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The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood



2017
The Year in Review

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 4 | CAFA President's Message | 30 | <i>Jour du Souvenir — N'oublions jamais</i> |
| 5 | Quick References | 30 | Remembrance Day — Never Forget |
| 6 | ARAC President's Message | 31 | The Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund |
| 8 | 3 RCR — 2 CMBG Parachute Company travels to Louisiana's Joint Readiness Training Center for JRTC 18-01 | 34 | New Chute, Better Landings — Fifteen members of CSOR qualify on the new MC-6 parachute system |
| 10 | 3 PPCLI — Parachute Company's 2017 Year in Review | 36 | CAFA / ARAC Airborne Soldier of the Year Award — MCpl J.E. Hamilton, 3 rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment |
| 15 | 3 R22eR — <i>Les parachutistes du 3 R22eR en troisième position au Leapfest 2017</i> | 37 | 2017 Scholarship Award — Mr. Aidan Fehr |
| 16 | Major General Herb & Marianne Pitts — What Are They Up To Now? | 38 | Into Icy Waters — Fifty years ago, the Ottawa River claimed the lives of seven paratroopers on a routine jump |
| 17 | The QOR — The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2017 Year in Review | 42 | Operation BULBASKET — The SAS in Northwest France, June 1944 |
| 25 | CAAWC — The Year in Review for CAAWC, 8 Wing Trenton | 46 | Last Post |

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Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to canadianairborneforces@gmail.com. The deadline for the 2018 issue is February 1, 2019. *The Maroon Beret* welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to canadianairborneforces@gmail.com. Do not embed photos in the article, but send as attachments. Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Cover photo: Paratroopers from 3 RCR's Mike Company jump onto Drop Zone Anzio, November 2014. (CPL DANIEL SALISBURY)

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CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



The year 2017 was a comparatively quiet one for the Canadian Airborne Forces Association. The normal business of the Association, the AGM in Trenton in May, the selection of the winners of both our Airborne Soldier of the Year and Airborne Bursary Awards, regular teleconferences and the production and distribution of our magazine, *The Maroon Beret*, all happened in the usual Airborne professional, no fuss and efficient way. Hats off to the members of our Board of Directors, who worked diligently in undertaking the effort required to make all this happen.

We also ended up the year with a small profit in our bank account and an increase to our membership due to the effective work of our Treasurer Dave Pentney. We are indebted to the CO and RSM of the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre in Trenton for their support of our AGM 2017. You will read more about our winners and other association activities in the pages of this magazine.

Particularly worthy of note was the death in 2017 of Major General Robert Gaudreau, who will be remembered by many for his time in command of 1 Cdo in Edmonton in the 1970s, and command of the Airborne Regiment in Petawawa in the 1980s. Bob served as a great example and inspiration to all who did or aspired to wear the maroon beret. We will remember him and his contribution as we will remember all of our Airborne Brothers who left this earth in 2017.

2018 will be much busier as we join the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and the 50th anniversary of the Wegner Point commemoration that marks the death of seven paratroopers who drowned in the Ottawa River off the Mattawa Plain in Petawawa on the 8th of May 1968. We have been fortunate that CFB Petawawa have agreed to allow us to host the 2018 CAFA AGM there from the 11th to the 13th of May. A full report on the AGM

will be found in the pages of the 2018 magazine. Events in Edmonton will serve to remind and demonstrate the proud and lasting legacy of all Canadian Airborne Forces.

I encourage all who read this magazine who aren't members to consider joining CAFA. Details on how can be found on our website at www.canadianairborneforces.ca. I encourage members to contribute information and articles of interest with photos to *The Maroon Beret* (canadianairborneforces@gmail.com), our website (by emailing cafatreas_mbrshp@yahoo.ca) or our Facebook Page (cafatoronto@gmail.com).

Airborne!

Walter Holmes
CAFA President



MGen Robert Gaudreau, pictured in 2007 reviewing cadets at the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre (VACSTC), passed away on December 1, 2017 at the age of 74. He started his career as a Signaller in 1961 before being commissioned in 2nd Battalion, Royal 22^e Régiment. He commanded the Canadian Airborne Regiment from 1985–1987. Retiring from the CF in 1995, MGen Gaudreau served as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets from 2004–2007. (F. ARSENEAULT, VACSTC)

CAFA Executive Committee, 2017–2018

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

ARAC Executive Committee, 2017–2018 Effective October 21, 2015

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

QUICK REFERENCES

ARAC Important Dates for 2018

- July 27 or August 3 – Presentation of the Cadet Basic Para coins, Trenton, Ontario
- 5 or 12 August – National Peacekeepers' Day, National Peacekeeping Monument, Ottawa, Ontario
- TBA – Annual General Meeting
- 11 November – Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National Military Cemetery, Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa

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ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



As we move into 2018, it is a milestone year for our association.

In commemoration of the founding of our Regiment, 50 years ago, there are multiple activities planned.

We will be joining our sister organization CAFA in Petawawa on 13 May as we remember the tragic accident at Wegner Point 50 years ago when seven paratroopers from 1 RCR and 2 Signals Squadron drowned in the Ottawa River. The majority of those who died were to be posted to our new regiment.

From 5 to 10 June the Airborne Social Club in Edmonton will host the annual pilgrimage to Siffleur Falls in memory of 1 Can Para, followed by the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Regiment.

Let's take the time this 50th year to renew friendships among our 15,000 comrades who served the colours during our Regiment's time in the Order of Battle.

Airborne, Prends Garde

*Dan Clarke
ARAC President*



NAME	FRASER, GERRY //
ENROL DATE	1991 //
DEPLOYMENTS	CROATIA – 1992 BOSNIA – 1997, 2000 AFGHANISTAN – 2002, 2004, 2008, 2012 //
TRANSFER FROM REG FORCE	WARRANT OFFICER PPCLI – 2016 //
RESERVES	MASTER WARRANT OFFICER RHLI – 2016–PRESENT //
LOCATION	HAMILTON //
TITLE	ACCOUNT MANAGER //
SERVICE	2016–PRESENT //

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3 RCR

2 CMBG Parachute Company travels to Louisiana's Joint Readiness Training Center for JRTC 18-01



A soldier from Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment fires a U.S. Mk 19 Grenade Launcher during a joint range live-fire training exercise as a paratrooper with the 173rd Airborne Brigade watches. (MILITARY ARMAMENT BLOG)

On September 9, 2017, paratroopers from the 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) Parachute Company Group (PCG) embarked south of the border to conduct a series of collective training opportunities with the 82nd Airborne Division at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. The PCG was comprised of members from 3 Royal Canadian Regiment, 2 Combat Engineer Regiment (CER), and a host of logistical support from the brigade. The PCG would be the first Canadian sub-unit to take part in JRTC 18-01 as blue force. Broken into three distinct phases — joint forcible entry (JFE), live-fire exercise (LFX), and force-on-force — the aim of the exercise was to validate soldiers up to the formation level with aspects of offensive, defensive, and stability operations.

Before travelling to Fort Polk, the 82nd Airborne Division staged out of their home base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It was there that the battalion 1-508 (also known as 1 Fury), to which the PCG would be attached to, was conducting work-up training and completing final preparations. 1 Fury is similar to 3 RCR albeit that it is an all-airborne unit. In order for the PCG to complete all necessary training, they

had to travel to Fort Bragg and complete Basic Airborne Refresher and New Equipment Training (BAR/NET). It was during this process that the PCG conducted training with the American equipment used for airborne operations, specifically the new parachute and its drills. In order to do this, the PCG underwent a familiarization course and complete progression jumps. While the progression jumps were cancelled due to severe hurricanes, the PCG still completed the ground training and gained valuable experience in how the 82nd Airborne conducts parachute descents.

The PCG also got the opportunity to get trained on some new American equipment such as the Javelin missile system and AT-4 84mm unguided single-shot recoilless anti-armour weapon. They also trained on the Android Tactical Assault Kit (ATAK), an Android-based, blue-force tracker and mission planner. When there was extra time in the schedule, the PCG engaged in its own company training in preparation for JRTC with a focus on patrolling, urban operations, and night-time operations; they also took advantage of key integration training such as unit physical



Members from 3 Royal Canadian Regiment, 2 Combat Engineer Regiment (CER), and a host of logistical support from 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Parachute Company Group conducted a series of collective work-up training with the 82nd Airborne Division at their home base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in September 2017.

training, rifle and machine-gun ranges, and the virtual all-arms call for fire simulator.

After two weeks in Fort Bragg, the PCG moved south to Fort Polk and began preparation and battle procedure for the JFE. Staging from an intermediate staging base (ISB), the PCG would continue with company-level training and acclimatizing to the hot and humid environment. The specific task of the PCG was to insert as an air-land element, trailing the main attack. After the initial phase was completed, the PCG was responsible for expanding lodgement into enemy-held territory. After the JFE was complete, the PCG began its preparations for the LFX. 1 Fury had three separate objectives it needed to seize: one battalion-sized objective and two company-sized objectives. The PCG was tasked to the company-sized objective, the last one to be taken. The objective was a small town of eight buildings: six small buildings and two that were two-story buildings. For this particular exercise, the PCG would also have an American platoon attached to conduct direct-fire support (DFS). This was a great experience for the Company as the buildings on the objective were constructed with ballistic-concrete, allowing the soldiers inside the building to be able to fire in any direction without being concerned of their bullets travelling through the wall. Upon successful completion of the LFX, the PCG proceeded into the final and most challenging part of the exercise: the force-on-force.

The final phase of JRTC 18-01 consisted of three types of operations: offensive, defensive, and stability operations. The PCG was broken up into two dismounted platoons: a motorized platoon (DFS pl) and a section of engineers. The first platoon of this type in a long time, the DFS pl

was equipped with the MRZR's all-terrain vehicle and several C-6s, Javelins and AT-4s. This increased mobility and firepower provided the company with reliable DFS throughout the exercise. The high tempo and chaotic nature of the exercise saw the PCG clear from one side of the training area to the other as a sub-unit of 1 Fury. The tasks during this time varied greatly from attacking urban areas, defending key terrain, and supporting the other companies.

As a culminating experience, the battalion went into a deliberate planning cycle for the final attack. The initial concept of operations saw 1 Fury doing an airmobile attack on a key enemy town to the south to halt enemy movement in the area and enable the Division. However, as 1 Fury was waiting to board the helicopters, their mission changed and they were re-tasked to participate in a counterattack on a town that was deemed vital ground and under threat; their mission was successfully completed. It was this final counterattack that would mark the end of the exercise. However, before returning to Canada, the PCG would enjoy an R&R day in New Orleans, Louisiana, immersing in local culture.

