and every member of the company was grateful for his willingness to teach us about his religion along with the Afghan culture and customs. Concurrent to the cultural training, A Company supported Ex SPARTAN EDGE II, the 3rd Battalion's computer generated exercise at the Lecture Training Facility in Edmonton. All key players involved in the Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) as well as the company's leadership participated in the exercise, as this permitted all involved to learn/refresh the skills required for battle group operational planning.

Given the pre-deployment and road-to-high-readiness training, A Company has had to fit all parachute-related training into some rather tight windows of opportunity. The company has managed to plan its annual Airborne Refresher School the last week of November. The yearly airborne refresher includes all battalion parachutists and focuses on flight, landings, aircraft drill for all in-service platforms, rigging of equipment (including toboggans, radios, and support weapons) and drop zone drills. In addition to the refresher training, select senior parachute instructors and jumpmasters will be travelling to Fort Bragg to conduct descents with a vast variety of different nations as part of Operation Toy Drop.

To conclude, despite its operation tempo, A Company has been fortunate with its aircraft support allowing us to maintain our parachute currency. No descents have been scheduled for the New Year, but, as always, we patiently await the opportunity to spend more time under canopy.

Airborne! ■



*Canadian, German, and French paratroopers following a mass wings-exchange onto Drop Zone Cougar.
Photo taken by Neil Pearson.*



3eR22eR

Une année mouvementée pour les paras

*texte : Major Pruneau
Cmdt Cie PARA*



Notre retour du congé des fêtes en début janvier s'annonçait bien et nous ne savions pas encore ce que nous réservait l'année 2010. Dès la deuxième semaine de janvier, nous étions au sommet de notre art pour amorcer un exercice d'hiver qui devait débiter avec un saut en CC-130. Par contre, l'Ex PEGASUS RÉGÉNÉRATION a été transformé en une préparation pour un déploiement rapide qui semble s'être déroulé hier. En effet, ce changement de cap au début de l'année 2010, nous a amenés en moins de 96 heures à Haïti pour une durée de deux mois. De retour au Canada, la cie para a amorcé sa montée en puissance dans les secteurs de Gagetown, Valcartier et Wainwright jusqu'à notre déploiement au sein du GT 1R22eR en Afghanistan à la mi-novembre.

Dans le cadre de notre montée en puissance pour l'Op ATHÉNA en Afghanistan, nous devions atteindre les normes d'aptitudes au combat tel que le raid, la

jonction et les opérations défensives. L'Ex PEGASUS RÉGÉNÉRATION nous permettait d'atteindre ces normes en incluant 2 sauts pour chacun des pelotons et le poste de commandement de la cie. Avec moins de 24 heures avant le début de l'exercice, moi (commandant de la cie para) et le sergent-major de compagnie, l'adjum Laroche, avons dû annoncer à nos troupes que l'exercice devait être annulé et que notre avion ne nous amènerait pas au-dessus du lac St-Joseph, mais plutôt vers Haïti. Puisque nous étions la compagnie désignée pour l'évacuation des non-combattants, nous étions l'équipe parfaite pour un déploiement rapide de ce type. Après quelques jours d'attente pour la disponibilité des avions, nous étions partis vers Jacmel. De cet endroit, nous avons effectué une

Photo haut de la page: Distribution de nourriture à Darbonne avec le sdt. Lepage et l'adj. Roy.



Op PÉGASUS ÉLOIGNÉ, distribution en hélicoptère de nourriture et d'aide médicale par le cpl. Despaties et le soldat Léonard.

jonction avec des Sea Kings canadiens qui nous ont transportés vers notre destination finale : Léogane. Dès notre arrivée, les patrouilles au niveau de section ont débuté afin de bien cerner les besoins de la population et trouver les citoyens canadiens qui demandaient à être évacués. Ces patrouilles ont vite révélé les besoins urgents de la synchronisation de la distribution de l'aide humanitaire qui arrivait rapidement. Notre compagnie a été associée à une compagnie allemande chargée de distribuer des vivres afin de leur fournir de la sécurité lors des distributions. De plus, il est à noter, que l'unité Sri Lankaise, sous l'égide de la MINUSTAH, avait aussi été rudement touchée par le séisme dans la

Distribution de nourriture le long d'un chemin en campagne cplc. Simard.



Op PEGASUS ÉLOIGNÉ, distribution en hélicoptère de nourriture et d'aide médicale dans les montagnes.

région de Léogane. Nos tâches étaient maintenant très claires : fournir la sécurité lors des distributions de vivres, mentorer et supporter le bataillon Sri Lankais et, finalement, continuellement patrouiller notre secteur pour mieux définir les besoins. En 47 jours de déploiement, la compagnie a dépassé les attentes afin de supporter les efforts du 3^e bataillon. Un total de 15 mentions élogieuses variant entre celles du Cmdt de bataillon jusqu'au CÉMAT ont été décernées aux membres de la compagnie témoignant du remarquable effort des troupes lors de cette mission.

Alors même que nous étions à Haïti, le capitaine

Une distribution mouvementé devant l'usine à sucre de Darbonne. On y voit le sgt. Bélanger qui en a plein les bras à ramener les gens dans la file. Si on peut appeler ceci une file.



Le sdt. Morin maintient la discipline dans les rangs.

de bataille de la compagnie, le capt. Faber, devait déjà planifier l'Ex SABRE AUCLAIR conjointement avec les chars du 12^e RBC à Gagetown. En effet, moins d'un mois après notre retour, la compagnie para devait maintenir l'accent sur notre montée en puissance en vue d'être la compagnie de stabilisation de l'équipe de reconstruction provinciale de Kandahar (ÉPRK). Il était nécessaire pour nous de compléter un exercice mécanisé afin d'appriivoiser le VBL qui est, pour les paras, un outil peu habituel. Le quartier-maître de la compagnie, l'adj. Robin, n'avait pas encore fini de recevoir notre équipement en Haïti qu'il devait déjà l'emballer, pour le déploiement vers Gagetown. Le rythme de cet exercice a été très rapide puisque nous avions peu de temps pour accomplir les phases de guerre que nous devions pratiquer. Dès la fin de l'Ex SABRE AUCLAIR, nous avons appris que la structure de l'ÉPRK changeait de format et que notre compagnie tombait maintenant sous l'égide du GT 1R22eR pour le reste de la montée en puissance. Notre tâche par contre ne changeait pas. Nous étions toujours désignés pour former la compagnie de protection de la force pour les membres canadiens de l'ÉPRK. Nous avons donc participé aux exercices prévus du GT à Valcartier afin de nous concentrer sur les entraînements spécifiques de l'Afghanistan. Nous avons donc complété les exercices de contre dispositifs explosifs improvisés, les shuras, la protection de la force et la compréhension de notre environnement culturel. Enfin, mis à part quelques certifications et cours individuels, nous étions fins prêts pour les Ex RÉFLEXE RAPIDE et MAPLE

GUARDIAN à Wainwright en Alberta. C'est alors qu'il était maintenant officiel que nous étions la 4^e Cie du GT 1R22eR.

Pour une dernière fois avant le déploiement final, nous devions dire au revoir à nos familles afin de nous concentrer sur l'entraînement ultime. C'est à ce moment-ci que nous avons réalisé à quel point le déploiement à Haïti et tous les exercices subséquents nous avaient bien préparés pour le sprint de confirmation. Encore une fois, la compagnie s'est démarquée par sa flexibilité et sa capacité à se déployer rapidement et s'adapter à toutes les situations. C'était maintenant au tour de l'adjoint de la compagnie, le capt. Masse, de préparer les listes d'envolées pour le déploiement en Afghanistan tout en préparant le redéploiement pour notre court retour à la maison.

Je vous écris maintenant à partir du théâtre et depuis déjà un mois et demi que nous sommes en opération. Il est clair pour nous que nos efforts lors de l'année 2010 n'ont pas été inutiles. Les paras exécutent à merveille les tâches qui leur sont confiées et les résultats en témoignent. Que ce soit sur la route vers Mushan, au beau milieu du district de Panjwai ou dans le bazaar de Panjwai, chacun démontre sans l'ombre d'un doute qu'ils forment une équipe prête à tout et volontaire. Il est important pour nous de souligner que la perte du cpl. Steve Martin qui a été pour nous difficile, mais qu'en son nom, la compagnie para mènera ses tâches au-delà des exigences.

Prends garde! ■

Photo du pon 42 sur la construction de la route en Afghanistan, une journée avant le décès du cpl. Steve Martin.





QOR

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

*by Lt. Scott Moody, Sgt. Bill Paton
& Sgt. Jeff Johnston*



Left to right: Sgt. Matt MacCauley, Lt. Scott Moody, Cpl. Mike Fusca and Sgt. Jeff Johnston take a break during the Nijmegen March to visit the grave of QOR VC winner Sgt. Aubrey Cosens in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Holland.

The year 2010 was important for The Queen's Own Rifles as it marked our 150th anniversary as Canada's oldest continually serving infantry regiment. The celebrations were initiated on our New Year's Levee and continued throughout the year. In addition to our birthday, the QOR continued to lead the way as a reserve unit.

In addition to being an integral infantry unit in 32 Brigade, we also continued to maintain and improve our skill sets as reservists in the areas of parachuting and mountain operations by sending members on basic and advanced courses. These skills are always factored into our training cycle to create a challenging training experience for our soldiers that is truly unique to the QOR as a reserve unit.

This year also brought with it some budgetary constraints on our training. However, we made the most of what we had. The first major exercise was

during the month of February, providing a platoon to the Grey and Simcoe Foresters-led Arctic Response Company. This exercise took place in Borden and was geared at refreshing skills and domestic operations.

The month of our birthday celebrations was April 2010. These celebrations took place across Canada in many forms. It started with our commanding officer, LCol. John Fotheringham, RSM CWO Shaun Kelly, and a group of pioneers, skirmishers, buglers, and drummers travelling to Calgary and Victoria to take part in the celebrations. The intent was to have our colonel-in-chief, HRH Princess Alexandra, attend these events. Unfortunately, due to the issues created by volcanic ash from Iceland, she was not able to make it to the West. Luckily, she was able to make it to the key events in Toronto.

The main events took place during April 23-26 in Toronto. The first event was a reunion that was held at



Members of 60th Company outside the Meaford FIBUA site on Ex AGGRESSIVE VIPER 1, November 2010.

Moss Park Armoury on Friday the 23rd. The following day, officers and NCOs attended a reception with the colonel-in-chief at Casa Loma, followed by a dinner/dance at the Westin Harbour Castle with HRH Princess Alexandra as the guest of honour and MGen. Lew MacKenzie, a former rifleman, as the guest speaker. This event had more than 800 members of the regimental family in attendance.

On Sunday the 25th, the Regiment held a church parade, marching from Moss Park Armoury to St. Paul's Anglican Church. Monday was the official 150th birthday and members of the Regiment went to Toronto's City Hall where Mayor David Miller declared April 26, 2010 as Queen's Own Rifles Day in Toronto and the QOR flag flew over City Hall.

Immediately following the regimental birthday, more than 20 members of the Regiment deployed on TF 1-10 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, continuing our tradition and important role in supporting the regular army.

To further celebrate the regimental birthday, the

QOR mountaineering team attempted Mount Logan (Canada's highest mountain) in the Yukon. The majority of our mountain cell participated in several months of build-up training for this event, organized by MCpl. Chris Abate.

This required a great deal of personal sacrifice, as the military did not fund the event. The expedition was reliant on a large donation by the Regimental Trust Fund, personal funds, and family air miles. They received some logistic assistance from CF units including the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Canadian Rangers. Members had to manipulate work schedules and use holidays to make it work. In the end, the team was comprised of Capt. Adam Harmes, WO Donovan O'Halloran, Sgt. Bill Paton, and MCpl. Chris Griffith.

In May, the team travelled to Alberta to conduct a final confirmation, where they climbed Normandy Peak of Mt. Ex Coelis (named in honour of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion). Once convinced their skills were adequate for Mount Logan's 6,000 metres,



Sgt. Bill Paton, one of the QOR's Advanced Mountain Operations soldiers, on top of a mountain in Antarctica. Sgt. Paton has climbed mountains in seven continents.

they headed out to tackle the mountain. The climb took several weeks and was a great success, but due to poor weather, they were unable to summit.

