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**MAROON BERET MARRON**

La voix de la fraternité aéroportée canadienne

The voice of the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood



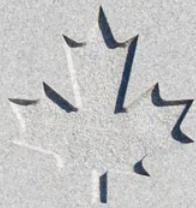
2019  
*The Year in Review*



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Cover Image: "Guns From Above" by Roger Chabot. E Battery (2RCHA) getting its 105 mm L-5 Pack Howitzers ready, during a winter mass drop in the early 1990s. E Battery was part of the Canadian Airborne Regiment Battle Group until its last jump on 3 September 1993. To order a print of "Guns From Above" please visit [www.chabotwarart.com](http://www.chabotwarart.com) under the ARTWORKS BOUTIQUE tab. Click on More Info and follow the ordering instructions.

Couverture: « Guns From Above » par l'artiste Roger Chabot. E Battery (2RCHA) préparant ses L-5 Pack Howitzer de 105 mm durant un saut en masse d'hiver au début des années 1990. E Battery faisait partie du groupement de combat du régiment aéroporté du Canada jusqu'à son dernier saut, le 3 septembre 1993. Pour commander une lithographie de « Guns From Above », SVP, visitez [www.chabotwarart.com](http://www.chabotwarart.com) sous l'onglet ARTWORKS BOUTIQUE. Cliquer sur « More Info » et suivre les instructions de commandes.

*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 (MSWord) to [canadianairborneforces@gmail.com](mailto:canadianairborneforces@gmail.com). The deadline for the 2019 issue is February 1, 2020. *The Maroon Beret* welcomes photos of all jump activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to [canadianairborneforces@gmail.com](mailto:canadianairborneforces@gmail.com). Do not embed photos in the article, but send as attachments. Please include details and photographer's name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

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

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[www.joedrouin.com](http://www.joedrouin.com)

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Esprit de Corps



## CAFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



**G**reetings jumpers and friends of the Airborne Brotherhood! Welcome to another great issue of *The Maroon Beret!*

This is my first article as President of CAFA and right up front I want to thank my predecessor, Walter Homes, as he has done so much during his long term as President in leading, guiding and re-invigorating CAFA. He has created and ensured the conditions for us to continue as a healthy, relevant and well-run organization that respects the legacy of Canadian Airborne forces from WWII to the present day and that promotes those operational capabilities now and into the future.

The year 2019 was another busy one for CAFA. At our AGM in May at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC), we accomplished a good deal of business, including ensuring that we continue to have a full slate filling our executive positions and capable, involved members on our active Board of Directors. We acknowledged the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy with special presentations on the important role of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in that operation by Bernd Horn and Roger Chabot. We

commended Roger for his outstanding accomplishments in completing paintings – “Out of the Clouds” (1 Can Para in Normandy), “Frozen Hell” (First Special Service Force) and “The Liberators” (Queen’s Own Rifles) and for his two “Brothers in Arms” YouTube series that are now featured on the Veterans Channel. We commemorated the sacrifices of those Airborne soldiers at a dignified and well-attended memorial service. Special thanks here to the CO and members of CAAWC, who allowed us to conduct our AGM in their excellent facility and who provided invaluable support.

The work of CAFA members continued throughout the year as they conducted the selection procedures for the Airborne Soldier of the Year, the Airborne Forces Scholarship, edited this excellent magazine and laid wreaths at Remembrance Day and other memorial services. Branch #1 (Toronto) organized the Annual Airborne Luncheon at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) and another function to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation MARKET GARDEN. Branch #13 (Huron) conducted a St Michael’s Day weekend that was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by those who could attend.



A final word to commend John Fotheringham for his outstanding work editing *The Maroon Beret* for over ten years. Scott Moody has assumed responsibilities as Editor and will no doubt continue to produce a worthy journal that is appreciated by all members of the Airborne Brotherhood.

*Airborne!*

**Rick Hatton**  
CAFA President

**ABOVE LEFT:** CAFA President Rick Hatton presents a cheque for \$500 to war artist Roger Chabot to support his work with the Brothers in Arms (BIA) video series at the CAFA AGM in May 2019.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Roger Chabot (left) with CAFA President Rick Hatton (right) presents a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Commemorative Coin to MGen (ret'd) Walter Holmes as a thank you for his work as past president of CAFA at the CAFA AGM in May 2019.

**BELOW:** CAFA members gathered at Trenton's Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) on May 5, 2019 for its annual general meeting.



**Canadian Airborne Forces Association**  
**May 5, 2019 Trenton, ON**



## ARAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



**A**s we enter 2020, we recall the events that took place in the past year, as well as how we now are living in these troubled times of the world during the pandemic of COVID-19.

In 2019 the three Airborne Associations — ARAC, CAFA, and the Edmonton-based Airborne Social Club — carried on with their normal activities such as the awarding of the Airborne Scholarship, the Wegner Point Remembrance Ceremony in Petawawa, and the 1 Can Para Memorial Ceremony at Siffleur Falls.

As we embark on 2020, many of our normal activities have been cancelled or moved to virtual activities such as Zoom conferences or webinars.

In the past year, Joe Drouin sold his business of Joe Drouin Enterprises to his former manager, Denis Ringuette, who has renamed the firm as Ringuette Enterprises. It is located at the same location as Joe's was and the same relationship exists as previously was the case with Joe Drouin Enterprises and a full range of Airborne souvenirs including badges and clothing items exist and Denis is open to new ideas and products.

Our colleague Roger Chabot completed his YouTube series on 1 Can Para in Normandy, and moved on to one covering the activities of the First Special Service Force, as well as continuing the creation of his many paintings building on those he unveiled during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

Due to difficulties with our webmaster, we have had problems with our website. We are exploring finding a new supplier, and hopefully this will be sorted in the near future. Our Facebook page is still active.

It is our hope that the pandemic will come under control in this year and we will be able to return to normal activities and interactions in the coming year.

It is our intention that we will be able to again take the lead for the Veterans' Guard at Beechwood Cemetery during the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Ceremony, subject to the country opening up to allow such activity.

*Airborne, Prends Garde* ■

*Dan Clarke  
ARAC President*

### *CAFA Executive Committee, 2019–2020*

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

### *ARAC Executive Committee, 2019–2020*

- Dan Clarke, President
- Vice-President, Vacant
- David Kettle, Chaplain
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Secretary
- Marlene Schmidle, Treasurer
- André Bilodeau, Membership
- Webmaster, TBA
- Marlene Schmidle, Acting Maroon Beret
- Denis Ringuette, Kitshop
- Roger Chabot, Social Activities
- Réal Gagné, Sgt at Arms

**RIGHT:** Retired paratrooper P.M. 'Trapper' Cane, Recce Pl, Canadian Airborne Regiment, presents the Fighting Knife he carried throughout his career to the Adv Recce Cell, Infantry School 5 Div on 7 August 2019. Trapper' Cane enlisted in 1970s in the Canadian Armed Forces, soldiered with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Canadian Airborne Regiment on numerous United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations, worldwide. He was medically retired in the 1990s after surviving a parachute collapse and 180-foot free descent while on operations. He is co-founder of The Canadian Army Veterans (The CAV), a veteran-based riding club organization.



