

# THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2017



# EXCELLENCE DEFINED

Commitment, caring and leadership - values shared by the people of our company and Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

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**ROLEX**  
**National**  
CSI 5★  
June 6-10, 2018

'Continental'  
CSI 5★  
June 13-17, 2018

**ROLEX**  
**Pan American'**  
CSI 5★  
June 26 - July 1, 2018

**ROLEX**  
**'North American'**  
CSI 5★  
July 4-8, 2018

**'MASTERS'**  
CSIO 5★  
September 5-9, 2018



## Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

### Battle Honours

South Africa

#### South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

**Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18;** Brazentin, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette,

**Cambrai 1917, '18;** St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenberg Line,

**St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Pursuit to Mons,**

#### France and Flanders 1915 - 1918

Second World War

**Liri Valley, Melfa Crossing, Torrice Crossroads, Gothic Line,**

**Pozzo Alto Ridge, Coriano, Lamone Crossing, Misano Ridge, Casale,**

Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Italy 1944-1945, Ijsselmeer

#### North-West Europe 1945

Korea

#### Korea 1951–1953

#### Afghanistan

(*Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type*)



## The Strathconian

Is the annual journal of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)  
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**Lieutenant-Colonel M. Lubiniecki, CD  
Commanding Officer**

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## Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

*Colonel Greg Hug*



I am honoured again this year to introduce you to the 2017 addition of our Strathconian. As you will see from the contents of this journal, your Regiment has been extremely busy over the past year. In preparing this introduction, I reviewed the 2016 Strathconian and was struck by the breath of activities completed by the Regiment that year. This year has been even more hectic as the Regiment went from training for high readiness to actually deploying on various operations.

The Regiment has participated in two separate significant operations and contributed to several smaller deployments. The operation in the Ukraine was led by the CO and RSM. The contingent deployed for seven months during which time they provided extensive training support to the Ukrainian Military Forces. Meanwhile, the Second in Command continued with the regular training plan in Edmonton. Those in Edmonton were called to assist in the fighting of the destructive forest fires in BC. The Regiment also conducted combined arms training, and completed the various activities within the Brigade. All of these tasks were completed with our usual professionalism.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the privilege of meeting with our Colonel in Chief His Royal Highness **Prince Charles** at Rideau Hall. Unfortunately, I did not get much time to chat with him as there were 200 guests at the function on Canada Day. He did ask me to pass on his greetings to the Regiment and his regrets that he was not able to get to Edmonton to visit with you. I also met with the Chief of Defence Staff that evening. I was assisted by **Maj John Kim**, and **Prince Charles** was ably guided by **Capt Erica Young**. Strathconas were well represented that day!

This year has put more stress on the families with the operational tempo. Again, the success of our soldiers could not be achieved without the overarching support of our families. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Life in the Regiment continues to be challenging and rewarding. I highly recommend taking the time to read about the various exploits of your Regiment. I have no doubt that you will find it both fascinating and inspiring. I expect that you will be as proud of them as I am.



## A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

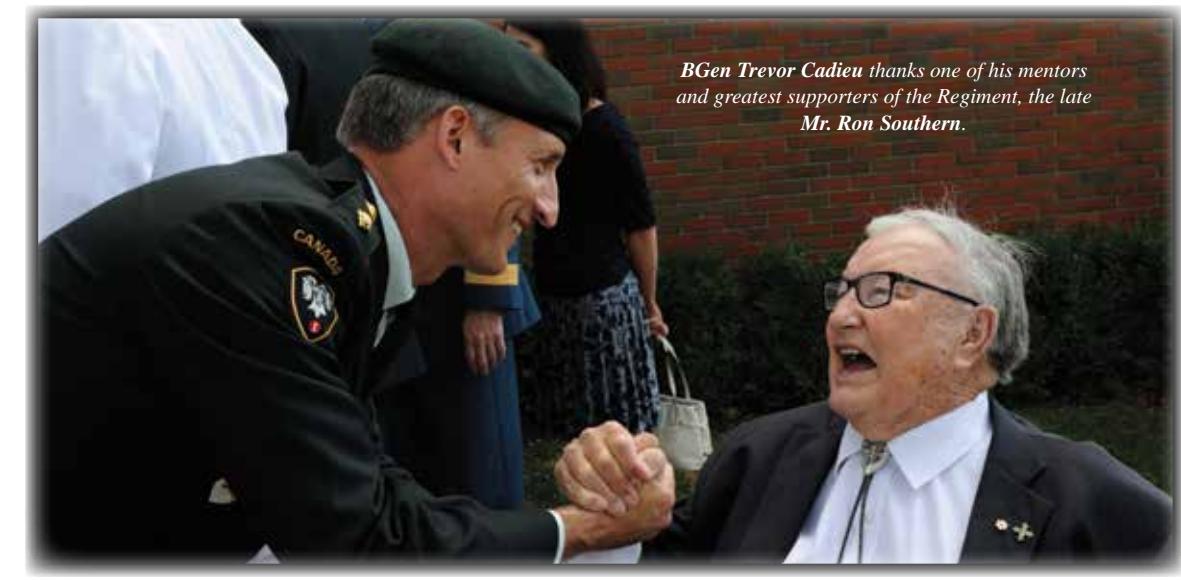
*Brigadier-General Trevor Cadiou*

I've missed our incredible Regimental Family. It is great to be back from the Middle East and to be serving again alongside Strathconas as part of 3rd Canadian Division.

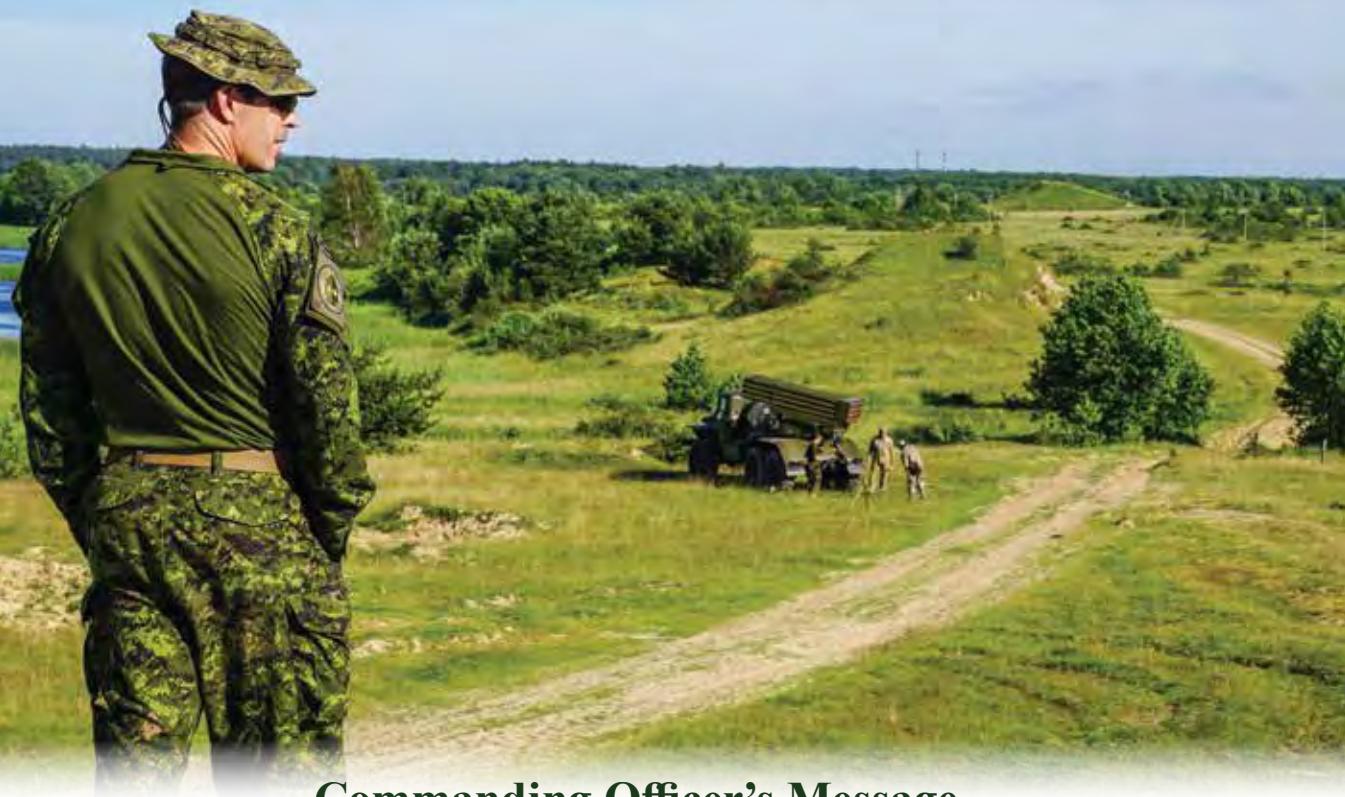
As we prepare to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, we will remember many Strathconas who sacrificed everything during one of the last cavalry charges of the First World War. Those troopers had to summon tremendous courage to fight through fear as metal clashed and they confronted their enemy in hand-to-hand combat. They succeeded in spite of extraordinary odds and their valour continues to inspire us today.

From where I sit in the Division, it is clear to me that – while we operate today in varied theatres and under different conditions – currently serving Strathcona men and women are every bit as ready to fight as our predecessors were. They are professional, resilient and they are masters in the fundamentals of soldiering and armoured warfare in particular. Most importantly, they are ready to defend our nation and to help Canadians in their time of need.

I am grateful for the service of all Strathcona's and for the steadfast support of all members of our Regimental Family. We will do everything we can to physically and mentally prepare Strathcona soldiers for operations and, together, we will grow and be stronger for our experiences.



BGen Trevor Cadiou thanks one of his mentors and greatest supporters of the Regiment, the late Mr. Ron Southern.



## Commanding Officer's Message

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki*

As you will discover in the following annual account of the Regiment's activities over the period of 2017, the Soldiers, Officers, Association, and Society remain fully committed to upholding the proud history and continued excellence in performance as we serve Canada, both at home and abroad. From international deployments to Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Iraq and many other nations to domestic operations focussed on the safety and security of Canadian citizens, the Regiment has risen to each occasion with outstanding achievement. You should be, as we all are, proud of the men and women who wear the Regimental Cap Badge and those support trades that empower us to complete our missions in support of those facing threats from adversaries or incredible natural disaster.

I have found that there is no longer normalcy in what we do as soldiers. From the expectations of soldiers to operate equipment and vehicles designed on cutting edge technology to the types of missions that soldiers are being tasked to support, the Regiment no longer operates as whole in a forecasted schedule set to calendar, but rather as a unit more and more expected to aggregate and disaggregate based upon mission task. This uncertainty, adversity and constant requirement for flexibility is developing a new generation of soldier that will be more agile on the battlefield and able to break the linear decision making process. It does come with a cost, and that falls upon the families and loved ones who must now also bear the burden of military life. Having seen the results of events such as the Regimental Family Day, Kid's Christmas Party, All Ranks Dinner and Dance, and events put on by the Regimental Spouses Club, the health and welfare of the Regiment and its families are very healthy.

As the Regiment completes final preparations for the execution of the centennial celebration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, I would humbly like to thank all of the Friends of the Regiment who so graciously supported the efforts to ensure that this celebration was commemorated in the finest of form. Without their support it would not have become a reality.

In closing, I would also like to offer my sincere appreciation to the soldiers of the Regiment who time and again surpassed all of my expectations in the completion of my direction. It has been a personally humbling experience to have had the pleasure to command the Regiment. The friendships, experiences and stories that I will walk away from the Regiment with will be cherished forever.

## Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

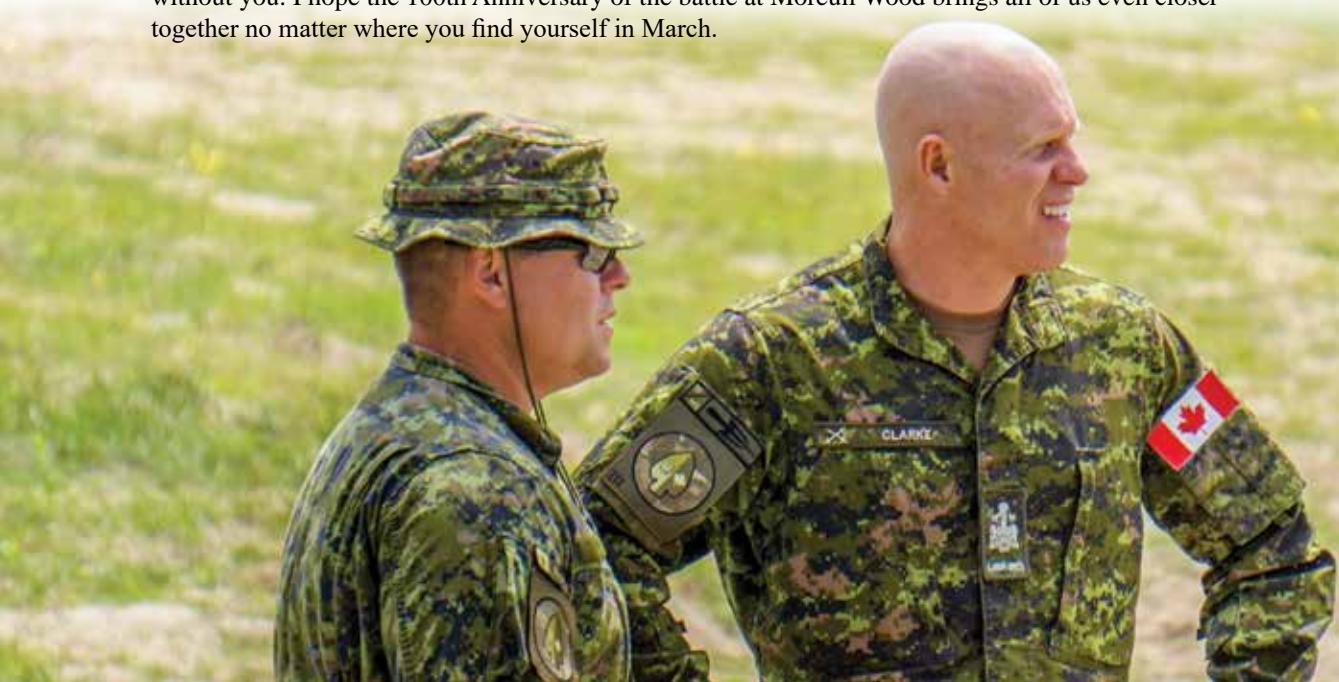
*Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke*

A different perspective this year. A different appreciation for our soldiers, their diversity, and to what level they can deliver no matter the task – no matter the location. You see, when I sat down to pen last year's article, a large number of Strathconas were on the cusp of deployment. On the cusp of what would be an exceptionally busy 2017 which included deployments to various theatres of operation where they were called upon to act as mentors in Ukraine, reconnaissance specialists in Latvia, advisors across the Middle East, and even Tactical Helicopter Sqn door gunners in Iraq. Not only that, several stepped-up to carry an increased load at home while others went away – a task nobody envies – a task that all of you did to an exceptional level. Now as I put pen to paper, most have returned and have set the bar even higher than anticipated; solidifying the fact that we are damn good at what we do whether we deploy or stay behind. Professionals.

A message to our soldiers: Where we now need to pass on what we have learned to the next generation waiting to deploy, and even more importantly, help each other reacquaint with families and get back to a normalcy we knew several months ago, we will undoubtedly have only a short rest as the road to high readiness will be upon us before we know it, and even more of you will be on your way out the door several months from now. Rest is key, but mental and physical preparation for what lay ahead is equally so. For those that 'held the fort' in our absence, your efforts cannot be underestimated. A true testament to selfless dedication. Thank you.

A word of praise for our families: Long gone are the days where every soldier has a deployment (or several) and the CO and I are cognizant of the fact that prolonged deployments to far-away lands bring stress, uncertainty, loneliness, and fear. Thank you for your steadfast devotion to our country, our Regiment, and most importantly, our soldiers. You too carry the burden. You too deserve a medal. Just remember that you are never alone and the Regimental family is always here to lend a hand if required. We owe it to you.

Lastly, I would like to make mention of our Regimental family that spans the country. The support we continually receive from you is truly appreciated, and I am constantly reminded of just how far the 'red over green' stretches. There are Facebook pages, chat groups, and small organizations within organizations that continue to thrive and spread the Regiment's message at every turn. We never feel alone, we continually rely on a 'guiding hand' from our veterans, and we most certainly cannot do it without you. I hope the 100th Anniversary of the battle at Moreuil Wood brings all of us even closer together no matter where you find yourself in March.





## Editor-in-Chief Forward

*Major Alex Nitu*

I believe you will notice through the forth-coming articles, the wide variety of deployments and operational tours the Regiment undertook this past year. Some of these undertakings witnessed groups of Strathconas deploying together (Op UNIFIER and Enhanced Forward Presence - LATVIA), while others saw small groups or individual Strathconas integrating into deployed Task Forces (Op PROTEUS, IMPACT, and REASSURANCE). I enjoyed reading these articles; to experience these deployments throughout their lens.

Equally as important to those missions is the accomplishments of members of the Regiment that did not deploy in 2017, but rather employed their skills in Canada, be it on domestic operations (Op LENTUS - BC Wild Fires) or on Exercise. I think you will be proud to read that regardless of their duty station, Strathcona's upheld their reputation as professional soldiers prepared for any contingency.

I wish to thank those that make the Strathconian possible. To all those that took the time to write an article for this edition; thank you. I understand the effort it takes to eloquently capture 12 months in a few hundred words, while attempting to convey complex experiences. Once again, **Kathy Batty** has managed to stitch together a polished and professional journal based on a pile of MS WORD documents and e-folders of pictures. **Capt Matt Shumka**, my Sqn 2IC, and the editor of this edition, did a marvellous job orchestrating the completion of articles, advertising, and layouts. I sure he's glad this is over.

For those of you that served with the Regiment on our eight consecutive tank squadron rotations in Afghanistan, or Strathconas with a desire to learn about the period, **WO (Ret'd) Marvin MacNeill** has published a memoir of his time with B Sqn in that theatre of operations. As you will see in his Leopard 1 MBT farewell article contained herein, **WO MacNeill** possess a wide-ranging and detailed knowledge of our tank experience. His book is entitled "They called us ... The New Evil", and can be purchased at the following website: <https://www.trackpadpublishing.com/the-new-evil>.

Lastly, I wish to correct a historical wrong. A Senior NCO was omitted from the 2016 edition of the Strathconian. I was the Editor-in-Chief of that edition as well, and didn't catch it until it was brought to my attention by the member himself. **WO Stephen Churchill** has been with the Regiment for more than 20 years, and has his name appear at least in the nominal role of the Strathconian in each of those years. I promised him I would atone for this oversight in my forward, hence this aside.

*The Editor in Chief, right, with Cpl Lawrence of 9TAC, left, and OC LoE5 Maj McQuiggan in the center.*



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## Births and Marriages

**Cpl Mastalerz** married Sarah Kearney on 7 January 2017

**Cpl Lucas's** daughter Brooke born 29 January 2017

**Capt Rogozinski** married Andrew Smith on 3 March 2017

**Cpl Hall's** son Nathaniel Marcus Garnet born 12 April 2017

**Cpl Gibbons's** son Myles born 1 May 2017

**Sgt Hayes's** daughter Eleanor May born 31 May 2017

**Cpl Marion's** son Jesse-Michael Xavier born 5 June 2017

**Tpr Pelletier's** son Jackson born 26 June 2017

**MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard's** son Caeden Rockford born 23 July 2017

**Cpl Manaigre's** son Aries born 17 August 2017

**Capt Hoffart** married Rayan Boutilier on 28 August 2017

**MCpl Collier's** daughter Emily Marie born 5 September 2017

**MCpl Norman's** son Weston Leo born 12 September 2017

**MS Golbourn's** son Merrick born 2 October 2017

**Sgt Patterson's** son Caden born 5 October 2017

**Capt Lim's** son Winston born 21 October 2017

**Cpl Wagner's** daughter Riley Katherine born 26 October 2017

**Tpr Tong** married Jennifer Lee on 15 December 2017

**Sgt Chuback** married Samantha Kingsley on 29 December 2017

## Honours and Awards

### Canadian Forces

#### Decoration Second Clasp

WO Delaney  
MCpl Wojcichowsky

### Canadian Forces

#### Decoration First Clasp

MWO Taylor  
WO Jones  
WO Zubkowski  
Sgt McKie

### Canadian Forces

#### Decoration

Maj Johns  
Capt Timms  
Lt Manser  
WO Paterson  
Sgt Burke  
Sgt Davies

Sgt Sebo  
MCpl Clegg

MCpl Paquette  
MCpl Waddell  
Cpl Bellegarde  
Cpl Coughlan  
Cpl Martin  
Cpl Thibodeau

### United States of America Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Leonard  
Maj Day  
Capt Smith

### General Campaign Star (South-West Asia Ribbon)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bar  
Cpl Graham

### General Campaign Star (Expeditionary Ribbon)

Capt Shumka  
Capt Smith  
Sgt Burris  
MCpl Claire  
Cpl Weeden

### General Service Medal (Expeditionary Ribbon) – 1<sup>st</sup> Bar

Sgt Arseneau  
Cpl Gutscher

### General Service Medal (Expeditionary Ribbon) – 1<sup>st</sup> Bar

Maj Wong

### Special Service Medal (Expeditionary Bar)

LCol Lubiniecki  
Maj Brown

# Year in Review





Maj Johns  
 Maj Nitu  
 Capt Casey  
 Capt Coughlan  
 Capt Dullege  
 Capt Giajnorio  
 Capt Kim  
 Capt McHugh  
 Capt Mellow  
 Capt Williams  
 CWO Clarke  
 MWO Boland  
 MWO Englehart  
 WO Churchill  
 WO Delaney  
 WO McDougall  
 WO McQuahae  
 WO Parent  
 Sgt Burke  
 Sgt McAtasney  
 Sgt Patterson  
 MCpl Agnew  
 MCpl Blacklock  
 MCpl Bolduc  
 MCpl Collins  
 MCpl Ford  
 MCpl Gaudreault  
 MCpl George  
 MCpl Grieves  
 MCpl Kewley  
 MCpl McNair  
 MCpl Mijares  
 MCpl Norman  
 MCpl Russell  
 MCpl Sandhu  
 MCpl Shepherd  
 MCpl Taborowski  
 MCpl Veinot  
 MCpl Waddell  
 Cpl Choquette  
 Cpl Comeau  
 Cpl Craddock  
 Cpl Doan  
 Cpl Emery  
 Cpl Fulljames  
 Cpl Gaona  
 Cpl Job  
 Cpl Lawrence  
 Cpl Maisonneuve  
 Cpl Martin  
 Cpl McNeil

Cpl New  
 Cpl Olaes  
 Cpl Snoek  
 Cpl Steinke  
 Cpl Stender  
 Cpl Townsend  
 Cpl Vanbeek  
 Cpl Wagner  
 Cpl Williams  
 Cpl Williston  
 Cpl Wood  
 Tpr Fox  
 Tpr Frew  
 Tpr Hewer  
 Tpr Landry  
**Special Service Medal (NATO Bar)**  
 Capt Buckingham  
 Capt Lee  
 Capt Tams  
**Commander Canadian Army Commendation**  
 MWO King  
**VCDS Commendation**  
 LCol Angell  
**Commander Canadian Army Doctrine Training Centre Commendation**  
 Maj Dwyer  
**Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Commendation**  
 WO Vigar  
 Cpl Ell  
 Cpl Wood  
**Commander 1 CMBG Commendation**  
 Sgt Hayes  
 Sgt Murray  
**CO's Coin**  
 Sgt Francis  
 Sgt Romkey  
 MCpl Droogers  
 MCpl Livingstone  
 MCpl McNair  
 MCpl Sebo  
 MCpl Stewart  
 MCpl Willicome

MCpl Young, B.S.  
 Cpl Danczak  
 Cpl Doucette  
 Cpl Kelly  
 Cpl Lawrence  
 Cpl Watson  
 Cpl Whitney  
 Tpr Cocker  
 Tpr Colville  
 Tpr Cormier  
 Tpr Feldman  
 Tpr Foster  
 Tpr De La Rosa-Tafur  
 Tpr Kibzey  
 Tpr Mancini  
 Pte O'Leary  
**RSM's Coin**  
 WO Mills  
 Sgt Chuback  
 Cpl Dillon  
 Cpl Fettes  
 Cpl Wheeler  
**2 PPCLI Commanding Officer's Coin**  
 Cpl Goodwin, A.W.  
 Cpl Goodwin, T.L.R.  
 Cpl Sawyer  
 Cpl Wills  
**RSM's Shield**  
 Cpl Goodwin, A.W.  
**Prince of Wales Trophy**  
 HQ Squadron  
**Hessian Memorial Sword**  
 Capt Labrecque  
**Neatby Pace Stick**  
 WO Delaney  
**Milroy Cross Belt**  
 WO (then Sgt) Paterson  
**Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick**  
 MCpl Hodgin  
**Fox Bugle**  
 MCpl (then Cpl) Barten  
**Ross Gear**  
 Cpl Bailey

## Promotions

Maj Bentley  
 Lt Maclean  
 2Lt Clackson  
 CWO Mayfield  
 WO Hodgson  
 WO Murphy  
 WO Sebo  
 WO Paterson  
 Sgt Alwani  
 Sgt Brown  
 Sgt Burris  
 Sgt Collins  
 Sgt Dean  
 Sgt Doyle  
 Sgt Gauthier  
 Sgt Gunton  
 Sgt Hayes  
 Sgt McKenzie  
 Sgt Rodgers

Sgt Smith  
 MCpl Barten  
 MCpl Campbell  
 MCpl Dobson  
 MCpl George  
 MCpl Gordon  
 MCpl Grieves  
 MCpl Kewley  
 MCpl McNair  
 MCpl Nicholson  
 MCpl Nieuwhof  
 MCpl Reid  
 MCpl Sandhu  
 MCpl Schijns  
 MCpl Townsend  
 MCpl Veinot  
 MCpl Young, B.S.  
 Cpl Belding  
 Cpl Breau

Cpl Crockett  
 Cpl Ellis, L.B.  
 Cpl Fraser  
 Cpl Gillis  
 Cpl Gilbert  
 Cpl Hill  
 Cpl Hornby  
 Cpl King-McAuslan  
 Cpl Lang  
 Cpl Langboung  
 Cpl Lauterbacher  
 Cpl Mann  
 Cpl Ned  
 Cpl Neufeld  
 Cpl Tuomisto  
 Cpl Webster  
 Cpl Whitson  
 Cpl Williston



# Regimental Roll

## Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

## Colonel-of-the-Regiment

Col Hug

## Commanding Officer

LCol Lubiniecki

## Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Wong

## Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Clarke

## Adjutant

Capt Salter

## Regimental Headquarters

### Command/Operations Cell

Capt McTavish  
Capt Rogozinski  
WO Babin  
Sgt Davidson  
Sgt McKenzie  
MCpl Koolman  
MCpl Young  
Cpl Feenstra  
Cpl Fulljames  
Cpl Gaona  
Cpl Maisonneuve  
Cpl Nicholson  
Cpl Olaes  
Cpl Radford  
Tpr Munger

### Regimental Orderly Room

Sgt Arseneau  
MCpl Bolduc  
MCpl Burton  
MCpl Eged  
MCpl Howse  
Cpl Gutscher  
Avr Coombes

## Command Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

## Operations Officer

Capt Elliott

## Technical Quartermaster & Stores

MWO Chenier  
Sgt Barsotta  
Cpl Armstrong  
Cpl Clendennin  
Cpl Forest  
Cpl Freeman  
Cpl New

## Signals Troop

Lt Manser  
WO McQuhae  
Sgt Netik  
Sgt Scott  
MCpl Agnew  
MCpl Gaudreault  
MCpl Livingstone  
Cpl Carrier  
Cpl Emery  
Cpl Fuchs-Perry  
Cpl Murray  
Cpl Whitney  
Sig Kimmell

## Training & Intelligence Cells

Capt Lim  
WO Churchill  
Cpl Coughlan

## Prince of Wales (Headquarters) Squadron

**Officer Commanding**  
Maj Johns  
**Squadron Sergeant Major**  
MWO Boland  
**Squadron Headquarters**

Capt Dullege  
WO Parent  
Sgt Thomas  
MCpl Clare  
MCpl MacLeod  
MCpl Stevenson  
Cpl Crockett  
Cpl Diaz Gonzalez Shapiro  
Cpl Hammel  
Cpl Martin  
Cpl Stender  
Cpl Weeden  
Cpl Wheeler

## Transportation Troop

Capt Giagnorio  
WO Zubkowski  
Sgt Murray  
MCpl Ouellet  
MCpl Van Den Born  
Cpl Blair

Cpl Charles  
Cpl DeMille  
Cpl Fraser  
Cpl Martin  
Cpl Smith  
Cpl Snowdon  
Cpl Valenzuela  
Tpr Andrews  
Tpr Beck  
Tpr Colville  
Tpr Cyr  
Tpr Fancy  
Tpr Hogan  
Tpr Payette  
Tpr Pelletier  
Tpr Rice  
Tpr Skinner  
Tpr Villiers

## Maintenance Troop

Capt Mellow  
MWO Pawson  
WO Banks  
WO Eddy  
WO Urquhart  
Sgt Cooke  
Sgt McKie  
Sgt Tarnowski  
MCpl Balsdon  
MCpl Bremner  
MCpl Harzing  
MCpl Jesseau  
MCpl MacDonald  
MCpl Miller  
MCpl Russell  
MCpl Valad  
Cpl Barnard  
Cpl Belding  
Cpl Boutilier  
Cpl Choquette  
Cpl Dicaire  
Cpl Ellis  
Cpl Kozack  
Cpl MacDonald  
Cpl Mann  
Cpl Mogg  
Tpr Grant  
Tpr Guigue  
Tpr McMenamin

## Quartermaster Troop

Capt Williams  
MWO Leclerc

Sgt Daniel  
Sgt Woods  
MCpl Grieves  
MCpl Zarkova  
Cpl Courneyea  
Cpl Craddock  
Cpl Ford  
Cpl Lauterbacher  
Cpl Otis Monat  
Cpl Rose  
Cpl Sullivan  
Cpl Vincent  
Cpl Winchester

## Regimental Cooks

WO Tsang  
Sgt Francis  
MCpl Wojcichowsky  
MS Golbourn

Cpl Dubois  
Cpl Lucas  
Cpl Sayyeau  
Pte O'Leary

## Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Coughlan  
Sgt Kruhlak  
Cpl Aguila  
Cpl Brown  
Cpl Crozier  
Cpl Dobson  
Cpl Dunne  
Cpl Ford  
Cpl Gauthier  
Cpl Germann  
Cpl Gray  
Cpl Hodgins  
Cpl Hopper  
Cpl Langlands  
Cpl Maddison  
Cpl Maendel  
Cpl Marshall  
Cpl Paquette  
Cpl Prosser  
Cpl Senff  
Cpl Thibodeau  
Tpr Cocker

## Regimental Accounts

Capt Peterson  
Sgt Jones  
MCpl Korenowski  
Cpl Banting

Cpl Eidt  
Cpl Manaigre  
Cpl Poitras  
Tpr Adey

## Family Support Troop

Capt Kim  
Cpl Hodge

## Regimental Stables

MCpl Bondy  
Cpl Fortin

## Regimental Museum

Capt Webster  
WO Macleod  
Sgt Giberson

## A Squadron

### Officer Commanding

Maj Leonard

### Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Shiells

### Squadron Headquarters

Capt Vahal  
Sgt Bell  
MCpl Myers  
Cpl Crackle-Skulason  
Cpl Goodwin, A.W.  
Cpl Jones  
Cpl Rourke  
Cpl Tobin  
Tpr Bogaert  
Tpr Choquette  
Tpr Laperriere  
Tpr Tsui