Creating opportunities to work with the 82nd Airborne Division has been, and will continue to be, an important mandate for 3 RCR in order to sustain its airborne capabilities. Although the PCG did not get the opportunity to conduct a T-11 parachute descent, important lessons were still learned and relationships were formed. Whether it is JRTC or another training event, it is important to continue to attend these exercises with our American counterparts and continue to develop interoperability and cooperation. ■



3 PPCLI

Parachute Company's 2017 Year in Review



The year 2017 offered Bravo Company of 3 PPCLI an action-packed and challenging year to improve its war-fighting skills. The year saw members of the Parachute Company conduct exercises and operations in Edmonton, Comox, Victoria, Wainwright and mainland British Columbia as well as in Alaska and Australia. The paratroopers demonstrated an array of attributes becoming of the reputation B Company (Coy) maintains, ranging from soldier skills to NEO-centric civilian interaction abilities.

The month of February saw the Coy participate in Exercise SHOOTING PEGASUS in Edmonton. The exercise was designed to train the troops in urban operations and close quarters combat. The Coy was qualified on Personal Weapons Test 4 (PWT4) as an introduction to a shooting package designed by Urban Operations Instructor (UOI) Warrant Officer Tom Millar. Concurrently, the troops were training with Close Quarters Combat Instructors (CQCI) Master Corporal Andrew Tardiff and Master Corporal Mathieu Dunstan. The training culminated in an exercise that combined the tactics of both training regimens with an exercise in building 301, the "Fighting In Built-Up Areas"

(FIBUA) house. Soldiers were tested on their ability to react to enemy confrontations with both their rifles and their hands. The experience enhanced the soldiers' ability to react to enemy contact fast and efficiently and without the buffer zone that conventional operations allow.

In late April, B Coy deployed to British Columbia for Ex READY ANGLE in order to qualify the Coy in Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO). The exercise saw the Coy stage out of Abbotsford for a parachute descent out of a CC-130J Hercules aircraft at Comox. Vancouver Island became "Macadamia," a country undergoing political strife due to a fictitious tsunami. B Coy seized the airfield and then moved its command post to Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Quadra*, a cadet camp located in Comox at Goose Spit. There, the Coy linked up with Battalion (Bn) command, and a joint exercise with Global Affairs Canada began. The exercise saw the Coy perform a multitude of tasks, ranging from camp security, Canadian Entitled

ABOVE: Members of Bravo Company participate in a shooting package at CFB Esquimalt detachment Albert Head.
(CPL CODY STEVENSON)



Persons' (CEP) intake security, CEP evacuations, route and point reconnaissance of points of embarkation on the island, and VIP recovery tasks. Ex READY ANGLE built a solid relationship between military and civilian agencies, and opened the door for cooperation on future foreign and domestic operations.

Immediately following Ex READY ANGLE, B Coy participated in Ex PEGASUS TRIDENT. The Coy moved its base of operations from Comox to Albert Head, just outside of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. The purpose of this exercise was to train the troops in both urban and amphibious operations. At Albert Head, the Coy took part in another shooting package under Warrant Officer Tom Millar. The package saw troops practicing 2- and 4-man entry drills, culminating in a force on force drill utilizing four different venues in and around Albert Head and simunition (non-lethal training ammunition). Building off of Ex SHOOTING PEGASUS, this package acted as an urban operations refresher, and afforded the troops an opportunity to hone their skills.

Following the shooting package, B Coy linked in with members of the Royal Canadian Navy's Fleet Diving Unit (FDU). The troops partook in the FDU's aquatic obstacle course, which entailed an 800-metre swim, followed by a rope course. This was a precursor to the main event: helo-casting from a Sikorsky CH-124 Sea King. Staged out of Albert Head, the troops were picked up by a Sea King from 443 Squadron based out of Patricia Bay. The helicopter made multiple shuttles, allowing the entirety of the company to perform a helo-cast, while only a few members participated in a helicopter retrieval utilizing the Sea King's horse collar and pulley.

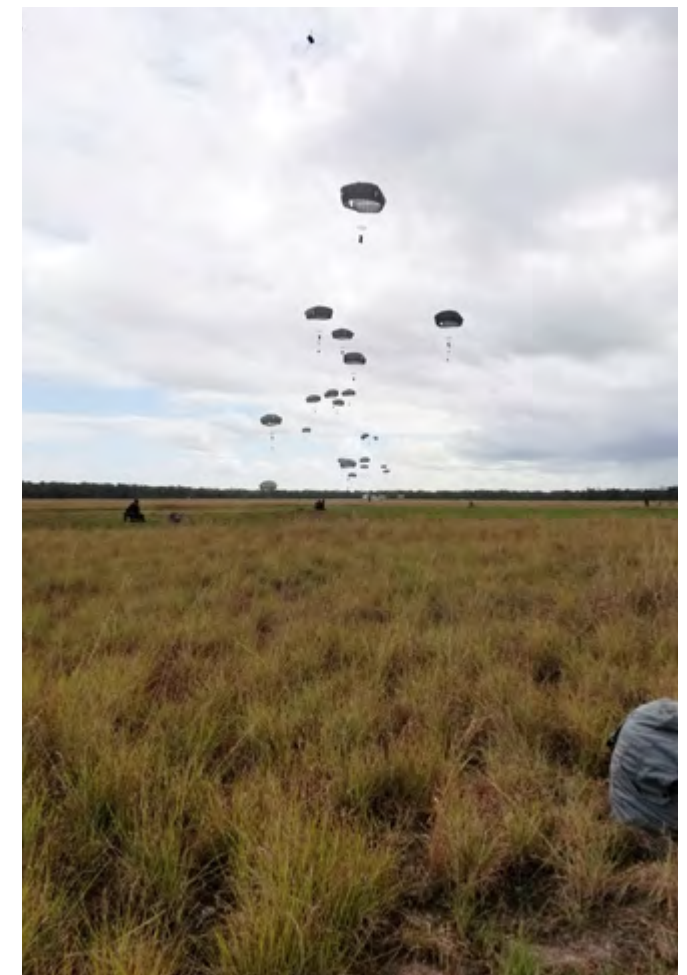
The end of June saw B Coy deploy on Ex TALISMAN SABRE. The entirety of B Coy, supplemented by 1 platoon from 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, deployed to



ABOVE LEFT: Members of Bravo Company provide overwatch on a Canadian Entitled Persons' intake centre during Exercise READY ANGLE. (CPL CODY STEVENSON)

ABOVE: Members of Bravo Company donning the American T-11 parachute and emplaning a C-17 Globemaster before conducting a parachute descent on to Malamute drop zone on Joint Base Emendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.
(CPL CODY STEVENSON)

BELOW: After an 18-hour flight, members of Bravo Company hit Drop Zone Kapyong in the Shoalwater Bay training area in Queensland, Australia. (CPL CODY STEVENSON)





ABOVE & LEFT: Bravo Company descending onto Drop Zone Kapyong in Queensland, Australia. (MAJOR MATTHEW TOMPKINS)

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) in Anchorage, Alaska. The purpose of this exercise was to conduct a joint forcible entry and test the interoperability of a multinational force. Our mission was to conduct a parachute descent into the Shoalwater Bay training area in Australia and to seize key terrain and secure routes in order to facilitate a forward passage of lines with Australian mechanized forces. The first part of the exercise was intended to familiarize and qualify all of the Canadians on the T-11 Parachute. The 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (6 BEB) based out of JBER facilitated this training. Attached to 6 BEB, the Coy attended the Airborne Sustainment Training Area (ASTA), where the troops trained with the new parachute system. After being familiarized with American flight and aircraft drills, and performing an exit from the mock tower, the Coy was ready for their mission. The troops, alongside their American counterparts, boarded five C-17 Globemasters and headed to Australia. The flight required two in-air refuels, and an in-flight parachute dressing. After a 17-hour flight, B Coy hit the ground in Australia. The mission saw the Coy work

with the Americans, the Australians, and the Japanese in a joint operation. The seamless integration of this multinational unit proved to be quite the show of force to the Pacific region.

The month of August saw B Coy deploy to British Columbia on Op LENTUS. Devastated by wildfires in the area, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) requested assistance from the Canadian Armed Forces in facilitating evacuation orders, manning observe and report posts, and ultimately assisting in fighting the fires. B Coy deployed across a wide areas of operation (AOs) including Williams Lake, 70 Mile, Clinton and Kelowna. The platoons conducted tasks in and around their AOs admirably. The operation demonstrated B Coy's ability to work with a number of different units and agencies, including the engineers and the Canadian Rangers, the RCMP, BC Wildfires, and other civilian organizations. The military received a warm reception from the locals in British Columbia, an area where military presence is usually minimal.

Following Op LENTUS, the Coy was restructured in accordance with the new light infantry doctrine. The three rifle platoons were condensed to two, and the third platoon was dedicated to heavy weapons. This reorganization offers a fluid manoeuvre element, supported by a robust support section. Similar structures exist within the United States Marine Corps and the Australian Army.

Late September saw B Coy deploy on Ex PEGASUS BATTLES. The purpose of this exercise was to qualify the Coy on both pairs and section level live-fire attacks.



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ABOVE: Bravo Company poses for a group picture at the airhead in the Shoalwater Bay training area, before being exfiltrated to Royal Australian Air Force Base Richmond, Australia. (MAJOR MATTHEW TOMPKINS)

LEFT: A Member of B Coy lands his American T-11 parachute onto Drop Zone Kapyong during Exercise TALISMAN SABRE in Queensland, Australia.

BOTTOM LEFT: Course photo for newly qualified Jumpmasters and staff of the decentralized Jumpmaster course. Group photo taken in the Brigadier General J.A. de Lalanne building at the 3rd Canadian Division Support Base Edmonton December 8, 2017. (LT. ROBINSON)

range that maximized the realism of the training. Following the completion of Ex IRON RAM, B Coy went on to conduct weeks of Coy attacks in both urban and rural settings in support of the IDCCC. This culminated with a final Brigade assault on a town, in order to dislodge the opposing forces for good. B Coy was repeatedly commended for their drive and determination on every attack, despite the frigid temperatures and lengthy assault distances.

The month of December saw B Coy supporting a 3rd Division-sponsored jumpmaster course held in Edmonton with the support of CAAWC. Candidates, drawn largely from the Company itself, participated in the rigorous course, with five members of the Bn graduating qualified jumpmasters. This great increase in the Company's capabilities would not have been possible without the support of the paratroopers of Bravo Coy, who worked tirelessly in order to ensure their peers would have the best opportunity to achieve success.

The effort the troops put in over the last year exemplifies the paratrooper ethos: hard-working, hard-charging troops ready to adapt to any situation that comes their way. The training opportunities afforded to the Coy offered a vast and varying set of tasks. Whether it was soldiering in Australia or assisting the public in British Columbia, 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Bravo Company led the way.

Airborne! ■



Each practice required a day attack, followed by a night supplement. Also, troops participated in a Personal Weapons Test three-night shoot, C-6 day and night shoot, an 84mm day and night shoot, as well as a grenade range. It was essential to achieve these qualifications in order to set the Coy up for success on Ex IRON RAM. The Coy pulled together, and ultimately it was a successful week on the range.

