

THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2016



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ROLEX

'National'

CSI 5*
June 7-11, 2017


ROLEX

'Pan American'

CSI 5*
June 27 - July 2, 2017


ROLEX

'North American'

CSI 5*
July 5-9, 2017


ROLEX

'MASTERS'

CSIO 5*
Sept. 6-10, 2017



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Battle Honours

South Africa

South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentín, 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, MiD, CD
Commanding Officer

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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug

For those of us who avidly follow the Regiment, another year has passed very quickly. This Strathconian covers the highlights of the past year, mainly focused on the Regiment, its training activities, sporting events, and other aspects of Regimental life as well as some elements of extra Regimental employment (ERE). It also covers some elements of the Regimental Society and the Association.

Last year I was struck by the pace of activities demanded of our Regiment. I can assure you that the pace is not diminished this year. I continue to be impressed by the breadth and depth of the events successfully completed by all ranks at Regimental duty and those on ERE.

This year reflects transition in two specific areas. Firstly, the Regiment completed its operational readiness training and the subsequent evaluation by the Brigade. As of 1 July, the Regiment became ready for operational tasks and deployments. Although not yet determined in detail, the Regiment expects an operational deployment in the next few months. Watch the ENews for details once announced.

The second area of transition was reflected in the change of leadership that took place in June 2016. The command of the Regiment changed from **LCol Josh Major** to **LCol Mark Lubiniecki**. Concurrently, **CWO Rob Clarke** assumed the appointment of RSM from **CWO Tony Batty**. Both **LCol Major** and **CWO Batty** provided effective leadership to the Regiment. Having observed **LCol Lubiniecki** and **RSM Clarke** for the past six months, I can assure you that the Regiment continues to have the right leadership. As with every annual posting season, there are many changes throughout the Regiment. Nevertheless, the standards achieved by the new team reflect positively on their professionalism and teamwork.

Underpinning the success of the soldiers continues to be their spouses and families. They provide the support and independence on the home front that allows our soldiers to focus on the challenging tasks at hand.

You should be proud of your Regiment; I certainly have been impressed with their accomplishments. Please read on to see the details of what they have done. I expect that 2017 will bring new challenges, especially with celebrations of Canada 150. I have no doubt that they will accomplish the myriad of tasks in the professional manner that we have come to expect throughout our history.





A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Brigadier-General Derek Macaulay

It is a hard to believe a year has passed since I wrote my last short article for The Strathconian. However, as I pause to look around, from the 14th floor of The Canadian Army Headquarters, I note that although there was the normal turbulence attributed to a Change in Command, the Regiment remains steadfastness in accomplishing its mission.

First, I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all Strathconas, to acknowledge and thank the superb command team of now **Colonel Josh Major** and **Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty** for their efforts over the last year and to welcome the new team of **Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki** and **Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke**, whom I know are prepared for the challenges which lay ahead of the Regiment. In fact, the Canadian Army recognizes the continued high standards being maintained by our Regiment and assigned it to lead the Canadian Armed Forces contribution to Operation Unifier in the Ukraine; from March to August 2017 (I look forward to next year's Strathconian).



Also, on behalf of all serving Strathconas, I would like to convey our deepest appreciation to our Colonel of the Regiment **Colonel Greg Hug** who showed and continues to demonstrate what **PERSEVERANCE** really means. Personally, **Colonel Hug** epitomizes the thoughts of the British author, **Samuel Johnson**, *"I believe few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance"*.

In closing, as you flip through the pages of this outstanding annual journal, you will note the significant events, both on and off the field of battle. Further, no matter if it was an individual event such as Exercise Mountain Man or the Canadian Army's preminent collective training exercise Maple Resolve I can assure you each and every soldier who is part of the Strathcona family displayed perseverance, exhibiting the pride, passion and dedication that the remainder of the Canadian Army has been accustomed too over the last 116 years.

BGen Derek Macaulay awarding Cpl David Olaes with this First CD Clasp





Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki

Returning this summer I was immediately reminded of how much I had missed the Regiment while away for the past four years. I think that at times we all can take for granted our time at the Regiment, how fast it comes to an end, how good we have it within the Unit Lines, and how truly different we are as Strathconas. I am not sure if I will ever be able to accurately express the feeling of pride I have as I stand in front the men and women of our Regiment, and it is only made all the better as I share the experience with **RSM Rob Clarke**, a true friend, soldier, and warrior.

I continue to be awestruck, though not surprised, at the professionalism, competencies, and the willingness of ranks at all levels to rise to the challenge presented and to go the extra distance in support of their peers or the mission at hand. Be it training, competition, or deployments, the soldiers and leadership continue to not only represent themselves to the highest of standards, but showcase the quality resident within the Regiment. The support trades deserve special recognition for their tireless commitment to ensuring that the Regiment was always ready for the mission. While they are their own worst critics, I speak on behalf of all Crewman when I say that without the sacrifice and commitment all of our support trades, we would not have achieved success in the Road-to-High-Readiness nor the fall training cycle.

Despite the current financial climate in Canada, support for the Regiment as not waived. The Friends-of-the-Regiment continue to stand by our side, providing support through various avenues to the soldiers and families of the Regiment. We have attempted in our own small way to 'give-back' to the community and those who have supported us over the years in our humble way of expressing our gratitude. One of the highlights for many of us this year was the ability to help a young child diagnosed with terminal cancer fulfil her wish to ride in a tank. The soldiers went above and beyond this simple request and gave her a 'soldier-for-a-day' experience unlike any other that culminated in a private show from the Mounted Troop.

It is noteworthy to announce that the Regiment has been named as the Lead Mounting Unit for Operation UNIFIER, the mission currently underway in Ukraine. This will be the first time since Bosnia that an Armoured Regiment would lead a Task Force overseas. Concurrently, the Regiment continues to force generate a significant number of staff officers and several Senior NCOs for deployments into foreign Headquarters. The announcement of a Battle Group to Latvia will see the addition of a mounted Reconnaissance element that will be based upon a five-Coyote Troop from the Regiment. After a brief pause in operations following the commitment to Afghanistan, the Regiment once again finds itself in a period of high Operational deployments.

I have enjoyed soldiering with you and look forward to the next chapter in the Regiment's history.



Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke

What an amazing Regiment we have. Proud warriors, steadfast veterans, caring friends and supportive family that all come together to form one cohesive and powerful team. Where I'm incredibly honored to be your RSM, I'm also proud to stand alongside all of you as a fellow soldier, husband, father and friend.

As I look back on 2016 and draft my first Strathconian article, I'm astounded by just how much we've accomplished in such a short period of time and excited for what lay ahead. Through complex exercises on the road to high readiness that forged cohesive combat teams, to a memorable passage of command executed by a pair of exceptional leaders in **LCol Josh Major** and **CWO Tony Batty**, everything was completed with utmost skill, professionalism and pride further positioning the Regiment for current and future operations.

A different perspective as RSM, no doubt, but as the following articles and tales from the troops will demonstrate, blistering tempo remains the norm and our team of unparalleled men and women continually prove that armoured skill transcends the combat arms. From lethal tankers and reconnaissance specialists that pave the way on the battlefield, to top-notch logisticians, signalers, clerks, medics, supply techs and skilled technicians that ensure our lethality is brought to bear when and where we need it. Simply put, our soldiers do it all, and where we do it extremely well, we must always remember that we can never do it alone and every single one is considered a member of the team – a Strathcona.

Following a typical (very busy) summer and fall schedule, the last several months have seen a noticeable shift in focus as the Regiment has once again been asked to deploy individual soldiers to Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Europe, and even more notably, to lead a Task Force in deployed operations to Ukraine. Where these unique opportunities, facilitated by our predecessors and earned by the hard work of our soldiers, will not be vast enough for every soldier to participate in, they will give several groups of deserving soldiers focus and a much needed goal in 2017 and beyond. Be great at what you do and make yourself indispensable.

That said, we do not go it alone and will continue to lean heavily on the incredible support from the team behind the team. It goes without saying that our families, Association members, 'Friends of the Regiment' and all posted or retired Strathconas across the country are an integral part of the force. Whether you support the Strathcona Ladies by attending one of the many annual activities or simply tilt a few pints with a handful of Strathconas in Fort Saskatchewan, Kingston, Ottawa or Gagetown as part of our growing Association under the guidance of former **RSM Peter Wonderham**, we consider all of you family. Always.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone that 2016 was not without tragedy; as our Colonel of the Regiment, **Col (Ret'd) Greg Hug** was paralyzed while vacationing earlier in the year - but, as a leader and consummate Strathcona through and through, he embodies perseverance, makes incredible strides month after month and continues to lead in the same 'bold' way he always has. Behind one, behind all, always a Strathcona.





Editor-in-Chief Forward

Major Alex Nitu

As I was sat at my desk, reviewing the many articles that constitute any given issue of the Strathconian, I was amazed by a reoccurring similarity. Over half of the articles I reviewed seemed to open with a similar sentence - “2016 has been a very busy year for us.” In fact the sentence appeared in so many articles, I thought that there was a light-hearted conspiracy to play a trick on the humble editor-in-chief. Of course there were no such machinations, but it does illustrate the tempo this Regiment has sustained over 2016. I used to say that “busy is the new normal”, however 2016 does stand apart from the remainder of recent years. Having the entire Regiment on the “Road to High Readiness” was no small feat, nor was mounting the first expeditionary Strathcona Task Force since the Bosnia era. However, I’m not going to be the one to tell you of these challenges in detail; that’s for the Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers to elucidate by means of their articles within this edition.

What I will highlight is the incredible work of two individuals that made this issuance of the Strathconian possible. Firstly, **Kathy Batty** has been, as always, instrumental in the assembly of this journal. Everything to do with layout, composition, arrangement, and visual style in the Strathconian is due entirely to **Kathy’s** hard work and keen eye. Without her steady hand and implacable feedback, the presentation of the Strathconian would have to be left to the Editor-in-Chief. And let me tell you - should that ever be the case the result would look like a hybrid ransom letter and MS Paint doodle. Thanks **Kathy**, your efforts make the Strathconian a premiere publication amongst Canadian Army units. I would also like to extoll the hard work and diligence of this year’s editor of the Strathconian (and my Squadron Second-in-Command) **Capt Gord Elliott**. He did the vast majority of the heavy lifting when it came to article tracking and editing. What is even more remarkable is that he continued to work on it even though he was given the title of Regimental Operations Officer early in 2017 due to **Capt Dan Gray’s** deployment.

I close by writing my sincere appreciation to all contributors to this edition of the Strathconian – This publication is our historical record and I’m proud to see everyone invested their efforts into making it exemplary.





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Year in Review



Births and Marriages

Cpl Moceton-Velasquez's daughter Ellie Andriana, born 7 February 2016

Cpl Wagner's daughter Rebecca, born 13 March 2016

Tpr Braconnier's son Lucas, born 14 March 2016

MCpl Valad's son Tanner William Frank, born 18 March 2016

Cpl Shepherd married Christine 26 March 2016

Cpl Nicholson's daughter Jayden, born 28 April 2016

Cpl Nieuwhof's daughter Braya, born 4 May 2016

Cpl Hughes' daughter Nova, Joy born 23 May 2016

Capt Peterson's daughter Makenna, born 04 June 2016

Cpl Stender married Victoria 11 June 2016

Cpl Townsend's daughter Harper Isabelle, born 5 July 2016

Capt Lund's son Derek, born 11 July 16

MCpl Izaak Koolman married Leah Young 21 July 2016

MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard married Elyse 23 July 2016

Sgt Kearns' daughter Molly, born 29 July 2016

Cpl Warren's daughter Savannah, born 9 August 2016

Capt Carter-Wright's daughter Isabella Jessica, born 12 August 2016

MCpl Myers married Whitney 12 August 2016

Cpl Wood's son Lochlan, born 13 August 2016

Cpl Hogan's daughter Charlee, born 19 August 2016

Cpl Steeves married Natasha 20 August 2016

Capt Labrecque married Madisen on 26 August 2016

Capt Timms' son Arthur, born 15 September 2016

MCpl Banman's daughter Anastasia, born 21 September 2016

Capt Elliott's son Liam, born 22 October 2016

Tpr Lees' son Matthew, born 20 November 2016

Capt Salter married Ken-Dell 8 December 2016

Sgt Cooke married Kathleen on 14 December 2016

MCpl Banman's daughter Anastasia, born 21 December 2016

Cpl Dobson married Lauren on 22 December 2016



Honours and Awards

Canadian Forces Decoration Second Clasp

MWO Mayfield

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

Cpl Olaes

Canadian Forces Decoration

Sgt Lewis
Sgt Patterson, N
Sgt Mansfield
Sgt Underwood
MCpl Bazinet
MCpl Brown
MCpl Collins
MCpl Eged
MCpl Howse
MCpl Oullet
MCpl Stewart
Cpl Marion

Commander Canadian Army Commendation

Sgt Chuback

CADTC Commander's Commendation

Capt Lund

Commander 1 CMBG Commendation

MWO Clayson
Sgt Burke
Sgt Doody
MCpl Gordon
Cpl Banting
Cpl Doan

Canadian Defence Liaison London Coin

MCpl Monge

CO's Coins

Lt Clarkson
MWO Brown
WO Delaney
WO Parent
Sgt Paterson, J
Sgt Patterson, N
MCpl Brown
MCpl MacKenzie
Cpl Charles
Cpl George
Cpl Hall
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Makula
Cpl Ngai
Cpl Rayment
Cpl Reinheimer Hein
Cpl Shepard
Cpl Tomayer
Cpl Yarn
Cpl Young, B
Cpl Winchester
Cpl Williams
Tpr Choquette
Tpr Finkle
Tpr Lang
Tpr Lauterbacher
Tpr Rayner
Tpr Steinke
Pte Roussel

RSM's Shield

MCpl Gordon
Cpl McNair

Prince of Wales Trophy

A Squadron

Hessian Memorial Sword

Capt Hoffart

Neatby Pace Stick

MWO Shiells

Milroy Cross Belt

Sgt Gibson

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick

Sgt Underwood

Fox Bugle

MCpl Blacklock

Olympic Torch Trophy

CWO Clarke

Ross Gear

MCpl Russell

Top Gunner, Leopard C2 Gunnery Course

Cpl Prosser

Top Gunner, Leopard 2 Gunnery Course

Tpr Hughes

Top Gunner, 25mm Turret Operator Course

Tpr Landry

Top A Squadron Crew

12C

Top B Squadron Crew

21C

Top Recce Squadron Crew

42C

Col Jamie Cade receiving the CDS Commendation





Promotions



Capt Erica Young being promoted at the Change of Command Parade

Capt Casey
Capt Giajnorio
Capt Ross
Capt Neshcov
Capt Young
Lt Dixon
Lt Hume
Lt Kirkham
Lt Young
CWO Clarke
MWO Englehart
MWO Shiells

WO Harper
WO Johnston
WO Urquhart
Sgt Burke
Sgt Underwood
Sgt Romkey
Sgt Murray
MCpl Balsdon
MCpl Blacklock
MCpl Chen
MCpl Gordon
MCpl Kroker
MCpl Lachance-Webster
MCpl Larcher-Pelland
MCpl McDougall
MCpl Monge
MCpl Richardson
MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard
MCpl Skaarup

MCpl Symington
MCpl Stratford
MCpl Taborowski
MCpl Veltmeyer
MCpl Waddell
Cpl Brown
Cpl Bursey
Cpl Contrino
Cpl Crackle-Skulason
Cpl Deringer
Cpl Doucette
Cpl Emery

Cpl Fuchs Perry
Cpl Gallagher
Cpl Guay
Cpl Hammel
Cpl Hibbert
Cpl Kelly
Cpl MacKenzie
Cpl MacKinnon
Cpl Mercier
Cpl Messecar
Cpl Milwain
Cpl Morin
Cpl Munro
Cpl Norring
Cpl Oaten
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Rourke
Cpl Sayyeau
Cpl Shipston
Cpl Snowden
Cpl Snowdon
Cpl Thompson
Cpl Vanthournout
Cpl Vantongerren
Cpl Vincent
Cpl Whitney
Cpl Williams
Cpl Wills
Cpl Young, C

Regimental Colonel, Col Dwayne Parsons being promoted



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 Timms

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Operations Officer

Capt Gray

Regimental Headquarters

Command/Operations Cell

Capt Buckingham
Capt Vahal
Sgt Burke
MCpl Howarth-Harrison
Cpl Tobin
Cpl Hall
Tpr Munger

Regimental Orderly Room

Capt Ross
WO Lowenberg
Sgt Woods
MCpl Eged
MCpl Gauthier
MS Clark
Cpl Vincent

Signals Troop

Capt Bard
WO McQuae
Sgt Mansfield
Cpl Carrier
Cpl Vontongerren
Cpl Whitney
Cpl Santi
Cpl Doucette
Cpl Murray

Training & Intelligence Cells

WO Shiells
MCpl Kroker
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Dugdale

Deployed

Capt Coughlan (UNIFIER)
Capt Tams (REASSURANCE)
Capt Dullege (UNIFIER)
Capt Moffat (ADDENDA)
Capt Smith (IMPACT)
MWO Boland (UNIFIER)
MWO Mayfield (IMPACT)
Sgt Arseneau (IMPACT)
Cpl Gutscher (IMPACT)
Cpl Fulljames (UNIFIER)

Prince of Wales (A Squadron)

Officer Commanding

Maj Johns

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Englehart

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Salter
Sgt Paterson

MCpl Hayes
MCpl Stratford
Cpl George
Cpl Makula
Cpl New
Cpl Stender
Cpl Lauterbacher
Tpr Frew
Tpr(B) Jones
Tpr(B) Marcotte

First Troop

Lt Dixon
WO Thompson
Sgt Dickey
MCpl Bolzan
MCpl Blacklock
Cpl Armstrong
Cpl McKenzie
Cpl Smith
Cpl Gillis
Cpl Milwain
Tpr Paterson
Tpr Braconnier
Tpr Edgson
Tpr Reetz

Second Troop

Lt Kirkham
WO McDougall
Sgt Davidson

MCpl Campbell
MCpl Richardson
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Rourke
Cpl Snowden
Cpl Watson
Cpl Hill
Cpl Langboug
Cpl Neufeld
Tpr Belding
Tpr Cox
Tpr Ned
Tpr(B) Adey

Third Troop

Capt Gajnorio
Sgt Gibson
MCpl Banman
MCpl Dunphy
MCpl Myers
Cpl Munro
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Warren
Cpl Webster
Cpl Gilbert
Tpr King-McAuslan
Tpr(B) Cocker
Tpr(B) Laperriere
Tpr(B) Lees
Tpr(B) Tsui

Administration Troop

WO Zubkowski
Sgt Kearns
Sgt Covey
MCpl Croxall
MCpl Dobson
MCpl Pole
MCpl Smith
MCpl Veltmeyer
MCpl Weir
Cpl Snoek
Cpl Veinot
Cpl Burke
Cpl Choquette
Cpl Comeau
Cpl Ellis
Cpl Feenstra
Cpl Friolet
Cpl Goodwin
Cpl Kozack
Cpl MacDonald
Cpl Nieuwhof

Cpl Wills
Cpl Hornby
Cpl Shute
Cpl Smith
Tpr Bergevin
Tpr Burles
Tpr Logan
Tpr Loiselle
Tpr(B) Bogaert
Tpr(B) Daudelin
Tpr(B) Freeman
Tpr(B) Gill
Tpr(B) Kibzey
Tpr(B) Sabourin

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Nitu

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Brown

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Shumka
Sgt Foster
MCpl Clegg
MCpl Gordon
Cpl Ell
Cpl Goodwin
Cpl Hall
Cpl Rayment
Cpl Tomayer

First Troop

Lt Young
WO Troop
Sgt Romkey
MCpl Chen
MCpl Popoff
Cpl Coughlan
Cpl Grubber
Cpl Sandhu
Cpl Sawyer
Cpl Valenzuela
Cpl Vanbeek
Tpr Friel
Tpr Helgeson
Tpr Parkes
Tpr Proctor
Tpr Rawson

Second Troop

Capt Neshcov
Sgt Chuback
MCpl Brown
MCpl Chase
Cpl Dillon
Cpl Guay
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Meany
Cpl Mullens
Cpl Shepherd
Cpl Shipston
Cpl Vantournout
Tpr Mancini
Tpr Morin
Tpr Poitras
Tpr Tong

Third Troop

Capt Agius
WO Morley
MCpl Collins
MCpl Monge
MCpl Sherlock-Hubbard
Cpl Allard
Cpl Green
Cpl Larcher Pelland
Cpl Townsend
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Crackle-Skulason
Tpr Hughes
Tpr Carriere
Tpr Bursey
Tpr Thibault
Tpr Bourke

Administration Troop

Capt Elliott
Sgt Patterson
MCpl MacLeod
MCpl Mckenize
Cpl Brown
Cpl Contrino
Cpl Gallagher
Cpl Gibbons
Cpl Martin
Cpl Mercier
Cpl McNeil
Cpl MacKinnon
Cpl Nicholson
Cpl Pecarskie
Cpl Shields
Cpl Steeves

Cpl Young
Tpr Pittman
Tpr Choquette
Tpr Cormier
Tpr Feldman
Cpl Messecar

SQMS

WO Babin
MCpl Droogers
Cpl Schijns

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Davies
MCpl Gunton
MCpl Graham
MCpl Waddel
MCpl Wiscombe
Cpl Yarn
Cpl Mastaerz
Cpl Dicaire
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Breton
Cpl Moceton
Cpl Lachapelle

Recce Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Leonard

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Baglole

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Lund
Lt Forestell
WO Mills
Sgt Netik
MCpl Livingstone
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Oaten
Pte(B) Arseneau
Pte(B) Diebolt
Pte(B) McMenamin

First Troop

Lt Yang
MCpl Mijares
MCpl Skaarup
MCpl Wry
MCpl Schafer
Cpl Broome
Cpl Hibbert

Pte Williston
Pte Steinke
Pte(B) Audette
Pte(B) Benedicic
Pte(B) Cowen
Pte(B) Finkle
Pte(B) Kelly
Pte(B) Pelletier
Pte(B) Rayner
Pte(B) Silverman
Pte(B) Wynen
Pte(B) Martin
Pte(B) Hodgins
Pte(B) Mann

Second Troop

Lt Clarkson (Royal
Lancers)
WO Jones
Sgt McAtasney
MCpl Stewart
MCpl Bondy
MCpl Koolman
Cpl MacKenzie
Cpl Thompson
Pte(B) Fraser
Pte(B) Hartman
Pte(B) Jones
Pte(B) Lawrence
Pte(B) Rider
Pte(B) Schemenauer
Pte(B) Sibbet
Pte(B) Stone
Pte(B) Wuerch
Pte(B) Kelly

Fourth Troop

Capt Casey
WO Johnston
MCpl Cheng
MCpl Jesse
MCpl Mantha
MCpl McDougall
Cpl Bursey
Cpl Deringer
Cpl Fettes
Cpl Fulljames
Cpl Graham
Cpl Norring
Cpl Williams
Pte(B) Whitson
Pte(B) Lang
Pte(B) Beauparlant
Pte(B) Landry

Administration Troop

WO Levis
MCpl Van Den Born
MCpl Norman
MCpl Symington
Cpl Kewley
Cpl Barten
Cpl Grant
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Gray
Pte Grewal
Pte(B) Fox
Pte(B) Grant
Pte(B) Peacher
Pte(B) Wall
Pte(B) Klettli

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Shah
MCpl Blacquier
MCpl Jesseau
MCpl Paquette
Cpl Dulong
Cpl Richard
Cpl Sutton
Pte(B) Breau

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Beitz

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO King

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Hevenor
Capt Peterson
MCpl Korenowski
Cpl Fuchs Perry
Cpl Gaona
Cpl Young

Squadron Quartermaster Troop

WO Delaney
MCpl Ford
Cpl Hammel
Cpl Radford
Cpl Wagner

Transportation Troop

Capt Labrecque
WO Parent

Sgt Murray
MCpl Alwani
MCpl Dunford
MCpl Hayes
MCpl Ouellet
MCpl Sebo
Cpl Blair
Cpl Charles
Cpl DeMille
Cpl Marion
Cpl Martin
Cpl Smith C
Cpl Snowdon
Cpl Wheeler
Cpl Wood
Tpr Andrews
Tpr Beck
Tpr Colville
Tpr Crockett
Tpr Pelletier
Tpr Pfeiffer
Tpr Warawa

Maintenance Troop

Capt Theroux
MWO Wood
WO Banks
WO Harper
WO Urquhart
Sgt Cooke
Sgt Lewis
Sgt McKie
MCpl Balsdon
MCpl Dean
MCpl Doyle
MCpl Golmohammadi
MCpl Harzing
MCpl MacDonald
MCpl Russell
MCpl Valad
Cpl Bailey
Cpl Bellinger
Cpl Boutilier
Cpl Courneyea
Cpl Gibbons
Cpl MacDonald
Cpl Mogg
Cpl Otis Monat
Cpl Poitras
Cpl Reinheimer Hein
Cpl Skafar
Cpl Wilson
Pte Brenton

Pte Guigue

Quartermaster Troop

Capt Williams
MWO Clayson
MWO Taylor
Sgt Barsotta
Sgt Near
MCpl Balfour
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Clendennin
Cpl Craddock
Cpl Danczak
Cpl Forest
Cpl Grieves
Cpl Rose
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl Winchester
Cpl Woodland

Regimental Cooks

WO Woroniuk
Sgt Doody
MS Brassard
MS Golbourn
Cpl Lucas
Cpl Reid
Cpl Sayyeau
Pte O'Leary

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Young
Sgt Kruhlak
MCpl Davidson
Cpl Aguila
Cpl Crozier
Cpl Dobson
Cpl Dunne
Cpl Fong
Cpl Ford
Cpl Fraser
Cpl Gauthier
Cpl Germann
Cpl Hopper
Cpl Houston
Cpl Maddison
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Marshall
Cpl Martel
Cpl Paquette
Cpl Prosser
Cpl Senff
Cpl Southern

Cpl Thibodeau
Tpr Hodgins
Tpr Klett
Tpr Lopez

Regimental Accounts

Capt McLean
Sgt Jones
Cpl Banting
Cpl Bond
Cpl Brough
Cpl Manaigre
Cpl Naylor

Family Support Troop

Capt Kim
Cpl Hodge
Tpr Fortin

Regimental Stables

WO Stanistreet
MCpl Kent

Regimental Museum

WO Macleod
Sgt Giberson







The Year in Review



Cpl Kelton Watson - A Sqn in Poland - March

March

20 - 26 – STEELE Poland

20 - 26 – Moreuil Wood

25 - 3 Apr – March Break

April

5 - 4 May – Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM

27 – Exercise HERAKLES RAM – Military Skills Competition

May

18 - 7 Jun – Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE

January

15 - 29 – Exercise STRONG CONTENDER – Brigade Winter Sports Competition

28 - 1 Feb CMBG Officer's Mess Dinner

30 – Exercise Relentless Warrior – Close Quarter Combat Competition

February

1 - 12 – Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE – Brigade Level Simulation Exercise

20 - 4 Mar – Exercise STEELE BEASTS – Simulation Exercise (Fort Hood, TX)

22 - 4 Mar – Exercise STEELE WINTER – Winter Adventure Training

Ex Herakles Ram 16



BC Recce, Capt Gord Elliott, and Sqn LO, Capt Mike Labrecque, adding a sensible amount of fuel to the fire.