### First Troop

Capt Neshcov  
Sgt Sebo  
MCpl Balfour  
MCpl Gordon  
Cpl Fong  
Cpl Gilbert  
Cpl Houston  
Cpl Marcotte  
Cpl Morin  
Cpl Mullens  
Cpl Ouellet  
Tpr Edgson  
Tpr Gill

Tpr Lees	Cpl Dulong	<b>First Troop</b>	Cpl Dillon	Tpr Gano	<b>Administration Troop</b>
Tpr Sabourin	Cpl Goodwin, T.L.R.	Sgt McMurtry	Cpl Gallagher	Tpr Hartman	Capt Buckingham
Tpr Wysocki	Cpl Hamilton	Sgt Patterson	Cpl Hall	Tpr Kelly TM	Capt Smith
<b>Second Troop</b>	Cpl Hogan	MCpl Collins	Cpl Kearns	Tpr Martin	2Lt Clackson
Lt Kirkham	Cpl MacDougall	MCpl Popoff	Cpl Lachapelle	Tpr Roy	WO Levis
WO McLoughlin	Cpl McKenzie	MCpl Shepherd	Cpl Mastalerz	Tpr Wuerch	Sgt Covey
MCpl Croxall	Cpl Meaney	MCpl Townsend	Cpl Vanbeek	<b>Second Troop</b>	Sgt Hayes
MCpl Monge	Cpl Milwain	Cpl Bursey	Cpl Wood	Lt MacLean	MCpl Ferguson
Cpl Gillis	Cpl Moceton-Velasquez	Cpl King-McAuslan	Tpr Barrette	Sgt Hodgson	MCpl Paquette
Cpl Hill	Cpl Pecarskie	Cpl Nieuwhof	Tpr Champagne	MCpl Jesse	MCpl Pearson
Cpl Hornby	Cpl Shipston	Cpl Young	Tpr Charron	MCpl Lachance-Webster	MCpl Skaarup
Cpl Ned	Cpl Watson	Tpr Engelbrecht	Tpr Clauson	MCpl McDougall	MCpl Symington
Cpl Sawyer	Cpl Wills	Tpr Feldmann	Tpr Dunn	MCpl Norman	Cpl Breau
Cpl Snowden	Tpr Annaert van der Werf	Tpr McGowan	Tpr Francis	MCpl Schafer	Cpl Broome
Tpr Braconnier	Tpr Bakos	Tpr Parkes	Tpr Grayston	MCpl Wry	Cpl Bursey
Tpr Cox	Tpr Boothman	Tpr Sanders	Tpr Hutchinson	MCpl Zwicker	Cpl Davidson
Tpr Freeman	Tpr Chapman	Tpr Thibault	Tpr Kleemaier	Cpl Kelly MP	Cpl Grossmith
Tpr Kibzey	Tpr Coulthard	<b>Second Troop</b>	Tpr Stamp	Cpl Gray	Cpl Lang
Tpr Logan	Tpr Daudelin	Lt Young	Tpr Mancini	Cpl Munro	Cpl Rayner
<b>Third Troop</b>	Tpr De La Rosa-Tafur	Sgt Chuback	<b>Recce Squadron</b>	Cpl Thompson	Cpl Richard
Lt Dixon	Tpr Durrant	MCpl Bolzan	<b>Officer Commanding</b>	Cpl Tuomisto	Cpl Skafar
WO Morley	Tpr Frizzell	MCpl Larcher-Pelland	Maj Brown	Tpr Foster	Cpl Tanner
MCpl Chen	Tpr Genge	MCpl Stratford	<b>Squadron Sergeant Major</b>	Tpr Fraser	Cpl Yarn
MCpl Weir	Tpr Guest	Cpl Doan	MWO Brown	Tpr Hachey	Cpl Young
Cpl Aube	Tpr Lambert-Barnett	Cpl Langboung	<b>Squadron Headquarters</b>	Tpr Jones	Tpr Bingley
Cpl Elms	Tpr Lastowski	Cpl Vanthournout	Capt McHugh	Tpr Kelly	Tpr Brown
Cpl Friolet	Tpr Salvador	Cpl Wagner	WO McDougall	Tpr Lawrence	Tpr Cowen
Cpl Shute	Tpr Smallwood	Tpr Frew	Sgt Rodgers	Tpr McClure	Tpr Gendron
Cpl Warren	Tpr Smith	Tpr Hughes	Sgt Underwood	Tpr Moore	Tpr Grewal
Tpr Friel	Tpr Tate	Tpr Lopez	Cpl Doucette	Tpr Pelletier	Tpr Hammond
Tpr Loiselle	Tpr Wright	Tpr Pittman	Cpl Fettes	Tpr Reynolds-Tack	Tpr Kroeker
Tpr Poitras	<b>B Squadron</b>	Tpr Pollard	Cpl Lonegren	Tpr Rider	Tpr McKelvey
Tpr Rawson	<b>Officer Commanding</b>	Tpr Proctor	Tpr King	Tpr Sibbet	Tpr Peacher
Tpr Reetz	Maj Nitu	Tpr Taylor	<b>First Troop (Deployed on</b>	Tpr Smythe	Tpr Silverman
Tpr Tong	<b>Squadron Sergeant Major</b>	<b>Administration Troop</b>	<b>Op REASSURANCE)</b>	Tpr Stone	Tpr Springer
Tpr Warawa	MWO Englehart	Capt Shumka	Lt Hume	Tpr Wynen	Tpr Wall
<b>Administration Troop</b>	<b>Squadron Headquarters</b>	WO Mills	Sgt Kentfield	<b>Third Troop</b>	Tpr Whitson
Capt Tams	Capt Lee	Sgt Denvir	Sgt Paterson	Sgt McAtasney	
WO Clarke	Sgt Murdoch	MCpl Blacklock	MCpl Cheng	MCpl Kewley	
Sgt Lewis	MCpl Richardson	MCpl Deschambault	MCpl Dunford	MCpl George	
Sgt Pasuta	MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard	MCpl Graham	Cpl Job	MCpl McNair	
Sgt Reid	Cpl Gibbons	MCpl Mijares	Cpl Deringer	Cpl Williston	
MCpl Campbell	Cpl Green	MCpl Sandhu	Cpl Graham	Cpl Williams	
MCpl Dobson	Cpl Grubber	MCpl Snoek	Cpl Hibbert	Tpr Fox	
MCpl Dunphy	Cpl Guay	MCpl Taborowski	Cpl MacKenzie	Tpr Hewer	
MCpl Pole	Cpl Rayment	MCpl Waddell	Cpl Norring	Tpr Landry	
MCpl Rioux	Cpl Webster	Cpl Allard	Cpl Oaten	Tpr Schemenauer	
MCpl Veltmeyer	Tpr Thompson	Cpl Bailey	Tpr Audette		
Cpl Buell		Cpl Bellinger	Tpr Beauparlant		
Cpl Burke		Cpl Breton	Tpr Finkle		
		Cpl Comeau			





## The Year in Review

### January

9 – Operation UNIFER Roto 3 – Task Force Stand Up

23 – 27 – Exercise STRONG CONTENDER

26 – CMBG Officer's Mess Dinner

### February

6 – 10 – Recce Sqn MUAS & Small Arms concentration (Wainwright)

6 – 10 – Exercise PHANTON RAM (1 CMBG CAX)

27 Feb – 3 Mar – Exercise STEELE STRENGTH – LdSH(RC) Physical Training & Coaching Techniques

27 Feb – 3 Mar – Basic Winter Warfare (Garrison Training)

### March

3 – Operation UNIFER Main Body deployment

5 – 10 – Exercise STEELE SKADE – Regimental Winter Warfare (Cold Lake)

20 – 24 – Moreuil Wood Commemoration

20 – 24 – 10th (Polish) Armd Cav Bde Contingent Hosted (Edmonton)

25 Mar – 2 Apr – Spring Break

27 Mar – 13 Apr – Exercise SPECTRAL RAM (WARFIGHTER 17-4) (Fort Lewis, WA & Honolulu, HI)

### April

27 Apr – 1 May – Exercise WESTERN CREWMAN, support to 39 CBG (Vernon, BC)





### May

- 4 – 7** – Annual University of Calgary Journalism Visit  
**6 May – 7 Jun** – Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1701 (Wainwright) – OCT Support  
**9 – 16** – Close Quarter Combat – Basic Course (Edmonton & Wainwright)  
**8 – 20** – Exercise ROCKY ASCENT – Recce Sqn integration with 3 PPCLI (Nordegg, AB)  
**26 – 28** – LdSH(RC) Army Cadet Concentration (Edmonton)

### June

- 10 – 16** – Operation REASSURANCE R8 (Latvia) – Recce Sqn Surveillance Troop deployment  
**19 – 23** – Exercise RECCE VIKING – Recce Sqn patrolling skills (Wainwright)  
**24 Jun – 28 Jul** – TAPV Initial Cadre Training (CAF B Shilo, MB)

### July

- 1** – Heroes behind the Heroes Obstacle Course (Spruce Meadows)  
**7 – 10** – Calgary Stampede & Spruce Meadows 100 Man Guard  
**10 – 14** – Wildland Firefighter Training (Edmonton)  
**15 Jul – 7 Aug** – Regimental Summer Leave  
**19 Jul – 15 Sep** – Operation LENTUS 17-4 (Caribou Region, BC)

### August

- 14 Aug – 15 Sep** – Regimental Individual Training Cycle

### September

- 7** – Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN  
**12 – 16** – Operation UNIFIER Redeployment  
**13 – 22** – Regimental PCF & WORTHINGTON CUP Guncamp (Wainwright)  
**23 – 29** – Exercise WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE (Gagetown)

### October

- 10 – 19** – Exercise STEELE SABRE – Regimental Exercise (Wainwright)  
**19 Oct – 2 Nov** – Exercise IRON RAM Part 1 (1 CMBG Collective Training)

### November

- 3 – 17** – Exercise IRON RAM Part 2 – Regimental Support to CTCC & DP4 Armd SSM Courses  
**6 – 7** – Regimental Support to ‘No Stone Left Alone’  
**11** – Remembrance Day  
**26 Nov – 8 Dec** – Exercise STEELE RIFLES  
**17** – Recce Sqn exchange with US 3rd Cav Regt (Ft Hood, Tx)  
**27 Nov – 1 Dec** – Blackhat Professional Development Week

### December

- 9** – Kid’s Christmas Party  
**12** – Regimental Sports Day  
**13** – Regimental Parade & Soldier’s Christmas Dinner  
**15 Dec 17 – 7 Jan 18** – Christmas Leave Period



## LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS) REGIMENTAL SOCIETY

### ORIGIN AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LdSH(RC) REGIMENTAL SOCIETY:

In 1974, the need for an organization dedicated to the preservation of the history and traditions of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regiment was realized when the Regimental Society was formed. Today, the Society has grown into a large charitable organization that has retained its original objectives while at the same time expanding its operations to see increased benefits to soldiers, families and the Canadian Public. Society programs, while providing a lasting benefit for Canadians, also provide unique opportunities that mitigate the stress of operational deployments and long periods of separation.



## THE STRATHCONIAN



### MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

We are committed to mitigating the stress of military service on families to the greatest extent possible through employment and activities that contribute to the mental and physical well being of soldiers.

- Scholarships
- Sports Teams
- Stable & unique employment opportunities
- Spousal Events

### REGIMENTAL HERITAGE

Our history is very important in recognizing who we were and who we have become. The Regimental Society enriches our heritage and supports our future through several unique initiatives.

- Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop
- The Historical Vehicle Troop
- Strathcona Museums
- Strathcona Pipes and Drums Band
- Recognizing Regimental accomplishments
- Remembering the year's events
- Keeping all members informed of activities
- Spreading awareness of the Regiment

**HOW TO DONATE:** **CHEQUE:** Payable to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society, c/o Regimental Accounts Office, PO Box 10500 Stn Forces, Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

**CREDIT CARD or PAYPAL:** Visit [www.strathconas.ca](http://www.strathconas.ca), and click “How you can Help” for more information

**Serving Members can donate through pay allotment to Y006**

**\*DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, AND ALL DONORS WILL BE ISSUED A TAX RECEIPT**

Contact the Regimental Society at [treasurer@strathconas.ca](mailto:treasurer@strathconas.ca) or call (780) 973-4011 ext. 3124 for more information.



# Squadron

# Articles



Cpl Brad - Belieber - Wheeler prepares for the Sqn to deploy on Ex STEELE SABRE

How HQ Sqn sees when filling support requests

Ryan - Happiest man in NATO - Chase is well-wished off to BC

# Headquarters Squadron



## Prince of Wales (Headquarters) Squadron The Year of the Three OCs

*Corporal Bradley (DND 663s are my Bag) Wheeler*

Headquarters Squadron (HQ Sqn) of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) may not seem as glorious as the other three fighting sqns which make up the Regiment, even though we did take home Prince of Wales honours. However, without HQ Sqn the Regiment would surely crumble under the vast amount of paperwork, DND 645s, TSRs, DTSEs, VURs, budget meetings, family support initiatives, NPF management, safety reports, food service requests, broken carpentry, maintenance, fuel delivery... sorry, I drifted off there for a second.

HQ Sqn is a place like no other, providing specialized first line support to the Regiment, as well as many "extra-regimental" responsibilities such as the Strathcona Mounted Troop. It is a different Sqn to be sure, but this year it was especially unique as it saw a continuing change of leadership reminiscent of the most intense Game of Thrones storyline, with literally no one surviving an episode! With no less than three different OCs, two Sergeants-Major, no Administration Officer (ouch...), and the less said of the Transport Officer the better, HQ Sqn certainly faced some unique challenges, easily equal to its unique nature.

The year began under the watchful command of **Capt Nathan "Everything on Bon!" Hevenor** and **SSM MWO Kevin "I can't say that anymore" King**, with a focus on repairing our tanks and getting them ready to hand over to the Dragoons in preparation for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. We received them back afterwards with no major damage, although there are rumors of a telephone pole in Wainwright with the scars that say otherwise, and a huge thank you from our Armoured brethren. The spring and summer months in HQ Sqn were spent re-repairing our tanks in preparation for the fall training cycle. In October, HQ Sqn deployed to the field for Ex STEELE SABRE and Ex IRON RAM. We deployed without a Transport Officer, Maintenance Officer, or Quartermaster, but the quality of the soldiers and NCOs in Prince of Wales Squadron, under the leadership of **MWO Cordell "period, full f\*&^! stop" Boland** and **Capt Mike "OC HQ the 2<sup>nd</sup>" Dullege**, shone through and HQ Sqn was able to complete all of its tasks supporting the Regiment.

In November the great game of musical chairs was ended when **Maj Matt "From Beyond the Wall" Johns** returned from Op UNIFIER and took over the reins from a noticeably relieved **Capt Mike "Meditates to Metallica" Dullege**. Like only the cleverest heroes of old, **Maj Johns** rode in on a wave of support based on the hard work of the fightin'est' and supportin'est' Squadron. Timing his arrival elegantly, he took over with only weeks to go before Christmas break, setting the stage for a groundswell of support by signing Christmas leave passes and LTA claims!

After the dust settled, what became clear to everyone in HQ Sqn, and the Regiment as a whole, is that HQs may be a slightly different Sqn, but it is truly a great one. The soldiers and leaders of Prince of Wales Sqn spent a demanding year ensuring that the Strathcona's could continue to prove their excellence, and the Squadron certainly lived up to the motto of "Perseverance".

*Cpl Andrew - John Bender - Carrier makes the HQ Sqn Article somehow.*



# Regimental Headquarters



## Regimental Headquarters

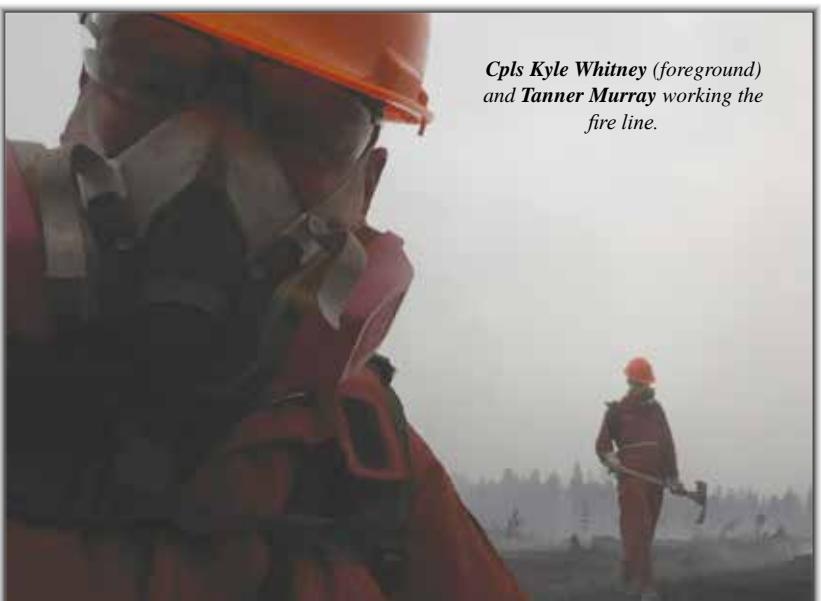
*Captain Gord Elliott*

Like much of the Regiment, the year for RHQ began with a major reorganization in support of Op UNIFIER. With pre-deployment leave kicking off in early February for those selected to deploy, handovers took place throughout January for the new RHQ team that would be remaining in Edmonton. **Maj Al Wong** and **MWO Kevin King** took over as Acting Commanding Officer and Acting Regimental Sergeant Major respectively, **Capt Gord Elliott** and **WO Hugo Babin** completed handovers as the new Regimental Operations team, and **Sgts Gerri Ann Davidson** and **Jesse Mansfield** stepped up as the Regt Training WO and Signals WO throughout the deployment.

With TMST and leave complete, much of RHQ deployed to Ukraine in early March, and focus in Edmonton shifted to the numerous Regimental exercises planned for the spring. Despite the deployment, there was much to do for those that remained in Edmonton. Loaning a squadron of Leopards to the RCD, providing numerous OCTs for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, TAPV training and Spruce Meadows occupied everyone's time.

More change to the RHQ team came in June during the APS. We said goodbye to **Sgt Jesse Mansfield**, **Cpl Nick Santi**, **MCpl Adrian Droogers** as well as **Cpl Landon Hall** before his departure for the Australian Army. This time also saw the arrival of a new Regt Signals team, including the arrival of **Sgts Lukas Netik** and **Darren Scott**, and **MCpl John Livingstone** as well as **Lt Sean Manser** on his return from Op REASSURANCE.

Following summer leave, personnel from RHQ deployed on Op LENTUS to Riske Creek with the Regimental contingent led by A Sqn, to support the BC Wild Fire Service. Led by **Lt Sean Manser** the majority of the Signals Troop worked directly on the fire line. There they identified and disrupted hotspots in order to keep the fire from reigniting. Every morning the troops mounted in the back of MSVSs so that they could begin their commute across the Caribou region. Meeting up with firefighting experts they were directed to the areas of most concern for the day. Although the labour was intense it was rewarding, especially when members interacted with locals, who were very appreciative of their efforts. The excitement was not just contained to the fire line, as **Cpl Kyle Whitney** will attest. During a day set aside for rest and recuperation he was taking a nap when the mod tent he was in blew away. The wind lifted the tent with such force that it caught his cot and flipped it over with him still on it. All's well that ends well though. He was unharmed and after fixing his tent (and spiking it down) he carried on with his nap. Soon after that the province declared an end to the state of emergency and all pers redeployed home.



*Cpls Kyle Whitney (foreground) and Tanner Murray working the fire line.*

With everyone home from the fires, RHQ turned its attention towards Ex STEELE SABRE, the first deployment of the year for the whole team. With a chainsaw and warm weather, **WO Babin** cut a hole for the Regt CP to fit our austere posture. Despite the relatively low tempo of the CP during the exercise, **RSM Clarke** made the most of the time on hand to build patrolling spirit into RHQ. Beginning in the evening with PD and battle procedure, the patrols would push out each night to identify positions occupied by all Squadrons of the Regt. Only Regimental Transport Troop was



able to escape detection throughout the nightly activities.

Without a pause, Ex IRON RAM, the 1 CMBG exercise in support of CTCC and numerous other CTC courses, began on the heels of Ex STEELE SABRE. With still over 200 soldiers of the Regiment deployed to the field, RHQ continued its deployment in a frigid Wainwright November. Despite temperatures routinely hovering well below -20, **Sgt Arthur McKenzie** pushed out each morning in the LAV 6.0 to observe the Combat Team attacks and provide opportunities for mounted nav practice. Cycling almost the entirety of RHQ through the turret, everyone got a chance to experience the cold wind while trying to follow A Sqn down the trace. Even **MCpl Kameliya Zarkova**, who was augmenting the CP from the ROR, took her turns in the vehicle cross country.

Without a doubt, RHQ looks very different now than in January. This was a year marked by the need for most of the team to step up in the absence of those deployed on Op UNIFIER. With Brigade level training commencing in the new year for RHQ and the stand up of TF 1-19 in the summer, RHQ is well postured to support the Regiment going forward.



## A Squadron

Lieutenant Leland "I'm on thin water" Kirkham and Lieutenant Dan "I think you mean ice" Dixon

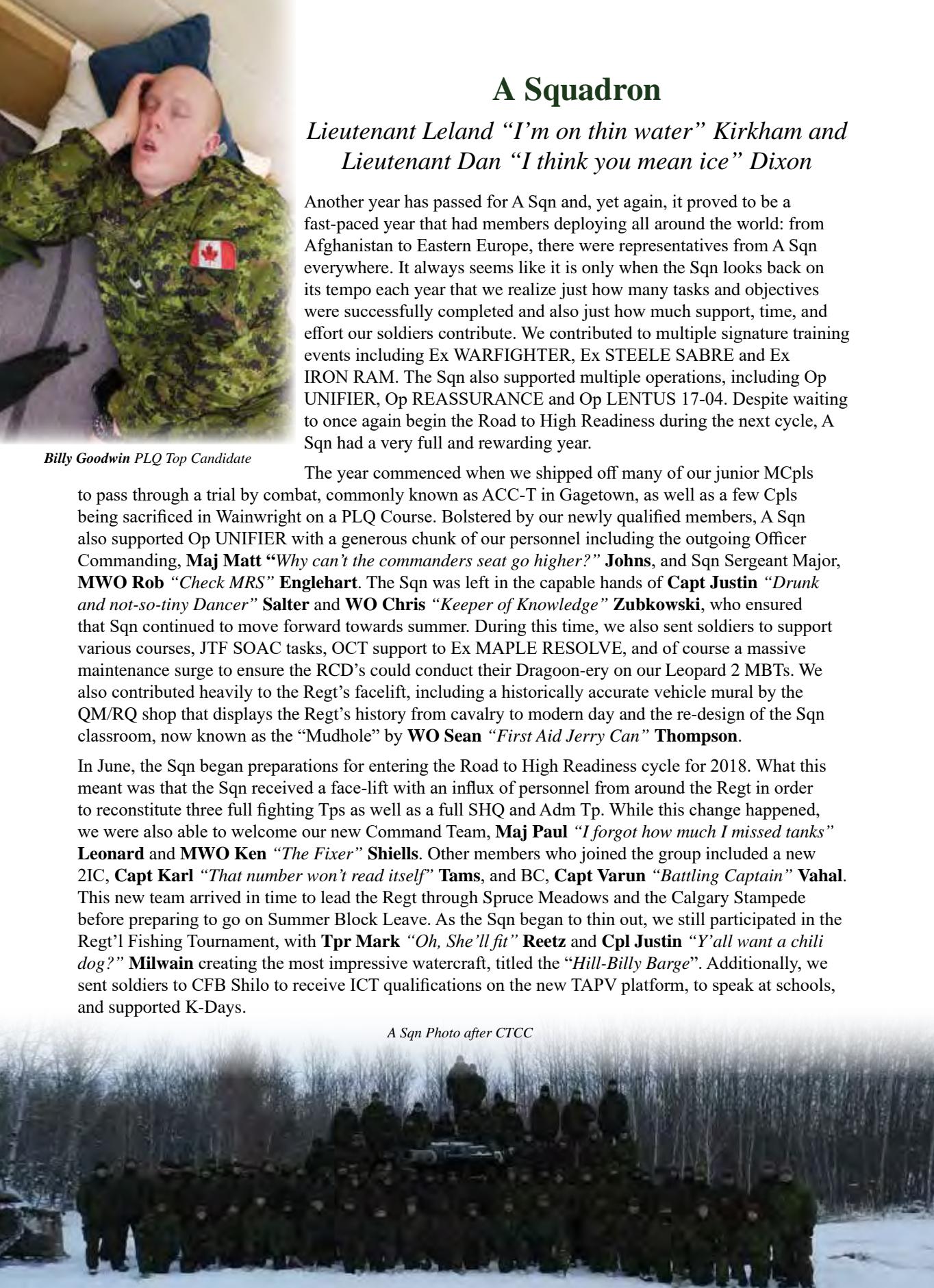
Another year has passed for A Sqn and, yet again, it proved to be a fast-paced year that had members deploying all around the world: from Afghanistan to Eastern Europe, there were representatives from A Sqn everywhere. It always seems like it is only when the Sqn looks back on its tempo each year that we realize just how many tasks and objectives were successfully completed and also just how much support, time, and effort our soldiers contribute. We contributed to multiple signature training events including Ex WARFIGHTER, Ex STEELE SABRE and Ex IRON RAM. The Sqn also supported multiple operations, including Op UNIFIER, Op REASSURANCE and Op LENTUS 17-04. Despite waiting to once again begin the Road to High Readiness during the next cycle, A Sqn had a very full and rewarding year.

Billy Goodwin PLQ Top Candidate

The year commenced when we shipped off many of our junior MCpl's to pass through a trial by combat, commonly known as ACC-T in Gagetown, as well as a few Cpl's being sacrificed in Wainwright on a PLQ Course. Bolstered by our newly qualified members, A Sqn also supported Op UNIFIER with a generous chunk of our personnel including the outgoing Officer Commanding, **Maj Matt "Why can't the commanders seat go higher?" Johns**, and Sqn Sergeant Major, **MWO Rob "Check MRS" Englehart**. The Sqn was left in the capable hands of **Capt Justin "Drunk and not-so-tiny Dancer" Salter** and **WO Chris "Keeper of Knowledge" Zubkowski**, who ensured that Sqn continued to move forward towards summer. During this time, we also sent soldiers to support various courses, JTF SOAC tasks, OCT support to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, and of course a massive maintenance surge to ensure the RCD's could conduct their Dragoon-ery on our Leopard 2 MBTs. We also contributed heavily to the Regt's facelift, including a historically accurate vehicle mural by the QM/RQ shop that displays the Regt's history from cavalry to modern day and the re-design of the Sqn classroom, now known as the "Mudhole" by **WO Sean "First Aid Jerry Can" Thompson**.

In June, the Sqn began preparations for entering the Road to High Readiness cycle for 2018. What this meant was that the Sqn received a face-lift with an influx of personnel from around the Regt in order to reconstitute three full fighting Tps as well as a full SHQ and Adm Tp. While this change happened, we were also able to welcome our new Command Team, **Maj Paul "I forgot how much I missed tanks" Leonard** and **MWO Ken "The Fixer" Shiells**. Other members who joined the group included a new 2IC, **Capt Karl "That number won't read itself" Tams**, and BC, **Capt Varun "Battling Captain" Vahal**. This new team arrived in time to lead the Regt through Spruce Meadows and the Calgary Stampede before preparing to go on Summer Block Leave. As the Sqn began to thin out, we still participated in the Regt'l Fishing Tournament, with **Tpr Mark "Oh, She'll fit" Reetz** and **Cpl Justin "Y'all want a chili dog?" Milwain** creating the most impressive watercraft, titled the "Hill-Billy Barge". Additionally, we sent soldiers to CFB Shilo to receive ICT qualifications on the new TAPV platform, to speak at schools, and supported K-Days.

A Sqn Photo after CTCC



As soldiers returned from holidays in August, we began our work with the fall PCF cycle, to include a Leo 2 Gunnery course, the "forgotten" TLAV course, and a last-minute visit from the CDS. Unfortunately, the Wildfires in British Columbia started to get really out of control and the Sqn was called upon to assist the Provincial Fire Fighter teams on Op LENTUS 17-04. The Sqn found itself divided, with continued support to PCF Courses and two platoons generated as part of IRU Coy to participate in Op LENTUS. Despite the rapid deployment and dedication put forward on IRU, the Sqn returned home to Edmonton ready to deploy for fall exercises in mid-September. Conducting back-to-back exercises (Ex STEELE SABRE, Ex IRON RAM and Ex COMMON RAM), the Sqn saw itself go through some extremely aggressive and effective Lvl 2 and 3 live fire runs, dry Tp Lvl training, some Sqn Lvl training, all culminating in Lvl 5 dry as part of a CTCC which saw the Sqn fighting in seemingly arctic weather conditions.

Capt Vahal, BC A Sqn



Members of A Sqn taking a break from fighting fires



Hillbilly Barge





# B Squadron



## B Squadron

*Capt Ryan "I'm the Battle Captain Now" Lee*

The opening half of 2017 was a relatively low tempo period for B Sqn. Early in the year many of those soldiers in leadership positions found themselves slated to go overseas on various deployments including Operations IMPACT, UNIFIER and REASSURANCE. The departure of those soldiers created a significant number of leadership opportunities for many of our junior members and by all accounts they successfully rose to the occasion: of note, **Lt Alex "Bed Bugs and Beyond" Young** stayed on as the Acting Officer Commander slash Acting Battle Captain slash 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Adm Tp Ldr.

As summer approached things quite literally began to heat up as the fires raged to our West in British Columbia. Several rotations of the IRU were deployed to BC during the fires and although B Sqn as a whole was never at the forefront of those rotations, several of our soldier's backfilled positions to do their part during one of the worst fire seasons in recent BC history.

As the summer continued into fall, B Sqn had many of its members return from their overseas deployments. As more and more members returned things slowly began to revert to normal in the Squadron; ranges were held and other training began to be planned.

As November approached nearly all of our deployed soldiers had returned from post-deployment leave just in time for the annual No Stone Left Alone ceremony at Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton. Since the remainder of the Regt was enjoying a rare "high humidity cold" exercise in Wainwright, B Sqn was tasked to provide an Honour Guard for the ceremony. Despite the bitter cold the ceremony was a great success and B Sqn performed well for the nationally televised broadcast. Not content with only one television appearance, B Sqn also paraded at the University of Alberta on November 11<sup>th</sup> in front of the always huge crowd inside the Butterdome.

Following the week of Remembrance Day, our OC, **Maj Alex Nitu**, quickly issued direction that launched some interesting and unique training for the soldiers of the Sqn. B Sqn was in the rare situation of having three of the Regiment's Urban Operations Instructors on the nominal role so to capitalize on that we held several days of dry Quick Aim Shooting (QAS) in the Sqn hanger. The QAS training was the base training which lead into our live fire simmunition ranges later in November, held in the comfort of the indoor Urban Ops range inside the enjoyably warm building 301.

As Black Hat 2017 approached, B Sqn was tasked with delivering a presentation on recent Russian Information Operations. Several MCpls delivered the professional development (PD) presentation on this extremely relevant topic to an audience of captive NCOs and Officers, even though the Int O, **Capt Eric "I'll just cover everything" Lim**, literally summarized all of the PD to be covered that day during his presentation. The Sqn level PT during Black Hat week was also excellent and challenging with **MCpl Blake "Come on guys Yoga is easy" Shepherd** and **Cpl Luke "I do this circuit to start my work out every day" Doan** trying to embarrass everyone.

