

The  Le  
**MAROON BERET MARRON**

La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood



2013

*The Year in Review*



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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](mailto:mb@ca.inter.net). The deadline for the 2014 issue is November 15, 2014. *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](mailto:mb@ca.inter.net). Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Cover photo taken during JOAX 13-02 shows Canadian and American paratroops preparing to land at Drop Zone Luzon. (PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. RENAE SAYLOCK)

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41108529

Return undeliverable copies to: Head office and mailing address:  
ARAC, #3 - 36 de Varennes, Gatineau, QC J8T 0B6

Official Websites:

[www.airborneassociation.com](http://www.airborneassociation.com)  
[www.canadianairborneforces.ca](http://www.canadianairborneforces.ca)

Kitshop on the Web:  
[www.joedrouin.com](http://www.joedrouin.com)

Graphic design and layout:  
Esprit de Corps



## CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



**P**aratroopers all,

This is my first message to members of CAFA/AFAC, and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. At our AGM in early May of this year we elected a new executive and confirmed a list of an outstanding group of directors who have agreed to continue the fine work they do on behalf of our membership. We had a very good turnout at our AGM hosted by the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre at CFB Trenton, and it is our intent to continue to use their excellent facilities for future AGMs as long as we are able to.

CAFA/AFAC is in the process of renewal in that we must comply with federal government regulations that require us to revise our bylaws in accordance with the new not-for-profit act. We also must request a continuance of our association by October 17 this year. Please read the insert in this issue of the *Maroon Beret* and plan to join us for the teleconference being held to approve the continuance which will take place on September 7. After we receive approval for continuance from the membership it is your board's intent to distribute the new bylaws electronically,

in bilingual format, through branch presidents and to our website at [www.canadianairborneforces.ca](http://www.canadianairborneforces.ca). The bylaws will then be voted on during our next AGM in May 2015, date to be announced.

Another issue that members need to be aware of is the likely need to raise annual membership dues, this after 20 years of holding the line at \$20.00 per year. The cost of producing and mailing the *Maroon Beret* has risen significantly as has the cost of doing the business of the association. This will be an agenda item at the next AGM when we expect to have a better idea of how much dues must be raised in order to ensure our organization's financial viability.

***To remind you, our purpose as an association is:***

- to promote and improve the esprit de corps and general efficiency of its members;
- to support the continuation of balanced general purpose Airborne Forces as part of Canada's Armed Forces;

- to react to hardship and need through the provision of gifts, grants, endowments and donations; and
- to provide meaningful support to applicable veterans' associations.

***Our main activities in support of our purpose are:***

- The Airborne Soldier of the Year Award which is very well received by the members of the five serving airborne sub-units (RCR, PPCLI, R22eR, QORofC and the CAAWC).
- The annual bursary program when CAFA/ AFAC and ARAC each contribute toward a \$1,000 bursary awarded to a deserving student who is related to one of our members.
- The *Maroon Beret*, your magazine, that has been in existence for decades and which delivers airborne news annually to all of our members. It is our hope to grow this magazine by having branches contribute articles and members

contribute stories and anecdotes of their times under the silk.

CAFA/AFAC has had a website for a number of years, but it has not been used very effectively to pass information to members. The board will in future provide regular updates on news and events. I encourage you to check it regularly so that you are in the loop. The names of your executive and directors are also listed on the website and we all welcome any comments you may have on how to improve our communications and outreach.

We also request that you speak to your airborne buddies who are no longer, or are not members of CAFA/AFAC, and encourage them to join or rejoin our ranks. It is only through strength that we will be able to continue to keep alive the airborne spirit set for us by those who have gone before.

*Airborne!* ■

***Walter Holmes***  
***CAFA President***



**TOP PHOTOS:** Members of Canadian Special Operations Regiment take part in a massive air drop with multinational allies. **BELOW LEFT:** R22eR paras rappel from a CH-146 Griffon during a training exercise at CFB Valcartier. (SDT MOHAMED ANIS ASSARI, SECTION IMAGERIE VALCARTIER) **BELOW RIGHT:** Members of 3 RCR provide firebase support during a raid on an enemy position close to Rankin Inlet, Nunavut during exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE. (PHOTO BY MCPL DAN POP, CANADIAN ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS)





## ARAC PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

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

**P**aratroopers,

Last year marked the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Airborne Regiment celebrated in the form of a very well-attended reunion being held in Edmonton from June 7-9, 2013. Thanks to the organizers from The Edmonton Airborne Social Club.



This year sees us looking back to the bravery of our fellow paratroopers with the commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. The next two years see us through the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of numerous regimental battles and countless personal sacrifices. I am humbled to think back to my regimental days when we were lucky enough to meet and share a glass with a great number of these brave fellows.

The airborne spirit is thriving in various forms across this great country, from our friends in Edmonton to our group in Ottawa. The Veterans Paratrooper Motorcycle Club (VPMC) has formed various chapters sharing the open road and no doubt experiencing some of the adrenalin we all knew and thrived on as paratroopers.

However, we need to increase our presence, share our experiences before we too see the Airborne Regiment of Canada become too distant a memory. I call on paratroopers everywhere to take up the cause, form a local chapter, group, and let people know who we are, that we served, we are proud, we are *AIRBORNE!*

*Fair winds and soft landings.* ■

*Donald Hind  
Past President of ARAC*

**H**ello to all of my fellow paratroopers.

There is something very powerful that draws all of us together regardless of when and where we served.

I served in the Canadian Airborne Regiment from 1989–1995. I was in 2 Commando, Reconnaissance Platoon, and Direct Fire Support. Although I just recently retired from the Army, the time spent in the Airborne Regiment helped guide and form me as a soldier in a very positive way throughout my entire career.

Deep friendships are formed when pushing yourself to the limit, both physically and mentally, and they indeed last a lifetime.

This is not only with those fellow jumpers that you served with, but it extends naturally to everyone who was in a parachute unit such as the Airborne Regiment regardless of when they served.

My best wishes to past President Donald Hind. He has done a tremendous job over the past two years, and I wish him all the best of luck in the future. I hope that I can carry on to his level of stellar performance.

I would just like to say that it was an absolute honour to be voted in as President, and I am very much looking forward to serving you.

*Fair winds and soft landings.* ■

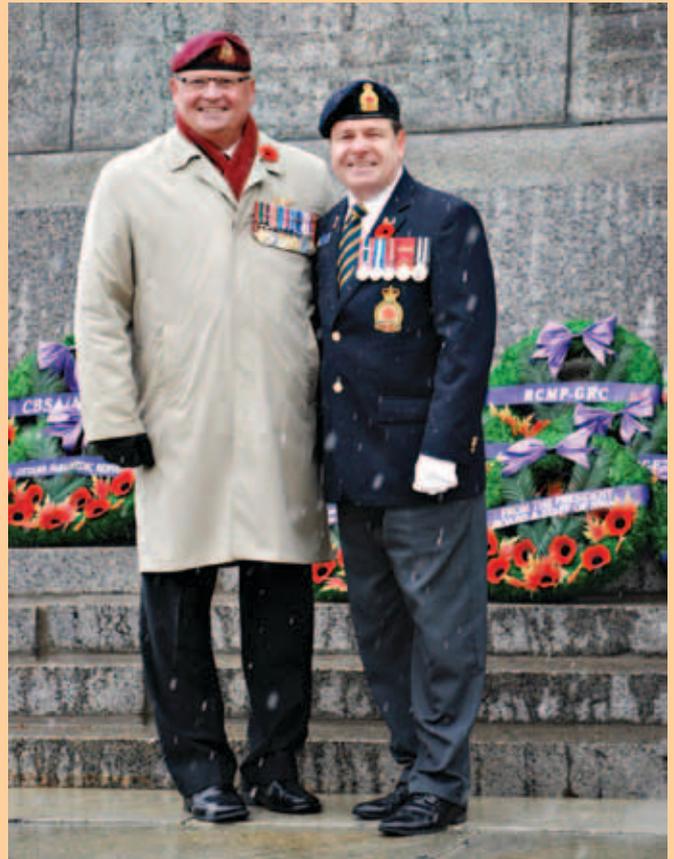
*Jake Flanders, Major (retired),  
Current President of ARAC*





## ARAC AND REMEMBRANCE

### *Special Tributes to Mark Remembrance Day*



**TOP LEFT:** Mr. Wilfred Paquette (foreground), who served with the First Special Service Force in World War II, and former Van Doo and Cdn AB Regt member Gil Trinque were two of the ARAC members who took part in the November 11, 2013 ceremony at the Beechwood National Cemetery.

**ABOVE:** Delegates Paul Mulhaul (left) and Bruce Poulin (right) represented ARAC at the wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

**T**he Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC) sent delegates to the national Remembrance Day ceremonies in November 2013 in the nation's capital. The delegates were sent to both events in an effort to generate greater awareness of ARAC and its commitment to remembrance.

ARAC has been parading at the Beechwood National Cemetery since 1997. Every year, we select an old paratrooper to lay the wreath with the ARAC president. This year, we had the honour to have Mr. Wilfred Paquette (foreground) and CWO (ret'd) Gil Trinque. Mr. Paquette is a Second World War and Korean Veteran. In WWII, he was a member of the First Special Service Force, known as the Devil's Brigade. CWO (ret'd) Trinque is a 37-year veteran from the R22eR and a former member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

The delegates for the National War Memorial ceremony were Mr. Paul Mulhaul and Bruce Poulin (Legion uniform). Paul is a 30-year veteran who has served on several peace-support operations and Bruce is also a veteran as well as the master of ceremonies for the Remembrance Day ceremony. ■



# CAAWC

## *6 Platoon Advance Mobility Company*

**T**he Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre's (CAAWC) mission is to support the generation and deployment of combat forces through the training of personnel for operations in complex terrain and unique joint operations. To this effect, the unit conducts courses throughout the year such as: Arctic Operations Advisor, Complex Terrain Instructor, Advanced Mountain Operations, Helicopter Insertion Master, Patrol Pathfinder, Square Canopy Parachuting, and Round Canopy Parachuting, just to name a few.

In addition to the scheduled yearly courses run by the CAAWC, there were numerous separate support tasks with other agencies such as CANSOFCOM, Air Force, and the Army for both Canada and other nations.

Keeping this in view, 6 Platoon of the CAAWC was in charge of providing specialized training of personnel in Aerial Delivery, Basic Helicopter Operations, Drop Zone and Landing Zone Controller, and Parachute Rigger specialist courses.

This Aerial Delivery Course provides soldiers with the skills and knowledge to enable them to prepare and pack cargo, vehicles and equipment, and to rig parachute systems in preparation for aerial delivery. There were



*A soldier from 6 Platoon ziplines across a stream during the Complex Terrain Instructor Course.*

five courses conducted with a total number of 117 CAF members being successful over the previous year.

The Basic Helicopter Operations Course prepares members to rig and hook-up cargo and equipment to be carried by helicopters, to control a pickup/landing point, and to marshall a helicopter. This year, there were a total number of 78 CAF members who were trained in the Basic Helicopter Operations Course with a success rate of 100 per cent.

The aim of the Drop Zone and Landing Zone Controller Course is to provide soldiers with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to effectively control a drop or landing zone and austere the airstrip during joint operations.

The Parachute Rigger Specialist Course trains personnel to conduct quality control in both packing and maintenance sections of personnel and cargo parachutes and to supervise packing teams and maintenance personnel. Four courses were held this year, with 37 personnel fully trained for the job.

These types of training courses equip CAF soldiers to be ready for regular military operations during war and peacekeeping operations as well as in emergencies during natural disasters to supply much needed equipment and humanitarian aid. ■



## CAAWC

### *Airborne Trials and Evaluation (ATES)*

**W**ith the new structure of CAAWC, ATES is now located with Support Company. ATES's objective is to trial and evaluate capabilities that enable airborne delivery of the personnel, equipment and material required for CAF operations and training. This involves a wide variety of specialized equipment from parachute release systems to helmets worn by individuals. ATES frequently operates in conjunction with outside agencies in order to cover a broad scope of testing and evaluation methods which, in turn, may better fulfill end-user requirements.

ATES continued working on the Arctic Buoy Deployment Project with Environment Canada, which started in 2012. ATES successfully tested a different parachute and release assembly to safely and effectively deploy a new lighter buoy than had previously been airdropped. October 2013 marked the second of a three-year commitment between DND and Environment Canada to deploy these buoys in the Arctic.

Also in 2013, ATES continued working on the Clothe the Soldier (CTS) snowshoe along with lighter Personal Equipment Lowering System (PELS) options to replace the Parachute Drop Bag (PDB) and refocus on the required measurement of airborne soldiers for lighter weight options.

The main focus of 2013 was a major event with the commencement of the CT-11 Operational Testing and Evaluation (OT&E) trial, Operation PEGASUS DRIFT. Most of spring time frame was dedicated to the planning and preparation of the test plan with Canadian Army Testing Evaluation Unit (CATEU) in Gagetown, New Brunswick. During the planning phase, Support Company received the first shipment of CT-11 and CR-11 and personnel were very busy putting the system together for the upcoming trial.