In October and November, the Company deployed to Wainwright to conduct Ex IRON RAM and support the Infantry Dismounted Company Commanders Course (IDCCC). This exercise saw the Company participate in a Coy-level live-fire range both day and night, in a 360-degree



3 R22eR

Les parachutistes du 3 R22eR en troisième position au Leapfest 2017

*par Capt Logan Spiegel,
Compagnie A, 3^e Bataillon, Royal 22^e Régiment*

Deux équipes du 3^e Bataillon, Royal 22^e Régiment (3 R22eR) ont participé à la compétition de parachutisme Leapfest dans l'état du Rhode Island aux États-Unis le 6 août 2017. La compétition de cette année était la plus importante de son histoire, comptant 70 équipes inscrites. Les membres de la Base Valcartier ont été capables de relever un défi important dans un environnement extrêmement compétitif.

Étant donné que les membres du 3 R22eR possédaient peu d'expérience avec les parachutes américains, ils ont dû se fier à leur expérience de parachutiste de base.

Avec le parachute MC-6 normalement employé par les forces spéciales, le sauteur doit composer avec une dérive de 10 noeuds. C'est sa responsabilité de trouver une stratégie pour se rendre à l'objectif en tenant compte des conditions météorologiques.

Durant la compétition, les vents forts ont obligé l'aviation de l'armée américaine à faire sortir les parachutistes

au-dessus des arbres. Les équipes canadiennes avaient leur stratégie : échanger l'altitude contre du temps. Pour la grande majorité des équipes, dès que les sauteurs avaient quitté l'avion, ils se dirigeaient directement vers un des trois X de la zone de largage (ZL). En raison du vent soufflant plus fort que 10 noeuds, il était impossible de revenir sur ses « pas ». La stratégie choisie par le caporal-chef Chainé a favorablement influencé les résultats de l'équipe.

UNE STRATÉGIE PAYANTE

De fait, la plupart des équipes internationales ont été victimes des vents forts. Plusieurs sauteurs ont d'ailleurs atterri dans les arbres. Sur la ZL, c'était facile de remarquer que les sauteurs du 3 R22eR, dès leur sortie de l'aéronef,

CI-HAUT: Un membre du 3^e Bataillon, Royal 22^e Régiment saute d'un aéronef lors de la compétition internationale Leapfest 2017 à Rhode Island.



CI-HAUT: Un groupe de parachutistes internationaux reçoit des directives finales sur les zones de largage avant de monter à bord d'un CH-47 Chinook. (U.S. ARMY)

EN HAUT, À DROITE: Un membre du 3 R22eR se bas contre le vent fort pris dans son parachute américain MC-6 en vue du X dans la zone de largage lors de Leapfest 2017.

À DROITE: Un membre du 3 R22eR se dépêche pour toucher le X dans la zone de largage.

collaient leurs pieds et prenaient leur temps au-dessus des arbres.

Au moment où ils ont jugé nécessaire d'attaquer le X, ils ont tourné le dos au vent. Parfois avec une dérive de 17 nœuds ou plus, les sauteurs canadiens se sont rapidement déplacés vers le centre de la ZL. Avec le MC-6, les sauteurs de la compagnie de parachutistes n'avaient pas peur d'atterrir avec le vent dans le dos. Durant son atterrissage, le caporal Bertrand a attaqué le X tellement vite qu'un des arbitres américains lui a crié d'atterrir face au vent. Finalement, son équipe a remporté troisième place.



Le Leapfest 2017 a été un succès pour la capacité parachutiste du 3 R22eR. Nos équipes ont terminé en troisième et sixième positions dans la catégorie générale, et en première et deuxième positions dans la catégorie équipe internationale. L'année prochaine, la compagnie de parachutistes fera tout pour gagner, et entend employer une stratégie similaire à celle de cette année. ■

MAJOR GENERAL HERB & MARIANNE PITTS:

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?

MGen Herb and Marianne Pitts at the Lodge at Broadmead, Victoria. With many thanks to Tom Martin, the couple are back together again — well, sort of — they are in separate rooms, and the goal is to get them together in a suite. Herb recently celebrated his 89th birthday with family and friends. ■



THE QOR

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2017 in Review

By Major Scott Moody, CD
OC Para Coy

It was a cold start to 2017 as it saw The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) participating in Exercise MAROON FROST 1 at CFB Borden. During this exercise, our annual Basic Winter Warfare course started and refresher training for qualified riflemen took place. The weekend concluded with a static-line jump onto Drop Zone (DZ) Hodgson at CFB Trenton. A few weeks later Exercise MAROON FROST 2 took place, during which the Basic Winter Warfare Course concluded and the remainder of the unit participated in a section and platoon level patrolling exercise.

In March, as part of Exercise MAROON SWORD 4, Buffs Coy participated in a night-time complex terrain insertion exercise to conduct a raid on the urban ops village (FIBUA). This exercise culminated with a static-line parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson. Thanks to the support from 436 Squadron (Sqn), five new jumpers from the unit completed their required descents. These riflemen had bad weather on their B Para a few weeks prior and

required three more full-equipment jumps to get qualified. After a very busy day of training, the unit welcomed Corporals Baruwa, Colmer, Lee, Maloney and Radewych into the Airborne Brotherhood. Cpl Abazovic also qualified as a new Jumpmaster.

To recognize the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, the QOR deployed an Honour Guard over 80 riflemen to France. During the trip the unit visited the site of several of the Regiment's World War I and II achievements, culminating with the Vimy Ridge ceremony. This visit was funded by our Honorary LCol, Lionel Goffart, who also attended the trip.

The trip started at the unit's June 6, 1944 landing site in Bernières-Sur-Mer. During this visit in Bernières, the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the City and attended

ABOVE: Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada participate in a night winter live fire training exercise.



a reception at Canada House. This was then followed by an incredible dinner with the people of the town overlooking Juno Beach. The following day the unit held a ceremony at another QOR battle site, Le Mesnil-Patry, and once again were the benefactors of French hospitality as they were treated to lunch. To top it off, that evening each Rifleman enjoyed a dinner in the home of a sponsoring family from the town of Anisy, our final D-Day objective.

The Normandy portion of the trip culminated with the unit being granted the Freedom of the City for Anisy. This was followed by the dedication of a street in Anisy to riflemen Lawson, the last rifleman killed on June 6, 1944. The unit had several of Lawson's family members attend the ceremony.

The QOR Honour Guard moved to Arras, France. From there they visited Beaumont Hamel and then participated in the sunset ceremony at the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium.

Members of the QOR Honour Guard and Band in Bernières-sur-Mer (above left and below) and in Le Mesnil-Patry (above right) during the Vimy 100th anniversary visit, April 1-9, 2017.

Members of the QOR march towards a cenotaph in a cemetery in Normandy in 2017 (bottom right).



On April 9, 2017, the Honour Guard attended the ceremony at Vimy Ridge. This was an incredible experience for our riflemen, who made up the largest single-unit contingent in attendance at this event.

Annual Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) training started in April and continued through May and June. This training had riflemen completing their Personal Weapons Test (PWT3) on the C7 and refreshing their skills on other weapons, tactics and procedures.

To ensure currency and proficiency of the members of our Parachute Company Group, the annual parachute refresher was held in June. It was well attended by our Airborne riflemen and paratroopers from 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). It consisted of PT testing, refresher training and two parachute descents. The month concluded with 30 members of the unit returning to CFB Trenton to meet Her Royal Highness Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, our Colonel-in-Chief, who was touring Canada with her husband Charles, the Prince of Wales.

After marching over 700 kilometres during three months of training, the QOR Nijmegen March Team deployed to the Netherlands as part of the 200-strong JTF Nijmegen in July. The team consisted of 11 riflemen and a medic from



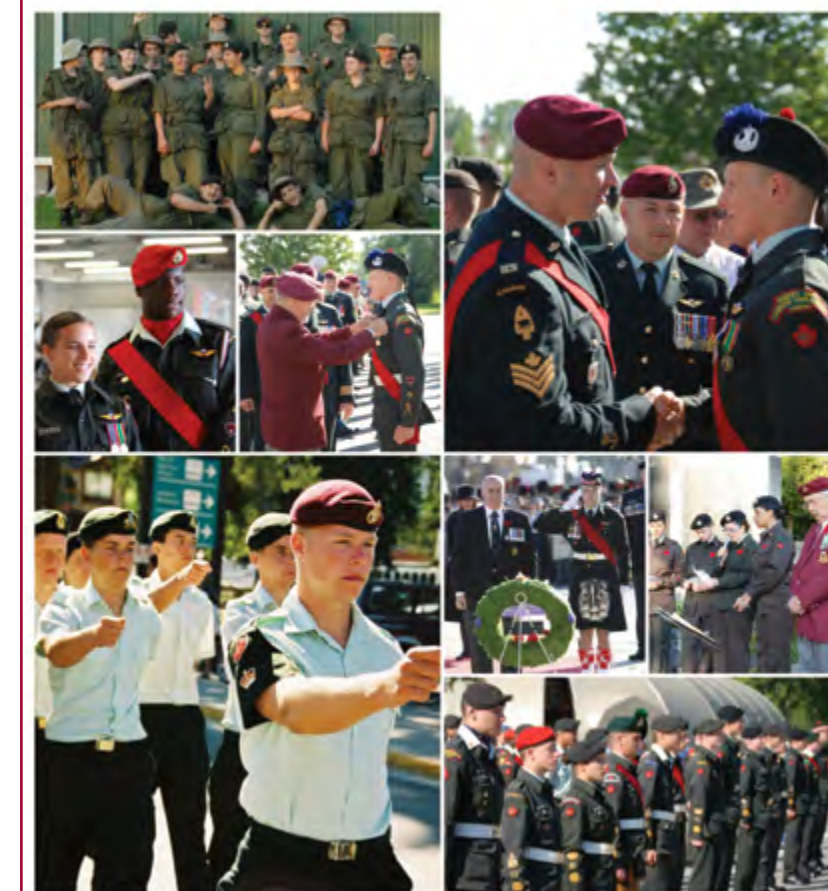
25 Field Ambulance. Prior to the march, the team had the opportunity to visit Passchendaele, Ypres and Vimy Ridge.

The 101st Nijmegen Marches started on July 18, with the first day consisting of marching 45 kilometres. Day 2 was extremely hot and was the shortest of all the days with a total mileage of 40 kilometres. On Day 3 of the march the contingent stopped at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, which is roughly located 32 kilometres into that day's marching route. This is a special place for the QOR as it was where the unit spent the winter of 1944/45. The cemetery is home to 60 riflemen and includes our Victoria Cross recipient Sgt Aubrey Cosens. The contingent held a commemorative ceremony at the cemetery and then



ABOVE RIGHT: Prince Charles receives a wreath while Colonel-in-Chief HRH Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is presented with a bouquet during a wreath-laying ceremony at CFB Trenton in June 2017.

