

La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne







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Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to **canadianairborneforces@gmail.com**. The deadline for the 2017 issue is February 1, 2018. *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 **canadianairborneforces@gmail.com**. Do not embed photos in the article, but send as attachments. Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Cover photo: Paratroopers from 3 RCR on exercise at Fort Bragg, NC, October 12, 2016. (PHOTO BY CPL LEVARRE MCDONALD, CANADIAN ARMY)

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CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

t has been another busy year for CAFA, with your Executive and Board of Directors working hard in undertaking the important business of our Association.

Another successful AGM was held in May, when we welcomed three new directors bringing our Board of Directors total to a healthy ten members. Rick Hatton (bursary program), Al Currie and Mike English (Secretary) were welcomed and we look forward to their input over the coming few years.

Bob Janik, having indicated his intent prior, left the Board after the AGM upon completing his handover with Mike English. During the Saturday banquet, Bob was formally thanked for his many years of stalwart service to CAFA, both as Secretary and Chair of the Bursary Program. Bob remains committed to CAFA as President of Branch 9 in Kingston.

On May 25th I was invited to attend and speak at the celebration of life for Andy Anderson, 1 Can Para, who remained a dedicated and a strong supporter of the Canadian Airborne until his death. Andy was well remembered and applauded by all who spoke during the service. Andy was an imposing and impressive individual whose presence will be missed by all those he touched.

Led by a group from Jerry Robertson's Huronia Branch, along with an ARAC contingent, CAFA was well represented at the rededication of Drop Zone Gorvad in Camp Borden. Many of us know the DZ well from past



CAFA President Walter Holmes addresses the crowd during the Drop Zone Gorvad rededication ceremony at Camp Borden on June 11, 2016. For more photos, go to page 7.

and, at times, painful experience. The commanding officer of 3 PPCLI, LCol Jay Adair, was the driving force behind the rededication, which took place on the weekend of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Camp Borden.

Members of the 3 RCR and QOR jump companies kicked off the ceremony with a Chinook and freefall jump that added to the occasion. Peter Gorvad was a U.S. Army Ranger who served on exchange with the Infantry School with distinction in the mid-1960s. He was subsequently killed in Vietnam. His widow and brother with his family attended the rededication ceremony.

September saw a number of our Canadian members do the annual trek across the border to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station where we had a very good gathering with our Branch 17 colleagues from Detroit and other areas of the USA. During the discussions that ensued, Branch 17 offered to host the U.S. event next year in Dayton, Ohio. It was agreed that this should be an all Airborne activity, so open to all Canadian Airborne. Unfortunately, it was recently decided that the 2017 St. Michael's Day All Airborne Rendezvous Weekend that was planned to be held in Dayton, Ohio in October 2017 has been **cancelled**. Look at our website and Facebook page for the details.

Other happenings of note are the success of our new website, **www.canadianairborneforces.ca**. Thanks to Dave Pentney, the site is up, running and being populated. If you have anything that you would like to see posted to it, feel free to contact Dave directly. The Association reserves the right to revise or reject input. Also, our Facebook page is proving to be an excellent way to get information out

to our members. To become a member go to **Facebook** @ **CdnABNForces**.

AGM 17 will be held at CFB Trenton's Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) from May 5 to 7, 2017. This magazine will probably be issued after the fact but, as always, we are anticipating a very good weekend of camaraderie and fun. CAAWC was formally recognized for its support to CAFA during the AGM 16 dinner. An Airborne print was presented to them in recognition of the outstanding assistance they continue to provide to us on an annual basis.

Airborne!

Walter Holmes CAFA President

CAFA Executive Committee, 2015–2016

- Walter Holmes, President
- Angelo Di Liberti, Vice-President
- Mike English, Secretary
- Dave Pentney, Treasurer / Membership
- John Fotheringham, Maroon Beret magazine
- Bob McBride, Canadian Airborne Forces Museum
- Ross MacKenzie, Sergeant at Arms
- Rick Hatton, Scholarship / Bursary
- Jay Lapeyre, Soldier of the Year Award
- Joanne de Vries, 1st Canadian Para Bn Association

ARAC Executive Committee, 2016–2017 Effective October 21, 2015

- Dan Clarke, President
- Rob Hagarty, Vice-President
- David Kettle, Chaplain
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Secretary
- Marlene Schmidle, Treasurer
- André Bilodeau, Membership
- Joe Frenken, Webmaster
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Maroon Beret
- Joe Drouin, Kit shop
- Kirk Weekes, Sergeant–at-Arms

ARAC Head Office and Mailing address

3 -36 de Varennes, Gatineau, QC, J8T 0B6

QUICK REFERENCES

ARAC Important Dates for 2017

- 8 April 49th birthday of the Regiment
- 7 May 49th anniversary of Wagner Point
- July 28 or August 4 Presentation of the Cadet Basic Para coins, Trenton, Ontario
- 6 or 13 August Peacekeeping Day, National Monument, Ottawa, Ontario
- TBA Annual General Meeting
- November 11 Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National Military Cemetery, Beechwood, Ottawa

Websites & Email addresses

CAFA website: www.canadianairborneforces.ca CAFA email: canadianairborneforces@gmail.com ARAC website: www.airborneassociation.com ARAC email: airborne1@airborneassociation.com

Kit shop on the Web: www.joedrouin.com

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ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Airborne Regiment Association of Canada | Association du Régiment Aéroporté du Canada (ARAC)



s we enter 2017 we celebrate the 49th anniversary of the founding of our Regiment and work to develop ideas to mark the 50th anniversary to be held next year, 2018.

Our colleagues in the Airborne Social Club in Edmonton will host a great 50th anniversary reunion and we hope to see many of our brothers at the event. We know that Edmonton will put on their usual first class event.

We have been requested to move one of our Regimental Colours to the National Cemetery by the Beechwood Board of Directors. We will explore this proposal in this year with a possible intention to do so as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2018. More to follow. Please send your thoughts on this matter.

This past 11th of June we, in conjunction with our sister organization CAFA, supported 3 PPCLI in rededicating Drop Zone Gorvad at CFB Borden.

Dedicated to the memory of U.S. Army Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gorvad, killed in Vietnam while serving as a battalion commander; he had served as a Major on exchange at the Royal Canadian School of Infantry in Borden in the early 1960s.

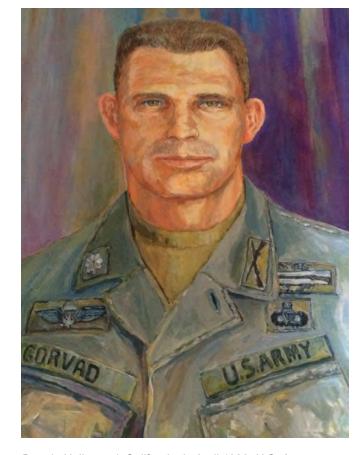
Throughout the fall our association attended the annual United Nations Day memorial in Ottawa and the Remembrance Day ceremony at the National Military Cemetery in Beechwood. As per previous years, the Airborne was given the honour of being at the head of the parade.

As mentioned last year, we are in need of a secretary to spell off Marlene Schmidle and Joe Drouin, who have been shouldering the load for the past two decades. Since over 15,000 of us served the Regiment over its time in the order of battle, I hope there are folks who can help support our Regimental family.

We wish you well in the coming year. *Airborne!* — *Prends garde!*

Dan Clarke ARAC President





Born in Hollywood, California, in April 1932, U.S. Army Ranger LCol Peter Gorvad served as the American Exchange Officer at CFB Borden's Combat Arms School from 1965 to 1968. Gorvad was killed in action in Vietnam in 1969. Below are photographs taken during the rededication ceremony at CFB Borden on June 11, 2016.





DZ GORVAD

Rededication Ceremony, June 11, 2016, Drop Zone Gorvad, CFB Borden

he monument (*pictured below middle*) was erected on June 11, 2016 during the rededication ceremony at Camp Borden. The plaque reads: "Named in honour of US exchange officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gorvad. Lieutenant-Colonel Gorvad was a highly influential instructor at the Combat Arms School and deeply connected to the Borden community from 1965–1968. Lieutenant Colonel was killed in action in Vietnam on 8 March 1969."

The drop zone was named in recognition of the Master Jumper who, according to 3 PPCLI CO LCol Jay Adair, made a lasting impact on the school and "who epitomized the qualities of a soldier and a gentleman."





3 PPCLI

Parachute Company's 2016 Year in Review

he year 2016 presented the 3 PPCLI Parachute Company with many unique opportunities to challenge its warfighting readiness. From airborne drops behind opposing lines to conducting company-level live fire ranges, the Parachute Company conducted an array of exercises that showcased the parachute capability in the Canadian Army.

2016 kicked off with a bang, with the Parachute Company detaching a platoon to Alaska to conduct airborne training with the new U.S. Army Alaska. After equipment conversion training, the platoon imbedded into an American Army rifle company within the 509th Infantry Regiment for airborne operations and live-fire drills at Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC), Fort Polk, Louisiana.

While they enjoyed sunny Louisiana, the remainder of the Parachute Company formed a Parachute Company Group from airborne attachments within 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG), and the reciprocal U.S. Army platoon exchanged from the 509th Regiment out of Alaska. The Parachute Group deployed on a five-hour flight via CC-130Js North to Resolute Bay, as part of Exercise ARCTIC RAM. Here, the Company Group



ABOVE: Remembrance Day ceremony.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Three images of Bravo Company, 3 PPCLI, taken during Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM 2016. (MCPL MALCOLM BYERS, WAINWRIGHT GARRISON IMAGING) There was still plenty of snow on the ground during the March 3, 2016 exercise. A beautiful day for a jump!

jumped into -50 degree temperatures for a descent onto DZ Resolute Bay. They quickly moved to secure their objective, demonstrating the precision and speed that the Company brings to the Brigade, through rapid deployment into an austere environment.

In April, the Parachute Company deployed to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM. Here the Company conducted live-fire attacks with combined supporting arms, including artillery, aircraft, and snipers. This was to prepare the Company for its place in the Brigade's high readiness plan for 2016.

