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Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Battle Honours

South Africa

South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

**Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentín, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette,
Cambrai 1917, '18; St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenberg Line,
St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Pursuit to Mons,
France and Flanders 1915 - 1918**

Second World War

**Liri Valley, Melfa Crossing, Torrice Crossroads, Gothic Line,
Pozzo Alto Ridge, Coriano, Lamone Crossing, Misano Ridge, Casale,
Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Italy 1944-1945, Ijsselmeer
North-West Europe 1945**

Korea

Korea 1951-1953

(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)



Allied With

The Queen's Royal Lancers
10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade

Affiliated Cadet Corps

1292 Cadet Corps - Calgary

1813 Cadet Corps - Cranbrook

2716 Cadet Corps - Mayerthorpe

2860 Cadet Corps - Fort Simpson

2952 Cadet Corps - Grand Cache

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3070 Cadet Corps - Evansburg



The Strathconian

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Commanding Officer

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STEELE BARRACKS	2008	PUBLISHED March, 2009
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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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Colonel of the Regiment Remarks

Colonel J.E.N. Roderick

Again this year the Strathconian will be filled with accounts of amazing accomplishments by our Regiment as members wage war in Afghanistan and train at a frenetic pace, not only to relieve the squadron in Afghanistan but to assume other roles in that theatre. I never cease to be impressed with spirit and motivation I see on my visits with our soldiers, as they not only carry out these duties but also, as if they have energy to spare, the work put in to continue the preservation of those uniquely Strathcona traditions such as the Mounted Troop and the Historic Vehicle Troop.



As you go through our Regimental journal you will read of the many accomplishments of the Squadrons and of individuals who have received recognition from many quarters. As well as the many well deserved individual awards for bravery and professionalism, probably the highlight for the whole unit was the award to the Regiment of the Canadian Forces Unit Commendation. A second, and unique, recognition occurred when the Chief of Land Staff (CLS) of the Polish Armed Forces, **LGen Waldemar Skrzypczak** wrote to our CLS, **LGen Andrew Leslie** and proposed an affiliation of his "best unit", 10 Armoured Cavalry Brigade, with the Strathconas. I was pleased to accompany a small contingent from the Regiment to Poland in December when we joined with our new friends and launched what I am sure will be a positive and fruitful alliance.

Another activity that took place this past year, and one of great historic importance to us, was the return of Sir Sam Steele's personal archives to Canada. The Regiment was front and centre in the events in London, England, Calgary and Edmonton that marked this return. Not only do we now have access to these important archives but in the process we were able to strengthen our relationships and raise our profile with the University of Alberta, the Glenbow Museum and a number of other Government agencies.

Finally, to end the year on a high note, the CO, RSM and I were invited to meet with our Colonel-in-Chief in London and give him a personal update on the activities of the Regiment and answer his many questions. Let there be no doubt but that His Royal Highness takes a very keen interest in our Regiment and he has a great concern over the welfare of our soldiers and their families.

Once again I must end this article with a comment of the strength of the families of the Regiment, all of whom are under continual stress and strain due to the rate of activity necessitated by the war. Their performance is magnificent and each and every one of them is deserving of our thanks and every ounce of support we can provide to them.

PERSEVERANCE



Senior Serving Strathcona

Colonel D.C. Hilton

There were two surprises in store for me this past fall when I received a call from **Major General Tim Grant**, informing me of his decision to retire from the Forces. The first surprise, of course, was the news itself. **General Tim** had decided to take his leave at the very top of his game, having served the Country and our Regiment, in both peace and war, for over thirty years. Fittingly, he has been recently honoured by Members and Friends of the Regiment for his outstanding record of service, and I would again convey the thanks of us all for his inspired leadership, and our sincere best wishes as he assumes new and significant responsibilities with the Government of Alberta.



The second surprise was the realization that the mantle of Senior Serving Strathcona had now fallen to me! Following the usual pattern of shock, then denial, followed by a reluctant acceptance of the hard truth that I have been around for three decades, I was once again struck by the speed with which the years pass in the life of the Regiment. Indeed, I would have reflected upon this much more deeply, had **Kathy Batty** not reminded me in her ever-tactful way, that my Strathconian contribution was due NOW. Apparently, time waits for no man.

So let me be brief and to the point. Within these pages is reflected the reality of a highly professional organization whose members have consistently been tried and tested under the most demanding circumstances, and who have achieved, and continue to achieve, the thanks and admiration of our friends, and the respect of our enemies. Equally, on every page are examples of the ties that bind the Regimental Family together; tales of the members themselves – serving and retired, families, friends, shared history, humour and insight that span the country, and span the years. The Strathconian continues to provide a remarkable window on a remarkable story, and this year is no exception. Here in Washington, D.C., my American colleagues would describe it in their terms as ‘the strength of the nation’. We, on the other hand, accept it as a story that continues to unfold – a year in the life of the Regiment; but it remains no less a tale of strength for all that.

My congratulations to the Editor-in-Chief and his team. Who says you can never go home again?

PERSEVERANCE



Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel D.A. Macaulay

The past year has seen the Regiment conducting or preparing for its assigned international mission in support of Canada's war on terror in Afghanistan. We have had Squadrons deployed from the dust devils of Texas to the bratwurst stands of Germany and all parts of Canada in between. Our Squadrons have supported all three Army brigades, as their infantry lead Task Forces conduct the assigned Road to War training requirements. This training required soldiers to be away from home for over 19 weeks prior to their six month deployment. However, in my opinion, it was necessary in order to properly prepare them for the current operating environment that has been termed, by our allies, as Volatile, Uncertain, Chaotic, and Ambiguous (VUCA) and best describes the Regiment's past year.



A Squadron is currently, being skillfully commanded by the team of **Major Ian McDonnell** and **SSM Dave Hall** in the volatile environment of Afghanistan. As part of Third Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment Battle group they trained primarily on the buffalo grounds of Wainwright. This unfamiliar training area provided A Squadron's wide-eyed attached troop from the Royal Canadian Dragoons an opportunity to test their navigation skills in the unforgiving badlands of Alberta. Since their deployment, in early September, the Squadron has performed to the expected high standard which was established by the four Regimental tank Squadrons before them and the highly successful tour of B Squadron.

B Squadron returned as part of the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group from the sands of Afghanistan, after what could be considered the longest relief-in-place in Regimental history (six weeks). B Squadron's superb command team of **Major Chris Adams** and **SSM Tony Batty** unwillingly handed over the reins in early November to the new team of **Major Rob Hume** and **SSM Tom Holland**. B Squadron re-entered the uncertain environment, which historically always has an unforecasted training requirement to meet the changing Techniques, Tactics and Procedures (TTPs) of the Taliban. As I write this article, B Squadron has rebuilt and reorganized and joined the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group and merged on the super highway to war just as C Squadron prepares to exit and commence its journey into Afghanistan.

C Squadron, as part of the Third Battalion Royal 22e Régiment Battle Group, returned early last year under the excellent command team of **Major Trevor Gosselin** and **SSM Geoff Bamford**. This command team took what could have been a chaotic mix of a troop from each of the Regular Force Armoured Regiments and transformed it into an effective fighting force. Within weeks after C Squadron enjoyed a well deserved break, the new command team of **Major John Cochrane** and **SSM Richard Stacey** was assigned the challenging task of preparing a fairly young and inexperienced Squadron in support of the Second Battalion Royal 22e Régiment Battle Group. A chaotic and busy road to war has provided C Squadron the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the Citadel, the sands of Fort Bliss Texas, and the winds of Centurion field. With their world tour complete, they now stand prepared to execute their assigned tasks, something Reconnaissance Squadron has yet to enjoy.

Reconnaissance Squadron has been reinvigorated under the first-rate command team of **Major Rob McKenzie** and **SSM Tony Batty**. During the Annual Posting Season (APS) the Regiment bid farewell to the majority of Infantry Soldiers that were part of Echo Company as they rejoined their respective Battalions preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. With Echo Company's departure, the skills of the Lav III TOW Under



Armour (TUA) vehicle now fell on the shoulders of the soldiers of Reconnaissance Squadron. Without hesitation the Squadron took this ambiguous task and started trialing ways to integrate it into Coyote Patrols. This proved very beneficial as the Regiment received the task, in the fall, to provide Reconnaissance Squadron to Task Force Whistler and Vancouver in support of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the 2010 Olympics. With this the added Canada First mission, Headquarters Squadron under the first-class command team of **Major Chris Adams** and **SSM Bill Crabb** enjoyed the full VUCA environment as all its soldiers provided superb support to the full range of Regimental assigned tasks.

So, as you turn the pages of this year's Strathconian you will be provided with the splendid articles, stories and achievements of our Regiments all too familiar "normal" year which has only been possible because of the support of the Regimental family far and wide....Thank you.

PERSEVERANCE

Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer J. Ramsay

So here I am in Vancouver with most of the leadership of the Regiment, conducting Recces for the 2010 Olympics and another busy year has passed for the soldiers and families of the Regiment. As for the location of the Squadrons right now, we have A Squadron in Afghanistan, B Squadron just beginning the intense Road to War cycle and C Squadron just finishing up its training in preparation for deployment. With the Regiment being picked as the lead for Task Force Vancouver, we have soldiers from RHQ, Recce and Headquarters Sqn, attending an advanced winter training program with an eye on tasks throughout the Olympics. So with the unit fully committed, it is common knowledge throughout the Strathcona family that the Regiment is a very busy place to be.



I am impressed by the number of times people from outside the Regiment ask me "How are the soldiers doing?" I tell them that overall although we are extremely busy, the soldiers are doing very well. My response is normally met with doubt. However, I explain that the rare times that I am actually within the Unit lines, due to Regimental commitments both in Canada and overseas; I walk around to see how the soldiers are making out fully expecting an onslaught of complaints. To my surprise, I have not received any negative complaints. Instead they tell me what they have been doing, which in itself is overwhelming, and generally mention that their main concern is the toll our Operational tempo it taking on their families. They know they have their families support in everything they do but they also know that it is difficult for them. I also hear comparisons of the multiple tours that they have completed which has become the norm. So, it goes without saying that the herculean effort by the soldier's in the Regiment and the families that support them astounds me and everyone I have had the opportunity to speak with. Nevertheless, I do know for a fact that at all levels of senior leadership, it is demanded that any training completed is deemed absolutely necessary, and when possible at the Units home base to provide soldiers and families more time together. But, the unit is not the only place Strathconas understand the current tempo.

On the many visits the CO and I take throughout the year, we have had opportunities to talk to Strathcona's who are serving on ERE postings. Again their first question is, "How are the soldiers doing?" Which is usually quickly followed by, "When can I come back?" Understanding that the majority of them have recently departed the Regiment and are fully aware of how very busy we are, impresses me.



In closing, I wanted to focus on how very aware people outside the Regimental family are of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families are making to meet the Regiment's current commitments. It would have been very easy to complete an article covering what the Regiment has been doing in the past and the numerous medals and awards received by serving Strathconas in the past year. In fact that alone would have been pages long. But I know this will be covered in the great articles submitted by the Squadrons. But I thought it was important the Regimental family know that as soon as people see our hat badge that I proudly don, they approach me and inquire about Strathcona soldiers. This speaks volume of how aware and impressed they are with the efforts of the soldiers. So, on behalf of all those people I pass on their Thank you and let you know I am extremely proud of the soldier's and their families. You all have my extreme gratitude.

PERSEVERANCE

Editor-in-Chief's Forward

Major R. McKenzie

There is a lot going on around the Regiment lately. On any given day, we have soldiers in three to four different time zones, either in theatre or conducting force generation with two of the three brigades. Concurrently, those on the hangar floor carry on with all the normal courses and tasks, feeding the machine and keeping the wagons rolling. With this pace, it is easy to become focused on the immediate and lose sight of the importance of traditions such as the Strathconian. This operational tempo makes the effort it took on everyone's part to produce this year's edition of the Strathconian all the more significant, squeezing in yet another task and creating a permanent record of this challenging and rewarding time in the Regiment's history.



The time from warning order to when we crossed the line of departure for this year's Strathconian may be one of the shortest yet, but the hard work of all those involved made the compressed timeline achievable. As always, our continuity and quality control was provided by the effervescent **Mrs. Kathy Batty**; thanks for your patience and counsel. This year's advertising campaign was a great success. My thanks go out to **Capt Peter Beitz** and his merry band of supplicants who dredged the surrounding communities for the ads you will see throughout this year's edition. Our heartfelt thanks to all those advertisers who lent their support this year. Without your help, this precious record of achievement would not be available to the soldiers, families and friends of the Regiment.



Last, but certainly not least, my thanks go to the long-suffering editor, **Capt Fred Hayward**. The job is just one of the laundry list of secondary duties that befell him last December when we started down this road, but his hard work, dedication (and much badgering of recalcitrant contributors-you know who you are) have made this year's effort a success.

We hope you enjoy this year's Strathconian as much as we have enjoyed compiling it.



Births and Marriages 2008

A Squadron

Birth – MCpl Riddell's daughter Violet Marie born 25 August 2008

B Squadron

Marriage –Cfn O'Toole and Stephanie Lynn married on 23 May 2008

Marriage –Pte Ivey and Peter Harcombe married on 18 December 2008

C Squadron

Birth – Sgt Clipsham's daughter Emily born 12 December 2007

Birth – Cpl Baird's son Dimitri born 20 February 2008

Marriage -Cpl Rasmussen and Sharisse Anne married on 21 June 2008

Recce Squadron

Birth – Tpr Estabrook's daughter Anna born 22 December 2007

Marriage - MCpl Koestlmaier and Rhylin Evley married on 31 March 2008

Birth – Sgt Brown's son Riley born 1 April 2008

Birth- Capt Hayward's daughter Claire born 2 May 2008

Birth – Cpl Royes son James David born 05 August 2008

Marriage – Cpl Romkey and Jennifer Seymour married on 17 October 2008

Birth – Cpl Mooney's son Ashton born 24 October 2008

Marriage – MCpl Hodgson and Shannon married on 25 October 2008

Marriage – MWO Batty and Kathy Stephen married on 8 November 2008

Births – Tpr Pugh's daughter Caylee born 22 Nov 2008

Headquarters Squadron

Birth – Cpl Mills son Jonas born 12 December 2007

Marriage – MCpl Brake and Krista Marie married on 14 December 2007

Marriage - Tpr Rodden and Diane Hunter married on 22 July 2008

Birth – Tpr Kirkpatrick's daughter Ashley born 16 January 2008

Birth – Cpl Royes' son Jamar born 5 August 2008

Marriage - Cpl Bernardo and Sarah Marshall on 30 August 2008

Birth – Cpl Lecomte's daughter Abigail born 31 August 2008

Birth – Cpl Pickell's daughter Danika born 27 September 2008

Marriage – Cpl Romkey and Jennifer Seymour married 17 October 2008

Regimental Headquarters

Birth – Cpl Vienneau's son Logan born 26 August 2008

Birth – Capt MacIntyre's daughter Meaghan born 6 September 2008

Birth – MCpl Thompson's daughter Mackenna born 10 September 2008



Chief of Defence Staff Unit Commendation LdSH(RC)

In recognition of the outstanding professionalism and dedication demonstrated by all ranks in response to the August 2006 short notice Canadian Government decision to add a tank capability to Task Force Afghanistan. The monumental efforts involved in the successful readying, deployment and sustainment of this new armour-based element warrant national recognition.

Chief of the Defence Staff
General R.J. Hillier



The CO, RSM, and MCpl Tom Bowden, receive the unit citation from the CDS.



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Honours and Awards

Medal of Military Valour

WO Hopkin
Cpl Poelzer
Cpl Morley
Cpl Bancarz

Meritorious Service Medal

MWO Crabb

Mention In Dispatches

Capt Lubiniecki
Capt Volstad
WO Clarke
Sgt Schall

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt Bowers
Capt Dwyer
Capt Gardner
Capt Larsen
MCpl Koestlmaier
MCpl Ogston
MCpl Pargeter
Cpl Bustard
Cpl Cameron
Cpl Todd

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

WO Kelly
Sgt Nicholson
Sgt Warne
MCpl Cowles
MCpl Banks
Cpl Auld

Canadian Forces Decoration Second Clasp

MWO Proctor

Commander CEFCON Commendation

Sgt Bolger

Chief of Defence Staff Commendation

Unit Commendation LdSH(RC)
MCpl Holmes

General Campaign Star

Maj Gosselin
Capt Anderson
Capt Hayward
Capt Hone
Capt Johns
Capt Kirstein
Capt Nguyen
Capt Nitu
Lt Bentley
MWO Bamford
MWO Batty
WO Clarke
WO Fox
WO Kelley
WO Mayfield
WO Seefried
WO Taylor
Sgt Hillman
Sgt Kauenhofen
Sgt Klose
Sgt Likely
Sgt Peddle
Sgt Schall
Sgt Smith
MCpl Bowden
MCpl Charette
MCpl Goodyear
MCpl Green
MCpl Haberer
MCpl Hall
MCpl Hewitt
MCpl Hite
MCpl Holmes
MCpl Koski
MCpl Lumbard
MCpl Mackinnon
MCpl Ryall
MCpl Sanduliak
MCpl Thompson D.H.

MCpl Thompson S.D.
MCpl Troop
MCpl Vandervaat
MCpl Wells
Cpl Acorn
Cpl Agarsky
Cpl Anderson
Cpl Baker
Cpl Barrott
Cpl Bernardo
Cpl Bleasdale
Cpl Bourassa
Cpl Bustard
Cpl Charlton
Cpl Clews
Cpl Colenutt
Cpl Daneau
Cpl Dixon
Cpl Drake
Cpl Fensom
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Gow
Cpl Gunton
Cpl Guy
Cpl Headge
Cpl Houle
Cpl Jesse
Cpl Leblanc
Cpl Lister
Cpl Low
Cpl Loykowski
Cpl Marcotte
Cpl Markwell
Cpl Mastel
Cpl Miedema
Cpl Moncrieff
Cpl Nolan
Cpl Osborne
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Paul
Cpl Poelzer
Cpl Seely
Cpl Sundelin
Cpl Young
Tpr Ameerli
Tpr Churchill



Tpr Costello
Tpr D'Angelo
Tpr Demelo
Tpr Fanni
Tpr Fisher
Tpr Hyshka
Tpr Jacobs
Tpr Keller
Tpr MacPherson
Tpr McKenzie
Tpr Mijares
Tpr Nolan
Tpr Partington
Tpr Ramiro
Tpr Reid
Tpr Sears
Tpr Sebo
Tpr Seppenwoolde
Tpr Thompson
Tpr Vallee
Tpr Villarete
Tpr Wagner
Tpr Wright

Prince of Wales Trophy

C Squadron

Regimental Individual Awards

The Fox Bugle

Cpl Poelzer

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick

MCpl Brown

The Milroy Crossbelt

Sgt Dickson

The Neatby Pacestick

WO Pudar

The Hessin Memorial Sword

Capt Douglas

Promotions

Maj Lubiniecki
Maj McKenzie
Capt Johns
Capt Dunn
Capt Boates
Capt Douglas
Capt Anderson
Capt Miller
Capt Beitz
Capt Ross
Capt Day
Capt Kim
Capt Nguyen
Lt Boyce
Lt Brown
Lt Bugg
Lt Gray
Lt Guenther
Lt Hevenor
Lt Kay
Lt MacKillop
Lt Meikle
Lt Nash
Lt Sturgeon
Lt Williams
MWO Smith
MWO Stacey
WO Turnbull
WO Tice
WO Daley
WO Amos
Sgt Brown
Sgt Churchill
Sgt Clarke
Sgt Denson
Sgt Lincez
Sgt McGarity
Sgt Pargeter
Sgt Parsons
Sgt Ralph
Sgt Sterner
Sgt Stoyko
Sgt Thomas
Sgt Vandervaate
MCpl Biener
MCpl Gray
MCpl Helliwell

MCpl Hornby
MCpl McAtasney
MCpl Miller
MCpl Ogston
MCpl Oliver
MCpl Paul
MCpl Pittman
MCpl Poelzer
MCpl Rekrut
MCpl Riddell
MCpl Scheller
MCpl Morely
MCpl Milly
MCpl Warnica
MCpl Torney
Cpl Baker
Cpl Bernardo
Cpl D'Andrea
Cpl Dickey
Cpl Dixon
Cpl Dunbar
Cpl Fisher
Cpl Heisz
Cpl Johnson
Cpl Keller PD
Cpl Koro
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Martin
Cpl Morrison
Cpl Sebo
Cpl Shegelski
Cpl Slade
Cpl Thompson JR
Cpl Van Heerden
Cpl Walker





Being “Mentioned” was an Honor

By: Sergeant S. Schall, CD (retired)

We were only four Strathconas amongst a group of 52 recipients – as the CDS was quick to mention, at a table surrounded by various other trades during the reception. Actually only two, **WO Rob Clarke** and **Major Mark Lubiniecki** still wear the badge, while I recently rebadged to the SALH and **Cpl D Dulong**, a maintainer that will always be part of the family, filled in the chairs with our spouses, parents and children.