ABOVE LEFT: Members of the QOR meet with the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, HRH Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, on June 30, 2017.



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completed the remaining 10K to end Day 3 after 42 km. To finish the march, the QOR team completed the final 42 kilometres on Day 4 far ahead of all other Canadian teams. As is tradition, the entire contingent marched the last 5 kilometres together in what is known as the Gladiola March, a ceremony that demonstrates the Dutch people's enthusiasm for this event.

The annual summer concentration for reservists from 32 CBG, Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN, was held at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford. It provided riflemen the opportunity to conduct section, platoon and company level offensive operations.

September started off with a team of six Airborne riflemen deploying to Krakow, Poland to participate



THIS PAGE: Members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team. Clockwise from top left: (1) At Vimy Ridge in July 2017. (2) At Camp Humensoord, Netherlands in July 2017. (3) On the waterfront in Nijmegen, Netherlands in July 2017. In the background, the Nijmegen bridge, which spans the River Waal. The bridge was a key objective for the Allied airborne forces during Operation MARKET GARDEN. (4) at Camp Humensoord, Netherlands soaking their feet on Day 3 of the 170 km march in July 2017. (5) at Sgt Aubrey Cosens grave in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: (1) QOR paratroopers board a CC-130J Hercules for a full-equipment parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton, during Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT 1, June 17, 2017. (2) QOR paratroopers board a CC-130J. (3) The fog of war. (4) QOR paratroopers emerge from a cloud of smoke along with soldiers from the British Army during a joint training exercise. (5) QOR soldiers on exercise at Camp Borden. (6) Leading from the front.





THIS PAGE: Images taken during the September 23, 2017 change of command parade for LCol Frank Lamie, who took over as the new Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. (CAPT LARRY HICKS)



TOP LEFT: RSM Donovan O'Halloran is hooked up and ready to jump CWO Scott "Paddy" Patterson's ashes during the inaugural jump onto Drop Zone Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17, 2017. **TOP MIDDLE:** QOR paratroopers move off the DZ after the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17, 2017. **TOP RIGHT:** CWO Scott "Paddy" Patterson's ashes were jumped during the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17, 2017.

in the Polish 6th Airborne Division's international skills competition. The team was led by WO Jeff Johnston and did very well in the event. Concurrently, in Canada the unit held Exercise MAROON SWORD 1, which focused on section level patrolling. The exercise concluded with an inaugural static-line jump onto Drop Zone Patterson in CFB Borden. During the jump RSM O'Halloran had the honour of jumping in with CWO Scott (Paddy) Patterson's ashes, giving "Paddy" a last jump. Many members of RSM Patterson's family and the QOR Association attended.

September finished with a change of command from LCol Sandi Banerjee to LCol Frank Lamie. During the parade the unit conducted the traditional double past, something we had not done in years. The change was well attended and was followed by an equally popular mess dinner that served as the dining out for LCol Banerjee.

Exercise MOUNTAIN LEADER, our annual complex terrain refresher weekend held at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, kicked off the month of October. This was followed by several riflemen deploying to CFB Trenton to support 436 Sqn during their Tactical Airdrop Training (TAT) exercise. The unit also deployed to CFB Petawawa at the end of October for Exercise MAROON SWORD 2. This exercise focused on developing individual, pairs and group live-fire skills.

November started with two ceremonial events. The first was our annual Remembrance Day "Church Parade," in which we march from Moss Park Armoury to the regimental church, St Paul's, on Bloor Street in Toronto. The second event took place a week later and was a ceremony to unveil the Afghanistan theatre honour on the Cross of

Sacrifice at St Paul's. The following weekend we were back in CFB Petawawa to conduct a company-sized Airborne Raid during Exercise MAROON SWORD 3. This exercise had the unit working with 3 RCR Recce Platoon and was supported by a CC-130J from 436 Sqn and a CH-147 from 450 Sqn. Unfortunately, weather kept the aircraft grounded but the mission continued. To end the month, several Airborne riflemen returned to Petawawa to participate in CH-147 jumps with 3 RCR.

The year ended with Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT 2 in which the QOR conducted a full-equipment, double-door parachute jump onto DZ Hodgson at CFB Trenton. The jump also had many participants from the CAAWC participate, including a Jumpmaster Course that had the opportunity to complete their final checks to obtain their qualification.

2017 is a great exemplar of the exceptional dedication and work ethic that our riflemen have. We look forward to an equally busy 2018. ■

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May 2016(2)



CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCED WARFARE CENTRE

*The Year in Review for
CAAWC, 8 Wing Trenton*

The Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) is the airborne centre of excellence for the Canadian Army. The following highlights some of the activities and training conducted by the Parachute Training Company, including the SkyHawks, Patrol Pathfinder Platoon, and riggers of Support Company, over the past year.

Parachute Training Company

It has been a very busy and successful year for the Parachute Training Company (PTC). In 2017, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre completed seven Basic Parachutist, four Parachutist Jumpmaster (JM), two Static Line Square Canopy, two Military Square Parachute Jumpmaster, and one Military Square Parachute Instructor courses. PTC also provided instructor and subject matter expert (SME) support to various divisional-sponsored courses in all three regional areas. PTC also found the time to conduct their annual Individual Battle Task Standards to include weapons handling and live-fire ranges and field craft at Canadian Forces Base Kingston.

PTC was fortunate enough to be invited down by the United States Army to conduct parachute operations and wings exchanges at Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart and Fort Polk, wherein the Canadian Armed Forces happily issued 700 pairs of Canadian Parachute Wings. The Square Canopy cell and members of the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team had the opportunity to advance their training by completing a Canopy Control course given by some of the top civilian Free Fallers in North America.

November 2017 saw two parachute instructors from PTC deploy to Fort Benning, Georgia to participate in the Fort Benning Operation Toy Drop. CAF parachute instructors linked up with their counterparts from the

ABOVE: MCpl Katherine Jessome, the first female Jumpmaster in the CAF, conducts a jumpmaster ground inspection of Cpl Kusi-Appiah's parachute during Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT in June 2017. // **CI-HAUT:** Cpl Katherine Jessome, la première monitrice de saut dans les Forces armées canadiennes, vérifie le parachute de Cpl Kusi-Appiah lors de l'exercice PEGASUS KNIGHT en juin 2017. (CPL JUSTIN DREMANIS)



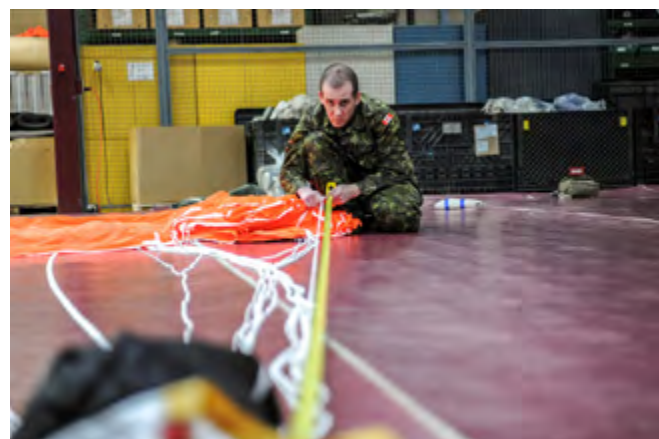
THIS PAGE: There are three phases to becoming a parachute rigger in the Canadian Armed Forces. Conducted at the Canadian Army Advance Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in Trenton, Ontario, the first step is the basic packing course, followed by the maintenance and rigging phases. After all steps are successfully completed, the member becomes a fully qualified Military Parachute Rigger Specialist. // **CETTE PAGE:** Il y a trois étapes à suivre pour devenir arrimeur de parachutes dans les Forces armées canadiennes. Poursuivi au Centre d'instruction supérieure en guerre terrestre de l'Armée canadienne à Trenton, en Ontario, la phase d'instruction élémentaire sur le pliage est la première de trois phases dans la formation des arrimeurs de parachutes. Les phases de maintenance et d'arrimage doivent être passées avant que la qualification de spécialiste en arrimage de parachutes militaires puisse être obtenue.

1-507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, home of the Airborne School. CAF parachute instructors were invited to observe the training of U.S. Army airborne forces, which boasted class sizes of over 300 students. Moving to Jump Branch, at Lawson Army Airfield, CAF parachute instructors familiarized themselves with American jumpmaster drills and were able to demonstrate Canadian jumpmaster drills before Stick Commanding 200 U.S. paratroopers from two C-130 Hercules aircraft on T-11 parachutes onto Drop Zone Fryar in Alabama. This was an excellent opportunity to conduct observations, exchange para-related concepts, and familiarize with foreign equipment. This remains an important relationship in the Airborne community and one we will continue to build for years to come.



Du 27 novembre au 8 décembre 2017, six membres des Forces Armées Canadiennes ont participé à l'Opération « Toy Drop » (OTD) situé à Fort Bragg en Caroline du Nord. L'équipe était constituée de personnel venant du Centre d'Instruction Supérieure en Guerre Terrestre de l'Armée Canadienne (CISGTAC), 3^e Bataillon du Royal 22^e Régiment, 3^e Bataillon Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, ainsi que le 3^e Bataillon Royal Canadian Regiment donc: Major Gauthier, Adjudant Ouimet, Sergent Dolci, Sergent Newton, Caporal-chef Dunstan et le Caporal-chef Collin-Deschesnes.

Un total de neuf nations ont participé à l'OTD soit : le Canada, les États-Unis, la Suède, la Hollande, la Pologne, la Colombie, l'Allemagne, la Lituanie et l'Italie. Toutes ces



ABOVE & TOP RIGHT: The SkyHawks, Canada's only military parachute demonstration team, are drawn from both Regular and Reserve Forces and are selected from various occupations of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Above, the SkyHawks in a big stack formation. // **CI-HAUT & EN HAUT À DROITE:** Les SkyHawks, l'équipe de parachutistes des Forces armées canadiennes, viennent tant de la Force Régulière que de la Réserve et ils exercent diverses professions au sein de l'Armée, de la Marine et de la Force Aérienne. Ci-haut, les SkyHawks dans la formation "big stack."

nations représentaient une unité aéroportée et ses membres étaient qualifiés Chef Larguer. Chaque pays étranger était jumelé avec un groupe de Chefs Larguer Américains qui avait comme tâche de nous familiariser avec leurs différents aéronefs et leurs procédures de sauts. Le concept de l'OTD est que chaque parachutiste américain qui désire y participer doit apporter un jouet. Suite à la collecte de jouets, le membre reçoit une place assurée d'un aéronef qui sera largué par une équipe de Chefs Larguer étrangers. Ceci étant dit, les jouets récoltés seront distribués à des enfants défavorisés au pays ou outre-mer. En échange, les Chefs Larguer étrangers ont octroyés leurs ailes respectives.