The execution phase of Operation PEGASUS DRIFT saw 60 participants comprised of jumpers and support staff representative of the Canadian Army. This is the most significant round parachuting trial since the introduction of the CT-1. ■

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**ABOVE:** WO Nick Kossey and Sgt Les Page prepare buoy for dropping from the lowered ramp of the Hercules. Airborne Trials and Evaluation (ATES) have been working on the Arctic Buoy Deployment Project with Environment Canada since 2012. The three-year project includes the testing of a different parachute and release assembly to safely and effectively deploy a new lighter buoy. (MCPL ROY MACLELLAN)



# CAAWC

## *The Evolution of CAAWC Continues*

*by Sgt Richard Newman,  
The Royal Canadian Regiment*



**F**or the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC), the year 2013 marked yet another phase in its continuing evolution. Shortly after a restructuring of the unit that effectively separated parachute training and Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team tasks from other unit responsibilities, the unit completed a name change, from the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre to its current title. Furthermore, CAAWC completed a change of command in June that saw LCol Paul Lockhart hand over command to LCol François Dufault. These changes reflect the growing need for CAAWC to meet the demands of both the Canadian Army and Canadian Armed Forces.

With the introduction of new airframes to include the CC-130J Hercules, CC-117 Globemaster and CC-147 Chinook, CAAWC is moving rapidly to support the development of the Royal Canadian Air Force's airdrop capability. This has included trials conducted on the Interim Parachute Capability Project, a program designed to find a suitable replacement for the CT-1 mass drop

parachute. Although the system has been a proven force enabler for over 50 years, questions as to its suitability to today's soldier, particularly with respect to his/her all up weight and potential for injury, have spurred an interest in finding an appropriate replacement. This project will continue with support from CAAWC and the Airborne Trials and Evaluations Section (ATES) for several years until a permanent replacement is identified.

CAAWC continues to engage with our allies in the maintenance and development of airborne forces and capabilities. We maintain a strong alliance with the 1-507<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in Fort Benning, Georgia, conducting routine instructor exchanges. Also, we sent representatives to Belgium to conduct static line jumps with the Paratrooper Schaffen Centre from an airship. This exchange ended with the feast of Saint-Michel, the patron saint of paratroopers. On this occasion, our

**ABOVE:** Airborne troops learn how to use a parachute's guide ropes during one of the stages of training.



members had the opportunity to interact with veteran Belgian paratroopers.

In November, CAAWC, 3 RCR and 3 PPCLI sent jumpmasters on CRUZEX, a joint search and rescue exercise in Brazil that involved nine other nations. The aim of this task was to assist the RCAF, and in particular 436(T) Squadron, in dispatching static line and high altitude parachutists. Furthermore, CAAWC, with assistance or support to search and rescue and Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), conducted two major air disaster exercises — one at CFB Borden and one in Alaska. These training opportunities have proven crucial to the development of the unit's, wing's and government's ability to respond to a major disaster.

Also, we continue our strong relationship with the Australian Army's Parachute School exchanging positions on our Military Freefall Parachute Instructors Course for positions on their Oxygen and Military Tandem Master Courses. These engagements throughout the international airborne brotherhood are proving vital to the modernization of our para program, its capacity and capabilities.

Also, as always, CAAWC continues to deliver a full

compliment of high quality parachute training to include basic parachutist courses, jumpmaster courses, static line square canopy courses, military freefall parachutist courses, freefall jumpmaster courses, the military freefall

parachute instructors course, as well as aerial delivery courses. We continue our affiliation with the Canadian Army Cadets in Brighton through the conduct of a Cadet Basic Parachutist Course.

The year 2014 will provide interesting new challenges to CAAWC as we respond to new fiscal and political pressures. Through our continued professionalism, focus and

support from our airborne allies, we are prepared to take a leadership role in the development of new capabilities and pursuit of new opportunities.

*Airborne!* ■

**AIRBORNE**

*The donning of their chutes, the wearing of the gear;  
Not one a recruit, in those who are here.  
Nostrils filled, with herc exhaust;  
The men in the aft, not one of them lost,  
Waiting for the go, and the green light;  
The soft white snow, far below in the night.  
Down they come, fast with their gear;  
Each man deployed, so very near.  
They hit, they roll, they drag so light;  
Canopies released, and buried out of sight.  
Who are these men, who dared to be scorned;  
Their berets say it all, this is the Airborne!*

**ABOVE LEFT:** In November 2013, CAAWC, 3 RCR and 3 PPCLI sent jumpmasters on EX CRUZEX, a joint sear and rescue exercise in Brazil that involved nine other nations. Pictured, Canadian jumpers posed for a photograph with American and Brazilian commandos after completing a freefall descent.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Vitally important to all parachutists is ensuring all of the equipment is properly secured.



# CAAWC

## *CAAWC Parachute Riggers*

*by Cpl Melanie Tucker  
Support Company*



**W**ithin the walls of the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) lies Support Company, where parachutes are packed, maintained, assembled, and almost everything in between. The company provides logistical support to the unit as well as second and third line support to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). From ordering and storing all the airdrop-related materials to vouching for the confidence of the quality of our work in every parachute packed by signing our name in the log book once completed, it is all done at CAAWC.

Not many days go by in this unit where a parachute is not packed. Typically, at the beginning of the year, we have a handful of packers getting ready for both a Basic Parachutist (B Para) Course as well as a Military Freefall Parachutist (MFP) course. A B Para serial requires a minimum of 200 CT-1 parachutes while the MFP serial requires well over 400 CT-6 parachutes. Due to the high number of CT-6 parachutes required for the MFP, parachute riggers and packers have plenty of opportunities to go on taskings to help support these courses, as well as supporting external courses.

Usually there are at least four B Para Courses that take place during the winter and spring months within the CAF. Almost all of our packers and riggers will fly outside of Canada, often to the United States, during the winter. As a qualified packer, these taskings are the best experiences for development of packing skills since they are normally very high paced and one gets a lot of practice. Before you know it, you feel like you can do it with your eyes closed — but don't worry, we don't!

Aside from packing parachutes, the training program for riggers is an equally important feature within Support Company. Once or twice a year, this company has a handful of soldiers who are posted to Support Company aspiring to be parachute riggers in the CAF. The first stage for these newcomers is to complete the B Para Course given through Parachute Training Company, another sub-unit within CAAWC. Although never an easy course either mentally or physically, B Para instils a lot of pride and confidence in soldiers who join Support Company to become riggers.

Following this course is the packing phase of becoming a rigger. This is a course that takes two months and its aim



is to teach students how to pack all types of parachutes. From cargo parachutes to round and ram air canopies, there is a lot of information to absorb but, thankfully, our instructors run the course in such a manner that it is fairly simple to gain the skills and knowledge needed to perform well within this specialty.

Once a qualified packer has spent about a year packing parachutes they will usually find themselves in the second phase of training: parachute maintenance. This course is not, by any means, a walk in the park. Most of the course is based around a sewing machine, a tool that may not be very familiar to some of the students, if any. As such, a certain level of difficulty is very much expected at the beginning.

Through this course, the students will learn how to repair all types of parachutes and the hardware that go along with them. They will learn to test and use parachute-related equipment and, usually by the end of this course, students have left feeling much better prepared for the final phase of training, the Parachute Rigger Course.

The rigger course is where you are trained to be the expert — from knowing how every chute is packed to the name of every material used and even its minimum breaking strength (MBS). This course also takes about two months and you need to be able to perform as a supervisor as you will be in charge of three packers during a day of rigging at Support Company. By the time you have become a rigger, about three years have gone by and you have gained a lot of knowledge about parachutes.

With all of these phases of training, in addition to all of the parachutes that need to be packed and all the airdrop equipment that needs to be repaired, it makes for a busy year. However, we always make time for the things that let us wear the maroon beret ... jumping! Every so often in



this unit, we get the opportunity to take off in a Hercules aircraft, or maybe even a C-17, and jump with a CT-1 parachute. Another benefit of working at CAAWC is the possibility of getting a spot on one of the Static Line Square Canopy Courses (SLSC) or even the MFP Course. But day in and day out, we know we have a job to do and that is to be the best we can be at our job and make sure we provide work that will place confidence within the jumper and keep them safe in the sky.

*"I will be sure, always!"* ■

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**OPPOSITE PAGE:** At the beginning of the year, parachute riggers get the chance to participate in the Military Freefall Parachutist (MFP) course.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Parachutes can suffer damage if snagged on landing. As such, it is imperative that each parachute is carefully inspected by riggers prior to the next use, and that repairs are made as necessary. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT RENAE SAYLOCK)

**ABOVE RIGHT:** After a year learning the intricacies of packing a parachute, qualified packers enter the second phase of training: parachute maintenance. It is at this stage that riggers become well acquainted with sewing machines.



## 3 RCR

### *Mike Company (Para)*



**T**he year 2013 was a successful one for Mike Company (M Coy). Despite a demanding individual and collective training schedule, the company was able to enhance its parachuting capabilities, refine its tactical employment concept and solidify its role as a para-capable sub-unit in a light airmobile infantry battalion.

In February, M Coy deployed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for a third year in a row to participate in Joint Operations Access Exercise (JOAX) with 2 Brigade Cbt Tm of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. The company participated in multiple ranges and work-up training for the tactical portion of the exercise during the first two weeks at Bragg. At that time, all jumpers were able to train and deploy using the T-11 parachute and conduct a wing exchange with the Americans. During the tactical component of JOAX, the company along with their 82<sup>nd</sup> counterparts, seized and secured an enemy-controlled airfield.

That year's JOAX was even more significant in that M

Coy was joined by 3 RCR Battalion HQ, which deployed an air-droppable Tac CP (DRASH). Also, the remainder of the battalion conducted a simulated "air-land" onto the secured airfield then proceeded to carry on with a follow-on airmobile mission using American Chinook helicopters.

In summer, 3 RCR held a changing of command parade to welcome its new Commanding Officer, LCol Rob McBride. The event was highlighted with M Coy conducting a water jump into the Ottawa River then swimming ashore to form up on parade in full view of the spectators.

Jumpers of M Coy conducted IBTS training in the fall leading up to a Level 4 live fire exercise in November. The company jumped into a tactical scenario on Drop Zone

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**ABOVE:** A jumper from 3 RCR's Mike Company prepares to land in the Ottawa River. This is just one of the events that took place during the change of command ceremony welcoming the unit's new CO LCol Rob McBride.



Anzio with a four-aircraft formation jump, then proceeded to move 12 kilometres towards their objective and conduct a raid. For this operation, M Coy was joined by members of CSOR, RCAF, 2 RCHA, 2 CER and QOR.

The objective for the raid consisted of an enemy town (stronghold) with concrete bunkers overlooking the position from a high feature 200 metres away. M Coy group moved to the objective quickly and stealthily then destroyed the enemy by seizing the high ground and setting up a firebase for the assault onto the enemy stronghold.

The year 2013 also saw the company support 3 RCR in the development of battalion-run basic para courses. Completing the ground stage of the course at the 3 RCR barracks, students then moved to CFB Trenton to complete the jump stage under the supervision of M Coy parachute instructors. The continued development of this course will be a great asset to both 3 RCR and the remainder of 2 CMBG, as it will facilitate the training of more basic parachutists within our unit and the brigade. The growth of an airborne capability adds a decisive insertion advantage to all commanders.

The company also worked closely with the Reconnaissance Platoon over the past months and took steps towards developing new insertion methods. Recce Platoon has continued to develop specifically qualified sections, including a patrol pathfinder section. In partnership with M Coy personnel, Recce Platoon built its pathfinder section into a fully qualified precision parachutist group focused on the CT-6 static line square canopy, allowing them to lead the way for insertion into complex areas for multi-faceted organizations. This training will offer the commander more flexible and feasible options for inserting this small yet



tactically crucial force within an airmobile battalion. The newly acquired skill sets were put to the test throughout the year, specifically on JOAX and Level 4.

The company was also given the opportunity to deploy several individuals on international airborne-specific training exercises. First, two personnel were sent to Brazil to provide the Brazilian Air Force's 436 Squadron with experienced jumpmasters. These members facilitated training on both static line and high altitude parachute platforms for our allies. This CRUZEX exercise also served to build ties with our Brazilian counterparts and the nine other countries that participated. The company also sent a small group back to North Carolina to be a part of the annual 'Toy Drop' operation. This was a week-long charity operation that involved paratroopers jumping in new, unwrapped toys to local children's facilities and social services centres. Paratroopers are giving back across borders to further develop the relations inside the airborne community.

Overall, 2013 was a very successful year, one full of challenging and innovative events. The company has demonstrated the determination and drive that 3 RCR and its soldiers have to further develop their parachuting capabilities. We look forward to seeing the advancement of infiltration and extraction methods to include airborne operations in a larger scale in the next year.

*Light winds, soft landings. Airborne! ■*

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**ABOVE LEFT:** Parachutists from 3 RCR's Mike Company gently descend towards the Ottawa River.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Fair winds and soft landings were on hand for Mike Company during one of their jumps.



# CSOR

## *The Year in Review*



Once again, the year 2013 has proven to be a very active one for the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) as members of the regiment were deployed all around the globe. Despite the high operational tempo, the unit remained committed to expanding and improving on the parachute capabilities within the regiment, enabling us to take the next bound as a viable parachute-capable Special Forces Unit.

The year kicked off like most others with the Unit Para Cell conducting a Continuation Para Event for all available jumpers of the regiment. This included refresher training and multiple jumps from aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force, using both round and square parachute systems. This event was followed up closely by select members of the unit attending the CSOR-run Special Operations Parachute Course, where they were taught the necessary freefall and canopy control skills to operate the currently employed square canopy parachute system.

As the weather started to warm, the unit ramped up to participate in Exercise EMERALD WARRIOR with our American SOF counterparts down in the southern States. This excellent training opportunity allowed us to prove the para insertion concepts and techniques that we had been working on during the previous months. EMERALD WARRIOR also allowed us to share information with the multiple participating nations thereby ensuring our future exercises and operations with our partners will continue to run smoothly.