Quietly seated in the Officer’s mess and opening with the customary welcoming prior to the presentations, the CDS spoke of courage, professionalism, leadership and dedication, and as the citations were read aloud, it was obvious for those of us present that we were sitting amongst just that - personified in actions. For our part, we did our jobs. For what we heard of the others that night, they truly deserved to be recognized and we were deeply honored to just to hear what they had done. As they read the names and made the presentations, we not only heard that three could not attend, but also that two of the awards were posthumous, one being received by tearful daughter and another by a proud father. Again, we felt privileged to simply attend such a spectacle.



Maj Lubiniecki, WO Clarke, Sgt Schall, and Cpl Dulong pose with their awards.

The presentations over, we sat, talked and reunited with several soldiers we had met on previous rotations until **Major Lubiniecki’s** father “enticed” the CDS over for a beer and chat with the tankers. The informal conversation and his laidback demeanor made everyone feel welcomed and it was then that we truly realized how lucky we were to have served with such a fine group of soldiers. The fine soldiers that still serve in this Regiment, and in others, are what make all of the actions worth doing.



Maj Lubiniecki, Sgt Schall, WO Clarke, pose with the CDS.

Over as quickly as it began, very professional and “to the point,” we found ourselves heading to the airport, carrying new memories and a couple quick snapshots from the single-night gathering. The hard part is behind us now, with the best part still to come...reunions at parades and Remembrance Days, in places and at times we will never guess, but that’s what makes good memories: good people, in bad places. Isn’t it?



Regimental Roll 2008

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

Colonel of the Regiment

Col Roderick

Commanding Officer

LCol Macaulay

Second-in-Command

Maj Callens

Adjutant

Capt Angell

Operations Officer

Capt MacIntyre

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Ramsay

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Regimental Headquarters

Capt Nitu
Lt MacKillop
Lt Nash
WO Taylor
Sgt Graf
Sgt MacNeill
Sgt Parsons
MCpl Biener
MCpl Bowden
MCpl Thompson
Cpl Barrott
Cpl Boorman
Cpl Brister
Cpl Hurlburt
Cpl Macko
Cpl Mooney
Cpl Thomas
Cpl Tullis
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Dugdale
Tpr Bakker

Regimental Signals Troop

Capt Lemay
WO Hitt

Sgt Warne
MCpl Lincez
MCpl Mandryk
Cpl Mansfield
Cpl Norwood
Cpl Vienneau
Pte MacLean

Regimental Police

Sgt Dauphinee
Cpl Dixon
Cpl Whiteley

Prince of Wales Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Cochrane

Sergeant Major

MWO Stacey

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Cooper
Sgt Miller
Sgt Parsons
MCpl Oliver
MCpl Sanduliak
Cpl Ramage
Tpr Hamilton
Tpr Heroux
Tpr Kabongo
Tpr Lanthier
Tpr Lussier
Tpr McQueen
Tpr Paskuski
Tpr Tonn

1st Troop

Lt Gray
WO Garland
Sgt Clarke
Sgt Thomas
Cpl Druken
Cpl Harvey Derooy
Cpl Hordyk
Cpl Lackie
Cpl Osborne
Tpr Burke
Tpr Kroker
Tpr Thomas
Tpr Tremblay

Tpr Verwey
Tpr Young

2nd Troop

Lt Brown
WO Reid
MCpl McGarity
MCpl Moon
Cpl. Dunphy
Cpl Murphy
Tpr Bakker
Tpr Courneyea
Tpr Hume
Tpr Lajoie
Tpr Mullens
Tpr Ringuette
Tpr Rogers
Tpr Vandermerwe
Tpr Wallace

3rd Troop

Lt Kallos
WO Amos
Cpl Hordyk
Cpl Jesse
Cpl Leblanc
Cpl Wilson
Tpr Edwards
Tpr Graham
Tpr Hyshka
Tpr Sebo

Admin Troop

Capt Gottfried
Lt Kaye
WO Hopkin
Sgt Connauton
MCpl Gray
MCpl Alexander
Cpl Carnevale
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Malashevsky
Tpr Aube
Tpr Brisbois Bergeron
Tpr Brown
Tpr Graves
Tpr McAulay
Tpr Sebo
Tpr Underwood

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Clipsham



MCpl Keirstead
Cpl D'Orsay
Cpl Gray
Cpl Lewis
Cpl Moser
Cpl Rasmussen

A Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj McDonnell

Sergeant Major

MWO Hall

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Gardner
Sgt Leclair
Sgt Wallis
MCpl Mcatasney
Cpl Black
Cpl Gibson
Cpl Gignac
Cpl Goobie
Cpl Gushue
Cpl West
Tpr Crowe
Tpr Dickey
Tpr Martin
Tpr Patterson

1st Troop

Lt Nguyen
WO Delaney
Sgt Christophoulos
MCpl Levis
Cpl Eady
Cpl Hedge
Cpl Jesse
Tpr Collier
Tpr Demelo
Tpr Heisz
Tpr Hodgins
Tpr Keller
Tpr Macpherson
Tpr Mijares
Tpr Reid
Tpr Sedgewick

2nd Troop (RCD)

Lt Peitzsche
WO Cleveland
Sgt Lane
MCpl Brimmer
MCpl Gilbert

MCpl Ledrew
Cpl Berube
Cpl Clark
Cpl Suschan
Tpr Aubrey
Tpr Green
Tpr McFarlane
Tpr Mendyka
Tpr Morrison
Tpr Orr
Tpr Ruttan

3rd Troop

Capt Day
WO King
MCpl Helliwell
MCpl Lamothe
Cpl Desjardins
Cpl Dickison
Cpl Nadeau
Cpl Ribert
Cpl Vigar
Tpr Balfour
Tpr Docherty
Tpr French
Tpr Murdoch
Tpr Oliver
Tpr Parker

4th Troop

Lt Meikle
Cpl Bulmer
Cpl Ellis
Cpl Poitras
Cpl Slade
Pte Arsenaault
Pte LaFontaine
Pte MacKinnon
Pte Morin

Administration Troop

Capt Johnson
WO Peters
Sgt Travis
MCpl Biller
MCpl Edwards
MCpl Swoboda
MCpl Usher
Cpl Guibeault
LS Belanger
Tpr Forestell
Tpr Hammermeister
Tpr Preson

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Cave
MCpl MacKinnon
MCpl Miller
Cpl Konschak
Cpl Cooke
Cpl McNutt-Holland
Cpl Riddell
Tpr Sephton
Tpr Steward
Tpr Van-Heerden

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Hume

Sergeant Major

WO Holland

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Beitz
Sgt Shiells
MCpl Caufield
MCpl Ives
Cpl Baird
Cpl Bengtsson
Cpl Charette
Cpl Chmara
Cpl D'Andrea
Tpr Koolman
Tpr Allman
Tpr Briden
Tpr Kisch
Tpr Loft
Tpr Peachey
Tpr Trude
Tpr Zwicker
Pte Ivey

1st Troop

Lt Selberg
WO Romaniuk
Sgt Calow
MCpl Warnica
Cpl Murray
Tpr Brough
Tpr Clegg
Tpr Crockford
Tpr Dube
Tpr Erickson
Tpr Frenette
Tpr Gallagher
Tpr Mendez Vargas
Tpr Skinner



Tpr Slyford

2nd Troop

Lt Pano
WO Wheeler
Sgt Chenier
MCpl Hornby
MCpl Pittman
Tpr Butler
Tpr Chandra
Tpr Chevalier
Tpr Fitch
Tpr Gagne
Tpr Girling
Tpr Hughes
Tpr Jacques
Tpr Thoren
Tpr Van Ees
Tpr Walter

3rd Troop

Capt Kim
Sgt Hiscock
Sgt Churchill
Cpl Morley
Tpr Winchester
Tpr Janvier
Tpr Roselle
Tpr Chase
Tpr Fraser
Tpr Mulyk
Tpr Potter
Tpr Kearns
Tpr Daos

Administration Troop

Capt Gough
Lt Guenther
WO Jones
Cpl Lahay
Tpr Dejong
Tpr Seders
Cpl Thompson
Tpr Daneau
Tpr Levesque

Maintenance Troop

MCpl Parrill
MCpl Rodger
MCpl Broadfoot
Cpl Brown
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Morrison
Cfn O'Toole

Reconnaissance Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj McKenzie

Sergeant Major

MWO Batty

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Hayward
Lt Williams
2Lt Katsrasas
WO Fox
WO Little
Sgt Warren
MCpl Troop
Cpl Cameron
Cpl Dube
Cpl Kentfield
Cpl Romkey
Cpl Royes
Cpl Woods
Tpr Foster
Tpr Ramiro

1st Troop

Lt Sturgeon
Sgt Likely
MCpl Green
MCpl Hodgson
Cpl Brown
Cpl Chuback
Cpl Johnson
Cpl McDougall
Cpl Moores
Cpl Mousseau
Cpl Torney
Tpr Burton
Tpr Campbell
Tpr Churchill
Tpr Fanny
Tpr Graves
Tpr Livingstone
Tpr White

2nd Troop

Lt Boyce
Sgt Michaud
Sgt Peddle
MCpl Koestimaier
MCpl Scheller
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Reid
Cpl Walker
Tpr Ameerli

Tpr Aymont
Tpr Barrett
Tpr Bellegarde
Tpr Campbell
Tpr Friesen
Tpr Jacobs
Tpr Kent
Tpr Nolan
Tpr Pegler
Tpr Sears

3rd Troop

2Lt Kerek
Sgt Smith
MCpl Dyndor
MCpl Oake
MCpl Oliver
Cpl Arens
Cpl Charlton
Cpl Icala
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Shegelski
Cpl Welyki
Tpr Briggs
Tpr Budgell
Tpr Dunbar
Tpr Elms
Tpr Estabrooks
Tpr Goodmanson-Morris
Tpr Herbert
Tpr Jeanson
Tpr Mackenzie
Tpr Pugh
Tpr Schenher
Tpr Wynne

Administration Troop

Capt Hone
WO Seefried
Sgt Faught
Cpl Barsotta
Cpl Marcotte
Cpl McDougal
Cpl Ouellete
Tpr Baker
Tpr Cameron

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Adams

Sergeant Major

MWO Crabb



Squadron Headquarters

Capt Kirstein
Sgt Petersen
MCpl Birt
Cpl Guy
Cpl Nancarrow
Cpl Pickell
Tpr Hogemann
Tpr Korenowski

Transport Troop

Lt Hevenor
Sgt Andrews
Sgt Bolger
Cpl Doerfling
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Hamilton
Cpl Kenny
Cpl McLaughlin
Cpl Proulx
Cpl Sundelin
Cpl Whittall
Tpr Burris
Tpr Droogers
Tpr Gorman
Tpr Gracie
Tpr Hyshko
Tpr MeInyk
Tpr Oakley
Tpr Villarete
Tpr Walker

Regimental Orderly Room

WO Doucette
PO2 Martin
MCpl Loof
Cpl Bergen

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Sgt Alexander
Cpl Bernardo
Cpl Bleasdale
Cpl Doucette
Cpl Fedyshyn
Cpl Ferguson
Cpl Lister
Cpl Murphy
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Romkey
Cpl Samms
Cpl Todd
Tpr Costello
Tpr Drummon
Tpr Graham
Tpr Hogan

Tpr Partington
Tpr Reid
Tpr Rodden
Tpr Wagner

SQMS

WO Mayfield
Cpl Torney
Cpl Swainson
Cpl Auld

Family Support Troop

Capt Larsen
Capt Johns
Sgt Jones
Cpl Davis
Tpr Rabesca
Tpr Lucas
Tpr Carson
Tpr Maceachern
Tpr Wood

Quartermaster Troop

Capt Evans
MWO Mainville
MWO Proctor
Sgt Stevenson
MCpl Bowden
Cpl Allen
Cpl Mills
Cpl Wright
Cpl Dunker
Cpl Haas
Cpl Heffernan
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Paradis
Cpl Rohmer

Cooks

WO St-Onge
PO2 Rosekat
Sgt Nicholson
Sgt Walsh
MCpl Langford
MCpl Wills
MS Prichard
Cpl Bechard
Cpl Delisle
Cpl Wade
Pte Faulkner
Pte Hurtubise
Pte Miedema
Pte O'Grady

Maintenance Troop

Capt Dillon
MWO Radies
WO Hughes
WO Dufour
WO Stirling
Sgt Hite
Sgt Stoyko
Sgt Wardle
MCpl Banks
MCpl Brake
MCpl Brooks
MCpl Dostie
MCpl Fardy
MCpl Greenlaw
MCpl Hall
MCpl Kyle
MCpl Koski
MCpl Lombard
MCpl MacKinnon
MCpl Petca
MCpl Piatkowski
MCpl Schell
MCpl Vaillancourt
MCpl Voisin
MCpl Williams
Cpl Anderson
Cpl Beaulieu
Cpl Clemetson
Cpl Denvir
Cpl Drake
Cpl Eidem
Cpl Gourlay
Cpl Gunton
Cpl Lecomte
Cpl Low
Cpl Lussier
Cpl Mathieu
Cpl Normore
Cpl Norris
Cpl O'Dwyer
Cpl Sanduliak
Cpl Thayer

Stables

MCpl Hoth
MCpl Fitzpatrick
Cpl Johnston

Guidon Party

MWO Proctor
MWO Holland
WO Jones
Sgt Jones



The Year in Review

January

Exercise STRONG CONTENDER

February

B Sqn (TF 1-08) Theatre Mission Specific Training
B Sqn (TF 1-08) Embarkation and Pre-Deployment Leave
B Sqn (TF 1-08) Deploys from Edmonton to Afghanistan
18 Feb Family Day



March

C Sqn (TF 3-07) Arrives in Edmonton from Afghanistan
B Sqn (TF 1-08) Embarkation and Pre-Deployment Leave
B Sqn (TF 1-08) Deploys from Edmonton to Afghanistan
Moreuil Wood Activities
21 Mar - 4 Apr C Sqn (TF 3-07) Post-Deployment Leave



April

4 - 30 Apr Primary Leadership Qualification Module Six
9 - 30 Apr Light Armoured Vehicle Three Driver Course at 1 PPCLI
21 - 30 Apr Coyote Modification Program
21 Apr - 2 May Coyote Surveillance Operator Course
28 Apr - 13 May Leopard C2 Basic Gunner Course
25 MM Turret Operator Course

May

3 May Fort St. John Cadet Visit to Regiment
4 - 6 May Armour War fighting Conference, Fort Knox
5 May C Sqn (TF 3-07) Return to Work
9 May Britannia School Visit to Regiment
9 - 10 May Journalism Student Visit to Regiment
1 - 20 May Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN 0801 - A Sqn (TF 3-08) 3 RCR Battle Group Collective Training and Validation in Wainwright. A Sqn (TF 3-08) Primary Training Audience with individual augmentation from the Regiment in support of the Exercise
12 - 16 May Leopard II Basic Gunnery Writing Board
19 May-20 June Primary Leadership Qualification Modules one to five
23 May C Sqn (TF 3-07) Memorial
29 May C Sqn (TF 1-09) Stand-up
30 May Melfa River Activities



June

- 6 – 18 June** A Sqn (TF 1-08) Tactical Recce to Afghanistan
- 6 June** Business Lunch and Soldier-for-a-Day Demonstration Display for Edmonton Oilers
- 7 June** RSM Golf Day
- 10 June - 28 July** A Sqn (TF 3-08) Leopard 2A6M Technician and ARV training, Germany
- 13 June** Officer Mug-Outs
- 14 June** Warrant Officers and Sergeants Farewell Dinner

- 15 June** Loops for Troops Running Team to Calgary
- 16 June- 27 July** 16 Ton PLS Course, 1 Service Battalion
- 16 June - 29 July** Light Armoured Vehicle Three Driving and Maintenance Course, Recce Sqn
- 21 June - 21 July** A Sqn (TF 3-08) Leopard 2A6M Crew Training, Germany
- 24 June** Change of Command Mess Dinner
- 25 June** Regimental Change of Command and RSM Parade and roll-past
- 26 June** 1 CMBG Change of Command Parade
- 26 June - 22 July** Basic TOW Gunner Course, Recce Sqn

July

- 1 July** Canada Day Activities
- 3 – 6 July** Spruce Meadows Queen Elizabeth II Cup and 100 Man Guard for Calgary Stampede Parade
- 3 – 14 July** Support to Calgary Stampede with static displays
- 10 – 25 July** Exercise STEELE RESOLVE, C Sqn (TF 1-09) Individual and Collective Training to Level 4
- 13 – 19 July** CO and RSM Visit A Sqn (TF 3-08) in Germany
- 22 July** A Sqn (TF 3-08) Commences Pre-Deployment Leave
- 23 – 28 July** Exercise STEELE TOW, Recce Sqn Gun Camp to qualify TUA Gunners and Crew Commanders, Wainwright



August

- 2 Aug** Chief of the Land Staff, Lieutenant-General Leslie and Polish Chief of the Land Staff, Lieutenant-General Skrzypczak
- 2-22 Aug** Regimental Block Summer Leave Period
- 4 – 8 Aug** CO and RSM Visit Armour School in Gagetown for DP 1 Graduation
- 11 – 15 Aug** CO Visits B Sqn (TF 1-08) in Afghanistan
- 15 - 17 Aug** Ralston Rodeo, Coyote static display, Recce Sqn Tanks and Tags Run. Leopard C2 Static Display
- 23 Aug** A Sqn (TF 1-08) Farewell BBQ at Garrison Field House
- 27 Aug** Operation STEELE TORQUE – Regimental Maintenance Surge to maintain the Leopard C2 fleet and other vehicles
- 28 Aug - 8 Dec**



September

A Sqn (TF 3-08) Departs Edmonton for Afghanistan on several flights

B Sqn (TF 1-08) Arrives in Edmonton from Afghanistan on several flights

Operation STEELE TORQUE continues

1 Sept Labour Day

2 – 4 Sept Commander 1 CMBG Orders and Recce in Suffield in preparation for Exercise DESERT RAM 2009 (Force Generation of TF 3-09, including B Sqn)

2 - 5 Sept C Sqn Exercise MAPLE SENTRY Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) in Valcartier

9 – 12 Sept C Sqn (TF 1-09) Low bed program to Wainwright for Fall training activities

15 – 29 Sept Combat Team Commander Course Field Phase in Wainwright.

Supported by C Sqn (TF 1-09) and TF 1-09 Battle Group

15 - 26 Sept Light Armoured Vehicle Crew Gunnery Trainer and Leopard Crew Gunnery Trainer Operator Courses

29 Sept - 10 Oct C Sqn (TF 1-09) Exercise REFLEXE RAPIDE – Battle Group Collective training to Level Five Live Fire.

Force Generation for TF 1-09 (2 R22eR Battle Group) in Wainwright

October

Operation STEELE TORQUE Continues

1 Oct- 21 Nov

Two back-to-back Leopard C2 Gunnery Courses in Edmonton

9 Oct

Veterans' Review and Appeal Board Soldier-for-a-Day

14 – 30 Oct

1 PPCLI Exercise VULCAN'S FORGE in Shilo

supported by Recce and HQ Sqs

13 Oct

Thanksgiving

15 Oct

Confirmatory Regimental Merit Board

19 – 31 Oct

Corps Merit Boards in Ottawa

20 Oct- 21 Nov

Leopard C2 Gunnery Course at the

Royal Canadian Armour School, Gagetown

21 Oct- 3 Nov

Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN 0802 –

C Sqn (TF 1-09) 2 R22eR Battle Group Collective Training and Validation in Wainwright. C Sqn (TF 1-09) Primary Training Audience with individual augmentation from the Regiment in support of the Exercise

22 Oct- 15 Nov

Leopard C2 Driver and Maintenance Course at the

Royal Canadian Armour School, Gagetown

27 – 20 Oct

Canadian Forces Ombudsman's Visit to Edmonton





November

Operation STEELE TORQUE Continues

- 3 – 28 Nov** 25 MM Turret Operators Course
- 3 Nov - 8 Dec** Leopard C2 Maintenance Assistance Visit (MAV)
- 3 Nov- 19 Dec** Leopard 2A6M Technician Training in Germany, C Sqn (TF 1-09)
- 3 - 20 Nov** Bison and Coyote Wheel Upgrade Project (Regimental Maintenance)
- 10 Nov** Regimental Safety Day
- 10 – 14 Nov** Exercise BRONZE and Leaders' Recce to Vancouver and Whistler
- 11 Nov** Remembrance Day Activities in Edmonton and surrounding area
- 12 - 13 Nov** C Sqn 1-09 Small Arms Ranges
- 14 - 15 Nov** TF 1-08 Welcome Home Ceremonies in Shilo
- 15 Nov-15 Dec** Leopard 2A6M Crewman Conversion Training, Serial 1. C Sqn (TF 1-09)
- 17 - 19 Nov** 25 MM Turret Operators Conversion Course
- 17 - 21 Nov** Black Hat Professional Development Including visit by the Colonel Commandant and lectures on the Boer War by Major Tod Strickland; Counterinsurgency – The Iraqi Experience (Australia) by Lieutenant-Colonel Rawlings; and Counterinsurgency – The Iraqi Experience (U.S.) by Lieutenant-Colonel Ziemer
- 21 Nov** B Sqn and TF 1-08 Welcome Home Parade and activities in Edmonton
- 24 Nov - 4 Dec** Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Course, C Sqn (TF 1-09)
- 25 – 27 Nov** CO and RSM visit Armour School Graduation
- 28 Nov** C Sqn (TF 1-09) Small Arms Range
- 29 Nov- 6 Dec** Combined Gun Camp
- 29 Nov - 5 Dec** Leopard C2 Basic Gunner Courses 25 MM Turret Operators Course
CO, RSM and delegation visit Poland in order to partner with
10 Armoured Cavalry
Brigade



December

- 1 – 5 Dec** Operation STEELE TORQUE Continues
- 4 Dec** Officer Career Manager's Visit
- 6 Dec** CDS Unit Commendation Presented to Regiment
- 7 Dec** Children's Christmas Party
- 9 Dec** CO and RSM's Christmas Cheer
- 10 Dec** Regimental Christmas Sports Day
- 10 Dec** Regimental Soldiers' Christmas Dinner
- 13 Dec** WOs and Sgts at Home to the Officers
Christmas Leave Commences



Remembrance Day 2008

By: Captain V. Kirstein

On November 11th 2008, Strathconas gathered to pay their respects for the soldiers who had fallen. This year was especially poignant with the recent losses of **Cpl Nathan Hornburg** and **Tpr Michael Hayakaze**. The Regiment participated in a number of services across the region. C Squadron under command of **Maj John Cochrane** and **SSM Richard Stacey** and Headquarters Squadron under **Capt Vince Kirstein** and **SSM Bill Crabb** participated in the Fort Saskatchewan services. B Squadron attended Mayerthorpe services under **Maj**



Fort Saskatchewan

Rob Hume and **SSM Tom Holland** and Recce Squadron under **Maj Rob McKenzie** paraded in Calmar. The Strathcona Mounted Troop was at the Alberta Legislature. The Regiment also had representation at the Strathcona Legion, the Butterdome, Sherwood Park, the Town of Whitecourt, the Clyde Legion and groups of soldiers participated in graveside services for **Cpl Hornburg** and **Tpr Hayakaze**. The Regiment also provided a number of speakers to school Remembrance Day services throughout the area. Remembrance Day allowed members of the Regiment to pay their respects to their fallen friends and comrades in arms and also allowed former soldiers and current serving Strathconas to compare stories following the services while reconnecting with the communities in the area. The services provided a vivid reminder to all who participated of the impact of conflicts, both past and current.



