

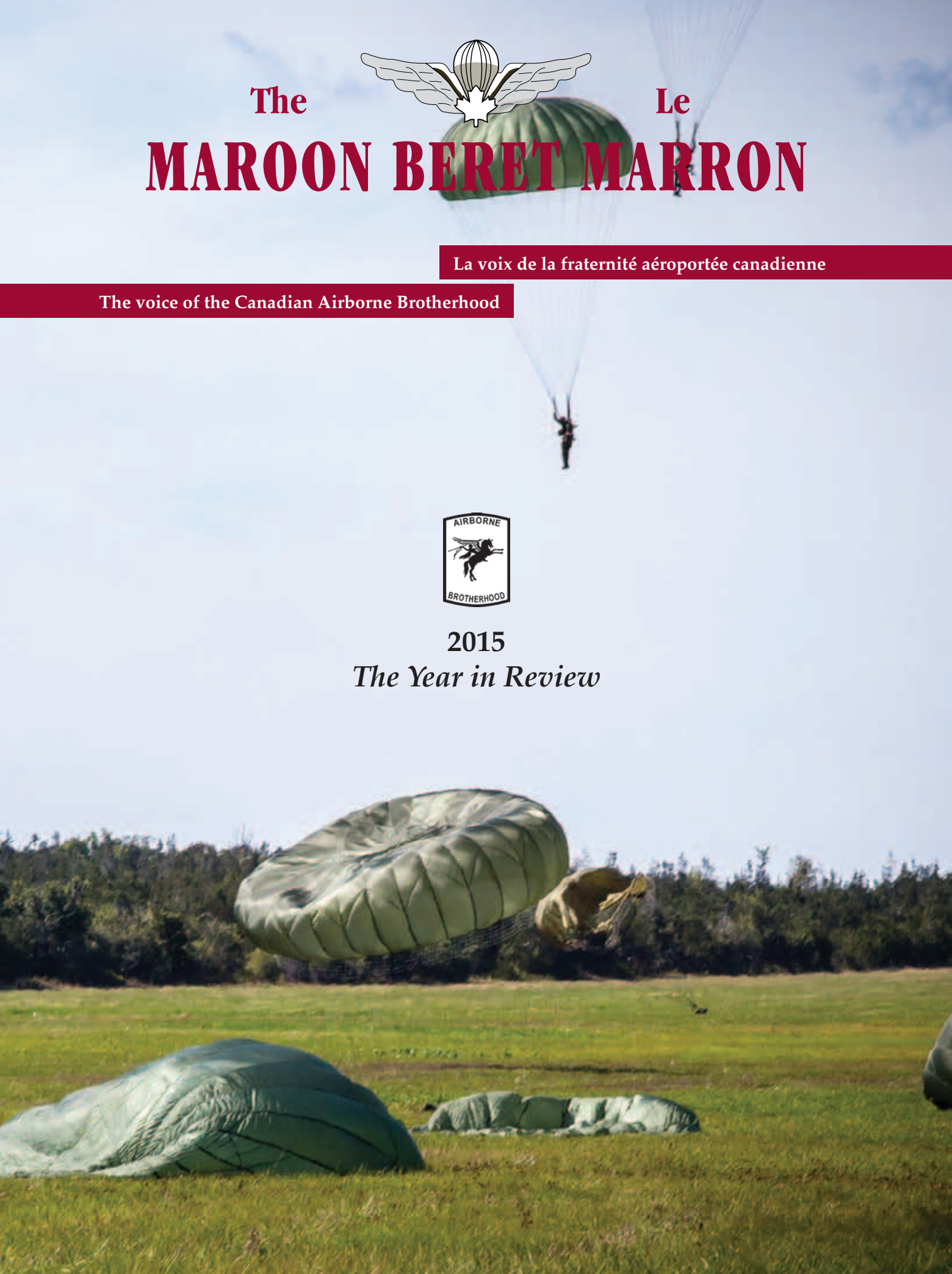
# The Le MAROON BERET MARRON

La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood



2015  
*The Year in Review*





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

Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to [canadianairborneforces@gmail.com](mailto:canadianairborneforces@gmail.com). The deadline for the 2016 issue is February 1, 2017. *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](mailto: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 the QOR hit the landing zone during an exercise. (PHOTO BY LT JUSTIN DREIMANIS, THE QOR)

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41108529

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

Email: [canadianairborneforces@gmail.com](mailto:canadianairborneforces@gmail.com)

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Graphic design and layout:

Esprit de Corps



## CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

**T**he year 2015 has been a very good year for the Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA). Your Executive and the Board of Directors have been working hard on the routine activities of the association, while moving forward on a number of fronts.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) weekend in Trenton during May was a grand success. We had an excellent turnout and our hosts at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) went out of their way to support us. The highlight of the AGM itself was the presentation of a charter to our newest branch — Branch 17, the Robert T. Frederick branch — whose members are, for the most part, based in the Detroit area of Michigan. The meeting was held, for the last time, at the old hangar on the operational side of CFB Trenton. From now on, AGMs will be held in the CAAWC's new facility, on the non-operational side of the base, making it easier for all to access. We held our memorial service for the first time at the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial, which is located just to the west of the base. It proved to be a perfect setting for future events, weather permitting.

St. Michael's Day weekend in September, at the Air National Guard Base in New York, was also a resounding success. It is the second of our two annual gatherings and we are fortunate to be able to use the fine facilities offered in Niagara. Our thanks and appreciation go to our Vice President, Angelo Di Liberti, for all of his hard work in organizing these annual events on our behalf.



*Scotty Martin (Senior Jumper present, Fort Benning 1945),  
Joanne de Vries and Walter Holmes.*

Improving communications with our membership has been at the heart of many of the initiatives undertaken over the past year. A CAFA Facebook page has been created to pass information, and to allow those involved to reconnect. A professional quality recruiting poster was designed and produced by an Airborne brother, Alex Itenson, and it has been distributed far and wide to enhance our recruiting efforts. Our treasurer has overhauled how memberships are renewed and has communicated with those who have not paid dues for a number of years. Your Executive is working with an IT company in Kingston to develop an improved website which over time will save us money due to being able to manage our own input. The site promises to be more interactive, with more opportunities for branches and members to share news, and tell their stories in words or photos.

My sincere thanks to all who make the job of being president easy, particularly Secretary Bob Janik and Treasurer Dave Pentney. The CO, Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) and staff at the CAAWC have been of immense help in assisting us with our AGMs and we look forward to many more years of success. Credit also goes to the Board of Directors and Branch Presidents who are always ready with advice designed to enhance the business of the association. And to those of our directors who slave away in the trenches on our bursary, Soldier of the Year, *Maroon Beret* and other activities, well done and thanks.

If I could ask one thing of our membership, it would be to work at inviting your Airborne buddies who have let their CAFA memberships lapse back into our brotherhood. And where the opportunities present themselves, encourage anyone you know who has jumped out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft to join our cause. The more members we have, the stronger our voice and the better we are able to conduct the business of the association.

And finally, please remember our fallen brothers and sisters, may they always enjoy fair winds and soft landings.  
*Airborne!*

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



*Members of Branch 17 pose with the Canadian Airborne Forces Association banner flag.*

### **CAFA Executive Committee, 2015–2016**

- Walter Holmes, President
- Angelo Di Liberti, Vice-President
- Robert Janik, Secretary / Bursary
- Dave Pentney, Treasurer / Membership
- John Fotheringham, Communications
- Bob McBride, Canadian Airborne Forces Museum
- Ross MacKenzie, Sergeant at Arms
- Jay Lapeyre, Soldier of the Year Award
- Joanne de Vries, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Para Bn Association

### **ARAC Executive Committee, 2015–2016** **Effective October 21, 2015**

- Dan Clarke, President
- Robert Hagarty, Vice-President
- David Kettle, Chaplain
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Secretary
- Marlene Schmidle, Treasurer
- Andre Bilodeau, Membership
- Joe Frenken, Webmaster
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Maroon Beret
- Joe Drouin, Kitshop
- Kirk Weekes, Sgt-at-Arms

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

## **QUICK REFERENCES**

### **ARAC Head Office and Mailing address**

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

### **ARAC Upcoming Events for 2016**

- **June 11** — Rededication of DZ Gorvad, CFB Borden
- **August 5** — Annual Cadet Para Graduation Parade
- **August 10–13** — FSSF 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CFB Petawawa
- **October 24** — Peacekeeping Day/United Nations Day
- **November 11** — Remembrance Day ceremonies, National Military Cemetery, Beechwood, Ottawa

## **SHARE YOUR MEMORIES**

**D**r. Bernd Horn is in the process of writing an updated history of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Anyone wishing to share photographs, stories or take part in an interview is invited to contact him at [horn-b@sympatico.ca](mailto:horn-b@sympatico.ca). ■



## ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



I feel privileged to return as president of our association. As the keepers of the heritage of the Canadian Airborne Regiment we continue to search out those 15,000 of us who served the Regiment's colours in the 28 years that the Regiment was in the order of battle. Indeed, the Regiment was the unit that operated in the airborne role the longest in the Canadian Armed Forces. To this end, we are looking at inserting a "Where is Trooper Bloggins" feature into future editions of the Maroon Beret. Let us know what you think of this idea.

As an Association we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year this year. Along with our Regiment, this association has shared some tumultuous times but, all things considered, good times with good people and good friends.

This summer, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June we, in conjunction with our sister organization CAFA, will jointly support 3 PPCLI in rededicating Drop Zone Gorvad at CFB Borden. The drop zone is dedicated to the memory of U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gorvad who had served as a Major on exchange at the Royal Canadian School of Infantry in Borden in the early 1960s. He was killed in Vietnam where he was serving as Battalion Commander.

In August it will be our great pleasure to once again present to new cadet paras the Army Cadet Basic Para challenge coin, which is sponsored by our association and which we started presenting in 2005. Over 40 cadets qualify for the coin each year.

Throughout the fall our association attends the annual UN Day memorial in Ottawa and the Remembrance Day ceremony at the National Military Cemetery in Beechwood. As per previous years, the Airborne will be given the honour of being at the head of the parade.

In order to work in support of you, the members, we need volunteers to act on the executive. In particular we are in need of a secretary to spell off Marlene Schmidle and Joe Drouin, who have been shouldering the load for the past two decades.

In 2018 we will arrive at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. It isn't too soon to be thinking of ideas to celebrate this milestone. Let us know your thoughts.

We wish you well in the coming year.

*Airborne – Prends Garde!*

**Dan Clarke**  
**ARAC President**



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# CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCED WARFARE CENTRE

## *CAAWC Opens New Training Facility*

*by Capt Dylan Abbott*



*The Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre's new home, the Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Nicklin Building, was inaugurated on June 30, 2015 at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario by Rick Norlock, the Member of Parliament for Northumberland-Quinte West. (SERGEANT DOUGLAS DESROCHERS, DND)*

**L**ieutenant-Colonel Jevon Albert “Jeff” Nicklin was born in 1915 in Winnipeg, MB. He rose to early prominence as a football star for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, notably playing for the team’s Grey Cup victories in 1935 and 1939.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Nicklin left football to enlist in The Royal Winnipeg Rifles as a private. After initially deploying to Europe in 1942, he later received parachute training at Fort Benning, Georgia and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, before helping establish the first Canadian parachute unit at Camp Shilo, MB. He continued to rise through the ranks and took command of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in October 1944.

