

THE STRATHCONIAN



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(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2013



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The Strathconian

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Lieutenant-Colonel P.J. Peyton, MSM, CD
Commanding Officer

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Message From the Colonel-of-the-Regiment

MGen Cam Ross

In 2010, my article in The Strathconian started with “Some things never change.”

In 2011, I started by saying “Our Regiment has a rich history and tradition...”

In 2012, I end my first paragraph with “Interesting times indeed!”

Some say that history repeats itself, but we are only destined to replicate our past if we don’t absorb the knowledge presented by it. The past does not predict where we are going; it is a documentation of where we have been. It best serves to remind us of lessons learned so we can dodge those pitfalls in the future. And so the old cliché ... *you can’t know where you are going until you know where you have been.*

Strathconas have an interesting and solid past that we can learn from. Each day, whether professionally or personally, we have experiences that enrich our lives by teaching us lessons. Know your past and use those lessons learned in your present and future. Start with the Boer War in South Africa in 1900; Moreuil Wood; Melfa River Crossing; liberation of Holland and the Lowlands; Korea; in Egypt, Cyprus, the Balkans; and most recently, Afghanistan.

Also, recall your successes and failures while on exercise, playing sports, and in simulator training. Finally, revel in the camaraderie you experience on the job and on your own time. For the last several years, I have said it to those outside the Regiment and I say it to you now, never have I seen the Regiment so well led, trained and equipped. We can say these are “interesting times indeed.” None of us knows what the future will bring. What I know is that, from what I’ve seen, we will be ready for it.

Aristotle said: “*Dignity does not consist in possessing honours, but in deserving them.*” You are part of an honourable profession and a distinguished Regiment. You are deserving of your honours. You are trained, proficient and disciplined. Be proud of yourselves: I am immensely proud of you.

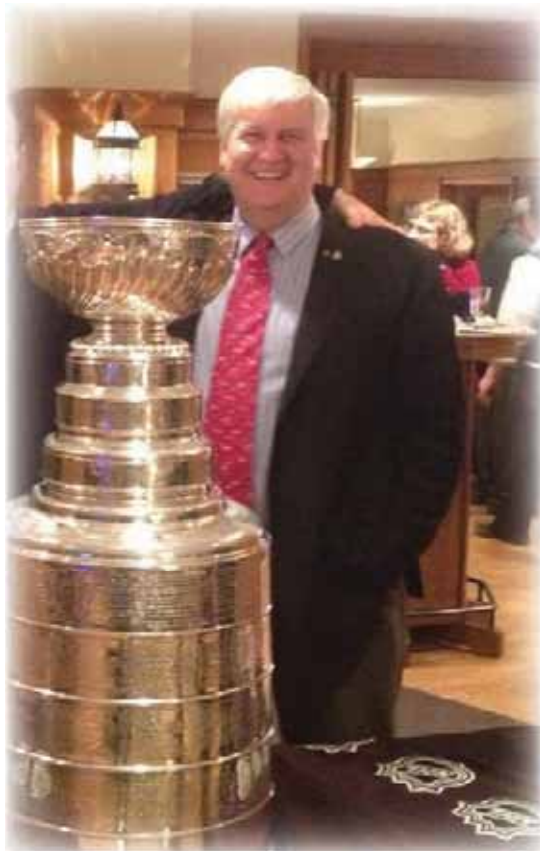
Perseverance.





A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Col Spike Hazleton



Allow me to begin by saying that it is both an honour and privilege to be the Senior Serving Strathcona. When **Brigadier Craig** informed me by virtue of my seniority (old Col, last man standing), knowledge of the Regiment and Corps (been around forever) that I was now “it,” I was indeed flattered to have even been considered given my current location of Rome, Italy. However, in this day and age distance is neither a limitation nor a hindrance. In fact I believe it is an advantage! Being removed from the day to day activities of the Regiment and our Army allows me time and opportunity to observe without distraction and engage when necessary. On the reputation of the Regiment I am able to speak to any of the senior General Officers within the Canadian Armed Forces by virtue of the fact that I am speaking on behalf of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians). When speaking to these officers I usually allow at least five minutes for them to highlight how impressed and proud they are of our Regiment and when they conclude, say: “Whatever your Regiment needs Spike, you know you have my support”

It is because of the people within the Regiment and Regimental Family that our reputation and respectability is second to none. As the Colonel-of-the-Regiment has highlighted we do indeed have an interesting and solid past. However, it is what we continue to do today that maintains who we are. Whether it is fighting in Afghanistan, soldiering under the United Nations flag in the most dangerous regions in the world, nation-building in the Middle East, helping Canadians when disasters strike or just training for that next unknown mission, we do so as Strathconas and are damn good at what we do. No matter where or who we are serving with or for, I am confident that we will have an interesting and solid future.

The Regiment continues to be in the best of hands under the leadership of the Commanding Officer, **LCol Peyton** and Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Batty**. The Officers Commanding, Squadron Sergeants-Major, Warrant Officers, Sergeants, Master Corporals, Corporals and Troopers make the Regiment work and in so doing allow old Colonels and retired Strathconas to bask in the glory of your accomplishments, and for this we all thank you. In closing, thank you all for allowing me to be your Senior Serving Strathcona.

Perseverance.



Commanding Officer's Message

LCol Paul Peyton

NEWFOUNDLAND WINS GOLD AT OLYMPIC HOCKEY...anything to get your attention as you undoubtedly rip past my article to get to pics of the Troops that matter!

I sincerely hope that this publication provides our soldiers, families and friends with a true appreciation for how outstanding you are. Your collective accomplishments, whether evacuating stranded Albertans during the floods, participating in training and operations, riding a horse at Spruce Meadows, maintaining the home front while a loved one is away, or providing support to our soldiers and their families, make our Regiment incomparable to any other. The success we have had and the reputation we enjoy is a team effort. It would not be possible without all of you. I cannot thank you enough.

2013 has been an exceptional year for the soldiers at the Regiment. You were commended for your compassion when dealing with vulnerable citizens, excelled in training, and achieved tremendous success in all endeavours. You took budget and resource constraints as an opportunity to demonstrate your resilience and initiative, which quickly became the Brigade standard. You are modest and tell me that you are only doing your job. For once I will say you are wrong. If that were the case we would only be an armour regiment. We are not, and I am in constant awe of what you do.

In the upcoming months Strathconas will be faced with new challenges. As the Immediate Reaction Unit elements of the Regiment will deploy to the arctic for Operation NANOOK, B Squadron will commence its high readiness preparations with the assistance of A Squadron, and a new fleet of 34 vehicles (Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle) will arrive in unit lines commencing in November. You will have a more proactive role in training as DP1 is exported from the Armour School and collective training opportunities are leveraged to achieve individual qualifications. You will have plenty to accomplish and you will have the resources needed to achieve all. I know that you will exceed every expectation. You always do.

As my tenure comes to a close I am extremely pleased that **Josh Major** will pick up the reigns. **Josh** is an exceptional officer who is perfectly suited for command of our Regiment (and an outstanding addition to the Regimental hockey team roster). He has no idea yet how fortunate he is to have such an amazing team of soldiers, families and friends. It is a privilege to serve with you.

Perseverance.





Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

CWO Tony Batty



Firstly, I am honoured to be able to write on this page and share my thoughts with you all. As the Regimental Sergeant-Major, I am often in awe of what we are expected to achieve, and in turn, how the Regiment completes all of its tasks after setting its mind on success.

2013 was another busy year for the Regiment, a year that saw sub-units deploying to Fort Hood, Texas; Chile; and lest I forget, Wainwright. There has been an air of professional accomplishment as I cut about the hallways. If I am lucky and the Corporal/Trooper telegraph is in for repair, on occasion, I actually get to discuss with soldiers what they think. I, for one, am always refreshed by the candour of replies and the high level of knowledge that all Strathconas demonstrate.

I have seen a great many things in this short period as the Regimental Sergeant-Major. Take for example, a domestic operation that the Regiment was involved in, Operation LENTUS, where the soldiers

of your Regiment amazed and astounded hundreds of inhabitants of Alberta with their capabilities and esprit de corps. After having deployed to the floods in record time with the rest of Regimental Headquarters, it may be worth mentioning to the incoming Regimental Sergeant-Major that the Regiment is the Immediate Reaction Unit. Apparently, that information was on the sticky note that was “not” co-located with the remainder of my handover notes!

I visited Chile in a fairly demanding military training exercise in the desert, where the professionalism and tactical know-how of Strathconas was ably demonstrated. Never underestimate the benefit of a “Command Team” experience, especially when the temperature of the location does not have a minus symbol. I am very much aware that Strathconas everywhere have no doubt of the “can do” attitude of the entire Regimental family- a bitter and envious pill for some of the other units that consistently work alongside us.

I would like to take a moment to thank our families for their understanding and unwavering support, as I am very much reminded that the “good news” the Regimental Sergeant-Major has told you may not have quite the same impact when delivered at home. I expect all Strathconas to continue to strive to perfect the tactical and technical competencies of an armour crewman throughout their career. In this way, the Regiment will continue in pride and will be well served by you.

Perseverance.



Editor-in-Chief's Foreword

Maj Eric Angell



Some things never change, and 2013 was no exception. It proved to be an extremely busy year for Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), with both A (in Leopard 2 tanks!) and Reconnaissance Squadrons training and being declared operationally ready for deployment as part of Task Force 1-13. From my own experience, A Squadron spent 90+ days in the Wainwright Training Area during 2013, an awesome opportunity as a Tank Squadron Officer Commanding! Even given this significant load, the Regiment still managed to deploy the entire unit to the field for the better part of the fall. Concurrently, Strathconas of all ranks were serving overseas in Afghanistan in various capacities as part of Operation ATTENTION, Canada's Contribution to the Training Mission in Afghanistan.

Given the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, our soldiers are re-discovering that everything old is new again, and as a Regiment, we seized the opportunity to move "Forward to Fundamentals," or "Back to Basics," depending

on whom you speak with. Regardless, we once again proved that we are the masters of Tank Warfare and are truly "Canada's Tank Regiment."

I would like to thank the "wind beneath my wings" as it were. The bulk of the praise for this outstanding publication belongs to **Capt John Kim**, my Second-in-Command and Editor and **Lt Murray McTavish**, the Senior Subaltern and all-round nice guy (i.e. the man with the money). Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank the true "force of nature" behind The Strathconian, **Mrs. Kathy Batty**. We could not do it without you, and you know it! My heartfelt thanks for your Perseverance in making this the finest unit yearbook in Canada.

With this year's edition of The Strathconian, we attempted to provide a snapshot of not only the Regiment's operations, but also to honour the families, lives and efforts of Strathcona soldiers. I hope you enjoy!

All old comrades and friends of the Regiment are cordially invited to increase our circulation by forwarding the names of other old comrades or prospective subscribers.

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Year in Review





Births and Marriages

Sgt Eady's daughter Brooklyn Andreea was born 1 January 2013
Cpl Hoth's daughter Cicely was born 5 January 2013
WO Baglole's daughter Jessica was born 29 January 2013
Cpl Bishop married Rachel Robichaud on 14 February 2013
Cpl Edwards' daughter Lillian was born 27 March 2013
Cpl Pegler's son William was born 6 April 2013
Cpl Crocker's daughter Felicity was born 13 April 2013
Cpl Popoff's daughter Zoey was born 13 April 2013
Sgt McLoughlin's daughter Olivia Dawn was born 16 April 2013
Capt Stachow's daughter Jelene was born 15 May 2013
Capt Reiten's son Knut was born 25 May 2013
Cpl Ross' son Tyrian was born 16 June 2013
Cpl Vallerand's daughter Maily was born 20 June 2013
Cpl Shields married Melanie Sophie Filon on 7 July 2013
Maj Mallette's daughter Eleanor was born 18 July 2013
MCpl King married Paul Daniel on 23 July 2013
Capt Peeling's son Jack was born 30 July 2013
Sig Knopf married Megan Christine Mary on 27 July 2013
MCpl Drew's son Cameron was born 7 August 2013
Sgt Hamilton's son Calvin was born 21 August 2013
Cpl Maxwell married Sheena Maxwell on 31 August 2013
Cpl Smith's daughter Elizabeth was born 12 September 2013
Cpl Boucher's son Emery was born 13 September 2013
Cpl Lonegren's daughter Annabelle Roxana was born 2 October 2013
Capt Dwyer's daughter Ruby Marguerite was born 8 October 2013
Capt MacKillop married Katie MacKillop on 12 October 2013
Cpl Charles married Prapitpan Patipaksiri on 23 November 2013
WO Driscoll married Laura Firlotte on 30 November 2013
Sig Knopf's daughter Kaidance Josefine Mary was born 4 December 2013
Cpl Oxtoby's daughter Mackenzie Ann was born 9 December 2013
Cpl Dalpé married Jonathan Dalpé on 19 December 2013
Lt Rice married Brittany Rathwell on 27 December 2013
Tpr Kiomall's daughter Sapphira Akiva was born 24 December 2013



Honours and Awards



Honours and Awards

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

WO Forbes
WO Lefebvre
WO MacNeill
Sgt Green
MCpl Thompson
Cpl Boorman

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt Anderson
Capt Beitz
Capt Kim
Sgt Limbert
Sgt Thomas
MCpl Hutchinson
MCpl Roth
MCpl Towe

Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal

MGen (Ret'd) Ross
MWO (Ret'd) Pudar
Sgt Limbert
MCpl Churchill
Cpl Foster
Cpl Hall
Cpl Van Den Born

General Campaign Star – Southwest Asia - Third Clasp

MCpl McAtasney

General Campaign Star – Southwest Asia - First Clasp

Capt Day
Sgt Zubkowski
Cpl Nancarrow
Cpl Ram
Cpl Riopelle
Cpl Walker

General Campaign Star – Southwest Asia

Capt Lee
Capt Lewis
Capt McHugh
Cpl McKenzie
Capt Tapp
Capt Williams
Lt Frizzell
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Paradis
Cpl Priddle

1 CMBG Commander's Commendation

MCpl Doucette

Comd CJOC Commendation

Capt P. Leonard

Comd JTFW Commendation

Maj C.S. Gardner

Colonel-of-the Regiment Commendation

Capt Kitching

The Hessin Memorial Sword

Lt Tapp

The Neatby Pacestick

WO Boland

The Milroy Crossbelt

Sgt Holmes

Colonel-of-the Regiment Silver Stick

Sgt Kruhlak

The Fox Bugle

Cpl Kearns

The Prince of Wales Trophy

B Squadron

CO's Coins

Bob Bergen
Kathy Batty
Capt Ross
MWO Clayson
WO Flannigan
Sgt Sanduliak
Cpl Hogan
Cpl McConnell
Cpl Shields
Cpl Wagner







Promotions

Maj Cronk
Maj McEwen
Capt Readman
Capt Smith
Capt Tams
Capt Tapp
Lt Brittain
Lt Carter-Wright
Lt Jung
Lt Hoffart
Lt Monroe
Lt Rice
Lt Rogozinski
Lt Simpson
Lt Tardiff
Lt Wright
CWO Batty
MWO Chenier
MWO Falls
MWO King
WO Barker
WO Driscoll
WO Encinas
WO Holmes
WO Parent
WO Zubkowski
Sgt Brister
Sgt Garcia
Sgt Goobie
Sgt Headrick
Sgt Okimawininew
Sgt Pirie
Sgt Ribert
Sgt Sebo
Sgt Truchon
MCpl Baker
MCpl Bernardo
MCpl Burke
MCpl Churchill
MCpl Christie
MCpl Collier
MCpl Crowe
MCpl Deng
MCpl Drew
MCpl Frost
MCpl Foster
MCpl Hagerty

MCpl Heisz
MCpl Kearns
MCpl King
MCpl Lee
MCpl Lefort
MCpl McAtasney
MCpl McKenzie
MCpl Morrison
MCpl Murdoch
MCpl Nancarrow
MCpl Peachy
MCpl Patterson
MCpl Roth
MCpl Slade
MCpl Towe
MCpl Underwood
MCpl Vallerand
MCpl Wood
Cpl Aguila
Cpl Bannister
Cpl Brown
Cpl Carron
Cpl Cassel
Cpl Cook
Cpl Fischer
Cpl Germann
Cpl Gibbons

Cpl Gray
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Hamm
Cpl Hewison
Cpl Hopper
Cpl Kozack
Cpl Lennon
Cpl Martin
Cpl Melanson
Cpl Nepoose
Cpl Nicholson
Cpl Radford
Cpl Ranchuk
Cpl Richard
Cpl Richardson
Cpl Rimpilainen
Cpl Sandhu
Cpl Schiffner
Cpl Skaarup
Cpl Southern
Cpl Smith
Cpl Short
Cpl Taborowski
Cpl Van Nieuwenhuyze
Cpl Warren
Cpl Willett



Regimental Roll 2013

As of December 2013

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Colonel-of-the-Regiment

MGen Ross

Commanding Officer

LCol Peyton

Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Onieu

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Batty

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Adjutant

Capt Beitz

Operations Officer

Capt Leonard

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Orderly Room

Capt Webster
WO Litwin
Sgt Pirie
MCpl Di Cesare
MCpl King
Cpl Kozlik-Harding
Cpl Ross

Command/Operations Cell

Capt Lewis
Capt Readman
WO Stanistreet
MCpl McAtasney
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Guy
Cpl Clegg

Training Cell

Capt Collings
WO Eaglehart
WO Webb
Sgt Graf
MCpl Dugdale
MCpl Foster
MCpl Gushue
MCpl Peachy
Cpl Cheng
Cpl Lawrence

Regimental Signals Troop

Capt S Smith
WO Driscoll
Sgt Truchon
Sgt Stein
MCpl Breen
MCpl Gaudreault
MCpl Hutchinson
Cpl Bolzan
Cpl Burke
Cpl Hewison
Cpl Melandson
Cpl Nepoose
Cpl Smith
Cpl Weir
Cpl Willett
Sig Knopf
Sig Lahti

Regimental Police

MCpl Churchill
MCpl Lister
Cpl Rae

Op ATTENTION

Capt Day
Capt Lee
Capt McHugh
Capt Peeling
Capt Tapp

Capt Williams
Lt Frizzell
CWO Crabb
MWO Mayfield
MCpl Hodgin
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Priddle
Cpl Wry

Prince of Wales (B Sqn)

Officer Commanding

Maj Gardner

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO King

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Meikle
Sgt Eady
MCpl Osborne
Cpl Clare
Cpl Crozier
Cpl Rollins
Cpl Thibodeau
Tpr Naylor

Administration Troop

Capt Dwyer
Lt Rice
MCpl Collier

MCpl Drew
MCpl Towe
MCpl Wright
LS Baker
Cpl Clarke
Cpl Kipot
Cpl Kroker
Cpl Monge
Cpl Partridge
Cpl Popoff
Cpl Sears
Cpl Stewart
Cpl Valenzuela
Tpr Christmas
Tpr Pecarskie
Tpr Pitcher
Tpr Rayment
Tpr Schellenberg

First Troop

Lt Couture
WO Barker
Sgt McLoughlin
MCpl Murphy
Cpl Clare
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Green
Cpl Harder
Cpl Marion
Tpr Atwood
Tpr Babb
Tpr Doan

Second Troop

Lt Carter-Wright
Sgt Clark
Sgt Sebo
MCpl Kearns
Cpl Brown
Cpl Nicholson
Cpl Partington
Cpl Schiffner
Tpr Banting
Tpr Champagne
Tpr Rosenplot
Tpr Weeden

Third Troop

Lt Jaradat
Sgt Thomas
MCpl Osborne

Cpl Balfour
Cpl Chase
Cpl Gironne
Cpl Martin
Cpl Mohamed
Cpl Sherlock-Hubbard
Tpr Allard
Tpr Demchuk
Tpr Naylor
Tpr Park

Fourth Troop

Lt Hoffart
WO Zubkowski
Sgt Goobie
Cpl Cassel
Cpl Chen
Cpl Dupuis
Cpl Prosser
Cpl Roselle
Cpl Sandhu
Tpr Goodwin
Tpr Kiomall

Maintenance

Sgt Cimon
MCpl Lussier
MCpl Thompson
MCpl Wiscombe
Cpl Crocker
Cpl Dunn
Cpl Goodall
Cpl Gordon
Cpl McConnell
Cpl Smith

SQMS

WO Churchill
MCpl Pasuta
Cpl Heisz
Cpl Loft

A Sqn

Officer Commanding

Maj Angell

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Chenier

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Anderson
Sgt Davidson
Cpl Serben
Cpl Brown
Cpl Bishop
Cpl Cummings
Cpl Hamm
Tpr Houston

Administration Troop

Capt Kim
Lt Wright
Sgt Sanduliak
MCpl Estabrooks
Cpl Charles
Cpl Doyle
Cpl Kabongo
Cpl Taborowski
Cpl Warren
Cpl York
Tpr Bond
Tpr Marshall
Tpr Michaud
Tpr New
Tpr Buell

First Troop

Capt Tams
WO Sherren
MCpl Davidson
MCpl Murdoch
Cpl Korenowski
Cpl Woodland
Cpl Cook
Cpl Stratford
Cpl Wagner
Cpl Fong
Cpl Daos
Tpr Francis
Tpr Smith

Second Troop

Lt Monroe
Sgt Williams
MCpl Headrick
Cpl Croxall
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Kent
Tpr Tobin
Cpl Younger

Tpr Stender
Tpr George
Tpr Armstrong
Tpr Matchett

Third Troop

Lt Burchell
Sgt Craig
MCpl Dickey
Cpl Allman
Cpl Phelan
Cpl Meaney
Cpl Tomayer
Cpl Richardson
Tpr Feenstra
Tpr Fraumeni
Tpr Gheidi
Tpr Watson

Fourth Troop

Lt Brittain
WO Parent
MCpl McMurtry
Cpl Dunford
Cpl DKL Brown
Cpl Blacklock
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Mosher
Tpr Ell
Tpr Bolstad
Tpr Hodge

Maintenance

Sgt Cooke
MCpl Hasson
MCpl Miller
Cpl Phillips
Cpl Russell
Cpl Shields
Cpl Wilson
Cpl Eveleigh
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Kozack

SQMS

WO Christopoulos
MCpl Brister
Cpl Collins
Cpl Burris

Recce Sqn

Officer Commanding

Maj Nolan

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Fox

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Nguyen
WO Holmes
Sgt Limbert
MCpl Boodhoo
Cpl Koolman
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Radford
Cpl Senff
Cpl Stewart
Cpl Van Den Born
Cpl Young

Administration Troop

Capt Selberg
Lt Jung
MCpl Adby
MCpl Sephton
MCpl Van Heerden
Cpl Barrett
Cpl Boucher
Cpl Brown
Cpl Delisle
Cpl Gnabs
Cpl L Hall
Cpl J Hall
Cpl Lee
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Molloy
Cpl Morin
Cpl Shaw
Cpl Silcox
Cpl Symington
Cpl Vachon
Tpr Briggs
Tpr Longjohn
Tpr Smith

1 Troop

Lt Rogozinski
WO Ross
Sgt Ribert

MCpl Christie
MCpl Keller
Cpl Dobson
Cpl Fettes
Cpl Germann
Cpl Grant
Cpl Howard-Harrison
Cpl Maw
Cpl McCollum
Cpl Ranchuk
Cpl Schafer
Cpl P Smith
Cpl Talty
Cpl Wheeler
Tpr B Davidson
Tpr B Ford
Tpr Harrington
Tpr Leblanc

2 Troop

Capt McGuinness
Lt Tardiff
Sgt Charette
MCpl Bustard
MCpl Crowe
MCpl Fisher
Cpl Droogers
Cpl Maxwell
Cpl Mekhail
Cpl Ram
Cpl Snoek
Tpr Albers
Tpr Harding
Tpr Martel
Tpr McKenzie
Tpr McNair

3 Troop

Lt Simpson
Sgt Vigar
MCpl Hume
Cpl Brisbois-Bergeron
Cpl Broome
Cpl Downey
Cpl R Ford
Cpl Muirhead
Cpl Schijns
Cpl Skaarup
Cpl Zwicker

Maintenance

Sgt Mancin
MCpl Lanteigne
MCpl Noskey
MCpl Smith
Cpl Lachapelle
Cpl Lavoie

SQMS

WO Thomas
MCpl St Germain
Cpl Norman
Cpl Clackson

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Mallette

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Hopkin

Squadron Headquarters/ Administration Troop

Capt Johns
Capt C Smith
WO Connauton
Sgt Barker
Sgt Burris
MCpl Ellis
MCpl Hutchinson
Cpl Banman
Cpl Brookson
Cpl DeJonh
Cpl Hays
Cpl Hurley
Cpl Olaes
Pte Dixon

Transport Troop

Capt Reiten
WO Baglole
Sgt Kopp
MCpl McDougal
MCpl Mousseau
MCpl Painchaud
Cpl Bannister
Cpl Boorman
Cpl Clendennin
Cpl Edwards

Cpl Gaona
Cpl Guay
Cpl Hatter
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Larcher Pelland
Cpl Miller
Cpl Mullens
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Shepherd
Cpl Skinner
Cpl Townsend
Cpl Trainor
Cpl Van Nieuwenhuyze
Cpl Veinot
Cpl Young
Tpr Wood

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt McLean
Sgt Kruhlak
MCpl Bernardo
Cpl Aguila
Cpl Barten
Cpl Brown
Cpl Fettes
Cpl Fischer
Cpl Fraser
Cpl Freeman
Cpl Gibbons
Cpl Gray
Cpl Hopper
Cpl Hughes
Cpl Lachance-Webster
Cpl Lennon
Cpl McMaster
Cpl Mijares
Cpl Morgan
Cpl Paskuski
Cpl Prosser
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Southern
Tpr Morounay
Tpr Paquette

Regimental Accounts

Lt McTavish
Sgt Jones
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Wheat
Cpl White

Family Support Troop

Capt Barabash
MCpl Sullivan
Cpl Vallerand
Cpl Reid

Regimental Quartermaster Stores

Capt Ahn
MWO Clayson
MWO Riley
Sgt Johnson
Sgt Near
MCpl Hagerty
MCpl Nancarrow
MCpl Slade
Cpl Bondy
LS Brassard
Cpl Dalpé
Cpl Girling
LS Grobov
Cpl Lanthier
Cpl Lewis
Cpl Martin
Pte Sayyeau
Cpl Veilleux
Cpl Winchester

Regimental Cooks

WO Doucet
Sgt Flannigan
MCpl Mowatt
MS Houghtling
Cpl Coxall

Regimental Maintenance Troop

Capt Wriedt
MWO Hawkins
WO Forbes
WO Lapointe
WO Lefebvre
Sgt McGean
MCpl Bennett
MCpl Christopherson
MCpl Crevier
MCpl Dean
MCpl Erb
MCpl Neil
MCpl Svensrud
Cpl Caron

Cpl Courneyea
Cpl Davis
Cpl Ellis
Cpl Hunt
Cpl Lake
Cpl Mulholland
Cpl Oxtoby
Cpl Pleau
Cpl Reid
Cpl Richard
Cpl Rimpilainen
Cpl Short
Cpl Simpson
Cpl Snyder
Cpl Stephen
Pte Yan

Regimental Stables

MCpl Ramage
Cpl Lajoie

SQMS

WO Brown
MCpl McKenzie
Cpl LRJ Smith
Cpl Beatty

Museum

WO MacLoed
Sgt Giberson





The Year in Review

January

14-18 – Exercise STRONG CONTENDER, 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Sports Competition

21 – Unit Winter Primary Combat Function training begins

26 – Regiment assumes 1 CMBG lead as Immediate Reaction Unit

February

11-15 – TF 1-13 Professional Development

18-28 – Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE – Task Force 1-13 high readiness computer-assisted exercise

25-28 – Primary Combat Function live fire ranges in WAINWRIGHT



March

1-13 – Exercise STEELE SNIPER – Regimental deployment to WAINWRIGHT to train A and Recce Squadrons to level 4 for Task Force 1-13 high readiness training

4-6 – Director of Armour Visit

19-21 – Moreuil Wood Commemoration

22-2 April – Spring Break

April

4-27 – Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM – Task Force 1-13 live fire high readiness training event

19-21 – Annual Cadet Concentration





May

6-10 – 120 mm High-Explosive Ammunition trial in GERMANY

June

15 May-6 – Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301 – Task Force 1-13 high readiness confirmation exercise for A and Recce Squadrons; remainder of the Regiment deployed in supporting roles

20-26 – Operation LENTUS – LdSH(RC) as part of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group deployment to southern ALBERTA in support of flood relief activities

July

4-7 – Spruce Meadows Queen Elizabeth II Cup and 100 soldier guard for Calgary Stampede Parade

13 – All Ranks Dinner and Dance

17-18 – Exercise STEELE RATTLER, Regimental Motorcycle Ride to KANANASKIS, AB

August

20 July-11 – Regimental Summer Block Leave

23-24 – Freedom of the County Parade and Activities in SHERWOOD PARK

26-27 – Exercise THUNDERING RAM, 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Motorcycle Ride

29 – Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN

September

2-7 – Leopard 2 High-Explosive Ammunition Trial, GERMANY

7 – Regimental Family Day

9 – Fall Primary Combat Function training cycle begins

23-26 – Worthington Cup Challenge, GAGETOWN

27-28 – Army Run

October

24 September-6 – Exercise STEELE SABRE, Part 1 – Regimental deployment to complete Primary Combat Function live fire and Level 3 live fire for A, B and Recce Squadrons

7-10 – Exercise UNIFIED REFLECTION, Canadian Army Doctrine Training Centre Professional Development

11-15 – Thanksgiving Weekend

18-22 – Exercise STEELE SABRE, part 2 – Weapons Effects Simulation enabled force-on-force training featuring Recce Tps, A Squadron versus B Squadron

22-9 November – Exercise HADES RAM, Task Force 1-13 D+90 training and LdSH(RC) battle group support to Combat Team Commanders Course

November

11 – Remembrance Day

18-22 – Exercise CEREBRAL RAM, Brigade computer-assisted exercise

18-22 – Regimental Individual Battle Task Standards Week

22-23 – Subaltern's Professional Development Trip

26-28 – Black Hat Activities

December

2-5 – Subaltern Equine Training

7 – Kids Christmas Party

9-13 – Leopard 2 Gunnery Simulation Training Site Acceptance Trial

10 – Christmas Sports Day

11 – Soldiers' Christmas Dinner and Officers At home to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers

11-14 – Exercise STEELE KNIVES – Recce Squadron deployment to FORT HOOD, TEXAS for the annual SPUR RIDE with 4/3 Cavalry Squadron (US)

13-22 – Exercise STEELE CASCADE – Tank Troop deployment to IQUIQUE, CHILE to train in a collective exercise on Chilean Leopard 2 tank





Operations





Operation ATTENTION, Rotation 3

Canadian Contribution Training Mission - Afghanistan (CCTM-A)

Capt Dave Williams



Lt Brandon Frizzell -Defender of Freedom

2014, Strathconas were employed in a wide variety of roles across the Area of Operations, all in support of a cornerstone of NATO strategy: boosting the size and effectiveness of Afghan security forces ahead of the NATO drawdown.

In Camp Eggers, **CWO Bill Crabb** helped shape the strategic view of the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTM-A), as the Command Sergeant-Major. Also in Eggers, were **Capt Owen Lewis**, **Lt Brandon Frizzell** and **MWO Tony Mayfield**. **Maj Tim Day** was employed in the Language Training Branch enabling literacy training across the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

In the National Command Support Element, **Maj Dave Cronk** (J1), **Capt Blake Tapp** (J1 Operations), **Capt Radek Niedzielski** (J6 Operations), and **Capt Dave Williams** (J3 Operations) supported the Task Force from Camp Phoenix.

Twelve years ago the Regiment's involvement in Afghanistan began when it deployed Reconnaissance Squadron to Kandahar, as part of Operation APOLLO. In the years that followed, Strathconas were at the forefront of Operations ATHENA and ARCHER, where the Regiment initially generated Reconnaissance Squadrons for Kabul and then successive Tank Squadrons for combat operations in Kandahar. Finally in 2011, the Regiment supported the initial deployment of Operation ATTENTION, the CCTM-A in Kabul. The operations in Afghanistan have been a defining event for multiple generations of Strathconas.

As the final rotation of the Regiment's longest international commitment to a theatre of operations, much emphasis has been placed on honouring the hard fought legacy earned in Kandahar. In Kabul, our mission is to support the training mission, transition focus to the Mission Closure Team, and finally mission termination. Between June 2013 and March



Cpl Wry ready for patrol

In Kabul International Airport **Cpl Justin Wry**, **Capt Tim McHugh** and **Capt Ryan Lee** were employed as a Driver, Aide de Camp, and Afghan National Army Advisor respectively. Sporting facial hair worthy of Duck Dynasty, **MCpl Luke Jarjahfendic** and **MCpl Aaron Hodgkin** operated in the Close Protection Platoon escorting VIPs throughout Kabul and Afghanistan. At the Consolidated Fielding Centre in Camp Blackhorse were **Capt Dave Peeling** and **Cpl Cam Hays**. Finally, as part of the Mission Closure Team, **Cpl Langlands** and **Cpl Priddle** supported the retrograde of all Canadian vehicles and equipment as part of the Vehicle Production Line in Camp Souter.



CWO Crabb stealing Christmas presents

Although the Strathcona presence was scattered across organizations throughout Kabul, the common goal of training the ANSF was pervasive. It is difficult to measure the success of this task, however, the metrics below show some results of twelve years of Strathcona commitment to growing and developing the ANSF.

Where the ANSF were in 2002:

- 86% of troops illiterate (9/10 recruits illiterate)
- No specialty skills
- 35% weapon qualification rate
- Sub-standard equipment
- High attrition

Where the ANSF are in end 2013:

- 100% literacy training (Level 1)
- Trained leaders increased by 500%
- 95% weapon qualification rate
- NATO weapons/Afghan-made
- Improved retention

Camp Phoenix Strathconas





Operation LENTUS – Flooding in Medicine Hat

An A Squadron Perspective

Capt Philip A. Buckingham



A Squadron helps to build a sandbag wall while watching waters rise in Medicine Hat during Operation LENTUS.

On Friday afternoon of 21 June 2013, A Squadron, under the command of **Maj Eric “Ark” Angell**, patiently awaited the call to assist the citizens of Medicine Hat in mitigating the damage of massive flooding in southern Alberta. The deployment order was issued on 22 June at 1130 hrs. Immediately, A Squadron issued orders and conducted a road move. Pictures and feeds from news and other media outlets showed in vivid detail the destruction that Calgary and Canmore had already suffered while rumours spread through the Corporal’s News Network that the situation was dire. With B Squadron already deployed and assisting in Kananaskis and Reconnaissance Squadron deployed in Penhold, A Squadron’s challenging task was to drive ahead of the rising flood waters to Medicine Hat and provide relief.

After driving through the night and watching “Zero Dark Thirty” and “Wedding Crashers” on the cruiser buses to keep calm, soldiers of A Squadron were prepared to do whatever was necessary to assist fellow Canadians. When the Squadron arrived in Medicine Hat, it staged out of Crescent Heights High School. Acting Battle Captain, **Capt Karl “don’t call me radio” Tams**, manned the command post, and the rest of the Squadron quickly moved to the downtown core to continue construction on a kilometre long dyke. Under the direction of **WO Richard “Richie” Sherren**, 15 soldiers began tying the dyke into the railhead as the water began rising. **MCpl Colin “Heavy lifting” Davidson** commandeered a bobcat and offloaded 90 semi- flatbeds full of desperately needed sandbags before being relieved. **Cpl Alexander “the Joker” Kent** kept the morale high, joking and keeping the soldiers energized.