The Mountain Ops cell also welcomed Sgt. Bryan Burns as our 7th Advanced Mountain Operator. The cell completed the anniversary year by planting the QOR flag on two mountains in Antarctica, a regimental first.

In June, the Regiment was extremely busy preparing for the G8/20 Summit. The QOR provided a platoon and several headquarters staff to the military's summit security effort. This was a success as we were able to operationally deploy more than 30 soldiers on a full-time for a month on short notice. June also had several of our instructor cadre move to Meaford to teach on courses.

The 2010 Nijmegen March in July was another event our soldiers took part in to celebrate our 150th year. The QOR was provided the opportunity to send four soldiers as members of the CFB Kingston team. Training started in April with 20 members of the Regiment. After marching more than 500 kilometres in two months on weekends and Wednesday nights, the team was chosen. Lt. Scott Moody, Sgt. Jeff Johnston, Sgt. Matt MacCauley and Cpl. Mike Fusca completed the 160+ kilometre march in four days. On the final day, the QOR flag flew high in the town of Nijmegen.

The QOR continued to support 32 Canadian Brigade Group's commitment to the Arctic Response Company by providing a platoon of soldiers to an exercise in the

region. Op NANOOK took place during most of August and gave our soldiers an excellent opportunity to train in the Arctic and work with the Canadian Rangers.

September started with our para and mountain operations advanced skills refresher. This would ensure that our basic and advanced mountain operations soldiers, rappel masters, jumpmasters, and parachute instructors were up to date in their skills. The Friday and Saturday focused on reviewing and updating mountain skills at Rattle Snake Point Conservation Area in Milton, Ont. On the Sunday, the unit JMs and PIs did a complete refresher and were taught the new personal delivery bag for lowering the rucksack. During the same day, our rappel masters went to the tower at ASU Toronto.

At the end of September, the unit participated in Exercise AGGRESSIVE VIPER 1. This was a patrolling exercise that culminated with two platoon level raids on compounds identified by the patrols and our recce platoon's OPs. This was a great opportunity for the unit to do some good basic infantry training and shake the cobwebs out.

A few weeks later, the unit participated in Exercise AGGRESSIVE VIPER 2. This exercise consisted of several challenging live fire pairs ranges, while recce participated in mountaineering-specific training including establishing a rappel site in addition to observations posts.

Cpl. Justin Wright and Cpl. Craig Dickie take a break in Afghanistan. Cpl. Wright served with the PsyOps Company on TF 1-10, while Cpl. Dickie was serving in a CIVPOL role.



In November, QOR CO LCol. J. Fotheringham, Honourary Col. P. Hughes, RSM S. Kelly and Honourary LCol. D. Cowling visited London to meet the new Colonel-in-Chief, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

The next few weeks focused on mountaineering skills under our AMOs and urban ops under our urban operations instructors. This training was applied in the November exercise in Meaford called Active Serpent 1. The objective of the exercise was for the fighting companies to conduct a cordon and search using simmunition. Recce platoon inserted ahead of time to identify the compounds of interest and establish a rappel site. The infiltration went flawlessly with members rappelling down a cliff at night and then moving on the objective.

By Christmas, the majority of our deployed soldiers had returned safely home, which was the definite highlight of the year. Several riflemen continue to serve overseas on individual augmentee tasks.

You'll notice that there was not a lot of parachuting activity in 2010. We are hoping to correct this in 2011

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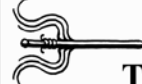
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with increased support to CFLAWC and our affiliation with 3RCR's para company. QOR will be sending several riflemen with 3RCR to participate in a joint forced entry exercise with the 82nd Airborne Division elements in the new year.

Last year was a year of great pride for the QOR. The year was marked not only by our celebratory events for the 150th birthday, but also by our achievements both at home and overseas.

Airborne! ■



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CSOR

Canadian Special Operations Regiment

The year has come and gone in lightning speed for the Canadian Special Operations Regiment. While the operational and training tempo was extremely high, the Regiment still conducted many parachuting activities ranging from the aerial delivery of supplies to personnel drops.

The Regiment continues to perfect the skill of resupplying our personnel in training and on operations. With the air delivery of rations, water, ammunition, fuel, and mission specific equipment, we continued to focus our efforts on new methods and procedures to further enhance this capability. The goal is to ensure the Regiment can effectively operate in remote locations when called upon to do so.

Personnel parachuting has continued to evolve to better enhance the Regiment's insertion options. While still working hand in hand with the Canadian Forces Land Advance Warfare Centre for the provision of

basic parachuting skills in all disciplines, the Regiment continues to move the yardsticks. With the use of a wind tunnel and additional training, selected individuals of the Regiment have successfully conducted precision parachuting into extremely confined locations from altitudes of up to 12,500 feet above ground level. It is well understood that this special skill has its advantages when insertion options into remote locations are limited.

As we expand and deepen our parachute and aerial delivery capability, we would like to acknowledge the continued support and cooperation from the Third Battalions of the RCR, PPCLI, and the R22eR. Personnel from each of the units have been consulted on many different levels and their knowledge and information sharing has contributed to our advancement in parachuting skills this year. A special thanks also goes out to the Canadian Forces Land Advance Warfare



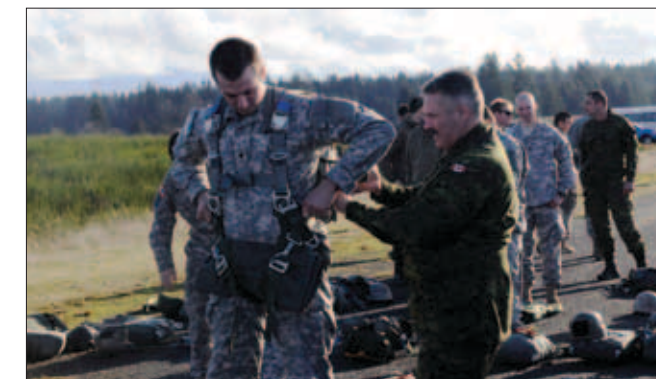
All photos in this section are of members of 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment as they conducted a combined airborne operation and wing-exchange ceremony at Roger's drop zone on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, on December 2. Both events were part of the 26th annual Menton week, an event which commemorates the inactivation of the combined U.S. and Canadian First Special Service Force on December 5, 1944. (Photos by Sgt. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)

Centre for their expertise in all aspects of basic skills in the parachuting world.

FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

The annual Menton Days in Fort Lewis, Washington, from November 29 to December 4 was one of the pivotal

parachuting events that the unit participated in this year. While in Fort Lewis, selected members conducted several events including a parachute insertion and wings exchange with our U.S. sponsor unit. Including all participants, more than 200 parachute descents were completed using the SF 10A parachute from a modified CH-146 D Chinook helicopter. The final activity was the



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☐

b. ANY PERSON who has served on jump status in the CFLAWC, the Queens Own Rifles of Canada, or a staff position in a formation HQ (i.e. HQ SSF)

☐

c. ANY PERSON who is a member in good standing of ARAC or CAFA

☐

d. ANY PERSON who was a member of the Sky Hawks

☐

e. ANY PERSON who as a member of an infantry battalion served on jump status in that unit (i.e. jump company)

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1 CAN PARA

*65th Anniversary of
Liberation of Holland, May 2010*

by Joanne de Vries



My husband Jan de Vries was approached by the National Council of Veterans Associations asking if he would be receptive to representing the NCVA at the liberation ceremonies in the Netherlands with the official government party. Jan felt most honoured. He accepted and shortly thereafter Veterans Affairs approached him in order to complete the arrangements. I was able to travel with Jan as VAC requires that each veteran have a person with them to assist as required.

We arrived in Holland a few days earlier than the rest of the group, rented a car, and took the opportunity to visit the area where Jan was born and visit some family and friends. We booked into the Hotel de Keiserskroon in Apeldoorn the evening of May 1st enabling us to be there to meet the balance of the group when they arrived the next morning. After the welcoming reception, the group had time to unpack and following a short rest, gathered for a group lunch at the hotel.

The balance of the afternoon was free for relaxing and ended with a group dinner hosted by VAC Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn at which time we received a briefing regarding the events for the next day.

The main events on May 3rd and 4th – the 4th being Remembrance Day – were the ceremonies at Groesbeek and Holten Cemeteries. It was an honour for Jan to lay the wreath on behalf of NVCA and to deliver the *Act of Remembrance* at both ceremonies. Both events also provided the opportunity to meet members of the Dutch Royal Family. In addition, at Holten Cemetery, we saw the traditional placing of flowers by Dutch school children at each grave and the dropping of poppies from a helicopter. These two gestures always

Jan de Vries with Johann Nitrowski at approximate location where Jan was hung up in a tree during the Varsity Drop over the Rhine River on March 24, 1945. The drop zone area is behind them. Photo by Joanne de Vries.



Jan de Vries and Airborne vet Dave Munro exit a refurbished glider at the Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek Holland. Photo by Joanne de Vries.

are very emotional. At both cemeteries Jan took the opportunity to place a Canadian flag and poppy on the grave of each 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion member.

There was also an opportunity to meet many Canadian school students and have photographs taken with them. All the students we met during the liberation events were exceptionally well behaved and the interest they showed in learning the history of the conflicts in Holland and the sacrifices made was heartwarming. They did Canada proud.

In the evening, optional for our group, was the Silent Walk in Apeldoorn. Jan and I decided to take part in this moving event. A brief musical concert at the Grote Kerk with a special welcome to the veterans began the evening; then hundreds and hundreds of people walked the 10-minute distance from the church to the park in virtual silence. The brief wreath-laying ceremony was very touching.

May 5th, Liberation Day, saw thousands of Dutch citizens line the route for the parade in Wageningen. The atmosphere was celebration: cheering, singing, entertainment, and camaraderie. The students from Canada, in their red Canadian jackets, displayed their remembrance quilts while bringing up the rear of the parade. In a large park area there were exhibits, shows, demonstrations, and huge tents for gathering. Earlier in the day, our group had the opportunity to visit the

most interesting museum, which housed artefacts from the signing of the capitulation treaty in the Hotel de Wereld on May 5, 1945 in Wageningen.

We had an early rise the morning of May 6th for travel to a ceremony at Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian Cemetery, which was attended by Netherlands Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The Canadian chief of defence staff, Gen. Walter Natynczyk, and his wife were also in attendance at this ceremony. Our group was warmly welcomed by Mayor Han Polman to the Markiezenhof in Bergen-op-Zoom for a delicious luncheon where the veterans were given special attention. Opportunity was provided for meeting and chatting with the dignitaries and to have photos taken. Following this was the unveiling of the Battle of the Scheldt Plaque at Walcheren Causeway. Afterwards, we took a scenic drive to the port of Vlissingen where Parks Canada hosted a delightful reception at the Amadore Grand Arion Hotel. Entertainment was provided by members of the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums. Here, the veterans received the Zeeland Medal for Remembrance 2009 from the Foundation to Support our Liberators.

The visit to the Kamp Westerbork Museum and service at the Memorial on May 7th was a sombre event with the laying of flowers on the now defunct railway line. The ceremonies serve to remind us of the atrocities conducted during those horrendous times during WWII, as well as to provide us insight to remember and strive for peace amongst nations. In the evening, attendance at the Voorthuizen Military Tattoo was optional.

Jan and I had received an invitation, which we accepted, from Mr. Jan Koorenhof to attend the Freedom Concert at the Grote Kerk in Apeldoorn. It was an excellent concert featuring the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums, the Gelders police choir, and the Royal Air Force orchestra. One of the special guests was Prince Floris.

May 8th – VE Day! During the day was to be free for rest and/or visiting downtown Apeldoorn. However, an opportunity presented itself for a visit, for those interested, to Oosterbeek, the site of the Airborne Museum, which includes an account of Operation Market Garden. Of course, Jan and I along with a few

others took this opportunity. Since our visit there a few years ago, an addition has been constructed with very realistic displays and sounds. It is well worth a look for anyone visiting the area. Our brief stop at the small church, which is in view of the famous bridge, took a little longer than expected. A group of students from two schools in Ontario and one in New Brunswick happened to be at the church listening to a presentation by Henk Duinhoven MBE who conducts battlefield tours of Market Garden. This again was a perfect opportunity to liaise with the young people and have a moment of remembrance.