In May, the Parachute Company deployed to Wainwright, Alberta for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, where they conducted an airborne insertion in support of Brigade offensive operations. The Company Platoons went on to conduct raids and transition to hasty defensive positions to await enemy counterattacks. Here they fought against an aggressive British-led opposition force, repelling them numerous times. Throughout the exercise, the Parachute Company displayed the flexibility of airborne forces.

In August, the Parachute Company took part in the Edmonton Air Show, jumping as a company to demonstrate the utility and unique capability the company offers to the Canadian public. This provided a very special opportunity for the Parachute Company to interact with other Canadians, where the troopers could demonstrate their professionalism and speak to members of the general public about what they do day to day.

In the fall, the Parachute Company took part in several series of training to include close-quarters battles, first aid, and hand-to-hand combat. This training proved invaluable to enhancing the warfighting abilities of the troopers of the Parachute Company.

In October, the Parachute Company deployed to Wainwright for Exercise SPARTAN READY, a live-fire exercise focused on platoon- and section-level tactics. After setting up a defensive position, the Company began working on pairs and section live-fire coordination and combat first aid skills. This included platoon support weapons coordination in which several direct hits with the 84mm Carl Gustav were recorded. This exercise reinforced the camaraderie and cohesion of the Parachute Company, right down to the fire team level.

Over the past year, 3 PPCLI Parachute Company displayed the finest qualities of airborne capabilities and professionalism. They continuously proved the need for such a unique and flexible asset, able to deploy at a moment's notice to achieve any mission. As a Company, they displayed the pinnacle of paratrooper skills and the warriors' spirit, and they are as proud as ever to carry on the legacy of all Canadian paratroopers.



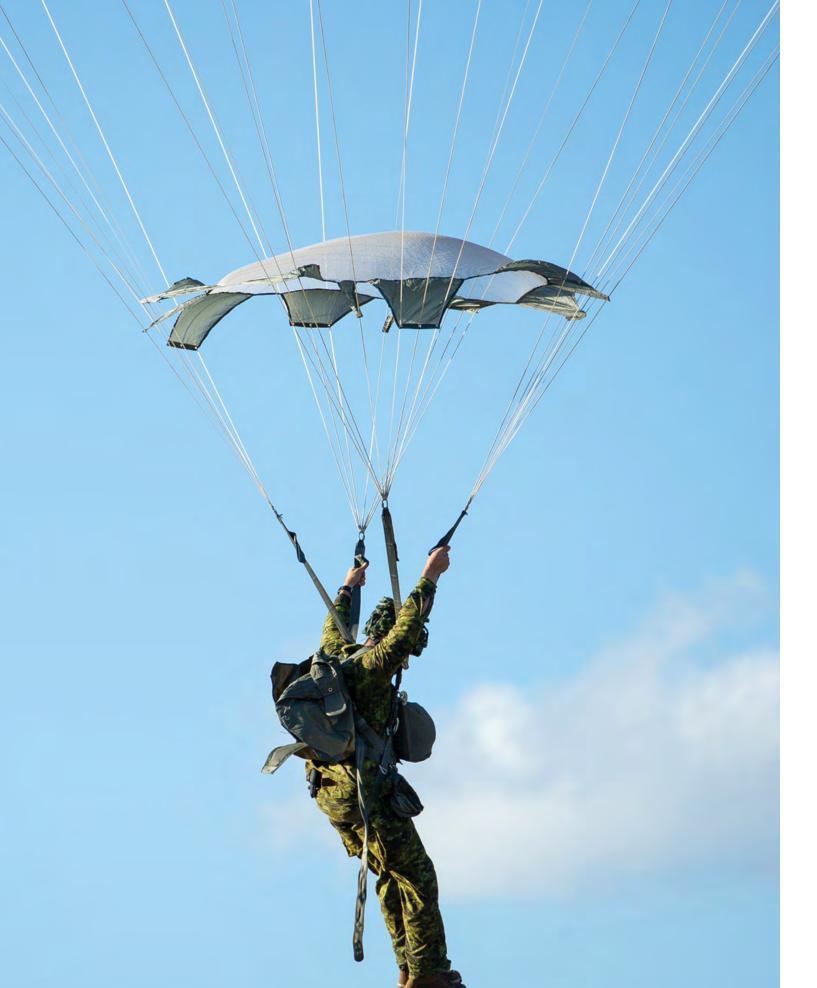








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3 RCR

Mike (Para) Company's 2016 Year in Review

very year is a busy year for the paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR), but 2016 was an especially productive one. Kicking off the New Year, 3 RCR's paratroopers conducted their annual parachute skills refresher and currency jumps. Additionally, the battalion's paratroopers also participated in a Winter Complex Terrain School that included tactical downhill and back-country skiing, ice climbing, and avalanche rescue training in addition to the regular winter warfare regimen. A week-long airmobile exercise testing section level tactics in close terrain rounded out the winter warfare training for the year.

In May, the 3 RCR Parachute Company Group (PCG), based around M Coy, recce/snipers and air sustainment from Q Coy with elements from 2 RCHA, 2 CER and 2 Fd Amb, conducted airmobile operations training during Exercise VIKING TALON in Petawawa, building on a new relationship with the CH-147 Chinook helicopter pilots of 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (THS). The combined airmobile seize-and-hold operation was the most ambitious collaboration between 3 RCR, 450 THS and the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division's General Support Aviation Battalion yet, and proved to be highly successful. As well, a platoon from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the U.S. 82nd

Airborne Division (AB DIV) travelled to Petawawa to train alongside their fellow jumpers north of the border. In total, there were four Chinooks and four Blackhawk helicopters conducting formation flying in support of the PCG.

Two dozen of the battalion's freefall jumpers participated in a freefall continuation training camp for a week in August. They completed basic progression jumps in addition to full equipment freefalls in order to improve competency in this highly technical and essential skill. This public/private partnership program was initiated as an economy of force initiative in order to maintain freefall proficiency within the battalion and has been a remarkable success.

ABOVE: At Fort Bragg, the PCG leadership conducted the joint forcible entry airborne planning process with the American battalion for a tactical night jump in a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation scenario. The entire 2nd Battalion, with their attached Canadians, jumped from several blacked-out C-17s and C-130J Hercules aircraft onto a hot drop zone.

LEFT: A member of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR) jumps from a CC-177 Globemaster aircraft during Battalion Mass Tactical Week at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on October 12, 2016. (CPL LEVARRE MCDONALD, CANADIAN FORCES JOINT IMAGERY CENTRE)



In October, it was the Americans' turn to host their northern neighbours. The PCG, including airborne reconnaissance patrolmen, snipers, and artillerymen, participated in Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise (CJOAX) 2016. In total, the PCG spent 12 eventful days in Fort Bragg, training with the 2nd Battalion of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. In the space of just a week in Fort Bragg, the PCG completed three para drops onto three different drop zones across the training area — a rarity even amongst the airborne units that call Fort Bragg their home.

While the soldiers conducted section- and platoon-level training in the Carolina heat, the PCG leadership conducted the joint forcible entry airborne planning process with the American battalion for a tactical night jump in a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation scenario. The entire 2nd Battalion, with their attached Canadians, jumped from several blacked-out C-17s and C-130J Hercules aircraft onto a hot drop zone. M Coy quickly regrouped at its DZ RV and launched into its task, which was to secure a complex of buildings including a simulated "Canadian Evacuation Centre." The company moved rapidly across the DZ, achieved minimum force and, in short order, the buildings were cleared of the enemy by house-to-house movement. The "Canadians" were safe, and the PCG had repulsed a hasty enemy counterattack.

By dawn, the drop zone and adjacent airfield had been secured and M Coy had moved into a hidden patrol base to begin preparations for the following night's attack on a second compound, believed to house an enemy C3 node. At nightfall, the paratroopers moved to the captured airfield and boarded five UH-60 Blackhawks and two CH-47 Chinook helicopters. After a short flight, the M-240



machine guns mounted on the sides of the helicopters suppressed the enemy as the Canadians dismounted. As the helicopters departed, the platoons began their assault. The leading section of paratroopers gained entry into the first building through a window and opened the way for the remainder of the company to seize the objective building by building. Before long, the company had secured the entire compound and surrounding woods.

In just two nights, the Canadian PCG had conducted two complex operations: an airborne assault while integrated with an allied battalion, and a rapidly planned and executed airmobile assault on an urban compound. This was no small feat, and the achievements of the Canadian soldiers of 3 RCR's M Coy proved their worth and won the respect of their paratrooper partners.

The PCG's experience in North Carolina enabled them to excel during the live-fire Exercise STORMING BEAR in November. The company group conducted an air assault on a prepared enemy position through the integration of the live gun target line and rotary wing approach heading. Following up on their surprise attack, they quickly consolidated and subsequently marched 10 kilometres to assault a second objective. The cohesion and experience gained during CJOAX showed as the PCG completed both tasks with airborne aggression and in rapid succession.

3 RCR's jumpers completed 2016 with an airborne school and currency jumps just before Christmas leave,

ABOVE LEFT: Members of 3 RCR's M Coy conduct training on a static line prior to a jump.

ABOVE RIGHT: 2 BCT Joint Force Entry airborne insertion over Fort Bragg, NC, USA. 3 RCR's jumpers were amongst the 600 paratroopers that conducted this night parachute assault with vehicles and howitzers.



ensuring that the paratroopers were fully refreshed for the busy year ahead. The number and quality of the joint and combined training events of 2016 not only improved their skills as paratroopers, but also showcased their tactical abilities, fighting spirit, and versatility as soldiers. Air-land integration has become a mantra for all PCG operations.

In fact, the hard work and professional competence



displayed by Canadian paratroopers during a number of such combined training events over the past several

ABOVE LEFT & RIGHT: 3 RCR paratroopers conducted progression jumps from a CC-177 Globemaster aircraft with members of 82nd Airborne Division during Battalion Mass Tactical Week at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on October 12, 2016. (CPL LEVARRE MCDONALD, CF JOINT IMAGERY CENTRE)



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years clearly made an impression on the leadership of the 82nd AB DIV. 3 RCR has been invited to attend a Global Response Force validation exercise at the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana in the coming year. Challenging and realistic training at the JRTC will serve to validate a light infantry unit's ability to conduct joint and combined arms operations in complex environments across the entire spectrum of conflict. This will bring together not just the paratroopers from the PCG, but airborne sustainment and insertion of airborne recce and snipers.