Over the next 8 hours, the water level rose over 5 feet and threatened downtown. **Cpl Michael “Ski” Korenowski**, **Cpl Derek Murdoch**, and **Cpl Richard “Peter Rabbit” Wagner** were hard at work laying vapour barrier and positioned sandbags. While the immediate danger area was blocked off, **MCpl James “Deuce” Doucette** and his crew continued to build down the length of the railway. Despite the lack of sleep and immediate threat, morale was high as local citizens brought soldiers of A Squadron sandwiches, coffee, water, and most importantly, their appreciation.

Lt Brittain doing all he can to assist with sandbagging operations.





In another part of the city, **Lt Jamie** “*Women and children only*” **Brittain**, **WO Melanie** “*Frenchie*” **Parent**, **WO Shane** “*Don’t leave me behind*” **Flanagan**, **Cpl Brandon** “*HoOperation Dreams*” **Campbell**, **Tpr Ryan** “*Just Catch it*” **Hamm**, and **Cpl Romeo** “*Speedy*” **Kabongo**, under the direction of the Officer Commanding and Squadron Sergeant-Major, **WO Chenier**, went to the Medicine Hat Power Plant to begin the massive effort of sandbagging the vital infrastructure. In a rare moment, a Canadian Television media crew caught **Tpr Spencer Richardson** actually working and **Cpl Andrew** “*SPCA*” **Phalen** saving a brood of rabbits (really only two), directly in front of a camera crew.

Once the water crested on the morning of 24 June, A Squadron transitioned to patrolling residential areas watching for gaps with the only excitement occurring when **Tpr Jesse** “*of course it’s a good idea*” **Ell** picked up a baby rattlesnake. Thankfully, the worst was over and on the morning of 25 June, A Squadron departed Medicine Hat weary but full of pride and sense of accomplishment. The generous support and assistance provided by the citizens of Medicine Hat was greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. Special thanks go out to the Staff of Crescent Heights High School for putting a roof over the heads of A Squadron soldiers, feeding them Tim Horton’s, and encouraging them.

*Cpl Kent taking a break during relief efforts. (left)
Cpl Campbell working side by side with civilian
volunteers to prevent flooding. (below)*





Operation PROTEUS – Jerusalem

Maj Kelly Callens

Greetings, wa ‘alaykum as-salām, shalom from the Holy Land and the Navel of the World! From 3 Canadian Division Support Group to Jerusalem, what a change! I am here as part of Operation PROTEUS and fill the position of Chief of Staff and Operations of the Regional National Support Element, coordinating and providing support to the Canadian contribution to the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) to Israel and the Palestinian Authority as well as the other Canadian missions within the region. The job is really a mélange of Operations, Second-in-Command Headquarters Squadron, Adjutant and Regimental Quartermaster, quite the range of responsibilities!

The jump from Alberta to the Middle East has been an interesting one, the multiple languages (both Arabic and Hebrew), the cultural differences and of course the morass that is the Middle East Peace Process! This has been a real eye-opener, with the checkpoints, the ‘barrier’ (a wall built to separate the West Bank from the rest of Israel) and the history of the city. The religious nuances are so glaring and vivid as well; with Judaism, Islam and Christianity all flowing and clashing about with one another, intertwined, complementary and contrasting. The Hasidic Jews living across the street from Muslims, Christians (especially the pilgrims) in amongst the Arabs and the Jews; the interactions are both subtle and blatant, and frankly fascinating.

Though work keeps me busy I have time to do some exploring and have seen some pretty amazing sites. The Old City of Jerusalem is constantly a place of wonder either exploring or just watching the myriad of people and listening to the noises of the city. Every corner holds a new discovery and every alley a new adventure. Dead Sea is a strange but fascinating place and the geology of the land holds so many wonders. The animal life is unique as well, with Nubian Ibex, wild boar and gazelle. The birds are practically innumerable as they stop over in Israel on their migrations to Africa. The history is everywhere here with every field and pasture holding some sort of history. Pottery shards litter the ground and the tombs and caves are everywhere.

It has been a chance of a lifetime working at the diplomatic level within the peace process and watching history unfold around you. Amazing! So as I walk in the footsteps of a great cavalryman, Field Marshall Edmund Allenby, I think of my fellow Strathconas and wish you all the best in the years to come as I explore the battlefields of history, from the Golan, through Meggido and on to Beer’sheva.





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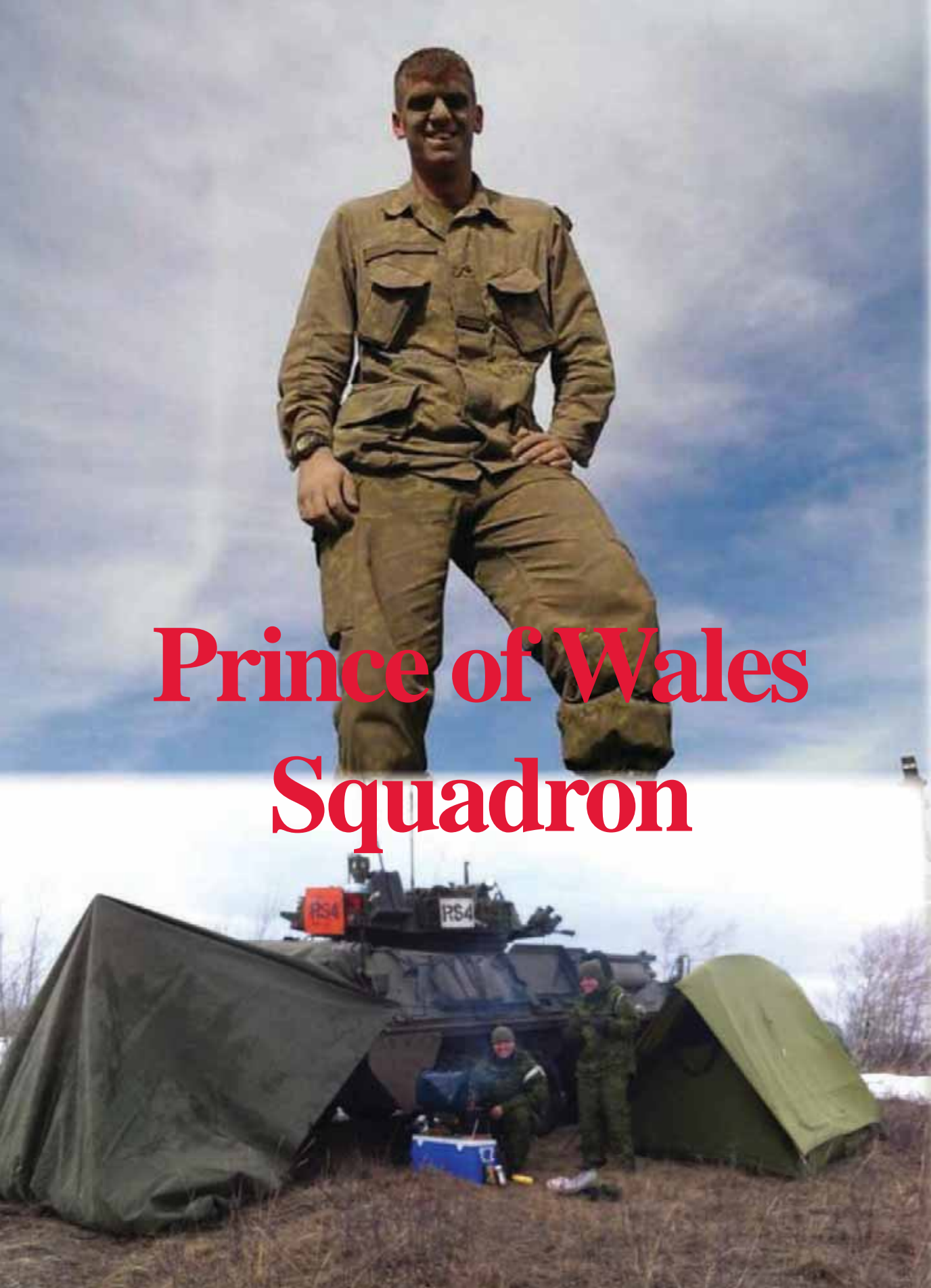
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Squadron Articles



A full-page photograph of a soldier in a desert combat uniform standing in front of a military vehicle and tents. The soldier is smiling and has his hands on his hips. The vehicle behind him has 'RS4' markings. Two soldiers are visible near the tents in the foreground. The background shows a cloudy sky and a snowy horizon.

Prince of Wales Squadron



Prince of Wales Squadron Year in Review

*Lt Stephen Couture, Lt Darren Carter-Wright, Lt Ahmad Jaradat,
and Lt Matthew Hoffart*

It has been quite a year for Prince of Wales Squadron. Last year we in B Squadron earned the right to call ourselves the Prince of Wales Squadron. Over the last twelve months, through our hard work and determination, we have once again demonstrated why B Squadron is the top Squadron in the Regiment.

This incredibly busy year has brought with it a lot of ups and downs for the Squadron. We wrapped up the road to high readiness, which was passed to A Squadron. We deployed on an exciting domestic operation to Kananaskis and Canmore during Operation LENTUS. We organized the annual Regimental Family Day, won all of the Commanding Officer's (CO's) Competitions, and qualified over half the Squadron on the Leopard 2. All this hard work culminated in an excellent deployment to Wainwright, where we displayed our operational effectiveness. Exercises STEELE SABRE, HADES RAM and the Combat Team Commanders Course proved that even though we weren't a high readiness Squadron this year, we still performed as one.

B Squadron provided outstanding support to A Squadron's road to high readiness and Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. **Capt Callum Smith** and **WO Robert Englehart** took a leading role in the Opposition Force for the exercise, which was mostly provided by Royal Canadian Dragoons. The two represented the Squadron excellently while working with another unit, demonstrating proficiency in armoured tactics. After the completion of this exercise, **Maj Vince Kirstein** reached the end of his tenure as Officer Commanding Prince of Wales Squadron and handed over to **Maj Clayton Gardner** who was excited for the opportunity to take command and be back with the Regiment.

One of the most memorable moments that we had this year came at around 2000 hours on Thursday, 20 June 2013. The Vanguard Company of the Immediate Reaction Unit received the call to deploy forward and be prepared to assist with emergency operations for the floods occurring in southern Alberta. After spending the better part of three months in the field, the soldiers of Prince of Wales Squadron were looking forward

B Coy Cbt Tm wind block



to a well deserved long weekend. Instead, they were in for a trip to the drenched Canmore and Kananaskis regions. Due to heavy rains and higher than normal run off, the Bow and Elbow Rivers caused severe flooding and damage to the Canmore and Kananaskis areas. This was the Area of Operations tasked to the Vanguard and LdSH(RC) battle group. For many soldiers, this was unlike anything we had ever done before. Fellow Canadians were in trouble and it was severe enough to deploy the Canadian Armed Forces. This domestic operation allowed the Soldiers within B Squadron to grasp the positive impact that the uniform has on the Canadian population and communities within Canada.

As soon as we arrived in the Kananaskis area, we barely had time to dismount from our vehicles and busses before **WO Stephen "We're going first" Churchill** volunteered his platoon, Call-Sign (C/S) 23, for the first task from the Vanguard Company Commander, **Maj Clayton Gardner**. C/S 23 was briefed by the Vanguard Second-in-Command, **Capt John Kim**, to move to the Delta Kananaskis Resort and assist with the evacuation of local civilians and tourists who had been stranded there due to a washed-out bridge. **Lt Ahmad "Subbie Arabia" Jaradat** and **WO Churchill** immediately coordinated with members from 1 Service Battalion. After a 30 minute drive to link up with the Vanguard Company Commander, the situation was assessed, and C/S 23 got to work with the evacuation of the resort. With **WO Churchill** ensuring that all vehicles were marshalled to their proper positions, the evacuation finally started to commence. In the end, C/S 23 assisted with the evacuation of 125 people from the Delta Kananaskis Resort. Once back on the ground at Willow Rock Camp Grounds, you could sense the pride within the soldiers who just completed their first domestic operation.



WO Stephen Churchill taking charge of the evac

Sgt Sebo gunning as safety staff



Every single soldier was excited for an opportunity to go on a mission to assist Canadians in need. C/S 23 was very successful with the first evacuation but the other two Platoons had not yet been deployed in a situation where they were able to directly support Canadian citizens. This opportunity came on the second day at 1400 hours when **Sgt Jay Clark** informed **Lt Steve Couture** and **Sgt Stu McLoughlin** that there was another mission: C/S 21 was in the breach for this task. The Operations Officer, **Capt Paul Leonard** briefed us on the situation. Earlier that day, **Maj Gardner** and a medic from 1 Field Ambulance, **MCpl Shawn Banville**, had taken a helicopter ride deep into Kananaskis county to William Watson Lodge to assess the requirements needed to evacuate a group of civilians. Roughly 40 people required recovery via helicopter, and many of them would require special assistance.

C/S 21 was tasked to set up a receiving area for the civilians arriving via helicopter, ensuring they were comfortable and cared for until their families could arrive to retrieve them. **Capt John Kim, MCpl Nick Patterson, and Cpl Evan Stewart** were tasked to link-up with **Maj Gardner** at William Watson lodge and control civilian movement at the helicopter pick-up point. Almost immediately after C/S 21 arrived at the reception area, they heard in-bound helicopters. **MCpl Rob Kearns**, sporting a pretty ridiculous facial expression, got his picture on national news, as he pushed “the heaviest wheelchair of all time.” By the end of the day, the total evacuees numbered 108 people, a few cats and dogs and even a bird!

The annual summer CO’s Competition, which was hosted by A Squadron, saw 1 and 3 Troop compete against the rest of the Regiment. Contests that teams competed in were the road wheel bench-press, coyote pull, 9-liner and medical evacuation, Regimental history, and Armoured Fight Vehicle Recognition stands. C/S 21 led by **Lt Stephen “Deadlift” Couture** and **Sgt John “Scaryface” Goobie** came in fourth place in the Regiment (despite having won the competition previously 3 times in a row). **Lt Ahmad “Run On” Jaradat** and **Sgt Mark “I’m Angry” Thomas** destroyed all the other teams’ scores, coming in 1st place and winning the CO’s competition.

After hosting the annual Family Day, B Squadron kicked into high gear, preparing vehicles and kit to be deployed to Wainwright for Exercises STEELE SABRE, HADES RAM and the Combat Team Commanders Course. The two part exercise commenced with live ranges for gunnery courses and a Squadron level gun camp. This was an opportunity for the crews and troops to hone their gunnery skills. We started with static shoots, progressed with stab runs in fire teams, and culminated with a Troop level live fire. The tank crews destroyed all of their respective enemy targets with speed and aggression and celebrated with a smoker before heading home for Thanksgiving.

The second half of Exercise STEELE SABRE resumed post-Thanksgiving. Through inclement weather, B Squadron persevered while conducting attacks at the combat team level, facing a determined enemy force and an even more adverse Mother Nature. Working with B Company, 1st Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, 1 Canadian Engineer Regiment and a Forward Observation Officer from 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, B Squadron played an instrumental role in ensuring the success of the Combat Team Commanders Course. 7 November marked the end of the exercise after (finally) recovering C/S 22 and Prince of Wales Squadron re-deployed to Edmonton for some well deserved rest and upcoming Christmas leave.

2013 provided many great experiences for Prince of Wales Squadron. We’ve developed from a relatively inexperienced group of individuals (most of who were doing their job for the first time) to a very effective team as we prepare to take on the challenges of 2014.

Lt “I dont get stuck” Couture





Regimental



Headquarters



Regimental Headquarters

Capt Tyler “Spud” Collings

Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) had a great year in 2013. The year was defined by three major activities: support to Task Force GLADIUS (Brigade Headquarters) high readiness training, support to domestic and international operations, and the fall training period.

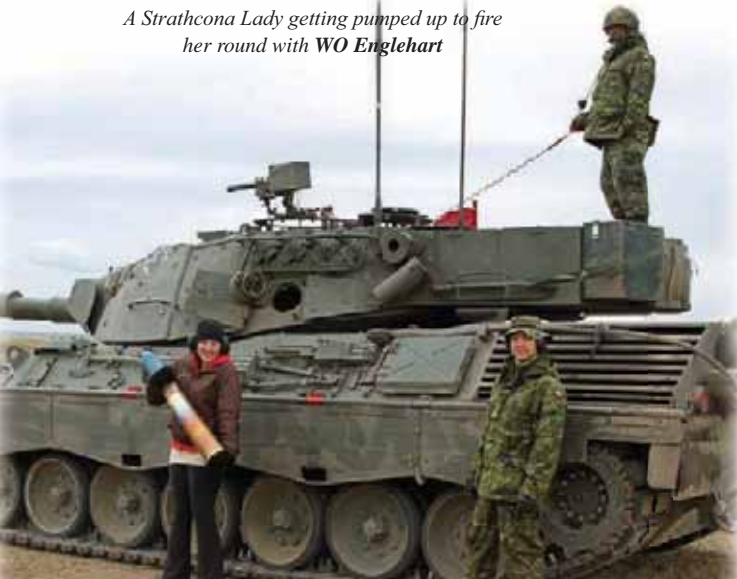
The year kicked off with much of the Regiment preparing to support both A and Recce Squadrons on the Task Force 1-13 road to high readiness. This began in February with Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE, the first step on the road to high readiness for Task Force GLADIUS, as part of 1 Canadian Division’s Joint Exercise. The Regiment was tasked to play the role of a subordinate battle group for Headquarters 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group alongside 1st Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry battle group. The exercise proved to be an excellent opportunity for RHQ to practice running a battle group Command Post and for Signals Troop to apply their skills when deployed to the field.

Not long after Exercise UNIFIED RESOLVE, RHQ was in Wainwright with the rest of the Regiment on Exercise STEELE SNIPER. The aim of this exercise was to train Task Force GLADIUS sub-units, A and Recce Squadrons, to level 4 live before falling under full operational command of Brigade Headquarters in Exercises PROMETHEAN RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE. Aside from being an excellent training opportunity, this also proved to be an excellent opportunity for **Capt Rob Swainsbury** to demonstrate to the rest of RHQ how to sleep without a tent at -40 degrees Celsius. Exercise STEELE SNIPER was followed in May by the deployment of RHQ on Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, again as a fictitious battle group headquarters, to assist in the training of Task Force GLADIUS. This training opportunity was seized upon by the Signals Troop who, under the leadership of the newly arrived Signals Officer, **Capt Scott Smith**, was able to shake the dust off their modular tents and go through the routine of setting up and running a Command Post in an operational context.



Cpl Weir takes a smack to the face!

A Strathcona Lady getting pumped up to fire her round with WO Englehart



With support to Task Force GLADIUS collective training complete in early June, RHQ looked forward to coordinating a series of summer adventure training activities that would reward soldiers for their hard work throughout the early months of 2013. This plan survived only a few days after re-deployment from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. On 21 June, the Regiment deployed as part of the 3rd Canadian Division’s response to the floods in Southern Alberta. As the Immediate Reaction Unit, the Vanguard (composed of B Squadron), and RHQ with its fleet of G-wagons and Bisons were the first army contingent to deploy from Edmonton Garrison



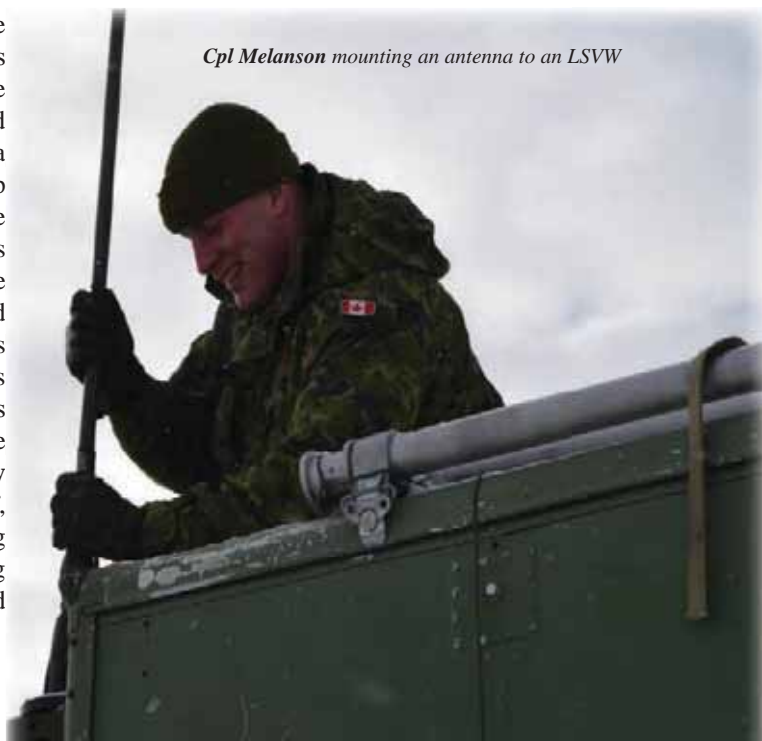
RHQ practicing tent routine

in support of Operation LENTUS. During our five-day deployment to Kananaskis and Canmore, AB, RHQ coordinated the evacuation of more than 400 civilians who had been cut-off as a result of roads being washed away in flash floods. More than 100 of these civilians were, in fact, severely handicapped adults who had been vacationing at a resort in Kananaskis. The picture of **WO Cordell Boland**, then the Regimental Operations WO, helping unload handicapped adults from the back of a Cormorant Search and Rescue helicopter, was the enduring image of that deployment.

It must be noted that similar to sub-units, RHQ duties go beyond mere field operations. Throughout the year, under the watchful eye of **WO Louise Litwin**, the Regimental Orderly Room continuously provided excellent stewardship of the Regiment's personnel administration, ensuring the accurate and timely completion of everything from claims to Deployment Assistance Groups, with an incredible level of efficiency. Of course, the Regimental Police and Intelligence Cell were always on hand to ensure security clearances were tracked, that numerous courses were provided the publications required and that maps were produced at a staggering rate in order to support our various commitments. With the Intelligence Officer, **Capt Dave Peeling**, deployed on Operation ATTENTION, the Regiment relied heavily on the services of **Cpl Travis Silcox** and **Cpl Adrien Droogers** to provide the Unit the intelligence support it required.

The Regimental Training Troop was also consistently busy as usual, providing simulation capabilities to Primary Combat Function training and Squadron training throughout the year. A highlight of 2013 for Training Troop (and the Regiment) was the acceptance of the Leopard 2 simulation package which allowed the Regiment to run Leopard 2 training in-house for the first time. The six gunnery simulators allowed crews to synchronize their activities and train in virtual environments at the Troop level.

The fall training season began in late September as RHQ deployed on Exercises STEELE SABRE and HADES RAM. These deployments, which began 24 September and did not end until 8 November, saw RHQ coordinate a Regimental gun camp; operate as a battle group headquarters for a Regimental force-on-force event; provide support to Brigade Headquarters in support of Recce Squadron's Task Force GLADIUS D+90 training in Provost, AB; and then revert back as a battle group headquarters in support of the Combat Team Commanders Course. RHQ's success during the live fire ranges was due in large part to the immense efforts of the Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer, **WO Jay Webb** and his right-hand man, **Sgt Alex Graf**, both of whom are suspected of not sleeping during most of September or October. After training throughout the year to deploy as a simulated



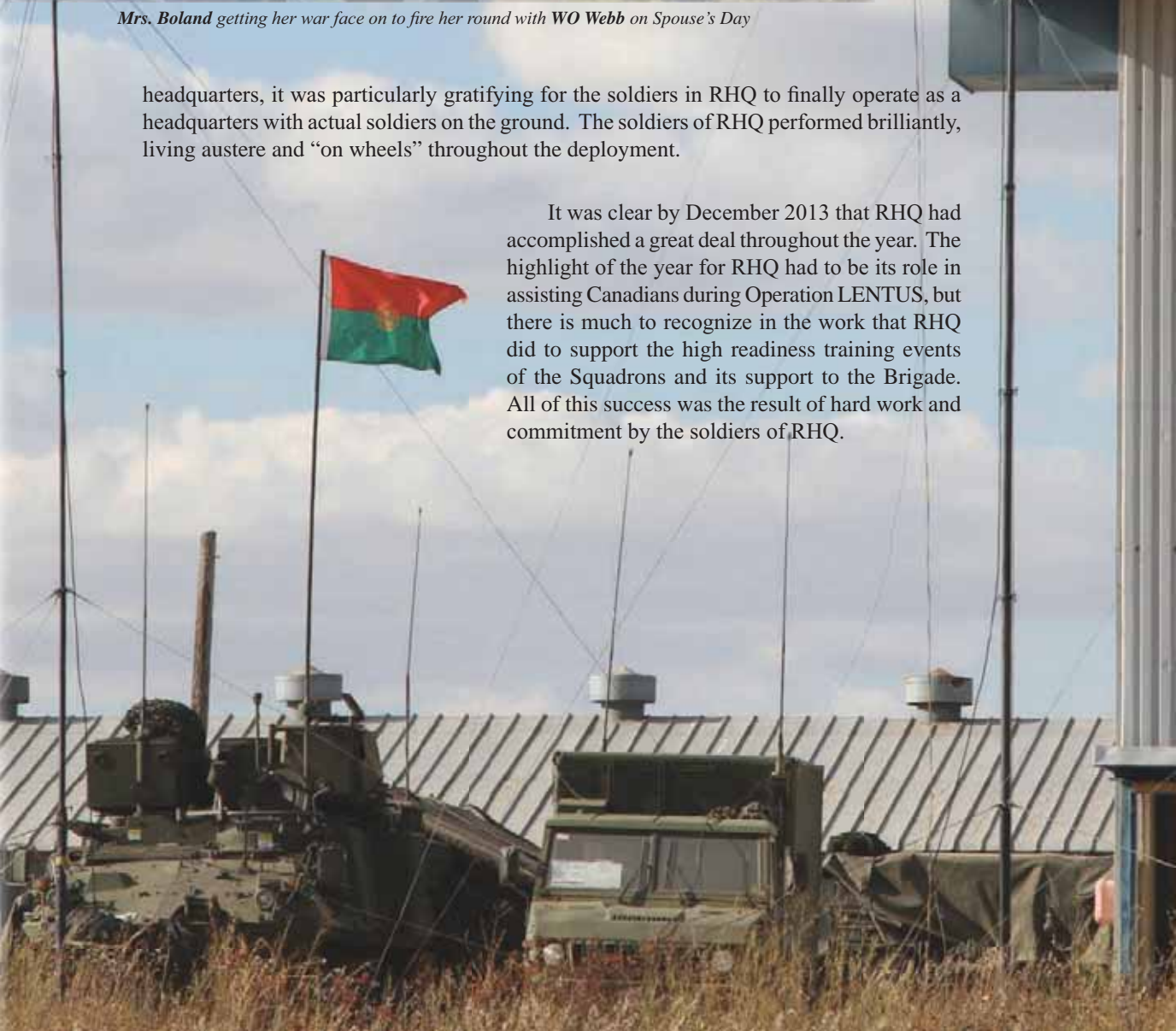
Cpl Melanson mounting an antenna to an LSVW



Mrs. Boland getting her war face on to fire her round with WO Webb on Spouse's Day

headquarters, it was particularly gratifying for the soldiers in RHQ to finally operate as a headquarters with actual soldiers on the ground. The soldiers of RHQ performed brilliantly, living austere and “on wheels” throughout the deployment.

It was clear by December 2013 that RHQ had accomplished a great deal throughout the year. The highlight of the year for RHQ had to be its role in assisting Canadians during Operation LENTUS, but there is much to recognize in the work that RHQ did to support the high readiness training events of the Squadrons and its support to the Brigade. All of this success was the result of hard work and commitment by the soldiers of RHQ.



A Squadron

STRATHCONA'S



SQUADRON





A Squadron – Year 2013

WO Melanie Parent and Lt Joe Monroe

During this past year, A Squadron conducted a large number of exercises, fought floods, trained Troops for high readiness and showed off its Regimental spirit in various competitions. Our men and women, rested after Christmas leave in January 2013 immediately started its high operational tempo training with Leopard 2 conversion courses. All were ready to train to support the new high readiness battle group with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). At the onset of spring, A Squadron was deployed to Wainwright under the Officer Commanding, **Maj Eric 'Morgan Freeman' Angell**, and Squadron Sergeant-Major (SSM), **WO Marcel 'Rock On' Chenier**, for Exercise STEELE SNIPER. It consisted of qualifying the Squadron through levels 1-4 live fire. The final evaluation was done by the Brigade Commander, **Col Anderson**, who was impressed by the capabilities of the Troops during a hasty attack where the Squadron literally rolled over an enemy position after laying down heavy fire.



MCpl Doucette receives a Commander 1 CMBG Commendation for his act of bravery in Calgary.

A Squadron returned home to their spouses to celebrate Good Friday before heading back to the field for Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM, which consisted of marrying-up with infantry, engineers, and other assets of the battle group to conduct live fire level 5 and 6. To celebrate the good teamwork, 1 PPCLI held a smoker at battle group level with an all-you-can-drink party, but no one can really remember....



Troop Leaders and WOs enjoy tasty muffins while "not" doing Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN.

A Squadron recovered for a few days before Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, a three week force-on-force exercise. The enemy force was composed of B Squadron and other pseudo-units outside Edmonton including Royal 22e Regiment, Royal Canadian Dragoons, and small brigade enablers from Kingston such as Electronic Warfare and Psychological Operations Companies. Despite **Capt 'K-Kill' Karl Tams's** destruction by a little Coyote, the tanks fared well. The reality check of conventional warfare complexities and its challenges hit both sides. This included a series of "deer in headlights" moments during a Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear

attack. After the smoke cleared, June was upon us with the glorious call of End Exercise! Before re-deploying to Edmonton, A Squadron provided two tanks for the retirement parade of **MGen Collins** and took him on a final retirement ride.

A Squadron conducted Troop training when the Regiment was called to the Alberta floods. A Squadron deployed to Medicine Hat with 2 Troops under the commands of **Capt Phillip ‘Jello Hammer’ Buckingham** and **Lt Jamie ‘Get at me’ Brittain**. **Capt Tams** acted as Battle Captain for Operation LENTUS while the Squadron was deployed to prevent damages and build sandbag walls. A Squadron’s relentless perseverance and hard work literally saved the Medicine Hat power plant and a part of the downtown area with the help of civilian contributions. The return to Edmonton provided a brief respite for the soldiers after the floods. Preparations for Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows began and the annual posting season saw changes to many faces in the Squadron with the departures of **Capt Matthew ‘Super Nerd’ Johns**, **Capt Buckingham**, **WO Shane ‘Flanny’ Flannigan**, **MCpl James Doucette**, **Cpl Aiden Bellegarde** and **Cpl Andrew Elms**.

After the posting plots, the Squadron started the 12 month high readiness period with 1 PPCLI Battle Group. The Freedom of the County Parade saw the Squadron parading in Sherwood Park. The 40 km road move to Sherwood Park was an amazing opportunity to see the population and show off our new tanks as they drove down the roads in Edmonton. **Cpls Jeremy Dunford, Richard Wagner, Andrew Phelan**, and **Tristan Mosher** also planned and executed a charity airsoft event which raised approximately \$5000 for Valour Place. The Squadron’s Quartermaster staff and many A Squadron members attended, making it a huge success and a chance between members to get even for “that thing you did in the field, remember?”

Nearly every member of the Squadron was involved with the Primary Combat Function cycle training new drivers, gunners and crew commanders. Concurrently, A Squadron provided players for the Regimental team for the brigade rugby tournament, Exercise RUCKING RAM, which was a smashing success. As for the Worthington Cup team, composed of **MCpl Dave ‘Mad’ McMurtry** and **Cpls Andrew ‘f-em-up’ Phelan, Jeffrey ‘hit em low’ Hayes**, and **Aaron ‘hammered’ Hamm**, they competed in Gagetown and earned a highly contested and controversial 3rd place. They made the Squadron and Regiment proud.

Excited to be fully qualified, the Squadron left for Exercise STEELE SABRE to shoot ten days in gun camp and conduct level 1-3 live fire. **Cpl Mitch ‘the Caveman’ Croxall** loaded tank rounds like a machine gun as 2 Troop, led by **Lt Joe ‘Where’s Joe?’ Monroe** executed a rapid, violent battle run which impressed the Commanding Officer and made its way onto 3 Canadian Division’s Youtube page.

A competition between A and B Squadron arose with a force-on-force contest during Exercise HADES RAM. A Recce Troop was attached to both sides, providing support throughout, and all vehicles were equipped with the laser-tag Weapons Effects Simulation system. A Squadron clearly won, and many can recall how 4 Troop, led by **Lt Jamie ‘Getting at you’ Brittain**, ambushed B Squadron from behind, guns blazing, and destroyed several tanks closing in on 1 Troop.

Before the Combat Team Commander’s Course (CTCC), A Squadron practiced with A Company, 1 PPCLI, for a few days. In a demonstration of a hasty attack for the students of the CTCC and the Commander of the Army, **Tpr Garrett ‘Big guns’ George** showed off the capabilities of the mine plough in breaching a complex minefield obstacle. The

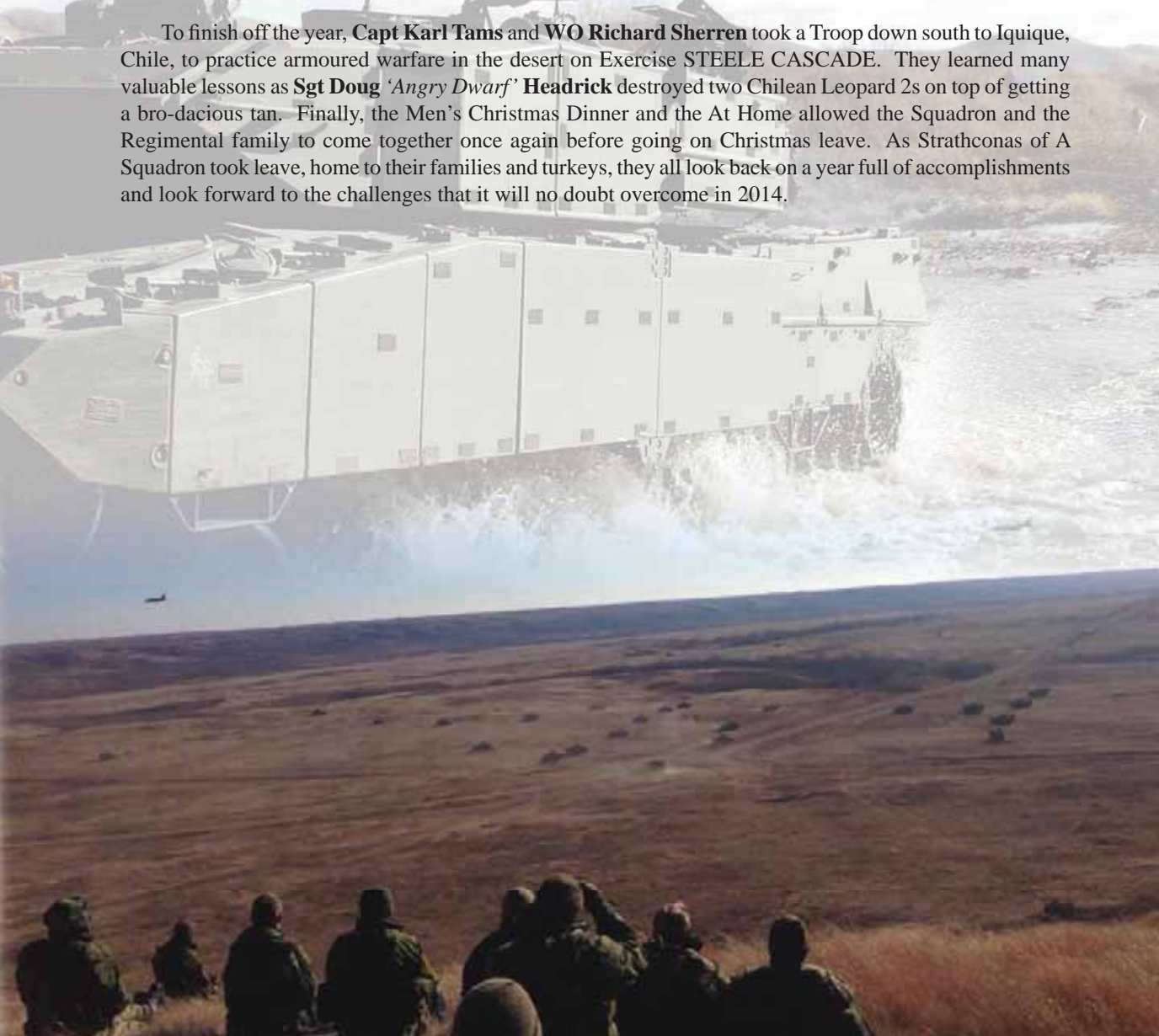


A Squadron Combat Team AAR.
left to right: **Lt Joe Monroe** and **Capt Karl Tams**.