Early afternoon we arrived back at the hotel and had a pleasant visit from one of Jan's cousins and Wim de Vries (no relation). (Many of you may remember Wim and Ineke de Vries. They very kindly hosted a BBQ at their home for the Battalion Association Tour group in 1997.) The dinner and evening at Prins Hendrik Garage at Palace Het Loo was a delightful event. Jan and I were seated with the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands James Wall and Mrs. Wall.

May 9th – Celebration in the air! After a leisurely breakfast, we adeptly boarded the coach taking us to the area where all veterans were provided with vehicles to ride for the huge Apeldoorn Parade. LGen. Gilles Turcot and Jan shared a restored WWII jeep. Bands, marching soldiers, and the veterans riding in the vehicles were greeted by thousands and thousands of Dutch people young and old, many coming from several miles away, cheering, waving, and showing their appreciation for their liberation. At the end of the parade we arrived at the Omnisportcentrum, a huge state of the art sports facility. The veterans were marched in with bands past the saluting base, which included the Dutch Royal family. The centre was full to capacity and all were treated to a very entertaining musical concert.

At the reception following the ceremony, there was adequate time to chat with members of the Royal Family and the other veterans. Our final dinner gathering, always bittersweet in situations such as this, was at our hotel. Mr. Beelaerts van Blokland, president, and Mr. Hartkamp, secretary, of the National Committee Thank You Canada presented the veterans with the Dutch 65th Anniversary Commemoration medal. The caregivers were presented with a small replica pin. After dinner it was to our room to pack for travel the next day.



Jan de Vries escorted by Sgt. Rogers at Groesbeek Cemetery lays wreath on behalf of the National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada. Photo courtesy of Dr. H.T. Nguyen.

The morning of May 10th Jan and I said our goodbyes to all and thank you to the VAC committee. We had been very well looked after during the previous 10 days. One member of the group said that we were looked after as if we were 10-year-olds. Thanks to the good doctor and nurse, nicknamed "Dr. and Nurse Squirt," always there with a container of hand sanitizer, the whole group stayed healthy throughout the entire trip. Interviews conducted by various media occurred at various times over the week. It was a worthwhile trip and Jan felt honoured to represent the NCVA. This trip also afforded Jan to represent 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion very visible in the maroon blazer and beret.

Jan and I then made our way via our rental car to the province of Limburgh in the south of Holland where 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion served during the war. We toured the area in the company of Huub and Margriet Stollman, a member of the Commemoration Monument Committee, who hosted us for the night. The Stollmans are very good friends of Hugo Levels who unfortunately we did not meet as he and his family were away. During the evening in the city of Roermond, we attended an unveiling of a monument in memory of the Dutch soldiers who died in the area on May 10, 1940.

The following day we drove to Hamminkeln in Germany. We met Herr Johann Nitrowski who took us to the Operation Varsity drop zone where Jan tried,

unsuccessfully, to pinpoint the tree in which he was hung up during that drop. That evening Herr Nitrowski and Mrs. Nitrowski joined us at our hotel for dinner. The next day Herr Nitrowski accompanied us for a short visit with the Burgermeister, to again thank him for his hospitality of a couple of years ago when the battalion association memorial plaque was unveiled. We then drove through the beautiful countryside with Johann guiding us ending up at the most delightful town of Marienthal where we visited the Klosterkirche and garden and stopped for refreshments at Carpe Diem Bistro. That evening we had a wonderful visit and dinner at the home of the Nitrowskis. The next day, May 13, we drove to Schiphol Airport and fortunately had an uneventful flight home. ■



Huib and Margriet Stollman, Jan and Joanne de Vries standing in location of Jan's slit trench at the abutment of the old bridge over the Maas River near Buggenum in Holland. Photo courtesy Joanne de Vries.

CAFA/ARAC BURSARY



Left: In September, at the St. Albert, Alberta Legion, members of the Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) presented Michelle Frost with the CAFA/ARAC educational bursary cheque for \$1,000. From left to right, Bill Johnston, Art Brochu (President), Michelle Frost and Bill Dickson. Background picture is of the Airborne Monument located at Siffleur Falls Staging Area, Alberta. Photo by Simon Rozendaal.

The recipient of this year's CAFA/ARAC bursary of \$1,000 was Ms. Michelle Frost, the daughter of CWO (ret'd) Ken Frost, Canadian Airborne Regiment. Michelle is attending the University of Alberta, Edmonton, and has just completed the first year of a four-year doctoral program in Educational Policy Studies. The selection committee found her academic achievements to be outstanding and she has worked extensively as a teacher, administrator, and counselor within First Nations communities.

Bob Janik, Selection Committee



1 CAN PARA

The Cadet Corps

by BGen. (ret'd) Ian Douglas



I decided that we needed a cadet corps here in Brighton, Ontario when, as Poppy Chairman of our Legion Branch in 2009, I discovered there were neither Scouts nor cadets to help with poppy distribution.

As an ex-cadet, I remembered how cadets had helped me develop as an adult, and indeed set me up for the most positive and fulfilling career, an airborne soldier. I digress however as the cadets are intended as a citizenship program and is the best that is offered in Canada.

I started to research the area and found that the conditions were ripe to raise a corps and that there was even a miniature rifle range in the basement of our local high school. However, when I investigated further it became clear that the anti-military feeling of the mid-1960s had not only seen the disbanding of high school cadet corps, but that local boards would not even let air rifles into the schools for training. The range is now being used as a file storage room.

It seems, however, that there is a renaissance of understanding of how cadets might be helpful to our youth and their development as responsible adults. I received complete support from the municipal authorities, all local schools, the OPP that offered storage space, the Legion Branch 100 that offered to be "sponsor," and last, but certainly not least, CFLAWC, the old Para school, offered to be our support unit. The army cadet league and DND also agreed and our corps was set up on a temporary basis as a satellite of the cadet corps in Cobourg, Corps 88.

They are an outstanding corps with a very high standard of fitness – they even have developed a "Ranger" standard. This summer and fall they sent

1st Can Para Bn Cadet Corps of Brighton, Ontario. With the cadets and their leaders are LCol. Brown, RSM Watson from CFLAWC and BGen. (ret'd) Ian Douglas. Photo courtesy of BGen. Douglas.

one of their members off to Bisley to represent Canada against the best cadet shooters in the world, while another cadet, a young 16-year-old female sergeant went off with a group of cadets to climb to the base camp of Mount Everest – quite the adventures. Corps 88 is affiliated with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (Hasty Pees). We will also have that affiliation until we get to the stage where we are credited with the ability to stand on our own, at which stage we will rebadge and, with the approval of DND, become the “First Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps” and establish a “Para” standard in the cadet fraternity. While it is too early to predict when we will reach the stand alone stage, I will keep you informed and foresee the “stand up” taking place at CFLAWC with you and as many of your members in attendance as possible.

Our corps has 36 recruits – about half young females. As you probably know, cadets are from 12-18 years of age and, as a brand new corps, most of our cadets are in the 12-13 year age category. We have three or four senior cadets in their second or third years, so we have section commanders. I am impressed with the cadet instructor corps of officers. The CO is an ex-PPCLI, while his well-trained second-in-command and training officer is a female. We have four volunteer military instructors from CFLAWC and two civilian instructors with a military background. We have a strong support committee that has already run a tag day where they made \$1,000. The Legion branch has donated \$1,000 so they are off on a good track. I have backed off, but will continue to monitor things as the LO from both the Legion and the Royal Canadian Army League of Ontario. I have agreed to work on fundraising with the support committee.

See photo taken a few weeks ago at our second parade (on previous page). Note the paucity of uniforms that we hope to have pretty well complete by Nov. 11, 2010. In the picture is the CO and RSM of CFLAWC, four military volunteer instructors from CFLAWC, the president of the local legion branch, the VP of the army

cadet league of Ontario, and members of the civilian support committee. We are in good shape from a staff point of view. Our corps is being used as an example to the rest of the cadet world on how you can get a corps up and running in a relatively short period of time.

The cadet parade is scheduled for every Monday evening. I attended the one on October 25, 2010. They were in their PT kit as we were testing them to ensure that we develop a standard of PT that is reasonable enough, but a bit above the very low standard of fitness seen in many of our youth today. I will keep you informed as things develop.

(On November 19, 2010, BGen. Douglas sent an additional update.)

I am quite excited about how well our little corps is coming along. We have more than 30 cadets now. We received uniforms just in time for the candlelight vigil that we held on the night of the November 10th. The cadets stood vigil until approximately 2200 hrs, there was school in the morning, at which time we, the old fellows, took over, and carried on through the night. In any case, they were there for the 1100 service on the 11th, and you should have seen how proud they looked. Their drill was not the best, but they were trying, and even “marched” into and through the legion. I am not worried as this was their first parade and we have five NCO volunteers from CFLAWC who are now part of our contingent of instructors. LCol. Brown and CWO Watson along with MWO Lodder were also there on the 11th.

I have discussed the use of the First Canadian Parachute Battalion name with the Army Cadet League and they have no problem. We have not decided yet, but perhaps a Pegasus sleeve patch might be appropriate along with the unit shoulder flashes. We are off to a great start and I believe that we are the first new corps to be raised in Ontario in a number of years. In any case, thanks for the great gift of your name that will be used proudly by our youth of today. ■



1 CAN PARA

Basic Parachute Course

*text by Joanne de Vries
photos by Capt. Joshua Bambrough,
Trenton Air Cadet Summer Training Centre*

Changes have been implemented for the programme for cadets taking the basic parachute course. This year the complete course was held at CFB Trenton as opposed to Connaught Ranges for the physical training with the jumps being taken at Trenton. CFB Trenton is undergoing major expansion, which includes a new hangar to accommodate the new C-17 aircraft. In the future, the complete basic parachute course for cadets will continue to be held at CFB Trenton as well as the graduation ceremonies.

Capt. Joshua Bambrough, public affairs officer Trenton Air Cadet Summer Training Centre, noted that the basic parachute course is one of the most sought-after summer courses the Royal Canadian Army Cadet program offers. It attracts candidates from across the country, representing the most-accomplished and fittest cadets in the land. The course load is small – only 48 young candidates are selected – and thus the

competition for appointment is keen. In order to qualify for consideration, an army cadet must be at least 16, medically fit and physically capable of performing a minimum of seven chin-ups, 31 push-ups and 1.6-kilometre run within 7.5 minutes. Applicants must have successfully completed National Star Certification and at least one cadet leader instructor series course. Cadets must first complete a two-week pre-para endurance training at CFB Trenton’s air cadet camp before they are put on the basic parachutist course at CFB Trenton’s Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre. Once they get into the centre, before conducting the ultimate five jumps at CFB Trenton’s Mountain View aerodrome facility, cadets undergo a three-week course and receive ground training in

Alena Van Der Poelen of 11 Service Battalion, Victoria, B.C., was the recipient of the top Para award.



LCol. Kevin Brown CO of CFLAWC and Jan de Vries presenting wings to a qualified cadet.

parachute equipment, aircraft drills and exits, flight control and landing.

This past July, Jan de Vries was again pleased to be asked by the course commanding officer, Capt. Richard Ferris, to speak to the group of 48 young cadets. As in previous years, he spoke of the history of the battalion, training, and some personal experience enhanced by photos and a wartime film on para training.

Forty-five of the cadets successfully completed the basic para course and proudly received their wings on August 6, 2010 on a parade square at CFB Trenton. Numerous beaming parents were in attendance along with LCol. Brown, the commanding officer of CFLAWC, LCol. Wright, commandant of the CFB Trenton, representatives from the Army Cadet League of Canada, the para course instructors, and various other dignitaries and military personnel. LCol. Brown

At CFB Trenton August 6, 2010 Cadets smartly on parade just prior to receiving their wings. MWO Theadoce Ortega, who was the top Para Cadet in 2009, lead the parade.



Jan de Vries presents wings to a qualified cadet.

and Jan de Vries pinned the wings on the newly qualified cadets. Their instructors followed giving the traditional “thump on the chest.” As in past years, Joe Drouin, this year assisted by Dan Clarke, president of ARAC, presented each cadet with a specially made Airborne coin. This year the top para cadet, Alena Van Der Poelen of 3005 11 Service Battalion from Victoria, B.C., was presented an Airborne statue by LCol. Brown. Cadet Ryan Deveau, also from Victoria, B.C., received the Army Cadet League award. Magid Awad, 3018 Combat Engineers from Ottawa, was the recipient of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Bursary. He will be attending McGill University to study commerce.