On D-Day, he was among the Canadian contingent that jumped into Normandy. During this drop, Maj Nicklin landed in the midst of a German-held position in Varaville. His parachute was ensnared on a rooftop, and he received fire from German soldiers before he was able to cut himself free and rejoin his unit. He was later killed in action during an airborne assault across the Rhine as part of Operation VARSITY on March 24, 1945.

On February 16, 2016, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) commenced its move into

the new facility bearing LCol Nicklin’s name. As the Functional Centre of Excellence (FCoE) for over a dozen of the Canadian Army’s advanced courses and critical combat enabling operations, approximately 1,000 students come through the CAAWC every year.

The 12,927 square metre facility at CFB Trenton features space and training equipment for the multiple courses run on site, including the Canadian Army’s round and square parachute programs and mountaineering courses, where a robust indoor climbing, rappelling, confined space and high-angle rescue training area have been built for the advanced mobility company. The CAAWC is responsible for the generation of vital specialists who enable the field force to operate in joint operations and unique environments.

By necessity, many courses implemented by the CAAWC take place outside the CFB Trenton area, and the new building is fully equipped to support these courses with the storage areas for the various specialized supplies and equipment required. The new building also provides the space and supplies for the administrators, staff and headquarters elements, which work constantly behind the



scenes to ensure all courses are facilitated and executed smoothly.

In this new facility, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre will carry on the traditions and commitment to excellence LCol Nicklin instilled in Canada's first parachute unit, which have been passed down, developed and refined through a variety of units and schools in the Canadian Army's history. The modern building and training apparatuses further enable the instructors and staff to provide a breadth of courses in insertion, supply and combat support to the Canadian Army's field units.

*Airborne!* ■

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) New landing area, new apparatus, same old PLF. (2) CAAWC members rappel from the roof of the Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Nicklin Building during the inauguration of the new facility on June 30, 2015 at 8 Wing Trenton. (SGT DOUGLAS DESROCHERS, DND) (3) CAAWC members conduct fast-rope rappelling from a CH-146 Griffon during the Helicopter Insertion Master course. Not all of the courses can be conducted indoors at the new CAAWC facility. (SGT DOUGLAS DESROCHERS, DND) (4) Major Jeff Nicklin, 2IC of 1 Can Para Bn, 1944. (5) The CAAWC's new 12,927 square metre facility includes a five-story climbing wall.



## CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCED WARFARE CENTRE

*Army Life is Fun ...  
And We Have the Videos to Prove It!*

*by Capt Angelo Manzara,  
OC Parachute Training Company*

**I**n today's age of information, the desire (some say need) for the instantaneous sharing of every aspect of our lives has been fuelled by a multitude of social media sites and live-streaming services. These sites allow us to search everything from "Why am I up at 3 AM?" to "My son just won the most improved belly dancing award." All these interactions are done with the expectation of receiving "likes," "re-tweets" and the ever-desirable status of "trending."

Helping us communicate our lives are smart phones, selfie sticks and action cameras like GoPro®. According to an article in *ZD Net*:

"In case you've been living under a modem, here's the deal with GoPro®. Their tiny cubed cameras have disrupted every single action sport they've touched. They are the must-have accessories of BASE jumpers, trail cyclists, big wave surfers, half pipe snowboarders, kite boarders, Tough Mudder racers and thousands of other play-hard athletes around the world. These daredevils not only want to record their moments of gutsy glory but upload them to the universe... Not only that, they've also made traditional sports seem, well, kind of sad and lame..."



*The evolution of the action camera: From Bob Sinclair's solution of mounting a camera to a fiberglass helmet to improve footage stability (top left) to a photo of young GoPro founder Nicholas "Nick" Woodman showcasing his first prototype action camera (bottom right). (COURTESY PEVLY.COM)*

This desire to share what we are doing has also led to military personnel uploading everything from firefights in theatres, to live streaming change of command parades. The Canadian Army and the parachute community have also embraced this technology and, as we have learned, we may need to pause and think deeply about how we use cameras while parachuting.

From a training centre perspective, the action camera is vital to the documentation of manoeuvres to help improve candidates' on-land training, as well as document errors to help show others what can go wrong and how to mitigate mistakes that can cause injury, loss of equipment, or life. Square parachuting, whether it is civilian or military, relies on action cameras for this reason.

Video captures all aspects of a parachute descent and allows supervisors to debrief jumpers immediately after the training procedures to show them their faults and successes. This has not removed the traditional debrief, but made it more effective. Also, after the day's training, jumpers can review their video and see their progress while considering what the instructor said after the second jump of the day.

However, jumping with cameras does have its drawbacks. Due to the hankering for the instant sharing of one's experience, novice or inexperienced jumpers are jumping with cameras with intentions of getting a great video. *Skydive Mag* wrote in 2013 that "If engineers sat down and tried to devise a great way to accidentally tie your parachute to your head, they would have a hard time beating the design of these cameras."

The United States Parachute Association (USPA) has documented incidents and accidents where the primary issue was the jumper being fixated on filming rather than performing a safe skydive — not being aware of their altitude or immediate surroundings. The USPA has recommended that a person should have a "C" level license and a minimum of 200 descents prior to jumping with a camera. USPA has found that "A camera flyer must have above-average flying skills that are ingrained and instinctive. If a jumper is still struggling with fall-rate issues or has trouble maintaining horizontal proximity with his group, for example, then he's not ready to add a camera to the mix."

To ensure the Canadian Army does not put our square jumpers at risk, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) developed and published rules for use in the Land Force Command Order (LFCO) 22-2 Parachuting, and the soon to be published Canadian Army Order (CAO) 22-2 Parachuting. These orders dictate that only those personnel specially trained to operate a camera while conducting parachuting may use cameras. Only members qualified as Military Square Parachute Instructor (MSPI) or Military Freefall Parachute Instructor (MFPI) and who have been trained in the proper use of action cameras may use them. Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team (CAFPT) members who are employed as Tandem Cameramen are trained by certified cameramen and are given accreditation as such. Having said this, CAAWC still receive requests for members to fly with a camera without the skills required for safe usage.

So, the next discussion to get engaged in is: "Well, sure for freefall, but for static line jumps there is no issue." On the surface this may seem correct, since there would be no issue with altitude awareness or relativity to the next jumper, but hazards still exist. During static line jumps, be it round or square, cameras pose a significant snag hazard with the static line. Since the majority of action cameras are mounted to the helmet, this snag hazard has the potential



*A Canadian jump master has the static line from the number 1 jumper wrapped around his GoPro camera. Luckily, he avoided potential serious injury when another jump master untangled him before he jumped through the door.*

for severe injury to the jumper on exit. YouTube has videos of military personnel not prepared for landing due to fidgeting with a camera prior to impact, a time when the most important part of their jump is about to happen.

As illustrated in the above photo, a Canadian jump master (JM) has the static line from the number 1 jumper wrapped around his GoPro®. Luckily, the photo shows the other JM moving in to fix the problem. After some research and discussions with Dr. Philip S. E. Farrell and Dr. Thomas Karakolis, scientists at Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) in Toronto, there is no specific data that states what forces would have been felt by the JM. However, there is research and data on the forces and resulting injuries that would be sustained to the head and neck.

According to the paper "Cervical Spinal Injuries and Risk Assessment, Injury and Skeletal Biomechanics" by Mary Blackmore, Tarun Goswami, and Carol Chancey, torsion and horizontal shear forces can result in injury: "The estimated lower bounds of axial torsional tolerance are between  $13.6 \pm 4.5$  Nm and  $17.2 \pm 5.1$  Nm [13]. This amount of torque produces upper cervical spinal injuries ..." In other words, having the head and neck sustain a twisting force on one or two planes simultaneously will result in injury. Even if the GoPro® mount broke off, the force to do so would have pulled the JM's head down and away in an aggressive, sharp movement (200lb jumper exiting aircraft at 130kts = ouch).

We have seen in the past injuries resulting from riser groups removing helmets; why would we think this sort of incident would not have any pain or injury associated with it? Greater care and knowledge of how to use action cameras will prevent future injuries.

The last issue pertaining to the use of action cameras is the uploading of content to social media. We have recently seen the fallout from military members posting comments on social media that result in administrative/disciplinary investigations. Beyond that, there are other issues surrounding the posting of military videos and photos online.

It is hard to forget the videos released to press during the Somalia era of the Airborne, and the strategic decisions that were made, or to forget the infamous words from Sgt Lorne Ford during the disbandment jump that aired on the CBC's *The National*: "Have a !@\*?ing good one." This was, and still is, a great quote, but it brings up the issue of what the SkyHawks call a "hot mic." We are not in control of the video or audio that others are taking, nor how they frame the context when published on the web.

Safety and social consequences must be considered when using action cameras. We have policies in place for both but, like most things, a lack of understanding of the intent of such policies causes second and third order effects, which place individuals and the institution at risk.

Special thanks and credit for parts of this article go to the following, who helped with the research and pointed me in the right direction:

- Sgt Daniel Coulter, CA Square Parachute Subject Matter Expert;
- Linda L.M. Bossi, Defence Scientist, Human Systems Integration (HSI) Section, DRDC Toronto;
- Dr. Philip S. E. Farrell, B.A.Sc., M.A.Sc., PhD, Defence Scientist, Human Systems Integration Section, DGSTCO, Toronto Research Centre, DRDC;
- Dr. Thomas Karakolis, PhD, Defence Scientist, Human Systems Integration Section, DGSTCO, Toronto Research Centre, DRDC. ■



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## 3 RCR

### *Mike (Para) Company's 2015 Year in Review*

**A**s the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion entered into the support phase — previously known as reconstitution — it set course for an extremely busy year, especially with individual tasking. Mike Company was able to achieve a number of milestones this past year, maintaining the momentum obtained from Operation REASSURANCE and pushing to improve our airborne capability, both of the company and para company group (PCG), to align ourselves for what may lie ahead during the road to high-readiness.

During the start of the year, most of the company was consumed with hours spent honing their drill skills as the battalion bid farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Rob McBride and welcomed the new commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Will Graydon. In true light infantry fashion, the change of command ceremony included a short 'hop and pop' free-fall insertion of a detachment, formed in part by members of Mike Company, directly onto the parade square, drawing accolades from military and civilian personnel in attendance. This was followed closely by family members partaking in a Battalion-level static display, which showcased the various parachutes employed by the Battalion's sub-units.

