

The Le MAROON BERET MARRON

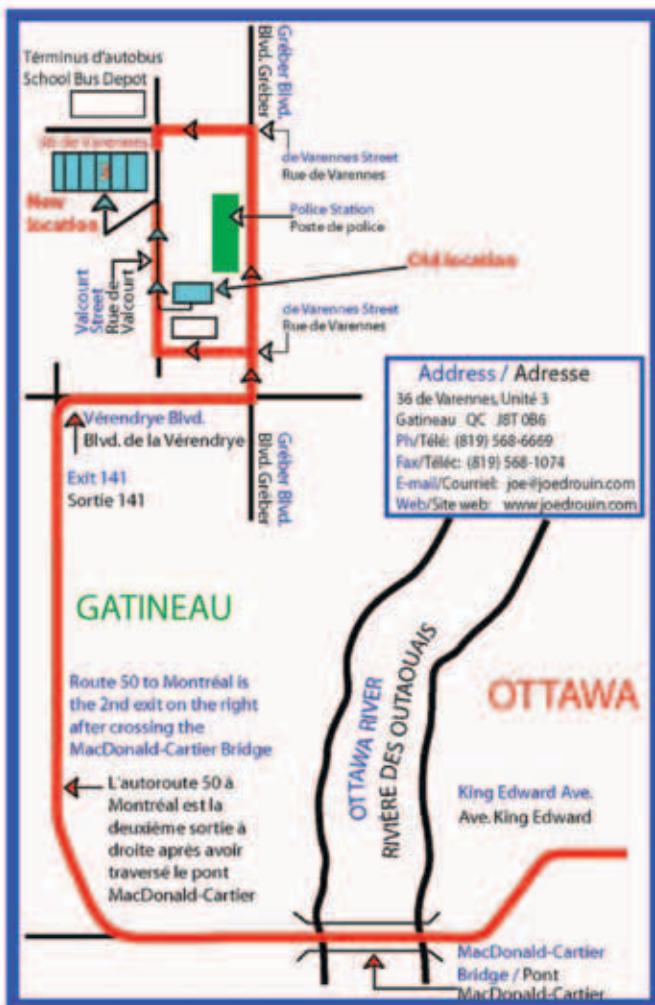


La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood

2011
The Year in Review





News from the Kitshop:

E-COMMERCE HAS ARRIVED!!!

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

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

Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to mb@ca.inter.net. The deadline for the 2012 issue is November 15, 2012. *The Maroon Beret* welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to mb@ca.inter.net. Please include details and photographer's name.

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

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Esprit de Corps



CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



CAFA has had another successful year. The AGM in Trenton and the St-Michael's weekend in Niagara Falls has gone well. Our eight operating branches continue to undertake many activities across the country.

This past year CAFA was proud to support a new cadet corps in Brighton, Ontario. CAFA continues with its scholarship program in conjunction with ARAC, and this year the winner was Miss Lindsay Coombs, daughter of Col. Howard Coombs, formerly of 3 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. The winner of the 2011 Airborne Soldier of the Year Award was MCpl. Chris Griffiths of the QOR, Toronto.

Reports from the membership regarding the new Maroon Beret format appear to be generally favorable

and the issue of the production costs are being reviewed.

This year's AGM will again take place in Trenton, in early July. The usual April-May timeframe proved unsuitable for a large number of members.

This will be my last President's Message. As I have mentioned before, I will not seek re-election as your president at the 2012 AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have provided strong support to the Board and myself over the past six years. I will continue to be available for support for the new president.

Airborne!

*Alain Saint-Yves
President*



ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

All things considered, 2011 was a quiet year for our association. We welcomed the success of having the new format of the *Maroon Beret* magazine, which was published by the professional and experienced team of people who produce *Esprit de Corps* magazine. We have received nothing but good comments regarding the appearance and content of the 2010 issue.

In April, we celebrated our 43rd birthday with a dinner in Gatineau, Quebec. We were honoured to have Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie as our guest speaker. As usual, he was informative and entertaining. We also took the opportunity to thank a few of our members who have given devoted service in the past. This included Réal Gagné and his lovely wife Suzanne, who gave timelessly their support to the association by taking care of the kitshop when it was in Petawawa, and by being the principle editor and producer of the *Maroon Beret* magazine from 1995 to 2008. Also honoured was Michel Wycznski for his outstanding support in writing articles for the *Maroon Beret* magazine and the *Airborne U.S. Quarterly* along with protecting the Airborne history through his research and hard work in maintaining the archives for the Airborne Museum.

In August, it was our great pleasure to once again present to new cadet paras the Army Cadet Basic Para Challenge

Coin, which is sponsored by our association and which we started presenting in 2005. More than 35 cadets qualified for the coin this year.

Throughout the fall, our association attended the annual UN Day memorial in Ottawa and the Remembrance Day ceremony at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa. As in previous years, Airborne members were given the honour of being at the head of the parade.

We as an association look forward to 2012 and, subsequently, to the 45th Anniversary of the birth of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in 2013. It is anticipated that events honouring this birthday milestone will take place across the country. Further information on the details of these events will be forthcoming. Our association wishes good health and happiness to all its members for 2012 and we ask those who had the good fortune to serve in the Canadian Airborne Regiment to consider joining the Association and possibly becoming a volunteer on the executive committee or to help with the upcoming 2013 festivities. If you can give us some of your time it would be greatly appreciated.

Airborne!

**Dan Clarke
President**



ARAC Executive Committee, 2012 Effective February 1, 2012

ARAC UPCOMING EVENTS

Following are some of the upcoming events for 2012.

- June 4-6 — AGM & Memorial Parade, Petawawa, Ont.
- Aug. 6 — Annual Cadet Para Graduation Parade
- Aug (TBA) — Peacekeeping Day
- Nov. 11 — Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National Military Cemetery, Beechwood, Ottawa

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Also helping us on the committee are:

- David Jannison
- Cleveland Irwing

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Since relocating back to Nova Scotia, things have been very slow and quiet.

All of us have seen and read a bumper sticker on the vehicle ahead of us at one time or another. One thing I have always done over the years was make sure I had the airborne crest decal on the rear of all my vehicles. There is nothing better than hearing a horn or seeing a thumbs-up from a passing motorist. Little things like this can go a long way for a drifting jumper as myself, and I know some others also out there.

Then there are times when I return to my vehicle in a parking lot and someone says, "I like your sticker and say thanks." Nothing like lifting one's head with pride and making your day after reading it again, "Retired Paratrooper and lived to talk about it." I think they still can be bought through Things Military in Edmonton. Better get my next two-year supply soon.

And let's not forget wearing your t-shirt or sweater. We all have them, and I hope you still do. My wife, Jean, and children all wear theirs to this day with pride,

knowing they are keeping memories alive of a proud group that's just history now. We all know when we see that maroon, our heads turn and we just have to ask when that person jumped. Yes, we are out there. Make that u-turn, take a few minutes and make that person's day.

No matter if you belong to an airborne chapter, Legion or other veterans' group, or are that lone drifting jumper such as myself, get that bumper sticker on. It doesn't matter if it's a set of wings, a Pegasus or crest — show it with pride. Write the kit shop and get a few. So hit that horn and give a thumbs-up if you do not have time to stop and say hello. We need to keep the brotherhood alive in any way we can and this is one of them.

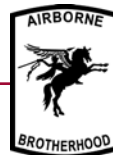
We are few, but not alone. Be proud you served.

Airborne!

The Drifter

Terry Randall

Ex_coelis@live.com



CFLAWC

Airborne Trials and Evaluation

*by Warrant Officer Chris Murphy
ATES Parachute Rigger Specialist*



Airborne Trials and Evaluation Section's (ATES) objective is to trial and evaluate capabilities that enable airborne delivery of the manpower, machines and material required for CF operations and training. This involves a wide variety of specialized equipment — from parachute release systems to helmets.

ATES frequently operates in conjunction with outside agencies in order to cover a broad scope of testing and evaluation methods that, in turn, may better fulfill end users requirements. Currently, ATES is working on improving Canada's Major Air Disaster (MAJAD) response capability. Working in conjunction with Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment (AETE) at CFB Cold Lake, ATES will collect ballistic data for the Low Cost Aerial Delivery (LCAD) parachute system

(Unicross). This will allow for a cost-effective delivery of equipment and materials from the new CC-130J and CC-117 aircraft the Canadian Forces recently acquired.

The past year has seen ATES conduct rate of descent trials for the current parachute systems the army and CANSOFCOM parachutists use. These trials have led to substantiation for replacement of the current parachute systems utilized within the CF. ATES continues to work on rigging/slinging procedures for the artillery's M-777 gun to be hoisted by the newly-acquired Chinook helicopters.

With a growing requirement for air deliverable assets within the CF, the ATES staff expects and looks forward to an exciting year ahead.

Airborne! ■



CFLAWC

The Patrol Pathfinder Course

by Warrant Officer Thomas Krasniuk

It had been five years since the conduct of the last Patrol Pathfinder (PPF) course. However, 2011 saw the completion of the revamped yet still challenging PPF course at the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC).

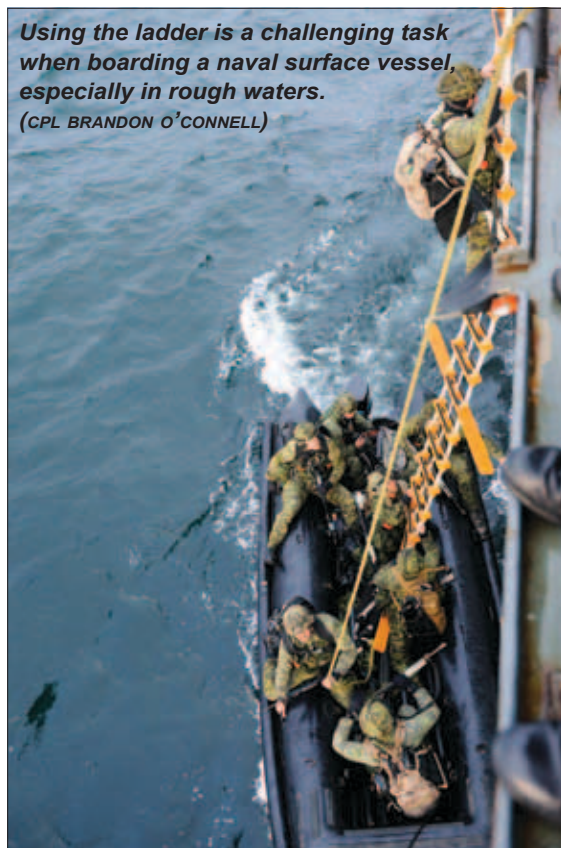
The course started with 17 candidates and graduated 10 Pathfinders. The graduates of the 2011 pilot course are now qualified to use their insertion and extraction expertise to provide their commanders with needed advice during mission and operational planning.

This year, CFLAWC will run a 32-candidate serial with the aim of expansion to provide the army with a robust pathfinder capability in every battalion and brigade by the year 2021.

Revamped PPF

The revamped course is modular in design, training potential pathfinders to become experts in insertion and extraction techniques by providing the candidates with three progressive modules of training: Module 1 — Pathfinder Insertion and Extraction Operator; Module 2 —

Using the ladder is a challenging task when boarding a naval surface vessel, especially in rough waters.
(CPL BRANDON O'CONNELL)



Pathfinder Operator; and Module 3 — Pathfinder Leader.

There is no change to the requirement for candidates to complete the Drop Zone/Landing Zone Controller course prior to the PPF, but they are additionally qualified as precision parachutists in the form of a Static Line Square Canopy (SLSC) course qualification prior to the start of PPF.

Module 1 — Insertion and Extraction Operator

Navigation is an essential skill of a reconnaissance patrolman and, like all perishable skills, it easily fades with time. Thus, the first week of the pathfinder course entails both a rigorous navigation threshold knowledge test (TKT) and follow-on training. Upon completion of the navigation TKT, the pathfinders participate in physically and mentally intensive training which includes watermanship, small boat operations, fast-roping, helo-casting and fast-casting.

In addition to the insertion and extraction training, this module culminates with in-depth lectures and exercises for pathfinder survival, evasion, resistance and escape (SERE) skills. These first three weeks of the pathfinder course are the crux of the candidate's success in subsequent modules.



The Fleet Diving Unit (FDU) provides excellent morning physical training and one day of classes to the Patrol Pathfinder course. (CPL BRANDON O'CONNELL)

Module 2 — Pathfinder Operator

Communications is an important skill for pathfinders in deep operations. Thus, the pathfinders learn to operate highly technological communications platforms, which includes the use of satellite for rear-link establishment.

At this stage in training, the pathfinders begin their second-in-command assessments and leaders practice under test conditions to prepare them for hard assessment during the pathfinder leader stage in the third module. Lastly, Module 2 provides pathfinders with the theory and demonstration of establishing insertion zones.

Module 3 — The Pathfinder Leader

This module of the pathfinder course consists of the

Pathfinders conduct fast casting for high-speed insertion and extraction while training with the FDU. This provides them with the knowledge to advise their commanders on the intricate details of this daunting task. (CPL BRANDON O'CONNELL)



MCpl. Ross gets ready to conduct a swim to clear the PPF Beachhead in Victoria. (CPL BRANDON O'CONNELL)

candidate assessment phase. It focuses on assessing leaders and operators in a realistic training environment under arduous conditions, which is vital to confirming their understanding of course material.

Pathfinders require the ability to brief commanders, conduct coordination with air and naval assets, conduct mission analysis, write and issue orders and, finally, to conduct insertion or extraction missions in concert with higher-level missions.

Although the assessments are mentally and physically challenging, the training they receive, their developed proficiency and skills, and the legacy of the Patrol Pathfinder torch itself provides the candidates with all the tools for success.

The 2012 Pathfinder course will be conducted in Trenton from June 11 to July 27, 2012. ■

Hitting the target: During Module 1 of the Patrol Pathfinder Course, a pathfinder student utilizes a static-line square parachute to insert tactically with precision. (RICK RUTHVEN)





CFLAWC

4 Platoon: A Year in Review

by Sergeant Kevin White

It has been an extremely busy and productive year for 4 Platoon. During the past year, we strove to maintain the standard of parachuting in the Canadian army, developing new instructors through parachute instructor courses, and sharing our infectious optimism and offensive eagerness with jumpers from allied and foreign countries.

The past year saw CFLAWC, through 4 Platoon, qualify both regular and reserve force soldiers from across the country in all aspects of parachuting, from Basic Para to Military Freefall Parachute Instructor (MFPI). The Centre also hosted a plethora of jumpers from other countries, who joined us for our annual international water jump exercise, QUINTE DIPPER (Ex QD). Ex QD allowed us to introduce jumpers from the U.S., U.K., Germany, Chile, Mexico and Poland to our parachuting equipment and SOPs while providing a forum for exchanging parachuting methodology and interoperability ideas in a multinational setting.

Interoperability, in addition to course evolution, has been a significant part of CFLAWC's focus on Centre of Excellence initiatives. In terms of freefall parachuting,

the platoon has been able to continue to raise the level of instruction and performance of many aspects of the freefall program through the continued use of vertical wind tunnel (VWT). The VWT offers us the ability to coach the students in a safe, controlled environment where timely debriefs can follow between each session. Use of the VWT also allows the MFPIs to ensure that students will be stable on first exit from an aircraft. This unique training aid has meant a significant increase for the success rate for the demanding freefall qualification courses that are run at the Centre.

While the freefall program is moving ahead, our continued success in mainstay of the army parachuting program — static-line parachuting — cannot be overlooked. This past year, we qualified approximately 350 soldiers as basic parachutists, teaching each soldier to overcome their instinctual fear in pursuit of mission success and earning their wings. While 4 Platoon is focused on training soldiers from across the CF in a variety of freefall and static-line parachute courses, it is a task that we could not achieve without the aid of our parachuting relatives.

With the help of the PIs from the three light battalions and the QOR, we have been able to train more than six hundred soldiers in parachuting. Thanks to the hard work, dedication and infectious optimism of both unit and augmentee parachute instructors, we were able to pass on the warrior spirit that is a crucial part of our fraternal creed. This upcoming year promises many more courses, adventures and challenging missions, and, as always, 4 Platoon stands ready to meet those challenges with an enduring keenness that is the epitome of Canadian paratroopers.

Light winds and soft landings. Airborne! ■



International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering (ICROSS)

By: Bruce Poulin

While there are many Canadian registered charities, few can boast of having the same level of success as the International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering (ICROSS) Canada during its early formative years. This is due, in large part, to the merits of the program, some key stakeholders such as Maj.-Gen (Ret'd) Lew MacKenzie and Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Col. (Ret'd) Don Ethell and, most importantly, the support from the Canadian public.

ICROSS Canada became a registered charity on 1 October 1998. Since then it has maintained a clear and consistent vision: *"We will endeavour to ease the suffering, and feed the victims of poverty on this battered and bleeding planet. We will accomplish this by gathering material and financial resources to meet the needs of the poorest of the poor."* Armed with this vision, ICROSS Canada has embarked on several key programs. These include but are not limited to the following:

Izzy Dolls

On or around 21 June 1994, Canadian Sapper MCpl Mark Isfeld was killed while removing land mines near Kakma, Croatia. But his ad hoc program of distributing small crochet peacekeeping dolls continued. The demand for these dolls in war-ravaged areas soon outgrew the quantity Mark's mother and friends could supply. A call was sent out for more volunteers and the response was overwhelming. Soon thereafter ICROSS Canada became a partner with this program. In the past ten (10) years more than a million "Izzy dolls" have been produced and distributed around the world – including Afghanistan, Congo, Nigeria, Malawi, the Darfour region and more recently Benghazi, Libya.

Recently, Ms. Phyllis Wheaton, has written a book on the subject entitled: *"In the Mood for Peace – The Story of the Izzy Doll"* which describes the story of the "Izzy doll" and of Mark Isfeld's grieving family trying to cope with the death of their soldier son and how their actions inspired friends and strangers alike across Canada to develop the "Izzy doll" program. Those interested in reading more about the author or to purchase this book are invited to visit her website at: www.phylliswheaton.com.



Former Canadian Airborne Regiment Operations Sergeant and current ICROSS Director Billy Willbond with his Izzy dolls on his way to Malawi in 2007. (Photo courtesy Billy Willbond)

Medication and Equipment

Through large-scale financial support, through important sponsors such as the national Canadian Army Veteran Motorcycle Unit, the Canadian UN Peacekeeping Veterans Association, UN/NATO Veterans Association, and Joe Drouin Enterprises Ltd., ICROSS Canada has been able to coordinate the shipment of medication and equipment. In the past ten years alone, ICROSS Canada has delivered more than \$1 million dollars in medical supplies to the four corners of this planet – including East Africa, Asia, Central and South America and Eastern Europe and North Africa. This equipment includes hospital beds, x-ray systems, sanitary equipment and supplies as well as surgical equipment – all packed with "Izzy dolls."