## QUICK REFERENCES

### *ARAC Important Dates for 2020*

- Airborne Luncheon at RCMI Toronto on Friday, September 18, 2020 11:30 for 12:30
- November 11 – Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Airborne Luncheon at RCMI Toronto, April 2021
- AGM May 2021

### *ARAC Head Office and Mailing address*

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

### *Websites & Email addresses*

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CAFA email: [canadianairborneforces@gmail.com](mailto:canadianairborneforces@gmail.com)

ARAC website: [www.airborneassociation.com](http://www.airborneassociation.com)

ARAC email: [airborne1@airborneassociation.com](mailto:airborne1@airborneassociation.com)

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

Kit shop email: [marlysch2019@videotron.ca](mailto:marlysch2019@videotron.ca)

Instagram: [@canadianairborneforces](https://www.instagram.com/canadianairborneforces)



## 3 RCR

*Pro Patria 2019:  
Mike Company,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment*

*by Lieutenant Derek Milner*



The year 2019 was a remarkably fast and high tempo one for all soldiers and paratroopers in Mike Company (M Coy). The beginning of the year began with the reconstitution phase after M Coy was deployed to Iraq on Operation IMPACT, which focused on conducting security force capacity building operations for the Iraqi Security Forces. The mission was rewarding and included several training packages: small arms marksmanship and live fire, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear), CIED/EHAT (Counter Improvised Explosive Device / Explosive Hazard Awareness Team), LOAC/UOF (Law of Armed Conflict / Use of Force), detainee handling, VCP (Vehicle Check Point), cordon and search, leadership, orders format, 16 steps of BP (Battle Procedure), working with terrain models, map reading, reports, and returns and divestment of equipment. M Coy rose to the occasion and exceeded the challenge handing over their responsibility to 2 R22eR, whose rotation commenced in February 2019.

### *Reconstitution Phase*

Coming off deployment leave from Iraq, M Coy found itself in a rebuilding phase following summer leave. During this reconstitution M Coy was topped up with 42 newly qualified DP1 soldiers. Major Summers took over the company with MWO White as his Company Sergeant Major (CSM). The newly formed and young company went headfirst into the mix as the requirement for training took full swing in the summer. The soldiers of M Coy yet again proved their mental and physical robustness as they demonstrated the perseverance that is expected of all who call themselves airborne soldiers. They conducted numerous low-level training opportunities in order to enhance their light fighting capability.

*Members of M Coy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment receive CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) training. This is just one aspect of the training packages the company received in 2019.*



*Members of M Coy prepare for a cold weather parachute jump in 2019.*

### ***EX STALWART GUARDIAN***

In late summer, following the reconstitution phase, M Coy was heavily involved in Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN from 11 to 25 August. M Coy provided mentorship and augmentation to Victory Coy, the Army Reserve contingent from 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). This high-profile training event provided the soldiers and leaders of Victory Coy with a strong foundation and opportunity to enhance and confirm their soldier skills and abilities in addition to planning and executing various types of operations to respond to requests both domestically and abroad.

Ex STALWART GUARDIAN saw personnel from 31, 32 and 33 CBGs operating across 40+ kilometres of terrain. Light Infantry Forces destroyed multiple enemy positions, loosening their stranglehold over tactically important locations. Victory Coy, with M Coy augmentation and mentorship, completed an amphibious assault in which they manoeuvred across the water to close with and destroy the enemy. Through aggressive fire and movement, the enemy was quickly dislodged and defeated; the beachhead was taken and secured. It was a great success for Victory Coy's warriors. Important to note, Cpl Fracassi received the 4 Div Comd's coin during Ex STALWART GUARDIAN for his excellent performance and mentorship of the Army Reserve soldiers and junior leadership.

### ***Platoon & Company Level Pre-Training for EX ARCTIC ANVIL***

Following STALWART GUARDIAN, M Coy jumped right back into high-level training in preparation for a deployment to Mississippi in October for Exercise ARCTIC



*Members of M Coy descend during an evening parachute jump in 2019.*

ANVIL. For the first time in 2019, M Coy deployed as a full company into the Petawawa training area on Ex PEGASUS DEBUT where they conducted their first platoon and company level attacks and got themselves ready for the live fire ranges. Next they moved into everything from individual ranges such as PWT 3 C7 (personal weapons training level 3 on C7 rifles), all the way up to level 3.5 ranges. Soldiers received instructional lessons on prisoner of war (PW) handling, VCPs, and comms training to set them up for success in the many challenges they would experience on Ex ARCTIC ANVIL.

### ***EX ARCTIC ANVIL***

For the newly reconstituted M Coy, Exercise ARCTIC ANVIL proved a great start. Mississippi started out by bringing the HEAT. The initial touchdown at Camp Shelby hit like a brick with a wall of humidity that comes with being in the southern United States. M Coy however was not deterred as they used their first few days to acclimatize to the difference in temperatures by challenging themselves to demanding rucksack marches in the heat and humidity. M Coy also had an opportunity to cultivate their skills by continuing company-level training.

Next up were the level 5 ranges, where the focus was on sets and reps of non-stop attacks on the enemy. The culmination of Ex ARCTIC ANVIL included a final force-on-force field portion consisting of a 20 km infill, followed by aggressive deliberate offensive attacks on enemy dug-in positions as OPFOR, and finally an urban defence that concentrated on 360-degree security and aggressive counterattacks against an unrelenting enemy. Of mention,



MCpl Ranger received a 4 Div Comd Coin for leading an OPFOR detachment and destroying the Battalion's fire base while Cpl Noonan received a 4 Div Comd Coin for continuous fire of the C-16 while employed as OPFOR defending an urban objective.

### *Remembrance Day*

After an outstanding exercise down south in the heat, M Coy was destined to head back to the Great White North and return to Canada in preparation for a joint exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Louisiana. Following redeployment leave, M Coy travelled to Tweed, Ontario for Remembrance Day while the Company Operations Sergeant, Sgt Adams, was personally selected to travel to Ottawa to serve as the CAF Sentry Commander for the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

### *AIRBORNE WEEK*

Following Remembrance Day, the young paratroopers got right back at it, boarding aircraft in order to face their

fears jumping at 1,250 feet above ground level. The weather was cold, yet this did not impact our airborne soldiers from successfully completing two jumps, one day and one night. At the end of that week and based on the company's high tempo training to date, the team's confidence was high leading into the next bound at JRTC in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

### *Conclusion*

The year 2019 was an extremely successful and high tempo year for the soldiers in M Coy. It began with the reconstitution phase coming off of OP IMPACT, rolled right into fierce fighting with our brothers and sisters of the Army Reserve in Petawawa, then into the southern heat of Mississippi, and then back into the cold to do our favourite airborne thing, jumping in preparation for JRTC. This exceptional year will no doubt never be forgotten by our new and experienced soldiers. The wealth of knowledge and experience gained this year will be extremely beneficial for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in the up and coming year of JRTC and future overseas deployments. ■



**ABOVE PHOTOS:** Members of M Coy faced their fears jumping at 1,250 feet above ground level on a cold late fall jump during Airborne Week.

**BELOW & LEFT:** Photo taken at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, during Exercise ARCTIC ANVIL 2019.





## 3 PPCLI

### *Parachute Company's 2019 Year in Review*

*by Captain Graham Mater  
& Captain Matt Prowse*

**A**fter receiving a warning order to deploy on Operation IMPACT in the fall of 2018, the PPCLI Parachute Company began the year with mission focus. The new year saw the adoption of a high tempo Road to High Readiness cycle, including participation in Exercises ORNER Y RAM 2019 and MAPLE RESOLVE 2019. Prior to these pinnacle validation exercises, the company continued to develop the Light Forces Force Employment concept and further hone their skills during harsh winter warfare exercises and Exercise SPARTAN WILDLING.

Following the winter training regimen, the spring saw the Parachute Company completing preparations for two months of high readiness validation in the Wainwright Training Area. Equipment and stores were tested, personal weapons training was conducted, and families were preparing for the beginning of a busy year.

The Parachute Company conducted live fire section, platoon, and company night and day attacks as they began

their training in Wainwright. Complex objectives were destroyed with the help of attachments from the Direct Fire Support Platoon and Assault Pioneer Platoon – .50 calibre machine guns, automatic grenade launcher systems, and Combat Engineers enabled the company's efforts in rapidly destroying the enemy positions.

