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La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood







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

Submissions are welcome and may be sent in electronic format (MS Word) to mb@ca.inter.net. The deadline for the 2013 issue is November 15, 2013. The Maroon Beret welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to mb@ca.inter.net. Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Cover photo of QOR on DZ de Vries, Moosonee, Ontario, taken in March 2013 by Paul Lantz.

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# CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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





ith the retirement of long-time CAFA/AFAC President Alain St. Yves this past summer, readers will be interested to know that our Acting President is an American paratrooper who enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1944, Angelo Di Liberti.

Angelo has served on the CAFA Board of Directors for many years as our U.S. liaison, and then accepted the position of vice-president. The exalted title of acting president fell to him upon Al's departure.

Rather than replicate the ARAC President's message on page 6, readers will be interested to know that Angelo is still jumping well into his 80s - having recently completed a tandem skydive with members of his family in the northeastern U.S.



**TOP:** Angelo Di Liberti walks on the tarmac to the waiting plane with his tandem skydiving instructor Jerry. **MIDDLE:** On the plane before the jump are seated the Di Liberti family and their tandem instructors. **BOTTOM:** Angelo and Jerry jump out of the plane.

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**TOP PHOTOS:** Angelo and Jerry have fun while free falling in tandem. **ABOVE LEFT:** Angelo and Jerry come in for a soft landing after their tandem skydiving jump. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Thumbs up after the jump (left to right): Andrea Maxwell (Angelo's granddaughter), Margaret Goodman (daughter), Sean Maxwell (grandson), Melanie Maxwell (granddaughter), Angelo Di Liberti, Daniel Anderson (grandson), Victoria Maxwell (daughter), Mary Pummer (daughter).

#### Military History of Angelo Di Liberti

- 18 December 1944: Enlisted in the U.S. Army
- 26 April 1946: Honorable Discharge (demobilization)
- 10 March 1953: Reenlisted
- 3 February 1955: Honorable Discharge (to accept commission)
- 4 February 1955: Commissioned

#### **Assignments**

- 89th Recon Company
- Platoon leader, company executive officer, various infantry units
- Assigned heavy mortar company, platoon leader
- Reassigned infantry company, executive officer
- Reassigned U.S. Army General Staff
- Plans officer
- In 1969, detailed as military aide at President Eisenhower's state funeral

- Assigned Army Security Agency Battalion
- Assigned Staff Officer group S4
- Assigned Staff Officer group S3
- Assigned Staff Officer group Executive Officer
- Retired 1983

#### Army Service Schools

- Army General School: Fort Riley, Kansas
- Basic Infantry Officer Course: Fort Benning, Georgia
- Associate Infantry Officer Career Course: Fort Benning, Georgia
- Army Intelligence School: Fort Holabird, Maryland
- U.S. Army General Staff College: Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- Airborne Training (Awarded Canadian Wings 1984): Fort Benning, Georgia
- Personnel Management Course: Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana

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# ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Paratroopers,

The shared experience of proudly serving with the Canadian Airborne Regiment has made each of us the individuals we are today. The bond with our fellow paratroopers is indestructible and is shared with only those few who have earn the right to wear the 'White Paratrooper Wing.' Members of the Regiment have served their country with pride with the knowledge that their unique skills, mental agility and physical fitness were vital to the protection of Canada. This pride and service to our community is the reason that the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC) exists. Your Association is proud to be the official voice of the veterans of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

During the Airborne Regiment's history and that of our predecessors, much was accomplished with very little; making the impossible possible was the order of the day. The ARAC Executive Committee continues to work hard during this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Airborne Forces in Canada. Padre Dave Kettle has recently joined the executive to shepherd the flock and yes, he brought his big stick!

A special mention goes to the good works of our friends in Edmonton and the Riggers Call supporting the raising of \$65K for the Canadian Airborne Regiment Memorial Cairn, to be located in the Airborne Park in Edmonton, Alberta.

ARAC is working hard on your behalf to ensure that the title, history, symbols and traditions of the Canadian Airborne Regiment do not fade from the memory of the public and politicians. Dedicated paratroopers, past and present, have given freely of their time and energy working with politicians, national museum staff and interested citizens to ensure that the great history of your

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Regiment is not only maintained but is held as a standard of excellence for all present and future Airborne forces.

Sadly, 2012 saw the passing of Jan de Vries, whose energy and enthusiasm contributed so much to keeping Canadian Paras front of mind through his work with 1 Can Para, ARAC and CAFA. A celebration of his life was held in July at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto. We all left the armoury knowing that 'our paratrooper,' Jan de Vries, a man of boundless energy, was no doubt using his renewed energy to make his new home better. I'm very happy to report that his wife, Joanne, continues to support of the Airborne family. With Joe Drouin (ARAC), she attended the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Wings Ceremony in Trenton, presenting with Joe an Airborne coin to each graduate.

I'd like to report on another project undertaken in 2012. An initiative is underway which will sustain the Airborne presence within Canada while supporting current and future members of the para family. This initiative would see an evolution of an equal partnership of ARAC and CAFA, into a new yet to be named Canadian para association. The new para association would take the best from both organizations and become a focal point for all Airborne and Military Para associations in Canada. Initial feedback has been positive and I know there are

strong feelings on all fronts, but we need to look to the future. I am hopeful we can move forward, 'not advance to contact,' and reach an agreement to form a new, vital and relevant association embracing all members of the Airborne Family.

Finally, the Airborne Reunion in Edmonton June 6-8, 2013 is fast approaching. I trust that all who can make the trek to the old stomping grounds will hook up and join the fun, meeting friends old and new in what will be a great time.

Fair winds and soft landings, *Airborne!* ■

Donald Hind President

ABOVE RIGHT: Hymie Hind as a corporal in the 1980s.
ABOVE LEFT: Last December, Santa (a.k.a. Donald Hind)
prepared for the festivities at the Land Staff Christmas
Dinner, when the officers serve dinner to the noncommissioned members. All these activities stem from the
ancient Roman custom of Saturnalia. Before the introduction
of mechanization and sophisticated systems of logistics in the
20th century, enlisted personnel occupied much of their time
in tedious routine. In an effort to boost morale and to show
general appreciation for junior ranks, officers took it upon

themselves to organize celebrations for the enlisted ranks.





# ARAC AND CAFA AMALGAMATION

ollowing a number of meetings held by both ARAC and CAFA executives, the decision was made to pursue the amalgamation of both associations into one new organization for the benefit of all qualified parachutists. A recommendation was made that either Walter Holmes or Mike Houghton (both members of ARAC and CAFA) be appointed to chair a small group of representatives to pursue this initiative. As Walter was not available in the short term due to other commitments, it was agreed that Mike would take on this task.

An initial meeting was held in Kingston 18 December 2012 to identify related issues and to plan on the way ahead. Clay Samis (past president) represented CAFA, while Don Hind (president) represented ARAC with Mike Houghton as facilitator. Both representatives are members of ARAC and CAFA. Following a good discussion of such items as constitutions, financial implications, CDA involvement, charitable status and legal implications involving Industry Canada, the discussion turned to branding. At this point it became very clear that amalgamation was seriously sought after by both associations, but that the new organization must have a new name. Without a new name, amalgamation

would not happen and status quo would remain in effect. With a new amalgamated organization under a new name, it was agreed that any issues such as those identified above could be easily resolved.

Assuming a new name might be acceptable to all, the discussion turned to branding issues that would affect the CAFA branches and ARAC, plus the *Maroon Beret*, web sites and the Kit Shop. While the three committee members did not have specific expertise, it was agreed that there would be obvious financial implications for the various CAFA branches and ARAC, and that a certain amount of financial assistance from the respective national executives would be required. A number of association names were suggested by the committee for consideration by both ARAC and CAFA with Canadian Association of Military Parachutists (CAMP/ACPM) considered the most appropriate. Such an association would continue to include all the components identified in the initial setup of CAFA.

At this point in the committee's discussions, it was agreed that no further action could take place until the issue of an inclusive organization under a new name is resolved. The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to solicit ARAC and CAFA branch comments on the effect of a new name on their respective membership and operating procedures.

Accordingly, the committee requests at your earliest convenience that ARAC and each CAFA branch, plus the two executives submit to Mike Houghton commentary, specifically on the impact of one organization under a new name, plus commentary on any of the issues identified above.

Your amalgamation committee,

Don Hind Clay Samis Mike Houghton

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# AMALGAMATION DE L'RAC ET DE L'AFAC

la suite de nombreuses réunions tenues par les dirigeants tant de l'RAC que l'AFAC, il a été convenu de poursuivre l'amalgamation des deux associations en une seule dans l'intérêt de tous les parachutistes qualifiés. Il a été recommandé que Walter Holmes ou Mike Houghton (tous deux membres de l'RAC et de l'AFAC) soit nommé à la présidence d'un petit groupe de représentants pour gérer cette initiative. Étant donné que Walter n'est pas disponible à court terme en raison d'autres engagements, il a été convenu que Mike assumerait cette tâche.

Une première réunion a eu lieu à Kingston le 18 décembre 2012 afin d'identifier les enjeux connexes et de planifier les prochaines étapes. Clay Samis (ancien président) représentait l'AFAC et Don Hind (président), l'RAC. Mike Houghton était le facilitateur. Ces deux représentants sont membres de l'RAC et de l'AFAC. Après une bonne discussion sur des sujets tels que les constitutions, les implications financières, la participation de la CAD, le statut charitable, les incidences juridiques reliées à Industrie Canada, la question de l'image de marque a été soulevée. C'est alors qu'il est devenu très clair que les deux associations désiraient s'amalgamer, mais que la nouvelle organisation devait porter un nouveau nom. Sinon, l'amalgamation n'aurait pas lieu et le statu quo serait maintenu. Il a été convenu qu'avec une nouvelle organisation amalgamée sous un nouveau nom, les questions comme celles mentionnées précédemment pourraient être facilement réglées.

Après avoir convenu que le nouveau nom devait être accepté de tous, la discussion a porté sur les questions d'image de marque qui toucheraient les succursales de l'AFAC et l'RAC, le béret marron, les sites internet et le magasin de fourniment. Bien que les trois membres du comité ne possédaient pas d'expertise spécifique, il a été convenu qu'il y aurait évidemment des implications financières pour les différentes succursales de l'AFAC et de l'RAC, et qu'une assistance financière serait requise de

la part des exécutifs nationaux respectifs. Plusieurs noms d'association ont été suggérés à l'RAC et à l'AFAC par le comité et Canadian Association of Military Parachutists/Association canadienne des parachutistes militaires (CAMPA/ACPM) a été celui qui a été jugé le plus approprié. La nouvelle association continuerait d'inclure tous les éléments compris dans la formation initiale de l'AFAC.

À ce point dans les discussions du comité, il a été convenu qu'aucune autre action ne pouvait avoir lieu jusqu'à ce que la question d'une organisation inclusive sous un nouveau nom soit réglée. Or, le but de cette lettre est de solliciter des commentaires de l'RAC et des succursales de l'AFAC relativement à l'effet d'un nouveau nom sur leurs membres respectifs et sur les procédures opérationnelles.

Ainsi, le comité demande à l'RAC et à chaque succursale de l'AFAC, ainsi qu'aux deux dirigeants, de soumettre leurs commentaires à Mike Houghton dès que possible, particulièrement sur l'impact d'une seule organisation sous un nouveau nom, de même que sur les sujets mentionnés ci-dessus.

Votre comité d'amalgamation,

Don Hind Clay Samis Mike Houghton

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# RESILIENCE

Resilience from an Airborne Perspective

by BGen (ret'd) David Kettle, Chaplain of the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada



The epitome of resilience: physical, mental and spiritual toughness. Airborne soldiers must possess these attributes in order to accomplish their orders and get the job done in extreme conditions and harsh environments.

uring the Second World War, the airborne threat came of age. Comparatively small, well-trained, highly proficient in the use of small arms and well-led, Airborne units dropped behind enemy lines. They wreaked havoc on the enemy, destroying lines of communication, taking out key enemy positions and securing vital transportation routes and crossings. They transformed the classic battlefield of defined lines into an asymmetric battlefield where there was no front or rear. For the enemy, it was terribly confusing and at times terrifyingly so. It had the capacity to demoralize one's enemy and to throw the enemy off his game. Time and again when it came to invasion, Airborne units proved their worth saving countless lives all too often at great cost to themselves.

One of the keys to their success was that they were resilient and from the enemy's perspective, shockingly so. Basically, resilience is measured in a fighting unit's or a person's capacity to deal with adversity. The more resilient

a fighting unit or an individual, the better they are able to recover or bounce back from any setback. Resilience is a physical, mental, and I would say spiritual toughness. It is a physical, mental, and spiritual hardiness that refuses to give in to adversity. It is the capacity to be flexible when things do not go accordingly to plan and to quickly adapt to what is happening on the ground. It is the ability to recover quickly from setbacks and to carry on. Many fighting units were well-trained, fit, well-equipped, and well-lead but one of the factors that set certain fighting units apart was their resilience.

There is little mystery or wonder in why Airborne training is so tough. It was and is a means of separating those who can cut it from those who cannot. Put another way, it is determining who is resilient enough to serve in an Airborne unit.

I have absolutely no doubt that the audience to which I speak is resilient and that in the not too distant past,





Members of The Queen's Own Rifles are dressed in full equipment before a parachute descent onto Drop Zone de Vries on the Moose River in Moosonee, Ontario, as part of Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE on 22 February 2013.

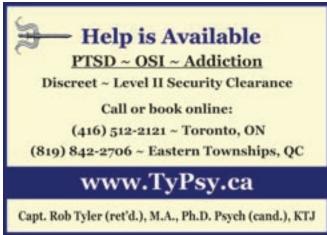
you had the capacity to demonstrate that resilience under adverse conditions during military operations. I do hope though that the resilience you have demonstrated again and again in uniform is something that you have carried over into your everyday life.

Resilience like anything else needs to be nurtured. Otherwise, it atrophies and eventually dies. We must learn to feed our resilience. Here are a few ways that I have found in my life to accomplish this mission.