PRO PATRIA ■

BELOW: Members of 3 RCR's M Coy stand atop the 132-foot wingspan of a CC-130J aircraft as it's parked on the tarmac.



ABOVE LEFT: WO Will Black coordinates with a counterpart from the 82nd Airborne Division during a combined airmobile operation on Exercise VIKING TALON in May 2016.

ABOVE RIGHT: A CH-147F Chinook helicopter from 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (450 THS) and CH-47 Chinooks from the U.S. 82nd General Support Aviation Battalion touch down in the Garrison Petawawa training area to offload soldiers from Mike Company, 3 RCR, during EX VIKING TALON 2016. (CPL MARK SCHOMBS, 82ND COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE)





3 R22ER

Commémoration de la plus grande opération aéroportée de l'histoire: Opération MARKET GARDEN

par Lt Fred Morin

undi le 12 septembre 2016, des soldats de la Compagnie A, 3° Bataillon, Royal 22° Régiment, sont arrivés à la base aérienne d'Eindhoven, aux Pays-Bas. La semaine suivant leur arrivée fut mémorable pour la compagnie et ses membres qui ont eu l'opportunité de visiter les sites historiques de la bataille d'Arnhem lors de l'opération MARKET GARDEN. Cet événement nous a rappelé le sacrifice ultime des hommes qui ont sauté en Hollande le 17 septembre 1944 pour se rendre à un pont trop loin.

Au courant du combat mené aux Pays-Bas, les alliées cherchaient une façon rapide de pénétrer les lignes défensives allemandes afin de libérer la Hollande et d'amener la bataille en territoire allemand. L'opération MARKET GARDEN n'a malheureusement pas eu de succès pour les alliés. MARKET GARDEN est, à ce jour, la plus grande opération aéroportée qui ait jamais eu lieu. Plus de 20 000 parachutistes, accompagnés de plus de 15 000 troupes de planeurs en provenance de la Grande-Bretagne, les États-Unis et la Pologne ont atterri en territoire nazi pendant l-opération.

Entre le 13 et le 18 septembre 2016, les membres de la compagnie parachutiste du 3 R22eR ont participé à l'exercice FALCON LEAP, un exercice réunissant des parachutistes de huit pays différents, pour inclure toutes

3 R22ER

Commemoration of History's Largest Airborne Operation: Operation MARKET GARDEN

by Lt Fred Morin

n Monday, September 12, 2016, soldiers from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal 22^e Régiment (3 R22^eR) had freshly arrived at Eindhoven Air Base in the Netherlands. The next week would become memorable to both the company and its members as they would visit historical sites from the Battle of Arnhem during Operation MARKET GARDEN. This event reminded the group of the ultimate sacrifice of the men who jumped over Holland on September 17, 1944, in order to secure a bridge too far.

Operation MARKET GARDEN was an unsuccessful Allied operation fought in the Netherlands between September 17 and September 25, 1944, which had sought to bypass the strengthened German defensive line and liberate Holland from Nazi occupation. MARKET GARDEN is, to this day, the largest airborne operation to have ever occurred. Over 20,000 paratroopers accompanied by over 15,000 glider troops from Great Britain, the United States, and Poland landed in occupied Holland during the operation.

Between the 13th and 18th of September 2016, the members of 3 R22^eR's para company participated in Exercise FALCON LEAP, which reunited parachutists from eight nations, to include all the nations that participated in the original operation, with the intent to share knowledge



CI-HAUT: Sgt Julien Dolci, 3 R22eR, montre aux parachutistes allemands, italiens, hollandais et polonais la bonne façon de plier le parachute canadien, lors de l'exercice FALCON LEAP. // ABOVE: Sgt Julien Dolci, 3 R22eR, shows the proper way to fold a Canadian parachute to German, Dutch, Italian and Polish paratroopers during Exercise FALCON LEAP. (MBDR ANGEL FERREIRA)

les nations qui ont participé à l'opération originale, dans l'intention de partager les connaissances de l'équipement, les techniques et les procédures modernes de nos alliés. Cet exercice devait inclure quatre sauts du 14 au 17 septembre 2016, et comprendre quelques évènements commémoratifs ayant lieu en Hollande. Les festivités sont également connues sous le nom de « La semaine aéroportée ».

Le 14 septembre 2016, de nombreux membres de la compagnie A ont eu l'opportunité de mettre un parachute polonais, le AD-95, et de sauter d'un C-295 CASA de la Force aérienne polonaise sur la zone de largage utilisée dans la production du film *A Bridge Too Far* (1977), un film commémoratif mettant l'accent sur la bataille d'Arnhem pendant l'opération MARKET GARDEN. Après le saut, les festivités de courte durée ont été menées sur la DZ et la compagnie a été rapidement ramenée à Harskamp Barracks, Gueldre, afin de recevoir la formation de parachute pour leur prochain saut.

Le lendemain, la majorité de la compagnie a sauté d'un Transall allemand C-160 en utilisant le système de parachute allemand T-10, un parachute partageant de grandes ressemblances avec le CT-1 canadien. Ils ont atterri sur la zone de largage Ginkel Heath, la même zone de largage utilisée en 1944 par la 1ère Division Aéroportée alliée, à 18 kilomètres du pont Rijnbrug. De DZ Ginkel Heath, la compagnie a commencé à marcher la route historique utilisée majoritairement par la force aéroportée le jour de l'opération.

À DROITE: Sgt
Dolci inspecte
le parachute
d'un collègue
allemand. //
RIGHT: Sgt
Dolci inspects
the parachute
of a German
colleague. (CAPT
DENNIS NOEL)



about equipment, techniques and experiences between modern allies. FALCON LEAP was to include four jumps from the 14th to the 17th of September, mixed in with some commemorative events taking place in Holland. The festivities are also known as "Airborne Week."

On the 14th of September, 2016, many members of A Company, 3 R22eR, got the opportunity to don a Polish AD-95 static-line round parachute and jump from a Polish Air Force C-295 CASA onto the drop zone used to make the 1977 film *A Bridge Too Far*, a commemorative film focusing on the Battle of Arnhem during Operation MARKET GARDEN. After the jump, short-lived festivities were conducted on the DZ and the company was soon brought back to Harskamp Barracks, in Gueldre, in order to receive parachute training for their next jump.

The following day, the majority of the company jumped from a German Transall C-160 using the German T-10 parachute system, which shares great similarities with the Canadian CT-1. They landed on DZ Ginkel Heath, the same DZ used in 1944 by the 1st Allied Airborne Division, 18 kilometres away from the targeted Rijnbrug Bridge. From DZ Ginkel Heath, the company began marching along the same historical route that was used by many of the airborne forces that day.

During the 21-kilometre route, the company marched through the woods of Bilderberg, stopped to visit the Oude Kerk (Old Church) in Oosterbeek as well as a nearby WWII-era field hospital replica. Maroon flags bearing the sky-blue Pegasus were seen lining the route on both public and private property. For many residents, the Battle of Arnhem is a not-so-distant memory. The march finished as the company arrived under the John Frost Bridge, named after Major-General John Dutton

Durant cette marche de 21 kilomètres, la compagnie a défilé dans les bois de Bilderberg, s'est arrêtée pour visiter l'Oude Kerk (« vieille église ») à Oosterbeek ainsi qu'une réplique d'hôpital de campagne de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Les drapeaux marrons portant le Pegasus bleu ciel ont été vu tout au long de l'itinéraire, tant sur les endroits publics que privés. Pour beaucoup de résidents, la bataille d'Arnhem est un souvenir pas si lointain. La marche s'est terminée alors que la compagnie arrivait sous le pont John Frost, nommé en l'honneur du major général John Dutton Frost, commandant des forces britanniques qui avaient atteint le pont de Riinburg, maintenant reconstruit.

Le 17 septembre 2016, le saut officiel de la commémoration sur DZ Ginkel Heath a eu lieu. Ce saut, impliquant 600 sauteurs et vu par plus de 30 000 spectateurs, marquait le 72° anniversaire du début de l'opération MARKET GARDEN. Comme à l'époque du saut original MARKET GARDEN et d'autres opérations telles que OVERLORD, les sauts du 17 septembre 2016 ont été presque annulés en raison du brouillard lourd et d'une basse couverture de nuages sur les zones de largages. Après avoir attendu pendant 2 heures, le ciel s'est dégagé et l'évènement s'est concrétisé. Au Drop Zone Rendez-vous (DZ RV), tous les parachutistes ont été salués par la foule. Des centaines de véhicules restaurés des alliés de la guerre ainsi que des festivités attendaient également les parachutistes.

Le 18 septembre 2016, la compagnie de parachutiste a participé à la commémoration de l'Opération MARKET GARDEN au cimetière de guerre Arnhem Oosterbeek. Tous ont été émus devant ces monuments qui nous rappellent nos racines, notre raison d'être, et la fierté de porter le fameux béret marron qui marque l'histoire de l'Opération MARKET GARDEN et de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale.

« All the way »,

Airborne!

CI-HAUT: Un parachutiste allemand, ayant sauté avec un parachute canadien, surveille l'atterrissage de ses homologues des autres pays. // ABOVE: A German soldier, after jumping with a Canadian parachute, surveys his counterparts' landing. (MBDR ANGEL FERREIRA)

À DROITE: Maj Geoffrey Dionne, commandant du Groupecompagnie de parachutistes du 3 R22eR, remet les ailes canadiennes à un parachutiste britannique. // RIGHT: Maj Geoffrey Dionne, 33 R22eR's Airborne Group-Company commander, awards Canadian wings to a British paratrooper. (MBDR ANGEL FERREIRA)



Frost, who commanded the British forces that reached the now rebuilt Riinburg Bridge.

On September 17, 2016 the official commemoration jump on DZ Ginkel Heath, featuring 600 jumpers and viewed by over 30,000 spectators, was the 72nd anniversary of the start of operation MARKET GARDEN. As in the days of the original jump and other operations such as OVERLORD, the jumps were almost cancelled due to heavy fog and low cloud cover on the drop zones. After waiting for two hours, the skies cleared and the event materialized. At Drop Zone Rendez-vous (DZ RV), all parachutists were greeted by the crowd, hundreds of WWII-era Allied vehicles and festivities.