Upon completion of the attacks, former Officer Commanding the PPCLI Parachute Company, Colonel R.T. Ritchie, Commander of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG), validated the company. In the culminating event of Exercise ORNER Y RAM 2019, Operation TITAN, the PPCLI paratroopers conducted disrupting attacks on the enemy's depth elements, which rendered their command and control centres helpless

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**ABOVE:** A PPCLI paratrooper assists his teammate with his MC-6 parachute at Rhode Island's Leapfest airborne competition in August 2019. Eight countries took part and exchanged wings after the jump. (U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD)



while providing critical intelligence enabling the Brigade's aggressive advance.

Throughout Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, the Parachute Company conducted enabling operations in support of the advancing mechanized manoeuvre units. With severed lines of communication, the company continued to thrive far forward of the brigade frontage. Following months of difficult training, the company returned to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton to further preparations for their upcoming deployment to Baghdad, Iraq.

As the next Force Protection Company for NATO Mission Iraq and a Security Force Platoon for Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, the PPCLI Parachute Company quickly catered their training to prepare for this upcoming deployment. Advanced driving skills and small arms proficiency were the key to success in their next objective. With the assistance of the RCMP and close protection operators within the company, small arms drills and vehicle-based shooting skills were honed to ensure all steps were taken prior to entering the theatre of operations.

During the pre-deployment training cycle, five members of the company participated in Leapfest 2019;

their professionalism and skill representing Canada's airborne community were on display in a high-profile international event.

Building on the hands-and-feet skills previously developed, the company training plan increased to a full rehearsal of what their mission would see in Baghdad. After successfully completing their final step in mission-specific training, the company said goodbye to Canada and their families and boarded a CC-150 Polaris, proudly wearing their maroon berets, and began their mission on OP IMPACT.

The final month of 2019 saw more action in the Joint Operations Area than in the recent past. The PPCLI Parachute Company transitioned from vehicle-borne operations to base defense operations as political and civil instability rose. From driving senior officers and delegates to defending Forward Operating Base Union III, it was certain that the rigorous pre-deployment training paid off in spades. It was clear that December 2019 would be a time not soon forgotten by the members of the company. Living in a world of uncertainty was the norm, and the brave and professional members of the PPCLI Parachute Company were prepared for anything. ■

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**ABOVE:** The PPCLI Parachute Company took part in level 3 live fire training scenarios during Exercise ORNERY RAM in Wainwright, Alberta, in April 2019. **BELOW:** The PPCLI Parachute Company, proudly wearing their maroon berets, were deployed to Baghdad as part of Operation IMPACT in 2019.





## 3 R22eR

*Une année d'excellence en opérations pour la compagnie parachutiste du 3 R22eR*

*par Lieutenant Matt Weeks*

L'année 2019 a été très chargée pour la compagnie parachutiste du 3 R22eR. D'abord, la plupart de nos membres ont fièrement arboré le béret marron dans plusieurs opérations internationales. Le leadership de la compagnie s'est déployé sur l'Opération UNIFIER en Ukraine et sur l'Opération NABERIUS au Niger pour former les forces de sécurité des pays hôtes. Tandis que nos paras plus juniors ont été déployés sur des tâches de sécurité dans le cadre de l'Opération PRESENCE au Sénégal et Mali, et en tant qu'équipe de protection rapprochée sur l'Opération IMPACT en Irak.

Malgré les nombreux engagements opérationnels internationaux, notre arrière-garde s'est, elle aussi, démarquée par son professionnalisme et a fièrement maintenu la capacité aéroportée à la maison comme à l'étranger. En août, une équipe de la compagnie a participé à la compétition annuelle internationale LEAPFEST à Rhode Island

aux États-Unis. Nos représentants ont affronté des parachutistes d'Allemagne, du Mexique, du Maroc et du Qatar, pour n'en nommer que quelques-uns. La compétition consiste à sauter d'un hélicoptère CH-147 Chinook avec comme objectif d'atterrir le plus près possible d'une zone désignée. Notre équipe s'est bien classée tout en vivant une expérience parachutiste unique. Un échange d'aires étrangères a suivi, ce qui a davantage resserré nos liens avec nos alliés.

À Valcartier, la compagnie a effectué plusieurs sauts d'entraînement contribuant du même coup à maintenir la capacité aéroportée de l'Armée canadienne. En octobre, un peloton a effectué des sauts comme «follow-on-force»

**CI-HAUT:** Le Sgt Bédard avec un sous-officier du 95<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Brigade des forces armées Ukrainiennes lors de son déploiement sur l'Opération UNIFIER.

en appui au cours de Patrouilleur-Éclaireur. Enfin, pour finir l'année, la compagnie a effectué plusieurs sauts au niveau de groupe-compagnie à partir du CC-130J Hercules et le CH-146 Griffon afin de maintenir nos compétences et pratiquer nos procédures de zone de largage en vue d'entraînements à plus grosse échelle à venir en 2020.

En somme, nous sommes fiers de nos accomplissements au cours de la dernière année, tant en opérations qu'en entraînement. L'année 2020 s'annonce particulière puisque nous faisons collectivement face à un ennemi invisible, le COVID-19, qui redéfinit notre réalité. D'ailleurs, certains de nos membres ont déjà été appelés sur les lignes de front pour aider nos plus vulnérables. Nous demeurons déterminés à relever ce défi, de vaincre cet ennemi, et sommes toujours prêts à accomplir toute mission que le Canada nous confiera dans le futur.

*Airborne!* ■

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**EN HAUT, À DROITE:** Saut de maintien de compétences à partir d'un CC-130J Hercules à Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, Québec.

**CENTRE:** Journée automnale parfaite pour un saut!

**CI-BAS:** Saut de compagnie avec équipement complet en CH-146 Griffon.





## THE QOR

### *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 2019 in Review*

*by Major Chris Boileau,  
Officer Commanding 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Company*

**T**hroughout 2019, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) would be presented with incredible opportunities and confronted by daunting challenges. The outcome of the year would be a testament not only to the strength and adaptivity of both leadership and paratroopers within 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy, but also the resiliency of the Regiment's parachute capability; indeed, 36 years of traditions and developing relationships within the airborne community by the QOR would prove to be invaluable in contributing to overall mission success.

Harsh conditions and winter storms would prove to be significant obstacles to incorporating tactical insertions during collective training exercises in both January and February. Fortunately, the unit was able to leverage the critical partnership with 8 Wing at CFB Trenton in order to alleviate concerns regarding currency in the early spring. Over the course of three weeks in March, 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy provided both jumpmasters and personnel to four separate activities for both 426 and 436 Squadrons; the geographical proximity of the unit, flexibility in scheduling by jumpers

and ongoing planning by QOR staff meant that short-notice requests could be supported and air force crews would meet their own training requirements.

Concurrently, the Company was investing in the future. One of the most important aspects of maintaining requisite skills as the only parachute-capable infantry sub-unit in the Primary Reserve, is the depth of knowledge in the Air Cell. MWO D. Leader and MCpl K. Jessome both graduated their serial of parachute instructor (PI) at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in February. As if achieving this prestigious qualification was not noteworthy in itself, MCpl K. Jessome also became the first female PI in the history of the Canadian Army. While their course was concluding, MCpl P. Ortega was nearing completion of being certified as a jumpmaster. High winds

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**ABOVE:** *Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR of C) receive a parachute refresher course at the Moss Park Armoury in Toronto in 2018 from MCpl Katherine Jessome. MCpl Jessome became the Canadian Army's first female parachute instructor after graduating in 2019.*



would cause his final jump to be stop-dropped, but the aforementioned descents onto Drop Zone (DZ) Hodgson less than one month later with the unit would see him dispatch a full-equipment night jump and formally earn his title.

As summer drew closer, 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy would conduct a light-equipment jump, staging from CFB Trenton, in May. The Company prepared to support two major upcoming activities, which were Exercise SWIFT RESPONSE and our own annual parachute refresher, Exercise GOLDEN BRIDLE.