Congratulations to all the para cadets who graduated. Their instructors had nothing but praise for them commenting that they were a strong, tough group of young people. ■

Magid Awad 3018 Combat Engineers, 2010 recipient of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Bursary. He will be attending McGill University to study Commerce.



1 CAN PARA

*Ex Coelis Mountain
Siffleur Falls, Alberta
10th Anniversary Ceremony, June 5-7, 2010*

by Pauline Zakaluk

They say that when travelling, getting there is half the fun, and it is, provided you don't wait at the wrong gate at the airport or hold the road map upside down while trying to read it. Neither seems to have troubled our members on their way to the 10th anniversary ceremonies, marking the dedication of our monument and Ex Coelis Mountain at Siffleur Falls, Alberta. Those able to make the trip arrived in fine form at the David Thompson Resort, many from distant parts of Canada. Driving to the resort was quite pleasant – periods of sun, followed by rain squalls, some wildlife along the way, and, nearer to the resort, majestic snow-covered mountains.

On arriving at the resort, lots of warm hugs and greetings from dear friends, visiting for a while, settling in, and preparing for the meet-and-greet at the “Dome” later in the day. Once there, we were again amidst those people that were the reason we had come – friends who

had become very close to us over the years. The crowd was much smaller this year, I would guess about 150 all told. Age takes its toll, but the Edmonton Social Club and members of the PPCLI gathered there to celebrate with us.

Unfortunately, members of Bornewest were not there as they had their own ceremonies in Chilliwack. We were honoured to have our patron, MGen. Herb Pitts and his wife Marianne, and happily, because of a change in the dates of events, our president, Jan de Vries and his wife Joanne. As usual, the resort provided informal but cosy surroundings for the meet-and-greet, and their usual delicious and plentiful buffet table. A well-stocked bar, tea and coffee, accompanied the

1st Can Para Bn Association is most appreciative of the continued support received each year from the 3 PPCLI at the ceremony at Ex Coelis Mountain. Photo by Joanne de Vries.



1st Can Para members, left to right: George Whatley, Russ Dixon, Tom Sawden, Jan de Vries, John Ross, Bert (Knobby) Clark, John Butler (Brit), Herb Harris, Herb Pitts, George Siggs, Bill Talbot, Walter Romanow, Monty Marsden. Photo courtesy of MWO Paris.

buffet. As we are a *little* past our prime, many of us departed this pleasant scene rather early.

June 6th dawned bright and sunny, lovely blue sky and our mountain beautifully detailed standing guard over our coming ceremonies. What a glorious setting! Breakfast, then a bit of free time to browse and visit, then off to our memorial at the Siffleur Falls staging area.

Around 1345 hours we gathered in front of our memorial and Bill Dickson, our hard working master of ceremonies, who as always, plays a large part in arranging this event, began the proceedings. On a command from Parade Commander Gord Carter, our 1 Can Para men marched in, straight as arrows in spite of age, heads held high, bringing smiles of pride from those of us watching. Following them were the men of Canadian Airborne Forces, then the PPCLI, most of them sporting maroon berets. Several members of the latter group left very early in the morning to climb one of the peaks of our mountain and were back in time to take part in the ceremony.

The colours were marched on under the direction of

Bill Shybunka. Our Jan de Vries took the general salute. The national anthem was played. Bill Dickson as master of ceremonies welcomed everyone and outlined briefly the reason for our being there. Instead of an invocation, Piper Lyle Moffat played “Amazing Grace.” Messages of welcome were read by Bill Dickson from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Veterans Affairs Jean-Pierre Blackburn, and the Premier of Alberta Ed Stelmach.

MGen. Pitts then took the podium, added his good wishes, and then proceeded to remind us and to praise the huge amount of work done by the late Norm Toseland. Norm found the mountain, waded through all the red tape to have it named, and arranged for the monument’s construction. Unfortunately, he passed away just a few months before the dedication, and Walt Romanow took over to complete the project. MGen. Pitts concluded his address by reciting the Airborne Prayer. Bugler Neil Gow played the Last Post, followed by two minutes of silence, then Piper Lyle Moffat played the Lament, bringing a flood of emotion as thought turned to another for whom the Lament had also been played.



1st Can Para, with ex and present Airborne supporters. Photo courtesy of MWO Paris.

Neil Gow played the Reveille, and Binyon’s Verse was recited by Kay Sawden, Tom Sawden’s wife.

Wreathes were placed for the 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion Association by Isobel Allen and Pauline Zakaluk, for the British 6th Airborne by John and Rachael Butler, for the Metis Association of Alberta by Vic Lawrence and Mike Rude, for Canadian Airborne Forces by Hubert Martineau and Edward Harman, and the fallen soldiers by Pte. Brunsgaard and Pte. Winter of the PPCLI. Bill Dickson then announced that as usual, a barbecue would take place at the resort later that day. “God Save the Queen” was played, Jan de Vries again took the general salute, and commended Gord Carter on the parade. The colours were marched off and the parade dismissed. Photos were taken of each group separately then as a whole, and we mingled and chatted before returning to the resort. Regrettably, a few of our group were only there for the day and left shortly after the ceremony.

Back at the resort, after another short break, it was over to the Dome for the mouth-watering barbecue. As previous years, Alberta steaks were done to each person’s preference over charcoal coals and, as always, were not only delicious, but so tender you could “cut them with a two-by-four” as someone said. To complete the feast, baked potatoes with all the trimmings,

baked beans, coleslaw, plus the usual extras. And, of course, if there was any room, the delicious desserts. Also available was anything liquid to wash it down. Contented as kittens after a bowl of cream, we enjoyed visiting lots of laughs and recalling fond memories. Not long after, some of us seniors trundled off to our rooms and to bed.

The morning of June 7th saw most of us up fairly early and enjoying the buffet breakfast before saying our farewells to as many as we could. This was difficult as the rumour was that this could be the last formal ceremony at our monument and so we might not see some of our dear friends for a long time or perhaps not at all. However, it was so wonderful to get together with so many of them for this special occasion and we will always stay in touch. Our goodbyes were especially poignant and it was very hard to leave this special place.

Those in attendance from 1st Can Para were: Isobel Allen and son, John and Rachael Butler, Bert (Knobby) Clark, Jan and Joanne de Vries, Russ Dixon, Herb Harris and son-in-law Monty Marsden, MGen. Herb and Marianne Pitts, Walt Romanow and family, John and Joan Ross, Tom and Kay Sawden, George Siggs, Bill and Helen Talbot, George and Marlis Whatley, and Pauline Zakaluk. ■



1 CAN PARA

Final Luncheon

by Joanne de Vries



The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum near the Hamilton Airport was pleased that it was selected as the location for the Battalion Association's final luncheon. In previous years, the association held a number of luncheons at the museum and the members have always been most satisfied with the venue and the excellent food served there. We thank the museum staff for their hospitality and generous gesture of keeping the cost reasonable for the last luncheon.

Special thanks to Adrienne Anderson for notifying members of the luncheon, producing the name tags, and organizing the registration. Also thanks to Madeleine Jackson for her efficient assistance to Adrienne on the registration desk.

Fourteen Battalion veterans were in attendance – numerous family, friends, and a few invited guests, totalling 82. Thank you to the following people for their interest and support: BAFA members Ed Graney, Ron

Davies, James Knox, and Royce Moss; CAFA members Bob Janik (President #9 Kingston) and Jerry Robertson (President Huronia Branch Barrie); Peter Worthington; LCol. John Fotheringham, Kim Mathieson, and Capt (ret'd) Charles (Chick) McGregor of the QOR; 1st Can Para has had long-standing support from the QOR. LCdr. Forsyth OC and MWO Kock CSM of Topham Company from Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre at CFB Borden. Seven members from CFLAWC at CFB Trenton, the CO LCol. Kevin Brown, DCO Maj. Gerhard Hildebrandt, Maj. Jeremie Gauvreau, CWO Paul Watson, MWO Glenn Quinton,

Members at the final luncheon. Back row, left to right: Ed Kays, Ross Mitchell, Jim McCann, Roly Harper, Al Campbell, John Feduck, Jim Miklos, Ted Scandlan, Andy Anderson, Barry Volkers, John Knowles. Front row, left to right: Frank Cimprich, Bill Renwick, Jan de Vries. Photo courtesy of Capt. Charles McGregor.

WO Gaetan Cyr, and MCpl. Kevin Hughes honoured us with their attendance.

Special thanks to members Jordan Baker, Ron Bergeron, Ken Irvine, and Drew Kodatsky, of 1st Can Para reenactment group who were dressed in WWII replica para uniforms and kindly put up an interesting exhibit of WWII para artifacts. Peter Silverman sent his regrets that he was not able to attend but sent some kind words that were read. John Butler, British Para from B.C., and friend of the association also sent a few kind words that were read. Capt/Padre Rev. Mark Sargent acted as MC and very ably as always kept all running smoothly. We sincerely thank him for his support over many years.

Overwhelming was the support from former Airborne Regiment members, many showing up saying that they were proud to see and speak with the few "Band of Brothers" – possibly being in their company for the last time. If the association had been aware beforehand that they were planning to attend, they could have been accommodated for lunch. We apologize for the confusion and sincerely thank our Airborne brothers for their interest and support. All at the luncheon were delighted that they stayed to share in this last event.

Mary Flynn-Gugletti (daughter of deceased veteran Dennis Flynn) took a few minutes to outline the plans to relocate the Topham Plaque, which presently, due to changes at Mississauga City Centre, is sitting in a parking lot. Mary related the plans to relocate the plaque. The battalion executive, Mary with co-worker Susan Rogers, and Ontario Heritage is working closely to find a more appropriate location. We appreciate that Mary drew this to our attention and for her dedication to seeing this project come to an agreeable end.

We were pleased to again see Jim and Ethel McCann who travels from Montreal to attend many of the events in Ontario. It was great to have Ross and Mabel Mitchell, who came all the way from Brandon, Manitoba, join this last gathering. Ed Kays from Woodstock, Ontario who we haven't seen in some time managed to attend along with the regulars, Roly Harper, Al Campbell, John Feduck, Jim Miklos, Ted Scandlan, Andy Anderson, Barry Volkers, John Knowles, Frank Cimprich, Bill Renwick, and Jan de Vries.

As at previous luncheons, the meal of roast beef,

roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad and rolls, followed by an assortment of deserts and tea and coffee was very well received. A cash bar kept everyone "happy." There was much reminiscing and great camaraderie, but with somewhat sad undertones as this was the final formal gathering.

Andy Anderson presented, on behalf of the association, a beautiful and unique bronze statue of St. Michael the patron of paratroopers to Jan thanking him for his dedication and 15 years of service as president. Joanne was presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Adrienne Anderson. This was a complete surprise to both Jan and Joanne and they thanked the association members most sincerely for their thoughtfulness.

MGen. (ret'd) Herb Pitts, patron of the association, and his wife Marianne were unable to make the trip from B.C. to attend. Following is the message he sent and which was read at the luncheon:

"I regret not being with you today, but a number of issues prevent my travelling at this time.

"You are all very much on my mind as you gather today. It does not end a very close and personal relationship that I've been privileged to have with the members of the First Canadian Parachute Battalion and their British comrades-in-arms, most notably, James Hill. It just makes it a bit more remote. Naturally, I will miss the closeness to friends in the association as there will be no more get-togethers on a large, coordinated basis. There will, however, be occasions for small groups of us to gather in regions across Canada.

"There will be opportunities to celebrate and remember the history, accomplishments, and legacy 1 Can Para has left behind for others to follow. Armed forces units today are more aware of the proud and unique record of the battalion as are a majority of those young people attending the Royal Military College at Kingston. The Siffleur Falls Monument and the many reminders in museums and in other places at home and abroad will serve you well.

"I have been truly honoured to have been one of your patrons for nearly 30 years. I regard my role as continuing for as long as I am able. To have come to know you and to be in your company has afforded me more pleasant and fulfilling moments than I can describe appropriately. Suffice it to say I will remember you, the events we have shared, the friendships forged and the memories made. Thank you all and God's speed. You were and are — The Best!