Maj Rob Hume and WO Tom Holland

The Memorial to Trooper Michael Yuki Hayakaze

By: Corporal K.W.T. Wright

This was a special Remembrance Day for the former members of C Squadron. It was their first since arriving back in Canada while serving with the 3 R22eR BG as part of Task Force Afghanistan 3-07. On this day we remembered the ultimate sacrifice of those who have given their lives before us in service to our Country. In addition today we also honoured friends who we had served with, in particular **Trooper Michael Yuki Hayakaze**.

Like most Remembrance Days here in Edmonton it was icy cold and a fresh blanket of snow had covered the entire city from the night before. This created a pure white backdrop for the service which was led by **WO Chris Seefried** and **Sgt Dan Charette** and attended by a few former (and current) C Squadron who had served with Michael while in Afghanistan. Since their Return to Canada in Mid-March the former squadron members have found their way to a number of different areas throughout the Regiment and the Canadian Forces. Despite the circumstances it was good to have so many members of the old squadron back together again to honour the life and ultimate sacrifice of "**Kaze**"





as he was known by his fellow soldiers. On this day we met at the Evergreen Memorial Gardens his final resting place with his parents **Machiko Inoue** and **Ted Hayakaze** plus their son **David**. Also in attendance were a number of other family and friends who had known and loved Michael. The service was started by a reading of Flanders Field by WO Seefried and a touching heartfelt few words from **Tpr Thompson** who was the escort for Michael his final journey from Afghanistan to his final resting place. This was followed by a lying of wreaths by members of Michael's family and **Sgt Charette** and his family.

After two minutes of silence the service ended and everyone was able to meet up for coffee and tea in the warmth of one of the nearby buildings. It was here everyone that had known and loved "Kaze" were able tell stories and celebrate the life of **Michael Yuki Hayakaze**. This indeed was a very special Remembrance Day for the former members of C Squadron that will not soon be forgotten.



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“Loops for the Troops”

By: Captain M. Johns

Upon their return from Afghanistan, C Squadron 3R22eR BG, could not help but mourn the passing of two of its soldiers, **Cpl Nathan Hornburg** and **Trooper Michael Hayakaze**, lost during ROTO 4. However, holding true to the Regimental motto of Perseverance, the members of the Squadron in Edmonton soldiered on with their daily work. As most soldiers do they focused on the good times they had had and the strength and character of their lost comrades. Therefore, it was with great excitement that the soldiers of the Regiment learned that a charity run was being organized in Nathan’s name by his father **Michael Hornburg**. Seeing an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their respect for their comrades and to raise money for a worthy cause, the new CDS Family Fund, members from across the Regiment leapt at the chance to sign up.

What followed was a masterstroke of blackmail, harassment and outright threats as members of all ranks tried to bully their fellows into donating to this worthwhile cause. **Capt Matt Johns** outright shamed officers of all ranks into handing over crisp bills, while **WO Rob Clarke** made the Sarcee Room downright unwelcoming for those who didn’t donate. **Cpls Paul Fisher, Pete Dixon** and **Jeff Thompson** along with their villainous sidekick **Tpr Jamie Jacobs** canvassed every soldier they could find in their quest to outdo their former Troop leaders.

In the end, members of the Strathcona’s raised almost \$5,000 for “Loops for the Troops”, including several generous donations from the local community. Linking up with **Cpl Mark Fuchko**, injured during ROTO 5, the team made its way down to Calgary on 14 June. Careening about Cowtown under the “questionable” navigation of **Capt Johns** the runners finally managed to claim their kit and check into possibly the most unwelcoming motel in all of Calgary, clearly the stage was set for a triumphant running performance!

Most of the team was shocked to discover that the 5K and 10K runs had attracted THOUSANDS of runners from all over Alberta! Not only were military members of all stripes present, but the Calgary Police Services had sent almost a full platoon of recruits down to run as well. The Strathcona team was also pleased to discover several of their fellows who had made the trip on their own, including **Sgt Doug Paquette** and **MCpl Nathan Mills**.



*Sgt Doug Paquette, Tpr Jamie Jacobs, Cpl Jeff Thompson,
Cpl Pete Dixon, WO Rob Clarke, Capt Matt Johns,
MCpl Nathan Mills, Cpl Paul Fisher*

The team turned in a strong performance in both the 5 and 10K runs. Not surprisingly the “young bucks” made the best time, but fun was definitely had by all. All members of the team had the opportunity to meet with **Mr. Hornburg** and with Nathan’s mother **Ms. Linda Loree**. The event was a tremendous success, raising over \$100,000 for the Family Fund. It is expected to more than triple in size in 2009 so if you’re in the Calgary area feel free to do some “Loops for the Troops”!



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*Regimental Headquarters
December 2008*



Regimental Headquarters

By: Members of RHQ

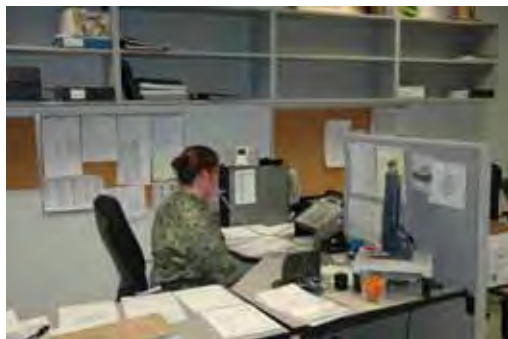
Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) consists of several different cells that support the Regiment: Operations/ Training (Ops/Trg), Intelligence (Int), Signals (Sig), Training (Trg) and last but definitely not least, the Regimental Police (RPs). The Op tempo that commenced with the initial deployment of B Squadron (TF 3-06) to Task Force Afghanistan in Oct 2006 has not abated and has brought about a whirlwind of activity in every segment of RHQ.

RHQ

The Change of Command changed not only Commanding Officers, but also the momentum of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Macaulay** and Regimental Sergeant Major, **Chief Warrant Officer Ramsay**, have been traveling across Canada and various international borders to witness the training and deployment of LdSH(RC)'s tank troops as well as planning for the upcoming Winter Olympics in Vancouver. **Major Cadieu** parted from us to continue his educational endeavours in Toronto at the Canadian Forces College and **Major Callens** has been more than able to assume the position of Regimental 2I/C. The former Adjutant, **Major Lubiniecki**, was promoted and posted to Wainwright and was succeeded by **Captain Angell**, whose hard working and calm demeanour has kept RHQ running smoothly. The Assistant Adjutant, **Lieutenant Pano**, successfully completed the Tank Commander Troop Leader course and will commence pre-deployment training as a Troop Leader in B Squadron this January. To take over this jack-of-all trades Armour Officer position, **Lieutenant MacKillop** is there for birthday cards, Routine Orders, speeches and the never ending Duty List. The CO's secretary, **Mrs. Kathy Batty**, remains our continuity and her cheery disposition is always welcome in the office. She remains the go-to girl for all matters concerning flights, hotels and the old boy's network.

Ops/Trg

The Ops/Trg cell continues to experience a flurry of activity each day in addition to seeing a variety of new faces appearing on the scene. The Operations Officer (Ops O) had slowed down the perpetual revolving door regarding the changing of personnel since **Major McKenzie** took over in April 2007. However, **Major McKenzie** recently departed for his Combat Team Commander Course in fall 2008. The Ops O position was aptly filled by **Captain Gough**, who was recently transferred to B Squadron as 2I/C for deployment on TF 3-09. The newly appointed Ops O, **Captain MacIntyre**, has stepped into this position with ease. It has been a smooth transition and, in fact, only slightly less information and direction has been coming out of the dual-screened super computer.



Cpl Marcotte working in the RECCE OR

As for the Operations Warrant Officer (Ops WO), it too has seen a variety of changes. **Master Warrant Officer Stacey** has been promoted and moved in May to become Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM) of C Squadron and is currently training for TF 1-09. The Ops WO chair was not left empty for long and **Warrant Officer Jones** came into the busiest office in the Regiment and effortlessly assumed control as the Ops WO and SSM positions of RHQ. Unfortunately, he left this position in September and successfully completed his DP4 Armoured Sergeant Major course in Gagetown. He is currently employed in B Sqn TF 3-09 as the SQMS. **Warrant Officer Taylor** saved the day by taking the position, and has ably risen to



the challenge. He is currently the keeper of the magical blackberry that buzzes constantly.

Out of all the people changing positions, the only position that has remained the same is Ops/Trg Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Corporal Macko. On the administrative side of the house, **Private Doerksen** spent a short period of time in RHQ as a clerk in the now famous bull pen. Since then she has moved on to train and deploy with TF 5-09 High Readiness Headquarters; however, this position has not been left empty. **Corporal Marcotte** has filled the RHQ clerk position and can be found at the other end of the Harvey building in Recce Squadron or all points in between as the “everyone clerk”. With the new RSM, **Chief Warrant Officer Ramsay** now at the helm it is **Corporal Brister** who has taken on the responsibility of 9er TAC’s gunner after a 5 year stint at the Armour School. Last but not least, **Master Corporal Bowden** has joined the Ops/Trg cell. She has taken on the responsibility of becoming the Monitor/MASS Champion/SME/Instructor and a variety of other jobs.

Regardless of all the personnel that have changed within the Ops/Trg cell, it continues to thrive through organizing and planning of not only courses but Task Forces as well. The Ops/Trg cell continues to be a busy place and full of hard working individuals.

Int Cell

The summer of 2008 has seen the Int Cell revamped. Heading up the team is recent graduate **Lieutenant Nash** who finished his Tank Commander Troop Leader course only to be loaded on the Combat Intelligence course soon after. **Corporals Carnevale** and **Goobie** recently left to begin pre-deployment training with C Squadron. We are still trying to replace **Corporal Carnevale’s** “Halo 3” skills and **Corporal Goobies’** muscles. **Corporal Starr** was also stolen from us, not by C Squadron but by the RCMP and has begun his training in Regina, Saskatchewan. **Corporal Hodges** left us earlier in the summer when he decided to become a Civilian in order to capitalize on Alberta’s housing market and act as a part time pizza delivery technician.

In other news, the Int Cell made an NHL like trade to bring in veteran Int Operator **Corporal Dugdale** from Brigade. When he is not giving Int briefs to the CO, his favourite pastimes’ include taking photos for the Regiment and working as the RP.

On the Pam library side of the house, **Corporal Boorman**, when not driving staff cars or operating simulators, is still here for all your Pam needs. Yes we have books!! Just not the ones you’re looking for!



Cpl Boorman working in the Pam library.

Last but not least is **Master Corporal Biener** who was busy taking course after course. Upon completion of the Primary Leadership Qualification course he was transferred to B Squadron for deployment in 2009.

This winter training cycle will be a busy one for the Int Cell as we continue to provide support to our busy Regiment especially with the Olympics looming nearer.

Sig Troop

Two new additions have been made to the Sig Troop with the Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) **Lieutenant Lemay** moving over from 1 HQ & Sig Sqn and a new Regimental Signals Warrant Officer (RSWO), **Warrant Officer Hitt** recently arrived from Kingston. The Signals Sergeant, **Sergeant Warne**,



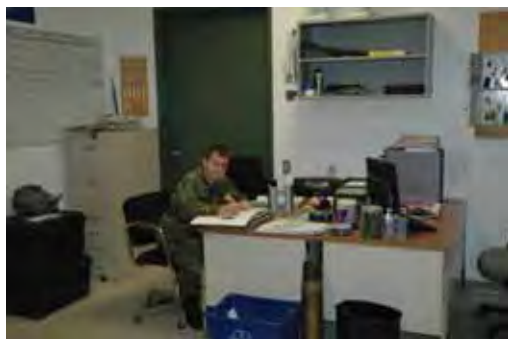
along with **Master Corporal Lincez**, **Master Corporal Mandryk**, **Corporal Norwood**, and **Sig Maclean** have been busy with ensuring that all signals requirements continue to be met while the “new guys” sort themselves out. Outside the Regiment, the Sig Troop have deployed or are preparing to deploy **Master Corporal Biller** (TF 3-08), **Master Corporal Wells** (TF 1-08), and **Master Corporal Oliver** (TF 1-09). **Corporal Mansfield** is back after having completed his QL5 qualification course in Kingston and good news also comes with **Corporal Vienneau** who began his paternity leave in September after his wife gave birth on September 2nd to a boy named Logan.



The few, the proud, the Jimmys

The IS Sect has continued to work at a high tempo providing constant support to the Regiment. Sig Troop personnel have conducted a 100% stock check of all IT assets while continuing to handle the day to day requirements of the Regiment in Garrison. They have also ensured that no officer is without his Blackberry and the ability to continue working well after the regular day is finished and of course on weekends, long or otherwise.

There has been an almost a 100% turnover of personnel top to bottom within the Sig Troop in the last 6 months, and much like the rest of the Regiment that creates some interesting challenges. So far they have been able to “knit” together everything we have needed and the section has always found a way to assist all that have asked. With the requirements coming up to recreate a Regimental Command Post, they will create one more capability for LdSH(RC) to use in the field.



Tpr Bakker hard at work.

Trg Cell

Trg Cell has seen a complete overhaul with **Lieutenant Kallos** hanging his Training Officer hat up in order to join C Squadron as a Troop Leader. His replacement was a past Regimental Sergeant Major turned Primary Reservist Officer, **Captain Biener**. After a short stint as the Training Officer he moved into the Regimental Captain position and has passed it over to **Captain Nitu** who has recently come back from Afghanistan. The Trg Cell is headed by **Sergeant Parsons** and his group of dedicated troops.

The remainder of the Troop was ramped up in support of the back to back Leopard C2 Gunner courses that ran in the fall. With the recent LCGT and LAV CGT simulator course the Regiment has been well equipped to qualify maintainer/operators. Concurrent to ongoing courses, Trg Cell has supported Op STEELE TORQUE, the maintenance plan in order to get C Squadron out the door in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Op Reserve Troop

There was a fond farewell to those in A Squadron that had spent the last 8 months training with A Squadron Op Reserve Troop. In August the Op Reserve Troop was transferred and is currently part of RHQ. Since the transition and the fulfillment of essential deployment positions, the nine member Op Reserve Troop has been kept very busy with vehicle maintenance and gunnery checks in an effort to assist in Op STEELE TORQUE.



When not being employed with Op STEELE TORQUE, the Troop has been honing their skills on gunnery and developing their individual skills. Currently the Troop has developed their knowledge and necessary leadership skills by providing various hands-on refresher classes on: Simulation-based Training, C6 drills, AFV recognition, First Aid and many others. If one would so choose to enter the Simulation Center throughout the next 6 months, be prepared to hear the echoing of fire orders from **Corporal Bulmer** engaging several animated T-72s.

More recently, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has seen a major influx of new troopers, mainly Coyote trained, who are eager to learn the new and necessary skills for the Leopard tank. Being led by our own **Corporal Ellis**, and shown the ropes by the other members of the Troop, these new soldiers are quickly acquiring a plethora of skills on tank repair and maintenance. Overall, the A Squadron Op Reserve Troop has had a smooth transition to RHQ and has been working hard to keep up with operational demands and tank maintenance.

Regimental Police

The Regimental Police section trundles on! As with all aspects of military life nothing remains the same, and the RP section is no different. We have welcomed in two new members to our team, that being our new sheriff **Sergeant Dauphinee** and a part time helper in **Corporal Dugdale**. We say a fond farewell to our out going sheriff **Sergeant Murrin**, as well as two of our other members. **Corporal Starr** has left us to join the musical ride and is going through the training to be a RCMP officer. **Corporal Dottin** has left us as well, and we wish him luck in his future endeavours. To make up for the losses, newly promoted **Corporal Dixon** with **Corporal Whiteley** have continued to provide assistance in security matters.

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*C Squadron (TF 1-09)
June 2008*



Prince of Wales Squadron 08

By: Lieutenant G.P.D. Kallos, and Lieutenant D.A. Gray

May 2008 marked the first month of what would become a long road to war for C Squadron. Amidst a whirlwind of preparatory tasks, and with the old C Squadron barely back on the ground from its last deployment, the “new” C Sqn under **Major John Cochrane** and **Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey** commenced our training for Afghanistan.

Desperately in need of Gunners, the Regiment supported a Leopard C2 Gunnery course, wherein C Squadron was able to receive upwards of ten new Gunners and two “freshly minted” Crew-Commander qualified Officers. This was a period where the unique personalities (and nick-names assigned by the crew-instructors) of C Squadron soldiers began to take shape; **Troopers “Princess” Paskuski** and **“Hammy” Hamilton** being prime examples of **Sgt “I Get Extremely Red When I Yell” Irwin’s** creative sense of humour.

Directly following an exciting gun-camp, work-up training began in earnest with the two and a half week long Ex STEELE RESOLVE. This was the Squadron’s first time operating in the field as a cohesive whole, and began with an ambitious training schedule. The Tanks, however, needed some heavy maintenance and this quickly became the main effort. Despite long hours of wrenching and some bloody knuckles, the troops were able to get out and experience night navigation (with some call-signs spending more time out in the dark than others due to “navigation challenges”) and live fire training.



Average number of runners.

With the hectic stand-up and Ex STEELE RESOLVE complete, the Squadron was finally back to Edmonton for a well-deserved leave with their families for the majority of August. By the end of August, the Squadron hit the ground running and launched immediately into Ex STEELE TORQUE; a Regimental Ex that saw the entire Unit rally together and focus on tank maintenance. It was during this time that the make-up of the Squadron changed quite dramatically. The French Troop from 12RBC was dropped from the ORBAT and the remaining three Troops were reorganized into two deploying troops. **Lieutenants Dan “Ginger” Gray** and **Adam “Bog” Brown** were now commanding One and Two troops respectively with their **Warrant Officers Gene “Break Glass in time of War” Garland** and **Ted “Glowstick” Amos**. **Lieutenant Graham “Barf” Kallos** and **Warrant Officer “Belgrade” Bob Young** were now in charge of the Operational Reserve troop. The Squadron also gained a new 2IC, **Capt Dave “Big Tuna” Gottfried**.

On the heels of the CO declaring Ex STEELE TORQUE a success, C Squadron set out to Wainwright for a two-month deployment in support of three separate Exercises, the first of which was the Combat Team Commander’s Course (CTCC 0801). CTCC 0801 was a proving ground for new Majors from each of the three branches of the Combat Arms. The Field portion saw the candidates issuing orders and commanding combat teams in an assessed environment. For C Squadron, it was an opportunity to live a fast-paced schedule with a steep learning curve. Working long hours and providing crucial support to the combat teams forced each of the troops into an environment, where first individual crews, then troops and eventually the Squadron learned to function as a team. With each Troop living, breathing (and snoring, amongst other things) in their respective Modular Tents, everyone got to know each-other very well. Ultimately CTCC 0801 set the foundation for further success in Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE.

Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE saw the R22eR Battle Group taking the reigns in what would become a two week “shakedown” of the Units from which it was comprised. Needless to say, the combination of live



ammunition and what the French call a certain “I Don’t Know What”, made for interesting combat team attacks and radio-procedure. Again, C Squadron was called upon to provide support on every mission that went out the door, and did so all the while maintaining our fleet of tanks to the highest standard possible. Troopers such as **Jen “Iron-Face” Heroulx**, **Felix “Le Chat” Lussier** and **Justin “Little Sista” Edwards** could always be seen torquing track, pounding end-connectors or performing any number of general maintenance tasks in order to keep the tanks rolling at all hours. On top of the intense operational tempo, Mother Nature decided to stand toe-to toe with C Squadron and threw 100 km/hour winds at our camp one evening. The whole camp came together and managed to keep our tents firmly planted to Centurion Field, despite “good-ol’ Mum’s” best efforts.

Both day and night live-fire attacks on objectives throughout the training area were conducted and all of the components of the Combat Team were brought together with the use of exciting resources, such as UAVs, CF-18s performing strafing runs and dropping 500 lb bombs and danger-close Artillery Missions. The Exercise finished with a live convoy range which brought together all of the skills learned thus far. Once this was complete, the entire Squadron was able to swing a deal with the Battle Group and was able to get four days off back at home with their families for Thanksgiving.

Finally, Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN 0802, our final validation exercise, was being spooled up. The Exercise brought all of our skills together in the Afghanistan context and saw the Squadron doing a variety of tasks from deliberate attacks on objectives to Quick Reaction Force and even Vehicle Check Points. The two week exercise solidified everyone’s knowledge and taught a lot of new lessons in Counter Insurgency Operations. Again, C Squadron was working with our French counterparts and this was a prime opportunity to solidify

both working and personal friendships, especially when rescuing 12e RBC Recce patrols from minefields. Back for another round with C Squadron, Mother Nature decided to roll another barrage of 100km/hr winds across the camp, but was twice thwarted by our stalwart soldiers.



Munster, November 2008

Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN was host to some interesting scenarios, most notably wherein Lieutenant Adam “Bog” Brown parked his tank in the middle of a water-feature while chasing an enemy force truck. In the end, C Squadron received its validation and returned to Edmonton with a bit of a well-earned swagger to its step.

With the majority of the work-up training complete, it was finally time for the Squadron to enjoy something a little different; Leopard A2 6M Training in Muenster Germany. First and Second Troop headed out in mid-November for the land of “beer and bratwurst” with the remainder of the Squadron being left on the ground in Edmonton until their turn in February. This gave the Squadron a chance to work with the newest and most sophisticated tank in the world and allowed some to do a little bit of international traveling.

Overall, the Prince of Wales Squadron has been up against a myriad of taskings and tests and has always come out on top. With Christmas around the corner, everyone is looking forward to home cooked food time off and some well-deserved time with friends and family.

With the smell of diesel in our nostrils and the rumble of tank engines in our bones, the upcoming mission is never far from our hearts and January will see C Squadron back at work, getting ready to prove our mettle in the sand.



A Squadron From El Paso to Masum Ghar!

By: Major I. McDonnell

The Squadron experienced a little of everything this year. After a quiet Christmas with family and friends the New Year kicked off with moving tanks to Ft Bliss, Texas. It was trains, planes, and tanks on the trip to Texas. It started with a road move at 0300hours organized by **WO Harry Delaney** to the railhead. The exercise was designed to complete Level 2-5 dry and live fire with the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) Battle Group in preparation for deployment.

Most other elements of the Battle Group had already conducted their Squadron level training however we completed this just prior to starting the collective training with the Battle Group (BG). The exercise in Texas was similar to the conditions experienced in theatre; for certain aspects of terrain and completed the



*OCA congratulating Cpls Dickey,
Martin and VanHeerden*

Battle tasks that were needed for live fire validation. The golf ball terrain that we manoeuvred in during Squadron training amazed **Sgt Duane Wallis** as we could hide a Leopard Tank 10 feet away from another. The Squadron ranges were very compressed but we managed to achieve all aims without difficulty. There were numerous thoughts of R&R escapes across the border to Mexico however the lure of tequila and beaches could not pull us from the “fun” of bonding with our new Battle group. Wait, it wasn’t the fun but the border police. The Squadron did very well with the new BG, participating in every Combat team live fire attack.

There never seems to be enough time for maintenance and we did not have much between Texas and deployment on Exercise Maple Guardian 0801 in Wainwright during April and May. We only had one opportunity to practice breaching but otherwise the exercise was a great success. The landscape of CMTC although not a replica of theatre provided the challenges needed to prepare us for theatre. The local actors added a great deal of realism to the training.

After returning from Wainwright, the Squadron participated in the Regimental celebrations for Moreuil Wood where a good time was had by all. The next step of our journey was to split the Squadron in half and head off to the land of “sandwiches” and learn to use our new Main Battle Tank the Leopard 2. Training in Germany was an excellent experience. In addition to the great selection of German beer, the training was first rate and prepared the Squadron to fall in on the new Beasts. There were of course, some differences of opinion as there always are regarding training methodology, which is also good experience for when we receive these tanks in the Regiment.

Tpr Matt Collier and **Cpl Nick West** were the life of the party with the locals and even got to meet the Queen of Munster, a moment that will certainly not be forgotten. The second serial of training celebrated Canada Day in style with a BBQ and beer along with a few too many dips



Leo 2 on the run-up



in the lake. The consensus amongst all regarding the new Leopard 2A6 MBT is a mark of excellence.

The Squadron got a well-deserved in August break to spend time with their families and make some final arrangements before deployment. The deployment came fast as well, with the news arriving that the first chalk would depart on Labour Day. As a morale boosting start to the tour, **WO Kevin King** apparently won a bet but somehow still had to die his hair blond, rumours had it was to strike fear into the hearts of the Taliban but it may have had more effect on the Squadron.



T12 in Leaguer

B Squadron gave us an outstanding handover regardless of the fact that the Relief in Place of the BG took over a month to complete. They set us up for a fast paced start and success in our first few operations. We have been trying to make our mark on the people of Afghanistan and ensuring security for local development.

The tour so far has been very busy. Recognizing the pattern of life is very much different from what the soldiers on their first tour are accustomed to. We have experienced all types of operations so far and the Squadron has served the Regiment proud on all occasions. The Squadron has received a great deal of support from family, friends, and all Canadians. We have received well wishes as well as an overwhelming number of care packages and letters from School children and supporters across Canada. The Squadron is now preparing for Christmas in Kandahar. We have decorated the new kitchen with all the cards and decorations we have received as well as our tree supplied by the SQMS **WO Darryl Peters**. The Christmas season will not be the same as being at home on leave this year but the Regimental family will celebrate the season in style overseas.

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*B Squadron (TF- 3-09)
December 2008*



B Squadron TF 3-09

By: Captain M. Gough

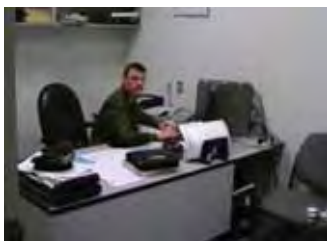
B Squadron stood up on 24 November 2008 under command of **Major Rob Hume** in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan in the fall of 2009 with 1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group. The majority of B Squadron spent the fall of 2008 on various tank Primary Combat Function courses held in Edmonton and Gagetown.



B Sqn IBTS Trg

After returning from Christmas Leave, an intense period of individual training commenced, orchestrated by the Battle Captain, **Captain Peter Beitz**, who recently returned from Afghanistan with A Squadron Task force 1-07. This training included small arms ranges, weapons familiarisation and gas hut training.

In late-January 2009, Squadron Headquarters and Third Troop deployed to Germany with elements of C Squadron for Leopard 2A6 conversion training. The remainder of B Squadron attended the Strike Force 3-09 stand-up briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Walsh**. The focus of B Squadron throughout the month of February is tank maintenance in preparation for Exercises STEELE BAYONET, DESERT RAM, and MAPLE GUARDIAN.



SSM B works his manning wizardry

Although B Squadron has almost completely changed from Task Force 1-08, there are no doubts that with the upcoming training we will continue to do the Regiment proud on operations.

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B Squadron TF 1-08

By: *Lieutenant M. Bentley*

B Sqn LdSH(RC) had a multitude of tasks during the seven month deployment as part of TF 1-08, including resupplying the Combat Outposts (COPs), route clearance packages (RCPs), support by fire during cordon and searches and many others. However, the one task that was a constant for the tank Sqn operating out of Forward Operating Base Ma'sum Ghar (FMG) was the role of the quick reaction force (QRF). The QRF was a large force and an integral part of this force was the tank troop. Being a part of the QRF troop meant that you were ready to move on a moment's notice and that the booms heard off in the distance were more of a call to react than anything else. You also grew to hate the sound of the QRF phone as it didn't usually bring good news. Although there were days when the QRF phone didn't ring at all there were just as many if not more days when it rang more than once. The following outlines a typical day for the QRF troop operating out of FMG.



Fuel truck burning on its side after it was pushed off the road by the badger AEV

Early in the morning as the members of the QRF are getting ready to start their day a huge boom is heard out in the distance. Five minutes later the QRF phone rings. **Cpl Jeremy (Tha Gunna) Charlton** answers the phone and informs his crew commander, **Sgt Brad (Where's my Werthers) Smith**, that someone has hit an improvised explosive device (IED) and needs assistance. The QRF is moved to a shorter minutes notice to move (NTM). **Cpl Scott (the DJ) Mastel** runs around the camp to inform all members of the QRF, and for the next few minutes troops rush to start up vehicles in anticipation of the word to launch out the gate. While kit is being stowed and radio checks are being conducted the QRF element commanders make their way to the Command Post (CP) to receive a quick brief and come up with a hasty plan before heading out.

The Battle Captain (BC), **Capt Eghtedar (300) Manouchehri** enters the conference room and informs the QRF that an Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) truck has struck an IED approximately 10km away on a very dangerous road. They currently have 3 x vital signs absent (VSA) and 2 x priority C casualties along with a destroyed vehicle that needs to be recovered and a very large crater in the road that needs to be fixed. The QRF element commanders mount up and the QRF commander issues orders over the radio as they launch out the gate just minutes after receiving the phone call.



A fuel truck burns on the side of RRS after it was attacked by insurgents

The route to the site is carefully selected to avoid hitting any more IED's and the QRF arrives on scene minutes after leaving FMG. An outer cordon is immediately established around the site for security and to keep people and vehicles out while work is conducted. Once the cordon is set the AUP move back to the FOB with their casualties while the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team conducts a sweep of the area looking for secondary explosive devices. The site is deemed clear and the task of recovering the vehicle and fixing the road begins. The recovery vehicles move in and load the damaged vehicle onto a flatbed while dump trucks dump loads of gravel into the crater. After about 90 minutes the vehicle is recovered and the road is deemed passable. The QRF turns around and heads back to FMG.

Once back, the QRF is met by a fuel truck to top off fuel tanks before parking and going back to 30 minutes NTM. They get about an hour's rest when a boom followed by gunfire is heard not too far off in the distance. The phone rings and the mad dash begins again. It's going to be a busy day for the QRF.



Sgt Rob Likely T26



*MCpl Dave Lumbar and
MCpl Tim Height*



Cpl Mark Thomas T26



*Cpl Phil Guy, Cpl Brian Cameron
Tpr Alexander Fanni*



MCpl Tom Bowden and Sgt Mark Bell



*Reconnaissance Squadron
December 2008*



Recce Squadron LAV TUA – One Shot...One Kill

By: Lieutenant D.P. Williams

The first Basic TOW Gunner course comprised of entirely armoured soldiers was conducted in the fall of 2007. This marked a large step in the transition of the precision guided missile weapon system to the Cavalry. Since then, LdSH(RC) has been busy spearheading this initiative by running multiple gunnery courses and trialing the system within a Reconnaissance context in the field.

Recce Squadron's teeth were cut on Ex STEELE TOW in July 2008, when 75 missiles were fired from the LAV TUA and ground mount platforms. The potential and incredible optics of the Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS), the most advanced thermal site in the world, were not lost on the Recce soldiers as they engaged targets with pinpoint accuracy out to 3.5 kilometres away.



Old School



LAV TUA participating in Ex VULCANS FORGE.

The fall saw our infantry brethren from E Coy posted back to their battalions to bolster the ranks of the next battle group and the transition of the LAV TUA to Recce Squadron, LdSH(RC) complete. **WO Kevin Little** remained behind in order to ensure the effective hand over of the TOW skill sets and to remind us of "how things were done in E Coy." In fall 2008, Recce Sqn also had the opportunity to trial the new vehicles in composite TUA/Coyote patrols and troops during the Combat Team Commanders Course at CMTC Wainwright, and during Ex VULCAN'S FORGE, a 1 PPCLI platoon (plus) live-fire manoeuvre exercise in CFB Shilo. The outstanding over-watch and firepower of the TUAs complemented the "sneak-and-peek" capabilities of the coyotes and the mix was extremely effective.

Although the intent of the Corps is to eventually spread this enabler across the Armoured Regiments, for now LdSH(RC) Recce Sqn continues to be the centre of excellence for this outstanding capability. The New Year will see the continued running of gunnery and leadership courses as **Maj Rob McKenzie** and **Capt Fred Hayward** have been handed the torch from **Maj Rob Hume** of integrating the skill set and preparing the Squadron for deployment with the LAV TUAs during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Given this exceptional new tool to master, Recce Sqn is certainly looking forward to the challenge of employing the weapon system to its full potential.



Recce Sqn Gun Camp.



*Headquarters Squadron
December 2008*



Headquarters Squadron Keepin' the Regiment Rolling

By: Captain V. Kirstein

It was yet another busy year for Headquarters Squadron, offering a temporary home for many new members of the Regiment before moving off to B and Recce Squadrons to start predeployment and OP PODIUM training. The year started off with a Winter Warfare exercise, where the Squadron maintained the almost lost art of living in the Canadian winter. The summer saw the Officer Commanding, **Maj Earl Jared** move on to greater things, with **Maj Chris Adams** taking over the helm after he returned from Afghanistan in October. Throughout this time, keeping track of who was joining and leaving the Squadron was almost a full time job that **MWO Bill Crabb**, **MCpl Elizabeth Birt**, and **Sgt Eric Petersen** kept on top of. The New Year looks like there will be no change of pace, with the Squadron preparing to support Ex DESERT RAM, Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN, Winter Mobility Training, and OP PODIUM.



Sgt Alex Ralph receiving his new rank.



MCpl Diane Birt on parade.

Regimental Transport, A.K.A. the Strathcona Rental Car Agency, has been a flurry of activity. For those that do not know, every tasking, every function, every gathering involves Regimental Transport and here is why: throughout the year we've sent personnel on Opposing Force (OPFOR) tasks at Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC), some went to Spruce Meadows and everyone went to the Change of Command, be it on the parade or drivers for Dignitaries or Special Guests. Certainly Safety Management courses were attended by us, countless support runs for CMTC serials, some acted as Veterans' Review Appeals Board (VRAB) Battle Buddies, drivers for CMTC and the latest Black Hatter Visit. All of this was done while members were getting ready for the posting season, summer leave and returns from Task Force Afghanistan. The final mention is sending out vehicle requests to Base Transport for low beds, rentals of crew cabs, minivans, staff cars, forklifts and making sure driver

qualifications are kept in order. All in all it's pretty typical but it sure was a challenge in regards to figuring out who was going to be a member of transport and who was here for a short halt.

Quartermaster Troop (QM Tp), like most troops in the Regiment, has seen a very busy year. Our operational tempo has been high ever since 9/11 and the Army decided to send an Armoured Squadron to Afghanistan. Since then, we have supported the requirements of consecutive Squadrons as they train and prepare for deployment. Our personnel have gone above and beyond the call of duty to achieve this goal. The cooks, under **WO Martin St-Onge**, the Chief Cook, have maintained a stellar level of food preparation, both in Garrison and in the field. They have provided support to



HQ Sqn parade practice.



countless exercises and courses as our troops train for theatre operations. It is hard to keep count of how many last minute requests that cooks have received this past year, and they have fulfilled each and every one. The Technical Quartermaster (TQ) shop, under **MWO Dave Proctor**, the Technical Quartermaster Sergeant (TQMS), ensured that each deploying Squadron had the necessary weapons and tank equipment for their mission. There have been numerous weapon transfers, account verifications and more kit checks than you can shake a stick at. The QM Warehouse staff, under **Cpl Jake Dunker**, worked diligently to process the myriad of requests from the Squadron Quarter Masters (SQs).

All in all it has been another busy year for HQ Sqn.

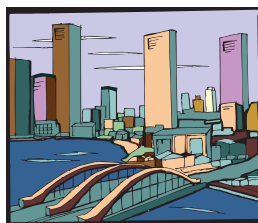


The elves explaining why they ate all the candy canes!



Soldiers from HQ SQN practice their toboggan pulling skills.

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Maintainers 2008

By: Master Warrant Officer D. Radies



A Leopard C2 is reunited with its turret .

The past year saw many highs and few lows. The cold winter months started off on a sombre note, with the tragic loss of **Cpl Nathan Hornburg**. Nathan was killed while driving an ARV during operations in Afghanistan. He was respected and liked by all who knew him. Our own efforts to honour him culminated in the RCEME Association's appointment of Honorary Maintainer. Other members of the TF 3-07 were honoured, including **MCpl Poelzer**, who received the Medal of Military Valour. Their hard work and dedication were echoed throughout the year. Maint Tp welcomed back TF 3-07 and deployed several of its ranks with TFs 1 and 3-08.

Those who remained at home faced other challenges, supporting several training and ceremonial events. These included a Winter Warfare Course, Ex STEELE LYNX in support of Recce Sqn, several Regimental and Squadron gun camps, the Combat Team Commanders' Course, Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN, the Regimental Change of Command, Spruce Meadows, the Calgary Stampede, and an intensive maintenance concentration - Op STEELE TORQUE - to name a few. In amongst the relentless schedule, Maint Tp bid farewell to **Capt Kirk Watson**, **MWO Dave Smith**, **WO Jarrod Tice**, **Sgt Alex Ralph**, **Sgt Scott Vandervaate**, **MCpl Eric Poelzer** and **Cpl Jack Low**; and welcomed **Capt Andrew Dillon**, **WO Shawn Hughes**, **WO Tim Stirling**, **Sgt Tim Hite**, **MCpl Mike Brake**, **MCpl Steve Mackinnon**, **MCpl Jason Parril**, **MCpl Graham Rodger**, **MCpl Stephen Vaillancourt**, **Cpl Marc-Andre Lussier** and **Cpl Steven Rasmussen**.



A Leopard C2 after the turret was replaced.



The artsy low angle shot.

We congratulated **MWO Smith**, **WO Tice**, **Sgt Stoyko**, **Sgt Ralph**, **Sgt Vandervaate** and **MCpl Poelzer** on their promotions. Special thanks go to our Maintenance Assistance Visit teams who made Op STEELE TORQUE a success. As we approach the New Year, we look forward to the safe return of our TF 3-08 maintainers and a successful tour for those deploying in 2009.

Arte et Marte!



Quartermaster Troop Synopsis or Why Don't I Have The New Raingear?

By: Sergeant E. Stevenson

Well there I was minding my own business when I received an e-mail (and a feeling of impending doom). I had been tasked to write an article for the Strathconian about Quartermaster Troop (QM Tp) to tell you, the reader, what exactly we have been doing this past year. So, let's check my arcs of fire..... it has to cover the entire year, include the Technical Quarter Master Sergeant (TQMS) shop and the Cooks and I've got 2 days to do it. Hmm, could be a problem on the last one. Well, let's skip the last part and soldier on with the task at hand. QM Tp, like most Troops in the Regiment, has seen a very busy year. Our Operational Tempo has been high ever since 9/11 and the Army decided to send an Armoured Squadron to Afghanistan. Since then, we have supported the requirements of consecutive Squadrons as they train and prepare for deployment. Our personnel have gone above and beyond the call of duty to achieve this goal.



Cpl Allen at his desk working ever to hard.