The QOR has kept a close relationship with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR); for many years, soldiers of 3 RCR, including M Coy, O Coy and Recce Platoon, have been integrated into unit exercises. This

**ABOVE:** Ruck sacks lie on the tarmac behind aircraft in advance of the first airdrop during Exercise SWIFT RESPONSE 19, in June 2019. **BELOW:** Canadian Armed Forces soldiers prepare equipment before conducting an airborne assault with U.S. Army paratroopers as part of SWIFT RESPONSE 19, a high readiness airborne forces multinational exercise. (U.S. AIR FORCE; U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)



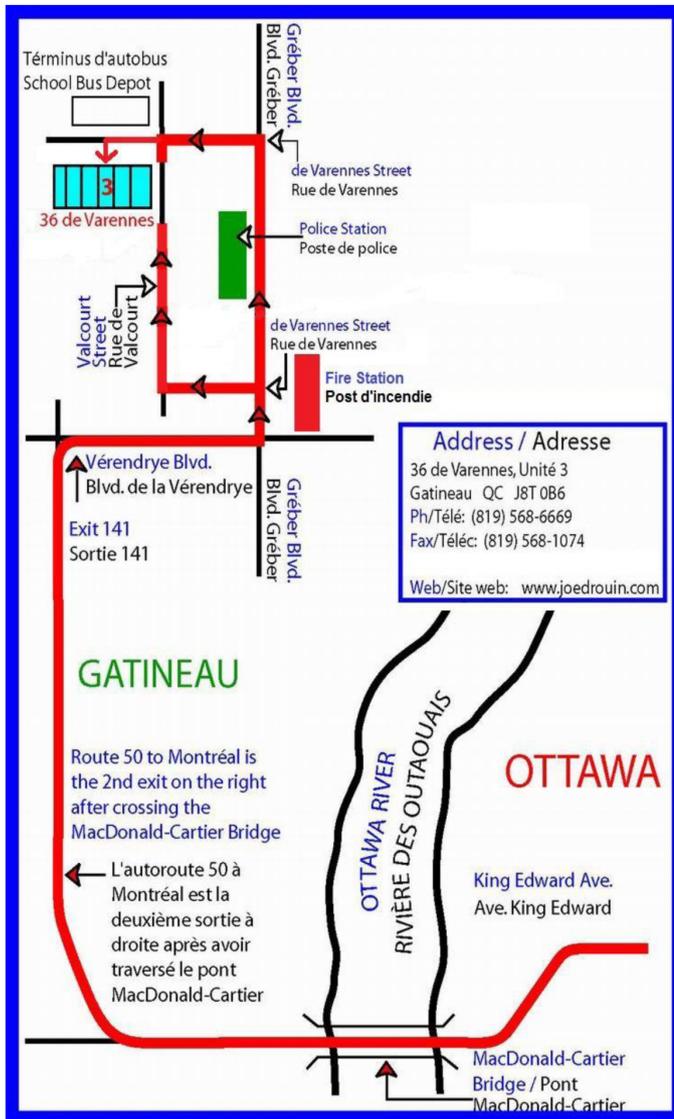
*Bombardier Patrick Labrie, a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery based at 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Petawawa, died on June 15, 2019 as a result of his injuries after a parachute training accident in Bulgaria during SWIFT RESPONSE.*



interoperability has led to our Regular Force counterparts working to provide opportunities for members of 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy to participate in formation-level joint events, both in Canada and abroad. Several personnel deployed with 3 RCR to Bulgaria, cohesively working within the Para Coy Gp during the Joint Forcible Exercise with NATO partners and, ultimately, took part in the ill-fated drop near Cheshnegirovo where Bdr P. Labrie was tragically killed.

The moratorium placed on static-line parachute operations in the aftermath of that incident resulted in cancellation of the annual refresher, which had been scheduled for the following weekend. As the investigation moved forward, restrictions were eased to allow aft-end exits from aircraft and on 11 August 2019, the 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy conducted the first-known jump in the country in the aftermath of the accident, with full equipment onto DZ Hodgson. Aside from re-establishing a level of normalcy, MWO D. Leader joined the exclusive Centurion Club with 100 static-line descents in his career. 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy command was formally transferred on the drop zone: outgoing Maj S. Moody and MWO J. Johnston handed over to Maj C. Boileau and CSM B. Burns.

With the resumption of unit activity in the fall, QOR deployed a team of five paratroopers, managed by MWO J. Johnston, to Poland for the *Zdrzalka* Paratrooper Competition as representatives for the Canadian Army. This was the second time in three years that 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy had sent a contingent to the gruelling event, which challenges participants on weapons handling, orienteering, physical endurance and patrolling. The



## *Airborne Kit Shop under New Management.*

Serving the airborne community since 2001. Effective 1 November 2019, with the retirement of Joe Drouin, the kit shop is under new ownership.

Denis Ringuette, an employee of Joe Drouin Enterprises since January 2018 is the new owner of the company. Denis brings his extensive experience with Canex, Michaels, Toys-R-Us as well as being a former member of the Royal Cdn Navy. All former employees are still at the company as well as the company is staying at the same premises.

Visit our website where you can now purchase all your favorite airborne items through our secure website and pay electronically using your credit card or if you wish you may still use money orders or cheques. Everyone is welcome to visit to say hello and see the products in person.



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*Members of The Queen's Own Rifles 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy participated in several jump exercises in 2019. However, the annual summer refresher course was cancelled following the death of Bdr Patrick Labrie near the Cheshnegirovo Air Base in Bulgaria. A moratorium was placed on static-line parachute operations until the Canadian Armed Forces had concluded its investigation into the tragic accident. Once restrictions eased, operations resumed for Canadian paratroopers.*



group also completed a descent with Polish equipment near Krakow and performed well throughout the final 11 km Commando Race.

In October, 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy participated in Exercise MAROON PHALANX 2, in CFB Petawawa. This was the second in a series of QOR-led collective training events, featuring two other 32 Canadian Brigade Group units and multiple enablers. A full-equipment, tactical jump was conducted onto DZ Anzio, in concert with an airmobile insertion by other members of the unit, supported by 450 Sqn and CH-147 rotary-wing assets. Once the DZ RV had been secured, the Coy moved out to conduct live-fire ranges, involving section attacks during daylight hours and support weapon siting and kill-zone management at night.

The culminating activity for the unit in November, Exercise MAROON PHALANX 3, saw 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy conduct a tactical, full-equipment ramp jump onto DZ Anzio at first light, proceed to the DZ RV and link up with non-jumpers before moving out to occupy defensive positions and conduct Coy-level live-fire training over the ensuing day and into the following morning.

QOR ended the year on a positive footing. As the unit prepared to formally stand down at the beginning of December, an important recognition was made of Cpl M. Kusi-Appiah. He received the Airborne Rifleman of the Year award, in no small part to the impressive distinction

of his successful completion of the arduous Patrol Pathfinder course in the autumn and earning the right to proudly wear the Pathfinder badge on his uniform after his graduation ceremony in Quebec City. He became only the second member of the Regiment to attain this qualification and will bring significant knowledge both to 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy and the unit's Recce Pl in the future.

Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT on 8 December 2019 was the final parachute activity of the year. Taking place in CFB Trenton under clear skies, 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy performed a full-equipment descent onto DZ Hodgson. This would carry currency for members of the Company through the Christmas holidays and close out a complex period.

It is also worth noting that during the Regiment's commemorative trip to the Normandy region of France in June, a delegation comprising serving 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy leadership, led by HCol MGen (ret'd) Walter Holmes, were in attendance at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion monument during a British ceremony at Le Mesnil Bavent on 5 June. The small group was accompanied by Mrs. Joanne de Vries, the wife of the late Pte Jan de Vries, who had been wounded in action by German sniper fire during the advance to Caen, and the war artist Mr. Roger Chabot. The unveiling of a portrait by Mr. Chabot was conducted adjacent to the trench where Pte Jan de Vries had been shot 75 years prior.