CTCC went smoothly as A Squadron Combat Team, under the command of various student combat team commanders, defined and destroyed enemy positions like clockwork in spite of some gloriously stuck tanks after **Lt Joe Monroe** and **Capt John 'the ninja' Kim** tested the limits of physics.

Immediately following field training, the Squadron returned to garrison for Remembrance Day. Most of the Squadron returned to Sherwood Park for the ceremony while other members went to the late **Tpr Michael Hayakaze's** gravesite in Evergreen Memorial to pay respects. Before Christmas leave, the Squadron went to the shooting range and despite firing with Electro-Optic sights in a freezing Edmonton December, snipers **Cpl Andrew Phelan** and **Tpr Anthony 'Cookie' Cook** earned Marksman badges with excellent scores all the way up to 300 m.

To finish off the year, **Capt Karl Tams** and **WO Richard Sherren** took a Troop down south to Iquique, Chile, to practice armoured warfare in the desert on Exercise STEELE CASCADE. They learned many valuable lessons as **Sgt Doug 'Angry Dwarf' Headrick** destroyed two Chilean Leopard 2s on top of getting a bro-dacious tan. Finally, the Men's Christmas Dinner and the At Home allowed the Squadron and the Regimental family to come together once again before going on Christmas leave. As Strathconas of A Squadron took leave, home to their families and turkeys, they all look back on a year full of accomplishments and look forward to the challenges that it will no doubt overcome in 2014.





Recce Squadron



Recce Squadron – The Road to High Readiness

Capt Shaun McGuinness and Capt Ty Hewer

This year's Road to High Readiness saw Recce Squadron busy at home and in the field as we prepared for and deployed on multiple exercises to sharpen our skill sets. Starting out for Wainwright in the middle of the long cold winter, we deployed for Exercise STEELE SNIPER (28 Feb-7 Mar). This was an excellent opportunity to unfreeze (pun intended) our winter warfare capabilities and test our vehicles, equipment, and SOPs in austere conditions. Aside from a good deal of 'learning experience' with reference to the off-road capabilities of the Coyote in 8 feet of snow, members of the Squadron also learned a valuable lesson about the tendency of crows to close with and destroy certain very shiny, very warm, very full foil bags. A quick review of both the "Why things are seen" and "What to do with your SH^#@er Bag when you are done with it" lessons from Basic Training remedied the problem, and the exercise went smoothly through the transition to Exercise STEELE STALKER.

Contrary to well founded popular belief, this endeavour was not a tribute to out-going Recce Squadron member, **Capt Connor "I follow you because I care" Readman**, but an exciting new opportunity to conduct traditional Recce tasks on the local economy, which we will visit again later in the article. Members of the Squadron were able to conduct bridge classification drills, fording assessments, and bypass identification, all in unfamiliar terrain while dealing with real time logistical challenges such as operating in the midst of civilians and sorting out effective communications across a wide Area of Operations (AO).

As March came to a close and after some well-earned time spent with family and friends, the Squadron was on its way back to Wainwright for Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM and MAPLE RESOLVE. Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM presented the opportunity to conduct live fire convoy ranges with members of 1 Service Battalion and the Military Police providing a look at what joint operations in a conventional operating environment might look like.

It also provided **Tpr "Tan all Day-arowski" Taborowski** and **Cpl "Shiny-Dime" Symington**, among others, the opportunity to call in live indirect fire and see how the Recce Soldier's observations, SITREPs, and returns mesh with the Artillery.

With months of planning, preparation and perspiration contributing to the development of Recce Squadron into a well-oiled machine, it was time to put our skills to the test on Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. A huge culminating training event for the entire Brigade, the exercise saw thousands of soldiers and dozens of pieces of equipment, including helicopters and tanks, shipped from across the country to act as enemy force as 1 Canadian



Sgt Ryan Vigar rolling through one of many washed out roads during Operation LENTUS.



Mechanized Brigade Group fought its way through complex terrain and ever changing scenarios. The entire fighting force (friendly and enemy) donned Weapons Effects Simulation (WES) gear and spent several weeks fighting it out. Both sides applied the combination of Counter-Insurgency Operations and Conventional Warfare techniques to a high degree of success and with a great deal of skill and creativity.

Lt Murray “Warrant please calm down” **McTavish** and **WO Laki** “CAN ANY OF YOU PEOPLE HEAR ME THROUGH THIS STUPID GAS MASK” **Christopoulos** were privileged to demonstrate the variety of procedures used in securing and operating a ‘Dirty Route’ in the case of a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) attack. They were rewarded 17 straight hours later with a series of brief lukewarm showers before returning to the fight they had for so long been inexplicably absent from. Recce Squadron was deployed for the entirety of the exercise well behind enemy lines in a series of Screening and counter-CBRN manoeuvres, and by the time we finally collapsed our stalwart line, we looked forward to the smoker and some reprieve.



*If you build it...we will have a smoker! **Capt Mike Selberg** sees to the finishing touches on Fort Recce.*

“Expect the unexpected” rang true as the unforeseen Alberta floods adjusted our reprieve when the Squadron was recalled as part of the Immediate Reaction Unit to help our fellow countrymen in southern Alberta. The intense training Recce Squadron received up until this date in the year was put to action on Operation LENTUS. On Friday afternoon of 21 June 2013, Recce Squadron, under the command of **Maj Chris** “Did anyone see my spit cup?” **Nolan**, patiently awaited the call to assist the citizens of Medicine Hat in mitigating the damage of massive flooding in southern Alberta. The advance party departed for Red Deer that night while the main body prepared for deployment on the following Monday. The deployment order was issued on 22 June at 1130 hrs. Recce Squadron issued orders and conducted a road move to its primary staging area of Penhold, Alberta.

Multimedia outlets displayed vivid detail of the destruction in Calgary, Canmore and Medicine Hat. Upon the Squadron’s arrival in Penhold, the Troops quickly established a leaguer and awaited direction for Medicine Hat. “Our primary role was to assist the local authorities and the people of Medicine Hat,” said **Sgt Ryan** “I got this” **Vigar**. Recce Squadron rolled out to the flood ravaged city to support sandbagging efforts. Once the water reached its maximum point on the morning of 24 June, Recce transitioned to patrolling residential areas while watching for gaps in the dykes. Thankfully, the worst was over and on the morning of the 27 June, Recce Squadron departed Medicine Hat weary, but full of pride and empowered with a sense of accomplishment. The generous support to the Squadron and assistance provided by the citizens of Medicine Hat was greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Upon return, Recce Squadron simultaneously ran a Turret Operator Course, Armoured Reconnaissance Patrol Commander Course, re-built Fort Recce in Wainwright and trained for the Canadian Patrol Competition. On Exercise STEELE SABRE, live fire shoots initiated the beginning of our Troop level training. 3 Troop, led by **Lt Bryce** “Did you say dismounted?” **Simpson** conducted multiple long range patrols, 1 and 2 Troop enjoyed developing SOPs and building Troop cohesion through reconnaissance tasks for the first 72

hours of training. Upon completion of the Troop level training, 1 Troop was attached to A Squadron while 2 Troop joined B Squadron for a Regimental force-on-force exercise designed to hone our reconnaissance skills with the added pressure of only an hour lead time from our respective lines of departure.

The Squadron then left Wainwright to perform a long anticipated 'trace on the economy' spanning Wainwright to Provost, Alberta. A successful 150 km trace culminated in an extremely detailed consolidated Patrol Report and Route Classification document. Further, a thorough brief was given to the Brigade Commander **Col David Anderson** by **Maj Chris Nolan**. A very busy, but tremendously valuable training year came to an end with 1 Troop fighting in the Combat Team Commanders Course as enemy force and elements of the Squadron supporting a computer-assisted exercise, Exercise CEREBRAL RAM.

As the year of 2013 drew to an end, Squadron members can be proud of our successes, what we have accomplished and the professional and personal relationships we have forged.



*Cpl Calvin Delisle.
Have you seen Capt Hewer?*





Headquarters Squadron





Headquarters Squadron 2013

Capt Callum Smith



Combat Clerk doing combat first aid

As Headquarters Squadron settled down for a well deserved break and Christmas merriment it could look back on a year full of achievement and pride. The 2013 training season began in early February with support required to run the Regiment's annual Primary Combat Function Cycle and gun camps. Undaunted by minus 30 degree Celsius temperatures, the soldiers of Headquarters Squadron provided seamless supply and repairs to ensure that over 100 new drivers, gunners and loaders were able to complete courses. Shortly thereafter, Moreuil Wood festivities began, which was a welcomed break, a deep breath before the storm of spring exercises and impromptu operations. Each Squadron from the Regiment contributed teams to the intra-Regimental sports day during Moreuil Wood and the soldiers of Headquarters Squadron performed admirably, earning a third place overall finish. The parade commemorated the charge of Lt Flowerdew during the First

World War and reminded all in attendance that although equipment and technologies may change over the years, the hearts of Strathconas remain the same no matter what.

The spring season saw an unprecedented number and scope of field exercises the Regiment undertook for some time. It began with Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM, a ten-day live fire exercise in which almost the entire Regiment deployed to Wainwright. Led by Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron, **Maj Dave Macintyre** and Squadron Sergeant-Major, **MWO Leigh Taylor**, Headquarters Squadron ensured that all remained focused to support the fighting Squadrons on the task at hand: obliterating enemy positions in a continuous live fire exercise. Once the range clean-up was complete, the Regiment and Squadron returned to Edmonton, proud of their accomplishments and ready to take on the next task, Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301. Once again, the majority of the Regiment deployed to Wainwright, where the skills of

HQ Supports the Quarterly CO's Challenge





ARVs snogging, an organic solution to ARV replacement



Headquarters Squadron Maintenance Troop, under the leadership of Capt Alexandre Bazinet and Electrical and Technical Quartermaster-Sergeant, **MWO William Hawkins**, kept the Strathcona's in the fight against Royal Canadian Dragoons (enemy force), which was augmented by a Troop from B Squadron. After a well-earned and eventful smoker, Headquarters Squadron packed up and returned to Steele Barracks in anticipation of some quiet time before summer block leave.

Quiet time? Alas, it was not to be! Just prior to the annual All Ranks Dinner and Dance, Mother Nature decided that Calgary, Canmore and Medicine Hat were due for their Centennial bath. In the ensuing floods, Headquarters Squadron was instrumental in ensuring that Strathcona efforts across a 400 km wide Area of Operations was well supplied and supported. Our hats off go to the Quartermaster, **Capt Leona "Nervos Belli Pecuniam" Ahn** and Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, **MWO Lloyd Clayton**, for their tireless efforts and multiple road trips to ensure that the Regiment had all the beans and sandbags it could ever

want. It was during the appropriately named Operation LENTUS that incoming Officer Commanding, **Maj Mike Mallette** and new Second-in-Command, **Capt Matthew Johns**, "got their feet wet" as it were; both completed their handovers merely 12 hours before leading the Squadron out the door as part of the Immediate Reaction Unit response.

Upon return from a much needed summer block leave, the Squadron began gearing up for the annual Exercise STEELE SABRE. Welcoming new Maintenance Officer, **Capt Kayda Wriedt** to the fold, the Squadron worked feverishly to ensure that the Regiment was well mounted for the upcoming exercise. In a test run, the Regiment took a road trip to Sherwood Park in order to receive the honour of the Freedom of the County. Organized by **MWO Mark Riley** and incoming Squadron Sergeant-Major, **MWO Tod Hopkin**, Headquarters Squadron provided the Honour Guard for the event as well as guest appearances by the Strathcona Mounted Troop and Historical Vehicle Troop. After the parade, the Squadron returned to Wainwright for gun camps and Exercise STEELE SABRE, maintaining its usual effectiveness and ensuring that high standards set in previous deployments were firmly held. As the exercise continued onward into the Combat Team Commanders Course, the Squadron continued to provide repair and recovery support to the Sabre Squadrons in multiple hasty attacks and defensive operations. Only the locations of the sink holes in which several vehicles became stuck changed from day-to-day, though sometimes they were in the same places twice!

As the Squadron settled in for a few winter nights at home for Christmas leave, we can look back on a year of hard work and incredible accomplishments. The tireless efforts of Headquarters Squadron ensured the success of a remarkable series of Regimental activities and exercises. We have every right to be proud of the effort and teamwork displayed throughout the year in support of our Regiment and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of another year in the Strathcona Regiment.



Family Support Troop 2013

Cpl Joe Levesque

Over the last year the Family Support Troop has undergone a transformation. People have come and gone and our numbers have grown. As the saying goes, “the only constant within the military is change.” With the final re-deployment of troops from Afghanistan returning home, the Family Support Troop’s role has changed slightly, but remains as important as ever.

Lt Murray McTavish (with Betty Boop at his side) seamlessly moved into the role of Regimental Accounts Officer and Family Support Troop Leader, while **Capt Matthew Shumka** was posted to begin a new adventure in Quebec. The change of personnel within the Troop meant a new fan-out sheet, and this time bigger than it has ever been with the addition of Regimental Stables Troop joining the organisation chart.

MCpl Nathan Ramage joined as Stables NCO. With all the daily activities that Stables oversaw, it was no wonder that he was the most wanted man at the Regiment. The Harvey building is our home, and just like in any home, maintenance and repairs seem endless. 2014 will mean ongoing building renovations as well as preparing for many regular events and parades, not to mention the daily task of chasing down troops for the dreaded RSM’s detail.

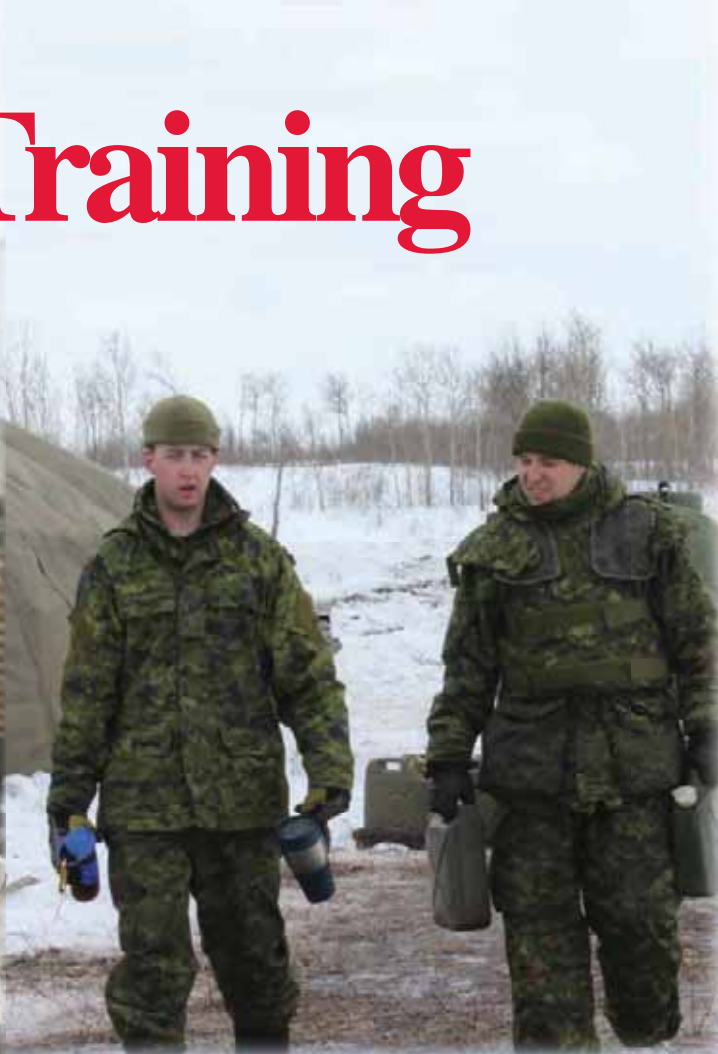
Of all the activities Family Support Troop prepared for, Moreuil Wood was considered to be one of the most important times; we parade every year to remember the significance of the battle that took place all those years ago. We would like to invite all Strathcona families to attend the parade, and share in the Regiment’s history for the 2014 celebrations. Family Support Troop would also like to point out that free child care is available during the event.

The Strathcona Family Day is traditionally renowned for being the best of the best for the Troop to help organise. It is an important and very fun event for our families, and this year was no different. **MCpl Shaun Sullivan** was present to help bring awareness to the Family Support Troop, and its efforts to support our Regimental families with the challenges military life can have on the home front. Our Regiment maintains a very high level of readiness, and with that comes a demanding training tempo with plenty time away from home. Even with the natural strength of our soldiers and their families, a little extra support is always helpful, and that’s why we are here.

We look forward to the upcoming year and the exciting times that it will bring. Family Support Troop would like to thank all the families at home. It’s the support that our soldiers receive that allows them to meet the demands of our chosen profession. If any issue arises that we can help you with, please don’t hesitate to contact us.



Training





Exercise CEREBRAL RAM

LdSH(RC)'s Quest for Digital Supremacy

Maj Chris Nolan and Capt Tyler Collings

Freshly back from supporting the Combat Team Commanders Course in Wainwright, the Regiment was once again called upon to support training. This time, we were required to provide the full spectrum of Armour support to ensure the staff of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters got a proper work-out. Considering our Brigade Headquarters was suffering from a monumental change in manning, we had to approach Exercise CEREBRAL RAM at a pace akin to a Sunday afternoon walk through the park!

The Regiment provided a virtual battle group of Regimental Headquarters, B Squadron, Headquarters Squadron and one company of infantry from 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. This powerhouse was under command of **LCol Paul** "*How come all these tanks work?!*" **Peyton** and was supported by his Operations Officer, **Capt Paul** "*Could this be any better?!*" **Leonard**; his Training Officer, **Capt Tyler** "*Master Duty Officer*" **Collings**; and his Signals Officer, **Capt Scott** "*Don't ask me why the radios don't work*" **Smith**. Luckily, the Capts could rely upon the outstanding intelligence support by our Intelligence Officer, **WO James** "*Don't ask me why there are so many BTRs!*" **Pope**. Unfortunately for B Squadron, enemy BTRs in the virtual environment are very well suited to winning direct fire engagements with Leopard 2s! This promoted endless hair pulling by Officer Commanding B Squadron, **Maj Clayton** "*You can't be serious!*" **Gardner**, and his band of not-so-merry men. All was not lost, and in no small part to Second-in-Command Headquarters Squadron, **Capt Matt** "*I can knit tanks*" **Johns**, the battle group recovered from its initial engagements and went on to achieve all its assigned tasks.

A Squadron got another opportunity to work closely with Task Force Regulators. Nothing could have made Officer Commanding A Squadron, **Maj Eric** "*The Lone Juggernaut*" **Angell**, happier than to have another opportunity to educate the infantry on why attaching single tanks to infantry platoons may not achieve the results one might desire from tank-infantry cooperation.

Recce Squadron also got to participate in this virtual sandbox as the Brigade Commander's plaything. True to form, Call-Sign 6 embraced flexibility and mission command to the maximum extent possible; to be expected with a lack of Brigade Orders and a Commander's Intent statement of "Go find me something to smash in the mouth; and don't die doing it!" Call-Sign, **Maj Chris** "*I love my Call-Sign boards*" **Nolan** and his Battle Captain, **Captain Jack** "*This isn't how we do it at the School*" **Nguyen** managed to achieve excellent results by screening the Brigade advance and racking up a disproportional number of enemy kills! Recce Squadron also did its best to increase the horsepower of our higher headquarters by sending the Second-in-Command, **Capt Mike** "*I can do the work of four normal Staff Officers*" **Selberg** to be the G3 Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Cell.

When all was said and done, and the foretold success of the Brigade Headquarters was achieved, it was well recognized that this virtual exercise was an outstanding triumph, due in no small part to the soldiers and officers of the Regiment.



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Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM

Lt Jamie Brittain



The Battle Captain's crew making an administrative move.

Few exercises provide as much excitement as one with live fire combat team and battle group attacks. Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM did not disappoint, with A Squadron, led by **Maj Eric Angell**, firing dozens of rounds down range. A Squadron started out with several dry fire attacks, rotating through the different 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) companies to marry-up and practice before given live rounds. After much practice, maintenance, and a bonfire that involved burning half an acre worth of trees, A Squadron was loaded up with ammo and sent on an extensive road move outside the training area and down the highways and streets of Wainwright in the dead of night to the Release Point for the war on West Isle.

Keeping the Squadron at maximum combat strength was a challenge, especially **Lt Laurel "Ram Rod" Burchell's** tank, which did not even make it to the initial start point. At first light, we started our push to the first objectives. After much anticipation and excitement, we were disappointed to learn that many objectives required "no cannon" due to fire template issues because of the awesome

power of our tanks. After swallowing our sorrows, we kept pushing from objective to objective, hitting hard and taking names. The initial push culminated with an attack on Objective GOLD (Vertical Village) which contained a chemical weapons threat. The attack went well with **Lt Karl "No Time For This Crap" Tams** and the author leading the way for Bravo Company combat team. No sooner had we consolidated that the combat team was hit with a chlorine gas attack which resulted in the author discovering that: 1) it was real tear gas; and 2) that his mask was not tightened properly! The race for the award, a case of beer, was on between battle group reconnaissance snipers and Charlie company soldiers to find the High Value Target (HVT) who was the gas attacker for the West Isle Forces. With the help of a good gunner, **Cpl Matthew "Brown Eye" Freeman**, and some high ground, the author's tank found the HVT and eliminated him with a healthy burst of co-ax fire, but the author has yet to receive his case of beer!

The firing template opened up for the cannons as the Squadron moved into Range 16 and 25 training areas destroying targets with extreme prejudice and leaving behind a trail of destruction. The Officer Commanding's (OC) Loader, **Sgt James "Hammie"**



A Leopard 2A4M moving quickly to secure a position.



Hamilton out did himself, pumping 21 rounds down range on a single attack. **Cpl Carlos** “*MExercisei-Can*” **Gaona** tried to match the Sgt, firing 19 rounds in a stab ready turret cross-country; how many of those rounds actually hit the target is unknown. The push to get as many tanks involved in the live fire attacks continued despite **Capt Matt** “*Ground Looks Good*” **Johns** literally drowned a tank in a lake (let’s not discuss the one the author sunk). Thankfully, **WO Jay** “*Back-Deck*” **Webb** gallantly offered up his tank to the Battle Captain. Although A Squadron was rarely more than 50% operational at any one time, with crews such as **WO Richard** “*Peregrine*” **Sherren** not making it out of Camp Nathan Smith until the very end, everyone made it out at some point to join in the fight. On the final objective, the engineers constructed a bridge for the Squadron’s Leopard 2 tanks, which allowed it to go on the final attack. The fire base and assault force hammered the objective with everything it had. After the attack, everyone waited breathlessly for the much anticipated call of End Exercise before conducting the move back to Airfield 21 for a well deserved rest, shower, and smoker. **Capt Phil** “*Buckinghammer*” **Buckingham** and **Sgt Matt** “*Ginger*” **Williams** deserve extra mention along with the OC and Second-in-Command as the only crews who never left the fight.

All in all, Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM was an incredible learning experience for all participants. After hundreds of rounds fired, sunken tanks in lakes, tanks playing bumper cars, and back-decked assault tanks, A Squadron emerged as a cohesive unit, earning the camaraderie and respect of the entire 1 PPCLI battle group and the brigade as a whole.

Lt Brittain’s Leopard C2 demonstrating the perfect hull down position or getting gloriously stuck, whichever perspective one chooses...





Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 1301


Lt Laurel Burchell

The sun shone brightly on 16 May 2013 as A Squadron arrived at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1301, the final validation exercise for the Squadron's Road to High Readiness with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) battle group for Task Force 1-13. In the first couple of days upon arriving, 63 soldiers of A Squadron enjoyed good living at the Weapons Effects Simulation (WES) compound as they prepared vehicles and conducted maintenance. A multitude of fine field dining experiences were provided compliments of the Squadron Sergeant-Major, **WO Marcel Chenier**, Second-in-Command, **Capt Matthew Johns**, and the Officer Commanding, **Maj Eric Angell**. Who knew the Sergeant-Major had such a way with the BBQ? Remaining on base until 18 May provided a fine opportunity for many to enjoy the NHL playoff games before deploying and for all Boston Bruins fans the call of End Ex was met with much crying.

Deployment to Tactical Assembly Area MAPLE saw the Squadron divided. The tanks of the Squadron Commander and Battle Captain (**Capt John Kim**) and some Leopard C2s linked up with elements of 1st Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment's Bravo Company to provide overwatch and protection at the Orange Route bluffs, as the engineers built a bridge to accommodate our large tanks. 2 Troop, consisting of Leopard C2s under the command of the indomitable **Capt Philip "Phil Nye the Science Guy" Buckingham**, linked up with Charlie Company of 1 PPCLI and seized Rocky Ford. **Cpl Dave "I got this" Younger**, got the Squadron's first four kills, having unlocked the ack-ack machine gun and hosed down an enemy SUV full of insurgents. Once the mobile bridge was in place, the tanks crossed the bridgehead and wreaked havoc with the likes of **Maj Eric "Head Hunter" Angell** leading the way in speed and aggression. The tanks forcefully swept the east side of the Battle River and were responsible for multiple tank and reconnaissance vehicle kills. Unfortunately, the Squadron also suffered some kills inflicted by WES and A Squadron lost a few good men in the process. **Capt "K Kill" Karl Tams** found out what it was like to be gunned down in his prime, not only by a Coyote, but to his shame, a Royal Canadian Dragoon Coyote. While he and the Battle Captain took a mandatory 24 hours reconstitution pause, the rest of the Squadron became acquainted with the enemy as it occupied defensive positions for the next two days.

After demonstrating its extreme efficiency and martial prowess, the Squadron moved to a hide which afforded it the opportunity to give the tanks some much needed maintenance. Never a dull moment, **MCpl Dave McMurtry** followed in the steps of his glorious leader **Lt Jamie "Glory Hole" Brittain**, and got stuck on the way to the hide. In spite of tanks falling into sink holes along Grey Route, all the troops demonstrated flexibility and agility when they did launch from their defensive positions to destroy enemy tanks.

After the defensive phase of operations, A Squadron took the fight to the enemy and cleared the badlands for 1 PPCLI to move on to Vertical Village, Objective EL PENON. Swift and sudden movements allowed for seamless entry into West Isle where A Squadron linked up with 1 PPCLI, 1 Royal 22nd Regiment, 408 Squadron, and the engineers to air-deliver a mobile bridge across Ribstone Creek and launch destructive attacks near Lost Farm (Objective VIPER). A valiant effort was put forth by the enemy (played by Royal Canadian Dragoons) who constructed complicated lines of trenches and pillboxes reminiscent of WWI. These obstacles barely slowed A Squadron down while it stormed the enemy from all sides with thunderous rumbling of tanks. The enemy's Battle Captain was not as lucky as the rest, thanks to **Capt Karl Tams** and his gunner, **Cpl Carlos Gaona's**, excellent shooting. Overall, the exercise was a complete success for the soldiers of A Squadron, confirming its integral part as one of the brigade's high readiness sub-units.



Exercise HADES RAM

WO Laki Christopoulos

With the two week Thanksgiving break over after re-deploying from Exercise STEELE SABRE, A Squadron was once again ready to roll to action rumbling tanks all over the Wainwright training area. After conducting some internal Squadron training, we prepared to link-up with A Company from 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. With our Officer Commanding, **Maj Eric Angell**, and I as the Acting Squadron Sergeant-Major (**WO Marcel Chenier** was in Gaagetown for his DP 4 Course, which he ended up being top candidate) we arrived in Buffalo West. At the time, we drove up onto what was considered a "modular heaven." We immediately took advantage of the elaborate set-up in the kitchen tent that was fully stocked with coffee, satellite TV, and the battalion's great kit shop and canteen, to issue orders. After orders were issued, it seemed all would go very well with A Combat Team, as **Maj Eric Angell** and his counter-part, **Maj Reginald McMichael** of A Company, led the charge. As the two were formal candidates together on the Combat Team Commanders Course a year earlier, they had a mutual understanding of how each other worked. The combat team was ready for success.

With Exercise HADES RAM being a combined arms training exercise designed to help the Squadron maintain our soldier skills and display an awesome show of force, there was bound to be some interesting challenges faced as the exercise went on with learning at all levels. I personally would learn some of these challenges up close and personal. On a good note was that for the first time in years, we did not have snowfall before Halloween in Wainwright. I was sure some of the members of the Squadron would have preferred to trick-or-treat with their young ones or indulge in a few drinks dressed up as interesting characters at a party, but training took priority.

We escaped October with no snow but on the first day of November, it came down hard to test our morale, but as long as we had an endless supply of beer, we were always good. With all snow came the endless Vehicle Casualty Reports that became more complex as the snow fell. **Cpl Kristopher Shields** was thrown into the breach as the Armoured Recovery Vehicle Commander when **Cpl Kenneth Wilson** left for a course in Borden. This would be the beginning of fun times ahead for us. **MCpl Timothy Dickey** became my best customer with a total of three recoveries. As bad as he felt, he always got his call-sign up and running with the help of our amazing maintenance team to get back into the battle. **Lt Joseph Monroe** did not avoid doing what almost every new Troop Leader does and threw track in a glorious fashion during a running replenishment that would prove to be complex. **Sgt Matthew Williams** and I cursed for many hours but were successful in getting his tank unstuck.

"Bad" things always happen in the "Badlands," as our Squadron Second-in-Command, **Capt John Kim**, could attest. Recovering his call-sign turned out to be the worst of those bad things, with over 30 hours of

work being put in. **Sgt Jim Cooke**, **Cpl Kristopher Shields**, and I had to knock our heads together to try and figure out how to get his tank out of a major sink hole. It was a good thing we had warmed up helping recover a B Squadron tank earlier on; the three of us continue to wait for our beers from B Squadron! Special thanks go out to the numerous Armoured Engineer Vehicle Crews from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. Without their help, it would not have been possible to recover the multiple vehicles that succumbed to the terrain and weather.

In the end, A Squadron obtained its goal with all personnel safely trained for high readiness and all call-signs recovered from the training area. As a Squadron, we surpassed a big learning curve and came through doing an exemplary job as usual. We never gave up and persevered as we always do.



MCpl Davidson, Maj McMichael, Maj Angell, Capt Kim, MCpl McMurtry, Lt Brittain. A Squadron Combat Team personnel conducting an AAR after completing a combat team hasty attack.

Exercise STEELE SNIPER

Capt Karl Tams

Bright and early (to be read, ridiculously and ludicrously dark) on the morning of 4 March 2013, A Squadron deployed to the Canadian Forces Base Wainwright for Exercise STEELE SNIPER, thus commencing the fabled process known as the Road to High Readiness. This was only possible because of the Herculean effort to complete tank maintenance the Squadron started after the completion of Christmas leave. **Sgt Jay Dance** and **MCpl Charlie Hasson** from A Squadron Maintenance led the Troops in this massive undertaking. Well done Maintenance!

The Squadron spent a cold first night at Range 25. A quick survey in the morning revealed that only two tents had working hunter-heaters, the rest had mysteriously shut off during the night (to mean Yeti/Sasquatch broke them on purpose). Thankfully, the second night was much more bearable. **MCpl Eric "Hot Hands" Estabrooks** emerged as the hero of the day, maybe even the exercise, as he figured out how to fix the heaters' regulators. No more cold nights (yeah right)! Never before had information been so quickly and thoroughly disseminated to all the Troops. One windy morning the Squadron awoke to frantic cries of "Fire! Fire! Fire!" This was shortly followed by **WO Shane "Flanny" Flanagan** heroically leading a charge out of his flaming tent in a whirlwind of smoke and kit. Not to be outdone, **Lt Laurel "Iron Chef" Burchell** demonstrated how to nearly lose an eye while making a perfectly golden grilled cheese sandwich in the infamous "grease incident." Ironically a safer food alternative was available as **Cpl Travis "Livvy" Livingstone** was busy barbecuing tube steaks at the time without the requirement for personal protective equipment. Thanks for the hotdogs, **WO Marcel Chenier**!



Cpl Russell (left) and MCpl Erb (right) by the Armoured Recovery Vehicle. Maintenance worked tirelessly to keep the Squadron's tanks rolling.

Hey WO Webb! It's a ski-doo not a sea-doo!



Once settled into camp routine, the Squadron began individual crew static training and quickly progressed to Troop level battle runs during the day and night. The Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**, joined us for these runs and validated our progress. Also joining the Squadron was our Officer Commanding, **Maj Eric Angell**, who spent his first night making a hurried and frantic run to the nearest snowbank in order to eject some questionable Viking gas station cuisine. The first week of training culminated in the entire Squadron validated to Level 3.

After a much needed maintenance break and shower run, the Squadron prepared for the main event: the Level 4 live fire battle run. Joining us to validate our performance was **Col Dave Anderson**, Commander of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, who stayed long enough to validate our



Cpl Woodland (left) and Tpr Cook (right) consider driving a hard bargain for fuel.

training and enjoy a hotdog. He did make sure to fire a round of his own before departing to big boss, brigade commander tasks.

On the morning of 13 March 2013, the Squadron deployed to the Line of Departure to begin Exercise STEELE APOCALYPSE. On H-Hour, the tanks roared to life and the Squadron rapidly advanced, encountering no enemy contacts (lucky for them!). Once the Squadron reached the Release Point, "Scytador" the fire base, under the watchful command of **Capt Matt "I am the fire base" Johns**, headed out to their position. The assault force, under the command of the **Maj Angell**, went tree bashing, waiting to be let loose on the confirmed enemy position. The Troops were excited, waiting to move out and assault the enemy. Right on cue, the fire base poured deadly fire upon the enemy, setting up an effective smoke screen to mask the approaching assault force. The main body moved out forming a line before roaring forward, firing on the move. Suddenly we encountered a

minefield and the assault force screeched to a halt. **MCpl James "Deuce" Doucette** and **MCpl Dave "Random" McMurtry's** plough tanks prepared to breach the enemy obstacle. The plough tanks dropped their implements and pushed forward, creating a safe lane for the assault force to move through. As this was happening, the fire base and the rest of the assault force continued to pound the enemy position with deadly accurate fire. Once the assault force reformed in a line on the other side of the minefield, the advance continued. Guns roared as the tanks relentlessly pummeled the hapless foe. The assault force pushed through



Tpr Stender setting up his tent's hunter-heater

the enemy position, consolidating and forming the essential block. The fire base also moved forward securing the right flank. The enemy was utterly destroyed. It was a beautiful way to end the exercise and a great start to the Road to High Readiness.