- 1. Learn to view every challenge as an opportunity. The more accustomed we become to comfortably dealing with life's challenges, the more resilient and happier and more confident we become.
- 2. Accept change as a part of living. To live is to adapt to life's changing circumstances. Stop adapting and life will leave you behind. Learning to go judiciously with the flow while maintaining your moral compass will lead to becoming increasing resilient.
- 3. Keep things in perspective. The mind has a propensity to catastrophize. It can cause us to panic and cause the mind to shut down at the very time we need it most. Keeping things in perspective allows us to keep our bearings and to bring the full power of our intelligence to bear when times are tough.
- 4. Be realistic. Those who are resilient are not romantics. They see things as they are, not as they would like them to be. They know that life is not only unfair, but at times can be downright cruel. They learn to accept this with regret and to bash on regardless.

- 5. Maintain a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, eating well and engaging in things that bring you joy and happiness.
- 6. Find a way to intentionally feed your mind and nourish your soul.
- 7. Maintain a positive attitude. So often we defeat ourselves through negative thinking. Remaining positive under pressure leaves the door open to effective problem solving under averse circumstances.
- 8. Embrace meaningful relationships. We are social animals for a reason. To survive we need other people. We are more resilient when we are part of a group who shares our interests, points of view and values.
- 9. Continually improve your communication skills. You can't help yourself or others in challenging times if you can't communicate your ideas effectively.
- 10. Learn to be increasingly open, tolerant, and flexible, especially during challenging times. Adaptation is the key to survival.
- 11. Be courageous enough to talk to someone to get help when needed. No matter how resilient you are, there are times when you will need the assistance of friends, family and at times trusted professionals.

Well, jumpers, I hope this will be of some help to you in your life's journey. Spock had it wrong. He should not have said, "Live long and prosper." What he should have said is, "Live long and be resilient." Prosperity will flow out of that equation.

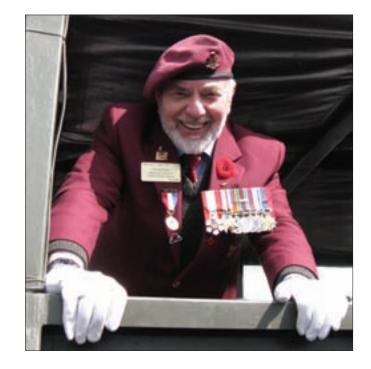






# In Memoriam

Passing of an Airborne Hero



an de Vries was a veteran of the Second World War, serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion. As a Private, he parachuted into Normandy on D-Day and later parachuted over the Rhine River into Germany on 24 March 1945.

Mr. de Vries was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and for the past 35 years, a member of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association serving as both secretary for five years and as president for the last 12 years of his life. He represented the Para Battalion on the National Council of Veteran Associations, served on the Advisory Board of the Canadian Airborne Forces Museum and the Board of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association.

His tireless efforts as a Board member contributed to the successful opening of the Juno Beach Centre in 2003. Mr. de Vries also served on the D-Day Commemoration Advisory Committee for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. Under his leadership, the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association installed memorial plaques in Europe to commemorate their battle areas.

As a founding member of the Living History Speakers Bureau and a member of the Dominion Institute Memory Project, Mr. de Vries regularly spoke to school children and cadet groups across Canada about his wartime contributions. He also organized numerous exhibits displaying 1st Parachute Battalion's artifacts and he ensured that the Battalion was represented at commemorative events.

Mr. de Vries served as the honorary chairman of the Corporal Fred Topham Victoria Cross fundraising project, which resulted in the successful acquisition of Corporal Topham's medals including the Victoria Cross, awarded for bravery on the Rhine jump, which are now on permanent display at the Canadian War Museum. In June 2004, Mr. de Vries was presented with the French Legion of Honour by President Chirac, and he was named to the Order of Canada in 2009.

Jan passed away on 27 May 2012. He was a man of boundless energy and he will be missed. *Airborne!* ■

Jan de Vries served his country proudly and will be remembered for his years of dedication and leadership.







# IN MEMORIAM

#### A Personal Thank You

take this opportunity to sincerely thank the many members of the Airborne Community for the kind words of condolence and the offers of support following Jan's death on 27 May 2012.

Jan hoped for one last jump before he died but due to a number of circumstances it was not possible. However, this past June, LCol Lockhart, CO of CFLAWC, and members did take Jan for his last jump. That day spent at CFLAWC at CFB Trenton was an overwhelmingly emotional day for our family. The kindness shown by the members at CFLAWC was deeply appreciated. I cannot find adequate words to express appreciation to LCol Lockhart for this generous gift to our family. Simply, a thank you to all those involved.

Particularly, I also thank the QOR for their support and assistance. Jan and I had planned to be in Normandy for D-Day Anniversary ceremonies last June. LCol Peter St.Denis, CO of the QOR, and former CO LCol John Fotheringham with their wives attended those ceremonies with LCol St. Denis laying the wreath which Jan had planned to do. I don't know how I would have managed without their kindness and help planning Jan's Celebration of Life which was held at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto on 7 July. My sincere thanks to LCol St. Denis and LCol Fotheringham, their wives Tiffany and Kim, to Capt Tom

Foulds, and to all members of the QOR for your generosity of time and your support.

I often think of all of you within the Airborne community and wish you fair winds and soft landings.

Sincerely,

Joanne de Vries

During a 2011 Normandy tour, Jan de Vries was one of four D-Day vets who accompanied a number of soldiers as they walked on the same battlefields of Normandy he had fought almost 70 years before. In this image, Jan is showing the place where he dug a trench on his first night in Normandy.







# **CFLAWC**

Airborne Trials and Evaluation (ATES)

by WO Jordie Larson

ucked away in the back corner of the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre sits a long standing member of the Airborne community, the Airborne Trials and Evaluation Section (ATES). ATES' objective is to trial and evaluate capabilities that enable airborne delivery of the manpower, machines and material required for CF operations and training. This involves a wide variety of specialized equipment from parachute release systems to helmets worn by individuals. ATES frequently operates in conjunction with outside agencies in order to cover a broad scope of testing and evaluation methods which, in turn, may better fulfill end users requirements.

This past summer ATES was working on the Dual Point Slinging for the M777C1 howitzer from the CH-147 Chinook helicopter. This project's intent was to confirm that the present rigging procedures will work for the Canadian Army version of the M777 and to make any required changes to these procedures to ensure safe lifting and transporting of the M777C1.





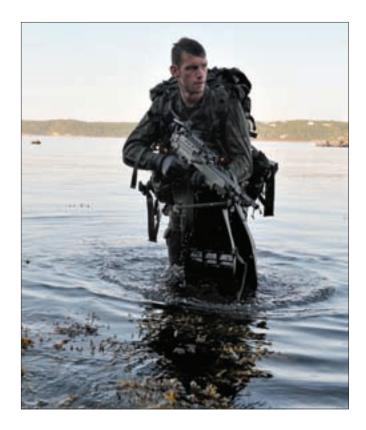
**TOP:** ATES tests the Dual Point Slinging from a CH-147 Chinook helicopter to ensure safe lifting and transporting of the M777C1 howitzer. **ABOVE:** An RCAF aircraft drops a weather buoy for Environment Canada in the extreme far north over the Arctic Ocean, between 82 and 85 degrees latitude. (MCPL ROY MACLELLAN, 8 WING IMAGING, CFB TRENTON, DND)

As well, to illustrate the variety of work tasked to ATES, this fall ATES was asked to come up with a way to rig a parachute and release assembly to an ICEX Arctic buoy so that the Royal Canadian Air Force could safely and successfully deliver these buoys onto the ice flows in the Arctic via the CC-130J Hercules aircraft. Environment Canada is now using these buoys to collect data via satellite to monitor the ice flows for the next several years.

Currently ATES is working on drop trials for the WES (Weapons Effect System) to see if the system will remain zeroed after being dropped with a parachutist as part of his PELS (Parachutist Equipment Lowering System). We are also carrying out trials on a possible CTS (Clothe The Soldier) snowshoe replacement and a PDB (Parachute Drop Bag) replacement.

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







# **CFLAWC**

Patrol Pathfinder Course 2012

he revamped Patrol Pathfinder Course continues to develop. The course delivery and qualification remain modular in design. However, this year's iteration of the Patrol Pathfinder course showed many marked improvements. These improvements are a result of the previous year's end-course review in addition to the effort of the Patrol Pathfinder instructors and cell. The outline below offers a view of the course as it unfolded from 11 June to 27 July 2012 then discusses the details and specifics of this year's training.

The course commenced with 33 candidates. This provided the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) with a competitive advantage, allowing the field force to maximize the Pathfinder capability by ensuring a higher number of potential graduates from the onset of the course. The conduct of

the course took place in the field-training environment of Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Petawawa to ensure that the candidates had the learning opportunity that a hands-on training environment affords.

Executing the tactical precision parachuting portion of the course (Static Line Square Canopy, SLSC) prior to the candidates arriving in CFB Petawawa provided a smoother transition between training evolutions and course modules. Further, this approach allowed the candidates to conduct precision parachuting insertions throughout the course and during the assessed field training exercise (FTX).

A student participates in a portion of the Patrol Pathfinder course held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 11-13 July 2012. This course is just one of the military courses conducted by CFLAWC. (MCPL PETER REED, FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES, NS)





MCpl Pizio (2 RCR) conducts an amphibious insertion with his PPF element off the coast of Nova Scotia. (MCPL PETER REED, FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES, NOVA SCOTIA, DND)



This portion of the Patrol Pathfinder Course constitutes the first module of training. The candidates began the first week by conducting a 20-kilometre load-bearing march as their initial task. The caveat was that the Pathfinders were unaware of the marches' duration because their staff did not provide them with the end-point's location. This event presented them with an example of the mental and physical challenges they would face while operating as a Patrol Pathfinder in the field.

The next phase of training was to conduct Pathfinder insertion and extraction methods by utilizing tactical airlift, small boats, parachute insertions, helicopter (fast rope, rappel, landing and helicast) and Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) platforms (surface vessel and submarine). This training consisted of the Pathfinders utilizing the assets to insert into deep operations and provided them with the initial knowledge of how to complete the task so that they would be able to advise commanders in subsequent portions of the course as well as at their home unit. Last, the Pathfinders conducted a survival exercise as a part of this module in which they extracted across enemy territory (SERE). This training included participation from the Ontario Provincial Police and proved to be one highlight of the course.

#### Patrol Pathfinder Operator and Leader

This stage of Pathfinder training was very short and intense. First, the delivery of demonstrations and lectures took place. The candidates learned how to tactically





ABOVE LEFT: A Patrol Pathfinder candidate manoeuvres his CT-6 canopy in order to conduct an airborne insertion onto Brown's Airfield at Petawawa, Ontario. (BASE IMAGING, CFB PETAWAWA)

ABOVE RIGHT: A Patrol Pathfinder Det is extracted by a C-130J Hercules courtesy of 436 Sqn, CFB Trenton. (BASE IMAGING, CFB PETAWAWA)

establish beachheads, landing zones, drop zones, and austere airstrips. Then the candidates had the opportunity to take part in practice prior to their assessments in the next iteration of training. Last, a week-long trip to Halifax to conduct coordination and planning with the RCN proved to be extremely beneficial training. The candidates took part in missions and during this evolution, they conducted coordination to insert onto beachheads successfully. They lived for approximately four days on the HMCS *Iroquois* and participated in an extensive swimming program with the Fleet Dive Unit (FDU) Atlantic as well.

#### Summary of the Course

Upon return to Petawawa, the candidates completed their final assessment module. Twenty graduates were successful in the revamped program. This speaks highly to its potential in populating the Reconnaissance Platoons of Infantry Battalions in order to build upon the Pathfinder capability within the Forces. The RCN and FDU showed tremendous heart in providing support once again. Bravo Zulu! 33 Bde was also instrumental in providing a followon force and an enemy force during the SERE and FTX portion of the course. The RCAF were also key players in aiding the tactical air-insertion of the PPFs through various methods throughout the summer. Many of the candidates that were successful on this year's course will return as instructors for next year's Patrol Pathfinder in order to gain experience and build upon their knowledge. The course is currently on the forecast for June-August 2013. ■







# **CFLAWC**

Riggers Celebrate 62 Years

by Private William Hong

Training Centre packed and jumped their own (American-made) parachutes. Based on American and British techniques, this system continued through operations in World War II until the end of the decade when it was deemed impractical and unsafe. Subsequently, in 1950, a new "Made in Canada" approach began with the birth of the parachute rigger trade and the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps assuming responsibility for all Army parachutes and associated airborne stores at the 28 Central Ordnance Depot (COD) in Shilo, MB.

With this new organization under the logistic branch of supply, the first Canadian-designed, manufactured, and utilized CT-1 or Canadian Troops 1 parachute was introduced. This round, static-line operated, bag deployed parachute continues to be in operations to this day with its reserve counterpart (CR-1). However, the CT-1 has seen no significant change until 1974 when the anti-inversion net

skirt was installed. Now, after over 60 years of service, the CT-1 and CR-1 are to be retired and be replaced by the CT-11 system in 2013-14.

Although the CT-1 has only seen one significant change since its earliest use, the organization responsible have changed locations and names to reflect the evolution of its duties and requirements through the years. In the 1970s, while changing its name to 28 Canadian Forces Parachute Maintenance Depot (CFPMD), the unit moved from Shilo to Edmonton, AB, and remained there for over a quarter century. Since 1996, all Canadian cargo and personnel parachutes are packed, maintained, and repaired by the

In 1950, a new "Made in Canada" approach began with the birth of the parachute rigger trade, and the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps assumed responsibility for all Army parachutes and associated airborne stores at the 28 Central Ordnance Depot (COD) in Shilo, Manitoba.

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Air and Aviation Logistics Support Company (AALS Coy) of the Canadian Forces Land Advance Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) at 8 Wing Trenton.

On 7 December 2012, the riggers at AALS conducted their annual rigger rodeo, a day of eight friendly competitions that showcases essential rigger skills to celebrate the trade's specialty. Challenges included packing of the CR-1 blindfolded, maximum chin-ups, and hanging parachutes in the parachute drying tower. The main event, of course, was the packing the CT-1 with the time to beat of 8 minutes, 43 seconds executed by Corporal Marcoux in 2011. This year, Private Zapora carried out the fastest pack job of 9 minutes, 57 seconds, followed by the Senior Parachute Rigger, Master Warrant Officer Lodder at 11 minutes, 9 seconds.