Despite adversity, QOR displayed initiative and adapted to circumstances beyond its control. The 60<sup>th</sup> (Para) Coy proudly bore the maroon beret in four international venues, increased depth in key positions, and perpetuated the legacy as Canada's oldest and finest infantry regiment. ■

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

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

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

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

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

Do you know your ARAC Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Coin Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**NOTE: Cdn \$ for Canadian addresses, US \$ for US and Foreign addresses**

8. **Registration Fees:** \_\_\_\$20.00 for 1 year \_\_\_\$55.00 for 3 years \_\_\_\$100.00 for 6 years

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

**Method of Payment:** \_\_\_ Cheque \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MasterCard

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Return to: ARAC 3 - 36 de Varennes  
Gatineau, QC, J8T 0B6**

**Telephone: 819-568-6669 FAX : 819-568-1074**

**E-mail : [marlysch2019@videotron.ca](mailto:marlysch2019@videotron.ca)**

**Web: [www.airborneassociation.com](http://www.airborneassociation.com)**

**Kit Shop: [www.joedrouin.com](http://www.joedrouin.com)**

March 2020



## CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCED WARFARE CENTRE

*The CAAWC as a whole provides advanced war-fighting skills in two main areas: specific environmental operations and airborne operations*

*Lieutenant-Colonel A. Luhning,  
Commanding Officer*



**T**he Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) just completed a very productive year, not just with parachute training and program development, but with many aspects of advanced war fighting. I am pleased to present a few articles highlighting the different areas that the airborne community influences. They showcase how parachuting expertise has developed and been incorporated into multiple sectors of the CAF as a whole. As we know, parachuting is not just about jumping out of a plane, but rather characterizes a unique way of life within the military community that thrives on challenge and camaraderie in adversity. These articles demonstrate the continuation of that mentality in the instruction, the application of airborne forces as a strategic necessity, and the aspiration of future generations of jumpers.

*Ex Coelis* ■

### *Parachute Training Company*

Parachute Training Company (PTC) has once again had a busy year in 2019. In April, PTC sent its Military Square Parachute Instructors (MSPIs) and candidates to Perris Valley, California to conduct the Military Square Parachute (MSP) and the Military Square Parachute Jumpmaster (MSPJM) courses. These were followed a couple of weeks later by a Military Square Parachute Instructor (MSPI) course that, despite having a smaller group of students, produced an exceptional cohort of instructors. During the fall time frame the company ran the square canopy program in Trenton by running MSP and MSPJM courses, immediately followed by a Static Line Square Canopy (SLSC) course. Despite the challenges posed by the weather, all three courses finished successfully.

**ABOVE:** Students of Basic Parachutist Course 184 receive final instructions before boarding a CC-130 Hercules.



*Students of Basic Parachutist Course 184 on board a CC-130 Hercules prepare to jump at their designated drop zone. (CPL LISA WALLACE, 8 WING IMAGING)*

This year in round parachuting, PTC ran a total of eight courses: four Basic Parachutist, three Jumpmaster (JM) and one Parachutist Instructor (PI). This includes one of the Basic Parachutist serials specially reserved for members of the Army Cadets — an annual serial that sees the top army cadets who have competed for a position on this national-level course go through the same rigorous training as professional soldiers.

In addition to the numerous parachuting courses being conducted, PTC dedicates several of its members to the Major Air Disaster (MAJAID) team. Having completed an additional SLSC course to qualify personnel from CAAWC, the team’s strength and capability have been increased. This enables the CAAWC to better support the Search and Rescue (SAR) Technicians in the event of an air disaster. The MAJAID team conducted jumps throughout the year,



*Students of the Basic Para Course exit from a CC-130 Hercules Aircraft at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Center's drop zone. (SGT POP, CAAWC IMAGE TECH)*

including an exercise in Mountain View, Ontario, to retain their jump currency and to remain operational in the event of a call out.

The Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team (CAFPT), otherwise known as the “SkyHawks,” had another busy season, participating in 26 different shows and events. Among the list was the St-Hubert Air Show in June, Fortissimo in Ottawa in July, and a western swing in August, which included shows in Peace River, Abbotsford, Penticton and Kelowna. Once again, the SkyHawks continue to demonstrate their high level of skills and professionalism throughout the country at these events.

Despite finishing the 2019-2020 fiscal year on a note of uncertainty due to the ongoing management of COVID-19, PTC remains ready operationally wherever they may be needed, and is already looking forward for this year’s upcoming training. The members are very eager to return to what it does best – providing the Canadian Armed Forces with exceptional parachute training.



*MCpl Darryl Higgins, MCpl James Southam, and Capt Fred Morin of the SkyHawks parachute demonstration team fly the Canadian-T during the playing of the national anthem at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. (SGT SAM HEWTON)*

### ***Advanced Mobility Company – Patrol Pathfinder Platoon***

The Patrol Pathfinder (PPF) qualification course culminated in the confirmatory final training exercise (FTX) in late October 2019. The PPF course is conducted by 3 Platoon, Advanced Mobility Company of the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre. In 2019, the Patrol Pathfinder FTX took place in the Quebec City region and offered the candidates the chance to display



their competencies in conducting pathfinder operations in urban, suburban, and dense forest environments, with a training area stretching over 150 km from Quebec City to L'Isle-Aux-Coudres, in the Charlevoix region, and from CFB Valcartier to the Port of Quebec.

The training was conducted in the water as much as it was on land; field training scenarios were conducted in and around rivers, lakes and various points throughout the St Lawrence River. The amphibious aspect was matched by the RCAF support provided to the course by 430 Squadron, which supported throughout with rotary wing insertions and extractions along the width and breadth of the training area. In total, the FTX lasted for 14 continuous days of missions and assessments, and offered one of the most challenging confirmatory exercises in today's CA.

The final training exercise was divided into several blocks of evaluations that cycled the students through a series of events that required them to operate in different areas within a continually changing tactical scenario. The first evaluation block began in the training areas of CFB Valcartier and the nearby Lac Saint-Joseph area. This phase required ground movement through complex terrain with assessments that challenged the students to complete pathfinder missions for both airmobile and amphibious follow-on forces.

The trainees then took part in a series of missions in and around the St Lawrence Seaway. The candidates received orders, conducted planning and were inserted by helicopter into the St Lawrence River at dawn north of L'Isle-aux-Coudres. The trainees had to face the cold-water conditions, robust currents, and a lengthy swim to shore. The purpose of this mission was to establish an austere airstrip on a small private airstrip. From there, the students

**ABOVE & TOP LEFT:** Participants conduct the final stage of the Patrol Pathfinder Course in the training areas at CFB Valcartier, October 9, 2019. (PTE JESSICA BLACKBURN, COMBAT CAMERA)

boarded helicopters to stage out of Quebec City for urban and suburban operations, which consisted of performing a night insertion in order to establish a beachhead on the island of Orleans. This block of training was completed with the establishment of a beachhead in the heart of the Port of Quebec's Beauport Bay, which gave the trainees the unique opportunity of conducting a fully tactical amphibious exercise in one of Canada's most densely populated centres.

Returning to the CFB Valcartier area, the candidates were assigned beachhead tasks in vicinity of Lac Saint-Joseph, landing zones for a detachment of snipers and their all-terrain vehicles, as well as a round parachuting drop zone for a raid on a nearby enemy outpost by 3 R22eR paratroopers. Any sense of routine to the FTX was shaken as the scenario shifted to the Pathfinder reinforcement of a friendly element, and the subsequent Pathfinder involvement in a mass-casualty scenario. This prompted the trainees to act quickly and make decisions; they worked with medics to triage the injured and coordinated their extraction. The students had to use the resources at their disposal, with extraction conducted via LAV 6 armoured personnel carriers acting as mechanized Brigade Recce assets.

The students then moved to the Charlevoix massif, where the trainees faced mountainous terrain. The missions in this region focused on inserting specialty Light Infantry Battalion Army Reserve platoons that were required to fulfill the intent of securing the St Lawrence Seaway through



**ABOVE:** Members of 1 & 3 RCR act as a drop zone control team for 3 R22eR paratroopers acting as a follow-on-force during the Patrol Pathfinder FTX.