"As ever, Airborne! Herb and Marianne Pitts." ■



FSSF

First Special Service Force Association

*by Jack Callowhill
Canadian representative*



Day 5 – We flew to Rome and took a day off to rest and tour Rome.

Day 6-7 – We visited Anzio, Nettuno, and Casino where 103 Canadians and 102 Americans of the Force are buried. We also stopped in San Pietro and took part in a memorial service at the Polish Cemetery at the base of Monte Cassino. It rained off and on for the next three days and we were unable to visit Monte Difensa or some of the other local sights because of the rain and fog.

Day 8 – After breakfast, we headed for Siena through the hills of Tuscany and on to Florence, and visited Florence Cemetery where three Forcemen are buried.

Day 9-10 – We tried to visit Saint Anna where the Germans murdered 560 people of the village. We were unable to get our bus up the winding road so we

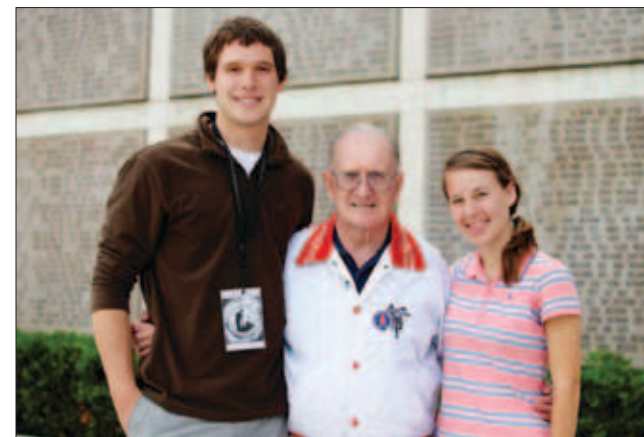
Pictured above from left to right: First Special Service Force veterans Jack Callowhill, Charlie Mann and Gord Sims.

The Greatest Generation Foundation of Denver, Colorado, in association with College of the Ozarks, collaborated in May 2010 to provide the opportunity for college students to travel with World War II veterans back to the battlefields where the soldiers fought. This was a priceless experience for both the students and veterans. Each veteran was assigned two students, with 10 veterans and 20 students altogether for the 14-day trip.

There were three members of the FSSF invited – Charles Mann, Gordon Sims, and Jack Callowhill.

Day 1-2 – Chicago to Frankfurt to Tunis.

Day 3-4 – We visited the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial in Tunisia – 2,841 graves and 3,724 commemorated on the Wall of the Missing. We were escorted by State Department officials and drove to the Kasserine Pass with lots of Roman ruins along this route.



Gord Sims with his two students, Michael Wiebe and Rachel Denham.

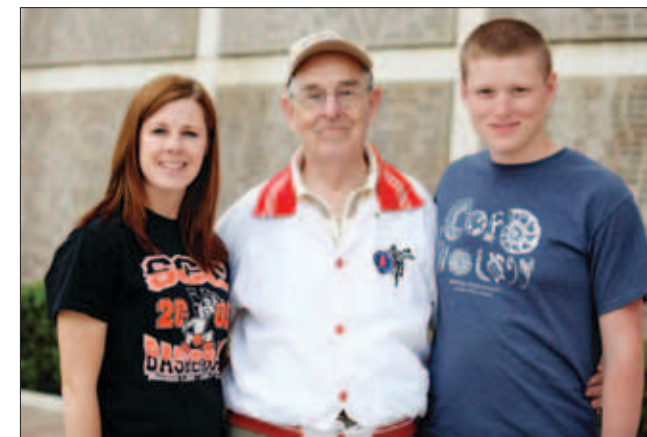
continued on to Venice. The next day we toured Venice and departed for Salzburg, Austria in the late afternoon. This was the centre of the American occupied area. Salzburg was heavily damaged during the war and much of the old town was demolished but has since been rebuilt.

Day 11 – We visited the Kehlsteinhaus, which the Nazis built as a 50th birthday present for Hitler (nicknamed Eagle's Nest), although he never used it.

Day 12 – We visited the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp. By 1940 this camp had become one of the largest labour camps in German-controlled Europe. This camp contained roughly 85,000 inmates. The death toll will never be known for sure. It has been estimated at 320,000 for the entire complex.

Day 13 – We visited Nuremburg, the place where most of the Nazi rallies and conventions were held because of its central location. Much of the medieval part of the city was destroyed, but has mostly been restored. Our dinner this evening was our farewell to all the students we had come to know on this tour.

Day 14 – After a long trip, we departed for Frankfurt and our flight home. Charlie, Gord, and I cannot say enough about how much we enjoyed the students and how we became like a family. It was an educational tour for all of us as well as a wonderful experience. ■



Jack Callowhill with his two students, Melissa Firey and Leland Maize.



Charlie Mann with his two students, Eric Wiese and Culea Abraham.



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OPERATION BITING

*The Bruneval Raid,
February 27, 1942*

by Capt. (ret'd) John Wilmot



The British 1st Airborne Division's first parachute operation undertaken was a company-size raid on a radar installation near Ste. Bruneval, France. They inserted by parachute, patrolled to the objective, stole the radar equipment, and were evacuated from the beach by landing craft of the Royal Navy.

In the winter of 1941/42, Britain was on the defensive. They had survived the Battle of Britain, but could not hope to invade the continent for another two and a half years. Their only form of offensive action lay in their Bomber Command. The biggest danger to the bomber crews was the new German radar network that had been deployed along the coast. They had to find a way to defeat the radar to protect their crews.

In January 1942 Royal Air Force reconnaissance planes discovered a Würzburg radar installation at an isolated house near the village of Bruneval, France. The Würzburg was a very sensitive short-range radar used

to pick up RAF bombers as they crossed the Channel. A whole string of them had been placed along the coast and the RAF was very interested in how they worked and how to defeat them.

Photo reconnaissance also showed a beach at the bottom of the nearby cliffs so the idea for a raid was born. French resistance forces were sent to confirm the location of the radar. They reported a German garrison of about 200 operators and defence troops in a farmhouse called Le Presbytère about 150 metres to the north. They also reported that the beach was not mined.

Lord Louis Mountbatten, chief of combined

In 1941 a Royal Air Force Spitfire pilot photographed a strange-shaped apparatus in a Normandy field. The photo-reconnaissance picture above is of the Würzburg radar array at Bruneval, a sophisticated German radar system whose secrets had yet to be discovered.

operations, approved Operation Biting as an airborne raid because the strong beach defences made a sea landing dangerous. Major John Frost commanded "C" Company, 2nd Battalion of the 1st Parachute Brigade and they were selected to go.

The company started training under the cover story that they were going to put on a demonstration for the Royal Family. The RAF photo interpretation section built a scale model of the installation site based on air photos. Finally, the officers were let in on the secret and they used the model to develop their plan.

The raiding force would all jump onto the same drop zone about a kilometre inland. They would break into three parties, named "Drake," "Nelson," and "Rodney" after the famous sailors. Drake, under Maj. Frost, would secure the isolated house and the radar unit. Nelson, under Lt. Euen Charteris, would assault and neutralize the beach defences. Rodney, under Lt. John Timothy, would act as a blocking force to prevent reinforcements coming from the farmhouse. Once the Würzburg was secured, it would be dismantled and carried to the beach where Royal Navy landing craft would come to pick up the paratroopers. A radar expert, Flight Sergeant C.W.H. Cox, was attached to Frost's party to supervise the dismantling of the radar unit. He was rushed to Ringway to complete five jumps and earn his wings before the mission. A party of Sappers from 1st Para Field Squadron was also attached.

By February 23rd everything was ready to go. The only thing to delay the mission was the weather. Finally, on the night of February 27/28 conditions were excellent. There was a full moon and the tide was right.

Taking off from RAF Thruxton, in 12 Whitley bombers from 51 Squadron, they flew across the English Channel toward Le Havre. As they approached the coast they encountered flak. Some aircraft were hit but little damage was done. Two of the planes went off course taking evasive action. Lt. Charteris and his party were dropped two and a half kilometres off the DZ. They found their bearings and ran toward the beach. The rest of the raiding party landed on the snow-covered drop zone at about midnight and quickly assembled.

Maj. Frost led the charge into the house as Lt. Young attacked the radar unit. Several Germans were killed and one operator was taken prisoner. Flight Sergeant Cox and the engineers examined the radar as bullets

flew around them. The vital parts of the radar were quickly removed. Some parts were literally ripped off the apparatus by the paratroopers using crowbars.

The enemy fire was increasing from the farmhouse at Le Presbytère and engine noises could be heard coming from the east. Lt. Timothy's blocking party opened fire on the reinforcements as they arrived and Maj. Frost decided it was time to get out of there. The action at the objective had taken just over 15 minutes. The paratroopers picked up the radar parts and started for the beach.

Ahead lay the beach defences. They were still in place owing to the poor drop of Lt. Charteris and his party. Major Frost was about to organize an assault when out of the darkness the missing paratroopers appeared. They had run almost all the way from their landing point.

The assault went in and the beach defences were cleared. It was just after 0200 hours. As the paratroopers gathered on the beach the wireless operators reported that they could not contact the navy. A few tense minutes were spent trying to raise the boats. Very lights were fired and, just when it looked like the German counterattack was about to come, out of the gloom the landing craft arrived firing at the Germans on the cliffs above. The Paras loaded the boats and made their escape.

The operation was a spectacular success. Most of the vital parts of the radar were captured as well as three German prisoners, one of whom was a qualified radar operator. Losses to the British were two dead, seven wounded, and six missing.

From examining the radar parts and interrogating the prisoners, British intelligence learned a great deal about the German radar system. At first, the Würzburg looked impossible to jam, but eventually it was discovered that, by dropping thin metal strips of varying lengths, it could be effectively blinded. Thus was the concept of "chaff" discovered. ■



Major John Frost received the Military Cross for his part in the Bruneval Raid.



#15 GUY D'ARTOIS

*Visite au vignoble Le Cep d'Argent
à Magog, Québec*

texte : Yves LaBarre



Vous auriez dû voir la joie rayonnante de nos participants! C'était le dimanche 12 septembre dernier. Bon nombre des membres de la Succursale #15 Guy D'Artois, des environs, accompagnés d'amis et de quelques membres d'autres affiliations venant par exemple des succursales Fort St-Jean et Montréal du R22eR et de la Succ. Major-général Alain R. Forand (Bérets bleus – Gardiens de la paix canadiens), participèrent à un voyage organisé qui les conduisit jusqu'au vignoble « Le Cep D'Argent » à Magog, QC.

Après un départ matinal de St-Jean-sur-Richelieu par temps nuageux et frisquet quelle ne fut pas notre surprise de constater, rendus sur place, que le soleil nous avait donné rendez-vous. C'est sans doute l'ancien para Gus Gaudreault accompagné de plusieurs membres de sa famille qui l'amena avec lui pour cette visite.

Une charmante hôtesse appelée Caroline prit immédiatement charge de notre groupe et, après un bref et très professionnel exposé « sur la colline

auprès du pressoir » nous dévoila les multi-facettes nécessaires à la bonne gestion d'un vignoble dans un climat nord-américain comme celui du Québec. On nous expliqua ensuite les divers cépages utilisés pour la production des vins ainsi que les différents procédés de fermentation, de stockage et de mise en bouteille.

Vous devinez bien que ce préambule fut suivi d'une dégustation d'un certain nombre des produits du vigneron et après quelques échantillons « bien humés et bien roulés en bouche », on sentait déjà que certains de nos anciens paras étaient prêts à effectuer le saut... jusqu'à une table cette fois, où un bon repas nous fut servi, agrémenté par la présence d'un ménestrel en habit d'époque qui nous chanta et récita des poèmes d'antan qui, à l'occasion frisaient la grivoiserie, ce qui fit, à plus d'une occasion, sourire l'assemblée. Durant le repas, entre deux poèmes, notre président Michel Denis en profita pour remercier Mike Miclette, l'organisateur en chef ainsi que tous les participants pour leur présence appréciée.