For an entirely new challenge in the history of rigger rodeos, the CT-11 main parachute had its inaugural race. With twelve rigger checks compared to the four with its predecessor, this modified cruciform platform shaped parachute was fastest packed in 20 minutes, 10 seconds by Private David and Corporal Desjardins, one minute, 12 seconds later.



Parachute riggers have a great responsibility as any omission or mistake in the packing of a parachute may cost a life.

The challenge of packing the CR-1 blindfolded was a close race between Corporal Canfield and Able Seaman Veilleux, the former with a time of 7 minutes, 5 seconds and the latter, only three seconds behind!

The only ram air parachute in contest was the CSAR-7i (Main). In the beginning, it appeared that civilian Bill Pentley and CFLAWC's Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Merry, were neck-to-neck for first place. After five minutes, however, each began to struggle. Nevertheless, there were four other competitors, including Private Tremblay who was calmly packing nearby. Making it look easy, Private Tremblay completed packing his parachute in 6 minutes, 42 seconds, followed by Pentley at 8 minutes, 1 second, and CWO Merry at 8 minutes 30 seconds.

Although, it is not always fun and games, the rigger rodeo showcases the talent of personnel and their diligence regarding their work as a high profession rather than a day-to-day task. They will keep in mind constantly their grave responsibility as any omission or mistake may cost a life. After 62 years of "Safety and Perfection," Canadian Forces Parachute Riggers will continue to pack and rig parachutes as if they were to jump themselves.

I will be sure, always! ■

Pte Alexi St-Pierre, a Supply Technician Rigger, inspects a 100-foot cargo parachute by blowing air into the parachute. This will allow the rigger to maximized the inspection and correct any deficiency. Parachute riggers have the opportunity to become qualified to jump with most parachutes within the Canadian inventory. (SGT ROBERT COMEAU, ARMY NEWS)









# **CFLAWC**

4 Platoon, Training Company

by Master Corporal Newman, Instructor

uring 2012, 4 Platoon has continued to show-case its many skills continuing the fine traditions of Canadian parachuting qualification courses by ensuring that the best willing individuals of the Canadian Forces receive the most professional instruction possible in order to set the conditions for their success as they commence their first steps in their journey in becoming a Paratrooper.

Once they surpass those first steps and become a part of the Airborne Brotherhood, CFLAWC offers a variety of other parachuting qualifications for soldiers to master and further their parachuting ability. These courses include Jump Master (JM), Parachute Instructor (PI), Static Line Square Canopy (SLSC), Military Freefall Parachutist (MFP), Military Freefall Jump Master (MFJM) and Military Freefall Parachute Instructor (MFPI).

I was posted to CFLAWC at CFB Trenton in August 2012. Since then, 4 Platoon has completed five serials of Basic Parachutist courses. This course is a three week, physically

MAROON BERET 2012 FINAL indd 19

intensive course that includes two weeks of ground training and a week of jumping (J-Stage). Throughout the demanding ground training, the candidates learn everything from aircraft drill, how to properly land from aircraft, all flight procedures from canopy opening to landing, and how to properly rig personal equipment.

Throughout the year, two serials of Jump Master courses were also conducted. This course provides the students with the necessary skills and knowledge to prepare and control the exit of static line parachutists and equipment from an aircraft in flight, whether it is a CC-130J, CH-146 Griffin or a Casa 212.

Once the students make it through the stress of ground training, sometimes put on themselves, they then com-

Once paratroopers surpass the initial steps and become part of the Airborne Brotherhood, they continue to undergo a variety of other parachuting qualifications for soldiers to master and further their parachuting ability.

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mence dispatching, under control of their instructors, the candidates on Basic Para from either of the aircraft platforms mentioned above. Successful completion of safe dispatches qualifies the new candidates as Jump Masters. With the qualification comes the responsibility and knowledge that they must take home to their units to uphold the safety

and efficiency expected of JMs in any parachuting activity they may be involved in.

Also within the year, CFLAWC ran a Parachutist Instructor Course (PI). This mentally demanding course teaches and tests qualified IMs' comprehension and authoritative knowledge of round canopy parachuting, qualifying them to instruct Basic Parachutist and Jump Master courses. They have the responsibility to advise commanders on all aspects of static line parachuting safety. The candidates are put to the test

repeatedly by carrying out flawless demonstrations and being able to instruct all classes in regards to round canopy parachuting. This year's PI course had a course loading of 16 students and graduated nine.

4 Platoon also conducted one Military Freefall Parachutist and three Static Line Square Canopy (SLSC) courses, two of which were conducted here at CFLAWC with one

in conjunction with MFP. Our Commanding Officer, LCol Lockhart, was one of the candidates to receive his MFP qualification this year as the year before, the weather was not co-operative during the timeframe of the course.

One of the SLSC courses was dedicated to the students of the Patrol Pathfinder Course and one exported SLSC

course was conducted in Puerto Rico. One course of Military Freefall Parachute Instructor (MFPI) was also conducted which started with eight candidates who were all successful. Two of those were from the Australian military.

4 Platoon will continue to achieve a high standard. CFLAWC is designated as the army centre of excellence for Static-Line Round Canopy, Static-Line Square and Military Free Fall Parachuting and teaches Basic, Jump Master and Instructor courses in each sub-set of para-

chuting. We here at CFLAWC are looking forward to the upcoming training year and continuing the fine traditions associated with qualifying Canadian soldiers in the various disciplines of parachuting. CFLAWC will soon be conducting all of the courses from a newly purposes-built building that is already under construction.

Airborne! ■

#### The Paratroopers Prayer

Lord, the heavens and the earth and everything in them belong to you. We do, too. We are your own. We now place ourselves at great risk, not to test you or to tempt you, but to serve our country and challenge ourselves. We submit our cause to you and we ask your blessing upon our soul. May we have such confidence in your love for us that we can turn our minds completely to the things we can and must control – our parachutes, our gear, and our behavior – for we know that unless we exercise authority over our fears and our excitement, our jump will not be safe.

Lord, we know that you will not forget us in our aircraft or under our canopies. Neither will we forget you on the drop zone or back at home. Thanks for going with us

ALL THE WAY.

AMEN.

~ Wally C. Austman ~













# **CFLAWC**

Canadian Forces Parachute Team

by Lieutenant Ben Huddleston, CFPT Ops O

he Canadian Forces Parachute Team was formed in 1971, and the Team has been continuously developing and improving their skills by performing parachute demonstrations in front of millions of spectators across North America and around the world. The 2012 Demonstration Season was no different. This past year marked the 41<sup>st</sup> demonstration season for the SkyHawks. It has been a long year, but definitely a great one.

The Team continued to build its skills by first attending Cadre Camp in Perris Valley, California in January 2012. The Cadre members developed their skills in Canopy Relative Work for three weeks. The team then moved back to CFB Trenton and selection began for the Augmentees. For the 2012 Demonstration Season, eight Augmentees from across Canada, both Regular and Reserve force personnel, were invited first to Trenton then back to Perris Valley to complete the Main Training Camp. The team worked collectively to develop their respective formations to an international performance standard.

This season, the Team flew a Canadian T (Sgt Frank Gosselin, Cpl Alex Fortin and Pte Allen Tigchelaar), 3 Stack

Drag (Sgt Sebastien Tremblay, Cpl Michel St-Pierre and Cpl Jason Briseboise-Bergeron), Parabatics (MCpl Jonnie Shaw and Cpl Corey Douglas), two Candy Canes (Sgt Kevin Walker and MCpl Mark Smith) and, lastly, the Tri By Side (Capt Pierre Pelletier, Sgt Scott Dickin and Cpl Andrew Nagtegaal).

On the ground were the Team's Public Affairs Officer/ Narrator Captain Indira Thackorie, and Cpl Bobby Sirois St-Pierre as the DZ Controller. Lt Ben Huddleston was the Operations Officer, MCpl Natacha Card was the Team Clerk and Cpl Terri-Lynn Fralick was the Admin NCM/ DZ Controller.

Upon completion of Main Camp the newly prepared Demonstration Team moved right into their show season with a show in Kingston for the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Club.

From there the Team had a fairly fast paced schedule which saw them hosting the season opener at Trenton High School. They then appeared in St Joseph, Missouri;

The SkyHawks at sunset over Perris Valley, California.





Royal Military College of Canada; Columbia, Missouri; Waterloo; Ottawa; Borden; Gaylord, Michigan and La Baie. These shows went very well, and were well received by the spectators and it definitely showed, as the Team could hear the cheers under canopy over a thousand feet above the ground.

The Team took a week to conduct their mid-season training camp in July to keep their skills fresh and to rectify any performance deficiencies noted from previous shows. This training was conducted at a local drop zone and was a great success. The Team practised their formations and completed accuracy training to allow them to jump into very tight drop zones such as urban areas.

From here, the Team ramped up for their annual Western Swing. The Team, in conjunction with a J Model Herc and a dedicated crew from 436 Squadron from CFB Trenton, went out west for 17 days straight. They performed in Yellowknife, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Whitehorse and finished the Swing in Oshkosh. There were some issues at the beginning of the Swing when the aircraft broke down, but thanks to the diligent work of Maj Tyler Holland and





The SkyHawks use Canadian flag-motifed parachutes during some of their jumps. **ABOVE:** Two members of the SkyHawks team perform a jump known as two Candy Canes at Cobourg. **BELOW:** A sandy beach provided the perfect landing site for this member of the Skyhawks.

his crew, they had the Herc up and running in no time. They were a definite asset to the Team for the entire season.

The second half of the season saw the Team in Saskatoon, Abbotsford, Val D'or, Summerside, Montreal, Little Rock, Arkansas, Belgium, and the Team finished off with a great show in Fort Worth, Texas.

The 2012 season was an excellent year for the SkyHawks. The Team was able to perform in three different countries, in front of over a million spectators and at 25 separate parachute demonstrations. All but one of the 2012 Team members are departing to return to their respective units. Captain Victor Mover will be leading the Team through the 2013 demonstration season and we look forward to all the events and opportunities the next year will bring. Hopefully we will see you out there. *Airborne!* 



OTT GRONDIN, NPPA MEDIA







# 3 RCR

Mike Company (Para)

he year 2012 shaped up to be a step forward in developing a more robust and effective airborne capability resident in a light airmobile infantry battalion (LAIB). With the promulgation of 3 RCR's force employment concept for a LAIB, the beginnings of a readiness culture shift emerged in 3 RCR that renewed focus on achieving light infantry excellence using multiple insertion and extraction methods. This includes not only para, but the fast rope insertion extraction system (FRIES), airmobile and ground transport. Precision parachuting with the CT-6 square canopy and linking into an effective Battalion group command and control (C2) capability became a training and development focus. These objectives combined with a robust individual training cycle, deployments on joint exercises with Canadian and foreign counterparts and support to the training demands of the institutional Army highlight the events of 2012.

In February, a Canadian Joint Task Force that

centered on the 2 CMBG Para Company Group (PCG) under command of Major Kris Reeves and CSM David Hood deployed to Fort Bragg to conduct JOAX (Joint Operational Access Exercise) in the vicinity of the Pope and Mackall AAF areas. Plugged into a U.S. BCT of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, the PCG helped exercise the high readiness Global Response Force in seizing an airfield and conducting follow on tasks and missions to expand lodgement. This exercise included the airdrop and air landing of a brigade's worth of personnel, equipment and artillery to enable subsequent ops with live artillery and dry small arms ammunition.

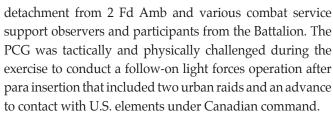
The PCG was composed of Mike Company with a mortar section and FOO-JTAC party from 2 RCHA, engineer section from 2 CER, a Recce/Sniper group, medical

Members of 3 RCR clip on for safety during a training exercise.





Members of 3 RCR await their next orders



Importantly, JOAX exposed the PCG to large scale tactical air planning, movement and C2, and gave us a true understanding through the execution of tactical cross loading and bump planning. The PCG practiced the scatter plan and executed assembly on a very large drop zone. They did in-flight dressing and the training afforded the attachments was extremely valuable. CSS observers obtained a better understanding of sustainment planning and delivery to light forces which were applicable not only to a para insertion but also to many light forces capabilities and operations.

While in Fort Bragg, the PCG conducted a wings exchange, handing out over 800 Canadian wings. One divisional familiarity jump with mixed planes, one full equipment night jump with in-flight dressing rehearsal and a tactical equipment night jump as part of the exercise after in-flight dressing on a 2.5 hour flight were carried out. The level of para activity that encompassed training with the Americans proved invaluable to the soldiers of the PCG.

Training in Fort Bragg provided an excellent venue to showcase the Canadian parachute capability and delivered first-rate training for the leadership and soldiers of the PCG. 2 CMBG is eagerly awaiting a battalion group deployment from 3 RCR featuring an air droppable command post on JOAX 2013.

24 ~ Le Beret Marron



Members of 3 RCR out on exercise.

The Infantry Dismounted Company Commander's Course (IDCCC) prepares future Reserve Force Company Commanders to conduct dismounted operations. Consisting primarily of Reserve Force candidates with occasional Regular Force members in the ORBAT, the course ran in August at CFB Petawawa.

Following summer leave in July, Major Aaron Luhning took over command of the Company along with CSM Jack Durnford. With a vision of making the training as realistic and challenging as possible, the command team prepared Mike Company and a platoon attached from Oscar Company for participation in this course. After completing three weeks of work up training to verify SOPs and ensure the company was working well as a team, the company deployed to the field. It executed a demanding operation spanning 12 days that would see the company complete an advance to contact conducting over 24 hasty attacks, a number of raids including the course's first airborne raid, night operations and defensive operations.

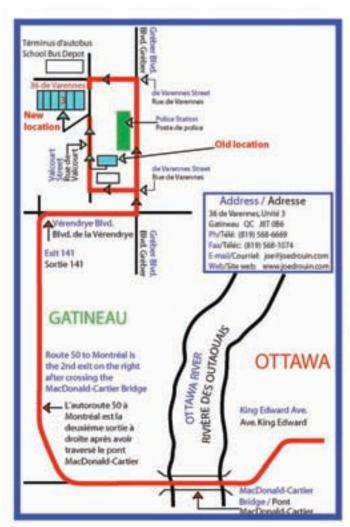
As Mike Company would assume the Vanguard Company role of the 3 RCR non-combatant evacuation (NEO) battalion a few months later, the IDCCC provided the Company with an ideal training environment to solidify basic light infantry skills that would later enable more progressive collective training in a NEO context.