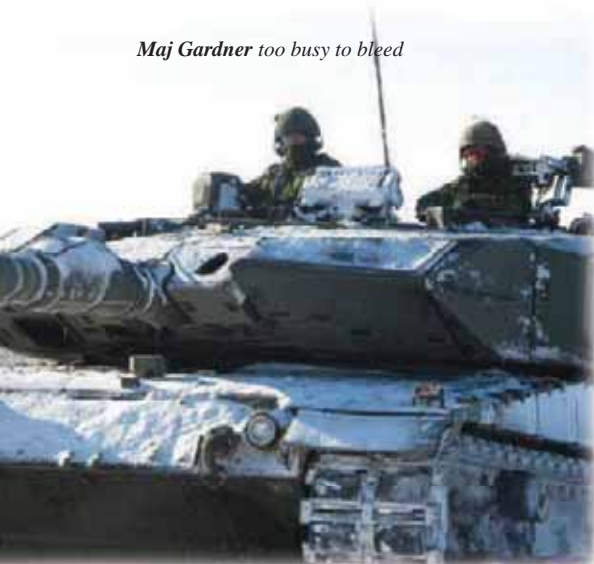
Cpl Korenowski braves the cold to get himself cleaned up



Exercise STEELE SABRE 2013

Lt Darren Carter-Wright

Maj Gardner too busy to bleed



On 17 September 2013, the main body of the Regiment deployed to the Wainwright training area to commence its Fall Exercise. This exercise was conducted in two parts with a well deserved break in the middle for Thanksgiving. The first portion consisted of Primary Combat Function gun camps, while the second focused on tactical manoeuvre from crew level training up to battle group level operations for the fighting squadrons, and for Regimental Headquarters to practice manning a Command Post at the unit and battle group levels.

The exercise began as a live fire confirmation of both the Leopard 1 and 2 Gunnery courses that were being conducted prior to deployment. A and B Squadrons established their camps in the vicinity of Range 16 while Recce Squadron deployed to Range 25. The course was successful, as were some impromptu Armoured Recovery Vehicle tasks headed up by **MCpl Lawrence “I Love my Job” Thompson** and **Cpl Mattison “Ginger” Smith**, whose determination saved

B Squadron’s camp from being engulfed in flames... twice! Twenty-four soldiers from B Squadron were qualified Leopard 2 120 mm gunnery and five qualified Leopard C2 105 mm gunnery. Most of the officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from A Squadron were involved as course staff for the Gunnery and Commander courses. Spare time was often passed with story time featuring **MCpl Ryan “not Matt” Sebo**. The gun camps consisted of both static shoots and stab runs at the crew level. On completion of the Gunnery courses, A and B Squadrons moved their camp down to Range 25, a little further from potential fire hazards. Recce Squadron moved to Range 16 as the sabre squadrons vacated to finish their 25 mm Turret Operator Course.

At Range 25, A and B Squadrons began their crew level training, completing both static day and night shoots as well as their stab runs with speed and aggression. This culminated in Level 3 shoots where Troops demonstrated their ability to move tactically on a live fire range. This portion of the exercise concluded with a regimental smoker in Peregrine 9. A highlight of the night’s events saw **Lt Justin “David” Rice** achieve victory over **Lt Ahmad “Goliath” Jaradat** in a battle of worm wrestling which Goliath denies ever happening to this day. The duties of Range Safety Officer were shared between the Battle Captains of A and B Squadron, **Cpts John Kim** and **Al Dwyer**.

The Sea Dub strikes again



Between 6 and 17 October, most of the Regiment returned to Edmonton for some well-deserved time to be with family over the Thanksgiving holiday. In garrison, soldiers of the Regiment conducted lessons on Standard Operating Procedures in combat team and battle group operations. “What comes first again... the chicken or the egg? Oops, I meant the E-LAV or the Rollers” was often wondered by **MCpl Bryson “It’s the Rollers” Murphy**.

The return to Wainwright on 18 October 2013



marked the Regiment's involvement into Ex STEELE SABRE Part II. Troops conducted crew level manoeuvres before practicing Troop movement in Line of Departure drills; Advance to Contact, Conducting a Fire Base, Hides and Harbour routine, and Withdrawal operations. Following Troop Training, the tank squadrons moved into two days of level 4 training. This portion of the exercise was concluded with a Regimental force-on-force, which pitted A Squadron against Prince of Wales Squadron and tested everyone's tactical skills. The force-on-force was a battle of attrition using Weapons Effects Simulation gear, which challenged crews in their manoeuvre, gunnery and patience. B Squadron's last remaining survivor was **MCpl Nick** "*Where'd everyone go*" **Patterson**. The force-on-force also brought the first rain of the exercise, to which **Cpl Colin** "*It got in my coffee*" **Clare** promptly complained during the entire 30 second storm.

Following this, A and B Squadrons participated in the D+90 training in the brigade's Exercise HADES RAM. This exercise afforded the sabre squadrons the opportunity to train in austere conditions at the combat team level with soldiers from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, Forward Observation Officers from 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and A and B Companies from 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). This training proved to be very valuable and both sabre squadrons demonstrated they were able to command and operate in a combat team on complex operations. Unfortunately, **Lt Ahmad** "*This is SPARTAAAA*" **Jaradat** couldn't find his loader, **Cpl Max** "*the human GPS*" **Gironne**, during one of the traces. Ex HADES RAM concluded in Buffalo West with a maintenance day and 1 PPCLI showing off their kitshop and hospitality.

The changing weather presented challenges to the maintainers as they worked tirelessly to ensure both Squadrons were effective. This effort was spear headed by **Sgt Yannick** "*You broke another tank?*" **Cimon** and **Sgt** "*I can fix anything*" **Cooke**. The final portion of the 2013 Fall exercise was the Combat Team Commander's Course (CTCC) which kicked off under the name of Ex PATRICIA JUDGEMENT in 1 PPCLI battle group. Both of the sabre squadrons led their combat teams in three hasty attacks per day over difficult terrain. The Badlands proved its name and robbed **WO Steve** "*I'm one stuck vehicle from punching that guy in the face*" **Churchill** of many hours of sleep as recoveries, injuries and sustainment were tirelessly conducted. Midway through the CTCC, the battle group command shifted to Regimental Headquarters.

With the weather turning to a blizzard, Troops and training areas alike were blanketed in a thick layer of snow. Soldiers seemed to make the best of it though with **Cpl William** "*face of steel*" **Rollins** shaving with a bowl of slush. B Squadron saw several stuck tanks, a collision that challenged the Squadron's leadership, and a bout of gastro. Looking out for the health of the crew, **Cpl Mike** "*I really just want a coffee*" **Partington** exiled his crew commander to a five man tent well away from the heat of the tank.

Exhausted and with a vehicle state that would make any armoured soldier cringe, the 2013 Fall exercise finally came to a close on 7 November 2013 for the Regiment. With countless lessons learned and irreplaceable experience from several weeks of austere training, the Regiment re-deployed to Edmonton looking forward to participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies.



Regimental Individual Training

Capt Tyler Collings

The 2013 training year contained many milestones for the Regiment. The Regiment conducted numerous Primary Combat Function courses, some of which had never been conducted previously and provided training to an incredible amount of soldiers. In total, this past year saw the Regiment award over 280 new qualifications, to include everything from First Aid Instructor training to career courses such as Armour Reconnaissance Crew Commander. The focus of the training year was to prepare soldiers to take part in Task Force GLADIUS, provide the Regiment with much needed drivers and gunners, prepare soldiers for career courses, and to train soldiers on the Leopard 2 tanks. All of this individual training was conducted while maintaining our operational commitments and meeting our collective training objectives. The Regiment also marked the year by receiving new Leopard 2 simulators and by running the first Leopard 2 Module 2 course in the Canadian Army.

The Regiment kicked off the training year immediately with a winter Primary Combat Function cycle, running a Leopard C2 Gunnery course, a Leopard C2 Driver and Maintenance course and snowmobile training, culminating in a gun camp from 24-27 February in Wainwright, known as Exercise STEELE SNIPER. Following this brief training cycle, the Regiment moved onto collective training as part of the Task Force GLADIUS road to high readiness.

By summer's end, individual training was back in full swing with an ambitious training cycle starting mid-August. As part of the Brigade training plan, LdSH(RC) marked a few milestones by running an Armour Reconnaissance Patrol Commander course outside of the Royal Canadian Armour Corps School and by running the very first Leopard 2 Module 2 Gunnery course conducted by the Canadian Army. Despite the fact that there was no Training Plan completed by the Combat Training Centre in Gagetown for this course, the training went exceptionally well thanks to the guidance of the course staff and the diligent efforts of the Regimental Training WO, **WO Rob "Iggy" Englehart**. In fact, the Training WO planned and executed an ambitious plan that also included a 25 mm Turret Operator Course, a Leopard C2 Crew Commander Gunnery course, a Leopard 2 Module 4, a Medium Load Vehicle Wheeled course and a Heavy Load Vehicle Wheeled course.

The training year culminated with a gun camp in Wainwright in September as part of Exercise STEELE SABRE. In this exercise, the Regiment conducted live fire training for 25 mm Gunnery course, a Leopard C2 Crew Commander Gunnery course, and three Leopard 2 Gunnery modules. The ranges run on this exercise achieved several milestones, not only for the Regiment but for the Canadian Army. It included the first shots ever fired in Canada by Leopard 2 Module 2 Gunnery students and the firing of new rounds from the Leopard 2 tank. Following completion of the ranges, the Regiment moved on to collective training, and for many soldiers, a chance to test their newly acquired skills.



By the end of the year it was clear that 2013 had been an excellent individual training year for all those involved. The Regiment effectively trained on the Leopard 2 platform in-house, numerous career courses were completed, and the new Leopard 2 simulation systems finally arrived in Edmonton thanks to the work by our gunnery team under **WO Jay Webb**. Individual training within the Regiment awarded soldiers new qualifications due to the diligent planning and execution by the various course staffs within the Squadrons. Further, the Regiment successfully took part in the road to high readiness and conducted a Combat Team Commanders course on behalf of the Canadian Army.



Annual Events





Moreuil Wood 2013

Capt Stuart King

The annual remembrance of the Battle of Moreuil Wood was the usual outstanding celebration. The week started off with the annual inter-squadron sports competition. Reconnaissance Squadron was in fine form, winning three out of four events, with A Squadron stopping their perfect sweep. The week was also a chance for mess dinners. Despite heavy snow, the Officers' and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCOs) mess dinners went off without a hitch. While the Senior NCOs made use of facilities on base, the Enjoy Center provided the venue for the officer's mess dinner with a back-drop of tropical plants and live music.

The Battle of Moreuil Wood parade was a brilliant affair marked with the pageantry only the Strathconas can muster. Reviewing officer was the Colonel-of-the-Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Ross**. Also present was the Senior Serving Strathcona, **BGen Hilton**, and the descendants of three Moreuil Wood veterans. In attendance were the following: **Mr. Ed and Stanley Tetley**, grandson and son of **Rex Tetley**; **Mrs. Audrey Sharpe**, daughter of **Frank Richmond**; and **Mrs. Cathy Lucas**, granddaughter of **Albert Dale**, who fought with Lt Flowerdew's Squadron.

The accomplishments of the Regimental Society were also a big component of this parade as the authority of Society was transferred from the Calgary Branch to the Edmonton Branch. Further, the accomplishments of current Strathconas were not overlooked. The following soldiers were promoted: **Cpls Bernardo, Frost and Churchill** to the rank of MCpl; **MCpl Burris** and **Kruhlak** to the rank of Sgt; and **WO Falls** to the rank of MWO.





Several medals were also awarded. **Sgt Burris** was awarded the Canadian Armed Forces Decoration (CD). The CD1 was awarded to **WO MacNeill** and **MCpl Thompson**. The General Campaign Star – Southwest Asia Medal was awarded to **Cpl Paradis**. Numerous Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals were awarded to soldiers by their respective Squadron Commanders, but a few were presented on the parade square to highlight certain individuals. Those medals were awarded to **MGen (Ret'd) Ross**, **MCpl Churchill**, **MCpl Limbert**, **Cpls Foster** and **Hall**. **Cpl Lonegren** received his Land Force Western Area Commander Commendation for his excellent performance on the LdSH(RC) Cambrian Patrol Team.

The annual Moreuil Wood awards recognized our best soldiers in several categories. The Olympic Torch Trophy was awarded to **WO Forbes** for his outstanding contribution in sports in Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN and in his role in both the base hockey team and base old-timer's hockey team as a captain. His dedication was evident when he was off playing hockey and unable to receive his award at parade. **Capt Kitching** was awarded the Colonel-of-the Regiment Commendation. The Fox Bugle was awarded to **Cpl Kearns**. Colonel-of-the Regiment Silver Stick was awarded to **Sgt Kruhlak**. The Milroy Crossbelt was awarded to **Sgt Holmes**. The Neatby Pacestick was awarded to **WO Boland**. The Hessin Memorial Sword was awarded to **Lt Tapp**.

Thanks to its outstanding performance throughout the year, B Squadron was awarded the Prince of Wales Trophy. Finally, there was a bit of sadness after the awards as **CWO Crabb** was presented his Miniature Memorial Gong to recognize his departure from the Regiment. His dedication and excellence will be sorely missed, but sorely needed on his posting in Afghanistan. Congratulations to all our soldiers!





Strathcona Family Day 2013

Lt Ahamd Jaradat

Saturday, 7 September, marked the annual Strathcona Family Day. This day was only made possible by extremely generous donations made yearly to the Regiment. It is an event that expresses the Regiment's appreciation to the families of our soldiers. Keeping with tradition, Prince of Wales Squadron organized a carnival style event designed to impress. Preparation started two months in advance with the booking of outside providers and coordinating with other organizations within the brigade. Family Day set up commenced the day before the event with **Sgt Mark Thomas**, **MCpl Trevor Osborne**, and **MCpl Ryan Sebo**, as well as a number of dedicated volunteers from the Squadron, ensuring that everything was in position for families to enjoy the day. Key guests to this year's Family Day included Edmonton Oilers Captain, Andrew Ference, and his family.

Food was offered throughout the day and ice cream, snow cones, popcorn, and cotton candy were consumed with no remorse by children and adults alike. **WO Alain Doucette** and the Regimental cooks put on a BBQ with hamburgers and hotdogs which they followed up with 50 XL pizzas just to make sure all went away happy and fed. To end what was a great Strathcona Family Day, prizes were drawn and attendees hurried over to the info booth to claim prizes that they had won before rain officially ended the afternoon.

408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron lent a hand as well, providing the Regiment with a Griffon helicopter display with two .50 Calibre door-mounted machine guns which garnered a lot of attention from all in attendance. The base fire department arrived bright and early and were more than happy to fill our dunk tank with ice cold water... much to the pleasure of the CO, **LCol Paul Peyton** and Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Tony Batty**. They promptly tested the water out while being dunked repetitively by the early arrivals that morning. A great success, this year's iteration of Family Day proved once again the Regiment's dedication towards its serving members and their families. It also allowed families to pay tribute to the dedication that Strathcona soldiers provided to the Regiment and our country.

MCpl Ryan Sebo commanding a Leopard 2A4M.



Lt Stephen Couture being taught how to properly hit by families who attended the Regimental Family Day.



The All Ranks Dinner and Dance

Capt Callum Smith

Every summer the Regiment sets aside an evening in which we can all gather to kick back and relax as a family. This year the event was held at Schank's Sports Grill and Entertainment Centre on 2 July. Originally intended to be held on 22 June, flood relief efforts in southern Alberta, known as Operation LENTUS, required the Regiment to deploy the day before the scheduled fun, and thus a postponement was in order. It was only through the herculean efforts of Squadron Sergeant-Major, **MWO Leigh Taylor**, and his trusty crew that the event was made possible. Upon our return from our sandbagging odyssey, we had the opportunity to relax and tell stories of our travels to our friends and beloved spouses before fine food and drinks.

As usual the event was well catered by our gracious hosts at Schank's who provided plentiful prime rib with pails of au-jus for the traditional tankers in our midst. The Master of Ceremonies, incoming Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron, **Maj Mike Mallette**, focused the activities, keeping things light with his lightning wit and ensuring fun was had by all. While the generously donated prizes were doled out by the Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**, the Regiment feasted and drank together, enjoying the bowling alleys, billiard tables and practicing our golf swings in the many simulators.

Congratulations to the big winners of the evening that walked away with many fine prizes:

a) \$2500 Flight Centre Gift Certificate- **Cpl Jacob Dunn** won the opportunity to enjoy some fun in the sun for two and play a variety of water sports, a far cry from the Regimental specialty of the spring, playing in mud with shovel and sand in southern Alberta;

b) \$2100 Future Shop Home Theatre Package- won by **MCpl Joseph Gushue** who can now relax and watch the news about the Regiment's hard work on his brand new flat screen TV, a true monster with sound system; and

c) \$1500 Wholesale Sports Camping Package- won by **Cpl Lance Banman** who now has even more "Gucci" camping gear. He can continue to do it in style as a result of winning the sporting goods package.

All in all, although the Regiment had to reschedule its fun initially, with fear that the event was canceled, 2013's All Ranks Dinner and Dance was all the more valuable as a direct result of Operation LENTUS. The Regiment earned its leisure and relished the opportunity, dressed to the nines, to remind one another just how good it is to be a member of this tight-knit family.





Change of Appointment of the Regimental Sergeant-Major 17 June 2013



*Acting RSM MWO Mark Riley
relinquishing the RSM's Pace Stick to
CWO Tony Batty.*

*Maj "Hogg" McKenzie
receiving the embroidered
Regimental badge on his Black
Banner.*



Andrew Ference Visits the Regiment

Cpl Calvin Delisle

Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram - social networking. You never know who you're going to meet. On a quiet Sunday night checking twitter, I noticed that a professional hockey player, recently acquired by the Edmonton Oilers, was looking for some open ice. I tweeted an offer to come skate with some soldiers on base and take a tour of the Regiment. "Bam" - a new follower on my twitter account, **Andrew Ference** (@ferknuckle). **Andrew** was willing to come out and play some hockey. After a proposal to the Commanding Officer (CO), **LCol Paul Peyton**, and some coordination with **Andrew** during our 0600hrs river valley Physical Training sessions, we settled on a skate day.

It didn't take long for the news to spread through the Regiment about a visit from a National Hockey League player and a pick-up hockey game. On a warm Wednesday afternoon, **Andrew** was greeted by Reconnaissance Squadron, Officer Commanding (OC), **Maj Chris Nolan** and Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM), **MWO Iain Fox**. After a quick discussion with the OC and SSM, we rushed off to tank barn. Unbeknownst to **Andrew**, **Sgt Matt Williams** and his crew **Cpl James Younger**, and **Tpr Shaun Armstrong** were waiting for him there. I told **Andrew** that he had to sign a waiver; he laughed and asked, "what am I getting into?" I pointed towards the Leopard 2A4 before him and replied, "That!" **Andrew** returned from his Leopard tank ride grinning ear to ear.

After a few a few photos and some autographs, he was off to the Simulation Centre for some gunnery training. **Cpl Evan "I live for AFV" Stewart** gave **Andrew** a rundown on the gunnery trainers, gave some tips, and a few rounds later - "Target Stop!"

Next we were off to see the CO and his son, **Liam Peyton**, in the CO's office. His son was on his twitter account watching the Leopard tank ride videos **Andrew** had just recorded and posted. The CO welcomed **Andrew** to the Regiment and presented him with a Regimental sweater. After a few photos, we were off to see the Regimental Sergeant Major, **CWO Antony Batty**. A spirited discussion ensued between **Andrew** and the Regimental Sergeant Major about football/soccer and the difference in opinions over who was the better team.

Once at the rink, Strathcona soldiers waited for **Andrew's** arrival. **Andrew** started on the Red team, and took full advantage of the opportunity to chat with our soldiers on the bench and on the ice. After scoring a couple of goals, **Andrew** was traded to the White team in exchange for a few pylons and some empty water bottles. During the game, members of the White team informed **Andrew** about Red Team's # 4, who was trying to play rough. It was suggested that **Andrew** give # 4 an "education." **Andrew** jumped the boards, skated passed #4, and gave him some stick work leaving **MCpl Wallace "I am so sweet" Churchill** stunned. We finished the game with a shootout.

We finished the day off with a group photo - a great day for the Regiment. Our soldiers were treated to some ice time with a true professional on and off the ice, and our Regimental family grew by one more.





Remembrance Day - No Stone Left Alone

Capt Gerard Barabash

Strathconas played a key role in No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) ceremonies this year which occurred across Edmonton in over fourteen different cemeteries. The main Act of Remembrance, held at Beechmount Cemetery on November 8th, generated nation-wide media coverage. Hundreds of students, accompanied by our soldiers, respectfully laid poppies at the graves of fallen soldiers. The program included the laying of wreaths and a brief inspirational message to the students from our Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**.

NSLA is gathering momentum across the country, and Strathcona's are proud to participate and be the face for the Canadian Armed Forces for this event since the movement started three years ago. It was truly inspiring to witness the unity of purpose and decorum amongst the students, politicians, dignitaries, and soldiers. Thousands of fallen were esteemed and honoured while the hearts and hopes of young and old were warmed once more on a cold November day.

On Remembrance Day, those who were not assigned to specific events or locations were required to attend a service in the community of their choice. This tradition promotes the concept of both families and communities Remembering our fallen together.

Strathconas Remember...

Capt Kayda Wriedt

The sun shining across the cenotaph was a strange contrast to the cold temperature and sombre atmosphere on Remembrance Day this year. Soldiers from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) attended Remembrance Day ceremonies across Alberta. Official Regimental attendance was at Sherwood Park, Mayerthorpe, and several cenotaphs in the Edmonton area. Two particular grave sites also near and dear to the Regiment's heart were in Nanton, south of Calgary, and in Edmonton – the resting place of two soldiers, **Cpl Nathan Hornburg** and **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with the Regiment in operations in Afghanistan.

Cpl Nathan Hornburg was a reservist from the King's Own Calgary Regiment and deployed with LdSH(RC) to Afghanistan in 2007. On 24 September 2007, **Nathan** had been working as an Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) operator when his ARV was struck by a mortar. As a tribute to his memory and the work he did as an armoured crewman, the Regiment named one of their ARVs "The Hornburg". This Remembrance Day, a small group of soldiers from the Regiment went to Nanton to pay their respects to Nathan and his family.



The second well respected soldier was **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**. Michael was an LdSH (RC) crewman who deployed to Afghanistan as a Leopard 2 tank driver in 2007. On 2 March 2008, Michael's tank struck an improvised explosive device. In order to pay their respects to Michael and his family, a group of Strathcona soldiers attended a special ceremony at his gravesite this Remembrance Day.

These two brave soldiers, examples to all who serve, further entrench the meaning behind Remembrance Day and are a constant reminder of the tribulations of war. To all of those who have gone before – you may be gone but not forgotten.



Black Hat Week 2013

Capt Phil Webster

With another winter's collective training completed, the Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regiment gathered for a week of professional development and syndicate work 26-28 November. The Black Hat week is held annually with the goal of better preparing ourselves for the future of the Canadian Army and the Armoured Corps as a whole, and to adapt to an ever-changing landscape in our chosen profession.

The opening briefing on officer career progression from the Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**, caused several subbies, fresh from their career manager interviews, to have reactions ranging from shouts of joy to open weeping. Shortly thereafter, the Career Manager, **Maj Christian Lillington**, took the stage to inform the assembled masses about the Corps' current disposition and where it would be headed in the near the future; and specifically where people would NOT be going for their next postings. This, of course, caused some more open weeping and joy, but it nevertheless put everyone in "the know" as to where the world of Armour would be headed. A very special guest, **Padre Greene**, was invited by the Colonel-of-the-Regiment, **MGen Cam Ross**, and the Commanding Officer, to speak about his experiences in the Second World War. What followed was a very moving and powerful story. He had every ear in the room fixed as he spoke about his view of the Regiment and the Society.



The week came to a close with the Black Hat Mess Dinner, which also served as an opportunity to say good-bye to **BGen Craig Hilton** and **LCol Rob Wadsworth**, the Regiment dining them out with our usual style and panache. Many stories, both believable and unbelievable, were shared, gifts given and a spirited evening dragged well into the night. As with any mess dinner, the subalterns were up to their usual tricks, barely held in line by their Senior Sub, **Lt Murray McTavish**, and the Regimental Adjutant, **Capt Peter Beitz**. The latter being so unimpressed with some of the failed hijackings of spurs that happened at the dinner, he spent a good deal of the following week devising various appropriate (and hilarious) measures of reproach ranging from public speaking to writing assignments. All told, Black Hat was a good week and one to be remembered for many years to come.



Kids' Christmas Party

Lt Shaun Rogozinski and Cpl Jesse Maw

7 December was one of Edmonton's coldest days in 2013. It was the type of dark December Saturday that tempts everyone to go hatches-down at home, throttle up the thermostat and dig in under a blanket to surf the web for last-minute tropical vacation deals. However, even more noteworthy than the temperature, was that Santa Claus was in town! Despite the brutal temperatures, the youngest members of the Regimental Family would not be denied their opportunity to party with the world's favourite, fantastic, fat man at the Harvey Building during the annual Kid's Christmas Party.

Around 1000 hrs the mercury had climbed to a balmy -39 degrees Celsius from the morning low of -42 degrees. It was around this time that the first of the frozen, but smiling kids arrived at our building to be greeted by elves that looked suspiciously like some of the subalterns. The elves had a long night prior preparing for the kids' arrivals and made sure that everything was perfect before they got there. Santa really helped them out though and pulled out two HUGE kettles of North Pole Blend Coffee, specially made for elves and all of them enjoyed it!



*Cpl Travis Silcox (Santa) Lt Matthew Hoffart (On ground),
Lt Shaun Rogozinski (In Chair), L to R Lts Justin Rice, Bryce Simpson,
Andrew Tardiff, Joseph Monroe and David Wright*

The kids had the opportunity to get their face painted, design tree decorations, fire some paintballs at the Grinch, watch a bubble show, jump in two bouncy castles and pet a whole bunch of animals at the petting zoo. One of the highlights was the tiny little lamb that was born the night prior and was crawling around the floor in a diaper. Another big hit was the craft table where there seemed to be more adults than kids making Christmas tree decorations. Just another example that even in adulthood, you can never fully shake those childhood memories. Besides, you also got a free decoration and those are very expensive lately so no one can really blame them.



By far the busiest person was Santa himself. He set up his photo station just past the entrance to the building and man was he busy! At one time he had fifty kids waiting for him! Luckily, his bottomless present bag kept up with the fast pace and every kid walked away with a present and a picture right from the man himself. Thanks to the hard work of those soldiers that set up and entertained at the party, it truly was an event that the kids will not forget. Santa is a long term planner and a huge fan of karma so before he left that day he just wanted to thank you all for your hard work and cannot wait to see you all again next year!



Silly Season

Capt Leona Ahn

Much like every year the Regiment was shocked to discover that the Christmas season was already upon us! To say that the year was “eventful” would be an understatement. A plethora of exercises, events and Immediate Reaction Unit call-outs to rescue Southern Alberta, kept the Regiment operating at a very high breakneck pace, in spite of our withdrawal from combat operations in Afghanistan. It should come as no surprise that all members of the Unit were looking forward to “Silly Season” this year and a well deserved break.

The Christmas week activities commenced with the annual Sports Day which reignited the fierce rivalries between the Mariner Room and the Sarcee Room, and the Track Pad and the Green Point Lounge. To the officers’ surprise, the Sarcee Room seemed to have put in some practice time in all sports as the Mariner Room was clearly beaten, although some might submit that the officers’ performances were directly linked to the woeful state of the Regimental Subalterns who, on the day of competition, were still recovering from a raucous Subbies’ Carolling the night previous. The Track Pad dominated against Green Point Lounge, allowing **Cpl Romeo “Reggie” Kabongo** to accept the trophies for the Track Pad as its President. Overall, the competition bred camaraderie and showcased some of the excellent athletes we have within the Regiment.

The Christmas parade was well attended as many of the deserving soldiers received commendations, promotions and a Bravo Zulu from the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant-Major. Some notable presentations were to **Cpl Josee “Smiley” Dalpe Rodrigue**, who received a Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commendation for her efforts. Three Capts received their Canadian Armed Forces Decorations and **MCpl Jean-Francois Crevier** received an Assistant Deputy Minister (Materials)

Award for his fundraising efforts for the Soldier-On program. The parade also featured some well deserved promotions including those of **MCpl John “Serious” Nancarrow**, **Sgt Dave “Ginger” Brister**, **WO Cari-An Barker**, **WO Chris “Zubes” Zubkowski**, **MWO Marcel “Finally a MWO” Chenier** and **MWO Kevin “You really do like me” King**.

Not surprisingly, the most anticipated part of Silly Season was the Soldiers’ Christmas Dinner and the officer/Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (Sr NCOs) At Home. As the troops tucked into a delicious meal, ably served by the officers and Sr NCOs, they were provided with the soulful sounds of the Subbies Choir that managed to butcher Jingle Bells! Under the watchful gaze of Acting Commanding Officer,



*Cpl Dalpe (Rodrigue) receiving the Commander
1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commendation*

*MWO Chenier being promoted from
WO to MWO by his lovely wife Erin.*



Tpr Lukas McKenzie and Acting Regimental Sergeant-Major, **Cpl Karen Lewis**, the soldiers behaved themselves (mostly) and were granted the next day off as the Commanding Officer officially declared it "Strathcona Shopping Day." Although everyone enjoyed the dinner, it was clear that the Sr NCOs and officers were anxious to get to the At Home to establish bragging rights, so much so, in fact, that the Adjutant, **Capt Peter Beitz**, excused the diners before dessert was served!

This year's At Home was hosted at the Officers' Mess. As always, many games were played and drinks were flowing. The highlights of the At Home events were when things started to get really physical. Cabbage Football and

Office Chair Jousting provided no shortage of entertainment, injury and broken furniture. The most notable rivalry occurred when **Sgt Geri-Anne "Crazy Eyes" Davidson** and **Capt Kayda "Sunshine" Wriedt** went into full beast mode with Office Chair Jousting! The event was brought to a close when the chanting of both sides brought the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant-Major to the ring for a climactic chair jousting finale. All in all, the joust was concluded to be a draw in the spirit of friendship and one could easily feel the cohesion and pride in the air among the Strathconas. It was wonderful to see the unit come together in that forum through many laughs, drinks and silliness.

The next day, the Regiment was stood down for a well deserved break while Strathcona officers got to enjoy a tasty breakfast and Mimosas in the Mariner Room hosted by the Commanding Officer. The officers got to reminisce about the year and enjoy **Capt Phil "The Master" Webster's** take on pretentious diction. It was the perfect ending to an amazing and hectic year. Next year will not be any different and hopefully we will be able to equal, if not surpass, the great one we had this year.



Cpl Lewis and CWO Batty exchanging tunics at the Soldier's Christmas Dinner.

Subbies singing Christmas carols for the soldiers.





Key Events





Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows 2013

MCpl Michael Baker and MCpl Derek Murdoch



WO Melanie Parent waves to the enthusiastic crowd during the Calgary Stampede Parade.

Campbell a photo opportunity he could not pass up. With a few rotations of the turret and exciting pivot turns, the crowd lit up with excitement. One poor kid, inches away, was just about blown away by the force of the exhaust as the tank rolled past him.

A Squadron Honour Guard then moved to Spruce Meadows after the conclusion of Stampede Parade, where it paraded one hundred soldiers and conducted the ceremonial feu-de-joie for Saturday and Sunday, 6-7 July 2013. Saturday had the guard up early in the morning to welcome Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), **Gen Thomas J. Lawson**, to Spruce Meadows. The CDS arrived and was welcomed by a good looking group of soldiers all led by **Maj Eric Angell**, Officer Commanding A Squadron, and **MWO Leigh Taylor**, Acting Squadron Sergeant-Major. Division Commanders were **Lt Laurel Burchell**, 3 Troop Leader, and **Lt Jamie Brittain**,

After the mass floods that took place in southern Alberta to which the Regiment provided relief on Operation LENTUS, Calgary Stampede Parade and Spruce Meadows seemed to be events that would be unattainable due to the devastating flood waters that swept the Calgary area just a week prior. On the morning of the opening ceremony on 5 July 2013, soldiers of A Squadron Honour Guard quickly learned that Calgary would prevail and the streets that were once flooded with water had now been flooded with a sea of people bursting with overwhelming pride.

As A Squadron Honour Guard fell into position within the Calgary Parade, soldiers quickly realized that they were to be one of the main attractions. Individuals came in what seemed to be a never ending streak to shake hands, thank soldiers, take pictures, and of course, see the tanks. Even the Stay Puff mascot from Ghostbusters came out to visit the soldiers and the tanks allowing **Cpl Brandon**

Cpl Brandon Campbell seizes a photo opportunity as the Stay Puff Mascot.





4 Troop Leader. As the CDS made his way through the ranks there was no doubt he was impressed with the turn-out because of the size of his grin.

After the inspection with the CDS, the guard was dismissed and it prepared to perform the feu-de-joie as part of the main show for the day in the international arena. Senior officers and civilian VIPs attended the event so expectations were high to put on a good show, and that it did in true Strathcona fashion! A Squadron Honour Guard impressed the CDS; Commander 3 Canadian Division, **BGen Christian Juneau**; Colonel-of-the-Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cameron Ross**; Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**; Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Antony Batty**; and Regimental Second-in-Command, Maj Robert McKenzie. The following day, the guard performed equally well for the Deputy Commander 3 Canadian Division, **BGen Paul Bury**.

In conjunction with the Honour Guard, A Squadron also contributed a small contingent of soldiers to show off both the Leopard 2A4M and the Armoured Recovery Vehicle 3 as static displays with Headquarters Squadron. Hundreds of people came over the course of the two days to show their support and gratitude and converse with the troops. The tanks filled with people, mostly children, or fathers too embarrassed to ask if they could get inside the tank. One little girl seemed overly excited to see inside the tank and to inform **Tpr Jeremy Kozack** about her red hat by repeatedly tapping his head and saying: "I've got a red hat, I've got a red hat," as he was leaning into the commander's hatch to explain the inner workings of the tank.

The City of Calgary was able to recover quickly from the devastating floods and came out in full force to show its pride, support, and gratitude for the military. The city, struck with great adversity, adapted and overcame inconceivable obstacles to continue in traditions long held showing that above all, much like the soldiers and motto of the Regiment, "Perseverance" always gets us through the day.

Soldiers of A Squadron perform a crowd pleasing feu-de-joie at Spruce Meadows Parade which ceremonially signifies the opening of the Queen Elizabeth Cup.



Freedom of Strathcona County Parade

Lt Murray McTavish and Capt Callum Smith

In ancient Rome, military units were forbidden from entering the boundary of the city. Upon crossing the city lines, military personnel, including Generals (Gen), resigned their status and were considered simple citizens while within the city. They were not permitted to wear their uniforms or carry weapons. The only exception to this rule was when a Gen would be awarded a Ceremony of Triumph, which was an honour bestowed to him following a military victory. In this Ceremony, a Gen and his soldiers would be permitted to enter the city for one day, during which they would stage a parade to celebrate their victory. This tradition continued and evolved throughout medieval Europe to become what it is today– a Freedom of the City Parade. Or in simpler terms, “a ceremonial privilege granted to a military unit who has served a municipality in an extraordinary way, such that the local government wishes to bestow it an honour in recognition of this service.”

It was against this backdrop that Sherwood Park honoured Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) with the Freedom of Strathcona County on Saturday, 24 August 2013. As always, the Regiment decided to repay this great gesture of respect with an impressive display of Calvary spirit. Early that Saturday morning, the darkness was shattered by the massive rumbling of the Regiment’s Leopard Tanks and Coyotes firing up their engines.

Had it not been for the police escort, the public would have undoubtedly believed they were watching a scene straight out of “Red Dawn,” as a single column of more than forty armoured vehicles and tanks drove along country roads and highways on route to Strathcona County Hall, the location of the parade. Once the vehicles were parked, the crews dismounted and enjoyed a mixed pancake breakfast with the Sherwood Park RCMP and influential members of the community, such as Chief Constable, **Gary Steinke**; Regional Chief, **Cameron Alexis**; Deputy Mayor, **Peter Wlodorczyk**; and Mayor, **Linda Osinchuk**. Strathcona soldiers then bedazzled the public with an impressive vehicle static display, allowing members to sit in turrets and explore the column of vehicles.