Home Care

Building on these successes, ICROSS Canada, under the stewardship of ICROSS Canada Director and former Airborne Sergeant Billy Willbond, recently embarked on another initiative: ICROSS Canada will assist home care programs by supporting the training of field workers to treat and care for the dying. In partnership with other organizations like Compassionate Ministries etc, ICROSS will build open wells, dispensaries and feed the famine victims of impoverished areas.

As many readers will appreciate, the yeoman work carried out by the volunteers who make up this charitable foundation cannot replace the need for donations to help achieve its mission. Former and current Airborne members who have donated funds to charities in the past are welcomed to visit the ICROSS website at www.icross.ca and consider assisting them with your prayers, your ideas, your friendship and a perhaps a donation.

Please send your cheques – which will be receipted for tax purposes – to: **ICROSS CANADA, PO Box 3, Saanichton, B.C., V8M 2C3** or contact them directly via email at: icross@icross.ca.



CFLAWC

Riggers' Year in Review

text by Corporal A. Desjardins

photos by Sergeant Desroches

If during the year, you have jumped out of an aircraft or if you have seen a parachute flying above your head, chances are that the Canadian Forces Parachute Riggers were involved. Needless to say, 2011 was another very busy year for Air and Aviation Logistics Support Company (formerly Support Company) at the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Center.

One of the things we pride ourselves on at this unit is keeping an open mind. Last summer, we hosted the first

Sgt. Frounze (right), Pte. Zapora (centre) and a Polish soldier are on their way back after a controlled water jump over Sandbanks, Ontario, during Ex QUINTE DIPPER.



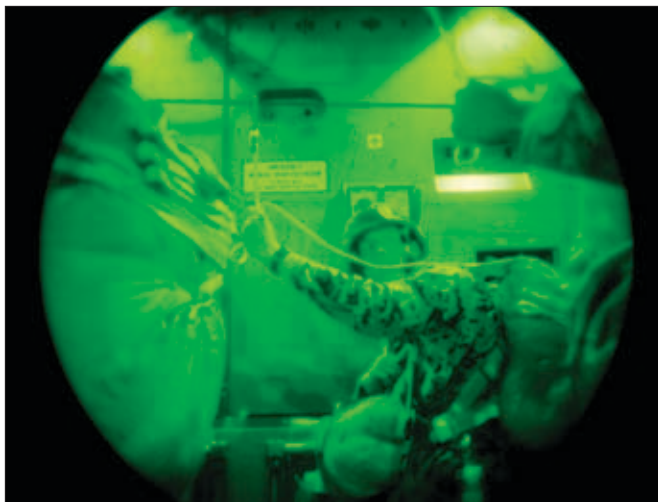
Cpl. Holmstead, from Air And Aviation Logistic Support Company, showing an American rigger how to properly separate the suspension lines on a CT-1 parachute before doing the gore folds during Exercise UNIFIED RIGGER.

annual "Unified Rigger" exchange visit with an American reserve unit, the 861st Quarter Master Company (AER&S) from Tennessee. It was a great way to socialize and exchange mutual expertise with those sharing the same passion and goals as us.

We also contributed and were a part of Ex QUINTE DIPPER 2011, which was an international exercise that required us to do controlled water jumps with six different countries including the U.S., Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom, just to name a few. It was a great way to showcase our role and professionalism to our allies, but the advantages did not stop there. It also gave us the opportunity to send riggers to Ukraine and Poland to participate in an exchange and earn our wings as candidates on both Ukrainian and Polish parachute courses.

To finish the year off right, we were privileged to be part of a historical event. After having a friendly packing competition among our company, we had the immense opportunity to bring the last venerable Canadian Troop (CT)-1 parachute into service. It was a great honour to witness the end of a very successful era.

We are looking forward to the many challenges that will be put forth in the next year and will keep packing every chute like it's our own — it's our pledge. *Airborne!* ■



3RCR

Parachute Company Group

by Lieutenant Jeff Caselton

Despite what appears to be a declining operational tempo, the year 2011 has been a busy one for the members of the Parachute Company Group (PCG). The PCG, which is based of Mike Company of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, and encompasses an engineer troop, a FOO party, as well as other key enablers, stood up on January 1, 2011. Throughout the year, the PCG would see itself deploy on two international exercises and two brigade-level exercises. The first task for the command team of Company Commander Sean French and Sergeant-Major Dave Hood, was the Joint Airborne Operational Exercise (JOAX) taking place in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The JOAX is a confirmation exercise run by the 82nd Airborne in which they forcibly enter a hostile country and open a theatre-level airstrip. The 82nd Airborne's method of choice to conduct this mission is a mass airborne assault involving heavy equipment and hundreds of paratroopers (1,700 on average). In early February, when the JOAX was conducted, 130 of those paratroopers were from the PCG.

From the outset, the PCG did not disappoint. They

were the first sub-unit assembled on the DZ, the first sub-unit to secure their object, and one of the few sub-units not to suffer any jump-related injuries. At the end of the exercise, any doubts the 82nd Airborne may have had about Canadian capabilities were cast aside when the words of praise written above were spoken by LTC Evans, CO, 2nd Bn, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, at the farewell dinner. With the JOAX being a yearly confirmatory exercise, the PCG is looking forward to next year and the possibility of returning to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The next big exercise on the agenda for the PCG was Ex SPARTAN BEAR; a brigade exercise focusing on light operations. This exercise would see the PCG conduct an airborne assault to secure a beachhead line. However, the night insertion onto DZ Dives Crossing was not as successful as the JOAX insertion had been and the PCG

Above, soldiers from 2CMBG's Parachute Company Group, based on 3RCR M Coy, take part in the 82nd Airborne Division's Joint Operational Access Exercise. (USAF)



Soldiers from 2CMBG's Parachute Company Group, based on 3RCR M Coy, take part in the 82nd Airborne Division's Joint Operational Access Exercise. The divisional-level exercise included over 40 tactical aircraft, 1,700 paratroopers and an inflight dressing of the entire brigade during the three-hour flight enroute to the DZ. (USAF)

suffered above 30 per cent casualties, all of which were parachuting-related injuries. It was later determined that unfavourable weather conditions coupled with very heavy combat loads (upwards of 80 lbs.) not including parachutes were responsible for the injuries. Once combat power had been massed at battalion level, the PCG was tasked with advancing to the contact clearing from east to west across the Petawawa training area. The terrain was unforgiving and the weather relentless, nevertheless, the PCG cleared the terrain and took its final objective with little resistance before executing an assault boat extraction which concluded the exercise.

The summer months brought an abundance of good weather that the PCG took advantage of for some fun jumping, the highlight being a water jump just off the shore of Black Bear Beach to an audience of friends and family. It was also at this time that Company Commander Sean French did his change of command with Maj. Kris Reeves. It was a rather unorthodox ceremony, with the exchange taking place during a free fall

descent from 10,500 feet. With the summer winding down, training was ramped back up to prepare for the coming exercises. The first of the exercises was a tasking for one of the platoons from the PCG to go and train with the Polish 6th Airborne Brigade during Ex DRAGON. For this exercise, the platoon would deploy with almost no kit and fall in completely on Polish gear to include weapons, tactical vests and parachuting equipment. The exercise culminated in a joint Canadian, American and Polish airborne insertion followed by a live-fire defensive range involving elements of all three nations. The exercise was short and sharp, with the platoon quickly returning to Canada and linking up with the rest of the PCG for the move to Wainwright and Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE.





Soldiers from M Company, 3RCR, prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. The exercise was the largest brigade concentration at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre and tested soldiers across the full spectrum of conflict. 3RCR focused heavily on airborne and airmobile dispersed operations.
(MCPL MARC-ANDRÉ GAUDREAU, CF COMBAT CAMERA)

For the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE was an opportunity to test airmobile operations and doctrine that the battalion was and still is continuing to develop. For the PCG, training was business as usual with the first half of the exercise culminating in an airborne insertion followed by a live-fire company raid. Following the raid, the PCG extracted in order to prepare for subsequent training that would focus on the integration of CH-146 Chinooks and airmobile operations. Training was conducted over the next nine days with the PCG utilizing the Chinooks for everything including insertion, extraction, resupply and casualty evacuation. The exercise concluded with a battalion-level airmobile insertion followed by a deliberate attack on an urban village defended by a company of peer force soldiers. A lot of lessons came out of Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and they are currently being implemented into the new doctrine.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE marked the end of training at the company group level for the remainder of the year. With the focus shifted more towards the PCF cycle and the holiday leave block, the PCG had a chance to map out the way ahead in the New Year. Ex MAPLE RESOLVE highlighted the value of the mobility that Chinook assets provide for follow-on operations after an airborne insertion. For this reason, the PCG will continue to retain its expertise in parachuting operations but will also become intimately familiar with rotary wing airmobile operations. The ability to conduct vertical envelopment operations from both fixed wing and rotary wing assets will greatly increase the PCG's operating ability on the battlefield.

New Year off by travelling to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where they will once again get a chance to conduct joint airborne and airmobile operations. For any who have doubts, rest assured, the airborne spirit is still very much alive and well. ■





QOR

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

*by Captain Scott Moody
OC 60th Company*



The year 2011 was important for the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, as several significant events in the unit's history occurred. The year started on a very high note when MCpl. Chris Griffiths was awarded the CAFA Airborne Soldier of the Year due to his outstanding performance in 2010 as a paratrooper, leader and instructor. He is the first reservist to receive this award.

In April, the regimental sergeant major changed from CWO Shaun Kelly, CD, to CWO Mark Shannon, CD. Following this event, the Queen's Own gained several new full-time staff with Adjutant Capt. Adam West (PPCLI), Operations Warrant Officer WO Bill LePatourel (PPCLI) and Chief Clerk PO2 Karen Nickerson (Royal Canadian Navy).

Two significant events occurred in September with the change of command from Lt.-Col. John Fotheringham, CD, to Lt.-Col. Peter St. Denis, OMM, CD and the change of Honorary Lt.-Col. from Col. Dick Cowling (former

commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment) to Honorary Lt.-Col. Brendan Caldwell. On the following day, the Regiment held a very successful family day on the parade square, which Lt.-Col. St. Denis promised would become an annual event.

Over the past few years, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada have grown significantly, something that was not particularly noticeable until recently, due to the number of riflemen on operational deployments. Once most of our riflemen were back home, most following the end of the mission in Afghanistan, our growth became very evident. During the change of command on September 24th, it was necessary to break from tradition by forming up in three ranks, rather than the two ranks that are commonly used by rifle regiments, to fit all of the regiment on the Moss Park Armoury parade square. In addition to attracting a high number of recruits who are keen to join a popular regiment, the unit is continually seeing soldiers transfer in



PHOTOS THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: QOR soldiers receiving orders during Exercise MAPLE DEFENDER at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre at CFB Wainwright, Alberta, August 19-28, 2011. At the CMTC, soldiers are equipped with state-of-the-art laser generators for their weapons, and laser sensors and GPS units for their tactical equipment, allowing trainers to track the events of each battle. The scenario of EX MD 2011 was conventional combat, a change from the army's recent focus on counterinsurgency and full spectrum operations. (CPL IGOR R. KORPAN, 32 CBG PHOTOGRAPHER)

from the regular force as well as other reserve army units due to our professional reputation.

The increase in the number of rifleman in the ranks has been accompanied by a very intense operational tempo. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada regularly provides instructors and candidates for courses, filling individual and collective training commitments and providing soldiers for tasks and operations around the country.

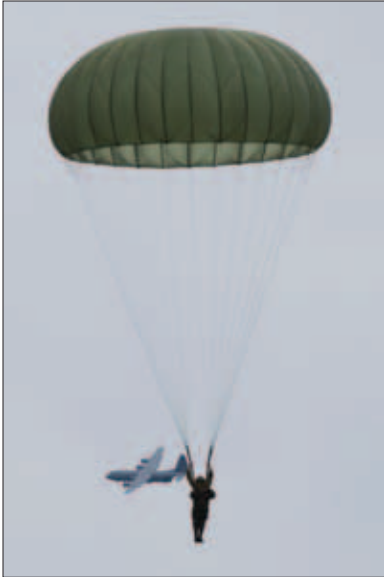
In 2011, the Queen's Own Rifles had several members teaching and attending courses. Our instructors taught on such courses as Advanced Mountain Operations, Basic Para and Basic Infantry Qualification. In January and February, the QOR took the lead in running a basic winter warfare exercise and in March conducted a Rappel Master Course for 32 Canadian Brigade Group. We also had many instructors deployed to Land Force Central Area Training

Centre Meaford during the summer months to teach the Basic Military and Infantry Course.

The regiment also continues to provide instructors for courses that are run at the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) at CFB Trenton, with several members being full-time instructors and several more augmenting instructor positions.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada works hard at pre-





**PHOTO LEFT
AND BELOW:** *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada jump at CFB Borden, Ontario, on October 11, 2011.*

senting challenging and exciting training while meeting our individual and collective battle-task standards. In January, we conducted our annual winter indoctrination and the follow-

ing month we spiced it up by conducting an offensive operations exercise in a winter context. Concurrently, several members supported the 32CBG Arctic Response Company during Exercise POLAR WARRIOR. In March, we honed our skills in counter-insurgency operations by staging out of an austere combat outpost that was established in the FIBUA (Fighting In Built-Up Areas) village in Meaford. The month of April had the unit refining its live-fire individual and pairs movement.

During May, Exercise PEGASUS CHALLENGE presented our soldiers with the opportunity to show off their skills. During this exercise over a 13 kilometre route, teams from the Queen's Own competed against each other in performing such battle tasks as rappelling and a highline. In June, July and August, the focus was on individual training by candidates and instructors on a variety of courses. Some riflemen also served on the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa in the summer.

At the end of August, more than 50 riflemen deployed to the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, located in Wainwright, Alberta, for two weeks to participate in Exercise MAPLE DEFENDER. During this same time period, the unit's Complex Terrain Cell ran the highline event at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto for Op CONNECTION.

During the first weekend of October, a platoon was generated to support 35CBG for Exercise RESTORE SOVEREIGNTY in Quebec. This involved an amphibious landing on an island located in the St. Lawrence and resulted in the regiment receiving deserved praise from

35CBG for its performance. This was followed by five days of professional development training for a number of unit members in Quantico, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

At the end of October, the unit exercised its mountain operations skill by conducting a rough terrain and rappel insertion to occupy a defensive position. This position was further developed and our defensive was practiced in the snow of Meaford in our final exercise of the year in December.

On the para side of our operational capability, the Queen's Own continue to get new jumpers qualified as well as sending personnel to participate in exercises with 3RCR. In June and November, our paratroopers had the opportunity to become familiar with the new CF aircraft by making parachute descents from the new C-17 and C-130J aircraft.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada currently have a battalion HQ, two fighting companies (60th Coy in Toronto and Buffs Coy based at Dalton Armoury in Scarborough) as well as combat support company, Victoria Coy, in Toronto. The combat support company holds our Recce Platoon and new Complex Terrain Platoon, which was created as the unit has several Advanced Mountain Operations (AMO) and Basic Mountain Operations (BMO) groups that are consistently performing complex terrain tasks for the unit and externally. The Queen's Own's Para Company is a composite company that draws paratroopers from all three companies.

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that what we believe is the busiest reserve unit in the Canadian Forces lived up to its reputation in 2011. ■





3PPCLI

Basic Parachute Course: The Beginning of an Airborne Career

*by Lieutenant Rob Hastings
B Company (Para)*

Basic Parachute Serial 0117 was the first of two scheduled decentralized B Para's to be run by 3PPCLI at CFB Edmonton, as opposed to being run by the CF Land Advanced Warfare Centre in Trenton, running from September 6 to 21. Due to complications with securing aircraft at CFB Edmonton, Jump Stage was conducted out of CFB Trenton. This added considerably more work onto the course for both the staff and the candidates, yet everything still went off without any hitches.

Although the majority of candidates were from 3PPCLI, there was still a great deal of representation from within 1CMBG including 1CER, 1RCHA, and 1 Fd Amb, due to the push to qualify a number of enablers for Exercise ARCTIC RAM, the battle group's upcoming sovereignty operation. There were also a fair amount of primary reservists on the course hailing from LFWA's Loyal Edmonton Regiment, 735 Comm Regt and 116 Ind Fd Bty.

This is one of the best run courses in the CF at the

moment due to the fact that it has been largely unchanged over the past several decades, leaving the delivery near perfected. The course lasts three weeks and is divided into two stages: Ground and Jump. The first phase requires the candidates to successfully pass a strict set of tests, proving they have mastered the basics required to safely move on to the final week of training — Jump Stage. The focus during Ground Stage is on aircraft drill, flight drill, landings and equipment rigging.

Aircraft drill focuses on teaching the candidates the specific drills done within the aircraft as they are preparing to jump. These classes are taught using a mock-up of the CC-130 Hercules aircraft, as it is the primary aircraft that is jumped out of in the CF. The ultimate focus of these classes is to ensure the timely and consistent execution of

Above, candidates of the para course fill the sky during their descent. (MCPL MICHAEL TURESKY)



The 2011 B Para Serial 0117 course. (SGT DOUG DESROCHERS)

drills, namely properly exiting of the aircraft. In the second week of the course, the aircraft drills move to the mock tower, a 32-foot structure designed to replicate the CC-130 Hercules. This allows the jump candidates to jump from the tower and properly execute their exit drills while free-falling for 10 feet, simulating the time it takes for the static line parachute to open. After the free-fall, they are caught by a zip-line that carries them to a raised area where they can disconnect from the zip-line. The mock tower serves many purposes, namely preparing the candidates for the height and assessing them on their form as they exit. It is maintained that at 32-feet our mind experiences the same amount of hesitation as it would at 1,000 feet, so the muscle memory a candidate learns here ensures that they will successfully exit the aircraft.

Flight drills cover everything the jumper will need to know from the time he leaves the aircraft until the moment he is ready to land. It is conducted in flight assemblies that each hold an individual in their harness suspended approximately two feet in the air by a set of risers. The core of this training is based on the "Five Points of Flight Procedure" that are required for all descents. On top of these drills, flight training also covers all the actions required for any irregularities in the landing zone or emergencies during descent.

Landing training is conducted on a rope and pulley system that the harnessed candidates are able to hook up to. This allows them to be hoisted into the air and then swung while a Parachute Instructor (PI) lowers them to the ground to simulate a landing. The PIs instruct and correct the candidates on proper posture during

their landings. Improper landings are undesirable as the ground and parachute instructors are quick to point out your shortcomings. While all aspects of Ground Stage are crucial, the primary way that candidates find themselves injured is from bad landing during Jump Stage and it is for this reason that mastery of landings during the Ground Stage is of such importance.