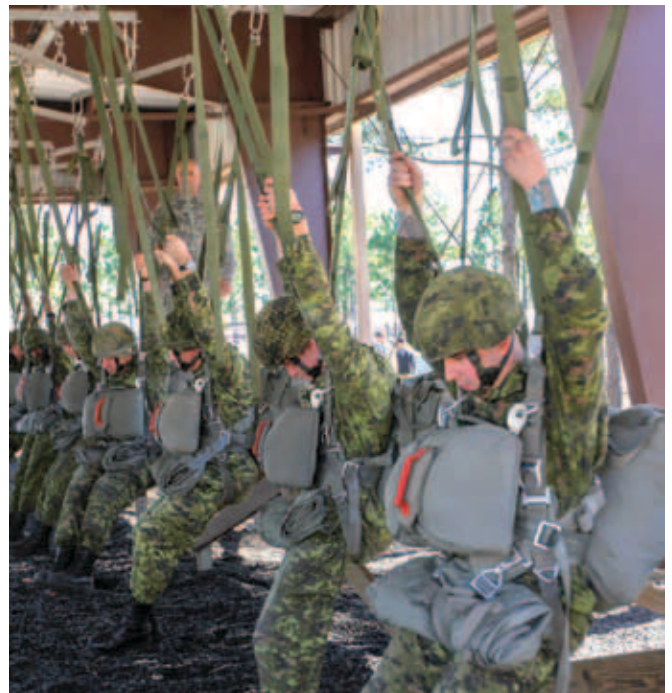
To further reinforce the capability of Mike Company, two days' worth of water jumps into the Ottawa River from a CC-130J were executed, utilizing a mix of CT-1 and

CT-2 parachutes. The water jumps drew large gatherings from the general area of Petawawa, and culminated with a sports day on the beach and the historical spaghetti lunch with red wine to mark Pachino Day.

Transitioning back from summer leave, Mike Company went into full throttle, conducting two highly prestigious wings exchanges with our U.S. counterparts. The first one was with 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, in which our jump masters were tasked with dispatching a number of U.S. personnel using the MC-6 parachute. As the drop zone was cleared of all jumpers, the Canadian contingent then participated in follow-on training events, which included a gruelling forced march. The second event was with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, and was a collaborative effort with our counterparts from 3 PPCLI. Within a matter of three hours, the Canadian jump masters dispatched 300 jumpers using the MC-6 and an MH-147 provided by 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR).

---

**ABOVE:** In June 2015 members of Mike Company, 3 RCR, conducted a number of jumps to hone their skills in preparation for events surrounding the change of command ceremony as the battalion bid farewell to LCol Rob McBride and welcomed LCol Will Graydon.



In continuing with our southern engagements, the Battalion headquarters participated in JOAX 16.1, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (2BCT) from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, in which they planned and executed a joint forcible entry. This entails an airborne assault to seize an airfield for the 2BCT, then a Battalion-level air assault to raid a village. The 2BCT provided Gator Company from 2/325 AIR under command and 450 Squadron provided two CH-147s for the exercise. During the wings exchange portion of JOAX 16.1, 100 American soldiers were reminded of the gracious speed at which the CT-1 (T-10D) descends, compared to their new mass droppable parachute, the T-11.

Through the fall there were a number of parachute activities that kept Mike Company engaged with both the Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR). Mike Company was responsible for dispatching a number of non-Basic Parachutists from the mock tower in support of OSONS challenge and Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT. The mock tower allowed the soldiers from the company to engage with key staff and civilian personnel, providing them words of wisdom as they donned training harnesses and climbed to the top to "hook up." The numbers of those who jumped from the mock tower is unknown, but it was noted by the JMs that there were no jump refusals!

The final engagement was with the Children's Aid Society from the Upper Ottawa Valley. Thirty high school teens were hosted by Mike Company and were provided with an in-depth look at some of the daily tasks that soldiers complete. In addition, it provided an opportunity for the younger members of the Company to outline the motivating factors that had lead them to join the Canadian Army. The highlight of the day was the kids watching and participating in the various training aspects of parachuting, such as flight procedures, aircraft drills and landings.

With support to external company events consuming most of Mike Company's training calendar, the clouds parted and we executed a follow-on force task to support the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in running the Patrol Pathfinder Course. For the first time since 2011, the PTA had an actual follow-on force to interact

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**TOP LEFT:** In June 2015 Mike Company conducted a number of jumps during the change of command ceremony to welcome LCol Will Graydon. Included in the festivities were water jumps into the Ottawa River from a CC-130J, utilizing a mix of CT-1 and CT-2 parachutes. The water jumps drew large gatherings from the general area of Petawawa.

**TOP RIGHT:** A Canadian jump master (Sgt Prior, 3 VP) gives words of command to American jumpers at 1,500 feet AGL.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Members from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, participating in pre-jump drills.

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with. This course came complete with dedicated aircraft, ample CT-1 and CT-6 parachutes and drop zone controllers in training. The support provided allowed for a significant number of jumps to occur from both CC-130Js and CH-147 Chinooks of 450 Squadron, providing the platform for many newly qualified jumpers to hone their parachute landing fall technique, and run through drop zone rendezvous occupation drills, reinforcing the requirement for every jumper to thoroughly understand the standard procedures. Intertwined with this event was Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS), which brought Mike Company up to level 2 live fire by day and night, ready to cross the line of departure for the complex level 3 live fire.

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**TOP LEFT:** OC Mike (Para) Company presents members of U.S. 5th Special Forces Group (SFG) with their Canadian jump wings.

**TOP RIGHT:** The CO of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> SFG, presents personnel of 3 RCR with their U.S. jump wings.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** A view from one of many cut-off positions that M Coy had established to provide security for the QOR during Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT in the fall of 2015.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Paratroopers from Mike Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, attend T-11 parachute training at the Advanced Airborne School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to participate in the 82nd Airborne Division's Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise 16-01 in October 2015. (STAFF SGT. JASON HULL, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION)

As the sun set on the busy fall training calendar, an opportunity arose to participate in a tactical scenario with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, alongside their para company. With the number of troops from Mike Company diminished due to tasks or career courses, we transitioned to fulfill more of a recce task. The situation was based around conducting an urban assault to capture a high value target.

With H-Hour set for an early morning raid, Mike Company inserted with a P-Hour just before last light with light equipment configuration, and stepped off to begin defining the objective area. With the winds starting to increase, the follow-on force, the QOR, advanced their P-Hour to negate a possible stop drop. As darkness fell, Mike Company had secured the routes with OPs and cut-offs, while a small force confirmed the enemy pattern of life and confirmed the follow-on force's raid control measures. Upon completion of the recce task, the objective was handed over, setting the conditions for Mike Company to move off the position and fade into the darkness, until we linked up with our transport. This field training





exercise was a great example of successful integration of Regular and Reserve force personnel and in line with OP REINFORCEMENT as we look to the next iteration of EX STALWART GUARDIAN.

Looking to the future, Mike Company will continue to seek opportunities to integrate and develop our interoperability with allied nations, whether through participation in tactical exercises or conducting a low-level wings exchange like EX PEGASUS INTERNATIONAL, in which a few deserving soldiers from Mike Company will link-up with 16<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Brigade (UK). Additionally, we will look to capitalize on the ability to leverage the new 450 Squadron, as they force generate crews to conduct parachute descents and helo-casting. The next bound for parachuting within the Canadian Army is for use to influence, and the recent success of LIBs (specifically para companies) on OP REASSURANCE serves to reinforce

**ABOVE LEFT & TOP RIGHT:** Members of Mike Company conducted Exercise COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT in September 2015 at Garrison Petawawa, Ontario. This exercise was intended to familiarize senior government officials, industry leaders and influential Canadians in Ontario with the combat capabilities of the Canadian Army. (MCPL MAGGIE GROSSE, IMAGING PETAWAWA)

**ABOVE:** GET READY! Members of M Coy wait in anticipation for the words of command from the jump master.

the relevance and strategic value of such forces, where the Government of Canada retains at its disposal a unit or sub-unit that can be projected around the world quickly, with minimal service support or logistical requirements.

The next wave will see Mike Company supporting in a variety of activities across Canada, from Basic Para and Jump Master courses, to potentially joining EX MAPLE FLAG, with two CC-130H models from the U.S. National Guard, and once again joining 3 VP, with a jump into Drop Zone GORVAD in CFB Borden. This will be a formal DZ dedication, as well as another venue for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CFB Borden. ■



*Shelters were used to brave the unforgiving conditions of winter during January 2016's five-day winter training exercise.*

## 3 RCR

### *Basic Winter Warfare 2016 Mike (Para) Company*

*Lt Segu,  
Mike Company, 1 Pl Comd*

**M**onday, January 11, 2016 dawned clear and cold and saw soldiers from Mike Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, deploy to the Petawawa Training Area. Although the conduct of basic winter warfare was the focus, adapting to the unforgiving conditions of sub-zero temperatures was a learning point for all. This five-day training event provided exposure to familiar concepts as well as novel ones.

Once established in the training area, troops received instruction on operating in cold environments, improvised shelter construction and cold weather first aid. The tenacity and newly developing survival skills of all were tested the following day, as troops stayed in their improvised shelters overnight in spite of the harrowing conditions.

In addition to constructing shelters, paratroopers from Mike Company conducted a number of ranges, including pairs lanes and section attacks in close terrain. The difficulty of the densely wooded and snow-covered terrain was reflected in the speed of the attacks, which were conducted with snowshoes. However, this did not diminish the violence and aggression shown in the shoots as the firers closed with and destroyed the enemy. Additionally, troops gained a great deal more practice with small arms and the C6 general purpose machine gun, demonstrating the

lethality Mike Company can bring to bear in any weather or terrain conditions.

As the exercise progressed, Mike Company rehearsed load drills with winter kit into the CH-146 Griffin helicopter, as well as landing zone control, to include a field lesson for the new soldiers on the minimum parameters for an austere LZ. This allowed troops to not only gain insight into the basic security considerations and standards of LZs, but also established framework for the understanding of airmobile operations. Ultimately, troops were able to clear and secure an austere landing zone, showcasing the versatility of airmobile operations and setting the conditions for potential future operations utilizing the speed, violence and aggression of 3 RCR's Mike Company.

The week of learning culminated in leapfrogging live fire section attacks, as part of a platoon airmobile operation, with a firebase and a variety of small arms. The extreme conditions of the week galvanized the troops into a unit that clearly demonstrated that they are capable of closing with and killing the enemy regardless of the weather conditions. A BBQ and post-exercise drills followed the completion of the exercise, as troops prepared kit for the winter complex terrain school the next week. ■



## 3 RCR

*PEGASUS ANVIL 2016*  
*Mike (Para) Company*

*Lt Pecoskie,*  
*Mike Company, 3 Pl Comd*



**T**he eager soldiers of the Para Company Group (PCG), 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment braved frigid weather in the first dark hours of February 4, 2016. Despite the adverse conditions, the entire PCG made their airborne descent onto Drop Zone ANZIO within the Petawawa training area during the early morning hours of first light. Leading the descent was an 81mm mortar door bundle, which would rain down indirect fires and neutralize the enemy in their stronghold, supporting the advance on to the objective; this feat had been deemed an overwhelming task by some. Directly following, on the order of the jump masters, 90 members from the PCG emerged from the CC-130J Hercules aircraft, encountering gusty conditions. However, the snow-covered DZ made for a softer landing with the CT-1 round parachute.