The cooks, under **WO Martin St-Onge** the Chief Cook, have maintained a stellar level of food preparation, both in Garrison and in the field. They have provided support to countless exercises and courses as our troops train for theatre operations. I have lost count of how many last minute requests that cooks have received this past year, and they have fulfilled each and every one. The TQ shop, under **MWO Dave Proctor** the TQMS, ensured that each deploying Squadron had the necessary weapons and tank equipment for their mission. There have been numerous weapon transfers, account verifications and more kit checks than you can shake a stick at. The QM Warehouse staff, under the guidance of **Cpl Jake Dunker**, worked diligently to process the myriad of requests from the Squadron Quarter Masters (SQs). Our Local Purchase Section, under the guidance of yours truly, was also busy. Or should I say **Cpl Terry Haas** was busy (my position is mostly ceremonial). Each Squadron so far has presented us with new and unique logistical challenges which have kept our learning curve

on a steep incline. Whether it's been arranging last minute kit issues (see title above) or finding sources of supply for the latest Gucci (sorry, that should read critical operational kit) items, I am happy to report that we have persevered time and time again. I'm sure that the coming year will be just as hectic, and I hope that never changes. Having spent time at the "Mother Ship" (1 Service Battalion) I can tell you undeniably that for me, as a Log Wog, it's always a great day to wear the black beret.



Family Support Troop

By: Captain M. Johns

The Family Support Troop or F.S.T. for short has had a busy past year and we have had our hands full. Hidden away in an office that looks a little like a daycare we spend our days planning events for families and lending support during the difficult times when their loved one is away. When a soldier is deployed for 28 days or more on any military operation, we step in to bring community to the family left at home. After a deployment overseas, a member's family is entitled to the events and resources we offer for 6 months.

Some of the events we hosted in the past year have been a day at the West Edmonton Mall water park, a trip to the Prairie Gardens Pumpkin Patch, and an exclusive private viewing of the movie Wall-e at Movies 12 theatre. On top of our bigger events we host monthly a wives tea party and pizza and a movie night.

The members of family support are passionate about the families. On top of the Regiment's family support events, **MCpl Robby Spencer**, **Cpl Curtis Davis** and **Tpr Johanna Wood** can often be seen at the Military Family Resource Center coffee afternoons, movie nights and the various potlucks that they host.



Caleb Mills in the stocks during the FST visit to the Pumpkin Patch!



Families and FST members enjoying the beautiful day at the Pumpkin Patch.

Family Support sends out a newsletter every two months and new to this year we can also be found on Facebook. Participation has been great and we have really enjoyed getting to know those that attend our events. This past year has been a success and we look forward to this next year and the relationships we will build with a new group of families.

Your Family Support Team for 2008!



Dining in the party room at Movie's 12.



SMT: The secret life of Carl Gustav...

By: Captain P. Beitz

The 2008 ride season was one of SMT's best in years. Under the guidance of **Sgt Wade "Combat Roll" Alexander**, the new SMT soldiers learned the meaning of pain when they rode their butts off (literally) from January to March during SMT's annual equine course. The Troop managed to put together a 16-horse ride, its largest in years. Throughout the ride season the Troop ventured as far East as Brandon, Manitoba, and as far west as Vancouver, British Columbia (thumbs up for East Hastings!).

The Mounted Troop thrilled audiences in such venues as the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows' tournaments, the Pacific National Exhibition, the Abbotsford Agrifair, the Brandon Tattoo, and who could ever forget our show in the thriving metropolis of Semans, Saskatchewan. It was in Semans that the Troop presented **WO (Retired) Tom Anderson** with a B Squadron print on behalf of the Regiment.



The Mounted Troop in Stanley Park, Vancouver.

Tom was a Warrant Officer with the Strathconas (back in the day), and he took the time to demonstrate his crafty Coleman Stove lighting abilities to the new Troopers (after which Tom became the primary spokesman for Hair Club for Men).

This year was the first time that the Troop performed at the Abbotsford Agrifair. The Agrifair was also the first time that the Troop perfected its new, secret move: the infinite revolving



Tpr Anthony Frenette showing some luv to his horse, Seville.

circle. (Let's not speak of that ride ever again). The soldiers really enjoyed their stay in Abbotsford – endless drinking at the Fat Pig Saloon (yes, that was the actual name of the place) and Mama's cooking. Code name "Mama" was our stout, overzealous hostess who was kind, generous, and had a command voice

that could make a Sergeant Major cringe. "Mama" would cook the most amazing meals for the Troop which included pancakes, eggs, fish, steak, and spaghetti – and that was just for breakfast!

Numerous Guinness records were made during this year's ride season: **Cpl Derek "I-need-a-hockey-helmet" Romkey** received a 9.5 from the judges on his face-plant landing during a cavalry charge



Capt Peter Beitz on Spirit in Banff.



Tpr Anthony Frenette tent-pegging on Seville at the Ralston Rodeo.



clocked in the most head-on-traffic hours during Troop travel days; **Capt Peter “Back in the Day” Beitz** broke the land speed record (against his will) while riding Sporty at Spruce Meadows; **Tpr Rainer “Wasabi” Mulyk** consumed a lethal amount of Red Bull; **Cpl Jay “Carl Gustav” Suggitt** got the most tent-pegs this season; and, **Tpr Kieran “talks too much” Merrick** nailed two tent-pegs in one! After a busy and tiring ride season, all the soldiers were glad to get some time off to see their families... except for **Cpl Kevin “Einstein” Ferguson** who is still looking for parking lot 6.



*Tpr Kieran Merrick on Sportster –
two pegs in one!*



*SMT's Horse and Tack Trailers.
Riding with style!*



*Sgt Wade Alexander presenting WO (ret'd)
Tom Anderson with a B Squadron print.*



*Cpl Darren Roberts on Spitfire next to a Leo C2
during the Change of Command Parade.*



Cpl Kevin Ferguson with Tom Selleck.



Historical Vehicle Troop 2008

By: Trooper M.Sirois

2008 was quite a busy year for Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT). We started the year by restoring an M38 Jeep for 1 CMBG Headquarters. In late June, we brought our 3/4 ton dodge truck, M113 and the Lynx to the Edmonton Air-Fest held at the City Centre Airport. Although it was mostly a display of airplanes, our vehicles drew a lot of curious people with a lot of questions about the old vehicles.

HVT was part of the change of command parade this year. The Guidon party led the parade with the Ferrets and was followed by most of the Regiment's Leopards, Coyotes and other support vehicles. Beowulf (a Sherman Tank) was on display during Spruce Meadows, the world famous festivities held in Calgary. Some of our members were lucky enough to meet our newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff **General W.J. Natynczyk** in Spruce Meadows.



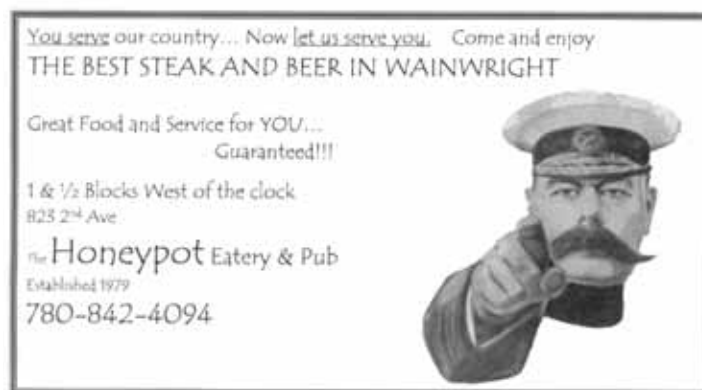
*Members of HVT with BGen Kelly Woiden
at Spruce Meadows*

At the Capital EX parade held on July 17, 2008 in Edmonton, people showed their support by shouting and waving as we rolled by with Dictator and Dagger (Ferret Scout Cars). The Korean Veterans float provided by the Regiment was also a big hit. Our last display for the summer was one of the biggest turn outs. The Wetaskiwin Air Show was held at the Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Over 30,000 people came to see the numerous static displays of airplanes and of course HVT! Children had a blast climbing on and exploring our vehicles.



*Soldiers from HVT show off a lynx to some kids at
air-fest at the City Center Airport .*

As part of the new members of the Historical Vehicle Troop this year we all learned a lot about our Regiment's past. We had fun driving and maintaining vehicles over 50 years old. As the year comes to an end we will be maintaining our vehicles over the winter months and preparing for next Spring. Next year will no doubt be another busy year for HVT.





A Busy Year at the Museum

By: Warrant Officer D.E. Macleod

2008 saw the addition of an enormous new building to the original structure of The Military Museums. The addition now houses the Naval Museum of Alberta, the Air force Museum and a new home for our archives. Access to the new displays and archives is through the old Imperial Oil Gallery. With the addition of these galleries there is renewed intensity in the phrase – “The best part about being Army is never having to say you’re Navy or Air Force”. Needless to say some spirited inter-service rivalry and ribbing have kept the dusty old place (and people) animated.



Afghanistan Display Case



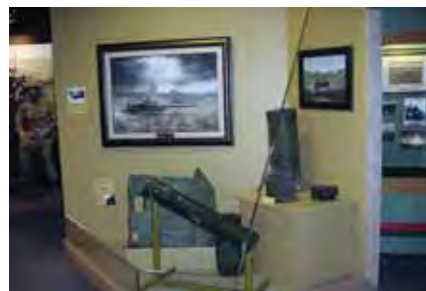
*New Mannequin in our
Afghanistan Display.*

A new facility generates a few unanticipated problems of course. As construction started on the new facility we realized that all the public spaces in the new archives required professional looking furnishings and that the old collection of hand-me down junk from the fifties was not the answer. Through the generosity of the Calgary Foundation, a grant was acquired and the new public research space was completely outfitted with professional research furniture.



Although construction affected parking access to the original museums, our gallery and archives never closed. None of the additions or renovations involved our gallery or storage spaces but there is forward movement in these areas as well. In the gallery, the Wall of Honour (our Honour Role displayed on a wall of stone) is due to be completed early in the New Year. It includes a newly designed medals area with the Honour Role wall sitting directly in the centre of the gallery. Recognising our war dead by centrally locating the display with their names has been a long and exasperating project that is finally drawing to a close. It was accomplished through grants from the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH), the Alberta Museums Association (AMA) and the Calgary Military Museums Society (CMMS). Additionally, we are revamping our storyboards, and have included more artifacts in a better, larger Afghanistan display. Through more grants from the AMA, we installed 60 feet of additional museum quality lockers for our hanging storage.

All in all 2008 has seen great changes, with more to come in the New Year. In 2009, we are planning more upgrades to the Afghanistan display and will be working toward planning the renovation of the entire gallery. The gallery redesign will include more accurate and appealing displays while simultaneously reallocating space so the last 60% of our history is not jammed into 30% of the available area.



*Parts of Damaged Tank
in the Afghanistan Display.*



News from the Edmonton Chapter of the Regimental Association

By: Captain D.M. Biener

Membership continues to grow within the Edmonton Chapter. To date there are approximately 15 regular attending members and we have a total of 45 personnel who are in the wings, but not always able to attend. Our gatherings for 2008 have included five General meetings, two mixed brunches and a couple of luncheons.

The General Meetings (which are very short by the way) are held every three months, usually on a Thursday night at the Norwood Legion. These meetings start off with a supper meal and then a guest speaker prior to the meeting. Luncheons take place at the St. Albert Legion, usually on a Friday.



Edmonton Branch Luncheon, Fall 2008

Our current members include: **James Strayer, Kevin Phinney, Rick Dennis, Albert McBride, Mike Hogan, Stewart Ballard, Orley Whalen, Randy Eslinger, Chris Hunt, Bruce Fleck, Chris Hatton, Daryl Jordan, Rick Brown, Jim Ellis, Paul Peters, Mark Egner, Mike Jensen, Phil Anley, Randy Bowden, John Vreugdenhiull, Art Merritt, Tracy Moore, Bob Petersen, Laurie Comeau, Bill Fitzpatrick, Wade Cooper, Merle Olsen, Jay Cunningham, Ray Labrecque, Richard Matvij, Robert Copeland, Walter Joyce, Ken MacDonald, Mike Saunders, and Kevin Bonnetta.** **Walter Reid**, who unfortunately passed away recently, was also a regular attending member.

Upcoming Events –Edmonton Chapter

- 19 Apr 09 Mixed Brunch
- 22 May 09 Melfa River Luncheon
- 20 June 09 Wind Up Meeting and BBQ Norwood Legion

Check out our new website at <http://www.ldshrc-assn-edm.ca>

Reunion 2010-as most are aware, the Edmonton Chapter (with the assistance of some Calgary members) is busy planning for Reunion 2010. There has been a change in the dates and the event has now been moved to June of 2010, to coincide with the Change of Command Parade. This will enable friends and family to attend both events the same week. Below is a “proposed” schedule. Hotel location and details will be published as soon as finalized.

Reunion 2010 “Proposed Schedule”			
Thurs 24 June	Fri 25 June	Sat 26 June	27 June
Golf Tournament	Registration and Reception Meet and Greet	Regimental Day Parade Reunion Dinner	Departure Brunch



The Armour School Paradise or Purgatory?

By: Captain A.S. Wong



*Lt (ret'd) John Swanton
cutting the cake.*

It was another busy year at the Armour School and a year closer to being posted back to the Regiment...possibly. The Tartans continued their offensives into the Lawfield Corridor, but were successfully repelled by the numerous ARCC, APCC, DP 3 Tp WO, AOCC and AOTL serials that were conducted throughout the year. Of particular interest - despite being converted into tanker, **WO Ted Amos** demonstrated his old but not so rusty recce skills on the DP 3 Tp WO, landing him the top candidate billet.

A perfect opportunity for all Strathcona's to get out of the field and mingle amongst old friends was during the Moreuil Wood celebrations. **Lt (ret) John Swanton** led the charge this year, leaving the young fellas in his dust.

During the summer months, the Strathcona Captains roamed free without adult supervision as the Chief Instructor **Maj Dwayne Parsons** was posted to sunny and hot Kuwait. We asked if he



*WO John Pudar receiving CEFCON
commendations from Col Bowes Comd CTC.*

We heard the Regiment was short on subbies, so shortly after two serials of the DP 1.2 we sent 15 brand new ones to the Regiment, including one really short **2Lt Tom Pett**. We also saw **LCol Derek Macaulay** and **RSM Joe Ramsay** come down to visit and sign for the subbies. The CO and RSM were hounded by all Strathcona's posted to the school on when they would make parole and be posted back to the Regiment. They assured us all that we would be back in Regimental lines soon enough. In other words, the posting messages are in the mail.



*Please, Sir, can I have some more? 2Lt Tom Pett
receiving orders during EX FIRST CONTACT 08.*

Capt Islam "Elko" Elkorazati, Capt Sandy Cooper, WO Marty "#9" Wheeler, and Sgt Marcel Chenier were posted back to the Regiment. They dashed out of the Armour School only leaving dust in their trail as if they were called up to the major leagues. Those that did not get a posting back to the Regiment found other ways to pass the time. **Sgt Rick "Gitch" Allen** found himself on the Leopard 2 ICT on several occasions which is apparently one of the Corps' best kept secrets. We figure he either bought himself a nice flat in Germany or just really likes German beer.

In closing, we are hoping for posting messages with our names on it, but until then we will continue to knit Coyotes and tanks out of steel wool.



Strathcona's in Kingston

By: *Captain C.S. Fifield*

So what can I say about life as a Strathcona here in Kingston. To begin with, I think you would be hard pressed to find a location that has as much to offer both professionally as well as recreationally. Geographically it's located at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Rideau Canal on the North Eastern shore of Lake Ontario. It's only a couple of hours from some of the greatest parks in Canada and the City itself has a long and rich history. From a professional standpoint there are a number of incredible opportunities including LFDTS (PSTC, CLFCSC, DAT, DAD, DLSE, ALCC, DGLCD), CFB/ASU Kingston, RMC, CFJHQ and CFJSG just to name a few. But as amazing as Kingston is, it would be nothing without the people. Fortunately there are a large number of Strathcona's here to keep Regimental traditions alive.

After a long and successful tour in Afghanistan, **Col 'Spike' Hazelton** has returned to throne as CFB/ASU Kingston Commander. Unfortunately for **LCol Dave MacLeod**, that meant that he was forced to vacate the position and move down the street to LFDTS and into the CCSO job. Not surprisingly he was recognized for his hard work and received Chief of Land Force Command Commendation. **LCol Chris Rankin** and **Maj John Stuckart** are deployed to Afghanistan and by all accounts are proving that Strathcona staff officers are a much sought after commodity in the HQ. **Maj Mike Froess** (PSTC Deputy Cmdt) was fortunate to get an office with a window (which looks onto the parking lot where **Capt Fifield** tries to park his behemoth truck). His 2008 highlight was a trip to Nairobi, Kenya to assist the Kenyan Armed Forces



Capt Clayton 'Fly' Fifield hard at work in Algonquin Provincial Park.

in developing their Military Observer course. **Maj Ed Padvaiskas** (CLFCSC DS) has been kept extremely busy shaping the minds of the junior Captains as they flow through the AOC courses. **Maj Dave Broomfield**, after less than a year in Kingston with the Directorate of Army Doctrine (and 20 years service), has decided to join the 'dark side' and 'double-dip' as a Class B Reservist. Kingston was not warm enough in winter for his spouse, so he has lined up a 'jammy go' with the Joint Task Force Games (Forward) Cell in Vancouver to aid in preparations for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. **Maj John Grodzinski** (RMC-Asst Prof) continues to pass along the lessons of history to RMC students, while **Maj Gord Dyck** (RMC DS) undertook a sabbatical from RMC technical staff teaching, to deploy on tour with Regional Command (South) as the C-IED Branch Operations officer. It proved to be an excellent opportunity that involved multinational CIED training, exploiting the device (techies can't resist this) and the network attack kinetic piece. **Maj Vince Fagnan** (DLR), after completing the Joint Command and Staff College in Kuwait in July 2007, moved his family back to Ottawa and then deployed to Kandahar for ten months to serve as a planner in the J35 Future Operations

Branch in Headquarters Regional Command South. He is now back in Director Land Requirements (couldn't rub off the tech staff tattoo) as the Operations Coordinator within the Directorate as DLR Coord 3. **Capt Clayton 'Fly' Fifield** (LFDTS G1 Svcs) after a year in Kingston is still looking for a parking stall big enough for his truck. In true Strathcona fashion he managed to organize not one, but two adventure training exercises over the course of the summer in order to alleviate the stress of being posted to such an inhospitable location. **Capt Stu 'Stoo' MacLean** (CFB/ASU Kingston Adj), with Meagan married off and Ian living out, finally broke out of the gravity of Calgary. Back to the land of water and trees, he's looking forward to buying a boat for those long, hot, humid, dog days of an Ontario summer. **Capt John Rickard** (DAT 5-5-3) continues to languish in DAT but hopes to be posted down the hill and teaching at RMC in the upcoming year. **CWO Doug Harvey** was the BCWO and now finds himself as the VCDS Gp CWO.



MWO Kevin Mulhern (CFB/ASU Kingston G3 Trg) and his family joined the Kingston crew in July. Shortly after arrival he was robbed, water leaked into the basement of his new home after he took position, and subsequently had fun with the insurance company. Fortunately the issues have been sorted out and they now love every day here in Kingston. **MCpl Colin Dunn** (MP) continues to work with the MP detachment, but since he hasn't ticketed any of us yet, he remains in the 'good' book!



Major Gord Dyck practicing CIED ops at 'Timmies' in Kandahar.

Not surprisingly, Kingston remains a popular choice for many of our retired members and includes **MGen Clive Milner**, **MGen Bob LaRose**, **BGen George Wattsford** who served as the Regt 2IC at Melfa, **Col John Roderick** presently Col of the Regt, **Col Bob Billings**, **Col Ray Wlaschuck** (Calian), **LCol Dennis David**, **LCol Doug Green**, **Maj Danny MacLeod**, **Maj John Russell** (Calian/Movie Tech Advisor), **Maj Ralph Kennedy** (Superintendent of Kingston Branch of St. John Ambulance), **Maj Rod Babiuk** (Acting DCOS Learner Support at CDA HQ), **WO Tom Martineau** (Garrison's OSI Social Support Rep), **Sgt Tom Hoppe** (OPP Constable) and **Sgt KC (Casey) Baldwin**.

All Strathcona's, whether serving or retired, are actively involved in both Regimental and Corps events that take place locally throughout the year. These include Moreuil Wood, Melfa River, the Armoured Corps BBQ at the Milner's, currie luncheons, various golf tournaments, Ironsides and any other excuse we can think of to get together and enjoy a few refreshments.

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Strathconas in the National Capital Region

By: Major E. Jared

Another year has come and gone, and support to operations remains the focus of the Strathconas posted to the NCR, as evidenced by two of our number currently deployed in Afghanistan. **Col Jamie Cade** is employed as the Deputy Task Force Commander, and **LCol Paul Fleury** at the time of writing this article is shortly due to arrive for employment in ISAF HQ as the Area South Regional Advisor.

While many may have the impression that NDHQ is somewhat myopic in thinking, some of those posted here recognize that it is not the alligator in the boat that is the current worry, but in fact the beast chewing on your leg! Therefore, while support to operations is the no fail task, figuring out the where the CF and the Army need to be in the future to support those operations is also a key component in the daily lives of some of the cloud shovellers here in Ottawa.