On 1 November, Mike Company assumed the role of Vanguard for the NEO (Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations) task. It is important to commend the hard

MIKE COMPANY continued on page 28







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

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

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Members of 3 RCR take a moment to regroup and discuss their performance on the inter-company competition.

work and dedication of the soldiers within Mike Company as almost four months of long hours and arduous training sufficiently prepared them to be on a 72-hour notice-to-move state, ready to deploy anywhere in the world.

M Coy participated in EX SPARTAN BEAR II, a Brigade Exercise in Meaford, Ontario that pitted 3 RCR against 1 RCR and afforded the Company ample opportunity to conduct patrolling and raids, and go through multiple planning cycles. Additionally, the annual Hill 187 competition gave 2 Platoon, Mike Company the opportunity to showcase our soldiers with a win at this year's competition.

Leading up to commencement of the high readiness NEO task, the soldiers honed their individual and collective skills for application within the company context. The work-up included challenging ranges, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) training, foreign weapons familiarization, rappel and parachute training that ultimately led to a confirmatory Level 4 company live fire attack within a NEO construct.

Like all companies in 3 RCR, Mike Company spent significant time and attention on ensuring it can deploy at a moment's notice when required. We tested this ability with a number of recalls including a full recall of the NEO advance party and subsequent move of kit and personnel to the airport of embarkation (APOE) in Trenton. This latter recall proved that we were ready to assist the Army in meeting Government of Canada demands as part of a NEO. In addition to proving operational readiness,



Members of 3 RCR conduct MBCW training with Canadian Forces gas canisters to add realism to the exercise.

achieving this level of readiness is testament to the culture shift at 3 RCR with respect to readiness, light infantry, and our potential role in operations.

On 27 November, 3 RCR conducted an airborne insertion of the Battle Group Tactical/Alternate Command Post (C/S 0A). Two passes were conducted over DZ Anzio with a CC-130 at 1430 hours. The first drop consisted of dummy loads that were designed to simulate the CP equipment. After confirming the successful drop of the simulated loads, C/S 0A was dispatched on a CCC-1. The load consisted of two ATVs and two ATV trailers with communications equipment, power supply, CP infrastructure and fuel. It was quickly unpacked on the DZ and drove into the wood line in a tactical CP location. At 1520 hours, the CP Detachment consisting of four 3 RCR signalers began the set up of the CP. The Det deployed the CP in under an hour and conducted a comms check.

This initiative is part of the transition into a true Light Airmobile Infantry Battalion with command and control capabilities that are rapidly deployable, flexible and airmobile. Prior to the drop, the 3 RCR Riggers were tasked with preparing the mission essential equipment in a CDS load. Sgt S. Leckie, along with his staff, was successful in rigging the equipment for a safe and secure insertion. The CP Det Comd, MCpl J.P. Donovan, led the CP Det in an efficient CP set up. This exercise was a successful proof of concept for the command and control capabilities of the Light Airmobile Infantry Battalion.





As the battalion and brigade para SMEs, Mike Company maintained and grew its jump capabilities by dropping Canister Delivery Systems (CDS), conducting various static line and free fall jumps, supporting skill development with augmentation to CFLAWC and by running exported Basic Parachutist courses (two in 2012). Concurrently, to increase our precision parachuting capability and enable experimentation of tactics and procedures to employ precision parachuting, Mike Company has been growing a platoon of fully qualified precision parachutists focused on the CT-6 Static Line Square Canopy. We're not there yet, but developing this capability shows promise to offer commanders more flexible and viable options using a para insertion capability.

3 RCR's LAIB evolution has altered the mandate of key enablers within 3 RCR including Transport Platoon, which is now called Movements Platoon. The scope and abilities of Movements Platoon have greatly changed. The introduction of the Air Movements Section within the platoon is a key part of this evolution, giving Movements Platoon the ability to support parachute activities and provides another means which the platoon can use to resupply the battalion. This has been accomplished by focusing on filling the Air Movements Section with individuals who have specific qualifications such as the Basic Parachutist Course, Jump Master Course, LZ/DZ Controller and Aerial Delivery. This allows Movements Platoon to conduct resupply activities using sling loads and CDS loads. Another key change to Movements Platoon was incorporating the battalion's two parachute riggers into the platoon allowing them to work closely with the Air Movements Section when preparing CDS loads for a drop. All of these changes have better prepared Movements Platoon to support 3 RCR as a LAIB.



Soldiers from 3 RCR joined U.S. Army soldiers from 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division during a static line airdrop RCAF CC-177 Globemaster III aircraft during a Joint Operational Access Exercise (JOAX) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Overall, it has been a productive year for Mike Company, the battalion and parachuting as an insertion method for both troops and equipment. As we move forward into 2013 we expect this momentum to continue and look forward to the challenges ahead.

*Fair winds, soft landings! Airborne!* ■







# 3 PPCLI

Year in Review 2012

by Lieutenant Matt Tamsett, 6 Platoon Commander, B Company (Para)



■t is hard not to reminisce on another year coming to an end for Bravo Company, the Parachute Company of 3 PPCLI, when one is running across Drop Zone Buxton in late November following the final jump of the year. The challenges and opportunities that the officers and soldiers of the Parachute Company have enjoyed over the past year have taken us to the Arctic twice with many of us also having had the opportunity to represent the PPCLI in Germany, The Netherlands and the United States. This year saw the regular influx of new officers and men with many returning to where they began their careers years before, wearing the maroon beret. The year 2012 was not without its early morning bug-outs and numerous parachuting opportunities jumping onto random farmer fields north of Edmonton to conduct platoon raids and ambushes. Bravo Company participated in no fewer than six exercises, two Arctic deployments and three foreign parachute trips. The following is a quick review of these events.

In January, we conducted Exercise PATRICIA NOMAD where our battle standards were assessed up to live-fire section attack level at CFB Wainwright. Especially important was the Basic Winter Warfare Course conducted at the same time to prepare us for Exercise ARCTIC RAM based out of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories where we would be deployed for nearly four weeks. In February and March, the Para Company Group attached to the First Battalion conducted Airborne insertions in Behchoko, Whatì and Gameti. It was the first time that paratroopers had jumped in the North since 1996. Exercise ARCTIC RAM was the largest and most complete Army-led exercise that the Canadian Forces has ever conducted north of 60°.

A soldier from Bravo (Para) Company from the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry hooks up his static line as he is about to jump from a CC-130J Hercules onto the Northern arm of Great Save Lake on 15 February 2012. (MCPL HOLLY COWAN, DND)











From 14–26 February 2012, Exercise ARCTIC RAM served to refamiliarize soldiers with northern operations and to provide a greater awareness of the demands of the Arctic and how to effectively operate within the environment. ARCTIC RAM 12 was the biggest and most complex Army-led exercise ever undertaken in the Canadian Arctic. Approximately 1,500 soldiers, predominantly from Edmonton, Winnipeg and Shilo conducted training in the Yellowknife to Gameti corridor.

TOP LEFT: Members from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3PPCLI) Para Company rig their gear for an airborne jump out of a C-130 Hercules scheduled for later in the day. (CPL LINDSAY GRIMSTER, CFJIC, DND)

TOP RIGHT: Paratroopers from Bravo Company dawn their parachutes for the first Arctic parachute jump since 1996 onto DZ BECHECKO (Yellowknife, NWT) in February 2012. (MCPL HOLLY COWAN, DND) ABOVE LEFT: Soldiers from the 3 PPCLI board a CC-130J Hercules aircraft for their first jump in the Arctic since 1996. (MCPL HOLLY COWAN) ABOVE RIGHT: Paratroopers from descend onto Apod Lake in the Northwest Territories on 25 February 2012. (MCPL JAMES ROSS, DND)

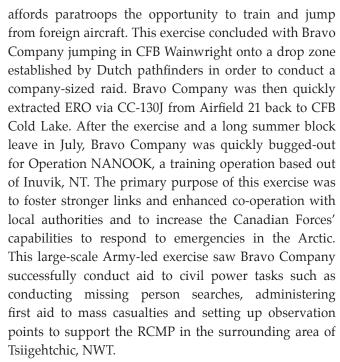
Moreover, we conducted three company-sized Airborne operations to seize key infrastructure for follow-on forces including bridges, airfields and vital intersections along the ice roads north of Yellowknife. With a platoon from November Company, 1 RCR acting as the enemy force, the Parachute Company found, fixed and destroyed the enemy on the final objective. This exercise concluded with the Commander of the Army, General P. Devlin complimenting the Parachute Company on its professionalism and outstanding determination to execute Airborne operations in harsh Arctic conditions.

As spring rolled around, Bravo Company conducted further Individual Battle Training Standards. June commenced with the annual accent to the summit of Ex Coelis Mountain to commemorate D-Day in 1944 and to meet the veterans of the Canadian Parachute Battalion and the Airborne Brotherhood Associations. Exercise MAPLE FLAG was conducted from 9-22 June in CFB Cold Lake. This year marked the 45th year that this exercise has taken place and although it is a Royal Canadian Air Force exercise to practice international air force interoperability with pilots and aircraft from around the world, it also





On 15 February, a paratrooper hits the ground a few seconds after Charlie Company, 3 PPCLI, jumped out of the side door of a C-130 Hercules during EX ARCTIC RAM 2012. This landing zone was located on Great Slave Lake. (CPL PHILIPPE ARCHAMBAULT, CFJIC, DND)



August and September saw three foreign parachute trips conducted. The first one was to Rhode Island, USA where two teams travelled to participate in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Parachute Competition. The event was hosted by the 56<sup>th</sup> Troop Command of the Rhode Island Army National Guard and we managed to place third in the International Team category. The second trip was hosted by the German 26<sup>th</sup> Airborne Brigade. It brought paratroopers together from around the world to gain experience and share jump stories. In September, the



Group photo of 3 PPCLI's Bravo Company with Mikey McBryan (centre), general manager of Buffalo Airways and also the star of Ice Pilots on The History Channel, was taken on 22 February 2012 as part of broadening community relations in Yellowknife, NWT. (MCPL JAMES ROSS, DND)

third foreign parachute trip took place in Arnhem, Holland as part of the commemoration of the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation MARKET GARDEN. Ten paratroopers from Bravo Company had the brilliant opportunity to jump onto Drop Zone Hinkle, the same drop zone used in World War II. They also travelled to the local war cemeteries and museums. Most importantly, they shared a few pints with the old boys that jumped in all those years ago.

For those back in garrison at CFB Edmonton, September and October involved running two decentralised Basic Parachute courses and one Jump Master course. These three courses qualified 66 Basic Parachutists and six Jump Masters, all of which had to meet the same standards that have been expected of Airborne soldiers over the past several decades.

As 2012 drew to a close, Bravo Company conducted a section-sized military skills competition to test the competencies of each soldier and to ensure that the basic skills were refreshed and perfected. The final parachute jump of the year was a mass parachute jump from a CC-117 Globemaster III, the first time that such a jump was conducted using a Canadian Globemaster in Canada. On the 25 November, 102 paratroopers and 10 military freefall parachutists were dispatched onto Drop Zone Buxton. Next year, several of us will start work-up training for Afghanistan and many more will take on new tasks outside of the Parachute Company. For those that will continue to wear the maroon beret, it will be a busy year full of airborne operations and exercises. *Airborne!* 







### 3 PPCLI

Basic Parachutist and Jump Master Courses, September – October 2012

by Captain David Ortt, 5 Platoon Commander, B Company (Para)

t 0500 hours on 6 September 2012, 48 Basic Parachutist candidates stood ready to conduct the Para PT test in 3 PPCLI's Parachute Simulation room. The test required each soldier to perform 31 sit-ups, 7 chin-ups and run one mile in under 7.5 minutes. Those who passed would be loaded on the first of two decentralized Basic Parachutist courses (BPara) which were run out of 3 PPCLI.

The Basic Parachutist Course Session 0127 ran from 6–23 September 2012 with Jump Master (JM) Course Session 0055 running concurrently to it. Session 0127 saw an 83% pass rate with 40 out of 48 candidates successfully graduating Jump Stage (J-Stage) and the JM course saw a similar success rate of 75% with six out of eight candidates passing. The second course, BPara serial 0128 ran independently without a JM course from 15 October to 2 November 2012 and saw a vastly different success rate of 54% with 26 out of 48 candidates successfully graduating from J-Stage.

The BPara course is three weeks of intense training which

prepares the soldier both mentally and physically for the rigours of parachuting. It instills the Airborne spirit into soldiers. They learn and are tested on four subjects: aircraft drill, flight, equipment rigging and landings. Soldiers who are already qualified Basic Parachutist and have gained experience as a paratrooper are able to complete the JM course. Like Basic Parachutist, Jump Master is three weeks of intensive training which focuses on the technical skills that are required for the JMs to successfully and safely dispatch jumpers from a variety of aircraft. JM candidates are instructed and tested on performing their JM duties both on the ground as well as in the air.

All three courses were run decentralized from the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Center

Capt Venables of 1 PPCLI exits the mock tower followed by CpI Shepard, also from 1 PPCLI, while on BPara 0127. (MCPL JAMES ROSS)





ABOVE: MCpl John of 3 PPCLI inspects a BPara 0127 candidate prior to exiting the mock tower. (MCPL JAMES ROSS) ABOVE RIGHT: A Basic Parachutist gets his rigging and equipment checked by an instructor prior to embarking the plane during the 29 and 30 October 2012 course attended by 3 PPCLI at Josephburg, Alberta. (GRANT CREE, WESTERN SENTINEL)





(CFLAWC) and were held inside 3 PPCLI lines. This marks the third year that CFLAWC has authorized 3 PPCLI to run decentralized BPara and JM courses. Utilizing mostly in-house resources, instructors and facilities, training was delivered by the same course staff for both courses, all of which had instructed courses at CFLAWC as either a tasking or a posting at some point in their careers. In addition to this experience, there was a CFLAWC standards representative present to ensure the consistent, high-quality instruction at CFLAWC, and was also present throughout the conduct of all three courses run inside 3 PPCLI.