The event was a day-long exercise designed to verify the capabilities of the PCG, test new capabilities such as the

81mm mortar drop, and to ensure all members were well rehearsed in all procedures, from the rigging of personal kits, to dispatching from the CC-130J aircraft and DZ occupation drills following landing.

The airborne insertion was simply Phase 1 of the operation; what lay ahead would truly test the leadership of the PCG. The culminating point was a company-level raid completed in the urban environment known to many as the Sea-can Village. Platoons had individual tasks and objectives throughout the labyrinth of buildings, some of which had multiple entry points and stories, but due to the high degree of professionalism and preparation on the part of every member of the PCG, the attack went according to plan and the enemy was promptly neutralized.

**ABOVE:** The leadership from 3 RCR Para Company Group (PCG) conduct planning and preparations in advance of the early morning assault.



Ultimately, the 3 RCR PCG effectively coordinated weapons effects to close with and destroy the enemy with precision and aggression. This exercise was an important step in ramping up for future operations. Many of the participants will now be transitioning for a multinational exercise in Norway, to begin in late February. The exercise in Norway will see elements from Battalion HQ, Combat Service Support, and Combat Support, in addition to a full light infantry company with two mechanized companies attached from our American and Norwegian allies. The focus of this multinational exercise will be primarily on defensive operations in the complex and challenging terrain of the rugged Norway interior. ■



**TOP LEFT & TOP RIGHT:** Members of Mike Company, The Royal Canadian Regiment, are equipped and waiting for the jump masters' final review during EX PEGASUS ANVIL 2016.

**RIGHT MIDDLE:** Jump masters inspection.

**BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTOS:** Members from The RCR's Para Company Group hit the landing zone after being dispatched from a CC-130J Hercules aircraft.

**ABOVE:** Troops from the Para Company Group (PCG) systematically clear through a building destroying or capturing all enemy.



## 3 PPCLI

### *Parachute Company's 2015 Year in Review*



**T**he year 2015 presented the 3 PPCLI Parachute Company with many unique opportunities to challenge its war-fighting readiness. From drops with Dutch paratroopers, to conducting company-level live fire ranges, the Parachute Company conducted an array of exercises that showcased the parachute capability within the Canadian Army.

In February, the Parachute Company conducted a Basic Parachutist Course (Basic Para), in which potential jumpers had the rare opportunity of receiving an address from Major General (ret'd) Herbert Pitts. An influential member of the Canadian Airborne community, MGen Pitts recounted his own experiences as a veteran of the Korean War and as the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. The candidates were left with an appreciation of the legacy and the responsibilities involved with wearing paratrooper wings. As a token of appreciation for his dedication to the airborne community, the current Commanding Officer

of the Third Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Adair, presented MGen Pitts with a CR-1 reserve parachute mounted on a plaque. As a testament to his leadership and inspiration, MGen Pitts offered the plaque back to the Battalion, wishing it to be presented to a deserving candidate of the Basic Para Course. From then on, each serial of the Basic Para Course that is conducted at the Battalion will award the candidate who most demonstrates the spirit and fortitude of a Canadian Paratrooper with the MGen Pitts Award.

In March, the Parachute Company deployed to Dundurn,

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**ABOVE:** The Parachute Company deployed on a five-hour flight via CC-130Js north to Resolute Bay, as part of Exercise ARCTIC RAM 2016. The paratroopers received the green light and jabbed out into the -50 degree temperatures for a parachute descent onto Drop Zone Resolute Bay with their fellow paras from the U.S. Army platoon exchange from the 509<sup>th</sup> Regiment out of Alaska.

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Saskatchewan, for Exercise SPARTAN FORGE 1501, a battalion-organized, combined arms exercise that included live fire platoon attacks together with an all arms call for fire. Parachute Company Rifle Platoons conducted live fire raids, consolidations and immediate transitions to hasty defensive positions to await enemy counterattacks. Once the enemy attacked, mortars from 1 RCHA were employed to support fighting withdrawals. Throughout the exercise, the Parachute Company displayed the flexibility of airborne forces. Most notably, the conclusion of the exercise also marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation VARSITY, a successful Allied airborne operation that took place in March 1945. To commemorate this occasion, paratroopers redeployed to Edmonton in the most airborne way, by dropping in and seizing the Josephburg Airfield on the outskirts of Edmonton. Some Paratroopers had a chance to jump from a Douglas DC-3 Dakota aircraft that was provided by Buffalo Airways, and saw service during Op VARSITY. The paratroopers will never forget this amazing opportunity.

In June, the Parachute Company deployed to Cold Lake to conduct a multinational airborne exercise, PEGASUS FALCON. The exercise included paratroopers from the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Airmobile Brigade of the Royal Netherlands Army and the Royal Netherlands Air Force. This offered a unique training opportunity. The exercise was initiated with a friendly “icebreaker” between Canadian and Dutch

paratroopers. In the days that followed, paratroopers from both nations cross-trained with one another’s drills and equipment. Upon completion of the training, Parachute Company soldiers donned Dutch parachutes and conducted parachute descents over Drop Zone Saville Farm in Wainwright, Alberta. After both nations had the opportunity to parachute using one another’s equipment, the Parachute Company and 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion troopers conducted a force-on-force tactical scenario, allowing Dutch leadership to practice their casualty collection skills. The exercise was concluded with a wings exchange parade during which many troopers received their first pair of foreign parachute wings.

Late summer and fall of 2015 was a busy time for 3 PPCLI and Parachute Company. The jumpers underwent challenging training, which helped meet readiness standards, by testing the paratroopers’ physical and mental fitness. In late August, Parachute Company conducted a march-and-shoot training event, in which the paratroopers parachuted with full equipment and marched to the Edmonton training area to conduct live fire ranges. In September, Parachute Company deployed to Wainwright

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**ABOVE:** Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry jump from a CC-130J Hercules into a drop zone during Exercise ARCTIC RAM 2016 near Resolute Bay, Nunavut, on February 12, 2016. (MCPL LOUIS BRUNET)



and conducted a company-level defensive exercise, in which junior soldiers were exposed to deliberate defensive operations. The exercise included live fire section attacks, trench digging techniques, defensive planning and defensive routine. Throughout, the paratroopers embraced the rain and wet snow, living in their prepared defensive positions, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the enemy. The exercise culminated in a spectacular company live fire that demonstrated the amazing firepower and potential that a rifle company can possess.

In early October, Parachute Company participated in a Battalion tactical march to the Villeneuve Airport. The 35-kilometre movement in fighting gear demonstrated a light force's ability to cross great distances while deprived of vehicle transport. It was determination, as well as physical and mental prowess, which ensured Parachute Company troopers easily finished the march in just over eight hours. For many of the soldiers in the Company, it was the longest march they had ever conducted.

Soon after Thanksgiving, the Battalion deployed to Wainwright to conduct Exercise SPARTAN FORGE 1502, centered on a battalion advance and a four-day defensive. During the defensive, troopers became well versed with the theory and conduct of the covering force battle. Employed in the disruption area forward of the Main Defensive Area, Parachute Company's paratroopers were reinforced with a company's worth of short range anti-armor weapon systems and C6 general purpose machine guns. While the remainder of the Battalion prepared stage four trenches, Parachute Company prepared heavily camouflaged positions forward of the Battalion Kill Zone, with the intent to destroy lead vehicles of the enemy



combat reconnaissance patrol and push forward elements of their own main body.

The fall period culminated with a solemn jump on Remembrance Day at Drop Zone Scarlett and Drop Zone Georgia. 3 PPCLI paratroopers filled the air from the double doors of two CC-130 aircraft on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, as a Remembrance Day tribute to airborne veterans both past and present. Family, friends, veterans and jumpers will never forget the moment of silence with parachutes in the air.

The busy year came to a close with a tactical jump into Wainwright and platoon live fire ranges, and other descents into DZ Buxton out of a CH-147 Chinook.

The new year of 2016 began at full speed. The Parachute Company detached a platoon to Alaska to conduct airborne training with the new U.S. Army Alaska. After conversion training was complete, the platoon imbedded into a U.S. Army rifle company within the 509<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Airborne) for airborne operations and live fire drills at Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Fort Polk, Louisiana. As the platoon soaked up the sun and warm weather down south, the rest of the company formed a Parachute Company Group from airborne attachments within 1 CMBG and a reciprocal U.S. Army platoon exchange from the 509<sup>th</sup> Regiment out of Alaska. The Parachute Company deployed on a five-hour flight via CC-130Js

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**TOP LEFT:** A great view after a descent with the new U.S. Army Alaska in January 2016.

**TOP RIGHT:** Members of 3 PPCLI's Parachute Company conducted a wing exchange after being detached to conduct airborne training with the new U.S. Army Alaska.

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north to Resolute Bay, as part of Exercise ARCTIC RAM. The Parachute Company Group paratroopers received the green light and jabbed out into the -50 degree temperatures for a parachute descent onto Drop Zone Resolute Bay. Once DZ drills were complete, the troopers quickly moved on to secure their objective, demonstrating the precision and speed of the airborne capability, and the value of such assets to the Government of Canada.

In the past year, 3 PPCLI Parachute Company showcased the finest qualities of airborne forces and continuously proved its utility and flexibility. As the Parachute Company continues to demonstrate high levels of professionalism and paratrooper skills, its troopers are as proud as ever to carry on the legacy established by all Canadian Paratroopers.

*Airborne!* ■

**PHOTOS THIS PAGE:** On November 11, 2015 the skies above Gibbons, Alberta were spotted with parachutes as airborne troops from 3 PPCLI conducted a jump from a CC-130 Hercules in Drop Zone Scarlett to mark Remembrance Day. (MCPL MELANIE FERGUSON, CANADIAN ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

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Jan 2015



## 3 R22eR

### *Validation de la capacité aéroportée au 3 R22eR*

*par l'Adjudant-maître Steve Scotto d'Aniello  
3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment*



**L**e 27 mai 2015, 90 parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (3 R22eR), ont participé à l'Exercice PEGASUS VALEUREUX.

Le but de l'exercice était de valider les capacités opérationnelles de la compagnie de parachutistes du 3 R22eR dans un environnement inconnu et dans un contexte d'opération offensive. Les paras ont effectué un saut *double door fully equipped* auquel même les chefs largueurs (*jump masters*) ont participé.

Cet exercice a confirmé qu'une compagnie de parachutistes peut être déployée sur une grande distance et dans de très courts délais. Après notre départ de l'Aéroport de Québec, après une heure et demie de vol, nous avons sauté sur la zone de largage (ZL) DIVES à la Garison Petawawa, à quelque 600 kilomètres de notre point de départ.

Grâce à l'adrénaline que nous a procurée le saut, nous étions extrêmement motivés à faire une patrouille de combat pour saisir l'objectif JUNO. Nous avons validé et pratiqué nos tactiques, techniques et procédures (TTP) et les

avons partagées avec les nouveaux arrivants au sein de la compagnie.