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, many in B Sqn are looking forward in anticipation to being on the Road to High Readiness next September. All we have to do between now and then is fix as many tanks as humanly possible, conquer the never ending firehose of tasks from higher, and run as many PCFs as we have instructors for (and maybe even a few that we don't). It's nice to see that some things never change.





# STRATHCONA'S RECCE SQUADRON

## Recce Sqn

*Captain Philip "Buck" Buckingham*

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Recce Sqn has had a phenomenal 2017, full of grand achievements and humbling moments. A year of extremes, where members of Recce Sqn were deployed on Operations REASSURANCE, as part of the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP), and UNIFER, as both instructors and camp support. While supporting these noble international efforts, Recce Sqn also made up a small but significant portion of the Regimental Strength in Edmonton, who were tasked with fulfilling the many of the obligations of a full Regiment.

In March, Recce Sqn planned and executed Ex STEELE SKADE, a winter warfare exercise founded on the fundamentals of ice fishing, snow and beer. Although the Sqn spent kilometers dragging a toboggan, hours conducting camp routine and snowmobiling, in the words of **Tpr Benjamin "So Long and Thanks for all the Fish" Wall**, the best part of the Ex was "Sitting around the fire getting [REDACTED] with the boys. It was one of the best experiences of my military career."

Fresh from winter camping, Recce Sqn departed on Ex WESTERN CREWMAN, a Regular and Reserve Force combined exercise, to hone mounted and dismounted recce patrol skills. This was an appetizer for the main course, Ex RECCE VIKING, where the Recce Troops conducted long range dismounted patrols through difficult terrain. Although the weather was unseasonably hot, some soldiers were dedicated to receiving cold weather injuries. **Tpr Bradley "Light Ruck" Tuomisto**, learned the importance of a little extra weight when it comes to a comfortable night under the stars.

The old adage of no rest for the wicked, proved true. In July, a full Recce Troop deployed to Latvia (despite 1 VP's insistence, it is not called LAViiia) under the leadership of **Lt Tom "NATO Darling" Hume** and **WO Jesse Paterson**. In Edmonton, during summer block leave, the IRU was called up for Op LENTUS 17-04. Recce Sqn joined A Sqn to fight the fires in Riske Creek and Williams Lake B.C. (Not to be confused with the QM's "Chris Williams" lake). For the better part of a month, Recce Sqn soldiers dug ditches, hauled supplies and providing Observation Report Posts (ORPs), to gain and maintain SA. Having completed their civic duty, the soldiers of Recce Sqn, returned to Edmonton to wash their clothes, "crush" some turkey, and deploy on Ex STEELE SABRE. Although some tough lessons were learned on this Ex, the Sqn [REDACTED] some [REDACTED] and **WO Keith "Eagle Eye" Hodgson** learned that sometimes, just sometimes, bridges move on their own.

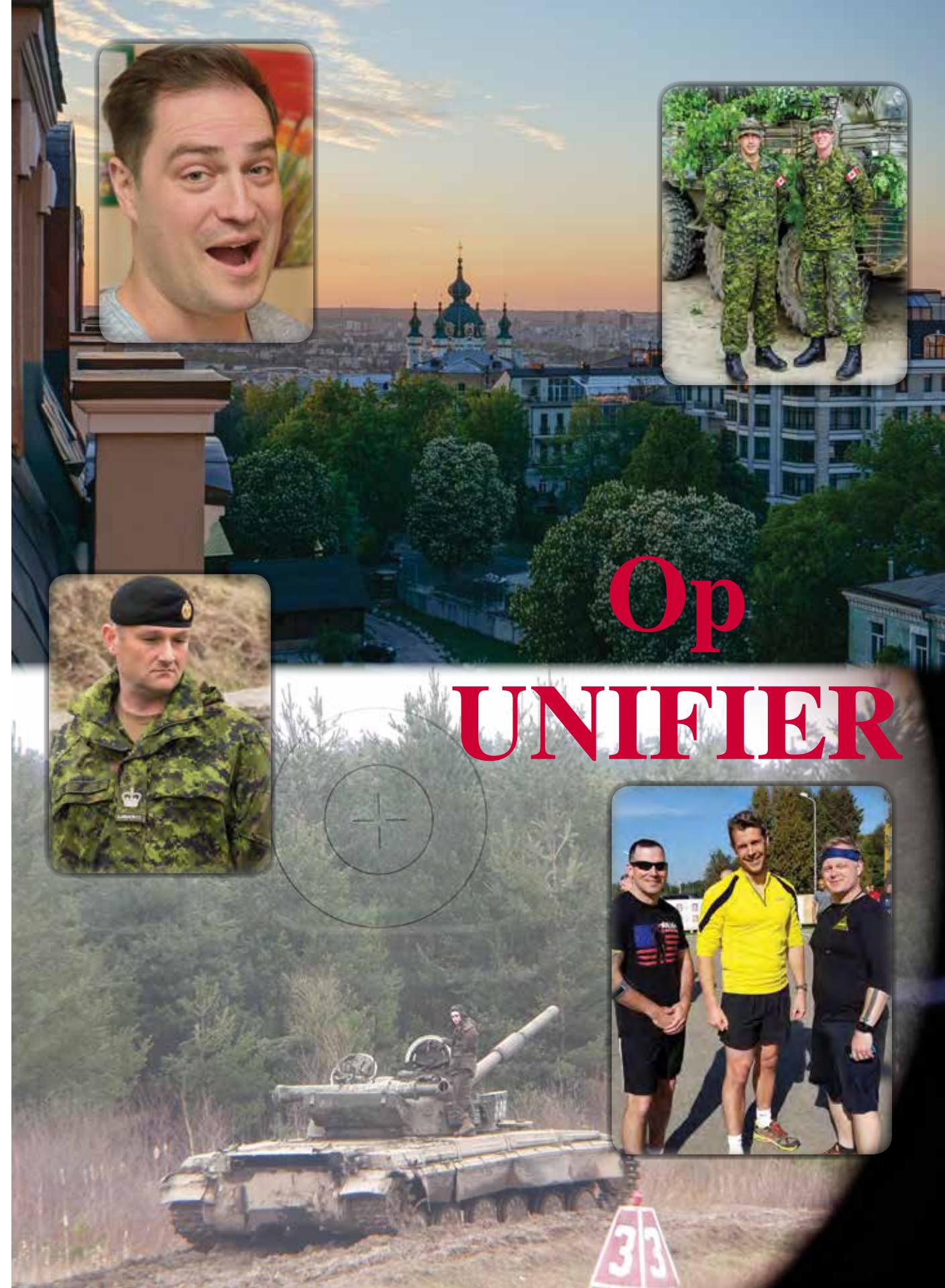
After trick-or-treating with their families, the soldiers repacked bags for the following Fall Ex serial. At the same time Recce welcomed the arrival of **Maj Jeff "[REDACTED]" Brown**, who took over the reins and deployed with the Sqn to Wainwright on Ex IRON RAM/Ex COMMON GROUND. If this was the dessert to the full-meal-deal of the year, these exercises were DQ cake; Hard, Frozen and Sweet. As soon as the troops were on the ground, the weather turned and according to **MCpl Brandon "American Vandal" Young**, the temperature decreased by 2 degrees per day for 20 days. Despite the cold, Recce



Sqn traversed the entirety of the Wainwright Training Area, trailing the DP4 SSM course, who was in turn was trailed by the SQMS/Acting SSM, **WO Martin** “you can Chit it” Levis, and his travelling canteen carnival. If it hadn’t been for the diligent efforts of **Cpl Ryan** “I can fix that” Yarn and **MCpl Andrew** “I can recover that” Paquette, Recce Sqn would have been in a bad place. At EndEx, Recce Sqn was operating like a well-oiled machine, providing valuable Intel for a Bde Level Attack on Rocky Ford.

Thankfully after all of the cold weather Recce Sqn experienced throughout the year, 24 Soldiers from Reece Sqn were able to bask in the relative warmth of central Texas. Lead by the formidable **Lt Carsten** “Santa Anna” McLean, a Troop of Recce soldiers augmented the OpFor during Ex STEELE RIFLES, a certification exercise for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, US ARMY. Armed with HMMWVs, small arms, and improvised AT weapons, the ragged band of Royal and Rogue Platoons disrupted the efforts of an entire Regiment. **Sgt Keary** “POW” McAtasney and **Cpl Shane** “C/S Ghost” Fettes displayed exceptional stalking skills, capturing an American sniper team. Follow the Ex, the soldiers were then able to enjoy the benefits of TD and PD by travelling to San Antonio. It’s safe to say that all of the soldiers who went on Ex SR will always remember the Alamo.

Along with these monumental achievements, came heartfelt losses. 2017 cost Recce Sqn many heroes such as Adam West, Roger Moore and Hugh Hefner. Recce Sqn also had to relinquish **Maj Paul** “walks quietly with a big stick” Leonard to A “High Readiness” Sqn. On the Other hand, **MWO Scott** “don’t give me a nickname, Sir” Brown will be remaining in his venerable post as SSM Recce. Soon enough the unofficial motto of Recce Sqn, “SEMPER A EXCRETA,” will have to be changed to “SEMPER BRUNNEIS”.





## Op UNIFIER Overview

*Major Alex Nitu (Roto 3 TF DCO), and Captain Dan Gray (Roto 3 TF G3)*

In the following segment, devoted to OP Unifier, you will read several excellent articles covering specific aspects of the deployment. However, this article will provide a more global view of the tour. Given that this is the first Strathcona lead mission since the Bosnia era, I thought it fitting to take a few paragraphs to provide exposition to the wider community.

The Strathconas were designated the Lead Mounting Unit for Op Unifier Rotation 3 (Roto 3) in the fall of 2016. After a period of pre-deployment training in Edmonton and Shilo, MB, the Task Force deployed in Early March 2017. The majority of the Task Force was based at the Ukrainian International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) in YAVORIV, approx. 50 Kms WEST of LVIV. Op UNIFIER Roto 3 arrived in theatre with a unique opportunity that had not been available to previous rotations since the mission's inception in 2015. Roto 3 arrived with a new mandate, mission extension until March 2019, and new CDS direction. This saw JTF-U continue to conduct its baseline capacity building across five Lines of Effort (LoEs) but presented the opportunity to evolve and grow the current operations design to meet the ever changing needs of the Ukrainian Armed Forces with a view to better achieve the Government of Canada's aims at all levels. What follows is a quick description of the five principle LoEs:

LoE 1. Small Training Teams. This element was formed around an infantry Company from 2PPCLI, with augmentation from the Strathconas and other 1CMBG units. Its primary goal was the delivery of a 55-day Program of Instruction to rotating Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) battalions, providing mentorship to mechanized companies, their reconnaissance platoon, sniper platoon, indirect fire support elements, and engineer troop. LoE 1 Roto 3 has made large strides toward working itself out of a job (as a capacity building mission hopes to do) in respect to the training cycles, and was even able to exploit this success by branching out to the other Ukrainian training centers. During the tour, LoE 1 transitioned from delivering training to mentoring the Ukrainian Combat Training Center (CTC) instructors while they delivered training. LoE 1's main effort during these training cycles was mentoring, but it also conducted partnered training when required later in the cycles during their Company and Battalion modules.

LoE 2. Counter – IED. This was an Engineer lead LoE based in a geographically separate base from the



rest of the Task Force. The focused on teaching Counter IED and EOD courses to Ukrainian Engineering units. They made large strides towards UAF independence in this field of endeavour.

LoE 3. Military Police. JTF-U Roto 3 ran one serial of Military Police "Use of Force Train the Trainer" at the new Military Law and Order Service Academy (MLOS) in LVIV. The serial was a success and worked well as the first course run at the MLOS Academy. The future of LoE 3 will see two MP members embedded within the academy as the Deputy Commander and Training Development Officer.

LoE 5. Medical. Working with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health (MoH), the UAF finalized their medical standard and requested CAF assistance in developing the course materials in a CAF led Ukrainian Instructor working group. LoE 5 staff provided additional instruction regarding the creation of lesson plans and organized a group of 18 Instructors to create lesson plans and slides for the new Combat First Aid Enhanced course. CAF Medical Technicians also provided instruction on new material such as CPR which the UAF Instructors had not learned previously.

LoE 6. Logistics. CAF logisticians taught several serials that were held at IPSC and students consisted of the intended training audience of tactical level logistics and maintenance officers within UAF Brigades.





## Joint Task Force-Ukraine Ops

*Captain Tim McHugh*

The Regt arrived in Ukraine ready to change the world. We took over from the 2 PPCLI BG and quickly went about changing the structure of our camp from the cold and desolate wasteland that they survived in for 6 months, into a beautiful, spacious, and luxurious existence the likes of which the Regt has grown accustomed. Within a month the HQ more closely resembled Harvey building east than it did a tent set-up in a Soviet camp designed in the middle of the Cold War. The various improvement projects finally got to **Cpl Cal "It's a mod tent" McNeil**, who to this day still can't believe he painted walls inside a mod tent.

Even with all the creature comforts of home, there were those that were not satisfied, the Ops WO, **WO Stephen "Snar buckle" Churchill**, would regale any who would listen about the snub he received in last year's edition of this publication by not being mentioned as being a member of RHQ. If it wasn't that, it was **WO Stephen "Aladdin" Churchill** complaining about his sore foot, which was a legitimate complaint considering everything we tried to do to fix his misdiagnosed plantar fasciitis actually made his legitimate fractured foot worse. Those problems aside, **WO Stephen "Father of Puppies" Churchill** ensured the entire HQ was kept in line, which meant he kept me in line as the rest of the HQ was quite competent. Hopefully I mentioned him enough that he won't be able to complain this year.

There were plenty of opportunities during this deployment to explore Ukraine and interact with various branches of their Armed Forces, the majority of these opportunities fell upon the shoulders of the J5, **Maj Jeff "Who's desk is that?" Brown**, and the J1, **Capt Mike "Good Go" Timms**, who collectively saw more of the country than the majority of Ukrainians could ever dream of. Those of us that remained in the Camp fell under the watchful eye of the Camp Sergeant-Major **MWO Rob "Powerbars" Englehart** and the DCO **Maj Alex "NPF" Nitu**. It was these overseers that ensured I was monitoring the burger tracker and that the J3, **Maj Dan "I can't afford these beer prices I'm only WSE'd" Gray**, didn't con his way into getting more than his one free Labatt 50 per day.

In the end the tour was a success which saw the Regiment collectively train more Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) soldiers than the previous 3 rotations combined. That achievement wasn't enough for the Commanding Officer, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki**, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, **CWO Rob Clarke**, worked tirelessly to leave a lasting impression on the UAF, which was done through our expansion to and mentorship of soldiers at various Centres of Excellence throughout the country. This achievement will see a lasting effect upon the UAF that will always be directly attributable to the LdSH(RC) TF.

*L to R: J3 Ops – Capt Tim McHugh, J3 Ops WO – WO Stephen "Stiv" Churchill, J3 – Major Dan "Ten" Gray, Camp SM – MWO Rob Englehart, D&S Dvr – Cpl Cal McNeil, D&S 2IC – Cpl Joseph Orlando "Fish" Schijns.*



*Strathconas from LoE 1 demonstrating Regimental pride at the peak of Pop Ivan (Chornohora), Ukraine's second highest peak during Ex CARPATHIAN STRIDER in Bukovel, Ukraine.  
Back row from left to right: Sgt Tim Dickey, Cpl Kyle Job, Cpl Ethan Fulljames and Cpl Jackson Steinke.  
Front row from left to right: WO Melanie Parent, and Sgt Kerr McAtasney.*

## Line of Effort 1, Joint Task Force-Ukraine

*Captain Mike Labrecque*

Line of Effort (LoE) 1, Joint Task Force-Ukraine (JTF-U) is the company training effort based at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) located at Yavoriv, Ukraine. Comprised of soldiers from LdSH(RC), 2 PPCLI, 1 CER, 1 RCHA, and the Danish Defence Force, LoE 1's mandate is mentor the Combat Training Center (CTC) at IPSC to train soldiers from Rotational Training Units (RTU) of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF), prior to their deployment to the Anti-terrorist Operations (ATO) zone.

An amalgamation of Canadian, Danish, Polish, Lithuanian, and American soldiers, LoE 1 trained RTU soldiers in Infantry, Artillery, Engineer, Sniper, Recce, and Influence Activities skills from March to September 2017, and is employed as C Company within the American lead training Battalion.

During Op UNIFIER Roto 3, LoE 1 completed a total of three 55 day training cycles, commonly referred to as RTUs, ultimately emboldening their success in the ATO while working closely together to expand the existing capacity within the UAF to conduct war fighting. Lessons learned from the UAF in the ATO, and our own in Afghanistan are routinely shared back and forth, ensuring the ability for both of our armies to develop a breath of knowledge and understanding within today's dynamic and constantly changing areas of conflict.

LoE 1's standing mission is to develop the Ukrainian CTC instructors' ability to deliver training. CTC is an organization that is intended to eventually mimic what we see in Wainwright within the Canadian Maneuver Training Center (CMTC), and facilitate the training of Ukrainian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTGs) in the future. Providing this mentorship and seeing the professional growth of their CTC counterparts brings pride to the soldiers of LoE 1. Upon completion of the handover between Roto 2 and Roto 3 of Op UNIFIER, CTC was capable of delivering up to section level training, including live fire ranges and overnight training operations. As a direct result of the professionalism, knowledge, experience and mentorship of LoE 1's soldiers, CTC is now capable of delivering up to company level training to RTUs as they cycle through the IPSC.

The Ukrainian experience has been one filled with many lessons learned, and a great deal of pride. Having an opportunity to develop the UAF in efforts to bring them closer to the NATO standard is something LoE 1 soldiers, and all members of JTF-U, will surely never forget. With our redeployment just around the corner, LoE 1 JTF-U Roto 3 has played a crucial role in bringing CTC up to the standard expected of a training center. As a mentorship team, we are confident that this newly formed organization will be able to successfully train BTGs in the future, as it continues to prepare UAF forces for their deployment to the ATO in support of Ukraine's brutal fight against Separatist Forces in the East.



## Joint Multinational Training Group Ukraine: MAPLE THUNDER - The Four Canucks

*Major Matt Johns*

In early April four late-arriving and somewhat confused Strathconas began to settle into the strange and mysterious world of the United States Army; as with previous rotations, Op UNIFIER Roto 3 continued the tradition of embedding four Canadians within the American Joint Multinational Training Group Ukraine (JMTG-U) headquarters. Under the firm hand of the Commander **COL David Jordan** and Chief of Staff **COL Elmer "Coach" Holt**, the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bde Combat Team of the Oklahoma Army National Guard welcomed these Canadian refugees warmly into their headquarters.

The Bde was quick to integrate four critical staff members from LdSH(RC), including the Bde Plans Officer (S5), Qualification Standards Officer (QSO), Range Operations NCO and Liaison Officer (LO). Returning to his roots as a semi-competent section commander, **Maj Matt "FIFA '17" Johns**, took over as the S5, desperate to wrangle his team of misfits. **Capt Erik "I'm the sweetest unit in NATO" Gajnorio** continued to defy all dress standards with his hair, forcing an intervention by the American S3; although he didn't let this distract him from his efforts to craft brand new Ukrainian doctrine as the QSO. Surprising no one, **Capt TJ "Big Volume...For Big Wins" Casey**, integrated into the HQ as the LO by coordinating and leading his "Shut Up and Jam" PT sessions for all comers. The addition of the "North

*Maj Matt Johns attempts to explain the most confusing parade instruction ever to the terrified members of "Team Commonwealth".*



*MWO Harry Delaney receives his Army Commendation Medal from COL David Jordan, Commander JMTG-U.*

Montanans" into the 45<sup>th</sup>'s HQ can be summarized in one word: SEAMLESS. To use a quote that was just made up for the purposes of this article, **MWO Harry "Pajero Boss" Delaney** said it best: "*this is called blending in like a ninja, become part of the landscape.*" The 45<sup>th</sup> IBCT, Thunderbird, were very welcoming and extremely helpful in getting the Canadians oriented and settled into their new roles. Although a US HQ, JMTG-U is also the hub for various multinational LOs, which ensures a fascinating working environment populated with Poles, Lithuanians, Brits, Canadians, and Americans. While some friction between differing militaries is always expected, mitigating steps were also employed. **Capt Gajnorio** ensured that language barriers were broken down with a "Canadian Slang Word of the Day" board, while the UK LOs, **Majs Don and Carl** contributed to multinational partnerships by establishing competitions including the "Commonwealth Pub Trivia Night" in the DFAC. The 45<sup>th</sup> also made efforts with equal success, organizing volleyball tournaments and including as many as possible in their spiritual fitness tours.

Not only did the four Canadians work in the JMTG-U headquarters, they also lived among the Americans in what is cleverly denoted as "Berg City." These small sea-can living huts are extremely well located, five minutes to downtown, eight steps from all of the fitness facilities; just "*primo*" real estate. The four members of "Maple Thunder" became integral parts of the Big Green Machine: whether it be as the lead planners for Ex RAPID TRIDENT, a multinational training exercise planned, coordinated and controlled by **Maj Matt "Speedy Spork" Johns**; participating in various events such as memorial runs in honour of fallen US soldiers, as demonstrated by **MWO Harry "Just Gets Better with Age" Delaney** and **Capt Erik "5Km is really, really far" Gajnorio**; or by crushing the opposition in volleyball (**Capt TJ "Suns out, Guns out" Casey**).

The impact of the "Canadian Thunderbirds" on the UAF was undeniable. **MWO Delaney** spent countless hours organizing and collaborating with American Range Control personnel to establish training area driving laws, range control procedures and implement a Ukrainian driven system for controlling all movement in the Training Areas. This saw much success, and has led to multinational partners being able to hand over significant control to Ukrainians forces. **Capt Gajnorio** continues to shape doctrine through his Qualification Standards and is clearly well on his way to a thrilling career at CADTC.

"The 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team is the main army formation of the Oklahoma Army National Guard and is headquartered in Norman, Oklahoma. Descendants of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army, Thunderbird Brigade fought alongside the Strathconas in Italy in the Second World War. Reorganized as an element of the National Guard in 1968, the Brigade has a long and distinguished history.

**Nickname:** *Thunderbird* (official special designation)

**Motto:** *Semper Anticus* (Always Forward)

**Thunderbird Creed:** The Thunderbird is a sacred American Indian bearer of happiness unlimited. It is also a fearsome bird of prey that creates thunder with a clap of its wings and shoots lightning bolts from its eyes. Any thunderbird is a foe to be reckoned with, because you'd be happy if you could shoot lightning bolts from your eyes."





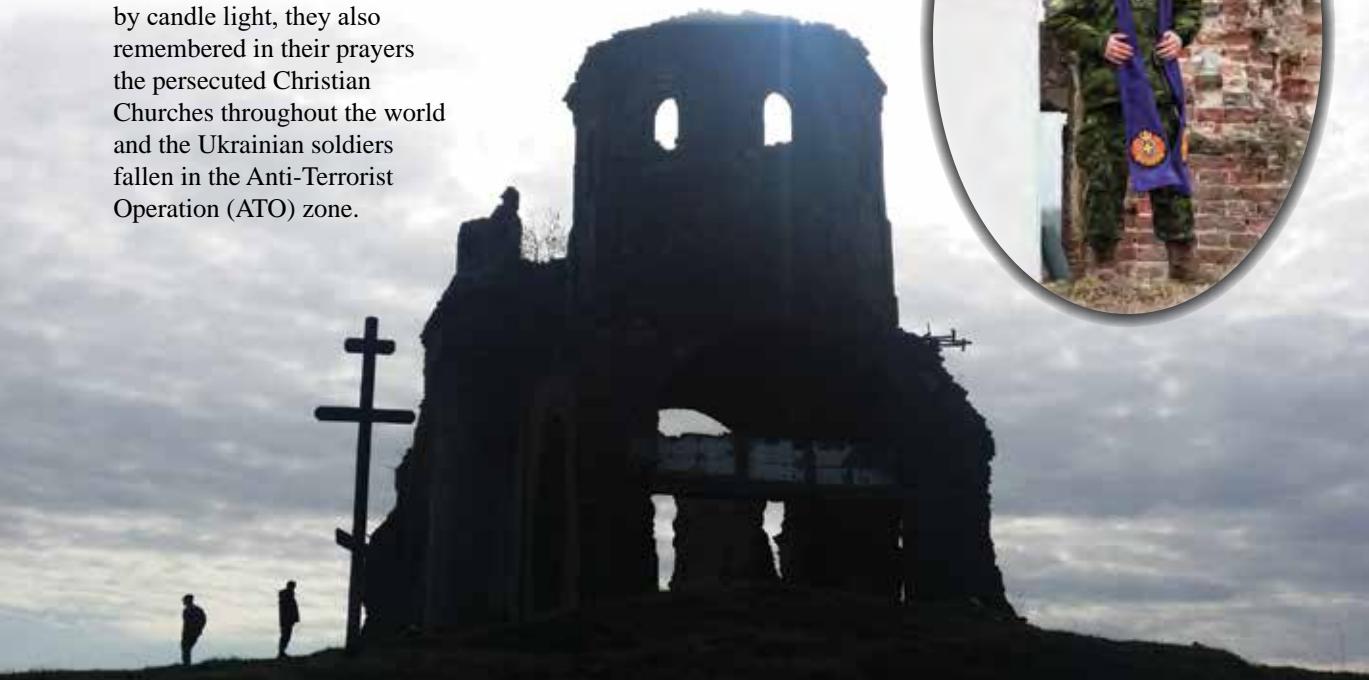
## Easter Sunrise Service in the Ukraine: The Church of St Michael the Archangel (Velyka Vyshenka)

*Padre Min Hwan Kim*

During Op UNIFIER (Roto 3) Easter Sunday was uniquely meaningful and memorable. Early in the morning two chaplains (Canadian and American), accompanied with two other members, went in advance to a training area where a local Church is located. It is the site of that local Church that made an Easter Sunrise Service memorable.

The Church of St Michael the Archangel in Yavoriv Raion, Lviv Oblast, Ukraine (formally in the village of Velyka Vyshenka) does not manifest its form or majesty, for the glorious beauty of this dome Church built in 1927 was ruined by the Soviet occupied regime during early World War II. As WWII had just begun, the Soviet conceived to expand the proving ground of the Polish Army, which then caused a resettlement of over 125,000 residents of the villages, including people from Velyka Vyshenka. Despite the former residents' ardent efforts to return to their homes, in 1950 they were deported aimlessly from their own villages. Meanwhile, the Church of St Michael the Archangel took an unexpected role of being a live fire target for tanks, cannons, and other military activities. The Church survived but only with part of its skeleton, which depicts symbolically the sufferings and afflictions of Christ and that of His persecuted Church. The house of peace was used for the house of death, killing innocent people. The noble *raison d'être* of the Church was despised and rejected, and became the Church of sorrows and was acquainted with griefs and shames.

Although the church is in the Ukrainian military training area, at one time it was the proving ground for a fire target; however, now it has been kept protected from being a victim of cruel military activities since the Independence of Ukraine. Now a historical site, during a sunrise service, about 40 Canadian and Americans military personnel gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the corner of the ruined Church building there was a small candle that replaced the Paschal Candle (i.e., Easter Candle), lighting the dawn in a cup of no beauty. Together, by candle light, they also remembered in their prayers the persecuted Christian Churches throughout the world and the Ukrainian soldiers fallen in the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone.



*The Worthington Cup Team practices clearing a building in the urban ops village in order to prepare for the march and shoot stand.*



*Tpr Stone poses in his natural habitat in San Antonio, Tx.*



*Mcpl Ayrton "Hero Shot" Balfour directing traffic.*

# Training

## Ex STEELE SABRE A Sqn Perspective

Lieutenant Dan Dixon

Bright and early on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Oct 2017, soldiers from A Sqn boarded buses and stepped off for their deployment to Wainwright to conduct Ex STEELE SABRE. This was an exciting time for all of A Sqn, as it was their first opportunity to get out and get back to the business of conducting training in the field for quite some time. Also, for many of the soldiers in Admin Tp, it was their first exercise they were able to take part in at the Regt.

Under the leadership of **Maj Paul Leonard**, and **MWO Ken Shiells**, A Sqn quickly arrived at P9, mounted up on their tanks, and took off for their Tp Lvl training in preparation for the Road to High Readiness. This year's BTS standards were similar to years past, however, there was an additional focus on practicing core soldier skills. This meant that each Tp was to conduct a day of dismounted training during the first few days of the exercise. This was a great opportunity for a lot of soldiers to get out of their comfort zone, and allowed junior soldiers in the Squadron a chance to develop their leadership. After **MCpl Henry Chen** had led several dry run section attacks, **Tpr Aaron "Randy, you are my 2IC" Poitras** got to try his hand at leading a section attack, and did so quite successfully.

After brushing up on core soldier skills, each Tp got to work practicing crew, fireteam, and Tp Lvl maneuver with a focus on Advance to Contacts, as well as a refresher in Defensive Operations. Each night, the Tps would stay in a Tp hide to ensure all of the skills required of being a Tanker were being maintained.

Once the Tps were comfortable moving together, A Sqn moved to Range 25 in preparation for their Lvl 3 live-fire ranges (the highlight of every Steele Sabre).

**MCpl Mark Weir** doodling in his FMP on a maintenance day in P9



Each Tp got to rain down an obscene amount of destruction during their battle runs and really focus on the tactical aspects of the range. That being said, there is a huge shout out to the FPO, **Sgt Kyle Chuback**, and the rest of B Sqn as they provided all of the support in administering and maintaining the range. The tactical scenario was set so that A Sqn rolled up to the range, with all of the work being done. This allowed for the Tp Leadership to receive orders, conduct Battle Procedure and push it down to the Tps to keep everyone involved in the tactical scenario. Each Tp conducted successful runs by day and by night, and was able to begin to foster the Tp cohesiveness that is necessary as we move forward in preparation for Lvl 5s, and the upcoming Combat Team Commanders Course.

The exercise finished off with A Sqn being one of the first Tank Squadrons in Canada to outfit the Leo 2 with the new TMI project implements, and conduct training with ploughs, blades, and rollers. With the squadron set up for success, the squadron redeployed back to Edmonton for a well-deserved few days off before heading back out into Wainwright to finish off the year.

## Ex STEELE SABRE Recce Sqn Perspective *Corporal Martin "Crypto" Kelly*

Ex STEELE SABRE may have begun for Recce Sqn on 11 October 2017, but the preparations started weeks earlier, following the return from Op LENTUS 17-04. After extensive work up training and maintenance push, the Sqn embarked on a road move to CFB Wainwright with a variety of F, A, and B ech vehicles. With a few heroics on the part of **Sgt Gary "Slow But Steady" Covey**, and a lot of complaining on the part of **MCpl Curtis "When Do I Leave for Jump" Schafer**, the convoy made it essentially "intact".

2 Tp's focus for the first two days was to hone Tp Lvl skills and SOPs, before conducting a 25mm live-fire Tp shoot during daytime and night. These traces involved a tactical situation, with the troop moving from Battle Butte to Buffalo Hill, before going red and beginning their live-fire shoot along Range 25. The night shoot was conducted through a glowing inferno, which tested the skill of drivers, gunners, and commanders to operate using their respective thermal viewers, and, in the case of **Sgt Keith "Where's My Bravo" Hodgson**,

to differentiate between 9's LAV 6.0 and 62B's Coyote. These "near" battlefield conditions were inadvertently caused by fire which started during the daytime shoots.