Puis, ce fut le retour à la maison. Sur ce chemin, quelques-uns de nos camarades ayant fait grand honneur aux divers produits locaux en profitèrent pour faire un « p'tit roupillon avec trame sonore ». Profitant de la tranquillité du bus, chemin faisant, les organisateurs ajoutèrent une distribution de cadeaux composée de bouteilles de vin tirées au sort gracieuseté de la famille Mike et Daniel Miclette. Merci à vous, chers amis. Est-il encore besoin de vous redire l'appréciation ressentie par nos membres participants? Et de vous rappeler les bons moments de franche camaraderie suscités par une telle sortie? Pour vous le prouver, il suffit de revoir la photo de groupe que croqua notre photographe attitré Raymond Duguay. Quel beau voyage ce fut ! ■





WARRIORS' DAY 2010

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association — Winner of the Canon Scott Trophy (for marching group of 20 or less)

Congratulations to all who marched!



We thank Ken Irvine, Ron Bergeron, and Peter Wells from Ontario; Sean Connolly, Gabe Christy, Jim Richards, Lew Merrit, and Vince Vasp from the U.S. The troopers from CFLAWC at CFB Trenton again led our group carrying the battalion colours as well as their unit flag.

The Battalion Association sincerely appreciates the support from CFLAWC. Thank you to Commanding Officer LCol. Kevin Brown who honoured our request; also to MWO Glenn Quinton CSM of Training Company who organized the group of WO Cyr, WO Krasnuik, Pte. Znack, and Pte. Tartaglia who graciously volunteered their time and did such a superb job; thank you for your support. Sincere thanks to all of you who supported and participated in the parade.

The Warriors' Day Parade Awards Dinner was held on October 15th. A nameplate goes on the Canon Scott Trophy. A plaque was presented, which Jan accepted on behalf of the association. ■

Our members at the Warriors' Day Parade CNE August 21, 2010 with supporters from CFLAWC, CAFA, Airborne Regiment Association, and 1st Can Para Bn re-enactors from Ontario and the United States. Photo by Joanne de Vries.

A cloudy, slightly humid day greeted our members arriving at the CNE for the annual Warriors' Day Parade. Comments were that the clouds were more welcome than the hot blazing sun.

The parade was rerouted this year with bleachers set up along the south side of Princes' Boulevard not far from the Princes' Gates through which the parade enters at the east end of the CNE grounds. The reviewing stand was on the north side opposite the bleachers. Gen. Walter Natynczyk, chief of defence staff, was the reviewing officer this year. The parade continued along the boulevard to west of the Ricoh Centre where it turned south and dispersed in the designated area.

Six 1st Can Para Bn veterans, Ted Scandlan, Roly Harper, Bill Ramsbottom, Keith Metcalf, Gord Smith, and Jan de Vries, were joined by five members from Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA), Frank Hall from Huronia Branch, Tom McLean of London Branch, CWO (ret'd) Lucien Durelle 1CDO, and Sgt. (ret'd) Clovis Desmarais AB Bty., Peter Hunter of Sudbury Branch. Eight members, three from Canada and five from the U.S., from the 1st Can Para Bn Preservation and Living History Unit marched behind the veterans group.



BASIC PARACHUTIST COURSE

BPara Course Session 100 Reaches More Than One Milestone

by Capt. Jess Solinas



The weather would set the tone. While BPara 100 started as usual on a Monday at 0530 hours with the parachutist physical training test, on this particular morning, Trenton reached a temperature low not recorded since the 1970s. On the following Monday it was a figure last seen in the 1940s. For the ones who were paying attention to the signs, the omen was clear, those seeking to successfully negotiate this course would have to earn it.

BPara Session 100, the first of 2011 run by the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC), welcomed candidates covering a considerable spectrum of Canadian Forces occupations. Predictably, a large majority was from the combat arms representing the infantry, artillery, combat engineers, and members of the special operations community. As well, this serial also fielded one member of the military police, a medic, members of the electrical-mechanical engineering branch, and two naval supply technicians who were working concurrently toward their parachute packer/rigger qualifications at CFLAWC. The Primary Reserve Force was well represented with members hailing from both 39 and 41 Canadian Brigade Groups, covering several provinces.

Largely unchanged over several decades, and therefore virtually perfected in its delivery, the BPara course is one of the most measured, exacting, and deliberate courses the CF has to offer. With little downtime and even less for extraneous activities, the training progression is steady, clear, and predictable, with very low tolerance for error. Covering approximately three weeks in its entirety, the course consists of two phases: Ground Stage that covers the first two weeks; and Jump-Stage (affectionately known as 'J-Stage'), which happens in the final week. The first phase requires candidates to pass a strict standard to move on to the second that consists of four sub-components – aircraft drill, flight, landings, and equipment.

Aircraft drill, as readers may expect, is exactly as it sounds. Utilizing life-scale replicas of CC-130 Hercules aircraft (the primary CF aircraft used for parachute operations) students complete synchronized, simple yet vital movements that are designed to verify the safety of the jumpers' equipment. Once checked, additional drills get them to exit the aircraft as efficiently as possible. These are taught and repeatedly rehearsed. During aircraft drill, emphasis is placed on strong paratroop door exits from either side of the aft end of the Hercules



through the utilization of flight training apparatuses that are also affectionately known as “The Racks.” It is from “The Racks” that a candidate hangs by his parachute training assembly from risers (the straps connecting the jumper to the suspension lines leading up to the canopy) and performs drills as if descending from the sky. Trust me when I say it is a very accurate physical representation.

Landing training emphasizes the maintenance of proper body position and orientation as the jumper makes contact with the ground. Hanging from another piece of simulator equipment not dissimilar to that used for flight training, the candidate is raised up and swung out over the floor to simulate drifting in either a right, left, front, or rear orientation.

Through the use of a rope and pulley system, the parachute instructor (PI) then lowers (i.e. drops) the swinging candidate to the floor (thankfully covered with a forgiving mat), effectively allowing him/ her to perform an actual landing. Mat or not, for the average candidate, improper technique upon impact sends corresponding signals of discomfort to the body, followed swiftly by distinctive corrections from a PI. These not so subtle corrections would prove entirely necessary, as the course would later experience first hand during the challenge of actual drop zone landings.

The fourth component of ground training is equipment. “Full kit” refers to a “Clothe the Soldier” (CTS) rucksack enclosed in a parachute drop bag (PDB), which is then attached in front of the jumper’s legs just above the hips and a shoulder load consisting of the member’s rifle fastened to a set of snowshoes. Great care was taken to ensure that all kit was rigged precisely so as to be properly and immediately released (also known as “lowered”) from the jumper when required. Proper rigging also ensured equipment was neat, tight, and secure in order to survive the entire jump process and still be serviceable once on the ground.

Finally, after enduring Phase One, which culminated in a series of strict performance objective checks, we progressed to the much-anticipated J-Stage. This particular serial of BPara was run concurrently with a jumpmaster course. The impact for us during J-Stage was that while we were under the intense scrutiny of the PIs, we were also safety-checked, manifested, and dispatched in the air by the jumpmaster students.

and also from the ramp depending on the application. In Week Two, aircraft drill classes progressed to the Mock Tower, a 32’ structure designed to replicate the Hercules from which candidates jump. Once they freefall for approximately 10’ they are caught by a zip-line cable and then proceed to slide down via a pulley system. Due to its exterior location, the Mock Tower is designed to better simulate an actual aircraft door exit, and to acclimatize the jumper to the sensation of momentarily falling before feeling the support of a parachute canopy overhead.

Flight training includes everything the jumper will need to know and may need to do between the time of exiting the aircraft and that of landing. It, like aircraft drill, consisted of practiced drills, which are also known as the “Five Points of Flight Procedure” that are required for all descents. These drills are actions that are necessary for a variety of contingencies such as equipment malfunctions, collision avoidance, drift corrections, and obstacle avoidance, to name a few. Flight is simulated

J-Stage was comprised of a series of five parachute descents, beginning with a no-equipment daytime jump and progressing to a full-equipment nighttime jump as the finale. Aside from Session 100 being the first BPara course to be conducted in 2011, the course also achieved another milestone by being the first BPara course to be supported by the air force using the new CF CC-130 J-Model Hercules aircraft. Our double-door mass exit, which was the third in our J-Stage series, was made from the new Hercules and marked the inaugural use of the J-Model by CFLAWC for both BPara and jumpmaster.

The balance of our jumps was conducted from a Casa 212, a much smaller civilian aircraft that is configured for ramp exits only. The Casa was admittedly less “high-speed” and therefore less “Airborne” than the Hercules to be sure and although it did not detract from our experience, the anticipated increase in CC-130J support will undoubtedly add to the “awe factor” of future courses.

There was no questioning the physicality of our BPara course or the intensity of the given instruction. As if to amplify a prevalent theme of the training, flight was particularly demanding, and depending on how your harness was fitted, training ranged from uncomfortable to downright uncomfortable! With this in mind, it is clear that this course was purpose designed to deliver the jumper safely (not always comfortably) from an aircraft to the ground where the real work starts. As every candidate will tell you, the sampler to this follow-on work was experienced through the swift yet arduous march off the drop zone to the rally point; memories that will not be forgotten. All of this to say that by the time our nights rolled around, sleep was well deserved and



the mornings came early.

Also undisputable are the rewards of this course. I was told several times by those who had gone before me that the course would be one I would distinctly remember for the rest of my life and I now understand what they meant. For the vast majority of individuals, the jump experiences were excellent, complemented by light breezes and an uncommonly deep snowpack on the drop zone.

“Fair winds and soft landings,” as the airborne well wish goes. And finally, for the not so intangible benefit of passing BPara, we are bestowed the honour of wearing, on our chests, the parachute wings that are a tribute to our Canadian Airborne heritage. For me, it is a meaning that transcends everything endured to earn them.

We graduated 45 new static-line parachutists and five new jumpmasters on Saturday, February 5, 2011. For BPara Serial 100, one final time, “recover.”

Airborne! ■



1 CAN PARA

The Final Luncheon

by Dave Jannison

It was a wet rainy day – October 5, 2010. Not a good day for paratroopers. In fact, they would be sitting around waiting for weather to clear and winds to let up in order to jump. This day, however, was a day in Canadian history most people will not even hear about. It was the final formal luncheon of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

Our country is one that doesn't honour its military heroes very well. If it did, volumes would be written about these men. They are the guys who never failed to complete a mission. That may sound like no biggie, but it is huge. They were part of every major para drop in the European theatre of the Second World War.

I made the drive from my home in Ottawa the day before and found a hotel for the night. I wanted to be in attendance for their final get-together. My motivation was that of having served in the Canadian Airborne Regiment – our country's only other dedicated paratroop unit since WWII, and I would say the best unit and years of my military life.

I counted about 12 original veterans; their numbers have shrunk significantly the past few years. Spouses and families supported them – very nice to see. The bodies of some of the guys are letting them down a bit,



but you can still see the can-do reflection in their eyes. Some might say a cocky self-assured paratrooper look – not me though, I'm sure of it.

Many others supported this day with them. I ran into seven former members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, also members of the airborne school from Trenton. There were Toronto militia units and reps of the three major line regiments of the army. Letters and messages from dignitaries and units were read to those in attendance.

The event happening in the middle of the week precluded many people who would have liked to attend. Such is life – so important to many to be there, but daily routine and obligations get in the way. And that is just a fact of life.

It was a happy event with solemn undertones, because those in attendance realized this was the final curtain call, for these brave selfless airborne men of World War Two.

The event started about 10 a.m. and concluded near

ABOVE: At the final luncheon, on behalf of members of the Association, Andy Anderson presented Jan de Vries a statue of St. Michael, patron saint of paratroopers, for his dedication and service. Photo by Capt. Charles McGregor.

3 p.m. It was held in the city of Hamilton's Warplane Heritage Museum, a nice venue for such an event.

I suspect many others like me left that day feeling glum, but glad I made it to their final lunch together. They are certainly worth the trip and so much more. We all owe you old jumpers a lot. Fair winds and soft landings! ■

Dave Jannison, former 2 Commando and Airborne Regiment Association of Canada

RIGHT: Painting by artist Katherine Taylor commemorating the Canadian Parachute Battalion and airborne troops.

ODE TO AN OLD JUMPER

by Billy Willbond

Old jumpers often hurt when they lie down.
They ache and pain, we see a constant frown.
Their hips and knees have ancient cracks.
Pains in each shoulder and down the back.