Nous avons mis en pratique les déplacements tactiques de jour et de nuit ainsi que la reconnaissance des leaders sur l'objectif, l'assaut d'une zone bâtie ainsi que l'évacuation des blessés et des détenus. Le peloton 1 était responsable de l'interception, tandis que le peloton 3 prenait la mairie appuyé par le peloton 2. Lorsque la mairie a été prise, le peloton 2, aidé du peloton 3, a pris d'assaut quatre autres bâtiments occupés par les ennemis. L'éva-

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**CI-HAUT:** Des parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (3 R22eR), effectuent une chute libre.

**PAGE OPPOSÉE:** Le Sergent Yannick Doider du 3 R22eR participe à l'exercice PEGASE REASSURANCE à bord de l'aéronef CC-130J Hercules fourni par le 436 escadron de transport (Trenton) du 20 au 23 avril 2015 à l'aéroport international Jean-Lesage, Québec. Plus de 140 militaires de Valcartier ont pris part à cet exercice de parachutistes. (CPL NATHAN MOULTON, VALCARTIER)

cuation des blessés et des prisonniers de guerre s'est faite rondement.

La capacité parachutiste des Forces armées canadiennes, représentée par une compagnie d'infanterie du 3 R22eR, incluant un détachement d'artilleurs et une section d'ingénieurs, permet au commandant de projeter des troupes au sol, loin de la force principale, pour changer un rapport de forces, saisir des objectifs importants ou des terrains clés. Les parachutistes se doivent d'être autonomes, fiables et débrouillards. Ils doivent être en bonne forme physique et mentale jusqu'à ce que le groupe principal effectue la jonction avec eux.

Tout cet exercice a bénéficié du soutien de la compagnie de parachutistes du 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment de Petawawa, qui a contribué à l'atteinte de nos objectifs. Ils ont fourni un détachement pour établir la sécurité de la ZL. Ils ont joué la force ennemie et prêté leur assistance dans les différentes phases de la planification. Merci à nos confrères.

Cet exercice a rempli son mandat : montrer ce que les gars du para sont capables de faire. Ah oui, j'oubliais! Nous en avons profité pour accueillir nos nouveaux paras! ■



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## 3 R22eR

*Opération REASSURANCE : Un déploiement  
aéroporté pour notre vingtième anniversaire !*

*texte par Major Simon Côté,  
Cmdt Cie A (Para), 3 R22eR*

*photos par Caporal Maxime Lefebvre*

**L**a Cie A du 3 R22eR s'est déployée en Pologne du 28 juin 2015 au 23 février 2016 dans le cadre de l'Op REASSURANCE Roto 4. Elle était le noyau du Groupe-Compagnie Para de la Force opérationnelle terrestre (FOT), auquel se sont joints des parachutistes de diverses unités; dét OOA du 5 RALC, Sect d'ingénieurs du 5 RGC et adjoints médicaux du 5 AmbC. Il y avait donc 136 parachutistes sur cette rotation, incluant quatre arrimeurs (Riggers), trois chefs largueurs (JM) et six parachutistes-instructeurs (PI). À ceux-ci se sont greffés plusieurs autres militaires en support provenant d'unités de la Force régulière et de la Force de réserve, pour un total de 220 membres formant le contingent canadien.

## 3 R22eR

*Operation REASSURANCE: A 'wingfull'  
deployment for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

*text by Major Simon Côté,  
OC A Coy (Para), 3 R22eR*

*photos by Corporal Maxime Lefebvre*

**A** Company of 3R22eR was deployed to Poland as part of Op REASSURANCE Roto 4 from June 28, 2015 to February 23, 2016. Most of the Land Task Force (LTF) soldiers came from the Para Coy of 3 R22eR. It was augmented by paratroopers from various units, such as a FOO detachment from 5 RALC, a sapper engineer section from 3 RGC and medics from 5 AmbC. There were a total of 136 paratroopers in Roto 4. Of these 136 jumpers, we had four riggers, three JMs and six PIs. The rest of the LTF was comprised of members from numerous other units, both Regular Force and Reserve Force, for a grand total of 220 members in the Canadian contingent.





**CI-HAUT:** Les parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (3 R22eR), ont pris part dans l'Exercice TRIDENT JUNCTURE à Tancos au Portugal à l'automne 2015. Le deuxième saut fut un saut en masse de cinq aéronefs — deux américains (C-130 Hercules), un allemand (C-160 Transall), un danois (C-130J Hercules) et un canadien (CC-130 Hercules) — qui ont largué 244 sauteurs, dont 120 Canadiens et 124 Portugais.

**CI-BAS:** Les parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3 R22eR ont mis en pratique l'interopérabilité avec des alliés lors de leurs exercices internationaux en 2015, tel l'Exercice TRIDENT JUNCTURE au Portugal.

**PAGE OPPOSÉE:** Les parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3 R22eR au Portugal.

**ABOVE:** Members of A Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (3 R22eR), took part in Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE in Tancos, Portugal, in the fall of 2015. The second jump was a mass drop from five aircraft — two American C-130 (Hercules), one German C-160 (Transall), one Danish C-130 (Hercules) and one Canadian CC-130 (Hercules). A total of 244 jumpers were dispatched, of which there were 120 Canadians and 124 Portuguese soldiers.

**BELOW:** The paras from A Company 3 R22eR practiced interoperability with their allies during their international operations, such as EX TRIDENT JUNCTURE in 2015.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Members of A Company 3 R22eR in Portugal.



La FOT était basée au secteur d'entraînement de Drawsko Pomorskie (DPTA), dans le nord-ouest de la Pologne. De là, elle s'est entraînée dans cinq pays différents: la Pologne, la Lituanie, la Lettonie, l'Allemagne et le Portugal, dans des exercices bilatéraux et internationaux. Trois de ces exercices furent au niveau de compagnie; soit ALLIED SPIRIT II (août 2015) et IV (janvier 2016) à Hohenfels en Allemagne, base américaine du centre d'entraînement multinational interarmées (Joint Multinational Readiness Center – JMRC) et TRIDENT JUNCTURE à Tancos au Portugal (octobre/novembre 2015) — base de l'école des troupes parachutistes et base du 31<sup>e</sup> Bataillon de Parachutistes.

Le gain en expérience et les leçons apprises en interopérabilité des parachutistes furent très importants et plusieurs d'entre eux ont reçu des ailes étrangères, dont 120 ailes polonaises, 119 ailes portugaises et 50 ailes américaines. Nos alliés polonais ont fait preuve de classe en invitant les membres qualifiés chute libre à effectuer une dizaine de sauts ainsi qu'en leur permettant de passer trois heures dans le tunnel à vent. De plus, le deuxième saut au Portugal fut un saut en masse de cinq aéronefs — deux américains (C-130 Hercules), un allemand (C-160 Transall), un danois (C-130J Hercules) et un canadien (CC-130 Hercules) — ont largué 244 sauteurs, dont 120 Canadiens et 124 Portugais. Par l'aveu de tous, ce fut un saut mémorable, car rarement accompli durant les dernières années au Canada. Enfin, nous avons pu rendre la pareille aux Portugais en larguant 129 sauteurs avec nos CT-1 et en leur remettant des ailes canadiennes.

Pendant presque huit mois de déploiement, le Groupe-Cie Para du 3 R22eR a rayonné à travers l'Europe. Il a appris une multitude de leçons, tant dans son rôle parachutiste que celui d'infanterie légère. Le vingtième anniversaire de la Cie Para aura été sans aucun doute très mémorable !!

*Je me souviens – AIRBORNE! ■*

**CI-DROITE:** Les parachutistes de la compagnie A du 3<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (3 R22eR), sautent d'un aéronef C-130J de la Force aérienne royale danoise lors de l'Exercice TRIDENT JUNCTURE à Tancos au Portugal à l'automne 2015. Le groupe fut déployé pendant presque huit mois — une belle façon de célébrer un 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire!

**RIGHT:** Paras from 3 R22eR's A Company jump from a Royal Danish Air Force C-130J aircraft during Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE at Tancos, Portugal, in the fall of 2015. The group was deployed for almost eight months — a great way to mark a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

The LTF was based out of the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area (DPTA) in north-western Poland. From there it trained in five countries — Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany and Portugal — on bilateral or multinational exercises. Three of these exercises were at the company level; ALLIED SPIRIT II (August 2015) and IV (January 2016) in Hohenfels, Germany, home of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) and TRIDENT JUNCTURE (October/November 2015) in Tancos, Portugal, home of the Parachute Troops School Base and of the Paratroopers Battalion 31.

Interoperability was a major focus for the members of the LTF and a great number of them received foreign wings: 120 Polish wings, 119 Portuguese wings and 50 American wings. Also, our Polish allies were excellent hosts and showed great professionalism by inviting our freefall members to 10 jumps and three hours each in their wind tunnel. Furthermore, a highlight of our deployment was taking part in a five-aircraft mass drop in Portugal, with two American C-130 (Hercules), one German C-160 (Transall), one Danish C-130 (Hercules) and one Canadian CC-130 (Hercules). A total of 244 jumpers were dispatched, of which there were 120 Canadians and 124 Portuguese soldiers. This was a memorable moment for all, as this type of jump has rarely been accomplished in the past years in Canada. Noteworthy, we were able to dispatch and give 129 Canadian jump wings to our Portuguese Para hosts.

Over the past seven and a half months, Para Company Group from 3R22eR was able to exercise and jump throughout Europe. We learned numerous lessons both in our Para role and in our light infantry mandate. This deployment overseas certainly has made for a remarkable 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!!

*Je me souviens – AIRBORNE ! ■*





## QOR

### *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2015 in Review*

*By Major Scott Moody  
OC Para Coy*

**F**or The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR), 2015 was an important year as the unit was designated the lead for the composite battle group (BG) that is drawn from 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) each year. The BG would be put to the challenge in defensive and offensive operations during Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN 2015 (SG 15) in August at CFB Petawawa, with the support of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG). For the QOR, this translated into additional training events during the year to adequately prepare for this challenge.

To start the year off, the QOR conducted Exercise FROZEN PEGASUS, the annual basic winter warfare refresher. The exercise culminated in a full-equipment parachute descent from a CC-130J that supported an airborne assault on Mountain View Airfield. At the end of January, the BG HQ and company command teams travelled to CFB Petawawa to participate in a computer-aided exercise (CAX) at the simulation centre to start preparing our command teams for Ex SG 15.

During February, the unit travelled to CFB Borden for Exercise FROZEN PEGASUS 2. This exercise consisted of recce patrols that defined objectives that would each be deliberately attacked by a platoon. At the end of the exercise, the QOR Para Coy was picked up at Lake Simcoe Regional Airport by a CC-130J. Once airborne, an in-flight dress was conducted, followed by a parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson at CFD Mountain View.