On September 18, 2016, A Company participated in the commemoration of OP MARKET GARDEN at the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery. The monuments that mark the history of Operation MARKET GARDEN and World War II truly humbled the company and reminded us of our roots, our purpose, and the pride of wearing the famous maroon beret.

All the way, *Airborne!* ■





THE QOR

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2016 in Review

By Major Scott Moody, CD OC Para Coy



xercise PEGASUS FROST was the QOR's kick-off into the 2016 training year. It was held at CFB Trenton and was a winter warfare review exercise that started off with a full-equipment double door parachute drop onto DZ Hodgson. The unit was in Trenton a week later supporting the 426 OTU by providing jumpers and jumpmasters to help complete the static-line parachute phase of the CC-130J Loadmaster course.

The QOR conducted Exercise PEGASUS FROST II in CFB Borden in February. During this exercise the unit participated in recce patrols and platoon-deliberate attacks in a cold weather environment. The unit also said goodbye to CWO Scott Patterson, who passed away after a long battle with cancer. CWO Patterson was one of the original paratroopers from the initiation of our airborne task. He also played a key role in preserving the history and traditions of the unit.

The annual Basic Mountain Operations (BMO) course the QOR runs for soldiers from 32 CBG took place during March. The final exercise was held during Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE IV, which was held at 4 Div TC Meaford from March 18–20. To make the exercise challenging, the unit leveraged the BMO course to facilitate a company-sized raid through complex terrain. This meant a nighttime fixed-line ascent that led into a rappel insertion. Once "End Ex" was called, members of Para Coy moved to Lake Simcoe Regional Airport and were picked up by a CC-130J.

ABOVE: The QOR runs the annual Basic Mountain Operations course for soldiers from 32 CBG. In 2016, the course took place in March at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: The Basic Mountain
Operations training course included rappelling down a steep
rock face in addition to a nighttime fixed-line ascent.



After conducting an inflight dress, a double-door descent took place onto DZ Hodgson at CFB Trenton. During this exercise, we were supported by our newly qualified Jumpmaster, MCpl Kat Jessome. MCpl Jessome is the first female jumpmaster in the Canadian Army.

The annual IBTS cycle began in April with Exercise READY RIFLEMAN I, which consisted of PWT 3 and a series of IBTS stands. The unit also supported an exported Basic Parachutist course that was run by 3 RCR and qualified four more paratroopers for the unit.

In May Para Coy held Ex QUICK RIG I at CFB Trenton, which was a one-day exercise that had unit jumpers deploy to Trenton, rig equipment and conduct a full-equipment

TOP RIGHT: Paratroopers from 3 PPCLI, 3 RCR, and the QOR make their way to the CH-147 Chinook from which they will jump during the June 11, 2016 rededication ceremony for Drop Zone Gorvad, CFB Borden.

RIGHT: Jumpers from 3 RCR's Mike (Para) Company as well as from the QOR stood on parade after the jump during the DZ Gorvad rededication ceremony.



drop onto DZ Hodgson. This also served to be an opportunity for members of CAFA, who were attending the AGM in Trenton, to observe the preparation for the jump. A section of paratroopers went to Petawawa to participate on the airmobile Exercise VIKING TALON. The month closed with another iteration of the IBTS Exercise READY RIFLEMAN to ensure that individual qualifications for members of the regiment were current.

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway was recognized on June 2, 2016. This event started with the Sergeants Mess Dinner taking place on the actual Ridgeway battlefield. The following day, a parade through the town ending at the monument took place. A large reception for the public followed at the Ridgeway Arena.

The QOR worked with 3 RCR and 3 PPCLI in June to execute the DZ Gorvad rededication jump at CFB Borden, which was called Exercise MEMORIAL PEGASUS. The DZ is frequently used by the QOR, however, the reason it was named DZ Gorvad is not known to many. It is named after Lt-Col Peter Gorvad, an infantry officer and Green Beret who served as a U.S. Army exchange officer with







the Combat Arms School at CFB Borden from 1965 – 1968. He was killed during the Vietnam War in 1969, while in command of the 12th Calvary Regiment. The dedication jump consisted of a CH-147 static-line jump and freefall by 40 paratroopers from 3 RCR, the QOR and 3 PPCLI. This was followed by the cairn dedication ceremony that had a great turnout from the Airborne Association and CAFA.

The annual parachute refresher was held at the end of June at CAAWC in Trenton. This consisted of annual PT testing, a refresher, and three descents from a CC-130J using full and light equipment. We had a great turnout from occasional parachutists from 32 and 33 CBG, who have started to jump regularly with us.

In early August members of the QOR participated in Exercise QUICK RIG II at CFB Trenton. This consisted of full-equipment parachute descents onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton. For the last two weeks in August the unit participated in Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN. This exercise presented the soldiers with the opportunity to be integrated within 3 RCR and complete a variety of training, including platoon-level live-fire and company-level amphibious and airmobile operations. In addition, members of the 32 CBG Canadian Patrol Competition (CPC) Team, which was being led by the QOR, had the opportunity to be mentored by 3 RCR Recce Platoon.

Eleven riflemen travelled to the United Kingdom to work with the 7th Battalion, The Rifles during Exercise RIFLEMEN RETURNS. While on the exercise, riflemen participated in section- and platoon-level offensive operations at Camp Rolestone. This was a great opportunity to build important relationships and improve interoperability with our affiliated unit in the UK.



A section-level patrol competition followed by platoon-deliberate attacks was held during Exercise MAROON SWORD in mid-September at CFB Borden. To finish the month of September off, paratroopers from Para Coy participated in the static-line parachute phase of Exercise BULLSEYE, a 436 Squadron training exercise with the Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force.

The QOR had a change of Honorary Colonel in October, whereby HCol Larry Stevenson handed over the duties to retired Major-General Walter Holmes. The following week, the unit conducted Exercise MAROON FROST II, which focused on individual, pairs, group and section live fire to prepare soldiers to join 3 RCR for MAPLE RESOLVE 2017. At the end of the exercise, Para Coy moved to Lake Simcoe Regional Airport to board a CC-130J and conducted a double-door drop onto DZ Gorvad, CFB Borden.

To finish October off the QOR conducted Exercise QUICK RIG 3, which was conducted in support of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC). The concept of the exercise is to have civilian employers watch a parachute descent followed by a raid on DZ Hodgson at CFB Trenton; afterwards, the employers are extracted by the CC-130J and moved back to CFB Trenton. Due to high winds, the parachute descent was a stop drop;

ABOVE LEFT: After four months of intensive training, members of the 32 CBG Canadian Patrol Competition (CPC) Team, which was led by the QOR's Sgt Steve Thomas, earned a bronze medal at the CFB Wainright competition in November 2016.

ABOVE RIGHT: Prior to jumping, Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT also included the annual refresher course for paratroopers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



we then moved to the alternate plan and did a tactical air landing followed by a raid and extraction. The 20 civilian employers enjoyed their flight. They later had the opportunity to meet the 8 Wing Commander as well as leadership from both 436 Squadron and the QOR.

After four months of intensive training the 32 CBG CPC Team deployed to CFB Wainright to participate in the challenge in November. The team, led by Sgt Steve Thomas, consisted of six members of the QOR and one member of 32 CER. The team did well and earned a bronze medal.

During the same time as the CPC competition, 30 paratroopers from Para Coy participated in Exercise TOPHAM in California, with the U.S. Army 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne). This OOR-led exercise also included members of the various influence activities (IA) groups within the 4th Canadian Division. The intent of the exercise was to conduct an airborne insertion into an humanitarian assistance (HA) and disaster relief (DR) exercise in Camp Pendleton, California. A secondary objective of the exercise was interoperability training in airborne operations in which the U.S. Army would become familiar with the CT-1 parachute system and, likewise, Canadians could become familiar with the T-11. 436 Squadron provided a CC-130J to transport our paratroopers and IA personnel to California and support the parachute activity.

Landing at California's March Air Reserve Base (ARB), we linked up with the U.S. Army and conducted our foreign parachutist familiarization training. Due to a mechanical issue the jump into the exercise was a

ABOVE LEFT: Thirty paratroopers from Para Coy participated in Exercise TOPHAM at Camp Pendleton, California in November 2016, with the U.S. Army 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne). This QOR-led exercise also included members of the various Influence Activities (IA) groups within the 4th Canadian Division.

stop drop. A ground move was conducted from March ARB to Camp Pendleton to initiate the exercise. After participating in several training scenarios within the impressive and realistic training facilities at Camp Pendleton, the paratroopers moved back to March ARB. This time a successful drop of 80 American and 30 Canadian paratroopers onto DZ Basilone Nuevo at Camp Pendleton took place. The following day the unit flew back to Canada in the CC-130J.

To further prepare for Operation REINFORCEMENT and to meet the requirements to attend MAPLE RESOLVE 17, the unit held EX MAROON SWORD III at 4 Div TC Meaford. The scope of this exercise was to have soldiers complete live-fire section and platoon attacks. The exercise was a success and a pool of soldiers who had met the standard were selected to work with 3 RCR.

The year ended with EX PEGASUS KNIGHT II. This was a full-equipment drop that would stage out of Oshawa Municipal Airport. The airport proved to be a great airhead, however the weather did not cooperate ending our lucky streak.

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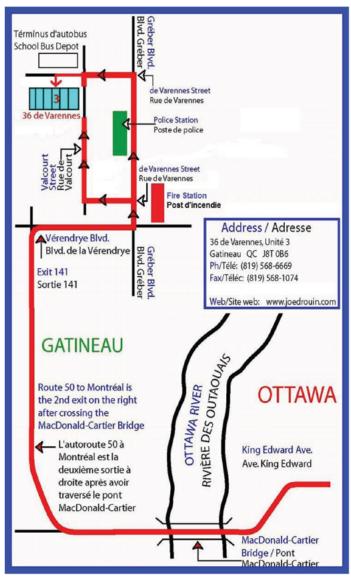
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D-Day Memories

John Butler, French Legion of Honour medal recipient, recalls his involvement in Operation DEADSTICK

As told by John Butler, 6th Airborne Division, 7th Parachute Battalion (Light Infantry), C Company



was 19 years and five days old. C Company was dedicated as the assault company to reach the coup-de-main party on the bridges as soon as possible and to attempt an assault crossing if the canal and river bridges had been blown.