On winter drops Joe hit the frozen ground.
His young body shook with that awful pound.
Now Buddy Joe is old, and he's in deep pain.
His knees ache and are pain, when'er it rains.

Those years of ramp and side door jumps.
T-10 canopy jolts and hard ground bumps.
Left my buddy Joe wracked in constant pain.
He limps along because, now he's half lame.

Joe, it's now the time to go on sick parade.
Tell VAC your debts have been paid.
You need pain killers and some operations.
You did hard time a'serving this Great Nation.

William Willbond is a Canadian Soldier Poet and his work can be seen at the website: <http://iwvpa.net/willbondwha>. Willbond is also the organizer behind the Izzy Doll program sponsored by ICROSS Canada. The purpose of the program is to give Izzy Dolls and boomer caps and blankets in support of the children of war, the HIV and AIDS orphans, the child survivors of natural disasters and the children of the poorest of the suffering poor. More information can be found at www.icross-canada.com. ■



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ONE PARA'S STORY

CWO (RSM) Richard Buxton, DCM, CD
April 21, 1926 – July 30, 1971

by Dick Buxton, Jr.



CWO Richard George Buxton (Dick) was born in Victoria, B.C. on April 21, 1926. He was the 10th of 14 children (eight boys and six girls) born to Sgt. Percival Herbert and Phoebe Buxton. Sgt. "Titch" Buxton, as he was known, had, as a young gunner in England, transferred from the Royal Garrison Artillery into the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery (RCGA) in 1907. He went on to serve in the siege artillery in France during the First World War and retired as a staff sergeant at Work Point Barracks in Victoria in 1931.

Dick's uncle Frederick had also transferred from the Royal Garrison Artillery and he too was a sergeant in the RCGA. After putting in his 25 years, Fred retired and built a popular pub at the Esquimalt Lagoon in Victoria, known as "The Dugout".

On his mother's side of the family, Dick's grandfather George Wells had been in the East Surrey Regiment in England prior to coming to Canada. During the First World War he served in France with the 67th Battalion, The Western Scots of Canada.

At the time of his birth, Dick's family was living in the warrant officers quarters just outside the gates of Fort Rodd Hill in Victoria. The fort and neighboring Fisgard Lighthouse are now part of the Fort Rodd Hill National

Historic Site and the warrant officers quarters are still there. The house is tiny, with only two bedrooms. It was a tight squeeze during the winter, but somewhat better in the summer when the boys could move outside to live in tents. Feeding such a large family on army pay was a challenge then, as it would be now. Food was of better quality in the summer, as Titch established quite a farm at the fort. All of the children did their part, raising vegetables, chickens, and even the odd pig or two. In the winter, food was not so plentiful and Dick used to tell stories of going to school with bacon dripping sandwiches in his lunch pail.

Beginning in his early years and continuing throughout his life, Dick was an avid hunter and fisherman. Initially this was simply a matter of survival. Fish and game were a welcome addition to their diet. In later years these became his hobbies and he took advantage of every opportunity to go hunting or fishing, even when on exercise.

Given his family's involvement in the military and the environment in which he was raised, it was no surprise

If you know the people in the photos or the location, help the Buxton family by providing answers. Above, Pte Buxton, RG (possibly Wetaskiwin, Camp Debert, 1944 or '45).

that Dick decided at an early age that he would be a soldier. He was none too pleased that he was too young to enlist when World War Two began. He had to watch as his older brothers Sonny and Ken joined the Royal Canadian Artillery, Fred and Bill joined the PPCLI, and Jim went into the RCAF. Later, both of Dick's younger brothers, Frank and Dave joined him in the PPCLI.

However, the departure of the older boys meant that the family had to rely on Titch's retirement pension. Dick decided to quit school after completing grade nine to find work. He was promptly hired to work as a "rivet passer" at the Varrows Shipyard in Victoria, catching red hot rivets (in a leather glove), the rivet heating tossed to him and placing them into the rivet hole.

On May 23, 1944, almost exactly one month to the day after he turned 18, Dick enlisted in the army. There is a notation in his military file that he was "eager to join the PPCLI."

Dick took his basic training at #133 Canadian Infantry Basic Training Centre at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. While there, an "Army Examiner" noted that he had done very well in basic, was considered good NCO material, and that he "reaffirms his desire to be posted to PPCLI." Basic was followed by infantry training at Camp Vernon, B.C. and Calgary. On March 31, 1945 he was posted to the #2 Transit Camp at Debert, Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately for Dick, the war in Europe ended while he was still at Camp Debert. However, the war with Japan was still on. On May 25, 1945 he volunteered for the newly created Canadian Army Pacific Force. The Pacific Force was expected to work closely with the American forces in the Pacific theatre and this called for some changes in the organization of the Canadian army. Thus, it was that Dick finally found himself in the PPCLI, but the unit was officially known as the 1st Battalion, 2nd Canadian Infantry Regiment (PPCLI). Once again, however, Dick was not successful at getting overseas. The war with Japan ended before the Pacific Force left Canada and it was disbanded soon after.

At the end of the war, the vast majority of the servicemen and women were more than happy to return to their civilian lives. Not so for Dick. On November 29, 1945 he was accepted into the "Interim Force," and then into the Canadian Army Active Force after it was created. On September 30, 1946 he was a lance sergeant



Dick Buxton, far right kneeling. Other names and location unknown. Mixed cap badges visible.

in the 2nd Battalion of the PPCLI, then based at Camp MacDonald, Manitoba.

On January 8, 1948 Dick volunteered for the newly created Canadian Special Air Service Company, reverting to corporal. While there, he completed parachute and safety equipment, air transportability, and air supply courses. He completed his basic parachutist training on March 27, 1948, in Class No. 5, Jump Card #1921. The SAS Company was short-lived and Dick returned to the PPCLI on May 19, 1949, at Currie Barracks in Calgary. By this time the 2nd Battalion was no more, having been renamed the 1st Battalion.

On August 11, 1950 he was promoted to sergeant, at the age of 24. It is said that he was the youngest sergeant in the Canadian army at the time. He married Orion Taylor later that same year, his promotion to sergeant having been a condition of their marriage.

Dick was a platoon sergeant with C Company of 1PPCLI when it left for Korea on September 23, 1951 to replace the 2nd. While in Korea he discovered that the pheasant hunting was excellent. He was able to shoot them at considerable range with his service rifle, being careful to hit them in the head so as to not ruin the meat.

A story is told about an incident involving Dick and the theft of a considerable quantity of liquor from the officers mess one day. He had picked up a newly arrived soldier and on his way back to the battalion position he stopped at the officers mess. He gave the young soldier a pistol and told him to keep an eye on the bartender, while he proceeded to load a considerable quantity of liquor into their jeep. They then took the stolen spirits to an American supply depot where he traded it for additional machine guns and other weapons.



Dick Buxton is pictured kneeling at the far right. Other names and location unknown.

On the night of March 26, 1952, Dick was in charge of 7 Platoon, C Company when his position was attacked by a battalion of the Chinese army. As a result of his actions during that attack, he was given the immediate award in the field of the Distinguished Conduct Medal. For the rest of his life Dick spoke very little about his experiences in Korea, and he never once spoke about the events of that night.

After their tour of duty in Korea was over, the 1st Battalion returned to Calgary. Dick was with them when they went to Germany in 1955 and to Victoria in 1957. He was promoted to WO2 on November 2, 1958 while still with the 1st Battalion.

Dick's memories of the struggle to get enough to eat while he was growing up never left him and he was always on the lookout for opportunities to bring home extra food, even when it was not completely necessary. On one occasion his unit had been on exercise on Salt Spring Island. He came upon an abandoned apple orchard and a raccoon. He filled a gunny sack with apples, and shot the raccoon and put it into the sack as well. When he returned home, the first thing he did was pull the raccoon out of the sack. The family cat let out a fearsome howl and disappeared for several days, but his boys enjoyed the apples. On another occasion, one of Dick's Sons shot a robin in their back yard with a pellet rifle. On hearing about this, Dick made the poor lad clean and pluck the robin and fry it, as a lesson not to shoot anything unless you intended to eat it.

On October 8, 1962 he was posted to the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering in Chilliwack, B.C. While there, and apart from his regular duties as

the QMSI, he took a particular interest in the training of the young officers present during the summer. He made every attempt to make it as realistic as possible, scouting out good locations for training so the officers could learn how to lead their platoons under all kinds of conditions.

On July 1, 1965 he was promoted to WO1 and shortly after was appointed RSM of the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Germany. On September 11, 1966, he was posted to CFB Rivers as the base sergeant major. Dick was known for his intolerance of junior officers and he was particularly hard on the young pilots being trained at Rivers. However, while there he was given the opportunity to take a flight in a T-33 jet trainer. The pilot took advantage of the situation and really put the aircraft through its paces. Afterwards Dick's attitude toward the pilots was noticeably improved.

CFB Rivers had a small, unofficial brass band that performed at various functions and ceremonies. It was lead by an air force sergeant, whom Dick took to referring to as "Drummy." At the mess function held when he left Rivers, he said his goodbyes to the drum major, whose response was "Well sergeant major, I always thought you did not have a good opinion of me, because you have been calling me a dummy ever since you met me." Dick actually apologized to the sergeant and explained to him what the term "Drummy" means in the army.

On the July 25, 1968 Dick became the first RSM of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and his years with them were probably the best in his career. He particularly enjoyed the opportunity to practice jungle warfare in Jamaica (where he excelled), and skiing in Kananaskis (where he did not).

In the summer of 1971 he had the opportunity to take the military freefall parachuting course and he found this to be absolutely thrilling. Unfortunately, it was while doing this that he was killed, at the age of 45, on the drop zone that now bears his name. He was survived by his wife of 21 years and three sons.

* * * * *

The following story was submitted by a former member of the Airborne Regiment and is included here because it personifies everything that was RSM Richard George Buxton:

I did not personally know CWO Buxton, which is the way it should have been – for he was my RSM. He

was already there when I joined the Airborne Regiment (1 Airborne Battery) in 1969 (Edmonton). I had the privilege of his leadership and, along with hundreds of my comrades, lived in awe, fear, and respect for him – and had the good fortune to come away with many memories of his entertaining performances.

RSM Buxton was a tough, no-nonsense, honourable soldier. You always knew that he cared about his men – he was tough on us, but tougher on anyone who, by deed or word, wronged us. Regardless of how much he expected of us, he demanded more from himself. He was the personification of the adage, "Lead by example." I was certain that, despite his bluster, you could almost see in his eyes and in fleeting expressions just how much fun he was having.

RSM Buxton unwittingly made it possible for me to regularly have my haircut at the base barbershop without waiting in line or ever having to make an appointment. The barber once mentioned to me that Dickie's haircut day was disruptive to his business in two ways. Firstly, he was plagued by phone calls enquiring as to when RSM Buxton's haircut appointment was; and, secondly, he usually had no customers for some time before and after said appointment time – no one wanted to risk being trapped in that little barbershop with the RSM.

Since I was already standing in enough military lines, one day I went to the barbershop during what was expected to be the fringe of Dickie leaving and the shop still being empty. But my timing was off and I bounded through the door directly into the gaze of His Frightfulness, still draped and in the chair. With no plausible escape possible, I sat and hoped for the best. After what seemed a silent eternity, Dickie's do was done and he was gone. Except for being quizzed as to my unit, trade, and hometown, the encounter was painless. Since I was 19 and stupid – and still wanting to avoid line-ups – I decided to push my luck. Thereafter, I'd call the barber to confirm Dickie's appointment, then try to arrive more-or-less when he should be done and I could get right in. Going in after his appointment time was better than before it – god forbid someone should be in his chair when he came in! During the couple of years I played that game I didn't always have to sit in terrified silence, as Dickie was already gone as often as he was still there. I believe he eventually knew what I was up to – just once during those years he remarked about what a coincidence



Names and location unknown. Possibly Korea?

it was that our hair seemed to grow at the same rate.