In March, the QOR conducted a basic mountain operations course for 32 CBG. This course is an annual event that leverages the advanced mountain and complex terrain skills within the QOR. It is run from several locations in southern Ontario, including Rattlesnake Point Park, Elora Gorge and 4 Div TC Meaford. The QOR also managed to provide a platoon to support Exercise CABER THRUST, a

**ABOVE:** This photo was taken from one of the other nine CC-130J Hercules aircraft taking part in Exercise ELEPHANT WALK in September 2015. (MCPL MATHIEU ST. AMOUR, 8 WING IMAGING)



company offensive exercise run by the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders. The month ended with members of Para Coy supporting 436 Squadron airdrops in Trenton.

April was the first time the composite BG had the opportunity to come together. This occurred during Exercise STALWART VALIDATION 1 at 4 Div TC Meaford. The goal was to review the defensive battle task standards and conduct a section defensive live fire. The BG consisted of three rifle companies, made up of the six reserve infantry units from 32 CBG, a recce squadron and an artillery battery. The exercise was a great opportunity to shake cobwebs out and prepare for the next collective training exercise in May. The following weekend, members of Para Coy travelled to CFB Trenton to participate in a full-equipment parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson.

Exercise STALWART VALIDATION 2 was held in early May and once again the QOR-led composite BG came together. This time it was to establish a BG defensive position and deal with an aggressive opposing force. The exercise was a great success and helped prepared the BG for Ex SG 15. To maintain sharpness, Para Coy came together for Exercise QUICK RIG 1, a one-day exercise that included multiple parachute descents in CFB Trenton.

A second TEWT for the QOR BG was held in Petawawa in June. This allowed the BG HQ to see the ground they would be working on and prepare for their defensive in August. At the end of June the biannual parachute refresher was held at CFB Trenton. During this training event all of the paratroopers from the QOR and 32 CBG came together to refresh and update their skills in airborne operations and participate in a parachute drops from a CC-130J Hercules.

June, July and August are the months in which regional summer training (RST) goes into full swing. This brought

many of the unit's personnel to Meaford, Petawawa and Borden to attend or teach courses. For the QOR, this included sending candidates and an instructor to support a basic parachute course in Trenton.

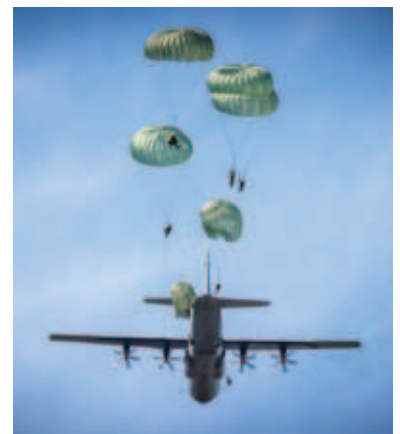
In early August, the QOR Para Coy conducted the continuation parachute training in Trenton by leveraging a 436 Squadron Joint Tactical Airlift training exercise. We had two days of incredible weather and were able to conduct four parachute descents.

On August 13, the QOR's BG moved to CFB Petawawa to start Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN 15. The composite BG grew in size with the addition of 24 Field Squadron from 2 CER and FOO/FAC/JTAC/UAV assets from 2 RCHA, assets the primary reserve rarely has the opportunity to see in action. During the first week of the exercise soldiers from the BG were detached and had the opportunity to hone their skills in offensive operations with 3 RCR and then review defensive operations with 1 RCR. Concurrently, the BG HQ prepared for the exercise and participated in a CAX.

During the second week, the QOR's BG deployed and conducted defensive operations using WES kit against 3 RCR. The defensive fight was aided by an impressive barrier plan that included a two-kilometre-long anti-tank ditch and an incredible fire plan that included artillery and air assets. The exercise then transitioned to the offence and took the fight to the enemy.

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**ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: (1)** A paratrooper gives her parachute one last review before suiting up. **(2)** A paratrooper exits the side door of a CC-130J aircraft during a training exercise. During 2015, the QOR had several opportunities to hone their skills. **(3)** Paratroopers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada enter a waiting CC-130J Hercules.



September started off with Exercise ELEPHANT WALK, with 436 Squadron, in which 10 CC-130J formation drops were conducted. The QOR provided jumpers to support this event, which was the largest formation drop in over 20 years. That same week, Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE 1 — a patrolling exercise that focused on getting our soldiers back into the patrolling spirit — was held at CFB Borden. At the end of the month we held Exercise QUICK RIG 2 at CFB Trenton, which involved a full-equipment parachute descent on to Mountain View Airfield.

A few weeks later, the QOR held Exercise MOUNTAIN LEADER at Rattlesnake Point in Milton, Ontario. MOUNTAIN LEADER is the annual complex terrain refresher that the QOR runs for the 32 CBG. The following week Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE 2 was held at CFB Petawawa. This was a force-on-force exercise, in which the QOR Para Coy conducted an airborne raid against 60<sup>th</sup> Coy, which had established an urban defensive in the urban operations village. During the exercise the unit worked with 3 RCR's Mike Company, who jumped in earlier and acted as the recce element for the airborne assault. The exercise was a great success and demonstrated the strong working relationship with 3 RCR. There were also a few firsts on this exercise: we conducted an air drop of mini UAVs and also jumped loud speakers so the Psychological Operations Detachment could employ them during the attack.

Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE 3 was held at CFB Trenton and consisted of an airborne seize-and-hold of Mountain View Airfield. Once the airfield was secured by the airborne force, 60<sup>th</sup> Coy followed by conducting a tactical air landing in a CC-130J. This allowed the defence of the airfield to be built up and was a textbook airborne operation.

The year ended with our biannual refresher in Trenton. Once again we brought our jumpers together from the unit and refreshed and updated skills. The day culminated with a full equipment night jump onto DZ Hodgson. At the same time we also ran a refresher for our helicopter insertion instructors and members of 32 CBG. This included CH-146 rappels in Trenton, as well as at Downsview Airfield. ■

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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1)** Ten CC-130J Hercules aircraft are taxiing in formation on the runway at CFB Trenton during Exercise ELEPHANT WALK in September 2015. (MCPL MATHIEU ST. AMOUR, 8 WING IMAGING) **(2)** Rappelling from a CH-146 Griffon at Downsview Airfield in Toronto. (CPL JUSTIN DREIMANIS) **(3)** A member of the QOR secures the airfield at Mountain View during PEGASUS STRIKE 3. **(4)** Paratroopers conduct a double exit jump from a CC-130J.

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## CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Master Corporal Leander Volz,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Light  
Canadian Infantry*



**M**Cpl Leander Volz grew up in Burns Lake, British Columbia and was immersed in life as a hunter and woodsman. His father taught him at a young age how to survive in the wilderness, skills he has shared with his fellow soldiers. Developing these skills taught him the value of a life of learning, which he intends to pass on to his two young children. His outstanding discipline, dedication and expertise are apparent in everything he does.

MCpl Volz joined the CAF in 2006 and was posted to 1 PPCLI in June of 2007. Within six months of becoming a Patricia, MCpl Volz evolved from a new DP1 Infantryman graduate to a highly skilled soldier prepared to deploy to Afghanistan in early 2008. His first tour was the Infantry Battle Group where he conducted countless patrols throughout Kandahar province.

Shortly after returning to Canada, he was posted to 3 PPCLI, where he truly began to excel. His attitude and dedication continued to serve him well, and he was

eager to learn new skills to bolster the unit's capabilities. Over the last few years, he completed Basic Parachutist, Basic Mountain Operations, Static Line Square Canopy, Complex Terrain Instructor, Jump Master, and the Rifle Section Commander Course (RSCC). MCpl Volz returned to Afghanistan in 2011 to train the Afghan National Army on fieldcraft and general soldier skills. As a natural teacher and preeminent leader, he also led the 3 PPCLI team during the Canadian Patrol Concentration in 2014, developing the skills of young soldiers to compete at the prestigious event.

Within the last year, MCpl Volz unfailingly displayed the utmost levels of professionalism, devotion and offensive eagerness expected of a paratrooper. After

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**ABOVE:** MCpl Volz receives the Airborne Soldier of the Year Award from LCol Jay Adair, CO 3 PPCLI, and CWO Paul Francis, RSM 3 PPCLI.

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recuperating from a broken foot, he requested to be sent to the Infantry School to develop his already impressive skills on the newly developed RSCC, a challenging course testing candidates' battle procedure knowledge, leadership, fitness, and overall field skills. He dominated the course with his leadership, conditioning and pure will. His masterful performance earned him the top candidate award for the course. Within a month of completing RSCC, MCpl Volz was off to the Canadian Advanced Army Warfare Centre (CAAWC) to complete the demanding Parachute Instructor course, joining the elite ranks of the Army Airborne community. He then instructed on both a Jump Master and a Basic Parachutist course, ably bestowing his knowledge and enthusiasm unto others.

Upon returning to the battalion, MCpl Volz performed jump master duties during Exercise ARCTIC RAM near Resolute Bay, Nunavut. As a jump master, he was instrumental to the success of the exercise during the challenging in-flight dressing leading to a full equipment jump into the high Arctic at night. He also trained a U.S. Army platoon from 3-509<sup>th</sup> (Airborne) on the CT-1 parachute and drop bag so they could participate. The ability of the U.S. platoon to deploy using Canadian parachutes, equipment and aircraft was directly attributable to MCpl Volz's stellar instructional ability and standout knowledge of parachuting. Shortly thereafter, he deployed on Exercise PROMETHEAN RAM as a Section Commander to lead his section through challenging live-fire ranges up to the company level, and conduct an airborne assault on a platoon-size defensive position. His aggressiveness and leadership were fundamental to the success of his platoon and the Parachute Company throughout the exercise.

MCpl Volz is an outstanding airborne leader who lives and breathes under the canopy. His constant preparedness for exercises and operations, team building, and skill development, all propagate the best tenets of the Airborne Community. A strong leader with expert knowledge of parachuting and airborne operations, his understanding of fieldcraft sets him apart from his peers, while his ability to both interpret these concepts and instruct them to



superiors and subordinates displays an incredible level of maturity. Constantly seeking to better himself, his pursuit of self-improvement serves as an outstanding example for his peers.

Without a doubt, MCpl Volz embodies all aspects of the Airborne Spirit and displays every quality expected of a Paratrooper and is thereby fully deserving of the CAFA Airborne Soldier of the Year Award. ■

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



**T**he 2015 recipient of the CAFA/ARAC Scholarship is Miss Chelsea Michaela Cadieux, of North Bay Ontario, the granddaughter of Gordon Edwards, formerly of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Miss Cadieux will be attending Nipissing University, enrolled in a Bachelor of Science Nursing program. Miss Cadieux stands with her grandparents, Pauline and Gord Edwards. ■

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**ABOVE RIGHT:** MCpl Leander Volz, a jump master with 3 PPCLI, performs a parachute-landing-fall training exercise with U.S. paratroopers at the Airborne Sustainment Training Area at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. ARMY)

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## SPIRITUALITY FOR JUMPERS

*BGen (ret'd) David C. Kettle CMM, CD, DD*  
*Chaplain – ARAC*

I can remember, during J Stage of my Basic Para training, anxiously waiting to board a 1960s vintage C-130 for my second jump. I was anxious about my first jump, but now, having experienced it for the first time, I felt I had good reason to be anxious.