My platoon jumped from a Stirling, a four-engined bomber. Being the last man in the stick, I landed at the extreme southern end of the stick and was able to recognize Ranville church, so I knew exactly where I was in relation to the RV — the rendez-vous — to which I hurried. On arrival I found about 40 people there and a company commander, not sure which one. He called for a Sten gunner and spotted me and told me to go about 30 yards ahead as a scout, and run to the bridges.

When I arrived at the river bridge the first thing I saw was a very young and very dead German soldier with both legs blown off from the knee, obviously the result of a grenade. Being the first dead person I had ever seen, this

momentarily pulled me up, then others rushed past me and I quickly joined them. On the far (west) side of the canal, it seemed fairly quiet except for exploding ammunition from a burning armoured half-track near the Mairie. Here I joined others of my platoon and we were sent on a forward patrol.

At dawn we ran into a patrol of [Germans] about twice the size of ours. After a bit of a fire fight, with one man

ABOVE: Major-General (ret'd) Brian Vernon of Comox, BC, currently serving as Colonel of the Regiment for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), presents Mr. John Butler with the Legion of Honour medal on behalf of the Government of France. At the age of 19, Mr. Butler parachuted into Normandy, behind enemy lines, to capture key objectives during the D-Day invasion. Mr. Butler, now 91 and living in Courtenay, BC, was awarded the rank of Knight of the French Legion of Honour during a ceremony held at Branch 28 (Cumberland) of Royal Canadian Legion on November 25, 2016. (19 WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS, COMOX)



wounded, we were forced back to our perimeter where we joined the other defenders. On the way back to our main line, at one point, we were able to see paras lying on a bank near the village of Le Port in an obvious ambush position, but with their backs towards us and also to the [German] patrol that was coming towards us. The [Germans] were passing a farm and an orchard at that time, but once past they would be able to see the paras with their backs towards them. The platoon sergeant then ordered a rifleman named Mortimer to run out and warn the paras. This Mortimer did but, after running about halfway to them, he was hit by fire from the [German] patrol. He lay still for a bit and then began to painfully crawl on. He was still being fired at by [Germans] and may have been hit again, but he kept on crawling until he was about 200 yards from the paras, when he reared up on his knees and shouted and warned them and, in so doing, was finally shot and killed by the [Germans]. Mortimer gave his life to warn those men, that is what the Victoria Cross is all about ...

After a relatively quiet time on the perimeter, I dropped back towards the canal to a quiet spot where I could drop my pants and bandage a flesh wound on my thigh. After having done this I felt very much in need of a drink, having had nothing since emplaning the night before and also

ABOVE & RIGHT: Taking the Caen Canal Bridge at Bénouville was the first phase of the D-Day invasion. The British 6th Airborne Division seized the bridge from German soldiers before ground forces hit the beaches. The bridge, renamed Pegasus Bridge in honour of the airborne troops, was necessary to get supplies to the troops if the invasion was to continue. It was captured before German soldiers could blow it up. Today, it serves as link between the towns of Ranville and Bénouville.

feeling a little nauseous after bandaging my thigh. So I went to some buildings by the bridge to find something to drink. Just as I arrived at the bridge a barge came into view from the direction of Caen. It appeared to be armed with a 20mm gun and a machine gun (MG 39). An officer there ordered about six of us to deal



with it and, just as we were about to sally down the canal bank, there was a loud bang from the opposite bank and pieces flew off the superstructure of the barge, which beat a hasty retreat. I thought perhaps a six-pounder gun had been brought to the bridge by the glider troops, but found out many years later that it was a German 37mm anti-tank gun mounted by the east side of the bridge and members of the coup-de-main party had got it into use.

On the west bank there was the now famous Pegasus Café. As I was going to it I saw a white Scout car and a Bren gun carrier pull up opposite. They contained a sergeant and a section of Royal Engineers, who were the first troops from the sea to get through to us (at about noon). The sergeant told me they had kept clear of the road and followed the tramway rail running parallel to the canal without incident. Their job was to survey the area for a Bailey bridge, expecting our bridge to have been knocked out.

From there I went across to the café, which I found was being used as an RAP. ■

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Major Allied Victory

Operation DEADSTICK: First phase of the Normandy Landings, 1944

> Reprinted with permission from The Totem Times, Courtenay, BC

ohn Butler's story refers to Operation DEADSTICK, part of the Normandy invasion of June 1944. Operation DEADSTICK was led by Major-General Richard Gale and his 6th Airborne Division. The mission was to secure the bridges crossing over the Caen Canal and River Orne allowing the British troops, who later that day would arrive at Sword Beach, to continue their push eastward after making landfall.

The operation was carried out in two stages. First, a *coup-de-main*, or surprise force, comprised of D Company, 2nd (Airborne) Battalion accompanied by 30 Royal Engineers from the 249th (Airborne) Field Company, led by Major John Howard, that utilized six Airspeed Horsa gliders to land in Normandy. This force would disable enemy defences and disarm any explosives that had been attached to the bridges by the Germans. The second phase involved reinforcements comprised of the 7th Battalion, to which Canadian paratrooper John Butler was assigned, led by Major Pine-Coffin.

The Germans knew the strategic significance of these bridges and had 50 men guarding them. They wired the bridges with explosives to demolish them in case of invasion. These soldiers were attached to the 716th Infantry Division headquartered in the nearby city of Ranville, 1.9 kilometres east of the River Orne. The objective of the 716th



was to defend 34 kilometres of the Atlantic Wall. By the time of this battle, the Germans had also stationed the 21st Panzer Division in the area. After the Germans realized they were being attacked, both divisions mobilized to counterattack.

John Butler's battalion arrived on scene at around 0050 hours on June 6, 1944. They were instrumental in holding the bridges until 1330 hours, when the first reinforcements arrived from Sword Beach. The first reinforcements were the 1st Special Service Brigade, led by Lord Lovat. The 7th Battalion was finally relieved from the fight at 2115 hours by the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

The 6th Division would remain active in France, participating in a major Allied offensive operation until September, when they were recalled to Britain to recuperate and reorganize.

Operation DEADSTICK ended up being a major victory for the Allied forces. Air Chief Marshal Trafford Leigh-Mallory said that the operation included the "most outstanding flying achievements of the war." It became the focus of a number of books, was featured in a video game as well as two movies — *The Longest Day* (1962) and *Pegasus Bridge*, which is due for release in 2018.

ABOVE: British Airspeed Horsa gliders litter the fields northeast of Caen on the morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944.



CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCE WARFARE CENTRE

Dedication of the Sgt J.K. Hillier Flight Room, CFB Trenton

ergeant Joseph "Airborne" Hillier continuously held a hard parachute position for over 24 years, beginning with the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) and continued to serve as a parachute instructor (PI) at the various previous iterations of the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC).

Sgt Hillier served as a PI since 1992 and was posted to the Canadian Parachute Centre (subsequently CFLAWC, subsequently CAAWC) in 1994 and provided parachute instruction to thousands of CAF members until his retirement in September 2016. During this time, Sgt Hillier instructed on up to eight Basic Parachutist courses a year for CAF members and cadets. His dedication to airborne training and extensive experience with parachute instruction were a critical asset to the school and the entire Canadian airborne community.

Many, if not most, members of the Canadian airborne community who passed through the CAAWC as staff or students on parachutist courses will remember Sgt "Airborne" Hillier conducting the Flight classes. It was therefore highly fitting that on July 17, 2016, CO CAAWC LCol J.F.F. Caron revealed on parade that the flight room in the Nicklin Building would be named the "Sgt J.K. Hillier

Flight Room" in recognition of his service and dedication to the CAF parachute program and airborne community.

In February 2016, CAAWC moved into the new facility. As the Functional Centre of Excellence (FCoE) for over a dozen of the Canadian Army's advanced courses and critical combat enabling operations, approximately a thousand students come through the CAAWC every year. The 12,927-square metre facility at CFB Trenton, Ontario features space and training equipment for the multiple courses run on site, including the Canadian Army's round and square parachute programs, and indoor climbing and rappelling walls for the Advanced Mobility company. The "Sgt J.K. Hillier Flight Room" will serve as a strong and constant reminder of the history and continued traditions of the CAF parachute program in the new building.

Now retired, Hillier continues to work and live in Trenton with his wife and family. On occasion, he still dons his PT gear to make the run into the school to double check that the staff are maintaining the standard.

Airborne! ■

ABOVE: The new sign to the Sgt J.K. Hillier Flight Room at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre, CFB Trenton.



CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

MCpl Scott Galt 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment

LCol W.P.J. Graydon
Commanding Officer, 3 RCR



Cpl S.D. Galt is a model soldier who demonstrates the highest level of professionalism required of a paratrooper in the Canadian Armed Forces. He is a credit to 3 RCR, paratroopers at large, and a mentor to his peers. He has earned the opportunity to be considered as the airborne soldier of the year.

MCpl Galt joined the Canadian Army in 2004 as a reservist with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. He subsequently deployed as an augmentee to Operation ATHENA in September of 2008, returning in April of 2009. The next year, he joined the regular force. The year 2012 was an important one in MCpl Galt's career, as that is the year he became a qualified parachutist in 3 RCR. He has subsequently served in Mike Company and was only recently appointed Master Corporal in February 2017.

Qualified as a Jumpmaster (JM) in March 2016, MCpl Galt conducted jumpmaster (JM) duties to the highest standard and within a combined context during the Combined Joint Operational Access Ex-16 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His knowledge and professionalism was leveraged at the parachute company group level, where he inspected kit prior to rigging and aided paratroopers from 3 BCT, 82nd Airborne Division with donning the T-11 parachute. He also liaised with the Advanced Airborne School to standardize JM procedures between Canada and the United States.