At 1100 hours, the low rumble of engines starting up could be heard once again, and the parade celebration was about to begin. In the midday heat, the 100 Man Guard, with the Strathcona Pipes and Drums Band, front and centre, led by Drum Major, **Sgt Pat Stoyko**, took its position in front of the County Hall. Moments later, **LCol Paul Peyton**, the Commanding Officer (CO) of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians), was halted by the Chief Constable, symbolically barring entry of the Regiment into the city. Under escort, the CO knocked on the doors of Strathcona County Hall, requesting entry. After speeches by the CO and the Mayor of Strathcona County, the Guard was inspected, under Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron, **Maj Michael Mallette**. Pleased with the state of the soldiers, the Mayor then granted Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) the freedom to enter the County of Strathcona with “Bayonets fixed, Drums beating and Colours flying.”



The troops are welcomed by the public, who are given a tour of the various vehicles that will compose the roll past

Led by the CO, the Regiment conducted a roll-past, which was executed expertly, save for one little hiccup involving a broken down Ferret Scout car (a vehicle that served with the Strathcona's from 1954 to 1981) from our Historical Vehicle Troop. This impromptu halt effectively granted the Technical Quartermaster Sergeant, **MWO Mark Riley**, and the Regimental Guidon he was entrusted with, place of pride directly in front of the dais. As always, the Regiment persevered, and after a few short speeches and a spectacular demonstration from the Strathcona Mounted Troop, led by **Capt Corey McLean**, the parade was complete.

Thanks to the extremely hard and fast work of the maintainers and crewmen at the Regiment, the road move to Sherwood Park went without a hitch. The move back was somewhat more troublesome. Most notable was **Sgt Matthew Williams's** breakdown on a bridge just outside Fort Saskatchewan, which held up traffic for several kilometres in all directions. Despite this minor traffic obstruction, the majority of the vehicles returned back to the Regiment without concern except for a few dirty-faced crews (as a result of the rear-facing exhaust in the Leopard 2s), as Officer Commanding A Squadron, **Maj Eric "Black Face" Angell** could attest.

Being granted the Freedom of a City has always been a very prestigious event and we are truly appreciative of Strathcona County for this honour. Events such as these only serve to highlight the importance of the relationship between the military and the communities, which we serve.



The Regimental Guidon Party taking their place on parade





2013 LdSH(RC) COMREL Overview

Capt Tyler Collings



Cpl Talty explains that you must never use the ELCAN to fire the M-203.

There is likely no Regiment in the Canadian Army that does Community Relations (COMREL) better than LdSH(RC) and in 2013, that tradition of reaching out to the communities was upheld in typical Cavalry fashion. Key events for this year included the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows, the ride season of Strathcona Mounted Troop and the Freedom of the Strathcona County parade. The Regiment also conducted numerous smaller events that were also important, such as the visit of the Friends of the Regiment to the field in September and the various family-oriented events such as Spouses' Day and Family Day.

COMREL activities really came to the fore during the summer season. The Strathcona Mounted Troop ride season kicked off with a demonstration at the Sam Steele Exhibition in Regina. From there, the Mounted Troop embarked on a busy summer that saw them make road trips to places such as Abbotsford, British Columbia, for the Abbotsford Agrifair. For A and Headquarters Squadrons, they showcased the Regiment as the Ceremonial Honour Guard for Spruce Meadows and Calgary Stampede parade.

The Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows was arguably the jewel in the crown for Strathcona COMREL activities. Despite the devastation of the flood waters that had just swept southern Alberta and the Regiment's support in Operation LENTUS, the Stampede weekend carried on as usual as did the Regiment's participation in it. The opening ceremonies took place on 5 July, with A Squadron representing the Regiment with a 100 Man Honour Guard. The soldiers' presence and the presence of Strathcona tanks proved to be very popular, maybe even more so than in previous years, as there seemed to be an overwhelming desire on the public's behalf to thank individual soldiers for their services during the floods. Following the opening ceremonies, the focus turned to Spruce Meadows where the Honour Guard provided a feu-de-joie on 6 and 7 July and A Squadron contributed a Leopard 2A4M and an Armoured Recovery Vehicle 3, all of which were enjoyed by both the public and the Chief of Defence Staff, **Gen Thomas J. Lawson**.



"Sure these Leo 2s have big guns, but I'm pretty confident mine are bigger" explains Cpl Ryan "Big Gains" Blacklock.



Another major COMREL event for the Regiment was the Freedom of the County parade in Strathcona County. The greatest honour and privilege a county could bestow on one of Her Majesty's Canadian Regiments, is to grant them the freedom to their streets. The Regiment was granted this honour in Sherwood Park with drums beating, banners flying and bayonets fixed as a result of the stellar reputation the Regiment had and its service to the people of Alberta. The Mayor, **Linda Osinchuk**, gave the keys to the county to the Regiment on the 24 August. In order to connect with the citizens of the county, the Regiment paraded with a 100 Man Honour Guard, the Strathcona Pipes and Drums Band, Historical Vehicle Troop, Strathcona Mounted Troop and an impressive military vehicle presence to include Leopard 2 tanks, Coytoes, Light Armour Vehicles, and Armoured Recovery Vehicles. This was an impressive sight.

There were also some smaller scale COMREL events this past year that certainly deserve mention. In some cases, these events were not Strathcona oriented, but rather, were events supported by the Regiment to help ensure the success of other units' COMREL events, notably the support provided by the Regiment to 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Family Day on 14 September and the WAYJAX Power Systems Family Day on 15 September. Our own Family Day took place on 6 September and was an excellent opportunity to connect with the wider community and soldiers' families. Strathcona Family Day 2013 included a Dee Jay, BBQ, a petting zoo, a paintball range, a griffon helicopter static display, Historical Vehicle Troop static displays, tank rides and many door prizes.

On Exercise STEELE SABRE, the Regiment seized the opportunity to showcase the Strathconas to the Friends of the Regiment, such as those representing the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald and to soldiers' spouses. The spouses had a chance to see their partners in action on the ranges and even got to fire bullets from a Leopard C2 tank. The Regimental Liaison Officer, **Capt Connor Readman**, was tasked with coordinating these events by the Regimental Second-in-Command, **Maj Mike Onieu**.

While not traditionally considered a COMREL event, the Regiment sent representatives to various Remembrance Day services around the Edmonton area. This year was unique due to the No Stone Left Alone initiative, an initiative with the goal to recognize the sacrifice of Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in service to their country by having visitations to the soldiers' graves by civilians. The Regiment embraced this idea whole-heartedly and sent representatives to the graves of our own fallen comrades, **Cpl Nathan Hornburg** and **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**, both of whom fell during service in Afghanistan.

COMREL this year was unique in a lot of respects, with floods in Alberta threatening the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows, but in the end, it was an absolute success. All of these events, like in years previous, were vital for the Regiment to maintain its ties with the wider community and the country as a whole.



Exercise STEELE CASCADE- Canadians in Chile

Capt Karl Tams

On Wednesday, 11 December 2013, sixteen Strathconas from A and B Squadrons departed a snowy Edmonton for the summer warmth of Iquique, Chile, for Exercise STEELE CASCADE. Despite nearly missing our Calgary to Dallas connection, we arrived safely in Iquique on late Thursday after logging in more than a day of travel time.

Our introduction to Chile and its history started immediately with some learning more than others about local customs and traditions. Our first two days were spent learning about the historical significance of Iquique, especially about the Pacific War (Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia). We visited the site of the sinking of the Esmeralda by the Peruvian Navy and a nitrate mining town located in the middle of the world's driest desert, the Atacama Desert- nitrate was used to make fertilizer in Chile and was commonly called saltpetre. The Atacama Desert terrain has been compared to the surface of Mars and has been used by NASA to prepare for its Mars expeditions. To demonstrate its dryness, pouring out a bottle of water on the ground there would be more water the area would receive than a decade combined of its entire annual precipitation! We also visited an oasis complete with mango, orange and lemon trees and a most excellent Air Force hotel; I guess all the world's Air Forces stay in hotels, not just the Royal Canadian Air Force!

Day 3 saw the Canadians turning bright red in the bright sun of Chile as we spent the day on the beach basking in the warmth of the Chilean summer. This resulted in the very concerned Commander of VI Division asking our guides if they informed the Canadians about the merits of sunscreen. Thankfully, **Cpl Matthew "Ole Ging" Smith**, made extensive use of that miracle cream, something **Cpl William "Billy Bob" Rollins**, might want to consider next time. The next day saw us actually working and the reason for our exchange with Chile. We spent the day in CECOMBAC's (Chilean Army Armour Cavalry School) simulators getting qualified on the Leopard 2A4 Chilean tank. This was our first exposure to conventional operations in a desert terrain. After successfully completing the simulator qualifications, we travelled back to the Atacama Desert to 2nd Armoured Brigade's base to prepare our tanks for the upcoming field exercise. This was also our first real exposure to "chusca," a very fine talc-like dust.

Group photograph of the Troop with two Chilean guides on the replica of the Esmeralda, which was sunk during the Pacific War in 1855.

Back row (standing) left to right: Lt Bravo (Chilean guide), MCpl Davidson, Capt Bataller (Chilean guide), Sgt Clark, Cpl Rollins, Cpl Harder, Tpr Goodwin, Cpl Brown, Tpr Hodge, WO Sherren, Cpl Korenowski and Capt Tams





Clockwise: Cpl Onate (Chilean translator), Cpl Harder, Cpl Cook, Sgt Headrick, MCpl Davidson, Tpr Martin, Sgt Clark, Cpl Smith, Cpl Rollins, Cpl Brown and Cpl Korenowski.

At 1945 on 18 December as the sun was setting, we departed the base and headed into the endless sand for the start of the field exercise. Turrets were busy scanning all the arcs, gunners were keenly searching for targets and the drivers were basically driving blind due to our own dust cloud. All crews wanted to be Bravo (lead tank) as **Sgt Jason Clark's** crew looked so clean in comparison to the rest of the Troop. At the assembly area, we carried on with night routine and orders. We used massive camouflage nets that covered the entire tank, which was essential for hiding our tanks from enemy air threats. Chilean night routine was quite different from the normal Canadian version of merely parking the tanks in the tree lines of Canadian Forces Base Wainwright.

The next morning, the Strathcona Tank Troop departed for its task, an Advance to Contact. We crossed a simulated border and then proceeded to destroy the enemy's Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs), logistic support vehicles, and anti-tank missile teams. We had to be aware of the enemy's tanks moving to reinforce its defensive positions. Due to the "chusca" and our own massive dust clouds formed when our tanks manoeuvred, a simple 90 degrees shift in axis of advance turned into a very difficult movement. **WO Richard** "Where did everyone go?" **Sherren**, was nearly lost forever in a massive dust cloud that appeared to swallow his tank entirely. Lesson 1 to learn in the Chilean desert was that not even a simple move is simple. After a short halt to reorient, we changed formation and pushed on hitting our first enemy contact. The enemy's



*Members of the Troop attempting to re-fold the massive camouflage nets.
Left to Right: Cpl Smith, Cpl Korenowski (back to camera), Cpl Cook and Tpr Goodwin.*



LCol Peyton, presenting CECOMBAC's CO, Col Cheg (left) with a rare Strathcona flag as a gift during the smoker.

IFVs and missile teams were no match for our Leopard 2 tanks and neither were the hapless logistic vehicles further in depth, but the enemy's counter-moves tanks conducted a text book ambush against us, that devastated the Troop. Lesson 2 was that the dust is either your friend or your foe. Clearly, the Chilean tankers knew how to use the desert terrain to their advantage and us Canadians did not. We were humbled, but **Sgt Doug "Where's my ammo?" Headrick's** crew did score a minor victory by taking down two enemy tanks before joining the rest of his Troop before being resurrected to life using the weapons effects simulation system.

We halted for an After Action Review (AAR) and were joined by the Commanding Officer (CO), **LCol Paul Peyton**, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM), **CWO Tony Batty**. Also present were Officer Commanding B Squadron, **Maj Clayton Gardner**, and Squadron Sergeant-Major **MWO Kevin King**. Once the AAR was done, we conducted a hasty withdrawal and finished the tactical portion of the field exercise. Our navigation had to be perfect for a particular portion of both the advance and withdrawal as

we crossed the only pipeline carrying water into the city of Iquique. Damaging this pipeline would have led to an international incident.

Once this crossing was completed we moved to the Chilean range and prepared for a live fire range. Once again the daily afternoon wind storm appeared and with visibility closing to about 50 m we had to wait for the wind storm to calm before firing. This meant that all sixteen Canadians went for a nap in the only shade available for miles around, which was the range tower. Our gracious hosts had provided five service sabot rounds and four smoke grenades for each of the tanks to fire. Outside of theatre mission specific training for Afghanistan, none of the Strathconas present had ever fired service sabot, thus it was a treat for all of us. **Cpl Evan "Freddie" Cook** managed to hit his first target in only six seconds, much to **Cpl Michael Korenowski's** chagrin. Upon completion of the range, the Troop redeployed back to Iquique.

Our last day of work was the final exercise AAR. We finished the day with a Chilean style smoker and exchanged gifts. Our CO provided CECOMBAC's Commander, **Col Cheg**, with a Strathcona flag as a gift. **WO Sherren** presented the Chilean Non-Commissioned Officers' canteen with a Strathcona brand. Our final day in Iquique was spent at the Sea of Humanity known as the Zofri, the duty-free mall.

On 23 December, we said good-bye to our gracious Chilean hosts, **Capts Bataller, Villagra** and **Cpl Onate**. We also said good-bye to the constant horns, fire crackers, super sensitive car alarms and the Christmas caravans- it is never remotely quiet in Iquique- and started the journey back to Canada. Despite missing our connection in New York, we all made it safely back to Edmonton in the twilight hours of Christmas Eve, just in time for a much needed Christmas Leave and time with our families.



Operation VALOUR

Cpl Richard Wagner

On Saturday, 14 September 2013, members of A Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and Force on Force Tactical held a charity airsoft event. The goal was to raise money for Valour Place Charity. The game was held at Grunts Paintball Field just north of Morinville. The event's main organizers were **Scott Collacutt**, owner of Force on Force Tactical and Grunts Paintball, **Cpl Andrew Phelan**, **Cpl Jeremy Dunford**, **Cpl Richard Wagner**, and **Capt Karl Tams**. **Scott** was a major driving force behind the event. He and the Strathconas mentioned above spent hours of their time planning, getting the field ready, getting media coverage, getting vehicles (two BV-206 tracked vehicles and a Land Rover), and bringing in numerous donations for raffle draws.

Operation VALOUR generated a lot of buzz from the community, media, and other airsoft vendors (some as far away as Red Deer) who all wanted to be a part of the event. Approximately 150 people attended the event. Donated items for raffles included three military prints, a chop saw, airsoft guns and gear, gift certificates, car kits, a drill, and bath soap for the ladies. Canadian Television News (CTV) sent a camera crew which was inside the BV-206 during the intense game play. **Cpl Tristan Mosher's** epic gun battle involving a "million dollar wound" even made an appearance on CTV's News At Six. Squadron Sergeant-Major **WO Marcel Chenier** drove his Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) to the event and set up a very successful canteen. **MCpl Derek Murdoch**, **Cpl Arthur McKenzie**, **Cpl Jeff Hayes**, and **Cpl Ryan Blacklock** helped run the canteen selling burgers, hotdogs, pops and copious bottles of much needed water.

After a long afternoon in which the Good Guys prevailed over the Bad Guys, the airsoft mayhem ended and the last hotdog was consumed. When it came time to tally up the proceeds raised, Force on Force Tactical and LdSH(RC) raised a grand total of \$5300 for Valour Place Charity, exceeding the expectations of all parties involved. A couple of days later, **Scott**, **Mr. Martin St. Onge** (ex-Strathcona Kitchens Officer from Valour Place), and a number of Strathconas, including the Regimental Second-In-Command **Maj Mike Onieu**, held a cheque presentation in front of the Harvey Building. When the author was asked, "Where do we go from here?" the quick reply was, "The sky is the limit." If anyone missed out on this year's event, Operation VALOUR will return bigger and better next year.

*left to right: Maj Onieu, WO Chenier, Lydia (from Valour Place),
Mr. Martin St. Onge (House Manager of Valour Place),
Scott Collacutt (Force on Force Tactical), Cpl Wagner and Capt Tams.*



“Longknife” Squadron exchange with Recce Squadron

Lt Andrew Tardiff

Having participated in a reciprocal unit exchange with 4th Squadron “Longknife” of the 3rd US Cavalry Regiment last year, members of Reconnaissance Squadron again had the privilege of travelling to Fort Hood, Texas. Twelve Strathconas migrated south in order to represent the Regiment in the Longknife Spur Ride. The Spur Ride is an American Cavalry tradition which assesses the warrior skills a Trooper must possess. The three day event culminates in a Spur Dinner and ceremony where successful candidates are presented with their silver spurs and are inducted in to the “Order of the Spur”.

The LdSH(RC) Spur Ride team began preparations on 28 October upon returning from the field following Exercise STEELE SABRE. The training encompassed the soldier skills which would be tested in Texas. In addition to studying the 3rd Cavalry Regiment’s history and traditions, the team practiced navigation, dismounted patrolling, and began an intensive physical training program designed by **Cpl Evan Stewart**. The Spur Candidates tested their battle procedure and **Tpr Adam “They Raised a Flag” Harrington** developed his leadership skills by instructing bridge and ford classifications. The team also learned combat first-aid, helo-casting, and helicopter load drills in anticipation of tasks they may be expected to complete while on the Spur Ride.

On 9 December the day came for the team to finally put this hard work into practice, flying into Houston, Texas. Leaving the frigid North behind, meeting our contact, **1st Lt Jake Kelly**, and the Longknife contingent, they were shocked when they picked up a bunch of t-shirt clad Canadians enjoying the balmy 2°C weather. The following day, the LdSH(RC) team was escorted around Fort Hood, drawing the necessary American kit, and visiting the 3rd Cavalry Regimental museum, gaining a deeper appreciation of the important role that the cavalry tradition plays within the unit.

The Spur Ride began early the next morning and the Canadians started the first event, a PT test followed by the air assault obstacle course. Next, the Spur Candidates were transported by Blackhawk (UH-60 Helicopter) to the training area and began the field phase of the exercise. This consisted of an individual day and night land navigation exercise. Candidates’ basic soldier skills were assessed at stands upon reaching every check point. The next morning, the LdSH(RC) members were grouped into three teams with their American counterparts. Orders were issued and battle procedure began for the tactical portion. During this phase, all soldiers were assessed on their planning and execution of dismounted reconnaissance tasks in patrol lanes. This continued late into the second night.



The Spur Ride Team practiced combat first-aid as part of the work-up training. Lt Andrew “Just Put It In” Tardiff is seen getting an Nasopharyngeal Airway at 1 Field Ambulance.

Nearing exhaustion on the morning of the final day, teams were transported out of the training area to the Leadership Reaction Course. These giant puzzles required groups to work together and exercise mind and body to overcome the obstacles while racing the clock. Around 1000 hours on the last leg of the Spur Ride, a 3-mile run had to be made back to the Longknife lines. Despite the green Canadian Pattern camouflage not quite following the warm-up (in cadence) of the Americans, the Canadians did not look as out of place as we had on Day One. The trials of the previous days had forged teams and we had been quickly accepted among our fellow Cavalrymen. Nothing could beat the feeling of finally running across the finish line with our new Longknife brothers surrounded by a mass of cheering Spur Holders.

Spur Candidates loading on to Blackhawks to begin the field portion of the Spur Ride.



At the Spur Dinner, candidates recited the “Fiddlers Green,” a cavalryman’s poem, and the team finally received our coveted spurs. **WO Ryan** “*ARE YOU HUNGOVER SIR?!*” **Thomas** was relieved when we finally got to the part were he was given the shot of whiskey he had been promised all week. **Maj Chris Nolan** and **MWO Iain Fox** then presented Longknife Squadron with a Strathcona Brand.

The Strathconas who took part in the Spur Ride 2013 are extremely proud of their accomplishments and appreciative of our friends to the south for the opportunity to be part of this tradition. The hospitality shown by Longknife Squadron served to strengthen the bond with Reconnaissance Squadron and the professionalism and skill of its soldiers promises that ongoing unit exchanges will continue into the future. AI-EE-YAH!



The Canadians prepare to begin the navigation phase.

The Worthington Cup

MCpl David McMurtry

The Worthington Cup (or Worthington Concentration) is a competition that tests the gunnery skills of armoured crews from each of the Corps' Regiments. This year's tank crews from LdSH(RC) for the Worthington Concentration were the following:

Alpha crew: **Sgt Mark Thomas** (*"This is a joke painted green"* (Commander), **Cpl Ryan Chase** (Loader), **Cpl Colin "Baby Drake" Clare** (Gunner), **Cpl Eric Bannister** (Driver).

Charlie crew: **MCpl David "Barbie" McMurtry** (Commander), **Cpl Andrew Phelan** (Gunner), **Cpl Jeff Hayes** (Loader), **Cpl Ryan Hamm** (Driver).

Coyote crew: **MCpl Keary McAtasney** (Commander), **Cpl Chris Lawrence** (Gunner), and **Cpl Leland Cheng** (Driver).

Training started four weeks prior to the concentration and involved refining our skills in gunnery drills, bore sighting, and movement within the team. Once we finished our training, we were confident that we were the most prepared teams heading into the concentration. The first day in Canadian Forces Base Gagetown involved finding out which vehicles were going to be used by each team and a briefing on how the scoring, range, and challenging procedures would operate during the event.

The first battle run went very well and we had scored high enough to be set in first place. **MCpl McMurtry's** crew achieved the highest score of the junior call-signs for the day. Upon our return to the vehicles the next day, it was discovered that the computer values on our tanks had mysteriously changed. With this mishap corrected, we continued our second battle run.

At the conclusion of the competition, our tank teams finished 3rd with **Sgt Thomas's** crew being the best of the competition. The 25mm crew had put forth a valiant effort but finished in the bottom 3rd. Overall, it was a valuable experience and a good demonstration of gunnery skills from all Regiments in the Corps.



The image shows a business card for Rosslyn Inn & Suites. The top half features a photograph of a white card with the hotel's logo, which includes a stylized 'R' and the text 'ROSSLYN INN & SUITES'. The bottom half of the card is white with the same logo and contact information. The contact information includes the address, phone numbers, website, and email. The Aeroplan logo is also present in the bottom right corner.

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Joining Strathcona's Horse and other Events

Maj Mike Onieu

On 21 January 2014 a contingent of Strathconas made a trek to Calgary with several objectives. Chief among these was to re-badge **LCol Josh Major** to LdSH(RC) and welcome him into the Regiment. The



CotR MGen Cam Ross presents new wall art to CPR Senior VP Operations Scott MacDonald after dinner.

contingent of Strathconas stayed at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel under the excellent care of **Tanya Patel**, Sales Coordinator and **Sarah Friesen**, Conference Services and Catering Manager. The Strathcona delegation consisted of the Colonel of the Regiment **MGen Cam Ross**, Regimental Colonel and Comd 3 CDSG **Col Derek Macaulay**, 3 CDSG based Strathconas **LCol Mark Connolly** and **Majors Sandy Cooper** and **Scott Shrubbs**, Commanding Officer (CO) **LCol Paul Peyton**, Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM) **CWO Tony Batty**, the R2IC, Sqn command teams, and **MCpls Joe Gushue** and **Colin Davidson** (the latter being tripled hatted as driver, bag piper, and photographer)

The first order of business on 21 Jan was a black hat luncheon at Legion #285 (Horton Road) where President **Claire Lane** welcomed us warmly. After his introductory words and

those of our Colonel of the Regiment, CO and RSM, we enjoyed the excellent camaraderie that always marks these luncheons. Later in the afternoon, the RSM and Squadron Sergeants-Major took **LCol Major** to the James Joyce Pub for dinner and drinks. The remainder of the group arrived later in the evening after attending the gala opening of "Forging a Nation: Canada Goes to War" at The Military Museum. Despite **MGen Cam Ross'** misgivings about Irish pubs, we had an enjoyable evening. Sometime after midnight we quit the pub and splintered into smaller groups. Anything that happened after that has been conveniently lost to memory.

In the morning, **LCol Major** had breakfast with the squadron commanders in the Palliser's Rimrock restaurant. With replenishment complete, we moved to The Military Museums to formally re-badge **LCol Major** from 12e RBC to LdSH(RC). While **LCol Major** toured the Strathcona's gallery and the caverns below with curator **WO Ted MacLeod**, the Regimental 2IC attempted to defend the champagne (intended for the reception) from the thirsty command teams. Then, surrounded by the Regimental family and with the display of Sgt Richardson's exploits for a backdrop, **LCol Major** put up the Strathcona's cap badge and donned the Regimental accoutrements. A reception followed and provided a further opportunity for serving and retired Strathconas to meet the Commanding Officer designate.

In the evening a smaller group gathered with some close friends of the Regiment to dine in the historic Craigellachie car stationed in the Canadian Pacific Railway Pavilion adjacent to the Palliser hotel. **Scott MacDonald**, **Mark Seland**, **Sean McMaster**, **Dennis Apedaile**, **Linda Southern-Heathcott**, **Tom Heathcott**, **Kurby Court** and **Ross Prokopy** (brilliantly attired in the finest dinner slippers) joined the Colonel of the Regiment, Regimental Colonel, **LCols Josh Major** and **Mark Connolly**, CO, 2IC, RSM, and Squadron Commanders.

We were piped into the Pavilion by **MCpl Colin Davidson** to enjoy pre-dinner drinks before boarding for dinner. Pan seared Dijon lamb loin, filo mushroom duxelles, confit duck leg, the finest port onion soup gratiné (a bowl of pure goodness), pomegranate sorbet, grilled striploin steak with peppercorn cognac sauce and chateau potatoes and tarte with homemade ice cream. There was barely room for the Taylor Fladgate port 20 year old port, but we managed. It was most remarkable that this exquisite meal was prepared aboard the railcar, in an area smaller than the Assistant Adjutant's office.

Toasts and words offered by the Colonel of the Regiment and **Dennis Apedaile** acknowledged the shared history of Canadian Pacific Railway and the Strathcona's, and the accomplishments of the men and women of both teams. The RSM fittingly offered the toast to The Queen. Our fabulous meal was delivered by **Wendy Windsor**, **Kali Birks** and **Jeremy O'Donnell** under the oversight of Supervisor, Executive Services **Dena Ross**. The meticulous planning of the entire event was coordinated by Director of Heritage Services **Catriona (Katie) Hill**, a true professional with an eye for detail that any soldier would appreciate.

This most excellent evening was made possible through the partnership between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Strathcona's, one that has greatly benefited our soldiers in numerous ways. It was also a fitting setting for **LCol Major** to meet some of the wonderful people who form part of our Regimental Family. As it was a 'school night' we said goodnight to our friends relatively early, and a few determined souls retired to the Palliser bar to wrap up. All returned without incident to the Regiment in the morning.



CotR MGen Cam Ross and RSM Tony Batty basking in Sir Winston Churchill's private area aboard CPR.



CotR MGen Cam Ross welcomes LCol Josh Major into the Regiment



Sports and Fitness





2013 Regimental Sports

Maj Chris Nolan

2013 was another busy year for all Strathconas in the wide world of sporting events and activities. Alongside our weekly Thursday afternoons of 'frustration busting' rivalries, the Regiment participated in a wide range of team and individual events: Exercise STRONG CONTENDER, Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN, Prairie Regionals and Canadian Armed Forces National Teams in multiple disciplines, all with Strathcona representation in one form or another.

On 19 March, the Regiment got together for its annual Moreuil Wood Sports Day. Four sports were played: Ice Hockey and Broomball in the morning, Indoor Soccer and Handball in the afternoon. Hard fought games were played in a Squadron versus Squadron format with the results directly contributing to the determination of which Squadron would win the coveted 'Prince of Wales' title – announced on parade the following day. In the end (and disregarding cries of result fixing by the Regimental Sports Officer) Recce Squadron took the day, finishing first in three of the four sports. A Squadron came a close second with B Squadron and the combined Regimental Headquarters/Headquarters Squadron Teams finishing third and fourth respectively.

On 10 December, we got together again to do battle for the annual Christmas Sports Day. Again four sports were played: Ice Hockey and Broomball in the morning, Indoor Soccer and Volleyball in the afternoon. The Track Pad and Green Point Lounge battled fiercely for bragging rights. The Track Pad dominated and won three of the four events, stating that they let the MCpls win Volleyball so they wouldn't feel so bad. The Sarcee Room and the Mariner Room were once again pitted against one another. Unfortunately for the officers, it appears all of their 'athletes' had been posted and the Non-Commissioned Officers seized the day, handily winning three matches! Much to the chagrin of the Regimental Sergeant-Major, the officers squeaked out victory in the 'beautiful game' and stole a win in Soccer.

In an odd turn of events and made possible by the magic of 'social networking' on the Internet, the Regiment was pleased to have **Andrew Ference** (the new Captain of the Edmonton Oilers) visit on 21 August. This visit, made possible by **Cpl (Ret'd) Calvin "I got friends in high places" Delisle**, was highlighted by a pick-up hockey game and the chance to see how a NHL player could make the Regiment's best skaters look downright foolish on the ice.

Overall, considering the high operational tempo of the Regiment in 2013 (with Task Force 1-13 exercises, a domestic operation, and long deployments to Wainwright in the Fall) the soldiers and officers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) continued to demonstrate excellence across a wide spectrum of sport and fitness activities.

Cpl Kent posing as he cheers on his fellow Track Pad players.



Cpl Kabongo receiving the award for its victory of Green Point Lounge





Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN 2013

Capt Shaun McGuinness



Sgt Gerri Anne Davidson is proudly flying 'the colours' while finishing the race with her Dr. Seuss speed socks.

The Strathcona Team, led by **Lt Stephen "Cooter" Couture** devoted themselves to a strict physical training regime which increased their mental stamina and well needed pain thresholds. Strength training, hill climbing, weighted endurance rucksack runs, combined with a multitude of energy drinks and power bars, fueled the athletes of the Regiment. **Cpl Chloe Chilvers** acknowledged "You are only as good as your training, and the 32 km run proves that."

The focused Strathcona participants snaked their way through the Edmonton River Valley as the sun began to rise and spectators donning LdSH(RC) emblazoned T-shirts. Strathcona supporters could be seen peppering the route. Resounding Strathcona pride and cheers were heard as the competitors raced towards their awaiting canoes. The Portage begins. Many groans were heard as

On a crisp moonlit August morning, Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, **Col David Anderson**, addressed the competitors of Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN 2013 at Hawrelak Park, Edmonton, Alberta. He spoke of "the courage each soldier has displayed by participating in the race" and how "all members of the Canadian Armed Forces face difficult challenges every day, so today is like any other." Laughter was almost visible as it carried on the frosty morning breath of the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group's most physically fit soldiers. The horn sounded as a darkened mass, lit only by a multitude of head lamps, took its first step to climb the hills of the River Valley.

Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN 2013 is an extremely challenging competition for the "soldiers of the West" to test themselves mentally and physically. The race consists of a 32 km rucksack run, 3.2 km canoe portage, 10 km paddle down the North Saskatchewan River, and a 5.6 km "it will be over soon" sprint to the Finish Line.

*Status update: "I'm doing MOUNTAIN MAN 13 and I lost my canoe. LOL," texts **Tpr Vaughan Elston** during a multimedia break.*





Lt Stephen “Saskatoon Ink” Couture is proudly displaying his tattoo and proper hand positioning for drill while he ruck runs towards the awaiting canoes.



the canoes were hoisted and more than one leg trembled. “Why carry your kit, when your kit can carry you?” must have been the driving force as the only relief was 3.2 km away. “After the 32km ruck run, I thought a short walk with the canoe would be a nice change. After about 200 m, I realised how wrong I was and glad to get the thing off my back at the end” voiced a smiling **Cpl Chris Clegg**, who was the first Strathcona athlete to cross the Finish Line.

After a 10 km reprieve given by the steady wind and river current, leg cramps became the immediate danger as the competitors made their first steps ashore. Good-bye Mr.Canoe! With only 5.6 km remaining of the race, the supportive Strathcona spectators converged at the Finish Line. All who donned the colours of the Regiment celebrated as each competitor crossed the line and offered them their sincere applause.

Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN was a motivating event for spectators and competitors alike. Once again the Strathconas excelled and were a source of pride for the Regiment. The team Captain, **Lt Stephen Couture** described the perseverance needed: “Even though the Mountain Man is an individual competition, it can definitely be considered a team sport. When you’ve been ruck-running for 3 hours straight and your legs

are spasming, you feel like stopping. There’s always one reason why you don’t quit. That reason is every other Strathcona running beside you - pushing you to succeed.”

Cpl Grant Skarrup picking up the pace on the winding River Valley 32 km route.



An obviously sore WO Danny Forbes in Hawrelak Park reminds himself why ice hockey is the first choice for him.





Strathcona's at Exercise STRONG CONTENDER 2013

Maj Chris Nolan

Once again January brought Exercise STRONG CONTENDER to the soldiers and officers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). This annual sporting event is designed to foster a warrior mentality, develop camaraderie and provide opportunity for some friendly competition between units of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Although Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) was not able to defend its Brigade Major Unit Aggregate title from 2012, we did field highly competitive teams which made life difficult for the other Brigade units throughout the tournament.

The Ice Hockey Team, led by **Cpl Kevin Crowe** and coached by **WO Shane Flanagan**, came out to a roaring start with strong wins against 1 Area Support Group and 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signals Squadron. Unfortunately, the team was not able to overcome either of the 1st or 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry teams and narrowly missed advancing to the semi-finals.

The Indoor Soccer Team, led by player/coach **MCpl Joel Ribert** and backed up by **Cpl Romeo Kabongo**, overcame initial set backs and losses to 1st and 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Not to be deterred, the team rallied and posted a tie with 1 Canadian Engineer Regiment and a win against the Area Support Group team.

The Ball Hockey Team, led by **Cpl Sean Collins** and coached by **Sgt Patrick Flannigan**, began the tournament in fine form with a win against 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signals Squadron. Subsequent losses against 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and 1 Area Support Group meant that the team was in a must-win situation for its final game if a chance for the semi-finals was in the cards. The hard-fought, back and forth tie against 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry meant that the team did not advance into the semi-finals.

In a new sport for the Regiment, the Basketball Team, led by player/coach **Capt Tim McHugh**, overcame early losses to 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signals Squadron and 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, with a win against 1 Canadian Engineer Regiment. In its final game, the team's close loss to 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (who went on to win the gold) meant that a strong foundation was laid within the Regiment for future competitions.

Special thanks go out to the spectators at each of our teams' games. Regimental cheering sections at all venues ensured our players efforts did not go unappreciated as well as ensured that our opponents acknowledge that they were in for a fight any time they competed against a team from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

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Commanding Officer's Challenges 2013/2014

Cpl Mitch Croxall & Lt Jamie Brittain

Since the summer of 2013 and the reduction of most high readiness activities, the Regiment has held three CO's Challenges for the purpose of inspiring creativity, morale, competitive spirit, and esprit de corps. In each of them, soldiers had a great BBQ and a chance to drink beer after the competitions and the only additional request to be made by soldiers is to request that bacon accompany the burgers... KO, please heed our cries!