June

- 20 - 24 – Change of Command Week
- 23 – Change of Command Parade

July

- 1 – Spruce Meadows Obstacle Course
- 8 - 10 – Calgary Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows 100 Man Guard
- 22 - 14 Aug – Regimental Summer Leave

August

- 15 - 16 Sep – Regimental Individual Training Concentration
- 26 – Strathcona Business Lunch

The outgoing RSM, CWO Antony Batty, mounts a British Army Scimitar to drive off the CoC Parade.



September

- 7 – Exercise TOUGH CONTENDER – Brigade Sports Competition
- 8 – Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN
- 10 – Regimental Family Day
- 19 - 25 – Regimental Guncamp
- 23 - 30 – Exercise WORTHINGTON CUP
- 23 - 1 Oct – 4/3d Cavalry Regiment Exchange (Wainwright)
- 26 - 6 Oct – Exercise STEELE SABRE-Regimental Exercise

October

- 12 - 24 – Exercise STEELE PANTHER-Battle Group Exercise
- 15 - 21 – Exercise IRON STRIKE
- 16 - 19 – Exercise STEELE STAG – Recce Sqn Exercise
- 31 - 12 Nov – Exercise STEELE LEOPARDO – Brazilian Exchange (Ponta Grossa, Brazil)

November

- 7 – “No Stone Left Alone”
- 11 – Remembrance Day
- 14 - 18 – Subaltern Ride Course
- 23 - 25 – Canadian Patrol Concentration
- 28 - 2 Dec – Blackhat Professional Development Week

December

- 3 – Kid’s Christmas Party
- 13 – Soldier’s Christmas Dinner
- 15 – Christmas Sports Day



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Squadron





Articles

A Squadron





A (Prince of Wales) Squadron – “Yes, We Can”

Captain Justin Salter



The year began with A Sqn being recognized as Prince of Wales Squadron, foremost amongst the Regiment, and its soldiers have proven worthy of the title at every turn. During this past year, A Sqn participated in Ex PROMETHEAN RAM, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, Ex STEELE SABRE and Ex STEELE PANTHER. We traveled far and wide to find new and interesting ways to interact with the civilian population, including a trip to 4 Wing (Cold Lake) Family Day and a vehicle display at Spruce Meadows. Not satisfied with just a Leo C2 Gunnery Course and a Leo C2 D&M course, A Sqn also took the lead on LAV III D&M.

Before all that, as the snow melted, A Sqn deployed to Wainwright under the command of **Maj Darryn “Jawbreaker” Gray** as part of 2 PPCLI Battle Group. PROMETHEAN RAM 16 allowed **Capt Erik “No Goal” Giajnorio** and the rest of A Sqn to train up to Combined Company/Squadron (Level 5), conducting combat team attacks with all enablers including CF-18s. Then, during

MAPLE RESOLVE 16, A Sqn displayed its dominance by decimating the RCD OPFOR Battle Group and ending the exercise 72 hours early.

No sooner had **Maj Matt “Inkslinger” Johns** accepted command of A Sqn at the Regiment’s Change of Command Parade than he found himself launching **Sgt Rob “Gunnery God” Kearns** and **Sgt Jesse “I’ll Make This Look Easy” Paterson** down to Calgary to support Stampede activities with a Tank and ARV on parade, and a daily Flag Party at the Rodeo & Grandstand. Always thinking first and foremost about ‘perception as reality’, **Cpl Alex “Twinkletoes” Warren** even got into the Stampede spirit by shoving **Cpl Patrick “Witness Statement” Grubber** out of the path of a moving truck, thus getting himself run over in true Rodeo fashion.

In August, the Regiment kicked off its annual fall season of training. Taking the lead on the old Leo C2 workhorses, **WO Chuck “Why is My Name Duck?” McDougall** put all the students through their paces. The hard work paid off when all crewmen of the Leo C2 Gunnery and Crew Commander Gunnery courses stood poised to take over as the next generation of Strathcona gunners and commanders. Along with C2 Gunnery, A

Cpl Alex Warren catching some much needed sun on top of his tank.





Sqn ran D&M for both the Leo C2 and LAV III. Course **WO Sgt Jeff** “*Mr. Warboy Clean*” **Gibson** worked his students hard, and his MCpl’s harder, much to the displeasure of **MCpl Ryan** “*Chicken-Legs*” **Blacklock** and **MCpl Jesse** “*World’s Biggest Packers Fan*” **Bolzan**.

A Sqn then deployed to Wainwright for Ex STEELE SABRE to conduct Troop and Squadron level training, including a Gun Camp on Range 25, rifle ranges, gas hut, and a 13km load-bearing march. On the familiar terrain of

Buffalo Hill, **Sgt Tim** “*Cooler Than a Cucumber*” **Dickey** gave a group of visiting American soldiers the opportunity to each fire a 105mm round from a Leo C2 while **MCpl Mark** “*One-Niner-Foxtrot*” **Weir** kept the range sentries in line with his lectures on proper field techniques for moustache grooming. During the Level 3 live-fire, **Lt Dan** “*Honour the Dale*” **Dixon** put the safety brief to real use with a misfire, a wildlife incursion, and an aircraft within arcs all in the span of one night run. In the end, A Sqn left Wainwright with heads held high, having earned the ‘Trident of Power’ as the symbol of victory in the first ‘Annual’ Regimental Smoker Games.

After a quick break for Thanksgiving, A Sqn again deployed to cold and desolate Wainwright to find the tanks encased in ice and snow. After hours of slipping, sliding, and cursing, **Tpr Tom** “*Old Man Lotto*” **Lauterbacher** and the rest of the Sqn advance party were able to free the steel beasts from their icy prisons. Even in freezing rain, but with many songs from **Cpl Dave** “*Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen*” **Young**





to accompany the smokies from canteen kings **Cpl Matt “Chef Supreme” New** and **Cpl Graham “I’ve Got a Great Deal For You” Veinot**, the morale was high during long days of building track.

After linking up with B Coy, 1 PPCLI, the Squadron got ready for its Level Three Enhanced (3E) live-fire. Thanks to the rover crew of **Tpr Tyler “FR-3W” Frew** and **Tpr Chris “The Penny Counter” Jones** on flags and barriers, the range commenced smoothly. The Combat Team sharpened their skills and brought an unstoppable force of steel to the enemy’s doorstep. During the last few days of the exercise, B Sqn needed a hand to conduct the Level 5 range and, like a good neighbour, A Sqn was there. Lending out Second Troop, led by **Lt Leland “Juice Box” Kirkham**, the soldiers took up the challenge of showing off just what A Sqn can do.

Overall, it has been a tremendously busy year for A Sqn. Despite it all, the soldiers of Prince of Wales Squadron have never failed to excel in every task. We have been, and we remain, the fighting-est Squadron in the Regiment.



Regimental Headquarters

*RSM Rob Clarke and LCol Mark Lubiniecki
overlooking the Level 3 Live Fire ranges.*

*Capt Mike Timms and Capt Dan Gray
enjoying the Kid's Christmas Party.*





RHQ – A Year in Review

Captain Phil Buckingham

Aside from HQ Sqn, Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) is singular amongst the unit in that it is comprised of multiple trades and disciplines. Between the Command Troop, the Training Cell, the Regimental Orderly Room and the Signals Troop, RHQ has spent the majority of 2016 planning and supporting different exercises and training, and when they had a chance, fitting in some PT. Whether going fully tactical on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE or PROMETHEAN RAM, or providing support to Regimental level training, RHQ has been at the forefront of every exercise. Even in Garrison, RHQ hasn't been idle. **RSM Rob Clarke** has ensured RHQ maintained a high level of fitness, a warrior spirit and instilled a love of Burpees (AKA Burpees 'til you puke) in each and every member. **Cpl**

Richard "Burpees is a rest exercise" **Santi** was even quoted as saying "you can never get enough out of your upper body workout." This was followed by statements like, "You can't skip leg day, Bro" by **Cpl Luke** "I can lift all the weights" **Doan** and the hopes of everyone in ear shot that we would not be doing lunges until you puke.

In the Spring, RHQ deployed with the Regt on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and Ex PROMETHEAN RAM. Throughout the exercises, Morale was kept high through the creation of a Sigs Tp Mascot, the famed "Snow Snake" and the boundless supply of candy, which **Cpl Tanner** "I could always eat some more" **Murray** and **Cpl Lawrence** "I was once a Padre" **Emery**, were happy enough to make disappear. Throughout it all, **LCol Josh Major** effectively planned the decisive victory over the RCD Battle Group with the assistance of his Planning Cell, **Capt Justin** "Where's my parka" **Salter** and **Capt Karl Tams**. This does not by any means diminish the exceptional work of setting up and maintaining the Command Post (CP) by **WO Trevor McQuhae** and **Sgt Jesse Mansfield**, a thankless task usually overlooked, when counting the tactical victories.

During the summer, RHQ was closely tied to Comrel and Regimental Pde tasks. This included providing the leadership element for the Calgary Stampede and the Change of Command Parade. Although all present were sad to see the departure of **LCol Josh Major**, many were elated to see the return of **LCol**



RSM Rob Clarke discussion the finer points of a RR with WO Chuck McDougall on Ex STEELE SABRE.

Cpl Luke Doan, Cpl Steven Taborowski, MCpl Ben Kroker and others from Signals Tp Setting up Cam nets during Ex STEELE PANTHER.





L to R: LCol Josh Major, BGen Trevor Cadieu and LCol Mark Lubiniecki signing the Change of Command scrolls

Mark Lubiniecki. This momentous occasion also saw the changeover of Regimental Sergeant Major from **CWO Tony Batty** to **CWO Rob Clarke**. After a much-needed summer break, RHQ stuck into the PCF training, supporting the fighting Squadrons.



The Meme speaks for itself.

In the fall, RHQ was closely integrated into the D+90 training, which included deploying the HQ element for Ex STEELE SABRE 16 and Ex STEELE PANTHER. In preparation for the Level 5 live, our dauntless RGO, **Capt Varun "New Boots" Vahal** directed the Regimentally lead Gun Camp. With each squadron gun camp complete, the Regiment returned to Peregrine 9 to commence the Sqn level exercises. Although the CP and Command requirements for these exercises were limited, RHQ made the best of their situation with **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** and **RSM Rob Clark** launching no holds barred midnight raids on the fighting squadrons. Led by **MCpl Matt Burke** and **MCpl Ben Kroker**, a crack team of Clerks, Cooks and 9er TAC volunteers departed on long range patrols in an attempt to find and strike fear into the hearts of A and B Sqn soldiers. Although the tales of their adventure will ring out in the memories of ORs everywhere, their task

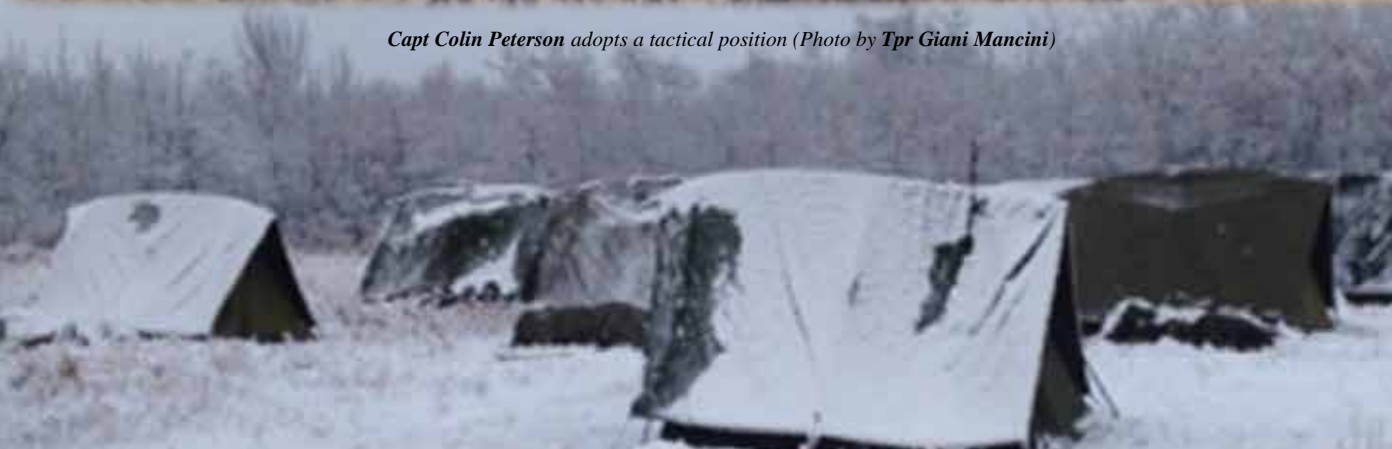
was achieved. At 0300 hrs, a weary but triumphant **MCpl Matt Burke** and **Cpl Steven Taborowski** returned to the CP with the spoils of war, a trace taken right from the turret of the enemy (okay maybe not the enemy per say, maybe A Sqn?) and a story of a perfectly coordinated ambush on retreating forces. In the CP, morale was maintained though spirited discussions (AKA Professional Development) led by the Adjt, **Capt Mike "Simple Solution for all that ails you" Timms**, on procurement and the best ways to fix the army. Although not an overly taxing exercise, the CP team were even able to come together to conduct our own training, which included setting up a step-up CP and coordinating operations from an austere location. The Ops WO, **WO Stephen Churchill**, happened to find an exceptionally well hidden location, which just so happens to have exceptionally poor cellphone reception. As a result, the Ops O, **Capt Dan "I need more bars" Gray** has implemented a cell phone comms check into the advanced recce of any potential CP Locations.

All in all, the year has demonstrated the hard work and capabilities of the Regimental Headquarters, including the versatility of our Clerks and Signals troops, which in the end has left them prepared for any potential deployments in the Future.





Capt Colin Peterson adopts a tactical position (Photo by Tpr Giani Mancini)



B Squadron

Southern strikes a pose in beautiful Wainright (Photo by MCpl Ryan Chase)





B Squadron – High Readiness Reset

Captain Gord Elliott

2016 proved to be another busy year, where B Squadron again proved its skill, cohesion and fighting spirit in its second straight year of High Readiness training. The Sqn participated in a number of High Readiness exercises, including Exercises PROMETHEAN RAM, MAPLE RESOLVE and STEELE PANTHER, deployed internationally to Texas for Ex STEELE BEASTS and to Brazil for Ex STEELE LEOPARDO, spearheaded Regimental Leo 2 PCF training and supported numerous Regimental COMREL activities throughout the year.

Kicking off 2016, and for the second year in a row, B Sqn deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, with the LdSH(RC) BG for Ex STEELE BEASTS. With few flights available, the Sqn arrived into sunny Austin in groups over 4-5 days. Despite the weather hovering around 30 degrees warmer than Edmonton each day, US soldiers were nonetheless surprised to see the Canadian contingent out for PT in T-shirts on 'brisk' mornings of 15C. For two weeks the Sqn, along with a Mech Inf Coy and BG enablers, was immersed in realistic near-peer training scenarios. On top of the training plan, the Sqn was also able to participate in beer-calls with American counterparts, Fort Hood museum tours, evening circuits of the local BBQ hotspots, and for a select few – trips into

They came for Rockstar, but even that couldn't save them...

(Photo by Cpl Carter Dillon)

Austin or San Antonio to take in the Texas experience firsthand. With state-of-the-art Abrams simulators, thorough AARs, rock-solid frozen boxed lunches each day, and the complete leadership of the LdSH(RC) BG taking part – Ex STEELE BEASTS 2.0 was some of the best training the soldiers of B Sqn have participated in.

Next down the pipe for B Sqn was the preparation and deployment for Ex PROMETHEAN RAM 16, the Combat Team live-fire confirmation for TF NEMESIS. Once in Wainwright, the exercise ramped up for B Sqn with refresher live-fire training, Troop-Platoon combined arms traces and culminated with a seemingly never-ending series of Combat Team attacks. Unsurprisingly, the April weather in Wainwright didn't always cooperate with the destruction of the West Isle defensive positions. Fortunately, **Capt Nathan Hevenor** was still able to establish the fire base despite the whiteout conditions. Ex PROMETHEAN RAM proved to be an excellent opportunity for the Sqn to integrate with the remainder of the BG, and prove its dominance during complex live-fire traces.

Continuing the springtime in Wainwright, the Sqn transitioned to Ex MAPLE REOLVE and the completion of High Readiness training and validation. Once the Ex kicked off, it quickly became clear that B Sqn would become the backbone of the LdSH(RC) BG. Despite enduring the kilometres of conveniently situated computer generated minefields that seemed to directly target **Maj Sandy Cooper**, the Sqn led 1 CMBG in pressing the RCD OPFOR BG back across the Battle River.

On the heels of redeployment from Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, and coupled with the Regimental Change of Command, **Maj Sandy Cooper** had to move on after two years at the helm and **Maj Alex Nitu** took command of B Sqn, while **MWO Scott Brown** stayed on for the remainder of the year. Despite the feeling that the spring exercises had only just finished, August saw increased tempo in garrison to

complete PCFs, and especially to get the Tanks rolling in preparation for High Readiness Continuation training. The 'encouragement' of **Sgts Kyle Chubak** and **Nick Patterson** could be heard ringing through the halls outside of the Sim Centre as gunnery candidates finished off their garrison training.

Fall training in 2016 included the deployment for Exercises STEELE SABRE and STEELE PANTHER – in an effort to first refresh Tp and Sqn level dry training and IBTS, before building to confirmatory Combat Team live-fire traces after Thanksgiving. To make things interesting, the expert instruction of **Maj Alex Nitu** was leveraged to provide a level of small arms training rarely seen in a Tank Sqn. Beginning with Tactical Shooting, and building up to Sqn level Urban Ops training enabled with Simunition, the soldiers of B Sqn were exposed to new and exciting training within the standard fall exercise. During this time, an MLVW from within the B Sqn echelon suffered a serious vehicle rollover, injuring both members of the crew during a routine training scenario. Despite the unfortunate circumstances the response from the entirety of Administration Troop, led by Sqn Medic **Cpl Will Ngai** and **SSM Scott Brown**, was outstanding – ensuring the safe and rapid evacuation of everyone involved. The exercise culminated with the exceptionally well organized Sqn guncamp led by **Capt Matt Shumka** and **SGWO MCpl Sean Collins**.

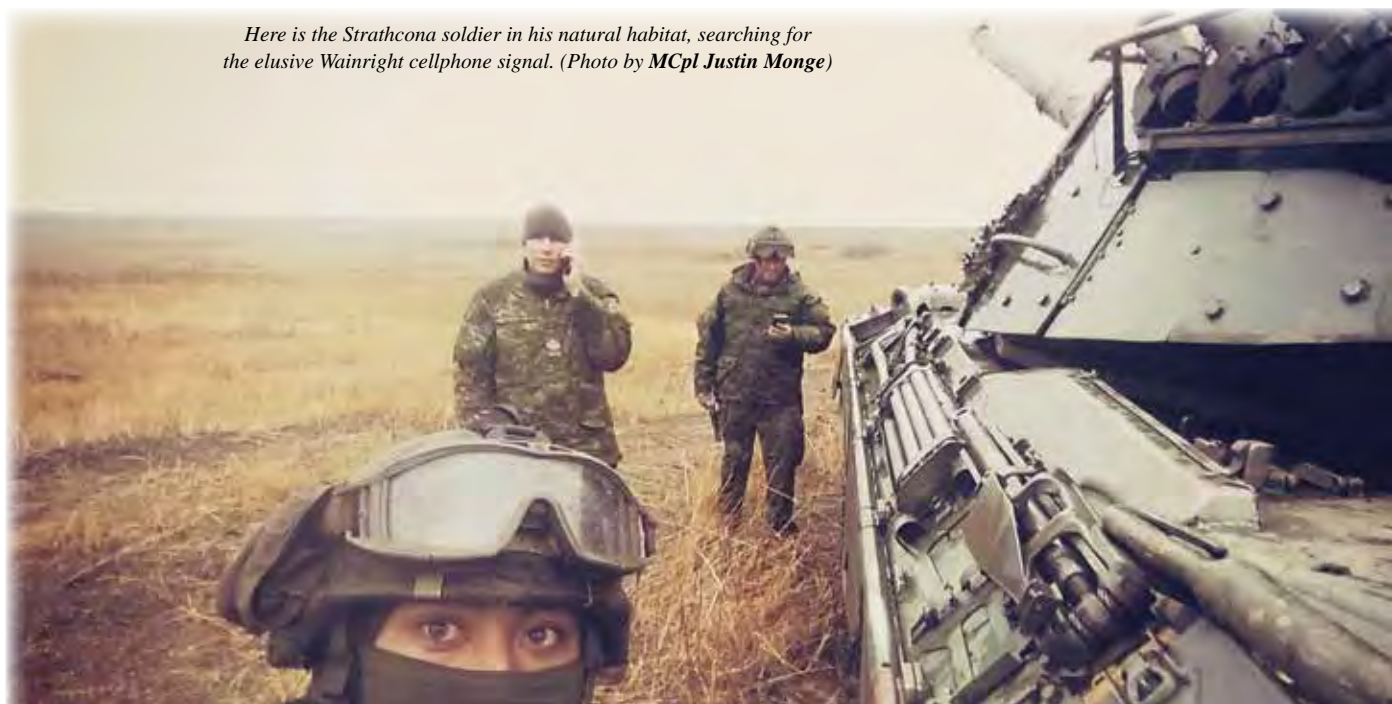
Ex STEELE PANTHER kicked off after Thanksgiving, and was focused on honing the skills confirmed in the spring training. The Sqn, coupled with 1 PPCLI, initially conducted low level integration training and built to Combat Team live-fire traces by Day and Night. Closing out the year of live-fire training, B Sqn once again proved its ability to dominate in stressful and demanding circumstances.

Immediately following redeployment from Ex STEELE PANTHER, a composite troop, spearheaded by **WO Lawrence Troop**, deployed to Ponta Grossa, Brazil, to work with the 3rd Brazilian Tank Regiment for the first time. Equipped with Leopard 1A5s, the Canadian contingent began the exchange with lessons, simulators and garrison training, before pushing out on a five day exercise in their local training area. Valuable experiences were taken away about soupy Brazilian terrain - joint lessons on vehicle



*Tpr Colin Vanthournout, the world's worst walrus
(Photo by Cpl Stephanie Shipston)*

Here is the Strathcona soldier in his natural habitat, searching for the elusive Wainwright cellphone signal. (Photo by MCpl Justin Monge)





extraction and recovery were easy to come by. The 3rd Tank Regiment were incredible hosts, ensuring that the exchange included beer calls, BBQ dinners and a weekend trip to the nearby city of Curitiba for a true Brazilian cultural experience. All in all, this amazing exchange helped to close out 2016 the way it began for B Sqn, with some amazing international training.

Finally, B Sqn was the lead Sqn from the Regiment for the annual No Stone Left Alone foundation in the Edmonton area. The Sqn supported the main ceremony at Beechmont Cemetery, as well as numerous other tasks around the city. The event put B Sqn center stage nationally, and allowed all soldiers of B Sqn to stand alongside the participating children from the local area in commemorating the sacrifices of Canadian Veterans.

With upcoming deployments, courses and postings, B Sqn looks very different now than at the beginning of 2016. However, without a doubt, B Sqn will easily maintain the solid and well-earned reputation it developed throughout a high tempo year of interesting and valuable training.

B Sqn on the range (Photo by 2Lt Alexander Neshcov)





Recce Squadron



Recce Squadron Year in Review

Lieutenant Mike Forestell

It has been another exciting year for Reconnaissance Squadron. At the beginning of this year, Recce Sqn completed the Road to High Readiness training, which culminated in back to back exercises: Ex PROMETHEAN RAM and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 16. Both exercises were extremely successful for the Sqn and upon completion validated the Sqn for High Readiness.

Upon re-deploying to Edmonton, the Sqn quickly organized itself for the Regimental Change of Command. The Change of Command also saw **Maj Peter Beitz** handover Recce Sqn to **Maj Paul Leonard**.