I can remember praying intently for courage and then it dawned on me that perhaps others might be a bit anxious as well and so I decided to get on my feet — I was bent over from having my parachute strapped on rather snugly — and invite people to pray with me. The directing staff scowled and informed me that I could only pray if I did it while doing pushups. Pushups have never been an issue for me so while doing pushups I prayed that we might all have faith in the first rate training we received, the top notch equipment that we were using, the expertise and meticulousness of the riggers who had packed our chutes, and that God would assist us in egressing in a perfect jab position, that we would practice sound flight procedure, that we would keep our knees together throughout the jump, that no one would accidentally steal our air, that we would pull effective slips, that we wouldn't get so freaked out that we would forget to deploy our equipment safely, and that upon landing we would roll in the most appropriate manner.



While doing pushups I couldn't tell if anyone was praying with me; the silence was deafening. Now, I never believed in the adage that there are no atheists in foxholes, because I know that it is an exaggeration, but they certainly aren't in the majority. I can remember on the bus, after the second jump, a young sapper approaching me and saying with expletives I will not repeat here, "Thanks for the prayer Padre. I was really @%#\*&\$ scared!"

I have long since come to terms with the notion that people do not need organized religion to practice a healthy spirituality. I believe that healthy religious practice is valuable and that it can enhance one's spirituality, but its absence is by no means a showstopper. Over the years I have faced many challenges, have been exposed to many dangers both large and small, have felt overwhelmed on many occasions, have despaired, and have felt depressed. I survived and lived to see the sun shining brightly in my life again, I believe, because of my spiritual resilience.

While I enjoy and benefit immensely from formal worship, what is more important for me is what I do outside of formal worship. Trying as best I can to actually practice

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**ABOVE:** As Chaplain Kettle states, there can be no experience more spiritual than jumping out of an airplane.

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the Golden Rule and the greatest Commandment — in the real world — is what grounds me spiritually. It connects me to my Creator in a very real and dynamic manner and I carry that relationship with me no matter what happens. Physically, I may face challenges alone, but spiritually I know that I am never alone, that what I understand to be God is always with me and through Him (or Her), with everyone else who loves and supports me both living and in the hereafter.

I have always been into physical fitness and I believe that physical and spiritual fitness are intimately connected. Those who practice yoga and meditation have always known this. Make no mistake, the practice of the martial arts is deeply spiritual. I do some of my best praying when I am doing my daily work out. I find that combining the two helps to propel me through my day in a most powerful, dynamic and meaningful fashion.

What I am speaking about here, and trying to gently advocate, is developing spiritual resilience. Spiritual resilience is not something that develops accidentally. To develop your spiritual resilience you need to be intentional about it. Practicing one's religion is one way, but there are many, many others. Some have already been mentioned: meditation, yoga, martial arts, personal prayer, reading good spiritual material both religious and/or secular and being engaged in charitable acts. Some glean spiritual strength from rigorous activity: weight training, jogging, swimming, skiing, cycling, training and participating in marathons, biathlons and triathlons, or from hiking and taking in the wonders of nature, or through waters sports (sailing, fishing, kayaking) — or even from riding a motor cycle. All of these activities can provide a feeling of well-being that surpasses normal experience and transports you from the physical to the spiritual. Over time and through consistent practice, they can lead to spiritual resilience that will improve quality of life and will promote health and well-being even in the most trying of circumstances.

Personally, I am sold on religion because for me it creates a framework that in my particular case allows me to more fully express myself spiritually but it is not the only way this can be achieved. I encourage you to be open to the spiritual and to practice whatever works for you.

Lastly, I believe that I am talking to an audience who is deeply spiritual — for there can be no experience more intensely spiritual than jumping out of an airplane. Have a good one jumpers! ■



## 1 CAN PARA

*72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Ceremony:  
1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cairn,  
Siffleur Falls*

*by Capt (ret'd) Bill Dickson  
Coordinator/MC 2016 D-Day Ceremony*

**T**he ceremony format will not be changed this year. However, we have been informed that the Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and her husband, will attend the ceremony, which will take place on June 6, but will start a bit earlier this year to afford as much time on site with the Lieutenant Governor as possible.

It is great to know that MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts and his wife are coming again this year. Also, rumour has it that MGen (ret'd) Brian Vernon will also attend. It would be a real coup to have both our Airborne patron and the new Colonel of the Regiment (COR) attend the ceremony.

Two other issues still up in the air are the total available spots for the climb up Ex Coelis Mountain's Normandy Peak on June 5, and total participation numbers for the ceremony from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI), and any representation from UK personnel from British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). It is almost certain there will be no para drop into Abrams Lake this year because the Wainwright exercise is still going on during the same time period. With regards to the climb, I have been informed of at least three



members from 3 PPCLI who will attend the ceremony and make the climb. Our own Colonel (ret'd) Bill Fletcher has also volunteered to participate in the climb. Some local retired members

are also coming forward, so we should have a respectable group for this ascent on June 5.

Currently, the ashes of two 1 Can Para veterans and one ex-CAR veteran will be taken to the top of Normandy Peak. As we have three sets of veterans' ashes going up Normandy Peak this year, there are indicators there could be as many as 24 family members attending. If Army Cadets can make the climb, I'm sure there are still a few of us (without steel knees that is!) that can make it. The repeated contributions of a Padre would be great!

We have been promised that attendance by members of both 1 Can Para and First Special Service Force (FSSF) re-enactment personnel will take place again this year, at the parade and after at the BBQ. The kit shop will also be in operation at the meet and greet and at the BBQ.

On March 17, I had the pleasure of attending some of 3 PPCLI's events. It started with an early, cool, just on the wind limits para drop at DZ Buxton out of a C-17. A really spectacular sight to watch for us old farts! I was back at the lines later and had ample opportunity to talk to the CO, RSM and others regarding the D-Day ceremony. It was then that I received some of the assurances and participation information previously mentioned.

In the afternoon, the PPCLI's COR, MGen Vernon, came over to the 3rd Battalion lines, so I had an opportunity to speak with him. The CO spoke about the new "speakeasy" room for officers and senior NCOs they had set up in their HQ. It was then dedicated in honour of, and to, MGen Pitts.

Best to all. Airborne! ■



**ABOVE & LEFT:** A new "speakeasy" room for PPCLI officers and senior NCOs was set up in their headquarters, dedicated to MGen Herb Pitts.

## 1 CAN PARA

### *1 Can Para Association's Final Year in Review*

*by Joanne de Vries*



### **Change of Command at CAAWC (July 13, 2015)**

As has been the custom, a copy of the Battalion pictorial history *Tip of the Spear* was presented to LCol François Caron, the new Commanding Officer of CAAWC, with best wishes for an enjoyable and successful posting.

### **Army Cadet Basic Para Graduation Parade (July 31, 2015)**

Forty-two cadets plus one officer received their wings on the main parade square at CFB Trenton under warm sunny skies. BGen (ret'd) Ian Douglas was the Reviewing Officer. He gave a most thoughtful address to the Cadets with encouraging words and good advice.

**ABOVE:** Members of 1 Can Para gathered in 2010 for the Association's the final luncheon. (CAPT. CHARLES MCGREGOR)

The top overall cadet was Declan Fitzpatrick, from 2672 Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Army Cadet Corps, which is located in Peterborough. The top jumper was Cadet Matthew Durda, from 2051-19 Alberta Dragoon Army Cadet Corps, which is located in Edmonton.

The recipient of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Bursary was Cadet Mahdi Ahsan from 2332 RCACC in Ottawa. Cadet Ahsan has been accepted to honours in the Bachelor of Health Sciences programme. His intention is to continue to medical school, aspiring to be a surgeon. We wish him well and continued success.

Special mention goes to RSM Adam Hohner from 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Army Cadet Corps #100 in Brighton, who successfully completed the Basic Para Course this summer. He is the second cadet from this unit to complete the course. The first was Eric Clarke in 2013. Eric will be sworn in as an infantry soldier in August 2015 and will be off to Basic Training at the beginning of September. Congratulations to both Adam and Eric.

Congratulations to all the fine young men who completed the Basic Para Course.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion Association Closing***

After discussion with Jim Pascaris CA, who audited the Battalion Association's books, MGen (ret'd) Herb Pitts, Patron of the Association, and a couple additional Battalion



members, it was decided that it was time to close the books. It was agreed that the small amount on account be handed over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Army Cadet Corps #100 which is based in Brighton, Ontario.

At the Annual Parade on June 11, 2016 the Pace Stick which Jan de Vries carried on parades during his time as President of the Association was presented to the Corps. Among the attendees at this Annual Parade were Battalion member Bill Talbot, his wife Helen, Adrienne Anderson, Joanne de Vries, Gord Barratt (nephew of Fred Topham), and BGen and Mrs. Ian Douglas, LCol Caron who was the Reviewing Officer, and RSM Pichie from CAAWC. Awards were presented to deserving cadets in memory of Cpl. Topham VC, Col. Nicklin, Col. Eadie, Andy Anderson and Jan de Vries. ■

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## IN MEMORIAM

### *Remembering WO Frank Evans*

*by Jon O'Connor,  
Frank's old army buddy*



**I**t was a hot day in September when Warrant Officer Francis “Frank” John James Evans, CD was interred at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa. Inside the Hall of Colours, his framed portrait was in the operational camouflage uniform of our last war. Below lay his headdress (Frank always had a good looking beret) and beside that, his rack of service medals. This is a soldier’s résumé, and Frank’s revealed his participation in the shifting geopolitical history of the last quarter century.

Frank joined the military at the exact moment the Cold War ended. He was one of the last classic peacekeepers, serving in Nicosia, Cyprus, during Canada’s final deployment there (after 29 years). It was impossible to predict then that this same soldier would be in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2006 at the height of Canada’s expeditionary experience in a very different war.

Frank joined the military in 1989 and was posted to Petawawa, Ontario, becoming a member of E Battery (Para), in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

Colloquially known as the “Airborne Gunners,” Frank became a paratrooper, which set the tone for the pride he conveyed throughout his career. After 10 years of serving “The Guns,” Frank joined a new regimental family by becoming a lineman in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

While Frank chose a life in the military, understanding him best is to know that the military was not his life, his family was. In January 1994, Frank met Sandi Scharf on a blind date. It was love at first sight and must have been, as they were engaged four months later and married by October. They were best friends. In 1999, Frank’s life was made whole with the birth of their son Connor, his greatest joy.

An ardent parent, Frank was active in all aspects of his son’s life. The years spent as a hockey dad evolved into them skating on the same line together. They also played music together with Connor on guitar and Frank on drums. A passionate aficionado of 1980s hair metal (Frank always had a good head of hair), he sat behind the drum kit, keeping steady time for his band Cold Comfort. Sadly,



time expired for the planned stage debut of father and son.

In the weeks before he died, Frank told Sandi that he had no life regrets. He said that he had no bucket list because he didn't need one. He had climbed the mountains, jumped out of planes, seen the world and created life in Connor.