Maj Chuck Fournier, is a member of the Strategic Joint Staff, the Operations Working Group representative, and the Canadian Secretary to the Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC). This body is a seven-nation (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States) forum that focuses on resolving strategic/higher operational level coalition interoperability problems, issues and interagency aspects considered to be key to coalition operations. **Col Craig Fletcher** is active in connecting with Canadians and helping shape the future of the force as the Director of Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers. Helping figure out what we could have done better (and what went well) in the past, and how we can improve it in the future is **Maj Earl Jared** employed as the Lessons Learned Collections Coordinator in the Canadian Forces Experimentation Centre. (Note: No live animals were injured in the course of writing this article.)

Within the Army, **LCol Steve Kelsey** is Director Land Force Development 2 and hard at work gazing into the future, and trying to figure out now to get from here to there. (Consumption of illicit substances in preparation for planning sessions is finally confirmed to have been an unfounded rumour, attributed to a jealous junior staff officer.) Slightly more grounded in the close fight is **LCol Mark Connolly** who is G35 Plans within the Directorate of Land Force Readiness. **Capt Brian Corbett** is currently the Training Manager for the Leopard 2 Project, and as such is responsible for coordinating the training in support of operations as well as the development of a long term training strategy for the Leopard 2 fleet in Canada. The goal ultimately is to procure training aides and simulators that will be fielded in the same timeframe as the Leopard 2 tank fleet, such that tank squadron work-up training will be conducted in Canada rather than in Germany. (Concerns



MGen Tim Grant badging Maj Sheldon Holmes as a Strathcona.

with respect to his frequent flyer point balance were exaggerated, as he categorically stated, "It's hard to accumulate the points when you spend all your time over there, rather than going back and forth!") **LCol Shane Gifford** is currently heading the Army Training Authority Detachment Ottawa. They take care of Army International collective training not related to Afghanistan (mostly NATO PfP and ABCA exercises), as well as Army participation in the larger Domestic and Continental Joint/Combined exercises, a good example would be the Op NANOOK series, which is growing in importance with the government focus on Arctic Sovereignty issues. They also take care of foreign militaries coming to train at army facilities, and manage the Canada/US cross border movement file. The CLS has a firm focus on Latin America in terms of advancing the Government's Americas strategy and increased training opportunities in that part of the world may exist in the



coming couple of years.

Strathconas are also well represented in the commands as well with **Col Dave Rundle** as the head planner, **Maj Sheldon Holmes** in plans and policy, and **Maj Paul Peyton** as the J35 future operations in CEFCON. All are doing well, but one in particular longs for the desert (the Kuwaiti one). A few retired Strathconas still keep active, including **Maj (Retd) Reg Fountain** as the J7 Special Events 2 in Canada COM and **Col (Retd) Greg Hug** as a performance management consultant in CANOSCOM. Rounding out the crew is **Maj Warren "I can't tell you what I do or I'd have to kill you" Deacher** as the J5 Domestic in CANSOFCOM.

Last, but by no means least is the Crewman Career Manager **CWO Jim Dorrance** working out of CMP(CANPERSCOM refuses to stick). He has the challenging task of trying to be cap badge neutral while qualifying, posting, and promoting enough soldiers so that all the Regiments and the School can accomplish their tasks. Having just returned from Edmonton he is fully aware of the ongoing personnel shortages.

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The Afghanistan Mission and The Role of Our Regiment

By: Colonel J. Cade

Deputy Commander Joint Task Force Afghanistan

I have been kindly asked to offer my thoughts on the mission in Afghanistan and the role of the Tank Squadron within it. In the time that I have been here as Deputy Commander, The Canadian Contingent has seen its fair share of the intricacies and complexities associated with counterinsurgency warfare. Despite attempts by some of the “politically correct” persuasion, there is only one accurate way to describe the mission in Afghanistan: it is a war of counterinsurgency. Canadian Forces in theatre are therefore faced with the dual challenge of combat and nation-building. Both are “must do’s” and both must be done concurrently. The “so what” from this is that the mission in Afghanistan is complex, unpredictable and at times mind-boggling.



The Afghanistan Mission

Afghanistan has enjoyed very little peace during its history as a country. The past 30 years has utterly destroyed the critical institutions required to function as an independent nation and must be rebuilt from scratch. To further complicate this challenge, a violent and savage insurgency is attempting to undermine the legitimate government in the eastern and southern provinces. “Job One” for the Task Force is assisting in ensuring a functioning Afghan government and a strong and professional military and police force who can independently address the Afghan security problems.

Our enemy is adaptive and crafty, but not unified in its command and control. The enemy is also extremely cruel and cares little for the people of Afghanistan; there is no love between the people of Kandahar and the Taliban. The brilliantly planned but brutal attack on the Sarposa Prison in Kandahar City is just one example of how the insurgency is continually shifting from guerrilla tactics to acts of terrorism. The answer to this problem is more (and better) police supported by a strong Afghan army security framework.

The Role of the Tank Squadron

It is important to remember that the 3 RCR Battle Group is but one manoeuvre element of many within the Canadian Task Force. In basic terms, its role (and that of the tank Squadron) is to assist with the development of the Afghan National Security Forces within Kandahar Province, while at the same time “buying time” through offensive operations against the insurgents. The Afghan human dimension the Battle Group must work within is incredibly complex with tribal politics, family influences and complicated cultural “minefields” all at play. To quote my Commander, “the best way to prepare to work within Afghanistan is to watch every episode of the “Sopranos.” The physical battlefield the Battle Group operates on is also very complex terrain. Operations in Zharey and Panjawayi Districts are akin to manoeuvring in a labyrinth. A short road move away in Maywand District, Task Force Ramrod (2/2 Infantry US Army – OPCON to JTF Afghanistan) operates in open desert. Both areas are plagued by Improvised Explosive Devices.

Amongst all this, the role of the Tank Squadron is varied and often non-conventional. For example, **Maj Ian McDonnell** is the Task Force “landlord” for Panjawayi East and regularly finds himself and his team involved with District governance, development and policing issues. Furthermore, he is called upon on short notice to command a Combat Team in combat. The Commanding Officer of 3 RCR Battle Group once



proudly boasted to me that he uses his “firepower and shock action” on every major operation. However, the nature of the ground and concern for collateral damage from manoeuvre dictates a very judicious use of the tank; needlessly destroying a poor man’s crop will do nothing towards a secure and stable Afghanistan. This limitation, however, does not negate the value of the psychological effect and precision firepower that our “Big Boys” bring to the fight. In other words, the Tank Squadron finds itself, on a day-to-day basis, working with Afghans to rebuild the basic institutions that Canadians take for granted. Yet at “the drop of a hat” (or mortar as is often the case), the squadron is expected to manoeuvre and win the firefight while minimising collateral damage.

The Bottom-line

Our operations in Afghanistan have reaffirmed that “flexibility” remains a key principle of armour employment. Not only flexibility in tactical employment, but flexibility in thought. Armour squadron leadership at all levels must be as comfortable guiding a community Shura or tutoring an Afghan National Army officer, as they are with closing and destroying the enemy in the desert or a “rabbit warren” of walls, compounds, wadis and orchards. Both are equally critical skills needed to win this war; I’m very proud that our Blackhats have both.

Points of Interest From JTFA Herd struck: Dispatches from a few of us separated from the Sqn

By: Captain M.J.D. Mallette

When I was asked by OC Recce to compile some deep thoughts from the few of us here in Afghanistan in (un)enviable positions attached to other units in Task Force Kandahar, I naturally jumped at the opportunity (probably a lingering post-traumatic stress reaction from time spent as a subaltern in B Sqn while “Hogg” was BC). Although only a handful of us are stuck in KAF, the Regiment is well represented with **Col Jamie Cade** as Deputy Commander Task Force Kandahar, **LCol Steve Rankin** and **Major John Stuckart** at Regional Command (South) HQ, **Maj Mike Onieu** serving as Ops O in the OMLT and **WO Mark Riley** deployed as Ops WO with the Canadian Helicopter Force.

I think I speak for all of us when I say that we would much rather be serving with the Sqn reminding the Taliban that if life were fair, terrorists would have MBTs. That said, life in Task Force Kandahar HQ is never without a dull moment. As the lead staff wally for Afghan National Police capacity development my days are filled with trying to coordinate police training, mentoring and equipment donations programs. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Canadian and American police mentors as well as Royal Canadian Mounted Police in an effort to bring police



Roughriders.... We walk among you!



reform to Kandahar City and Zharey-Panjwayi. Despite the challenges posed by illiteracy, corruption and high casualties the Afghan National Police are starting to show improvement – it's not exactly Law and Order Kandahar yet, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. With time and patience (a lot of patience), the Afghan National Police will learn to enforce Rule of Law in a country that has only known Way of the Gun for a generation.

Black Peppered On Eggs - A Strathcona in the OMLT

By: Major M. Onieu

Not for the first time, an infantry based organization realized that it couldn't function properly without at least one Zipper head, and preferably a Strathcona. So that's how the CMTC Adjutant ended up in Afghanistan (well, that and bribery, truth be told). The OMLT is a strange unit, but anyone who wants to be where the action is would be well served in it.

Being involved with the Afghan army is equally frustrating and rewarding. My experience here, working with the Afghans, the various Task Force elements, and there diverse group of professionals in the OMLT, has only underscored my belief that we in the Canadian Army are fortunate. Anyone who thinks we are not well equipped or well trained only needs to look around. I might be biased, but of dozens of militaries represented here, I would always choose a seat at the Canadian table. Of course, amongst Canadians Strathconas are well known. Is it the dashing cavalry personas? The touch of class we add? I think it's safe to say we are the icing to the cake. The infantry might describe us as the gravy on the potatoes. **WO King** was here in KAF recently, posing from the turret of a mighty Leopard at the Tim Horton's drive through, while multitudes of adoring ladies and tanker wanna-be's gathered around.

Wherever there are Strathconas, there is a dog and pony show (sorry, demonstration and display) waiting to happen. Is there anything cooler than a tank? The answer was and still is "no." It has been gratifying to watch a Strathcona tank squadron through a war zone (it would be even more gratifying to be in it of course)- something that didn't seem likely to ever happen again only a few years ago. It's always good to know that I can call for backup and that fellow Strathconas are within shouting distance if I ever need a sanity check or help painting rocks with my 1 RCR friends. Inside the wire or out, Strathconas remain the glue that holds all things Task Force Kandahar together. And if I don't get pushed down the stairs for writing this, I'll tell you about it in a few months.

408 Sqn: Blue Berets (with door-mounted Chain Guns)

By Warrant Officer M.S. Riley

Being the Ops WO for the newly formed Canadian Helicopter Force deployed to Kandahar has been, and continues to be interesting, although not without its challenges. When I left Canada mid-November, the intent was that the Sqn would be formed around the Chinook, which were purchased 'slightly used' from the Americans. Within two weeks of our arrival the Canadian Government announced that the decision had been made to send over an additional eight Griffons. Sqn operations, while still in set-up mode, had to prepare for a second airframe as well as a significant increase to the TO&E. By mid January the Griffon was declared as an operational asset to Regional Command (South) and began flying regular missions - not too bad considering that not too long ago, there was a perception that the Griffon was unsuitable for this part of the world. As for the Chinook, we have had some set backs, but once the bugs are worked out it will become a significant force multiplier for the on going operations in Afghanistan. Each and every time I see us transport a single Soldier it brings a smile to my face knowing its one less person be transported by ground, without a doubt the addition of helicopters is making this operation safer for all.

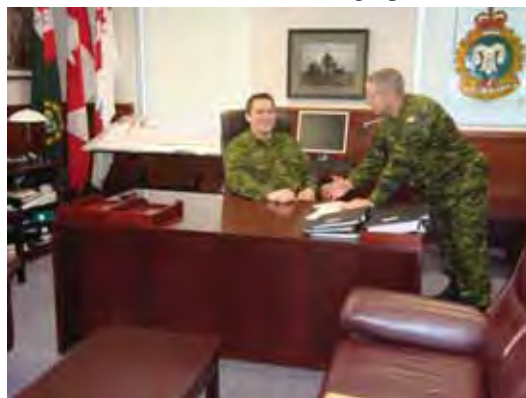


1 CMBG HQ “Undermanned, but not Outgunned.”

By: Captain A. Dwyer

Like the rest of the Regimental family, the Staffcona Officers of 1 Brigade Headquarters have had a busy year. The creation and personnel support given to TF 5-09, the deployment and welcoming home of 1-08, and the preparation undertaken for 3-09 and Op Podium have made for some good “staff training.”

Heading our Strathcona clag on exile island, **LCol Tom Bradley** has tried to “guide,” our continuous string of PA’s on a path that would not result in the Commander, **Col Corbould** ending up stranded in some obscure port with nothing but a sporty red Mazda 3. While **Maj Kevin Mead** was parachuted into the G3 seat where he has found a stable post for his tenure, **Capt Craig Volstad**’s stay has been marked by being shuttled from one fire to another, to another... until he settled into G3 Ops. The former PA, **Capt Allan Dwyer**, even found himself in the G3 branch, taking the empty Ops 2 seat.



Capt’s Dwyer and Anderson manning THE desk!

Facing a myriad of challenges, the Brigade is gearing up for another year, which will see many challenges, including **Capt James Anderson** vacating the PA post this APS for Wainwright and leaving the current Brigade Commander without a Strathcona PA for the first time.

Stay tuned....



LdSH(RC)

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Strathconas in Wainwright

By: Captain M. Douglas

Wainwright continues to be well represented by Strathcona's throughout all of the major organizations: Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center (CMTC), Land Force Western Area Training Center (LFWA TC) and ASU Wainwright. Regardless of unit or location, one will always see a Strathcona hard at work... or play. **CWO Dave Lee**, RSM CFB/ASU Wainwright, continues to keep a watchful eye over the black-hats on



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base. **MWO Walt Laughlin** attempted to keep some sense of order within a 300-soldier strong Training Support Company at LFWA TC, and individuals such as the Contemporary Operating Environment Force's (COEFOR) **Cpl Johnny Unrau** kept the Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN Primary Training Audience (PTA) on their toes with complex ambushes and IEDs. Not everyone in Wainwright is allowed to have fun and so **Maj Chris Nolan** was employed in the CMTC Plans Cell where he was forced to work late into the night in an effort to deliver world class training for our soldiers deploying overseas (but being here on Imposed Restrictions, what else would he fill his time with if it were not for work). Strathconas remain prevalent in the daily life of Wainwright.

Strathconas, as part of LFWA TC, have yet again proven their mettle by producing excellent young soldiers on the many successful Soldier Qualification Courses and have assisted in the training of the future of the Army's senior NCO corps on the Primary Leadership Qualification Courses (PLQ). As a result of the influence and daily hard work of such Strathcona's such as **Sgts Gord Stringer, Doug Paquette**, and **Gary Hewitt**, thousands of soldiers, new and old(er), have successfully completed training at LFWA TC.

CMTC, a haven for Strathconas, has once again had an extremely busy year. It was not uncommon to see OC COEFOR, **Maj Chris Bradley** (complete in flowing Afghan garb and sporting a ZZ Top length beard), manoeuvring his insurgent forces on the battlefield to ensure that the "Enemy had its say in the outcome of the friendly force mission" during Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN. The Observer Controller Trainer Group (OCT Gp), commanded by **LCol Scott Long**, (who maintained a deep bronze tan throughout the winter months due to his frequent trips to Ft Irwin, CA, and Ft. Bliss, TX), remained focussed on developing and delivering world-class training to our soldiers during the Road to High Readiness. Not only was the skill-sets of the OCT group invaluable to the Canadian Military, but it was requested on numerous occasions by the United States Army in their training and transition from Iraq to Afghanistan. The OCT Group was enhanced by the creation of a Strathcona-heavy permanent Tank OCT Team, spearheaded by **Maj Mark Lubiniecki**, who, like any tanker with a radio, dominated the OCT radio net during Ex MG 0802. **Capt Marshall Douglas**, the Tank Team 2IC had endured years of working for **Maj Lubiniecki** and requested and received approval for an early posting back to the Regiment



Maj Mark Lubiniecki spending most of his NTC time chasing down PIDs.



following only one year in Wainwright. **WO Tony Mosher** rounded out the Tank Team... just in time to return to Edmonton; however, in losing his invaluable knowledge and experience, the team gained **Sgt Marv MacNeill** and **MWO Walt Laughlin**.

With the relatively new opening of Tim Horton's, a Wal-Mart, and Canadian Tire, Wainwright is quickly becoming a sprawling metropolis. Combined with the excellent opportunities at LFWATC, ASU, and CTMC, Wainwright has quickly become a 'hidden gem' in the Army. Just ask any Strathcona who lives here. You are only a 'posting message' away from training our soldiers of tomorrow and our soldiers on the road to high readiness. Wainwright is one of the only training centers that allows you to remain in the 'backyard' of the Regiment as well as to keep your finger on the pulse of current doctrine and training.

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Moreuil Wood 2008 or Damn the Op Tempo Full Tasks Ahead!

By: Sergeant E. Stevenson

Well it was early 2008 and Quartermaster Troop was heavily engaged in year end purchasing, when, seemingly out of nowhere, the QM **Capt Amanda Grimsrud** was tasked to be the OPI of the annual



Moreuil Wood mixed dinner & dance. Once she was tasked I almost immediately recalled what a crusty old sergeant once told me back in the day “a task, like a certain biological product, rolls down hill”. True enough, moments after becoming the OPI, the QM gave the warning order to **WO Martin St-Onge**, our Chief Cook, to be prepared to be involved in the dinner preparations. On a separate note, does anyone out there actually know what bunting is? If you said a play in baseball, you’d be wrong in this instance, but we’ll re-visit this topic a little later. Anyway, I digress. So, QM Troop became the main players in pulling off a successful function. An

available hall could not be found, so the decision was made to put the dinner on in unit lines. A and Recce Sqn lines were emptied out and cleaned up to give us an area large enough for all the troops and guests. Entertainers were contacted and in the end, a hypnotist and DJ were given the nod to be the headlining acts.



Our carpenter, **Cpl Will Rekrut**, was given the mission of constructing a suitable dance floor for the party. After many hours of planning, design and construction, we had a dance floor as good as any in the city. There were also many items to purchase in preparation for the party. This is where the bunting comes in. Apparently it’s fabric (Regimental colours no less) that is hung on a wall. Many suppliers were searched for the right colour/fabric combination. **Cpl Terry Haas**, will never be the same after his experience in Fabric Land. Then we had to find a company to sew it all together and have it completed in time. Thanks to Edmonton Tent & Awning for getting the job done. Thanks also must be sent to all the members of the Regiment who went out and canvassed companies to supply us with door prizes (I know I’m still enjoying the beer glasses that my wife won). The dinner and dance was excellent. Hats off to all the cooks involved! An outstanding meal was enjoyed by all. The hypnotist was very good, but I have to say that from a personal perspective, that Recce Squadron’s own **Cpl Ben Sorel** stole the show. He put on quite a performance, and I’m sure there are many people still sharing a chuckle about it today. All in all, it was an excellent night of food, drinks and fun.



Prior to the mixed dinner and dance, we had our annual Moreuil Wood Parade and I would be remiss in my duties if I didn’t mention this year’s award recipients. The Fox Bugle was awarded to **Cpl Erik Poelzer**. The Col of the Regiment Silver Stick was awarded to **MCpl Scott Brown**. The Milroy Crossbelt was awarded to **Sgt Rick Dickson**. The Neatby Pace stick was awarded to **WO John Pudar**. And last but not least, the Hessin Sword was awarded to **Lt Marshall Douglas**. Congratulations to you all.





Strathcona's on Parade

By: Lieutenant D. Williams

25 June 2008, marked a historic occasion in the proud history of 1 CMBG's armour regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). The overwhelming rumble of over 80 fighting vehicles on the parade square at Steele Barracks heralded the passing of command responsibility from the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major team of **Lieutenant-Colonel Pascal Demers** and **Chief Warrant Officer Doug Ross**, to **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Macaulay** and **Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Ramsay**.

Lieutenant-Colonel Demers and **Chief Warrant Officer Ross** took command of the Regiment in June of 2006 and spearheaded the successful deployment of three tank squadrons to combat operations in Afghanistan. At the time of the 2006 change of command, A and C Squadrons were in various states of training for upcoming tours overseas as Reconnaissance Squadrons. This quickly changed as the requirement for tanks in Afghanistan was solidified. This ushered in the Regiment's most intensive period of operations



The outgoing Command Team taking the salute.



For my next number.....

in recent history, and the stalwart leadership and fortitude of this command team enabled the Regiment to fulfill its obligations with dignity and distinction. The challenges faced by **Lieutenant-Colonel Demers** in force generating a mounted expeditionary force on short order, echoed the accomplishments of **Sir Sam Steele** himself, the Regiment's first Commanding Officer, in his forging of the Regiment for service in the South African or "Boer" War in 1900.

Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay became the 52nd Commanding Officer of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), and with his Regimental Sergeant Major **Chief Warrant Officer Ramsay**, inherited command during a period of exceptionally high operational tempo. **Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay** and his family returned to the Regiment after extra-regimental commitments at Canadian Expeditionary Force Command in Ottawa and the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto, Ontario. During his previous Regimental tour, **Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay** commanded Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Reconnaissance Squadron on Operation ATHENA Roto 2 to Kabul, as part of the International Security Assistance Force. With the continuous deployment of tank squadrons in theatre, his tour as Commanding Officer will no doubt be an eventful one.