The year 2013 also saw CSOR supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment with their de-centralized Basic Para Course by providing a parachute instructor and

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**ABOVE:** *Members of CSOR conduct a night training exercise. Exercises such as EMERALD WARRIOR provide an excellent training opportunity, allowing members of CSOR to prove the para insertion concepts and techniques that had been learned in previous months.*

**RIGHT:** A Canadian Special Operation Regiment member conducts a static line jump out of the side door of a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III during Exercise EMERALD WARRIOR, which was held in April 2013 in Hurlburt Field, Florida. The primary purpose of EMERALD WARRIOR is to exercise special operations components in urban and irregular warfare settings to support combatant commanders.

**BELOW:** CSOR members conduct a freefall jump out of a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III. This multinational exercise leverages lessons from Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and other historical lessons to provide better trained and ready forces to combatant commanders. (BOTH PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY U.S. AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW BRUCH)



sharing airlift in order for both units to achieve their goals. CSOR was also able to participate in the Military Freefall Parachute Instructor (MFPI) writing board and the CT-11 trials that were held by the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC). Both of these events allowed CSOR to have input into our specific requirements for both round and square canopy operations.

We were able to close out 2013 with a high tempo CSOR para cadre training event that was used to refine all of the cadre's skills and allow other unit personnel to get ready

for the next round in their parachuting career progression.

In closing, 2013 was a good year to be a paratrooper within CSOR, and we expect that 2014 will be even better as we will continue to challenge ourselves to improve upon and expand our parachute capabilities as a unit. A special thanks to 3 RCR, CAAWC and the RCAF for all the support they provided to CSOR in 2013.

Visit our website at: [www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-special-forces/csor.page](http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-special-forces/csor.page)

*Audeamus (Let Us Dare)* ■





## 3 PPCLI

### *B Company's Year in Review 2013*

*by Lieutenant Phil Olsen,  
5 Platoon Commander, B Company (Para)*



**A**s the year draws to a close, Bravo Company can certainly look back with a strong sense of accomplishment at all that has been achieved over the past year.

Following months of low-level training, including several jumps from CH-146 Griffons in early March, Para Company headed to Wainwright to build ranges for Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM. This exercise, which was a gateway requirement for the 1 PPCLI Battle Group (TF 1-13), required the construction of a number of complex ranges in order to ensure the battalion's soldiers would be ready for a potential deployment overseas. Once the ranges were built, sandbags and wire obstacles emplaced, the soldiers of B Coy had the opportunity to prove several of the newly built ranges. As such, the soldiers traded their parachutes for LAV IIIs for several days and familiarized themselves with the principles of mechanized attacks.

Shortly thereafter, Para Company withdrew from Wainwright for a week to enjoy their annual spring break

and some much needed R&R. Upon return from leave, the company's soldiers were tasked out as safety staff for the brigade's live fire exercise, closing off routes and otherwise providing support. For many of the soldiers, the highlight of Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM was the CC-130J jump back into DZ Buxton in CFB Edmonton at the end of the exercise.

In May, following several weeks of assisting TF 2-13 run through convoy drills, Bravo Company returned to the field to participate in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. Under the direction of Major Torry White, and with the assistance of the Colombian Air Force, the 3 PPCLI Parachute Company Group jumped into DZ Rifle Ridge in CFB Wainwright. They carried out a successful ambush, and exfiltrated with the help of the United States Air Force. Working closely alongside a German Pathfinder Platoon throughout the mission was a great success.

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**ABOVE:** *Cpl Appleby performs drop zone drills on DZ Buxton.*



Para Company was busy throughout June, fulfilling annual tasks such as Exercise COELIS, the hike to Siffleur Falls, and the Airborne reunion on June 8. For this event, the company was joined by a large number of Canadian military parachutists who braved the high winds and jumped from Griffons onto DZ Buxton in front of a crowd of veterans, family and friends.

Several weeks later, the 3 PPCLI Para Company moved to CFB Cold Lake to partake in Exercise MAPLE FLAG, where the paratroopers conducted a number of challenging parachute descents, including a low-altitude jump (at 850 feet) and an intentional water landing into DZ Kraken. In addition, several soldiers were fortunate to jump with a contingent of Belgian paratroopers, earning their Belgian jump wings as a result.

However, with one day remaining in the exercise, the company was called back to Edmonton to partake in Operation LENTUS, the 1 CMBG response to flooding in southern Alberta. From June 22 to 25, the company was deployed to Medicine Hat, Alberta, to assist in flood relief efforts alongside city workers and a small army of volunteers. As a result of their hard work, the men prevented a large portion of the city from becoming engulfed by the rising floodwaters. Several members were recognized by the commander of 1 CMBG for their contributions to the operation.

Following a week of training, which integrated a large number of new paratroopers into the company, Para Company conducted Exercise PEGASUS INTRUDER on the night of August 22. Following a helicopter parachute insertion, the soldiers conducted section-level raids with Simunition on multiple targets in the CFB Edmonton training area. The exercise served as an outstanding patrolling refresher, as well as an opportunity to give the new troops additional soldiering experience.



Taking advantage of the last of the 'summer' weather, Para Company deployed to Wainwright for Exercise PEGASUS RAIDER at the end of September. This exercise was an opportunity for Bravo Company to work with enablers such as Recce Platoon, engineers, and medics for the duration of the exercise. Following a particularly rough landing into DZ Rifle Ridge, Para Company conducted simultaneous platoon raids, an aerial resupply, and a company raid, despite persistent rain and wind. This was to be the final company-level exercise of the calendar year, and it concluded fittingly with a group of tired, wet paratroopers jumping back into DZ Buxton at CFB Edmonton.

October 2013 saw the battalion deploying to Dundurn, Saskatchewan, for Exercise SPARTAN FORGE. This exercise began with a week-long gun camp in which the members of the battalion were able to fire various weapon systems, ranging from the 84mm Carl Gustav, to the C6 GMPG (General Purpose Machine Gun), to the 12-gauge shotgun. The second phase consisted of a company-on-company patrol competition that was structured as a game of 'capture the flag.' This competition was a great patrolling refresher for the soldiers, as well as a good opportunity to earn some bragging rights within the battalion. The final phase was a qualifier to select the battalion's team to send to the Canadian Patrol Concentration in Wainwright. This demanding, 24-hour event saw teams of eight complete multiple stands situated all around the training area.

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**ABOVE LEFT:** *The incoming and outgoing OCs (Maj James Thamer and Maj Torry White) patrolling during Exercise MAPLE FLAG.*

**ABOVE RIGHT:** *Bravo Company boarding a CC-130J Hercules for a jump into Wainwright.*



Throughout the year, B Coy was responsible for running two Basic Parachutist Courses. The first course, which ran in June, conducted ground school in CFB Edmonton and travelled to CFB Trenton to finish J-Stage with available CC-130J Hercules aircraft. The second course, conducted in November and December, saw 39 candidates landing in the snowy DZ Buxton in the CFB Edmonton training area. Concurrent with the J-Stage for the Basic Para Course, B Coy conducted a winter configuration jump with toboggans in preparation for Exercise ARCTIC RAM, which is planned for February 2014.

December saw an opportunity for B Coy to send a contingent of soldiers to Fort Lewis, Washington, to participate in Menton Week 2013. This event, run by the Green Berets of 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), commemorates the deactivation of the First Special Service Force on December 5, 1944, in Menton, France, and includes parachute descents and a foreign wing exchange.

Finally, we cannot forget Para Company's athletic achievements throughout the year. The soldiers dominated

battalion football during the annual French Grey Cup in February, as well as in November, and also won the inter-battalion soccer competition in September. As usual, the company had several members perform strongly in Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN. Additionally, Para Company's own Cpl Andrew Tardiff was named the Canadian Forces Male Athlete of the Year in recognition of his exceptional contributions to both CAF soccer and grassroots soccer organizations. ■

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**ABOVE LEFT:** Paratroopers from 3 PPCLI wait for departure on board a CC-130 Hercules during Exercise MAPLE FLAG 2013 (JOINTEX) in Cold Lake, Alberta on May 28, 2013. (PHOTO BY MCPL MARC-ANDRÉ GAUDREULT, CF COMBAT CAMERA)

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Canadian, Colombian and German jumpers took part in JOINTEX 13. (PHOTO BY MCPL MARC-ANDRÉ GAUDREULT, CF COMBAT CAMERA)

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Bravo Company exiting a CC-130J Hercules via 'Double-Door Smash.'

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Members of 3 PPCLI's Bravo Company jump into Wainwright during Exercise MAPLE FLAG.





## 3 PPCLI

*Menton Week 2013*

*by Lieutenant Phil Olsen,  
5 Platoon Commander, B Company (Para)*

**D**ecember 5, 2013 marked the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deactivation of the First Special Service Force (FSSF) in Menton, France. The FSSF was an elite multinational (Canadian and American) unit created to conduct commando missions throughout the Second World War's Aleutian, Italian, French, and Rhineland campaigns. Feared for their relentless aggression, the Germans came to refer to them as "The Devil's Brigade" or "Black Devils." Menton Week is an event hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) to commemorate the achievements of the FSSF during WWII, and is held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington.

Bravo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was fortunate enough to send a contingent of 20 soldiers to the week-long event this past December. In addition to 3 PPCLI, the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) Parachute Company Group enablers were also represented: Reconnaissance Platoon, Sniper Platoon, 1 Field Ambulance, and 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. Finally, there were three Canadian jumpmasters present in this

group to dispatch American jumpers and present them with Canadian wings during a wing exchange ceremony. Unfortunately, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) was unable to attend this year, making this group of 20 soldiers from 1 CMBG the sole representatives from Canada.

The event began with a 16-hour drive from CFB Edmonton to Fort Lewis, Washington. The first day of Menton Week 2013 saw us participating in the opening ceremony, getting a tour of the 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A) compound, and getting an introduction to the MC-6 parachute, which was to be used throughout the week. This parachute is a manoeuvrable, round canopy with a 13-knot forward speed that is able to be mass-dropped. The MC-6 has also been in use with U.S. Special Forces for over 10 years. Due to its manoeuvrability, slower descent rate, and ability to land into the wind, it is an absolute joy to jump (and land) this parachute.

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**ABOVE:** Col McDowell, Comd 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A) presenting Capt Dave Testa, 2 I/C B Coy with American Wings.



Day Two saw us conducting parachute descents from a UH-60 Blackhawk and MH-47 Chinook, with all participants getting at least one jump in before the West Coast fog rolled in.

The morning of Day Three consisted of a familiarization shoot of the group's weapons, which included the H&K MP-5, H&K M-320 Grenade Launcher, M4 carbines, and several 9mm pistols. There was also a 9mm pistol shooting competition, in which Cpl McCoy (5 Pl, B Coy) won the top foreign shot award, and took home a Tactical Tailor Extended Range Patrol bag as a prize.

Day Four was the final day of jumps, and the weather was clear enough to provide a chance for all jumpers to get another parachute descent in. Social events were scheduled for each night, and the Canadian contingent represented themselves well.

The final day of Menton Week 2013 consisted of the famous Menton Ball. This grandiose event took place at

the Tacoma Convention Center, and over 1,200 Green Berets of 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A) and their spouses were present. This event served to recognize the losses sustained throughout the year by 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A), as well as an opportunity for all group members to socialize. Two Canadians were part of the colour guard, and represented well as they marched in the flags. The event was a rousing success, and a great time was had by all.

Menton Week 2013 was an outstanding opportunity to work with our neighbours to the south, conduct some great training, exchange TTPs and foreign wings, and ultimately strengthen ties to our closest ally. Hopefully, the participation of 3 PPCLI in this event will become an annual tradition. ■

**ABOVE LEFT:** Canadian Capt Declan Ward (left) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) Commander LCol Dennis Heaney render honors during the playing of Taps during Menton Week 2013, which is held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington. The joint Canada-U.S. event is held annually to commemorate the achievements of the First Special Service Force. The elite unit was deactivated in 1944 in Menton, France. (PHOTO BY MELANIE CASEY)

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Canadians pose with Colonel McDowell, Comd 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A), CSM Brian Johnson, Comd Sgt Maj 1<sup>st</sup> SFG (A) and LTC Duggan, Comd 3<sup>rd</sup> BN 1<sup>st</sup> SFG(A).

**LEFT:** Members of the Canadian-American special operations unit, the FSSF, in Italy. The FSSF was tasked with capturing Mont la Difensa during Operation RAINCOAT. The unit had secured the mountain in just a few hours and then seized nearby Mount la Remetanea by mid-day, despite suffering 30 per cent casualties. By the time the survivors marched down the mountain, the FSSF's reputation as an elite fighting unit had been secured. (PHOTO BY LT C.E. NYE, DND, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF CANADA, PA-183862)





## QOR

### *The Year in Review*



**T**he year 2013 was another important one for the QOR, and the unit continued to grow and break new ground as a reserve unit. As always, our training tempo is high. In addition to our usual participation in individual and collective training exercises, the unit also ran a Basic Recce Patrolman Course, Basic Mountain Operations Course and a Basic Parachutist Course.

The year started off with preparations for Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE in January. In February, the exercise took place and included a variety of airdrop activity. It started with a static line square insertion by a Patrol Pathfinder Detachment from CAAWC, followed by several equipment airdrops in support of the exercise, and culminated with a static line full-equipment jump onto the frozen Moose River just outside of Moosonee, Ontario.