In fine fashion, Recce Sqn deployed to Calgary and paraded in the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows, and received the accolade by the staff at Spruce Meadows as the best showing the Regiment has had in last 20 years! The events in Calgary were the perfect setting for new and old members of the Sqn to bond just prior to a well-earned Summer leave.

After Summer leave, Recce Sqn didn't waste any time getting into the swing of PCFs. After successfully completing the theoretical portion of the PCFs, the Sqn deployed in September on Ex STEELE SABRE 16, and was able to qualify new soldiers on the 25mm Turret and C16 Automatic Grenade Launching System (AGLS). The Ex was also an opportunity for our allies from the USA's 4/3rd Cav Sqn to visit and integrate into the Sqn. It was a fantastic opportunity to continue to build our relationship and was a resounding success. In other training, **Sgt Kerry "I can do anything!" McAtasney** and **MCpl Jerrit McDougall**, employed our MUAS to control and direct C16 fire in the direct and indirect roles. This range, as far as the Sqn can determine, is the first time it has ever been done in the CAF. In other MUAS news, Recce Sqn sent an MUAS det, led by **MCpl Kerrie Jesse**, with **Cpl Nathan Deringer** and **Tpr Jeff Landry**, to Ex MAPLE LION where they worked with the OPFOR and did an outstanding job



working with our British allies.

It has been a few years since Recce Sqn has conducted training in the Czar-Provost corridor, but to the fanfare of the local communities the Sqn successfully conducted some of the most realistic training as part of D+90 training as part of Ex STEELE STAG. The highlight of the Ex was the culminating attack on an abandoned farm house, with support from 408 Sqn. OPFOR didn't stand a chance!



*3rd Tp with their Marine attachments
during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE*

Upon return from the Fall Ex, Recce Sqn conducted a CBRN

Concentration to further hone skills and knowledge, concluding with a trip to the Gas Hut, where **MCpl Gabe Van Den Born's** expertise allowed for one of the best ran ranges in recent memory.

This year Recce Sqn also took the lead in forming and training a team for the Canadian Patrol Competition. **Capt TJ "More PT" Casey** and **WO Nate "I live for this" Johnston** provided excellent training and guidance in building a competitive team for this year's competition. The team, **Cpl John Williams, Cpl Dave Bursey, Tpr Jeff Landry, Cpl Nathan Deringer, Tpr Seth Martin, Tpr Chay Lang, Cpl Jackson Steinke**, and led by **MCpl Leland Cheng**, overcame difficult challenges and the team was able to persevere and complete the competition in good fashion.

Overall, the Sqn is in great standing, with all the major exercises completed for the year, Recce Sqn has been busy fine tuning skills in CBRN, Convoy Escort, and MUAS training in preparation for future deployments and the highly anticipated arrival of the TAPV in the New Year.





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A composite image featuring two scenes. The top scene shows two soldiers in camouflage uniforms and berets indoors. One soldier is riding a small, pink and white bicycle, while the other stands behind him, giving a thumbs up. The bottom scene shows two soldiers in camouflage uniforms and sunglasses lying on their stomachs in a trench-like structure made of logs and pine branches. One soldier is holding a knife. The text 'Headquarters Squadron' is overlaid in large red letters across the middle of the image.

*SSM Kevin King and
Maj Peter Beitz testing out
HQ Sqn's newest vehicle.*

Headquarters Squadron

*Cpl "Carlos" Gaona and Cpl Stephen Forest making a cozy
place to sleep on Ex STEELE WINTER*



HQ Sqn – Year In Review

Master Corporal Samantha Dean

Providing customer service for the Regiment is what Headquarters Squadron does best. Food is not served, bullets are not issued, fuel is not delivered, and broken equipment is not repaired without the skilled technicians, logisticians and crewman that have assumed this responsibility. 2016 was one of the busiest years that HQ Sqn has seen in quite some time but, just as a well-oiled machine, we came together to provide the Regiment with the resources necessary to complete our training objectives.

Maint Troop building a Leo 2A6M that arrived in parts prior to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2016



Ex STEEL WINTER (Ex SW), held in Banff, AB in February was one of the first items on the training agenda for 2016. The exercise was conducted over a two week period to accommodate two rotations. Not only did most of HQ Sqn participate in the winter survival training but they also supported the exercise. Building effective shelters, surviving the cold, and learning how to catch your own food were the main objectives with some snowmobiling and ice fishing thrown in to make the trip that much more enjoyable and fun. The RQ shop supplied the participants with frozen

rabbits for the troops to prepare and eat so no one went hungry no matter their snaring abilities.

With Ex SW completed the Sqn roared ahead in preparation for mounting a full LdSH(RC) Battle Group for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE (Ex MR) and Ex PROMETHEAN RAM (Ex PR) as well as providing support to A Sqn prior to them being attached to the 2 PPCLI Battle Group. March break came and went providing a much needed break before deploying HQ Sqn to Peregrine 9 (P9) in Wainwright to prepare for the Regiment to deploy for the exercises. During Ex PR and Ex MR, HQ Sqn proved that lessons learned during Ex STEELE SABRE 15 were invaluable and that they could deploy to a forward hide with facets of support much closer to the action than attempted in the past 20 years. Transport, the RQ Shop, and Maintenance all dragged their kitchen trailers, fuel trucks, water buffalos, parts, cans, and recovery vehicles out into the middle of nowhere to provide faster support to the fighting troops. This, however, was made far more difficult by the wettest Spring that Wainwright has seen in years. On the bright side, maintenance assets such as the wrecker and the ARV had ample opportunity to hone their recovery skills during the wet and muddy road moves. During this time the cooks were feeding approx 1000 pers! When they pushed out with their MKT's with only 4 cooks they fed approx 400 pers off the trailers and had to provide hay boxes and IMP supplements to the other 600. On top of executing

RQ shop with Supply Techs from the American Strykers





From left to right, Tpr Jared Crockett, Cpl Carlos Gaona, and Cpl Josh Snowden

dozens of RRR's during the exercises, HQ Maintenance Troop deployed with the only mobile SPSS of all three battle groups. This provided fast moving parts directly from their six sea cans loaded on MSVS's and Beavertails. To say that cam and concealment was a nightmare on the bright orange cans as well as all the other massive vehicles that HQ Sqn deploys with would be an understatement. Dozens of large cam nets, paint, and sandbags were needed to accomplish this task and had to be rigged in a manner that was easily repeatable when moving from hide to hide. This was also the first time in more than 20 years that the MKT's were pushed out and required to cam up. Transport troop completed daily DP's to support the exercise and supplied tens of thousands of liters of diesel forward while sleep deprived and endlessly on the move. Through all of this the SQ Shop supported

the Sqn with the fulfillment of ADREPs, laundry, delivery of hay boxes out to the hides and a myriad of other tasks required to keep the Sqns functional. Behind the scenes the RQ shop ensured all the cogs of the machine kept turning.

Upon successful completion of the road to high readiness training, HQ Sqn had no time to relax with the necessity for post ex drills to be completed and the need to start gearing up for the Fall PCF cycle as well as Ex STEELE SABRE 16 (Ex SS 16) and Ex STEEL PANTHER. After proving HQ's ability to push forward to support combat operations, Ex SS16 was about supporting the Sqn's to enable the completion of Troop validation and D+90 training.

During the smoker for Ex SS 16 the "games" were re-introduced to the Regiment and while HQ did not win, it is worth noting that **MCpl Hugh Hayes** from Transport troop did put us on the board with his excellent axe throwing ability. As always the RQ, **MWO Lloyd Clayson**, set the Regt up with an excellent surf and turf dinner prepared by the Sr NCO's.

Throughout all of these Ex's the TQ shop was back at the Regt working with rear party to ensure everything ran smoothly and pushing supplies and parts out to Wx. Needless to say, 2016 has been a year not soon forgotten.

Mobile Kitchen Trailer conducting tactical feeding





Family Support Troop

Captain Corey McLean

The Regiment's Family Support Troop (FST) managed, once again, to stay very busy this last year. The barrage of changes to the Troop which was started last year by **Captain Corey "I Love My Life, My Job's Important" McLean** continued this year despite the insistence from his team that not every wheel needs to be reinvented.

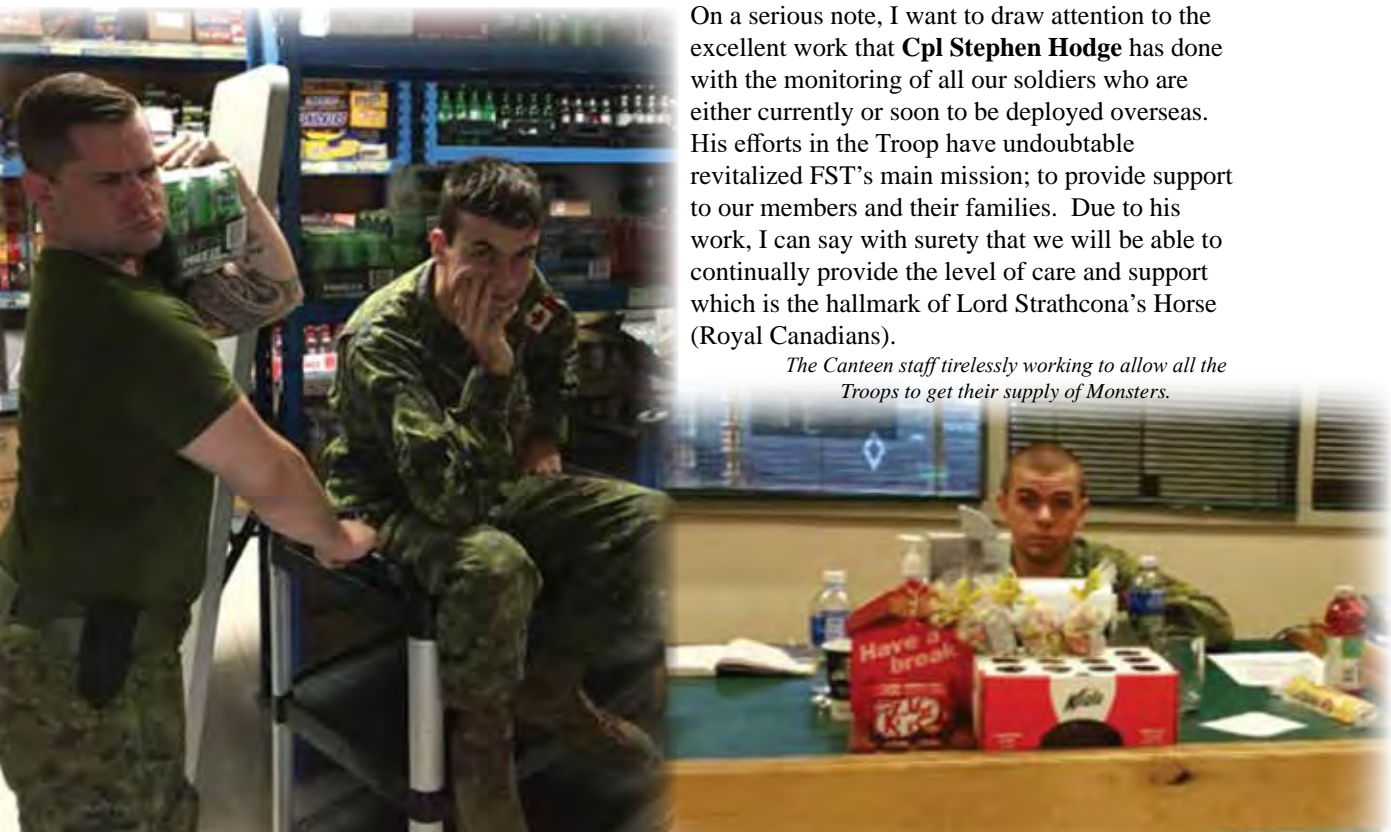
For instance, after cancelling our long standing arrangement with Amyotte's to run the Regiment's Kit Shop, Canex is now finally able to easily outfit all our soldiers in PT gear and proper accoutrements. Although this may not seem like a large accomplishment, the Regiment owes a great debt of gratitude to **Cpl Bryan "Eagle Eyes" Naylor** who noticed some small errors in the samples that the Canex initially provided. It is because of him that Regimental motto will not be changed to "*Perseverance*"!

MCpl Alexander Kent also initiated some new projects when he took over as the Stables NCO. Not only did he completely reorganize the Stables office when he replaced **MCpl Michael "Pack Rat" Korenowski**, but he also took it upon himself to reorganize the entire way that we access the very building. To this end he proposed a completely new layout for what positions in the Regiment have the authority, and thus the keys, to unlock certain areas. Although this new SOP will admittedly improve the buildings security, I want to stress yet again that this new project is courtesy of **MCpl Alexander Kent** who I am sure will gladly give you his personal number so that you can contact him 24/7 with any issues ...Once again, that is **MCpl Alexander Kent** who you can get a hold of at the Stables Office for all your keying and access needs.



On a serious note, I want to draw attention to the excellent work that **Cpl Stephen Hodge** has done with the monitoring of all our soldiers who are either currently or soon to be deployed overseas. His efforts in the Troop have undoubtable revitalized FST's main mission; to provide support to our members and their families. Due to his work, I can say with surety that we will be able to continually provide the level of care and support which is the hallmark of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

The Canteen staff tirelessly working to allow all the Troops to get their supply of Monsters.





Training



*Casualties, Patrolling,
CPC is tough!!!!
Photo Credit Tpr Dan Wynen*

*Lt Dan Dixon and
WO Larry Troop presenting
Maj Paulo with a
commemorative plaque
from the Regiment.*



Ex STEELE BEASTS

Trooper Colin Vanthournout

As members of B Squadron woke up bright and early on the weekend of 20 February 2016, they awoke ready for two weeks of thrilling training in Fort Hood, Texas. Like myself, there were many new troopers who were excited about the experience, as it was the first opportunity to go on an exercise outside of the CFB Wainwright training area. For the members of the Squadron who had made their way to Texas the previous year, they were just as ready to return and do some excellent training that normally isn't at our disposal.

Once the long flight to the Austin International Airport was finished we made our way to Fort Hood, which we would call home for the next two weeks. As the Squadron woke up for the first morning of 0630 PT, we drew mass stares of confusion and disbelief in shorts and t-shirts, while our American friends were wearing full track suits with toques and gloves in the "cold" morning air. We received the same looks every morning for the remaining two weeks!

After our first PT session, play time was over. B Squadron was ready to use the simulators of the American M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank. We were given the opportunity to learn the operating systems of these new tanks, along with adapting to the big changes of the individual stations in the tank. In typical B Squadron style, we showed everyone that we were not there to mess around, taking in valuable skills and know-how, and showing that we are the best Sabre Squadron around.

Although there was lots of intense training during the day, there was also some time to relax and explore the wonderful state of Texas and Fort Hood during the evenings. On our first Friday we had a beer call at The Backbone Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Lounge to celebrate the Squadron's week of awesome training. A member from their social committee stopped by to take pictures, as it was the most people they had on their patio in the month of February! At the beginning of the second week we had the opportunity to visit the 1st and 3rd Cavalry Divisions' museums, where we were able to learn more about our American friend's history and traditions. And not to mention, see a number of foreign fighting vehicles and tanks first hand!

As we woke up – once again - bright and early, on March 5th, 2016, B Squadron was packed up and ready to go home. With a head full of knowledge and a belly full of Texas BBQ we left Fort Hood as quickly as we showed up. Missing our homes and loved ones we drove back to the Austin International Airport and got on our flights back to our lovely, cold home of Edmonton. Until next time Texas, it was a blast!





Worthington Cup

Master Corporal Curtis Schafer

The Worthington Challenge is an armoured gunnery competition which fosters excellence in the ability to move, shoot, and communicate with Armoured Fighting Vehicles, along with basic soldiering skills, and raising the overall proficiency of gunnery skills within the Canadian Army. This year it was apparent that the armoured gunnery portion was no longer the entire focus, and much more substantial and all-encompassing mounted and dismounted soldier skills were being evaluated as well. The result was a complex competition in which all aspects of soldiering were tested. To compliment this, the competition not only included some units participating for the first time, but also welcomed newly participating nations. Two strong Danish crews, fresh off a strong showing at this year's Nordic Challenge competed directly along with crews from Canada, the United States, Chile, and New Zealand while other nations such as Australia, Poland, Singapore, and United Kingdom observed the event. The Canadian competitors belonged to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Canadian Divisions, with teams comprised from their Armoured, Infantry, Combat Engineer, and Artillery units, including both Regular Force and Reserve Force soldiers.

The Worthington Challenge focused on four main competitive stands, each comprising 25% of the



MCpl Curtis Romkey road wheel change

MCpl Curtis Schafer crew brief





final score:

1. An armoured fighting vehicle range which tested each crew's gunnery skill and ability to send detailed reports and returns;
2. Driving and Maintenance (D&M), and First Aid event, testing each drivers' ability to conquer complex terrain and the crews ability to conduct First Aid in combat conditions;
3. March and Shoot event consisting of each crew having to complete the obstacle course, run 7 km, and complete a complex small arms shoot; and
4. The navigation exercise covered 6km; followed by an All Arms Call for Fire event which tested each crews ability to estimate ranges and direct artillery fire.

The 3rd Canadian Division team consisted of two Leopard 2 tank crews, commanded by **MCpl Curtis "I'm still young" Romkey**, and **Capt Erik "Last minute" Gajnorio**, one Coyote reconnaissance vehicle crew, commanded by **MCpl Curtis "PT at 0630" Schafer**, a Light Armour Vehicle (LAV) 3 crew from 1 CER, and one LAV 6.0 from 1 PPCLI along with a LUVW Reconnaissance crew from The Kings Own Calgary Regiment.

Team preparation and training was instrumental to success in this competition. Immediately the team began a comprehensive and intense training schedule, **Capt T.J. "Sure likes walks on the beach" Casey** created a training plan that the team used to help improve and increase its physical fitness. A well-organized event, we knew the competition would push the teams and crews to their limits.

As many of the participants and team members will admit, the training regime ranged from challenging to pure insanity. Along with long PT sessions the 3rd Div team spent hours in Simulators and in the classroom covering various classes until all the knowledge became second nature. The 3rd Canadian Division team developed an exceptional level of cohesion, and together honed their team and individual skills. The team's professionalism and skill level showed throughout the competition. From small arms shooting to interacting with other participating nations to changing road wheels and tires, the 3rd Canadian Division team pushed itself to its limits throughout the competition. At the end of it all after the scores for the four stands and fitness were compiled, 3rd Canadian Division was 3rd overall, after the awards there was a large social event held for all the competitors and the next day. The 3rd Canadian Division team returned to Edmonton, to deploy immediately to Wainwright for the remainder of Ex STEELE SABRE, joining their units and squadrons with the skills they had gained.

Capt Erik Ginarjio mounts flags



PCF Gun Camp

Strathconas Confirm their Core Gunnery Skills

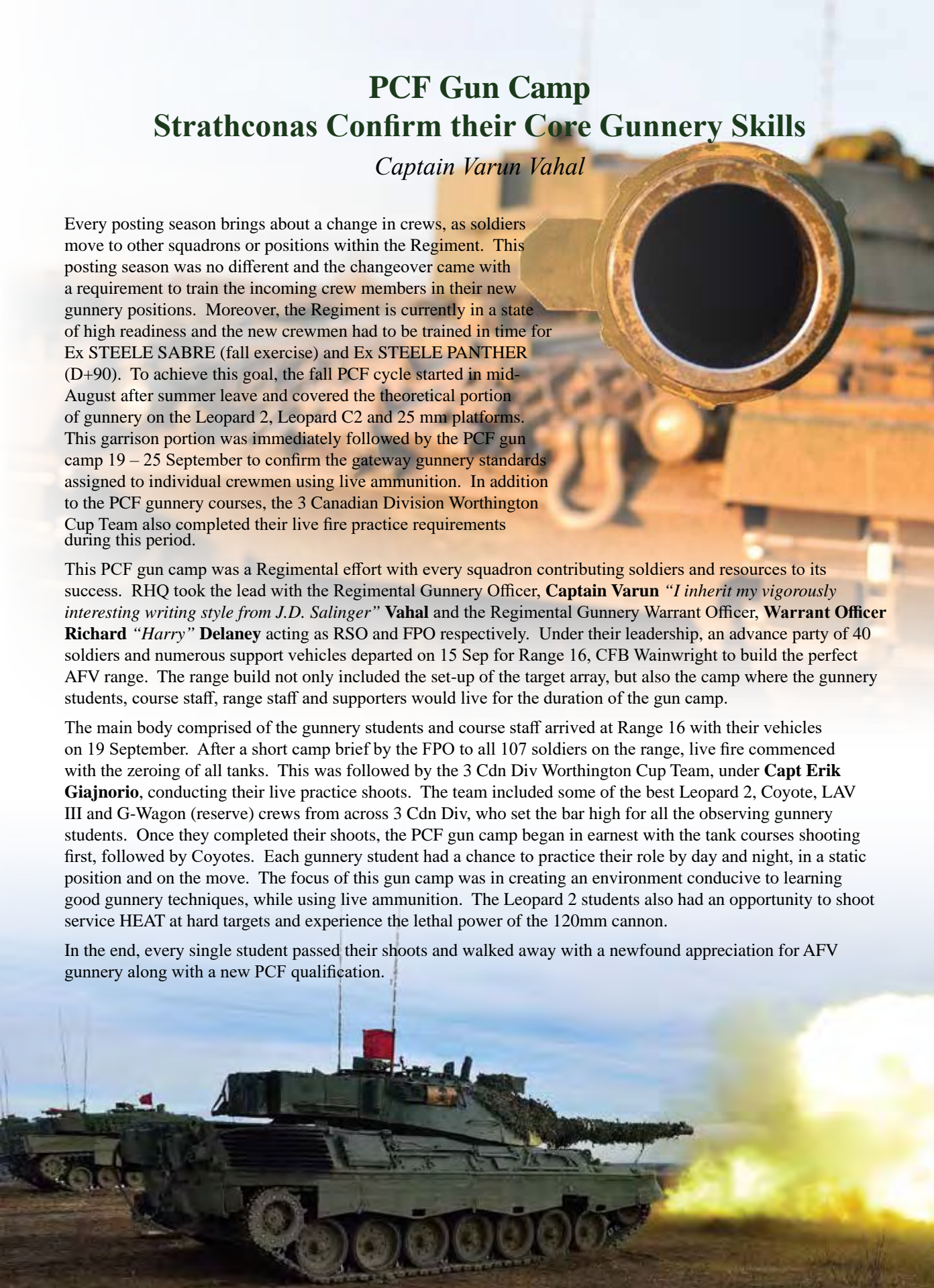
Captain Varun Vahal

Every posting season brings about a change in crews, as soldiers move to other squadrons or positions within the Regiment. This posting season was no different and the changeover came with a requirement to train the incoming crew members in their new gunnery positions. Moreover, the Regiment is currently in a state of high readiness and the new crewmen had to be trained in time for Ex STEELE SABRE (fall exercise) and Ex STEELE PANTHER (D+90). To achieve this goal, the fall PCF cycle started in mid-August after summer leave and covered the theoretical portion of gunnery on the Leopard 2, Leopard C2 and 25 mm platforms. This garrison portion was immediately followed by the PCF gun camp 19 – 25 September to confirm the gateway gunnery standards assigned to individual crewmen using live ammunition. In addition to the PCF gunnery courses, the 3 Canadian Division Worthington Cup Team also completed their live fire practice requirements during this period.

This PCF gun camp was a Regimental effort with every squadron contributing soldiers and resources to its success. RHQ took the lead with the Regimental Gunnery Officer, **Captain Varun** *"I inherit my vigorously interesting writing style from J.D. Salinger"* **Vahal** and the Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer, **Warrant Officer Richard** *"Harry"* **Delaney** acting as RSO and FPO respectively. Under their leadership, an advance party of 40 soldiers and numerous support vehicles departed on 15 Sep for Range 16, CFB Wainwright to build the perfect AFV range. The range build not only included the set-up of the target array, but also the camp where the gunnery students, course staff, range staff and supporters would live for the duration of the gun camp.

The main body comprised of the gunnery students and course staff arrived at Range 16 with their vehicles on 19 September. After a short camp brief by the FPO to all 107 soldiers on the range, live fire commenced with the zeroing of all tanks. This was followed by the 3 Cdn Div Worthington Cup Team, under **Capt Erik Gajnorio**, conducting their live practice shoots. The team included some of the best Leopard 2, Coyote, LAV III and G-Wagon (reserve) crews from across 3 Cdn Div, who set the bar high for all the observing gunnery students. Once they completed their shoots, the PCF gun camp began in earnest with the tank courses shooting first, followed by Coyotes. Each gunnery student had a chance to practice their role by day and night, in a static position and on the move. The focus of this gun camp was in creating an environment conducive to learning good gunnery techniques, while using live ammunition. The Leopard 2 students also had an opportunity to shoot service HEAT at hard targets and experience the lethal power of the 120mm cannon.

In the end, every single student passed their shoots and walked away with a newfound appreciation for AFV gunnery along with a new PCF qualification.





4/3rd (US) Cavalry Squadron Visit

Lieutenant David Clarkson

At the end of September, the Regiment deployed on Exercise STEELE SABRE, an exercise designed to continue the Readiness training that culminated in the year's earlier Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 16. For Recce Squadron, the visit of nine soldiers from our affiliated US Army unit, 4th Squadron ("Longknife"), 3rd Cavalry Regiment ("Brave Rifles") added an international flavour to the exercise.