Given the requirements for many of the same resources from BPara 0127 and JM 0055, timings were staggered. The BPara course started their day with PT at 0500 hours and ended at 1600 hours. The JM course conducted their warm up PT at 1600 hours and ended the days training at 0000 hours. Upon arrival at J-stage, the JM candidates conducted ground checks, air checks and dispatched the BPara candidates. This was all conducted under the watchful eyes of their parachute instructors who evaluated and double checked their work in order to ensure the safety of the jumpers and that the high attention to detail which is demanded of a Jump Master is upheld. At the end of J-stage the BPara candidates had completed six parachute descents and the JM candidates had completed five dispatches from a Skyvan aircraft. Of the 240 parachute descents which occurred during BPara 0127, not one soldier failed the landing PO check taught by Sgt Daniel Jenkins from 3 PPCLI's B Coy (Para). Further to this, not a single injury occurred on J-Stage. This achievement was

**LEFT:** Capt Miller gets JM checked by Cpl Watmough, under the watchful eye of WO Travis Hegland, both from 3 PPCLI. (MCPL JAMES ROSS)









enthusiastically embraced by the CFLAWC standards Warrant Officer, WO Paul Williams, as it is something that is rarely seen. Parachuting has inherent risks and courses often have candidates injured during their first jumps due primarily to improper landings.

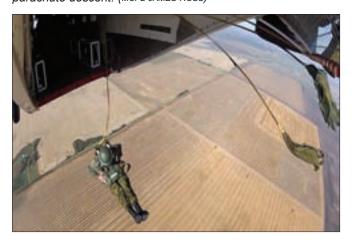
BPara serial 0128 ran from 15 October to 2 November 2012 and was not run with a concurrent Jump Master course. It demanded the same high standard of performance from its candidates as was required from the previous decentralized serial; however, candidates on this course found it much more difficult to effectively grasp the material taught. As standards are never lowered, more candidates were removed from training for training failures than the previous serial. There were also three instances of soldiers realizing they did not want to be jumpers and they requested a voluntary withdrawal from training. The course entered J-stage and completed five parachute descents from the same Skyvan aircraft as the previous serial.

The three courses qualified 66 soldiers as Basic Parachutist and six soldiers as Jump Masters, all of which met the same high standards which has been demanded of Canadian Airborne soldiers for the past 70 years. This ensures that the Airborne spirit and mentality will continue to live on for generations to come. *Airborne!* 

#### **COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

Capt Kevin Davis from 3 PPCLI gets checked by the Senior Parachute Rigger at 3 PPCLI, Sgt Danny Heppell. (MCPL JAMES ROSS);

Members of BPara course 0128 nervously await their first ever parachute descent on 29 October 2012. (GRANT CREE); Candidates board a Skyvan aircraft for their first parachute descent onto DZ Scotford in Josephberg, Alberta, on 29 October 2012. (GRANT CREE, WESTERN SENTINEL); A candidate on BPara 0127 exits the Skyvan for his first parachute descent. (MCPL JAMES ROSS)



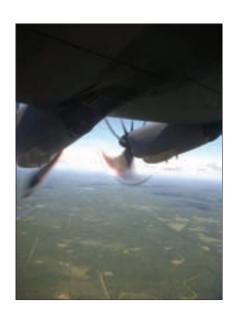




# 3 PPCLI

Exercise MAPLE FLAG, June 2012

by Corporal Nathaniel Blackmore, 4 Platoon, D Company (Para)



etween 2 and 22 June 2012, B Company (Para), 3 PPCLI, was given the rare opportunity to hone their skills and test interoperability on a multination scale in the form of Exercise MAPLE FLAG. It took place at CFB Cold Lake. This exercise, now in its 45th year, has traditionally been an air force exercise used to illustrate and practice interoperability between pilots from around the world and to allow for realistic aerial combat practice for all those involved.

As is often the case, B Company went into this ready and motivated, its members keen to test their skills with their allies and to take time to learn new skill sets from their foreign brethren. For EX MAPLE FLAG 45, B Coy had the benefit of working with a team of Dutch Pathfinders. This, of course, started like most things do for the Para Company: liaising with Drop Zone (DZ) controllers, pilots, and area commanders, planning, and in short, jumping. While 5 Platoon and 6 Platoon spent the first few days of

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the exercise executing a number of parachute descents onto DZ Bravo, 4 Platoon was attached to the Dutch Pathfinders and exchanged skill sets while preparing drop zones for the remaining paratroopers' arrival.

The first week of jumps was a mixed bag of in-flight experiences for the jumpers of B Company. Alternating between jumps out of Canadian CC-130J Hercules aircraft and the French C-160 Transall aircraft, the Paratroopers found themselves in new territory. With MAPLE FLAG in full swing, the aircraft practiced close contour flying and evasive manoeuvres while getting the soldiers where they needed to go. The CC-130J is an aircraft the men are quite familiar with and the newest model in the Hercules family. The C-160 Transall, however, is a much smaller version of its cousin, the Hercules, and with a shorter jump platform

Members of 3 PPCLI were transported aboard a CC-130J Hercules aircraft during Exercise MAPLE FLAG 45.

13-05-24 10:46 AM







**ABOVE LEFT:** Lt Ryan Cooper and CSM Favasoli present a plaque to the French pilots of a CC-160 Transall for their outstanding support in conducting static line parachute drops on EX MAPLE FLAG.

ABOVE RIGHT: Lt Ryan Cooper of B Coy, 3 PPCLI presents a plaque to the Dutch Patrol Pathfinder PI Comd in recognition of their support during EX MAPLE FLAG 45. (PHOTOS BY WO BRAD MCKENZIE, 3 PPCLI)

and no wind deflector, lends to what a jumper might call a much more interesting and aggressive form of jumping. This of course, combined with the ever-changing prairie weather, meant a healthy mix of good jumps and stop drops due to unsafe conditions.

In between jumps and training, B Company offered the expertise they gained in overseas deployments and operations within Canada while contributing to maintaining base security. The soldiers paired up with air force counterparts who were deployed as the current base defence force. They showed them the proper execution of vehicle check points and mentored them to help hone their skills. Once again, interoperability was the focus and once again, the members of B Company shone as they helped ensure that the security measures for the high profile international exercise were well executed.

The second week saw preparation for the tactical side of the exercise where B Company would be jumping into DZ Saville Farm, in Wainwright. While 5 Pl and 6 Pl prepared to jump, the Dutch, along with 4 Pl, performed an air mobile insertion ahead of the main force in order to get eyes on the objective and prepare for the remainder of the company. The operation itself saw a successful jump into Wainwright with all forces coming together ensuring the best tactical advantage was gained. Once regrouped, B Company performed a successful raid on their objective



ABOVE: Bravo Company, 3 PPCLI prepared to conduct an Airborne assault into CFB Wainwright during EX MAPLE FLAG. They were then ERO extracted off Airfield 21 back to CFB Cold Lake once their mission was completed. (WO BRAD MCKENZIE, 3 PPCLI) RIGHT: MCpl Bain conducts a ground check on Cpl Repas during preparations for a jump during EX MAPLE FLAG 45. (CAPT DAVID ORTT, 3 PPCLI)



before making their way to an austere airstrip where they were extracted by CC-130J back to Cold Lake. This successful integration of four different nations from two different elements was a sure sign that the goal of multinational and inter-element operability was not only viable, but was a true to life realisation. In celebration of this and of new friendships made, B Company performed a final friendship jump with their Dutch counterparts where each nation's Jump Masters dispatched the other nation's paratroopers from the aircraft. The jump ended with a wings exchange ceremony where each jumper was awarded his counterpart's wings. A fitting end to a successful and exciting exercise.







## 3 PPCLI



**Operation MARKET GARDEN 2012** 

by Corporal Matthew McDonald, 6 Platoon, B Company (Para)

photos by MCpl Ryan Bain, 3 PPCLI

ith the roar of the British CC-130 and the British Jump Masters doing their final checks, the ten paratroopers from B Company 3 PPCLI as well as soldiers from around the world awaited the word go to jump over Drop Zone (DZ) Hinkle, just southwest of the city of Arnhem, Holland.

From 19-24 September 2012, Paratroopers from 3 PPCLI - B Company (Para) had the amazing opportunity to take part in the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation MARKET GARDEN. Prior to getting to the airhead to board the aircraft, the men from B Company had to be manifested, go through the British parachute drills and be informed of which aircraft and what lift they would be on.

At approximately 0500 hours on 21 September, the Canadian contingent for the jump into Hinkle boarded a bus to the airfield where approximately 1,100 paratroopers from all over the world had gathered. There, they were to be manifested and learn the drills on the parachutes with

which they would jump the following day. The B Company soldiers were manifested with the British. We would be chalk 7, lift one. After completing parachute training on the British equipment, the soldiers from 3 PPCLI ate quickly and then boarded the bus to take them back to their camp. That evening all paratroopers were invited to the local pub on the base for a meet and greet. Soldiers exchanged stories, patches and laughs. But the night was a short one. After all, this was the evening before the jump.

The next morning on 22 September, the soldiers awoke early to get to the airhead southwest of Arnhem. After a short wait, the paratroopers went through a final quick rehearsal of emergency procedures and aircraft drills with a British Jump Master. Concurrently to this, Master Corporal Ryan Bain, the Canadian Jump Master, was

Paratroopers from B Coy (Para), 3 PPCLI, pose with a Canadian flag at OP MARKET GARDEN in Arnhem, Holland.



getting himself prepared to dispatch foreign soldiers so they could earn their Canadian wings.

After the quick rehearsal, the paratroopers on chalk 7 donned the British parachute also known as the Low Level Parachute (LLP) and prepared to board the British C-130 Hercules. Finally, once all the men had boarded, the engines were fired up and the large plane slowly made its way into position on the runway. After a wait which felt like an eternity, the plane picked up speed, left the ground and took flight. The men inside waited patiently for the Jump Master's ten-minute warning. The Jump Master made his way to the port side door, he peered out and looked back at a flight engineer. The flight engineer nodded his head and gave a thumbs up. "Ten minutes," yelled the Jump Master, followed by, "Prepare for action!" The first stick in the plane stood up and placed the benches in the up position. They stood in line waiting for their static line to be hooked up to the anchor line cable. The Jump Master made his way through the stick hooking up the jumpers and conducting his air checks on the paratroopers. "Tell off for equipment check!" With everyone in the stick giving the OK, the doors were opened and the air rushed into the plane. The small British Jump Master finally yelled, "Action Stations!" The Jump Master manhandled the number one jumper and positioned him in the door. The light turned green. "GO!" yelled the Jump Master as he pushed the first man in the

stick out of the Hercules. The rest of the stick followed. With only an 11-second window to dispatch 15 jumpers, the men moved quickly. The light turned red and all of the jumpers successfully left the aircraft. The last man Canadian Cpl Jake Brobbel cut it close, but he made it out the door.

Once on the ground, the paratroopers were met by almost 40,000 spectators, consisting of civilians and veterans. Children swarmed the paratroopers on the DZ, asking for patches, flags and name tags. Other children asked for autographs and parents asked for pictures of their children with the paratroopers. It was a humbling experience to see the amount of gratitude that the Dutch people still held for the actions of the allied soldiers during WWII.

The following day, we all gathered at the immaculately groomed Oosterbeek war cemetery to take part with 20,000 other people for a ceremony. Dignitaries and representatives laid wreaths, speeches were made and then school children from elementary to high school filed by and stood at the foot of the graves of the fallen soldiers. Every grave had a child in front of it. They laid flowers and said quiet words to the dead. It further highlighted the appreciation the Dutch people hold to this day for the sacrifices that our ancestors made so long ago. With the jump and ceremony complete, the soldiers packed up the last of their gear and headed back to Canada.

Airborne! ■

**BELOW LEFT:** Capt David Ortt and Cpl Thomas Fenske wait to be JM checked. **BELOW MIDDLE:** Cpl Matt MacDonald watches a British JM perform his ground check on Cpl Brad Ash. **BELOW RIGHT:** A British Jump Master conducts his ground checks on Canadian Paratroopers jumping British parachutes into OP MARKET GARDEN 2012.





MAROON BERET 2012 FINAL indd 39



(Para), 3 PPCLI, who participated in Operation MARKET GARDEN 2012 in Arnhem, Holland.

RIGHT: Composite image showing paratroopers into German-held areas in Nijmegen in September 1944 during Operation MARKET GARDEN.

(COMPOSITE IMAGE BY ~DER-BUCHSTABE-R)

LEFT: Ten paratroopers from B Coy





The Maroon Beret ~ 39





## R22eR Para Coy

LEAPFEST XXX : L'équipe du 3eR22eR, championne du monde

par Major Christian Blouin, Commandant de la compagnie para



es membres de l'équipe ne disaient rien. Rentrant machinalement sous la tente tout en s'épongeant le front, ils ont laissé tomber leur casque de kevlar au sol. Ils se regardaient tous en silence ne comprenant pas vraiment ce qui venait de se passer. Ceci faisait suite au troisième et dernier saut de l'équipe. Ceux qui ne croyait pas à la « Loi de Murphy » dans l'équipe ont pu la vivre à l'état pur. Près de 40 degrés celsius, 90% d'humidité, vents instables, leurs atterrissages réussissent mais loins, trop loins de la cible. Il y avait un blessé canadien sur la zone de largage, et un des membres de l'équipe a eu l'opportunité d'expérimenter sa descente avec un parachute dont la voilure était à l'envers (l'avant était l'arrière et l'arrière, le devant). Bref, un troisième saut difficile. Les deux premiers sauts de l'équipe du 3° Bataillon Royal 22° Régiment étaient pourtant selon les règles de l'art. Peu se doutait bien que malgré les difficultés du dernier saut, les « Vandoos » allaient sortir grand vainqueur de la Compétition internationale de parachutisme militaire, tenue du 29 juillet au 10 août 2012 au Rhode Island, États-Unis.

Avec la participation de neuf pays, dont 65 équipes et près de 300 troupes aéroportées, le LEAPFEST pourrait

se comparer aux Jeux Olympiques du parachutisme militaire. Une tradition depuis 1982, il s'agissait de la 30e édition de l'événement, organisé par le Rhode Island Army National Guard. Chaque équipe était constituée de cinq participants, soit quatre sauteurs et un remplaçant. Les sauts se faisaient à partir d'un hélicoptère CH-47 Chinook américain à une altitude de 1 500 pieds (457 mètres) et chaque sauteur était équipé d'un parachute parabolique MC1-1C/D à ouverture automatique.