Following the range, Recce Sqn collapsed to a hide and prepared for Sqn Lvl training. 62 was tasked with establishing a screen that had eyes on both Battle and Purple Bridges in preparation for training that would test the Sqn's ability to operate mounted, dismounted, and in utilizing aerial surveillance, through

the Raven MUAS. This included new observers completing a variety of held-up drills on the routes, under the watchful eye of their respective crew commanders. Under the keen observation of **Cpl Jeremy "Vanishing Bridge" Gray**, **Sgt Hodgson** and **MCpl Cane "Patrol Sling" Zwicker** conducted a dismounted patrol behind enemy lines that tested and instilled Recce Sqn's patrol discipline. Meanwhile, under control of **WO Martin "Just Let Me Be the SQ" Levis** and **Sgt Hugh "Rommel" Hayes**, the echelon was tasked with setting up and relocating hides and running resupplies tactically, under the guidelines set out in the 1 CMBG's Way of War.

Ex STEELE SABRE presented an opportunity for Recce Sqn members at all lvs to train a variety of field skills, and prepared the Sqn for their participation in the Reserve Sergeant-Major course and Ex COMMON RAM/IRON RAM.





Top: Tpr Jonathan Hachey conducts security during a VCP.

Right: MCpl Curtis Schafer surveys his VCP.

Bottom: Member from 62D prepare to mount during Ex COMMON RAM.

## Ex COMMON RAM

Trooper Daniel "Lit" Wynen

Building on the training accomplished during Ex IRON RAM, Recce Sqn switched their focus to the support of the RCACS - DP4 Reserve SSM Course. Recce Sqn's task was to ensure the candidates received realistic and diverse training experiences, while providing a selection of vehicle and personnel issues that kept the Student 69C's on their toes. Between **Capt Callum "61" Smith** and **Murray "63" McTavish**, the students were kept busy, while **Lt Carsten "Coleman" MacLean** and **Sgt Keith "Who's My GIB" Hodgson** led from the front, regularly providing real-time VCASREPs and NOTACAS'. Of particular note was a suspected fuel issue with 62 that had the maintainers stumped – until **MCpl Andrew "Magic Hands" Paquette** thought to check the fuel level... it was then that he realized **Tpr Ryan "Shekels" Stone** had relied too much on the fuel gauge and that the tank was bone dry. Meanwhile, **Cpl Ryan "the Fixer" Yarn** and the rest of the maintainers were hard at work ensuring as many heaters as possible stayed operational, avoiding any hypothermia injuries and directly leading to a successful exercise.

The only heater that went unrepaired throughout the entire exercise belonged to 6A and **Capt Tim "Bring the Heat" McHugh**. In the end, Recce Squadron made the best out of an exceptional training opportunity, while providing great injects, real or imaginary, to the DP4 Candidates.



## Ex IRON RAM

A Sqn Perspective

"Once More Unto the Breach, Dear Friends, Once More"

Lieutenant Leland Kirkham

After re-deploying from Ex STEELE SABRE and enjoying a quick break, A Sqn once again marched forth to Wainwright. In what can only be described as a combination of the Disney movie 'Frozen' and film 'Groundhog Day', we began our preparations for the Combat Team Commanders Course and DP4 Sergeants Major Course. Under the blistering cold stare of Father Winter – not to be confused with **Sgt Mark "Grandfather Time" Bell**, who ensured everyone in the Sqn understood the procedure for setting up five-man tents from 1663AD, the Sqn was welcomed to Wainwright with the first snowfall and a very quick shift into action to avoid 'Brigade Big Brother' in the sky.

A Sqn launched into the exercise with ten tanks and a flexible attitude as we met up with 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Princes Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry B Coy, to begin our link up drills and preparation for the course demo. What followed was five days of practice and two serials, each of four days, of rapid combat team attacks. While the execution may have been a "Rinse, Wash, Dry, and Repeat" formula, the growth at the individual and Sqn Lvl was undeniable as we were able to take sometimes vague instruction, often including a five figure grid, and turn it into a combat team ready to attack. As with any exercise, the Sqn learnt new things and made use of them, just ask 19's loader, Z19 **Maj Paul "I'm bringing Ack back" Leonard**. The course was always changing with each attack between leadership and equipment; however, members of the Sqn truly stepped up to the challenge with 1 Troop as the Senior Trp Ldr, **Acting-Capt (Sergeant) Ryan "The SIR-gent" Sebo**, who was still trying to get his baseline as an Alpha, and 11A **MCpl Aryton "As an Alpha I need to look after my Tp Ldr" Balfour**, who was trying to get his base-line as a Bravo. While it may have felt like every morning we woke up and did the exact same thing, the quality of work and ability of the Sqn to meet the challenge was undeniable.

In the end, not even the wind-chill and frozen tundra of Wainwright were able to dim the morale and spirit of the Sqn. Through the ingenious supply chain from 19er-Chirps of Monster and Meat Sticks, the supply of 'human food' by the Sqn Quarter Master Sergeant's shop, and the almost-too liberal use of the Darknet, we remained effective and cheerful. When all things were considered, all we needed to keep going forward was a codeword and a bit of coordination, Darla Now – Out.

## Recce Sqn Perspective

Trooper Daniel "Fam" Wynen

Amidst the bitter cold of November, Recce Sqn conducted training as part of Ex IRON RAM. This included the integration of six members from the British Columbia Dragoons (BCD) for a period of three days. The BCD's task was to fill in empty GIB holes (left by troops deployed to Latvia and Ukraine) and provide a Patrol, 62E. Ex IRON RAM, came hot on the heels of Ex STEELE SABRE and saw call sign 62 build on the hard earned lessons learned in dismounted and mounted recce operations. The Troop conducted a variety of RAPZ tasks to further develop their SOPs, and surveillance tasks, which included establishing OPs on key crossing sites across the Battle "Vulga" River and manning VCPs. During one of these VCPs, the brave troops of 62 arrested the highly sought-after **Cpl Dave "The Bave Durssey" Bursey**, during a well thought out training scenario. Overall, the exercise was very successful for both Recce Sqn and the BCDs in enhancing their armoured soldier skills and strengthening the bonds between both units.



Cpl Devon Friolet having fun.



*Happiest Tank in NATO - L-R Tpr Mark Reetz, Cpl Colton Shute, Lt Dan Dixon and Cpl Andrew Elms*



*Soldiers from the BCD conduct a debrief.*

## **Ex IRON RAM**



*Sgt Keith Hodgson advances his Coyote.*



*62E conducts battle procedure.*





## Ex STEELE RIFLES

*Lieutenant Carsten MacLean*

Early on the morning of 26 November, 24 soldiers from Recce Sqn left the cold of Edmonton for the warm sun of central Texas. Led by **Capt Callum "Obama" Smith**, the members linked in with Thunder Sqn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regt in Fort Hood, and prepared to act as a scout platoon intent on defending their ethnic homeland of Ariana, as part of the OPFOR, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cav Regt Certification Exercise. This included the conduct of a HMMWV driver's course, which **Tpr Gunny "Still a Trooper" Grewal** compared to a smaller MLVW.

Following the completion of the course, the group deployed to the field. After dealing with some familiar delays, including vehicle fires and failed brakes, the group shook itself out as Royal PI under Thunder Sqn. Working in tandem with Thunder Sqn's internal scout pl, Royal completed a variety of recce and surveillance tasks, with a focus on screen lines on the defense and zone recce on the offense. Under the direction of **Sgt Keary "POW" McAtasney** and **Cpl Shane "Boots" Fettes**, the Royal 3 Sect was detached to Rogue PI and operated admirably under American leadership for the final portion of the exercise. Throughout, **Lt Carsten "Break, break, break" MacLean** called nearly 200 fire missions on behalf of the Tp. However, due to OPFOR's ability to repel the capitalist push and defend Ariana, only one fire mission was approved for the entirety of Thunder Sqn.

In the final days of the exercise, **Tpr Jakob "Infinite M72" Brown** found an expended M72 LAW in the training area, which Royal quickly put to work destroying a myriad of BluFor Strykers. Meanwhile, **MCpl Reg "Lightning 6" Ferguson** developed a PI-sized water crossing and facilitated a potential breakthrough of enemy lines – until alternative navigation led Lightning Tp to cross one kilometre to the East.

Following the successful defence of Ariana, the Strathcona's completed post-exercise drills and debriefs with Thunder Sqn, before conducting two days of professional development (PD) in San Antonio. This PD focused on a tour of the Alamo, which was appreciated by all. The soldiers also familiarized themselves with the Riverwalk. Unfortunately for the city of San Antonio, the last night of the exercise saw the heaviest snowfall in over 35 years, leading to many jokes about a Canadian invasion by **Sgt Keith "O Negative" Hodgson**. As a whole, the exercise was an excellent opportunity for sharing skills and TTPs, as well as building working relationships with our American counterparts.



## Ex STEELE SKADE

*Trooper Reuben King*

In late February, Recce Sqn organized and ran a Basic Winter Warfare with 51 candidates and another 45 support personnel participating in the training. Although small numbers, with the operational demands, this constituted a sizeable Regimental effort. Strangely enough, the theory portion was conducted in unseasonably warm weather that led to a wide variety of packing styles, something that came back to haunt the more "conservative" packers, i.e. unprepared for -40 weather, when winter returned with a vengeance when the guys actually deployed. While cold, the conditions were exactly what is required to conduct effective winter training. Although the soldiers were focused on the core requirements of Basic Winter Warfare, they experienced a variety of winter activities including preparing austere shelters, conducting ice recce (Sgt "The Augur" Nettik spoke volumes on the different kinds and thicknesses of ice), snowmobiling (taught by MCpl Izaak Koolman), and ice fishing. These activities exposed soldiers to winter environments they had seldom experienced and prepared them for future cold weather operations (i.e. Ex IRON RAM). The training provided a way for soldiers to learn how to use winter kit, although some soldiers preferred to heat their kit through "unconventional" methods. Inside the cabins, the wood burning stoves, became clothes burning stoves.

The cold weather offered the soldiers the "opportunity" to understand the extra effort required for almost every task, from unfreezing water and putting up tents. Everyone got a chance to pull the toboggan, even **Maj Paul "One Man Wrecking Crew" Leonard**. In addition to the valuable experience gained by all participants, the week allowed the soldiers a chance to bond through adversity. The final evening the Sqn bonded during the Smoker, and celebrated the promotions of **Cpl Chay "Langtron" Lang** and **Cpl Kurtis "100% more chevrons" Wuerch** of Recce Sqn.





## Ex RECCE VIKING

*Trooper Cole Foster*

In the middle of June, Recce Sqn headed to Wainwright for Ex RECCE VIKING, a patrolling exercise intended to last three and a half days, consisting of two 10 person recce patrols. The intent of this exercise was patrolling and general field craft skills, and to serve as a test of physical and mental fortitude. Some were tested harder than others... **Tpr Justin "The exo-skeleton" Sibbet**. In order to maximize the training benefits, the Ex included a versatile OPFOR and a dedicated admin troop to provide real-time support.

During the first 24 hours, the two recce patrols split up and practiced navigation by day and night. Each patrol was given 17 different navigation points, between 500m to 1500m apart, in order to practice map and compass skills. In the early morning of day 2, the exercise scenario began with partisan linkups, transitioning into screens, and completing various point recce's. The partisan linkups required the patrols to carry rations, water, and injured personnel over "long distances". The screens had the patrols occupy various strategic vantage points where the troops were able to collect key intelligence which was passed up the chain. Both of the patrols' screens came into contact with the enemy, no snapchats here. As a result both patrols had to establish new vantage points and spent another night without rest. Following this training event, the soldiers were finally able to go to ground. **Tpr "In the Black Ops" Tumisto**, ended up a little worse for wear while all the troops received practice their skills on the various devices necessary for night vision and thermal imaging.

After roughly 50 km of rucking and 3 nights of not sleeping in inclement weather, Recce Sqn ended the exercise at Fort Recce for a well-deserved smoker and a warm meal.

## Ex WESTERN CREWMAN

*Trooper Spencer Kelly*

In late April, 62 from Recce Sqn headed across the Rockies to support Ex WESTERN CREWMAN (WCRMN), a Primary Reserve Exercise designed to train units from 39 and 41 Canadian Bde Groups. Recce Sqn soldiers were employed as mentors and OPFOR through a range of tasked targeting mounted and dismounted skill sets. Units came from across Western Canada to participate and included The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) (BCR), The South Alberta Light Horse (SALH), The King's Own Calgary Regiment (KOCR), and The British Columbia Dragoons (BCDs). Ex WCRMN was intended to confirm basic soldier and crewman skills for the participating units but also fostered cooperation between the units and soldiers involved.

The PRes soldiers split into two composite troops, and spent the weekend progressing through three stands, completing a route recce, dismounted patrol, and establishing a screen line. At each stand, the reserve group was accompanied through the Battle Procedure process by senior Recce Sqn personnel who acted as instructors and mentors for the reserve soldiers. During the dismounted patrolling stand, Recce Sqn soldiers walked alongside the recce patrols, prompting and providing continuous mentorship. At the same time, OPFOR ambushed the patrols or and guarded objectives for the Recce patrol define. Meanwhile, in the screen line, the PRes soldiers tested their skills in an attempt to observe a meeting where one OPFOR group sold a simulated explosives to one another.

After every station, a comprehensive AAR was conducted, which was a critical part of the exercise. It gave Recce Sqn a chance to disseminate important points to the reservists, while confirming the lessons learned for both reserve personnel and Recce Sqn OPFOR. By the time End-Ex was called on Sunday, Ex WCRMN had proved to be both an invaluable training opportunity and a unique chance to enhance inter-unit operability.

## PCF Guncamp

*Captain Alexander Neshcov*

Sunny Wainright once again played host to soldiers of the Regiment as they sought to confirm their gunnery skills. B Sqn's range party directed students from the Leopard 2 Gunnery Courses upon arrival to build living quarters and setup targets. The Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer, **Sgt Kyle** "that's because you're not a specialist" **Chuback** planned and developed a target rich environment that tankers dream of. Hindered only by the unpleasant notion of **Lt Alex** "I guarantee a top 10 finish" **Young** and the team's imminent arrival on the range, things were looking good for the students of 2017's Leopard 2 PCFs.

Unfortunately, the Regt's ultimate nemesis, Lord DRMIS, once again conspired against the course, and the spirits occupying the tanks on the range simultaneously elected to develop a myriad of issues ranging from "it'll buff out" to "this is a fireball waiting to happen." **MCpl Christopher** "that's why the Earth is a circle" **Veltmeyer** and his loyal team of maintainers were once again called into action. As they always do, the crafties and gun plumbers worked their dark magic, and managed to bring the tanks to heel. Their creative (and none too flattering) nicknames for the individual tanks provided much amusement and kept the mood light during the long hours under the spotlights.

Firing went well, and the course made short work of their wooden foes on the range. All the while, B Sqn's canteen made a killing. On a lighter side, **Sgt Noel** "this game destroys lives" **Reid** introduced the game 'Wordscapes' to the course staff. Concurrently, **Tpr Michael** "wearing my softie into the hole was a bad idea" **Loiselle** discovered - to his cost - the nausea-inducing effects of the gunner's hole. Not to be outdone, **Tpr Robert** "nobody saw that" **Taylor** demonstrated how to dismount tanks and HLVWs by use of gravity, flailing arms, and a bruised posterior.

As the gun camp wrapped up, the course (thanks in part to the demands of the ever thirsty travelling members of the *Green Point Lounge*) got to enjoy some well-deserved cold beers, and a bonfire consisting of the remains of the targets they had spent the past several days filling with lead. In the end, the tanks were tarped and the buses boarded for the journey back to Edmonton where the final touches were being put on Ex STEELE SABRE. As always, and luckily for the newly qualified troops, many members of the course would soon get the chance to apply their newfound gunnery skills on a live fire exercise.

Based on the success of the gun camp, the future is looking bright.

*Cpl Elms, MCpl Chen, MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard, MCpl Monge, WO Morley, Capt Neshcov, Sgt Pasuta, MCpl Dunphy, MCpl Weir (Middle Row L-R): Tpr Loiselle, Cpl Lauterbacher, Cpl Hornby, Tpr Hogan, Tpr Wysocki, Tpr Tsui, Tpr McGowan, Tpr Thibault, Cpl Goodwin, Tpr Durrant, Tpr Sanders, Tpr Pittman, Tpr Fancy, Cpl Sawyer, Tpr Poitras.  
(Back Row L-R): Cpl Shute, Tpr Logan, Tpr Kibzey, Tpr Lastowksi, Cpl Friolet, Tpr Friel, Tpr Tong, Cpl Nieuwhof, Tpr Braconnier, Tpr Cyr, Tpr Gill, Tpr Engelbrecht, Cpl Aubé.*



*Cpl Goodwin bore sites the Leo 2 Main Gun under the watchful eye of MCpl Weir.*



## Ex WORTHINGTON CUP

*Corporal Colin Vanthournout*

### Ex LONG LOOK A Strathcona on Exchange with the Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeth's Own)

*Sergeant Thomas Underwood*



From Sept to Dec 2017, I was on exchange with our Allied Regiment, the Royal Lancers of the British Army. Our two units have worked together since the Strathconas met the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers in South Africa 1900-1901. In 1925, the Strathconas were officially affiliated with the newly amalgamated 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers. These antecedent regiments would amalgamate twice more with other units before becoming the current day, Royal Lancers.

The role of the Lancers is Brigade Armoured Cavalry Reconnaissance, much the same as our Recce Sqn. They primarily operate in CVRT fleet vehicles, Scimitars and Spartans with very similar doctrine to our own; however, these will be replaced by the 40 tonne AJAX armoured fighting vehicle in the early 2020s and it will be interesting to see what doctrinal changes take place when it arrives.

During my time with the Lancers, I was integrated into B Squadron and welcomed into the WOs' and Sgts' Mess as a guest. In the first month, I participated in Ex NORTHERN LANCER, a reconnaissance exercise in the North of England and Scotland. Mounted in Land Rovers and tasked to screen the Bde's frontage through various manoeuvres, we conducted large route and zone recce's over an area the size of six 1:50k map sheets – all commanders were issued 22 maps to cover the entirety of the operating area. During the exercise, we also constructed and occupied subterranean OPs, practiced Close Target Recce's at night, conducted a withdrawal under pressure, and reconnoitered a bridging site where the engineers installed a bridge, that we later crossed, marking the end of the exercise.

Back in garrison, I had several opportunities to travel and visit other units in the UK. I visited the Armour Centre and ATDU (Armoured Trials and Development Unit). I found 'FURY' in the Tank Museum, but one of my best experiences was the Public Order Course. In

preparation for the Lancers upcoming UN tour to Cyprus, a cadre of instructors, including **Lt Tom Clarkson** and myself, were sent to Lydd to learn the formations and tactics to handle public disturbances. This training included full exercises in complete 'riot' gear with an angry mob that fought and threw petrol bombs at us to test our training. It was exciting, to say the least.

As I write this article, it's late November and I know the best is yet to come as the Lancers begin to wind down operations for the Christmas 'silly' season. I have truly enjoyed my time here and have learned from them more than I can put into an article or even put into words.

**Death or Glory.**



Every year, armoured soldiers from around the globe gather at the Royal Canadian Armour Corps School, in CFB Gagetown to compete in the Worthington Cup Challenge. This year's event was no different as the competition included teams from Chile, Denmark, Poland, and the United States of America, as well as four Canadian teams representing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divs.

This affair is an armoured crewman skills competition, which tests and demonstrates a variety of skills armoured crews from individual soldier skills to in armoured gunnery skills. Much like in the past, the competition was getting further away from strictly armoured gunnery skills, to an overall aptitude test that challenged both mounted and dismounted skills. As the spring turned into summer, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Team which was led by the Regt, began to assemble and prepare for the competition. Before we knew it, it was June, training had begun, and the team was ready to send it.



After overcoming the obstacle of getting a full team together it was time to dive in to the rigorous training schedule that **Cpl Kyle "40 Percent" Meaney** and **Lt Alex "Have you seen the travel claims?" Young** had developed. For months, the team underwent intense physical training, twice daily, with theory classes in between consisting of everything from vehicle recognition to combat first aid and weapons handling. By the beginning of September, after

managing multiple injuries throughout the training process, we finally had our crews set and the team was prepared for the competition.

As we set off for Gagetown, the team's final disposition included:

Leopard 2: **Lt Young, MCpl Balfour, Cpl Guay, Cpl Vanthournout;**

Leopard 2: **MCpl Bolzan, Cpl Webster, Cpl Pecarski, Tpr Proctor;**

Coyote: **Sgt Romkey, Cpl Mackenzie, Cpl Doucette, Tpr Colville;**

Coyote: **MCpl Ferguson, Cpl Thompson, Tpr Stone, Tpr Dunn;**

LAV 3 (fielded by 1 PPLCI): **MCpl Smith, Cpl Button, Cpl Hills, Cpl Fung;**

LAV 6 (fielded by 2 PPCLI): **Sgt Ryan, Cpl White, Cpl Osbourne, Cpl Nielson;**

LUVW (fielded by KOCR): **MCpl Stratton, Cpl Couch, Hamilton, Cpl Rouillard;** and

LUVW (fielded by SALH): **Sgt De Roaldes, MCpl Bald, Cpl Onoferychuk, Cpl Galvin.**

The competition was broken down into 4 stands, each of which took a full day to complete. The first day was spent conducting mounted navigation around the Gagetown training area to include the completion of various tasks; thankfully no one got lost. On day two, the team was put through its paces by the infantry school stand, which consisted of dismounted navigation, an urban operation scenario, and concluding with a forced "tactical" withdrawal. Despite some navigational challenges by one of the crews of our infantry brothers..., the 3 CAN DIV team finished with very competitive scores. The next stand was the one the team had been most excited for, the mounted live fire range. The realistic and demanding range truly tested the skills and determination of all the crews in both day and night scenarios. As the crews cycled through their stab runs, all gunners got the thrill of shooting in a fast, target rich environment. The final stand pitted the team into a series of competitions that tested their technical skills in maintenance, first aid, and weapons handling.

When it was all said and done, and all the competitors were enjoying themselves at the celebratory pig roast, the 3 CAN DIV team had no reason to not hold their heads high. When all of the scores were totalled the team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall and was recognized for various individual and crew accomplishments. After catching up with the other teams at the closing ceremonies it was time to pack up and head home to Edmonton. Another year down... "**WORTHY**".



# Annual Events



## Moreuil Wood

*Lieutenant Leland Kirkham*

With the start of a new year quickly passing by and moving towards spring, the Regt began preparations for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. Celebrations for this event included the Moreuil Wood Sports Day, Parade, Awards Presentations, and some much needed festivities. While all of this was occurring, there were very few members who did not notice that we were without our entire Regt'l Family due to our commitment to the Ukraine as part of Op UNIFIER. Regardless of where each member found his or herself, every Strathcona took part in their own way to honour the Battle of Moreuil Wood.

During what would be the last great German offensive of the First World War, the Regt fought both mounted and dismounted in rear-guard actions to relieve hard-pressed Allied infantry. On 30 March, the whole Bde attacked the German positions held at Moreuil Wood. Lt G.M. Flowerdew, Officer Commanding of C Sqn since January 1918, led a cavalry charge against an enemy 300 strong, supported by a howitzer and machine guns. Yelling the words "*It's a charge boys! It's a charge!*" he rallied his men and initiated an assault so aggressive and overwhelming the German soldiers thought themselves surrounded and surrendered to the attacking cavalry. The victory; however, came at a great price. Lt Flowerdew was wounded, 24 of his soldiers fell dead on the field of battle and little more than 50 soldiers remained including the wounded. Lt Flowerdew later died from the wounds he received that day and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. This battle was a key event of the war, which interrupted the German offensive and allowed for the taking of Moreuil Wood by the Allies.

Today, Strathconas gather annually in order to recognize this moment in history and to honour the fallen, while tapping into the comradery, professionalism and devotion of our predecessors. There was no command team challenge this year for Moreuil Wood; however, the Regt ensured that just because there was no command team challenge, it did not mean



*Tpr Warawa going for a new PR*

that this year's competitive drive and Sqn pride would be any different. Once the Moreuil Wood Sports Day came around, a coherent plan and engaging tournament was executed to ensure that bragging rights could be established early on. While the Green Point Lounge and the 'Corporal News Network' were quickly calculating the odds and coordinating bets towards who the champion might be, the great minds of

'The Bubble' were quickly trying to add more points to their preferred teams to determine who would win the prestigious right of 'Prince of Wales Squadron'.

In contrast to the competitive manner in which the week started off, it rapidly shifted into a more somber tone with the Moreuil Wood Parade as well as honouring our fallen on the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. Despite lacking the push-and-shove nature of previous events, the parade saw a host of awards given out to deserving soldiers, promotions, and the coveted 'Prince of Wales Squadron' announcement. The Hessin Sword was awarded to **Capt Mike Labrecque**, the Neatby Pace Stick was presented to **WO Richard Delaney**, the Colonel of the Regiment's Silver Stick was awarded to **MCpl Justin Hodgins**, the Milroy Crossbelt was awarded to **Sgt Nick Patterson**, and the Fox Bugle was presented to **Cpl Evan Barten**. Additional presentations included the Ross Gear to **Cpl Colton Bailey**, and a new award to recognize the excellence of our unsung heroes who support the Regiment, donated by Brigadier General Macaulay in memory of Capt Ian Macaulay, being presented to **Capt Scott Jackson**. The final presentation that must be mentioned was the honour of 'Prince of Wales Squadron' being given to Headquarters Squadron under the stewardship of **Capt Nathan "I left some skeletons in the closet for the next guy" Hevenor** and **MWO Kevin "did you just throw that can in the garbage?" King**. While this year may have been missing a few events, such as the Officer Mess Dinner and the command team challenge, the Reg'tl family came together as it always has to celebrate this most sacred day.



*BGen Stanton meeting the Old Guard.*



*Polish exchange officers can ignore gravity*





## All Ranks Dinner and Dance

*Captain Mike Dullege*

While there were certainly some consistent trends, 2017 marked an unusual deviation from the norm in terms of the All Ranks Dinner and Dance (ARDD). A major demarcation line was the leadership and soldier gap due to their deployment of Operation Unifier, Rotation 3. The deployment had more than a few rippling impacts for the Regiment, and the same was true for the ARDD. As in previous years, the 2017 ARDD was hosted in Schanks Sports Grill who laid on an exceptional meal and diversion program for us. That said, there were some frictions in the lead-up to the event.

During the planning stages - really at every turn before the night in question - the Acting Commanding Officer (Regimental Second-in-Command), **Maj Al "and all that good stuff" Wong**, was saying "no" to almost every request. This was an effort to minimize the appearance that we were having an over-the-top party while our comrades were a world away doing without. While I completely understand the position he was in, The Strathconian seems the logical place to air these grievances. The tattooist giving free tattoos at the door of Henry Winkler - and only Henry Winkler - seemed fine to me, and **MWO Cordell "Billy" Boland** was as giddy as a school-person about the prospect of a second Fonzie on his body. "No". Recce Squadron's "knife fight in the dark" idea was shot down just as quickly as a "safety concern". The soup-sandwich eating competition that seemed to work well this year at every 1 CMBG event was also turned down at conception, this despite a really well-written plan delivered a couple weeks after the ARDD concluded. Even the Division's Capra aegagrus hircus rodeo was shot down. **MCpl Nick "Buttercake Frosting" Norman**'s bologna-only buffet idea, although cost-saving, was summarily dismissed as simply un-Strathcona.

But, despite these failures, there were ideas that stuck. To reward those ideas we needed the subalterns, of which there were two or three remaining, to get prizes. Again, balancing the thin line between having a good time and not looking like we were having too good a time, somehow **Lt Leland "JB" Kirkham** managed to resource the right amount and type of prizes.

More than 400 Strathcona's and their guests descended on Schanks for an evening of frivolity. After a short introduction from the Acting CO and a video message from the CO and RSM in Ukraine, the venue laid on a fantastic buffet meal. Schanks has a golf simulator, mini-golfing, and a couple of bowling lanes, and we had divided the prizes into two streams: randomly drawn or won through feat of skill or strength. As with the year prior, the competition gave participants and spectators something to invest into. Loudly. For the golf simulator we gave away a large prize to the longest drive. Contestants were given two chances and that was it. The chirps were amazingly distracting. I'd like to say I won, but since I didn't I guess we'll never know who did. There was the mini-golf lowest score, and bowling highest for two more large prizes. Again, I didn't win so it doesn't really matter who did.

There were times leading up to the ARDD where I had been asked why the Regiment was having a party at all; what had it done with the leadership gone but go through the motions. My responses to those questions was reaffirmed during the ARDD. Soldiers relaxed a little, talked smack to each other, and had a good night well into the evening. After having been the lead mounting unit for Op UNIFIER Roto 3, prepped tanks for loan to the RCD then received them in various states of disrepair after Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, and numerous other tiny cuts of operations, the Regiment got a well-deserved night to blow off some steam. Tools were laid down, as were most real grievances. Throughout the night it was nice to see a break from the usual clique-forming that is often associated with military-led gatherings - people just hung out wherever (mostly where the food was) - and I hope this trend continues with the next ARDD as well.

## No Stone Left Alone – Remembrance Day

*Sergeant Nick Patterson*

Veterans Week kicked off on 6 November with No Stone Left Alone. An event that has been created with the goal to honour past CAF members by placing a poppy on every gravesite across the country, thousands of students from across Canada honoured our fallen. The event was originally started in Edmonton, but has grown over the past seven years, to include every province across the country, and this year as far East as Poland. As in past years, this event helped educate students from various schools and grades from across the city on the importance of honouring those who serve, have served, and who have given their lives in their service to our country.

Held at the Beechmount Cemetery Cenotaph, the Regt once again took the 3 Canadian Division lead. B Sqn provided a Quarter Guard, Vigil Party, as well as various members who are paired up with school children to talk to them about military life as well as guide the students through the rows of gravestones paying their respects and placing a poppy at each headstone. The Regt'l Pipes and Drums Band also supported the event, as well as a follow-up Gala on 11 November.

Unlike in past years, on Remembrance Day this year, most of the Regt was deployed to Wainwright where a small service was held on the 11 November to remember the fallen. As for the rest of the Regt, those who remained in Edmonton attended services in various locations to pay their respects to our fallen members. This year saw the Regt provide a 50 Soldier Guard for the service at the Butterdome, a select few soldiers attended a service's in Nanton, AB in honour of **Cpl Nathan Hornburg**, as well in Edmonton, AB to pay respects to **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**.

With services taking place across the city and province, the act of remembering those past CAF personnel and members of the Regt was again a somber success; the benefit of being able to inform and educate the younger generations on the importance of November 11<sup>th</sup>, our history as a country, and of course our the memories of our fallen, should never go forgotten.





## Ex STEELE BLACKHAT 2017

Captain Shaun Rogozinski



Trooper Funk Games - Hydrating with a twist.

Once a year the Strathcona's put a week aside to focus solely in educating all ranks on the history of our profession, current challenges, and the decisions we have taken to better our future. This year, the CO, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** scheduled Ex STEELE BLACKHAT 2017 from 27 November to 1 December.

The Sqns conducted two days of professional development (PD). RHQ focused on the purpose/conduct of the Immediate Response Unit (West), Communication equipment challenges, and international security threats. HQ Sqn conducted Individual Battle Task Standards that included seven stands focused on basic soldier skills. A Sqn had numerous sessions discussing current hybrid warfare and more strategic level talks on strategic outlooks within the international community. B Sqn conducted foreign weapon theory/handling, foreign and allied military structure with a focus on equipment holdings, and they constructed a large map model showing the Battle of Moreuil Wood to compliment a walkthrough of the battle. Recce Sqn focused on basic soldier skills that included an introduction to the C16 40mm Automatic Grenade Launcher System, conducted refreshers on STANO (surveillance, target acquisition and night observation) and Combat Net Radio equipment.