ABOVE: Airborne Soldier of the Year Master Corporal Scott Galt of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, is flanked by LCol W.P. (William) Graydon (left) and CWO W.P. (William) Fudge.

His work post-airborne assault was even more impressive, as he led an assault group to breach a heavily defended compound and secure Canadian entitled persons. He showed poise during a combined CAN/US air assault, when the AC landed 400 metres short of the landing zone. He rallied his section and assaulted his way to the objective with minimum force.

Institutionally, MCpl Galt has worked on several Basic Parachutist courses, instilling a respect for the airborne creed and mentoring future generations of paratroopers. He is the paratrooper who arrives early, rehearses his lesson plans over and over again, and delivers world-class instruction. More importantly, he is infectious and inspires his peer group to emulate his standard. MCpl Galt also maintains the extremely high level of physical fitness required of a paratrooper. He finished third place overall at the 2 CMBG Ironman 2016 competition and subsequently qualified for the upcoming Boston Marathon, where he will officially represent The Regiment.

He was awarded the WO E.C. Barnsely Award this year, which is awarded annually to the Ironman team member who best exemplifies the qualities of selflessness, determination, infectious optimism, and mutual respect as determined by a vote of his peers. These are qualities that perfectly describe MCpl Galt, whether he is competing in an athletic event, leading an assault group through an objective or just in the company lines, where he is consistently observed mentoring younger soldiers with the use of crew-served weapons, optics and radios.

Additionally, MCpl Galt was awarded the Yuill Sword Award this year. The Yuill Sword is presented annually to "The Best Soldier" as determined by The RCR Awards Committee. Points are awarded for leadership, physical fitness, dedication and community service. MCpl Galt constantly seeks out opportunities for professional development at and above his current rank level. Notably, MCpl Galt was employed as a section 2IC during Exercise STORMING BEAR 16, leading his detachment to breach a wire obstacle during a live-fire air assault and through a subsequent objective several kilometres further away.

MCpl Galt consistently leads above his current rank levee, performs at the highest physical standard, and sets the example for his peers and subordinates alike. Overall, he is the standard of a paratrooper. MCpl Galt would bring distinction and credit to the Airborne Soldier of the Year Award.

2016 Scholarship Award: Ms. Shaelyn Littleiohn



he recipient of the 2016 Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund \$2,000 bursary is Miss Shaelyn Diana Littlejohn of Victoria, BC. Ms. Littlejohn is the granddaughter of the late William "Billy" Willbond, who served in the Canadian Airborne Regiment and had been a member of both CAFA and ARAC. Shaelyn is attending the University of Victoria, enrolled in a Bachelor of Science Program in Chemistry. The cheque was presented to Shaelyn Littlejohn on Saturday, August 13, 2016, at the Royal Canadian Legion "Trafalgar/Pro Patria" Branch #292, in Victoria, at a ceremony coordinated by Al Currie, a director on the CAFA Board of Directors and a member of DZVI of CAFA Branch #8 Bornewest. The presentation was made in the presence of Shaelyn's family and available local members of CAFA and ARAC. Information regarding applying for the 2017 bursary can be obtained on the CAFA or ARAC websites. Applications are to be submitted by mail or e-mail to Rick Hatton, Chairman Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund.

FRONT ROW: Pam Keith; Hiroko Currie; Al Currie; Shaelyn Littlejohn; framed portrait of Shaelyn's grandfather, William Willbond; Shaelyn's grandmother, Mary Lynne Willbond; Dave Munro; Tom Green. BACK ROW: Jim Kempling; Shaelyn's father, Warren Littlejohn; Shaelyn's mother, Paula Littlejohn; Rollie Keith (President of CAFA Bornewest Branch #8).



#15 Guy d'Artois

Visite à la Citadelle de Québec, le 18 juillet 2016

texte et photos de Yves LaBarre



e mercredi, 18 juillet 2016, plusieurs vétérans accompagnés de parents et amis participèrent à une visite de la Citadelle de Québec, maison mère du nouveau Musée du Royal 22e Régiment. Cette visite fut organisée par la succursale Major-général Alain R. Forand de l'association des vétérans des Forces de paix des Nations Unies conjointement avec la succursale #15 Guy D'Artois de l'association des Forces aéroportées du Canada, la succursale Fort St-Jean de l'association R22eR et de la filiale 79 Richelieu de la Légion royale canadienne de St-Jeansur-Richelieu.

Après un départ plutôt matinal dans un stationnement à St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, les histoires fusèrent de partout accompagnées de café et de petits pains mollets ... mais oui, c'étaient des *muffins*, servis par nul autre que nos camarades Gaétan Martel et Mike Miclette.

Arrivés vers les 09h30, tous assistèrent au spectacle de la garde montante et, foi de retraité, on a dû empêcher notre camarade Fred Lawrence de se rendre sur le terrain de parade comme participant tant les souvenirs de son passage comme sergent de la garde prenaient le dessus.

Aujourd'hui encore, ce spectacle d'exercices militaires fait honneur à la profession des armes par ses manœuvres de précisions si bien exécutées par nos confrères militaires du R22eR.

Suivit alors la pause sur la terrasse du Mess des sergents et adjudants avec vue panoramique de la ville de Québec incluant le Château Frontenac, la promenade, notre majestueux fleuve St-Laurent sans oublier Lévis et son port fluvial. Vers 11h30, on nous servit un excellent repas au Mess dans une ambiance de gaieté qui se termina par la traditionnelle coutume de parader le chef et ses assistants tout en portant un toast à leur santé.

Vers 13h15, bien restaurés, reposés et prêts pour la visite guidée, le directeur des visites, le capitaine retraité Louis Grégoire, CD, nous fit faire un tour des différents points d'intérêts incluant histoires, anecdotes et commentaires de plusieurs anciens pour se terminer par la visite du

CI-HAUT: Une photo du groupe, incluant les membres de la succursale #15 Guy D'Artois, avant le départ pour Québec et la Citadelle le 18 juillet 2016.



nouveau musée. Le guide, en parlant de certain exploits et faits d'armes des soldats de l'époque de la guerre 1914-18, fut avisé par certains du groupe que des leurs parents y avaient participé. Suivirent alors les informations sur la guerre 1939-45 et, à la surprise générale, notre guide qui en racontant les exploits du Capitaine Paul Triquet VC à la bataille de Casa Berardi, reçut cette remarque de l'un de nôtres, Victor Guérin, qui lui dit simplement « j'étais là! ». Un peu plus tard il eut la même réaction lorsqu'il parla de la guerre de Corée en demandant s'il y avait des vétérans de cette guerre et le camarade Vivier lui déclare modestement « oui, j'étais à la guerre de Corée, la guerre oubliée ». La visite se termina par la partie du musée réservée au salon des médailles où plusieurs noms nous étaient familiers de vétérans paras et autres.

Le retour fut un peu moins bruyant avec une pause à Drummondville pour le souper. Le larguage se fit vers les 20h30 pour une journée bien remplie avec des mercis accompagnés d'applaudissements à nos organisateurs Mike Miclette et Gaétan Martel.

CI-HAUT: Tous assistèrent au spectacle de la garde montante. Ce spectacle d'exercices militaires fait honneur à la profession des armes par ses manœuvres de précisions si bien exécutées par nos confrères militaires du R22eR.

CI-BAS: Lors d'une visite à la Citadelle, le guide, en parlant de certain exploits et faits d'armes des soldats de l'époque de la première guerre mondiale, fut avisé par certains du groupe que des leurs parents y avaient participé.



GERRY VIDA: WHAT IS HE UP TO Now?



erry Vida, life member of ARAC, was wintering in Arizona. He and a few ex-airborne guys and former SkyHawks gathered in the Casa Grande area and renewed old friendships. Gerry recalls some of the highlights of the reunion:

"We visited the skydiving centre in Eloy and drooled over the many jumpers having a great time. Our own old stories were retold as we observed the many advances in parachute technology since we were in the air so many years ago. Some of us, including my wife Fran, took a dive in the vertical wind tunnel available here. I also know that Carolyn Malcolm did a tandem jump piloted by Pete himself. John Hunt and I are now happy just flying our powered parachutes for fun," recalls Gerry.

"John Hunt, Pete Malcolm, Hank Miller and I also visited the Titan ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) site not far from Tucson. The tour with the expert guides was very interesting to say the least," says Gerry. "The Cold War tensions between the USSR and the rest of the world came back into focus, and we wondered what the future holds now with the new administration in place. Anyhow, we had a great time and are looking forward to the next airborne reunion in Edmonton next year."

ABOVE: Gerry Vida and his powered parachute.





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Number of registrations required:	Amount enclosed:
NAME OF SPOUSE (OR) ACCOMPANIED PERSON(S):

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Menton Days

Canadian Special Operations Regiment & 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)

photos by SSG Sarah Jane Roberts, U.S. Army

enton Days 2016 marked the 72nd year since the First Special Service Force (FSSF) was deactivated at Menton, France, in 1944. Founded two years prior, this joint American–Canadian Special Forces unit cut its teeth in operations on the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific theatre, and quickly moved to the European theatre where they took part in 251 days of combat operations, notably breaking the Nazi Winter Line. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) is privileged to carry the battle honours of the FSSF, and honoured to be invited year after year to partake in Menton Days.

The inaugural morning of Menton Days witnessed the first time the CSOR team had ever participated in the Upper Body Round Robin (UBRR) with 5-mile run event. This test is used by members of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1st SFG(A)) annually to both gauge fitness levels for commanders and also to build camaraderie and a culture of toughness within the unit. The UBRR is a beast with an almost infinite scoring system ensuring maximum effort. Events include bench press, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, dips, rope-climbs, kip-ups, a shuttle run and a 5-mile run/ruck alternating each time the UBRR is conducted.



The CSOR team was one of the first teams to begin the competition and did not disappoint, displaying maximum effort in each event. The atmosphere was friendly but competitive, and the CSOR team left nothing in reserve. The timed 5-mile run was the final event of the first day.