In the end, Francis beat the cancer that took his life. Having lived the life that he wanted, he was able to die on his own terms even though it was not at a time of his choosing. Frank was a soldier who went to war, a man who married his true love and fathered a son to fulfillment. His story is his love, his life was his family, and his legacy is persistent in those who knew him. ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For more information on Frank's battle, read his blog at <https://taskforcefrank.wordpress.com>.



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Frank Evans joined the Forces in 1989 and served proudly with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Canadian Horse Artillery for 10 years, with six of those years as part of E Battery (Para) in support of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

**TOP LEFT:** Frank went on multiple deployments during his career, including Cyprus (1992), Honduras (in 1998 as part of DART), and Afghanistan (in 2006 with 1 RCR). **TOP CENTRE:** Frank Evans during a live fire exercise. An M109 155mm Howitzer is in the background. **TOP RIGHT:** Frank marches towards a waiting CC-130 Hercules.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** A devoted family man, Frank's biggest life accomplishment came on September 11, 1999, when his son, Connor Kenneth Evans, was born.

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## SOUVENIRS DE SOMALIE

*texte et photos par  
ADJUC (ret.) Stéphane (Kakarnack) Richard,  
Adjudant pon de maintenance, Ab Svc Cdo,  
Ancien membre du Régiment aéroporté et fier  
d'avoir servi avec les élites!!*

**C**a fait longtemps que je me dis, un jour je vais envoyer quelques photos qui intéresseraient peut-être mes anciens frères d'armes du Régiment aéroporté! Hé bien, voici quelques photos en Somalie avec le Régiment.

**AIRBORNE!** ■

**CI-BAS:** J'ai eu la chance d'avoir un saut de parachute en Somalie ... comme vous le voyez, voici la préparation par les Jump Masters Sergeants Christian Binet et Roch Pouliot du 1 CDO. // **BELOW:** I had the chance to have made a parachute jump in Somalia ... as you can see, here is the preparation by Jump Masters Sergeants Christian Binet and Rock Pouliot of 1 Commando.



## SOMALIA REMEMBERED

*text and photos by  
CWO (ret'd) Stéphane (Kakarnack) Richard,  
Maintenance Pl, Ab Svc Cdo, former member  
of the Airborne Regiment and proud of having  
served with the elite!*

**F**or a long time I thought, one day I'll send some pictures that may interest my older brothers in arms of the Canadian Airborne Regiment! Well, here are some pictures taken in Somalia with the Regiment.

**AIRBORNE!** ■

**CI-BAS:** Il y avait un hôpital à Belet-Uën. À mon retour de vacance j'ai apporté du linge de ma fille pour donner aux gens locaux et, comme vous le voyez, cette petite fille a apprécié la jaquette et le petit jouet! // **BELOW:** There was a hospital in Belet Uen. Upon my return from holidays, I brought back some of my daughter's clothing to give to local people and, as you can see, this young girl enjoyed receiving a nightgown and a small toy!





**CI-HAUT:** Une petite cuisine pour cuisson des rations dures sur Coleman à deux ronds! Un tub à Varsol comme lavabo ayant l'eau provenant d'une remorque à eau munie d'une pompe de cale d'un Bison. Wow! // **ABOVE:** A small kitchen for the cooking of hard rations on a Coleman stove with two burners! A tub of Varsol was used as a sink while water came from a water trailer equipped with a Bison's bilge pump. Wow!



**CI-HAUT:** Ma gang, Maintenance du Svc Cdo, avait mis leurs signatures sur la façade de notre QG, dortoir, cuisine ... // **ABOVE:** My gang, Maintenance of the Svc Cdo, had put their signatures on the front of our headquarters, dormitory, kitchen ...

**CI-BAS:** La Maintenance avait une machine à laver qui était unique! Poubelle de métal, un Drill Press avec une tige de métal incluant un rabat en caoutchouc pour brasser le linge, l'eau et le savon! Ça lavait nos vêtements de combat avec succès, mais pour ce qui est des bobettes ... on se trouvait avec des bobettes n'ayant plus d'élastique! // **BELOW:** Maintenance had a washing machine that was unique! A metal trash can, a Drill Press with a rubber flap attached to a metal rod to agitate the clothes, soap and water! It did a good job on our combat clothing, but as for our underwear ... we ended up with underwear that had no more elastic!



**CI-HAUT:** Une visite chez un des deux locaux qui travaillaient avec moi à la maintenance. J'ai dû leur donner du linge (casquette, gilet, jeans, bas et bottes de combats) pour travailler. En échange, ils m'ont appuyé dans la réparation de pneus ... on en a fait une quantité industrielle! // **ABOVE:** A visit to one of the two premises that worked with me in maintenance. I had to give them all kinds of clothes (ball caps, T-shirts, jeans, socks and combat boots) in which to work. In exchange, they helped me repair tires ... lots of tires!



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**Application Form**  
**The Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC)**

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

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

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

**7. Current Airborne Associations (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_ new member? \_\_\_\_\_ renewal?

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

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## THE LAST POST

Allain, Ray — CAFA  
Allen, Lewis — RC Signals  
Anderson, Ronald "Andy" — 1 Can Para  
Banks, Don — RC Signals, Cdn AB Regt  
Bolke, Sven — RC Signals  
Braidwood, Peter — 1 Can Para  
Branscombe, Warren "Tinker" — RC Signals  
Davies, Ron — Parachute Regiment  
Hall, Frank — PPCLI, MSF  
Hillier, Art — RC Signals  
Homer-Dixon, Douglas — 1 Can Para  
Kingsley, Jim — CAFA  
Jennings, Doug — RCAPC  
Jones, Merv — 1 Can Para  
Lee, Gordon George — Cdn AB Regt  
Kingsley, Jim — 1 Can Para  
Knowles, John — 1 Can Para  
Labossier, Dennis — 1 Can Para  
Lockyer, Mark — 1 Can Para  
MacNeil, John Leo — RCR, Cdn AB Regt  
MacDonald, Marvin George — RCR, Cdn AB Regt  
McIlvenny, Jack — 1 Can Para  
Moeller, Dieter — Cdn Guards, PPCLI  
Neal, Howard — 1 Can Para  
Patterson, Scott — QOR  
Phillips, Barry — RCASC, Cdn AB Regt  
Price, Frank — 1 Can Para  
Remple, Deitrich (Dick) — 1 Can Para  
Rossignol, Adrien — 1 Can Para  
Sandford, Eugene — 1 Can Para  
Sawden, Tom — 1 Can Para  
Story, William — FSSF

### *William (Bill) Story, First Special Service Force*

Bill was an original member of the FSSF. He trained at Fort Harrison as a Canadian Sergeant, received a field commission on Monte la Defensa, and was one of the Canadian soldiers who fell out on December 5, 1944 at Menton, France. After the war, Bill was instrumental in creating the First Special Service Force Association and served as its Executive Director for 32 years.



### *Ron Davies, The Parachute Regiment*

Ron Davies was one of the originals of Airborne forces. He was born in Sheffield and served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, from its inception. Ron reached the rank of Sergeant and completed five operational jumps in WWII, fighting in North Africa, Sicily, Italy (including Monte Casino), the south of France, Greece (where the battalion dropped in winds of 40 mph) and finally took part in action in Malaya.

After the war, Ron served with 135 Lt Regiment and 44 Parachute Brigade. He was commissioned while serving with 44 Brigade and attained the rank of Major. He was a former President of the British Airborne Forces Association (Toronto) and a regular attendee at the annual Airborne Luncheon at the Royal Canadian Military Institute.



### *Frank Hall, PPCLI and Mobile Strike Force*

Frank served with 1 PPCLI from February 1948 to February 1950 in the Regimental Signal Platoon. He qualified as a paratrooper in December 1948 with the Mobile Strike Force. Since leaving the army in 1950, he worked at two



jobs: Berkels in sales and service for 14 years and the Toronto Transit Commission as an electrician for 23 years. He retired in July 1987.

He joined the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association in 1990. In 1992, he took over the position of Treasurer and Membership Chairman with the branch, until he was asked in 1995 to assume

those duties with CAFA National. He held those positions until 2001, when he relinquished the role of Treasurer, but kept the position of Membership until 2011. He was largely responsible for growing the membership of CAFA from approximately 200 to 600 during his tenure. He was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 54 years where he held various appointments.

### ***Scott Patterson, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada***

Chief Warrant Officer Scott F. Patterson joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in April 1979, after transferring from the Central Militia Special Training Unit. He completed his Basic Parachutist Course in January 1982 and Airborne Indoctrination Course in August 1983, making him an original member of the QOR Jump Platoon. He acted as DZ Controller for many jumps and equipment drops throughout Ontario, Canada's Arctic and the USA.

He served as Regimental Sergeant Major of the QOR from 2004 to 2008, and followed by terms as the RSM of 32 Combat Brigade Group Battle School as well as 32 Service Battalion. He was employed with the Toronto Ambulance Services, was a member of the Maple Leaf Rifle Club, and an avid collector of military memorabilia.

Scott died February 10, 2016 in Toronto. In honour of CWO Patterson, the Base Commander has named a new parachute Drop Zone at CFB Borden "DZ Patterson."



### ***Ronald (Andy) Anderson, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion***

Sergeant Ronald Ford (Andy) Anderson joined the militia in 1941 with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was shipped to England that same year with 8<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, RCE, where he served as a Troop Sergeant. In 1944, he transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion.

After the Battalion returned to England from Normandy, they were then rapidly redeployed to participate in the Battle of the Ardennes (known by the Americans as the Battle of the Bulge) over Christmas 1944. Andy said that they were sent to Belgium with not much more than their summer dress and equipment, and he remembered the cold and the snow.

Returning again to England after pushing back the Germans, the Battalion prepared for Operation VARSITY — the crossing of the Rhine and the invasion of Germany. On March 24, 1945, 1 Can Para jumped right onto the German positions. Andy spoke of hearing bullets whizzing by in the air and of holes in his parachute but, with an exit of around 500 feet, there wasn't a lot of time before hitting the ground.

Andy was one of the first Allied soldiers to link up with Russian forces, and ended the war with 1 Can Para in Wismar, Germany.

Following his return to Canada and the disbandment of the battalion in 1945, Sergeant Anderson joined the Toronto Police Force as a Traffic Division Officer. He and his partner, Warren (Smokey) Shaddock, were the first responders to the burning of the SS *Noronic* in Toronto Harbour in 1949, a disaster that cost 119 lives. That number would surely have been higher if it wasn't for the quick action of Andy and Smokey.

In 1955, he left the police to study Traffic Engineering at Northwestern University, then became a Traffic Engineer with the City of Scarborough. In 1967, he was appointed Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Scarborough; he served five successive mayors before his retirement in 1986.

He served several years as President of 1 Can Para Association and was a regular attendee at the annual Airborne Luncheon at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. ■





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<u>Application Type</u>	<u>Membership Type</u>
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*The completed application form may be returned by email to [CAFATreas\\_Mbrshp@yahoo.ca](mailto:CAFATreas_Mbrshp@yahoo.ca) with payment by E-transfer to the same email address.*



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