The NCOs and Officers also had a day of briefings at the Officers Mess focused on the broad state of the current international community and how it connects to the Strathcona's domestically and on operations. **CWO Robert Clarke** held PD sessions with junior ranks that reflected the Regimental values all Strathconas are entrusted with preserving and how we change those attitudes we no longer accept. He also took the opportunity to discuss leadership challenges and demystified Crewman career progression

Although PD is essential to Black Hat Week, the *esprit de corps* and social activities cannot be overlooked. The NCOs and Officers each held a Mess Dinner. This included the dining out of three prominent senior officers; **Col Jamie Cade**, **Col Spike Hazleton**, and **Col Dave Rundle**. Lastly, this year was the Second Annual Trooper Funk Games. For those that attended, it was something... in the end it was **Tpr Zachary Kibzey** who received the Trooper Funk Belt. Ex STEELE BLACKHAT 2017 aided in the PD of all ranks at the Regiment. It serves as a reminder that we hold the fort for those before us and preserve it for those that will replace us... but what is wrong with a little fun along the way?



Santa and his Subbies

## Kid's Christmas Party

Lieutenant Alex Young

On December 9th 2017, the Regt was transformed into a Christmas play land for the families of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) as they celebrated their annual Kid's Christmas Party at the Harvey Building. Every year this event is help as a way for the Regt to say thank you and to show their appreciation to all of the families and children of our soldiers who are forced to regularly deal with the hardships that comes with living in a military family.

The parents were quickly being pulled in all directions as their kids were anxious to experience all that the day had to offer. Some swarmed the Girl Guides of Canada table where members volunteered to run the face painting and arts and crafts stand. Those with a sweet tooth ran to get their fill of cotton candy and snow cones. The bouncy castle and mega slide were witness to a constant line and significant lack of fear, while the older children got to shoot at each other in the nerf gun obstacle course; we even had people working on their principles of marksmanship at the airsoft gun firing line.

When the kids were getting low on energy, a quick visit to the snack table recharged their batteries as they fueled up on pizza and pop. Which, as any parent knows, is the perfect combination to keep the party going. With the sugar now running strong, there remained only one thing left to do. With a loud "Ho! Ho! Ho!" Santa Claus made his grand entrance escorted by his finely dressed subaltern elf helpers and the place erupted with cheers from all the happy children. They quickly lined up in B Sqn's beautiful Santa's Workshop and waited patiently (kind of) to receive an early Christmas gift. When all was said and done, every child went home with a gift and a big smile on their face that day.



## A Family Christmas

*Captain Colin Peterson*



With the Regiment finally back together again after a long separation, the Sqns and Messes were prepared to settle down for a long Christmas nap, but before that could happen they needed to survive the most dreaded gauntlet of all... Silly Season. In a style completely the opposite of the Grinch, soldiers suddenly found themselves nearly overwhelmed with Christmas spirit and activities. The festive season opened with the annual Kids' Christmas Party, hosted with usual grace and aplomb by B Sqn. As subbies and soldiers scrambled to prep, good ol' Saint Nick put in an appearance and assured that everyone got into the spirit!

From the sedate, calm and family oriented Christmas Party things went rapidly downhill as the true test of endurance and fortitude appeared on the horizon – the trifecta of Sports

Day, Soldiers' Christmas Dinner and the At-Home. Junior officers were often seen training in the weeks leading up to these events as the CO, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** had made it clear that the officers were going to win the annual challenges this year! The Mariner Room became a nerve centre of planning and preparation, with subalterns rapid fire quizzing each other on Regimental history, while **Capt Erik "Floats Like a Butterfly" Gajnorio** schooled them on the finer points of European handball. Not to be outdone, the SNCOs could be seen gathering in the darkness of the Sarcee Room, plotting their revenge for the At-Home. It's rumoured that the B Sqn SQ **WO Nathan "Doctor Frankenstein" Mills** even took to programming his champions through some bizarre brainwashing techniques to ensure only the highest performance.

Sports Day dawned bright and clear, with the Regiment engaging in hockey, lacrosse, and handball. Additionally, the various SSMs' also competed in an aggressive canteen challenge, offering delights such as breakfast sandwiches and a highly competitive chili cook-off. After a day of friendly and

spirited competition the results were in. The Greenpoint Lounge captured gold against the Track Pad, ensuring that **MCpl Brydon "Townie" Townsend** could enjoy a year of lording over the PMC of the Track Pad, **Cpl Tom "Lada" Lauterbacher**. Finally, in a twist worthy of the greatest of writers, the Mariner Room emerged triumphant, having swept the sporting events and, for once, not having to arm wrestle a decision away.

The Regimental Christmas Parade saw several important promotions as well as the presentation of medals, awards, and the all important "Trooper Funk Heavyweight Championship" title for top Trooper, won by **Tpr Zach "Macho Man" Kibzey**. The parade saw six new SNCOs join the Sarcee Room, and more than a dozen awards and decorations handed out.

Silly Season was rounded out by that most important of traditions: the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner. Celebrated at the Base kitchen it provided the leadership, both officers and SNCOs, with the opportunity to thank all the soldiers for their effort, hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout a demanding year. As usual, the dinner was a resounding success, punctuated



19C rides the bench

by the off-key serenades of both junior officers and newly minted SNCOs. In a truly mind-shattering decision, the Acting CO, **Tpr Quenton "Just 18" Francis**, authorized a stand down, ably supported by his RSM, **Cpl Andy "Cryptkeeper" Boorman**.

From the dinner, the SNCOs and Officers returned to their messes in preparation for the final showdown between the Sarcee and Mariner Rooms. As the guests of the SNCOs, the Officers were prepared for an almost unlimited amount of shenanigans and they were not disappointed. Hosted ably by the RSM, **CWO Rob "Bald" Clarke** and **PMC WO Nathan "Also Bald" Mills**, the Officers were put through their paces, following the demanding career track of an enlisted soldier from BMQ up to ALQ and beyond! From mildly intoxicated drill to CF98-generating tank maintenance, both Officers and SNCOs competed across a broad spectrum of challenges, both mental and physical. In the end the SNCOs walked away with the victory, due to, according to **WO Mills**, "an officer's inability to simply do what he's told; he always wants to come up with a new solution instead of one that works". Perhaps the greatest gift we all received this Christmas Season was these deep and meaningful words of wisdom? Either way, following that, the Regiment finally tucked itself in for a long and well-deserved winter's nap.

*Changing of the Guard following the Tpr Funk Games*



# Sports and Fitness



This year was a tough year for sports in the Strathcona's. In order to prepare the unit for the multiple deployments and support to Army tasks that it would see a significant amount of time and personnel would not be available for competitive sports. Even so the soldiers of the Strathcona's faced every challenge with the spirit and determination our soldiers are known for.

Despite generating a Task Force for operations in Ukraine and supporting the generation of a Battlegroup for deployment to Latvia, the Strathcona's put it all on the line during Ex STRONG CONTENDER 17. Unfortunately the significant lack of people to play could only hurt the unit's chances and we suffered because of it. A similar fate was afforded to the combattives team, led by **MCpl Justin Wry**, for Ex RELENTLESS WARRIOR in that they did not place however much experience was gained and a strong performance made. **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** and **RSM Rob Clarke** have vowed vengeance for Ex STRONG CONTENDER 18 to wash the stain from the Regiment's honour.

Very shortly after the bulk of the Regiment would deploy leaving all the sqn's undermanned. The Regiment regrouped and refocused effort to support teams competing in civilian events and those soldiers continued to perform as Strathcona's everywhere they went, with grace and style and a quiet professionalism. In June the Regiment support two tactical athlete teams competing in the Fight of the Fittest event hosted in St Albert Alberta. A tough two day Crossfit style competition saw the Regiments team placing 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Our combattives team continued to make its strengths felt and saw **Cpl's Shane Fettes** and **Andrew Lonegren** attending the National Military Combattives Championship in Petawawa, ON. Both soldiers dominated their competition with **Cpl Fettes** placing 1<sup>st</sup> and **Cpl Lonegren** placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their weight categories. This theme of excellence was continued by the Regimental running team which competed in the grueling 100 mile Sinister 7 race in the formidable Alberta Rocky Mountains. In a truly herculean effort the team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

Even deployed sports continued to play a special role in the lives of the Strathcona's. In Ukraine the MCpl's would trounce all comers in a rainy Canada Day celebration, leaving behind a broken mess of officers most notably, though they remained undefeated all day. In Latvia, Ex GLADIUS FORGER, more commonly known as Ex ROCKY RIGA, saw the Strathcona ISR troop bashing their way through a tough fitness, endurance and skills competition all to end in a polar drip in the frigid Bay of Riga.

The return home of the Op UNIFIER team saw a vigorous competition during the Christmas Sports Day where the MCpl's once again beat out the Tpr's and Cpl's and the officers reclaimed some of their stolen honour from the Sr NCO's by winning all three events. Overall the year was a rough and tumble one filled with challenges, upsets and victories for the Regiment.

## Sports in Review

*Major Jeff Brown*



*Strong Contender - Tpr Tong*



## Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

*Sergeant Geri-Ann Davidson and Lieutenant Alex Young*

In the early morning on 7 Sep 17, 188 competitors from across the brigade lined up at the start line for what is known to many as the gruelling Mountain Man Challenge... ready to represent the Regiment and to accept the personal test, with the blast from a horn they ran off into the darkness. Ex MOUNTAIN MAN (Ex MM) was underway.

For those who have competed before let the race details haunt your shoulders, lower back, and sore/blistered feet. For those who have yet to compete, Ex MM is a 36km run that seems to go on forever, 3.2kms of pain inducing canoe portage, a paddle that varies in length depending on your GPS (roughly 10kms, and ends in a 5.6km sprint to the finish line; all with a 15kg ruck sack).

Training started with a much larger team this year, there was a wide range of goals and experience. WO Stephen "The Guru" Eddy volunteered to coach the team; a passionate and experienced runner, he provided a variety of new, interesting and intense training methods that not only challenged the team, but pushed people to new heights of fitness in preparation for the race. Despite operational tempo, as the summer progressed, it became clear that the Regiment would be supporting OP LENTUS to fight the forest fires in BC. This meant that much of the team would not be able to compete on race day, as they would be in BC. However, as the day of the race arrived, the remainder of the team prepared their packs and shook out the nerves before lining up for the 5am start time. Fortunately, the team had some last minute additions to bolster the number. Capt Justin "Who practices portage?" Salter and Capt Gord "it was fun for the first 25km" Elliott competed at the front of the pack despite joining the team just days before the race.

Following the 36km "intro" to the race, the portage was enough to take any soldier through the depths of determination. As with any year, competitors could be seen resting their canoes upright on anything available along the course with hopes the frustrated soldiers could catch a break. For the competitors,

*Back Row (L to R): MCpl Grant Skaarup, Tpr Ben Bogaert, Pte Mark Cyr, Capt Justin Salter,*

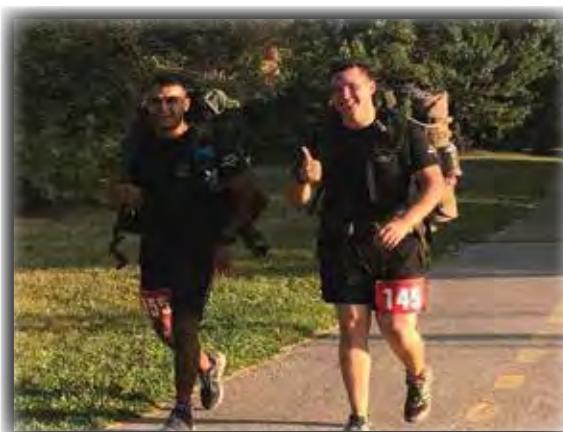
*Cpl Tom Lauterbacher, WO Steve Eddy, Cpl Justin Green, Cpl Josh Munro*

*Front Row (L to R): Cpl Josh Rouke, Tpr Ben Hogan, Sgt Geri-Ann Davidson, MCpl Joe Bremner, Capt Gord Elliott*



it was a great boost to see fellow Strathcona's as event staff, specifically at the canoe launch point to help get the canoe off our tired shoulders and into the water. Similarly, there is no better feeling than coming over that final bridge and hearing the cheers of the spectators to motivate a valiant final "sprint" across the finish line. After a long, punishing race, it felt great to finally take the ruck off, receive our coins, and get refueled with big plate of pasta, served right at the finish line.

Overall, the team did very well. The team can be proud of finishing such a demanding race and all Strathconas can be proud of the team who represented them. This year several younger soldiers eagerly joined the team and had strong



*Tpr Tanveerjot Gill and Cpl Josh Munro*

races; with the fighting spirit of Tpr Ben "The Rabbit" Hogan who finished 16<sup>th</sup> Overall and Cpl Josh "Big Man" Rouke, the future looks bright for the Regt in future competitions. Not to be out-down, showing the 'kids' how to do it, WO Stephen "still got it" Eddy placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Masters Category and 22<sup>nd</sup> Overall, while Sgt Geri-Ann "The Machine" Davidson placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Woman's Category.

Congratulations to the team and competitors for another great year; it was truly a test of *Perseverance!*

### 2017 Regimental Ex MOUNTIAN MAN Team:

- Capt Gord Elliott
- Capt Justin Salter
- WO Steve Eddy
- Sgt Geri-Ann Davidson
- MCpl Joe Bremner
- MCpl Grant Skaarup
- Cpl Justin Green
- Cpl Tom Lauterbacher
- Cpl Josh Munro
- Cpl Josh Rouke
- Tpr Ben Bogaert
- Tpr Mark Cyr
- Tpr Tanveerjot Gill
- Tpr Ben Hogan



*Capt Gord "almost there" Elliott passing under one of the ten bridges.*

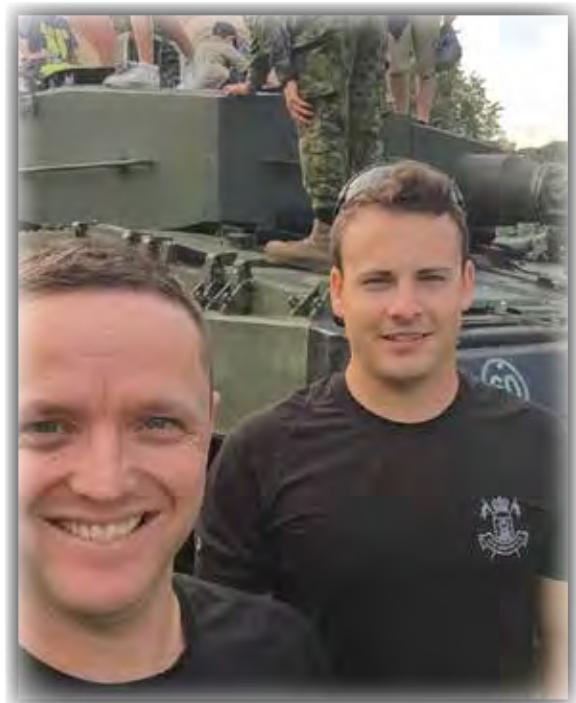
*Col William Fletcher (left), and CWO Darren Hessel (right), present Mountain Man Awards to (right to left) Capt Ashley Collette, Lt Alura Castle (first place), and Sgt Geri-Ann Davidson (third place). Photograph by Robert Schwartz, Garrison Imaging*





## Canadian Army Run

*Warrant Officer Stephen Eddy*



Ten days after completing Ex MOUNTAIN MAN, **Tpr Ben Hogan** and I set off for Ottawa to run the half-marathon in the 10<sup>th</sup> installment of the Canadian Army Run (CAR) in Ottawa as part of a team comprising of members from various units from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division.

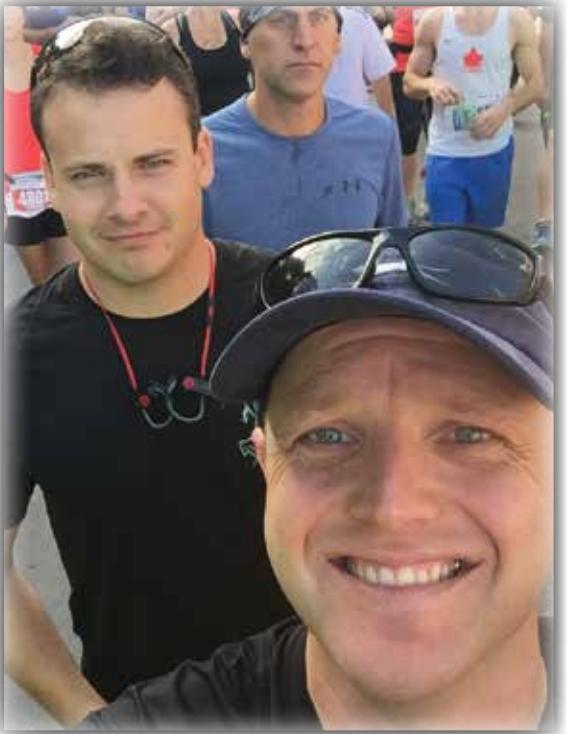
Taking place in the heart of Ottawa, the event drew over 22,000 participants for all event distances and almost 6,000 runners for the half-marathon. To accompany the race there was also a static display including a Leopard 2 which was on its way back to Edmonton from repairs in Montreal, **Tpr Hogan** did a quick F1 on it to see what kind of shape it was in. The evening before race day, the Minister of National Defence led a team of dignitaries in serving a pasta dinner from two MKTs. There were several motivational speeches including the founder of The Running Room, **John Stanton**.

The morning of the race, the temperature soared to 29 degrees, but the racer corrals were jam packed with eager runners looking to tear up the streets of Ottawa. The course had lots of water and aid stations and even

nice, refreshing, cool-mist shower sprayers. There were also 17 cheer stations along the route competing against each other for a donation in support of their charity. The route takes racers by some of Ottawa's scenic attractions such as Parliament Hill, Rideau Hall, the War Memorial and of course along the beautiful Ottawa River.

When the start gun sounded, we took off weaving in and out of the other racers, making (not so) short work of the course, but having trained in Edmonton, the heat and humidity of Ottawa certainly took its toll on our bodies. I suppose having only been 10 days removed from finishing Mountain Man may have also contributed to a tough finish. By the end of the race, **Tpr Hogan** came in at an impressive 1 hour 57 minutes and 47 seconds, while I managed to squeak in at 1 hour 47 minutes and 25 seconds.

The Canadian Army Run is one of the best races I have participated in, the organizers did a fantastic job and the support it gets from the city of Ottawa is phenomenal. Both **Tpr Hogan** and I are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the race, if the chance to participate ever presents itself, jump at it! It's a great event and an experience you'll never forget.



# Key Events



## Spruce Meadows / Calgary Stampede

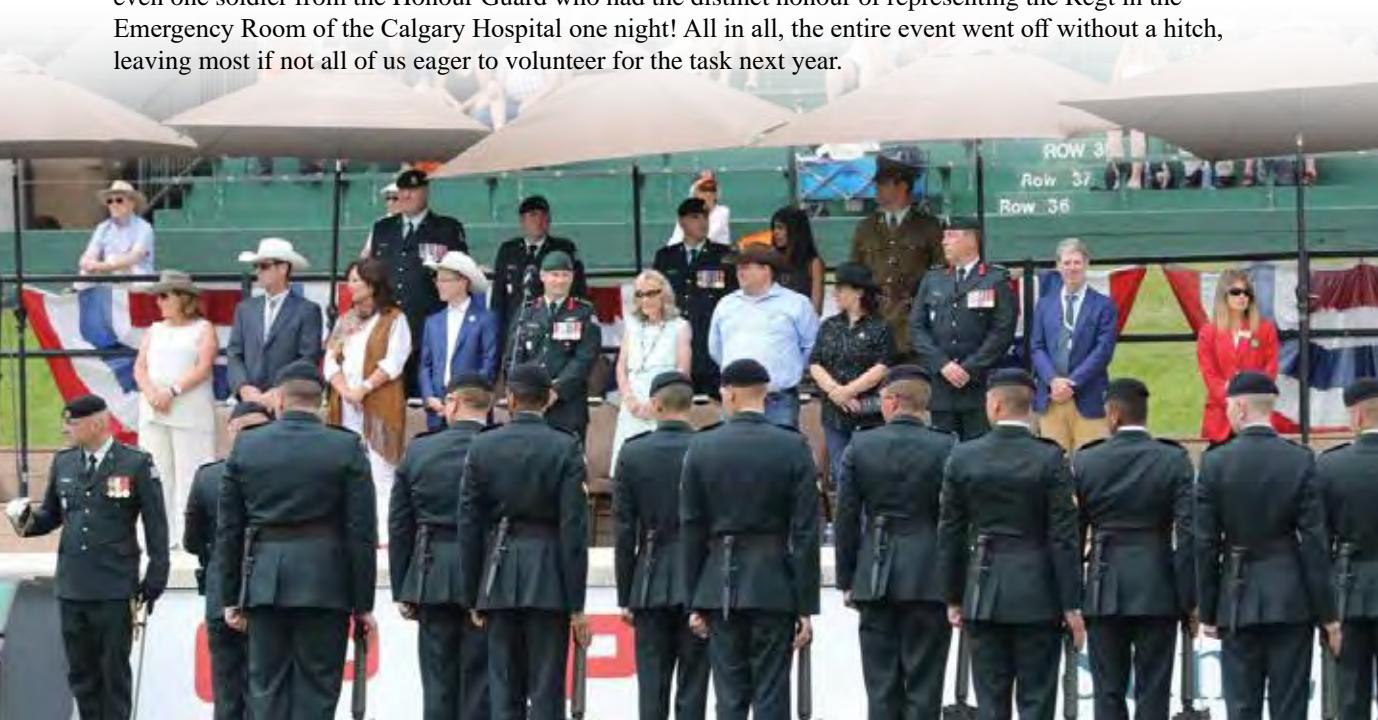
*Trooper Dylan Braconnier*

Each year, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has the honour of providing a 100-troop Honour Guard to parade both at Spruce Meadows, and the Calgary Stampede. It is a three day event that promises to be a good time for all those who attend, and this year was no different.

The first day of the event, for those of us from the Regt, started on the morning of July 6th. We loaded our personal kit, combats for the Stampede parade, DEU's for Spruce Meadows, and a cot depending on your sleeping accommodations. We then proceeded to board one of three different buses. The bus ride was followed by a practice on Thursday, before the main events on Saturday and Sunday. Although it was only a practice, there were crowds in attendance along with an announcer that made the experience all the more real.

Following the Thursday practice, the evening was now ours. Our next timing was early Friday morning, but did that stop everyone from going out and enjoying the festivities? I think not. Friday morning was the opening parade for the Stampede, and found most of us still a little sleepy and definitely a little dehydrated. But morale was high and the parade promised to be well worth the small amount of discomfort we all found ourselves in. With a tank and an ARV in tow, the formation of soldiers from the Regt marched proudly through downtown Calgary while being cheered on by the thousands of spectators who had braved the 30+ degree weather to watch the parade. Their cheering would not go unrewarded though, as most of the children in attendance received a high-five from at least one of us and, if not, they received at least a wave. There were even a few hugs thrown around. Once again the evening was ours, a pattern that was the standard for our stay in Calgary except for a handful of soldiers being selected for weapons watch each night. Saturday was now upon us; Game Day. It was hot and everyone was sweaty, but at least we had the beat of a drum to keep us in step this time and the parade was as good as it could get. That evening and the following day mimicked the one before it with one exception: as we were all waiting to step-off to start Sunday's parade, the honour guard was asked to pose for a picture with the Grey Cup! Even those among us who had little or no interest in football could not help but get a little excited to have this opportunity.

Yet again, both Spruce Meadows and the Calgary Stampede had been a resounding success. There was even one soldier from the Honour Guard who had the distinct honour of representing the Regt in the Emergency Room of the Calgary Hospital one night! All in all, the entire event went off without a hitch, leaving most if not all of us eager to volunteer for the task next year.



## Op LENTUS 17-04

### We Didn't Start the Fire

*Lieutenant Dan Dixon and Lieutenant Leland "Clean Covies" Kirkham*

On August 29th 2017, the Regt deployed 89 soldiers in support of Operation LENTUS 17-04 to fight wildfires in the Cariboo Region of British Columbia. The Coy that left Edmonton was made up of soldiers from every Sqn within the Regt. What followed was a two-day road move from Edmonton to a lesser known location called Riske Creek roughly 40km southwest of Williams Lake. The plateau, surrounded by mountains on all sides, provided an excellent staging ground for our task of supporting the BC Wildfire Services (BCWS) in their efforts to fight the spread of the recent wildfires throughout the area.

Upon arrival, we quickly established ourselves within the camp as we were eager to get to start assisting the firefighters. We were only in camp one night before we were on the fire lines with hand-tools fighting fires. Each morning Pl leadership would link-up with a BCWS representative known as a "Red Shirt" to receive their daily tasks. The initial firefighting saw each Pl travel up to three hours from Riske Creek to reach their assigned locations. In the areas where our Pls were operating, the fire had rolled through and the damage was evident. The majority of tasks each Pl were given consisted of "Mop-Up" and "Patrols", which had soldiers moving through the forest utilizing hand-tools to both dig out and beat down fires. Work began in the early morning, and often saw soldiers not returning to camp until late in the evening after patrolling upwards of ten kilometers through wood-lines each day. The days on the fire-line were very long and consisted of physically demanding work, but were ultimately very satisfying.

While the IRU Coy was conducting firefighting operations, the Regt had also sent the IRU Recce Patrol to assist local authorities and civilians affected by the fires. The Patrol worked all throughout the Cariboo Region, even reaching as far south as 70 Mile House. They provided presence patrols and conducted Observation Report Posts to ensure Canadians were aware of, and guided away from, the wildfire threat.

When not on the fire-line, everyone lived rather comfortably in the Riske Creek Camp. There, a pan-CAF group of supporters provided us with critical support and ensured we were able to continue our firefighting operations with all of our medical, maintenance, and transportation needs fulfilled. The kitchen staff, led by the camp KO **Sgt Gerald Francis**, deserve special recognition as they continually served excellent food, and even provided ice cream to keep morale high. All the support that we received was further magnified by the fact that they were enabling a 300 person camp, with 8 platoons of LdSH(RC), 38, 39, and 41 CBG wildfire fighters, all under the watchful eye of Camp Sergeant Major, **MWO Ken Shiells**.

Ultimately, every soldier would agree that the work was difficult but worthwhile. Many of the soldiers were thanked by members of the community in the surrounding area for their hard work. As this was the first Domestic Operation for many of the soldiers involved, the impact that their efforts had on the community was clearly evident and provided an extremely rewarding experience for all.



## Community Relations / Soldier for a Day

*Captain Colin Peterson*



*Capt Dullege explaining day-to-day operations in the field.*

This past year has been another busy one for Strathconas out in the public eye. Community relations is an important aspect of life for Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), as it gives our soldiers the opportunity to interact and spend some time with the people who we live and work amongst, both in Edmonton and Western Canada. This was made all the more important in 2017 as we had many soldiers deployed across the world on different operations, and getting the public to meet soldiers makes it much more personal for them; it is not just a soldier in CADPAT that they see overseas on the television, but an actual person.

Strathconas attended many different events throughout the year. They were down in Calgary for the Stampede, showing everyone the difference between a Tank and a LAV. They attended the K-days parade in Edmonton. They were front and centre during the annual Spruce Meadows celebrations as well. They were even sighted doing a 13km weighted march through the trails in St. Albert. Throughout all of these events, the thing that continually sets Strathconas apart from other units, professionalism and pride in what we do, was on display. In addition to going out into the community to interact with the public, the Regt has also been able to host different groups of people, to showcase what we do, both in the field and in Garrison. We were given the opportunity to host some civilian leaders during Ex STEELE SABRE, where our soldiers had the opportunity to demonstrate what our day to day lives are like while out on exercise. The Regt also had the opportunity to host a very special group of people at the Harvey Building, the Strathcona Spouses group, over this past year. They were treated to LAV and TLAV rides as well as getting the opportunity to experience an IMP lunch.

Whether we are at home in Edmonton, or deployed abroad, Strathconas are always ready and willing to showcase what we do. We are blessed to live in a province like Alberta, where the support for our soldiers never waivers, and we relish the every opportunity we have to give back. Thanks to the hard work of all our members in the community, the LdSH(RC) brand has never been stronger.



## The End of an Era

### The Historical Legacy of the Leopard 1 in the Canadian Army

*Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Marvin MacNeill*

It has now been of 40 years of loyal and dedicated service that the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps will be saying goodbye to not only the work horse of the armoured fleet, but the vehicle that shaped and changed how a generation of soldiers will fondly remember their own time of service.

It was decided in the mid 1970's that a new tank for the aging Centurion needed to be replaced almost immediately. The Centurion had been introduced in the British Army at the onset of the Korean War in 1950 and by the mid 1960's was being replaced by the newer Chieftain MBT for the British Army. Spare parts were now becoming quickly obsolete and during the height of the Cold War in Europe a replacement need to be found immediately. In 1977 a deal was made with the Government of Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany that Canada would proceed with a "lease deal" that would see the introduction of the Leopard 1 to be used by the Canadian Forces currently stationed in Germany. For the next year the Royal Canadian Dragoons would hand-over the Centurion tanks for the Leopard 1. It was also during this year that the RCD would go on to win the prestigious Canadian Army Trophy and defeat other NATO nations in the skill of armoured gunnery. This was a feat that had not been done by a Canadian team since the Strathcona's last won in 1967.



The following year in 1978, the "leased tanks" were handed back over to the German Army as the new replacement tank was now ready for distribution in the Canadian Army. This version was the Leopard 1A3. A total of 114 tanks we bought for use in Canada and the Canadian Forces in Europe. Initially, two fully equipped tank squadrons remained with the RCD as part of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Germany, while a third squadron was held but not crewed in Germany with the Forward Mobile Support Unit (FMSU). A fourth tank squadron was shipped to CFB Gagetown to be used by "C" Squadron RCD and retained the position as the "fly over squadron" in the event that soldiers needed to crew the reserve squadron that were being held in Germany. All remaining Leopard C1 tanks were then distributed to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School and the Electrical Mechanical Engineer School in CFB Borden for training purposes. Unfortunately, the remaining regular force units in Canada did not receive any tanks to replace the Centurions that the held but were given a tank trainer or "Armoured Vehicle General Purpose" better known as the Cougar.

The Leopard C1 would continue to serve with 4 CMBG being crewed by soldiers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) until the end of the Cold War. In 1993, the decision was made to cease the Canadian operations with the Canadian Forces in Europe and all equipment and soldiers would return to Canada. The two bases in Lahr and Baden-Soellingen would be closed and handed back to the now unified country of Germany. Within the same year, the decision was made to equip each of the regular forces regiments back in Canada with a squadron of Leopard C1 tanks. The 8 CH would crew the tank squadron in CFB Gagetown while a second squadron of tanks would be crewed by the 12 RBC in CFB Valcartier. A third squadron would equip the RCD in CFB Petawawa while the remaining squadron would be sent to Harvey Barracks, in Calgary and eventually be manned by the



soldiers of B Squadron LdSH(RC).

The regiment was fortunate to see the influx of soldiers returning after the closure in Europe bringing the experience and qualifications required to operate the Leopard tanks but this was all to be put on hold as the Strathcona's would form the nucleus of a Battle Group that was heading to Bosnia-Herzegovina the following year. In 1994 the Regiment headed overseas while the Leopard C1 tanks remained in Calgary and were preserved by a dedicated team of crewman and maintenance personnel for long term storage.