To enable this, Sgt Bill Paton was required to register four drop zones between Timmins and Moosonee in a few days' time. This also gave us the opportunity to name the DZs after

important individuals to the QOR. The DZ at Moosonee Airport was named DZ Bamlett after MWO Bruce Bamlett, a rifleman who passed away in 2005 at age 30. The DZ just outside of Cochrane was named DZ Hasek after Major John Hasek, who served with the Black Watch, the RCR and QOR, and was the first commander of the Skyhawks. The main drop zone in Moosonee was named after the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion D-Day veteran Jan de Vries.

In March, the unit led Exercise BADGER DRIVE 2 at CFB Borden. This exercise consisted of two jumps onto DZ Gorvad — a tactical, full-equipment drop from a CH-146

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**ABOVE:** *Members of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada jump on the final day of exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE in Moosonee, Ontario on February 22, 2013. The annual exercise provides challenging training to Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, allowing them to regenerate winter field skills while operating in harsh weather conditions. (MCPL DAN POP, CANADIAN ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS)*



**LEFT:** Exercise ROYAL GUNFIGHTER 2013 at CFB Petawawa, QOR members executed airborne and airmobile insertions as well as live-fire attacks against enemy positions. (CFB PETAWAWA, 3 RCR)

and the other from a CC-130J. This allowed us to insert a Recce Platoon and the QOR Para Company to conduct offensive operations.

On May 1, the QOR partnered with 3 RCR and CAAWC to conduct a CC-130J drop onto DZ Hodgson to conduct continuation parachute training to maintain currency and ability. To further ensure proficiency as paratroopers, the QOR kicked off June with the annual refresher and paratrooper indoctrination. During the annual refresher, two jumps were conducted.

During the summer of 2013, the QOR conducted the second annual Basic Parachutist Course for Primary Reservists from the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division. The course was comprised of all QOR parachute instructors with Section Commanders Sergeants Bridge, Burns, Frounze and Ragos, Course 2 I/C WO Donovan O'Halloran and Course Officer Captain Scott Moody. As a result, 43 Primary Reservists earned their wings. The graduation jump was from a C-17 — a first for a Basic Parachutist Course.

September saw the unit deploy to Fort Stewart, Georgia, to work with the 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) during their pre-deployment training for Afghanistan. Members also completed their annual Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) and fitness testing.

Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT at CFB Trenton was conducted in October. The intent of this exercise was to conduct a review for our paratroopers in skills unique to parachute operations. The exercise culminated with a double door, full-equipment jump from a CC-130J. The QOR also participated in a C-17 jump in support of 8 Wing at the end of the month and the CT-11 trials at CAAWC.

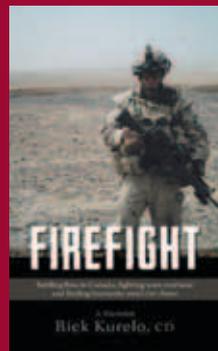
In early November, a contingent of paratroopers from the QOR was invited to participate in Exercise ROYAL

GUNFIGHTER in Petawawa, Ontario with 3 RCR. This consisted of a four-plane formation drop onto DZ Anzio. The QOR provided two jumpmasters and jumpers for one of the four planes. It was a great experience to see 200 canopies in the air at once again.

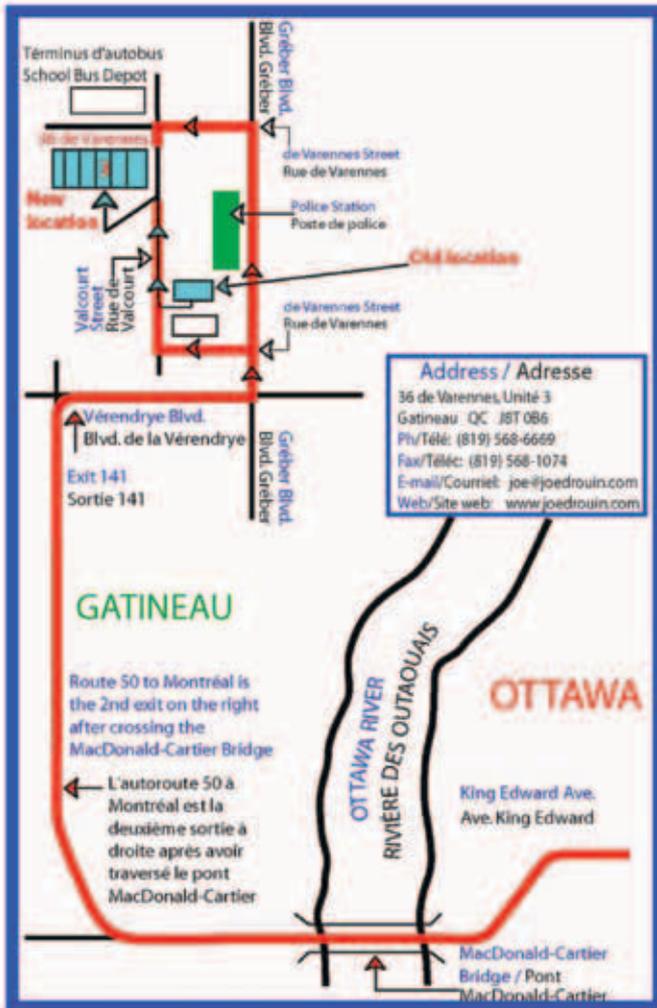
At the end of 2013, the QOR took the lead on running a Basic Recce Patrolman Course. The course was managed by the QOR and had Course Officer CWO Ray Joseph and Course 2 I/C Sgt Steve Diss on loan to make it a success. The course ran over a six-month time period and ended in May 2014.

To start 2014, the QOR participated in Exercise COLD START 1 in CFB Trenton — a winter exercise with an airborne insertion. However, the weather caused a stop drop to the jump portion of the exercise. A few weeks later, we made up for it when the weather finally cooperated and we completed a currency jump.

March was an extremely busy month for the QOR. During this month, the unit participated in Exercise BADGER DRIVE 2 in Petawawa. The unit conducted a full-equipment parachute descent onto DZ Anzio and completed a company-sized raid on the Urban Operations Village. Concurrently, the QOR ran a Basic Mountain Operation Course for members of 32 CBG, staged out of Rattle Snake Point in Milton and led by Course Office Mark Timms and Course 2 I/C Sgt Bill Paton. Thanks to AMOs WO Bryan Burns, Sgt Dmitri Frounze, MCpl Chris Abate and Cpl Dave Hannan, the course was a success, qualifying 16 new BMOs for 32 CBG. ■



**Former Cdn AB Regt and QOR MCpl Rick Kurelo, a firefighter in civilian life, has a new book. Firefight: Battling Fires in Canada, Fighting Wars Overseas and Finding Humanity Amid the Chaos is a compilation of 97 stories and 45 photos. Published by FriesenPress.com, Firefight is available online and in stores. See also [firefight2014.com](http://firefight2014.com) for info.**



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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Associate membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_**

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2. Rank (or Occupation): \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. How do you wish your name to appear on your membership card? \_\_\_\_\_  
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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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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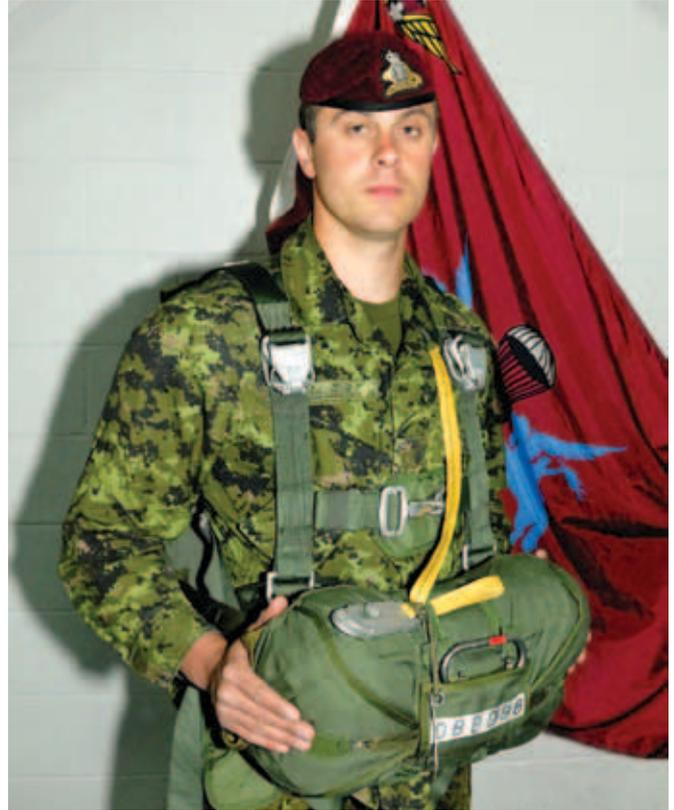
New member given # \_\_\_\_\_ New Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_ Jan 11



## CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Master Corporal Keven M. Leblond, 3 R22eR,  
Recognized*

*by LCol S. Jourdain,  
Commanding Officer, 3 R22eR*



**M**Cpl Keven M. Leblond enrolled in the regular component of the Canadian Armed Forces in March 2006 and was posted to 3 R22eR upon qualification. He served with distinction in one of the unit's light infantry companies and in its reconnaissance platoon. He currently serves as a section second-in-command in 3 R22eR's airborne operations company, having been appointed to the rank of master corporal in January 2013.

The awarding of the commander-in-chief's commendation for units recognized the veteran of two tours of duty in Afghanistan, MCpl Leblond and his comrades' extraordinary courage and tenacity in the face of battle. An extremely capable and motivated soldier, MCpl Leblond easily garners new and challenging skill sets in order to better serve. A parachutist since 2008, he qualified as a jumpmaster and a parachute instructor while still a corporal. In the last year alone, he accumulated praise as

he qualified as a helicopter insertion instructor and an advanced reconnaissance patrolman.

MCpl Leblond is a very well-rounded soldier and his achievements in the last year bear testament to his impressive ability to excel in every aspect of the airborne soldier's key skills. His excellence in parachuting demonstrates an extremely adaptable parachutist with five static line square canopy descents, two static line round canopy descents, and seven dispatches in the last year. His parachuting skills are applied in tactical context and he demonstrated outstanding soldiering skills in Exercise RAFALE BLANCHE, a 5 CMBG force-on-force

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**ABOVE:** Master Corporal Keven M. Leblond, 3 R22eR, was recognized as the 2013 Airborne Soldier of the Year for his impressive ability to excel in every aspect of the airborne soldier's key skill set, including parachuting, readiness, sustainment, resourcefulness, fitness and leadership.

training event, during which not only did he dispatch his section from a CC-117 Globemaster III and then completed a stick commander drill to insert himself, but he also served to ensure the readiness and sustainment of his section during an intensive eight-day offensive operation, including a dismounted advance to contact over 12 kilometres, and a series of high impact raids on targets in depth, which culminated in an air assault deliberate attack on a mountain bunker.

During Exercise COLD RESPONSE, a multinational NATO exercise in Norway involving 16,000 soldiers, he demonstrated yet again the impressive ability of the paratrooper to adapt rapidly to new circumstances when he enabled his section to operate and thrive during intensive 10-day operations, where his section had to become proficient and exploit the BV206 over-snow vehicle to defeat an enemy superior in numbers and firepower. His resourcefulness and skilful use of terrain proved instrumental in ensuring the survival and lethality of his section. His performance during the Advanced Reconnaissance Patrolman Course, which is

fairly considered one of the most challenging displays of an infantryman's skill-at-arms, fitness and leadership, was qualified by the commandant and reporting officer as being "superb" and "excellent."

It bears no doubt that MCpl Leblond's professional qualities are an example for his subordinates, peers and superiors alike, yet in his personal life, he also sets an example for all: proud father of a two-year old boy and exploits a small farm. An accomplished outdoorsman, he is an avid hunter, fisherman and trapper as well as a snowshoe, cross-country ski, ATV and snowmobile enthusiast. His high levels of fitness, motivation and skills have also allowed him to take an active part in battalion sports activities, where he has been playing in the unit's "A" hockey team.

No single personal attribute can establish someone as a model airborne soldier. It is MCpl Leblond's achievement of balance in the mastery of all the attributes required which stand him apart in that domain. No one compares to him when the time comes to jump in, fight through and win.

*EX COELIS* ■



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## 3 R22eR

*Les Paras du 3 R22eR  
s'emparent du ciel de Québec*

*par le Lt M.S. Noel,  
Capt Bat, cie A, 3 R22eR*



**S**auter en parachute est un « rush » d'adrénaline! Par contre, faire partie d'une compagnie de parachutiste est beaucoup plus qu'un simple saut. Durant l'année 2013, les membres de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (3 R22eR), ainsi que leurs attachés des autres unités, ont mis en pratique les capacités d'une force aéroportée à travers l'entraînement collectif sur différentes zones de largage dans la région de Québec.

Lorsque les membres du 3 R22eR embarquent dans les différents types d'aéronef comme l'Hercule (CC-130) et le Griffon (CH-146), ce n'est pas pour un simple saut de plaisir. Depuis un certain temps, la compagnie A du 3 R22eR met l'accent sur l'entraînement collectif de sa force aéroportée. Cet entraînement est progressif et conçu de manière à maximiser la progression. L'entraînement est divisé en plusieurs volets dans le but de couvrir l'ensemble du spectre des opérations aéroportées d'un groupe compagnie. Selon le Sgt McDougall, instructeur en parachutisme militaire, « il est important que nos parachutistes maîtrisent les techni-

ques de saut en parachute, la discipline en vol ainsi que le chargement et le déchargement d'un aéronef. Leur niveau de connaissance et de compétence fait en sorte que nos parachutistes peuvent sauter avec différents types de parachutes comme le CT-1 et le CT-2 ». Chaque sauteur doit connaître et mettre en application ses manœuvres individuelles avant de passer à l'étape suivante.