**TOP RIGHT:** Participants in the final stage of the Patrol Pathfinder Course disembark a CH-146 Griffon helicopter in the training areas at CFB Valcartier, October 9, 2019. (PTE JESSICA BLACKBURN, COMBAT CAMERA)

the establishment of direct and indirect fire weapons to counter enemy naval patrols. The PPF trainees conducted night rappel insertions onto the mid-point of the mountain and conducted Pathfinder missions while moving steadily higher in altitude. The candidates set conditions for the air landing of a troop of 81 mm mortars, a C-16 direct fire section, and sling-load insertion of MRZR vehicles to act as mobility for these weapons teams. The support from 430 Sqn was second to none, as the course was supported by two CH-146 Griffons throughout this phase. A forward area refueled was stationed at the base of the Massif which allowed for refuelling requirements as the aircraft were operating too far from CFB Valcartier to return to refuel. Not all courses get the chance to be supported by a hasty heliport, but the 2019 Patrol Pathfinder course did.

During the 14 days of this exercise, the Pathfinder students had to overcome significant physical and mental hardships and display a high level of mission planning ability and patrolling know-how. The graduates of the course demonstrated their tactical acumen and developed a new-found understanding of Patrol Pathfinder operations. The FTX provides a continuous opportunity for the participants to refine their tactical planning and coordination, which ultimately will enhance the units they return to. In the end, nine trainees completed the 2019 Patrol Pathfinder course and the Pathfinder community is benefited by their success, as is the Canadian Army as a whole.



### **Advanced Mobility Company – Aerial Delivery Platoon**

This past fall, the Aerial Delivery Platoon at CAAWC sent their AD Subject Matter Expert Sgt White (RCAF) to Mobility Guardian 19 (MG 19), a USAF-hosted exercise with the main focus of improving interoperability among key allies. Prior to Mobility Guardian 17 (MG 17), this exercise was primarily an Air Mobility “Rodeo,” where units from all over the world would gather to compete in various scenarios designed to evaluate unit core skills and promote esprit de corps. MG 17 saw this exercise shift from being a competition to focusing on developing allied interoperability especially among the Five Eyes allies. This new format was spearheaded by the Five Eyes Air Forces Interoperability Council (AFIC).

MG 19 was the second exercise to follow the new format and was very successful. The keynote training event was the

**BELOW:** Graduates of the 2019 Patrol Pathfinder course show their pride after completing the final mission within La Citadelle, Quebec.





*Sgt Raul Zaharia conducts a Jumpmaster check on the Canadian Army's Senior Parachutist BGen Pelletier during his visit to the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Center. (SGT PHILLIPS, CAAWC IMAGE TECH)*

joint forcible entry onto an airfield. Paratroopers and their equipment were air dropped onto a DZ in the vicinity of an airfield in order to seize it, allowing for follow-on forces to be air landed at the airfield in order to secure a larger area. These types of training scenarios are meant to train allied air forces to be able to operate jointly in a multinational context against a near-peer adversary. This represents a significant shift away from the counter-insurgency training scenarios that had been the hallmark of training exercises in the post-9/11 era.

This type of training scenario brings with it significantly different challenges, notably the use of aerial delivery in a more kinetic operation where threats such as enemy air defence systems are present. This marks a departure from conducting resupply operations in a counter-insurgency context where there is a relatively low enemy air defence threat. Sgt White was embedded with the Mobile Air Movements Team from 2 Air Movements Squadron Trenton, who were critical in preparing, rigging and loading different types of equipment for airdrops from RCAF, USAF and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) aircraft. The team helped rig vehicle loads as well as container delivery system (CDS) airdrops with aerial delivery specialists from our Five Eyes partners. A notable success of the exercise was the delivery of an Australian Army ATV from an RCAF CC-130J Hercules using a combination of Canadian and Australian rigging techniques.

CAAWC is looking forward to MG 21, where we hope to have a more robust presence, with a larger team of aerial delivery SMEs, and potentially a Canadian Army airborne element to participate in the ground tactical portion of the exercise. Aerial Delivery Platoon instructors teach three different courses at CAAWC that are available for all trades in the CAF. They are Aerial Delivery, DZ/LZ Controller and Helicopter Under Slung Operations. MG 21 would be a great opportunity to enhance our ability to use these key techniques and to allow us to better train our candidates to be able to support airborne operations globally and at home.

### *Support Company*

It is well known that the CAAWC is the schoolhouse for the parachute Rigger sub-occupation. This year marks an important year for the Riggers as they will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, commemorating the moment when the capability was established within the former Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in 1950. Since then, the Riggers have seen themselves transiting between various organisations to eventually become a sub-occupation of the Supply trade within the Royal Canadian Logistics Services. This will soon change again as there is a project in place to establish the Riggers as a standalone trade. Notwithstanding those transitions, the Riggers have always provided a service that is second to none and demonstrated a strong camaraderie within their ranks. Being such a small trade, they've always looked out for each other and served proudly. In this edition of *The Maroon Beret*, Support Company (Sp Coy) wanted to present a testimony of one of our new Rigger recruits, Aviator Sabrina Cloutier, on her journey on becoming a fully trained Rigger:

*In January 2019, I applied for the Canadian Armed Forces in order to become a supply technician. It's during my basic trade qualification (QL3) that I passed a strict physical test and an interview so that I could make the transition to become a Parachute Rigger Specialist. When I first joined the Rigger specialty at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre in Trenton, I was the only female member of the team. Contrary to popular belief, my gender did not affect my inclusion in this big family. After several months in the unit, I had the opportunity to go on the Basic Parachutist Course which is three weeks long. The course teaches us everything we need to know to safely conduct parachute drills out on a plane, from techniques used*

during descent under canopy to landing techniques. At the third week of the course, which is the jump stage, we get the opportunity to jump out of a plane and I realized that this is the best experience of a lifetime. This is only one of the multiple advantages that this profession brings.

Following the parachutist course is the Parachute Systems Packer Course, during which we learn how to pack a multitude of different parachute systems, from aerial delivery to personnel parachutes. Then, while working as a Packer within Sp Coy, we will be loaded on the 45-day Airdrop System Maintainer Course, which brings us to our final qualification, the Parachute Rigger Specialist Course. After 40 days of training, we will be fully qualified to supervise a team of Packers or Maintainers and conduct airworthiness inspections on parachute systems and parachute-related equipment in support of airborne operations. Many different posting opportunities will be also available once fully qualified, which include Search and Rescue units, Light Infantry Battalions, CANSOFCOM and the Canadian Military Parachute Demonstration Team — the SkyHawks.

It's hard to determine what the future holds for the new Rigger trade and for the airborne capability writ large. Regardless, the CAAWC Support Company will continue to recruit and train motivated and proficient technicians just like Avr Cloutier. The Riggers will always be there to answer the call to keep the Canadian Armed Forces airborne.

### ***Airborne Trials and Evaluations Section (ATES)***

In support of Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) initiatives, ATES has been working with 3 RCR (as the sponsor) and 450 Squadron (as the major trial participant) in the validation of the MRZR/HUSO single point rigging procedures, to include completed flight trials. Yet to be completed is the MRZR (with trailer) trial in the shotgun configuration position and the dual point static lift and flight trials.

User-identified shortfalls with the current Parachutist Drop Bag (PDB) initiated a trial by ATES to find possible solutions to the issues presented. The trial showed the Tactical Parachutist Equipment Lowering System (TPELS) concept should be further explored. ATES is currently planning a user trial and feedback survey with the intent of possibly using personnel from each of the LIBs as participants.