The final part of Ground Stage training is rigging. It is during this time that candidates will learn how to successfully pack their rucksacks into the Parachute Deployment Bag (PDB) and how to rig their rifles and snowshoes (if jumping with winter kit). It is also at this time that candidates will learn the joys of standing for extended periods of time in a harness with 75-plus pounds of kits awkwardly attached to their bodies.

After successfully passing Ground Stage, candidates entered the much-anticipated Jump Stage. Due to issues securing aircraft in Edmonton, the Jump Stage of this serial was moved to Trenton. Even with this untimely hiccup, the course was still able to keep on schedule, due to the hard work over the weekend of the staff and candidates.

Jump Stage is comprised of five jumps — no equipment, just the PDB, full equipment summer, full equipment winter and, finally, full equipment winter at night. Despite all of the ground training being done to prepare candidates for jumping from a CC-130 Hercules, all of the jumps in Trenton ended up being conducted out of a smaller civilian aircraft called a Casa 212 that is only configured for ramp jumps.

Fortunately, this did not detract from the overall experience and sense of awe that the candidates felt during any of their jumps. It would be an understatement to say that the candidates were immensely proud and felt a great sense of honour and tradition during the graduation ceremonies. With the pinning of the wings on their chests they entered a brotherhood with tradition and heritage that rivals that of any unit in the Canadian Forces.

For the final word I will hand it over to someone who said it best — Field Marshall the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein: "Of all the factors which make for success in battle the spirit of the warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure in the men who wear the maroon beret."

Airborne! ■



3PPCLI

Ex MOUNTAIN SPARTAN: Basic Mountain Operations Course

*by Lieutenant Ryan Cooper
2IC B Company*



High above on a rock face hundreds of feet off the ground, soldiers of 3PPCLI donning Swiss seats and rucksacks complete a decent to the valley floor below. Exercise MOUNTAIN SPARTAN marks the end of mountain training for B Company, 3PPCLI.

The Basic Mountain Operations (BMO) course started on July 11 with 48 students and ran until July 25. Candidates began in garrison Edmonton for the first five days learning basic skills such as knots, lashings and rope characteristics. They finished off week one by completing four of the seven PCs required for the qualification.

The second week began with the deployment to a bivouac site established outside of Kamloops, B.C. on property owned by the New Gold mining corporation. Introducing them to the expected living conditions and expedition life of the mountaineer, conditions were austere and meals provided by a fly-in kitchen.

As the week began, soldiers were introduced to the

climbing site near Roche Lake where they would complete the remainder of their training. Arriving on buses each morning at 0800 hours and conducting round robin training, the first three days consisted of basic rappelling, fixed lines and top rope climbing. Though unfamiliar to most, top rope proved to be the most popular and all soldiers regardless of experience excelled at climbing the myriad of routes available to them, regardless of the use of combat boots as footwear.

The next three-day round robin training block switched from basic individual movement to more advanced techniques and complex systems, which comprised of advanced rappel techniques, bridging and raise/lower casualties. The requirements for the prospective BMO also became more demanding as they were required to assist

Candidates demonstrate their top climbing skills at the Roche Lake climbing area in Kamloops, B.C., during BMO serial 1101. (LT RYAN COOPER, 3PPCLI)



Cpl. James conducts a rappel over an overhang in the Tranquille Valley, Kamloops, B.C., during Ex MOUNTAIN SPARTAN. (LT RYAN COOPER, 3PPCLI)



Soldiers from 3PPCLI conduct a tandem rappel at the Roche Lake climbing area in Kamloops, B.C., during BMO serial 1101. (LT RYAN COOPER, 3PPCLI)

Advanced Mountain Operators (AMO) in the construction of these systems.

Placing emphasis of mountain safety and the inherent dangers of combat complicated by mountainous terrain, candidates were subjected to not only day training in raise / lower casualties, but night iterations as well. This afforded soldiers the opportunity to experience a night on the rock. As training progressed, soldiers became acutely aware of the demanding circumstances and conditions of working in the dark close to and sometimes over an edge, all while maintaining light and noise discipline.

Rappelling, a fan favorite, introduced students to a number of rappel devices and techniques while building their confidence in their own skills and culminating with the ability to rappel without a brakeman. Bridging classes brought to light the considerations required during planning as a considerable amount of stores are required to build. Bridging comprised mainly of the hasty and deliberate high-lines, their construction and operation.

Once all PCs were complete, the course concluded with an FTX requiring the candidates to move tactically through mountainous terrain carrying the equipment required to cross a number of obstacles. Each section was given a specific task and was required, under the direction of an AMO, to construct and operate the installation while the remainder of the patrol moved though as three obstacles in total were to be traversed.

As the course concluded, students boarded buses to re-join the remainder of their platoons from B Coy who had

arrived a day earlier to participate in Exercise MOUNTAIN SPARTAN in the Cherry Creek area north of Kamloops.

The exercise was intended to provide a training audience for the national AMO course assisting them as they completed their FTX. Additionally, it would allow B Coy the opportunity to brush up on its tactical movement in the mountains.

The three organizations linked up in a pre-established FOB and, after quick introductions, immediately began battle procedure. With student AMO's filling the role as advisors to the patrols, each platoon was given a specific objective to attack while patrol platoon acted as scouts.

Stepping off early in the afternoon at 1500 hours on the 25th, patrol platoon with its AMOs moved forward to conduct route reces and picket objectives for the night. Five Platoon would step off first at 0500 hour on the 26th followed closely behind an hour later by 4 and 6 Platoons.

Working through dense brush and steep inclines, all three platoons made their way to their objectives. Each platoon would be required to navigate the terrain and utilize student AMOs and their new-found skills to traverse the many obstacles, varying from water crossings, fixed lines and rappelling.

Once the platoons linked up with their recce elements, they attacked on a pre-established H-Hour successfully eliminating all enemy from their assigned objectives.

The platoons consolidated on 6 Platoon's objective for the final company rappel and water crossing before concluding the exercise on the valley floor. Movement



3PPCLI

Leapfest XXIX: 3PPCLI Distinguishes Itself at International Parachuting Competition

*by Corporal Ryan Tucker
B Company (Para)*

On August 1, 2011, 10 members of 3PPCLI Parachute Company travelled to Narragansett, Rhode Island to take part in Leapfest XXIX. Over 12 days, they competed with international parachute teams from across the world including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Morocco, the United States and the United Kingdom. In addition to the competition, all international parachute teams conducted friendship jumps, foreign wing exchanges and other camaraderie-building events put on by the hosts of Leapfest, the 56th Troop Command Rhode Island Army National Guard.

The Leapfest parachuting competition has been running annually each August since its inception in 1982 making it the largest and longest continuously run international parachuting competition in the world. The team-based competition was first and foremost designed to promote

LEAPFEST continued on page 26



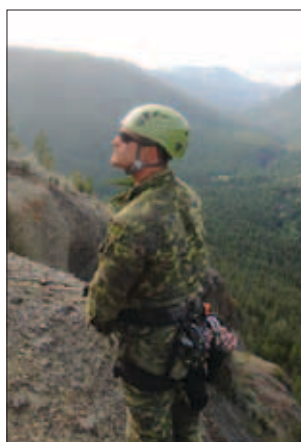
AMO candidate MCpl Jay Young, 1RCR, supervises a rappel installation during Ex MS while soldiers from B Coy, 3PPCLI, await their turn to rappel. (CAPT. JAMIE GALT, CFLAWC)

throughout the exercise was greatly enhanced through the use of the student AMOs as rarely are so many available to conduct such an exercise.

Overall, Ex MOUNTAIN SPARTAN was a resounding success and the BMO course was able to qualify all 48 students. Additionally, the exercise allowed for an opportunity to assess the two courses as they relate to the current state of mountain operations. This provided valuable feedback in regards to course requirements and conduct directly to CFLAWC, which will hopefully have an impact on future course delivery. ■

BOTTOM LEFT: Troops from B Coy 3PPCLI are hooked up and waiting for their turn to rappel during Ex MOUNTAIN SPARTAN in Tranquille Valley, Kamloops, B.C.

BOTTOM RIGHT: AMO candidate MCpl. Jay Young, 1RCR, is high above the Tranquille Valley, supervising soldiers at a rappel installation. (PHOTOS BY CAPT. JAMIE GALT, CFLAWC)





FOR TREASURER USE

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Application Form

Canadian Airborne Forces Association

Regular membership: (proof of military parachute qualification to accompany application form.)

Please Print

1. Surname: _____ Given Name _____
2. Mailing Address: _____
3. City or Town: _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
4. Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____
5. Unit served in: _____
6. Date of military parachute qualification: _____
7. How do you wish your name to appear on membership card: _____
8. New Member: _____ Renewals, please include your CAFA # _____
9. Associate membership: _____

Associate Membership:

Persons interested in furthering the objectives of the Corporation whose application for admission as an associate member will require the approval of the Corporation or an appropriate branch. (Please attach such information as you wish to support your application.) If applying for an associate membership, use the application form above but designate that it is for Associate Membership in section 9.

Membership fees enclosed ___ \$20.00 for 1 year ___ \$55.00 for 3 years ___ \$100.00 for 6 years ___

Members residing in United States, add \$7.50 per year, overseas members add \$15.00 per year for Maroon Beret postage cost.

Return completed Application Form along with cheque or money order made out to (Canadian Airborne Forces Association) and mail to.

Malcolm Hallick

CAFA Treasurer

34 Sage Cr. Nepean, On. K2J 1T4

Phone # (613) 825-0252 E-mail: malhallick@rogers.com

The Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC)

1. Family Name: _____ First Name & Init: _____
2. Rank (or Occupation): _____ Service Number: _____
3. How do you wish your name to appear on your membership card? _____
4. Address (Home): _____ Apt: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
5. Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

6. Only those who served in the Regiment & Battle Group would be identified as regular members. All others who wear the silver maple leaf are eligible to become associate members. Please identify the time that you served from the list below.

- a. 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion (1 Can Bn) 1942/1945 _____
- b. First Special Service Forces (FSSF - CDN/USA) 1942/1944 _____
- c. Special Air Service (SAS COY) 1947/1949 _____
- d. Mobile Striking Force (MSF) 1948/1958 _____
- e. Defence of Canada Force (DCF) 1958/1968 _____
- f. Canadian Airborne Regiment (Cdn AB Regt) & Battle Group 1968/1995 _____
- g. Airborne School & CFPMD _____
- h. Jump Companies _____

7. Current Airborne Associations (if applicable): _____ new member? _____ renewal?

Do you know your ARAC Number: _____ Coin Number: _____?

8. Registration Fees: ___\$20.00 for 1 year ___\$55.00 for 3 years ___\$100.00 for 6 years

9. Associate / Honorary Members ___\$20.00 for 1 year

NOTE: Cdn \$ for Canadian addresses, US \$ for US and Foreign addresses

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Signature: _____ Date: _____



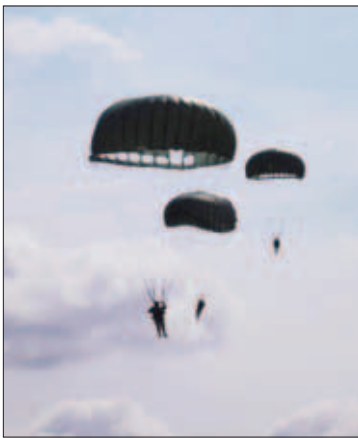
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Web: www.airborneassociation.com

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New member given # _____ New Exp date: _____ Receipt # _____ Jan 11



ABOVE LEFT: Paratroopers of 3PPCLI steer into formation as they descend towards the drop zone. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Soldiers of 3PPCLI Parachute Company demonstrate their formation flying skills at Leapfest XXIX. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Paratroopers of 3PPCLI pause after their first jump to fine-tune their strategy. (ALL PHOTOS BY CPL MICHAEL BUSHELL, 3PPCLI)

the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the airborne soldier. A competition team consisted of five members, four jumpers and one alternate. Each team of four jumpers had to exit from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at 1,500 feet above ground level using the MC1-1D static line steerable parachute. Jumpers then would skillfully steer their parachutes in order to land on a target, marked as an "X" placed on the drop zone. If the jumper failed to land on the target, he was then timed from his moment of impact until he was able to run and touch the "X," stopping his time. Individual times were added together for a total team score with each team conducting three separate jumps.

The morning of the competition began early on August 6 with opening ceremonies, welcoming the international participants to Leapfest. After the parade was dismissed with a loud and thunderous "Airborne!" participants began to immediately conduct final drill rehearsals, donned their parachutes and discussed last minute team strategy. A low ceiling early in the morning made for a slight delay, but the weather soon cleared up and the competition was underway. The two teams from the Parachute Company skillfully executed all three competition jumps. All paratroopers managed to avoid all obstacles on and around the drop zone. Landing impressively close to the target, despite relatively high winds over the drop zone, one team member scored an astounding time of 0.43 seconds. Team 1 from 3PPCLI distinguished itself by scoring a remarkable team total of 218.21 seconds for all three competition jumps, giving them the third best overall time in the competition

and winning first place overall for all international teams at Leapfest XXIX.

The Rhode Island National Guard facilitated a variety of other events for the international parachuting teams. These included a challenging obstacle course competition, rappelling, HMMWV rollover simulation training, as well as the use of their Firearms Training System. Most notably was a trip to New York City, which included a sobering visit to the site of Ground Zero. Leapfest XXIX concluded with all international teams conducting a "friendship jump" and foreign wings exchange. The jump gave our Canadian competitors the chance to be dispatched by international jump masters and a chance to be awarded jump wings from the foreign countries participating.

Leapfest XXIX has served as a strong testament to the camaraderie of the Airborne Brotherhood and to the professionalism and skill of the soldiers of 3PPCLI. The successes and experiences of Leapfest this year have opened the door for 3PPCLI to defend their international title at next year's competition, which will be the event's 30th anniversary. ■

International Team Champions of Leapfest XXIX. From left to right: Cpl. Tom Genore, Lt. Ryan Cooper, Cpl. Phil Millar, Cpl. Michael Bushell and Cpl. Jordan Taylor. (CPL RYAN TUCKER)





CSOR

Canadian Special Operations Regiment

2011 was another extremely high tempo year for CSOR with the focus on operations. With members of the regiment deployed around the globe, the Para Section was able to maintain and develop its parachute capability, always keeping an operational focus.

Whether it was perfecting static line square or freefall training by day and night, the Regiment's Para Section consistently challenged themselves and the operators to build tighter stacks and land in remote drop zones with increased precision and accuracy.

Realizing the continued need for flexibility and the possibility of a mass round jump as a means of insertion, our jumpers maintained currency training using the CT-1 and CT-2. Jumping took place throughout the year using the CH-146 Griffon, CC-130J Hercules and C-17 Star Lifter.

As the regiment grows, we continue to develop a parachute capability with special operations in mind, trialing different parachutes and equipment that will meet our needs into the future. We are also pushing the envelope to develop the most effective means to support

our personnel on the ground. One method that is proving very successful is aerial delivery resupply, which allows us to support our operators in complex terrain with mission essential equipment and supplies needed to complete their missions.

The annual Menton Days in Fort Lewis, Washington, were once again a focal point for strengthening historical ties to our U.S. special forces counterparts and to conduct a jump exchange. The parachute jumps were all conducted from CH-147 Chinook helicopters using the SF 10A steerable round parachute. Honouring tradition, the week came to an end with our SF brothers hosting us at the Menton Ball. It was a first-class event and a great time was had by all. We look forward to a return in 2012.

It has been a very exciting and fast-paced year that has consistently seen the regiment's parachute capability advancing, with tremendous support from 8 Wing Trenton and the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre. We are expecting 2012 to push us to the next level.

Light winds and soft landings. Audeamus (Let Us Dare). ■



R22eR PARA COY

Ex RAFALE BLANCHE

*text and photos by/texte et photos par
Sergeant (ret'd) Mike Reshitnyk, CD*



Valcartier's 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group emptied the garrison to occupy six rural municipal regions over a vast territory 30 kilometres south of Quebec City. Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE was held between January 31 and February 10, 2012. Over 3,000 soldiers with 700 vehicles took part in the exercise, including the paratroopers of 3R22R A Company (Para) commanded by Maj. William Girard with MWO Alain Oligny.

The sands of Afghanistan had taken over priority for training, rest and deployments the last decade and it was time for the troops to get back to the snow of Quebec. It's

Le 5^e Groupe-brigade mécanisé du Canada a vidé la garnison de Valcartier pour assiéger six municipalités régionales de comté sur un vaste territoire à 30 kilomètres au sud de Québec. L'exercice RAFALE BLANCHE avait lieu du 31 janvier au 10 février 2012. Plus de 3 000 militaires avec 700 véhicules ont participé à l'exercice, incluant les parachutistes du 3R22R Cie A (Para) commandé par le Major William Girard avec l'Adjudant-maître Alain Oligny.

Le sable de l'Afghanistan a eu la priorité sur l'entraînement, le repos, et les déploiements pendant

ABOVE: After years spent in the sand of Afghanistan, paratroopers of 3R22R A Coy (Para), along with their Recce Platoon, get reacquainted with the snow of Quebec, trading in their LAVs for snowmobiles. Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE 2012 was the first brigade-size exercise of 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group outside of the Valcartier garrison in five years. ■

CI-HAUT: Après des années passées dans le sable de l'Afghanistan, les parachutistes du 3R22R Cie A (Para), avec leur peloton de reconnaissance, se refamiliarisent avec la neige du Québec, en changeant leur véhicules LAV pour des motoneiges. L'exercice RAFALE BLANCHE 2012 était le premier exercice de niveau de la brigade du 5^e Groupe-brigade mécanisé du Canada à l'extérieur de la garnison de Valcartier depuis cinq ans.



A member of 3R22R A Coy (Para) spreads out an orange marker panel and secures it with tent pegs and snow on a wind-swept drop zone before an anticipated drop during Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE 2012. ■ Un membre du 3R22R Cie A (Para) étend un panneau d'indication orange et le fixe avec des piquets de tente et de la neige sur un DZ balayé par le vent avant un saut anticipé durant l'exercice RAFALE BLANCHE 2012.

been more than five years since the brigade conducted such a large movement's exercise outside of the Valcartier garrison.

The objectives of the exercise were multiple. Group and individual basic winter training on foot or on vehicle was the first followed by large-scale movement of troops over a large area with coordination, communications and resupply tasks. Finally, there was the cultivation of relations between military and municipal authorities where the exercise was held. This included a public relations gesture with local residents. Open houses were conducted by units of the brigade, including 3R22R A Coy (Para) who were bivouacked at Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage, a small farming community south of Quebec City.

For the paratroopers, patrolling skills on foot or snowmobiles, winter field craft, long-range communications and winter weapons handling were emphasised. On hand with the company were a dozen Polish paratroopers who got a good taste of a Canadian winter.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate as far as parachute training was concerned. A scheduled air assault on the first day of the exercise had to be cancelled. High winds and low clouds severely cut the number of drops

la dernière décennie et il était temps que les militaires reviennent à la neige du Québec. Plus de cinq ans ont passé depuis que la brigade a mené un exercice de grande envergure à l'extérieur de la garnison de Valcartier.