The first challenge, led by A Squadron, took place in August. With two teams from each Squadron, all the teams battled it out for the number one spot and the notably selfless desire for free beer. A Squadron had team A1, led by **Capt Karl** "I'm too old for this" **Tams** and **WO Melanie** "I didn't understand so I will just do what I want" **Parent**, and Team A2 was led by, **Lt Laurel** "Radio" **Burchell** and **WO Richard** "Only person older than Karl" **Sherren**. With both teams set, and **Sgt Matt** "Smoke Break" **Williams** with a lit cigarette in his mouth, we were ready to go! Of highlight was during Team A2's coyote pull, when **Tpr Brandyn** "Lt Dan" **Tomayer**, fell down trying to drag the coyote to its parking spot and was unable to get up or walk. This resulted in him dragging himself with his arms to keep up with the team,



a perfect example of our motto, Perseverance! The Squadron's strongest stand was by far the road wheel bench press. **Tpr Garret** "All the weights" **George**, **Cpl Ryan** "Can't flex cardio" **Blacklock**, and **Cpl Andrew** "Pick things up and put them down" **Burris**, who are all experts in increasing and subsequently decreasing the gravitational potential objects of relatively dense objects, helped pump out over 2 500 muscle tearing, gains-inducing reps! The final results were: 3rd place Team Recce 1, 2nd place Team Recce 2, and the winner of the CO's Challenge went to Team B2.



The Second challenge was organized by B Squadron and took place in December, or as it is passionately known in Alberta as any one of these: Absolute-Zero Season, Why-Do-I-Live-In-This-Province Season, or Are-We-Sure-The-Sun-Is-Still-Working Season. Team A1

was led by Lt Jamie “I only care if there are babes involved” Brittain and **WO Melanie** “*Again? Really?*” **Parent**, and Team A2 led by **Lt Joe** “**SQUIRREL!**” **Monroe** and **Sgt Matt** “*Where is Monroe?*” **Williams**. Despite being quite literally -45 degrees Celsius, the Regiment braved the cold to participate in some winter-based events. While an event was suggested that would have featured a drive-by style toboggan paintball shootings, where one was required to hold the gun sideways, it was deemed to be “too much fun” and we risked ruining every CO’s challenge for the rest of time. While not entirely sure what the outdoor events were, as all involved were shaking uncontrollably from brain freeze, at some point it is believed the following occurred: flash frozen eggs shattered, something about a toboggan, **Cpl Garret** “*I can’t do it*” **George** was heard complaining, someone answered some sort of knowledge question, and, for a brief second, hell actually froze over. The final results were: 3rd place Team B2, 2nd place Team A1, and the winner of the CO’s Challenge went to Team B1.

The final of the CO’s Challenges was run by Recce Squadron in February 2014. With all the career courses and taskings ongoing, every Squadron barely managed to put together 2 teams. A and B Squadrons were seen fighting over a bunch of new guys, Recce Squadron scrambled to get all the planning done on time, Regimental Headquarters was stern with excitement, and Headquarters Squadron was seen administering a lot of things while drinking insomnia-inducing amounts of coffee. After numerous shufflings and exchanges of: “Is this guy on your team?” and “Who the heck is that?” the only person not on a team was **Lt Jamie** “*Yeah, I know it’s light weight but your hurtful words are not helping*” **Brittain**. After an intense toboggan race, A Squadron thought they were going to be on top despite **Tpr Jesse** “*Come on, guys, it’s my first time running*” **Ell** doing a face plant. However, a poor performance on a knowledge test, a Command Post set-up complete with a hidden “surprise” antenna, and a first aid stand, A Squadron was nervous. If righteous hair and biceps were of any consequence, it would not have been a fair competition, however, it came down to the wire and it was a stressful wait for the results. The final results were: 3rd place Team A2, 2nd place Team Recce 2, and the winner of the CO’s Challenge again went to defending champions, Team B2.

All of the Regiment’s teams worked extremely hard during these challenges, but not every team was able to be a winner. After hard work, baconless burgers, tasty hot dogs, and a few cold ones, all were in good spirits. Special mention goes to B Squadron, Prince of Wales, whom has yet to be defeated and according to **Maj Gardner**, hasn’t been defeated in the last 3 years.



LdSH(RC) at Death Race

Sgt Gerri-Anne Davidson

The Canadian Death Race is a 125 km all-terrain extreme adventure race course with 17 000 feet of elevation change. Extreme athletes, individual and relay teams, push themselves to the limits of their endurance over three mountain summits. The first leg is the shortest at 19 km over dirt trails and a gravel road. The second leg is 24 km and the most technical going through the sludge and over 2 mountain summits. The third leg is a gradual decline of 21 km transitioning off to a highway. The fourth leg is the longest at 38 km, often completed in the dark because of the time it takes to get to that point in the race. The last leg to the finish line is 24 km with a river crossing. Each leg has its difficulty but share commonalities such as dirt running trails, forestry roads and overgrown hiking trails.

After one experience running on this extreme race, it is easy to become addicted. The most respected person of this addiction is a 78-year old man known as 'Dag.' He has been a soloist every year since it started in 2000. He demonstrates a true sign of perseverance and dedication to the race. The Canadian Death Race is a perfect opportunity to showcase fit, capable soldiers in a positive light and I was part of a contingent from the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre.

August long weekend (weekend of the race) was a typical Grande Cache, AB, weather: a surprisingly beautiful day with promise of stormy weather coming. That promise came true with hail, rain and wind as I ran up Grande Mountain. It turned the steep slopes on the other side of the mountain into a mud slide which left only one option for me at the time; to get on my butt and slide down the mountain side! This race had no shortage of adventure and every year is different but always is an amazing experience.

If one is able to survive this gruelling race, one can watch the Death Fest put on by the town of Grande Cache every year. Not every person has the energy to watch the show after conducting such a race, but there's nothing better than enjoying a beer in the middle of the Rocky Mountains and reflecting on all the hard work that brought you there!



Sgt Davidson coming in after leg 1



A telling sign along the route while climbing Mt. Hamell

Strathconas in Taekwondo

Maj Clayton Gardner

The Canadian Division Support Group Base Edmonton Taekwondo team is without a doubt the best Taekwondo team in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The team traveled to the CAF Taekwondo Nationals in Toronto, 15 – 17 November 2013 and blew away the competition. The athletes competed against both military and civilian opponents in the Toronto Open tournament, which served as the venue for the CAF Nationals. In total, the 13 person team took home 14 medals: five gold, four silver, and four bronze.

Cpl Alex Aguila from the Strathcona Mounted Troop fought three exciting matches in the men's yellow belt category. He did extremely well, defeating his opponents in the first two matches and then missing the gold medal by two points in an extremely close final. He walked away with a Silver medal. Unable to compete in sparring due to a recent injury, but undaunted, **Maj Clayton Gardner**, Officer Commanding B Squadron, won Gold in the 1st Dan Male Executive patterns division. Another notable victory for the Regiment was the team's Head Coach, **Capt John Kim**, Second-in-Command of A Squadron, who was the recipient of the Dedication to CAF Sports Award. As the coach, he was responsible for not only providing training and guidance to all the team members, but was also very active in the promotion of Taekwondo throughout the base and the recruitment of new team members. A respected member of the CAF Taekwondo community, he is also the CAF high performance (CISM) team's Assistant Coach.

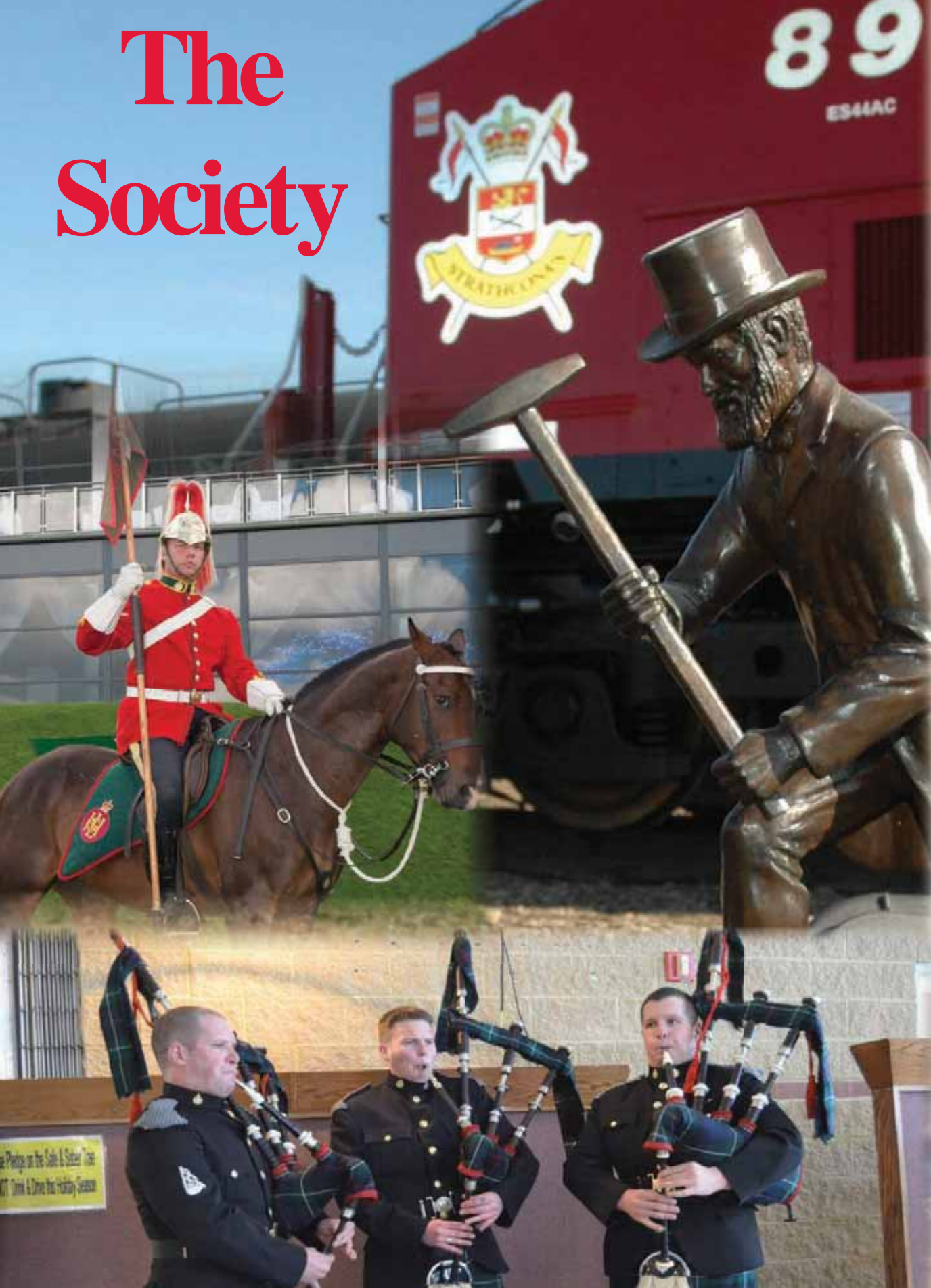
The Edmonton Taekwondo team is most likely the best martial arts team at any base in the CAF. We are extremely lucky to have such an experienced group of coaching staff and instructors posted to one location. In addition to our coach we have 3rd, 4th and 5th degree black belt assistant instructors with one of them being on the Canadian National Team. Our newest assistant instructor, **Cpl Sinyoung Kang** (1 Military Police Regt), was once on the Korean National team. With 25 years experience in Taekwondo, I can honestly say that our Base Edmonton Taekwondo team is better than most private clubs in Edmonton with the added benefit of being no cost to the individual. You need only provide your time and dedication.

Taekwondo is a natural fit for the combat arms professional. The dedication, discipline, perseverance, and warrior spirit that is taught and ever present during training and competition, are attributes that are reflected during our own training, exercises, and operations. This sentiment was expressed by 3rd Canadian Division Commander and newly appointed CAF Patron of Taekwondo, **BGen Christian Juneau**. At the closing ceremony, **BGen Juneau** explained why he took on the appointment as the Patron: "The discipline exhibited by the sports and its athletes mirrors the same discipline we ask of our soldiers. I am very proud to represent the sport and hope it can grow within our ranks".

You fight as an individual, but with the Base Edmonton Taekwondo team, you have the benefit of everything done within a team setting with a great support network. That is why the athletes are able to develop so quickly and be so successful. If you are looking to get back into Taekwondo or learn a martial art in a competitive team environment, then our Taekwondo team is likely for you. I look forward to seeing more Strathconas on the team in the future.



The Society



An Almost Perfect Season

Capt Corey McLean

The Strathcona Mounted Troop's (SMT) 2013 Ride Season was definitely a memorable one. The Troop's nine new riders had a chance to open the season by demonstrating their impeccable ride skills during the opening of the Sam Steele Exhibition at the RCMP Depot Division in Regina, Saskatchewan. **Cpl Steve "What happens in Saskatchewan stays in Saskatchewan" McMaster** quickly learned that showing up at the wrong location after an interesting night's activities has very unique and smelly consequences in a Mounted Troop. Despite SMT's desire to perform a full Musical Ride for the RCMP, the weather did not cooperate, and thus forced us to wait until next year to show them what a real Musical Ride actually looks like.

As usual, SMT was booked pretty much solid for all of June. Most of this time was spent at large events such as Spruce Meadows where SMT took up its customary duties as the Ceremonial Honour guard. Here the new members of the Troop quickly learned that the red jackets worn by the ladies of Spruce Meadows was not to be interpreted as a bull's flag to charge but rather a clear and concise STOP sign. Despite this setback the, soldiers had a great time at Spruce Meadows and spent some good after-hours time "socializing" at Ranchmans.

Perhaps the most entertaining trip of the year was to Abbotsford, British Columbia, for the annual Abbotsford Agrifair. SMT did four rides during five blistering hot days that were very well received by the crowd. In between our performances the Agrifair staff went out of their way to make us feel like we were at home despite being housed in the common room of the local Recreation Center. They prepared three fresh home cooked meals each day with the only rule being that shirts had to be worn at the tables (although pants were specifically stated to be optional). It was sad to see that **Cpl Ayrton "Bottomless Pit" Balfour's** legend was clearly exaggerated. After the Troop's annual golf game he put on a shameful display eating only 2.2 of 5 fully loaded chilli cheese dogs, and assumed the first photo on the clubhouse's Wall of Shame.

Sgt Paul "No Gloves" Kruhlak brought the skills learned as an SMT rider from 1998-2004 to his current job as SMT Ride Master. His dedication inspired all the SMT members and went a long way to creating what many venues described as the most professional looking Musical Ride the Troop has performed in recent memory. Despite **Capt Corey McLean** going his entire season without breaking a fourth rib, **Cpl Alexander "Bumper Cars" Aguila** refused to let him end his year on a high note. During the last Spruce Meadows tournament, he graciously assisted his Troop Leader in an impromptu display to a large crowd on how to properly use ones face while dismounting from a horse at a full gallop.

Ride Master Paul Kruhlak and WO Christopher Zubkowski, display that it is possible to take a jacking from the Regimental Sergeant-Major in front of the Colonel-of-the-Regiment without shedding a tear.



Visit to the Firmin and Sons Factory in Birmingham

Maj Rob (Hogg) McKenzie

Not long after arriving in the UK, we made a trip north to see the factory where the new helmets for the Ceremonial Mounted Troop were being made. We were hosted by **Mr. Tony Kelly**, the Sales Manager, who gave us an idea of the history of the company. Firmin & Sons was established in 1655, which makes them older than the Bank of England. They have touched history in a way few companies ever have. Their products were present at the Battles of The Nile, Trafalgar, Waterloo and Gettysburg. Today, they supply to serving British military personnel deployed around the world.

Early references to the company name came with the reference to **Thomas Firmin**, the button maker in the "List of Names of Merchants in London" for the year 1677. Even earlier is the establishment date known to be 1655 from records in the accounts of the Girdlers Company (belt makers) that survived the Great Fire of London in 1666. By 1754, the company's ledgers and order books recorded purchases by **King George II** and various other members of the British Royal Family. The first known Royal Warrant as a button maker was granted by **King George III** in 1796. Thereafter, Firmin has held Warrants for every successive British Sovereign to the present day. These Warrants are on display in the office and are some of the earliest records of modern business practices, as they included references to method of and timeliness for payments and guarantees of quality.



Mr. Tony Kelly with the flat sheet of brass that will become a Ceremonial Mounted Troop helmet.

From their modest beginnings as button makers, Firmin became the leading supplier of every form of uniform, livery or badge, and the accessories and accoutrements to go with them. This achievement was recognized when Firmin exhibited at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. Firmin's renown was international. In the American Civil War, both sides wore Firmin buttons. As the company retains dyes and samples of every product they have made, they were able to produce a complete set of Union and Confederate buttons that were given to **President Clinton** when he visited England. The factory itself was testament to the traditional way that their products were created. There was very little automation. Buttons are still stamped out individually using dyes and dead-drop weights; even the backs and fronts of buttons are individually crimped together one at a time by hand.



Shaping complete and ready for the addition of accoutrements.

Our helmets start out as individual flat sheets of brass and are individually cut out, shaped and polished by hand, as are all the individual accoutrements. The process is carried out by a group of craftsmen, ranging in experience from over 30 years to just a few years out of high school and still apprenticing. Having seen the work that goes in to crafting these helmets, and the quality of the product, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the **Southern Family** for their generosity in making it possible for the Mounted Troop to be outfitted with such amazing equipment.



Historical Vehicle Troop

MCpl S.P. Sullivan

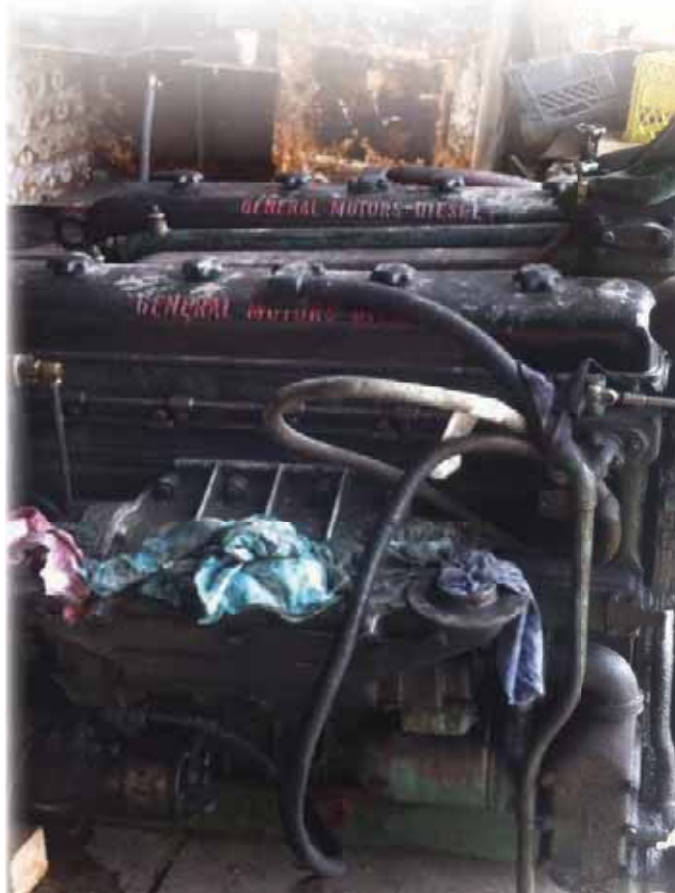


What engine compartments should look like

After a long deserved leave period, the Troop's next event had them at the Freedom of the County Parade in Sherwood Park. The Troop was able to get the 5-ton Wrecker out for the parade and surprisingly it made it through the parade. Unfortunately one of our Ferrets was not so lucky... looks like more maintenance for the Troop! The Troop said farewell to one of its members, **MCpl Andrew Baird**, and welcomed its new Troop Leader, **Capt Kristian Reiten**. In September, Historical Vehicle Troop was able to finally deliver a Lynx monument to the Wildwood Legion, where it will be utilized for future parades. The Troop is eagerly awaiting the New Year as we are planning to restore our Vintage 1942 WLC Harley Davidson and to start all of the ongoing maintenance that is required for the vehicles.

Historical Vehicle Troop was busy this season with repairs, acquisitions and a full summer of support to various Regimental events throughout Alberta. The Troop started off the year with the engine restoration of the famous Korean War era Sherman M4A3E8, Catherine. The Troop started off in April with hauling the power pack out of the Sherman and sending it to Wajax Power Systems for re-build. This gave the Troop the opportunity to clean and repaint the engine compartment and to rewire for the newly re-built motors. After long days and multiple weekends, the engines were finally installed, just in time to take Catherine to her first Spruce Meadows event with her new motors. Immense gratitude is given to Wajax Power Systems for their expertise and generosity in repairing the engine for Catherine. Spruce Meadows was a complete success with help from **Sgt Wes Kopp**, **MCpl Ryan Pasuta** and **Cpl Guillaume Vallerand**. The Troop was also able to participate in the Korean War Cease Fire Parade at the Alberta Legislature. It was great to see a historically correct Sherman participate in the parade and the Troop received great reviews.

Engine Pull - Catherine





Pipes and Drums

Cpl Izaak Koolman

The Strathcona Pipes and Drums were busy throughout 2013. We opened the season with an area concert in Morinville about a WWII veteran called Jake's Gift, which toured across Canada. Practices were then suspended in favour of training in Wainwright, with **WO Marvin MacNeill**, **WO Cordell Boland**, **MCpl Colin "Snowshoe" Davidson**, **Cpl Cameron Davidson**, and **Cpl Izaak Koolman** playing at various weddings and funerals throughout the spring.

With spring exercises complete, the band sprang back into action for the annual Moreuil Wood Parade with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band Pipes and Drums, and led by **Cpl Izaak "I don't know what I'm doing" Koolman**, acting as Pipe Major. That parade marked the second anniversary since the re-formation of the band in 2011.

After returning from the floods in southern Alberta, the band kicked back into gear for the summer, participating in the Calgary Stampede Parade, Spruce Meadows, and the Medicine Hat Rodeo. Oddly enough, the parade route in Medicine Hat took us through areas last seen under several feet of water, and several moments of déjà-vu were experienced as we passed sandbag walls along the riverside. For June and July, we were joined by a future Strathcona from Royal Military College of Canada, **OCdt Stephanie Clarke**, who played tenor drum with the band before returning to Kingston.

Summer was also a time of change for the band, with **WO Marvin MacNeill** leaving us for his much envied posting to the British Columbia Regiment in Vancouver, and **Sgt Conway Eady** taking over as the Drum Major. In August, the band led the regiment in the Freedom of the County Parade in Sherwood Park. We also played in the Sherwood Park Canada Day Parade, but unfortunately lost our coveted "Best Band" position from 2012 to another Pipe Band in the parade.

Once the summer faded for another year, the band again suspended operations in favour of more quality Wainwright time. Upon being re-united with civilization, and more importantly the scotch cabinet, several pipers were dispatched for remembrance activities in early November. **MCpl Colin Davidson** piped at a school in Edmonton, and **Cpl Izaak Koolman** piped at No Stone Left Alone.

On Remembrance Day, the Band returned to the Kingsway Legion where they greeted the crowds returning from the cenotaph with several sets, and then performed alongside the Edmonton Police Service and RCMP bands for the entertainment of all attending. **Cpl Dave Young** again won the annual "Biggest Bass Drummer" of the local bands, and is considering entering in the national event next year. However, **Cpl Young** was displaced from the "Biggest Bass Drum" trophy by a "five-foot nothing" redhead of the Edmonton and District Pipe Band, and has vowed revenge.

The Band ended the season by performing at the annual Black Hatter event at the officer's mess, putting on a good show despite the cramped conditions and some shortage of Drambuie. We look forward to the 2014 season and anticipate another good year for the Pipes and Drums.



Canadian Pacific Rail and LdSH(RC) Regimental Society Scholarship

Capt Phil Webster and Lt Murray McTavish

History and tradition are two binding principles that encapsulate the Regimental Society and its continuing partnership with Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail. The Regiment's founder, **Donald Smith**, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, historically drove the "Final Spike" at Craigellachie, BC, on 7 November 1885, which forged together the nation-spanning Canadian Pacific Railway. Fifteen years later he raised a cavalry regiment from his own funds to join the overseas conflict in the Boer War, seeing a need for the rough and tumble lifestyle and hard riding that came easy to Western Canadians on that battlefield. Over a hundred years after the Boer War ended, Lord Strathcona's and CP Rail are two great Canadian institutions whose ties remain as strong as ever with an enduring partnership and legacy. In the last few years, these bonds saw the formation of a joint scholarship program between the Regimental Society and CP Rail in order to benefit the families of Regimental soldiers as they progress into post-secondary education.

This summer, the Regimental Society and Canadian Pacific Rail were pleased to award another group of promising students with the CP Rail and LdSH(RC) Regimental Society Scholarship. This was the second year that this scholarship, totalling \$10,000, was awarded to students who qualified by demonstrating strong academic performance while contributing to their local community. All applications were screened vigorously by both the Officers of the Society and representatives of CP Rail, and ultimately three recipients were chosen. This year's scholarships were awarded to **Elizabeth Thompson, Whitney Boulter, and Brandon Walters**. Each of these winners demonstrated excellent academic achievements, outstanding volunteer and extra-curricular efforts, and impressive community involvement. It is hoped that this scholarship will contribute to their future successes and assist them on their road forward.

The Regiment remains exceptionally grateful to CP Rail for its continuous support to the Regimental Society. The Society relationships, such as the partnership with CP Rail, allow the Regiment to provide an exceptionally high level of care and support to our soldiers and their families. The annual scholarship will continue to sponsor deserving members of the Strathcona family and see that they are rewarded for their efforts.

For more information on the scholarship, or to apply for future scholarships, please visit us online at <http://www.strathconas.ca/canadian-pacific-strathcona-student-scholarship-program>.





Strathcona's Regimental Association A Year of Change

Ian Barnes, Michael (Mike) Hogan and Rick Dennis

The major activity of the Strathcona's Regimental Association during the past year was the transfer of leadership from Calgary to Edmonton. The official ceremony took place at the Moreuil Wood Parade on March 21, 2013, at the Lecture Training Facility parade square in Edmonton Garrison. The ceremony was officiated by the Colonel-of-the-Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cameron Ross** and **LCol Paul Peyton**. **Ian Barnes**, the incoming President, signed the transfer document on behalf of the Edmonton Branch and **Howie Owen**, the outgoing President, signed on behalf of the Calgary Branch.

With the recent significant change in the Association we thought it would be of interest to review its early beginnings. Following World War I, dinners were held each year in Winnipeg on or around the anniversary of Moreuil Wood to honour those who had made the supreme sacrifice. This tradition was continued following World War II. In 1965 a group of Strathcona veterans formed the Calgary Branch upon the relocation of the Regiment to Hemer, Germany. In 1970, the Branch in Winnipeg held the first national reunion and asked the Calgary Branch to assume the lead as the national headquarters of the Association. Reunions were held in Calgary starting in 1975 and every five years until 1995. With the relocation of the Regiment from Calgary to Edmonton, reunions have been held every five years in Edmonton since 2000. In 1974, a constitution was written that is in existence today.

Since the early days of 1920, when the first gathering of Strathconas took place, the Association has developed into a truly national organization with branches in Eastern Canada, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Since the transfer, the Branch in Edmonton has been busy with establishing the Association's headquarters in the Unit lines and transferring the financial accounts from Calgary. With the printing of the appropriate stationary, the 2014 membership campaign was launched in December 2013.

The next step will be to fully nationalize the Association by revising the constitution to involve all of the Branches in the decision making process. An Association meeting will be held at the 2015 reunion with the intent of approving a revised constitution.

The Edmonton Branch, with the assistance of the Regiment, has been busy over the past year planning for the Regimental Association reunion to be held in Edmonton at the Ramada Inn June 11-14, 2015. The

*From left to right: Howie Owen, MGen (Ret'd) Ross, LCol Peyton, and Ian Barnes.
Handing off of the Calgary Association to the Edmonton Association.*





theme of the reunion will be “Together in History.” The reunion will include an early bird golf game, participation in the Change of the Colonel-of-the-Regiment parade, a presentation by the Strathcona Mounted Troop, a memorial service to honour our fallen comrades, a series of history presentations, a spouses’ program, Association meeting and the Association dinner. The veterans of World War II and Korea will be special VIPs at the parade. Veterans of peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Kosovo and combat operations in Afghanistan will also receive special recognition throughout the reunion.

At the local level in 2013, the Edmonton Branch held a number of social activities and its annual golf game at the Edmonton Garrison Memorial Golf course that included over 40 members of the Regiment. As a closing note, I wish to acknowledge the many executives of the Regimental Association and the many Branches across Canada who, over the years, has kept the Regimental spirit alive. In particular, the works of **Howie Owen, Peter Wonderham, Clair Lane** and **Keith (Slider) Welsh**, the outgoing national executive, deserve special mention.





The Lotus Land Lancers

Maj Don Senft

Greetings from your Regimental Family on the West Coast! As I sat watching the news this morning sipping my coffee, I was reminded yet again what a privilege it is to live here on the West Coast of this great country, watching in bemusement as the weatherman on TV recounted the wind chills across the rest of the country, ranging between -35 degrees Celsius to a balmy -51 in Winnipeg! Those members of the black hat family that live here on the West Coast truly are fortunate to live in such an amazing place, and we have made a tremendous effort of late to capitalize on the work done by **Dave Letson** to bring the Regimental and Corps families together more on a regular basis. Urged on by the Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cameron Ross**, **Dave Letson** handed over the reins to myself, who is supported by **Dave King** as Treasurer. We have undertaken to re-invigorate the connections here on the coast, and since October 2012, we officially stood up the Vancouver Island Branch of the Regimental Association, wittily referred to as the Lotus Land Lancers!

We had our initial gathering at the NOTC Gunroom at Work Point barracks in January of 2013, which was very well attended by stalwart members of the Old Guard such as **Dave Scandrett**, **Gary Del Villano**, **Rollie Keith**, **Barry Rose** and many others, including more recent retirees such as **Bob Black**, **Trevor Morley**, **Marcus Schnorbus**, and **Grant Pearson**. We have been fortunate to have had representation from across the Corps at our gatherings with former members of almost every Regiment in the Corps to include a wide array of our Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers brethren. Happily, these Meet and Greets are spanning the generations of service represented in our Corps, with ages in the room spanning from 24 to 84 years old!

We have continued to hold casual gatherings of the Branch about every three months, which have always been well attended, and have provided an excellent linkage for the Corps family in the region to remain engaged. At least once annually, we formalize the efforts and host the annual commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood luncheon at the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club. We have been very fortunate in the past to have had excellent attendance from the Regiment and the Corps, including attendance by both Honorary Colonels of our Regiment and Royal Canadian Dragoons, as well as members of the Corps from the mainland and across the province who make the trip to participate. **Dave Letson** and his dearly departed wife were instrumental in organizing these events, and this year my partner, **Elizabeth** and I, will be doing our best to emulate those efforts and re-create these events in the traditional date of 20 March.

We hope to continue to grow the participation in our events, expanding the engagement of the many members of the Regiment and our Corps that have chosen to call this incredible province and island home, and I remind each of you that the invitation is always there to join us in Lotus Land for one of our events, should you find yourself fortunate enough to be in our neck of the woods anytime.





Strathcona's Regimental Association - Calgary Branch

President, Clair Lane

2013 for the Executive of our Association (**Howie Owen, Peter Wonderham, Slider Welch, Ron Howard** and **Clair Lane**) plus many volunteers was at times hectic, busy and interesting. Until this past year, Calgary had been the Headquarters for the Regimental Association and conducted the business for the Association members who lived far and near. As a result of the aging of our membership in Calgary, we went forward thinking of the life of our Association and had an official handover which took place as part of the Moreuil Wood Day Parade where members of the Calgary Executive signed over the Association operations to the Edmonton Executive. We worked together, handing over different parts of the Association business that took us to the fall's membership drive. From that point onward, the correspondence and membership inquiries for the Association became the responsibility of the Edmonton Executive.

From September 13-15, the Calgary Branch held a mini reunion which was planned for the past couple of years. We had help from our British Columbia comrades, led by **George Barr**, and had a very well attended "celebration of being Strathconas." **Howie Owen, Peter Wonderham, Slider Welch, Kevin Vivian, Bob Evans, Rod White**, their wives, and many others worked hard to make this event a wonderful success. We had a Meet and Greet on Friday night, a Family Golf Tournament on Saturday morning, followed by a great dinner that evening held at the #285 Legion. **Peter Wonderham** excelled at being the Master of Ceremonies in his tuxedo, and as usual, **Slider** and **Dan Fenske** provided a laugh or two for all in attendance. **LCol Paul Peyton** and **CWO Tony Batty** were able to join us for dinner. Sunday morning saw a Church Parade take place and farewells shared as people dispersed to their homes in Alberta and British Columbia; we even had a couple of members join us from Ontario.

As mentioned above, we held our Annual Family Golf Tournament in conjunction with the Reunion which was very successful. Ten teams of four teed off early Saturday morning including four members from the Regiment, who participated in this competitive, but friendly tournament and everyone had a very good time because the weather did not let us down.

In November, many members participated in various Remembrance Day ceremonies around Calgary and we continued to hold our Association meetings as before on the first Tuesdays of January, March, May, September and November at #285 Legion on Horton Road. These meetings were held solely for the Calgary Branch Associates.

As we see it from now on, the formal parts of the meeting are going to be shorter and we will endeavour to have a more social aspect before and after the business portion of the meeting so that our old, and hopefully new comrades in Calgary and the surrounding communities will come out to enjoy the company and humour of the old soldiers who understand what you are talking about. We are a family, a Regimental family, with a beginning but no end. So come out and meet your friends and see the members of the 2014 Calgary Executive.





Regimental Association - Calgary Branch Reunion





Atlantic Association...Up and running!!!

LCol Dwayne Parsons

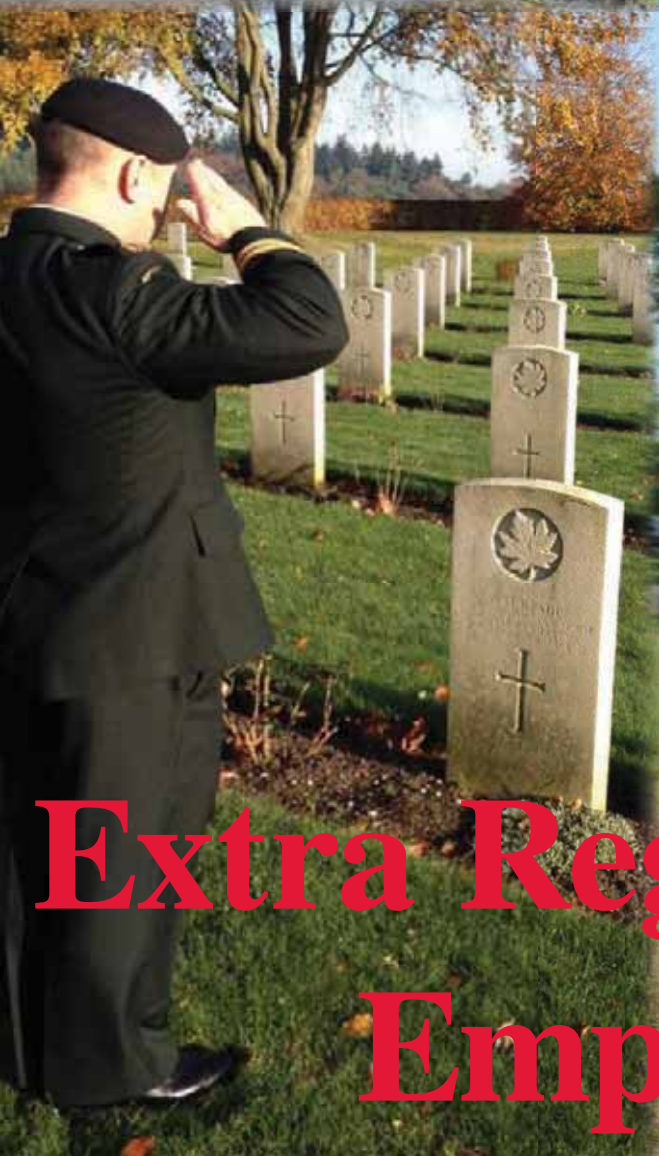
How quickly things move! From discussions with the Colonel-of-the-Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross**, in August of 2012, the Atlantic Chapter of the Association approved its Constitution and first Executive in March of 2013. Leading the charge has been **Maj (Ret'd) Rob Stoney**, who completed the work on the Constitution and was elected as the Atlantic Association's first President. Our sincere thanks for the time and effort he has put forth to get things done. Additionally, the following were elected and made part of the Executive: **LCol Dwayne Parsons** (Vice-President), **MWO (Ret'd) Dave Blanchard** (Treasurer), **Maj Jamie Hunter** (Secretary), **Capt Chris Kitching** (Social Director), and the appointment of **Honorary LCol John Swanton** as a Lifetime Member. For those who may not know **John**, he served with the Regiment during World War II and at near 93 years young, remains a staunch supporter of the Regimental family.