Led by **Captain Alexander** (US Army) and **First Sergeant Nania**, the American contingent left a sunny Fort Hood, Texas for 6 days in the field with Recce Squadron, a visit that encompassed dismounted small arms ranges, Tank live fire ranges and integration into the Sabre Troops. After a day's acclimatisation to the mild (but for the Texan-based Americans, cold) weather, our American brethren pitted their skills against 4th Troop's Trench Range. The Trench Range, which involved the shooting the C6, C7, C9, pistol, shotgun and M203 Grenade Launcher over a 1.2km course tested soldiers' drills, accuracy, fitness, agility and reaction to stress through barbed wire obstacles and lung-busting sprints between stands. Despite relative unfamiliarity with some of the weapons, the Americans got swiftly into the spirit of the range, eagerly competing with their Canadian counterparts for the best individual time.

Following this, the visitors moved onto bigger guns, in the form of joining A Squadron on their Tank Range. Given that most had only ever fired the remote weapon system of the Stryker vehicle, the Leopold C2 105mm elicited much excitement as they gleefully fired rounds and then signed the subsequent empty cases.

With ears suitably ringing from the ranges, the final portion of their visit was the integration into 1st and 2nd Troop as gunners and GIBs ("Guy in Back"), as the two Troops deployed into Screen positions overlooking two likely enemy manoeuvre corridors. This allowed the Americans to appreciate the surveillance aspect of Recce Squadron's capability and they took turns operating the Mast and Remote Camera variants, observing enemy movements and reporting them to the CP, as well as learning the importance of camouflage and concealment.

Finally, they redeployed back to Edmonton to gain a brief flavour of the local nightlife (much to the jealousy of the Squadron who remained in the screen line for another 36 hours) and returned back to warm and dry Fort Hood.



*Trooper Matt Jones looking happy and
PFC Connolly (US Army) looking a little less happy.*

*Members of Recce Sqn and 4/3rd Cavalry
Regiment adopting tactical vehicle positions
Credit: Cpl Mijares*





Ex STEELE LEOPARDO

Corporal Emma Crackle-Skulason

This November, myself and 11 other Soldiers from B Sqn were sent on a two week exchange down to Brazil, to work with the 3º Regimento de Carros de Combate (3º RCC), one of their tank regiments, and learn how they do business in their Leopard 1A5s.

In the late afternoon of October 30th 2016, after a long day of traveling, all 12 pers from B Sqn had officially landed in Brazil. We kicked off Monday morning, first going to a breakfast of ‘pocket buns’, after which we fed some to **Spots** - our local stray dog. We were then introduced to our main guides for the stay, **Lt Anderson “Charlie” Streit** and **Lt Caio Pinheiro**, and a few other officers within their Squadron.

After introductions were made we received a lesson on the Brazilian Army and the 3º Regimento de Carros de Combate (3º RCC). That afternoon followed with a familiarization of the Leopard 1A5 turret and driver’s compartment in both a Simulator and in actual tanks. The next week was packed full of briefings, tours, and simulator training which kept us all quite busy.

The evenings consisted of exploring downtown Ponta Grossa, where in true Canadian fashion, we visited some local bars. It was then that we were first introduced to a 1 litre beer bottle, Brahma, that was traditionally shared between 4 people. However, we took this as a challenge and ordered one per person. Another popular area for the group was the nearby all you can eat BBQ (Estrella de Prata Executive), with **MCpl Alastair “meat sweats” Gordon** and **Cpl Lucas “I’m still hungry” Mullens** managing to eat the most.

The weekend was packed full of places to go. Saturday we were driven to Curitiba, a city located two hours away. The first stop was in Jardim Poty Lazarotto, Parque Tanguá, a park that overlooked the city, where we all got a chance to taste test fresh coconut or sugarcane water.

The rest of the day consisted of visiting the Ópera de Arame (a wire Opera house), and Jardim Botânico de Curitiba (Botanical Gardens of Curitiba). Lunch was all you can eat Italian food followed by a stop at a winery. The day finished with a walk through a street market to a German bar. Sunday consisted of exploring two different waterfalls, one of which went by the name of “*ancient priest hole in a cave*”.

Monday kicked off the beginning of the field exercise; where **Lt Dan “never been stuck in a tank” Dixon** learned, that in Brazil, you don’t drive the tanks on green grass. We finished the night with only 2 tanks

The Troop meeting the CO of 3 RCC





The Troop in the Field with the addition of their Brazilian Charlie crew.

still stuck, and had the vehicles pulled out by the start of the trace the next day. The Ex continued for another two days of force on force, where we had spent the night in the creepiest, most spider infested forest any of us had ever seen. Wednesday we waited for the rain to stop, but we were finished by lunch and we handed the tanks over to **Lt Caio Pinheiro**, who took over the remainder of the exercise.

Our last night in Brazil, we had an unofficial beer call at Barbaros, where all the Brazilians we worked with came down to watch the Brazil vs. Argentina game. Friday morning we finished packing with heavy hearts, as most of us were not ready to leave. At lunch time we were given a proper send off with fire cooked ribs, and dessert. With many thanks and hopes of them coming to Canada one day, we left. After many hours of flying and a run through customs in Toronto, we finally made it home. Until next time, **ROCK ON BRAZIL (ROCHA EM BRAZIL)!**

*MCpl Curtis Romkey, Cpl Roger Larcher-Palland,
Cpl Lucas Mullens, and MCpl Alastair Gordon*





Ex PROMETHEAN RAM An A Sqn Perspective

Master Corporal Jesse Bolzan

Once again, Prince of Wales (A) Sqn spent spring in beautiful Wainwright with its Battle Group buddy 2nd Battalion, PPCLI (2VP). Like a finely-tuned war machine, **Maj Darryn “Take My Strong Hand” Gray** and **MWO Cordell “I’ll Use My Fast-Pack” Boland** had PoW Sqn ready to fight on Range 25 in no time at all.

On Range 25, the Squadron was conducting the last of its Leopard 2 gun camp. There were a lot of lessons learned; just ask **Cpl Stephen “Back Deck Limiter” Taborowski** about warming up the gun. After a week on the range, the Sqn made its way to its new home at Peregrine 4 where we finally conducted our meet-up with 2VP. After setting up camp, we went right back to work on the tanks, getting them ready for the upcoming training. While conducting maintenance, the Sqn ran into a few “minor” problems. The great Lord DRMIS would not bestow any parts that were needed to get the tanks running. However, with the excellent maintenance team of PoW Sqn (and a few prayers to Lord DRMIS), the problem was quickly rectified.



The Neverending Story of track maintenance. (photo credit Tpr Gilbert)

Halfway through the exercise the Sqn completed IED stands run by 1 CER. The stands consisted of an EOD display, minefield probing, mine identification, and a bit of patrolling. The engineers were

Mad Max and his War Boys getting weird.... (photo credit Immortan Joe)





very impressed with the Sqn through the whole day, except for one instance where **Cpl Sean “My back!” Armstrong** got spooked by a spider and tried to run out of a minefield with absolutely no regard for his own safety.

The real challenges came during the night-fire portion of the Level 5 shoots, when visibility was poor and the weather made AFV recognition extremely difficult. This made it harder not only to stay oriented on the targets, but really demonstrated the limitations of thermal imagery in certain conditions. There were even some instances where the wildlife helped to increase the realistic quality of training, such as when **Lt Erik “Bullwinkle” Giajnorio** asked to engage a potential enemy dismount which turned out to be a hungry moose. Also, commanding while hatches down proved to be quite a daunting task for taller commanders, such as **Capt Sean “The bread is now the 2I/C of the tank” Coughlan**.

All in all, it was a good learning experience, and it allowed A Squadron to practice the critical skills that were required of them during their next phase of work up training – Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 16. The Squadron successfully completed everything it had to do, and did it with flair.



Tpr Sean “Easy Rider” Marcotte taking work-rest balance a bit too literally. (photo credit **MCpl Jesse Bolzan**)

The Valkyries of call-sign ‘11’.
(photo credit **Tpr Chris Hornby**)



1st Troop, A Sqn; the Guardians of Valhalla.
(photo credit **Cpl Alex Warren**)



*Lt Dan Dixon, Cpl Zach Marshall, and Cpl
Lukas McKenzie preparing for the range
photo credit - MCpl Kyle Dunphy*

Exercise STEELE SABRE

Captain TJ Casey, Lieutenant Dan Dixon

Exercise STEELE SABRE 16 illustrated the Regiment's preparation and highlighted its ability to utilize flexibility under strict tests of skill and teamwork. Varying levels of training commenced immediately following deployment to Wainwright, and while it was all invaluable, the CPC dismounted training, confirmed Level 5 live fire and a complex obstacle range were definitive highlights (in addition to those heavenly shower runs). This year's Ex SS 16 had all the Squadrons conducting live ranges, Coyote and Leopard skills training at the crew, Tp and Squadron level, and a special visit from the 4/3rd Cav of the United States Army, with some dismounted patrolling dispersed throughout.

Recce Sqn began the Exercise scheming, brainstorming and building a comprehensive live fire obstacle course range which combined the physical stress of combat, with the requirement for accuracy with a variety of small arms. Soldiers were pushed to capacity through this course, and came out motivated, happy and with a heightened knowledge for how quickly battle can exhaust you.

At the same time over in A Sqn, tank Troops were conducting Tp Level training with the aim of perfecting





their ability to utilize maximum speed and violence executing offensive and defensive operations. This training culminated in Level 3 Live Fire Day and Night ranges where they had the opportunity to fire bunker after bunker of 120mm rounds to blast our enemy into oblivion. Once the enemy was sufficiently destroyed, A Sqn carried on with their tasks shifting gears into Squadron level movement in order to cover massive amounts of ground rolling over everything in their way.

Tp level training for Recce Sqn's two mounted troops saw the emphasis placed on RAPZ and TACSEC tasks. Observation Posts were established by day and manned throughout the night, convoy escorts and dismounted navigation by day and night highlighted much of the training time. With help from our American

counterparts at 4/3rd Cav, we were also able to react to ambushes, and setup Tp SOPs for dealing with such events.

Recce Squadron's dismounted Tp continued their dismounted patrolling training in an effort to prepare for the 2016 Canadian Patrol Concentration. The team conducted a grueling 54km patrol, spanning two and a half days and included many stands to test practical and theoretical skills. Also, during the Exercise, both the MUAV Det and C16 Det capabilities came together to test the indirect capabilities of the C16, with MUAV eyes to correct fires. The result was a three day live fire range where

this capability was not only tested but improved upon.

Level 3 live training in Recce Sqn saw an interesting pairing with 408 Sqn providing Griffon air support. Challenging and interesting traces were created to allow mounted troops to conduct an advance to contact under the cover of Griffon scouting, calling in CAS and the conduct of a fighting withdraw. For most, it offered an opportunity to get acquainted with the vehicles abilities, and more importantly rediscover the ferocity and fearlessness of the battlefield Recce crew.

All of this said and done, the Chain of Command was extremely pleased with the product the Regiment displayed during Exercise STEELE SABRE. While each opportunity to learn is a stepping stone, the Regiment is making the most out of opportunities, and creating new and inventive training practices to enhance Crewman skills at every level.



Battle Procedure, Whats a Battle???
photo credit: **Tpr Scott Fraser**



Yup, we have these....

11 complete after conducting a succesful Level 3 range on Range 25
photo credit **Cpl Mathieu Ouellet**





Annual Events



Moreuil Wood

Captain Cameron Ross

In accordance with the Regiment's illustrious and storied tradition, this year's commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood was once again a week spent with each squadron and mess at each other's proverbial throats with fierce competitiveness, and at times challenging the fairness of the rules of the various competitions and sports that were involved (however the merits behind these complaints would obviously depend on which squadron you were in).

If you haven't guessed already, the

beginning of the week kicked off with the annual Moreuil Wood Command Team Challenge. This particular iteration was organized by Headquarters Squadron and the nature of the competitions made this quite evident. Each Command Team Challenge often reflects the expertise and character of the squadron running it, and Headquarters decided to forgo the more common events such as AFV recognition and weapons handling and instead add in their own flavour via the inclusion of a maintenance challenge, a race to reverse a MLVW with a trailer in tow down a set track, and even a race to tack a Mounted Troop's horses (which may not may not have just been an excuse to not do it themselves that day, though no one will admit it) among other tasks.

Despite a valiant effort by **Cpl Richard Partridge** of B Squadron and **Capt Joe "Ramsay" Agius** of A Squadron to use their culinary expertise as former chefs to create the epitome of gourmet meals during the Coleman stove cook-off, Headquarters managed to pull away with the overall victory.

After tensions cooled and adrenaline wore off, the Regiment began moving to more "subdued" events – well at least in the physical sense. The Moreuil Wood parade honoured a myriad of individuals within the Regiment for their hard work. Most of the recipients of these awards surprised no one, as their dedication and hard work spoke for itself long before they were brought forward on parade. There was however two major upsets that occurred. The first being **Capt Matt Hoffart** narrowly winning the Hessin Sword vote over the heavily favoured incumbent **Capt Dave Wright**. Despite being far ahead in the polls, **Capt Wright** was, in a controversial decision, pulled from





the race at the last minute with the powers-that-be citing a vague law of “no you can’t keep voting for **Dave Wright** every single year, he isn’t even posted here anymore.” The second greatest upset was the realization that with HQ Squadron’s victory in their Command Team Challenge, just enough points were swung away from B Squadron that their dominance over the coveted title of the Prince of Wales Squadron was finally ended with A Squadron being crowned the new champions.

The week ended with the traditional Mess Dinner held at the Fairmont MacDonald Hotel. Hundreds of civilians were stunned to see a Leopard 2 crewed by **Capt Cameron** “What do you mean I can’t put it in

full stab? You heard the Brigade Commander, we need to be tactical!” Ross, MCpl Sean “if you crash into us because you were taking a picture, I’m not cleaning you up” Collins, and Tpr Andrew Zimmerman roll down the Yellowhead Highway to eventually park just out front of the Fairmont.

But most importantly, during the Mess Dinner itself, the officers with their significant others were privileged to be joined by **Mrs Maria Rocha-Hug** who brought with her the good wishes of her husband, our Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Greg Hug**. The PMC, **Maj Sandy Cooper**, spoke for us all when he expressed his gratitude for her attendance and how our collective thoughts and prayers remain with her and her husband as our Colonel of the Regiment continues down his road to recovery – a sentiment that remains just as strong today among every soldier and officer of **Col Hug’s** Regiment.





Family Day

Lieutenant Dan Dixon

Every year, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) extends the invitation to all soldiers' families to come out and have a fun-filled day of family festivities. On 10 September 2016, under the watchful direction of **Major Matt** *"These aren't the droids you're looking for"* **Johns**, the day went off without a hitch... almost.

Despite the ominous dark clouds looming over what seemed to only be the LTF (and a very dramatic scene involving a generator dying and bouncy castles collapsing in on themselves only 15 minutes before the event kicked off) everything worked out. Big shout out to **Cpl Thomas** *"Bringer of Power"* **Goodwin** for volunteering to come in early, and taking the lead fixing all things generator related.

Once power was restored, families started arriving and everyone was all smiles. There were bouncy castles, a petting zoo, a whole host of carnival games, and tons of food for everyone to enjoy. **Cpl Zach** *"Candy Man"* **Marshall** graciously volunteered to work the cotton candy machine, and **Tpr Tomasz** *"How does this thing work?"* **Kokoszka** slaved away making mini-donuts. After stuffing their faces, the kids got a chance to run through an obstacle course with a real life Master Corporal "motivating" them all the way. Many thanks to **MCpl Jesse** *"Kiddie-Commando"* **Bolzan** for taking the lead on that and keeping those kids extra motivated to get through it and burn off all that sugar. I can't say for certain, but I am pretty sure he was having more fun than the kids!

A Sqn's tanks were on full display to the families as well, augmented by a TLAV, a fire truck, and a Griffon helicopter. The tank rides were such a huge hit (literally!), that they only lasted for the first hour of the event. Luckily, there were so many carnival games on offer that no one had to spend the afternoon disappointed.

After a fill of carnival games, there was a chance for everyone to get back at much of the Regiment's leadership in the dunk tank. Troop Leaders, Sergeants-Major, and even the CO and RSM all "volunteered" to get in the dunk tank and have a chance to cool off. **Warrant Officer Larry** *"When is it My Turn?"* **Troop** took it upon himself to ensure his troop leader **Lt Alex** *"Actually Had to Google How to Cook Potatoes"* **Young** had a chance to cool off from the hot sun. How thoughtful!

MCpl Jesse "Kiddie-Commando" Bolzan watching over the next generation of gunners on the slingshot.





All Ranks Dinner & Dance

Warrant Officer Richard Delaney

As is the fashion in the Strathcona family, every year, all gather for the Regimental All Ranks Dinner and Dance (ARDD). This annual event hosted by the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society and Regimental Non-Public Property was held at Shank's Pub in Edmonton on 18 June 2016. The venue provided a delicious buffet style meal of roast beast and seafood, a live band, mini golf, bowling, and numerous other activities to keep the night alive and entertaining. The event was planned for approximately 600 soldiers and their guests; the turnout was excellent, as is typical of all Strathcona events.

For all those that attended this year's ARDD, it was a fun filled evening of good food, games, prizes, and comradeship. There were numerous prizes that were given away; the competition to win said prizes were both challenging and entertaining to competitors and spectators equally. All soldiers and guests were eligible to participate in the competitions but only one valiant soul could be declared a winner. The contests ranged from shooting and hockey competitions to a lip-sync battle on the big dance floor. Congratulations to **Cpl Andrew Lonegren**, who won a 65 in, 4 K, Flat screen LCD TV through his awesome feats of marksmanship with a hockey stick. He displayed the grace, skill and style of a true NHL Sniper. The second major prize winner was **MCpl Derrick Popoff**, who aptly dodged all the Nerf Gun rounds fired at him by the CO. He won the use of the Societies' one week timeshare for Panorama Vacation Retreat at Horse Thief Lodge during Remembrance Week (8-15 Nov 2016) and received five hundred dollars in spending money. A well-deserved vacation provided by your Regimental Society.

It is without a doubt that the Strathcona's work ethic and productivity are next to none in 1 CMBG, 3rd Canadian Division, and the whole Canadian Army; but when we do relax and have fun, we do it better than anybody else. The ARDD is a prime example of the Regiment downing tools and building upon the strong esprit de corps that makes our Regiment such a power house in the Brigade and Division. We could not have such a reputation without the understanding and support of our loved ones and what better way to say thank-you than with an awesome party! See you next year.

MCpl Travis Silcox, Lip Sync Battle.

LCol Josh Major and CWO Tony Batty opening the night





Remembrance Day and No Stone Left Alone

Captain Cameron Ross

November 11th is always a special day for any soldier. A time to honour our fallen and reach out to the community we serve to impress upon them the importance of the sacrifices they made. This year's Remembrance Day was no different. Again, the Regiment had the honour of participating in No Stone Left Alone, a foundation whose aim is to honour the graves of our fallen by inviting school children from all over Edmonton to lay a poppy upon each one. The event involved nearly 2,000 students across multiple grave sites all over the city with the largest one being the Beechmount Cemetery, the resting site of 9,000 soldiers. The event allowed the students not only to witness the rows of graves, but to interact with our soldiers who were able to act as the physically embodiment of what Remembrance Day represents.

However, No Stone Left Alone was not the only event that the soldiers of the Regiment attended. A very close to home example of one of these was a contingent of Strathconas holding a beautiful ceremony for **Cpl Michael**

Hayakaze. This single event included approximately 20 Strathconas showing up in support of the **Hayakaze** family and in honour of the man himself.

November 11th, 2016 saw us honour our nation's dead, share its importance and significance with the next generation and pay our respects to fallen Strathconas and their families. With that done, I'm sure anyone would agree that the aim of Remembrance Day was achieved here in Edmonton.

Bottom: Sgt Gerri Davidson and Sgt Mike Doody standing Vigil during the NSLA Ceremony





Black Hat Week

Professional Development and Revelry

Master Corporal Spencer Richardson and Lieutenant Leland Kirkham

Somewhere within the foggy depths of late November, the soldiers of the Regiment hastily prepared for their annual Black Hat get-together. For all ranks, this was an opportunity to learn, interact, and slowly unwind in preparation for the following week's revelry. For some, this was a stressful time of briefing subordinates and peers; while for others, it was the perfect opportunity to focus on what really mattered as a professional soldier.

The issue with the way professional development usually occurs is that everyone has a different idea of what that should be. Some think it is learning about Regimental history, some think it has to do with what the new face of warfare will be, and then there are the others who think it has to do with the consumption of copious amounts of liquor... however **Lt Dan "I killed that!" Dixon**, managed through great effort to focus on all three of those themes during the Black Hat Mess Dinner. The week kicked off with various Squadron briefings, ranging from Regimental history to a thorough run-through of The Society, its funds, and where our money is currently allocated.

The feature presentations were on Wednesday and Thursday. The first day was a highlight for some, as the maintainers finally saw justice when soldiers were corralled into a small room to be preached to on the benefits of DRMIS. This day also provided soldiers with the riveting experience of tackling new feats in SharePoint and Monitor Mass. As many attendees of Black Hat were told, the most powerful weapon is knowledge; this is slightly different from what the average tanker believes. Thursday saw a myriad of presentations on several topics, where soldiers of the Regiment were given briefings from various Black Hats and CAF members on topics such as DLR's new projects, the Army of Tomorrow, and the "Apache Pilot Experience". We even had a guest speaker from the Royal Lancers provide a complete rundown on their version of soldiering and Regimental life. Regardless of rank or position, everyone learned at least one or two things during this week's festivities.

Although event attendees all learned a thing or two, maintenance will always be a priority for a tank Regiment. Given the heavy demand that the tanks were under just recently with field exercises, DRMIS painted a relatively bleak picture; however, a few dutiful and valorous individuals worked throughout the days of Black Hat to help get the tanks running. The week ended on a high note, as the soldiers were able to watch a fairly normal spectacle of the fabled "Officers' Post-Mess Dinner Walk of Shame." Come Friday, as is usual of the Regiment, most were unsure exactly what the future would bring; however, a flexible attitude has always been the hallmark of an Armoured Soldier.

Cpl Graham "I'm Definitely Not Posing for This" Veinot instructs the Tprs and Cpls of A Sqn on the finer points of Sim Gunnery.





Kid's Christmas Party

Cpl Lucas Mullens

After a busy fall schedule of courses and exercises, The Regiment moved into the winter season with many soldiers and their families needing some much needed rest and relaxation. The annual Kids Christmas party has always filled that role, and this year was no exception. On December 3rd, the Regiment hosted its annual party for the soldiers of the Regiment and their families. The set up began the day before for all of the different events and stands that would be occurring. My role was supervising the inflatable bouncy house and jousting ring. It was a very popular stand for the kids and older folks to play in. There were padded pugil sticks for the kids to fight each other, but they had more fun just bouncing around. When there was a break in the kids jumping the parents would have fun bouncing around and they would use the pugil sticks.

It was very fun to bring lots of joy to the kids in a safe manner, making sure the bunge house was not over capacity. Only two kids bumped heads and were back at it in a minute.

Another popular stand was the inflatable obstacle course that was setup in the HQ hanger. The kids enjoyed being able race each other through the course. Another popular attraction that was located right next to the obstacle course were the concession stands, which I think was the busiest place in the entire building. The concession stands had a variety of sugary treats such as mini doughnuts, cotton candy, ice cream, and popcorn.

The most interactive stands were most definitely the paintball course and airsoft range. There was a non-stop line at both of them. The paintball course was a long section of mod- tent with a winding path of lockers throughout. There were many different targets such as the Grinch for kids to shoot with paint-balls. The airsoft range had cool looking guns and many hanging pop-cans used for targets.

Both paintball and airsoft were a safe and engaging way for young kids to play army, other than sitting on the couch playing on a console. Another activity that got kids moving was the slap-shot speed challenge, which allowed kids to compete amongst each other to see who had the fastest shot. Members from Girl Guides of Canada also came out to the party to paint faces and help with arts and crafts. I saw many cool painted faces, including one little one boy as a traffic light.

I think the highlight for the kids however, was Santa Claus coming for a visit. He arrived to the party early on, and stayed the entire time handing out presents to all the children of the Regiment, with the help of his elves.

The spirit of Christmas was in the air and had managed seep into every member of the Regimental family by the end of the day, as the happily fed kids went home with their new presents, exhausted from their day, and their parents excited to put their little ones to bed for nap.

Soldier's Christmas Dinner

Master Seaman Russ Golbourn

It was holiday time again as the soldiers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) sat down to their annual Soldiers Christmas Dinner. This is a time honored tradition where the junior ranks enjoy a festive Christmas dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, and carrots served by the Sr. NCO's and Officers of the Regiment.

During this festive dinner, the Commanding Officer becomes the most junior Trooper in the Regiment while the most junior Trooper becomes the Commanding Officer. Trading places to experience life on the other side of the paddock for a day were **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** and **Tpr Bradley Logan**.

The cooks of Turkey Team were awake in the wee hours of the morning, hard at work making sure that the first batch of Christmas dinners was ready to go out in hayboxes for those who were not able to enjoy the sit down dinner. We strive to make every haybox dinner just as good for everyone as it would have been during the sit down dinner.

While Christmas dinner was being prepared, the Regiment was on parade to receive various awards and recognitions, such as well earned promotions, a decoration for service to the Canada and recognitions for accomplishments outside of work.

The first ever Trooper Funk Games were held earlier in the week. Enthusiastic Troopers competed for the title of Top Trooper in the Regiment. This year's recipient of the award and belt was **Tpr David Gillis**, who wore it with pride during the Soldiers Christmas Dinner.

There was a very festive mood amongst the troops during the dinner as stories were shared, jokes were told and Squadrons challenged their brothers in arms to competitions such as a push-up challenge, much to the amusement of the head table. As the dinner came to a close, the soldiers of the Regiment dispersed to their respective messes to continue the festivities prior to taking a much deserved block leave.