Le but pour chaque sauteur était d'atterrir le plus proche possible d'un X orange en plein milieu de la zone de largage. Suite à un atterrissage avec roulade, le sauteur devait se relever et courir vers le X afin de toucher ce dernier et ainsi arrêter son temps chronométré par les arbitres américains. Un temps cumulatif par équipe était ainsi fait après les trois sauts réglementaires de la compétition.

Pour être franc, si on faisait un parallèle avec les membres de l'équipe marocaine et leur 1 000+ sauts chacun, sortir vainqueur du LEAPFEST XXX était technique-

Avec les victoires en 2002 et 2012, le R22eR est devenu la seule équipe internationale à remporter les honneurs deux fois en 30 ans dans la compétition LEAPFEST.

40 ~ Le Beret Marron





ment possible mais potentiellement improbable. Notre plus expérimenté des sauteurs avait moins de 50 sauts et l'équipe a bénéficié de seulement quatre sauts de pratique une semaine avant la compétition. Cependant, lors de l'événement, l'équipe parlait constamment de stratégie de sauts et prônant la visualisation et le repos, il semble bien que ce fut la clé du succès.

Le Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment avait remporté cette compétition en 2002. Un historien américain écrivant sur l'histoire du LEAPFEST nous disait qu'avec cette nouvelle victoire, le



CI-HAUT, À GAUCHE: Une fois attérris, les aéroportés courent vers l'objectif. (STRIKEHOLD.NET) CI-HAUT: Les aéroportés attendent pour embarquer dans un Chinook lors de la Compétition internationale de parachutisme militaire.

R22eR devenait la seule équipe internationale à remporter les honneurs deux fois en 30 ans. Sans dire que l'inscription pour 2013 est complétée, soyons certain que nous serons de retour l'année prochaine pour défendre notre titre.

Airborne!

Je me souviens! ■

For over 30 years candidates from the Royal Canadian Army Cadets from across the Canada, and who represent the most accomplished and fittest Army Cadets, proudly earn their Airborne wings.

ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS SUPPORT OUR AIRBORNE TROOPS

AIRBORNE! Young jumpers, and may you always have fair winds and soft landings.







Depuis plus de 30 ans les candidats des Cadets Royaux de l'Armée Canadienne, de partout au Canada, qui représentent les cadets les plus accomplis et qui démontrent d'excellentes aptitudes physique, reçoivent leurs ailes de parachutiste fièrement.

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

Bons Vents et Arrivées au Sol en Douceur, AÉROPORTÉ! Et jeunes parachustistes.





## **CSOR**

The Year in Review



ith 2012 behind us, we look back on another very successful year in regards to special operations and parachuting. As with past years, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) had a very high operational tempo, and parachuting was an important aspect of maintaining unit readiness.

Keeping members of CSOR current with all disciplines of parachuting and air delivery methods kept the Para Section very busy and resulted in some innovative methods of airborne insertion to support tactical operations. The continued development of a parachute capability resulted in a very successful confirmatory work-up and deployment of an element by parachute for a proof of concept for future operations.

CSOR has now moved to the cutting edge of precision parachuting for both personnel and the delivery of equipment. This enables members of this regiment to parachute with all the required equipment to complete a wide range of tasks or missions. This capability gives the CO great flexibility in

deploying special operations teams on missions into remote locations with little or no footprint on the ground.

Precision aerial delivery of equipment is quickly gaining momentum in militaries throughout the world. CSOR has taken a leadership role within the Canadian Forces by dropping GPS-guided, robot-operated ram-air parachute systems carrying loads to personnel waiting on the ground. CSOR has begun inserting these delivery systems into training environments and exercises, and has recently pushed the envelope a step further by inserting jumpers with these systems.

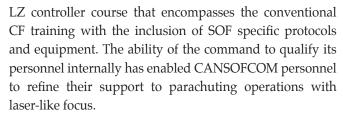
CSOR has also taken a large bound in the development of drop zone and landing zone control and establishment. The regiment has developed a Special Operations DZ/

Paratroopers from the Canadian Special Operations Regiment make their way into the aircraft via the rear door. Members of CSOR receive specialized parachute training that includes SOF protocols and equipment.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Paratroopers from CSOR jump from the rear cargo door of an aircraft during a training exercise. Paras board a helicopter after receiving final instructions. A paratrooper jumps from a CH-146 Griffon. A paratrooper makes his way towards the drop zone. The parachute is about to open after jumping from a Griffon.



2012 has been another fast paced and exciting year that has consistently seen the advancement of the Regiment's parachute capability. We look forward to another busy year working with all the enabling units that make CSOR successful in completing our parachute missions and tasks.

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









The Maroon Beret ~ 43





## **QOR**

The Year in Review

by Captain Scott Moody OC Para Company



he year 2012 was an important and extremely busy one for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Through the hard work and dedication of its members, the QOR further defined itself as one of the leading reserve light infantry units in Canada. The QOR also demonstrated the ability to maintain its parachuting capability and use its strengths to build the capacity within the Reserves.

The year started with the annual winter warfare skills refresher and Basic Winter Warfare Course. These events took place during a series of FTXs called COLD START 1 and 2. In mid-February, the QOR provided a platoon to support 32 CBG's week-long Domestic Response exercise (Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE) in Cochrane, Ontario. On this exercise, 32 CBG personnel worked with soldiers from the 56 Stryker Brigade from the Pennsylvania National Guard.

To kick off Para activity in 2012, the QOR held its annual para refresher with the aim of not only refreshing those within the Para Coy but to also introduce our new jumpers

to the skills required to be a paratrooper. This entailed a complete refresher as well as lessons on airborne history, operations, DZ drills and non-standard loads. This was followed a few weeks later by an exercise in Trenton, Ontario that consisted of static-line jumping from a CC-130J and fast-rope training.

In mid-March, a platoon from the QOR was sent on a 10-day exercise with other contingents of 32 CBG to Fort Pickett, Virginia for Exercise SOUTHERN DRIVE. QOR personnel used this opportunity to take advantage of the training facilities and take part in a live-fire defensive.

To prepare for the week-long summer concentration exercise in Petawawa, Exercise STEADFAST WARRIOR, a series of preparation exercises named Exercise IRON TALON 1 and 2, were held in the spring in LFCATC

After six months of training, six riflemen from The Queen's Own Rifles finished the Cambrian Patrol last October.



Meaford. They focused on defensive operations at the company level and battle group level. In between these two exercises, select members of Para Coy were able to participate in a CC-117 jump in Trenton with CFLAWC.

The QOR also provided a section to deploy to Yuma, Arizona with our Affiliated Battle Group, 3 RCR, for six weeks in March and April. The riflemen had the opportunity to work with Oscar Company while they supported the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Course. A great deal of experience was gained conducting airmobile and fast-rope operations.

On 22 May, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Toronto. As part of the visit, several parades were held in Toronto in which the QOR were involved. While the Prince of Wales was visiting a few locations as part of his itinerary that afternoon, HRH Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, slipped away to visit the QOR as the new Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. Despite the visit being mid-week, the unit was able to have a 100-soldier guard on parade to welcome her at Moss Park Armoury. Later on that evening, several soldiers were on parade for an additional 100-soldier guard at Fort York Armoury, along with other units within LFCA.

In the summer of 2012, the QOR broke new ground and demonstrated their capacity as a parachute-tasked unit by running a Basic Parachutist Course. The course was the vision of the CO, LCol St Denis, who recognized that the unit had enough parachute instructors and experience within the ranks to run a course. He felt the course would serve a variety of purposes in supporting reserve retention while at the same time showcasing the QOR's evolution as a para-tasked unit.

Several Basic Parachutist courses catering to Reserves were run in the mid-2000s. In addition, Reserve parachute instructors from the QOR have instructed Basic Parachute courses for years. This started with WO Donovan O'Halloran in the mid-1990s and now continues to this day with three QOR parachute instructors on permanent contract at CFLAWC. What was unique about this course was it would be "exported" to a reserve unit to run using an all Reserve staff to provide a course exclusively for Reservists.

The designation "exported" meant that funding, administration and execution would be different than a regular CFLAWC Basic Parachutist Course. In this case, the QOR were tasked to administer and execute the course with funding coming from Land Forces Central Area (LFCA). As this was a first for the QOR, CFLAWC

provided incredible guidance and support to enable this.

As a result of the funding source, each of the 3 Reserve brigades in LFCA were to receive between 12 to 15 spots with six spots in total being allocated to honorary colonels. To maximize economy of effort, the course ran concurrent to the cadet course and shared important resources such as aircraft, riggers, DZ crew and medics.

Thanks to the course staff (Capt Scott Moody, WO Sean Willard, Sgt Brian Burns, Sgt Jason Chin-Leung, Sgt Dmitri Frounze, Sgt Brian Ragos, Sgt Jason Bridge, MCpl Chris Abate, MCpl Jesse Behan and MCpl Darnel Leader), 40 new jumpers received their wings. It is the hope of the QOR of C that this can become an annual event for the Reserves.

Exercise STEADFAST WARRIOR, a 32 CBG FTX, was the next major event for the QOR in the summer. The two-week exercise took place in CFB Petawawa and focused on battle group level defensive operations. During the exercise, personnel from the QOR worked again with the U.S. 56 Stryker Brigade.

After the summer concentration, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada took over as the lead for Training Group Bravo (TG-B). This appointment meant that the unit would be responsible for planning and executing the exercises that will train and refresh soldiers on their individual and collective battle task standards. The training group is current led by the QOR and includes four other 32 CBG units, totalling roughly one thousand soldiers.

To initiate the training cycle, several exercises were held in September and October. These exercises focused on refreshing individual soldiers' skills by conducting ranges for a variety of weapons systems and stand training. To ensure we "train to excite" and reward the soldiers who completed their training, helicopter rappelling was facilitated by Recce Platoon during the last exercise.

The culmination of the QOR Shooting Team's efforts took place in September when MCpl Sam Kim, Cpls Enoch Wong, Dustin Chang, Adam Gee, Graham Humphrey and Phil Hordo were nominated by LFCA to represent the Reserve team at the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition (CFSAC) in September. The riflemen yielded strong results with Cpl Phil Hordo winning top "Tyro." Team Captain, Sgt Tom Fabry, administered the team and facilitated its competition in six Ontario Rifle Association (ORA) competitions during the summer. As a result of their stellar performance in these competitions, they were recommended for CFSAC.





In October, eight riflemen completed the Cambrian Patrol in the United Kingdom. This followed six months of dedicated and challenging training. The team was intended to be a brigade team that was facilitated by The Royal Regiment of Canada. However, in the end it consisted of eight riflemen, seven of the eight being

competitors, with one rifleman going as a spare. This team is an excellent example of the commitment and key role the QOR plays within 32 CBG and the overall motivation of our riflemen.

In the fall, two major parachute events took place. In October, several members from the Para Coy deployed to CFB Trenton to support 8 Wing in training eight of its CC-117 pilots in parachute drops. In November, an annual parachute refresher and airborne indoctrination was held. As always, several parachute qualified members from other units within 32 CBG also attended. The refresher culminated with static-line parachute descents from a 400 Sqn CH-146. All 80 participants received one jump and several more managed to get two.

At the end of November, Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes stepped down after 40 years of service to the unit. Taking over from him will be Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson, formerly of the PPCLI and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. HCol Hughes' guidance and dedication has allowed the QOR to become the unit it is today. We look forward to this continuing with HCol Stevenson.

To finish the year, the QOR led TG-B in a defensive exercise in LFCA TC Meaford. This exercise employed the skills of our Recce Platoon's complex terrain detachment that facilitated a rappel descent for two of the rifle companies to infiltrate into their battle positions.

The events of 2012 make it an extremely important year for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The achievements and dedication of riflemen over the year has helped the unit further establish itself as one of the leading reserve light infantry units in Canada. The QOR has also displayed that it can effectively manage the responsibility of its unique parachute task and develop the task to further benefit the Reserves and the Canadian Forces.

Airborne! ■



## QOR

Rucksacks for Airframes: Reservists and Regulars Train in Arizona

by Master Corporal Adam R. Winnicki

henever I hear of training to be held in United States, I jump at the chance. When it is conducted by the 3rd Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment with the United States Marine Corps, it's an opportunity that I cannot miss. This year's opportunity was with Oscar Company – 3RCR when eight members of The Queen's Own Rifles were able to train in Yuma, Arizona.

Our preparations started in late March when we left the cold climes of Petawawa for the hot desert of Yuma. Members of the 3RCR and the RCD (Royal Canadian Dragoons) were sent down to assist in training for the Weapons and Tactics Instructors (WTI) Course. Our home for the next five weeks was FOB Laguna, a makeshift Forward Operating Base located in U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. Conditions mimicked those of Afghanistan, and with Yuma's terrain and heat, it reminded me of my deployment overseas in 2008.





Oscar Company's intent was to complete company-level live-fire ranges, so we began with PWTs and section-level training. Our gun camps allowed us to handle many different weapon systems from pistol, shotguns and M203s to 84mm, 50 cal, and even the lost 60mm mortar. Following that, we spent four days of Close Quarter Battle training in an excellent but difficult urban compound called West LA. On the fourth day of Urban Ops, we traded our notional rounds for paintball, facing off with a challenging enemy force, which included Oscar Coy's OC, Major Hill. We put our skills to the test and I can say we kept them on their toes by giving them a good fight.

In between all the great weapons training, we were getting ready for helicopter operations. For the past few years, mechanized training was the name of the game for the Canadian Infantry. For this exercise, our LAVs and Coyotes were swapped for Hueys, Sea Stallions and Ospreys. In preparation before riding these Marine aircraft, we practiced on and off drills and fast roping (a method of insertion using 60-foot ropes suspended from a helicopter). The 3RCR HIIs (Helicopter Insertion Instructors) built a one-of-a-kind fast roping rig on top of two sea containers. This made for a tremendous tool for dry training before the real thing.

Some soldiers had never been in a Griffon helicopter, so it was a real pleasure to ride in the monstrous Sea Stallions and the astonishing Osprey.

It is an engineering marvel as it has the ability to take off and land like a helicopter but has the speed and manoeuvrability of an airplane. An insertion onto an objective is just a single phase on the infantry's big picture. The real job begins when our boots are on the ground.