La première phase de l'événement donnait la priorité aux opérations aéroportées des forces conventionnelles, et le parachute rond T-11 était utilisé. Lors de la deuxième semaine, nommée « SOF week », on donnait place à l'utili-



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LEFT: Participants from the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre's Patrol Pathfinder Course, Trenton, Ontario, take part in Exercise SPARTIATE ECLAIREUR with members of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22^e Régiment at the Citadelle of Quebec in Quebec on October 20, 2017. // **À GAUCHE:** Des participants au cours d'éclaireur-patrouilleur du Centre d'instruction supérieure de l'armée canadiennes de Trenton, en Ontario, prennent part à l'exercice SPARTIATE ECLAIREUR avec des membres du 3^e Bataillon, Royal 22^e Régiment, à la Citadelle de Québec (Québec), le 20 octobre 2017. (CPL NÉDIA COUTINHO, VALCARTIER IMAGING SERVICES)

PTC has already started planning for another exciting year, which will see them enabling the field force to maintain their parachute capabilities and ensure a high standard of parachuting skills.

Patrol Pathfinders

The three-month Patrol Pathfinder Course was conducted by the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare centre in early fall 2017. Patrol Pathfinder is regarded as the Canadian Army's flagship course as it qualifies experts in insertion and extraction operations, which are both physically and mentally demanding. The course was executed in multiple training areas throughout Canada, including Trenton, Petawawa, Valcartier, Winnipeg, and Esquimalt.

The candidates are selected from their units across the combat arms profession and are generally some of the most fit and motivated soldiers in their units. Candidates arrive and undergo physical testing to ensure that they have made the entrance requirements to conduct the Pathfinder course. Once accepted into the course, the candidates undergo a weighted march of an unspecified distance as well as parachuting and fast rope tests. Throughout the course, the candidates will master a variety of skills including insertion and extraction from rotary wing, airborne operations from fixed wing, and small boat operations.

In keeping with their airborne heritage, the Patrol Pathfinders learn how to properly establish tactical drop zones, as well as landing zones, beach zones, cast zones, and austere airstrips. The culminating point for the Pathfinder Course includes a two-week field training exercise where candidates are tested on all of the skills that they have learned. Patrol Pathfinder field training exercises were conducted in both Petawawa and Valcartier this past year. Their final mission was executed at La Citadelle of Quebec. Pathfinder candidates were flown in by 430 Squadron to mark a free-fall drop zone for members of the 3R22eR



ABOVE & RIGHT: Candidates in the Patrol Pathfinder Course must undergo extensive testing to ensure they have the requirements to conduct the physically and mentally demanding course. **BELOW:** The SkyHawks in formation. // **CI-HAUT ET À DROITE:** Les candidats qui espèrent devenir éclaireurs-patrouilleurs doivent subir des tests approfondis pour s'assurer qu'ils ont les exigences physiques et mentales pour compléter le cours exigeant. **CI-BAS:** Les SkyHawks en formation. (DND)

Pathfinder Platoon. Twelve out of 23 candidates graduated and were presented the Patrol Pathfinder Torch.

Support Company

Being a Parachute Rigger Specialist at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre requires military members with a hardworking attitude and a strong sense of loyalty. Parachute Rigger is a sub-specialty of the Supply Technician occupation. Being a Rigger begins with recruiting, followed by training and, afterwards, fulfilling the mandates of Parachute Riggers.

Recruitment begins at CFB Borden, where supply technician students are canvassed during their trades training. The candidates will undergo an interview and a physical fitness test to assess their suitability. Upon selection, these individuals will be posted to CAAWC at CFB Trenton.

Rigger Specialist training takes approximately three years to complete because of the multitude of courses the candidates must pass to be fully qualified. They start off with a Basic Parachutists course (if not already qualified), followed by the Parachute Systems Packer course, an Aerial Delivery course, a Parachute Systems Maintainer course and, finally, the Rigger Specialist course. These students apply the skills they have learned on a daily basis while not on course in order to gain practical experiences and ensure the highest quality of specialist.



The Parachute Packers, Maintainers, and Riggers are mandated to support all airdrop activities, both domestic and international. These activities range from packing and repairing parachutes, instructing on parachute related courses, assisting search and rescue with major air disaster relief efforts and, as a member of the CAF parachute team, the SkyHawks.

Parachute Riggers always overcome obstacles, time constraints, and demanding work tempo with a commitment for safety and perfection. Parachute Riggers produce a high quality of work and will continue to do so; their aim will always be safety and perfection until the day men grow wings.

Fair winds and soft landings!

AIRBORNE!

Ex Coelis ■





JOUR DU SOUVENIR: N'OUBLIONS JAMAIS

par Daniel Chrétien

Daniel Chrétien, un vétéran du Régiment aéroporté du Canada, se rappelle d'une journée émouvante :

« Le 10 novembre 2017, l'école élémentaire Kootney Orchard de Cranbrook, Colombie-Britannique, que fréquente mon petit fils Kai Chrétien, a célébré le Jour du Souvenir. J'ai eu l'honneur d'être invité. Mon fils, Dennis, un sergent, est à ma droite dans la photo ci-haut. C'est la première fois que nous avons l'occasion d'être photographié ensemble.

La cérémonie, la musique et surtout les étudiants et étudiantes ont fait de cette cérémonie un succès émouvant. De voir mon petit fils déposer une couronne de fleurs m'a redonné une fierté presque oubliée. Le temps et la patience se sont jumelés pour la première fois lorsque j'ai participé à une cérémonie du souvenir avec mon fils même (en uniforme de travail) et ont créé un immense frisson de fierté en moi.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: NEVER FORGET

by Daniel Chrétien

Daniel Chrétien, who served with the Canadian Airborne Regiment, recalls a memorable day:

"On November 10, 2017 the Kootney Orchard Elementary School in Cranbrook, British Columbia, which is attended by my grandson Kai Chrétien, celebrated Remembrance Day. I had the honour of being invited. My son Dennis, a sergeant, is on my right in the photo. This is the first time that we had the opportunity to be photographed together.

"The ceremony, the music and especially the students made this ceremony a moving success. To see my grandson laying a wreath of flowers gave me an almost forgotten pride. Time and patience were paired for the first time during this memorial ceremony, which I attended with my son who was in uniform, and which created a huge thrill of pride in me.

"It was an exceptional event. The students were grades one (1) to six (6). It was very touching. I dressed up for the

C'était un événement exceptionnel. Les élèves étaient de la première à la sixième année. C'était très touchant. Je me suis habillé pour l'occasion sans savoir si c'était approprié. Les étudiants m'ont rendu fier et j'étais fier de montrer mes couleurs. J'étais le seul militaire à y assister et les questions de ces étudiants n'étaient pas très différentes de celles que les adultes auraient posé. »

Daniel Chrétien était au 1^{er} Commando du Régiment aéroporté du Canada (CAR) de 1973 à 1975. Il est allé à Chypre en 1974 avec le Régiment aéroporté. Il était dans les Forces canadiennes de 1971 à 1996. Il est ensuite devenu directeur des opérations et conducteur pour Canadian Freightways jusqu'en 2014, date à laquelle il a pris sa retraite. Il vit actuellement à Cranbrook, en Colombie-Britannique. ■

PHOTO, DE GAUCHE À DROITE: Le Sgt Denny Chrétien et son père Daniel Chrétien (en avant) avec quatre membres du Service des incendies et des urgences de Cranbrook (quart B) et deux membres de la filiale 24 de la Légion.

PHOTO, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sgt Denny Chrétien and his father Daniel Chrétien (in front), with four members of the Cranbrook Fire & Emergency Department (B shift) and two members of Legion Branch 24.



occasion not knowing if it was appropriate. The students made me proud and I was proud to show my colours. I was the only military person attending and the questions from the students weren't much different than if adults were asking them."

Daniel Chrétien was in 1 Commando, Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) from 1973 to 1975. He was deployed to Cyprus in 1974 with the Airborne Regiment. He served in the Canadian Forces from 1971 to 1996. He then became an Operations Manager and driver for Canadian Freightways until 2014, when he retired. He currently lives in Cranbrook, British Columbia. ■

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For additional information, such as contact details for the Scholarship Chairman, eligibility, key dates and procedures for application, see the CAFA or ARAC websites. ■



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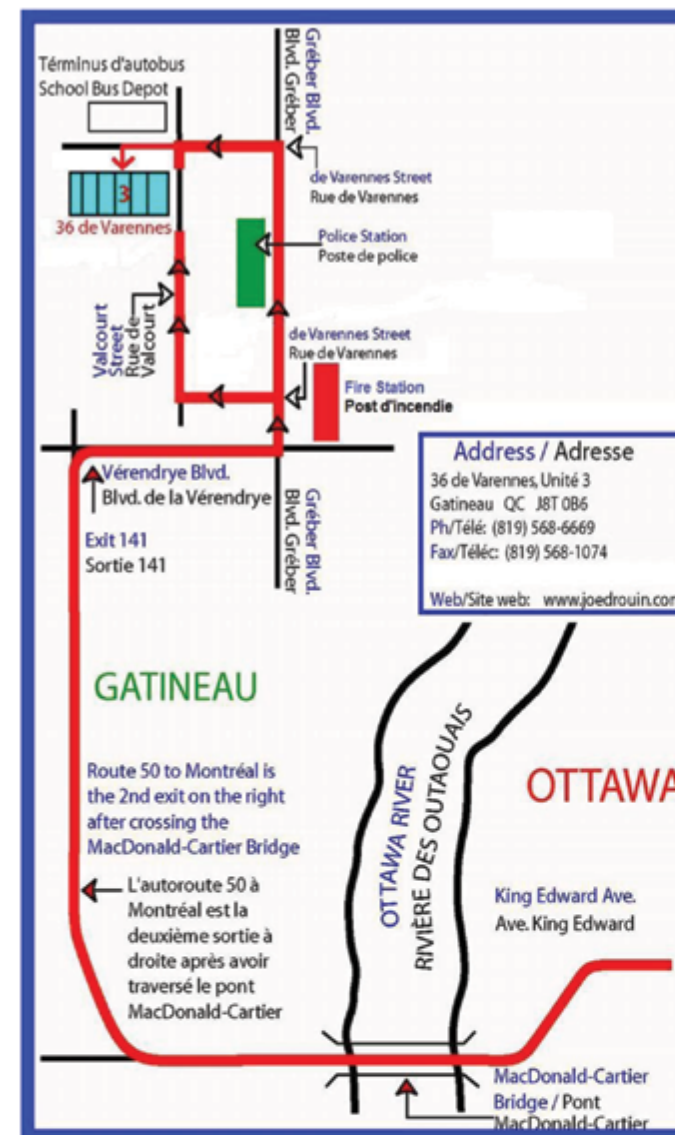
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NEW CHUTE, BETTER LANDINGS

*Fifteen members of CSOR qualify on the new
MC-6 parachute system*

*by Captain Mike Vachon,
Second-in-Command, Training Company,
Canadian Special Operations Regiment*



On January 26, 2018, fifteen members of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) at Garrison Petawawa were the first Canadian Armed Forces personnel to be qualified on the MC-6 parachute as part of the new Special Operations Static Line Round (SOSLR) training package. The establishment and initial delivery of this training represents a dramatic enhancement of CSOR airborne insertion and sustainment capabilities in keeping with the critical, mandated Force Employment Concept and the commitment of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command to the relentless pursuit of excellence.