Left to Right - CWO John Dugdale, Cpl Rob Clarke, LCol Bradley Logan, and Tpr Mark Lubiniecki,



Sports and Fitness



*Breezey, Balfour.
Hooking*



Nate Mills for the win!!!!



*Martin Levis looking
sharp in the rarely worn
outdoor jerseys*



2016 Regimental Sports: Year in Review

Captain TJ Casey

2016 was yet another busy year for the Regiment with regards to sports, and as 2016 comes to a close a quick look back at the years exploits shows the unit is in a much more competitive role than it once was. In a nutshell, 2016 saw the Strathcona's organize and execute Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2016, participate in Ex TOUGH CONTENDER 2016, compete in Inter-Section sports and saw a number of clubs start and begin training to expand the corporate knowledge base in the Regiment.

Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2016 was a challenge for the Unit this year which was slated as the OPI for organization and execution. The Ex saw the ball hockey matches played in the field house instead of the LTF, which saw faster paced 4 on 4 games. This led to high scoring, high octane game which pushed teams to their physical limit. For LdSH(RC), it was both a success at on the execution and planning level as well as participation level with many teams receiving a medal including the Ball Hockey team who won gold and the Indoor Soccer team who won a silver medal after a thrilling shootout victory. **Cpl Billy** *"For Some Reason I Will Stop 4 of 5 Kicks From The Spot"* **Goodwin**, stopped 4 of 5 kicks from the spot to secure the victory.

Ex TOUGH CONTENDER proved to be a greater challenge for the unit as it was run during the PCF cycle, minimizing practice time and limiting participation. The outdoor Brigade sports tournament had fierce competition, and pushed all units to the limit. Medals eluded most teams but a notable mention to the Rugby 7's team, led by **Cpl Daylon** *"How Does One Rugby"* **Brown** played the tournament with 7 players. While most teams were disappointed in their final standings, it gave a good opportunity for some who generally do not participate to exercise their abilities in an organized setting.

Inter-Section sports continued to roll along, with the Ice Hockey team partaking in numerous on ice skirmishes, and even some games!!! Through the season their play improved considerably and maintained a record well above .500. I/S Soccer saw a slow start with few players coming to play. Quickly however, attendance improved and since **Capt Cam** *"I Can't Believe This Is A Sport"* **Ross** joined, the team has been unbeaten. The Ball Hockey team led by **Cpl Justin** *"Hooking In The Face Should Be Allowed"* **Green**, has seen continued success through the season, and is excited to defend their championship in the new year. The rock and broom toting squad continues its forceful run. The curling team has gold 2 of the past 3 STRONG CONTENDER contests, and has its sights on a 4th straight medalling "season." **Cpl Brandyn** *"Yo nerds, how come I can coach 3 teams, make the new guy games, put enough product in my hair, tell maintenance they are cool and still curl"* **Tomayer**, has taken the reigns for the team and is excited to continue the dominating traditions.

Finally, the Regiment has been fortunate to have two new club teams arise and begin training. The Strathcona CQC club led by **RSM** *"Be awesome"* **Clarke** has become a high attended club with many members benefitting from strong training. It has been extremely successful in instilling the warrior spirit expected of a soldier. Dark Horse Athletics, formerly known as the "Running Club" has a new leader. **WO Nate** *"Physically Literate"* **Johnston** has adopted an analytic approach for the club, and provided a technologically educational approach to training the members. This club, which sports a super-awesome name, is in good hands, and its members are poised to do some serious damage in its competitions this year.

Ye Ol Rugby Scrum!





Photo by Lorie Miseck

From the threshold of departure, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has been with us for six years. Your support has enabled us to grow across the country, from Victoria, BC, to Oromocto, NB.

Thank You



**NO STONE LEFT ALONE
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**LA FONDATION COMMÉMORATIVE
AUCUNE PIERRE DANS L'OUBLI**

Maureen Bianchini-Purvis
President, No Stone Left Alone

mpurvis@nostoneleftalone.ca
www.nostoneleftalone.ca



*Maj Matt Johns pushing on to the finish line.
Photo by MCpl M.W. Korenowski*

Ex Mountain Man 16 Challenge

Lieutenant Richard Yang

Once again the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) assembled their team for one of the most gruelling events of the year. As Comd 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) **Col W.H. Fletcher** said, "the event is the single most challenging individual event any soldier can accomplish in Canada." The Mountain Man challenge is composed of a 32 km weighted ruck run, a 3.2 km portage, a 10 km canoe paddle on the North Saskatchewan River, and finishes with a 5.6 km ruck run. The top competitor in the Regiment, **Maj Paul Leonard**, completed the event in 6h 36mins 35secs, followed closely by **Cpl Lawrence Emery** at 7h 09mins 38secs. Overall, the Regimental team accomplished the goal they set for themselves and it was an extremely rewarding experience for both the organizers and the competitors.

Just coming off an extremely busy training cycle on the Road to High Readiness, the

Regiment set out immediately to build the 2016 Mountain Man team. Training time was short but, the team valiantly sacrificed evenings and weekends to team practices. The team's training culminated with a mini-Mountain Man in St Albert, consisting of a 20km run and a 3.5km portage, much to the amusement of local residents.

The Regimental team comprised of 22 competitors with an even distribution among all Squadrons within the Regiment. There were many seasoned veterans that participated, including **MCpl Christopher Clegg** from B Sqn, **Tpr Tom Lauterbacher** from A Sqn, **MS Marie-Eve Brassard** from HQ and **WO Robert Englehart** from A Sqn. This year saw the LdSH(RC) team as the sole team with 22 out of 22 competitors crossing the finish line without any injuries or quits in the Brigade! The finish line was well-manned by **Cpl Alison Sawyer**, who proudly waved the Regimental Flag and yelled constant encouragement to the tired competitors.

Final mention must go to **Lt Leland "At least I finished" Kirkham**, who, deciding the competition was not tough enough, managed to break his canoe during portage. He still managed to finish the race and thereby exemplified the Regimental motto and caused much hilarity to the rest of the competition.

Overall, Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 16 was extremely rewarding for the organizers and the participants. The annual event brought together the local communities, avid runners and we all look forward to the next year's competition!

Maj Paul Leonard running towards the canoe loading zone.

Photo by MCpl M.W. Korenowski





Key Events



*Tpr Brady Fox firing the
Feu de Joie during Spruce
Meadow Parade*





Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows

Lieutenant Richard Yang

Another year has come for the 100 man Honor Guard for the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows and in 2016 Recce Sqn, with attachments from across the Regiment, followed in the steps of this rich tradition. The four days the soldiers spent in Calgary was a truly rewarding experience for the soldiers and for Recce Sqn as a whole.

Soon after our arrival, the Honor Guard began the four day event with a 6km run in the Bow River valley in the Calgary downtown core. Bystanders and passing runners got a close-up of Recce Sqn's esprit de corps as soldiers began the Recce chant shortly after we started the run. Locals cheered as **MCpl Justin Wry** shouted "last one to the front" while the Guard tried to eat itself with 100m sprints. The sight of 100 soldiers running as a formed body in the Bow River Valley is a sight that Calgarians have not likely seen in many years.

The following morning, the guard joined the Naden Band, a Leopard 2 tank, an ARV 3, and a Scimitar from the UK Army for the Calgary Stampede parade. The crowd loved us. **Cpl Shane Fettes** ran alongside and motivated the crowds with chants and human waves, creating ripples of energy as the parade went on. The soldiers were very happy to be recognized by the thousands of Canadians lining the streets for the parade. The City of Calgary welcomed us with open arms and with much appreciation.

The Spruce Meadows parade and static displays at the North American Cup was another exceptional opportunity to showcase the professionalism and dedication of the Regiment's soldiers. The soldiers' hard work and dedication at parade practice over the preceding days was rewarded in a perfectly executed parade that honored the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Commander of 3rd Canadian Division, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta. Spruce Meadows also hosted a Leopard 2 tank and the Regiment's HVT Tp, led by **WO Peter Jones**, attracting interested crowds with our Sherman Tank "**CATHERINE**." The Mounted Troop, working on steeds provided by Spruce Meadows, continued their tradition of representing the Regiment's cavalry history. The Guidon party, led by the TQMS **MWO Leigh Taylor**, were resplendent and the centerpiece of the honour guard. As always, **Mr Kurby Court** and the team at Spruce Meadows treated our team with tremendous generosity.

Following the second parade at Spruce Meadows on Sunday afternoon, the guard boarded the busses for the drive North. Although a bit sun burned and exhausted from a weekend of parades and nights out at the Stampede, all those that came down for the Calgary weekend had a rewarding experience. Once again our soldiers represented the Regiment to the highest standard, and this is something that we can all be proud of.

MCpl Emily Lavoie mingling with the crowd during Stampede Parade





Regimental COMREL

Corporal Anthony Banting

This past year has seen members of the LdSH(RC) involved in the community on many occasions. Whether it's in uniform on an assigned task, or simply taking time out of their day to help out a neighbour, it's not hard to see Strathconas interacting positively with all members of the public. LdSH(RC) soldiers have undeniably embraced the community of Edmonton.

Throughout the year members found themselves on display to the public. They took part in large parades like Edmonton's K-days and the Calgary Stampede as well as minor appearances such as manning a vehicle display in front of the Fairmont. Regardless of their environment, they always displayed the highest level of respect and courtesy...even though a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) was routinely referred to as a tank. Despite these situations, each members of the Regiment proudly displayed their knowledge and skills and happily took the time to inform the Canadian public of what we are truly capable of doing.

Some COMREL events have more significance than others. Without doubt, one of the most profound we have undertaken in this year was the "soldier for a day" for **Rheanna Trepanier**. She is a 10 year-old girl who had been recently diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. During her treatment, she made a bucket list of activities that she want to do. Luckily for the Strathcona's, we could help her realise one of those items on her list - riding a tank. That day started with a 50-man Guard from B Sqn, so she and her family could be met by the CO and RSM with full honours. Then, she was given a private tour of the Strathcona unit lines to include the Sim Center and vehicle/weapon displays. From there, the family was given a tank ride to the Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop to view a private ride program. **Rheanna** ended her day by being made an honorary Strathcona.

Throughout the year, Strathconas have consistently proved that they are always ready to act. While on a static display at the Calgary Stampede, **MCpl Matt Burke** witnessed a young child beginning to have a seizure. Without hesitation, he began administering CPR until EMS arrived. Likewise, when **MCpl Travis Silcox** awoke to the sound of breaking glass and witnessed someone in the process of breaking into his neighbour's house, he immediately went outside and subdued the perpetrator until the authorities arrived. Never once taking his personal safety into account, **MCpl Travis Silcox** took the action required in order to help protect a house which he knew had three small children inside.

Alberta has proven to be a place that has happily embraced its military community. When travelling through Alberta, it's not hard not to notice the name "Strathcona's" on a sign or the side of a building. It is a name and history that the community has embraced and all Strathconas are proud to display it on their cap badges each and every day.

Cpl Jorge Valenzuela gloating about his apparent victory over someone half his age. In his defence they are the same height.





Prince of Wales Competition

Major Al Wong

This past year's Prince of Wales competition was like no other, challenges were issued and reputations were put on the line. Like the NHL playoffs each Squadron calculated their standings and how many points they needed to reach the top. The coveted right of line position and the Prince of Wales trophy was the prize that each of the Squadron was striving for.

There were four Commanding Officers competitions where results were tight despite the illusion of advantages given to the hosting Squadron. Each Squadron secretly hoped that they would do well on the Commanding Officer's technical inspections. RHQ hoped that the Maintenance, Administration, and Safety inspections would open up the point spread. This was not the case as each of the Squadrons performed very well on the inspections and the difference ended up being less than 5 points from first to fourth place.

The CO tasked the RSM to secretly develop a final competition that none of the Squadrons would be able to prepare for nor would they know when the final competition was going to occur. When the TQMS revealed the obstacle course that would test each Squadron's team in stamina, intelligence, hand-eye coordination, speed and cavalry skills the Regiment was in awe. This was the final battle to achieve the Right of Line status and to be named the Prince of Wales Squadron. Like the gladiators in the colosseum in ancient Rome, everyone was chanting for their own Squadron. When the competition was over, one Squadron stood first in the standing.

At the Moreuil Parade, the B Squadron era ended. A Squadron had toppled them and the coveted title of Prince of Wales Squadron was theirs.



Regimental Society





Strathcona Mounted Troop Article

Captain Erica “No Seat” Young

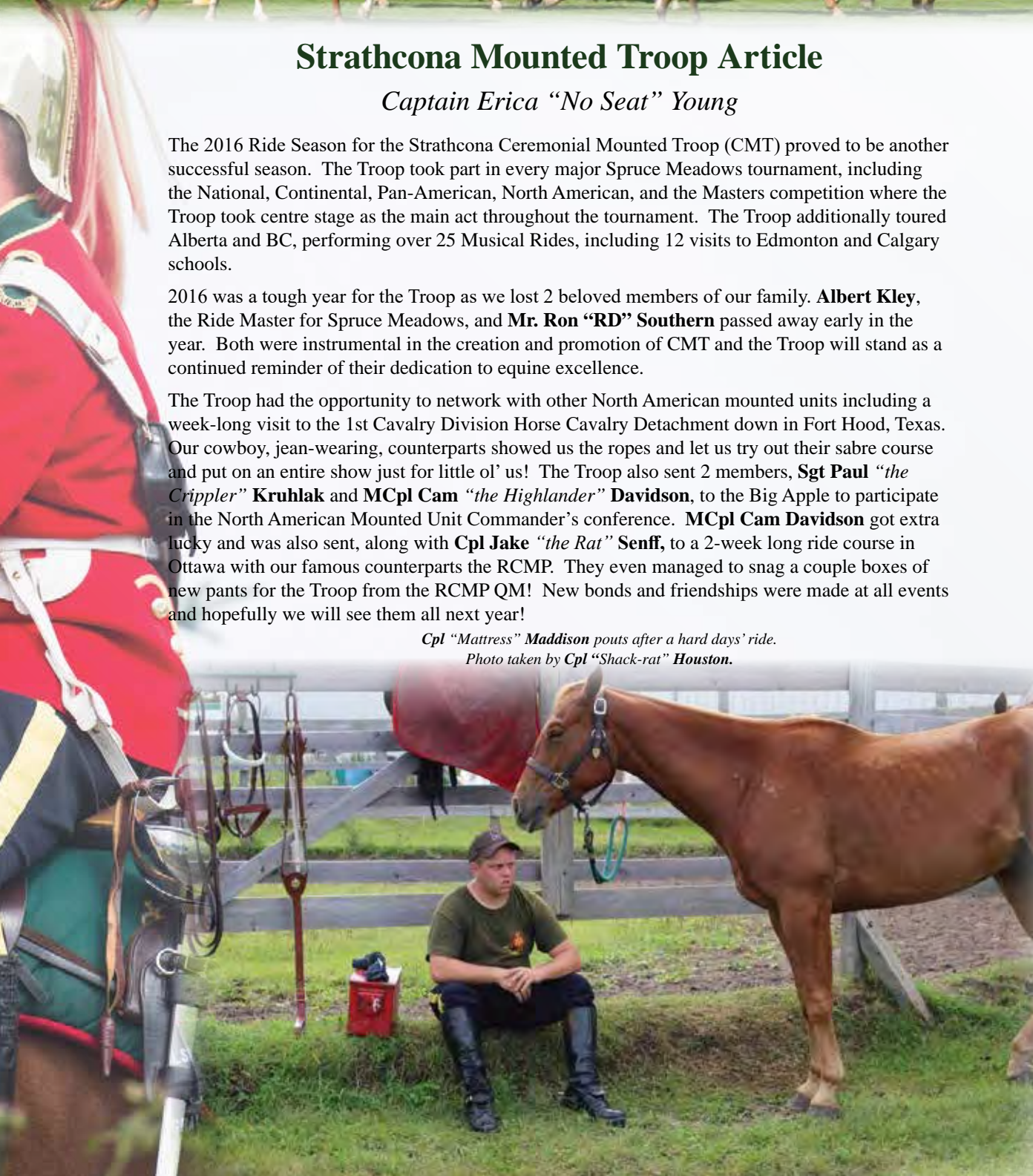
The 2016 Ride Season for the Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop (CMT) proved to be another successful season. The Troop took part in every major Spruce Meadows tournament, including the National, Continental, Pan-American, North American, and the Masters competition where the Troop took centre stage as the main act throughout the tournament. The Troop additionally toured Alberta and BC, performing over 25 Musical Rides, including 12 visits to Edmonton and Calgary schools.

2016 was a tough year for the Troop as we lost 2 beloved members of our family. **Albert Kley**, the Ride Master for Spruce Meadows, and **Mr. Ron “RD” Southern** passed away early in the year. Both were instrumental in the creation and promotion of CMT and the Troop will stand as a continued reminder of their dedication to equine excellence.

The Troop had the opportunity to network with other North American mounted units including a week-long visit to the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment down in Fort Hood, Texas. Our cowboy, jean-wearing, counterparts showed us the ropes and let us try out their sabre course and put on an entire show just for little ol’ us! The Troop also sent 2 members, **Sgt Paul “the Crippler” Kruhlak** and **MCpl Cam “the Highlander” Davidson**, to the Big Apple to participate in the North American Mounted Unit Commander’s conference. **MCpl Cam Davidson** got extra lucky and was also sent, along with **Cpl Jake “the Rat” Senff**, to a 2-week long ride course in Ottawa with our famous counterparts the RCMP. They even managed to snag a couple boxes of new pants for the Troop from the RCMP QM! New bonds and friendships were made at all events and hopefully we will see them all next year!

Cpl “Mattress” Maddison pouts after a hard days’ ride.

Photo taken by Cpl “Shack-rat” Houston.





Regimental Pipes and Drums

Master Corporal Izaak Koolman

2016 was yet again a busy year for the Regimental Pipes and Drums. Following Christmas Leave, the band assembled for a couple of practices, then put the instruments away for the Spring training season. After completing the usual PCF courses, the band quickly reassembled for the annual Moreuil Wood parade, and then quickly dispersed for Spring break. With members of the P&D holding “day jobs” from Recce Squadron to Regimental Headquarters, June came quickly, and a mad rush to remember “exactly how does one put on a kilt?” ensued!

The second full gig of the year was the Regimental Change of Command parade; this was the last parade for the outgoing Drum Major, **Sgt Joe Gushue**, who has been posted to the Royal Canadian Armour Corps School as well as the outgoing Pipe Major, **MWO Cordell Boland**, who is currently deployed on Op UNIFIER. As always, the band was in tune and looked great, a testament to the hard work put in by all.

After losing some great members and musicians, the band had to quickly regroup for Spruce Meadows. With the newly-appointed Drum Major, **Sgt Kyle “Chewy” Chuback** and Pipe Major, **MCpl Izaak Koolman**, in charge, practice began. After only a couple weeks of practice, the Pipes and Drums set off for Calgary and Spruce Meadows. Spruce Meadows was the last parade for two more members: **Sgt Colin Davidson**, our Pipe Sergeant, who was posted to CFB Wainwright; and **Lt Stephanie Clubine**, our swing tenor drummer.

The Pace for the Pipes and Drums slowed down after Summer block leave with members focusing on courses and training in Wainwright. Just prior to Ex STEELE SABRE, **MCpl Koolman** travelled once again to Spruce Meadows, to pipe for the opening of the 2016 National FireFit Games, with an Honour Guard provided by the Strathcona Mounted Troop.

During hunting season, **MCpl Matt “Killer” Burke** managed to acquire and donate a black bear skin to the P&D. Currently, the bass drummer, **Cpl Dave “Boom Boom” Young**, wears a leopard skin of unknown origin, and the decision has been made to retire this artifact, and embrace our Albertan heritage by wearing a bearskin. The Leopard will be cased and placed in the band room. It’s suspected that the leopard dates to the Boer War, but no record of it exists in any archive.

Upon the Regiment’s return from the field, our busy schedule resumed and the Pipes and Drums began practicing and recruiting some new members. Recruiting went very well, adding new pipers and drummers to fill out the ranks. The first couple of weeks in November were busy as usual with **Cpl Sean Coughlan**, **Cpl Adam Davies**, and **MCpl Cameron Davidson** representing the band on Veterans Night at the Senior NCO’s Mess. The next task was a familiar one: Remembrance Day at the Kingsway Legion, continuing a tradition of playing there since it opened in 2013.

The band was joined during the Ceremonies by **Cpl Adam Vandenberg**, a longstanding member of the band from 408 Sqn, **MCpl Duncan Brodie**, of 3 CDTC, and **OCdt Dino Visaya**, a former Strathcona now working with the Cadet Instructor Cadre. **Sgt Colin Davidson** and **MCpl Cameron Davidson** (“The Terrible Twins”) rejoined the band for Remembrance Day as well. November 11th was followed by a new event, the **No Stone Left Alone** Gala Dinner at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton, where the band was well represented by everyone but the Pipe Major.

The year ends with some oddball piping at various Christmas events, and another flush of new recruits. Members from inside the Regiment and out are flocking to our doors, eager to join the most elegantly dressed team in the Brigade.





Historical Vehicle Troop

Warrant Officer Peter Jones

The Strathcona Historical Vehicle Troop was hard at work over this past year maintaining the fleet of Military Vehicles used by Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) throughout its existence. After most of the Troop deployed on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 16, it was required to get the fleet ready for the Regimental Change of Command. We able to provide three Ferrets for the Guidon party and steadfast vehicles like **Catherine**, **Cougar**, the M113 and a 5 Ton wrecker for the parade. The Troop sent **Catherine** for the King's Own Calgary Regiment's Change of Command on 4 June in Calgary, **Cpl William Clendennin** was able to drive for the KOCR. The next event saw **Catherine** entered in the Sundre Rodeo parade with **WO Peter Jones** and **Cpl Shaun Sullivan** operating and displaying the Sherman for the people Sundre, AB. They were very excellent hosts as we were given free transport to Sundre and back from *Mark Crouch Backhoe Service Ltd.*, and we ensured they were provided with rides for employees. The Troop supported Spruce Meadows, as we have in past with **WO Peter Jones**, **MCpl Raymond Bondy**, **Cpl Alison Sawyer** and **Tpr Phillip Hibbert** providing excellent knowledge on the vehicles displayed. **Catherine** and (**Dictator**) Ferret were very well received. We brought out a Ferret and the ¾ ton M37 for a display as part of the *Bison Transport* family day held at SMT's stables. The Troop also provided support to many Garrison Business Luncheons and the Veterans evening for the WO and Sgt Mess.

There is a lot to do in the upcoming year. HVT is hard at work with ongoing restorations, with our Centurion (**Alberta**) awaiting a grant to finish restoration to the engine bay and engine. The Troop will also be hard at work doing repairs and restoration on our Sherman tank **Catherine**, our FAT (Field Artillery Tractor) - 4 CMP, and our 1942 WLC Harley Davidson motorcycle to have them ready to display in the upcoming year.

Overall, this has not been an overly busy year but, with ongoing support from the members of the Regiment, leadership and the society we can build towards a very busy Summer in 2017 and beyond with this excellent collection of very rare vehicles for the public and our Regiment.

Mark Crouch Backhoe Service Ltd.



FAT-4 under restoration



*Cpl Shaun Sullivan with Guest
Sundre Parade*





The State of the LdSH(RC) Military Museums Gallery

Captain Phil “The Doctor” Webster

Another busy, whirlwind year has passed in the slightly darkened, slightly stuffy back rooms of The Military Museums Strathcona Gallery; the completely top secret location of the finest artefacts, records and keepsakes of The Regiment (located just off of the Crowchild Trail at the new Flanders Avenue overpass, in Calgary). This auspicious year was mostly notable for its large numbers of successes and additions to our small world. These ran the gauntlet from the exceptionally exciting (the arrival of a rare, intact Soviet T-34 tank) to the sombre (the donation of **Hornburg**, the Leopard ARV monument to one of our Fallen, **Cpl Nathan Hornburg**) to the exceptionally boring (the addition of 80 linear feet of archiving and storage space in our vault!). As always, Spruce Meadows saw another opportunity to showcase the Regiment's history to many of Canada's glitterati including politicians, businessmen and figures from the world of horsemanship, an always apt and important connection to our proud cavalry heritage



On the personnel side of the house, and to change the tense of this fine article, I'm doing my best to adapt to the often bizarre world of historical granting, museum studies and military archiving while still looking after the ill and injured at IPSC Calgary. I say this as **WO Ted MacLeod** prepares to end his long tenure as the museum curator, and indeed a storied career as well. I have been attempting to take in all of his vast array of experience in museum management before he sails off to Hawaii, never to be seen again. Of course, leaving **Sgt Todd Giberson** and I to tend the vast archives of materiel and information will likely seem like an amusing thought to many of our colleagues... but, it is certainly not one we take lightly. However, with the capable hands of **Mark Fuchko** and **Jim Adams** assisting with our collections and **Ken Raychert** lending his help with all things vehicle (mineral) and mechanical, we're in for an exciting period of change and growth in the next few years.





The Regimental Association

“OLD GUARD”

Peter Wonderham

Once again I am truly honoured to give you an update on happenings within your Association as well as pen some thoughts on what inspires those no longer serving.

I mean it when I say, I am honoured. I had no idea that our Strathconian is in its 103rd year of publication. To add to this, each year our Membership committee (**Slider and Mary**) send out publications to those members who request it. One of those individuals wrote me a thank you note saying it was “the most beautiful magazine I have ever seen”. The note was addressed from, “**Strathcona**, The Miller’s cottage, Isle of Colonsay, in Argyll from Evan Strathcona.” - that name is familiar, and he wrote the note on his Grandfather’s stationary.