La prochaine étape de l'entraînement collectif est d'appliquer les manœuvres de rassemblement après l'atterrissage. Le sergent des opérations parachutistes, Philippe Lemieux, surenchère « pendant que les troupes sautent en parachute, l'opération aéroportée est particulièrement vulnérable tant que les parachutistes ne sont pas regroupées aux points de

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**CI-HAUT:** Suite à une introduction en entraînement collectif, les membres de la compagnie de Para et ses attachés ont formés un groupe-compagnie commandé par le Major Nicolas Gauthier afin de mettre en pratique leur capacité durant l'automne 2013.

**À DROITE:** Les membres de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment mettent en pratique les capacités d'une force aéroportée à travers l'entraînement collectif sur différentes zones de largage dans la région de Québec et sur différents types d'aéronef, tel le Griffon (CH-146).



rassemblement au sol ». Pour faire face à cette vulnérabilité, la compagnie fait appel à un détachement du peloton de reconnaissance. Les patrouilleurs de reconnaissance sont insérés dans la zone d'atterrissage par l'aéronef une période de temps avant le groupe principal. Une de leurs tâches est de marquer les points de rassemblement et de servir de guides au sol pour l'arrivée des sauteurs. « Lorsque les premiers sauteurs arrivent dans la zone de rassemblement, nous remettons le commandement aux commandants compétents, puis les membres de mon équipe entreprennent des tâches subséquentes selon le type de mission qui nous est assignée », rapporte le Sgt Guillaume Boulay, commandant du détachement des patrouilleurs. La coordination entre ce détachement et le commandement est primordial pour la continuité de la mission ainsi que sa réussite.

Ce type d'entraînement collectif permet une progression au niveau des opérations aéroportées et un renforcement de l'unité d'appartenance de la troupe. « Le fait que tous les membres d'une unité ou d'une formation sautent ensemble

pour aller au combat stimule l'esprit d'équipe. L'exaltation qui suit une descente réussie contribue énormément à renforcer l'esprit de combat afin de poursuivre la mission avec confiance et succès », partage l'Adjum Isabelle, sergent-major de la compagnie de parachutistes. La réussite repose fondamentalement sur l'esprit d'équipe, l'audace et l'initiative de chaque parachutiste.

Suite à cette introduction de l'entraînement collectif, les membres de la compagnie de para et ses attachés ont formés un groupe-compagnie commandé par le Major Nico-

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**LES CADETS ROYAUX DE  
L'ARMÉE CANADIENNE  
SUPPORTENT NOS  
TROUPES AÉROPORTÉES**

**AIRBORNE!**  
*Young jumpers, may you always have fair winds and soft landings.*  
MGen. J.M. Robert Gaudreau, CMM, CD (ret'd)



**AÉROPORTÉ!**  
*Jeunes parachutistes  
Bons vents et atterrissages  
en douceur.*  
MGen. J.M. Robert Gaudreau, CMM, CD, (ret.)

las Gauthier afin de mettre en pratique leur capacité durant l'automne 2013.

Durant l'EX SAPEUR TENACE, le commandant du 5<sup>e</sup> Régiment de génie de combat (5 RGC) avait l'intention d'appuyer les opérations en profondeur afin de saisir intact un pont qui était en territoire ennemi dans la municipalité de St-Anselme afin de permettre une jonction future des forces de la coalition. Pour ce faire, il était prêt à commettre une force en isolation jusqu'à 72 heures afin de bénéficier de l'effet de surprise et de disloquer les lignes de communication ennemies.

Pour accomplir cette opération, le commandant du 5 RGC a fait appel à un groupe-compagnie aéroporté. Le groupe-compagnie était composé de la Cie A du 3 R22eR, d'une section d'ingénieurs de combat du 5 RGC, d'un détachement de contrôle aérien avancé (CAA) du 5 RALC, et d'un détachement médical. Le commandant du groupe-compagnie, le Major Nicolas Gauthier, explique l'emploi de cette capacité aéroporté : « Un des types d'opération spécifique aux forces aéroportées sont les opérations en profondeur pour capturer un terrain clé en territoire ennemi et d'en assurer la défense jusqu'au moment décisif. Cette capacité qui nous est propre répondait efficacement aux besoins de la mission du 5 RGC ». La planification étroite de ce type de mission est cruciale, car plusieurs éléments doivent être synchronisés conjointement.

Suite à une planification minutieuse, les membres du groupe-compagnie ont embarqué dans l'aéronef de type Hercules CC-130J le 23 octobre 2013 à minuit afin de se faire insérer de nuit en parachute sur la zone de largage (ZL) Honfleur qui était située à 6 km au nord de l'objectif principal. Les premiers à être insérés ont été le peloton 3 et le CAA. Lors de leur insertion, le peloton 3 avait comme tâche de sécuriser le ZL avant l'arrivée de la force d'assaut aéroporté principale et de les regrouper jusqu'aux points de rassemblement à proximité. Lorsque le groupe-compagnie était aux points de rassemble-

ment, le peloton 3 et le détachement de contrôle aérien avancé se sont rapidement déplacés vers l'objectif afin d'établir des postes d'observation sur le pont pour pouvoir informer le commandant du développement de la menace ennemi et guider la force d'assaut vers leur position d'attaque.

Un des éléments essentiels tout au long de l'opération aéroporté est le détachement de CAA. Le Capitaine Parker Donaldson, commandant du détachement CAA durant cette opération, dirigeait minutieusement l'appui aérien rapproché contre les objectifs à proximité de la force amie. « Mon détachement G42 a fourni de l'observation et a marqué des points d'importance afin de supporter le plan d'attaque du commandant. Lors de l'heure H (l'heure d'attaque), mon équipe a contrôlé le largage d'une bombe de 500 livres par un Alpha jet sur la position ennemie afin de créer un effet de choc et couvrir l'approche de la force d'assaut sur l'objectif ».

Puis, la force d'assaut, composé du Pon 1 au nord et du Pon 2 au sud, a attaqué le pont de chaque côté simultanément pour s'emparer de l'objectif avec aisance grâce à un appui aérien rapproché bien synchronisé. La prise de l'objectif a permis à la section de génie de combat de neutraliser tous les dispositifs explosifs qui aurait pu être installés sur le pont. La prise de possession du pont a été caractérisée par la rapidité de réaction, la souplesse, la légèreté et l'effet de choc que les forces aéroportées apportent sur le champ de bataille. Lorsque le pont a été sécurisé, le groupe-compagnie a passé à la dernière phase de son opération qui était d'en assurer la défense. Pour accomplir cette tâche, il est primordial que tous les éléments coopèrent étroitement les uns avec les autres. La coopération et la collaboration sont particulièrement importantes jusqu'à la jonction avec d'autres forces alliées.

Le commandant du groupe-compagnie aéroporté souligne le succès de cette opération grâce aux caractéristiques propres de cette force. « Nous utilisons les forces aéroportées, car l'emploi tactique est plus souple, plus efficace et plus furtive que des forces plus lourdes dans des secteurs qui sont sous le contrôle de l'ennemi. De plus, l'effet de choc que l'on crée est démesuré par rapport à notre taille, à notre puissance de feu et aux nombres de soldats que l'on déploie sur le terrain ». La coordination de tous les éléments qui forment le groupe-compagnie aéroporté apporte une valeur ajoutée aux commandants qui connaissent et exploitent ces capacités uniques.

Bref, l'année 2013 a permis aux membres de la compagnie de parachutiste de mieux connaître les principes qui guident la conduite des opérations aéroportées au niveaux de compagnie et de groupe-compagnie. La prochaine étape sera de joindre les trois compagnies de parachutistes afin d'exposer les capacités de la force aéroportées à plus grande échelle. ■





## MILITARY BANDS

### *Quebec City International Festival of Military Bands 2013*

*by Sgt (ret'd) Mike Reshitnyk, CD*

**T**he spotlight in a Quebec City hockey stadium was on a handful of Korean War paratrooper veterans at last summer's edition of the Quebec City International Festival of Military Bands. Every year during the tattoo performances, a special theme is chosen for commemoration. In 2013, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War was chosen as the centrepiece of the tattoo's commemoration presentation by LCol (ret'd) Yvan Lachance, CD, director general of the festival.

At an appropriate time during the tattoo, lights were shut off in the stadium. A lone trumpeter sounded a mournful call. A voice over the loudspeakers began the historical presentation of Canada's participation in the Korean War, accompanied by a photo display on huge video screens at both ends of the arena. At the end of the presentation, the announcer asked the crowd to applaud veterans of the Korean War.

Spotlights opened up at both ends of the arena. From one end emerged a dozen or so Canadian Korean War veterans, almost all paratroopers sporting their maroon berets, while at the other, two very young Korean children

entered the arena. To roaring applause and flanked by a guard of honour, both met at the centre to join hands and to bask in the moment of this emotional scene.

The young Koreans, Élodie and Samuel, are adopted children of Sgt. Jean Morisset, a musician with the Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Band and his spouse, Nicole Boucher.

Always under spotlight and now accompanied by military bands playing *The Maple Leaf Forever*, the children and paratroopers walked out of the arena to nonstop applause.

A six-minute YouTube video of the ceremony can be seen at the following web address: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuPqoloPD1g&app=desktop>. ■

*Mike Reshitnyk served with the Canadian Airborne Regiment, with the ASSU's medical platoon between 1976 and 1977, and as NCO I/C of the medical section attached to 1 Commando.*

**ABOVE:** *Élodie and Samuel make a grand entrance with Korean War veterans during the 2013 International Festival of Military Bands in Quebec City. (PHOTO BY ÉRIC FORTIN)*



## RAISING FUNDS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

*Art Cycles Across Canada  
for Children's Wish Foundation*



**A**rt Brochu served in the PPCLI and Canadian Airborne Regiment for over 25 years and was based in numerous areas where there was a great deal of suffering, especially by children.

To this day, these memories haunt him, for not being able to help. Since retiring from the Army, Art has supported soldiers who were released from service due to injury, but he still wanted to give back more to the community. He learned about the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada and decided that on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday he would cycle across Canada to raise money for the organization, which works with communities across the country to provide children with life-threatening illnesses the opportunity to realize their most heartfelt wish.

After two and a half years of training with Lori-Ann Muenzer, Canada's first Olympic Gold medalist in cycling from the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Art started his voyage from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with a target to raise **\$100,000** in four months. Art is cycling through many Canadian towns and cities, and will finish his campaign on August 15<sup>th</sup> in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Follow Art's journey at [www.childrens-wish.ca/artcyclesforwishes](http://www.childrens-wish.ca/artcyclesforwishes) and please consider supporting an Airborne Brother! ■

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**ABOVE:** Art Brochu trained for two and a half years with Canadian Olympian distance cyclist Lori-Ann Muenzer in preparation for his four-month ride across Canada.



## 1 CAN PARA

### *1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Update*

*by Andy and Adrienne Anderson*

### *Battalion's Western Colours on Display at Calgary Military Museum*

Forty-three battalion members from across Canada raised the needed funds for the construction and furnishing of a display case for our Western Colours, now permanently housed in the Military Museums of Calgary. The case was also fitted out with samples of our uniforms, equipment and a tribute to Fred Topham.

The project was masterminded and spearheaded by battalion member the Honourable Russell Dixon, Q.C. of Calgary. The display was launched on June 5, 2013, and our patron, MGen Herb Pitts, gave an outstanding account of our history. Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, paid fitting tribute to our battalion and cut the ribbon to open the display.

Russell Dixon spoke of the display's evolution and gave credit where due. George Little presented Russ with a plaque in appreciation for his outstanding efforts. Other members attending were: Boyd Anderson, Lucien Lamy, Wilf Laroche, Andrew Roy, Eugene Sanford, and Bill Talbot.

The organizing committee included: Andy and Adrienne Anderson, Joanne de Vries, Sheila and Russ Dixon, Monty Marsden, Herb Pitts, Walt Romanow and Bill Talbot.

### *Siffleur Falls – Exercise COELIS Mountain Reunion, June 5 and 6, 2013*

A great contingent of Canadian Airborne Regiment veterans came down from Edmonton, where they were launching their own reunion, to participate in the annual D-Day commemoration at 'our' mountain. Representing our battalion were: Lou Lamey, John Ross, Tom Sawden, Peter Braidwood, Fred Stokes, The Hon. Russell Dixon, Keith Metcalfe, Bill Talbot, Gord Smith, Merv Jones and MGen Herb Pitts.

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**ABOVE:** *1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion's Western Colours are now on permanent display at the Military Museums of Calgary. In addition to samples of 1 Can Para's uniforms and equipment is a tribute to Fred Topham. A medical orderly who was deployed as part of the airborne drop near the Rhine River in 1945, Topham was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courageous and selfless devotion to his comrades while wounded and under enemy fire.*



**ABOVE LEFT:** Several members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion, who served with distinction during the Second World War, attended the unveiling of the display case at the Military Museums of Calgary in June 2013. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Marianne Pitts (left), Janet MacDonald (niece of Bob and Doris Firlotte) and Pauline Zakaluk (right) also attended the event.

Members of B Coy (Para), 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Infantry (Edmonton) did the annual climb of Exercise COELIS, before joining our battalion members and our Airborne Regiment colleagues on parade. Under the direction of MGen Herb Pitts, the Hon. Russell Dixon received the General Salute. Bugler Janine Earl played all national anthems, Last Post and Reveille; Piper LCol J. L. Moffat did the Lament. Our Padre, Maj Mark Sargent, conducted the Invocation and prayers, and then wreaths

were laid. Pauline Zakaluk and Isobel Allan laid a wreath on behalf of all the fallen of our battalion. Thanks to Bill Dickson and all who worked so hard on the parade, ceremony and all arrangements.