The 12-mile ruck began early in the morning on the second day of competition. The team arrived at the start point, was provided some direction and then off to the races. As with all sports and competitions there is always a home team advantage as the other teams knew the route well with the CSOR team having to remember the set of directions provided at the start point. The team battled through and again had a respectable showing during the march. The route ended at a firing range where the teams were allowed to hydrate and eat before beginning the stress shoot to end the entire competition. The CSOR team displayed world-class marksmanship, and their skill with their issued pistol was specifically noticed by range

ABOVE: Soldiers from the 1st SFG (A) and CSOR form the Colour Party during the opening ceremony of Menton Days at Joint Base Lewis McChord, on December 5, 2016.



and competition staff. Having finally completed the two days of competition, the team spent the rest of the evening resting and preparing for the airborne operations taking place the following day.

The day began the same way they always do: meeting early in the morning for the refresher. CSOR sent their para subject matter expert, a rigger and a few jumpmasters in support of the event. The commanding officer of CSOR and his regimental sergeant-major, having arrived the evening prior, joined the team for the early morning refresher. Following the refresher and manifest, all jumpers loaded onto buses and were transported to the drop zone. The first to jump were the military freefall parachute-qualified jumpers including the 1st SFG(A) commander, and the CO and RSM of CSOR. Following the completion of all freefall jumps, the CH-47 Chinook helicopters landed and began passes with SLR jumpers employing the MC-6 parachute. Approximately 200 jumpers safely made it to the landing zone throughout the day before culminating in a wings exchange between 1st SFG(A) and CSOR paratroopers.

CSOR members also participated in several social events during the week. Among them were the opening, wreathlaying and memorialization ceremonies, the Menton Days Ball and a social on the first day following the UBRR.

Every year, Menton Days provides the opportunity for members to pay homage to fallen soldiers, and this year was

TOP LEFT: CSOR and the 1st SFG (A) officers salute after laying a wreath during the opening ceremony of Menton Days. **TOP RIGHT:** A CSOR team member competes during the range competition. Clearly visible is the famed red arrowhead patch that was worn by the FSSF during WWII. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** CSOR team members persevere through the gruelling 12-mile rucksack march.





no different. 1st SFG(A) added the names of recently fallen soldiers to the memorial located outside their headquarters during the opening ceremony. The group also dedicated a building and a road to members of 1st SFG(A) who were killed in action while deployed on operations in previous years. Possessing a true warrior culture, 1st SFG(A) and CSOR ensure year after year that the focus remains on honouring the FSSF and all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice when serving their respective countries.

Airborne! ■



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The Maroon Beret ~ 37



1 CAN PARA

73rd Anniversary of D-Day Ceremony: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Cairn, Siffleur Falls

by Capt (ret'd) Bill Dickson Coordinator / MC 2017 D-Day Ceremony



he planning for this year's D-Day ceremony at Siffleur Falls has again begun and although there are still a few details to work out and confirm, the process has begun early, and things are looking good for the event. Most of us are familiar with the ceremony format and it is not expected to change this year. As the event is date-oriented, the ceremony on the 6th will take place at the monument at approximately 1330 hours, rain or shine! The details related to the balance of the program to date follow.

Good news, in that our patron, Major-General (ret'd) Herb Pitts MC CD is booked again this year. We had fears that last year might have been his last! It would be nice if Major-General (ret'd) Brian Vernon CD, would also attend again. This would continue to be a real coup to have both our Airborne Patron and the Colonel of the Regiment (PPCLI) attend the ceremony.

The total numbers available for the climb up Ex Coelis Mountain's Normandy Peak on June 5th are not confirmed as yet. However, at a meeting last Friday with

the CO and RSM of the 3 PPCLI, he assured me there would be representation at the ceremony. The possibility of a pre-ceremony recce to confirm and mark the route up Normandy Peak still exists. Because of operational commitments, it is almost certain there will be no para drop on the 5th of June into Abrams Lake. However, we will still encourage any other qualified volunteers wanting to join the climb team to come forward. The 2551 (PPCLI) Army Cadets, if available, will likely join in the climb again as well. Presently, the ashes of one 1 Can Para Bn and two ex-CAR/PPCLI veterans are ready to be taken to the top of Normandy Peak. The service and participation of a padre here again, would be great!

Any representation from UK personnel from BATUS or Trails End Camp in Cochrane is still unconfirmed, but

ABOVE: The climb team gathered at the Airborne Monument after their early morning assault on Mount Ex Coelis' Normandy Peak, June 5, 2016.



I will continue to encourage their participation again this year. We do hope that attendance by members of both 1 Can Para and the FSSF re-enactment personnel will take place again — at the parade and after at the BBQ. There is also an indication that our boys with the 9-pounder black smoke canon may participate again ... crossing our fingers on this one! And, of course, attendance by our Alberta Parks personnel in their parade finest is always welcome. As usual, we will have a kit shop in operation at the Meet & Greet on the 5th and at the BBQ on the 6th.

In closing, I would once again encourage all members of the Airborne Brotherhood to make every effort to attend

ABOVE: Post-parade group picture after the D-Day ceremony at the Airborne Monument at Siffleur Falls on June 6, 2016. We were thrilled to have both MGen Herb Pitts and his wife as well as MGen Brian Vernon in attendance.

this year's D-Day Ceremony at the Airborne Monument. Yes, we all know the cost and the time and space scenario when it comes to travelling here. But the bottom line is, we are all getting thin on the ground, and we owe it to those veterans left to honour this day. With the big Airborne Reunion event coming up in 2018 ... this might be the last organized effort we see happening on the 6th of June.

Airborne!

CADET BASIC PARA CHALLENGE COIN



his coin was created in 2005 by ARAC for those Army Cadets who have been fortunate to be able to take and pass their basic para course. The coins are donated by ARAC and issued at the graduation parade each summer with the approval of the Army Cadet League of Canada. The number of coins issued is determined by how many cadets have passed their course, but the average is about



ABOVE: ARAC members Joe Drouin and André Bilodeau present challenge coins (pictured at left) to graduates during the Cadet Basic Para Course Parade on July 29, 2016.

40 coins per year. To date, 530 coins have been issued. The coin is considered a challenge coin as it is serialized and registered. The register is held by ARAC. The coin can also be obtained retroactively by former cadets who can prove, by providing their course certificate, that they passed their cadet basic para course. Contact the kit shop for information at altitude@joedrouin.com. ■



THE PARATROOPER

An almost-forgotten collection of thoughts on the fears and exhilaration of being a paratrooper

by Louis D. Truesdale



was born on April 20, 1936 and served in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from January 1952 until March 1953, at which time I was honourably released for being under age — I was only 16 years old at that time. I had lied about my age when I joined, saying I was 17 when I was in fact only 15.

Until this was discovered, I was 2^{nd} Battalion and sent to Rivers, Manitoba for a jump course in October 1952 (serial #158).

At that time, the aircraft in use was the DC-3 (Dakota) and the chute was the T-7. The Dak had a port side-only exit, which meant a jumper entered the slipstream of the port engine.

After our second drop, and awaiting the next day's third drop, I was sitting on my bunk about to write a letter home when, instead, I started writing and completed "The

Paratrooper." I had never shown it to anyone and it ended up in my various papers of the day, which were found by my daughter Debra 64 years later in my box of oldies. She typed it out, framed it and presented it to me on Father's Day.

When I first started reading it, I did not recognize the text; it was not until I was nearing the end that I realized that it's what I had written so many years before.

I enlisted again in 1956, so I could stay longer, and jumped the C-119 "Boxcar" from then until my discharge three years later from 2 PPCLI.

Airborne!

ABOVE: This photograph of Louis Truesdale in jump gear was taken in 1958 near Namao/Edmonton, Alberta, when he was serving with 2 PPCLI.

The Paratrooper by Louis D. Truesdale

he roar of the plane's big engines is broken only by the stick leader's command: "Two minutes to the drop zone. Get ready."

Again, the same thoughts go through your head. Will I be able to jump? Will my chute open? "

"Stand up, hook up and check your equipment." You stand up, not the way they have taught you, but a slow, nervous movement, the way the man next to you and everybody else stands up.

You begin to check your equipment, checking what is really — your life. You check carefully every little strap, every little clip, anything there is to check. You check it because if you don't, you're dead.

Then comes the command, "Sound off for equipment check." From the rear of the plane you hear in succession, "Ten OK, nine OK, eight OK, seven OK, six OK, five OK, four OK, three OK ..." — that's you, third out the door. At least you're not last; you can get out the door faster and get it all over with a lot faster than if you were number ten.

"Fifteen seconds to the DZ. Close it up and stand in the door." This is it. You're standing tense, waiting for the little green light that is going to tell you to go — to jump. There it is, the green light, the command to go. You move up to the door in turn and you jump. You're out the door. There's the roar of the engines as you are caught in the slipstream — and you're falling, counting … one thousand, two thousand — and it seems like an eternity. Three thousand. You feel it and hear it all at once; the hard, sudden jolt that tells you your chute is open.

You know the things you are supposed to do, but you don't do them, you just hang from your riser lines and look down at the beautiful earth, the green grass and hills. They have never looked so good and you enjoy it.

Now you do what you have been trained to do. Check your canopy, check your oscillation, check your drift, and now you just wait and enjoy the controlled falling and the wonderful feeling of safety.

You touch the ground, it jars you and seems to hurt, but you pay no attention to the hard landing you have just made. You touch the ground with your hand and it feels good, comforting. And you are thankful to God because — you are safe.

CAFA AGM 2016



Members of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association Board of Directors took a group photo during the 2016 annual general meeting. Thank you for your service!



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IN MEMORIAM

Kincardine loses great ambassador as former town mayor Charles Mann dies

by Liz Dadson, reprinted with permission from The Kincardine Record



Charlie Mann died on January 28, 2017 in Kincardine, Ontario. Charlie served as part of the elite First Special Service Force during the Second World War. He is seen at right standing in uniform with his Thompson sub-machine gun. (MICHAL LOEPRICH; THE MEMORY PROJECT)



incardine has lost one of its great ambassadors, as former town mayor, Charles Mann, died on January 28, 2017 at the age of 94.

Born June 30, 1922, and raised in Port Hope, Ontario, he joined the militia in 1937 and the regular army in 1940. In 1942, he volunteered for the renowned First Special Service Force (the Devil's Brigade or Black Devils or FSSF).