Les objectifs de l'exercice étaient multiples. L'entraînement d'hiver de base, en groupe et individuel, à pied ou en véhicule, était le premier objectif, suivi par le mouvement à grande échelle des troupes sur un vaste territoire avec des tâches de coordination, communication et approvisionnement.

Finalement, il fallait cultiver les relations entre militaires et autorités municipales sur le lieu de l'exercice. Ceci incluait des actions de relations publiques avec les résidents locaux.

Des portes ouvertes ont été organisées par les unités de la brigade, incluant le 3R22R Cie A (Para) qui était en bivouac à Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage, une petite communauté agricole au sud de Québec.

Pour les parachutistes, l'emphase de l'entraînement était sur les compétences de patrouille à pied ou à motoneige, la survie en hiver, les communications de longue distance et le maniement des armes en hiver.

As the Herc makes a run in line with the DZ from a distance, a ground controller buffeted by blowing snow at the impact point checks the wind one final time. Four passes were already waved off due to gusting winds above the accepted 13 knots. The fifth pass was also a no-go. The anticipated air assault would have to wait for another time. ■ Pendant que l'Hercule à bonne distance s'enlève avec le DZ, un contrôleur au sol au point d'impact, balayé par des rafales de vent et de neige, vérifie les vents une dernière fois. Quatre passages ont déjà été annulés à cause de rafales de vent qui dépassaient 13 nœuds. Le cinquième passage a aussi été annulé. L'assaut aéroporté anticipé devra attendre un autre temps.





Cpl. Éric Cormier and Cpl. Marc Savoie prepare their medical kit before deployment with their platoons. Although both are members of 5^e Ambulance de campagne, under a new system they are permanently attached to 3R22R A Coy (Para) and are maroon beret-wearing paratroopers. A third med tech will soon be attached to the company after undergoing parachute training. ■ Le Cpl. Éric Cormier et le Cpl. Marc Savoie préparent leur trousse médicale avant le déploiement avec leurs pelotons. Les deux sont membres de la 5^e Ambulance de campagne. Mais dans un nouveau système ils sont affectés en permanence avec le 3R22R Cie A (Para) et sont parachutistes portant le Bérêt Marron. Un troisième technicien médical sera bientôt affecté à la compagnie après avoir complété son entraînement de parachutiste.

planned later in the week, with one chalk making five passes over the DZ before getting the stop drop.

Eventually, all the Polish paratroopers completed their jump as well as 85 members of the company.

This exercise comes after the return of the company from their final rotation from Afghanistan last fall, which was marred by the death of Cpl. Steve Martin. Upon return from their winter training, individual members of the company will soon leave for Afghanistan as trainers for the Afghan army. ■

Mike served with the Canadian Airborne Regiment with the ASSU's medical platoon between 1976-77 as NCO IC of the medical section attached to 1 Commando. ■ Mike a servi dans le Régiment aéroporté du Canada avec le peloton médical du « Airborne Service Support Unit » entre 1976-77. Il était le sous-officier responsable de la section médicale attachée au 1^{er} Commando.

During Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE 2012, 3R22R A Coy (Para) held an open house for the villagers of Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage where the soldiers were bivouacked. Sheldon Gélinas with mom Chantal Desrosiers and dad Christian Gélinas watch as Para Kevin Guillemette shows them equipment used for winter warfare survival. Weapons, snowmobiles, winter tents and ration packs were items that generated much interest. ■ Pendant l'exercice RAFALE BLANCHE 2012, 3R22R Cie A (Para) a tenu une journée portes-ouvertes pour les résidents de Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage où les soldats étaient cantonnés. Sheldon Gélinas avec sa mère Chantal Desrosiers et son père Christian Gélinas, observe le Para Kevin Guillemette qui leur montre des équipements utilisés pour la survie en opérations hivernales. Les armes, motoneiges, tentes d'hiver et paquets de rations sont les éléments qui ont suscité le plus d'intérêt.



Pour l'exercice, une douzaine de parachutiste polonais se sont joints à la compagnie et ont bien goûté à l'hiver canadien.

Malheureusement, la météo n'a pas coopéré en ce qui concerne l'entraînement en parachute. Un assaut aéroporté planifié pour la première journée de l'exercice à été annulé. Les forts vents et les nuages trop bas ont sévèrement coupé le nombre de sauts en parachute planifiés plus tard dans la semaine, avec un chalk qui a fait cinq passages au-dessus du DZ avant l'annulation. Éventuellement, tous les polonais ont sauté une fois et 85 membres de la compagnie ont aussi réussi leur saut.

Cet exercice survient après le retour de la compagnie de leur dernière rotation de l'Afghanistan l'automne dernier, qui fut gâché par le décès du Cpl. Steve Martin.

Au retour de l'exercice, plusieurs membres de la compagnie vont partir pour l'Afghanistan afin d'entraîner les militaires Afghans. ■



70 YEARS OF PARACHUTING

*Historical Officer
Canadian Military Headquarters
Report No. 138*



The year 2012 marks the 70th anniversary of military parachuting in Canada. Maroon Beret readers will be interested in this historical document written in 1945 that describes the early days.

This report is an outline of the events leading up to the formation of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and its subsequent history to, but not including, its participation in the first phase of the Allied invasion of France.

1. The use of airborne troops, with which the Russians originally experimented and which the Germans used with conspicuous success when they invaded the Low Countries in May, 1940, was first considered, from the point of view of application to the Canadian war effort, in November of that year. On 12 Nov, in a memorandum prepared at NDHQ for the Chief of the General Staff by Col (now Maj.-Gen) E.L.M. Burns, the advantages of this form of warfare were considered, and the opinion was expressed that: "Airborne

troops are merely the most mobile form of land forces, and the fact that some of them land by parachute is due to the characteristics of the aeroplane". With respect to reported parachute training in the United Kingdom, the suggestion was made that Canada might make a contribution in this field.

2. The suggestion was forwarded to C.M., in December, 1940, with the request that the views of the War Office be ascertained. British parachute troops were then being organized and one "special service battalion" was undergoing active training. The intention was to use these troops in the role formerly filled by Light Cavalry, "to seize

After a select group of Canadian soldiers completed their basic parachutist course on September 12, 1942 at RAF Parachute School in Ringway, Cheshire, England, they were sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, and formed the nucleus of the First Canadian Parachute Battalion. Above, Cpl. N.R. Chapman trains on the high tower shock harness at Fort Benning. (LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, PA-205024)

bridge crossings, defiles and aerodromes well in advance of the slower moving main body of the army". The War Office did not however visualize the use of these troops in large numbers, and it was not anticipated that there would be any request for provision of such personnel by Canada.

3. At a meeting held at C.M.H.Q. on 20 Dec 40, and attended by Lieut.-General A.G.L. McNaughton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. 7 Corps, and Major-General H.D.G. Crerar, D.S.O., C.G.S., the question of training various categories of airborne troops was raised. The record of the meeting states: "General Crerar said that while he is agreeable to a proportion (say a platoon) in each infantry battalion being trained in this work, he is not in favour of training special airborne units unless the War Office make specific requests for them, when is unlikely ... General McNaughton stated that he feels that the use of air-borne troops has distinct possibilities but, having regard to the remarks of General Crerar and the scale of such units as proposed by the War Office, he is not prepared to press his views." There is nothing to indicate that any further development occurred for the ensuing eight months. The critical situation, both in the Atlantic and on the other war fronts, served to focus attention elsewhere during this period, and the official British attitude had suggested limitations on progress along the lines originally contemplated.

4. In August, 1941, by which time the prospects of offensive action against the enemy had brightened, the question of organizing Canadian Parachute Troops was raised again at NDHQ. The advantages of organizing for this type of warfare were reviewed, as were the disadvantages — the latter being principally the problem of whether, considering the time, money and equipment involved, a Canadian contribution would be practicable. There was also the point that the Canadian Corps was not then complete, and its existing role did not require such specialized troops. In answer to an enquiry from NDHQ. General McNaughton stated: "I do not advocate the establishment of any separate Para Tps in Cdn Forces". In his view, the only justification for such special units would be: "(a) Probability of early and continued employment in special role (b) Need for specialized training on lines greatly different from regular units" (ibid.). He thought that neither of these conditions existed at that time, and that if, at some future date, it was felt necessary to provide these troops, they would be selected from existing units and given the requisite training.

5. Two factors operated to bring about a revived interest in the possibility of organizing Canadian parachutists during the autumn of 1941 and the early part of 1942. By October, 1941, the War Office was considering a much more ambitious programme of airborne activity than had been originally contemplated, and, simultaneously with this development, the Royal Canadian Air Force began to anticipate a demand for co-operation with airborne troops. The War Office was now thinking in terms of an "Air Landing Brigade Group", with an additional parachute component of possibly three battalions. A force of 2,500 parachutists, was to be formed and this number might be increased. The possibility of even an infantry division in a dual role as airborne troops was under examination. Finally, on 1 Nov 41, the War Office decided to form an Airborne Division consisting of a Divisional H.Q. with R.A.F. Wing incorporated, a Parachute Brigade, an Airlanding Brigade Group and a Glider Battalion (a regiment of army glider pilots).

6. At the same time, R.C.A.F. Headquarters in Canada, with a view to ascertaining what equipment they might be expected to supply, had solicited information through the Air Officer Commanding R.C.A.F. in Great Britain. The matter was referred to the Canadian Corps Commander once more and, while adhering substantially to the view expressed on 19 Aug 41 (see para 5), he stated that, if facilities existed, "it might be useful to give attention to this type of training in Canada," and he added that he hoped similar arrangements for Canadian units in the United Kingdom might be possible when equipment became available. A further reference to General McNaughton's attitude is to be found in a memorandum relating to a conference which he had with General Sir Bernard Paget, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., C.-in-C., Home Forces, on 25 Dec 41. In the course of this meeting, General Paget "agreed with Gen McNaughton's policy in regard to not forming special paratroops units; i.e., that such units should fundamentally be standard military units which, with a comparatively short period of special training, could be employed as paratroops".

7. The policy to be adopted with regard to paratroops remained under consideration by General McNaughton and NDHQ during the early part of 1942. There is little material available to throw light on this important period. A letter of 17 Feb 42 from C.M.H.Q. stated that: The policy to be adopted by the Canadian Army with regard to paratroop training is under consideration by NDHQ at the moment.

According to our latest information no decision was to be given until this matter had been thoroughly discussed with Lt.-General McNaughton. This negative evidence suggests that the decision was ultimately taken at NDHQ to provide a war establishment for "A Canadian Parachute Battalion", effective 1 Jul 42. Briefly, this establishment consisted of a battalion headquarters, a headquarters company and three rifle companies, with a total strength of 26 officers and 590 other ranks. A revised establishment provided for 31 Officers and 587 other ranks.

8. Again, there is a lack overseas of available material covering the actual organization and early training of the Battalion, under Lt.-Col. G.F.P. Bradbrooke, formerly of the Saskatoon Light Infantry (M.G.); but it is known that the Battalion was not recruited from any specially designated units. The officers came mainly from overseas units, and nearly all other ranks were taken from training centres and infantry units in Canada. (The call for volunteers for the 1st and 2nd Parachute Battalions in July and November 1942; the dispositions made respectively of the Canadian personnel who trained at FORT BENNING, GA., and at HELENA, MONT.; and the relationship of the formation of the two battalions to the organization of the Canadian- U.S. Special Service Force, are matters for investigation in Canada on the basis of the files of D.N.D.). A letter from Major-General G.R. Turner, then D.A. & Q.M.G. First Cdn Army, to the Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q., of 28 Jul 42, stated: I am to inform you that the G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, has agreed to provide personnel from the Cdn Army Overseas, for return to Canada for employment with a Parachute Bn, which will be shortly authorized and which will receive special training in connection with certain military projects now contemplated. Between 23 Aug and 12 Sep 42, 25 officers and 60 other ranks attended a R.A.F. Parachute Course at RINGWAY, before joining the unit in Canada.

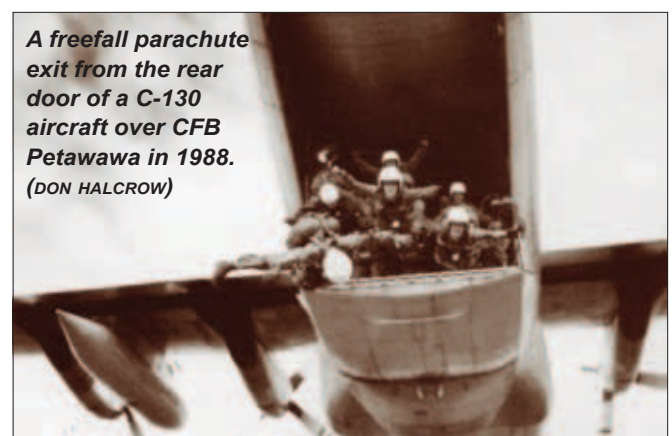
9. By 22 Mar 43, the Battalion had completed four months' training at FORT BENNING, Georgia, U.S.A., and had then moved to a Parachute Training Wing which had been set up at SHILO Manitoba. The American training absorbed by 1 Cdn Para Bn was of an elementary nature and there were slight variations from British methods. Jumpers qualified under the American system subsequently required a one week's conversion course in the United Kingdom. At the conclusion of the American training all officers and 97 percent of other ranks, including first reinforcements, had qualified for their parachutist wings, but no collective

training had been carried out. It was estimated that a further two months' training in the United Kingdom would be necessary before the unit was fit for active service.

10. The integration of 1 Cdn Para Bn into the British Airborne force was the next subject of discussion. On directions from NDHQ, General McNaughton took the matter up with General Paget. The latter welcomed the offer of the Battalion, and stated that it could be included in the British Airborne Division which was then being brought up to strength. It was agreed that the unit would remain part of the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom, but would be placed under command of the Airborne Division, to the staff of which Canadian Administrative officers would be added. It was also agreed, subject to the approval of the War Office, that standard British equipment would be provided and maintained by the Airborne Division. (Personal clothing and battledress continued to be a Canadian issue).

11. On 7 Apr 43 NDHQ cabled the necessary authority for inclusion of 1 Cdn Para Bn in the 6th British Airborne Division. At the same time General McNaughton was advised that the Battalion would represent an increase to the overseas manpower ceiling of 232,100. From this decision to include the Canadians in the British Airborne Division many problems arose. Prominent among these were the question of reinforcements for the battalion, the special problem of legal relationship between the Canadian unit and the British formation, and the mass of intricate administrative detail covering such matters as postal, pay and hospitalization arrangements. The way in which these difficulties were solved will be dealt with in subsequent paragraphs. ■

Editor's note: However, that's a story for another issue of The Maroon Beret.



A freefall parachute exit from the rear door of a C-130 aircraft over CFB Petawawa in 1988.
(DON HALCROW)



1 CAN PARA

Cadet Basic Para Course Graduation Ceremony

*by Jan de Vries
1 Can Para*



This was the 15th Para Cadet Graduation Joanne and I had the pleasure to attend at CFB Trenton on August 5, 2011. It is a particular pleasure for me to see these young 17 and 18 year-olds proudly receiving their wings.

This course attracts candidates from across the country, representing the most accomplished and fittest cadets. In order to qualify for consideration, an army cadet must be at least 16 years old, medically fit and physically capable of performing a minimum of seven chin-ups, 31 push-ups and a 1.6-kilometre run within 7.5 minutes. Applicants must have successfully completed National Star Certification and at least one Cadet Leader Instructor series course.

Cadets must first complete a two-week pre-para endurance training at CFB Trenton's Air Cadet Camp before they are put on the Basic Parachutist Course at CFB Trenton's Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre. Once they get into the Centre — before conducting the ultimate five jumps at CFB Trenton's Mountain View

aerodrome facility — cadets undergo a three-week course and receive ground training in parachute equipment, aircraft drills and exits, flight control and landing.

The graduation ceremony took place on a parade square at CFB Trenton. Lt.-Col. Paul Lockhart, the newly appointed commanding officer of CFLAWC, presented the wings to the successful cadets. Each cadet received a special para coin from representatives of ARAC.

The top candidate on the course was MWO Kyle Ryan, who is quite a Canadian. The announcement following his award from CFLAWC stated: "The Army Cadet League of Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion are pleased to announce that Cadet Master Warrant Officer Kyle Ryan of the 1913 Ontario Regiment RCACC was named Canada's most outstanding Army Cadet and the recipient of the 2011 General Walsh Memorial Sword."

Above, Jan de Vries with Cadet CWO Ryan Kerr, RSM of The Queen's Own Rifles Cadet Corps.



*1 Can Para
Bursary
recipient
Israël-Abdi
Corona-
Blanco,
Gabriel
Bilodeau,
Jan de Vries,
Kyle Ryan,
and Eugene
Kolesnik.*

"According to Marian MacDonald of the Ontario Branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada, Cadet Ryan is a nationally recognized Quinn Award winning musician and won the Major General Howard Award with a 99.1 per cent on his National Star Certification Exam.

"MWO Ryan received the Youth Community Leadership Award from the City of Pickering and is a recipient of the Legion Medal of Excellence, the Army Navy Air Force Veterans Medal of Merit, the Army Cadet Service Medal and the Major General Howard Medal and currently presides on the National Cadet Youth Advisory ePanel. MWO Ryan was the Top Cadet at the advanced Military Band Course at Mont St. Sacrement, Quebec, in 2010 and was similarly recognized as best Cadet in Blackdown Cadet Summer Training Centre in 2008 and 2009.

"Along with his involvement in the cadet program, Kyle is also a very active member of his local community, volunteering at a local nursing home and assisting at the Legion, and he still manages to maintain an academic average of 92.1 per cent in his secondary school studies. MWO Ryan recently completed the Basic Parachute Course this past summer, graduating in mid-August in Trenton, where he earned his 'para wings' in the same manner as a regular CF member. Furthermore, MWO Ryan earned top honours for this course as one of the Top Overall cadets chosen by the CFLAWC for the 2011 summer parachute course."

Another award recipient was MWO Israël-Abdi Corona-Blanco, who received our 1 Can Para bursary and will be studying engineering.

This was the first year that I did not pin the wings on the newly para-qualified cadets, but I took the opportunity to shake the hand and congratulate each and every cadet who received his wings. Congratulations to all the successful 2011 Basic Para Course grads. You deserve to be proud of your accomplishments. ■



1 CAN PARA

RCMI Military Band Spectacular, Roy Thomson Hall

by Joanne de Vries

For many years, Jan and I have organized a 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion exhibit for the yearly RCMi sponsored band concert held at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto each fall. The year 2011 was no exception. We sincerely appreciated the assistance of 1st Can Para re-enactment group member Ron Bergeron and his son, who put on an excellent display that greatly enhanced the few items we were able to gather together.