*Avr Cloutier can be seen at the far left preparing for a landing class of the Basic Parachutist Course. (SGT PHILLIPS, CAAWC IMAGE TECH)*

In the event of a Major Air Disaster (MAJAID) Response call out from SAR, the CAAWC would provide an Airborne Support Group (AB Sp Gp) to assist in this effort. To assist the Pers in this role, ATES has devised a standardized rigging procedure to be utilized with a Container Delivery System (CDS) by the AB Sp Gp. Our Pers Para Specialist from a CC-130J also performed a successful validation of the SAR bundles that accompany the AB Sp Gp. Also, tests of both the static lifts and an aerial dispatch have been performed with successful results.

ATES, working closely with PTC, was tasked to investigate and validate the reverse bite technique for static line para exits with the objective of developing aircraft drills for individual parachutists and to determine if the parachutist static line remains clear of the jumper while maintaining a safe and standard exit technique. The evaluation was successful with these procedures being published in the Parachutist Manual for both round and square canopies.

With AMC as the sponsor, ATES are continuing work on a trial to develop rigging procedures that are specific to the aerial delivery of combat naval raiding craft. These procedures are to aid both the PPF in water insertion missions and for MAJAID AB Sp Gp operations. As one of our tests would include the delivery of the craft into a body of water, ATES is working closely with the Wing Environmental Office.

ATES assisted 1 CAD in their drafting of the initial Operational Risk Assessment Tool (ORAT) dealing with the risk mitigation associated with AB Combination Drops (combi drops). ■



## LES « SKYHAWKS »

*L'équipe militaire de démonstration de sauts en parachute*

*par Caporal-chef Antoine Collette*



**F**in janvier 2019, les neuf membres cadres de l'Équipe de parachutistes des Forces armées canadiennes 2019 s'envolent vers Perris Valley en Californie afin d'aller travailler leurs techniques en parachutisme et en instruction. Après quatre semaines et une centaine de sauts, ils retournent au Centre d'instruction supérieure en guerre terrestre de l'Armée canadiennes (CISGTAC) à Trenton et sont préparés à accueillir les nouveaux candidats.

Le 18 mars 2019, les candidats provenant de l'Aviation royale canadienne, la Marine royale canadienne et de l'Armée canadienne, arrivaient au CISGTAC. Ils débutent la sélection avec le test physique du parachutiste : un prérequis pour tous les militaires qui effectuent un saut en parachute. Une fois cela fait, les candidats reçoivent de l'instruction pendant une semaine et puis ils doivent démontrer qu'ils étaient compétents au pliage d'un parachute. Ils ont ensuite reçu leur nouvel équipement et se sont familiarisés avec celui-ci.

Le 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2019, de retour à Perris Valley, débutait le camp d'entraînement principal des SkyHawks. Pendant quatre semaines, les candidats ont été mis à l'épreuve dans l'apprentis-

sage du *Canopy Relative Work* (CRW) : une discipline unique dans le parachutisme qui est maîtrisée par peu d'adepte. Les candidats furent constamment évalués par les instructeurs et les membres cadres. À la fin des quatre semaines, l'état-major de l'équipe a effectué les coupures finales et composait ainsi l'équipe officielle des SkyHawks pour 2019.

L'équipe est restée deux semaines supplémentaires à Perris Valley afin de pratiquer sa routine de spectacle. Les partenaires ont pu ainsi développer une complicité importante avant de s'attaquer aux premières démonstrations officielles.

La première démonstration de la saison s'est faite à Kingston au Collège militaire royal le 16 mai 2019 pendant la cérémonie du crépuscule devant le Ministre de la défense nationale, l'Hon. Harjit Singh Sajjan, qui a décerné à l'équipe son médaillon suite au saut. La démonstration s'est déroulée sans faille et la foule

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**CI-HAUT:** Adjudant-maître Mike Dwyer emmène le Capitaine Logan Reid (Snowbirds de l'ARC) sur un saut en parachute en tandem à partir d'un SC-7 Skyvan pendant la journée d'entraînement à l'avance du spectacle aérien «Thunder in the Peace» à Peace River, Alberta. (MCPL DARRYL HGGIN)



était satisfaite. La glace était brisée et les SkyHawks étaient prêts à poursuivre leur longue saison de démonstration.

St-Hubert, QC; Val-d'Or, QC; North Bay, ON; Bagotville, ON; Halifax, NS; Kelligrews, NL; Toronto, ON; Ottawa, ON; Peace River, AB; Quesnel, AB; Kelowna, BC; Penticton, BC; Abbotsford, BC; Havelock, ON; Bowmanville, ON; Greenwood, NS; London, ON; Verner, ON; et Peterborough, ON : 23 103 km ont été parcourus par l'équipe en 2019, 1 088 parachutes ont été repliés et 68 sauts devant spectateurs ont été effectués. Toutes les démonstrations se sont bien déroulées et les SkyHawks ont pu connecter avec un maximum de citoyens canadiens en leur démontrant tout le professionnalisme, le travail d'équipe et le dévouement qui prônent au sein des Forces armées canadiennes.

La saison s'est terminée avec tous les SkyHawks en un seul morceau et le sentiment du devoir accompli. Les mentions et les remises ont été distribués à certains membres et puis les membres sont retournés à leurs unités respectives, tandis que les membres cadres restent au CISGTAC et commencent déjà à préparer la saison suivante. ■



**CETTE PAGE, DANS LE SENS HORAIRE, À PARTIR D'EN HAUT À GAUCHE:** (1) L'équipe officielle des SkyHawks 2019. (2) En avril, les nouveaux membres de l'équipe exécutent leurs premiers sauts à Perris Valley lors d'un camp d'entraînement. (3) Les SkyHawks atterrissent au Collège militaire royal lors de la cérémonie du crépuscule, leur première démonstration de l'année. (4) Une journée parfaite pour l'apprentissage du « Canopy Relative Work » à Perris.





## 2019 AIRBORNE FORCES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

*Bursary presented to Mr. Richard Waines*

**R**ichard Waines was selected from amongst a strong group of applicants to receive the 2019 Airborne Forces Scholarship. Richard is a full-time student at the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto, where he has already completed his first year in a challenging International Bachelor of Business Administration programme. Richard's academic performance in high school and in his first year of university was consistently strong and he was president of his high school student council.

Richard was RSM in the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Army Cadet Corps and completed the CAF Basic Parachutist course in 2018 as a cadet. Currently he is a member of the Army Reserve, serving in the parachute company of the Queens Own Rifles of Canada and he is a member of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association.

The bursary cheque was presented to Richard on 26 September 2019, at a gathering of members of Branch #1 (Toronto) of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association. The gathering also commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation MARKET GARDEN.

The Airborne Forces Scholarship Fund has been jointly established by the Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA) and the Airborne Regiment Association of

Canada (ARAC). Further info regarding applying for the scholarship can be found on the CAFA website at <https://canadianairborneforces.ca/bursaries/> or the ARAC website at <http://airborneassociation.com/e/members/sp/>. ■

*Left to right: Rick Hatton (President CAFA), Richard Waines, Walter Holmes (immediate Past President CAFA and Hon Col QOR), Maj Scott Moody (President CAFA Branch #1 and OC Para Coy QOR).*





## Commémoration du 50e anniversaire de Chypre 1974

### (Communiqué #2)



Un 'plan rusé' se prépare pour commémorer la mission chypriote, en revenant en 2024 pour des visites sur le champ de bataille, des présentations historiques, des témoignages personnels et des vacances méditerranéennes agréables avec des excursions culturelles et des événements sociaux.

Ce sera un rythme détendu, pour les voyageurs plus âgés et à un coût raisonnable, et n'entrera pas en conflit avec la 55e réunion du Régiment aéroporté 2023 et le 80e anniversaire du Jour-J 2024.

La visite s'adresse **à tous les membres de la communauté aéroportée du Canada** - vétérans et sauteurs en service, familles et amis - en particulier ceux qui ont servi avec le régiment ou y étaient attachés en 1974. Des fonds seront recueillis pour parrainer nos sauteurs et cadets aéroportés.