### *1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps 100*

June 15, 2013 saw the third Annual Review of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 in

**BOTTOM LEFT:** The official ribbon cutting at the Military Museums of Calgary by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Donald S. Ethell, assisted by the Hon. Russell Dixon, Q.C. on left and MGen Herb Pitts on right. **BOTTOM CENTRE:** Boyd Anderson attended the unveiling of the display case. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Russell Dixon receives plaque of appreciation from George Little.





Brighton, Ontario. The corps was founded by BGen Ian Douglas, a former commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Cadets wear our maroon beret and cap badge, as well as our shoulder flashes.

Two cadet awards were initiated this year. Joanne de Vries presented The Jan de Vries Award in honour of our late president, and Andy Anderson presented The Ronald 'Andy' Anderson Award, named as Andy was the reviewing officer for the corps' first Parade in 2011. The other awards presented were in memory of LCol Fraser Eadie, LCol Jeff Nicklin and Cpl Fred Topham, VC. Joanne was then invited to address the parade. LCol Paul Lockhart served as reviewing officer, one of his last duties as commander of Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC), CFB Trenton.

### *Robert Land Academy to Launch Battalion Memorial Museum*

On December 17, 2013, the board of governors of Robert Land Academy voted to create the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Memorial Museum on the military-style Academy's campus in the Niagara Region of Ontario. Boys attend from Grades 6 to 12. Our late LCol Fraser Eadie served on the Academy's board for many years

and encouraged rapport between our Association and the Academy. Tom Jackson, Reg Walker and Ed Rockett were early supporters, and Bill Edgerley, Bill Talbot and Andy Anderson have continued to maintain the ties. The museum will be open year-round for public, academic and military research.

### *Niagara-on-the-Lake Plaque*

The final battalion plaque to be placed will commemorate the last posting for many battalion members at the end of the war. Roly Harper took on the responsibility of dealing with representatives of the Niagara Parks Commission and the project is moving ahead nicely. He has been ably assisted by Joanne de Vries and Bill Talbot. The time and date of the unveiling has not yet been determined. ■

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**ABOVE:** *The vets who attended the ceremony at Siffleur Falls include, from left to right: Lucien Lamy of Calgary; John Ross of Lethbridge; Tom Sawden of Moose Jaw; Peter Braidwood of Chilliwack; Fred Stokes from North Vancouver; The Hon. Russell Dixon, Q.C. of Calgary; Keith Metcalfe of Torrance, ON; Bill Talbot of Willowdale, ON; Gord Smith of Gravenhurst, ON; Merv Jones (seated in front) of Quebec City; and MGen Herb Pitts (standing at the back) of Victoria.*



# 1 CAN PARA

## *1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Update*

*by Joanne de Vries*



### *Change of Command at Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre*

I was pleased to attend the change of command ceremony at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in June 2013. The command was passed from LCol Paul Lockhart to LCol François Dufault, to whom I was honoured to present a copy of *Tip of the Spear* in memory of the battalion. It has been the custom to present a copy of either *Out of the Clouds* or *Tip of the Spear* to the incoming commander. This tradition began in 1996 when the Canadian Parachute Centre opened at CFB Trenton. It was decided to continue this presentation as long as a battalion history book was available and someone able to present it.

### *Cadet Basic Para Graduation Parade*

It would seem strange not to have attended the Cadet Basic Para Graduation Parade at CFB Trenton on August 9, 2013. Jan and I first attended a Cadet Para Grad Parade

in 1997 at Connaught Ranges near Ottawa at the request of LCol Dan Mitchell, the CO of the then Canadian Parachute Centre. We both attended every graduation parade until Jan's death; I have attended the two since. The 2013 award for top overall cadet went to C/CWO Heathorn, 7 RCACC. Cdt Fortin, 743 RCACC received the top Para award. C/CWO Samuel Heathorn, 7 RCACC in London, Ontario was the recipient of the 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion Bursary. Congratulations to these two young cadets, with wishes for continued success.

### *Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE*

It was disappointing to see such a small contingent of airborne troops in the Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE this year. Sadly, no battalion veterans marched this year; however, thank you to the few post-WWII airborne who

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**ABOVE:** Cdt Fortin, 743 RCACC, was proud to receive the top Para award during the Cadet Basic Para Graduation Parade, which was held at CFB Trenton on August 9, 2013.

*Members of B Coy (Para), 3 PPCLI did the annual climb of Exercise COELIS before joining their 1 Can Para Battalion and Canadian Airborne Regiment colleagues on parade at Siffleur Falls.*



paraded, continuing the tradition of airborne participation in the parade. There was also a small contingent of 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para re-enactors from the U.S. They are hoping to have a large group attend in 2014 in memory of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. I spoke with them and they enquired about a number of battalion members.

### *RCMI Military Massed Band Concert at Roy Thomson Hall*

The concert on October 27, 2013 was a great success. Among the many exhibits was a display by the 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion Re-enactment Unit. Thanks to Jordan Baker, Ken Irvine, Drew Kodatsky, Ron Bergeron, and Jamie Woods for their dedication to keeping the memory of the battalion alive. There were many favourable comments on their exhibit. It is hoped that they will be able to continue to have a display at this event in the ensuing years.

With sincere thanks to Commanding Officer LCol François Dufault, both the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre and the Sky Hawks provided displays. Both units garnered a great amount of interest from the concert attendees. Hopefully both units found it worthwhile and will support again in 2014.

### *QOR Remembrance Church Service at St. Paul's*

A wreath in memory of the battalion was again laid at the annual QOR remembrance church service at St. Paul's in Toronto on Sunday, November 10, 2013. I was privileged

to accompany Major Adam Saunders, who laid the wreath. Thanks to the QOR for their kindness, hospitality, and their continued dedication in remembrance of 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion.

### *QOR Soldiers' Holiday Dinner at Moss Park Armoury*

Another enjoyable evening on December 11, 2013 was spent with the QOR soldiers at their holiday dinner. Doreen Walker, daughters Dawn and Wendy, and granddaughter Amanda, along with Joanne de Vries attended to present the Reg Walker Award and a copy of *Tip of the Spear* on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion veterans. This year's recipient was MCpl Chris Abate. Double congratulations to Chris as he was also the recipient in 2005. It is good to know he continues to excel as a QOR soldier. We wish him continued success. Thank you to the QOR for the invitation to again attend this event.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Reg Walker Award was first presented in 1996. The following are the award recipients, noting their ranks at the time of presentation: Sgt Mark Shannon, Sgt Frank Demaine, Sgt Bill Paton, MWO John Wilmot, Cpl Jesse Behan, Sgt Justin Thorn, Lt Pat Slack, Cpl Mark Charlebois, Sgt Scott Moody, Cpl Chris Abate, MCpl Dimitri Frounze, Cpl Henry Biggs, Lt Ben Lee, MCpl Jason McGibbon, Rifleman Denis Abazovic, MCpl Cherith Tse, MCpl Adam Winnicki, and MCpl Chris Abate. Congratulations to all of you and continued success in all your endeavours.

Best wishes to the airborne community for good health, happiness and success in 2014. ■



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE DOLL AT A TIME

*ICROSS Canada Celebrates its 14<sup>th</sup> Year  
of Helping Others Less Fortunate*

*by Bruce Poulin*



**T**his year marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Sergeant (ret'd) Billy Willbond and his volunteers came together to create ICROSS Canada. Billy's inspiration to create this organization came to him during a trip in 1997 when he visited his brother Bob. At the time, Bob was in charge of the Health Partners International Canada (HPIC) aid program in the Belgian Congo.

During this first of nine visits to Sub-Saharan Africa, this former Airborne soldier witnessed the plight of sick, suffering and starving orphans whose parents had died largely from AIDS. ICROSS Canada volunteers, under Billy's stewardship, soon set about collecting donations of medicines, surgical equipment, hospital beds, X-ray machines, sanitary equipment and supplies, and delivering them to these afflicted areas. They also acquired and donated implant lenses for the children who must undergo eye surgery because of AIDS infections.

Not satisfied with donations of medical equipment and hygiene products, Billy and his volunteers saw another opportunity to help by asking more than a thousand volunteers from across the country to knit some padding

for the donated equipment that was being transported in large freight containers. It was through this effort that we saw the emergence of the now famous Boomer Caps and Izzy Dolls.

The knitted Boomer Caps are named in memory of Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom. He was a front-line medic who was killed by a suicide bomber in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, on August 11, 2006. The knitted Izzy African comfort dolls are named in memory of Mark "Izzy" Isfeld. He was a combat engineer who was killed by a mine in the former Yugoslavia on June 21, 1994.

Whenever Billy is asked if these caps and dolls are making a difference, he usually responds by stating: "Not

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**ABOVE:** ICROSS Canada's Billy Willbond presents the 10-year CAVUNP service pin to Ed Widenmaier — a retired PPCLI Ranger and former Queen's Own Rifles Rifleman. Ed is a founder of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association and a member of the Victoria-based Mark Isfeld Memorial Chapter of CAVUNP (Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping). Billy, a retired operations sergeant, served with the QOR, PPCLI, Canadian Airborne Regiment, and SSF. (PHOTO BY S. LAIRD)

only does it provide padding for the medical equipment, but if you saw the face of a small girl, dying from the ravages of AIDS, light up from her despair and hug the little doll, you would know what they mean." When asked about how many caps and dolls have been distributed thus far, Billy states categorically: "ICROSS Canada has distributed more than a million hats and dolls in the past 14 years and the number grows by the thousands every month."

In addition to these volunteers, ICROSS Canada counts on the support of some high-profile Canadians to generate awareness and encourage support of this organization. Its patron, for example, is Major General (ret'd) Lewis MacKenzie, the very well-known leader of the multinational peacekeeping effort in Croatia and later commander of Sector Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia in 1992. It was there that the United Nation force under the command of this former paratrooper opened the airport in Sarajevo for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Through their volunteer network and high profile supporters, ICROSS Canada has shown great compassion and has undoubtedly saved many lives, and brought sight, some comfort, nourishment, and improved hygiene to the children of those afflicted areas. Anyone wishing to support this organization are asked to do so through their website at: [www.icross.ca](http://www.icross.ca).



Show your care and help Billy make a difference in the lives of orphans throughout the world. ■

## CAFA/ARAC BURSARY AWARD WINNER

In July 2013, a joint committee of CAFA and ARAC members — comprised of Bob Janik, CAFA and ARAC; committee chair Mel Douglas, CAFA and ARAC; Ross McKenzie, CAFA and ARAC; and Jim Gratto, CAFA — met to review the 2013 submissions for the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood Bursary, which is open to all Airborne members and their families.

The 2013 winner is Alexandria Michelini, granddaughter of Gordon Edwards, formerly of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Ms. Michelini will be attending Guelph University, enrolled in the faculty of mechanical engineering. Readers may recall that Alexandria's sister, Katarina, was the 2012 recipient of the bursary.

Alexandria is currently studying at the University of Guelph, in a five-year mechanical engineering

co-op program. She entered university at 17 years of age and is a member of Guelph's Dragon Boat team; she is also an avid skier, a runner, and a pro football fan.



As her mother says, "Alexandria is always on the go, always working out, studying, and just enjoying life. I may be biased, but Alex is an all-round good kid with a huge heart and a bright mind."

The bursary committee, and the Airborne Brotherhood, extends its congratulations to Alexandria Michelini with sincere wishes for every success in the future. ■



# 1 CAN PARA

## *Remembering Major Hilton Proctor*

*Transcribed by Major (ret'd) Robert J. Janik,  
MMM CD*

**O**n September 7, 1942, Major Hilton D. Proctor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion fell to his death during a jump at the U.S. Army Parachute School in Fort Benning, Georgia. Below is a transcript of The Kingston Whig-Standard's newspaper article detailing the incident.

### *Major Proctor, Leader of Canadian Paratroops, Killed When Transport Plane Shears Parachute*

**Fort Benning, Ga, Sept. 9, 1942 - (AP)** - BGen George P. Howell, commandant of the United States Army Parachute School, announced today that Maj Hilton D. Proctor, 31, leader of a contingent of Canadian paratroopers, was killed in a jump here Monday when a transport plane sheared into his parachute.

The Army said announcement of the accident was withheld pending clearance with Canadian authorities.

Major Proctor, a native of Ottawa, plummeted to earth after a plane following his own fouled his newly opened chute, and Army investigators said it was probable he was killed



instantly by contact with the plane. The body was to be flown to his home in Ottawa today, accompanied by a representative of the Canadian Army and a representative of Fort Benning.

Maj Proctor led a group of 27 officers and men, Canada's first paratroopers, here five weeks ago for training at the school. The paratroopers were the "guiding lights" for the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion to be trained at Shilo, Man.

The Canadians will be graduated from the school Saturday.

Maj R. F. Routh, 28, of Montreal, was second in command of the Canadians here. He and Maj Proctor, and the other four officers received exactly the same training as the non-commissioned men who were chosen for volunteers for the new force.

Besides Maj Proctor and Maj Routh, the other officers were: Lieut C. F. Hyndman of Charlottetown, attached to the group temporarily from the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps to discuss medical problems with American medical officers of the United States parachute troops; Capt H. A. Fauquier, brother of the R.C.A.F.'s famed Wing Cmdr. Johnny Fauquier; Lieut T. W. Brier of St Johns, Que.; and Lieut H. K. Robinson and Lieut Marcel Cote of Montreal.