Since March, the Association has enjoyed a number of social gatherings where both serving and retired members have been encouraged to attend. And with each passing event, the numbers get bigger – a sign that there is both interest and a strong desire for the Regimental family to gather and enjoy those things we all have in common. One of our highlights this past year was a golf tournament during the early part of September. **Sgt Ed Pickell** took the lead in organizing the event and did a great job! Despite it being a horrible day where the rain got the best of most players, all persevered with the winning team being **Rob Stoney, Maj Jamie Hunter, and Capt Paul Stachow**. **Rob** was particularly pleased with the win as he considered it compensation for a fox stealing his golf ball during the course of the round.

As we move into 2014, the Association is busy putting together a more fulsome calendar which we are hopeful will gain additional members coming from across all of Atlantic Canada. Great response has been received from retired members from both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia so we are counting on a break-out year. If you know of folks out this way that might be interested, then please do have them make contact by getting a hold of one of the following: James.Hunter2@forces.gc.ca or Chris.Kitching@forces.gc.ca. Simply drop them a line and we'll add you to our current list. Finally, many thanks to all who have been a critical part of our initial set-up and for those that continue to support.....looking forward to a bigger and better 2014!

Maj (Ret'd) Rob Stoney with Mr John Swanton





**Extra Regimentally
Employed**



Strathconas in Gagetown

Capt Michael Kaye

Far from the Mother Ship, about 4500 km to be more precise, there are a number of Strathconas thriving in a place often referred to as sunny Gagetown. You can find these Strathconas running up and down the hallways of building J7 or bouncing around in some type of armoured vehicle out in the training area. Often you will see them holding some sort of clip-board, shaking their head and pretending to be busy or trying to figure out what they just witnessed on a student's trace.

As usual, it was another busy year at the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School as we continue to transition and integrate newer vehicles into the fleet. **Capt Michael Kaye** and **Sgt Ed Pickell** were lucky enough to run a range and spend a week out on firing point 4 and 5 in February as the new Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) 6.0 was conducting firing trials. The new LAV is an excellent upgrade, except for the heater, as **Sgt Cory Bulmer's** crew struggled to keep warm in the turret with the -30 degrees Celsius temperatures in sunny Gagetown.

As busy as it got out here, it was never so much that Strathconas in the local area could not get together in the K-Lines to celebrate the Battle of Moreuil Wood. Both serving and retired members were welcome to join and listen to a reading of the battle along with a few refreshing beverages, tell a few of their own war stories and obviously have some cake. Once again, the School's Honourary LCol, **Mr. John Swanton**, joined in on the festivities which gave some of the newly badged officers an excellent opportunity to shake his hand and get to know what a wonderful and experienced individual he is.

On 6 June 2013, the Armour School held a tree planting ceremony where a Red Maple tree was planted in memory of **Cpl Jamie Steeves**, who passed away on 31 May 2012 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. It was a small gathering with Jamie's wife, **Jocelyn**, and a group of soldiers that were close to him. In addition to the tree was a small monument emplaced in his honour.

A big congratulation goes out to **MCpl Kyle Chuback**, one of the more recent recipients of the Commander Canadian Army Commendation during the annual Christmas parade for his work on the Leopard 2 Swing Seat Trials. His level of dedication not only merited such a fantastic achievement, but also earned him a couple of paid trips to Germany. **MCpl Curtis Romkey** should also be considered for a similar commendation, as later that day, he led his fellow instructors in singing a rendition of "My Boy Willie" in front the entire School by Acting Commandant and recent DP1 graduate, **Tpr Daylon Brown**.

All in all, another busy year for all Strathconas in Gagetown helping to churn out brand new soldiers and assist our brothers and sisters from the Regiment in the further progression of their careers. A hearty congratulation goes out to **MCpl Leon Van Heerden** who achieved Top Candidate on Armour Reconnaissance Crew Commander Course 0030 and **Cpl Matt Burke** who topped the Tank Crew Commander Course 0001. Whether it was as an instructor or someone in a support role, the majority of us here were happy to have had some influence on training. We are keeping the tradition of Strathcona professionalism and excellence alive in Gagetown along with the tradition of longer hair and sideburns; but not too long as the Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Walt Laughlin**, continues to crack the whip on Non-Commissioned Members and officers alike.

MCpl Chuback being awarded the Commander Canadian Army Commendation by the Colonel Commandant, BGen (Ret'd) Dean.





NCR Strathconas

Capt Leonard Dunn

To some people the acronym NCR means “Not Criminally Responsible.” However, despite the actions (or inactions) of the people mentioned below, it stands for “National Capital Region” referring to those Strathconas working in and around Ottawa. Despite being few in number, Strathconas, both serving and retired, have managed to gather a critical mass of people together a few times over the past year. Events have included a visit from the Colonel-of-the-Regiment in February, where he provided all with a status update on the Regiment and life in the Army of the West; a small gathering to commemorate Moreuil Wood in March and a Meet and Greet in September for all black hatters in the NCR.



Despite maintaining a stockpile of Chef Boyardee, tuna and crackers in his cubicle (as seen in the upper left of this photo), LCol Chris Adams was frequently away foraging for food (or out of country on Temporary Duty).

A few more Strathconas found themselves calling the NCR home after the 2013 posting season. **Col Steve Kelsey** was promoted and posted to Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) as the J7 while picking up the appointment as Director of Armour. **Maj Mark Lubinieki** and **Maj Derek Chenette** found themselves posted to the Canadian Army Headquarters (HQ) where they were kept under the watchful eye of **LCol Chris Adams**. **Capt Tom Lacroix** and **WO Lanny Hill** put their recently acquired “Tech (weenie) Staff / Tech WO” skills to use working on different equipment management projects.

Elsewhere in the NCR, **MWO Rick Stacey** completed working on his French profile, and after hunting for crewman MWO jobs in the NCR, finally settled for a triumphant return to the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS), where he keeps **Maj Earl Jared**, **Maj Charles Fournier** and Director SJS Plans, **Col Pascal Demers**, closely in check at National Defence HQ. **LCol Bruce McKinnon** and **Maj Warren Deatcher** augment the Strathcona presence in CJOC, while **Maj Sheldon “NEO” Holmes**, who spent so much time staring at J1 Personnel issues on his computer monitor, got sucked into the matrix and moved to the Directorate Cyber Force Development. **Maj Mike Lakatos** and **Capt Lenny Dunn** worked on getting the new Army simulators and vehicles within the Directorate of Land Requirements. As the Army HQ Sergeant-Major, **MWO Rob Clarke** ensured that dress and deportment in the Army HQ was maintained at a high standard with comical, yet shocking, monthly updates to all personnel- reminding them of the dress codes on sideburns and that “If you look like **Hugh Jackman** as the Wolverine, or use gel to style them, a trim is in order” or that “having an unzipped jacket with no headdress and orange flip-flops while jaywalking” is not acceptable. It is true, though sad, that the aforementioned are some examples of NCR staff officer states of dress and readiness.



Strathconas in Kingston

Capt Ali Raju

CWO Kevin Mulhern and Col "Spike" Hazelton having a serious discussion.



On par with the surprise of when someone once said: "Let's take this suspiciously large wooden horse into Troy, statues are all the rage this season," (a quotation from the popular show *Blackadder*), indeed "surprise" was the reaction of the Canadian Army Doctrine & Training Centre (CADTC) Adjutant, **Capt Islam Elkorazati**, upon hearing that **Capt Ali Raju** would be writing the article for the Strathconas in Kingston- writing, that is, when he is not too busy rearranging paper clips and straightening chairs prior to the Chief of Staff Coordination meeting. In the meeting, the CADTC G1, **Maj Clayton Fifield**, can be found at the command group corridor holding Strathcona gatherings to explain new rank structure, dress and anecdotes from South Sudan.

The notable headline in Kingston for this year is **Maj Darryn Gray** and **MWO Bill Irving's** deployment with

the Red Patch division. **Maj Gray** was the Operations Officer of the Disaster Assistance Response Team in Philippines and the Canadian media icon, as shown by the picture attached to this article. Supporting him among others were **Maj Gord Dyck**, **Sgt Nathan Mills** and **Sgt Dave Barsotta**. **Sgt Barsotta** had a challenging return to work after summer leave, as he was busy tracking down a computer he had lent to an augmentee Divisional J9 for Exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN13 in Korea.

Although not living in Kingston, **Capt Matthew Bentley** was busy being the Executive Assistant for Commander Canadian Forces Recruiting Group in between breaks from cross-fit, weightlifting or coaching based out of Canadian Forces Base Borden. Also in Borden is **Capt Malcolm McMurachy**, the self-proclaimed Operations Officer of Borden, running day-to-day operations, when he is not taking a stroll in downtown Kingston or doing one course at a time (information operations) to secretly take over the Peace Support Training Centre in Kingston. Actually in charge of Canadian Forces Base Kingston are **LCol Ed Padvaiskas**, Deputy Base

Maj Darryn Gray in the Philippines, during Operation RENAISSANCE.





Capt Islam Elkorazati discussing interior decoration with a senior Royal Canadian Dragoon officer.

Commander and Base G3 Sergeant-Major, **MWO Dave Hall**. As per last year, **LCol Paul Pickell** and **Maj Ed Frost-Kell** continue to shape the minds of the Army's Cpts at Canadian Army Command and Staff College.

After a distinguished and mischievous career as the Regimental Sergeant-Major (July 2003 - June 2006), **Capt Russ Ells** decided to hang up his spurs in April 2014 in order to take flying a bit more seriously and paint model soldiers. I had the privilege of being indoctrinated by **Capt Ells** and **CWO Kevin Mulhern** in the ways of being a Strathcona. I was made aware that I must shine my cap badge at all times, in order to lead by example, because we expect other ranks of the Regiment to do the same. **CWO Mulhern** had an excellent Depart with Dignity, as he transitioned into civilian life.

Furthermore, the Ontario Branch of the Regimental Association has been divided in to two chapters: Ottawa and Kingston. This April there will be a regime change for the Kingston Chapter as **Capt Ells** is stepping

down in order for **Maj Darren Bromley** to take the reigns as the new President. No Strathcona events in Kingston get passed without the presence of retired Regimental members such as Col Roderick, **LCol MacLeod** and **WO Tom Martineau**. In my opinion, among the many dedicated Strathconas the Regiment has produced, **Tom Martineau** ranks high up on the list. His dedication towards the Regiment was never more apparent than when he made significant contributions to the fund raising efforts being made on behalf of **Cpl Jamie Steeves** who passed on from cancer earlier in the year.

In spite of being an excellent military posting and retirement area, Kingston also allows people to be creative. **Col (Ret'd) Ted Nurse** wrote an excellent book titled "*Always a Leader, The Lives of Major Danny McLeod MC, CD*". Those who know **Danny** will agree that he is an icon of a true Strathcona. He had a distinguished career in and out of uniform for more than four decades. I would highly recommend that all Strathconas take the time to read this book. Further, **Maj John Grodzinski** had his most recent book "*Defender of Canada: Sir George Prevost and the War of 1812*" published. **Maj Grodzinski** is an assistant professor for the Department of History at The Royal Military College of Canada.

Among various events here in Kingston, the most important was Remembrance Day to foster comradeship and pay our collective respects, serving and retired Strathconas attended Remembrance Day services at the Town of Sydenham. Among those present were retired Strathconas such as **MGen Phil Neatby**, **BGen Craig Hilton** and **LCol John Stuckart**.



Strathconas at Suffield

Capt Chris D. Whalley



Cpl Dunphy learning some new riot control skills.

Canadian Forces Base Suffield never fails to provide interesting and diverse challenges to the members of the Regiment. The base experienced another busy year supporting British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) and Defence Research Development Canada (DRDC) – Suffield. Extra Regimental Employment is not always exciting, but when you trade your tank tracks for fire trucks, it can be!

Most Strathconas posted to Suffield play an integral part of Range Control, supporting multiple organizations in their respective mandates while trying to balance their often mutually exclusive priorities. The training year saw three large BATUS PRAIRIE THUNDER/STORM serials completed, with over 7 500 British soldiers successfully completing their combined arms training for the year. The year also saw the final group

of British soldiers complete their training for combat operations in Afghanistan, as the British Army winds down its combat deployment in Helmand Province. The year also saw the completion of two large DRDC exercises and 20 exercises for units of the Primary Reserve. Building on last year's success, the second iteration of the Suffield Elk Herd Reduction Program took place, with over 250 hunters converging on the training area to fill 166 antlerless elk tags.

To say this presents challenges is an understatement, but with a brand new building and fire trucks to match, things are on an up-swing. Under the watchful guidance of Section Seconds-in-Command, **MCpl Hugh Hayes** and **MCpl Chris Oliver**, members of the Field Operations Section work closely with their British counterparts, extinguishing the fires that inevitably come with large volumes of live-fire training and arid prairie grassland. Following the completion of his Field Firefighter Course, **Cpl Matthew Sebo** joined the team this year. With **Cpls Shane Brough, Trevor McQueen, Kyle Dunphy** and **Dale Cyrenne**, Range Control was never short of work, fighting over 80 large fires while earning praise from the BATUS Commander for their efficient and steadfast support.

The Range Control Officer, **Capt Chris Whalley**, ensured the tasks never stopped coming, adding numerous visits, pre-burns, security patrols, navigation and reconnaissance training and Individual Battle Task Standard ranges into the mix to ensure the soldiers of Range Control were busy, while keeping their soldier skills sharp. With the United Kingdom's decision to continue training at Suffield for the foreseeable future, ongoing activities of DRDC and other support tasks, Suffield will continue to present the Strathconas of Range Control with a challenging, yet rewarding working environment.



Good Idea Fairies

AKA 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group

Staff Officers

Maj Fred Hayward

GEARDO (AKA **Capt Connor Readman**, G3 Operations 3)

A sub-species of staff officer who spends at least 50 percent of each paycheque on the latest and greatest gear, just to have the latest and greatest gear, regardless of whether or not that gear will actually help the wearer perform his duties.

T.D. Chaser (AKA **Maj Fred Hayward**, G5)

A sub-species of staff officer that is often seen fleeing the field or office in search of jammie goes in exotic locations that rightfully should go to a Unit Officer of Primary Interest.

STORY FELLER (AKA **Capt Gord Elliott**, G3 Operations 2)

One of few animals common in all headquarters. The story feller is drawn to the sound of talking like a moth to a flame. The mating call of the story feller is to “one up” any and all stories, anecdotes, jokes and tales being told within its territory.

Headquarters LOCUST (AKA **Capt Al Wong**, G3 Plans)

Migratory grazing sub-species of staff officer often found in the canteen or field kitchen. Headquarters Locusts' grazing habits will cause them to completely empty any canteen of any and all goods that anyone else could possibly want. The hoarding nature of the Headquarters Locust means that none of the items purchased, taken or stolen will ever be shared, but rather hidden in a secret stash for later use by the Headquarter Locust alone.

HARD LURKER (AKA **Capt Marshall Douglas**, G3 Operations)

One who avoids as much work as possible while working hard to make it appear that one is a productive, active and important member of the team. The hard lurker is exceptionally skilled at projecting the appearance of hard work while superiors are around yet manages to disappear for the rest of the day.

*L-R Capt Connor Readman Capt Marshall Douglas
Maj Fred Hayward Capt Al Wong Capt Gord Elliott*





3rd Canadian Division Support Group Situation Report

Capt T.C. Hewer

As 3 CDSG IMO it is my duty (read: privilege) to manage information. In this function daily, I collate various items of varying importance to members of the 3 CDSG and to Strathconas around Planet Earth. I have, therefore, selected the following key information points as a guide for your personal safety and professional well-being. They are not all referenced but you can be sure they are real as Charles Dickens.

1.) **EXTREME DANGER:** Recent studies by scientists have revealed that several species of alligator and crocodile are capable of climbing trees up to ten metres high. These giant arboreal lizards conduct surveillance of their habitat from this hard won vantage and have been observed to drop swiftly into the water at the earliest sign of danger. So living dinosaurs doing Zone Reconnaissance is essentially what is happening. If you are posted to a swamp or happen to be along the River Nile, here are some tips on surviving: move carefully; keep one eye on the trees and one eye on the water; and keep both hands on a machine gun.

2.) **GIANT FRUIT BATS:** The internet has revealed that there is species of bat called Megabat, or Flying Fox. Scientists and people who speak Latin call them *Pteropus vampyrus*. They have wing spans up to six feet, and they can weigh about 5 pounds. They live in the Amazon and in Australia, and in answer to your question, "Yes," they can be downloaded from earth, uploaded in the form of a .jpeg, and then 3-D printed in Room 218A, Building 181, IMO Headquarters. They could, hypothetically, escape the confines of their master's office by 'smashing head-first through a window' and fly off in the general direction of the Harvey Building. Days Without a Fruit Bat Incident: 0.

3.) **IMO TALKING POINTS:** Here are some things you probably did not know about information.

a) Information does not have a union presence and so the management side is pretty intoxicating vis-à-vis the whole Kissinger thing about "power being the ultimate aphrodisiac;"

b) Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is real, is exponentially exacerbated by hyper-hydrosis, and makes it very difficult to, say, hypothetically put a lock on a very broken cage door; and

c) Generals Patton, Rommel, Jackson and Emperors Hirohito, Alexander, and Khan all started their careers as IMOs. Each and every last one of them did this job.

4.) **IF YOU WANT A GOOD ORGANIZATION, START A MONOPOLY:** Ever since the idea of a monopoly was invented by the classic Hasbro board game Jumanji, it's been pretty clear that if you want to win, you need a total dominance of the field. That is why 3 CDSG is doing so well and surviving so many riverside tree accidents... because we are stocked with Strathconas. So if you are leaving the mother ship and heading for greener pastures, don't be surprised if you get a posting to Regiment Lite: 3 CDSG. 14x the work, 1000x times the excitement, 4.8x the screen resolution, roughly 100% of the winged marsupial population of the Alberta Region, and all of the last-minute Strathconian submissions (such as this article) you can get your hands on!





Strathconas in 3rd Canadian Division / Joint Task Force West Headquarters

Maj Christopher Quinlan

The unit that began the year as Land Force Western Area Headquarters (HQ) became 3rd Canadian Division HQ in July, when our formation was renamed to perpetuate the wartime 3rd Canadian Division (First World War) and 3rd Canadian Infantry Division (Second World War). **Col Derek Macaulay** departed as Chief of Staff in May to take command of 1 Area Support Group just prior to its own transformation into 3rd Canadian Division Support Group. Also departing the HQ this past summer were **Maj Clayton Gardner** back to the Regiment and **Maj Craig Volstad** to take command of 1 Canadian Rangers Patrol Group in Yellowknife. **LCol Trevor Gosselin** as the G1 has led the remaining Strathconas on the Divisional Staff in supplying ample cavalry dash and plans with lots of big arrows.

Capt Mike Timms surrendered the aiguillette and Aeroplan Elite status of the Commander's Personal Assistant to move into the G3 branch as G37 Information Technology where he joins long-time stalwart, **Sgt Owen Knott**. **Maj Brian Roach** (G9-2) and **MWO Brian Speck** (HQ Move Coordinator) have furthered their slow crawl towards eventual escape from the Army with a transition to Class A service in the HQ. New to the unit this year at Annual Posting Season were **Maj Mike Rogers** (G33) and **Maj Chris Quinlan** (Chief of Staff Coordinator), joined late in the year by **Capt Liz England** (G1 Inquiries) and **Capt Shaun McGuinness** (G1 Plans). Finally, working only 300 metres from Regimental HQ (close enough to see tanks) at the Simulation Centre in the Lecture Training Facility is **Capt Charles Prince**.

With the prospect of a move from Griesbach into the long-promised Division HQ building at Steele Barracks scheduled to take place in the summer of 2014, the Div HQ Strathconas are looking forward to finally being able to drop in at the Regiment for morning coffees.

Col Macaulay remedies the disappointing lack of silver for staff officers on extra duties to polish.





Exchange Officer to HQ 3 (UK) Division

Maj Rob (Hogg) McKenzie

3 United Kingdom (UK) Division can trace its history back to 1809 in Spain when in the early years of the Peninsular War the future Duke of Wellington decided to adopt, for the first time in the British Army, a permanent divisional structure to help him combat the French. The Division's first General Officer Commanding was **MGen Thomas Picton**, a Welshman, who moulded the division in his own image: resolute, tough, slightly eccentric, and full of fighting spirit. The Division was known as 'The Fighting Division' and remained part of the Army structure throughout the 19th Century, fighting against the Russians in the Crimean War (1854-6) and against the Boers of South Africa in the Boer War (1899-1900).



The 20th Century saw the Division fight with distinction in the First and Second World Wars. In the First World War the Division was present at Mons (1914), Ypres (1915), the Somme (1916), Arras (1917) and finally part of the occupation force of the Rhineland (1918-9) earning the nickname 'Iron Division'. In the Second World War the Division had two distinct phases. Firstly it was part of the British Expeditionary Force to France to stem the German advance. Having fought hard, but ultimately unsuccessfully, it was evacuated from Dunkirk. The second phase saw the Division lead the assault on Sword Beach on D-Day and fight as part of 21st Army Group across northern Europe and into Germany in 1945.

In the post-war years, the Division has had many roles; from being the UK's Strategic Reserve, an Armoured Division based in Germany during the 1980s, to the current 3rd (UK) Division based in Wiltshire. The last twenty years has seen the Division deploy to Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s and as a headquarters to Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2001, and Iraq in 2003, 2006 and 2008. The headquarters has force generated and prepared 12 Mechanized, 52 Infantry, 19 and 11 Light Brigades for operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, as well as take command of 4 Mechanized Brigade on their return from Operation HERRICK 13.

As Operations in Afghanistan winds down, the Division is in the midst of re-organization that will see it become the headquarters for the Reactive Force, consisting of three Mechanized Infantry Brigades (1,12 and 20) and a Logistics Brigade (101 Log Bde). The Royal Lancers, one of our allied Regiments, will remain under command of 3 Division. These Brigades will generate the UK Lead Armoured Task Force on high readiness. Working at the headquarters in the UK is much like working in a Canadian one; two other minions and I share an office slightly larger than a truck stop toilet stall, with office furniture that appears to have been salvaged from the beach at Dunkirk- so please don't complain about any of our working environments back home!

Living in England is quite pleasant. I haven't picked up a snow shovel yet (although they sell them here) and I believe that the mercury plummeted to 0 degrees Celsius once; I even had to scrape the windshield on our tiny automobile one morning. The hustle of Edmonton, the traffic on the Yellowhead and the Anthony Henday have been replaced by the lay-back pace of small villages and pubs and the meandering roads of Wiltshire. Having lived in it for six months now, my opinion of the British Army is quite different than it was prior to leaving Canada. If anyone would like a bit more detail, I would be more than happy to elaborate over a pint sometime, but I think the key thing is that we sell ourselves short. What we [Canadians] accomplish, what we accomplish it with, and how we look after our soldiers and each other is world class!



Schnitzel and Beer!

Capt Tom Pett

As I am halfway through my three year posting to Canadian Forces Support Unit (CFSU) (Europe) in Geilenkirchen, Germany, my wife, **Dayle**, and I have come to realize a few things: 1) The autobahn, although fast, has way too much construction on pretty much every route to get up to a decent speed; 2) A litre of beer at Oktoberfest is perfect, six litres is not; 3) British television is funnier the longer you are here; 4) Our livers hurt; and 5) When the kids have a project about Rome, it's way easier to book a flight and go for the weekend instead of going to the library!

As the Operations Officer for CFSU(E), it is my job to manage the day-to-day issues for the unit, and for Canadian Armed Forces personnel in Europe. My typical day consists of training schedules, running training, managing and administering National authorities to deploy, managing the language translation cell, managing the second language cell, and anything else that you can imagine. I have a small staff, with one sergeant (**Sgt Jim Akeroyd**) who is an Artilleryman from 2 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, and numerous civilians that work for me, including some Germans.

I am happy to say that I am not alone. Just across the border at Joint Force Command Brunssum (Netherlands) I have an old friend and mentor, **CWO Joe Ramsey**. We also have **MWO (Ret'd) Dave Proctor** who is the current dependent education manager for all Canadian Armed Forces European personnel. When I first arrived, **MCpl Jason Belanger** (who transferred to an air force trade) had my wife **Dayle** and I for dinner on several occasions, he has since been posted to Halifax. There is another Strathcona Officer in the area (sort of). Although I had never previously met him, **Maj Mike Barnett** (who works for the National Military Representative in Belgium) is a constant source of information and always guides me in the right direction when needed. Even though I have not had a chance to go to the United Kingdom this fall for an annual conference, I know **Majs Rob "Hogg" McKenzie** and **Dave MacIntyre** are always available for a pint, just as **Brian Corbett** was last fall.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to the many family and guests that have made the long jump across the pond. **Capt Warren Kerek** came to Oktoberfest in Stuttgart this year, where we enjoyed way too much beer and spilled it frequently, all over our lederhosen (yes people actually wear it here....a lot!). I will be excited to come back to the Regiment in 2015, but will not be looking forward to lack of schnitzel and cheap beer...Tchusss!





A Strathcona at the United States Army Staff College

Maj Errol MacEachern

When **LCol Peyton** called me last year to talk about staff college, he raised the possibility of two very different courses of action: going to Kuwait where he completed his program, and heading south a little closer to home in order to attend school with the United States Army. While Kuwait would certainly have been an interesting experience, I'm grateful that the decision was made to send me to Fort Leavenworth. In June 2013, immediately at the conclusion of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, I packed up my office at Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre and made the move to Kansas.

The United States Army Command and General Staff College has been operating in Fort Leavenworth since 1881, and has been training international students since 1894. In my class of nearly 1000 students there are 70 internationals representing 65 countries, as well as a variety of sister service officers from the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. The tremendous breadth of knowledge and operational experience this provides has been the best thing about this year from a professional development standpoint, both for the "foreigners" and for our United States Army colleagues. Instruction and discussion on strategic issues, operational design, tactical operations planning, sustainment, force development, leadership, ethics and military history are the main foci, and the course of instruction keeps us all busy. On the side, there are several opportunities for educational advancement supported by the College, and I'm completing a Master's program from Kansas State University. The Staff College's international military students division also runs a parallel study program for all foreign students in which we get to learn about United States history, government and economics, including a series of field studies where we visit local government centres and historical landmarks. These trips have been a great chance to both understand the United States a bit better and to get to know my international counterparts.

One of the unique aspects of the United States Army staff college experience is the opportunity to participate in a second year of instruction at the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). SAMS has been running since 1983, and is intended to offer a small group of students a chance to study operational and strategic planning in much greater depth. The application process started in August and continued throughout the fall, and I received word in December that I would be one of a dozen international students accepted to the program in 2014. I'm looking forward to hitting the books at SAMS in June.

The Canadian contingent here in Leavenworth is strong, with two students on each serial of the Staff Course, two students attending SAMS, a liaison officer (**LCol John Reiffenstein**, former Commanding Officer of Canadian Forces Base Edmonton) and instructors at both the College and at SAMS. We get together often to wave the flag, lament the sad shortage of Tim Horton's and cheer for Canadian hockey teams beating American ones. Superficially Canada and America seem similar, but my time down here has highlighted the subtle differences between us and made me value home all the more.

Without exception the American officers I'm serving with have praised the Canadian Army's service alongside the United States military in Afghanistan over the last decade, and more than one has offered personal thanks for the fire support the Regiment's tanks provided. I'm very proud to serve as an ambassador for Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Regiment down here, and I look forward to the challenges of the next year.





International Adventure, Destination United Kingdom

Maj David MacIntyre

The chance to serve abroad is always high on a Strathcona's mind. When that chance came in the form of an overseas posting, **Maj David MacIntyre** (former Officer Commanding A Squadron) was quick to take advantage and request to follow **Maj Mike Onieu** (a fellow Strathcona and current Regimental Second-in-Command) into a position at the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC) in Shrivenham, United Kingdom, for a period of one year. The enduring support and enthusiasm shown by the Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**, made the posting a reality, and was most likely to ensure that **Maj MacIntyre** and **Maj Robert McKenzie** (also posted to England after handing over to **Maj Onieu**) were far enough away enough not to cause any problems when the skeletons came out of the closets on their departure.

Moving to a foreign country can be a daunting administration battle, but certainly worth any pain that was inflicted. Armed with his wife, **Shannon MacIntyre**, and his two young children: **Meaghan** and **Gavin**, they arrived in the middle of a heat-wave (for the UK anyway) with dazzling highs of 20 and 21 degrees Celsius.

Now as far as foreign countries go, moving to England should have been just like moving from Edmonton to Ottawa, with like-minded culture and language; there should have been nary a difference. Who would have guessed that potato chips would be 'crisps', sausages were 'bangers' and beer was served warm?

The goal in England was to receive further military education, in much the same method of the Army Command and Staff Course in Toronto, but to provide the additional flavour of rowdy Brits along with 52 other nations represented! Opinions and views created from this diverse crowd of 260 officers split between the ranks of Maj and LCol has opened everyone's eyes to a wide range of subjects on national security and defence. By the summer of 2014 and graduation, 32 000 words will have been written, 100 books annihilated and 1000s of litres of coffee drank (without a Tim Horton's, unless you include Ireland) all in the pursuit of knowledge.

It is not all work however. It comes with a terrific social life, a humble four bedroom military house on the married quarter patch, a mess dinner each month, and all of the things for families you can imagine, such as schools and clubs, make sure that while the military member may be busy, the family is too! It even includes an International Day event where 53 different countries provide food and drinks for all to try and share.

Maj MacIntyre is not a lone Canadian in Shrivenham. In fact, there are a mix of Directing Staff and students who attend the ACSC for technical courses as well. A total of 7 other Canadian personnel and their families also live in the area. Canadian Thanksgiving was a hit featuring moose milk, turkey and all of the Canadian traditions, including Alexander Keith's beer served cold.

The experience of living in England has been rewarding for both **Maj MacIntyre** and his family. To this point in the posting, the travel (Egypt at Christmas time and Sweden last summer); camaraderie; family time; socials; and of course, a lot of hard work on the ACSC has made the time away from the Regiment go by quickly. If ever there is a chance to receive an overseas posting as a Strathcona, my advice is to grab it and hang on to it!

*Maj MacIntyre in
Shrivenham, UK*





Land of the Morning Calm

LCol Robin T. Steward

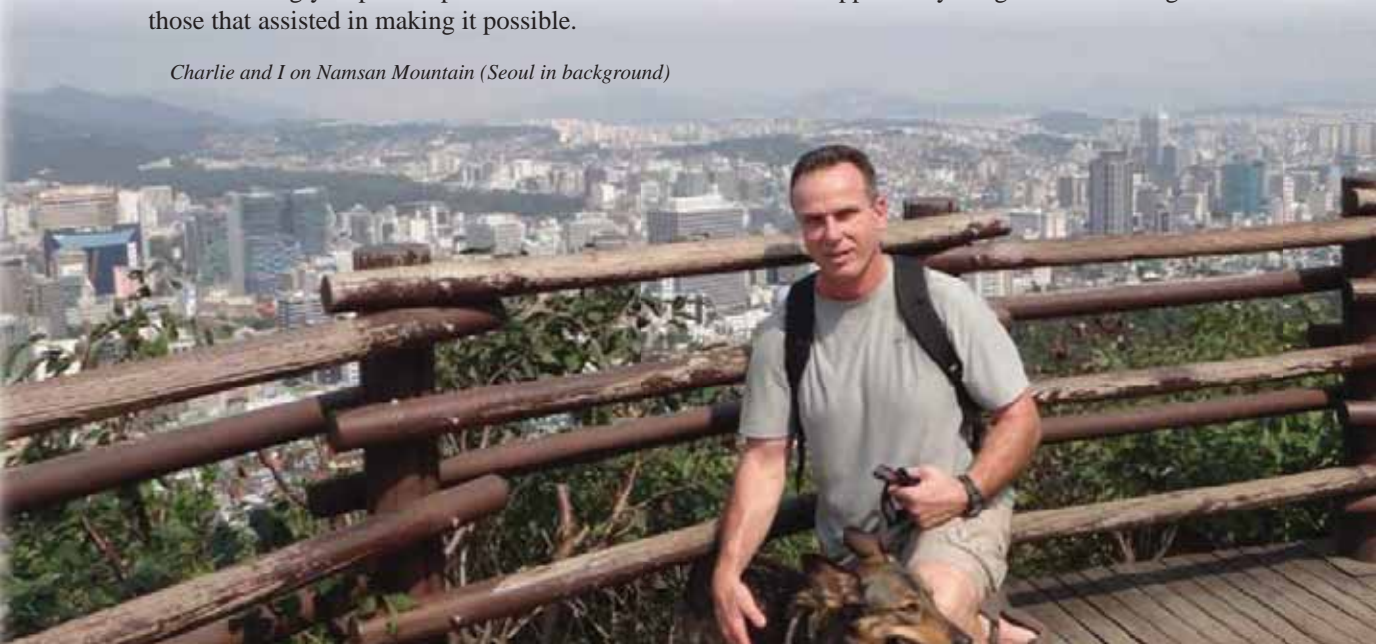
I arrived in Seoul at short notice in late 2011, ostensibly for a nine month ‘attached posting.’ Six permanent positions for Canadians had just been negotiated with United Nations Command (UNC) and three were to be filled immediately as a demonstration of intent. The ‘attached posting’ transitioned to three more years and a fabulous extension for TL, Charlie and I in the cultural and learning adventure. As a foreigner, the contrasts from the familiar of people’s approach, behaviours and perspectives are palpable. This backdrop of rich and foreign culture is a continual reminder that preconditioned notions are as constraining as they are useful.

Some necessary history... UNC was the unified war fighting command, under which the United States (US) and contributing nations assisted the Republic of Korea (ROK) against North Korean (NK) aggression during the Korean War. As such, UNC is signatory to the Armistice with enduring obligations of Armistice maintenance. Beyond that, UNC’s current and future roles are less clear. In 1978 the ROK-US Alliance formed Combine Forces Command (CFC), which assumed responsibility for deterrence and contingency operations in response to NK hostility.

I work in Strategy Division as Deputy Director for UNC. As such, I am engaged in developing a vision and strategy for the future of UNC as a relevant and effective multinational enabler in all contingency operations. To paraphrase a classic, UNC is the worst means of multinational operations except for all others means of multinational operations. I recently submitted the UNC Command narrative and vision to the “US Forces Korea Strategic Digest.” You will be pleased to know it includes a photograph of tanks from former C Squadron of LdSH(RC) moving along the Imjin River in 1952. The theme of the narrative leverages the relevance of decisive multinational contributions in the past as segue to relevance in the future.