Upon returning from the deployment later that same year, the tanks underwent conditioning and serviceability checks to ensure they were once again operationally ready. Additionally, soldiers had to be sent to CFB Gagetown to be qualified tank drivers and gunners on the Leopard C1. The financial constraints put on the military by the government in the 1990's lead to no new recruits being trained over the next few years leaving the opportunity for advancement in the ranks extremely limited. It was not uncommon for drivers and gunners to remain in the same position for years. This period also brought a lack of parts and mileage restrictions. It was not an uncommon practice to only drive 25 Kilometers a day before everyone was ordered to stop and "switch off" the tanks once that point was reached no matter where the tanks were in the training area. A fleet of lowbed trucks were also rented and used to move the tanks in the training area in an attempt to reduce the mileage. To stretch the budget even further, the tanks would eventually be left in Wainwright while the soldiers of B Squadron would travel from Calgary to Wainwright each Monday and return home on a Thursday night. This would remain a common practice until the eventual move of the Regiment to Edmonton in the summer of 1996.

It was in this same year that the first overseas deployment of the Leopard C1 took place. With the transition from U.N. Peacekeeping forces to NATO forces in the former republic of Yugoslavia, two Leopard C1 tanks were sent to Bosnia-Herzegovinian as part of the Implementation Force (IFOR) Mission. The role was to conduct breaching and possible mine clearing operations using a mine plow and mine rollers if they were required. The tanks were initially crewed by the RCD, but after months of limited use the tanks remained in a storage location in Bosnia.

In 1997, the Regiment would once again see a Battle Group deployment to Bosnia. A Squadron deployed independently with the 2 PPCLI Battle Group from January until June while the remainder of the Regiment would deploy from June until December. It was decided during this time that the Leopard C1 tanks did not have to go into long term storage as a squadron of soldiers would always have a foot on the ground to continue with the maintenance of the tanks. With the return of A Squadron during the summer, efforts were made between the Regiment, by **Capt Don Senft**, and a U.S. Army unit, specifically the 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade from Boise ID, to conduct a small unit exchange and tank gunner competition. U.S. Army soldiers were sent to Edmonton in late August and conducted full conversion training in both Driving and Maintenance and Leopard tank gunnery. Once completed, a selected troop of A Squadron soldiers were sent to Boise to conduct full conversion training on the M1A1 Abrams tank. When all the required training was complete, both the Canadian Leopard C1's and American Abrams tanks were shipped to the ranges in Idaho. Each team was required to not only "shoot off" of their respective countries tanks, but to also conduct the shoots from the other countries tanks as well.



A close competition ensued, firing both at day and at night, and shooting both while stationary and while the vehicles were on the move during battle runs. It would be the Canadian team that persevered and won the inaugural Canadian-American (CANAM) Cup. The CANAM Cup was then to be held every other year. The next competitions were held in Wainwright in 1999 with a loss this year, but was won again in 2000



and in 2002 with the soldiers of C Squadron. 2003 would also see a loss of the cup to the Americans by the soldiers of B Squadron. The competition was suspended the following years due to operations for both the Canadians and Americans due to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1999, 3 Troop, C Squadron would operationally deploy as a part of 1 PPCLI Battle Group to Operation KINETIC in Kosovo. This would be the first time since the Korean War that a formation of tanks with a Battle Group would deploy on an overseas operation. The Leopard C1 went through a few cosmetic changes by adding MEXAS armour making the tank have a different look. There were no significant incidents or engagements for the tank in Kosovo and this would be the last deployment for the Leopard C1.

The deployment of tanks in Kosovo brought questions forward on the technological advancements of other countries and their specific use of armour in a conventional ground role. All major NATO contributing countries like the United States, Britain, France and Germany had brought forth the best of their armoured technology with tanks like the Abrams, Challenger 2, Leclerc and Leopard 2. The Leopard C1

now lacked the basics in armoured and technological advancement such as thermal sighting. A deal was now in the works to have the turrets upgraded to a more modern variation and by the summer of 2000 the first Leopard C2's began to arrive at the Regiment. The "new" turrets were an upgraded variant of the German made Leopard 1A5, but had a few extra upgrades made specifically for the Canadian Army. The turret would now see the upgraded thermal capability and employing the latest Fire Control Systems (FCS), and was the first vehicle to have the new Tactical Combat Communications System (TCCS) installed. This was now considered to be a midlife upgrade for the Leopard C2.

The next couple of years would see not only the Armoured Corps, but the Regiment, change dramatically on how the Leopard C2 would be employed in the Canadian Army. Many conventional thinkers would start to change their own opinion on how they saw the Main Battle Tank (MBT) specifically used in Canadian Operations. This created a divide and shift imposed by the government and senior armoured staff. Canada was to follow in the heels of the U.S. Army and lose the tank for a lighter more flexible vehicle. The United States had just developed the Mobile Gun System (MGS) based on the Stryker platform; this was really a LAV that mounted a 105mm main gun. Testing of the MGS was currently underway by 2003 and a new concept was born for use in the Canadian Army: The concept of the Direct Fire Squadron (DFS). This concept would see the introduction of the Infantry LAV T.O.W. Missile System along with the Artillery's Air Defence Anti-Tank System (ADATS) Platform to be merged into a common direct fire force lead by the Strathcona's. All other regular force units including the Armoured School lost all of the Leopard C2 tank capability. Only sixty-six tanks were to remain in the Canadian inventory and all other tanks were either sold or used for scrap. This number was decided upon due to the number of replacement MGS that were going to be bought from the United States.

While operations were continuing in Afghanistan without the use of any heavy armour, an event occurred during the summer of 2006 that would change the course of history for not only the Regiment but the entire Armoured Corps. It was during Op MEDUSA and the Canadian involvement of NATO's largest ground operation in Afghanistan up to this time, the need for mechanized breaching equipment was immediately required. During the operation, contracted heavy machinery like bulldozers were used, but with only limited success. The need for a tank not only to breach the obstacles, but to provide direct fire support would be beneficial in every aspect. All the stars seemed to be aligned in saving the tank in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps in 2006. The then Minister of National Defence, Gordon O'Connor to the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier were both former serving Armoured Officers.





Within days, plans were starting to be made with the possibility of introducing a tank squadron to the fight in Afghanistan. In only a matter of weeks, the Leopard C2 began their transformation and started their rebuild and up-armour process. The years of constant use had made the belly plate armour wear thin so new plates had to be added on the bottom of the hull. All implements had to undergo rigorous serviceability checks as this would become the life line for use in operations in Afghanistan. For the next six years the Leopard C2 would remain in service throughout the Battle Group rotations in Afghanistan. Even with the addition and the eventual replacement of the Leopard C2, the Leopard 2, the C2 had to remain because it was still the only tank that mounted the mine rollers, mine plows and dozer blades. An eventual mounting plate was added to the Leopard 2 in 2009 to mount the rollers, but the other implements could not be replaced or swapped. It is only now, in 2017, that the problem has been solved by the addition of the new implements for the Leopard 2; now the time has come to finally retire the Leopard 1.

There have been many incredible memories made over the last 40 years that will be missed by every soldier that served on the Leopard 1. The Sound of the engine. The roar of the gun. The never-ending maintenance. The storage of the beer. The sleeping on the back deck. The laughter we had. The tears we shed. The scars we wear. The places we served. The stories we have. The brothers we made. We will miss you "old girl". You were our protector, our fortress and most of all our home when we were away from home.

## Leopard C2 Shoots for the Last Time... Again

*Sergeant Mark "Grandfather Time" Bell*



*Leo C2 - Last rounds fired during  
Ex STEELE SABRE*

The final days of the Leopard C2 were celebrated by expending the last of the 105mm ammunition. During our annual Friends of the Regiment visits to Wainwright, numerous VIPs became honorary Leopard C2 gunners for the day. The preparations for firing of the two remaining Leopard C2's at range 25 went without much of a hiccup, despite the limited maintenance conducted prior to leaving Edmonton.

Things quickly went downhill after the tanks started firing as the Leopard C2 began to show its age; both tanks started the day almost fully functional, except neither had stab and only one had a functioning laser range finder. **WO Stew McLoughlin** and **Sgt Mark**

**Bell** commanded the old beasts for safety of the participants (and to keep the tanks from falling apart). The attending VIPs fired several rounds each; however, the old tanks were getting tired and the systems started to fail. By the end of the day, one tank was firing in fully degraded mode, including using the emergency plunger to fire, and the other tank was still functioning albeit without a laser or full stab. Near the end of the day, those members of the squadron that had never fired a Leopard C2 got their chance to fire a couple rounds and be a part of history.

To say farewell, the last rounds to be fired were given to the youngest and oldest crewmen in A Squadron. **Tpr Bradley Logan** fired the last training sabot rounds before **Sgt Bell** fired the last SHPRAC (the targets were scared, but not injured with the last few rounds).

At the end of the day and once all rounds were complete, only one lonely Leopard C2 was able to drive under its own power (the other towed by the ARV) back to base Wainwright. A solemn ending to the honourable Leopard C2's service; they served us well and will always have a place in the hearts of everyone who crewed them.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lieutenant Harvey at Guyancourt

*Captain Sean Coughlan*

As part of a larger action to advance beyond British infantry positions along a 12-mile front, the Canadian Cavalry Bde was ordered, in March of 1917, to seize locations including the high ground in the French town of Guyencourt and the Grebaussart Wood just beyond.

With the attack delayed by heavy snowstorms, the Fort Garry Horse were finally let off the leash to charge Hill 140, the Grebaussart Wood, Jean Copse, and Chauffeur Wood. They set up 5 machine gun positions in doing so, and effectively cordoned off the towns of Guyencourt, and Saulcourt. It was now up to the Strathconas to seize Guyencourt itself. The town was protected by a German trench system with three layers of barbed wire and machine gun positions. The Germans inflicted heavy casualties upon the Strathconas, who sought cover in the northwest of the village, at its walls.

**Lt Frederick Maurice Watson Harvey** commanded the lead Tp into the town on the charge. A native of Ireland, Lt Harvey immigrated to Fort MacLeod, Alberta in 1908. He joined the Strathcona's at the outbreak of the World War and by 1915 was serving with the British 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps in France. While leading charge Lt Harvey was of course a choice target for the Germans from a position capable of wiping out the entire company. Harvey quickly dismounted and sprinted forward jumping the three rows of barbed wire, while discharging his pistol at the German Machine Gun position. He was able to shoot the German gunner dead and capture the position. This action allowed the remainder of the Strathconas to occupy the trench system and seize the town; it also earned Lt Harvey the Victoria Cross for his courageous action. Originally he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order but this was later upgraded.

Lt Harvey then went on to participate in the action at Moreuil Wood, where **Lt Flowerdew** earned his VC, and was awarded with the Military Cross. He would then go on to command the Strathconas after several promotions and in 1939 was promoted to brigadier in command of the 13<sup>th</sup> Alberta Military District.

After his retirement Harvey maintained an avid passion for horses, even becoming a judge for hunter and jumper competitions. He served as the Colonel of the Regiment of the Strathconas from 1958-1966.





## Depart with Dignity - Shogun (Soya)

**Breed:** Quarter Horse/ Standardbred cross

**Sex:** Gelding

**Birth Date:** 05 June 1994

**Colour:** Bay

**Markings:** White Star Forehead

**Height:** 15.2 hands

**Tattoo:** No

**Enrolment:** 12 Apr 1997

**Year's Active Service:** 20

**Age:** 23

**Shogun** performed in 1200 Musical rides and 2500 Mounted Vedettes over his 20 years of service to the Strathcona

Mounted Troop. Shogun taught riders respect for the horse making strong riders due to his choppy gait. Shogun put through 180 new riders as a training horse, over 8000 Ride practices and more miles than can be counted. Over the 20 years Shogun was always top of the herd, a proud, dedicated horse which he participated in the following key troop events;



- Lead horse for the Musical Ride 2014/15
- Top SMT horse 2015
- Troop Leaders Horse (Charger) 2016
- Led high profile escorts at Spruce Meadows
- 2 Royal visits 2005 Queen and Prince Philip 2011 Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
- Mounted Guard during the French President visit to Banff
- Participated in the Celebration 2000 Trip across Canada
- Musical Ride on Parliament Hill, Ottawa.
- 6 Regimental Change of Command Parades
- Freedom of City Parade Edmonton, Ft.Sask and Sherwood Park
- Calgary Stampede Parade
- Edmonton Klondike Days Parade
- Grey Cup Parade
- Shogun being the tough Quarter horse Standardbred cross was able to keep his health and medical file empty over most of the 20 years. A true loyal, dedicated equine friend, for those who had him as their horse loved his attitude to work and always a pleasure to ride no matter what the task, he gave it all. Shogun always portrayed himself as true Cavalry Charger and will sorely be missed. Perserverence





## Strathcona Mounted Troop

*Captain Sean Coughlan*



*Timmy's Run*

The year has been an eventful one for the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT). SMT has travelled across Western Canada from the exotic Brandon, Manitoba in the east to Nanaimo and Comox out west in beautiful British Columbia, and almost everything in between. With only one ride rescheduled due to rain, the weather seemed always in the troop's favour this season.

**Cpl Greg "The Destroyer" Dobson** took away the title of top Sabre Tent Pegger this year, while **Cpl Coleman "The Gravedigger" Germann** took the prize for top Lance Tent Pegger; although they were not without stiff competition. A bounty was put on a perfect tent pegging run by the new Tp Ldr. As, in complete naivety, it was thought to be an almost insurmountable task, one which is rarely achieved in the first half of the season. **Cpl Jake "The Rat"**

**Senff** was the first to shatter this illusion at Prince Charles School. This was followed by **Cpl Justin "The Cowboy" Hodgins** and **Cpl Germann** pulling out Aces in Nanaimo. The height of destruction though, came when **Sgt Paul "The Crippler" Kruhlak** managed to pull off 5 Aces in a row and almost bankrupted the Troop Leader in the process. The Troop also participated in the inaugural Canadian Tent Pegging Tournament at the Regina Tattoo Royale. Providing three teams, Team West of CMT (Sgt Kruhlak, Cpl Dobson, Cpl Germann, and Cpl Senff) took home the Sam Steele medal.

The SMT trailer also received a makeover this last year. Under the supervision of **Cpl Lee "Heavy Duty" Houston**, the 20 horse trailer was stripped and rewired featuring the "*Charge of Flowerdew's*



*Squadron*" by Sir Alfred Munnings, as well as a charge from the 1930 iteration of SMT. With this new wrap the sun bleached trailer of yester year is now shiny and new... although, like the Leopard 2s, maintenance continues to be a heavy workload. The tack trailer also received a fresh coat of paint and both trailers received new tyres.

A year in review would be amiss without a mention of the troop's time down in Calgary at Spruce Meadows. Once again, the season was a success due in no small part to the efforts of everyone at



Spruce Meadows. A very special thanks goes out to **Ashley Wee** and **Stavroula Kangles** for ensuring that the communication always flew seamlessly, while the coordination for the events and timings were always spot on. The troop's World War One uniforms went over quite well throughout the tournaments at Spruce Meadows; SMT was able to perform the cavalry ride for the Round Table discussion while they were also able to work, once again, with the Household Cavalry and King's Troop RHA, running members of both through tent pegging on "western cowboy horses". We also had the opportunity to share insights with the RCMP Musical Ride at the completion of their Canada 150 season.

In summation, a successful year for SMT that has broadened our horizons and increased our presence throughout Western Canada. The troop is now focussed on the work up for the Moreuil Wood Centenary, and we are looking forward to the celebrations in both Edmonton and France in 2018.





## Regimental Support Troop

*Corporal Stephen Hodge*



The Reg'tl Support Troop consists of: the Family Support Troop (FST), the Stables office, the Reg'tl Canteen, the Accounts Office, and the Reg'tl Museum staff. Their purpose is to support the Regiment, its soldiers, and their families with a personal touch. At the HQ Sqn Christmas party in February, we were able to give away great prizes like Android boxes, outdoor equipment and kit on a seemingly rigged spin-and-win. During operations this year we saw a major Regt deploy to Op UNIFIER, a Recce element to Op REASSURANCE and leadership positions filled for Op IMPACT. We worked very closely with the base Military Family Resource Center (MFRC) to ensure that the families of deployed Strathconas

had all the support and information that they required. The Regt also received support from outside the Canadian Forces, with Lonely Cars providing coffee and donuts for the receptions for soldiers returning from deployment. We brought in some healthier snack options to the Canteen, discovered a new pizza provider, and has seen some of the finest mouse trapping results in Regt'l history. Outside of the FST office you will find an MFRC information board and a medical release information board that have been assembled to offer members of the Regt a reliable source of information including timelines, resources and points of contact for any family related events or issues. During Ex STEELE SABRE, the canteen was out supporting the Regt, filling soldiers' AQ-Rs for smokes, monsters, and meat sticks, but sadly was not able to provide better cell reception. All in all, it was a productive year and we look forward to our Recce element and its support staff returning from Op REASSURANCE in the New Year!

## Historical Vehicle Troop Year of Tank Projects

*Captain Shaun Rogozinski & Sergeant Ryan Pasuta*

Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) was hard at it again in 2017. As usual **Catherine** (Sherman tank) did her rounds representing the Society and educating Canadians on Strathcona's history at a Canadian Pacific Rail Event in Calgary and at a Bar U Ranch National Historic Site display. The Society was well represented by **Cpl Shaun Sullivan** and **Cpl William "Billy" Clendennin** who passed on their knowledge to the curious masses. A little short on man power this year, **Cpl Sullivan** and **Cpl Clendennin** along with **Catherine** drew record crowds while being displayed during the annual Spruce Meadows event. This is always met by thousands of eager civilians full of questions and plenty of photo opportunities for our volunteers. Other activities of note was a 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron event that HVT was invited to which celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Mr. Jack Owens** who was a WW2 veteran and fellow black hatter. Although HVT has many ongoing projects, our focus has been



*"Guys, it is basically a big truck.  
I know what I am doing!" Cpl Shaun Sullivan*

the rebuild of **Alberta** (Centurion tank). Thanks to the generosity of the Community Initiatives Program through the Government of Alberta, we have been provided with the required funds to have **Alberta** operate as a living monument once again. Work has commenced in a frenzy to meet the September 2018 deadline in order to have this tank on parade and on display beside her older sister, **Catherine**. With parts having to be purchased and manufactured, this has developed into a complicated endeavour that will require the majority of HVT's efforts as we move into 2018. Other upcoming projects include the repair and painting of the Centurion static

monument, prepare and paint of a Cougar static monument for a local display, and the repair of our fleet of Ferrets that require copious amounts of attention. This year's focus will be towards maintenance and equipment preservation of our core fleet. Secondary Projects from last year including the Field Artillery Tractor and the 1942 Harley Davidson motorcycle restorations will be put on the "back burner" until it is feasible to devote the appropriate time and resources that they deserve. This year we said goodbye to **WO Peter Jones** and welcomed a few new members including **Tpr Dustin Beck** (our Centurion Project Manager). As always, HVT is looking for keen volunteers who are interested in working on and preserving our vehicles. If interested feel free to come out and see if it is for you.

*Government of Alberta's Community Initiatives Program cheque presentation to HVT for the Centurion Restoration Project  
L-R Cpl Shaun Sullivan, WO Peter Jones, MLA David Shepherd, MLA Colin Piquette, Cpl William Clendennin*



*Engine Maintenance on Alberta  
Cpl Shaun Sullivan and Cpl William "Billy" Clendennin*





## Regimental Pipes and Drums

*Corporal Sean Coughlan*

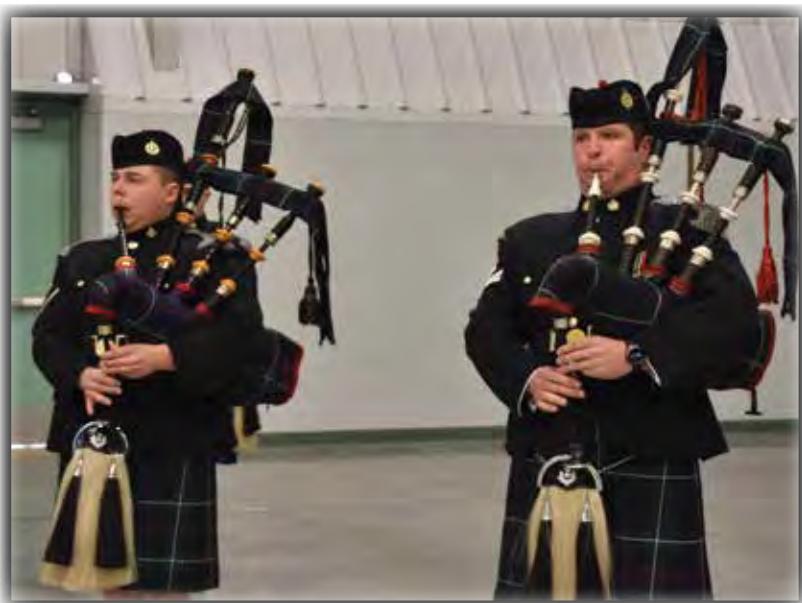
The 2017 Band Season was one full of challenges. For starters, the LdSH(RC) Pipes and Drums Band are now the only pipe band on base. Meanwhile postings left only three pipers in house to cover an array of requests... good thing our Motto is "Perseverance".

This year, most of the requests came from outside units so luckily the tasks were mainly for either a solo piper or a base drum. In January the first request was a somber one, a memorial Service at the Kipnes Centre for Veterans; this would be the first of three ceremonies at the Kipnes Centre this year with another in June and then again in September. At the end of March, The Regimental Pipes and Drums had the honour of participating in the Moreuil Wood parade supplying inspection tunes as a band and a solo piper for the Lament.

June saw the band supply pipers and drummers for various tasks and parades on base in addition to various schools in the community. This busy time was an excellent opportunity to heighten Regimental exposure as well as that of the band in the community. This also allowed members to knock off some rust before a busy summer. In July, as in every year at the Regimental, the Pipes and Drums Band had the Privilege of supporting Spruce Meadows in Calgary.

As Fall arrived, November saw Veterans Week and Remembrance Day with several tasks. The first was No Stone Left Alone at the Beechmount Cemetery, from there Cpl Sean Coughlan played at various schools in the area. The band played at Kingsway Legion and the Leduc Legion on Remembrance Day before heading to the Hotel Macdonald to play during the No Stone Left Alone Gala.

The year wrapped up with the traditional Black Hat Professional Development Week Mess Dinners, the Regimental Parade, and of course the Soldier's Appreciation Dinner before we kicked off for Christmas leave. This was a fine way to end yet another busy year and start to prep for an even busier 2018.



## The Regimental Museum

*Captain Phil "The Doctor" Webster*

Another year in Calgary, another morning spent trying to come up with a clever and witty theme for my Strathconian article befitting the brilliant, handsome and modest staff which run the Strathcona Gallery full time. Not an easy task for I, the most humble of Museum Curators, but I will do what I can to convey the everyday excitement and joy felt by all who walk these hallowed halls.



The museum as an entity has undergone a great many changes since I arrived in May of this year, the most notable of which is the impending departure of **WO Ted "No Sir, that isn't an appropriate use of Museum funds" MacLeod**. **WO MacLeod** is looking forward to his well-deserved retirement with his usual gusto and humour, making grandiose claims of never being seen again, with a planned disappearance into the wilds of Hawaii. This will of course leave

myself and **Sgt Todd "Be careful, Sir, that's priceless" Giberson** to oversee a new era of museum management, overhaul and refit. While this task might be met with some eye rolling and yawning to some, I feel quite lucky to be the one down here, since this is my dream job, after all.

Along with the military staffing changes down here, we've had the pleasure to welcome a small cadre of experienced and skilled volunteers. These folks have shown a great interest in working with the LdSH(RC) Museum full time instead of with The Military Museums (TMM) as a whole, and while that might be a loss for the TMM, it is a gain for us! Joining us as we move forward are **Nicole "Unicorn Spice Latte" Gillis**, a graphic designer and media student with SAIT, **Cpl (Ret'd) Adam "Don't Give me a stupid nickname, Sir" Hurley**, 3D printer extraordinaire, and **Cpl (Ret'd) Scott Muirhead**, Carpenter to the Stars. Finally, **Mark Fuchko** continues to lend his considerable experience and archiving skill to us in between his academic adventures. Given our hope to modernize and renovate the Gallery completely, the experiences and skills that these volunteers bring to the project should prove invaluable as we quickly work to become the greatest museum gallery this side of Ottawa.

As the morning ends I look up to see that I have written a peerless, though sadly short, article on the goings-on down here in Calgary. Hopefully this time next year will bring new renovations, exhibits and history to the Museum, making our task of keeping the history of our Regiment alive for all to see and future generations to enjoy.

Addendum: This year sees **Sgt Giberson** once again take home the "Slightly Mustachioed Horse Golf and Shooting" Trophy, while **WO MacLeod** took third overall in the "Best Leather Jacket" contest. **Capt Phil "Judy Garland" Webster** was once again the only participant in the Museum's Annual Barbershop Quartet/Musical Dance Workshop.





## Regimental Association

*Chief Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Peter Wonderham*

Most soldiers get their first copy of the “STRATHCONIAN” when they are not much more than teenagers. Like many of us I still have my first publication and 49 additional issues. When I was that teenager the first thing I did was naturally read the RSMs column and then turn my attention to my Squadron’s submission. Perhaps the last things I looked at was the Association article. That reading order will change for you younger soldiers faster than you think.

**The Association is well.** Our membership numbers remain up and fairly constant. Thanks to those loyal members as well as the ongoing efforts of our Membership committee, and the “Wings” nights in Edmonton and Calgary hosted by **Alex Graf** and **Brad Norman** respectively. Since the last publication our Branches from Victoria to Oromocto have hosted functions and continue to support the Association and its members. Thanks from all of us to those volunteer committees in all Branches.

Funny how we used to enjoy gathering in Wainwright, Suffield or on the parade square and now we are resolved to enduring golf tournaments, BBQs and memorial dinners with some of these same friends.

In November the members of the Calgary Branch gathered in the Military Museum for a fantastic update from the Commanding Officer, RSM and 2IC. We were all impressed at the level of activity and training our soldiers experienced over the summer, especially those fortunate enough to have deployment to the Ukraine.

The Command team also gave us an overview of the upcoming Moreuil Wood activities taking place in Edmonton as well as for the city and environs of Moreuil France, in March of 2018. This article will not duplicate Association regional Branch activities, for that I would draw your attention to the fall Newsletter.

This October during Ex STEELE SABRE, in Wainwright, the Regt said good bye to the Leopard C1. The most seasoned (oldest) gunner **Sgt Mark Bell** and the most limber (youngest) Tprs fired the last 105mm “cased” rounds. The soldiers were also treated to some range shoots of “target! Target “when on a special visit one of our own, **MGen (ret'd) Cam Ross** lit up the target array. That would officially mark another generation of Main Battle Tanks our Association members have served on. We have veteran members who recall the days when they looked forward to training on the Centurion with its 12 cylinder Spitfire engine and the advancement in technology from their beloved Sherman. There were also long days of range work required to transition from the 20pd (84mm)to the 105 mm on the same Centurion tank. Then in 1978 the “box of magic” rolled off the low bed in the form of the then new Leopard C1. Now our newest Association members have trained and served on the Leopard 11. This is a new “box of Magic” and another paragraph in our fantastic Regt'l history.





## CP Rail & LdSH(RC) Regimental Society Scholarship Presentations

*Captain Colin Peterson*

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), in partnership with Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail, were honoured to present four deserving members of the Strathcona Family with scholarship cheques to support their continuing post-secondary education. This year, the presentations were made in Edmonton, Alberta and Kingston, Ontario.

Competition for this year's awards was very tight. The recipients were selected based on academic standing, career goals, community service, and financial need. These awards are only given to members of the Strathcona Family. These scholarships are an example of how we, and our valued partners like CP Rail, support the soldiers of the Regiment and their families in many different areas of their lives.

In Edmonton, A/CO Maj Al Wong and A/RSM MWO Marcel Chenier presented a cheque for \$5,000 to **Jennifer Patterson** and a cheque for \$1,000 to **Raelynn Ramage-Muir**. In Kingston, **Sarah Dyck** was presented a cheque for \$3,000 from **Col (ret'd) Spike Hazelton** and **Ashley Padvaikas** received her cheque for \$1,000 from **Col (ret'd) Jamie Cade**.

It was a great honour to present the scholarship cheques to these deserving applicants. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We would also like to thank CP Rail for their continued support to the soldiers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and their families all across Canada.



# Extra Regimentally Employed





## Strathconas in Gagetown

*Captain Andrew Tardiff*



*Sgt David Brister playing with the map model kit before orders.*

Although it is about as far from home as you can get in the country, the Regt continues to maintain a strong presence in Gagetown.

This posting season saw the arrival of several more Strathconas to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School (RCACS) and Base Gagetown. Living up to his reputation, **Capt Ali Raju** arrived in style. Complete with ceremonial dress and vintage sabre he got to work correcting the Adjutant's dress, providing him an updated reading list and declaring that his office was "threadbare and beneath a Strathcona officer." Eventually Ali found his own office and started the real job as the new Technical Adjutant.

**Capt Joseph** "*I carry my tube of no name chips everywhere*" **Agius** had very little time to enjoy the New Brunswick sights before he was shipped to the field to run the Ex WORTHINGTON CUP mounted navigation stand. Following the competition he was given a reprieve in order to become situated with his new homestead, the Petersville shacks.

This year also saw two Strathconas take command in Gagetown. **LCol Vince Kirstein** took command of

the RCACS and quickly established a hierarchy based on his subordinates knowledge of Saskatchewan Roughrider trivia. Additionally, **LCol Errol MacEachern** assumed command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Training Centre, with his Regimental Sergeant-Major **CWO Thomas Holland**.

Strathconas in Gagetown have managed to represent the Regt well this year. We have contributed greatly to the success of the RCACS competition teams that have participated in soldier skill competition locally and abroad. **Cpl Dustin Stephenson** competed in the Gainey Cup, a dismounted scout challenge in Fort Benning, USA. The team ranked first in the Observation Post live fire and seventh overall. **Sgt Joe Gushue** and **Cpl Anthony Cook** traveled to Holstebro, Denmark in order to participate in the Nordic Tank Challenge 2017. Their team confirmed that it was in fact possible to complete the Danish simulator challenge, being the only crew to actually survive. Finally, **Cpls Dustin Stephenson, William Mitchell, Daniel Gallo, and Theo Ellis** went head to head with the LdSH(RC) team, and others, during Ex WORTHINGTON CUP. They all finished strong and have proven why Strathconas are the best, no matter where we are in the country.

Although we are geographically separated, the Regt's family remains strong in Gagetown.



*LCol Vince Kirstein takes command of the RCACS.*



## Strathconas in the National Capital Region

*Major Darryn Gray*

This article serves as a continuation from last year with the tone of how well positioned Strathconas are within the National Capital Region to influence the present and future of the CAF. Having recently been posted to Ottawa this past summer, the way you take on the new challenge can be like any mission overseas, getting acclimatized and understanding the operating environment is essential. As part of that transition, it is critical to learn what you can from your predecessors (even if your role changes significantly after they leave and handover notes are no longer valid...) and prepare for your upcoming challenges in your new role. Since arriving to Director General Capability and Structure Integration (DGCSI) with Chief of Force Development (CFD) I have been exposed to the inner workings of the future component of the CAF and been able to appreciate how well Strathconas have positioned themselves across the region to ensure that the future looks promising for years to come.