On parade, the presence and manoeuvres of the impressive, 42.5 ton Leopard C2 main battle tanks reaffirmed the importance of the role of heavy armour on the modern battlefield. It was also a poignant reminder that Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) is the only tank unit in Canada. Alongside the tanks, the gleaming helmets and lances of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Ceremonial Mounted Troop accentuated the mounted heritage of the Regiment. Reconnaissance, anti-armour, and support elements were also showcased on parade, demonstrating the diverse demands of the modern cavalry regiment.



Then and Now.



Regimental Christmas Celebrations

By: Lieutenant M. Boyce

The conclusion of 2008 was capped off with the yearly Regimental Christmas celebrations. Morale was high and the festive mood was present in all. This year's Regimental Christmas celebrations included Subbie Carolling, the Kids' Christmas Party, Sports Day, the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner and the Senior NCOs at home to the Officers.

The tradition of Subbie Carolling continued this year with a twist from the past. The Subbies no longer carolled at the Senior Officers' houses but were bussed from establishment to establishment in St. Albert. The Subbies were welcomed at each bar by a different Senior Officer and this new change in carolling was a big success.



The elves await the arrival of the children.



Soldiers enjoying their turkey dinner.

Subbie Carolling was followed by the Kid's Christmas Party and a good time was had by all. This year Recce Sqn was given the pleasure of coordinating the event and congratulations go out to **Capt Dan Hone** for organizing the party. The party included a petting zoo, face painting, blow up rides, lots of pizza and last but not least Santa with his elves. This year six Subbies were tasked as elves, all dressed in tights and feeling great from the night before.

Sports Day brought some great and healthy competition amongst the members of the Regiment. The Mariner Room was triumphant over the Sarcee Room in ice hockey; however in broomball the Sarcee Room continued its domination. The Track Pad swept the Green Point Lounge in all four sports that were played.

The finale of the week was the Soldiers' Christmas dinner and the At Home which was hosted by the Senior NCOs' Mess this year. At the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner there was a great turkey dinner, a few drinks and the usual symbolic carving of the turkey. **Tpr Mulyk** became the Commanding Officer for the day and **Cpl O'Neil** became the RSM. The jackets were exchanged and speeches were made by "newly" appointed Regimental leadership. **Dick, Nicole, June** and **Richard Moreau** arrived



'Santas Little Helpers' check kids off the list as they go to meet Santa to get their present.

bearing gifts from the Kit Shop which were raffled off and given out as prizes. The Regiment invited **Dick, June, Nicole** and **Richard** to the Men's Christmas dinner as a thanks for all of the support that both the Kit Shop and Amyottes provides to the Regiment. A lovely print was donated to the Regiment from the Amyottes crew as well, depicting Regimental tanks and one coyote in action.



Senior NCO's prepare turkey dinners for the soldiers.

Overall, the Regimental Christmas celebrations were a great success. The week consisted of fun and competition before well deserved time off for the Christmas holidays.



Happy Holidays 2008

By: Lieutenant R. Sturgeon

The holiday season was a special time around the Regiment. With the current operational tempo there was often little time to enjoy the company of friends and colleagues, so the week before Christmas was the ideal time to cut loose a bit. Let us recap the events of this holiday season in song. Cue music, 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.'

Christmas season fell upon us,
With a special kind of glee,
Soldiers eating, drinking and playing,
Until for leave they were set free.

At the Children's Christmas party,
Games and sugar were enjoyed,
And after a long night of carolling,
Red eyed elves were employed.

At our day of sports this year,
All ranks came out to play,
Effort was at maximum,
The day of games was lots of fun.

Then our Christmas dinner happened,
With drinks stashed upon the floor,
After the speeches were over,
A rush was on to reach the door.

Warrant's and Sergeant's offered,
To host the officers for some cheer,
Darts, cards, and sumo,
The NCO's won this year.

With silly week over for this year,
The time was due to head on home,
Relaxation rest, and family,
Save a few to man the duty phone.

An enjoyable week was certainly
had by all. Our thoughts were with our
colleagues of A Squadron and their
families who were deployed over the
break. We look forward to their return and
to spending next season with them.



Playing with the animals at the petting zoo.



Pizza, cotton candy and snow cones give the kids the energy they need for the games and activities.



Cpl Walker helps the kids fish for prizes.



Members of 3rd St. Albert Pathfinders (Girl Guides of Canada) helping the Regiment with facepainting.



LCol Mulyk commits Society funds while Tpr Macaulay looks on.



Cpl Ramsay and RSM O'Neil admire the "Sunset Watch" painting.



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and 10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade The Genesis of an Affiliation

By: Captain M. Gough

On 2 August 2008, Lieutenant-General Skrzypczak, Commander of the Polish Land Forces, visited Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), hosted by the Chief of the Land Staff, Lieutenant-General Leslie. He was briefed by the Commanding Officer on the Regiment's work in Afghanistan and integration of the Leopard 2A6M. Lieutenant-General Skrzypczak was thrilled when the Commanding Officer presented an engraved 105mm shell casing, which had been fired in Afghanistan. Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant-General Skrzypczak forwarded a letter to the Chief of the Land Staff requesting that Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) become affiliated with 10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade. This was approved in August. A Strathcona delegation visited 10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade from 24 November to 4 December 2008.

Historic Background on the 10th Polish Cavalry Brigade

By: Master Warrant Officer D. Proctor

The 10th Polish Cavalry Brigade (10. Brygada Kawalerii) was the only fully operational Polish Motorized Infantry unit during the 1939 invasion of Poland. Their Commanding Officer (as of Oct 38), Col Stanislaw Maczek, is considered to be the only Polish Military Commander not to lose a single battle during the 1939 German Invasion. The Germans gave the 10th Cavalry Brigade the nickname "The Black Brigade", due to the black jackets the troops wore. This nickname is still used today.



Leopard II A4 tank crew of 10 ACB.

LdSH(RC) Delegation Fosters New Ties with 10 (Polish) Armour Cavalry Brigade

By: Captain M. Gough

From 29 November to 5 December 2008, a delegation from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) visited Poland and specifically our newest allied formation: the famous 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade. The Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel John Roderick**, Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Macaulay**, and Regimental Sergeant Major, **Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay**, led the delegation. **Major Chris Adams** and **Master Warrant Officer Tony Batty**, recently back from Afghanistan as the command team for B Squadron Task Force 1-08, passed on their experiences directly to the Polish Army's Leopard II operators. Also along for the ride, but mainly to carry the mountain of gifts, were **Master Warrant Officer Dave Proctor**, **Captain Rebecca Evans**, and **Captain Mike Gough**.



The group met up in Toronto and after a few libations, set the tone for the rest of the trip. **Colonel Roderick** passed on his experiences as Defence Attaché in Poland and instructed us on a few key phrases before we embarked on an uneventful flight. Uneventful except for the CO's amazing demonstration of



The delegation poses in front of the monument to the 1945 Warsaw uprising. Amazingly they were all able to stand on their own.

flexibility by laying face-down on an airplane seat; a skill no-doubt acquired during his busy travel schedule. The group was met by **Major Tomasz Mikolajczyk** of the Polish Army Visits Office and **Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Perchal** of the Royal Regiment of Canada who, besides being a fluent speaker of the language, is very well connected.

Upon arrival, the CO fully came to grips with the sheer amount of gifts that had to be distributed. Major Adams was quick to take his pick and was caught acquiring a red over green watchband after being informed that he was not properly dressed for the occasion: The bill is in the mail from the Regimental Second in Command. Some rumours started regarding

Captain Gough and some of the gifts that had been placed on his bed, but these are wholly unfounded.

The gifting began with **Tomasz**, who was complaining about both the cold and the amount of time he spent in the office. This earned him a Strathcona toque and a mouse pad. We went on a brisk walking tour of downtown in the evening and stopped by a very fancy pizza joint for dinner.

On Sunday, we met with the Canadian Defence Attaché, **Colonel Jim Petrek**, for a briefing on the Polish Army and a walking tour of the Old City. For those not familiar, Warsaw was completely destroyed during the Second World War and has been rebuilt based on the original plans. The first of many Polish "light lunches" was taken at a pub where **SSM Batty** ordered a schnitzel the size of a tank tarp. This was only just a sign of things to come. The RSM had the Warrant Officers up at the crack of dawn for a walk through the location of the Jewish Ghettos and were offered an exclusive tour of a Soviet Political Prison that was very moving.

The Strathcona delegation was then honoured to be invited to the Polish Chief of the Land Staff, **Lieutenant-General Skrzypczak**, who is a strong promoter of our newest affiliation. We were provided a brief on the structure of the Polish Land Forces the General's key staff. The gift exchange was highlighted by the presentation of a PT-91 engraved shell casing to the Strathconas. The CO then presented a Strathcona Cap Badge to the Polish Army Commander which he proudly added to his black beret. After another so-called light lunch (which we were quickly learning comprises a three-course meal) we began the long road move to Kliczków, in southwest Poland.



A mechanized infantry section of 10 ACB stands by their BMP 3 during a very impressive demonstration and display.

On 2 December, we met with the Commander of 10 Armour Cavalry Brigade, **Brigadier-General Andrzej Reudowicz**, at the historic Świątoszów military base. This visit included a very impressive



demonstration and display of the Brigade's soldiers armed and with full battle dress and equipment. We saw Leopard IIs, BMPs, engineering equipment, and support vehicles. The delegation visited the small arms trainer and section training simulator as well as the custom-built Leopard II Training Centre which houses their full suite of simulation aides directly on the tank range. We were shuttled to this facility on two brand-new KTO Rosomak infantry fighting vehicles, now in service with the Polish Army in Afghanistan.

That evening saw the presentation of "Ring of Steel" to 10 ACB and no less than 20 toasts during the formal dinner hosted by with the Commanding Officers of each Brigade unit. We learned that the key to surviving a 10 ACB dinner is lots of orange juice and bread. The diners also witnessed an early appearance of Santa Claus who quickly dispensed of everything from frisbees and hats to packing material.

Regrettably, the CO and RSM had to cut the trip short, departing for Edmonton via Dresden in order to attend the Chief of the Defence Staff presentation of the Unit Commendation. The remainder of the delegation was graciously hosted by the Commander of 11 Armour Cavalry Division and tour of a PT-91 medium tank. After another stunning meal, we visited the site of the Stalag VIIIIC, the site of the famous Great Escape during the Second World War.

December 4th saw the return voyage to Warsaw by way of Kraków where we visited the Polish historic centre (Wawel Castle), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the home of **Pope John Paul II**. Upon arrival in Warsaw, we tried our best to rest, much to the chagrin of the Colonel of the Regiment, and spent what time was left touring the city.

The ties formed by this visit laid the foundation for what will be, no doubt, a long tradition of cooperation between nations and brothers-in-arms. From start to finish, the hospitality was outstanding and there was no shortage of goodwill.



The cathedral in Kraków where Pope John Paul II presided.

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The Queen's Royal Lancers in 2008

*By: Lieutenant Colonel M. Todd, MBE
Commanding Officer*

Following the Regiment's deployment to Iraq in 2006-07, the past year has been dominated by the extended deployments of A Squadron to Afghanistan. Having converted to the Viking All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) more usually operated by the Royal Marines (RM) in late 2006, A Squadron's first commitment was to provide a large troop (1+36) to reinforce the RM Armoured Support Group (ASG) in Afghanistan from January 2007. This troop, led by **Capt Chris Kierstead** (a familiar name to the Strathconas) endured a gruelling tour providing protected mobility and fire support to the infantry. In this role they regularly fought close quarter engagements with Taliban insurgents in the Green Zone as well as running the gauntlet of an increasing threat from mines and improvised explosive devices (IED). Sadly the prevalence the latter threat resulted in the deaths of **Tpr Robert Pearson** and **Mne Dale Gostick RM**. A number of other soldiers were seriously injured and remain in rehabilitation at RAF Headley Court.



Viking Wading

In June the RM ASG handed over the Viking Group to the balance of A Squadron deploying under **Maj Khashi Sharifi**, later succeeded by **Maj Nigel Best**. Operating in support of 16 Air Assault Brigade, A Squadron developed a different concept of operations to their predecessors, based more heavily on their reconnaissance skills than the protected mobility role. They were soon employed in screening and clearing routes for Combat Logistic Patrols supplying outlying FOB, resulting in a pronounced reduction in IED and other attacks on these vital convoys. In September they played an equally important part in protecting the convoy that delivered a hydro-electric turbine from Kandahar to the Kajaki Dam, an operation that saw close collaboration with Canadian troops. Happily their tour, while demanding, resulted in few casualties, none serious, a sure testimony to strong leadership, thorough training and high professional standards.



A Sqn Viking on Patrol.

Meanwhile in Yorkshire a reinforced B Squadron spent three months conducting public duties guarding Her Majesty Our Colonel-in-Chief at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, the first RAC Regiment to be so honoured. In July the Regiment joined 4th Mechanized Brigade as they moved to Catterick from Germany. This marks a welcome return to the all-Arms community for The Queen's Royal Lancers and 2009 will see us train as part of the Brigade, including a welcome return to BATUS in Suffield for 6 weeks from June. On return from Canada our focus will switch from conventional war-fighting training to mission specific training in preparation for an expected Battle group deployment to Afghanistan starting in April 2010.

I trust that our visit to Canada will offer us scope to renew our ties with Lord Strathcona's Horse. An opportunity to share operational experiences and approaches to future development would be particularly valuable as we approach our own deployment on operations.

'Death or Glory'



CO & B Sqn Mounting Buckingham Palace Guard.



EX STRONG CONTENDER

By: Master Warrant Officer D.L. Radies

With the OP Tempo in Western Area at an all time high, the decision to even proceed with EX STRONG CONTENDER 2008 was tenuous at best. However, in the interest of Esprit de Corps within LFWA the decision to carry on with a scaled down version of the STRONG CONDENTER was made.

The sports that would be played were identified as Ice Hockey, Floor Hockey, and Indoor Soccer. There were 12 Unit's competing, all under one umbrella. Ice Hockey: proceeding with the dropping of the puck the first game saw us pitted against an exceptionally strong team from 1 CER. Although we had some "young guns" out we were unable to stem the tide of pucks going in to the net and found ourselves on the short end of a 12-3 score. We couldn't blame our goalie, Trooper Schalk Van Der Mewre, as he was a recent addition to the Regiment who volunteered to "strap on the pads" with very little goal tending experience. He had suited up for a couple of intersection games and I for one was extremely thankful that he stepped up to the plate because our only other option would have been myself being propped up



The ice hockey team warms up before a game.

between the pipes acting as a target. Knowing that in order to extend our march to the cup we would have to win by a large margin we came out better prepared the second game. With the lines starting to gel we managed an impressive 13-4 win over LFWA HQ. Unfortunately the goal differential was not enough to move us any further and resulted in us placing 5th over all.

Floor Hockey: not unlike the Ice Hockey Team, the Floor Hockey team was put together at the last minute and had minimal together. Although the effort was put forth the results were not positive. The team suffered losses of 2-1 against 1 Fd Amb, and 8-1 against a very skilled team from 3 PPCLI. Due to the aggregate scoring the team ended up in 8th place overall.

Indoor Soccer: backed by historical tradition the Soccer team took the floor with a vengeance. The tenacity displayed was the dominating factor in their strong showing. The tournament for them started out strong with a 4-0 triumph over 1 Fd Amb, followed by an equally dominating performance over 3 PPCLI by a score of 9-0. These two wins propelled them into the semi final game against 1 CMBG. Both teams worked extremely hard but once again our team prevailed with a hard fought 2-1 decision. The finals had LdSH (RC) matched up against 1 Svc Bn. At the end of regulation the teams were still deadlocked at 2 goals each. The game ended with us scoring via the penalty kick shootout and winning the game 3-2.

After tabulating all the results from the various events LdSH (RC) ended up in a very respectable 5th place position. The effort put forth by all participants, in spite of many mitigating factors just further exemplified the level of team cohesiveness that exists here within the Regiment.



Athletes stand at attention for the national anthem during the opening ceremonies.



SSM Tony Batty and the soccer team in action.



Regimental Hockey

By: Warrant Officer M. Wheeler #9

Due to the high op tempo of the Regiment it was hard to have a consistent group of players to participate in Regimental sports. Despite this, the Regimental hockey team has found a way to strap on their skates and head out to the rink. The 2008 - 09 season started without enough players coming out, but with the persistence of the coaches **MWO Dan Radies** and **Capt Dave "Can I Blow the Whistle" Biener**, players started arriving from all corners of the Regimental Lines.

Practices were run with an iron fist with way too many skating drills and not nearly enough breaks. The coaches started to develop the player's individual skills, which at times seemed to be a hopeless task but noticeable improvements started to show (must have been all those skating drills). As the team's first game was fast approaching the coaches were scrambling to put together a balanced line up. At game time their plan was thrown out the window with last minute additions and deletions of some new players. The lines were quickly put together with guys playing on lines together for the first time, however, everyone played exceptionally hard which resulted in an outstanding game, ending in a 1-1 tie with 3 VP.

The team also hosted a Bantam hockey team, from within the city of Edmonton, on the 19th of November, playing an exhibition game which resulted in a very good turn out and was extremely fun to play. The little guys were fast and full of all kinds of energy and with a great atmosphere on the ice, the players from both teams enjoyed themselves to their fullest. I think the final was a 7 - 7 tie. We would like to thank the representatives from their team and hope to see them again next year.

It's somewhat funny to see some old hockey players, I mean very old faces in the line up, and some extremely young faces that are coming out. The old vets of the team taking control of the dressing room, ensuring an easy going mentality which was instrumental in retaining their sanity, especially with regards to the music being selected on the stereo. I still have no idea what kind of music the young guys were trying to play but it was quickly put to rest.

The ET **MWO Radies** still continues to run the team's practices hard and fast but the interest of the hockey team has been a hot topic within the Regiment and new faces continue to show up. Still not enough breaks and again way too many skating drills, whatever happened to a good old hour long scrimmages?



With the extremely fast pace of the Regiment it's a wonder we can even put together a team let alone a competitive one in the top division. We have and will continue to show our perseverance by being a hard team to play against.

Special thanks must go out to both the coaches and **Tpr Mike Allman** (Equipment Manager) for taking the time in their busy schedules to coach, organize, and assist the team with many remedial tasks. This also includes all the players who show their dedication by their continued participation in Regimental Sports.



Spruce Meadows 2008

By: Trooper J.H. Courneyea

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in July, a hundred-man Guard of Honour from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) took to the field at Spruce Meadows. The guard was on the field to conduct a Feu-de-Joie ceremony for Spruce Meadows, while also having the opportunity to salute our newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff, **General W. Natynczyk**. The Regiment has been parading at Spruce Meadows since the 1970's and has formed a strong tie with the organization. They have shown tremendous support for both our Regiment, especially the Strathcona Mounted Troop, and the Canadian Forces. The Saturday parade was capped off with a \$140,000.00 donation from Spruce Meadows and their sponsors, through their "Show Your Colours" campaign to the Military Family Fund. With this, they are supporting one of our most important resources, the military families, who are truly the "Heroes behind the Heroes".



CADPAT blends in with ALMOST every background.



Soldiers from C SQN do the march past at Spruce Meadows.

The whole weekend was an exceptional opportunity to allow the Canadian public to interact with their soldiers and strengthen our ties with the Spruce Meadows organization. Amidst the charging horses, cheering spectators and shining brass, the soldiers of C Squadron stood proud and resolute in their knowledge that they would be representing Canada abroad.



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Lt Flowerdew and Walhachin (pronounced Wall-a-sheen)

By: Captain D. Hone

When the name **Lt Gordon Flowerdew** is mentioned in unit lines, thoughts usually turn to a young officer who was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) due to his actions at Moreuil Wood. What is perhaps less known is that when he signed on to serve overseas, he had been living in a small town in British Columbia called Walhachin (pronounced Wall-a-sheen). By the end of WWI, a high percentage of men from this small town had enlisted for service and 42 of them are currently listed on the town's honour roll. Of those who survived the war, some returned to Walhachin only to find their recently built town on the verge of closing down. There are various theories as to why the population did not stay, ranging from the lack of water due to the flumes' collapse, to the scientific proof that the ground was not suitable to grow fruit trees, or to the fact that 97 out of 107 of the men went off to fight for King and Country, and many of those who returned had been changed by the war.



*Roy Bertram and Capt Hone
in Walhachin Town Hall.*

Many of the original homes are gone, having either burned or been sold and re-located. Since the town's initial closure in the inter-war years, it has since begun to grow again and the current population of approximately 100 enjoy a peaceful and slow-paced environment. The weekend of 1 – 4 August 2008 marked the centennial of this small town which is located between Cache Creek and Kamloops. I had the opportunity to represent the Regiment throughout this August long-weekend and most of my time was spent in the Walhachin Town Hall, where past residents of Walhachin shared their stories and those of their ancestors. There is a great deal of history in this small town and I would encourage anyone who has a historical bent, to take a closer look at this community.