The Association is in great shape. Some of what I will tell you has already been published in our Fall newsletter, but I will change things around to hopefully keep your interest. Throughout the year each of our Branch chairman/committees have been busy doing exactly what our forefathers had envisioned. That was to create an environment to promote camaraderie within the Ranks of the Association. During the Summer months, our branches from Victoria to Oromocto organized and hosted meet and greets (Kingston, **John Stuckart and Chris Rankin**), commemorative dinners (Moreuil Wood, Kingston and a special thanks to **Russ Ells, Kevin Mulhern and Chris Rankin**) and Melfa River BBQs (**Tom and Carole Martineau**). Events in Victoria, golf tournaments and post golf events in Calgary (**Brad and Jen Norman** hosting) and the Spruce Meadows sky box event. Gatherings that are becoming popular and getting troop size attendance are the “wing nights” organized mainly through face book in main by **Brad Norman** (Calgary) and **Alex Graf** (Edmonton). The Mini Reunion in Penticton, in September 2016, coordinated by **Bill Woods** and his group, (probably his wife Pat) proved to be a real crowd pleaser. One last event of the season which brings together a lot of past friendships is the post Remembrance Day gathering in the 285 Calgary Legion. Faces not seen in years have changed little.

Well done and thank you to all Branch Executives. Your work is much appreciated by all.

I am sure more events are in the booking and planning stages for the 2017 season, as well as plans underway for events in 2018. Keep an eye out for E news and Association dispatches.

That was pretty much my canned Association wellbeing note and like I said in past writings when you are truly retired nothing much changes.

We all understand that the big events we experienced throughout our career are no longer there to keep us excited. There are no posting messages. The CO no longer gathers us en mass to inform us that we are likely to deploy to some remote place where we would never in our lives have dreamt of going.



What we still have within each of us is the fond memories of those days in uniform. We retirees can still open our eyes in the morning and do a 2x10 miler with 55 lb rucksack, a Battle Fitness Test, or prance along with the fastest trooper in the Squadron on morning PT...until our feet hit the carpet. Then the only thing limber is our lips when we complain of the sore back and knees. Change is inevitable. It is how we accept it that makes all the difference.

I have been indeed fortunate to have had an open communication with the RSMs for the last 24 years. Before that, not so much. Not long ago I asked **RSM Rob Clarke** to update me on a short list of questions so I could envision some of the changes we could expect if we found ourselves back in uniform tomorrow.

Most of us experienced many postings during the day. Now a soldier can make it to the top with as little as two or three moves (I think I had 15 not including deployments). One of the only "head hanging" traditions I recall in my career was "sick parade". Some of us may remember, the Beausejour days, in the early morning watching a column of limping, wheezing soldiers carrying small packs containing, yes, their smalls, being marched by the Orderly Sergeant from Squadron to Squadron destined to the UMS. That procedure has thankfully changed. Now when a soldier is ill he/she informs his Chain of Command and heads to the (CDU) Care Delegation Unit. Civilized. Of course the days of the Gestetener and memo passing are gone and most everything including minuted inter Troop and Squadron Memos are sent electronically. There is no longer an orderly room book case containing QR&O and CFAO as these are all online.

Some of us can remember the old floppy, wing nut secured, mirrors on past AFVs (Armour Fighting Vehicles) **Shad**. Now the Leopard 2s are equipped with high resolution rear viewing cameras. I do remember a conversation I had with Keith Eddy as he reminded me that great backing is all part of the Ground Guides skills and I am confident that has not changed. Service Tribunals and Orders Parades I have been told have changed little and are unfortunately still a part of a soldiers life if he/she misbehaves.

I only assume iPhones are tucked away in troop lockers until coffee breaks?

Like most of you, I think back fondly on my past life and career. With all the changes in our Profession of Arms and the revamped studies, courses and literature, one thing that I remember as always having been there for me was sound, fair and mature leadership. I recall one of the many Squadrons I served with was in Germany under an officer by the name of **Major Mark Egner**. I was young, away from civilian life, a long way from home and from cellular networks but was lead by soldiers and leaders I trusted and will always remember. **Sergeant Major Colby Yeomans, Capt Dave (DRB) Rogers, Sergeant Gus Sulis, Sergeant Ray Putt, Warrant Officer Ron Bancroft, MCpl Ron "Sparky" Clarke, TC Zwicker, and Barry Pridge**, just to name a few.

I have written some facts. I have also rambled on about the past and some fond memories. I hope serving soldiers and younger veterans have a think about the Association. Our ranks are thinning due to age and you are the future.





Canadian Pacific (CP) / LdSH(RC) Regimental Society Student Scholarship Program

In our fifth year of the Canadian Pacific Scholarship, we had seen an increase of submission and completion. The calibre of each of the candidates were high, which made it difficult for the board to select the best three. However, three students seeking this scholarship stood out.

Before the names are announced, this would not have been possible without the generous support from the Canadian Pacific Railways. Their donations have help countless Strathcona families seeking higher education. This year's recipients of the CP Scholarship were **Jasmine Graf, Breanne Stephen** and **Ryan Bonnie, Congratulations!**





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.



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

THE STRATHCONIAN



THE STRATHCONIAN

First produced in 1914, the Strathconian is the Regiment's yearbook. It is produced through the financial support of the Society. Strathconas and Friends of the Regiment worldwide cherish this journal of the exploits and life of the Regiment.

- 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, 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 or call (780) 973-4011 ext. 3124 for more information.

WO Matt Williams working hard on getting that promotion.



Above - Maj John Kim,

Below - WO Matt Williams and Sgt Dave Brister proving that gingers can be in direct sun light – for short bursts.

HOW CAN I INSTRUCT THESE SOLDIERS IF I CAN'T EVEN FIT IN THE TANK MYSELF?



Extra Regimentally Employed



Strathcona in Gagetown

Captain Blake Tapp



Capt Andrew Tardiff and Lt Thomas Hume test the capabilities of the Coyote against a prepared crater group.

Another year passes in the Town of Gage, and another year of questions to the career manager of “what have I done to deserve this?” Despite the geographical fact that the Strathconas of Gagetown are one of the farthest from home in the country, the Strathconas here always seem to find a way to become involved in vital projects for not just the Corps, but the Army as a whole. This year was no exception, as perseverance seems to be everywhere in the area.

As always, the Royal Canadian Armour Corps School’s life blood of drivers, instructors, support staff and senior leaders are filled with Strathconas. There isn’t a course or even a corner of the school that isn’t filled with a shiny gold cap badge or a remark about gravy and what training was like back in Wainwright. With the ever increasing demands for trained Crewman and Officers at every level and position, the school’s work tempo is always high, and the Strathconas here proudly contribute to this effort.

Two important contributors from LdSH(RC) are **Sgt Dan Charette** and **Sgt Keith Hodgson**. Both members have been working in Standards Squadron on various important projects which see them

traveling to New York and Germany to have a say in developments. While they both remain humble about their involvement, everyone knows that if you travel in this job that you must be important.

During the Bushman competition, **Capt Blake Tapp** and **WO Conway Eady** teamed up to form Team Tapp-Eady, representing the school and the unit at the largest Bushman turnout to date. Following a strong finish, **WO Conway Eady** politely inquired as to how the team positioned, adding “Not bad for a couple of fat tankers eh?!” Team Tapp-Eady has been told by 2RCR to not bother signing up for next year’s competition.

When asked what exactly his employment in Gagetown is, **Capt Tyler Collings** replied “Je suis un cours de français maintenant”....whatever that means.

An emotional and heartfelt retirement of **Capt Brandon Frizzell**, **WO Glen Bolter** and **Sgt Patrick Gordon** was celebrated this year. Despite no longer serving, all members still live as examples to the saying “once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona.”

The old assumption usually is, if you’re posted to Gagetown, you must be posted to the school. What you may be shocked to learn (as I was when writing this article) is that there are positions in Gagetown that are in fact outside of the school.

Capt Evan Wiome is currently employed at the Canadian Army Trails and Evaluation Unit in Gagetown, working on critical projects such as TAPV and new transport implementation.

LCol Vince Kirstein and a crew of Strathconas, **Capt Geoffrey Bamford**, **Capt Clyde Penney** and **WO James McGregor** are working tirelessly to keep Combat Training Center Headquarters up and running.

While many of us may long to return to the West, the Strathcona presence here in the east remains strong. Whether for a task or a course, we always welcome those from the unit that are in town....just don’t expect an easy pass while you’re here!

Team Tapp-Eady marches on during Bushman 2016





Perseverance in the National Capital Region (NCR)

Majors Eric Angell, Brian Corbett, John Kim and Mike Onieu

In spite of the rumours and fears that may circulate around the Regiment and the various messes in Edmonton Garrison about how unique and different the workplace is in Ottawa, Strathcona life in the NCR is exactly the same as it is at the Regiment - we still have daily/weekly coffee meetings, we parade in front of stop #666 to get on an OC Transpo bus to get to work from suburbia to downtown, we drink downstairs at the mess, we do PT on our own because there are less than 6 PSP staff to serve 20 000 CAF personnel, and we also need to go down 5 floor levels in a crammed elevator to see an orderly room clerk to finalise a TD claim - there are no differences at all! If you think I'm lying, and don't believe any it, then I encourage you to read about what your fellow officers and soldiers in the NCR are doing in Canada's capital city, just like you in Oil City, or any other city where the Prime Minister's office is within a 15 minute walk from your cubicle.

National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) - It is difficult to internalize the machinations of NDHQ unless you are part of it, so let us dispense for the most part with the acronym soup that would be necessary to fully explain what Strathconas in NDHQ do. Suffice to say that within the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff Group, there exists the Chief of Force Development, and under that is a Director General Capability and Structure Integration (DGCSI), and within that there is a small concentration of Strathconas, all of whom are working to improve the institutional CAF, mainly in the areas of force development and capability management.

LCol Vince Kirstein joined DGCSI as head of the Army Capability Integration cell before being posted to Gagetown later in the year. He was replaced by **LCol Derek Chenette**, who arrived just in time to be the PMC for the NCR Blackhat Mess Dinner and waded into a slew of army projects. Also posted in from Toronto was **Maj Eric Angell** who is working on Defence Policy Review. **Maj Tom Lacroix** left DGCSI for Wainwright in the summer with his sizeable collection of Regimental swag.

Strategic Joint Staff (SJS) - In the upper floors of NDHQ, across the hall from the CDS' office, rests the SJS which is a small and tireless group of staff officers who provide strategic level advice to the CDS, the Minister of National Defence, and other government officials. While the work is "everything" like what they showed us when we walked into the recruiting centre as armoured officers or crewmen, it is a very eye-opening experience to see how and why decisions are made- or not made- at the highest levels. Comprising this elite group of cubicle warriors are several Strathconas: **Maj Brian Corbett** is working the Current Operations desk responsible for operations and training in Africa and Europe; **Maj Mike Barnett** has been travelling the world as part of the Arms Control Verification team making sure that foreign countries abide by numerous arms control treaties; and **CWO Richard Stacey** recently arrived as the SJS CWO. In true cavalry fashion, he has already added a significant amount of class to the offices in the executive suite by hanging up just enough

LCol Derek Chenette and Dir RCAC, Col D. Cross





Maj Mike Onieu expressing his love of Ottawa through interpretive dance

Lanny Hill does all the cool stuff in Ottawa. He trials, analyzes, and recommends simulators for the CA that range from Small Arms Trainers to Virtual Battle Space simulators employed by the CA to train individual soldiers as well as brigade headquarters and larger.

A group of Strathconas not mentioned in this article are all of the retired members of the Regimental Association that contribute in no small ways to private and public sectors in the NCR. These Strathconas, therefore, have a separate chapter all onto themselves in The Strathconian. If you are still not convinced that life in Ottawa is just like at the unit, then ask for a posting in the NCR... all kidding aside, there is one conclusion that can be reached regarding Strathconas in Ottawa and this conclusion has stood test of time. 1) Life in the NCR is not so bad. 2) It is a target rich environment. 3) Strathconas are like invaluable pocket change; though there aren't too many of us around, our denominations make an important contribution to the greater aims of the CAF institution.

Strathcona memorabilia that people take notice, but not too much to seem like a hostile take-over.

Canadian Army Headquarters (CA HQ) - Senior Serving Strathcona, **BGen Derek Macaulay**, serves as the Chief of Staff of Army Strategy (COS A Strat). He is focused on ensuring that the CA is equipped and configured for the present and the future, 15-25 years down the line. A key staff officer to the Commander Canadian Army, his reach extends to Director Land Requirements (DLR), CA technical authorities, procurement, and Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre, to name but a few. **LCol Dave MacIntyre**, DLR 3 and Technical-Adjutant for the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, ensures that CA equipment, tools, projects, and vehicles support COS A Strat's plans for the present and the future. **Maj John Kim**, CA G1 Operations officer and staff officer to the Director of Armour, is decisively engaged in ensuring that personnel management policies support CA military and institutional operations throughout the country and overseas.

Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) - **Maj Chris Quinlan** is part of the J3 Middle East Current Operations team providing mission management for Op IMPACT, the counter-Daesh campaign, as well as other small missions in the region. **Maj Warren Deatcher** continues to provide his CBRN expertise to the CAF from within the CJOC J5 branch.

Assistant Deputy Minister (Materiel)
- of all of the
Strathconas named
thus far, **MWO**

LCol (ret'd) Vince Fagnan



Strathconas in Kingston

Captain Dave Williams

The Regiment was well represented in the Limestone City in 2016 with Officers and NCOs dispersed amongst the myriad of organizations in Kingston. Fortunately the city seems to be a hub for the Corps and the year saw multiple chances, such as the RCAC Conference, to reconnect with Strathcona's from across the country.

At the Canadian Army Command and Staff College,

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Rankin and **Major Hogg McKenzie** continued to torture shape the minds of Junior Officers on the Army Operations Course by helping to develop their cunning plans, tactical brilliance and staff acumen. With usual Hogg optimistic spirit, when asked to provide comment on the progress of this worthy endeavour he simply replied "I weep for the future." **Major Clayton Fifield** was also sought for comment, however, he seemed to be running that day's teleconference from his fishing boat, and was thus unavailable. In the Operations section, **Corporal Cameron Kiomall** continued to support successive courses, while in the Professional Military Education cell, **Captain John Rickard** tried vainly to make everyone see the mistakes they were repeating based on historical conflicts. **Captain Dave Williams** was posted in during the summer as the Adjutant and continues to wrestle with the internal conflict of being the guy in charge of policing Officer grooming standards.

At the 1st Canadian Division, **Warrant Officer Matt Williams** and **Sergeant Dave Brister** continued to trade "swan goes" back in forth until incredibly they were both actually tired of being on TD. This author actually heard them arguing over a pint about who had to go to Aruba/Jamaica (or was it Bermuda/Bahama?) Regardless, both of their Employment Histories look like the lyrics to a Beach Boys song.

From the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre (CADTC), **Colonel Dwayne Parsons** and **Chief Warrant Officer Dave Hall** kept a close watch from on high ensuring that Strathcona's continued to Strathcona. Also working within the CADTC umbrella were **Lieutenant-Colonel Errol MacEachern** for CMTC, **Major Ed Frost-Kell** at Directorate of Army Doctrine, **Major Gord Dyck** at the Influence Activities Task Force, **Captain Stewart Maclean** at the Canadian Army Intelligence Regiment, and **Warrant Officer Laki Christopoulos** at the Peace Support Training Centre.

On the Point Frederick peninsula, **Major John Grodzinski** spent another year bringing Canadian military history alive for Officer Cadets, while **Captain Ali Raju** dusted off his calculator for an unexpected crash course in math in the Army Technical Staff Officer Program.

At the CFB Kingston Headquarters, Base Commander and Director RCAC, **Brigadier General Stephen Kelsey** traded his pips for a leaf and then promptly deployed to Iraq as the COS Coalition Forces Land Component Command. Left behind were **Lieutenant-Colonel Ed Padvaiskas** and **Captain Dave Jung**, who are holding the Strathcona fort down in the Brigadier's absence.

Across a wide spectrum of jobs, Strathcona's continue to represent the professionalism and style of the Regiment, while enjoying the sights and activities of the Kingston area.



Capt Dave Williams NOT shooting ducks on the St. Lawrence fly-way because he is too busy taking this selfie.





Strathconas in Wainwright

Major Marshall Douglas

Garrison Wainwright continues to be called home for a surprisingly large contingent of Strathconas. Regardless of one's purpose in visiting Wainwright, you will find Strathconas in all three of the main organizations based in Garrison Wainwright, whether it's the Range Controllers forcing range clean-ups prior to out-clearance, to the various Strathconas in CMTC helping (or hindering) your experience during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, to the Strathconas at 3CDTC training the next generation of infantrymen and junior leaders of Western Canada.

Strathconas posted to 3 Canadian Division Training Centre (3CDTC) continue to instruct, mentor, and support the individual training of personnel from across Canada who come through Wainwright. After successfully overseeing the development of over one thousand students, **Maj Fred Hayward** departed the unit and returned to Edmonton, but we gained **Maj Tom Lacroix** from Ottawa. **Capt Charles Prince** was the subject of several memes and also found time to join **Sgt Gord Carnevale**, and **MCpls Francis Graham** and **Travis Paskuski** in the Death Race (which isn't a nickname for DP1 Infantry PT). After 25 years of loyal service, **Sgt Tony Oake** retired from the CAF and has remained in Wainwright, now calling it home.

This year was relatively a quite year for the six Strathconas of 3 Canadian Division Support Group (3 CDSG) Garrison Wainwright. **Sgt McGarity**, the garrison's Operations Sgt, provided excellent services to visiting units and assisted in ensuring a hassle-free experience for all visitors to Wainwright. As long as the Visiting Unit Request was correctly filled out. **Cpls Bellegarde, Booth, Elms, and Hayes** enjoyed their four days on/ four days off schedule as Range Control Patrol Men, ensuring that safe training occurred throughout the Range and Training Area. **Cpl Ferguson** could always be found at Log Sp Coy, employed as a Cbt Storeman, passing out supplies at the CQ shop for exercises like Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and unit training.

CMTC continued to carry out its mandate of delivering realistic and challenging collective training in the form of Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15 and the Canadian Patrol Concentration. **Capt Jon Miller** continued his excellent work in supporting exercises with the Weapons Effects Simulator(WES), **Maj Mike Selberg** and **Capt Nathan Bugg** acclimatized themselves to the hectic and busy nature of the Observer Controller Trainer (OCT) team, and the various Strathcona NCOs at COEFOR continued to challenge training audiences by expertly laying ambushes, IEDs, and generally being a nuisance. No Strathconas were involved in the successful IED attack against T9 during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1601.


Based on facial expression, can you guess who has been in Wainwright the shortest.



The Strathconas of CFB Suffield

Captain Chris Whalley

The past year at CFB Suffield remained a busy one, with many new challenges for members of the Regiment. Defence Research Development Canada – Suffield Research Centre (DRDC) continued to fulfill their mandate through two large exercises and multiple trials, providing Canada and its NATO partners with advanced scientific and technical research, as well as world-class training opportunities. British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) completed four battlegroup-level exercises and saw approximately 7000 British soldiers successfully complete their high-readiness and combined-arms training for the year. Adding a wrinkle from previous years, BATUS incorporated their new armoured strike concept into this year's activities, which will be further integrated into future armoured training for UK forces at CFB Suffield. The Primary Reserve and local police services managed to squeeze in 11 smaller training exercises, rounding out the year's training calendar. Building on previous success, the Elk Herd Reduction Program entered its fifth year, with hunters from all over Alberta and Saskatchewan converging on the Base to take their shot at a full freezer, a good story and maybe a trophy, if the odds are indeed in your favour.




Cpl Trevor McQueen carrying the Canadian Army Flag at Canada Day Ceremonies in Medicine Hat

All of this would not be possible, were it not for the dedicated and professional soldiers of G3 Range Control. Strathconas continue to form the backbone of this organization, providing experience and dedication surpassed by none. **MCpl Chris Oliver, MCpl Rory Adby, Cpl Michael Allman and Cpl Trevor McQueen** continued in their roles, joined by **Cpl Jesse Maw and Cpl Michael Maxwell** who arrived from Edmonton to ply their skills at the largest training area in the Commonwealth. As always, the considerable efforts of these fine soldiers received frequent recognition from the Base Commander and Commander BATUS, for their steadfast support to the Base and its primary users.

Up in the Base HQ, **Capt Chris Whalley** decided that life was in fact not better in the halls of power and returned to Range Control to keep himself busy. **CWO Richard Stacey** left this year, moving on to the Strategic Joint Staff in Ottawa. Joining him in the departure line were **MCpl Matthew Sebo and Cpl Shane Brough**, who returned to greener pastures back at the Regiment.

This posting continues to provide members of the Regiment with a full calendar, a quick pace and many learning opportunities. Through it all, the Strathconas of CFB Suffield continue to embody Perseverance, never failing to rise to each challenge and achieve mission success.



LCol Scott and RSM Richard Stacey at the Medicine Hat Stampede Parade

CFB SUFFIELD



1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group

Major Jack Nguyen

Some would say that the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) Headquarters was seized with community relations activities and branding throughout 2016. Others would say that the headquarters was simply executing the status quo; this of course coming from the abundance of Strathconas posted to key positions! Travelling the road to high readiness, 1 CMBG was rebranded as Task Force NEMESIS: a team of teams that incorporated elements of the Brigade, Primary Reserve, and enabler augmentation from across the CAF into a unified war-fighting force. That is, until everyone was posted out or deployed individually around the world.

Right from the beginning, with **BGen Trevor Cadieu** and **Brigade Sergeant Major Bill Crabb** leading the charge, the headquarters was off to a busy road to high readiness year. Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM in the spring brought the Brigade together for collective training in preparation for the final fight against 2 CMBG during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 16. Strathcona's were well represented in the G3 branch, furiously churning out operations orders and last-minute direction under the steadfast direction of **LCol Dave MacIntyre**, and supported by **Maj Alex Nitu**, **Capt Ahmad Jaradat**, **Capt Callum Smith**. Just around the corner, an angry "all stations" net-call could be heard from the G1 branch, where **Maj Matt Johns** was busy crushing the souls of unit Adjutants and Combat Service Support sub-units into submission. At some point, the units had enough and resorted to planting a beetle into his ear to drill away and keep him off their backs. Meanwhile, **Lt Tom Hume** got lost in the annex with the Commander's Tac and ended up at the base personnel selection office with a filled out commissioning from the ranks application.

Alas, the fun has to end somewhere; many were posted out or deployed as soon as end-ex came over the means. **BGen Trevor Cadieu** figured **Capt Jaradat** would give him some street credibility in the Middle East, so he brought him along to Operation PROTEUS. As well, Capt Smith did the only sensible thing after getting married and immediately deployed on Operation IMPACT. As the Strathcona's of HQ 1 CMBG started to thin out, replacements started to fill the ranks. In came **Maj Sandy Cooper** to the G3 branch along with **Cpts James Anderson** and **Darren Carter-Wright**, **Maj Jack Nguyen** to the G1 branch, seconding **Lt Stephanie Clubine** from the Regiment, and **MCpl Simeon Howarth-Harrison** to the Commander's Tac to help it once again find its way. The remainder of 2016 saw the Black Hats of HQ 1 CMBG frantically looking for opportunities to benefit from the hard work of our predecessors, deploying and traveling the world under the guise of operations.

Capt Darren Carter-Wright, Maj Sandy Cooper, Lt Stephanie Clubine, and CWO Bill Crabb





Strathconas at 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters

I'm from the Division; I'm here to help:

Major Tim Day

As far as postings away from the Regiment go, a posting to 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters is not too shabby. Occasionally, if our business takes us to the north-east corner of Building 700, after dragging one's self away from one's cubicle and navigating the veritable labyrinth of four-foot partition walls, we can actually see the Harvey Building. These occasions tend to produce nostalgia of better days spent in a squadron and provide a brief respite from the drudgery of divisional staff work. However, when the need arises, Strathconas at 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters have answered the call of duty and made a difference in Western Canada.

In May 2016, wildfires swept across Fort McMurray, Alberta, forcing the evacuation of over 80,000 residents of Fort McMurray and workers from surrounding camps. The Canadian Armed Forces contributed an Air Task Force consisting of a CC-130J Hercules transport aircraft, CH-147 Chinook utility helicopter, and four CH-146 Griffon helicopters; and a contingent of staff officers were attached to the Provincial Operations Centre. For ten days, in conjunction with other staff officers from Joint Task Force West, **Maj Mike Smith** and **Maj Tim Day** worked



around the clock to coordinate the military support to the Government of Alberta response to wildfires in Fort McMurray. **Maj Paul Leonard** accompanied the Division Commander, **BGen Wayne Eyre**, and Division Sergeant-Major, **CWO Shawn Stevens**, to survey the damage to the city and surrounding area. For anyone watching the news at that time, **Scott Long**, the Executive Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency and former Strathcona himself, was the face of Alberta's response efforts and appeared in media reports around the world. Upon completion of Operation LENTUS 16-01, the Air Task Force shipped 124,700 pounds of freight, transported a total of 367 evacuees to safe areas, and transported 173 firefighters in and out of the affected area. Although largely a Royal Canadian Air Force contribution, a few Strathconas in key positions managed to find themselves in the middle of it and made a difference at home for Canadians when it counted.



3rd Canadian Division Support Group From Thunder Bay, to the Pacific to the North!