South Korea is an impressive country with robust national pride and obvious determination to assert its rightful prominence both regionally and globally. In Seoul, modern skyscrapers shade ancient architecture and preserved customs in an aesthetically pleasing comingling of old and new. Ironically, this modern ‘most wired country in the world’ is also the south side of a cold war vestige with approximately half of its population living within range of NK’s artillery. The heartiness and resolve of Seoulites to collectively move forward in spite of the threat is inspiring and instructive. I highly recommend a visit to Korea and to this increasingly important part of the world. I do not take this opportunity for granted and am grateful to those that assisted in making it possible.

Charlie and I on Namsan Mountain (Seoul in background)



Extra Regimentally Employed

Col	Cade J.	Canadian Defence Attache Mexico	Maj	MacIntyre A.D.	Joint Command Staff College - UK
Col	Cadieu T.J.	CFC	Maj	Manouchehri E.	4 Cdn Div
Col	Demers P.P.J.	NDHQ	Maj	McEwen J.R.F.	CFB Kingston
Col	Hazleton C.M.	Canadian Defence Attaché Rome	Maj	McKenzie R.D.	HQ 3 (UK) Division
Col	Kelsey S.R.	NDHQ	Maj	Mead K.J.	CF Detachment Dundurn
Col	Macaulay D.A.	3 CDSG Edm	Maj	Quinlan C.J.	3 Cdn Div
Col	Rundle D.A.	CDLS Washington	Maj	Rogers M.D.	3 Cdn Div
LCol	Adams C.R.	NDHQ	Maj	Senft D.J.	JTFP HQ
LCol	Cochrane J.L.	JTFC/LFCA HQ Toronto	Maj	Shrubb S.J.	3 CDSG
LCol	Connolly M.A.	3 CDSB Edm	Maj	Steeves J.A.M.	International Peace Support Training Centre
LCol	Gifford S.W.	US Army Training and Doctrine Command	Maj	Volstad M.C.	1 CRPG
LCol	Gosselin T.P.	3 Cdn Div	Maj	Young C.J.	CADTC HQ
LCol	Long S.G.	41 CBG	Capt	Bentley M.D.R.L.	CFB Borden
LCol	McKinnon D.B.	NDHQ	Capt	Boates J.S.	RCACS
LCol	Padvaikas E.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Brown J.W.	NDHQ
LCol	Parsons D.R.	Tac Sch	Capt	Buckingham P.A.	RCACS
LCol	Pickell P.G.	CACSC	Capt	Bugg N.B.	FGH
LCol	Rankin R.C.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Daley J.A.	BCD
LCol	Steward R.T.	South Korea	Capt	Douglas M.R.N	1 CMBG
Maj	Barnett M.A.	SHAPE Belgium	Capt	Dullege M.C.	RCACS
Maj	Batty T.A.	Tac Sch	Capt	Dunn L.A.	NDHQ
Maj	Bromley D.R.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Elkorazati I. M.	CADTC HQ
Maj	Callens K.I.	Jerusalem	Capt	Elliott G.R.	1 CMBG
Maj	Chenette D.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Ells C.R.	CADTC HQ
Maj	Chiasson R.P.	RCACS	Capt	Gray D.A.	3 CDSG Edm
Maj	Cooper R.A.	3 CDSG	Capt	Hevenor N.R.B.	CMTC
Maj	Corbett B.D.	ATDU	Capt	Hewer T.C.	3 CDSB Edm
Maj	Deatcher W.S.	NDHQ	Capt	Johnson B.S.	RMC
Maj	Dyck G.A.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Kaye M.A.	RCACS
Maj	Fifield C.S.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Kenny A.M.	1 MP Regiment
Maj	Fournier C.D.	NDHQ	Capt	Kerek W.M.	BCR
Maj	Froess M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	King S.A.	CMTC
Maj	Frost-Kell E.J.S.	CADTC HQ	Capt	Lacroix T.A.	DGLEPM
Maj	Gough M.H.	JTFN Yellowknife	Capt	Lee D.A.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx
Maj	Gray D.M.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Lund R.I.	RCACS
Maj	Grodzinski J.R.	CFB Kingston	Capt	MacInnis M.J.	Halifax Rifles
Maj	Hayward V.F.	1 CMBG	Capt	MacKillop S.D.	SALH
Maj	Holmes S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	MacLean S.C.	NORAD
Maj	Hone D.A.	Tac Sch	Capt	McGowan E.D.	3 Cdn Div TC
Maj	Hunter J.R.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	McMurachy M.A.	CFB Borden
Maj	Jared E.G.	NDHQ	Capt	Miller J.L.E.E.	IPSC Wainwright
Maj	Kirstein V.G.	CFC	Capt	Morison D.G.	RCSU Central Det North Bay
Maj	Lakatos M.A.	NDHQ	Capt	Nitu A.	3 CDSB Edm
Maj	Lubiniecki M.	NDHQ	Capt	Pano M.G.	41 CBG
Maj	MacEachern E.G.	CMTC	Capt	Penney C.S.	Tac Sch
			Capt	Pett T.D.	CFSU E
			Capt	Piekenbrock Z.H.	CMTC

Capt Prince C.E.J.	3 CDSB Edm	Sgt Baker G.I.	IPSC Edmonton
Capt Raju A.A.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Baldwin T.	3 CDSG Edm
Capt Rickard J.N.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Barsotta D.G.	CFB Kingston
Capt Salter J.J.	Sask D	Sgt Bulmer C.J.	RCACS
Capt Shumka M.R.	CFLRS	Sgt Caufield M.J.	IPSC Gagetown
Capt Stachow P.F.	RCACS	Sgt Gibson J.D.	SALH
Capt Swainsbury R.J.	3 CDSG	Sgt Goodyear S.W.	5 Cdn Div TC
Capt Timms M.D.	3 Cdn Div	Sgt Gratto M.A.L.	RCACS
Capt Vahal V.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Hamilton J.B.	3 CDSB Edm
Capt Van Muyen S.R.	CMTC	Sgt Hawes J.C.	CFRC Halifax
Capt Walters D.R.	CTC	Sgt Heegsma C.J.	5 Cdn Div TC
Capt Warlow A.G.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Helliwell J.M.	5 Cdn Div
Capt Wawrzyn S.S.	RCACS	Sgt Hodgson K.E.	RCACS
Capt Whalley C.D.	CFB Suffield	Sgt Hornby C.G.	RCACS
Capt White C.G.	CFSSAT	Sgt Ives P.B.	RCACS
Capt Wiome E.J.	CMTC	Sgt Jones P.A.	RCACS
Capt Wong A.S.H.	3 CDSG Edm	Sgt Kauenhofen F.K.	3 CDSG Edm
Capt Wright S.R.	3 CDSG Edm	Sgt Knott O.W.	3 Cdn Div
OCdt Forestell M.J.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Koestlmaier M.P.	3 Cdn Div TC
CWO Bamford G.	5 CDSG	Sgt Lang J.J.K.	5 CDSG
CWO Laughlin W.A.	RCACS	Sgt Leaman L.W.	RCACS
CWO Ramsay J.	CFSU (Europe)	Sgt Lee E.A.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
MWO Clarke R.J.	NDHQ	Sgt Levis R.M.	RCACS
MWO Falls T.C.B.	CMTC	Sgt McDougall C.W.	BCD
MWO Hall D.W.	CFB Kingston	Sgt McGarity M.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
MWO Holland T.C.	RCACS	Sgt Mills N.	CFB Kingston
MWO Stacey R.	NDHQ	Sgt Morley E.	RCACS
MWO Taylor L.M.	2 CDSB Valcartier Det/Grn St. Jean	Sgt Oake A.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
WO Boland C.J.	3 CDSB Edm	Sgt Ogston R.J.A.	RCACS
WO Bolger M.P.	CMTC	Sgt Parsons S.M.	RCACS
WO Boulter G.F.	RCACS	Sgt Peddle J.G.	3 Cdn Div TC
WO Clarke J.C.	FGH	Sgt Pickell E.J.	RCACS
WO Delaney R.H.	408 Sqn	Sgt Reid N.A.	CFB Borden
WO Denson M.I.	KOCR	Sgt Rushton R.J.	5 Cdn Div TC
WO Encinas L.E.	SALH	Sgt Thompson S.D.	1 CRPG
WO Flanagan S.D.	PEIR	Sgt Torney R.M.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
WO Hill L.R.	NDHQ	Sgt Trenholm J.E.	CFRC Edm
WO Kasawan J.F.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Sgt Troop L.J.	1 CRPG
WO Likely R.G.K.	RCACS	MCpl Carnevale G.C.	CMTC
WO MacNeill M.C.	BCR	MCpl Chuback K.G.	RCACS
WO McGregor J.I.	RCACS	MCpl Desjardins J.E.	5 Cdn Div TC
WO Miller N.C.	RCACS	MCpl Dickey T.C.	CMTC
WO Moon G.C.	RCACS	MCpl Doucette J.F.	CMTC
WO Mosher T.R.	Halifax Rifles	MCpl Gordon P.W.	RCACS
WO Pargeter J.E.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	MCpl Guilbeault Y.D.	CFLRS
WO Pociuk A.A.	Sask D	MCpl Harvey De Roy E.	CFLRS
WO Romanuik E.E.	BCD	MCpl Hayes H.A.	CFB Suffield
WO Screen S.R.	RCACS	MCpl Jesse K.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
WO Shiells K.A.	CMTC		
WO Young R.C.	5 Cdn Div TC		

MCpl Johnson J.A.	QYR	Cpl Cotie A.J.	5 Cdn Div TC
MCpl Kentfield C.A.	RCACS	Cpl Currie M.A.	CFB Trenton
MCpl Lahay D.W.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Cpl Cyrenne D.R.	CFB Suffield
MCpl MacFarlane N.J.C.	CFB Trenton	Cpl Dunphy K.	CFB Suffield
MCpl Oliver C.R.J.	CFB Suffield	Cpl Ellis T.W.	RCACS
MCpl Paterson J.D.	CFLRS	Cpl Ferguson K.	3 Cdn Div TC
MCpl Poitras S.	CMTC	Cpl Francis G.A.	RCACS
MCpl Riley P.A.	RCACS	Cpl Graves J.A.	RCACS
MCpl Royes D.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Cpl Gross S.C.	RCACS
MCpl Scott T.	JPSU	Cpl Hansen J.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx
MCpl Smith R.W.	CMTC	Cpl Hansen S.R.	RCACS
MCpl Sorel J.M.R.B.	CFLRS	Cpl Hayes T.P.	CMTC
MCpl St Aubin J.A.J.	CFB Kingston	Cpl Hoyt G.S.	RCACS
MCpl Stewart C.M.	CFB Trenton	Cpl Icala A.L.	CMTC
MCpl Usher A.J.	CFS Leitrum	Cpl Jesse M.R.	CMTC
MCpl Walsh P.W.	RCACS	Cpl Jobin C.Y.	RCACS
Cpl Anderson S.T.	RCACS	Cpl Jones W.D.	RCACS
Cpl Aube D.G.J.	CFLRS	Cpl Lang I.	RCACS
Cpl Bazinet J.C.J.	RCACS	Cpl Livingstone T.J.	CFB Meaford
Cpl Bernard R.J.	RCACS	Cpl MacIsaac R.S.	RCACS
Cpl Bertin Y.	5 CDSG	Cpl Martone	RCACS
Cpl Booth J.J.J.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Cpl McKinnon D.J.	CMTC
Cpl Brough S.	CFB Suffield	Cpl McQueen T.J.	CFB Suffield
Cpl Brown D.L.M.	CMTC	Cpl Mountford R.T.	5 CDSB
Cpl Chaperon A.	RCACS	Cpl Murray R.W.	RCACS
Cpl Chatzikirou D.N.	CFB Trenton	Cpl Myers L.B.	RCACS
Cpl Cook R.T.	RCACS	Cpl Parsons A.N.	RCACS
		Cpl Picardal G.	RCACS
		Cpl Ringuette L.L.	RCACS



Cpl	Riopelle	F.L.	3 CDSG Edm	Tpr	Munro	J.	RCACS
Cpl	Romkey	D.C.E.	RCACS	Tpr	Nieuwhof	K.	RCACS
Cpl	Salazar	E.M.	CMTC	Tpr	Price	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Sebo	M.D.	CFB Suffield	Tpr	Romanchuk	C.T.	RCACS
Cpl	Seppenwoolde	J.W.	CFB Trenton	Tpr	Sawyer	A.	RCACS
Cpl	Shwetz	S.H.D.	RCACS	Tpr	Shields	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Sirois	M.M.R.	4 Cdn Div TC	Tpr	St-Onge	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Steeves	D.	RCACS	Tpr	Wedge	B.	RCACS
Cpl	Stevenson	D.E.	RCACS	Tpr	Wilson	J.	RCACS
Cpl	Stevenson	J.P.	RCACS				
Cpl	Strong	S.S.	RCACS				
Cpl	Sturgess		RCACS				
Cpl	Sundelin	C.R.	RCACS				
Cpl	Thomas	S.G.	RCACS				
Cpl	Tremblett	M.	JPSU Edm				
Cpl	Vaillancourt	B.L.	RCACS				
Cpl	Van Kleef	C.L.	RCACS				
Tpr	Brunskill	M.	RCACS				
Tpr	Danczak	D.	RCACS				
Tpr	Davidson	R.	RCACS				
Tpr	Evers	W.J.	RCACS				
Tpr	Fabischek	N.F.	RCACS				
Tpr	Franklin	J.	RCACS				
Tpr	Gallo	D.	RCACS				
Tpr	Guzman	P.	RCACS				
Tpr	Hayes	J.	RCACS				
Tpr	Hollywood	J.	RCACS				
Tpr	Houle	R.P.A.	RCACS				
Tpr	Mikolas	B.	RCACS				
Tpr	Mireault	S.	RCACS				





Mess Life



The Mariner Room

Lt Stephen Couture and Maj Clayton Gardner

2013 was a busy, yet exciting year for the Mariner Room. The officers of the Mariner Room celebrated Moreuil Wood on 21 March. For this occasion we hosted a delegation from the 10th Polish Armour Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Tank Battalion Commander, **Lt Col Jaroslaw Gorowski**; and Company Commander, **Capt Mariusz Antkowiak**. President of the Mess Committee, **Maj Eric Angell** and Mess Secretary, **Lt Brandon Frizzell** put on a fantastic meal followed by the usual toasts, regimental marches and concluded with a dance. Moreuil Wood is always a special mess dinner, in that it gives us the opportunity to dine in fashion with our spouses and the Regimental Family.

Once again the officers of the Regiment hosted the Maritime themed “Downhomer” event in June. **Capt Matt Shumka** planned this event, as the new Mess Secretary, **Lt Steve Couture** and the rest of the subalterns decorated the Mess to look a lot like a fishing village. Steak, Lobster, and (most importantly) Screech, brought the night together and created the atmosphere we were looking for. This was the last event for the incumbent President, as he would soon after handover his duties to the newly posted in President, **Maj Clayton Gardner**.

Following the Summer block leave period (of not having to see each other for a few weeks), the officers of the Mariner Room were actually quite excited to get together at MKT on Whyte Ave. for a Meet and Greet with the spouses. The night began with some finger food, appetizers and drinks. By the end of the evening, it seemed that everyone had properly caught up with one another. **Maj “Points to Improve” Eric Angell** took the opportunity to conduct an After Action Review with some of the young subalterns after they attempted to talk to some girls at the bar. The Strathcona Ladies had an especially good showing that night, dubbing the evening, “Wives gone Wild?”

Throughout 2013, the Mariner Room took a very active approach in interacting with Edmontonians. Many prominent and influential members of the Edmonton community were able to offer their support for the Regiment by getting involved in Mariner Room events. The night before our deployment to Canadian

Lt Murray McTavish sorting literature - Curry Dinner





Forces Base Wainwright, we hosted a fantastic Curry Supper for the Associates of the Mariner Room and their guests at the Regiment. The Strathcona Mounted Troop put on a ride and the Historical Vehicle Troop was on display. **Mr. Irv Kipnes**, a respected businessman and dedicated community leader, was an outstanding guest speaker at this event, which showed promise to be the first of many. Through fostering our relationship with the community, we will continue to ensure the Canadian public understands and appreciates all the hard work the soldiers and officers of this Regiment do.

December brought with it our annual Black Hat Professional Development week and Mess Dinner, at which we dined out **BGen Craig Hilton** and **LCol Robert Wadsworth**. The Dinner itself was fantastic and the subbies provided some great entertainment. A couple subalterns were asked to read letters written to the retirees. It took **Lt Laurel Burchell** a few minutes to finally manage to get everyone's attention so she could start her speech, while **Capt Ryan Lee** taught us that they do, in fact, speak Spanish in Mexico. **2Lt David Jung** performed his duties as the Vice with much distinction after he had returned to the dinner from his "break" with **Lt Justin Rice**, much relieved to not have to fill in for him!

Following the Black Hat celebrations, we had our Christmas Sport's Day. The Mariner Room was to challenge the Sarcee Room in a competition of athleticism! Unfortunately we decided to do this the morning after our Subbies Carolling night (which went until about 0200). At the end of the day, the Sarcee Room had embarrassed us at Hockey, Broomball and Volleyball... but we did manage to win the tie with soccer over them as it was discovered they had an illegal player! We had a great time and burned off some calories in preparation for Christmas. We definitely deserve at least a ribbon for participation.

The night before the beginning of our Christmas holidays, the officers of the Mariner Room hosted the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and WOs for the annual At Home games at the Officers' Mess. The NCOs may have dominated us at Darts and Euchre, but we sure taught them a lesson at how to play Cabbage Football... maybe with the exception of when **MWO Kevin King** (who wasn't even playing) and **Sgt Felix Charette** decided to work together to tackle **Lt Steve Couture** out of bounds and into the crowd! Only minor pieces of furniture and glassware were broken. The officers managed to pull off a win in the poker tournament leaving the score tied 2 wins for the officers and 2 wins for the NCOs. We all had a great time trying to distinguish the winning mess during the final activity of the night: arm-chair jousting! **Capt Kayda Wriedt** and **Sgt Gerri-Ann Davidson** had an epic battle, but in the end it came down to the Commanding Officer versus the Regimental Sergeant-Major! At the end of the night everybody was in good spirits and nobody had any concussions, thus it was a success!

The Mariner Room has had a great year. We have once again proven that we have the highest esprit de corps in the Brigade (if not the Army), and continued to develop relationships with civilian leaders in the community. We even purchased a new dishwasher after 13 years!

Subbies Mingling at the Curry Dinner





The Sarcee Room

WO Rob Englehart

In keeping with what seems to be becoming a tradition, I will begin by taking this opportunity to congratulate Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Tony Batty**, **CWO Walt Laughlin** and **Sgt Felix Charette** for their appointments to the Member of Military Merit (MMM). The MMM was established to provide a worthy means of recognizing conspicuous merit, exceptional service and performance of duty by members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Governor-General appoints approximately 100 personnel annually. For the second time in as many years we have 3 Strathconas appointed in a single year. This is a true example of Strathcona leadership. Well done! You are an example to us all.

2013 was a busy year that has flown by. The WOs and Sgts of the Sarcee Room celebrated Moreuil Wood on 21 March. For the first time in recent history, we held our annual Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner the same night as the Moreuil Wood Parade. This made the evening a little more relaxed as no one was worried about standing on parade or getting their uniforms ready the following day. President of the Mess Committee (PMC) for the Sarcee Room, **WO Scott Brown** and Vice PMC **WO Doucet** put on a fantastic meal followed by the usual toasts, regimental marches and concluded with the PMC telling every one what was on his mind.

Once again we proved our dominance over the Mariner Room this year. Not only embarrassing them with a 13 – 2 victory in Ice Hockey, thanks to the superb goal tending by **Sgt Dwaine (Bobby) Barker**, and the angel-like hands of **WO Danny Forbes**. We also had the great pleasure of returning the “Horse’s Ass” to its rightful place in the Mariner Room. It was an epic battle with us wining Darts and Euchre, the Mariner Room winning Poker and Cabbage Football with the same monsters they had last year. After the end of the main event, jousting, which ended in a tie, a small brawl ensued; of course we won. There was only one option for a tie breaker, a jousting competition of epic proportion: the Commanding Officer (CO), **LCol Paul Peyton** versus **CWO Tony Batty**. Winner takes all! Although the CO put up a valiant effort he was no match for the kid from Halifax, England.

In closing, I would like to welcome home **CWO Tony Batty** from Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, **WO Cari-An Barker** and **Sgt Dwaine Barker** from the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School. I would like to also welcome our newest member to the Strathcona family, **WO Norm Driscoll** and **Sgt Nate Johnston**.

*Back row: SSM A Sqn, SSM B Sqn, SSM Recce Sqn, SSM HQ Sqn
Front Row: Regimental Sergeant-Major, Technical Quartermaster*





Green Point Lounge

MCpl Paul Fisher

Another year has passed for the members of the Green Point Lounge. Over the last year, we had to say good-bye to about 10 members who have been posted out of the Regiment, both to Wainwright and Gagetown; and we have had 5 members make the decision to become civilians again... with a few more to come. Our numbers were increased with the promotions of about 25 new members (12 at Christmas alone).

During the Moreuil Wood parade, **Cpl Kearns** was awarded the Fox Bugle and **Sgt Kruhlak** earned himself the Colonel-of-the-Regiment Silver Stick. Unfortunately, for a second year in a row, the MCpl's golf tournament was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts (hopefully we can pull it off this year). Feeling the need to compete against his peers in a friendly competition, **MCpl Tom Hume** organized two Euchre tournaments in the past year. He and his partner, **MCpl Paul Keller** won the first one while **MCpl Ryan Pasuta** and I took the second one. **MCpl Phil Sephton** did distinguish himself in both tournaments by being part of the team to get eliminated first!

Over the last year we participated in both the Moreuil Wood Sports Day and the Christmas Sports Day. **MCpl Mike Baker** led us to victory in volleyball on both occasions. Unfortunately, we were unable to win any other sports against the Track Pad. The Moose Milk prepared this year by **MCpls Leon Van Heerden** and **Mike St. Germain** was a huge hit before the Christmas parade and was well attended by the Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant-Major, Squadron Officers Commanding, Squadron Sergeants-Major and the President of the Mess Committees of the Mariner Room, Sarcee Room and Track Pad. Looking to the New Year, we are hoping that we can run the golf tournament and just maybe win something other than volleyball during one of the sports days.

MCpl Matthew Collier "Sweet helmet Matty!!!"



MCpl Kearns "and I believe that this goes here"





Track Pad

Cpl Kent and Cpl Kabongo

Last year was a busy but successful year for the Track Pad and all of its members. The Tprs and Cpls, being the lifeblood of the Regiment, professionally executed the many tasks that came. These tasks involved things like Operation LENTUS and Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM. However, the year was not all hard work and cold days in the field. The Track Pad also did very well in sporting events showing the Green Point Lounge who is really the boss on the ice and the soccer pitch. This year, we also had to say good-bye to some of our ranks and send them on their way after promotions, postings, and releases.

A few of the hard working individuals we unfortunately had to see go were **Cpls “Jimmy” Arsenault** and **“Diesel Dawg” Walker** who decided to see if the grass was really greener on the civilian side. We wish them good luck on the next chapter of their lives. Others that had to leave us but not go very far were **Cpls “I’m a Vegan” Elms**, **“How” Bellegarde**, **“Livy” Livingstone**, and **“Chevy” Chevalier**. The postings included Wainwright, St. Jean, and Petewawa. We cannot wait to see them return and hear some interesting stories.

The more responsible and grown up Cpls we saw leave were promoted to the rank of MCpl. The Track Pad congratulates these fine soldiers: now **MCpls “I Learnt this in the Army” Murdoch, Crowe, Collier, “Peach” Peachy**, **“no nickname found” Foster**, and **Underwood**. Track Pad looks forward to completely destroying them in the future sporting events as new members of Green Point Lounge.

On the posting-in side of things, we received what seems to be a truck load of new Troopers. The Track Pad would like to welcome them to the Strathcona family- Try not to hurt yourselves by doing such things as tying your shoes and chewing bubble gum at the same time. There may be many of you but we still need you!

In sports, the Track Pad’s valiant efforts paid off on the ice and on the pitch. The Track Pad was outstanding in all games, but let the Green Point Lounge have their fun and lost to the Green Point swindlers in Broom Ball, 3-2. The young, capable, and very good-looking Track Pad took the lead for the other sports such as Hockey. It was a high tension game that was tied at the end of the third period scoring 3-3. The glorious Track Pad scored the winning goal in over-time. On the football pitch, the Track Pad won once again with a leading score of 7-0 which had people wondering if the Green Point team even showed up.

Can we describe the Tps and Cpls’ efforts throughout the year in just one short article? No, I do not think we can. One would need a plethora of gallant words to come close to recounting the excellent job done by the hard working members of the Track Pad this last year. Providing the live fire support as well as the laser fire during the spring exercise for two months was just the beginning of this exciting year. After Exercise STEELE SABRE we decided to relax with some flood relief in southern Alberta on Operation LENTUS. The hard toil of the soldiers in the south was greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Medicine Hat and Kananaskis. The citizens volunteered, working along side our labouring Track Pad members while others supplied water and sandwiches, which was much appreciated by all.

There was new a President of the Mess Committee voted in for the Track Pad. With a new group of board members voted in, the Track Pad is setting its sights high. The board will endeavour to get more time off for sports and free coffee creamers for everyone. For the new Tprs, if you are lost in the Regiment and you smell Ben Gay and Aqua Velva, you are getting too close to the Sarcee Room, turn the other way, quick! Looking back, 2013 was an eventful year. The Track Pad, as the lifeblood of this fine Regiment, makes what would seem to others impossible, possible. From scoring goals to rescuing power plants, Track Pad members have my sincerest thanks and I hope to see you all provide that same excellence in the New Year.



Subbies' Corner

Lt Murray McTavish

It is with great humility that I write this issue of Subbies' Corner. I was fortunate to be on the receiving end of a string of convenient "administrative events" and deployments, with the result of being appointed as the Senior Subbie, and earning me the nickname "**Murray 'the Diamond in the Rough' McTavish**"... Okay, I "earned" that nickname about as much as **Lt Ahmad Jaradat** "earned" his University Degree. In actuality, the real name was more like "**Murray 'well, I guess we don't have any other choice' McTavish.**" You know, basically the same thing.

The year was marked with two big events. Several of the subbies, including **Lt Brandon Frizzell**, **Capt Blake Tapp**, **Capt Ryan Lee**, **Capt Owen Lewis**, and **Capt Tim McHugh** were deployed as part of Task Force 2-13 on Operation ATTENTION. They went through a rigorous screening process to be deemed "most likely to gloat to the other subbies about getting to go to Afghanistan," and were thus chosen to go. And so, as they were off earning their stripes in ol' Mortar-itaville, the rest of us were left here to feel sorry for ourselves for missing out. However, just in the nick of time to save our morale, we received word that nine new subbies would be arriving in August. We were excited mainly for the fact that there would finally be some more labourers to help clean the Mariner Room and polish the Regiment's silver.

We quickly indoctrinated the newcomers in what it means to be a Strathcona Subbie. This, of course, means being the loudest, drunkest, and most incorrigible group of subbies at the mess. After two Friday nights of crawling in the tunnels, judging everyone's abilities at ditch fighting, and causing some minor destruction, we had all got to know each other. Of course, it wasn't all fun and games, as there is certain social responsibility placed on us subbies to always improve the atmosphere at the mess. For example, our very own **Lt Steve Couture** and **Capt Corey McLean** even took it upon themselves to help with the "tear-down" of the Mess's gazebo, persevering through the protest of some unappreciative 408 Squadron members. I think I speak on behalf of all the subbies when I say: "Thank you for your hard work, boys."

There is, however, more to subbie life than just the Mess. We actually do quite a bit of professional development amongst ourselves, just to stay on top of the game. **Lt Steve "one rep max" Couture**, and **Lt Jamie "Snap City" Brittain** liked to regularly teach us about lifting technique and nutritional responsibility, while **Lt Matt "and you are?" Hoffart** took it upon himself to teach us about the different important personalities in the Regiment, and when he didn't know one himself, he would always do the responsible thing, and make sure to ask.

This year, with the Annual Posting Season approaching, several of us will be posted away. We look forward to passing the torch to the next generation of subbies to take over the legacy that has been built around, and sometimes on the careers of Strathcona Subbies throughout the past several years. For those of us moving on, we look forward to the coming battle to come back to the Regiment. I, for one, am planning a campaign that will make Kursk look like a walk in **Lt Darren Carter-Wright's** bedroom after the Black Hat Mess Dinner. For the life of me, however, I can't seem to pick which one of those options is worse.





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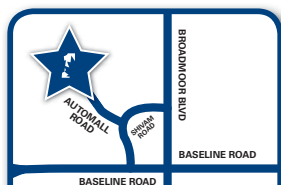
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Strathcona Ladies

Tiffany Peyton

“For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone” – Audrey Hepburn.

Classy, Strong, Kind, Caring, and Beautiful. This is who we are. We stand behind our spouses and provide them continued support and strength when it is required. We encourage them in their mission to succeed even when it means they have to go away, sometimes for a week, two months, six months, a year, or more. We hold our children's hands as we wave good-bye to Dad (or Mom) and then in the evening as we tuck our little ones safely into their beds, we tell them “It won't be too much longer...” repeatedly... night after night... Sometimes even when they are teenagers. We even take a moment to cry quietly by ourselves and that is okay. That is necessary. The beautiful thing that we share is the knowledge that we are not alone. The Strathcona Ladies are a lovely group who come together both formally and informally. Whether we are gathering for some much needed laughter or to give back to those in need, there is comfort and a quiet strength in our numbers.



This year the ladies turned out in large numbers and to put it quite literally, HAD A BLAST! Have you ever wondered to yourself: “What the heck do our guys do out there in the field?” Well, we kicked off September with the spouses of serving members jumping on a bus in the wee hours of the morning to find out exactly what happens out there in mysterious Wainwright. They rode tanks, they fired tanks, and they ate in the tents (seriously wondering what their spouses complained about since the food was pretty fantastic). They received a lesson on various weapons, attempted to stay warm through a pretty wicked wind storm, but most importantly after the tour from Squadron Sergeant-Major A Squadron, **MWO Chenier**, came away with a much better appreciation for blue rockets opposed to the Johnny bags! Mystery finally solved! (Though you can be sure our soldiers held back some

of their secrets.) A good time was had by all and seemingly the men enjoyed hosting the ladies as much as the ladies loved being out there with them. To sum it all up the greatest comment that was heard from one of our lovely wives was this: “In 27 years, I've never had this opportunity and I am so grateful.” This event was a huge success thanks to **Kathy Batty** and Regimental Sergeant-Major, **CWO Tony Batty**, who put a great deal of effort and pulled it off brilliantly!

Being a part of this Regiment affords us many opportunities and one such occasion came to us just prior to Christmas when the ladies boarded a bus once again. Our transportation for this trip was just slightly more luxurious than the bus to Wainwright and was truly a generous gift to the ladies which even came with a ... ahem ... wonderful driver who took us south to Calgary. A huge thank you goes out to Pacific Western for donating the bus. We certainly rode in style. There, we were special guests at the Spruce





Meadows International Christmas Market. It was a beautiful day to wander through the venue and enjoy all that the vendors had to offer and take in the holiday festivities. Like that wasn't enough we then found ourselves at Cross Iron Mills where there were some very serious shoppers who got right down to it and made the most of the few short shopping hours we

had left. Needless to say, FUN was the name of the game that day!

We do take time to get semi-serious on occasion, as was the case when we hosted our Business Showcase which presented our ladies a chance to share their business ventures with us. We love to celebrate our ladies' successes; with a little wine and cheese of course. There was also a private shoe shopping party... oops did someone say "more shopping?"... Always a huge hit with our ladies! Do we really need one more pair of shoes? Why yes, for Girls Night out of course... and oh by the way, we did that too! What a great night we had at the Comic Strip! We laughed, and laughed, and then laughed some more!

While we do have a great deal of fun, we do always find a way to give back. As we have done in the past, we will be pairing with 'We Care' once again in March to provide much needed food and warm clothing to some of our less fortunate. Truth be told, just a smile can change their day and this is a simple gift that we can so easily give. Our ladies are a very special group and the giving is endless. It isn't just in the manner of community service that we give back. We give each and every day by supporting one another. When we welcome a new lady to our group and offer friendship it can change their entire outlook on a new and sometimes daunting posting. When we provide a shoulder to cry on, a hand to hold, or endless laughter, we are giving in the most simplistic way to each other. We are a very special group of ladies brought together by the simple fact that our significant others serve together. How fortunate we are to have each other always. I have been honoured to be a part of such a wonderful group. Stay classy, beautiful, true to yourselves, and kind to each other always.



Allied Regiment's Year in Review

Lt Giles Moon



2013 found the Queen's Royal Lancers (QRL) in Afghanistan once again on Operation HERRICK 17. The Regiment was employed in a number of testing roles across Helmand Province with almost the entirety of the Regiment's manpower committed to the operation. Regimental Headquarters (RHQ), led by **LCol N.J. Best**, formed the HQ element of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Group, based within Task Force Helmand HQ in Lashkar Gah, and was responsible for directing the Task Force intelligence gathering effort. Reporting directly to them was the Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF), formed from a mixture of B Squadron and soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. They spent their tour conducting Helicopter and Ground Assaults into the ungoverned areas of Helmand; this was extremely successful, with 152 weapons

cached, 4000 kg of explosives, over 5000 kg of narcotics seized, and with a number of prestige weapon systems. A Squadron, meanwhile, deployed to Afghanistan believing that they would be conducting reconnaissance alongside the BRF. However, a major attack on Camp Bastion in September 2012 led to a heightened level of security around the base and the Squadron was re-tasked to providing force protection in the areas surrounding the camp.

The remainder of the Regiment was employed in training the Afghan Security Forces. D Squadron worked with the Highways Kandak Battalion of the Afghan National Army. They spent their tour patrolling Highway 1, which is the main road through Helmand and is consequently an extremely high value target for the Taliban. Overall they covered more than 10 000 miles of road stretch along with their Afghan partners on one of the most dangerous roads in the world, so it is a testament to their skill that they didn't trigger a single Improvised Explosive Device throughout the tour. C Squadron was responsible for mentoring the Afghan Police in the Nad-E-Ali district. It accompanied the police on daily patrols around the district population centres as well as participated in a number of large operations in the desert. Over the course of the tour, C Squadron was able to develop the police to the stage that it was able to assume complete responsibility for the security of the Nad-E-Ali district.

On our return from Helmand and after some much needed leave, the Regiment paraded through our principal recruiting towns of Nottingham and Stoke-on-Trent. It was gratifying for all involved to march through cheering crowds in front of friends and family as it gave a very real sense of the public support that the British Army currently enjoys. It was also immensely pleasing to find out that a number of the Regiment had been given Operational Honours and Awards for their performance on tour. The foremost among them were **LCol Best**, who was appointed Officer of the Order of The British Empire (OBE), and **Maj Adam Foden**, Commander BRF, who awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). In May 2013, the Regiment said farewell to **LCol Best** as Commanding Officer and welcomed **LCol Jules N.E. Buczacki** who will command the Regiment until May 2015.

As Afghanistan draws down, the British Army is returning to contingency operations. A major part of this is the formation of the high readiness Lead Armoured Task Force, to which we will be contributing the reconnaissance element. Training for this will see us deploying to British Army Training Unit Suffield in summer 2014, so we will once again be tested in the Canadian prairies. Hopefully the training programme will allow a visit to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) at some point over the summer!











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South Africa

South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, 18 Brazenrin, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette,

Cambrai 1917, 18 St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenburg 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

(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)

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