Since the battalion association has closed, members are very appreciative that the 1st Can Para re-enactment group has offered to do their best to continue managing an exhibit at this venue, using their members' combined collection of authentic battalion artifacts along with some reproduction articles and uniforms. The re-enactment group has excellent knowledge of the history of the battalion and is keen to preserve that history.

With the kind permission of Lt.-Col. Paul Lockhart, commanding officer of CFLAWC, there were two additional exhibits adjacent to 1st Can Para's: The Sky Hawks and CFLAWC. These combined exhibits drew huge interest from concert-goers and were crowded with people. Thanks to Capt. Jess Solinas, WO Mark Thibault and Capt. Pierre Pelletier who volunteered to set up and manage these exhibits.

The concert was excellent and most enjoyable; the hall almost filled to capacity. Please keep this event in mind for October 2012. The event is well worth attending. ■



ARAC

Army Cadet Para Course

*by David Jannison
2 CDO*



A beautiful sunny day shines upon 41 pressed and highly polished army cadets at CFB Trenton. These recent graduates of a regular army jump course stand proudly to receive the coveted jump wing para badge. It is a remarkable achievement for these teenage boys and girls.

The cadets that get to participate in this highly-desired course are the cream of the crop. The standards are the same for the cadets as they are for reservists and current members of the armed forces.

The reviewing officer was Major General Vance, who himself was a cadet para course graduate many years previous. He seemed delighted to be the reviewing officer this day, as he happened to bring along the officer who presented him with his wings, his father, Lt.-Gen. Vance (ret'd), who is also a qualified jumper.

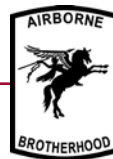
The Airborne Regiment Association of Canada each year presents each graduate with a personalized coin. This is a highly-prized memento of their achievement. Although they really do appreciate receiving it, most do not realize it is a gift of the Airborne Regiment Association paid for by

our members alone. We will gladly continue this practice as long as we exist.

Also in attendance to view the graduation was Mr. Jan de Vries of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion who gave each cadet their para wing badge. I am not sure the graduates completely understood the significance of his presence and the parade biographer was a little misinformed in some details of this cherished veteran. Nevertheless, my fellow Airborne Regiment members and I are always impressed by members of his unit as well as the First Special Service Force of WWII fame.

I always find that the best part of these ceremonials is when the final dismissal is given. That is when all the young jumpers really get it. They have become fully qualified military jumpers. All the spectators realize it as well because it's whooping and hollering time in very robust manner. That part hasn't changed since the first days of jump school grads.

Airborne, young jumpers, and may you always have fair winds and soft landings. ■



ARAC

Tour of Duty — Airborne 1: New Harley on the Road

text by Nicholas Laffin



There is a new motorcycle driving around the streets of Oshawa, Ontario. It belongs to Rick Kurelo, a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. After leaving the regular force, he joined the Oshawa Fire Services, where he has worked since, now holding the rank of acting captain. While in the firefighting services, he joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as an infantry soldier. He deployed with them to Bosnia in 2000 and most recently to Afghanistan in 2008. During his time there, he was wounded in action and upon returning to Canada, was awarded the Sacrifice Medal.

Rick has a lifetime of stories that range from shocking to hilarious, and so he decided to put them into a work of art. He bought a Harley Davidson last year and his plan began to take shape. Eagle Eye Custom Cycles and George "The Wizzard" came together to build and airbrush the motorcycle for him. His vision was for a tribute bike to Canadian Airborne troops. Therefore, it is named accordingly "Tour of Duty — Airborne 1." It was unveiled at the North American International Motorcycle Supershow and placed 2nd in its category.

The airbrushed masterpiece depicts many images, all reminding Rick of specific pictures and memories from overseas. His next plan is to compile his stories into a book, which he is working on getting published. Rick also does custom service medal mounting for military members. You can check his business out at www.rbkmedalmounting.com and for information on the motorcycle or to contact Rick go to www.rickkurelo.com. ■





ARAC

Hung Up!

*by Bruce Poulin
(as related to him by
Sergeant (ret'd) John Toupin)*

Members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) learn about the hazards of jumping out of a serviceable aircraft into harm's way very quickly. Tangled risers, failed parachutes and badly packaged chutes — although rare — were part and parcel of the risks associated with being a member of the prestigious Airborne Regiment.

Another possible failure, albeit rarely covered, occurred when a soldier's static line failed to pull the parachute open leaving. The result was a soldier dangling in the air held on to the aircraft by way of the static line that was fixed to the fuselage. The technical term used by the military was a "Hung-Up."

This is the story of a "Hung-Up" incident that occurred on or around January 3, 1976 during Exercise GRAVE-FLAT in Edmonton.

John Toupin joined the CF in 1969 and knew early on he wanted to serve in the CAR. Much to his pleasure, he was posted to the Airborne Regiment in 1972 as an artillery forward observation officer (FOO) with B Company, 1 Commando. It is worth noting here that Toupin was made



a FOO because there was a critical shortage of qualified artillery officers who would have normally filled this position.

Toupin was in his fourth year with the CAR with more than 49 successful jumps to his credit prior to Exercise GRAVE-FLAT. During this time he had learned to appreciate the professionalism of the members of the CAR as well as the necessity of maintaining a rigorous training program in most weather conditions — including winter.

Exercise GRAVE-FLAT was a two-day winter exercise like many other winter exercises Toupin had taken part in during the past few years with perhaps one exception: The weather conditions were particularly harsh this time around. Indeed, the predicted high on the day he was scheduled to jump was minus 30 degrees Celsius. So he made sure to dress warm.

However, once inside the aircraft, Toupin had other

Above, a photo montage of John Toupin, based on photographs taken in 1974.

more pressing issues to deal with. The first was the heat inside. He, along with the 17 other paratroopers onboard the aircraft were dressed for -30 degrees Celsius weather, but the temperature inside the aircraft was well above freezing. So it was not long before everyone began sweating profusely.

Air turbulence had not seemed to be a factor when he was on the ground, but once they were airborne, the air turbulence caused the CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft to bob up and down so much that several paratroopers became sick and threw up inside the aircraft.

Needless to say, the heat combined with the terrible smell made for an unpleasant journey and everyone was more than happy to see the green light come up to signal that they would soon be jumping out of the aircraft.

After three passes over the drop zone, the ramp at the back of the aircraft was lowered and the toboggans were dropped. The two side doors of the aircraft were then opened and the sick and sweating paratroopers were told to stand up and proceed with the equipment check prior to jumping out of the aircraft.

Slowing down the aircraft to allow for the paratroopers to exit did not affect the level of turbulence. As a result, several paratroopers had difficulty standing up as the aircraft was bobbing and fell to the floor. Loaded with their heavy winter equipment — including their personal weapon, rucksack and snowshoes — made it impossible for these same paratroopers to get back up without help.

After being helped up, the jumpmaster would recheck their respective static lines to make sure they were still properly connected to their parachute.

Toupin, like many other paratroopers on the plane, had fallen and was helped up. His static line was re-checked and he was given the “all clear” to proceed with the jump.

A few moments later, the 18 paratroopers onboard were given the go-ahead to jump. As the paratroopers proceeded towards the two side doors, they did their best to stay up. At times, the paratroopers took one step forward only to take two steps backwards to avoid falling down.

Toupin was the third paratrooper out of the aircraft. While he was glad to leave the smell and the heat inside the plane, he soon realized that things could get worse — much worse!

Toupin recalls jumping out of the aircraft only to be suspended in mid-air and coming face to face with the tail section of the plane. This realization was followed by that

of being struck by other paratroopers and/or their static lines as they successfully exited the aircraft.

Unable to bring his arms up to protect his face because of the strong wind, he began waving his arms to show he was still conscious and hopefully get the jumpmaster’s attention and be rescued. But even this desperate attempt was short-lived because he was being spun around by the air flow along the fuselage of the aircraft and lost all sense of direction. By now all he could do was try and stay conscious and hope to be noticed by either the jumpmaster or by one of the paratroopers exiting the aircraft.

The frigid temperatures were becoming too much for the veteran jumper and he began losing consciousness sporadically. Then, just as he seemed to lose all hope, his static line released and he began a free fall to the ground. Toupin, who was semi-conscious by this time, recalls seeing opened chutes pass him by which not only told him he was no longer attached to the aircraft but also that his main parachute was not working.

With seconds to spare, Toupin reached for his reserve chute and pulled the release cord. His chute opened only moments before crashing in some trees well beyond the landing zone perimeter.

The shock of crashing into the tree combined with the subzero temperatures he was exposed to while hanging from the aircraft caused him to pass out while suspended some 100 feet above the ground.

Although he is not sure how long he was unconscious, he does remember waking up to immense pain in his legs. Apparently hanging from the trees in his parachute harness with all of equipment had cut off the circulation to his legs.

Toupin listened for the sound of either aircraft or people nearby to no avail. So it became clear that he would have to take matters in his own hands if he was to get down before frostbite set in and before nightfall and even colder temperatures.

The first thing Toupin did was release his snowshoes and personal weapon to gauge the distance to the ground and judge the thickness of the snow on the ground. Then he released his rucksack in roughly the same spot. Toupin then began swinging so that when released from his harness he would fall away from his equipment already on the ground.

After he had landed, Toupin reached for his snowshoes so that he could press the snow around him and get out of the deep snow, which he did within a few minutes. He then

put on his snowshoes, recovered his rucksack and weapon, and then set about finding his bearings.

Using his map which had the drop zone marked on it and a compass, Toupin was able to determine that he was approximately five kilometres from the drop zone. So, without hesitation, he set a course to rejoin his unit, which he did several hours later.

During a respite in the training exercise later that same day, Toupin recounted his experience to colleagues and his superiors. In typical military fashion, the response was to order him to go back to the Air Movement Unit (AMU) and complete several more jumps the next day. The idea was to get him back on the proverbial horse before fear set in and he would refuse to jump ever again — which he promptly did.

Today, Toupin reflects on those events with a smirk especially when he contrasts his experience with the level of care and consideration soldiers are given now. Toupin left the CAR later that year and, while his service in the CAR is relegated to memory, the pains in his lower back and his knees remind him of the day he suffered a “Hung-Up” and lived to talk about it. ■



ARAC

Fair Winds

by Bruce Poulin

Members of the Canadian Forces sign up for the paratrooper course for a variety of reasons. Prestige, challenge and adventure are but a few often cited. My case was slightly different. I wanted to be a paratrooper for family reasons. I wanted to be like my uncle, MCpl. Brian Irving, who had earned his military paratrooper wings and was serving as a military fireman in the Canadian Forces at CFB Petawawa when I joined the military under the Regular Officer Training Plan in 1979.

Since I was enrolled as an officer cadet in the armoured corps, I would not likely ever be authorized to go on a military jump course. So, when the opportunity presented itself to join the parachute club CMR St-Jean, I did not hesitate. I only parachuted once that year, but the memory of that jump remains just as vivid today as if it had happened yesterday.

It was a rather cold and windy Saturday when two fellow cadets and I arrived at the parachute club hangar

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to make our first jump. After a few brief introductory remarks, our instructor set about teaching us proper landing techniques that essentially consisted of taking turns jumping from an eight-foot-high ladder. The idea behind jumping off the ladder was twofold: First, jumping from that height without a parachute was supposed to simulate the approximate speed that we would be landing with a parachute. The second was that it allowed our instructor to stand close and watch our landing techniques to make sure we knew how to land properly.

Within an hour, our instructor was satisfied that we knew how to land properly and he told us we would be jumping later that day as soon as the weather — especially wind conditions — improved. Static-line parachutes are virtually impossible to steer so anyone trying to parachute in strong winds will invariably find themselves drifting wherever the winds take them until they reach *terra ferma*.

We waited around the hangar for about an hour before our instructor deemed that the wind had died down within acceptable limits for us to go parachuting. After we had put on our parachutes, we lined up in front of our instructor who proceeded to ask us who wanted to jump first. None of us came forward preferring instead to pretend that we had not heard the question. So our instructor took charge. I was designated as the second person to jump. We then boarded the small Cessna plane.

It took about 10 minutes after takeoff to reach an altitude of 2,800 feet. Once we reached this height, the pilot cut the engine and gave the “thumbs up” sign to our instructor. The latter, in turn, told the first jumper, Officer Cadet S. Simard, to step out on the strut directly above the right wheel and slide his hands along the support beam that went from the fuselage of the plane to the mid-point on the wing.

Finally, our instructor told him to let go — which he did. His parachute release cord was attached to the plane using a static line. This ensured that his parachute would automatically open once he had dropped to a safe distance from the plane. By the time O/Cdt Simard’s parachute had opened, the pilot started up the engine to regain some altitude. I was next. We reached the required altitude again and the instructor directed me towards the door out of the plane and out I went.

My descent was uneventful and I landed safely. I

collected my parachute and walked over to the hangar to discover that the first jumper, O/Cdt Simard, had drifted into some high power electrical lines on the other side of the landing zone during his descent. His chute had caught fire and he had fallen on a barbed wire fence directly below. While we waited in the hangar, we found out the third jumper, O/Cdt Caron, had drifted into some nearby trees and had injured his ankle. Clearly, wind conditions had been less than optimal and our static-line parachutes were no match against the strong wind currents.

O/Cdt Simard was admitted into an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for burns on most of his body and remained in hospital for several months. To this day, I wonder what would have happened had fate not been more discerning and the instructor had chosen me to be first to jump out of the plane instead of O/Cdt Simard.

A few days after the incident, the commander of Iberville Squadron at CMR, Captain G. M. Boire, took me aside and told me that I needed to jump out of a plane again or my fears would grow until they would totally consume me. He said it was much like riding a horse and that when a rider gets thrown off it’s important that he or she get back on as quickly as possible. I promised him to jump again when the opportunity would present itself — which it did a few years later as an artillery officer.

In the spring of 1983, I was authorised to attend the military jump course. I completed the course without incident and proudly wore my first “decoration” for the rest of my military career. I never did get the chance to thank Capt. Boire but his advice did help me address any potential fear of jumping out of an aircraft I may have had. I was also proud to have had the opportunity to carry on our proud tradition of military jumpers in our family. ■

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1 CAN PARA

Cadet Corps #100

*by Andy Anderson
1 Can Para*



Adrienne and I attended the First Annual Parade and Inspection of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 at Brighton, Ontario on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Our invitation came from the Corps' founding father, Brig.-Gen. Ian Douglas, former commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Ian took a place on the sidelines for the event, but remains totally involved in seeking recruits by speaking at local schools. He also monitors the training given largely by NCO volunteers from the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) located at CFB Trenton.

While the Corps currently numbers just 35 members, it is anticipated that this will increase significantly throughout the balance of the year. The drill and deportment of the cadets on parade and the training exercise that followed spoke highly to the training and leadership coming from Trenton.

Lt.-Col. Kevin Brown, the commanding officer of (CFLAWC), has taken an extremely active interest in, and has given tremendous support to, the training and development of the Cadet Corps. He was on hand as

reviewing officer and guest speaker. He also took part in the official signing of the Corps' Charter.

Also in attendance, exemplifying their approval and support from the early stages, were Don McCumber, president of the Army Cadet League, Ontario as well as Lt.-Cdr. Ron Rolfe, detachment commander of the Regional Cadet Support Unit.

Our battalion veterans need not be concerned by the use of our name and our honours. CFLAWC and the Airborne Fraternity are overseeing every aspect of the Corps' development. The next step will see the Corps adding our battalion shoulder flashes and Pegasus shield to their uniform.

The event concluded with a reception that gave everyone an opportunity to extend good wishes to Lt.-Col. Kevin Brown who will transfer to a post at the Canadian Forces College this summer. He assured everyone that his successor would be equally committed to the 1st Canadian Battalion Cadet Corps #100. ■

Royal Canadian Army Cadets receive all types of training, including drill and deportment. (BLACKDOWN ACSTC)



WARRIORS' DAY 2011

*by Jerry Robertson
CAFA Huronia*



On Saturday, August 20, 2011, MCpl. Darnel Leader, Cpl. Stephen Craddock, Cpl. Ryan Williamson and Cpl. Kevin Gee of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada carried the colours for the Canadian Airborne contingent in the annual Warriors' Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

In past years, members of the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre from CFB Trenton performed that honour, but this year we had four jumpers from the Toronto-based QOR carry them and I think that is most fitting indeed. These four men did so with pride, dignity and total professionalism. I hope we can continue with this in the future, as it is fitting for a Toronto regiment to do so and an Airborne-qualified one at that!

The day was hot as it should be. Jumpers from the Huronia branch of CAFA and from ARAC out of Petawawa all fell in and marched. Our glorious forefathers from the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion stood tall and proud and,

by their actions, made us stand tall and proud. It is their legacy that we must honour and never forget where we came from. They set a standard that all Canadian jumpers have to attain and *must* always maintain.

Again this year, as in the past, we were supported by 1st Can Para Re-enactment Units from Canada and the U.S. Thanks to the drivers of the WWII vehicles, Jordan Baker and Peter Marshall, who transported Jan de Vries, Roly Harper and Gord Smith.

I am always impressed by the quiet air of confidence that exudes from these men. They fought Nazism and returned to Canada and raised families and led productive lives. Theirs is truly the greatest generation, but we see this in our Afghanistan veterans. Many of those soldiers have worn the maroon beret along with those who never returned from that foreign land.

In 2012, let's have more Canadian paratroopers fall in and represent our Airborne family. ■



1 CAN PARA

Relocation of the Cpl. Frederick George Topham VC Memorial Plaque

by Joanne de Vries



As many readers are aware, on October 5, 2010 the final luncheon of 1st Can Para Battalion Association took place at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. At that time, Mary Flynn-Guglietti, daughter of deceased Battalion veteran Dennis Flynn, former mayor of Etobicoke and Metro Toronto chairman, addressed the gathering. Mary brought to our attention the less-than-desirable location of the Topham Memorial Plaque.

On March 24, 1981 the plaque was unveiled in a prominent location at Etobicoke City Hall. Cpl. Topham lived and attended school in Etobicoke so this location was most appropriate. With changes in the city of Etobicoke taking place, the city hall moved and the area where the plaque was situated became a parking lot.

Mary made a proposal to the Battalion Executive that the plaque perhaps could be moved to a more prominent location where the public could see it. Ontario Heritage Trust was contacted and meetings set up with Beth-Anne

Mendes, co-ordinator of the Plaques Programme, and Wayne Kelly, manager of Public Education and Community Development. Ron (Andy) and Adrienne Anderson, Jan and Joanne de Vries, representing 1 Can Para, Mary Flynn-Guglietti and Mary's co-worker Susan Rogers attended the meetings. Approval from Heritage Trust was granted.