Captain Tom Pett and Sergeant Tyler Baldwin

As another year passes, we in 3 CDSG say farewell to some key members of the team. **Maj (ret'd) Scott Shrubbs** was the latest member of the LdSH(RC) team that was poached by **LCol (Ret'd) Scott Long**, a list that seems to grow every day, soon you will have to vote for your favorite LdSH(RC) MPP! **Capt (Ret'd) Rob Swainsbury** was another member that jumped ship...I mean retired, although he is enjoying growing his hair and driving his wife **Alyssa** crazy with plans of a Harley road trip.

Those of us that remain are the driving force of 3 CDSG, we are the ones who take charge and run with scissors - whether it is from the Range and Training area shop (which is the largest in Canada) stretching from Thunder Bay, all the way to the Pacific coast (and on the Island if you ask some) to all points North. In true Strathcona fashion **Capt Tom Pett** as the RTA 2I/C tries to advise the CHOps that if you cannot get a Leopard in there, it's not a training area, jumpers be damned! There are quite a few training area projects on the go, many which need to be funded through various governments and agencies. If any Squadron's want to do some adventure or survival training, I may know a guy who can send you the black book on training areas, and there are a few nice fishing holes still available...

Another facet of life in 3 CDSG is the Edmonton area Range Control; **Sgt Tyler Baldwin** is always on the hunt (literally) for new members who are looking for a break from regular duties. As always LdSH(RC) has again supported 3 CDSG with great soldiers that contribute in the background activities which allow the Units of the Brigade to maintain their fighting ability and annual training to occur. **Cpl Riopelle** continues to be the Western Area SME with the Automated Targeting System Ranges and ensures that when the systems break down (and they always do!) she is fast to react and corrects infrastructure problems and coordinates ranges to optimize bullets down range. **Cpl's Hurley and Hatter** are employed with the (almighty) range control and conduct regular safety inspections and range maintenance which also ensures users can get in and out with minimal conflicts. They ensure positive training value each day with safety being the primary concern as well as making sure EVERYONE has two blankets, a stretcher and First Aid kit!! **Sgt Baldwin**; Long in the tooth (but not the hair) still smiling continues to ensure proper and coordinated training and regularly improves his ATV driving skills throughout the Training Area. Range Control Edmonton, while not a glorious post is a very necessary evil. All members recognize the importance of ensuring the Troops get the training to help prepare them for the ultimate tests in Combat and we at RC are here to support and contribute any way we can.

One of the less glorious (just don't tell him that) positions that we fill is the Information Management Officer position, this is currently occupied by **MWO Tod Hopkin**, he had sent me a small paragraph with his job description, but it was all 1's and 0's, so I will try my best to decipher it. **MWO Hopkin** seems



to move from desks to desk, he tried to become a member of the RTA team, but his wealth of knowledge and considerable size was intimidating to all the civilian range control officers, the powers at be decided to keep him in the computer closet where he can manage the information that is available to members of the Division. If you see him slinking through the hallways, or moving his office cubicle once again, it's best just to say good morning (regardless of time of day). Throw a coffee at him, that your best chance of escape.

The next year in 3 CDSG will be another fun year filled with many questions (from all), if you are ever in the new glass death star do not be a stranger, most of us are upstairs to the left, dependent on the job of the day, you may see **MWO Hopkin** moving about; stop in say hi and bring news of the Regiment! If you find yourself at the RC building trying to get a range, don't fret, just ask one of the nice Cpl's to get **Sgt Baldwin**, he loves answering the call, and who knows, if we can pry him out of there it may be the future home to another deserved Strathcona Sgt!



Capt Tom Pett Arctic trials Resolute Bay

Capt Tom Pett



Life with the Reserves: Everything But Part-Time

Captain David Wright

Strathcona's have traditionally filled the Ops O and Ops WO positions at The Saskatchewan Dragoons, but with the recently filled Transport NCO as well (not filled since the 90s), bringing our total numbers to three (3), we have become a more dominating presence within the small, but very active armoured reserve unit located in the pleasant town of Moose Jaw, SK.

Like all other RSS positions, we maintain the consistency of operations within the unit as the full-time staff, participating in all planning, coordination, and operations of both day-to-day activities and unit exercises. For those of us new to this foreign world, it can be a steep learning curve, but one that's well worth it. Secondary roles, double-hattedness and back-filling become so commonplace, most of us simply boil down our job description to 'We do Things'.

Even though we work at our reserve unit, attendance at all exercises is still mandatory for all Reg Force staff. This, at least, lets us experience a broad spectrum of training, from the standard army training, to the realization that Wednesday nights will never be our own for as long as we work here.

Two of the highlights during the past year would have to be Ex's Montana Rider and Alamo Bound. On Ex Montana Rider, we travelled to Little Bighorn, Montana on a Professional Development excursion to experience life as a US Cavalry soldier, complete with a Battlefield tour via horseback. Ex Alamo Bound went exactly as it may sound. While we may have left our coon-skin caps at home, we were able to engage our inner Davey Crockett as The Saskatchewan Dragoons defended and protected their Armoury against all sorts of enemy attacks, putting on quite the show for locals going about their daily business.

While we may be a little different, we do try to fit in. With **WO Al 'The Rocker' Pociuk** regularly, and bravely, touting his admiration for the Blue Bombers in this sacred land of Green, **MCpl Cane 'Two-a-day' Zwicker** reintroducing unarmed combat to the training schedule, and my personal efforts to revamp Exercise naming conventions that fall on deaf ears, I'd say our time thus far has been a success and a most enjoyable experience. We are appreciative of the opportunity to learn about a different world, and hope to continue learning, sharing our experiences with others.



***WO Al "I much prefer mechanical horses" Pociuk**
rides his horse across the Little Bighorn River*



Operation IMPACT

Erbil, Iraq: Where Ancient Meets Modern.

Captain Callum Smith

Operation Impact, the Canadian contribution to the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is in its third year. Begun in 2014, members of the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Army have worked tirelessly alongside their allies to roll back the startling advances of ISIS within Iraq. From Erbil, capital of the Kurdish territories in Iraq, the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJFLCC-OIR) that represents a coalition of over 50 nations, coordinates support for the northern portion of this battle. Erbil, home to the Citadel (a fortress purported to be the oldest continuously inhabited structure in the world), is a mixture of ancient wonders and modern construction, much like the conflict itself. Even in the midst of war, newly wrought skyscrapers join the ancient buildings in creating a unique view of past and present.



A ground war is waged a mere 40km away from the city, where Iraqi Army, Kurdish Peshmerga and various militias combine to drive deeper into ISIS' usurped territory, to liberate the last major city in Iraq: Mosul. This summer, the liberation process was focused on the Euphrates River Valley, with Falluja and Ramadi returning to Iraqi governance. While that campaign was waged, the north held firm behind the Kurdish Defensive Line, a series of earthen fortifications designed to neutralize the most lethal weapon in ISIS' arsenal: the Vehicles Borne Improvised Explosive Device. The KDL, a frontage of over 500km, connects mountain ranges in the east and north by siege walls that would not look out of place to Caesar, though the scale might have made him pause. Punctuated by Observation Posts, this line held ISIS at bay, forcing them to mass together in attempts to breach it. Once forced into the field, they fell prey to the modern fighter aircraft of the Coalition, where wave after wave of Coalition aircraft relentlessly scattered and drove them back into hiding.

Now it is the Iraqi and Kurdish forces that are on the move, a wave of liberations that began in July with the capture of Qayyarah and accelerating through October and November with Fil Fayl, Hamdaniyah, Bartallah and now Bashiqaq returned to friendly hands. With Coalition Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Attack Helicopters and Fighters in support, the Iraqi Army have breached the gates to Mosul. In the midst of this brutal conflict it is easy to forget, but every so often we are treated to the most beautiful sight to be seen on a Predator feed: children playing in the streets again after two years indoors.

Council of Captains - CPT Philpot CPT Hakala Capt Callum Smith





Operation UNIFIER

Major Mike Dullege

The story of how a small group of Strathconas was picked up for deployment on Roto 2 of Op UNIFIER is an interesting one that has more than a few twists. For example, having walked the Road to High Readiness through the beginning of 2016 with the 2nd Battalion PPCLI, I was tapped early to come over as the J3 Ops. Shortly thereafter, **MWO Cordell “Don’t Even Look at the Dogs” Boland** was picked up to come as the Camp Sergeant-Major. As all Strathconas know, more black hatters are always better than less. Just prior to deployment I was escalated to the J3 position for the Task Force. This new level gave me both the means and opportunity to execute my devious plan of slowly replacing the infantry with soldiers from the Regiment, the first of which was filling a gap with **Capt Sean “Three Piece” Coughlan**. Never satisfied with just one, I reached back through CJOC and requested four Strathcona soldiers to fill in for our D&S section over the course of members’ HLTA blocks. Once here, they occupied both transport around the area and, in classic Strathcona style, the canteen. As soon as the canteen began churning in the profit, my pitch for an additional three soldiers was an easy sell. Thus we have the two officers, **MWO Boland, MCpl Mitch “Show me how to Lift” Croxall**, and **Cpls Carlos “Not a Cuban” Gaona, Andrew “Canteen Queen” Radford, Christian “Can I stay here longer?” Maisonneuve, Matt “Can’t Play NHL 16” Feenstra, Blake “I can drive that!” Shepherd, and Ethan “Lost in Amsterdam” Fulljames**. Strathconas, as of writing this, represent 5% of Joint Task Force – Ukraine (JTF-U).

JTF-U oversees Canada’s military mission to aid Ukraine, a hotly contested but largely forgotten corner of the world. The role of the TF is to give and supervise military training designed to improve the capacity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) in support of Ukrainian sovereignty, security and stability. Canada has had a hand in developing Ukraine for over 20 years – both in terms of civil and military engagement. On the UNIFIER front, since July 2015 CAF personnel have given their all to continuing these efforts and moving the bar to the right inch by inch. There are seven lines of effort (LoE), all of which are coordinated through an NCSE. Each LoE answers a specific UAF requirement for training, and the combination of all seven has a profound effect on the UAF and Ukrainians writ large.

The impact these Strathconas had here in just a short time is plainly visible. Without these guys running the movement of the TF at all hours of the day, operations would likely grind to a crawl – as would sustainment. As well, **MCpl Croxall** is likely to replace an injured Patricia in LoE 1 (Small Team Training) where he will work hand-in-hand with the UAF training Battalion before they move into the Anti-Terrorist Operations (ATO) zone and into the fight.

While the days are indeed filled with dull moments, there’s rarely been a Strathcona soldier moving about the camp without a smile on his face. Each of us is proud to represent the Regiment and Canada abroad, and we’re happy to do it together. That being said, all of us experiences moments of internal sadness as we listen to the T-72 ranges underway not too far from our camp. Strathconas would, of course, make the best trainers for that particular skillset. I’m still working that piece though...



Operation REASSURANCE

Captain Karl Tams



"Arbeit Macht Frei", "Work Sets You Free". The sign over the main entrance to Auschwitz

It wasn't so long ago that I was sitting in my office, minding my own business, when **OC B Sqn, Maj Alex Nitu** burst through the door with an offer. About a month later I deployed as part of Op REASSURANCE Land Task Force (LTF) Roto 6, consisting of mainly of soldiers from 1 CMBG, based around A Coy 1 PPCLI.

My role is Liaison Officer embedded in the General Command of the Polish Armed Forces. General Command includes all members of the Polish Army, Air Force, Navy and Special Forces personnel not deployed on international operations. As part of my duties I am also linked in with

the Canadian Defence Attache's (CDA) office at the Embassy in Warsaw. Strathcona's aren't hard to find in Poland, as the current CDA is **Col Pascal Demers**, former Commanding Officer.

Poland was invaded three times during World War 2: by the Germans and Soviet Union in 1939 and the liberating Red Army in 1944/45. In fact, Hitler ordered the destruction of Warsaw and had tens of thousands of civilians murdered in revenge for the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. While this was destruction was occurring, the Red Army sat at the gates of Warsaw and let it all happen. In fact one-fifth of the population of Poland was killed during this war.

This story is also not unique to Poland. Hitler and Stalin were together responsible for approximately 14 million non-combatant deaths from 1933 to 1945 within the area of Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. After the defeat of the Third Reich, all these regions found themselves under Soviet dominance. It wasn't until after the breakup of the Soviet Union that these regions finally received their freedom. This is also a poignant reminder of how blessed Canadians are and also how we have a tendency to take our freedom for granted.

All this gives some background context to the LTF's mission to reinforce NATO's collective defence and demonstrate allied solidarity in the wake of Russia's involvement in the Crimean Conflict in Ukraine. It wasn't until I learned much more of region's history that I appreciated what Canada's presence in Poland means to not only Poland, but also the surrounding region.

Canadian soldiers of Roto 6 have participated in multinational exercises in Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Germany. They have also participated in numerous community events and Commonwealth Remembrance services representing Canada proudly in Poland and throughout the surrounding countries.

Personally, Poland is also a land of great beauty and interesting (albeit tragic) history. I have had the chance to explore Warsaw, Krakow (must see), Auschwitz (haunting reminder) and Malbork Castle (former home of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order in the 14th century) while on this deployment.

CDA's office at the Rakowicki Commonwealth Cemetery in Krakow.

This is the final resting place for 493 Commonwealth service man (including 15 Canadians).

From Left to Right: Capt Karl Tams, Col Pascal Demers, WO Lyne Paquet, Ambassador Stephen de Boer, and Maj Mike Bernardo.





Operation PROTEUS Roto 17

Capt Ahmad Jaradat

Strathcona's are well represented on Roto 17 of Operation PROTEUS (Task Force Jerusalem), making up three of the 21 positions deployed to the Jerusalem/West Bank. Following his term as Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG), **Brigadier-General Trevor Cadieu** leads the team as the Task Force Commander, with **Major Cam Meikle** serving as the Task Force Operations Officer, and **Captain Ahmad Jaradat** serving as the Deputy Jordan Training Officer. Working as part of a six country coalition, the members of Op PROTEUS fall under the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) mandate to professionalize and train Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF).

When not being confused as Locally Employed Staff member, I serve as the Deputy Jordan Training Officer, which sees me deploying to the Jordan International Police Training Centre (JIPTC) weekly, overseeing training delivered by Jordan Protective Service Directorate (PSD), and private security contractors to the PASF. Training encompasses numerous dismounted and mounted platoon and company level tactics, from Marksmanship Density Training, Advanced Training, and Hybrid Refresher Training. The PASF are put through various courses that range from one to six weeks in duration. These Security Forces are taught weapons handling, patrolling, convoy escorts and presence patrols through built up areas. This work is an effort to assist the Palestinian Authority to transform and professionalize their security sector, in order to build the security capacity of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. It is extremely rewarding in both a professional and personal manner. Having family that currently reside in the West Bank, I find the deployment to be gratifying in that I am able to personally assist these members in their professionalization.

Meanwhile, as the J3 (or Operations Officer) of the task force, **Cam Meikle** is earning his new Majors pay as the Officer Commanding of our National Support Element. In addition to supporting the members of the Op PROTEUS team, **Cam** is helping the boss to assume greater responsibility for Canadian Armed Forces operations throughout the region.

Op PROTEUS is also the first opportunity where I have been able to truly appreciate "Whole of Government" approach to operations. The team has daily contact with the Canadian Embassies across the region and helps synchronize resources from the Department of National Defence, Global Affairs Canada, and Non-Governmental Organization in an effort to improve the quality of training and efficiency of PASF. This relationship is not one-way, as Canadians from all agencies work together to meet our respective goals in the region. This was shown when Op PROTEUS provided transport support to the Canadian Embassy to move the Prime Minister and his party to attend the funeral of the late President Shimon Peres. This, along with an RCMP member on the Op PROTEUS team, I can truly appreciate how all Canadians and all governmental departments come together to achieve common aims.

Now that you know how hard the Strathcona team has been working in the Middle East, don't forget that we happily accept care packages from Canada...protein powder is expensive here. All kidding aside, the three of us are proud to represent the Strathcona family in the Middle East and look forward to seeing the Regimental family soon.

*Maj Cam Meikle and Capt Ahmad Jaradat
take a closer look at an Israeli Merkava Tank.
Photo by: Maj Cam Meikle*



Extra Regimentally Employed

BGen	Cadieu	T.J.	Op Proteus	Maj	Rogers	M.D.	3 Can Div
BGen	Kelsey	S.R.	CFB Kingston	Maj	Selberg	M.E.	CMTC
BGen	Macaulay	D.A.	CA HQ	Maj	Senft	D.J.	MarPac HQ Esq
Col	Demers	P.P.J.	Canadian Defence	Maj	Volstad	M.C.	41 CBG HQ
			Attaché Poland	Maj	Wright	S.R.	3 CDSG Edm
Col	Major	J.J.	USAREUR HQ	Maj	Young	C.J.	CADTC
Col	Parsons	D.R.	CADTC	Capt	Anderson	J.A.	1 CMBG
Col	Peyton	P.J.	USAWC	Capt	Bamford	G.	CTC HQ
LCol	Adams	C.R.	CDLS(W)	Capt	Bentley	M.D.R.L.	RMC
LCol	Chenette	D.J.	CFD	Capt	Bugg	N.B.	CMTC
LCol	Cochrane	J.L.	CFB Shilo	Capt	Carter-Wright	D.W.	1 CMBG
LCol	Connolly	M.A.	Fort Leavenworth	Capt	Collings	T.L.	5 CDSB Language School
LCol	Gifford	S.W.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Couture	S.G.	BCR
LCol	Kirstein	V.G.	CTC HQ G3	Capt	Daley	J.A.	BCD
LCol	MacEachern	E.G.	CMTC Det Kingston	Capt	Dullege	M.C.	Op Unifier
LCol	MacIntyre	A.D.	C Army DLR	Capt	Dunn	L.A.	NORAD HQ
LCol	Padvaiskas	E.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Dwyer	A.C.	RCACS
LCol	Pickell	P.G.	JSCSC Army Div-UK	Capt	Frizzell	L.A.	IPSC Calgary
LCol	Rankin	R.C.	CADTC HQ	Capt	Hoffat	M.	RCACS
LCol	Steward	R.T.	CFB Esquimalt	Capt	Jaradat	A.	1 CMBG
Maj	Angell	E.D.	CFD-DCI 3-3	Capt	Johnson	B.S.	CAAWC
Maj	Barnett	M.A.	NDHQ	Capt	Jung	H.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Batty	T.A.	Tac Sch	Capt	Kaye	M.A.	RCACS
Maj	Boates	J.S.	RCACS	Capt	Kenny	A.M.	1 MP Regiment
Maj	Callens	K.I.	3 Can Div	Capt	King	S.A.	CMTC
Maj	Chiasson	R.P.	JTFN Yellowknife	Capt	Lewis	O.T.	FGH
Maj	Cooper	R.A.	1 CMBG	Capt	Lund	R.I.	3 CDSB
Maj	Corbett	B.D.	NDHQ	Capt	MacInnis	M.J.	RCACS
Maj	Cronk	D.R.	RCACS	Capt	MacLean	S.C.	JASIC 1 DIV HQ
Maj	Day	T.W.F.	3 Cdn Div HQ	Capt	McGuinness	S.J.	5 CDSG Det Aldershot
Maj	Deatcher	W.S.	CJOC	Capt	McTavish	M.	KOCR
Maj	Douglas	M.R.N.	CMTC	Capt	Meikle	C.W.	Task Force Jerusalem
Maj	Dyck	G.A.	CADTC	Capt	Miller	J.L.E.E.	CMTC
Maj	Elkorazati	I. M.	NATO Land Command	Capt	Morison	D.G.	IPSC Det North Bay
Maj	Fifield	C.S.	CACSC	Capt	Pano	M.G.	RCACS
Maj	Froess	M.D.	CADTC HQ	Capt	Penney	C.S.	5 CDSG
Maj	Frost-Kell	E.J.S.	CADTC HQ	Capt	Pett	T.D.	3 CDSG
Maj	Gardner	C.S.	United Kingdom Defence Academy	Capt	Prince	C.E.J.	3 Cdn Div TC
Maj	Gray	D.M.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Raju	A.A.	RMC
Maj	Grodzinski	J.R.	RMC	Capt	Reiten	K.A.	IPSC Wx
Maj	Hayward	V.F.	3 Cdn Div	Capt	Rickard	J.N.	CACSC
Maj	Holmes	S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	Rogozinski	S.J.	3 Can Div HQ
Maj	Hunter	J.R.	JPSU NB/PEI	Capt	Simpson	B.R.	1 RCHA
Maj	Kim	J.M.J.	CA HQ	Capt	Smith	C.T.	1 CMBG
Maj	Lacroix	T.A.	3rd Cdn Div TC	Capt	Stachow	P.F.	CFRC Det Kingston
Maj	Lakatos	M.A.	Cyber FD	Capt	Tams	K.D.	Warsaw
Maj	Mallette	M.J.D.	VCDS Group HQ	Capt	Tapp	L.B.	RCACS
Maj	McEwen	J.R.F.	CCSB	Capt	Tardiff	A.D.	RCACS
Maj	McKenzie	R.D.	CACSC	Capt	Walters	D.R.	CTC
Maj	McMurachy	M.A.	4 CDTC Meaford	Capt	Webster	P.J.	IPSC Calgary/TMM
Maj	Nguyen	J.	1 CMBG	Capt	Whalley	C.D.	CFB Suffield
Maj	Nolan	C.O.	US Army School of Advanced Military Studies	Capt	Williams	D.P.	CACSC
Maj	Onieu	M.G.	CFD	Capt	Wiome	E.J.	CATEU
Maj	Quinlan	C.J.	CJOC HQ	Capt	Wright	D.M.	Sask D
				Capt	Yang	R.	HQ 1 CMBG
				Lt	Rice	J.A.	IPSC Edm
				OCdt	Clackson	T.M.	BTL

CWO Batty	A.S.	AJAG Edm	WO Vigar	R.T.	408 Sqn
CWO Crabb	W.J.	1 CMBG	WO Williams	M.R.	1st Cdn Div
CWO Hall	D.W.	CADTC HQ	WO Young	R.C.	5 Cdn Div TC
CWO Holland	T.C.	5 CDTC	Sgt Baker	G.I.	IPSC Edmonton
CWO Laughlin	W.A.	5 CDSG	Sgt Baldwin	T.	3 CDSG Edm
CWO Stacey	R.	Strategic Joint Staff	Sgt Brister	D.	1st Cdn Div
MWO Boland	C.J.	Op Unifier	Sgt Bulmer	C.J.	RCACS
MWO Chenier	M.A.R.	ATL Edm	Sgt Carnevale	G.C.	3 CDTC
MWO Hill	L.R.	DCSEM	Sgt Chatzikirou	D.N.	CANSOFCOM
MWO Hopkin	T.W.	3 CDSG	Sgt Craig	M.W.D.	LFAA TC
MWO Screen	S.R.	CFB Borden	Sgt Davidson	C.A.	3 Cdn Div TC
WO Barker	C.C.	RCACS	Sgt Doucette	J.F.	3 Cdn Div
WO Barker	D.T.	RCACS	Sgt Goobie	J.A.	RCACS
WO Christopoulos	L.B.	Peace Support Training Centre	Sgt Guilbeault	Y.D.	CFLRS
			Sgt Gushue	J.A.J.	RCACS
WO Clark	J.B.	IPSC/JPSU	Sgt Hamilton	J.B.	CFLRS
WO Clarke	J.C.	FGH	Sgt Hawes	J.C.	CFRC Halifax
WO Denson	M.I.	KOCR	Sgt Helliwell	J.M.	RCACS
WO Eady	C.	RCACS	Sgt Hodgson	K.E.	RCACS
WO Encinas	L.E.	SALH	Sgt Hornby	C.G.	RCACS
WO Flanagan	S.D.	PEIR	Sgt Ives	P.B.	CTC HQ
WO Gratto	M.A.L.	RCACS	Sgt Knott	O.W.	3 Cdn Div
WO Holmes	B.E.	3 CDSB Edm	Sgt Leaman	L.W.	JPSU
WO Koestlmaier	M.P.	JPSU	Sgt McGarity	M.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar
WO MacNeill	M.C.	BCR			Wx
WO McGregor	J.I.	CTC HQ	Sgt McMurtry	D.J.	JPSU
WO McLoughlin	S.P.	RCACS	Sgt Murdoch	D.S.	JPSU
WO Miller	N.C.	RCACS	Sgt Murphy	B.N.	RCACS
WO Moon	G.C.	RCACS	Sgt Parsons	S.M.	5 CDTC
WO Pociuk	A.A.	Sask D	Sgt Pickell	E.J.	CANSOFCOM
WO Ross	B.A.	RCACS	Sgt Reid	N.A.	CFB Borden
			Sgt Ribert	J.J.	CFRLS
			Sgt Rushton	R.J.	RCACS
			Sgt Sebo	R.G.	CFRS Calgary (Edm)
			Sgt van Heerden	L.W.	BCR
			MCpl Adby	R.R.	CFB Suffield
			MCpl Chevalier	P.A.C.	CFLRS
			MCpl Collier	C.F.	CFLRS
			MCpl Collier	C.J.	CFLRS)
			MCpl Crowe	K.A.	KOCR
			MCpl Desjardins	J.E.	5 Cdn Div TC
			MCpl Gironne	M.J.J.K.	CFLRS
			MCpl Graham	F.J.	3 Cdn Div
			MCpl Harvey De Roy	E.	CFLRS
			MCpl Heisz	L.R.	RCACS
			MCpl Icala	A.L.	CMTC
			MCpl Jesse	K.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar
					Wx
			MCpl Johnson	J.A.	QYR
			MCpl Lahay	D.W.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar
					Wx
			MCpl Lister	A.Q.	JPSU
			MCpl Loft	B.R.	RCACS
			MCpl MacFarlane	N.J.C.	CFB Trenton
			MCpl Marchand	T.S.	RCACS
			MCpl Myers	L.B.	RCACS
			MCpl Nancarrow	J.M.	CMTC
			MCpl Oliver	C.R.J.	CFB Suffield
			MCpl Paskuski	T.M.	3 Cdn Div
			MCpl Pasuta	R.A.	FGH