Like most soldiers, he saw the world. He served in the Aleutians Islands in Alaska, North Africa and Italy. As a member of the First Special Service Force, he was involved in fierce fighting in Italy. In late 1944, when he was in southern France, the FSSF was disbanded. He was in England when the war ended and then returned to Canada.

He married June Popkin of Montreal in 1946, and they had two children, Melodee and Marten.

They moved to Kincardine in 1964 where Mann worked as a nuclear operator at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development (now Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation).

He also spent 27 years in Kincardine municipal politics, 13 as mayor, before the town was amalgamated into the Municipality of Kincardine in 1999. His wife died in 2006.

Mann has been honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal; an Award of Excellence from the Canadian government in Ottawa for his service in the Second World War; and in 2013, was named Kincardine's Citizen of the Year. In 2015, he and his colleagues from the Devil's Brigade were awarded the United States Congressional Gold Medal.

He continued his association with the First Special Service Force Association, representing it at the National Council on Veterans Affairs and the Canadian Airborne Forces Association.

A tireless volunteer, he always worked for the betterment of the community, helping at the Kincardine Legion and with the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band.

Mann is survived by his two children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ■

EX CASTOR SAUTEUR

CI-BAS: Des membres du R22eR participent à l'exercice CASTOR SAUTEUR le 23 novembre 2016. (CPL N. MOULTON)

BELOW: Members from 3 R22eR jump from a CC-130 Hercules aircraft as part of parachute training during Exercise CASTOR SAUTEUR, November 23, 2016. (CPL N. MOULTON)







SIGNALS BATTLEFIELD TOUR

by Jim Holsworth



el Douglas, George Fraser and I were on the Signals Battlefield Tour, which took place April 1–10, 2017, leading up to the Vimy 100th anniversary ceremony. The young soldier in the photo is Cpl Jonathan Cardenas, filling a jump position in 2 Sigs. There were also six gunner jumpers, old and new, with the artillery contingent. Of course, we regaled Cpl Cardenas with jump stories and BS, but it was also a great occasion to share a beer and impart a bit of Canadian Airborne history to the next generation.

We visited Pegasus Bridge, but were unable to get to Ranville Cemetery, where many of the 1 Can Para Bn boys rest. The wreath we laid (*photo above*) was in Bénysur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery (*photo below*). We bumped into Joanne de Vries and John Fotheringham at the Pegasus Museum and had a good chat.

Finally, any visit to Normandy would not be complete without a shot or two of calvados ... Mission accomplished!

Airborne! ■



Application / Renewal Form New The Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC) Renewal 1. Family Name: _____ First Name & Init: ____ 2. Has ANY of your contact information changed since you last received the Maroon Beret Magazine? **NO** (please proceed to sections 8 through 10) **NEW** (please fill complete sections 3 through 10) YES (please correct any information in sections 3 through 10 which has changed) 3. Rank (or Occupation): Service Number (New Member): 4. Address (Home): ______ Apt: _____ City: _____ Province: ____ Postal Code: __ _ _ _ 5. Phone Number: ____ - __ _ Email Address: _____ 6. If you have one please specify your Cdn AB Regt Challenge Coin number (To update the register) 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. 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. Airborne School & CFPMD Jump Companies Canadian AB Regiment (Cdn AB Regt) & Battle Group 1968/1995 Do you know your ARAC Association Card Number? 9. Registration Fees: ___\$20.00 for 1 yr ___\$55.00 for 3 yrs ___\$100.00 for 6 yrs (Inside Canada) Registration Fees: ___\$25.00 for 1 yr ___\$70.00 for 3 yrs ___\$130.00 for 6 yrs (Cdn funds for USA & Foreign) 10. Associate (people who fit criteria **a. to g.** who wish to become a member) \$20.00 for 1 year Method of Payment: Cheque Money Order VISA MasterCard Card No. ____ - ___ - ___ - ___ Exp. Date ___ / ___ Signature: Date: Return to: ARAC 3 - 36 de Varennes, Gatineau, QC, J8T 0B6 **Telephone**: 819-568-6669 **FAX**: 819-568-1074 E-mail: airbornekitshop@sympatico.ca Web: www.airborneassociation.com Kit Shop: www.joedrouin.com May 2016(2)





AIRBORNE REUNION IN EDMONTON, 2018

"Canada's Airborne Legacy 1942 – 2018" June 8–10, 2018

he Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) will be hosting the 50th Anniversary Reunion since the formation of Canadian Airborne Regiment during June 8-10, 2018. The Reunion will follow the Annual D-Day Ceremony at the Airborne Monument, to be held June 5-7 at Siffleur Falls, Alberta.

The Canadian Airborne Regiment was removed from the order of battle in 1995 and since then we have always stayed focused on the positive contributions the Regiment made during its active years, especially while it was garrisoned in Edmonton, from 1968 to 1977. The Regiment always enjoyed a special relationship with the city of Edmonton therefore, it would be befitting to once again relive and highlight those early years and, at the same time, honour one of Canada's finest Regiments. It was here that the Regiment was the proud recipient of the Freedom of the City honours in 1976.

Members of the Airborne Social Club (Edmonton) are hard at work to make this event an unforgettable reunion. As the theme indicates, the emphasis will be on celebrating the 50 years that have passed since the formation of the Regiment and Canada's airborne legacy since 1942. With this in mind, the organizing committee and members of The Edmonton Airborne Social Club extend an Airborne Brotherhood welcome for all to attend REUNION 2018.

This reunion is open to all former members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, current and former members of regular and reserve force parachute units, former members of the Canadian Airborne Centre, Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot, 1 Canadian Parachute Association, allied paratroopers, as well as all search and rescue (SAR) and para rescue Units. This reunion is open to "all paratroopers," whether they have served in an active parachute role or not. In addition to the members themselves, a grateful welcome is extended to all Honorary Club members, spouses and partners of members — present and past.

Prior to May 1, 2018, early reunion registration fees are set at \$125.00 per person; the fee will be \$150.00 per person after May 1, 2018.

A commemorative numbered reunion coin will be included with the registration package for **each registered paratrooper**. Accompanying persons and non-parachutists will not receive a coin as part of their registration. Registration and information details can be obtained through the following sources.

- **By mail:** Airborne Reunion 2018, PO BOX 71034, 9308 137 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5E 6J8
- By email: airborne-reunion-2018@shaw.ca
- Online: www.airbornesocialclub.ca

Although we are endeavouring to reach as many as possible via all means possible, it is requested that you pass on this information to those you are in contact with and who we may not have contacted.

Hope to see you here.

Airborne! ■

The Maroon Beret ~ 45



THE LAST POST

Anderson, Boyd - 1 Can Para Belzile, MGen Charles Eyre, Ken – Cdn AB Regt Fisher, Jim (Bud) - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI Girard, Albert (Joe) - Cdn AB Regt, RCHA Hartmann, Otto - Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI Hassett, Padre Thomas Francis – Cdn AB Regt Henneberry, Leo – Cdn AB Regt Knowles, John N. – 1 Can Para LaRoche, Wilfred (Pappy) Arthur – 1 Can Para Lemay, Jean-Paul - Cdn AB Regt Lockhart, Terry - Cdn AB Regt Mann, Charles – FSSF Mathieson, Irv – BCR, QYRang McKay, Thomas (T.R.) – Cdn AB Regt, Sigs Mialkowski, Conrad - Cdn AB Regt, 2 RCHA Pascaris, James – 1 Can Para Penny, Simon (Tim) – Cdn AB Regt, RCHA Pocock, C. A. - 1 Can Para Pringle, Joseph G. – 1 Can Para Riddell, Doug – Cdn AB Regt, Sigs Shaw, Collin (Chuck) - Cdn AB Regt Steed, Kipp - Cdn AB Regt Tompkins, Arthur - Cdn AB Regt Turcotte, Craig - Cdn AB Regt, RCR Wilkie, Robert Alexander - Cdn AB Regt, 4 RCHA Wolfe, MGen John P.



James Pascaris

Jim was a member of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and jumped across the Rhine on March 24, 1945 during Operation VARSITY. In 2005, he was part of the Topham VC Project, which enabled the Victoria Cross of 1

Can Para Corporal Fred Topham, earned on OP VARSITY, to be privately purchased and donated to the Canadian War Museum. Jim passed away on July 20, 2017.



Irv Mathieson

Irv was a former commanding officer of the British Columbia Regiment and the Queen's York Rangers, and a proud member of CAFA for decades. He was a past President of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, former President

of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association, and a former Chairman of the Conference of Defence Associations. Irv passed away on January 15, 2017.



Padre Tom Hassett

In 1966, after working as a professor at Notre Dame University in Nelson, BC and numerous parishes in the Kootenays, Tom joined the Canadian Armed Forces, serving in the Navy,

Army and Canadian Airborne Regiment as a Padre. Tom left the priesthood in 1972 when he met his wife, Joan, while posted to Cyprus with the UN. Tom passed away on February 23, 2017.

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CANADIAN AIRBORNI APPLICATIO

CANADIAN AIRBORNE FORCES ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

Application Type		Membership Type	
New Application			
Renewal CAFA #	Regular	Associate	
Surname:	Given Name:		
Mailing Address:			
City/Town:	Province/State:	Province/State:	
Postal/ZIP Code:	Phone:		
E-Mail:			
New Regular Applicants Pl	lease Provide the Following	Additional Information	
Unit Served In:		Proof of military parachute qualification to accompany	
Date of military parachute qualification: _		application form	
Associate Membership: Persons interested Associate membership. Please attach any in the Board of Directors.			
Membership Fees: One Year - \$30;	Three Years - \$85; S	ix Years - \$160	
Additional Margon Revet Postage Costs	. To some addition of our	iling and of the Manage Desert	

Magazine, United States residents please add \$7.50 per year and overseas residents please add \$15.00 per year.

Return completed Application Form along with a cheque or money order (US applicants must use an International US: Postal Money Order) made out to Canadian Airborne Forces Association to:

Dave Pentney, CAFA Treasurer/Membership 874 Unity Rd Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0 Phone: 613-548-7234

The completed application form may be returned by email to <u>CAFATreas_Mbrshp@yahoo.ca</u> with payment by E-transfer to the same email address.