**OTTAWA, Sept. 9, 1942 - (CP)** - A brief official statement from National Defence Headquarters today confirmed that Maj Hilton David Proctor, the man to whom Canada looked to develop the most modern branch of its Army — the paratroops — was killed at Fort Benning, Ga., while making a jump.

Announcement of Maj Proctor's death, when a transport plane sheared into his parachute, was made today by BGen George P. Howell, commandant of the United States Parachute School at Fort Benning.

The official statement, issued here a few minutes later, said merely: "He was accidentally killed while jumping from an airplane during the training of his battalion. An inquiry into the circumstances surrounding this accident is being held."

A month ago, Maj Proctor led 27 officers and men to the United States for training at the Fort Benning school. Thirty-one years old, he was looked upon as the ideal type for a paratroop leader — with initiative, physical strength, and cool calculation. From Fort Benning he would have returned to Canada to become a leader in the training of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion to be formed at Shilo, Man. And it was assumed here he would have been commander of this unit with rank of lieutenant-colonel.

At Fort Benning Maj Proctor received the same training as that given to his men, all of whom were volunteers for the course.

With his death, command of the unit falls temporarily to Maj R. F. Routh, 28, of Montreal, second-in-command of the Canadians at Fort Benning.

The choice of Maj Proctor was made by the Canadian general staff after high officers had examined the ability and aptitude of various volunteers for special service.

Formerly an engineer with the Bell Telephone Company, Maj Proctor was an expert marksman, a member of the Canadian Bisley team of 1935. He joined the Active Army in August 1940, was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals and went to Barriefield, later becoming an instructor at the officers' training centre at Brockville.

By May of this year he was a major and returned to Barriefield with the 6<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals until his appointment as commander-elect of the paratroops.

The man who was to lead Canada's advance troops in training and in action was born under a thatched roof at Comber, Ireland, six miles from Belfast, and came to Canada as a child. He went to school in Toronto and later attended Lisgar Collegiate in Ottawa. After leaving high school he earned his Bachelor of Science degree at St. Patrick's College.

A slim smiling man, Maj Proctor received a hearty welcome from his United States comrades on arrival at Fort Benning, and shortly afterwards the Canadian commander had a ride on the controlled jumping tower, sliding to the ground from a height of 250 feet.

Within three weeks, Maj Proctor and his men had graduated to making "free" jumps and their training was practically completed when the fatal accident occurred.

#### Unwitting Tribute

American officers welcoming the Canadians commented on their fine appearance. This was an unwitting tribute to Maj Proctor who had chosen each man personally. He had talked with scores of men who wished to become paratroopers.

"They're really anxious to go," said Maj Proctor, when he reached Fort Benning. "I'd almost like to predict that every one of them will qualify." The young officer had ambitions beyond commanding a training group or school. "These men will go wherever it appears they are best fitted," he said — and he meant himself as well.

After Fort Benning, Maj Proctor was to have taken his men to Shilo where, in co-operation with the Royal Canadian Air Force, further training would be undertaken including the dropping of equipment along with the men.

Maj Proctor's training as a signals officer would have fitted him for active service in a role which paratroopers have shown their value — in the destruction of enemy communications behind their lines. Among the later training given the paratroops will be instruction in the use of explosives while operating in enemy territory.

His widow, the former Dorothy Hutton of Ottawa, and three-year-old son are resident in Ottawa.

Maj Proctor was well known in Montreal where he helped transfer the city's telephone system from the old manual exchange to the new dial system. He enlisted in Montreal.

Maj Proctor, who was a company commander in 6<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, stationed at the Barriefield camp, soon left his unit to attend the special course. The local military authorities were advised of the death last evening. ■

#### **Acknowledgements:**

Reprinted by kind permission of *The Kingston Whig-Standard*  
References: Colonel Bernd Horn, co-author, *Tip of the Spear: An Intimate Account of 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion, 1942-1945: A Pictorial History*; and Brian Nolan, author, *AIRBORNE: The Heroic Story of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in the Second World War*.



## PART 1: OP VARSITY PLUNDER, 1945

*Historical documents, hand-written while in Wismar, Germany in March 1945 by 1 Can Para's commander, provide insight on the final days of World War II.*

*Part 1 covers the period March 21 to April 7. Part 2, describing the events of April 8 to 18, will be continued in next year's Maroon Beret.*



**A** transcript of the notes LCol Fraser Eadie took during Operation VARSITY PLUNDER. Conducted in March 1945, this was a two-pronged attack that included parachute and glider landings near Wesel and the crossing of the Rhine River at Rees.

### **FRÜNDTS HOTEL** **Seestadt Wismar, Den**

#### **Varsity Plunder**

Write up a/c briefing & glider loading. Lead up to thru prelim briefing and planning at Bulford. Hillden Hall Transit Camp - Eng - arrive by M.T. with 8 Br and elements of Bde HQ. Married up with FOO Ken Boss & party.

#### **21 March**

Started final briefing at night - Ed Friel & party advanced with IO & party set up briefing rooms - coy briefing all day 22nd - baseball & soccer 23rd & briefing. Nick <LCol Jeff Nicklin, CO> and Boss <Brigadier Hill?> spoke to BN (enlarge upon gunner support). Fit chutes and load a/c, rehearse convoy, etc. Brig & DOC arrived Chipping Ongar

23rd for final talk with short service by Bde Padres. Played ball with Costigan & Jack Brunette - final <illegible> with Nick that night - Fuller's move orders for <illegible> - Moose McNair to A Coy - last letter - early bed.

Reveille at 0200 - bacon & eggs - load weapons - Costigan's room before moving off - Parade at 0530 hrs <illegible> 0445 arrive A/F 0630 - to A/C 0645 FIRST LIGHT. Fit chutes - all ranks grab hot tea - emplane 0710 - beautiful day - last saw Nick 0715 bet £1 on reaching objective - a/c stick personnel - take off 0720 - flight formation - flight leave Eng coast over channel. RV with other 6 A/B Div a/c over Belgium - RV at Brussels with 17 U.S. A/B div - Br on left, Yanks on right - natives waving us on - our thoughts during flight - fighter cover.

**ABOVE:** Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser Eadie, who took over as Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion after Nicklin's death, displays the American Silver Star decoration he had just received in Wismar, Germany, on May 20, 1945. (PHOTO BY CHARLES H. RICHER, LAC 3231582)

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A page from LCol Eadie's original notes, written while in Wismar, Germany.

ORIGINAL *John*

B

# FRUNDT'S HOTEL

AUTO-GARAGE

BESITZER: M. LORENZEN

ZENTRALHEIZUNG

BANK-KONTO: COMMERZ u. PRIVATBANK, WISMAR

head up to - thru pulim *Variety Plumbers*  
brieking and planning at Bullport

*wide up at bridge -  
glider loading*

SEESTADT WISMAR, DEN

FERNRUF NR: 2924

Hillem Hall  
Transit Camp - Eng. - arrived by M.T. with 8 Br. elements of de HQ - married up  
with FDP Kem Base Party Mar 21 - started final briefing at night - 800 miles party + 2000

and party set up briefing rooms - long briefing all day 22nd - baseball + soccer 23rd + bridge  
talk with Base spoke to Sgt (exchange upon gunner support) - *Brigs Doc arrived 23rd for final*  
*CHIPPING ON 23rd*

Talk with Base arrived by Base leaders - played ball with Sgt Gen + Jack Burnette - final check  
with Nick that night - Fuller's move orders for base - message had to Al Boy - last letter - early

available at 0200 - base on egg - load weapons - load weapons room before moving off - Parade  
at 0530 hrs X SP at 0445 arrive AF 0630 - to A/C 0645 FIRST LIGHT for chutes - all ranks on  
parade - airplanes 0710 - beautiful day - ~~the~~ last saw Nick 0715 bet #1 on reaching  
the line - *all side personnel* take off 0720 - flight formation - flight - leave Eng coast - over channel

R.V. with other 6 A/B Div A/C over Belgium - R/V at Brussels with 170 U.S. A/B Div - Br on left  
yanks overnight - natives waving us on - our thoughts during flight - *0950* flatter cover -  
Red light - checking side - over Rhine - main road - DZ green light - chute opening

flight - 3 rounds - landing small wood - busied with 4 ferries - impressions of  
air cover - our transport + jumpers - off to large wood - met Burdew - Fox of RE  
Jack Burnette Sammt flew on to R.V. - 224 Rd amb. starting on casualties - to Al Boy -

heard 10 missing onto HQ with 16 Fleming - objective taken - selected bond post - set  
up SCR 300 to ground forces immediate contact (prewing only) set up R.A.P. in chutes -  
posted patrols - digging - visited camp - casualties + P.M.s coming in - 224 set up  
Hamer  
casigan - ~~was~~ evacuated - cozy counter attached - mortar shoot under hand - 100mm  
88mm, 4.2 Goddard RAF - gliders in safety - Toppers V.C. *1 supply drop* blancy missing - ferries

trouble with gliders - set up - jump up from river - massacre on bridge - Harrison  
patrol toward river - T. P. 109E - die fairly normal - 2 casualties

aided by medics - contact with 15 S Div by SCR 300 - down play on bond post -  
~~stay with~~ 15 Div rescue - counter attach in to day - casualty returns 2000 hrs to Bds  
Press - checking all night - 15 Div moving through on 2nd Mar - Blood return to

Press - checking all night - 15 Div moving through on 2nd Mar - Blood return to

Press - checking all night - 15 Div moving through on 2nd Mar - Blood return to

Press - checking all night - 15 Div moving through on 2nd Mar - Blood return to



Red light on - checking stick - over Rhine - main road - DZ green light 0950 - chute opening - flight - 3 rounds - landing small wood - tussle with 4 Jerries - impressions of air cover - own transport & jumpers - off to large wood - met Burden-Fox of REs. Jack Brunette Sam McGowan on to RV - concerned about Red - 224 Fd Amb starting on casualties - to B Coy.

Heard CO missing - on to obj with Vic Fleming - objective taken - selected Comd post - set up SCR 300 to ground forces immediate contact (receiving only). Set up RAP in church - posted patrols - digging - visited Coys - casualties & P.W.s coming in - 324 set up - Costigan - Hanson evacuated - C coy counter attacked - mortar shoot under Lynch - McNair + 88mm, Sgt Goodeve RAF - gliders in safely - Toppies V.C. <Cpl Fred Topham, VC> - supply drop - Clancy missing - <illegible> trouble with glider - Bde set up - Jerrys up from river - massacre on bridge. Harrison's patrol toward river - Tiffies crucify Me 190E - life fairly normal - casualties handled by meds - contact with 15 S Div by SCR 300 - Cdn flag on Comd post - contact with 15 Div recce - counter attacks in C Coy - casualty returns 2030 hrs to Bde - shelling all night - 15 Div moving through on 25th Mar. Broad picture to date - success - O gp for move to right on 26th - take over from 17 U.S. A/B Div.

### 26 March

Bn on move from objective to HEIDERDORT - horse tpt - turned left on 2nd class road few miles - to ground in large wood - to O Group at 9 Bn HQ - ordered to area 513 Regt area to take over - back to Bn for recce party cross country thru U.S. glider LZ to 513 HQ rear - to 513 comd

post - personnel of 513 listened to O group - reced posns - returned to Bn & laid on move. Took coy guides - returned to 513 Regt - eat - slept - arrive of Bn much earlier than anticipated - move off of 513 Regt (describe topography) amazed at Yanks move - O group at 2330 hrs orders to move forward capture BRUENEN. Our O group - to lead Bde. O of M - BCD - u/c 1 Fd Regt - tough on vehicle move - sandy trails. S.P. 0545 hrs with Brig at S.P. - move OK for first 3 hrs - approached small town BAUERSCHAFT. SPs & tanks - McGowan - ready to fight - move in - enemy gone. Shelled by tanks - A on rt. B left. C res. Tigg Cooper killed - moved in with B Coy to Bruenen - needed Arty badly - wireless bugged - took Bruenen 1600 hrs. 8 & 9 move thru to left - set up def. Shacked for night. L.O. delivered 2350 warning order - next day.

### 27 March

Liaison off with orders at 0730 hrs - order to move at 100 hrs. Order of march 8 9 Cdn - take RAESFELD ERLE RHEDE - Bn tpt on move - took back <illegible> to left of Bde - good move to RAESFELD - attacked by Spitfire. L.O. with orders to move in behind 8 Bn - jeeps of SAS shoot up farm & part of ERLE - woods on fire all around - ERLE evacuated. 8th on to RHEDE - evacuated - 500 from LEMBECK 8th pinned down - last light. 8th move right & wide right. Moved Bn up into RHEDE - called O group - wait for Bde orders. 8th Bn HQ cross street from mine listened on set for gen - Bde O group at 2200 hrs. 9th go left to seal - 8th keep right to seal - Cdn down middle to take town - raining. C, A, B moved with C to objective - not too wild - 21 SS PZ trg div fought quite hard - took no prisoners - captured 3 tanks 2 SPs. Success at 0500 hrs.

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**ABOVE:** After being called back to Canada after serving in Europe with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, LCol Jevon Albert "Jeff" Nicklin OBE received parachute training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and returned to Canada to help establish the country's first parachute unit at Camp Shilo, Manitoba. Nicklin, who took command of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in November 1944, was among the first Canadians to jump on D-Day and later one of the first to jump into Germany. On March 24, 1945, during the airborne assault across the Rhine River northwest of Wesel as part of Operation VARSITY, Nicklin's parachute became tangled in a tall tree, and as he attempted to free himself, he was shot and killed by German soldiers. He is now buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** LCol Eadie's diagram of the drop zone from the invasion of Germany in March 1945.