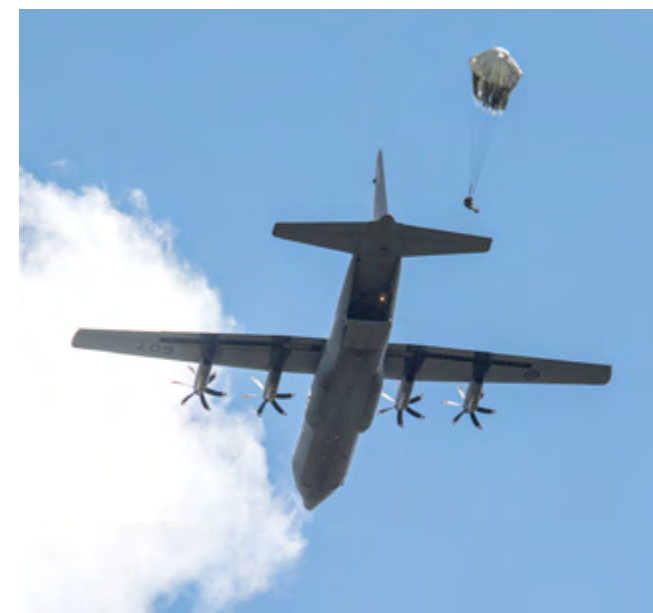
Personnel carried out descents from C-130J Hercules, CH-47 Chinook and contracted civilian aircraft. The jumps were progressive from day to night, including the use of night vision devices.

The training package itself was created by the CSOR Para Subject Matter Expert (SME) based on courseware developed at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre

(CAAWC). The streamlined process moved total training time from three weeks down to two, while maintaining the required standard of training excellence. The link to existing courseware was deliberate and maximized the application of new technology by leveraging proven training techniques.

The completed training package is the culmination of long-running efforts by CSOR Force Development and the Para SME tasked by the Commanding Officer CSOR to move beyond existing systems to enhance Regimental airborne capabilities. The CT-1 main and CR-1 reserve canopies as well as the associated harness system is 50-year-old technology. Rather than a minor update, the MC-6 system represents a significant bound forward and provides many notable advantages.

The MC-6 parachute is a semi-steerable system allowing for some manoeuvrability prior to landing as well as the ability of employing drop zones (DZ) that are reduced in



OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE & RIGHT: Fifteen paratroopers from CSOR at Garrison Petawawa were the first Canadian Armed Forces personnel to be qualified on the MC-6 parachute as part of the new Special Operations Static Line Round (SOSLR) training package. The MC-6 parachute and harness systems represent a significant bound forward and provides many notable advantages over the 50-year-old technology of the CT-1 main and CR-1 reserve canopies. In addition to greater manoeuvrability, the MC-6 exceeds the CT-1 in terms of enhanced weight carriage and reduced rate of descent. This updated system also allows for the use of higher altitude drop zones.

size. Beyond the advantage of manoeuvrability, the MC-6 exceeds the CT-1 in terms of enhanced weight carriage and reduced rate of descent as well as allowing for the use of higher altitude DZs.

After his first jump with the MC-6 parachute, one corporal from CSOR remarked, "I was pleasantly surprised when I conducted my first jump. I had heard stories about how harsh the landings were going to be and admit to being a little intimidated." He added, "To my surprise, my first and subsequent landings with the MC-6 were nothing to fear. The sensation of floating down to earth coupled with the ability to steer where I wanted to go is quite invigorating and I look forward to conducting more jumps."

To date, CSOR trials and training have not resulted in a single injury related to rate of descent. This allows CSOR members to conduct airborne operations in broader operational contexts than previously possible



and enhances interoperability with SOF partners already employing this system. In the past, parachute training had been conducted with unrealistically light loads to ensure the safety of jumpers, but this resulted in limited realism in training. With the introduction of this new system, CSOR members now jump with the full complement of equipment and combat supplies required to conduct operations independent of conventional supply lines. Aerial resupply and delivery of equipment is also being enhanced through a developing capability being in tandem with the SOSLR program. The Precision Air Drop System (PADS), through the use of GPS, can be employed to drop essential supplies and equipment, including vehicles such as the Ultra-Light Combat Vehicle (ULCV), to troops on the ground.

The nature of Special Operations is ever changing, and by continuously moving forward and developing new capabilities CSOR will meet the challenges of the future. ■

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CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*MCpl J.E. Hamilton
3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment*

*by Maj J.T.E. Kenney,
Acting Commanding Officer, 3 RCR*



he has participated. Early in the training year, he was tasked to instruct on a Helicopter Underslung Operator course and B Para, where he consistently demonstrated his adept instructional abilities. Utilizing his Jumpmaster qualification, he assisted in performing demonstrations, making corrections and providing mentorship to the candidates during the J-stages. With a very short turnaround, he was then course loaded onto the Rifle Section Commander Course (RSCC) from March to April, where his performance was described as “excellent” and “beyond reproach.” His hard work and preparation for

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CWO J. Durnford (RMS, 3rd Bn, The RCR), MWO G. Whan (CSM M Coy, 3 RCR), MCpl J. Hamilton (winner), Maj R. MacKenzie (OC M Coy), LCol K. Reeves (CO, 3rd Bn, The RCR).

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: Members of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment prepare to depart for Operation UNIFIER in the fall of 2017. (3 RCR, FACEBOOK)

the course allowed him to excel on the written tests and his initiative, problem-solving skills and strong leadership qualities were not missed by evaluators.

Immediately following the complete of RSCC, he deployed on Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE in Wainwright, Alberta, from April to June, as a section commander, putting his new skills to use. Following Mike Coy’s redeployment from Wainwright, MCpl Hamilton instructed on another B Para before deploying with M Coy for an exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. This exercise saw M Coy attached to the 1st/508th 3 Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Employed as a section commander throughout the exercise, MCpl Hamilton developed his junior section and led them to operate at a very high level in support of company-level operations. An example of this was when he led urban ops refresher training, on his own initiative, in order to prepare his soldiers for a company-level live fire. He also led his section in a fitness-based competition with American units, finishing third, demonstrating his ability to lead and exhibiting his high level of personal fitness.

Finally, in October, he completed the Parachute Instructor course, enabling him to further develop the technical proficiencies of the unit and that of the airborne soldiers.

MCpl Hamilton has demonstrated a relentless passion for airborne soldiering throughout his career. He fully commits himself and utilizes his exceptional skill set in any tasking he is given, exercise he participates in, and course he is loaded onto. MCpl Hamilton’s dedication to the airborne profession and ability to inspire his fellow airborne soldiers sets him apart from other paratroopers in the Canadian Armed Forces. For these reasons, it is recommended that he be the recipient of the 2017 Airborne Soldier of the Year Award. ■



2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: MR. AIDAN FEHR



The recipient of the 2017 Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund \$2,000 bursary is Mr. Aidan Fehr.

Originating from White Rock, BC, Aidan Fehr is in his third year as a full-time student at McGill University in Montreal, enrolled in a BA programme of studies in Political Science and Canadian Studies. On completion of his Bachelor of Arts degree, Aidan intends to obtain a Master’s degree and a PhD in political science and pursue an academic career. Aidan is the grandson of Rollie Keith, who served proudly in the Canadian Airborne Regiment, is a CAFA member and currently is President of CAFA “Bornewest” Branch #8, Chilliwack, BC. The cheque was presented to Aidan Fehr on behalf of both CAFA and ARAC at a ceremony held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #280, in Chilliwack, BC. The presentation was made in the presence of Aidan’s family and available local members of CAFA and ARAC. Information regarding applying for the 2018 Airborne Forces bursary can be obtained on the CAFA and ARAC websites. Applications are to be submitted by mail or e-mail to Rick Hatton, Chairman Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund. ■

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Sandra Dehnke, Rollie Keith (grandfather), Aidan Fehr, Bill Wilkinson, Lexa Fehr (grandmother), Doug Harrison. **BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Mark Twinaame, Fred Tassinari, Walter Webster, Carol Law, Kale Fehr (brother), Barbara Keith (mother), Pamela Keith (grandmother), Carol Jessome, John Jessome, Erika Wilkinson, Stephen Fehr (father), Ken Thompson.



INTO ICY WATERS

Fifty years ago, the Ottawa River claimed the lives of seven paratroopers on a routine jump

by Tom MacGregor, Legion Magazine



Every May, retired paratroopers, family and friends gather for a small ceremony in Petawawa, Ont., to remember those who died in the worst parachute accident in the history of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Fifty years ago, on May 8, 1968, 26 parachutists jumped from three Buffalo aircraft expecting to land in a drop zone on the Mattawa Plains, a flat sandy stretch of land on Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. Instead, rough winds caught them, sending 22 of them into the frigid Ottawa River. Seven drowned before rescuers could reach them.

"One of the men, Bob Knight, was my best friend. We chummed around quite a bit at the time," remembered Dennis Stow, who organized the 50th anniversary service. "He had five children under the age of four, including two sets of twins."

The jumpers were members of 2 Airborne Signal Troop based in Petawawa and the parachute section of 1st Royal Canadian Regiment based in London, Ont. While the

Canadian Airborne Regiment would be formed later that year in Edmonton, at the time various units of the army had their own paratroop sections.

The military had recently acquired new DHC-5 Buffalo aircraft. Although they would eventually become (and still are) part of Canada's search-and-rescue forces, these ones were painted with camouflage colours. The military had ordered 15 Buffaloes from de Havilland Canada, the first of which came on service in Montreal in 1967. The short-takeoff-and-landing aircraft were designed to take off from rough airstrips and were first put to use for paratroop training, supply dropping and tactical tasks.

ABOVE: A stone engraved with the insignia of 1 Royal Canadian Regiment and 2 Airborne Signal Troop and the names of the eight paratroopers who did not survive landing in the frigid Ottawa River on May 8, 1968: MWO Reg Riddell, WO Mike McDonnell, Cpl. Bruce Chiswell, Cpl. Dennis Clements, Cpl. Hugh Fields, Cpl. Bob Knight and Cpl. Jim Misener.



The new Buffalo aircraft were to be used in Exercise NEW SHAKEDOWN, to familiarize parachutists and a number of jumpmasters with the new plane's features.

"The military wanted to test them for paratroop drops," said Lance Drummond, a retired Lieutenant-Colonel living in Kanata, Ont. "I was 2IC [second in command] of the jump crew, so I was asked by the Colonel to organize a few days of jumps. It was really the aircraft that was being tested. We were just something to throw out the back door."