Discussions ensued as to where to move the plaque. A number of possible options were discussed and locations researched. It was decided that Runnymede Collegiate, 569 Jane Street in Etobicoke, would be a logical location. Fred Topham attended this school prior to enlisting in the service. Runnymede School Principal Lynn Farquharson and the Toronto School Board were approached and they enthusiastically endorsed the request. The front lawn of the school on busy Jane Street was selected as the most

Cpl. Villa, Wilf Delory, Jan de Vries and MCpl. Thomas pose by the newly-relocated plaque dedicated to Cpl. Frederick Topham, VC, outside Runnymede Collegiate in Toronto.



Mary Flynn-Guglietti, on right, was a key player in getting the Topham memorial plaque moved to a more visible location. Also in the photo are, from left to right, MCpl. Thomas, Susan Rogers, Cpl. Villa, Andy Anderson, Jan de Vries and Wilf Delory.

appropriate location. Throughout the winter and early spring, contact continued and the procedure for moving the plaque took place.

On May 12, 2011, the plaque relocation ceremony was held in the auditorium of Runnymede Collegiate. MCpl. Thomas, MB, and Cpl. Villa from The Queen's Own Rifles were "On Guard" as the dignitaries and guests arrived. The event was attended by Jan and Joanne de Vries, Andy and Adrienne Anderson, Wilf and Beverly Delory, Mary Flynn-Guglietti, her brother Michael Flynn and son David, Susan Rogers and husband Phil Sanders, Beth-Anne Mendes, Wayne Kelly, Ontario Heritage Trust Board Member Bill Buchanan, school superintendent Jane Phillips-Long, the great nephew of Fred Topham, Gordon Barret, with his wife Mary and daughter Laurie, Principal Lynn Farquharson, along with school staff and a few hundred school students.

Ms. Farquharson welcomed everyone. The dignitaries delivered greetings and acknowledgements. Student Meaghan Campbell gave a speech, written by Layla Ahmed, on Cpl. Fred Topham, VC. Following the plaque unveiling by the Battalion veterans, Mr. Bill Buchanan, and students Meaghan Campbell and Benjamin Hudon, the plaque text was recited. History teacher Ms. Carlotta Lovell gave the concluding remarks and thanked the many people involved.

Numerous photos were taken of various groups alongside the plaque while waiting for Ms. Lovell and her history students to return to the auditorium for a question period with the veterans. The 1st Can Para veterans and two QOR corporals, both of whom served in Afghanistan, spoke to the students and answered some thought-provoking and insightful questions.

There was marked evidence that the students learned a great deal in the few weeks prior to this event. A slide show


regarding the history of the Victoria Cross and Cpl. Topham was shown in the auditorium prior to the commencement of the event, with all research done by the students. Also, tacked on the walls of the auditorium and on the front of the stage were very creative posters designed by the history students on the topic of the V.C. and Cpl. Topham. The students' in-depth research was very apparent.

At the conclusion of the event, MCpl. Thomas and Cpl. Villa carried the plaque from the auditorium and secured it onto the post that had been erected on the front lawn of the school. Again, additional photos were taken of the plaque in its present location.

Veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion are most grateful to Mary Flynn-Guglietti for taking the initiative to advise our members of the less than perfect location of the Topham plaque and for all her work involved in the relocation. The enthusiastic support from Beth-Anne Mendes and Wayne Kelly of Ontario Heritage Trust is much appreciated. Also, our appreciation to Runnymede Collegiate Principal Lynn Farquharson and the Toronto School Board for their receptiveness having the Topham plaque relocated to this significant prominent location.

The unending support of 1 Can Para from the QOR is always greatly appreciated. A very special thank you to both MCpl. Thomas and Cpl. Villa.

If you find yourself travelling down Jane Street in Etobicoke (Toronto) keep your eyes open for Runnymede Collegiate and the Cpl. Fred Topham VC Memorial Plaque. ■



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FSSF

First Special Service Force Reunion

by Bryan Martin



The 65th annual reunion of the First Special Service Force Association was held at the Mayfield Inn & Suites in Edmonton from August 10-13, 2011.

The registration desk and kit shop opened at noon on the first day of the reunion. The enthusiastic local re-enactment group entertained people when they arrived and throughout the reunion. They also had an interesting display of weapons and artifacts from previous conflicts. Also on display was John Clarke's custom-painted motorcycle sporting the logos of the FSSF — thanks, John, it was a real hit! That evening we all gathered in the Mayfield courtyard for pizza, wings, a complimentary drink and a chance to catch up with old friends.

Thursday morning was business as usual with the directors meeting followed by the general meeting. The registration desk and kit shop remained open throughout the day and again on Friday. Thanks goes to Bill and Gayle Woon and their helpers for all their time and hard work. Thanks also to our effervescent registration trio of Diane, Gwen and Faye for all their hard work. Thursday afternoon

was open for registrants to enjoy Edmonton. About 44 people took the pre-arranged guided tour to the beautiful Alberta Legislature buildings and grounds. Several others accepted the challenge to “shop till you drop” at the very well-known and very large West Edmonton Mall.

Thursday evening was a real highlight as we gathered in the courtyard for the veterans' book signing. It was quite an impressive sight to see 14 vets lined up at the head table! Those wanting prints or books to sign picked them up in the kit shop adjacent to the courtyard and then got in line, a very long line! In addition to the book signing, we had the official unveiling of the new FSSF tartan sported by three members of the Shining Thistle Pipe Band and accompanied by the Edmonton Police Band. Needless to say, we all had a great time and the snacks and free beer added to the night. By 10:30 p.m. most had drifted off to

Above, men of the First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, apply their camouflage paint prior to a patrol in Italy during World War II. Men of this Canada-U.S. unit celebrated its 65th annual reunion. (US ARMY PHOTO)

the Gallery Bar or back to their rooms to visit with friends.

On Friday morning, the directors met early to determine the locations of the 2012 reunion and conclude other business. At 9:30 a.m., buses began to depart for CFB Edmonton where our Canadian Special Operations Regiment was hosting us with the assistance of 3PPCLI. Due to circumstances beyond their control, the scheduled paratrooper drop and CF-18 flypast did not happen. Although this was a disappointment for all concerned, we did enjoy an interesting military vehicle display and some great discussions with current CSOR personnel. The registrants also toured the 3PPCLI building to see the history of the group and then were served a wonderful steak luncheon from the flying kitchen, compliments of CSOR.

Friday night was open for registrants to enjoy a taste of Edmonton nightlife and see the premiere showing of "In the Footsteps of the Force." From all accounts, everyone had a great time. Big thanks to Faye from the International Order of the Old Bastards (IOOB) for the bussing, drinks and snacks. Faye also made arrangements to have transportation available before and after the premiere so that all interested could join the gang at the club. Needless to say, there were lots of interesting stories circulating on Saturday morning and at the banquet that night!

The annual Memorial Service and Parade were scheduled to take place on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the Alberta Legislature band shell. The first buses left at 9:30 a.m., and then looped back to pick up the remaining registrants with the veterans' coach leaving last. It was quite a sight to see this coach cruising through Edmonton with city police cruisers leading the way followed by John Clarke on his FSSF bike and a cluster of motorcycles blocking traffic so we could run the red lights.

The weather was great and we were pleased to have Alberta's lieutenant-governor, Col. (ret'd) Donald S. Ethell, Alberta's minister of the environment and Edmonton's Mayor Mandell in attendance. In addition to our political dignitaries, we were pleased to have Col. David Grosso representing the 10th SFG(A) and Lt.-Col. John Vass representing CSOR in attendance. Our political dignitaries had an opportunity to welcome the veterans and registrants. Following Mayor Mandel's comments, he presented all of the veterans with a special Edmonton medallion designed to honour all Edmonton-area veterans of WWII. Thanks once again to CSOR for their support, to Chaplain Staples

for the invocation, to our politicians, to the Edmonton Police Band and Shining Thistle Pipe Band, to our bugler Corporal Flowers, to all members of the parade and to Bill Dickson for being our MC and for organizing the military aspects of the service.

Saturday afternoon was free for registrants to visit and relax, but not so for those of us trying to put the final touches on the seating plan! It was a bit frantic for our registration team trying to assign seating for a banquet that grew from an expected 225 registrants to more than 280, but what a great night we had. Our ranking SOF officers, Col. Grosso and Lt.-Col. Vass, spoke briefly and then our guest speaker, Lieutenant-Governor Ethell, had the crowd in stitches. The highlight of the evening, however, was our Frederick Award winners, CSOR's Cpl. Shane Wilson and 7th SFG(A)'s Specialist First Class Christopher Corbin. Both of these young men were articulate and spoke from the heart. After a great meal, we were wowed by the very well-known Loyal Edmonton Regiment's Drum Line under black light — what a performance! Thanks to Warren Rubin for the support. After a few door prizes and draws, the Edmonton Police Band and the Shining Thistle Pipe Band brought the formal part of the evening to a close, but the night was far from over as the crazy antics of our disc jockey, Carmen, had people up and dancing well past midnight.

Thank you to everyone for your support and assistance in hosting the 65th FSSF reunion. It is humbling to be in the presence of the elite men of the FSSF and the serving men and women of the United States and Canadian forces who continue to uphold the "Spirit of the Force." We look forward to seeing you next year in Washington, D.C., September 26-29, 2012. ■

For more information, please e-mail Fssfwashingtondc2012@hotmail.com.

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RIMOUSKI MARATHON

*Running in Remembrance,
October 2, 2011*

*by/par Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd)
Pierre St-Laurent*



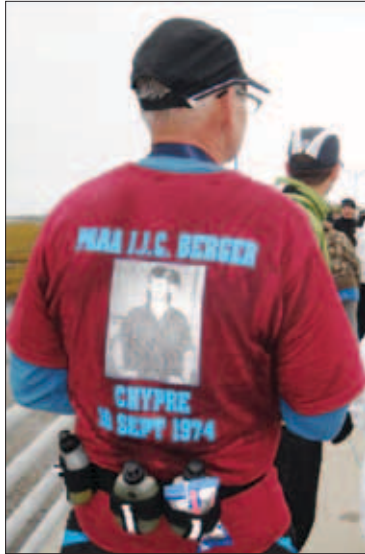
The efforts and sacrifices our soldiers have made in order to maintain stability for peace and freedom, be it in our beautiful country or all over the world, must never be forgotten. Throughout the years, our valorous soldiers have participated in a multitude of missions and many of them have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As far as I'm concerned, the main goal of the Rimouski Marathon was to honour one of our soldiers of the Lower St. Lawrence region, Para-Commando Jean-Claude Berger of Rimouski who died in a warzone on September 10, 1974 on the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean. The 42 kilometres of the Rimouski Marathon was also a time of reflection and sharing of the deep pain the Berger family experienced with the loss of one of their sons and also that of his brothers-in-arms who served during that operation. Even if I did not personally know Jean-Claude, the values which the Canadian Forces inculcated in me through 38 years of service and its rigorous training are the basis for

Les efforts et les sacrifices que font nos soldats pour le maintien de la stabilité pour la liberté, tant dans notre beau pays que partout dans le monde, ne doivent jamais être oubliés. Au fil des années, nos valeureux soldats ont participé à une multitude de missions et plusieurs d'entre eux y ont payé le sacrifice ultime.

En ce qui me concerne, le but premier du Marathon de Rimouski était d'honorer un de nos soldats de la région du Bas St-Laurent, le Soldat (Parachutiste) Jean-Claude Berger de Rimouski, décédé au combat le 10 septembre 1974 alors qu'il servait avec le Régiment aéroporté du Canada (RAC) lors de l'invasion Turque sur l'île de Chypre dans la Méditerranée. Les 42 kilomètres du Marathon de Rimou-

Para-Commando Jean-Claude Berger, photographed at CFB Namao, Alberta, died on September 10, 1974 on the island of Cyprus. ■ Soldat (Parachutiste) Jean-Claude Berger, photographié au BFC Namao en Alberta, est mort le 10 septembre 1974 lors de l'invasion Turque sur l'île de Chypre.



Pierre St-Laurent running in the Rimouski Marathon. ■ Pierre St-Laurent participe au Marathon de Rimouski.



Presentation of the t-shirt, from left to right: Jean Berger, Pierre St-Laurent and Valmont Bouchard, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 36 of Rimouski. ■ Présentation du T-shirt, de gauche à droite : Jean Berger, Pierre St-Laurent et Valmont Bouchard, président de la Légion Royale Canadienne de Rimouski (Filiale no. 36).

the pride and respect that I have for our peacekeepers around the world.

There are many ways to honour somebody. For me, to "Run in Remembrance" is not a bad idea. After a few kilometres, the distance and small aches and pains are nothing in comparison to the suffering that families and friends have undergone following the loss of one of theirs in combat.

When I visited my best friends Helen and Laurent Pelletier in Alberta in January 2011, old memories came to the fore of the days we served in the Airborne Regiment. Nicknamed "Chop Chop," Laurent worked with and personally knew Para-Commando Berger in Cyprus in 1974. Our common experience in the regiment had shaped us into better men, be it in our military profession or in the personal sphere, and this is especially true with regards to human values and respect towards others. The tragedy of September 10, 1974 was brought up several times during our conversation.

This conversation, along with the fact that I participated in a January 1980 jump exercise named "Berger-Perron," inspired me to run in the Rimouski Marathon and dedicate it to Para-Commando Berger.

Several times during training in the months that followed, I remembered that running around CFB Petawawa greatly motivated me. During group runs with all the members of

ski se voulaient aussi un temps de réflexion sur le partage d'une peine inoubliable pour la famille Berger qui a perdu un de leurs fils, ainsi que pour tous ses frères d'armes qui ont servi lors de cette opération. Bien que je n'aie pas connu Jean-Claude personnellement, les valeurs que les Forces canadiennes m'ont transmises par le biais d'un entraînement rigoureux pendant les presque 38 ans que j'y ai servi sont à la base de la fierté et du respect que je porte aux efforts de nos soldats pour la paix dans le monde.

Il y a bien des façons d'honorer quelqu'un. Pour moi, courir en souvenir n'est pas une si mauvaise idée. Après un certain nombre de kilomètres, la distance et les petites douleurs ne sont rien en comparaison aux souffrances senties par les familles et les proches à la suite de la perte d'un des leurs au combat.

Lors de ma visite chez mes meilleurs amis Laurent et Helen Pelletier en Alberta en janvier 2011, nous avons ranimé plusieurs souvenirs de nos périodes respectives vécues au sein du Régiment aéroporté. Laurent, aussi surnommé « Tin Lin », a côtoyé et connu personnellement le Parachutiste Berger à Chypre en 1974. Après environ une demi-heure et bien des histoires, nous revenions toujours sur le même point : notre expérience dans ce régiment nous avait formé afin de devenir de meilleures personnes, et ce, tant dans le domaine militaire que dans des aspects plus personnels, entre autres au niveau des valeurs hu-



Pierre St-Laurent ran in the marathon to honour Para-Commando Jean-Claude Berger of Rimouski who died in a war zone on September 10, 1974 on the island of Cyprus. ■ Pierre St-Laurent a participé au marathon en mémoire du Soldat (Parachutiste) Jean-Claude Berger de Rimouski, qui est décédé au combat le 10 septembre 1974 alors qu'il servait avec le Régiment Aéroporté du Canada (RAC) lors de l'invasion Turque sur l'île de Chypre.

the unit I belonged to, the esprit de corps was maintained by military songs and unending sprints. I can still vividly remember that it was impossible to run past Bruno Savard, my great friend, who led by example, always at the front of the platoon. His determination and integrity have had an effect at many levels with the troops and were for me, examples of courage during my entire career.

It is for these reasons and because I was well informed about the activities of the CAR in Cyprus in 1974, that nothing would or could have stopped me from running in the Rimouski Marathon this year.

Laurent and Helen gave me a t-shirt with the CAR logo that I then personalized with a picture of Jean-Claude on the back. I wore this t-shirt with pride during the October 2 marathon. This constantly encouraged me all along the run. Later, I gave it as a token of remembrance, to M. Jean Berger, the father of Jean-Claude in the presence of M. Valmont Bouchard, president of the Royal Canadian Legion, Rimouski Branch No. 36 Joseph Keable.

In spite of temperatures that reminded me of some autumn military exercises, I must admit that the magnificent setting between Rimouski and Sainte-Luce along the Saint Lawrence, the well-oiled organization, and the friendship and camaraderie have helped me reflect on the need of remembrance required to properly honour Para-Commando Jean-Claude Berger. He paid the ultimate price for peace at the age of 21.

At the finish line, the small aches and pains were almost non-existent.

I wish to thank:

- M. Jean Berger, who, following the marathon,

manitaires et du respect des autres. L'évènement du 10 septembre 1974 et le nom de Jean-Claude ont fait surface à plusieurs reprises au cours de nos discussions. C'est à cet instant que j'ai décidé, ayant participé en janvier 1980 à un exercice de saut en parachute portant le nom « Berger-Perron », sachant qu'un marathon existait à Rimouski et ayant le temps de m'entraîner, que je pouvais offrir cette course en l'honneur du Parachutiste Berger.

Au cours des mois qui ont suivis, à maintes reprises lors de mon entraînement, le souvenir des courses autour de la Base des Forces canadiennes de Petawawa me motivait grandement. Lors de ces courses en groupe, avec tout le personnel de l'unité à laquelle j'appartenais, l'esprit de corps et la cohésion s'entretenaient par des chants militaires et des sprints interminables. Je me souviens surtout qu'il était impossible de dépasser mon grand ami Bruno Savard qui menait par l'exemple, toujours vers l'avant du peloton. Sa détermination et son intégrité ont eu une incidence marquée à bien des niveaux au sein des troupes et ont été, pour moi, des exemples de courage tout au long de ma carrière. Pour ces raisons, et parce que j'étais bien informé des activités du RAC à Chypre en 1974 malgré ne m'y être déployé que quatre ans plus tard, rien ne m'aurait empêché de faire cette année le Marathon de Rimouski.

Laurent et Helen m'ont fourni un T-shirt avec le logo du RAC que j'ai fait personnaliser en y apposant la photo de Jean-Claude à l'endos. C'est donc avec fierté que j'ai porté ce T-shirt lors du marathon du 2 octobre et cela m'a encouragé d'un constant soutien tout au long de l'épreuve. Je l'ai par la suite remis, en guise de symbole, à M. Jean Berger, le père de Jean-Claude, en présence de M. Valmont Bouchard, Président de la Légion Royale Canadienne de Rimouski, Filiale no. 36 Joseph Keable.

Malgré une température qui me rappelait certains exercices militaires d'automne, je dois avouer que le magnifique décor qu'offrait l'aller-retour du marathon entre Rimouski et Sainte-Luce le long du fleuve Saint-Laurent, une organisation hors pair et un sentiment d'amitié et d'entraide portaient à merveille à la réflexion et au recueillement nécessaires pour honorer adéquatement le Parachutiste Jean-Claude Berger. Il a payé le sacrifice ultime à l'âge de 21 ans au service de la paix.