It is next to impossible to give a shout out to everyone who diligently works within the region, but I will highlight a few to express the pulse of the CAF, in which our brethren have a firm grip.

Within VCDS Group in CFD/DGCSI saw **LCol Mike Onieu** standing up the Concepts and Experimentation Directorate (before his swift return to the West as Base Commander CFB Suffield) and **LCol Derek Chenette** being responsible for a team of analysts that review and provide recommendations on all CA and CANSOFCOM capability projects for the next 15-30 years. **Maj Mike Mallette** continues to serve as Staff Officer/ADC to the VCDS and when he is not processing the myriad of files for the Vice, he is out on trips to Scotland to visit the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo...using his dapper cavalry skills to have a custom tailored tuxedo made for the General in a matter of hours following Air Canada's questionable disappearance of the Vice's mess kit... As the functional authority on the CAF's Out-of-Canada (OUTCAN) program on behalf of the Deputy VCDS, **Maj John Kim** may be considered the gatekeeper in the ability to gain an OUTCAN position... I suggest for those interested, give him a call...

Demonstrating perseverance by working above their current ranks and receiving LCol WSE promotions, **Maj Chris Quinlan** who is currently employed in Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) recently secured himself a position as the Chief of Staff for Task Force Middle East in 2018 and **Maj Brian Corbett** as Head of Director Land Requirements 3, who took on the role after **LCol Dave MacIntyre** departed for Command of CFB Shilo.

Despite our numbers in the NCR, as illustrated by **LCol Eric Angell**, The Canadian Army HQ could use a bit more Perseverance, as there are currently only two resident Strathconas, **BGen Steve Kelsey** (Chief of Staff Army **Strategy**) who took over from **BGen Derek Macaulay** after he assumed Command of 5 Cdn Division and **LCol Eric Angell** (Chief of Staff Army **Strategy Coordinator**, yes it is as important as it sounds). Is it merely a coincidence that Army **Strategy**, is run by Strats? Hmm... Although well situated, there is still a requirement to increase the Strathcona numbers within the CA HQ.

All in all, it has been a great experience being posted to Ottawa thus far. There are countless opportunities to meet and interact with many of the retired and serving Strathconas in the region, while partaking in extracurricular activities and enjoying a drink. So as stated earlier, the NCR is a great opportunity to support the CAF and the Regiment from afar and remains a target rich environment with plenty of opportunities. Seek a posting here fellow Strathconas, you just might like it!



## The Strathcona “Family” in Kingston

*Major Islam Elkorazati*



*MCpl Droogers at PSTC in an honour guard for Comd CADTC MGen Hetherington and MP Mark Gerretsen.*

**Shane Gifford, Majs Mike Froess and Ed Frost-Kell** continued to develop the doctrine of the future in the Army Doctrine Center. The Chris’, **Majs Chris Nolan and Chris Young** at Canadian Army Land Warfare Center, shaped Land warfare for the “Army of Tomorrow.”

From the base to CACSC to 1 Div HQ to IATF and even PSTC, Regt’l representation was in place. The Deputy Base Commander, **LCol Ed Padvaikas**, maintained the continuity for the base with the assistance of **Capt Dave Jung**. Any Strathcona officer attending AOC felt the Regt’l “flavour” with **Majs Rob “Hogg” Mackenzie and Clayton “the fisher whisperer” Fifield**. Meanwhile, **Capt Dave Williams** as the Adj’t of Canadian Army Command and Staff College made the Fort Frontenac mess more interesting while attempting to “enforce” some discipline while **Capt John Rickard** developed ideas for the Army’s Professional Development based on recent historical conflicts. In 1 Div, we had **WO Matt Williams** and **Sgt Dave “the Red” Brister**. Influencing the world at IATF was **Capt Moses Pano**, and **MWO Andy MacDonald**; who still flew the Regt’l colours proudly even as a reservist now in the ONT R. Even in PSTC, **WO Laki Christopoulos** and **MCpl Adrian Droogers** represented the Regt proudly. At RMC, **Maj John Grodzinski** continued try and mold the millennial mind of student.

K’Town also had a very healthy Strathcona Society. Their ranks have been filled the last few years with **CWO (ret’d) Kevin Mulhern**, **CWO (ret’d) Russ Ells**, **Col (ret’d) Jamie Cade** and **Col (ret’d) Spike Hazelton**. In addition to those before them like **LCol (ret’d) John Stuckart**, **LCol (ret’d) Dave Macleod**, **Col (ret’d) John Roderick** and, of course, **Tom Martineau** the association branch was definitely very lively. The banter and quick wit was unequivocally world class.

All in all, the Kingston Branch of the Strathcona family is vibrant and definitely making a mark across the area and yours truly was glad to come back after a few years away to a great location with a group like this. It may be that this is a far location from the Regt but it is definitely well populated by the Regt’l family.



*MWO Andy MacDonald (left) and Maj Elkorazati*

Coming back to Kingston after a few years of OUTCAN this past summer, it was great to see how healthy the Strathcona family in Kingston was. Not only were there a relatively large number of serving personnel in Kingston, but the number of retired Strathconas with the association makes for a vibrant branch of the family in picturesque and historical “K’Town”.

The vibrant atmosphere was evident from the moment one walked into CADTC HQ. Until November, when he was deployed to be the Canadian Defence Attaché in Afghanistan, **Col Dwayne Parsons**’ “presence” as the COS could be felt through the hallways of the Grant building. With an emergency Snicker’s bar on his desk, **Maj Cam Meikle** coordinated the dose based on the day’s progress. On the other end of the spectrum, **CWO Dave Hall** employed as the HQ Sgt Maj and G4 Ammo kept things like a calm day on the Saragossa Sea. **LCol**

## Strathconas in Wainwright

*Major Michael Selberg*

Another year passes by and Strathconas continue to support the Western Area, Canadian Army and our international partners and obligations in different capacities from Wainwright. 3 Canadian Division Support Group (CDSG), 3 Canadian Division Training Centre (CDTC), JPSU, COEFOR, Observer Controller Trainer (OCT) Group, Operations Group and the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) Head Quarters are home to the 33 Strathconas of all ranks who are posted to Garrison Wainwright.

Given the stations and duties that we fill, it is clear that Strathconas are in key positions and fill prominent roles within Wainwright area. Strathcona distinction and excellence are showcased in everything we do; base operations, the care and dignity of Canadian soldiers, teaching the next generation of warriors, providing realistic and relevant training, the application of doctrine to the tenants of war and certifying Canadian battle groups both at home and abroad, are just a few of the responsibilities that we assume every day. We are very much part of the leading edge of the training and support institutions of the Canadian Armed Forces.

On a lighter note, while I do not have the ability to comment on every Strathcona in Wainwright, here are a few of anecdotal wave tops from across the whole of Wainwrightistan, passed along from the different departments:

**Maj Thomas LaCroix** spent three weeks in Sweden on the NATO/PfP Multinational Tactical Planning Course. It was like AOC on an ATOC timeline with meatballs. Although not posted to Wainwright, and here as a candidate, **Cpl Andrew Goodwin** was the top candidate on PLQ(A) 0156. After being missing in action for several years, **WO Charette** returned to the Regt in April, his presence was immediately felt. **Capt Nate Bugg** joined the unit in the middle of the Reserve Summer Training period as the Ops O. Finally, with his handover complete, **Capt Charles Prince** fought through layers of red tape, two cancelled posting messages, and finally left for Latvia. **Capt ‘Bob’ Reiten** had the rare opportunity to be the first person to occupy an office as the IPSC moved into its new Wainwright building; the support of our soldiers is in good hands.

**Sgt Gord Carnevale** somehow found time between bashing heads and souls as a CQCI to practise and

*1st Row: 2Lt Clackson, Capt Reiten, Maj LaCroix, Maj Selberg, Capt Bugg, Captain Miller 2nd Row: MWO King, WO Charette, Sgt Burtch, Cpl T. Hayes, Cpl Booth, MCpl Icala, MCpl Paskuski, MCpl Brown, Sgt C. Davidson 3rd Row: Sgt Carnevale, MCpl Lahay, Cpl Jesse, Sgt McGarity, Cpl Harding, Cpl Foisy, Cpl Farquharson, MCpl Nancarrow*

*Absent due to Courses, Operations or Tasks: Maj Anderson, Maj Douglas, Capt King, Sgt Churchill, MCpl Graham, MCpl Silcox, MCpl Loikowski, Cpl Bellegarde, Cpl M. Smith, Cpl McKinnon, Cpl Grenier*





*Sgt Churchill fights off two attackers during a CQC demonstration*

improve his Second Language skills... it is a little unknown at this time which made his aggression grow, teaching unarmed combat or learning French; either way the students bore the brunt. The other members of 3 CDTC **Sgt Churchill, Sgt Davidson, MCpl Brown, MCpl Graham, MCpl Lahay, MCpl Loykowski, MCpl Paskuski, and MCpl Silcox** were pivotal members of the training team that is shaping the next generation of warriors.

Base operations were soundly in control by **Sgt McGarity** and his team to ensure high levels of support were given to all visiting teams. Our Range Controller NCMs headed by **Cpls Booth, Bellgarde, Hayes and Smith** took great pleasure in clearance procedures or lack thereof in the torture of Units trying to leave the range and training area (RTA). **Capt Jon**

**Miller** found new and exciting ways to confound and confuse us with WES kit and WES'isms, which we are sure will amplify training objectives in the coming years.

OCT Operations were headed up by **Sgt Burtch**, many an officer and NCM heard the angry rhetoric of only someone who has felt the pain of CFTPO spots not being filled and attempting to feed the massive beast that is Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. Couple this with shepharding around over 100 officers and NCOs from Canada and our International partners one can begin to understand. The OCT team saw two new additions to the mix, **MWO King** and **Maj Anderson** heading up the Armoured OCT cadre. The NCMs and Sr NCOs were extremey happy to have the calming influence of **MWO King** as the conduit back to the Regt ; he continues to assist and shape the subordinates under him. **Maj Anderson** thought his European adventures were over after his deployment as the Canadian LO to US Army Europe (USAREUR); not so, Wainwright has a funny way of changing your outlook and workspace. He, along with many of the other OCTs and Operations Group soldiers, will be conducting the next and subsequent serials of CERTX in Adazi Latvia. **Maj Douglas** might as well trade his Canadian Passport in for a Latvian one; as the lead planner for CERTEX and the validation exercises for the Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Groups, he has racked up more Air Miles and Frequent Flyer status points than most CEOs who travel.

**MCpl Icala** did his best to keep the Operations Group HQ in check and helped to decode the cryptic messages from the vast unknown that is building 650, home of CMTC HQ. **Maj Selberg** assumed a new role of Deputy Chief of Operations and could be heard routinely asking what was up with the Individual Travel Authority forms and where did they come from? **Capt King** made his way to Kingston and learned about naming conventions and Battlevue challenges on the Army Operations Course.

**MCpl Nancarrow** headed up the Strathconas in COEFOR and was determined to make sure that any and all of our soldiers were the best insurgents, bombers and very comfortable with some strange doctrine, tactics and procedures from a resurgent international threat.

All in all, the 33 Strathconas in Wainwright continue to showcase their individual solider skills, acumen and by their efforts the Regt is represented extremely well. Strathconas will continue to be in high demand in the future in the Wainwright Garrison.



*Capt Prince knows it's important to look the part at a unit BBQ*

## 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters

*Captain Richard Yang*

It has been a steady year for the Strathconas at 1 Canadian Mechanized Bde Group (1 CMBG) HQ. **Maj Sandy Cooper** begrudgingly left the G3 shop and headed to greener pastures (literally) in Toronto while **CWO Bill Crabb** took on his new posting as the Regimental Sergeant Major, Prince Edward Island Regiment (RCAC) in order to go fishing for morning PT. **Maj James Anderson** spent several months touring European cities in style, taking a few hours out of his day to be the Senior Canadian Liaison Officer for Op REASSURANCE.

Early in the year 1 CMBG HQ staff completed Ex WARFIGHTER, a computer assisted exercise under 25<sup>th</sup> (US) Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA, and certified the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup headed by 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Riga, Latvia.

**Capt Darren Carter-Wright** has become dangerously familiar with chemical and radiological agents, participating in the annual Ex PRECISE RESPONSE, a NATO CBRN exercise at CFB Suffield.

**Maj Jack Nguyen** continues to hang his hat at Personnel branch, conveniently dodging Personnel Evaluation Report season with a deployment to Op IMPACT in Kuwait. **Capt Richard Yang**, also of the Personnel branch, can be heard sending SITREPs to C/S 6 in his cubicle while correcting PERSTATES. Having recently redeployed from Op UNIFER in the Ukraine with the Regt, **Capt Dan Gray** and **Mike Timms** joined the operations team during Ex IRON RAM by keeping the chairs warm for the G3 in Edmonton. We would tell you what the Commander's Personal Assistant, **Capt Mike Forestell**, was up to but nobody can find him. Fortunately, **MCpl Izaak Koolman** and **Cpl Matthew Feenstra** were around to keep 9er TAC on course.

Former black-hats littered the HQ, including **Capt Scott Jackson** who magically teleported working heaters to the CP and **MCpl Corinne Doerksen**, a former RHQ RMS Clerk whose black-out driving skills could put DP1 Crewmen to shame. In a parallel universe, **Maj Peter Beitz** moved on to full time language training with **Sgts Joe Davies** and **Mike Doody** whom dressed to impress for Halloween. Last but not least, **Lt Stephanie Clubine** took maternal leave to raise her child on a steady diet of Nintendo 64 and Trivial Pursuit.

With New Year on the horizon and festivities lined up for the Moreuil Wood centennial, all of us at the Headquarters are looking forward for a challenging and busy 2018.

*Strathconas at 1 CMBG Bde CP during Ex IRON RAM 17.  
From left to right, Capt Scott Jackson, Capt Richard Yang, MCpl Corinne Doerksen, Maj Jack Nguyen.*





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division/Joint Task Force Headquarters “Taking Care of Business”

*Major Fred Hayward*

We are a dual HQ with two missions:

**Mission One:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division will generate and sustain combat ready combined arms forces for operations at home and abroad.

**Mission Two:** JTFW will conduct full spectrum joint inter-agency operations within regional or assigned boundaries in order to protect Canadians, defend Canadian interests, and support civilian authorities to enhance safety, security and stability.

### 2016-2017 in Review

- **Op LENTUS 17-04** was a Division wide effort over ten weeks to support the people of British Columbia with the worst fire season on record, which saw 1031 fires since April. The Division had a steady state of 550 personnel from the first week in July until the third week in September. Key highlights include:

- Over 900,000 hectares burnt.
- Over 2000 soldiers rotated in and out.
- Support to RCMP for Observe and Report points.
- Support to RCMP for evacuation orders.
- Firefighting operations.
- Recce for Air Task Force Locations.
- Staff officer support for JTFP.
- Liaison Officers to BC Government Departments.

- **Over 1600 soldiers deployed overseas on Op REASSURANCE, OP UNIFIER, and Op IMPACT.**
- Nine ground search and rescue missions.
- **Fifty two unexploded ordnance cases.**
- **Supporting the Army** with thousands of tasks to include Combat Team Commanders Course.
- **And one really big fire at CFB Suffield.**

Nuff said.

*L-R Maj Tim Day, Maj Mike Rogers, BGen Cadieu, Maj Liz England, Maj Fred Hayward,  
Missing Maj Kelly Callens, MWO Speck, Sgt Doucette*



## The Strathconas of CFB Suffield *Captain Chris Whalley*



*LCol Onieu rocking out in his new job as Base Commander*

success, the Elk Herd Reduction Program entered its sixth year, with hunters from all over Alberta and Saskatchewan converging on the Base to take a shot at the “big one”.

This year saw the arrival of **LCol Mike Onieu**, who took over the reins as Base Commander. He joined **Capt Chris Whalley** and **MCpl Rory Adby** in Base HQ, trying to provide some semblance of order in a complex and diverse area of operations. There was no movement of Strathcona's in Range Control this year, leaving **MCpl Chris Oliver**, **Cpl Michael Allman**, **Cpl Trevor McQueen**, **Cpl Jesse Maw** and **Cpl Michael Maxwell** to form the veteran core of an organization that saw a great deal of operational action this year, including multiple fires, critical incidents and emergency situations. In particular, their tireless effort and skillful application of experience earned praise and recognition from base entities and surrounding jurisdictional fire services during a massive 24-hour fire that started on 11 Sep 17 and saw 276km<sup>2</sup> of prairie grassland burn. While this fire was a major trauma to the base and its surrounding friends and neighbours, the actions of the base's military and civilian emergency responders, of which Strathconas are an integral part, proved a testament to the spirit and dedication of a committed few under challenging circumstances.

As the recent year's operations have demonstrated, Strathcona's continue to represent the steadfast dedication, professionalism and style of the Regt, while continuing to ensure the Regt's flame burns brighter than ever at CFB Suffield.

*Capt Whalley and MCpl Adby working hard in Base Ops as usual.*





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Support Group Here to Help

*Captain Richard Lund*

The primary focus for all of us at 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Support Group (3 CDSG) is the daily execution of key tasks to enable training. We ensure that the necessary foundation of institutional support is in place to enable other formations to meet their training objectives, and that critical personnel and welfare services are in place to provide support to the soldiers of 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division and their families.

Leading the way are the Strathcona's in Range Control, under the direction of the always outspoken **Sgt Tyler Baldwin**. Always available to "tell us how it is", he will bend over backwards to make your training happen -- even when it's last minute. Just don't run over the cables... **Cpl Francine Riopelle** continues to be our Western Area SME with the Automated Targeting System Ranges. When the system goes down, she jumps into action and gets things up and running. Also employed with Range Control is, **Cpl Blaine Hatter**, he carries out regular safety inspections and range maintenance. This group makes up the core of our Range Control; their daily efforts ensure soldiers get to execute their training, safely.

Maintaining that training area, along with every training area across Western Canada, from Thunder Bay to the Pacific to the Arctic, is **Capt Tom Pett** and the Range and Training Area Management (RTAM) cell. As the RTAM 2IC, he ensures the necessary training areas and infrastructure is in place to support the Division. If you're ever looking for a new place to train, he is your guide.

In the Ops Cell we have **Capt Rich Lund**, the Ops Capt, and **MWO Robert Bagole**, the Garrison Coord. A couple of regular jack-of-all-trades, they deal with a wide spectrum of tasks. One day you may be dealing with gates and security, the next you're planning a golf tournament or figuring out if the MFRC can raise chickens (turns out they can). Thankfully the truly odd queries end up with our PAO, and a former Strathcona, **Capt Graham Kallos**, who seems to be a magnet for crazy phone calls.

**MWO Tod Hopkin** continues to do good things as our IMO, if only people could learn how to use his Sharepoint site, life would be easier. He will persevere, and continue to educate the computer illiterate on the finer points of workflows.

**Cpl Derek Steeves** is doing the stay-at-home Dad thing as he enjoys his PATA, taking care of his son Liam.

Lastly, this year we said goodbye to **Cpl Adam Hurley** who retired and is now living in Calgary training to become a paramedic. We wish him the best.



## Strathconas in the United Kingdom *Major Clayton Gardner*



*Maj Clayton Gardner (right) with Squadron Leader Mike Kendall of No. 100 Squadron, Royal Air Force, prior to a flight.*

range of military activities with a complete complement of Bdes and Div soldiers to draw upon. So far, the tempo in the HQ is high, as it has just embarked on an ambitious high readiness training year which includes two major validation exercises, one in the UK and one in the U.S.

I've also managed to link up with our Allied Regt, The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths' Own). So far I have had the opportunity to visit their major fall exercise, representing 3 (UK) Div HQ, attend a Regt'l Officers' Mess Dinner commemorating the Battle of Balaclava, and attend their Officers' Dinner, which is a large annual gathering of serving and retired Officers. During one visit, I was invited into the impressive Snr NCO's mess by the RSM, and he was quick to point out the Bison Head in the entry given to the 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers by our Regt in 1949. We are fortunate to have a strong link to such a professional and historic Regt (now an amalgamation of 10 Regts) with high morale and camaraderie. Our ties have also had a very practical effect as my visits to their Regt initiated the full re-invigoration of a Division Reconnaissance Force into Division level training. This is the first step in fully developing this capability which The Royal Lancers would be one of the Armoured Cavalry Units tasked to provide.

I would be remiss to not mention **LCol Paul Pickell** in my message. He teaches on the Intermediate Officer's Course in the same location I attended ACSC and I was interested to find out that some of his previous students are now working with me in the G5 Branch. They were impressed with his depth of knowledge, no-nonsense approach, and certainly some of his famous sayings such as "picking the fly \_\_\_ out of pepper!" His students had nothing but good things to say so he is certainly representing the Regt well at the Joint Services Command and Staff College.

These postings have so far been quite an adventure and we are fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity. Look us up if you find yourself in Southern England one day!

*LCol Paul Pickell at International Families Day*



Greetings from the UK! The Gardner Clan arrived in August 2016 and we made Watchfield, England our home where I attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC). The year was extraordinary as there were 270 Students on the course, including 100 International Students from 60 different countries, with whom we made many friendships and memories. Of course there were the endless lectures, syndicate activity, and 33,000 words due to King's College London but combined with the social atmosphere, dinners, get-togethers, and wide range of activities for the family, it was unforgettable.

Before we knew it, the year was over and we moved an hour south of Watchfield to Bulford Village where I have been assigned a position within the G5 Branch of 3 (UK) Division Headquarters (HQ). The HQ is the British Army's only high readiness deployable two star HQ able to provide command and control across the full

range of military activities with a complete complement of Bdes and Div soldiers to draw upon. So far, the tempo in the HQ is high, as it has just embarked on an ambitious high readiness training year which includes two major validation exercises, one in the UK and one in the U.S.

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## Op IMPACT

### Rocking the cradle of civilization: Strathconas supporting Joint Task Force – Iraq

*Major Tim “TD” Day*

In early 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) gained global notoriety when it drove Iraqi government forces out of Western Iraq and seized Mosul. In June 2014, their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared ISIS a worldwide caliphate from the al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul and quickly set about the group’s brutal enforcement of his cabinet’s interpretation of sharia law. The US-led international response, Op INHERENT RESOLVE, was launched the same month. By August, Canada launched Op IMPACT; the mobilization and deployment of Joint Task Force – Iraq to assist with other Middle East Security Forces in the fight against ISIS. Originally based on an Air Task Force, Joint Task Force – Iraq has since grown to include rotary wing aviation, a Role 2 hospital in Erbil, and various embeds supporting corps and division-level headquarters.

This fourth rotation of Op IMPACT has been focused on the liberation of Mosul, which began 16 October 2016. A city of approximately 1.5 million people (roughly the size of Montreal) is bisected by the River Tigris to form East and West Mosul. The liberation of East Mosul was declared by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on 24 January 2017 and the subsequent assault on West Mosul followed shortly on 3 February 2017. After nine months of bitter, urban fighting, the Prime Minister announced that Iraqi Security Forces had finally liberated Mosul on 10 July 2017. Canada, with our Coalition partners, are defeating ISIS by, with, and through the Iraqi Security Forces.

As this is the periodic tome of Reg’tl history, this author would be remiss if he did not mention the notable contributions of the Strathcona’s to this noble effort. **BGen Stephen Kelsey** was the Chief of Staff of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command Headquarters in Baghdad, based on the American 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, responsible for providing air support; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; coordinating staff efforts to Advise, Assist, and Enable the Iraqi Security Forces; and Build Partner Capacity through equipment divestment and training. **Maj Tim Day** managed his calendar. **Maj Jack Nguyen** was employed as the J33 for Joint Task Force – Iraq Headquarters in Kuwait and ran the Joint Operations Centre. **Capt Matt Shumka** was the J35 Operations Officer at the Combined Joint Operations Centre – Erbil and planned combat operations in Mosul. **Sgt Kristi Arseneau** was the Chief Clerk for the Ministerial Liaison Team in Baghdad. **MCpls Colin Clare** and **Andrew Burris**, alongside **Cpl Josh Weeden** gained an interesting perspective of Mosul by flying over it regularly as door gunners for the Tactical Aviation Detachment from 408 Tactical Helicopter Sqn. Finally, **Cpl Rebecca Gutscher** worked as an Orderly Room Clerk at the Joint Task Force Support Cell in Kuwait.

(L-R): **Maj Jack Nguyen**, **Capt Maz Abdul-Jawad** (Linguist),  
**Sgt Kristi Arseneau**, **Maj Tim Day**, and **BGen Steve Kelsey**.



## Op REASSURANCE ROTO 7

*Captain Ryan Lee*

As with all overseas deployments, the words “experiences may differ,” frequently become the battle cry between the different Lines of Effort, especially if they are in different geographic locations. While it would seem to most that few members of Roto 7 should have reason to complain about the excellent treatment we all received by our Polish hosts, there are always the stand-out few who can find something less than desirable to comment on during a 6 month deployment. It was just odd that those complaints were heard between TD requests to different countries almost weekly...



*Capt Buckingham at the 21st Air Tactical Base  
Swidwin Poland*

Roto 7 was easily one of the busiest times to be a member of the Land Task Force (LTF) in Poland. The LTF deployed to over 6 different countries while participating in 5 major NATO exercises and too many small exchanges to list. During those exercises saw the LTF spend over half of the deployment in the field. Despite the best efforts of **Capt Phil** “There’s photo radar on the Autobahn?” **Buckingham** and the rest of the Ops/Plans team, who put untold extra hours of work to ensure the LTF troops could have R&R in interesting cities during their travels, some of the troops still found that, “The Brie just wasn’t quite what they were expecting.”

Jokes aside the deployment was an outstanding success and culminated in some very high profile joint events with our Host/NATO partners including the Polish Armed Forces Day Parade in August. Despite having to put up with over 6 months with this author, not to mention the 6 prior with **Capt Karl** “The Lego King” **Tams**, members of the Polish Armed Forces General Command were sad to see OP REASSURANCE, and Canadians in general, move from Poland to Latvia.

The country of Poland is one of the best kept secrets in Europe not to mention a NATO ally that we share a long military partnership with. Our military partnership with Poland will continue into the future as the Op REASSURANCE BG in Latvia was joined this year by a Coy of fellow Polish Black Hats and their PT91 MBTs.

## Op REASSURANCE: (eFP)

*Lieutenant Tom “Johnny Bravo” Hume*

“Sveiki!” from Adazi, Latvia. It seems just like yesterday that we arrived in Latvia, a country many of us had to Google to find on the map and now we are nearing the end of our deployment. First Tp, Recce Sqn and members of 1 PPCLI’s Recce and Sniper Pls came together to form the first ever ISR Pl, and we were launched into a foreign country with little idea of what was to come. With the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group comprised of 7 different NATO countries as part of a Latvian Bde, the early months were spent trying to achieve the elusive buzz word, “interoperability,” but it turns out that soldiers from any nation are a lot alike. Whether in Latvia or Estonia, every exercise put ISR Pl in front of a different



*Puma Challenge*



Coy and expanded **Sgt Al "I Know Everyone" Kentfield's** contact list. Greetings in Latvian, Spanish, Italian and Polish, were often mixed together or modified with Albanian, Slovenian and Slovakian to create new languages that no one understood before reverting back to charades to get things done. **WO Jesse "RRR" Paterson** tested the Coyote's off road capabilities in the Latvian terrain and the subsequent responsiveness of the Battle Group recovery assets while **Cpl Nathan "Nate Dog" Deringer** and **Lawrence "Russian Doctrine" Mackenzie** used the RAVEN to call in fires, hitting the opposing forces in depth. New tactics were created and friction points found, but over the course of seven months it was focusing on "what makes us similar instead of what makes us different" that made this multinational beast into the "interoperable" force known as eFP Latvia.

## Op SOPRANO United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

*Major C.J. Young*

If you are looking for frustration and stress, but want to experience the real UN, then I would wholeheartedly recommend deploying on Op SORPRANO, the UN mission in South Sudan. If you are looking for any sort of recognition of service, then this is the mission to avoid.

From November 2016 to May 2017, I had the thought-provoking and distinctive opportunity to fully immerse into the "experience" of the United Nations (UN). A member of a very exclusive ten soldier team, I spent six months deployed as a Military Liaison Officer (MLO) in support of Operation (Op) SOPRANO; the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) task in support of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). As part of Canada's "whole-of-government" mission in South Sudan, Task Force South Sudan, the UNMISS Force Headquarters, was stationed in Juba, the capital and largest city of the Republic of South Sudan.

As an MLO, I undertook numerous patrols from the JUBA Cell, both patrols over a single day as well as over multiple days in duration. Our duties included ensuring that logistics convoys were able to pass

*Maj C.J. Young taking a break on patrol.*



through the myriad checkpoints along each main route, as well as investigating the conditions in areas that either were the scenes of conflict or genocidal behaviour like ethnic cleansing. The job was never boring, but given the UN inertia and obstructiveness in terms of adhering to bureaucratic policies, and the mandate to coordinate with multiple national partners, streamlined processes were sporadic.

On top of the political frictions were the geographic ones; time and distance in South Sudan has no meaning. A combination of abysmal infrastructure and a product of the multiple government and/or opposition checkpoints, every trip outside of Juba required hours of buffer space in order to allow patient negotiations for passage and hours of back-wrenching driving. As an example, the 150 km route from Juba to Kaji Keji routinely took over 12 hours to travel, and included six to eight static and ad hoc checkpoints along the way. And, that was during South Sudan's dry season!

In garrison, the work was never ending as I was employed in the operations part of the MLO cell, planning and controlling the various patrols sent out. As one of the only native English-speakers in the cell I also end up doing duty as the resident English writer and translator. On the plus side, I was exposed to a wide variety of officers from other nations and gained an understanding of their abilities and limitations, and, if you're like me, an appreciation for the excellent training we Canadians receive under our military education system!

Overall, I found the mission to be a learning experience. Having deployed twice to Bosnia under the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and later under Stabilisation Force (SFOR), I thought I had experienced the worst and best offered by the UN: UNMISS proved me wrong. I am continuously amazed by my experiences with the UN.



## Op PROTEUS

*Captain Nathan Hevenor*

Operation PROTEUS is Canada's contribution to the United States Security Coordinator in Jerusalem focused on institutional capacity building within the West Bank. Over the years, this mission has seen a strong Strathcona presence and this year has been no exception. The first half of this year saw the Strathconas holding key positions within the mission with **BGen Trevor Cadieu** commanding, **Maj Cameron Meikle** as the Operations Officer and **Capt Ahmad Jaradat** as the J3 Planning, Plans and Projects. Needless to say, it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces upon arrival in Jerusalem.

Working primarily in the West Bank, my position has provided the opportunity for almost daily interaction with members of the Palestinian Authority Security Forces, specifically oriented within their training institutions where I work to enable to development of new capabilities and training programs. This has proven to be an interesting challenge that has seen the requirement to coordinate with multiple international partners and non-governmental agencies. A truly dynamic environment, every week provides new opportunities for progress and change.

In addition to the day to day work, many amazing opportunities have been made available. Israel and the West Bank are truly a remarkable part of the world with thousands of years of history. It has been a pleasure taking time to visit some of the sights both in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. A highlight for myself was being invited to participate in the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gaza at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Gaza. Not only was it an honour to be in attendance, but also provided the opportunity to visit **Tpr R.J. Wiley**, a Strathcona soldier, who was part of our contribution to the Sinai in 1961, who was laid to rest there. It was truly a remarkable experience and privilege to be able to place a poppy for one of our own on during Remembrance Day activities.

Operation PROTEUS has proven to be a truly amazing opportunity both professionally and personally that has enable the broadening of perspective on such a dynamic part of the world. I am sure memories of this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life.