Knowing he had neither enough parachutes in quartermaster's stores nor enough experienced jumpers in his crew, Drummond made a call to an acquaintance in the RCR in London. "He said, 'We have plenty of both.' So a unit drove up from London."

Drummond said one precaution they always took was to get the engineers to have a boat in the water whenever they jumped on the Mattawa Plains. He ordered two boats: one was in the small Bostwick Lake to the west of the drop zone and the other was in the river. "I remember calling the engineers to get the boats and they said, 'Who is going to pay the overtime?' I replied that I didn't care who pays the overtime, just get the boats in the water."

TOP LEFT: A photo of 2 Airborne Signals with many of the paratroopers who made that ill-fated May 1968 drop on the Ottawa River. Four of the victims of the disaster are in this photo: Cpl. Bob Knight (third from left middle row), Cpl. Bob Fields (sixth from right middle row), Cpl. Jim Misener (far right middle row), and Cpl. Dennis Clements (third from right back row). Three other jumpers from 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment also perished in Petawawa's worst training accident. (COURTESY KEN FYNN)

TOP RIGHT: Volunteers in a rescue boat scout the Ottawa River in May 1968 to recover the missing paratroopers. (PEMBROKE OBSERVER; COURTESY OF KEN FYNN)



Three Buffaloes from 429 Tactical Transport Squadron in St-Hubert, Que., arrived at Petawawa for a series of test drops beginning on Wednesday, May 8.

"They made the first jump in the morning," recalled Stow, who was assisting at the drop zone that day. "The winds were fine in the morning but they rose in the afternoon and the second jump was cancelled."

"Someone said the winds tend to die down after about 4 o'clock in Petawawa. It was decided to wait a while and the winds did die down—at least on the ground."

Cpl. Bob Foster of Kingston was one of the jumpers. He remembers, "we were just sitting around all afternoon. Then we were told the jump was back on and we got ready."

Around 8 p.m. the jumpers were on board as the planes took off from Bonnechere airfield south of Pembroke, about 50 kilometres away.

"The fellow I was sitting beside got airsick, so he didn't jump. It's just how fortune is," remembered Ken Fynn, who was a Captain with the squadron. "The reason he got sick was because we were flying low to test the aircraft. It took half an hour to get to the drop zone but the airport is not that far away."



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The planes reached the target position at 1,250 feet above the drop zone and the paratroopers began to jump. Drummond, who was in the last plane, said they could see the jumpers heading for the water and the order was given to stop the jump.

Still, 26 jumpers had left the planes before the halt was called. Twenty-two of them went into the water off Wegner Point at a widening of the Ottawa River about five kilometres across known as Allumette Lake. Although there is a beach nearby, most of the river is deep, reaching down as much as 30 metres. "There's a reason they call the town up the road Deep River," said Fynn.

Drummond remained with the planes, which returned to the Bonnechere airfield and then he immediately set out for the drop zone to see what could be done for the jumpers.

Each paratrooper was weighed down with boots, heavy clothing, a steel helmet and a 35-kilogram parachute pack.

"I could see that we were heading for the water," recalled Fynn, who was making his sixth jump, and the first since the five he made in the parachute-training course he had been on earlier that year.

One of the more experienced jumpers from the RCR began to call out instructions to the others about how to land in water. The danger lies in being tangled up in the ropes and silk. The jumper must first untie the safety chute and then unbuckle the harness so that when he is just

TOP LEFT & RIGHT: Members from the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada, the Canadian Airborne Forces Association and the NATO Veterans Association, family, friends and personnel from Garrison Petawawa gathered at Wegner Point on May 20, 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the worst parachute accident in the history of the Canadian Armed Forces.

above the surface, he can let go and fall straight down into the water.

"The trick is to go straight down and the chute will blow away when you come back up," said Fynn.

Fynn succeeded in the manoeuvre. "When I came up, it was still light. I could see the shore maybe 500 metres away and I started swimming. Someone in the water yelled at me to get my helmet off. It was the last thing I needed, two or three pounds weighing down my head."

The ice on the river had only melted a few weeks before. The temperature of the water was 5° Celsius. "The water was cold, but I grew up swimming in the Bay of Fundy where the water is always cold," said Fynn.

For Foster, the water landing posed a more serious problem: he couldn't swim. He too had been on the parachute course that spring and had made the five jumps to qualify. He had jumped that morning and this was his seventh jump.

"I got out of my harness and the wind just took the chute away," said Foster. "But I had forgotten to take off my helmet. Then a sudden calm came over me. I remembered reading how a soldier had survived a sinking by floating on his helmet. I thought I would try that. I started kicking and found my feet were hitting the bottom. I had landed on a sandbar. The water was up to my chest.

"I thought I would walk to the shore but I took one step and realized I was going over my head. So I just stayed where I was."

The boat, commanded by Cpl. Ken Armstrong with civilian driver Alex Coulas, began picking up the jumpers. "I was a pretty good swimmer," said Fynn, "but I had my boots on and my clothes were getting heavy. I called to the



RIGHT: A cairn dedicated to those who died at Wegner Point on May 8, 1968.

boat. I just put my arms up and somebody grabbed me and brought me into the boat."

Stow remembers that they could see that the jumpers were heading to the river, so the men on the ground ran toward the water. He ran into the water and at one point caught hold of a parachute, but it had been released by one of the jumpers.

Retired Colonel Jerry Thomson recalled at the commemoration ceremony in 2008 that he safely got out of his chute when he landed in the water. He saw another soldier struggling and swam over to him. The other soldier was already in shock from hypothermia. The two began to sink together and Thomson was forced to let go. He doesn't know that man's fate.

"I think I was the last one they picked up," said Foster. "The boat was near me, but I could hear someone else struggling in the water.

"I heard someone shout, 'Are you OK, Bob?' I said, 'I'm OK but you better get that soldier who is treading water.'"

As the officers began counting their men, messages went back and forth to find out how many had left the planes. Fifteen had been pulled out of the water. "I still cannot help thinking, what if I hadn't insisted on that boat being on the river?" said Drummond.

Still, it soon became evident that seven were still missing, and darkness had set in.

Stow and others spent the night searching. By morning, a full rescue operation was in place. The base provost officers and fire department had set up a communication system. The 2nd Canadian Guards had mobilized and were searching the shores. Combat divers and the base diving club were brought in and more boats were put into the water.

The search operation was led by Lieutenant-Colonel H.P. Hanson of 2nd Canadian Guards. Three fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter from CFB Petawawa and one search-and-rescue helicopter from CFB Trenton, nearly 300 kilometres away, were brought in. An eight-kilometre stretch of the Ottawa River was searched by more than 300 base personnel and volunteers.

News of the accident spread quickly through the community. "I made one bad mistake that night—I didn't call home. It's a small community and when something like this happens, word spreads quickly," said Drummond.



Reporters from the *Pembroke Observer* interviewed two of the soldiers' wives who came to help. "I thought about the possibility of something like this happening but he loves jumping, so I didn't try to discourage him," said the unnamed wife of Cpl. Hugh Fields of 2 Sigs.

In the early morning, the body of RCR Warrant Officer Mike McDonnell, 41, was found with his equipment intact. It was his 400th jump. Shortly afterward, searchers found Cpl. Dennis Clements, 27, of 2nd Sigs and Master Warrant Officer Reg Riddell, 36, of The RCR.

Cpl. Bob Knight, 27, was found the next day, May 10. He had been attempting to escape from his chute when he drowned. The body of Cpl. Hugh Fields, 35, was found on Saturday, May 11, along with that of Cpl. Jim Misener, 24, of 2 Sigs, and Cpl. Bruce Chiswell, 30, of the RCR. All seven of the missing had drowned.

A week after the jump, a sunset ceremony was held at 8:10 p.m. on the Mattawa Plains. More than 1,500 troops participated and 1,000 civilians attended. A Royal Canadian Artillery gun crew fired a single shot and a firing party fired three volleys. "Last Post" was played, followed by "Lament" played by a piper from the Canadian Guards standing on the riverbank with his feet at the water's edge.

Each deceased man's name, rank and regimental number were read aloud, followed by the phrase, "Died in the service of Canada" in English and French.

The men in 2 Sigs had a "confidence jump" about a week after that. Two twin-engine Otters were used for the men to complete a successful jump after the tragedy. It was said their fallen comrades would have expected nothing less.

A board of inquiry was called into the accident and the contents of its review were reported in the *Ottawa Journal*. No blame was laid. Winds were at an acceptable level at both aircraft altitude and on the ground. However, there were unexpected winds at about 600 feet that pushed the men eastward toward the river.

"The inquiry went up to Deep River [where scientists at the nuclear facility record all the wind trends]. They found that there was a wind shear that pushed the men to the east," said Drummond.

The inquiry made several recommendations, including that flotation equipment be used for jumps within one mile of water, improved wind-measuring equipment be used, the number of safety boats be increased, better control and communications procedures be implemented, and all drop zones be examined to ensure they meet modern requirements.

The drowned men's remains were returned to their hometowns for burial. Fynn and Foster escorted the

body of Clements to Saint John, N.B., which was Fynn's hometown as well.

The military wanted people to know what happened, so Fynn and Lieutenant Richard Rathburn, one of the few who had landed on shore, gave press interviews when requested.

On July 14, a cairn was erected and dedicated in an evening ceremony. It is to that cairn that family and friends return every year on a Sunday close to the May 8 anniversary.

The ceremony is not elaborate. There are speeches by dignitaries, prayers, "Last Post" is played and wreathes are placed. Lunch, often at Petawawa Branch of the Legion, follows. "I usually arrange for lunch for 100," said Stow.

He had been away from the base for years, serving in Europe and elsewhere before retiring to Pembroke. In 2010, he took over organizing the ceremony. There was talk of discontinuing the ceremony. The Canadian Airborne Association organized it for a while but it was unable to continue and, as Stow points out, the accident happened before the Airborne was formed. "I said, as long as I am able, there will be a ceremony.

"I think we owe it to the families." ■

Reprinted courtesy of Legion Magazine. For more information, go to www.legionmagazine.com



In May 1944 the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP) had issued an order for the Special Air Service Brigade to carry out two operations in France, HOUNSWORTH in the area of Dijon for 'A' Squadron and BULBASKET, near Poitiers, which was given to 'B' Squadron.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: From left to right: Raymond Jovelin, Lt. Crisp, Camille Olivet, Col. Chêne, Capt. Robert Artaud ('Amilcar'), Albert Dupont and (sitting) Lt. Stephens. Taken at 'Szasz', south of Montmorillon around June 10, 1944. (J.E. TONKIN VIA A. DUPONT)

RIGHT: Lt. Stephens (centre) is dressed for his petrol trains reconnaissance mission of June 10, 1944 with 'B' Squadron OC, Captain John Tonkin (left) and Lt Crisp. (J.E. TONKIN VIA J.L. FIELDING)

The focus of both operations would be the disruption of German reinforcements from the south of France to the Normandy beachheads. To carry out the operation the men were to destroy supply dumps, block the Paris to Bordeaux railway line near Poitiers and attack railway sidings and fuel trains. One formation they especially wanted to delay was the 2nd SS Panzer Division — *Das Reich* — which was based in the area around Toulouse in the south of France. The intelligence experts at SHAEF responsible for planning the Normandy landings had estimated it would take three days for the Panzer Division to reach Normandy.