### 28 Mar & 29 Mar

Stand to until 0700 hrs - to ground 0730 less piquets - slept till noon - clean weapons, shave, wash, etc. O group at 1700 hrs - move area COESFELD capture - O of M Can 8 9 - tpt. Marry up with C Sqdn 4Bn Gren Guards (Robbie Lonsdale) near WESSENDORF on main axis - Bn O group at 2000 hrs. Morale excellent.

### 30 March

Transferred to 8 Corps. Move from Bn posn to tpt at main X rds 0800 hrs raining. Rain ceased by 0900 - met tanks (Churchills) at 0920. Debussed. A Coy loaded on tanks - met tank officers - good lot - Lonsdale a prince. Sqdn had fought in Africa as Inf Coy and knew our problems well - set up good cruising speed - describe COESFELD - no opposition to speak of until LANGENDORST - McNair debussed with PI & knocked out opposition. Through ALTEBERG - town deserted - McGowan killed - McNair debussed cleaned up trouble - caught supply train outside of town loaded with armd vehs - rd junct outside of GRAVEN caught long horse drawn column shot hell out of it - last light approx 4 miles from GRAVEN - drove on in dark to 1 mile - harboured tanks & vehs - took A Coy & advance to town - wonderful battle - ammo dump blown - Bn took town by 0430. Lonsdale evacuated cas.

### 31 March

9 Bn passed thru at 0500 hrs - first light 0630 - town securely held. Countered with SPs & a/c ME 109Es. L.O. with

warning order 1000 hrs - O gp at 1200 hrs - move at 1130. O of M 9 Cdn 8 - own O of M B C A - 9 had rough shock at ELTING (pill boxes). Bde to ground area HÜTTRUP 2200 hrs - A Coy & HQ direct hit by 88 mm area LADBERGEN - position horrible shelling for hours - requested permission to take LADBERGEN but was turned down - no cover. Slept in water - lousy night.

### 31 March <there are two entries for 31 March>

Raining. 9 Bn to secure crossings over canal - positions still heavily shelled - stood it till noon - 9 Bn still not successful - permission to cross canal at 1330 - on move by 1400 C A B - left B party to take shit - crossed without too much trouble - took to the woods wide right <illegible> 9 Bn attacked town A right C left - captured 6 88mm on way - attack successful by 2000 hrs - good def posns. B right A left C res - runners to B party - carrying party with rations & res officers - Brig up by 2130 hrs very pleased - stood to all night. Numerous Jerries arrived from area OSNABRUCK - thought LADBERGEN still theirs!

### 1 April

Rain ceased during night - still dull - readjusted posns - LO arrived approx 1000 hrs - more maps & briefing on broad picture - looked good - orders to stand down - skeleton guards - troops bathed first since Eng - B ech arrived - clean clothes for all - wrote Jeff's dad - Mrs. Brunette - Mrs. McGowan - Brig had accident - all hell broke loose - 8 Bn right, Cdn left, 9 Bn pulled back over canal to original posn & handle bridging sites. Lovely day.

### 2 April

Commandos and 6 A/L Bde having wild time at LENGERICH - unable to push on till Div disengaged & rested - liberated off pockets of Dutch, French & Belgique PWs - most grateful - nice people. Organized & briefed D.P.s for routes home. Tanks arrived - good meeting with Lonsdale & gang. Left early next day for LENGERICH taken during day. L.O. with warning order 2300 hrs. O group at 0100 - mine at 0230.

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**ABOVE:** *Paratroopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute battalion on a Churchill tank: Privates E. D. Aziz, P. G. Mulroy, Sergeant G. H. Jickels, Privates L. O. Fuson, J. Humeniuk, G. M. Brown, R. H. Carlton. Photo taken in Greven, Germany, on April 5 (or March 31), 1945. (PHOTO BY CHARLES H. RICHER, DND, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF CANADA, PA-142610)*

### **3 April**

Raining. Comp coy Div RASC arrived for tpt lift. All clear to LENGERICH - O of M Cdn & 8. 9 Bn move by back route to rd junct our side LENGRICH - O of M 9 Cdn 8 - our O of M A B C. Morale excellent - coys in perfect spirit - Simpson's prize remark to Brig at S.P. Move on time 0830 following good <illegible> with Geordie, Tommy and John Tilly - good move to RV with 9 Bn, who were completely bogged down in mud - rec'd permission to tee up show in their place - Lonsdale tickled. O of M Cdn 8 9 Bn moved from LENGRICH 1100 hrs on tanks same O of M. Weather clear by noon - move good to GELDEN. Sniping through HAGEN to OSEDE. L.O. with orders - all speed - Commandos good success at OSNABRUCK - enemy moving east - endeavour to cut off - full speed to Lonsdale & all own vehicles - speed & security out - go like hell even if alone to WISSENGEN. Stopped at KLOSTEROSEDE to open gates of factories imprisoning hundreds of Russian women - keep moving fast - recce by fire on everything - move fast - trouble at BUSSENDORF - shot hell out of columns crossing our front - their cas horrible - hit them like load of bricks - keep moving no prisoners - hit WISSENGEN about 40 mph all guns going. Tore hell out of another column - troops to strong def posns - don't spare horses - 1830. Remainder of Bde arrived approx 1930 hrs. All quiet - 9 Bn move thru to 1/2 mile ahead of us. 8 Bn in rear & to left - tanks dispersed to Bde & maintenance - A ech with food at 2000 hrs - B ech 2030 hrs. L.O. at 2045 - O gp 2200 hrs - mine 2300 hrs. Hold strong posns - maint for vehs. Orders later - cracked bottle with Hilborn - to bed 0100 hrs. Bn very happy - clear warm night.

### **4 April**

Reveille 0615 hrs - clear bright day - tpt arriving at 0800 hrs for move - O of M 9 Bn 8 & Cdn. Tanks through area to left 9 A & B ech to Bde. Looked like easy day all thru. No opposition to OLDENDORF - north to BAD ESSEN - crossings over MITTELLAND KANAL Emms WESER CANAL reced by elements of 9 Bn from HARPENDORF - WESENFELDT - all crossings in area blown as column approached - flat country - impressive sight to see bridges going although a heart breaker. Pl posns est at each crossing site by 9 Bn - move to take south route to area MINDEN via HARLINGHAUSEN, HEDDINGHAUSEN, BLASHEIM LUBBECK - met B ech all Bns in LUBBEC - SNAFU of tpt 9 Bn - O of M change to 8 Cdn 9 A & B ech.

Skirmish at EICKHORST disposed of by a coy of 8 Bn & tanks - move fwd. Heavy underground workings all along WIEHEN GEBIRGE. All well to HADDENHAUSEN - 5 TIGER tanks open fire on head - tanks reply & knock out 2 ammo lorries completely - Ian killed. TIGERS withdraw to area BARKHAUSEN - approx 1700 hrs - more tanks est as SS PZ Div & 88mm on hvy trucks - 8 Bn debuss ready to move in. Spit in trouble & crashed. Driver tried jumping at 300 ft - no dice - we buried him there. Flight of Tiffies dive bomb guns & tanks - nice show - 8 Bn pinned down - right and wide right - could see it coming. O gp at 2100 hrs - Div recce north of town and in outskirts - 8 Bn to south unable to move - Cdn up the <illegible> - take the town - what a job - thank Heaven Brig faithful was there to produce 2 btys arty - later cut to one. No other support - MINDEN must be in our hands by first light - O gp mine at 2245 - move 2330. Almost flinched at my own orders - this was definitely it - silent move - took MINDEN by 0400 hrs. Sleep - I needed it.

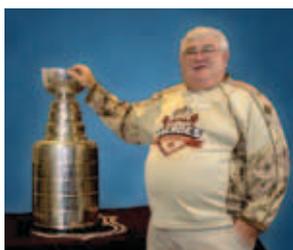
### **5 April**

Vehs in by 0830 hrs - Brig arrived with orders to move. MINDEN was taken for a Yank column - we move North to area KUTENHAUSEN - what a deal - right into a hornets nest. Recce party walked into trouble <illegible> nailed. Chased & caught Jerries & <illegible> party - in area and laid down low all day - to bed early - raining like hell.

### **7 April**

Brig arrived with orders to move to area HEISTERHOLTZ - cross WESER & RV with tanks in LAHDE. O group 0800 - move 0930 on foot - crossed by river on class 5 pontoon bridge & moved to R.V. Called to O group 1230 hrs - tanks not yet arrived. 3 Bde required to take over Div head as 5 Bde took tremendous beating previous day. O of M Cdn 9 8 Bn. Brig (BCA) sent up arm'd car for my use - tried it for 3 miles - awful feeling - gave it to Tucker for wireless with <illegible> prefer <illegible> - info about enemy practically nil - info badly required - get it - rout BIERDERADERHORST-POLLHAGEN-WOLNINGHAUSEN-SPREISSINGHOLT - originally tried to go through wood to HULSHAGEN - tanks bogged - back track - follow original route - time running out - tanks driving in dark - recce parties to SPREISSINGHOLT - harboured at 2345 hrs - tank drivers beat - LO with orders at 0130 - my O Group at 0600. ■

# LAST POST



Aubry, Ronald Joseph – AB Sigs, RCCS  
 Bamford, Ron – AB Sigs, MSF  
 Bauer, Edward Albert – RCHA  
 Beattie, Clay – Cdn AB Regt, RCHA  
 Best, Darcy – PPCLI

Blaquière, Normand – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR  
 Bobbit, Dan – Cdn AB Regt, RCHA  
 Bremner, John Stevenson – PPCLI  
 Callaway, William – PPCLI  
 Carr, Lloyd – Cdn AB Regt, RCCS  
 Carriere, Jean – Cdn AB Regt, SAR  
 Chalaturnyk, Nick – PPCLI  
 Coleman, Lyman – RCR (Chaplain)  
 Cossette, Mathieu – Cdn AB Regt, RCR  
 Crain, Basil Ernest – PPCLI  
 Crosby, Lloyd – Cdn AB Regt, RCR, CIntC  
 Cumberland, John Lauder – Cdn AB Regt, RCOG  
 Dehnke, Wayne – Cdn AB Regt, QOR, PPCLI – Wayne served in the CF for 30 years with 2 QOR, the Cdn AB Regt, and the PPCLI, and was OC Skyhawks in 1972-73. He was the President of CAFA Branch #8 – Bornewest at the time of his unexpected passing in Mexico in January 2014.  
 Dodson, Rick Glen – Skyhawks  
 Durant, Raymond Joseph – FSSF  
 Engel, Richard Howard – PPCLI  
 Everest, Douglas George – RCR  
 Faulkner, Charles Murdock – 1 Can Para  
 Frotten, George Nelson – Cdn AB Regt  
 Gall, Robert – CJATC  
 Goodine, James – Cdn AB Regt  
 Goski, Leonard – CIntC  
 Harris, James – PPCLI  
 Henderson, Arthur Calvin – 1 Can Para  
 Hollywood, Kenneth – 1 Can Para  
 Hubley, Robert – Cdn AB Regt, RCCS  
 Hunt, Victor Horace – PPCLI  
 Hyams, John – RCAF  
 Kew, Al – Cdn AB Regt, Skyhawks, RCCS



Lake, Gordon – 1 Can Para  
 Larouche, Damien  
 Lawrence – Cdn AB Regt  
 LeBlanc, Paul – Cdn AB Regt



Leckie, George – SAR  
 Lewis, Terrance Robert – Cdn AB Regt, RCA, PPCLI  
 Lyons, Chester – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI  
 MacDiarmid, Roger – Cdn AB Regt, RCHA  
 Magee, Don – R22eR, CProC  
 Myles, George Trueman – Cdn AB Regt  
 Nugent, David – Parachute Regiment, SAS  
 Parker, Ken – Cdn AB Regt, RCR  
 Paterson, Robert James – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI  
 Pearce, Ronald William – PPCLI  
 Reasbeck, John – RCE  
 Ringma, Robert – CJATC, RCOG  
 Robinson, Neville – Parachute Regiment, QOR, PPCLI  
 Saulnier, Thomas – R22eR  
 Schuler, Tony – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI  
 Scott, John – RCR, Skyhawks, CPC, SAR  
 Segin, Danny – Cdn AB Regt, Cdn Gds  
 Smithson, Edward Carol – PPCLI  
 Stewart, Ken – Cdn AB Regt, RCA – Former military parachutists from the Fredericton area gathered recently at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in farewell to Sgt. Ken Stewart, RCA, center. By traditional Airborne custom, the gathering was distinguished by “jump” yarns, laughter, and memories of service to Canada.  
 Swan, Murray John – RCR  
 Thompson, Gerald Edwin – Cdn AB Regt  
 Toth, Alexander William – 1 Can Para  
 Volkens, Barend (Barry) – 1 Can Para – Barry served overseas and was a regular attendee of the Airborne Luncheon in Toronto with son Grant.  
 Worthington, Peter – PPCLI, Trustee – Topham VC Trust

**TOP RIGHT:** Ken Stewart (centre). Kneeling from left are Bob Wiseman and Chaplain Curtis Duclos. Back row, from left, Randy Palmer, Kit Charlebois, Vic Hickey, Rene Leblanc, Al Doull, and Brother Russell Stewart. (BOB LOCKHART, RCA)

**TOP LEFT:** Wayne Dehnke and the Stanley Cup.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Barry Volkens of 1 Can Para Bn.

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