"Come to Gagetown they said, get out of the Wainwright dust for good..."
Cpl Alex Atwood completes another road move from the training area
(Photo Credit: WO Stew McLoughlin)



MCpl	Peachey	M.	BCD	Cpl	Jobin	C.Y.	RCACS
MCpl	Poitras	S.	CMTC	Cpl	Jones	W.D.	RCACS
MCpl	Royes	D.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar	Cpl	Kiomall	C.T.J.	CFB Kingston
			Wx	Cpl	Lang	I.	RCACS
MCpl	Silcox	T.G.C.	WATC	Cpl	MacIsaac	R.S.	RCACS
MCpl	Smith	R.W.	CMTC	Cpl	MacKinnon	S.D.	RCACS
MCpl	St Aubin	J.A.J.	CFB Kingston	Cpl	McKinnon	D.J.	CMTC
MCpl	Stewart	C.M.	CFB Trenton	Cpl	McQueen	T.J.	CFB Suffield
MCpl	Usher	A.J.	CFS Leitrum	Cpl	Mekhail	S.Y.	CFC
MCpl	Walsh	P.W.	RCACS	Cpl	Mosher	T.R.	RCACS
MCpl	Wright	K.W.T.	SALH	Cpl	Mountford	R.T.	5 CDSB
MCpl	Zwicker	H.C.	Sask D	Cpl	Murray	R.W.	RCACS
Cpl	Allman	M.G.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Parsons	A.N.	RCACS
Cpl	Anderson	S.T.	RCACS	Cpl	Ringnette	L.L.	RCACS
Cpl	Atwood	A.C.P.	RCACS	Cpl	Riopelle	F.L.	3 CDSG Edm
Cpl	Aube	D.G.J.	CFLRS	Cpl	Salazar	E.M.	CMTC
Cpl	Bellegarde	A.N.R.	3 CDSB	Cpl	Seppenwoolde	J.W.	CFB Trenton
Cpl	Bertin	Y.	5 CDSG	Cpl	Shwetz	S.H.D.	RCACS
Cpl	Bishop	K.H.	RCACS	Cpl	Sirois	M.M.R.	The Windsor Regiment
Cpl	Booth	J.J.J.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar	Cpl	Smith	P.J.	RCACS
			Wx	Cpl	Smith	D.R.	RCACS
Cpl	Brough	S.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Steeves	D.	RCACS
Cpl	Brown	D.L.M.	CMTC	Cpl	Stevenson	D.E.	RCACS
Cpl	Brunskill	M.	RCACS	Cpl	Stevenson	J.P.	RCACS
Cpl	Buell	T.B.D.	JPSU	Cpl	Strong	S.S.	RCACS
Cpl	Chaperon	A.	JPSU	Cpl	Sturgess		RCACS
Cpl	Cook	R.T.	RCACS	Cpl	Sundelin	C.R.	RCACS
Cpl	Cook	A.E.M.	RCACS	Cpl	Thomas	S.G.	RCACS
Cpl	Currie	M.A.	CFB Trenton	Cpl	Tremblay	E.	JPSU
Cpl	Dunphy	K.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Tremblett	M.	JPSU Edm
Cpl	Ellis	T.W.	RCACS	Cpl	Vachon	A.M.	CFLRS
Cpl	Ellis	S.P.W.	3 CDSB	Cpl	Vaillancourt	B.L.	RCACS
Cpl	Farquharson	T.R.	CMTC	Cpl	Van Kleef	C.L.	RCACS
Cpl	Ferguson	K.	3 Cdn Div TC	Cpl	York	K.J.	RCACS
Cpl	Ferguson	R.L.	RCACS	Tpr	Evers	W.J.	RCACS
Cpl	Francis	G.A.	RCACS	Tpr	Fabischek	N.F.	RCACS
Cpl	Gallo	D.B.	RCACS	Tpr	Gallo	D.	RCACS
Cpl	Gnabs	J.R.D.	JPSU	Tpr	Houle	R.P.A.	RCACS
Cpl	Graves	J.A.	RCACS	Tpr	Leblanc	J.J.	JPSU
Cpl	Gross	S.C.	RCACS	Tpr	McCabe	J.	CFLRS
Cpl	Hansen	S.R.	RCACS	Tpr	Mireault	S.	RCACS
Cpl	Harding	I.G.	CMTC	Tpr	Munro	J.	RCACS
Cpl	Hayes	T.P.	CMTC	Tpr	Plante	J.P.	RCACS
Cpl	Hoyt	G.S.	RCACS	Tpr	Price	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Hurley	A.J.	3 CDSG	Tpr	St-Onge	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Jesse	M.R.	CMTC				

*Cpl Matt Sebo receiving his departure scroll from
Comd CFB Suffield and RSM Richard Stacey*





Messing and Social



The Mariner Room

Major Matthew Johns

The quiet gurgle of coffee makers, the wheezing of toaster springs, and the gentle scrape of knife on toast – these are the sounds of culture and decorum. These are the sounds of the Mariner Room.

Within the hallowed halls of the Officers' rest-easy is a world of class and donuts; many, many donuts. It is there that the *subbies* come together to quietly mock their superiors, debating their out of touch hairdos and insufficiently advanced cellular phones. The *suffering six*, Battle Captains and Squadron Seconds-in-Command, cast envious glances at the “*adults*” table, while solving all the Army's problems before lunch. The *Big Three* simply don't bother coming to coffee, so busy they are with the running of the Regiment. Finally, the OCs jockey for position, each eyeing the donut tray, desperate to avoid the cream filled “battle with self-respect” donut, so as not to embarrass themselves before the CO.

The gilt and jewel encrusted baton of PMC was handed off from **Maj Sandy** “*Still somehow PMC of something*” **Cooper** to **Maj Matt** “*That bill hasn't been paid yet?*” **Johns** in June of 2016, surely to the delight of the outgoing PMC. Similarly, the burden of planning and executing absolutely everything shifted from **Capt Cam** “*Not that one*” **Ross** to **Lt Leland** “*Juice Box*” **Kirkham**, ensuring that the cycle of hate and suffering could find a new victim.

Shouldering the responsibility of being the Regiment's face with the local community the Mariner Room once again hosted a delightful Business Lunch in August. Leveraging the opportunity to build strong relationships with leaders and business people, including such luminaries as the Honourable **Laurie Hawn**, retired LCol and chairman of Edmonton Salutes, retired Senator the Honourable **Tommy Banks**, Korean War Veteran **Harry Pinchin**, and the chairs of the No Stone Left Alone Foundation, **Randall and Maureen Purvis**, the Mariner Room also welcomed our new Commander of 3rd Canadian Division, **BGen Simon “MCpl” Hetherington** to the Army of the West. Having never ventured to Edmonton, the General was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to crush a Mercury Sable beneath the iron shod boot of a Strathcona Leopard 2A4 (which he crew commanded), much to the delight of the crowd!

As the cultural touchstone for the Regimental officers, the Mariner Room also organized a delightful meet and greet at the Central Social Hall in September. Contrary to howls of dismay of **Maj Paul** “*I live downtown*” **Leonard**, the casual get together achieved mission success, even in the wastes of St Albert.

As the harsh days of winter set upon the Regiment, the Mariner Room gathered its flock from across Western Canada to attend the annual celebration of all things armoured: *Black Hat Week*. Persevering through briefings, lectures and the perpetually soul crushing meetings with the career manager, the officers who wear the black beret met to celebrate our cavalry glory. This year's dinner was highlighted by the dining out of two Regimental legends, **LCol Trevor “Goose” Gosselin** and **Maj Rob “17 Again” Hume**. In fine tradition the meal was capped off with a superb performance by **Lt Dan** “*I killed that toast*” **Dixon** who engaged in what is sure to be an epic rap battle of history with **Maj Matt** “*No Mr Vice, you're Mr Vice*” **Johns** over control of the gavel.

Itemized list of damaged and replaced goods for FY 2016:

- 19 x Strathcona mugs
- 4 x subalterns (strangely we only ever received compensation for two)
- 2 x coffee makers
- 2 x coffee carafes
- 1 x dishwasher
- 1 x Mess Secretary



The gift to the Mariner Room by the outgoing officers of 2016, ensuring that class is maintained.



The Sarcee Room

Warrant Officer Martin Levis

2016 was a busy year that has flown by. The WO's and Sgt's of the Sarcee Room started the year with the Mixed Candlelight Dinner at West Edmonton Mall. With the help of former PMC, **WO Melanie Parent**, **WO Chris Zubkowski** succeeded in delivering a beautiful event which everyone enjoyed tremendously. The following month we held our annual Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner. With the assistance of **Sgt Mike Doody**, acting PMC **WO Larry Troop** was able to put on a fantastic meal followed by the usual toasts and Regimental marches. We'd like to thank **WO Dwaine (Bobby) Barker** for providing the entertainment for the evening. Isn't that right **Cari-Ann**!

This past summer we were privileged to see **RSM Rob Clarke**, promoted to CWO and take over the Regiment as RSM. As he moved upstairs, we were able to welcome back **MWO Leigh Taylor** as TQMS. During the CoC parade **WO Melanie Parent** became the first female in Regimental history to escort the Guidon.

We were pleased to welcome many new faces into the Sarcee Room throughout the year. As **MWO Kevin King** would say, "in no particular order" **WO Steve Churchill**, **WO Ed Morley**, **WO Tim Stanistreet**, **WO Sean Thompson**, **Sgt Mark Lewis**, **WO JD Harper**, **WO Alex Urquhart**, and **Sgt Tim Murray**.

With no exception from previous years, we did have to say good-bye to five members who chose the path of retirement. Lots of experience will be missed with the retirement of **Sgt Mark Thomas**, **WO Ryan Thomas**, **Sgt Justin Bustard**, **WO Jason Pargeter**, and **WO T.J. Stanistreet**. Not only did we wish farewell to those soldiers, but also to those who were posted throughout Canada: **WO C.C. Barker**, **WO D.T. Barker**, **Sgt Gushue**, **WO Clarke**, **Sgt Murphy**, **WO Vigar**, **WO Holmes** (let's see how much French he really learns), **Sgt Van Heerden** (really to Vancouver...), **Sgt Jahn**, **Sgt Murdoch**, **Sgt McMurtry**, **MWO MacKinnon**, **MWO Clayson** and **CWO Batty**. **MWO Clayson** arrived here summer 2011 as the RQMS, and is now off to HQ 3rd Cdn Div.

Big thanks to **Maj Matt Johns** and the Mariner Room for hosting this years "At Home". By the end of the festivities both messes were tied going into the annual Christmas sports day. It was a Mariner Room lead winning both the Ice Hockey and Broomball events in the morning. However, the Sarcee Room evened things up by winning Lacrosse and Handball in the afternoon. So it all came down to the tie-breaker. As the tie-breaker, **WO Trevor McQuhae** defeated **Capt Phil Buckingham** in arm wrestling to take the prize.

*The Sarcee Room Members
March 2016*





The Green Point Lounge

Master Corporal Justin Monge

The Green Point Lounge was established to provide a common area in the Regiment for Master Corporals to socialize, meet and most importantly to relax throughout the day. This past year was quite a busy one for the GPL as the Regiment was on the Road to High Readiness to lead a Battle Group for the first time in nearly two decades. This year welcomed a new wave of Master Corporals (including yours truly) and said farewell to those who joined the Sarcee Room.

As the Road to High Readiness continued for much of the Regiment, we saw many of our members instructing Leopard Gunnery and Leopard 2 Crew Commander Gunnery courses, just to name a few. Despite being tasked with these courses as either an instructor or student, most were held “in house” and as usual, morale was kept high during our breaks in between.

This year’s Master Corporals Annual Golf Tournament was hosted by the Green Point Lounge in support of the Women in Need House. The event was held at the Hunters Green Golf Club and yet again, proved to be a huge success as it drew a large crowd of past and present members of the Regiment. The work the mess’ members put into the event cannot be measured in words, as we managed to raise \$2400 for the charity. With the success of the golf tournament, we continued to enjoy the rest of our day sharing stories over a pint at the Beer Hunter.

Much to the happiness of the Master Corporals in the Green Point Lounge, we finally installed our very first Kegerator. On 17 Nov 2016, **MCpl Justin Monge** poured the first cup for the anxious members of the mess, all of whom were “patiently” waiting for their opportunity. This was a crowning achievement for the mess as each member deserved to be rewarded with the finer things in life.

Following Summer leave, our annual Mess Meeting was held to elect new members to the board, which saw: **MCpl Justin Monge** as the new PMC, **MCpl Chris Clegg** as the new VPMC, **MCpl Henry Chen** as the Treasurer, **MCpl Curtis Romkey** as the Secretary and lastly, **MCpl Jesse Bolzan** as the new Housing Representative.

As a brand-new committee, we look forward to ensuring the legacy of the Green Point Lounge continue to flourish in the year to come.





The Track Pad

Corporal Jan Makula

This past year marks an exciting year with the implementation of many exciting changes to the Track Pad, but I'll get to that later. This year the Tpr's and Cpl's of the regiment proved yet again that our Regiment and Brigade are the best in the Army. As usual, we demonstrated our steely determination and our superior warrior spirit while giving the RCD's a lesson on the true meaning of speed and violence during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2016. The Regiment once again proved that we are indeed the best and ready for any potential deployment during our tenure as part of the high readiness brigade. During the fall of 2016 we returned to our familiar battle ground of Wainwright to practice and maintain our skills during Ex STEELE SABLRE and Ex STEELE PANTHER 16.

This year was a momentous year for the track pad. For the first time ever, we have mess dues implemented for all the Tprs and Cpls in the regiment! So far your mess dues have been put to work creating free lunches, minor improvements to the track pad and free coffee for all! New for this year is the creation of the annual Trooper Funk games thanks to the hard work and dedication of your VPMC **Cpl Brandyn Tomayer**. This activity is now part of the silly week festivities at the regiment and will serve as a means to improve comradery among the new troopers and other members of the Track Pad. The event consists of a series of games and is designed to challenge the participants physically and with Regimental knowledge questions. None of this would be possible without your mess dues. For 2017, we hope to organize many new events and continue to provide the occasional free lunch. This year we hope to continue our excellence in sport by dominating once again during the Christmas sports day, much to the detriment and frustration of the GPL, our main competitor.

As we look back on the year we can reflect on many new challenges and the success of the implementations of mess dues. The dues have allowed for the revival of the Track Pad as a social hub to rival the Green Point Lounge and the Sarcee Room. The year has quickly come to a close and the time is soon approaching for your board of directors to hand over the torch to a new generation. This new board will be left with the tools and ability to improve on the framework that has been laid down. I think I speak for all of us when I say that the future of the Track Pad looks very promising and I look forward to seeing what new and fresh ideas are down the road.



Trooper Funk Games



Trooper Funk Competition

Corporal Brandyn Tomayer

This year the Track Pad decided to start a new tradition, a competition to decide which Trooper reigned supreme in the Regiment. The goal of this competition was to build a sense of belonging within the junior ranks of the Regiment. In days of yore, all new Troopers went through initiation; however the tradition had fallen off in the last few years. Soldiers from years past would tell tales of glory about the things they did that would shock the new Troopers coming in. So we decided to reintroduce the initiation, in the form of a game, for the new soldiers of 2016. The Corporal Mafia (Trackpad Board of Directors), spent many hours discussing and planning the event amongst themselves, and with the senior leadership of the Regiment. After much work, it was ready to go



Tpr David 'The Champ' Gillis in the final round

The games were set to start on the afternoon of December 12th.

The games were divided into five stands. The first stand was called the Revolutionary War. Two teams of twenty junior ranks with one Officer using paint ball guns in the Recce hanger take turns shooting volleys of paintballs at one another. Under orders from their Troop Leaders, they teams exchanged fire. Things got very interesting when one team started using their own "dead" as cover to hide behind. This game ended with many bruises and paint stains that the Troopers could cherish with pride.

Second stand was called Strathcona Gladiators. Teams would compete in an American Gladiator's style obstacle course. It involved a tire flip to a basketball shootout, the whole time having three Gladiators trying to stop them. The whole stand concluded with a Pugal Stick fight to determine the winner. In full gear they ran headlong into the gladiators. The gladiators showed no mercy, and decimated some of the Troopers. With helmets flying off and more than one guy going head over heels, it was quite brutal to watch.

Third Stand consisted of tank tarps across the floor of Recce hanger covered in soap and water. The objective was for Troopers to slide (in POL suits) across the tarps to knock over empty water cans in a sort of Trooper bowling. The troopers they ran full tilt, jumped through the air and crashed head first in to the "pins." I don't think I've ever seen a better example of sacrificing the body.

Fourth stand was a bit more dangerous. Sitting on a box that is sitting on a cart, competitors would be pushed by their team mates to joust one another with pugle sticks. The troopers were of course wearing as much protective gear as we could acquire. As passes were made, you could feel the whole room hold its breath, and as soon as contact was heard the place would erupt. Surprisingly everyone seemed to walk away unharmed.

Stand five was a mental challenge for the competitors. Pitted against each in a battle over regimental history, the winners advanced to the next round while the losers were forced to do a shot of scorpion hot sauce. For those who were not sharp on their Regimental history, this stand proved to be the most agonizing.

The final stand was only for a select few. Over the entire games we had accounted points for all the Troopers involved. The top three got to compete. Attached to the wall with bungee cords the troopers would have to reach out to grab then consume beverages placed on boxes at different distances. There were a couple of nasty falls with competitor getting swept back all the way to the wall, but each Trooper completed the task. With times of completion accounted we crowned a winner. **Tpr David "The Champ" Gillis** of A Sqn walked away with the title of top Trooper.





Subbies Corner

Captain Michael Labrecque



Lt Alex Neshcov sharing a beer during the Regt'l Smoker with our American Brothers in Arms following completion of Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 16.

bolstering from our brothers in arms across the pond. Strathcona Subbies were pleased to welcome the addition of **Lt Dave “Dapper” Clarkson**, who arrived in August from the Royal Lancers. His knowledge of Reconnaissance tactics, techniques, and procedures went to immediate use as he was employed within Recce Sqn as a Troop Leader. This unique opportunity proved pivotal in solidifying and broadening our understanding of Subaltern life in another Armoured Regiment. **Dave** has bettered us all with his tales of such magnificent proportions that they begin to rival the stories cherished by the more senior Officers within the Regiment. His indoctrination into our Canadian way of living came to an exciting culmination while sitting at his first Thanksgiving dinner, reciting a historically accurate account of what the day represents to Canadian's, and highlighting how ironic it was that he was participating in such an event while being attach posted to a Canadian Unit.

After the return from Ex STEELE PANTHER 16, the Subbies participated in the annual Subbies Ride Course, where they would be put through the ringer with the experienced soldiers of our Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop, learning the ins and outs of horsemanship. This uniquely Strathcona opportunity is held close as a rite of passage for all Officers of the Regiment. We gained eternal respect and appreciation for the skill required by our Cavalry ancestors, as evidenced by **Lt Alex Neshcov's** mangled foot and corresponding limp, an injury sustained from several unintentional dismounts.

All in all, 2016 was another exciting and eventful year for Strathcona Subbies. Filled with confidence from a very busy year of training, they are looking forward to the next batch of newly minted Subbies to arrive at the Regiment. Then they can take their turn passing on Regimental traditions, such as the joy that can be found in a well-polished piece of silver, or the importance of being able to navigate the tunnels under the EGOM in near pitch black conditions.

As is the case every year, 2016 saw the hoisting of new faces aboard the Strathcona Subaltern Train. Wide eyed, full of wonder, and inundated with stories of Subbies past by the Big 3 and OC's alike, new Subbies blew fish kisses to the world as they entered the Harvey Building for the first time. Traditions were passed along, coffee was made (meeting the absolute minimal acceptable standard), and duties completed as the Regiment prepared to deploy to CFB Wainwright on Ex PROMETHIAN RAM and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2016.

As the Regiment returned from Wainwright, so did the traditions of Subaltern life, albeit with some



Lt Alex Neshcov, Capt Sean Coughlan, Capt Eric Giagnorio, and Lt Dan Dixon enjoying tasty beverage's during the Calgary Stampede



Strathcona Ladies

Kim Clarke and Marie Lubiniecki

Naturally, Marie and I were quite nervous to take on the task of organizing several Strathcona Ladies events over the course of the next few years, but at the same time, both excited and honoured to step into the big set of shoes previously filled by a dedicated **Kathy Batty** – and several other Commanding Officer's spouses over the years.

With the task in hand, and much appreciated advice provided by Kathy, our first order of business was creating a committee. Our committee, comprised of **Kelly Taylor; Kim Mills; Krista Johns; Dayle Pett; Rhyd Rocchillo** and **Seema King** excitedly accepted with smiles (I'm sure some were fake!) and started coming up with ideas for the 2016/17 year. We brainstormed ideas, and once the votes were cast and counted, set to organizing the schedule.

September kicked-off with an 'ice-breaker' meet & greet coordinated by **Dayle Pett** and followed with a fitness class put-on by none other than the RSM himself. Every Tues and Thurs evening the RHQ hangar transformed into a fitness circuit, and where some ladies were nervous, we quickly got into the groove and kicked some serious butt as the RSM yelled (in a nice way) to test our limits. Each class designed as a different challenge, and simply meant as an excuse to bring ladies together, **Sgt Tom Underwood, Sgt Gerri-Ann Davidson** and **MCpl Tanya Graham** also took turns showing us several modern ways to improve (torture) our bodies.

Kelly Taylor took the reins in October and delivered an exceptional crafting class at which we turned old wooden pallets into artistic 'welcome signs' for our homes. An awesome turnout of over 30 people, I can't believe how talented so many people are! It was so successful; we've had several requests to put on another class.

Maintaining the momentum, November was a busy month for the group as **Krista Johns** led a group consisting of **Philippine Smith; Amanda Doupe; Marcus Doupe** and I who assembled Christmas packages for soldiers deployed overseas which gladly arrived just in time. Following that, **Marie Lubiniecki** organized a fantastic 'Paint Night' at the Garrison Golf Club that saw over 30 attendees and so many talented ladies. Finally, not to be outdone, **James Graham** came to the Sarcee Room and instructed the ladies in the fine art of making customized Christmas cards. I couldn't believe how well they turned out...and because of it, I actually sent out Christmas cards this year!

To round off the year, the ladies mounted a sponsored bus and made a trip south to Spruce Meadows for the International Craft show for some shopping and eating! No rest for the ladies as I came prepared with Strathcona trivia and a purse 'scavenger hunt' to pass the time. A great time was had by almost 35 ladies, a great turnout and testament to the strength of the Strathcona family.

In closing, we're very excited and looking forward to a great 2017 with several activities already planned or in the planning stages. If you're not already onboard and a member of the group, you can find us through 'Strathcona Ladies' on Facebook. Hope to see you soon!





The Royal Lancers

Captain Tom Pritchard



Brettville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery

It has become a bit of a trope to describe the past year as having been busy, and whilst not to do so now might be to do it a disservice, perhaps a better description would be disjointed. The year began slowly enough with some build-up gunnery training followed by a deployment to Castlemartin Ranges in Wales, where each Squadron took it in turns to put 30mm rounds into the Irish Sea via some 'fall when hit' targets. Following this the Regiment split down and separated. The Royal Lancers Battlegroup with C and D Squadrons deployed to the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Alberta. We were to provide the enemy for two sequential Armoured Infantry Battlegroups over the course of a three month stay. As ever, playing enemy was infinitely more fun than being 'exercising-troops' and we were able to play around with our tactics, techniques and procedures in order to make life difficult for our opponents. We were, of course, a training tool and not trying to 'win'; but the competitive streak was not buried deep.

Between the two exercises the majority of the deployed Regiment were released into Canada for some R&R whilst a small team headed to Edmonton to visit the pre-eminent Canadian Armoured Regiment. We were solicitously hosted and after 48 hours, having taken in the mall and some of Edmonton's finest establishments under the wing of some of the more adventurous members of the Strathcona's, the majority of the group returned poorer but happier to Suffield, leaving the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major to attend the Change of Command ceremony between **Lieutenant Colonel Josh Major** and **Lieutenant Colonel Mark Lubiniecki**. They returned with tales of the braking skills of the Strathcona's tank drivers and of a parade so hot that the sunward side of their shoes melted polish. The Regimental Headquarters, C and D Squadrons returned to the UK in July in exchange for B Squadron who deployed to BATUS to play enemy as part of another battlegroup for the second half of the four-exercise series. They too did their best to make life difficult for the exercising troops and to make the most of their time to Canada. In September we visited the D Day landing sites on Exercise BOCAGE LANCER culminating in a visit to the Brettville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery.

In October and November A Squadron got their turn as they deployed on Exercise WESSEX STORM in Norfolk and then on Salisbury Plain to be the enemy for 4 SCOTS battlegroup. Their exercise was an equal opportunity for training but with fewer mosquitoes, more rain and less glamorous R&R.

It was November by the time the majority of the Regiment was back together although without **Lt David Clarkson** who we sent to LdSH(RC) to gain a Canadian perspective on life and to learn some *Perseverance*. In between catching up with each other and a mad rush of paperwork, the ground rush of Christmas leave fast approached. On the last day before we broke up we said goodbye to **Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Mudd DSO** who had commanded the Royal Lancers since its creation on the amalgamation of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) and the Queen's Royal Lancers in May 2015. He has been succeeded by **Lieutenant Colonel Henry Searby OBE**, as we enter our training year, which will culminate in another trip to Suffield, this time as exercising troops.

Death or Glory



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