Donated Picture of Moreuil Wood.



*Tourist Sign overlooking
Walhachin.*

From my point of view, the most interesting stories came from a man named **Roy Bertram**. Roy will be 101 years old in December 2008. He remembers **Mr. Gordon Flowerdew** as a kind and well-liked man who worked as a shop-keeper and butcher. Roy recently told a new friend of mine, **Heather Darney**, that he was upset that he had to 'let go' of his driver's license shortly after he turned 100, mainly due to the fact that the traffic is terrible and that he didn't believe he was as good a driver as he used to be. Heather's father lived in Walhachin after WWII and was present at the weekend. His stories of life back then as a child were captivating, and although he is getting older, his memory is still as sharp as a tack and he has a great sense of humor.

I had the opportunity to represent the Regiment over that August long-weekend, and on behalf of **LCol Derek Macaulay**, CO Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), I presented a copy of a painting commissioned by the Regiment, which depicts **Lt Gordon Flowerdew's** famous WWI battle charge that earned him the Victoria Cross (VC). That picture can now be seen hanging in the Ashcroft Museum approximately 20 minutes west of Walhachin. The artist of this painting was the late **Joan Wanklin**.



During the trip into Walhachin, I got to drive over a 100 year old bridge which is home to a long-term family of Osprey. I was served 'high tea' on an original wood floor in the town hall which, in its day, was touted as having the best dance floor in the region. I got to meet some very interesting people, all with their own stories and reasons for coming. The incredible amount of history that can be learned by word of mouth, can be found in the most unsuspecting places if you're there to listen, and in this case, I was all ears...

Thanks should go out to the Friends of Walhachin Committee who made the weekend possible, some of whom will be keeping the Regiment informed of any upcoming activities.

Val Carey
Helen Forster
Fusa Teshima
Kiyoko Teshima
Merry Teshima
Dolly Wong
Bob Donovan
Colleen Bick



*100 year old bridge into Walhachin
and a family of Osprey.*



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Subbies Corner: the Gloves are Off!

By: Captain P. Beitz

As the Senior Sub for the latter part of the year, I was privileged to have the responsibility of babysitting, I mean, guiding the new Subbies to heights of great success and help them stay out of trouble while at the Regiment. And then there's **Lt Moses Pano**.... but I digress.

Operational tempo continued to be high in 2008 with the Regiment deploying two sabre squadrons to Afghanistan. **Lt Matt "Old Man" Bentley**, **Capt James Anderson**, and **Capt Alex "Nebulous" Nitu** deployed with B Squadron in February, and **Lt Tim "Stewie" Day** and **Lt Jack "born-again-Christian" Nguyen** deployed with A Squadron in September.



Captains Alex Nitu and James Anderson getting used to their new room in KAF.



Getting lessons on how to mount a saddle.

One day in September, the CO walked into the Harvey Building and noticed five giant eggs sitting in the middle of the hallway. He walked closer to one of the eggs, gave it a slight kick, and stood watching as the egg began to wobble. Soon all the eggs were wobbling faster and faster. Their white shells began to chip and crack off, and out popped five new Subbies! **Lt Steve "Urkel" MacKillop** was the first to break free from his shell. He walked up to the CO, put on half a tube of lip balm, puckered his lips and said, "WHO meeeeeee!?" One day, somebody spilt water on one of the Subbies, and he multiplied into three hundred more Subbies (just don't feed them after midnight!). The CO had no choice but to give some of the Subbies to the SPCA.

With over a million Subbies floating around the Regiment, group cohesion and high morale were of the essence. To accomplish this goal, a number of indoctrination activities and social events were planned. In mid-October, a Subbies Casino Night was organised at Edmonton's finest gambling establishment, the Baccarat Casino. We knew this casino was high-class when we read the sign on the main door: "Dress Code in Effect" – must wear pants (wife beaters optional). Dressed in pinstriped suits, we entered the casino to find ourselves surrounded by the relatives of the Trailer Park Boys (chicken fingers included!). Regardless, we hit the Black Jack and Poker tables. **Capt John "Big Spender" Kim** won a couple of grand, **2Lt Tom "mini me" Pett** took my money at poker, and **Lt Dave "Lucky Charm" Williams** lost his shirt.



2Lt Tom Pett poses with one of the horses.



Lt Matt Bentley takes a second to pose for a sunset picture in Afghanistan.

The first serial of the Subbies Equine Course kicked off in late November. **Lt Cam "this-horse-is-going-to-kill-me" Meikle**, **Lt Clint "Serial Killer" Guenther**, **Lt Michael "Darth Tader" Boyce**, **Lt Ross "Fish" Sturgeon**, **Lt Moses "can-I-have-your-phone-number?" Pano**, and **2Lt Tom "my-legs-don't-reach" Pett** learned that riding a horse for a week removes your leg hair better than waxing. 2009 will see the arrival of another million Subbies... and the duty centre couldn't be happier!



The Mariner Room

By: *Lieutenant D.P. Williams*

Despite the continued elevated operational tempo of the Regiment, the Mariner Room held as many social events as possible and fostered the cavalry spirit expected of Strathcona Officers. The year began with a flurry of activity commencing with the annual “Down Homer” hosted by LdSH(RC) and held at the Edmonton Garrison Officer’s Mess (EGOM). When all the lobster and screech were gone even the Newfies were pleased with the night, in spite of having to play “Kiss the Salmon” (AKA, the Cod of the West).



Crystal Leopard 2 donated by LCol Pascal Demers and CWO Doug Ross - A subbie favourite, no polishing!

The next highlight was the Change of Command Mess Dinner commemorating **LCol Derek Macaulay** and **CWO Joseph Ramsay** taking the reins from **LCol Pascal Demers** and **CWO Doug Ross**. The attendance at the dinner was one of the largest in recent memory and the evening was a great success.

Throughout the year, the Strathcona Officers were given many chances to hone their social skills during various Beer Calls and Pub Crawls. The senior officers were also quick to demonstrate the calibre of renaissance leaders they expected with interesting drill routines on a bus with “dance” poles.

The Mess bid farewell to a number of officers this year during the annual posting season, resulting in quite a few anecdotes which are best told over a pint. Departing the Regiment this year were **LCol Pascal Demers**, **Maj Trevor Cadieu**, **Maj Earl Jared**, **Maj Trevor Gosselin**, **Maj Mark Lubiniecki**, **Capt Craig Volstad**, **Capt Dave Cronk**, **Capt Amanda Grimsrud**, **Capt Marshall Douglas**, **Capt Darren Gray**, **Capt Joe Boates**, **Capt Will Hubbard**, and **Lt Matt Bentley**.

The year also saw a change over of PMCs from **Maj Ian McDonnell**, who began in 2007 and handed over the duty to **Maj John Cochrane** before deploying to Afghanistan. **Maj Rob Hume** then took the reins in August. **Maj Hume** then ceded the keys to the Mariner Room to **Maj Chris Adams** in December.

The regular Fall occurrence of new subalterns arriving to attack new and challenging expectations, such as ensuring the perfect pot of coffee is hot and ready every morning for **Maj McKenzie**. A grand total of 19 new cavalry officers flooded the Mariner Room (and it’s snack supplies) ensuring one of the healthiest Mess memberships in recent memory. The pleasure (and challenge) of guiding these new Strathconas (herding cats) through the intricacies of Strathcona culture was borne by **Capt Peter Bietz** as Senior Subaltern, until handing the duty over to **Lt David Williams** in December 2008.

With the most Strathcona officers on strength and the busiest Regimental operational tempo in recent history, the Mariner Room remains as vital as ever to the effective indoctrination of new officers and the circulation of Strathcona heritage. Following the sage advice of the Commanding Officer, **LCol Derek Macaulay**, being a Strathcona is akin to being a duck. Underneath the water, a duck is paddling furiously to achieve success. Yet on the surface, a duck is polished and poised, a master of his domain. It is in the Mariner Room where Strathcona’s learn the art of “being one with the duck.”



LCol Derek Macaulay and Capt Eghtedar Manouchehri escorting CDS Gen Walter Natynczyk through the Harvey Building.



Sarcee Room

By: Warrant Officer M. St-Onge

Once again another year has come and gone for the members of the Sarcee Room and we have seen three Master Warrant Offices, four Warrant Officers and numerous Sergeants posted or retired from the Regiment. The President of the Mess Committee (PMC) planned a sound goodbye dinner at a local restaurant called Koutouky. This typical Greek restaurant proved to be a great location for an evening of fun, good food, and the opportunity to say goodbye to members that were moving on with their careers outside the Regiment or as a civilian.



Members of the Sarcee Room and their wives enjoying dinner at Koutouky.



Outgoing RSM and his wife Terri enjoying the night out.

This year saw one quarter of our members away with B Squadron's deployment to Afghanistan. Although we had a very full calendar, we still managed to find time to indulge ourselves at a few social events: Moreuil Wood and Melfa River. We also had a Change of Command on 26 June where we said goodbye to our **Regimental Sergeant Major Doug Ross** who has taken his commission and is now in Afghanistan with TF 5-09.

The Sarcee Room has become a focal point for both pleasure and business. We continue to make upgrades such as two new windows and new furniture. This past year we also hosted the Strathcona ladies for numerous functions such as gift wrapping for deployed troops and various social activities.

Our upcoming year will see many new challenges and its affect on our members. We will see our brother in arms from A Sqn returning in spring 2009 and C Sqn deployed once again in Afghanistan to take their place. The training tempo at the Regiment will not slow down due to the fact that B Sqn will be deploying to Suffield to link up with its battle group to conduct training for future operations in Afghanistan.



MWO Dave Proctor showing his dance moves.



Sgt Jarrod Tice practicing for nights out in Germany.

The reminder of the Regiment will be deployed to Suffield to participate in EX DESERT RAM and support realistic scenarios that will challenge the Squadron and help them hone their skills in preparation for combat.

In conclusion, 2008 proved to be a challenging year which has seen its members deploy and return from combat operations while those remaining behind were equally busy supporting their work up training in Canada or abroad in Germany on the new main battle tank.



Strathcona Ladies Functions





The Green Point Lounge

By: Master Corporal C. Sanduliak

The Green Point Lounge was established to provide a common place in the Regiment, where in the MCpls can meet, socialize and, most importantly relax at various times during the day.

As with the rest of the Regiment it has been a very busy year. We MCpls have seen our fair share of taskings, courses, postings and promotions, but most importantly the deployments.

In August we said farewell to our members of E-Coy. At the same time we welcomed a lot of new members to our mess, which is always a good thing. Although the Op Tempo has been high we have still managed to pass on the traditions like the 0930-1000 coffee breaks and free donuts on Thursdays, but most importantly everybody's favourite is the beer calls.

Throughout the last year we have seen many changes to key positions in the mess. **MCpl Erin Bowden** stepped in as PMC replacing **MCpl Fitzpatrick**. Newly promoted **MCpl Ed Morley** replaced **MCpl Sanduliak** as the Vice PMC, and I graciously stepped in as Treasurer/ Coffee Rep.

By far the biggest change and challenge to the lounge was the renovation project. The Track pad generously donated some new furniture and at the same time we gave up wall units. It all worked out well for both messes. We also received a big screen TV, which was donated by **MCpl Brooks**.

This year has been a very successful year for our traditional Fund Raisers, Raffles and 50/50 Draws. One Raffle in particular which was opened to all ranks was the Glass turkey Draw. The Draw took place on the parade at the Regimental Sports Day. The Winner was a member of the Track Pad. Well done to you. It is our intention in the New Year to have a lot more of these Fund raisers.

Once again our yearly traditional giving of Moose Milk through the Christmas Festivities was a huge success, Its certainly something that all of us look forward to each year before we kick off our well deserved Christmas Leave. We just hope that the upcoming years will be as successful as the previous ones.



MCpl Tom Bowden posing with the CDS, CFCWO, CO and RSM upon presentation of the CDS Unit Commendation.



Track Pad 2008

“Out with the old and in with the new!”

By: Trooper K. MacEachern

2008 has been a very successful year for the Track Pad. We have undergone significant change this year. Almost every aspect of the Track Pad has given way to a newer, more convenient and accessible rest area for Cpls and Tprs alike. With the institution of mess dues this year, we have been able to purchase some much needed equipment, including a new fridge, and other articles utilized and appreciated by our members. Thank you to everyone involved in the institution and organization of the mess due initiative! In May of this year, the Track Pad changed its location from the former C Sqn lines to the old UMS location. This change has enabled us to have both more space, privacy and a more comfortable environment in which we can relax, and reflect on current affairs...IE: What the plans are for the weekend!



*Cpl Jeff Thompson
receiving his new rank*

A complete demolition of existing offices contained within our new location began in December and was completed before our return from Christmas leave. This refit has opened the space, and has given way to new design and better utilization of the space. As a side note, our very own **Rick Moreau** of Amyotte's has generously donated the painting “Sunset Watch” to complement our new space and give inspiration to all of those who visit our mess.



*Tpr Mike Partington receiving his
General Campaign Star.*

2008 Has seen our mess numbers go up significantly with the influx of new Tprs and Cpls. I would like, on behalf of the track pad to welcome all of you, and encourage you to participate in our events and functions alike!

On the sport scene this year, an honourable mention must be given to our mess. Christmas sports were a huge success for the Track Pad. The comradery and effort displayed by both The Green Point Lounge and the Track Pad was second to none. However, our hard work and determination paid off greatly with numerous victories over the Green Point Lounge. On behalf of the Track pad, we would like to extend a genuine thank you to the MCpls for showing up and also better luck next year!

I would now like to take a moment to give mention to the track pad members lost in 2008. It was with grief and sorrow that we bade **Tpr Mike Hayakaze**, and **Cpl Stew Langridge** goodbye this year. They may be lost but they will never be forgotten.

With the redesign of the track pad, a memorial is being planned for all fallen members of our rest easy. This new monument will enable our current members to reflect, and our future members to enlighten themselves on who these people were. Looking forward to 2009, we have many new and exciting endeavours to be explored. We have a lot to look forward to this year, and it is the track pad's resolve to make 2009 the best year possible!



Extra Regimentally Employed Strathconas 2008

Col	Cade	J.	Afghanistan	Maj	Onieu	M.G.	JTFA OMLT
Col	Fletcher	C.M.	NDHQ	Maj	Padvaikas	E.T.	CFB Kingston
Col	Forestell	J.R.	Canadian Defence	Maj	Parsons	D.R.	Kuwait
			Attaché - UAE	Maj	Rogers	M.D.	CFB Gagetown
Col	Hazleton	C.M.	CFB Kingston	Maj	Shrubb	S.J.	CFSU (E) Det
Col	Hilton	D.C.	Canadian Defence				Brunssum
			Attaché - Washington, DC	Maj	Steeves	J.A.M.	Peace Support Training
Col	Rundle	D.A.	NDHQ				Centre Karren
LCol	Bradley	T.	1 CMBG	Maj	Stuckart	J.A.	CFB Kingston
LCol	Connolly	M.A.	NDHQ	Maj	Young	C.J.	CFLO
LCol	Demers	P.P.J.	JTF-A HQ 5-09	Capt	Boates	J.S.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Fleury	P.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Bromley	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Gifford	S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	Brown	J.W.	CSOR
LCol	Hauenstein	P.G.	NRDC-T, Istanbul TU	Capt	Chiasson	R.P.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Kelsey	S.R.	NDHQ	Capt	Corbett	B.D.	NDHQ
LCol	Long	S.G.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Cronk	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	MacLeod	J.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Douglas	M.R.N	CFB Wainwright
LCol	McCluskey	S.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Dwyer	A.C.	1 CMBG
LCol	McEachern	J.D.	CFB Halifax	Capt	Ells	C.R.	JTF-A HQ 5-09
LCol	McKinnon	D.B.	CDLS London	Capt	Gardner	D.A.	Cheyenne Mountain
LCol	Peyton	P.J.	NDHQ				AFS Colorado Springs, CO
LCol	Pickell	P.G.	NDHQ	Capt	Gray	D.M.	TF 5-09
LCol	Rankin	R.C.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Hutchings	W.C.	NDHQ
LCol	Schneiderbanger	J.J.	CFB Shilo	Capt	Johnson	B.S.	CFS St Johns NFLD
LCol	Senft	D.J.	CFB Esquimalt	Capt	Lacroix	T.A.	TF 5-09
LCol	Steward	R.T.	Virginia	Capt	Lakatos	M.A.	NDHQ
LCol	Walsh	B.J.	Washington	Capt	Leonard	P.E.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Barnett	M.A.	CFC Toronto	Capt	MacEachern	E.G.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Batty	T.A.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	MacLean	S.C.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Bradley	C.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Mallette	M.J.D.	JTFA HQ
Maj	Broomfield	D.J.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Martin	J.T.	SALH
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Maj	Fagnan	V.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Reiten	K.A.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Fifield	C.S.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Rickard	J.N.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Fournier	C.D.	NDHQ	Capt	Ross	D.A.	JTF-A HQ 5-09
Maj	Froess	M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Volstad	M.C.	1 CMBG
Maj	Gooch	S.J.	LFAA TC Meaford	Capt	Walters	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Gosselin	T.P.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Wong	A.S.H.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Grodzinski	J.R.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Wright	S.R.	CFB Suffield
Maj	Holmes	S.W.	NDHQ	Lt	Collings	T.L.	TF 5-09
Maj	Hunter	J.R.	CFB Gagetown	CWO	Dorrance	J.	NDHQ
Maj	Jared	E.G.	CFEC	CWO	Harvey	D.R.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Knight	R.D.	LFAA HQ Halifax	CWO	Lee	D.A.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Lubiniecki	M.	CFB Wainwright	MWO	Bamford	G.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Malevich	J.J.	Afghanistan	MWO	Blanchard	D.L.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Mead	K.J.	1 CMBG	MWO	Catterall	J.B.	CFB Borden
Maj	Nolan	C.O.	CFB Wainwright	MWO	Fuller	R.A.	CFB Suffield



MWO	Izzard	M.A.	CFB Borden	MCpl	Eastlake	W.F.	CFB Gagetown
MWO	Laughlin	W.A.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Encinas	L.E.	CFB Gagetown
MWO	Mulhern	A.B.K.	CFB Kingston	MCpl	Flanagan	S.D.	CFB Gagetown
MWO	Murphy	B.N.	LFWA HQ	MCpl	Goodyear	S.W.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Campbell	J.D.	CFB Suffield	MCpl	Hawes	J.C.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Clarke	R.J.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	MCpl	Heegsma	C.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Daley	J.A.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Holmes	B.E.	CFB Wainwright
WO	deCaux	S.H.	CFB Borden	MCpl	Knott	O.W.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Falls	T.C.B.	JTF-A HQ 5-09	MCpl	Lee E.A.		CFB Wainwright
WO	Goodwin	D.G.	CMTC Wainwright	MCpl	MacNeill	N.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Halfkenny	T.G.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Ott	C.G.	LFCA Meaford
WO	Hapgood	J.J.	Area Cadet Office	MCpl	Parsons	S.M.	CFB Gagetown
			NFLD	MCpl	Rushton	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Hill	L.R.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Stringer	G.W.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Irving	W.K.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Thompson	S.D.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Kasawan	J.F.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Acorn	N.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Kellough	T.A.	LFCA TC Meaford	Cpl	Augustine	J.M.A.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Marshall	J.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Barker	C.C.	CFB Gagetown
WO	McGregor	J.I.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Barker	D.T.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Pirie	P.G.	Sask D	Cpl	Beers	D.V.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Pociuk	A.A.	Regina Garrison	Cpl	Burby	J.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Pudar	J.P.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Bustard	J.T.	CFB Gagetown
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Sgt	Beaumont	D.A.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Currie	M.A.	CFB Trenton
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Sgt	Cordy	J.P.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Gallant	A.G.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Dickson	R.	SPHL HALIFAX	Cpl	Gould	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
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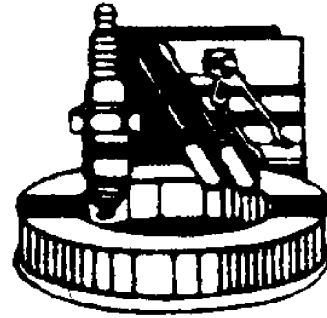
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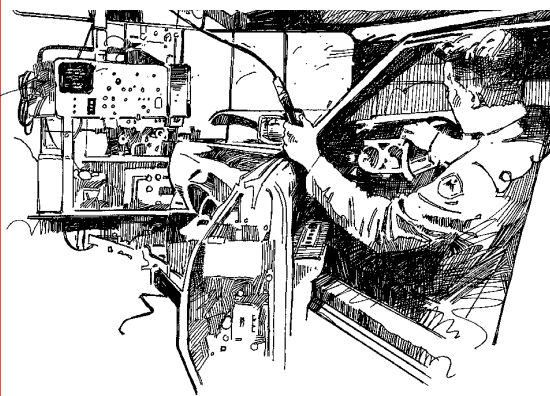
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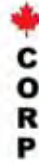
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