À la ligne d'arrivée, les petites douleurs aux jambes étaient presque inexistantes.

Je tiens à remercier :

- M. Jean Berger qui, suite au marathon, m'a reçu chez

welcomed me into his home and shared priceless and intimate moments about the life of his son. He also talked to me about the trip he made with his deceased wife (Gertrude) to Cyprus, where his son was killed. I also had the opportunity to see many pictures and documents from family albums. It is, with his permission, that some of these pictures are published in this article. Following my visit to M. Berger, I went to pay my respects to Jean-Claude at the cemetery. In short, in my silent prayer I said, "On behalf of your brothers-in-arms, we shall remember. *Airborne!*"

- The families who have suffered by the absence of their kin and in some cases by their death.

- M. Valmont Bouchard, who warmly welcomed me at the Royal Canadian Legion for the presentation of the t-shirt to M. Berger.

- Lastly, all those on the finish line on October 2 who constantly support the efforts of our military in Canada or abroad. ■



Jean-Claude Berger's tombstone. ■ La pierre tombale de Jean-Claude Berger au cimetière de Rimouski.

lui et a partagé des moments précieux de la vie de son fils. Il m'a également parlé du voyage que lui et sa défunte épouse (Gertrude) ont fait à Chypre sur le lieu où Jean-Claude est décédé. J'ai aussi eu la chance de visionner des photos et documents d'albums personnels. Avec sa permission, certaines de ces photos sont publiées dans le cadre de cet article. À la suite de ma visite chez M. Berger, je suis allé me recueillir au cimetière sur la pierre tombale de Jean-Claude. Mes paroles se résument ainsi : « De la part de tes frères d'armes, nous nous souviendrons. *Airborne!* ».

- Les familles qui ont souffert des inquiétudes causées par l'absence de leurs proches et la douleur, dans certains cas, de leur disparition.

- M. Valmont Bouchard, qui m'a reçu à la Légion Royale Canadienne d'un accueil des plus chaleureux lors de la présentation du T-shirt à M. Berger.

- Finalement, tous ceux qui étaient à la ligne d'arrivée le 2 octobre et qui supportent constamment les efforts de nos militaires, tant au pays qu'à l'étranger. ■



AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

*Master Corporal Chris Griffiths,
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada*

by Captain Adam Harmes

Below is the text for the successful nomination of MCpl. Chris Griffiths for CAFA's Airborne Soldier of the Year by his para company OC:

As an NCO, jumpmaster and advanced mountain operator, MCpl. Griffiths has been an extremely valuable member of the QOR para company for the past few years. In 2010, which was also the QOR's 150th anniversary, MCpl. Griffiths developed a record of achievement that exemplifies the attributes of the modern paratrooper.

From January 18 to April 27, 2010, MCpl. Griffiths was employed at LFWA TC Wainwright as a section 2IC for a DP1 infantry course. In this position he demonstrated very strong skill at arms, leadership, willingness and readiness. As his PDR noted: "MCpl. Griffiths thrives under intense or adverse circumstances, demonstrating his excellent leadership skills by working long hours teaching and supervising the platoon. He gave far more than his 100% in order to train the soldiers in their DP1 Inf skill set. He has shown that he leads by example to others, passing on to his troops very good infantry skills."



The 2010 recipient of the CAFA Airborne Soldier of the Year Award, MCpl. Chris Griffiths, receives his award from 1st Can Para D-Day veteran Jan de Vries and former Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, Col. Dick Cowling. The presentation was made on September 24, 2011 at the QOR Change of Command in Toronto. MCpl. Griffiths is wearing the uniform of a QOR Pioneer from 1860.

Following his employment in Wainwright, MCpl. Griffiths demonstrated very strong willingness and readiness through his membership on the QOR's four-man mountain operations team and participating in a month-long, fully-voluntary and unpaid, series of expeditions to Ex Coelis Mountain (the airborne mountain) and the Athabasca glacier in Alberta as well as Canada's highest mountain, Mount Logan, in the Yukon territory. In the course of these expeditions, MCpl. Griffiths demonstrated the very strong skill at arms, team spirit, aggressiveness and fitness that were required to climb Canada's highest mountain in an extreme weather environment. Moreover, despite being the junior and youngest member of the team, MCpl. Griffiths demonstrated excellent leadership during his turns as rope team commander and through his contributions to team decisions related to crossing high danger areas.

A further demonstration of MCpl. Griffiths' willingness and readiness occurred on the evening he returned from the Mount Logan expedition. A last-minute spot on the Static Line Square Canopy/Military Freefall Parachuting course became available and, despite the course starting five days later, he was extremely keen to further develop

his parachuting skills. On both courses, MCpl. Griffiths again demonstrated many of the attributes of the modern paratrooper including very strong parachuting skills. In the course reports for both courses, his parachuting skills were strongly noted and he was recommended for further training as an SLSC and MFP jumpmaster and parachute instructor.

Upon returning from the SLSC and MFP courses, MCpl. Griffiths again demonstrated his willingness and readiness by acting as a section commander on OP NANOOK in Resolute Bay where he used his leadership, skills at arms and winter environment experience to train his platoon in skills beyond those that were part of the operation. The one low point of MCpl. Griffiths' year was when he was injured on OP NANOOK and was required to go on disability for the next couple of months. This development was particularly unfortunate as it prevented MCpl. Griffiths from participating in the CSOR selection that he was scheduled to attend. A final highlight of his year was that MCpl. Griffiths, as part of the Mt. Logan team, received our unit's 2010 fitness award. Finally, as I write this nomination, MCpl. Griffiths is currently one of four QOR paratroopers who are serving on the month-long 82nd Airborne JFEX with M Coy, 3RCR.

MCpl. Griffiths is a young reservist who has had an exceptional year as a paratrooper by any standard. In our unit's 150th anniversary year, it would be an honour for him to receive this award. ■

CAFA/ARAC BURSARY

The 2011 scholarship winner is Miss Lindsay Coombs, daughter of Howard G. Coombs, formerly of 3 Cdo, Canadian Airborne Regiment. Miss Coombs is attending the University of Ottawa, working to a degree in conflict studies and human rights.

Presentation of the award was made by Maj.-Gen. Walt Holmes at Fort Frontenac, Kingston.



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L'HISTOIRE D'UN PARA

*Adjudant-chef Richard George Buxton DCM, CD
21 avril 1926 – 30 juillet 1971*

texte par Dick Buxton Jr.

L'Adjudant-chef Richard George Buxton (Dick) est né à Victoria, Colombie-Britannique, le 21 avril 1926. Il était le 10^{ème} de 14 enfants (8 garçons et 6 filles) du Sergent Percival Herbert et de Phoebe Buxton. Le Sgt Buxton, surnommé « Titch », avait été muté en tant que jeune artilleur de la Royal Garrison Artillery au Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery (RCGA) en 1907.

Il servit au sein de l'artillerie de siège durant la Première Guerre mondiale de 1914-18 en France, et prit sa retraite de sergent à Work Point Barracks en 1931, à Victoria.

Frederick, l'oncle de Dick, fut lui aussi muté de la Royal Garrison Artillery, et lui aussi a été sergent dans le RCGA. Après 25 ans de service, Fred prit sa retraite et construisit le pub « The Dugout » (la tranchée) dans le lagon d'Esquimalt à Victoria.

Du côté de sa mère, le grand-père de Dick, George Wells, servit au East Surrey Regiment en Angleterre, avant d'immigrer au Canada. Pendant la guerre de 1914-18, il

servit en France avec le 67^{ème} Bataillon, les Western Scots of Canada.

A la naissance de Dick, sa famille vivait dans le quartier des adjudants-chefs près de la porte d'entrée de Fort Rodd Hill à Victoria. Le fort et le phare, tout près de Fisgard, font maintenant partie du site historique national de Fort Rodd Hill et le quartier des adjudants-chefs est toujours là.

La petite maison avec ses deux chambres est minuscule. Pendant l'hiver, ils y sont à l'étroit, mais tout va mieux l'été quand les garçons peuvent s'installer dans deux tentes à l'extérieur.

Comme de nos jours, en ce temps-là, nourrir une si grande famille avec un salaire de militaire n'était pas chose facile. La nourriture était meilleure l'été et Titch avait créé une assez grande ferme au fort.

Dick Buxton, un parachutiste, a reçu la Médaille de conduite distinguée pour une action en Corée le 26 mars 1952.



Dick Buxton, à genou à la droite extrême. Autres individus et endroit inconnus. Connaissez-vous ces gens?

Tous les enfants mettaient la main à la pâte, en faisant pousser des légumes, en élevant des poulets et même un cochon ou deux. En hiver, la nourriture n'était pas aussi abondante et Dick racontait qu'il allait à l'école en emportant des sandwichs à la graisse de bacon dans son panier-repas.

Dès son jeune âge et tout au long de sa vie, Dick fut un chasseur et pêcheur invétéré. Au début, c'était tout simplement pour survivre. Le poisson et le gibier étaient des suppléments bienvenus dans leur quotidien. Plus tard cela devint un passe-temps et à la moindre occasion il partait à la pêche ou à la chasse, et ce même durant les manœuvres militaires.

Du fait de l'implication de sa famille dans le milieu militaire et de l'environnement dans lequel il fut élevé, il n'était pas étonnant que Dick décide très jeune qu'il serait soldat.

Il ne fut pas très content d'apprendre qu'il était trop jeune pour servir sous les drapeaux quand débuta la Deuxième Guerre mondiale en 1939. Il vit partir Sonny, l'aîné de la famille, pour servir dans l' Régiment royal de l' Artillerie canadienne, Fred et Bill étaient au PPCLI et Jimmy était dans la RCAF. Plus tard deux autres frères, Frank et Dave, s'enrôlèrent à leur tour dans le PPCLI.

Cependant, le départ des aînés voulait aussi dire que la famille n'avait pour vivre que la retraite de Titch.

Dick décida alors de quitter l'école après avoir terminé sa 9^{ème} année. Il fut rapidement embauché en tant que « passeur de rivet » au chantier naval de Yarrows de Victoria : il attrapait des rivets chauds (avec des gants de cuir) qui lui étaient lancés par le chaudronnier de rivet, il les plaçait ensuite dans les trous pour rivet.

Le 23 mai 1944, presque un mois jour pour jour après

avoir fêté ses 18 ans, Dick s'enrôla dans l'armée. Dans ses dossiers militaires, il y avait l'annotation suivante « désireux de rejoindre le PPCLI. »

Dick fit son entraînement de base au centre d'entraînement élémentaire d'infanterie #133 à Westaskin, en Alberta.

Durant son séjour, un examinateur de l'armée avait noté qu'il avait très bien réussi l'entraînement de base, qu'il avait l'étoffe d'un bon sous-officier et qu'il avait réaffirmé son désir de servir dans les PPCLI.

Après l'entraînement de base vint l'école d'infanterie au Camp Vernon en Colombie-Britannique et à Calgary en Alberta. Le 31 mars 1945, il rejoint le Camp de Transit No. 2 à Debert en Nouvelle-Écosse.

Malheureusement pour Dick, la guerre en Europe prit fin quand il était encore au Camp Debert. Cependant, la guerre contre le Japon était encore d'actualité. Il se porta volontaire le 25 mai 1945 pour la nouvellement-crée Force de l'Armée canadienne du Pacifique.

La Force du Pacifique devait travailler en étroite collaboration avec les forces américaines dans le théâtre du Pacifique et cela requérait certains changements dans l'organisation de l'armée canadienne. C'est ainsi que Dick se retrouva au sein du PPCLI alors que l'unité portait officiellement le nom de 1st Battalion, 2nd Canadian Infantry Regiment (PPCLI).

Malheureusement, encore une fois, Dick ne put se rendre outremer. La guerre avec le Japon cessa avant que la Force du Pacifique ne parte du Canada et elle fut dissoute quelque temps après.

Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale la majorité des hommes et des femmes servant sous les drapeaux furent heureux de retourner à la vie civile.

Il n'en fut pas ainsi pour Dick. Le 29 novembre 1945, il fut accepté en temps que membre de « la Force intérimaire » et, après leur création, dans les Forces armées canadiennes de service actif. Le 30 septembre 1946, il devint sergent au 2^{ème} Bataillon du PPCLI, au Camp MacDonald au Manitoba.

Le 8 janvier 1948, Dick se porta volontaire pour la nouvellement-crée compagnie du Canadian Special Air Service et, ce faisant, redevint caporal.

Durant son séjour, il suivit les cours sur l'équipement para et la sécurité, l'aéromobilité et le ravitaillement par air. Il termina le cours de base de parachutiste le 27 mars 1948 dans la classe no. 5 avec le matricule para #1921. La com-

pagnie SAS eut une vie brève et le 19 mai 1949 Dick revint au Cantonnement de Currie Barracks du PPCLI à Calgary. Le 2^{ème} Bataillon n'existait plus et avait été renommé le 1^{er} Bataillon.

Il fut promu sergent le 11 août 1950, à l'âge de 24 ans. On disait dans ce temps-là qu'il était le plus jeune sergent de l'Armée canadienne. Plus tard cette même année il épousa Orion Taylor, sa promotion au grade de sergent ayant été la condition *sine qua none* de leur mariage.

Dick était sergent de peloton de la Compagnie C du 1^{er} Bataillon du PPCLI quand ce dernier fut déployé le 23 septembre 1951 en Corée pour remplacer le 2^{ème} Bataillon. Durant son séjour en Corée, il s'aperçut que la chasse au faisan était excellente. Il pouvait tirer à de très longues distances avec son fusil tout en prenant grand soin de les toucher à la tête pour ne pas endommager la viande.

On parle d'une histoire où Dick était impliqué concernant le vol d'une quantité considérable d'alcool au mess des officiers. Il ramenait un jeune soldat fraîchement arrivé et, en allant vers les lignes du bataillon, il s'arrêta au mess des officiers.

Il donna un pistolet au jeune soldat, lui ordonnant de surveiller le barman pendant qu'il chargeait une quantité considérable d'alcool dans leur jeep. Ils apportèrent tous ces spiritueux dans un dépôt logistique américain où ils échangèrent le tout pour des mitrailleuses supplémentaires ainsi que d'autres armes.

Dick était responsable du Peloton 7 de la Compagnie C durant la nuit du 26 mars 1952 quand sa position fut attaquée par un bataillon de l'armée chinoise. A la suite de ses actions durant cette attaque, on lui décerna sur le champ la Médaille de conduite distinguée. Pour le restant de sa vie, Dick ne parla que très peu des événements coréens, et il ne parla pas une seule fois des incidents survenus ce soir-là.

Le 1^{er} Bataillon revint à Calgary une fois son séjour en Corée terminé. Dick en faisait toujours partie quand le bataillon fut envoyé en Allemagne en 1955 et à Victoria en 1957.

Il était encore au 1^{er} Bataillon le 2 novembre 1958 lorsqu'il fut promu au grade d'adjudant. Le souvenir de n'avoir jamais assez à manger quand il grandissait ne le quitta jamais. Il était toujours à l'affût d'occasions qui lui permettraient de rapporter plus de nourriture à la maison, même quand ce n'était pas nécessaire.

Un jour que son unité était en manoeuvre sur l'île de Salt Spring, il découvrit un verger rempli de pommiers et un ra-



Dick Buxton, à genou à la droite extrême. Autres individus et endroit inconnus.

ton laveur. Il remplit son sac fourre tout de pommes et du raton laveur qu'il avait tué. La première chose qu'il fit en revenant à la maison ce fut de sortir le raton laveur du sac. Le chat de la famille émit un miaulement féroce et disparut pendant plusieurs jours, mais les garçons de Dick appréciaient les pommes, malgré tout.

À une autre occasion, un des fils de Dick tua dans leur jardin un rouge-gorge avec un fusil à plomb. Dick eut vent de cela, et il obligea son fils à plumer et à cuire le rouge-gorge pour lui apprendre que s'il tuait quelque chose c'était parce qu'il avait l'intention de le manger.

Il fut envoyé le 8 octobre 1962 au Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering à Chilliwack, en Colombie-Britannique. Pendant son séjour et en dehors de ses affectations de QMSI (quartier-maître), il s'intéressa tout particulièrement à la formation des jeunes officiers qui étaient là durant l'été.

Il fit tout ce qu'il pouvait pour que la formation soit aussi près de la réalité que possible. Il cherchait toujours de bons endroits de formation pour que les officiers apprennent à mener leurs pelotons dans toutes les conditions possibles et imaginables.

Il fut promu adjudant-maître le 1^{er} juillet 1965 et, peu de temps après, adjudant-chef du 1^{er} Bataillon qui était alors en Allemagne. Le 11 septembre 1966, il reçut son affectation d'adjudant-chef de la base de CFB Rivers. Il était connu de tous pour son intolérance envers les jeunes officiers et il était encore plus dur à l'encontre des jeunes pilotes en formation à CFB Rivers.

Cependant, durant son affectation, on lui donna l'occasion de voler dans un T-33 d'entraînement. Les pi-



Gens et endroit inconnus. Est-ce peut-être en Corée?

lotes se firent « un plaisir » de montrer ce que pouvait faire l'appareil. L'opinion de Dick envers les pilotes changea de manière très significative.

La base de CFB Rivers avait un petit orchestre non officiel qui jouait à différentes fonctions et cérémonies. Son chef d'orchestre était un sergent des forces aériennes, que Dick appelait « Drummy » (petit tambour).

Au cours de la cérémonie d'adieu au moment de son départ de Rivers, il dit au revoir au chef d'orchestre qui rétorqua, « Alors Adjudant-chef, j'ai toujours pensé que vous n'aviez pas une très bonne opinion de moi parce que vous m'avez toujours appelé "dummy" (idiot). » (Malentendu, car Dick l'appelait "drummy" (« petit tambour ») et lui pensait qu'il l'appelait « dummy »). Dick s'excusa sur le champ en expliquant au sergent ce que voulait dire le mot « Drummy » dans l'armée.

Le 25 juillet 1968, Dick devint le premier adjudant-chef du Régiment aéroporté du Canada, et ces années avec celui-ci furent probablement les meilleures années de sa carrière.

Il apprécia tout particulièrement l'école de jungle en Jamaïque (où il excellait) et le ski à Kananaskis (où il n'excellait pas).

Durant l'été 1971 il eut l'occasion de suivre le cours de chute libre militaire qu'il trouva très excitant.

Malheureusement, c'est durant cette formation qu'il se tua à l'âge de 45, sur la zone de saut qui aujourd'hui porte son nom. Il laissa derrière lui après 21 ans de mariage son épouse, ainsi que trois fils.

* * * * *

L'histoire suivante nous a été rapportée par un ancien membre du Régiment aéroporté et est incluse ici car elle personifie tout ce qu'était l'Adjudant-chef Richard George Buxton, DCM, CD:

Personnellement, je n'ai pas connu l'Adjudant-chef Buxton, ce qui aurait dû être le cas car c'était mon adjudant-chef. Il était déjà au Régiment aéroporté quand j'y suis arrivé (1^{ère} batterie aéroportée) en 1960 (à Edmonton).