This is where I found the true value of going down to the United States: the live fire ranges. When it comes to live fire, whether it is section, platoon or even company size, all ranks have something to learn. Commanding troops in a live scenario adds a degree of control, responsibility and trust in individual skills. It brings you as close to fighting a real enemy as it comes, something we do not do often enough in both the Regular

and Reserve forces.

Every soldier on this exercise saw the importance and effectiveness of Air Mobile Operations. Being able to insert on or near your objective adds speed, surprise and maximum firepower to any mission. This can only enhance Canada's reputation as a world class fighting force.

**ABOVE:** Cpl Zimin fast roping in Yuma, Arizona from a United States Marines helicopter.

**BELOW:** Corporals Falco, Abzovic, Zimin, Olzsewski, Langille, Brooks and MCpl Winnicki on WTl with 3 RCR O-Coy in Yuma, Arizona.







## **QOR**

**Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE 2013** 

photos by Master Corporal Dan Pop and Paul Lantz



he Queen's Own Rifles took part in Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE in Moosonee, Ontario, on February 22, 2013. Exercise TRILLIUM RESPONSE is Joint Task Force Central's annual field training exercise aimed at developing and maintaining the capability and expertise to conduct various operations in remote areas and austere conditions. This year's exercise focuses on a defence of Canada scenario in a remote area of Northern Ontario. The exercise is providing challenging training to Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, allowing them to regenerate winter field skills operating in harsh weather conditions.

es membres du Queen's Own Rifles of Canada ont pris part dans l'exercice TRILLIUM RESPONSE à Moosonee (Ontario) le 22 février 2013. L'exercice TRILLIUM RESPONSE est un exercice annuel en campagne de la Force opérationnelle interarmées (du centre) qui vise à développer et à assurer le maintien de la capacité et de l'expertise nécessaires pour mener des opérations variées dans des secteurs isolés dans des conditions difficiles. Cette année, l'exercice portera principalement sur un scénario de défense du Canada dans un secteur isolé du nord de l'Ontario. L'exercice offre à des membres de l'Armée canadienne et de l'Aviation royale canadienne une occasion de procéder à de l'entraînement exigeant. Ils peuvent ainsi remettre à jour et exercer leurs compétences de vie en campagne dans de difficiles conditions météorologiques.









**ABOVE LEFT:** QOR Cpl Olszewski moves off of DZ de Vries on the frozen Moose River in Moosonee, Ontario.

**ABOVE MIDDLE AND RIGHT:** QOR MCpl Farrell leads his section off of DZ de Vries.

**BELOW:** QOR members descend during a full-equipment parachute descent onto DZ de Vries.

**LEFT:** A QOR member hits the ground on DZ de Vries. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A member of the QOR lands on DZ de Vries.







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ABOVE: QOR members at chalk assembly in Cochrane, Ontario, in preparation for a full-equipment parachute descent. BELOW: QOR members exit a CC-130J Hercules aircraft during EX TRILLIUM RESPONSE. (PAUL LANTZ)



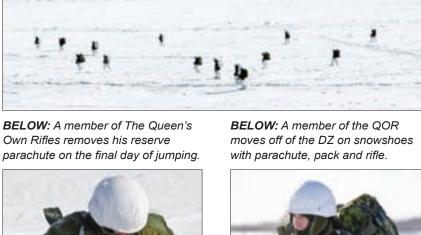
ABOVE: QOR members dressed in full equipment in a CC-130J Hercules before a parachute descent onto DZ de Vries. BELOW: QOR members move off of DZ de Vries on the frozen Moose River. (PAUL LANTZ)



BELOW: A fully equipped member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada comes in for a landing on DZ de Vries.



Own Rifles removes his reserve













## 1 CAN PARA

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

by Joanne de Vries

uring the past few months since the death of Jan de Vries, president of the Battalion Association from 1995 to 2012, the remaining executive members have been attending to the few outstanding issues in order to finalize the closing of the Association.

With thanks to the museum staff and Robert McBride, Chairman of the Board of Directors Canadian Airborne Forces Museum, the set of Battalion Colours, Central Area, is now mounted in the Memories Room at the Airborne Forces Museum at CFB Petawawa. Provisions are being made at present for the Western set of Colours to be displayed in the Military Museums in Calgary. A dedication in Calgary is planned for 1100 hours on 5 June 2013. Thanks to member Russ Dixon for his liaison with the Museum in Calgary. The Eastern set has for some time been in care of the Museum at the Citadel in Halifax. In each of these museums there is an exhibit of Battalion artefacts along with the Colours.

One item outstanding is recognition of the Battalion at Camp Niagara at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Men of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion returned to Canada, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax in June 1945 after serving with the 6th British Airborne Division. They fought valiantly in WWII from D-Day to the end of the war in Europe on 8 May 1945 receiving four Battle Honours for their victorious efforts. They were billeted at Camp Niagara while waiting to be deployed to the Far East. Since the war in the East ended during the stay at Camp Niagara, the Battalion was stood down on 30 September 1945. Battalion member Roly Harper is in communication with those at Camp Niagara to ensure that the Battalion is recognized in the event that

The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Colours are on display at the Airborne Museum at CFB Petawawa. Along with the wings and Pegasus emblem are the battalion's four notable deployments during the Second World War: Dives, Normany Landing, Rhine and Northwest Europe (1944-45).

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a memorial may be erected in recognition of all the units which have passed through the camp.

On 10 August 2012, on behalf of Battalion veterans, I was privileged to present the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Bursary to Cadet Troy Millsap from Collingwood, ON. He was one of forty-five cadets from all across Canada to receive their wings during the graduation parade for the young Cadets who successfully completed the Basic Para Course at CFB Trenton. Troy plans to upgrade some courses and ultimately attend university in a kinesiology programme. We wish him success in his studies.

It was unfortunate there was no Battalion exhibit at the RCMI-sponsored Military Band Concert at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto this past October. It is hoped that the 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para re-enactment group and/or other interested parties will be able to put on a 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para exhibit in October of this year. It was appreciated, with thanks to LCol Lockhart, that CFLAWC was again able to put on an exhibit.

Congratulations to Battalion veterans Bob Firlotte and Monty Marsden, who were presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Since Bob has been housebound for quite some time, his MP John McKay kindly agreed to visit Bob at his home to present the medal. At an Airborne

luncheon in Chilliwack BC, Gen Foster presented the medal to Monty. Jan de Vries also received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal posthumously. I was pleased to be able to attend a ceremony to accept the medal on his behalf.

On 11 November 2012, it was a huge honour and privilege for me to accept a request by QOR Commanding Officer, LCol Peter St. Denis, and to lay the wreath on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion veterans during the QOR Remembrance Parade and ceremony at St. Paul's Church in Toronto. For many years previously, Jan laid this wreath.

The QOR unit Christmas dinner was held on 15 December. Battalion members are always welcome at this event. The recipient of the 1st Can Para Reg Walker Award was MCpl Winnicki (60th Coy). Doreen Walker, Reg's widow, daughter Wendy Grant, granddaughter Amanda Grant and I were in attendance. We were most appreciative of the invitation to attend this event and we enjoyed the welcomed camaraderie of the members of the QOR. I was privileged to present on behalf of Battalion veterans a copy of *Tip of the Spear* to MCpl Winnicki with congratulations and best wishes for continued success. It was a great evening.

Best wishes to the Airborne community for good health and happiness in 2013. ■

### French Paras Capture Malian City

story reprinted from the Daily Mail, 1 February 2013

his is the dramatic moment French soldiers parachuted into Mali to recapture the city of Timbuktu from the hands of Islamic militants.

Pictures released by the French Army Communications Audiovisual office show dozens of paratroopers falling from the sky above Timbuktu airport on Tuesday before joining soldiers from the Malian army to advance into the historical city.

A total of 250 French paratroopers were dropped in as part as part of Operation SERVAL to recapture Timbuktu. They were greeted as liberating heroes by the townspeople with the extremists melting away into the desert without firing a shot.



**ABOVE:** Dropping in: French paratroopers fall from the sky above Timbuktu airport in Mali as part of Operation SERVAL to recapture the historical city. (AP) **CI-HAUT:** À Tombouctou, une opération aéroportée a permis de parachuter un élément du 17° Régiment de génie parachutiste (RGP) ainsi que du matériel afin de rétablir le trafic aérien sur l'aéroport de la ville. (AP)







## 1 CAN PARA

1<sup>st</sup> Can Para Battalion Cadet Corps, Brighton, Ontario

by R.F. "Andy" Anderson

was honoured by an invitation from Gen (ret'd) Ian Douglas to attend and serve as reviewing officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, on Saturday, 9 June 2012.

The Corps was established through the initiative and effort of Ian Douglas, and they train under the watchful eye of personnel from the Canadian Forces Advanced Land Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) at CFB Trenton, nearby. I was emotionally touched by the appearance, deportment and drill of these young people. It was a privilege to inspect and speak to these fine cadets. Their parade, march past and various demonstrations did our Battalion proud! I think you would agree that they are worthy of the honour of wearing our cap badge.

The Corps has studied our history and I was able to tell them where A, B and C Companies were engaged, in Normandy, 68 years ago to the day of their Review. The cadets and their parents lined up at the conclusion

of the parade and demonstrations and asked questions about our experience.

Airborne! ■

Cadets have fun during a basic training course to spell out "para" and show their support for paratroopers. (PAO CENTRAL ARMY CADETS)

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## **FSSF**

#### In Memoriam: Montana Heroes Die on Same Day



n Sunday, 1 April 2012, the last two First Special Service Force veterans from Montana passed away, within 12 hours of each other. Joe Glass, 1-2, was born in Sarnia, Ontario on 14 March 1920. Joe was a bayonet instructor in Ottawa when he volunteered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion and qualified as a member of the First Special Service Force. Joe met his future wife, Dorothy, while training in Helena, Montana and they were married on 6 March 1943. Joe returned to Helena after the war, where he and Dorothy lived and raised their family. Joe was preceded in death by Dorothy, his wife of 67 years.

Mark Radcliffe, 3-3, was born in Shiprock, New Mexico on 6 September 1918. Mark enlisted in the U.S. Army and was with the 161st Infantry Regiment in Hawaii on 7 December 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbour. He volunteered for the First Special Service Force and was the Executive Officer of 1st Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment when the Force was deactivated. Mark and Edie met while Mark was training in Helena and they were married on 3 September 1942. Mark is survived by his wife of 69 years, Edie.

Mark and Joe were active in the Helena community and the First Special Service Force Association. Mark served as FSSF Association President in 1947, 1948 and 1992, and Joe served as President in 1980. Both men were instrumental in the construction of the First Special Service Force Monument in Helena and the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison.

Governor Brian Schweitzer ordered all flags in the state of Montana be flown at half-staff in honor of the First Special Service Force and in memory of Mark Radcliffe and Joe Glass. Our sincere appreciation to the members of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, and 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group who attended the services for Mark and Joe. The 10<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) provided the Honor Group and Firing Squad for the Military Services at the Montana Veterans Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with families of the following men whose name did not appear in the last issue of the Spearhead or who have passed away since the 2011 Edmonton Reunion:

This combined image shows Joe Glass, left, and Mark Radcliffe, members of the First Special Service Force during World War II. Montana residents Glass, 92, and Radcliffe, 94, died on 1 April 2012, within 12 hours of one another.



Alvestad, Berhnard Washington Bazurto, Henry Arizona Bonzek, Joseph New York Borod, Sam Québec Brown, Ernie Ontario Burley, Douglas United Kingdom Chilbeck, Ivan Washington Chory, Charles Massachusetts Clark, George Washington Coombs, Fred Pennsylvania Drost, E.W. Manitoba British Columbia Dunlop, Charles Dunlop, Lloyd Nova Scotia Eacrett, Robert Alberta Ellis, Thurman Maryland Eros, Sam British Columbia Foss, Frederick New Hampshire Florida Gay, Kenneth Glass, Joseph Montana Greenwald, Henry New Jersey Knutson, William Alberta Leaver, William Nova Scotia Long, Patrick South Carolina

Macphie, Warren Ontario Martin, Jack British Columbia Matthias, Melvin Washington Merrim, Lewis California Miller, Alex Texas Overall, Norm Ontario Patch, Preston Vermont Pate, Walter Missouri Radcliffe, T. Mark Montana Rector, Millard Nova Scotia Ringlero, Mervin Arizona Scharf, Eric Florida Indiana Shackle, Harry Shiverdecker, Robert Colorado Shufflebotham, Don New Jersey Simmons, Frank Montana Smith, Pat Ontario Ontario Snider, George Wiber, William Ontario Wines, James Montana Wolf, Edward Pennsylvania Zilkie, C.W. British Columbia Zimmerman, Paul Florida

CAFA/ARAC Bursary Award Winner

by LCol (ret'd) Robert Janik

n behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association, and representing the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood, I am pleased to announce that the recipient of this year's award is:

#### Ms. Katarina Heidi Michelini

Ms Michelini is the granddaughter of Gordon Edwards, formerly of The Canadian Airborne Regiment. Ms Michelini will be attending Guelph University, admitted to the Bachelor of Science, Honours, Major Biological Science program and plans to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.

To all applicants, I extend to you the appreciation of the board for considering our fund. On behalf of the selection committee, I extend to you the recognition that your successes and accomplishments reflect singularly well on your abilities and character. On behalf of the Airborne Brotherhood at large, I extend to you our sincere wishes for every success in the future. ■







## AIRBORNE RECIPIENTS

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Awarded to Airborne Vets in NB



n 15 September 2012, Senator Joe Day presented the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to two outstanding New Brunswickers: LCol (ret'd) Allan Kennedy, OMM, CD and LGen (ret'd) Lou Cuppens, CMM, CD. The medal, authorized by HM Queen Elizabeth II, was awarded for "volunteerism and outstanding public service to Canada."