The advance party for Operation BULBASKET, including the 'B' Squadron OC, Captain John Tonkin, were flown to France by a Handley Page Halifax belonging to 'B' Flight, No. 161 Squadron RAF — the special duties squadron. Their drop zone was an area of the Brenne marsh 19 miles (31 km) southwest of Châteauroux, which they reached at 0137 hours on June 6, 1944. On the ground to meet them was their Special Operations Executive (SOE) contact, Captain Maingard. Two further groups from 'B' Squadron were parachuted in, one on June 7 and the second on June 11. Also dropped at the same time were Vickers K machine gun-armed Jeeps.

Once on the ground, the SAS squadron set about preventing German reinforcements from reaching Normandy. They attacked the rail network, laid mines, conducted vehicle patrols in their Jeeps and trained members of the French Resistance. On June 10 a French railwayman informed Tonkin that a train composed of at least 11 petrol tankers was parked at the rail sidings at Châtellerault. These were the fuel reserves for the advancing 2nd SS Panzer Division. To confirm their location, Tonkin sent Lieutenant Tomos Stephens on a reconnaissance of the area. Travelling alone by bicycle, Stephens made the 74 miles (119 km) round trip, returning on June 11. He confirmed the location of the petrol train. He also reported that it was too heavily guarded for the SAS squadron to



deal with. Tonkin contacted England and requested an air attack on the train. That night a force of 12 Royal Air Force de Havilland Mosquito bombers, six each from No. 138 Wing RAF, based at RAF Lasham and No. 140 Wing, based at Gravesend in Kent, attacked the train in its sidings. The mission was a success.

The German SS Security Police had been informed that the SAS camp was located in a forest near Verrières. On July 1 they had sent agents into the forest to attempt to locate the camp and assembled an attacking force based on the reserve battalion of the 17th SS *Panzer Grenadier Division Götz von Berlichingen*, which was based at Bonneuil-Matours. With the arrival of the SAS squadron back at their old base camp, Tonkin set out on July 2 to try to locate a new camp. He returned in the early hours of July 3 just before the Germans, who had managed to surround the camp during the night, attacked. The force in the forest camp consisted of 40 SAS men, a US Air Force P-51 pilot, Second Lieutenant Lincoln Bundy, who had been shot down on June 10, 1944 and attached himself to the SAS, and nine men from the French Resistance.

The Germans attacked at dawn and it was all over by 1400 hrs. As the Germans searched the forest the SAS men tried to break out. A party of 34 was moving down a forest track when they were ambushed and captured. Lt Tomos Stephens, the leader of the party, was beaten to death by a German officer using a rifle butt; seven captured *Maquisards* (rural guerrilla bands of French Resistance fighters) were executed in the woods.

The SAS men and the American pilot should have been treated as prisoners of war. However, their fate was determined by the issue of the Commando Order by Adolf Hitler, which called for the execution of commandos. The

OPERATION BULBASKET

The SAS in Northwest France, June 1944

While conducting online research for a possible upcoming temporary exhibit at the Juno Beach Centre, The Maroon Beret's editor found a fascinating account of a successful and tragic mission by the Special Air Service, shortly after D-Day. The following Wikipedia entry describes the 1st Special Air Service Regiment's Operation BULBASKET:



Plaque dedicated to the three SAS soldiers who were executed by the SS and whose bodies were never found: Troopers John Williams, Joseph Ogg and Henry Pascoe. The plaque is located in the Rom Cemetery, near the graves of the other 30 executed SAS members whose bodies were discovered in a mass grave and later re-interred.



The Mosquitos left Thorney Island at about 2100 hours, met up with an escort of 12 Mustang Mk. IIIs for the low-level daylight crossing of enemy-held territory in Northern France and reached the target at approximately 2100 local time, when the German troops were eating their evening meal. The attack went as planned and all seven barrack blocks were destroyed; local estimates of the number of German troops killed varied from 80 to about 200. All aircraft safely returned to Thorney Island in the early hours of July 15.

Tonkin and the remainder of the SAS squadron (altogether eight survivors of the attack and three others, who had been away on a smaller operation at the time) escaped, regrouped and carried on with the mission until the order to cease operations was received on July 24, 1944. During the period between June 10 and July 23, the SAS squadron had attacked railway targets 15 times and the main roads were mined. They also had some success attacking targets of opportunity. Over the night of June 12/13, 1944 Lieutenant Crisp, one of those later executed, was in command of a patrol that laid mines on the N147 in the Forêt du Défant, just before the 2nd SS Panzer Division arrived in the area.

The operations by the BULBASKET team, amongst others, delayed the arrival of the division in Normandy until the end of June.

In December 1944, after the German Army had been driven from the area, the bodies of the 30 SAS men and that of USAF pilot Bundy were taken to Rom and reburied with full military honours in the village cemetery. The body of Lieutenant Stephens, who was beaten to death, is buried in the village cemetery in Verrières. Although their bodies were never found, the three men executed in the hospital are commemorated with a memorial plaque erected beside the graves of the Special Air Service Brigade in the Rom cemetery. ■



EX SPARTIATE ECLAIREUR

CETTE PAGE: Du 15 au 20 octobre 2017, des membres du 3^e Bataillon, Royal 22^e Régiment ont participé à l'Exercice SPARTIATE ECLAIREUR dans la région de Valcartier et Québec. Le but de l'exercice était de soutenir la dernière étape du cours des éclaireurs-patrouilleurs offert par le Centre d'instruction supérieure en guerre de l'Armée canadienne, situé à la 8^e Escadre Trenton (Ontario). Des scénarios complexes ont été simulé, y compris des insertions aériennes à partir de Griffons CH-146 du 430^e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères, des patrouilles de combat, des attaques et des extractions amphibies et terrines, pour promouvoir des situations et environnement réalistes. //

THIS PAGE: From October 15 to 20, 2017 members of 3rd Battalion, Royal 22^e Régiment participated in Exercise SPARTIATE ECLAIREUR in the training areas of CFB Valcartier and Quebec City. The purpose of this exercise was to support the final stage of the Patrol Pathfinder Course offered by the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in Trenton, Ontario. A complex scenario including aerial insertions from CH-146 Griffons belonging to No. 430 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, combat patrols, attacks and amphibious and road extractions was organized to allow the participants of the course to train in a realistic environment.





THE LAST POST



Robert Gaudreault

MGen Gaudreault was former Commander UNPROFOR Sector in Yugoslavia, CO of 1CDO Cyprus during the Turkish invasion in 1974, Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in 1985-87, National Patron of ARAC and Colonel Commandant

of the Army Cadet League. He passed away on December 1, 2017.



André Gauthier

André was an accomplished military officer and diplomat with a distinguished career ranging from the former Colonel Commandant of NDHQ, military advisor to the MBFR Talks in

Vienna and Military Attaché. He was also a very gifted artist and sculpted many statues and monuments that recognize the many branches of the Canadian Armed Forces. André produced "The Airborne Jumper" and "Into Action", the large paratrooper statue that was originally at the front gate of CFB Petawawa, and now at the base museum. He passed away on October 26, 2017.



John Ross

On June 6, 1944 L/Cpl John Ross parachuted into Normandy with C Company, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. During the fighting, on two occasions, he suffered lacerations and concussion to the head. He was

promoted to Cpl and took part in the Battle of the Bulge in the Belgian Ardennes. It was while he was in Holland that he was appointed Signal platoon commander although still only a Cpl. John was sent to officer training, missing the Rhine drop. While he was on that course the war ended and he was sent home. He reenlisted as a Cpl in 1947 and finished his military career as a Captain in 1969 with Signals, settled in Lethbridge, AB and a career with Alberta Corrections. He passed away on January 27, 2018 at the age of 97.

Bastien, Jacques – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR
Beaudette, Richard – Cdn AB Regt, Cdn Guards, MPs
Bratzeer, Don – Airborne Medics
Cook, Fred – Airborne Engineers
Creighton, Donald – Airborne Gunners
Daniel, Doug – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI
Gaudreault, Robert – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR
Gauthier, André
Harper, John – Cdn AB Regt, RCASC
Holland, Thomas John – Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI, CFPT
SkyHawks
Keddy, John (Jack)
Lacombe, Oscar – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR
Luttrell, Ken – Cdn AB Regt
Mainville, Jean – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR
Michaud, Ronald – R22eR
Morash, Clarence "Wayne"
Pearce, John – Cdn AB Regt, R22eR
Price, Mel – Airborne Gunners
Radford, Lewis – 1 Can Para
Ross, John – 1 Can Para
Roy, Stéphane – R22eR
Rushton, Roy – 1 Can Para, PPCLI
Stokes, Fred – 1 Can Para
Stover, Roy – 1 Can Para

CANADIAN AIRBORNE REGIMENT CHALLENGE COIN

___ Request for NEW Coin ___ Request for Replacement Coin

___ Served before 1968. Coins have BR in front of number, ex. BR0000

___ Served during 1968-1995. Four digit number, ex. 0000

___ Served after 1995. Coins have AR in front of number, ex. AR00000 (Served with a Jump Company at least one year)



Requirements/ Criteria

1. Proof (Service Record) sent by mail or fax of documents showing that you served during these time periods:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. 1 Can Para Bn from 1942-45 | b. First Special Services Forces 1942-1944 |
| c. Special Air Service 1947-1949 | d. Mobile Striking Force 1948-1958 |
| e. Defence of Canada Force 1958/1968 | f. Canadian Airborne Regiment & Battle Group 1968/1995 |
| g. Airborne School & CFPMD | h. Jump Companies |

Require form from your DND service called "Member's Personnel Record Resume" or the "UER Employment History Record (CF743D)"

2. For replacement coins.....Do you know the number of your coin? If yes, # _____

3. Require your Service Number as supporting documentation. This information is not used or forwarded to anyone and is only used for identification purposes especially when there are common last names.

Military Service Number # _____

4. Full mailing address with Telephone number.

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5. Your last name and original number will be engraved on the coin. Each coin will come in a clear plastic pouch and with an inserted card describing the challenge. Shipping is by express post which has tracking and insurance.

6. Quebec: \$25.00 coin + \$9.50 Post + tax = **\$39.66** **Ontario:** \$25.00 coin + \$9.50 Post + tax = **\$38.99**

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NB, NL, NS and PEI: \$25.00 coin + \$15.00 Post + Tax = **\$46.00**

Must be sent in advance either by money order or Visa or MasterCard. Postage include express post with tracking number and insurance. Arrangements for eTransfers also permissible.

Airborne Regiment Association Kit Shop

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