Comme des centaines d'autres de mes camarades, j'ai eu le privilège de servir sous ce meneur d'homme admirable, craint et respecté — et j'ai eu la chance de garder de lui de bons souvenirs de ses capacités divertissantes.

L'Adjudant-chef Buxton était un soldat honorable, dur et plein de bons sens. Nous avions la certitude qu'il se souciait de ses hommes — il se montrait dur envers nous, mais encore plus dur envers quiconque nous aurait fait du mal, soit par des actes ou des paroles.

Peu importe ce qu'il demandait de nous, il en demandait encore plus de lui-même. Il était la personnification même de l'adage « mener par l'exemple. »

Je savais que, malgré son caractère tempétueux, vous pouviez presque voir dans ses yeux et dans ses expressions fugitives combien il s'amusait.

Sans le savoir l'Adjudant-chef Buxton m'a permis de me rendre chez le barbier de la base régulièrement sans attendre dans une file d'attente ou à avoir à prendre rendez-vous.

Le barbier m'a dit que le jour quand Dick se faisait couper les cheveux perturbait ses affaires de deux manières. Premièrement, il était inondé d'appels téléphoniques demandant quand l'adjudant-chef avait son rendez-vous et, deuxièmement, il n'avait pas de clients peu de temps avant et après son rendez-vous — personne ne voulait se faire coiffer dans ce petit salon de barbier en présence de l'adjudant-chef.

J'avais 19 ans, j'étais idiot. Comme je n'aimais pas les files d'attente, j'ai décidé de tenter ma chance. Un jour je suis allé chez le barbier au moment où je croyais que Dick serait parti et qu'il n'y aurait encore personne. J'avais mal calculé mon coup et j'ai passé le seuil de la porte sous le regard de sa Majesté la Terreur qui était toujours drapée et encore assise sur la chaise.

Ne pouvant pas décemment m'échapper, je me suis assis en espérant que tout irait pour le mieux. Après un silence qui me sembla durer une éternité, Dick en avait terminé et s'en alla.

J'en avais été quitte pour quelques questions sur mon unité, ma profession et lieu de naissance. Par la suite, j'appelais toujours le barbier pour confirmer le temps du rendez-vous de Dick. J'essayais dès lors d'arriver quand

il aurait fini, pour pouvoir passer immédiatement. Il était préférable d'arriver après son rendez-vous plutôt qu'avant — que Dieu protège la personne qui était dans le siège à son arrivée ! J'ai joué à ce petit jeu pendant quelques années et je n'ai pas à chaque fois dû rester assis dans un état de terreur silencieuse, car bien souvent, il était déjà parti.

Avec le temps, je crois qu'il avait compris à quoi je jouais — pendant toutes ces années, une seule fois, il me fit la remarque que, par je ne sais quelle coïncidence, nos cheveux poussaient à la même vitesse.

Au cours d'un de nos déploiements en Jamaïque, je ne sais quel « petit génie » eut l'idée de nous faire suivre un « parcours éducatif » où nos adversaires et nous pourrions, en fait, nous tirer dessus.

Comme c'était bien avant les pistolets laser et de paintball, nous étions armés de carabines à air comprimé ! Nous étions protégés par une sorte de casque de football en plastique peu coûteux, avec une visière en plastique protégeant le visage et il nous était conseillé de ne pas retrousser nos manches. Il n'y avait pas de ventilation au casque, donc cette visière s'embua rapidement. De plus, la seule chose que nous pouvions entendre à l'intérieur de ce truc était notre respiration haletante, et nous ne pouvions voir que devant et pas autour de nous.

Nous étions sourds, sans vision périphérique, donc à moitié aveugle, nous avançons en trébuchant sur ce parcours en pleine brousse parsemé de snipers armés de carabines à air comprimé qui nous attendaient pour nous faire subir une journée infernale.

Rapidement la débâcle arriva par le biais d'un barrage de plomb frappant mon casque et des parties plus intimes non protégées ce qui, par bonheur, me fit mourir et donc quitter la partie.

L'Adjudant-chef Buxton avait rejoint ma section pour faire le parcours avec nous. Notre petite troupe hétéroclite fut rapidement éliminée ayant à peine tiré un coup vers nos assassins. L'Adjudant-chef visait et décimait tous les snipers dans une exhibition époustouflante de ses capacités de soldat.

Et bien entendu, il démontra une grande retenue et de la bienveillance envers nous en ne nous appelant pas, comme il le faisait d'habitude, « bande de petits cons » même si nous venions de prouver que nous l'étions. Malheureusement, j'étais avec lui dans l'avion le jour de l'accident de saut fatal.

*Cette photo date
possiblement de 1944
ou 1945, et peut-être
prise au Camp Debert
ou à Wetaskiwin.*



Quelques uns d'entre nous allions sauter en SOA (saut à ouverture automatique) à 2 500 pieds. Nous allions nous servir d'indicateurs de dérive du vent pour l'adjudant-chef ainsi que les autres sauteurs en chute libre qui sauteraient d'une altitude plus élevée.

Mon dernier souvenir de lui fut plutôt personnel, car il avait ajusté mon harnais avant le saut et, en souriant, s'était écrié, « T'inquiète pas, je l'ai arrangé ! » Comme je ne savais pas que j'avais un problème, son assurance avait eu l'effet contraire sur moi !

Le fait d'avoir rajusté mon harnais n'avait rien d'un sauvetage. Mon stick était debout et prêt à sauter quand il sortit de son siège et commença à trifouiller mon parachute dorsal.

Il avait l'oeil ... et dans mon cas, pour un tout petit détail. Ma SOA (sangle d'ouverture automatique) aurait dû être mieux placée — ce qu'il fit remarquer au type derrière moi qui ne l'avait pas vu.

Cette histoire ne parle que d'un membre de la famille Buxton, et ne peut s'arrêter là sans parler des autres membres de la famille.

A un moment où un autre, cinq des huit garçons Buxton servirent au PPCLI. Deux autres servirent dans l'artillerie, un autre dans l'aviation. En plus, trois de leurs fils et une fille servirent aussi sous les drapeaux.

* * * * *

***Citation pour la DCM :
Attribution de la Médaille de conduite
distinguée à SK3460 Sergent Richard
George Buxton, Royal Canadian Infantry
Corps***

Le soir du 26 mars 1952, le Sergent Buxton commandait le 7^{ème} Peloton de la Compagnie C du 1^{er} Bataillon,



Le monument dédié à l'Adjudant-chef Richard Buxton, qui est décédé lors d'un saut le 30 juillet 1971.

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, quand son peloton fut attaqué par une compagnie chinoise.

Le 7^{ème} Peloton était en position 400 verges en avant de l'endroit tenu par le bataillon. L'attaque avait été précédée d'un barrage d'artillerie intense et concentré, plus de 200 obus tombèrent directement sur la position du peloton et ce en 20 minutes. Le Sergent Buxton a été blessé par un des premiers obus; malgré cela il se déplaça autour des positions de son peloton, en encourageant ses hommes et en les redéployant pour contrer une attaque qui arrivait de l'arrière. L'attaque chinoise voulait les prendre en tenaille, avec la moitié de leur compagnie attaquant l'arrière gauche et l'autre de l'arrière droit. Le Sergent Buxton a vite compris la manœuvre, et le redéploiement de son peloton fut une action audacieuse qui permit à son peloton de contrer des attaquants fanatisés qui essayaient de traverser les barbelés en lançant des grenades et en faisant feu de leurs armes individuelles sur les positions du peloton.

Grâce au leadership du Sergent Buxton, le peloton encaissa l'attaque et empêcha ainsi toute pénétration de leur

position. Tout au long de la nuit, le Sergent Buxton dirigea l'action défensive de son secteur contre des petits groupes de Chinois qui essayaient encore et encore de pénétrer son secteur.

L'information obtenue et rapidement transmise à son commandant de compagnie permit d'exécuter des tirs rapides et précis d'artillerie à l'encontre des mouvements ennemis autour de sa position.

A 0300 heures, le peloton commençait à être à court de munitions et comptait un grand nombre de blessés. Le Sergent Buxton supervisa le regroupement des blessés et demanda plus de munitions.

Le groupement de relève, en apportant les munitions à sa position, eut un accrochage avec un groupe ennemi à mi-chemin entre la Compagnie C et le 7^{ème} Peloton. Le Sergent Buxton dirigea avec brio le feu de son peloton pour qu'il aide le groupement de relève jusqu'à ce qu'il atteigne leur position et il fit de même pour qu'il puisse rejoindre leur base.

A l'aube le Sergent Buxton permit qu'on l'évacue enfin, mais seulement après avoir réorganisé son peloton, redistribué les munitions, inspecté la propreté des armes et s'être assuré du bien-être de ses hommes.

La détermination du Sergent Buxton à tenir sa position coûte que coûte, son courage personnel et ses compétences tactiques firent la différence pour conserver sa position et infliger de lourdes pertes à l'ennemi.

Au lever du jour, 24 Chinois furent retrouvés morts le long du périmètre du secteur de son peloton. Le leadership du Sergent Buxton fut un exemple pour ses hommes, sa compagnie et le reste du bataillon. ■

NOTE: Si vous avez de l'information concernant les photos, svp contactez Dick Buxton Jr. au dbuxton@shaw.ca ou rejoignez Dick Jr. par téléphone au 1-877-449-3027.

Les funérailles de l'Adjudant-chef Richard George Buxton.





GLEN, THE PARATROOP DOG

by John Fotheringham

In the Ranville War Cemetery, France, many British and Canadian airborne casualties from D-Day lie, including the first Allied soldier to be killed in action during the invasion: Lt. Den Brotheridge of Maj. John Howard's D Company, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 6th Airborne Division, led the first charge across the bridge at Benouville, now known as Pegasus Bridge.

One of the 2,235 Commonwealth markers at Ranville remembers Pte. E.S. Corteil who served with the Parachute Regiment of the Army Air Corps. He died on June 6, 1944 at the age of 19. The inscription at the bottom of his gravestone reads: "Had you known our boy, you would have loved him too. Glen, his paratroop dog, was killed with him."

Pte. Emile Servais Corteil served in A Company, 9 Parachute Battalion, 3rd Parachute Brigade, of the 6th Airborne Division. He was trained as a dog-handler and was paired with Glen, an Alsatian messenger dog.

On D-Day, the main tasks of the 6th Airborne Division were as follows:

1. To capture the Bénouville and Ranville Bridges. These strategically vital bridges, if held against counterattack, would not only prevent the Germans from moving decisively against the flank of the British and Canadian seaborne troops as they advanced inland, but they would also enable the Allies to advance eastwards.
2. The destruction of the Merville Battery. Several miles to the northeast of these bridges was an imposing fortification that contained four large calibre guns, which could do terrific damage to the invasion fleet and the landing beaches. The 6th Airborne Division had to attack and destroy these

Pte. Emile Servais Corteil and his paratroop dog Glen, an Alsatian messenger dog, posed for this photo.



The inscription at the bottom of Pte. E.S. Corteil's gravestone reads: "Had you known our boy you would have loved him too. Glen, his paratroop dog, was killed with him."

guns in the hours before the landings took place.

9 Para's task was the destruction of the Merville Battery. (For the full story of the successful assault on the battery, see "The

Merville Battery" by Neil Barber in the 2009 issue of the *Maroon Beret*.)

Pte. J. Baty of A Company jumped from the same plane as Corteil and Glen. He helped to get Glen out the door during the jump, but when they landed the entire stick was dispersed. The Germans had flooded much of the ground in the Normandy area to hinder paratroopers and gliders from landing. Corteil's stick landed south of the town of Cabourg, well away from their intended drop zone and into marshy ground.

Corteil and Glen managed to rendezvous with their brigade commander, Brigadier James Hill, DSO, MC, at the village of Varaville in the early morning hours of June 6th. Brigadier Hill himself had landed far from his intended dropzone and spent the night pushing through the waterlogged countryside gathering up men as he went.

With forty or so men, Brigadier Hill headed towards the 9th Battalion's position some miles away. It was during the march that disaster struck. In the words of Brigadier Hill:

"We were walking down a lane when I suddenly heard a terrible staccato sound approaching from the seaward side of the hedge. I shouted to everybody to fling themselves down and then we were caught in the middle of a pattern of anti-personnel bombs dropped by a large group of aircraft which appeared to be our own Spitfires."

The attack was devastating; only Brigadier Hill and one other man could even stand, the rest had been severely wounded or killed. Hill gave what first aid he could, applying morphine to the wounded and handing out supplies. He could not stay long, as his absence jeopardized



A photograph taken of A Company, 9 Parachute Battalion of the Army Air Corps. Pte. E.S. Corteil and his paratroop dog Glen are seated at front.

the success of the brigade's operations and so he soon pushed on.

Pte. Corteil and Glen were both killed in the attack. They were buried together at the insistence of Maj. Alan Parry, Corteil's company commander, who led the main attack on the Merville Battery. Parry believed that since they were so devoted to each other in life it was proper that they should share the same grave.

As we know from the successful attack on Osama bin Laden's compound by U.S. Navy SEALs, dogs continue to serve on the frontlines. Cairo, either a German Shepherd or a Belgian Malinois, was attached to his SEAL handler and lowered from a helicopter into the compound. Wearing canine armor, he went along to sniff out hidden explosives or, if necessary, find a secret room of bin Laden's. ■



Mike Forsythe and dog Cara are shown breaking the world record for highest man/dog parachute deployment at 30,100 feet. Cara is wearing a K9 Storm Vest. Both Forsythe and Cara utilized oxygen during the jump. (ANDY ANDERSON, K9 STORM)



1 CAN PARA

Ceremony at Ex Coelis Mountain

*by Andy Anderson
1 Can Para*

Adrienne and I were pleased to attend the 11th annual Airborne events and ceremony at Ex Coelis Mountain and David Thompson Resort on June 4-6, 2011. We have encountered all kinds of adverse weather conditions while in the Siffleur Falls area, but for these events the sun shone and the weather was balmy.

The ceremony and parade took place on Sunday, June 5 and followed the standard format. Herb Pitts sent a very warm and meaningful letter, which was read at the commencement of the ceremony and set the tone for the event. Jan de Vries also sent an excellent letter, which was very much appreciated by all. Bill Dickson did a splendid job as master of ceremonies. He had also done the heavy lifting, managing all the details for the weekend and arrangements for the site with assistance from the Edmonton Airborne Social Club. We can never thank them enough for the work done on the behalf of 1 Can Para.

The parade was backed by a large number of CAFA and other Airborne veterans, plus a full platoon of PPCLI and cadets, while just six of our WWII battalion veterans were able to attend and participate. What we lacked in quantity, we made up for in quality. Our veterans did us proud, both on parade and off. They included Russ Dixon, John Ross, Tom Sawden and Andy Anderson, joined by British paras John Butler and Jerry James. ■



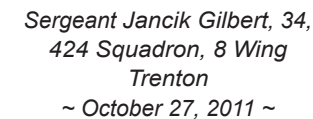
IN MEMORIAM



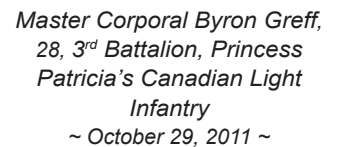
*Bombardier Karl Manning, 31,
5^e Régiment d'artillerie
légère du Canada
~ May 28, 2011 ~*



*Master Corporal Francis
Roy, 32, Canadian Special
Operations Regiment
~ June 25, 2011 ~*



*Sergeant Jancik Gilbert, 34,
424 Squadron, 8 Wing
Trenton
~ October 27, 2011 ~*



*Master Corporal Byron Greff,
28, 3rd Battalion, Princess
Patricia's Canadian Light
Infantry
~ October 29, 2011 ~*





LAST POST

Alvestad, Bernhard	FSSF	Howarth, Dave	Cdn AB Regt
Baker, Geoffrey Douglas	Cdn AB Regt	Insole, Peter George	1 Can Para
Beggs, Ross	AB Sigs	Kapuscinski, Zdzislaw (Jerry)	RCAMC
Beix, Ed	SAR	Kirby, Kip	QOR
Belanger, Andre	Cdn AB Regt	Klokeid, Jack F.	PPCLI
Bell, Robert Lewis	SAS	Laurence, Victor Dunca	Cdn AB Regt, CABC
Bellefontaine, William	RCR	Leaver, William	FSSF
Bisson, Leo	Cdn AB Regt	Lefebvre, Remi	Cdn AB Regt, AB Sigs
Blackwell, Douglas Henry	AB Sigs	Leonard, Tom (Zeke)	AB Sigs
Boughton, John Cullis	1 Can Para	Lepage, John (Jacques)	RCN/MP
Bray, Joseph James	RCR, RCE	Lowe, William	1 Can Para
Briere, Yvon	Cdn AB Regt	MacLean, Frederick John	RCR
Briggs, Gary John	SAR	Matthias, Melvin	FSSF
Brown, Ernie	FSSF	McCarthy, Keith	Cdn AB Regt
Brown, Sandy HP	SAR	McGrath, Leo	QOR, R22eR, Cdn AB Regt, CABC
Burley, Douglas	FSSF		
Coady, Charles Elvin	RCR	Norris, Herbert George	AB Sigs
Cook, Howie	SAS	Patch, Preston	FSSF
Copeland, Harvey	SAR	Paul, Don	AB Bty
Denis, Lloyd	1 Can Para	Pearson, Glen Wadsworth	RCR
Doerksen, Clarence John (Dirk)	PPCLI, QOR	Peterson, Edward Albert	Cdn AB Regt
Dow, Norman Charles	RCR	Rankin, William J.	RCOC
Elliot, Charles Howard (Chuck)	1 Can Para	Rector, Millard	FSSF
Eros, Sam	FSSF	Redden, Hubert	PPCLI
Fisher, Ralph Edwin	Cdn AB Regt	Redmond, Eric Malcolm	AB Sigs
Fleming, Gerald Reginald	RC Sigs	Rogers, Robert	Cdn AB Regt, CABC
Fox, Joseph H. (Jay)	Cdn AB Regt	Simic, Alexandre	SOE
Gallant, Alvin Martin	Cdn AB Regt	Smith, Danny	AB Sigs, MSF
Geff, Byron	PPCLI	Stacenko, Jon	Cdn AB Regt
Greenaway, Ed	CAFA	Steffan, James	RC Sigs
Giffin, Stephen	Cdn AB Regt, CAFA	Tarnasky, Willy	PPCLI
Gilbert, Janick	SAR	Thomas, Glen Leon	Cdn AB Regt
Hamilton, Charles	PPCLI	Vinette, Anthony	RCR
Hopkins, Bert	FSSF/DB		

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