During one of our deployments to Jamaica, some genius thought it would be educational for us to go through a course where we and our adversaries could actually shoot at each other. Since this was before laser gizmos and paintball, we were armed with BB guns! Our personal safety was assured by a cheap plastic sort-of football helmet with a clear plastic face enclosure and the instruction to keep our sleeves rolled down. Trouble was the helmet had no ventilation so the face shield quickly fogged up, and about the only thing you could hear inside the contraption was your heavy breathing – and visibility was severely restricted to a narrow view straight ahead. So, deaf and half blind, with no peripheral vision, we stumbled through a bush course laden with BB-gun snipers waiting to ruin our day. Soon into the debacle a barrage of pellets pinging my helmet, and painfully elsewhere (no cup), rendered me mercifully dead and out of the game. RSM Buxton had joined my section to go through the course with us. While our motley gaggle was quickly eliminated, barely having fired a shot at our assassins, the RSM picked out and picked off every one of the snipers in an awesome display of his soldierly skills. And, he showed remarkable restraint and graciousness afterward by not calling us – as was his usual phrase – the "F_ees" that we had just demonstrated ourselves to be.

Sadly, I was on the aircraft with him on the day of his fatal jump. A bunch of us were getting some freebie static line jumps – dumped out at 2500' – sort of wind drift indicators for the freefallers, including the RSM, as they climbed to their higher jump altitude. My last memory of him was a personal one, as he adjusted my gear before my jump and actually smiled when he hollered, "Don't worry. I fixed it!" Since I hadn't known that I

had a problem, his reassurance had the opposite effect! His adjusting my gear was nothing lifesaving. My stick was up and ready to go when he got out of his seat and fiddled with my pack. His incredible eye for detail saw something in the way my static line lay that he thought should be better – which he was quick to point out to the guy behind me for not catching it during our equipment check. Our green light flickered and we were gone. It was a great jump but a terrible day.

This story has been about one member of the Buxton family, but it cannot end without some mention of the other family members. In all, five of the eight Buxton boys served in the PPCLI at one time or another. Two more served in the artillery and one served in the air force. In addition, three of their sons and one daughter also served.

* * * * *

***Citation for the DCM Award of
The Distinguished Conduct Medal to
SK3460* Sergeant Richard George Buxton,
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps***

Sergeant Buxton was commanding No. 7 Platoon, “C” Company, 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry on the night of 26 March 1952, when his platoon was attacked by a Chinese company. No. 7 Platoon was holding a position four hundred yards in advance of the main battalion locality. The attack was preceded by an intense artillery concentration and over two hundred shells fell on the platoon position alone in a period of twenty minutes.

Sergeant Buxton was wounded by one of the first shells to fall but in spite of this he moved around his platoon position, encouraging his men and redeploying his platoon to meet the attack which was coming from the rear.

The Chinese attack was a pincer movement with their company split in half, half of the enemy coming from Buxton’s left rear and half coming from his right rear. Sergeant Buxton’s quick appreciation and bold action in redeploying his platoon enabled the platoon to withstand the almost fanatic attackers who were gapping the wire, throwing grenades and directing small arms fire on the platoon position.

The platoon ably led by Sergeant Buxton, withstood the attack and prevented any penetration of their position. Throughout the night, Sergeant Buxton directed the defence of his locality against small parties of Chinese still trying to penetrate his locality. The information he obtained and quickly passed back to his company commander, enabled accurate and quick artillery fire to be brought on enemy movement around his position. At 0300 hours the platoon was running short of ammunition and had suffered several casualties. Sergeant Buxton personally supervised the collection of the casualties and requested additional ammunition. The relieving party bringing the ammunition out to his position ran into a group of enemy between “C” Company and No. 7 Platoon. Sergeant Buxton skillfully directed the fire of his platoon to aid the relieving force in its fight into his position and again when they fought their way back to the main position.

At dawn, only after Sergeant Buxton had reorganized his platoon, redistributed ammunition, supervised the cleaning of weapons and seen to his men’s comfort, would he permit himself to be evacuated.

Sergeant Buxton’s determination to hold his position, his personal courage, and his tactical skill were responsible for holding the position and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Twenty-four dead Chinamen were found on the perimeter of his platoon position in daylight. Sergeant Buxton’s leadership was an inspiration to his men, his company and the rest of the battalion.

** The London Gazette and the DCM itself have SX3460 as the service number — both are incorrect.*

* * * * *

CWO Buxton’s family recently discovered a number of photos of him. Many were identified, but many were not. The family is seeking help to identify as much information about Dick Buxton’s photos as possible. View these and additional photos at the Canadian Airborne Forces Association website at www.canadianairborneforces.ca. If you have any information about any of the photos, please contact Richard (Dick) Buxton (Junior) at dbuxton@shaw.ca or by telephone at 1-877-449-3027. Any help you can offer in this regard would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you wish to send photos or stories of his father, please send them by email to dbuxton@shaw.ca. ■



On July 19 at the 3PPCLI, 48 candidates commenced the first ever exported Canadian Forces basic parachutist course. The course breakdown was simple with two phases; ground training and jump week or “J-stage” as the instructors kept saying.

The first 10 training days consisted of ground training in which we covered equipment, aircraft drill, flight, and landings. Equipment training was where we learned how to prepare our rucksacks and weapons for parachuting. Aircraft drill is exactly what it sounds like, learning all the drills involved with the aircraft from the time you board the plane to the time you exit. Flight consisted of everything you needed to know once you exited the aircraft to just before you land. Now flight sounds like fun, but what it consists of is lots and lots of time hanging in the “racks,” the nickname given to the flight parachute trainer that simulates a parachutist under canopy. Just imagine

pulling chin-ups for seven minutes straight at a time and you will start to get a feeling of how hard it was. Flight training was exhausting to say the least, as well as uncomfortable.

Landings consisted of us learning the proper body position and technique to employ the proper parachute landing fall. One of our instructors told us, “If you were going to be good at only one thing on this course, hopefully it’s landings.” We all found out on J-stage just how right he was. I still have bruises on all five points of contact but walked away “all OK” after every jump. I’m glad I paid attention in those classes – not like I had a choice.

A typical day during ground training started with morning physical training at 5:30 a.m. Physical training usually consisted of a quick run with the course officer. By quick run, I mean a quick pace. After morning physical training was finished, we had time to shower,



3PPCLI

***Basic Parachutist Course
Session 104***

by Lt. Jeff Chupik

eat, and get ready for the day's training. We would then be back at the battalion at 7:30 a.m. A typical day consisted of six lessons. Once we were taught a lesson and shown the standard, we immediately started practicing it. The day's training usually went until 4:30 p.m. and ended with light physical conditioning – a thorough stretch. I think this is the part of the course that all candidates enjoyed the most. By the time the course got to afternoon physical training, we could barely put our hands above our heads due to the "racks."

One of the more "enjoyable" parts of the course was the mock tower. The mock tower is a 32-foot replica of a CC-130 Hercules parachute door. Parachute instructors dispatch candidates, dressed in their parachute training harnesses, to assess our exits from the aircraft. The training harnesses are attached to a cable and when the candidates jump from the door, we fall 10 feet and then "glide" down the cables to a grass mound where we are disconnected from the cables. The mock tower training consisted of three days and included single exits, mass exits, and exits with full equipment. I can confidently say that not a single candidate left without bruises, also known as "riser kisses," on his shoulders and neck.

Following the mock tower training, all candidates were tested on everything we had been taught. Thankfully, the majority of us passed and were able to move on to J-stage.

The start of J-stage was very exciting for us as it meant that we were going to start actually jumping out of a plane. We soon learned that jumping out of the plane was the easy part. A typical jump saw us exit the aircraft, conduct our flight procedures, and then land – 30 to 40 seconds total. I think that special attention should be given to landings because it is then that the majority of the injuries could occur. If a landing is done properly, candidates perform a nice roll and the impact of hitting the ground is absorbed through the entire body. The great part is that even in high winds, if a parachutist does a good landing, they barely feel the ground. On the other hand, if a candidate doesn't do what they were taught, they risk broken ankles, slipped discs in their backs, concussions, and number of other injuries that unfortunately some of the guys experienced first hand.

After packing up the parachute, we would then run back to the drop zone rendezvous. I guess that's why the course officer ran us every morning. Forty-two of the candidates completed the necessary five descents, ranging from no-equipment to full equipment, to qualify and then we did some extra jumps to gain more experience. On average, we completed J-stage with 10 jumps each and at least three-times the number of bruises.

I can say that this course is a highlight of my career and that the bonds formed between the candidates on Basic Parachutist Session 104 will carry on for the rest of our lives. I can say for certain that every candidate, including myself, is looking forward to the next jump and getting more time under canopy.

Airborne! ■



IN MEMORIAM



Corporal Darren James
Fitzpatrick, 21,
3PPCLI
~ March 20, 2010 ~



Private Tyler William
Todd, 26,
1PPCLI
~ April 11, 2010 ~



PO 2nd Class Craig Blake,
37, Fleet Diving Unit
(Atlantic)
~ May 3, 2010 ~



Private Kevin Thomas
McKay, 24,
1PPCLI
~ May 13, 2010 ~



Colonel Geoff Parker, 42,
The Royal Canadian
Regiment
~ May 18, 2010 ~



Trooper Larry John
Zuidema Rudd, 26, Royal
Canadian Dragoons
~ May 24, 2010 ~



Sergeant Martin
Goudreault, 35,
1 Combat Engineering
Regiment
~ June 6, 2010 ~



Sergeant James Patrick
Macneil, 28,
2 Combat Engineer
Regiment
~ June 21, 2010 ~



Master Corporal Kristal
Giesebrecht, 34,
1 Canadian Field Hospital
~ June 26, 2010 ~



Private Andrew Miller, 21,
2 Field Ambulance
~ June 26, 2010 ~



Sapper Brian Collier, 24,
1 Combat
Engineer Regiment
~ July 20, 2010 ~



Corporal Brian
Pinksen, 21, 2 Royal
Newfoundland Regiment
~ August 30, 2010 ~



Corporal Steve Martin,
24, 3 Royal 22^e Regiment
~ December 18, 2010 ~



Corporal Jean-Michel
Déziel, 23, HQ and
Signals Squadron,
~ January 17, 2011 ~



Corporal Yannick
Scherrer, 24, 1 Royal 22^e
Regiment
~ March 27, 2011 ~



LAST POST

Bastien, Ted	Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI	McAlpine, Duncan	Black Watch
Beare, James	1 Can Para	McConnell, Gordon	CAFA
Berard, Leo	CAFA	McGarry, James	1 Can Para
Bloom, Harry	PPCLI	Milburn, Gordon	1 Can Para
Bowser, James	RCR, RC Sigs	Miller, Dusty	Cdn AB Regt, RCE
Breaton, Clarence	CAFA	Morrison, Gilbert	RCR, Black Watch
Bumstead, Douglas	1 Can Para	Newell, George	CAFA
Coke, William J.	1 Can Para	Osside, Robert	R22eR
Davis, Ron	Cdn AB Regt, RCR	Palmer, Edwin	1 Can Para
Downing, Laurie	SSF, RCME	Parker, Geoff	RCR
Duck, Donald	1 Can Para	Pero, WD	RCR
Edey, Robert Bruce	SAS, CFPMD, ROCOC	Pero, William	CAFA
Folk, Jim	Para Rescue	Quick, Hewitt	CAFA
Garneau, Jacques	ROCO	Ramsbottom, Victor	1 Can Para
Giles, Lloyd	PPCLI	Read, Angus	CAFA / ARAC
Hopkins, Bert	CAFA	Rheault, Julien	Cdn AB Regt
Hopkins, Henry	FSSF	Rochon, Roger	Cdn AB Regt
Irvine, Daniel	Cdn AB Regt, RCR	Sebe, James	RCN
Johnston, Russell Gerald	1 Can Para	Sinclair, Charles John	1 Can Para
Kelly, Jeff	1 Can Para, RCR	Smith, Nelson	RCME
Lapointe, Roland	PPCLI	Smith, Norm	CAFA
Lapratte, Ernie	Cdn AB Regt, RCR	Soucie, Kenneth	Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI
Legarie, Gordon	Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI	Taylor, Craig	PPCLI
Logan, Gerald	CAFA, CJATC, RCASC	Terhune, Bill	PPCLI
Lucas, Brian	PPCLI	Tolmie, D.	1 Can Para
Lussier, Albert	Cdn AB Regt, RCR	Vallee, Pete	Cdn AB Regt
Mandrake, Ed	CJATC, RCASC	Webb, Art	1 Can Para
Martin, George	Cdn AB Regt		

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