## **Extra Regimentally Employed**

BGen T.J. Cadieu	3rd Cdn Div	Maj M.D. Rogers
BGen S.R. Kelsey	Army HQ	Maj M.E. Selberg
BGen D.A. Macaulay	5th Cdn Div	Maj M.C. Volstad
Col P.P.J. Demers	Canadian Defence Attaché	Maj S.R. Wright
Col J.J. Major	Poland	Maj C.J. Young
Col D.R. Parsons	TFL HQ	Capt J.F. Agius
Col P.J. Peyton	CADTC	Capt G. Bamford
LCol C.R. Adams	CF Int Group	Capt N.B. Bugg
LCol E.D. Angell	CDLS(W)	Capt D.W. Carter-Wright
LCol D.J. Chenette	CFD	Capt T.L. Collings
LCol J.L. Cochrane	CFD	Capt S.G. Couture
LCol M.A. Connolly	CFC	Capt J.A. Daley
LCol S.W. Gifford	Fort Leavenworth	Capt L.A. Dunn
LCol V.G. Kirstein	CFB Kingston	Capt M.J. Forestell
LCol E.G. MacEachern	RCACS	Capt L.A. Frizzell
LCol A.D. MacIntyre	5th Cdn Div TC	Capt D.A. Gray
LCol M.G. Onieu	CFB Shilo	Capt N.R.B. Hevenor
LCol E.T. Padvaikas	CFB Suffield	Capt M. Hoffart
LCol P.G. Pickell	CFB Kingston	Capt B.S. Johnson
LCol R.T. Steward	JSCSC Army Div- UK	Capt H. Jung
Maj J.A. Anderson	HQJOC	Capt M.A. Kaye
Maj M.A. Barnett	CMTC	Capt A.M. Kenny
Maj T.A. Batty	NDHQ	Capt S.A. King
Maj P.D. Beitz	Tac Sch	Capt M. Labrecque
Maj M.D.R.L. Bentley	1 CMBG	Capt O.T. Lewis
Maj J.S. Boates	RCACS	Capt R.I. Lund
Maj K.I. Callens	RCACS	Capt M.J. MacInnis
Maj R.P. Chiasson	3 Cdn Div	Capt S.C. MacLean
Maj R.A. Cooper	JTFN Yellowknife	Capt S.J. McGuinness
Maj B.D. Corbett	CFC	Capt C.D. McLean
Maj D.R. Cronk	NDHQ	Capt J.L.E.E. Miller
Maj T.W.F. Day	CFC	Capt M.G. Pano
Maj W.S. Deatcher	3 Cdn Div HQ	Capt C.S. Penney
Maj M.R.N. Douglas	CJOC	Capt T.D. Pett
Maj A.C. Dwyer	CMTC	Capt C.E.J. Prince
Maj I. M. Elkorazati	RCACS	Capt A.A. Raju
Maj C.S. Fifield	CADTC HQ	Capt K.A. Reiten
Maj M.D. Froess	CACSC	Capt J.N. Rickard
Maj E.J.S. Frost-Kell	CADTC HQ	Capt C.J. Ross
Maj C.S. Gardner	CADTC HQ	Capt B.R. Simpson
Maj D.M. Gray	3rd (UK) Div HQ	Capt P.F. Stachow
Maj T.J. Grodzinski	CFD	Capt L.B. Tapp
Maj V.F. Hayward	RMC	Capt A.D. Tardiff
Maj S.W. Holmes	3 Cdn Div	Capt M.D. Timms
Maj J.R. Hunter	NDHQ	Capt D.R. Walters
Maj J.M.J. Kim	JPSU NB/PEI	Capt C.D. Whalley
Maj T.A. Lacroix	VCDS	Capt D.P. Williams
Maj M.A. Lakatos	3rd Cdn Div TC	Capt E.J. Wiome
Maj M.J.D. Mallette	Cyber FD	Capt D.M. Wright
Maj J.R.F. McEwen	VCDS Group HQ	Capt R.M. Yang
Maj R.D. McKenzie	NATO LANDCOM	Capt E.L. Young
Maj M.A. McMurachy	CACSC	Lt S.K. Clubine
Maj C.W. Meikle	MAGTFTC	Lt J.A. Rice
Maj J. Nguyen	CADTC	CWO A.S. Batty
Maj C.O. Nolan	1 CMBG	CWO W.J. Crabb
Maj C.J. Quinlan	CALWC	CWO D.W. Hall
	CJOC HQ	CWO T.C. Holland

3 Cdn Div	CWO W.A. Laughlin	5 CDSG	Sgt C.D.E. Romkey	JPSU/Soldier On
CMTC	CWO A.S. Mayfield	4 Can Div TC Meaford	Sgt R.J. Rushton	RCACS
41 CBG HQ	CWO R. Stacey	SJS	Sgt L.W. van Heerden	BCR
1 CRPG	MWO R.J. Baglole	3 CDSG	Sgt P.W. Walsh	RCACS
CALWC	MWO L.R. Hill	CSOR	MCpl R.R. Adby	CFB Suffield
RCACS	MWO T.W. Hopkin	JPSU (IPSC Det Edm)	MCpl L.T. Banman	CSOR
CTC HQ	MWO K.E. King	CMTC	MCpl F.L. Brown	CFRC Edm
3 CDTA	MWO S.R. Screeen	CFB Borden	MCpl R.L.M. Chase	BCR
1 CMBG	MWO L.M. Taylor	RCACS	MCpl C.J. Collier	CFLRS
RCACS	WO C.C. Barker	RCACS	MCpl C.F. Collier	CFLRS
NORAD HQ	WO D.T. Barker	JPSU NB-PEI	MCpl J.E. Desjardins	5 Cdn Div TC
1 CMBG	WO C.J. Bulmer	RCACS	MCpl A.E.R. Droogers	PSTC
IPSC Calgary	WO J.J.Y.L. Charette	3 CDTA	MCpl M.J.J.K. Gironne	CFLRS
1 CMBG	WO D.J.J. Charette	RCACS	MCpl F.J. Graham	3 Cdn Div
Op PROTEUS	WO L.B. Christopoulos	PSTC	MCpl E. Harvey De Roy	CFLRS
RCACS	WO M.I. Denson	KOCR	MCpl J.D. Hayes	RCACS
CAAWC	WO C. Eady	Tactics School	MCpl L.R. Heisz	CMTA
CFB Kingston	WO S.D. Flanagan	PEIR	MCpl A.L. Icala	3 CDSB Edm-Det Wx
KOCR	WO M.A.L. Gratto	RCACS	MCpl K. Jesse	QYR
39 CBG	WO J.B. Hamilton	CFLRS	MCpl J.A. Johnson	3 CDSB Edm-Det Wx
CMTC	WO B.E. Holmes	SALH	MCpl D.W. Lahay	JPSU
SALH	WO N.C. Johnston	JPSU Edm	MCpl A.Q. Lister	RCACS
FGH	WO P.A. Jones	BCD	MCpl B.R. Loft	CFB Trenton
3 CDSB	WO M.P. Koestlmaier	JPSU	MCpl N.J.C. MacFarlane	RCACS
RCACS	WO N.C. Miller	RCACS	MCpl T.S. Marchand	RCACS
JPSU	WO G.C. Moon	RCACS	MCpl L.B. Myers	CMTA
DSG Det Aldershot	WO A.A. Pociuk	Sask D	MCpl J.M. Nancarrow	CFB Suffield
5 Cdn Div	WO B.A. Ross	RCACS	MCpl C.R.J. Oliver	3 Cdn Div
CMTC	WO S.D. Thompson	JPSU Edm	MCpl T.M. Paskuski	BCD
CCSB/IATF	WO L.J. Troop	FGH	MCpl M. Peachey	CMTA
5 CDSG	WO R.T. Vigar	408 Sqn	MCpl S. Poitras	JPSU
3 CDSG	WO M.R. Williams	1st Cdn Div	MCpl J.D. Reid	3 CDSB Edm-Det Wx
Ops Riga Latvia	WO R.C. Young	5 Cdn Div TC	MCpl D.D. Royes	WATC
RCACS	Sgt T. Baldwin	3 CDSG Edm	MCpl T.G.C. Silcox	CMTA
IPSC Wx	Sgt D. Brister	1st Cdn Div	MCpl R.W. Smith	CFB Kingston
CACSC	Sgt S.F. Burtch	CMTC	MCpl J.A.J. St Aubin	CFB Trenton
RCACS	Sgt G.C. Carnevale	3 CDTA	MCpl C.M. Stewart	CFS Leitrum
1 RCHA	Sgt D.N. Chatzikirou	CANSOFCOM	MCpl A.J. Usher	SALH
CFRC Det Kingston	Sgt W. Churchill	3 Cdn Div TC	MCpl K.W.T. Wright	CFB Suffield
iv Language School	Sgt R.T. Cook	RCACS	Cpl M.G. Allman	RCACS
RCACS	Sgt K.A. Crowe	KOCR	Cpl S.T. Anderson	RCACS
IPSC Edm	Sgt C.A. Davidson	3 Cdn Div TC	Cpl A.N.R. Bellegarde	3 CDSB
1 CMBG	Sgt T.C. Dickey	IPSC Edm	Cpl Y. Bertin	5 CDSG
CTC	Sgt J.F. Doucette	3 Cdn Div	Cpl K.H. Bishop	RCACS
CFB Suffield	Sgt A.M. Foster	CFB Borden	Cpl J.J.J. Booth	3 CDSB Edm-Det Wx
CACSC	Sgt J.D. Gibson	RCACS	Cpl S. Brough	CFB Suffield
CATEU	Sgt J.A. Goobie	RCACS	Cpl D.L.M. Brown	CMTC
Sask D	Sgt J.A.J. Gushue	RCACS	Cpl M. Brunskill	RCACS
1 CMBG	Sgt J.C. Hawes	CFB Halifax	Cpl A. Chaperon	JPSU
4th Cdn Div	Sgt J.M. Helliwell	RCACS	Cpl A.E.M. Cook	RCACS
3 CDSB	Sgt P.B. Ives	CTC HQ	Cpl M.A. Currie	CFB Trenton
IPSC Edm	Sgt R.W.W. Kearns	IPSC Edm	Cpl K. Dunphy	CFB Suffield
AJAG Edm	Sgt L.W. Leaman	JPSU	Cpl S.P.W. Ellis	3 CDSB
PEIR	Sgt M.D. McGarity	3 CDSB Edm-Det Wx	Cpl T.W. Ellis	RCACS
CADTC HQ	Sgt B.N. Murphy	RCACS	Cpl W.S. Ellis	CFB Kingston
5 CDTA	Sgt S.M. Parsons	5 CDTA	Cpl T.R. Farquharson	CMTC
	Sgt N.A. Patterson	38 CBG	Cpl K. Ferguson	3 Cdn Div TC
	Sgt E.J. Pickell	CANSOFCOM	Cpl R.M. Fountain	RCACS
	Sgt J.J. Ribert	CFLRS	Cpl G.A. Francis	RCACS
			Cpl D.B. Gallo	RCACS

Cpl E.W. Grant  
Cpl J.A. Graves  
Cpl S.C. Gross  
Cpl M.J. Guay  
Cpl S.R. Hansen  
Cpl I.G. Harding  
Cpl T.P. Hayes  
Cpl A.J. Hurley  
Cpl M.R. Jesse  
Cpl C.Y. Jobin  
Cpl W.D. Jones  
Cpl I. Kimmell  
Cpl C.T.J. Kiomall  
Cpl R.S. MacIsaac  
Cpl J.R. Mackinnon  
Cpl S.D. MacKinnon  
Cpl D.J. McKinnon  
Cpl T.J. McQueen  
Cpl S.Y. Mekhail  
Cpl S.M. Milljour  
Cpl S. Mireault  
Cpl T.R. Mosher  
Cpl R.T. Mountford  
Cpl J. Munro  
Cpl R.W. Murray  
Cpl A.N. Parsons  
Cpl B. Price  
Cpl L.L. Ringuette  
Cpl F.L. Riopelle  
Cpl E.M. Salazar  
Cpl J.W. Seppenwoold  
Cpl S.H.D. Shwetz  
Cpl M.M.R. Sirois  
Cpl M.R. Smith  
Cpl P.J. Smith  
Cpl D.R. Smith  
Cpl D. Steeves  
Cpl D.E. Stevenson  
Cpl B. St-Onge  
Cpl S.S. Strong  
Cpl Sturgess  
Cpl C.R. Sundelin  
Cpl E. Tremblay  
Cpl M. Tremblett  
Cpl A.M. Vachon  
Cpl B.L. Vaillancourt  
Cpl K.J. York  
Tpr M.L.T. Brenton  
Tpr W.J. Evers  
Tpr N.F. Fabischek  
Tpr D. Gallo  
Tpr R.P.A. Houle  
Tpr J.J. Leblanc  
Tpr M.J. Marion  
Tpr J. McCabe  
Tpr J.P. Plante



**Maj Jack Nguyen** testing his new sleeping quarters with  
**MCpl Zach Fulton** working on home renovation.

# Messing and Social





## The Mariner Room

*Major Matthew Johns*



The carafes lie empty, mugs smashed, crumbs litter the battlefield, the dishwasher chugs away sadly, and the dregs of the cream drip slowly into the sink. The daily battle between subalterns and senior officers is over; a cease fire declared as both sides withdraw to lick their wounds and plot the next day's activities. The PMC sends out FLASH missives, demanding better quality coffee. The Mess Secretary and Senior Subaltern conduct hasty battle procedure to determine the optimum number of donuts, lots, for the next day. The QM laughs softly as he watches the subbies plan support for the most demanding of operations – morning coffee in the Mariner Room.

For most battlefield tourists the Mariner Room seems a place of quiet contemplation, of culture and relaxation. The globes, the priceless Reg't'l artworks, the shelves of rich, leather bound books, all suggest a room dedicated to the higher pursuits of officership. What visitors do not understand is that this seeming calm and tranquility is merely a veneer over the vicious knife fight of budget balancing and coffee making.

While many of the Reg't'l officers gallivanted about the hypothetical battlefields of the Cold war as part of Op UNIFIER, new battle lines were drawn over such vital terrain as coffee urns versus coffee pots and whether or not a fruit tray constituted an appropriate snack. Far from the front the absentee commander, PMC **Maj Matt "Thunderbird 35" Johns**, demanded constant SITREPs from his beleaguered battle staff as they engaged in desperate rearguard actions against request for fancy creamers! The nine time zone difference between Ukraine and Canada ensured that only the most important of messages could be actioned, such as seating priorities and port selection. Demonstrating the highest levels of dash and gallantry the Mess Secretary, **Lt Leland "This Too Shall Pass" Kirkham**, ably pulled together daily ops plans, up to and including that most demanding – The Melfa River Mess Dinner. Working closely with the Sarcee Room, the Mess Secretary delivered an outstanding combined, mixed dining in for the officers, senior NCOs and spouses of the Regt.

While the subalterns fought off the relentless advance of the senior officers, they quickly found

*Maj Paul Leonard and Maj Matt Johns give in to temptation and choose a fat pill.*



themselves outflanked by the skill, nay the devious maliciousness, of the former OC COEFOR, the R2IC, **Maj Al Wong**. Rallying OC A, **Maj Paul "This Coffee Urn Reminds Me of my CP" Leonard** and the big three captains, **Capt Gord "Ops Plan" Elliott**, **Capt Justin "Salty" Salter**, and **Capt Mike "Metallica" Dullege**, a merciless offensive pushed the beleaguered subalterns to their limit.

Fall saw the return of those deployed on Op UNIFIER and the gradual re-establishment of regular presence patrolling and duty rosters. Bolstered by the arrival of a new Mess Secretary, **Capt Erik "Rivers of Money" Gajnorio**, the subalterns shifted into high gear, focusing on their planned decisive and final



*The RLO, Capt Sean Rogozinski, proudly shows off his coffee mug – featuring none other than Capt Sean Rogozinski. Rogo-ception?*

battle: Black Hat 2017. The annual celebration of all things armoured was particularly special this year as the Regt bid farewell to three of our finest: **Cols (Ret'd) Jamie "Jamie" Cade**, **Dave "Dog" Rundle**, and **Charles "You mean his name isn't Spike?" Hazleton**. To the shock of absolutely no one, the opportunity to roast these leaders was eagerly embraced and the 2017 Black Hat was a virtual who's who of the armoured corps. The Strathcona's were honoured to host Comd CJOC LGen Steve Bowes, MGen **Dean Milner**, Comd 3 Can Div **BGen Trevor Cadieu**, Comd 5 Can Div **BGen Derek Macaulay**, Comd JTF-N **BGen Mike Nixon**, and the Corps Col-Comdt **Col Georges Rousseau**. Beyond these luminaries the star power of retired leaders and friends of the Regt was almost enough to overwhelm the PMC and Mess Secretary as they struggled to reconcile a head table that included 12 generals! The dinner itself was a great success, featuring such fine performances as **Lt Dan "This Centrepiece is now my Best Friend" Dixon** taking selfies with a 35mm camera at dinner and **Capt Sean "Battleth" Rogozinski** improving what certainly sounded like a Klingon toast to the Polish Armoured Bde.

As the pipes faded into the distance and the revellers were finally kicked out of a local bar following the dinner a strange sense of calm descended over the officers of the Mariner Room. As if on cue an armistice was declared and the two sides retreated to their lines to plot further chicanery in the new year; junior officers seeking ways to maximize the employment of the expected new subalterns, while the senior leaders went back to perusing the donut selections.

*In their natural habitat the Regimental subalterns plot new and interesting ways to skive out of work, avoid making coffee and argue about whose turn it is to take Kathy her Friday donut.*





## The Sarcee Room

*Warrant Officer Nathan Mills*

It was another busy year for the Sarcee Room, starting with the Brigade Strong Contender Mess Dinner in January. With **MWO Taylor** as the PMC the event had strong participation from the Sarcee Room. While it may not be the event that most look forward to, we ended up with beneficial connections with NCOs from the brigade that will carry on into the future.

Even with many of the NCOs from the Regiment busy preparing for deployment on OP UNIFIER, we felt it was important to take the time to honour our spouses by ensuring we still took the time for the annual Candlelight Dinner in February. Hosted at the Elhorn Room at the SNCOs Mess, the food, atmosphere and company couldn't be beat.

As a Mess we sent off 14 of our members on OP UNIFIER in March, leaving us with a much smaller but still strong group of NCOs at the Regiment. With our limited numbers we were hosted in May by the Mariner Room for the Melfa River combined mixed Mess Dinner. With the beautiful Hotel MacDonald as our backdrop the event was a success and enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

Following the return of those deployed to OP UNIFIER, our numbers were strong once again as we went into the Black Hat professional development week. This was capped off by our Black Hat PD Mess Dinner, hosted at the WO and Sgt's Dining Hall, where ten of the more senior MCPLs from the Regiment were invited to attend with us for the opportunity to learn and understand Snr NCO Mess life.

Leading into Silly Season, the Christmas Sports Day tradition had us playing the Mariner Room in games including Ice Hockey, Lacrosse and Handball. While the final scores aren't important, suffice it to say that this year the Sarcee Room was awarded the Horses Ass Trophy that we will prominently display in our mess for the next year when we are sure to return it where it came from.

Finally, after both the Mariner's Room and the Sarcee Room served the soldiers at the Soldier's Christmas Dinner, the Sarcee Room hosted the Mariner Room for this year's At Home. The evening, planned by WOs and Sgts from each Sqn and led by **Sgt Derek Murdoch**, followed the theme of "The Career Progression of the NCO." Participants were phased through various events that took each through the stages from Tpr to NCO to Retirement. This included performing drill, track maintenance, memo vetting and section attacks across the dance floor, blindfolded crew commanding, Sumo suit fights and Jeopardy. The absolutely fair games were won entirely by the Sarcee Room and fun was had by all in one of the best At Home events in recent memory.

The year ended with the Annual Meeting of the Sarcee Room which saw the PMC position get handed over to **WO Chuck MacDougall**, who will surely continue the tradition of great leadership at our mess.



## Green Point Lounge

*Master Corporal Brydon Townsend*

Well the past year has been a very busy time for the Strathconas. Soldiers deployed on Op UNIFIER Ukraine Roto 3 with the HQ element and Line of Effort One (Loe 1). There were troops deployed as well to Op REASSURANCE Roto 0 in Latvia and A Sqn was in the breach for the Road to High Readiness. There have been many newly promoted MCpl's who we have been able to welcome to the Green Point Lounge over the last year as well, many of them promoted while deployed overseas. Those MCpls of the Strathconas who were deployed on Op UNIFIER were a valued and vital part to the mission in aiding the Ukrainian Armed Forces in better preparing them for their deployments to the Anti-terrorist operation (ATO).

The MCpl's Green Point Lounge would also like to thank the CO and RSM for giving the go ahead to have the annual "Master Corporals Golf Tournament", which was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. With the outstanding leadership of the outgoing PMC **MCpl Justin "PSL" Monge**, the MCpls were able to plan and execute a very successful golf event, as was very evident as the tournament was able to raise approx. three hundred dollars for the Women in Need House Charity located here in Edmonton. We would like to also thank all of the troops and retired Strathconas who came out to participate in the tournament, as the success is greatly contributed to your willingness to participate in the tournament.

I would also like to say, as the newly elected PMC (who had also been in rank for less than 3 hours when voted in which was a welcome surprise), thank you to all of the volunteers. I would like to also continue with the Golf Tournament tradition this coming year and hopefully have a larger turn out now that most of the Regt is back on the ground; hopefully we can beat our past donations.

From all of us in the Green Point Lounge: VPMC **MCpl Stephen Taborowski**, the Secretary **MCpl Edward Snoek**, your Banker **MCpl Blake Shepherd**, the housing fun guy **MCpl Derrick Popoff**, myself, and of course all of our members, we would all like to wish you a great new year.



L-R MCpls Jesse Bolzan, Mitchell Croxall, Andrew Sherlock-Hubbard, Chris Clegg



## Track Pad

*Corporal Tom Lauterbacher*



As another year rounds down and we look to the next, I reflect on the events and headway the Track Pad has made this year. After the handing over from the last board, the new directors looked at ways to improve, revamp and reorganize the inner workings of our mess: from obtaining new couches, to buying a BBQ, the purchases this year were only a starting point to our endeavor.

Several events where hosted this year, (although not everyone was able to partake) our Moreuil Wood beers and Burgers and Dogs day would only be the start. The best food idea came from **Cpl Justin Milwain** who hatched the idea of Grilled Cheese and Bacon. The board didn't stop there and went further with a prize draw for fuel cards and a date night package.

With the onset of summer and people out the doors, the pad dialed back to build for the inevitable Tpr Funk Games. A massive feat to undertake for any board, the directors pulled together to hash out a firm plan and put it into action. Everyone had their part in planning and putting to action the events which occurred on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. No one on the board knew what to expect when it came to hosting the games, and after a few hiccups in the planning, things were set. Starting

with a "from the hip" speech and straight into the games, no one would expect the onslaught which would come. Brought

*Previous Top Trooper (Cpl Gillis) congratulates Tpr Kibzey on winning this year's Tpr Funk games.*

about by our trusty leaders on the "Revolutionary War" battlefield of B Sqn hangar, paintballs would soon be flying (oddly enough, most of which were thrown... not shot). Nonetheless, many competitors would manage to catch paintballs, using an innovative method of placing one's face in front of them. With everyone vying for "Top Trooper" the competitive nature of our Tprs would show through in both the obstacle course and later in the Tpr bowling and finally, dodgeball. As per tradition, the Chug-o-War would end the games and we crowned a new Top Tpr.

Now we roll into the end of the year with Christmas Sports Day and leave. With all the hard work this year's board has put in to the Track Pad, I am excited to see all that next year will bring. I welcome the new Board of Directors and look forward to seeing another great year from the Track Pad.



## The Strathcona Spouses

*Kim Clarke*

An exceptionally busy 2017 for the Strathcona Spouses with soldiers deploying to Iraq, Ukraine, Latvia, and several places in between, **Marie Lubiniecki** and I, along with the rest of the 'Strathcona Spouses committee,' got down to business by kicking off the year with the ladies' fitness classes. Fortunately with RSM, **Rob "do another burpee" Clarke** departing to Ukraine in early March, the reins were handed-over to the trusted, and somewhat 'gentler,' hands of **Sgt Tom Underwood** – who did a great job of working our butts off and making it fun to attend.

The next several months included numerous well-attended events which included a **Potluck** gathering, palm readings at the **The Russian Tea Room** (some of which actually came true for a handful of ladies!) and concluded with a **Pub Night** at Central Social Hall which generously provided free champagne and desserts for those that attended. What a fun night and a chance to meet quite a few new ladies!

Spring upon us, and several spouses now deployed, we collected donations and items for the '**Taste of Home**' boxes which we sent to all deployed soldiers wearing the Strathcona cap badge. As there were quite a few this year, we sent larger boxes to the **CO** and **RSM** to hand out on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Ukraine, and several smaller ones for soldiers in Latvia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Luckily for us, all boxes arrived safely to their intended recipients. We also used this time to give back to the community; with **Kim Mills** organizing a visit to Aspen House in Morinville to play Bingo with patients that unfortunately suffer from Alzheimer's and Dementia. A very rewarding event.

As summer approached, **Dayle Pett** organized an exceptional '**Mixology**' event at which each spouse concocted and introduced 5 new drinks to the group. Teams were selected, (multiple) drinks were tasted and winners were chosen. Unfortunately I cannot for the life of me remember who won.....I wonder why??

Just prior to summer break it was finally our chance to become '**Soldiers for a Day**'. **Lt Dan Dixon** (this should really be his full-time job) started the day off with a detailed tour of the Regiment then hamburgers & hotdogs were graciously provided by the **Sarcee Room** for lunch – with IMPs also on the menu for those that wanted the 'full' experience! We ended the day by firing tanks in the simulator and driving the Coyote, T-LAV, and LAV 3. A big 'thank you' goes out to **Maj Al Wong** and **MWO Kevin King** who found the time amidst their acting duties to allow this to happen, and to **Capt Justin Salter**, **Lt Leland Kirkham** and several generous members of **A Squadron** who planned and ran the day of fun for the ladies.

Fall began with another **Meet & Greet** at Central Social Hall; where we met and socialized with several new ladies, followed by a fantastic craft day organized by **Kelly Taylor** at which we painted a sign which read "Joy to the World" in time for Christmas. Not to be outdone, **Amanda Doupe** teamed-up with **Karla** from 'I Painted That,' and organized another exceptional "**Paint Night**". Amazing what Karla can get anyone to paint!

To finish the year off with a bang, December was saved for our "**Christmas Craft Day**." Luckily for us, **James Craft** was nice enough to come back again, and provided his time and skill in making 10 homemade Christmas Cards for some, while others assembled Christmas candy wreaths and also made "How Many Days until Christmas" signs. For those that wanted baking in time for Christmas, **Kim Mills** organized a cookie exchange.

In closing, we're very excited and looking forward to a great 2018 with several activities already planned or in the planning stages. Also, as you may have already noticed, the committee decided to rename the group 'Strathcona Spouses' as we also now have a few male spouses who were excited to join our group! If you're not already onboard and a member of the group, you can find us through 'Strathcona Spouses' on Facebook or email us at strathconaladies@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.



## Strathcona Subbies Corner

*Lieutenant Dan “Am I the Senior Sub?” Dixon*

Here we are again, at the end of 2017 writing the article that gets tucked into the back of the Strathconian to share all of the Subaltern shenanigans that have occurred throughout the year. After pouring through previous year's editions of Strathconians piled up throughout the Harvey Building and on coffee tables throughout the downtown core of Edmonton, one thing became glaringly obvious... we need reinforcements! Our Subaltern nominal roll is nearly depleted.

Last year's Senior Sub, for the majority of 2016, fell onto the shoulders of **Capt Mike** “*I carve my name in silver cups*” **Labreque**, our last Hessian Sword Winner. Who was the Senior Sub for 2017 you ask? That is a very good question, and it depends on who you talk to! We like to think of this year as more of a group effort, and with the few remaining Subalterns at the Regt it seems to be working out for us so far. Summer of 2017 saw us lose quite a bit of blood from the round tables in the Mariner Room, and with only two replacements coming in from the Armoured School, we are in desperate need of some more. This year's new batch all went to Recce Sqn with **Lt Tom** “*A-Team*” **Hume**, a CFR who then subsequently crushed his phase training and deployed with a Recce Tp to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE leaving us in the dust, **2Lt Tom** “*Suspiciously optimistic*” **Clackson**,

another CFR, along with a bright eyed and bushy tailed **Lt Carsten** “*The Regimental Subbie*” **McLean**, who has been a workhorse in his Sqn administering a whole host of courses from MUAS, to CQC-B. I think the only one who ran more courses than him was **Capt Alex** “*Peg Leg*” **Neshcov**.

Although what we lack in numbers, we make up for in cohesion. There is no shortage of tasks for a Subbie to assume, from international deployments on Ops UNIFIER and REASSURANCE, to the far more dangerous and feared Wainwright PLQ Course Officer tasks, which is constantly looming over our heads claiming three of us so far. January – March saw **Lt Dan** “*Man, the last Course O left me nothing*” **Dixon** braving the barren wastelands throughout the winter whilst rewriting all of the instructions and orders. April-June saw **Lt Alex** “*Wow, the guy before me did all of my work for me*” **Young** complete the task in much fairer weather before finally claiming **2Lt Tom** “*It's easy to look sweet compared to the last guy*” **Clackson** from September-December to complete the cycle. In case you were wondering, and to fully throw him under the bus, whoever is reading - **Lt Leland** “*Clean covies*” **Kirkham** is up next in the breach to do a tour in Wainwright.

Even though us Subbies are scattered everywhere far and wide, almost every weekend we find ourselves sitting around a table at the Pint on 109 crushing beers and contemplating life's greatest questions... like who the next PLQ Course Officer is going to be...



*Shaming Lt Alex ‘Lost his Keys’ Young*



*Capt Alex Neshcov eating his normal donut sandwich for breakfast*





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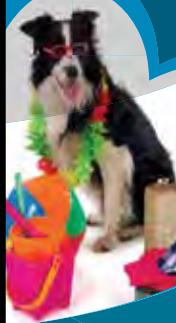
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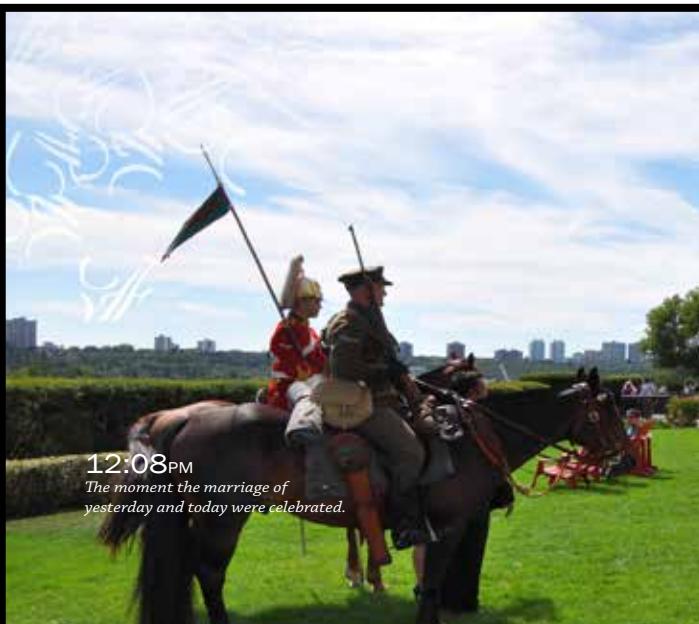
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