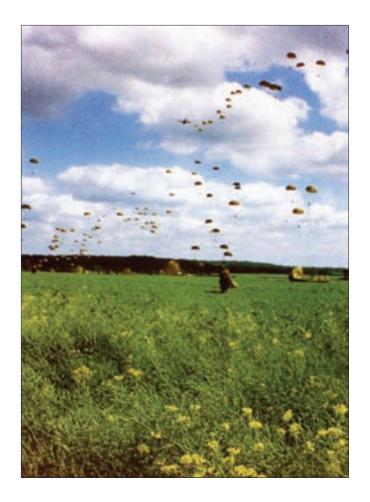
Held at the Fredericton Armoury through the courtesy of LCol Ron Bertin, Commanding Officer, 1 Battalion, RNBR, the event was attended by a significant representation of Canadian Forces military personnel including The Black Watch Association, Atlantic Branch. Representing the Canadian Airborne Forces Association was CWO Bill Gillen.

ABOVE: From left, LGen Lou Cuppens, Senator Joe Day, CWO Bill Gillen and LCol Allan Kennedy. Both LGen Cuppens and LCol Kennedy received the Queen's Diamond Jubiliee Medal for their service. RIGHT: Created in 2012 to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was a tangible

way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, this commemorative medal served to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians were recognized.

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## A Remarkable History

Airborne Troops Celebrate
70 Years of Jumping in Canada

by Megan Brush, reprinted from Esprit de Corps Magazine

his year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of airborne troops in Canada, beginning in 1943 during the Second World War. In 1968, the creation of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) solidified Canada's paratroop legacy. The history of airborne troops in Canada is a roller coaster of successes and scandal. The fallout from the highly controversial Somalia Affair led to the disbandment of the CAR in 1995. Despite its tattered history, the airborne capacity of the Canadian Forces as well as the old regiment will remain a show of pride to many of its veterans.

The forefathers of the CAR are the soldiers of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion from the Second World War. Formed in July 1942 under the guidance of General Tommy Burns, a leader who understood the advantages a paratroop element could bring to the battlefield. The British and Americans had created their own airborne units similarly following the success of the German use of paratroops during the opening phase of the Second World

War. Although the Canadian Army order of battle had no place for the battalion, the British welcomed the unit within its 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division.

The unit first deployed on D-Day in advance of the Normandy landings of 6 June 1944, and later, as part of Operation VARSITY, they crossed the Rhine River to capture German territory. Launched in March 1945 as a joint American-British airborne assault, Operation VARSITY was the largest airborne drop in history.

Andy Anderson, a veteran of this operation, said, "Our whole battalion, 900 men, were dropped into the drop zone the size of about two football fields. It was highly successful." He recalls feeling pleased the morning of the jump.

ABOVE: The Canadian Airborne Regiment conducted Exercise NORMANDY SALUTE to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mass drop into Ranville, France by the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion which took place on 5 June 1944. (CANADIAN AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM)

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"I remember getting up in a ready hut, where we were in the airfield, and seeing the sun out and thought, 'This is going to be a wonderful bloody drop. It's 10 o'clock in the morning, the pilots will be able to see the land and find our drop zone' — and they did. It was a magnificent encounter and battle." Previously, the battalion had been the only Canadian unit to fight in the Ardennes.

Growing up in a family of veterans, Anderson said he felt compelled to join up during wartime. His father was a decorated veteran of the First World War and his mother had served as a Nursing Sister. Originally, he was in England with the engineers. Anderson was an expert in various explosives, including land mines, booby traps, and bombs.

Eventually, he said, he grew bored of it. As with many of life's random turns, Anderson ran into high school friends in England. They sported the maroon beret. Over a beer, he told them of his boredom and they suggested the airborne. He never looked back. Anderson reflected, "As a member of the battalion, it's natural to think that you are one of the best and you can supersede anybody in the infantry or any units you come across. As far as the enemy is concerned, we came to have great respect for the German infantry."

After the Second World War, the Canadian Forces created Mobile Strike Force (1948–1958), improving Canada's NATO defence contribution. Lawrence Woodbury, a veteran of the Mobile Strike Force and of the Korean War (1950–1953), explained the reasoning for its creation.

"Mobile Strike Force was formed when the Russians were supposed to go through Germany in the Cold War. We were to be trained to go in there and, supposedly, we knew we couldn't stop them, but the Mobile Strike Force was to go there and stop them, blow all the bloody bridges, and stop them until we got troops together," recalls Woodbury. "That's

General J.V. Allard, the 'father' of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, inspects his paratroopers on 8 August 1969 during the first Regimental Change of Command Parade. The Regiment was formed on 8 April 1968 and underwent a series of amalgamations and reorganizations throughout its 25-year history. (CANADIAN FORCES PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT)

at least what I understood — I was just a private," he added.

Canada needed to have mobile troops capable of a variety of warfare conditions. These conditions included freezing, brutal winters. Woodbury described his airborne winter training in Churchill, Manitoba, in a simple statement: "It was terrible," he said. When preparing to jump, they would test the ice by sacrificing their supplies first. All troopers packed sleighs holding all of their supplies, such as snowshoes and food, into a Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar aircraft.

"The bomb bay doors opened, they dropped the sleighs with small parachutes, and then flew back over again to see which ones had smashed," explained Woodbury. "If the sleighs were smashed by any reason, hitting the clear ice or something, then that group would not jump because you had no means of surviving."

It was in 1966 that Lieutenant-General Jean Victor Allard, the new commander of Force Mobile Command (FMC), told the Committee of National Defence that the Canadian Army needed to be more mobile. In their book *In Search of* Pegasus, authors Bernd Horn and Michel Wyczynski claim Allard "deduced that a 'significant portion of the Canadian Army Field Force must be capable of operating in limited war in any part of the world." He stressed mobility as a strategic aspect of the military and, as part of this mobility, the army should establish paratroops and light forces.

In the spring of 1966, Gen. Allard, now chief of defence staff, proposed the planning of the new Airborne Commando Regiment. However, setbacks ensued, including an issue with the name of "commando" sounding too aggressive for the senior command. Eventually, the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) was officially established on April 8, 1968.

Veteran Al Grice is vice-president of the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada. He explained the regiment as "a grouping of a number of military capabilities. It included, primarily, an infantry organization with three infantry commandos." They were drawn from each of the three regular infantry regiments: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Royal Canadian

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Cpl Tremblay, of Direct Fire Support Platoon, patiently waits with his .50 calibre machine gun during Exercise PEGASUS BLIZZARD, in January 1994. (ROBERT PROUSE)

Regiment, and the Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. In addition, other arms and services supported them, such as an Airborne Field Squadron, an Airborne battery of gunners, an Airborne Regimental Headquarters and Signals Squadron, which provided headquarters services and administrative background, and an Airborne Service Support Company that contained transport, maintenance, ordinance, or supply functions.

Grice found his introduction into the Airborne years later in a similar twist of fate. He joined the CAR not because of his interest in parachuting, but because of the promise of a large percentage of divers in the regiment.

"I had to take the parachute course and, low and behold, they didn't establish any divers until about two years later. I was there slightly under false pretences," laughs Grice, "but happy to do it because it was an organization which seemed to be a little bit different than the normal scheme of things. It attracted a lot of young, silly guys like me," he laughs again.

Grice speaks about the feeling of empowerment within the airborne. "I think we thought we were better. From our perspective, we went about what we did and we did it well and we did it better than another organisation would do it." Grice thinks this led to disgruntled feelings toward the Airborne Regiment from others not in the Airborne.

"There tended to be a degree of anti-Airborne feeling from outside the regiment because there were natural feelings that we would get special treatment that they didn't get," he explained. "We took a lot of people from other battalions and various organisations that they didn't necessarily want to lose."

In 1993, the entire history of the Canadian Airborne Regiment changed forever. The regiment deployed as a part of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). It was during this mission that the regiment began the spiralling road to its demise. The brutal torture and murder of Shidane Arone in March 1993 at the hands of a number of Canadian Airborne troops exposed major flaws, corruption, and immoral behaviour within the regiment. The vacuum became too great for the regiment to survive following the public release of a brutal hazing video, and the Liberal government officially disbanded the CAR in 1995.

"I was shocked and absolutely embarrassed by some of the public things that led to the eventual disbandment,



and all the issues surrounding that," said Grice. "I was shocked to learn some of the things that were going on in the regiment in its latter days. I still think that should be larger than the regiment."

Grice describes the disbandment as "a very big hammer to something that should have been solved with a rapier on those people who were responsible."

Anderson called the disbandment a "terrible tragedy" because the regiment was home to the veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. "The regiment was formed and we were always invited to their functions — their reunions and parades. We got to know their commanders and so many of their troops," he said. "We were very, very proud of the Canadian Airborne Regiment so it was a terrible blow to me because I was president of the association by the time I got word."

Anderson also spoke positively about Colonel Peter Kenward, the man put in charge prior to the public scandal. He was meant to clean the mess up. "I knew Colonel Peter Kenward, who was a fine commander and wasn't in Somalia, but he had turned the regiment around to a first-class outfit," said Anderson.

Despite all the history, Grice said, "I think I would advocate for the Airborne Regiment. I would like the name of the Airborne Regiment to be lifted from under that cloud that history has put it.

"But I am not certain that I would advocate that the regiment be founded, but it hurts me that the regiment that I felt so close to still has this stain of history on it when, again," he added, "it was a question of the times, and the question of the situation, and a question of the personalities. It's terribly difficult."

Canada's airborne legacy continues to this day in the form of three regimental jump companies and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment.





## CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Master Corporal Nicholas Turner recognized

by Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Errington, Commanding Officer, 3 PPCLI

Cpl Turner joined the Canadian Forces in August of 2005 and immediately requested a posting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, which he received after completion of Battle School. Since joining, MCpl Turner has shown the utmost in dedication to soldiering and parachuting. In 2006, he completed his Basic Parachutist course, and was honoured as a top performer with the opportunity to attend Mention Days, the First Special Service Force (Devil's Brigade) reunion and celebration.

In 2007, MCpl Turner completed his Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman and Basic Sniper courses back-to-back. Immediately after these courses, MCpl Turner began work-up training and deployed to Afghanistan with the 2 PPCLI Battle Group, Task Force 1-08. After returning, he again demonstrated his commitment to parachuting by completing his Static Line (Round) Jump Master course, and then subsequently instructing on a serial of Basic Sniper.

In 2010, MCpl Turner followed up his success on Jump Master by completing his Parachute Instructor course and his Sniper Detachment Commander Course. Finally in 2011, MCpl Turner instructed on yet another serial of Basic Para, completed his Military Freefall Parachutist/ Static Line Square Canopy course, and then deployed on Roto 0 of OP ATTENTION as a tactical advisor in Herat, Afghanistan.



Throughout the 2012-2013 fiscal year, MCpl Turner has consistently demonstrated himself to be an exceptionally hard-working, reliable, fit and aggressive paratrooper. Since returning from OP ATTENTION, MCpl Turner has excelled in his position as a sniper within the Para Company Group (3 PPCLI). He continued his streak of parachute qualifications by completing the Freefall Jump Master Course, making him one of the Battalion's subject matter experts in anything parachute related. He skillfully passed on his knowledge as an instructor on two back-to-back decentralized serials of Basic Para and Jump Master run by 3 PPCLI.

He demonstrated the utmost in parachuting skill during the Para Company Group's (PCG) EX PEGASUS INFERNO, where he conducted free-fall trial jumps with the C14 and C15 sniper weapon systems. Despite the inherent dangers of jumping the large weapon in free-fall, he successfully completed the jumps and proved the concept, paving the way for future trials within the unit and the CF. His dedication to soldiering does not end at parachuting activities either; he is committed to teaching others, always willing to volunteer as an instructor on courses. He started 2013 off as an instructor on PPCLI's Basic Recce Patrolman course, volunteering to lead PT every morning.

MCpl Turner is committed to bettering himself professionally and physically, and is arguably the fittest soldier in 3 PPCLI. In February, he put his fitness and soldiering expertise to the test when he was accepted to, and successfully completed the Search and Rescue Technician selection process, a grueling 16 day test of stamina and determination.

Without question, MCpl Turner embodies the Airborne spirit and core values expected of a paratrooper and he is therefore 3 PPCLI's nomination for this year's CAFA Airborne Soldier of the Year Award.

60 ~ Le Beret Marron





## Canadian Airborne Regiment of Canada seeks your support



The Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC) is asking for paratroopers and supporters to answer the "riggers call" in support of the planned project for the building of the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn in Edmonton, Alberta. In 2006, during a special ceremony, the Airborne Plaza and street names were dedicated to 1 Commando soldiers Perron and Berger who died in 1974 in the service of their country.

For those unfamiliar with these names, 20-year-old Private Lionel Gilbert Perron and Private Joseph Jean Claude Berger, aged 21, were killed and another 30 Airborne soldiers were wounded during hostilities in Cyprus. Perron, who was killed on August 6, 1974, and Berger, who died a few weeks later on September 10, were the first combat casualties suffered by the Canadian Army since the Korean War; unfortunately, they would not be the last Canadian soldiers to die on operations in the 20° century.

The Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn will represent all Canadian Airborne paratroopers who have fallen throughout the world. This memorial will be the first of its kind, as it will not be erected on a Canadian military base but in the former Griesbach Barracks, where the Airborne Regiment was raised and where many soldiers served.

The City of Edmonton and the Canada Lands Company are supporting the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn that is planned to be unveiled in June 2013. Bill Dickson and his "pathfinders" are in the lead to raise donations for the \$65,000 dollars required to build this long overdue memorial.

Details on the unveiling of the Canadian Airborne

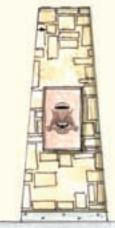
Memorial Cairn will be provided nearer the event. To be
kept up to date on this project, please include an e-mail
address with your donation. There is no doubt that this will
be a national event that will have a significant presence
for currently serving as well as retired military members.

Your swift support will ensure that we will have a Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn the Canadian public and all Canadian paratroopers can be proud of.



ARAC is pleased to offer a special commemorative coin in support of the Canadian Airborne Memorial Cairn in the Perron/Berger Park in Edmonton, Alberta. The coin features the image of the new monument on the front of the coin with the symbols of Pegasus and the Canadian Parachute Corps Crest. The Canadian Parawings are featured on the back of the coin. The coin is plated in antique brass and is 42 mm in diameter with a thickness of 3 mm. It comes with a protective clear pouch and a descriptive card of authenticity. The coins have been donated by ARAC so that 100% of your donation will go towards this fundraising project. For more information, visit the ARAC website at www.airborneassociation.com.





For more information contact:
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www.airborneassociation.com







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