Chypre 1974 est un 'honneur de bataille' pour le Régiment aéroporté du Canada, et le but est de capturer les histoires et les souvenirs de ceux qui étaient là pour enrichir l'histoire officielle.

L'intérêt grandit grâce au groupe **Facebook 'Cyprus2024'**, alors partagez vos souvenirs, passez le mot. Alors, c'est ... **Feu vert ... ALLEZ!** Aéroporté!

## Commemoration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cyprus 1974

### (Communiqué #2)

A 'cunning plan' is coming together to commemorate the Cyprus mission, by returning in 2024 for battlefield visits, historic presentations, personal accounts, and a pleasant Mediterranean holiday with cultural excursions and social events.

It will be a relaxed pace, for older travellers and at reasonable cost, and will not conflict with the 55<sup>th</sup> Airborne Reunion 2023 and D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2024.

The tour is aimed at **all members of Canada's Airborne community** – veterans and serving jumpers alike, families and friends – especially those who served with, or were attached to, the Regiment in 1974. Funds will be raised to sponsor our serving jumpers and Airborne Cadets.

Cyprus 1974 is a 'battle honour' for the Canadian Airborne Regiment, and the goal is to capture the stories and memories of those who were there to augment the official history.

Interest is growing through **'Cyprus2024' Facebook** Group, so share your memories, spread the word. So, it is...**Green light...GO!** Airborne!





## CAFA/ARAC AIRBORNE SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*MCpl J.M.P.L. Lizardo  
3 PPCLI Parachute Company*

*by Major S. C. Wyatt  
A/Commanding Officer 3 PPCLI*



**M**Cpl Jacques Lizardo has served as a paratrooper within the 3 PPCLI Parachute Company (Para Coy) since March 2014. Throughout this time, MCpl Lizardo has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, dedication, and determination as a junior soldier and leader. He embodies the warrior spirit and his actions have brought credit to the Para Coy, 3 PPCLI, and the Airborne Brotherhood. MCpl Lizardo is a stalwart representative of the Battalion's fighting spirit and is a leader among his peers in the art of soldiering.

MCpl Lizardo began his military career as a soldier in the Para Coy. He deployed to Poland on Op REASSURANCE with the Para Coy in 2014 and again with C Coy, 3 PPCLI in 2017. Most recently, MCpl Lizardo deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, where he conducted force protection and convoy

operations as part of Op IMPACT with the Para Coy in 2019/2020. MCpl Lizardo is a qualified Jumpmaster (JM), Parachute Instructor (PI), and Advanced Reconnaissance Patrolman (ARP). Throughout his career so far, MCpl Lizardo has conducted parachute operations domestically and internationally and serves as a Bn subject matter expert on the conduct of Light Infantry and Parachute operations.

Over the course of 2019, MCpl Lizardo served as a Section 2IC within the Para Coy and completed the PI and

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*Media portrait of Master Corporal Jacques Lizardo, the recipient of the 2019 Airborne Soldier of the Year Award, prior to his deployment on Operation IMPACT. The photo was taken in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Edmonton imaging studio on 25 September 2019. (CPL WES PFNEISL, 3<sup>RD</sup> CANADIAN DIVISION SUPPORT BASE EDMONTON IMAGING)*

ARP course. He used his skills as a PI during the conduct of Bn para refresher training and as a JM on multiple parachute training exercises. MCpl Lizardo deployed to Wainwright, AB with the Para Coy for Ex ORNERY RAM and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in the spring where he expertly led his section during dispersed patrol operations and aggressively conducted live fire ranges to great effect. MCpl Lizardo redeployed from almost 2 months of arduous field training in Wainwright to immediately begin the ARP course in Gagetown, NB, where he excelled during three more months of challenging field conditions. He then returned to the Para Coy to begin pre-deployment training to conduct force protection operations, where he expertly lead his section in mounted convoys and ensured his soldiers remained ready and lethal for their upcoming deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. Over the course of this year, MCpl Lizardo has tested and proven his ability to conduct a vast array of operations within a modern and flexible fighting force, all while providing outstanding leadership to his soldiers and serving as an exemplary team player.

MCpl Lizardo is the embodiment of the warrior ethos and the airborne spirit. His dedication to the infantry makes him one of the finest soldiers within the CAF and he intends to continue serving and developing his skills as a soldier and paratrooper. MCpl Lizardo’s passion for the infantry inspires his peers and subordinates. There is no doubt that MCpl Lizardo deserves the honour of being selected as 3 PPCLI’s nominee for Airborne Soldier of the Year. ■

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# 1 CAN PARA

## *1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Association's Update on Continued Activities*

*by Joanne de Vries*



**A**ll 50 young cadets who began the Cadet Basic Para Course were successful and received their wings at the Graduation Parade last August 2019 at CFB Trenton. Among them, three Royal Canadian Army Cadets were recognized and presented with special awards for their achievements:

- Cadet Matthieu Larin, with RCACC 2920 (Gatineau, Quebec), earned the Top Overall Cadet Award.
- Cadet Lam Morris Patenaude, with RCACC 2250 (Bracebridge, Ontario), earned the Top Jumper Award.
- Cadet Brendan Chong, with RCACC 2277 (Langley, British Columbia), received the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Bursary. Cadet Chong has been accepted into the Engineering programme at the University of British Columbia. We wish him much success.

The recipient of the 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Award was presented to MCpl Mike Catenacci, a deserving The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada soldier. This yearly award is presented in memory of Battalion member Reg Walker and was presented at the Soldiers' Dinner on December 4, 2019. MCpl Catenacci also received

a copy of the Battalion's pictorial history *Tip of the Spear: An Intimate Account of 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion, 1942-1945*. Reg Walker's widow Doreen and his two daughters, Dawn and Wendy, were in attendance for this presentation. Dawn read his citation to refresh everyone's memory of his accomplishments and to introduce Reg to the newer members of the QOR.

In June 2019, I personally had the privilege to travel with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada regiment to Normandy to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day ceremonies. With the regiment, I attended many of the ceremonies and receptions at their battle sites. As part of the itinerary we also visited the Juno Beach Centre, the Pegasus Memorial, the Merville Gun Battery, and Le Mesnil Crossroads and Bois de Bavent Ridge, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Memorial stands.

The QOR were most accommodating and on June 5<sup>th</sup> Maj. Scott Moody, Maj. Chris Boileau and MGen. Walter Holmes accompanied me to attend the ceremony at the 1 Can

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*Joanne de Vries travelled to Normandy for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. She attended a ceremony at the 1 Can Para Memorial with (from left to right): Maj Scott Moody, Joanne de Vries, MGen (ret'd) HCol Walter Holmes, war artist Sgt (ret'd) Roger Chabot and Maj Chris Boileau.*



## 1<sup>ST</sup> CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION CADET CORPS #100

*The Cadets of the Maroon Beret*

*by Adrienne Anderson*



Para Battalion Memorial at the Crossroads where MGen. Holmes and I laid a wreath in memory of the Battalion. This ceremony continues to be organized by Yves LeCuziat, who has been a dedicated supporter of the Battalion for many, many years. Following the ceremony, we walked the short distance south to the location where Jan de Vries dug his trench on D-Day and where many of the C Company men were dug in. Bernard and Catherine Petitjean, a French couple who have supported the Battalion Association over many years, and Canadian war artist Roger Chabot met us there for some photos and the dedication of his D-Day painting in memory of the Battalion. Roger presented me with a copy of his painting (*photo above*); it was a truly emotional experience standing there at Jan's trench. Roger, I thank you for your kindness.

A couple of days later, QOR Lieutenant Chris Obermoser accompanied me to a ceremony at Grangues. This ceremony honours the many British soldiers who died on D-Day when their Gliders crashed. This year the community also honoured two 1 Can Para Bn soldiers who dropped in the area on D-Day and were killed. Lt Obermoser and I laid a wreath in their memory. Many QOR Association members as well as Gen. Ernie Beno attended the ceremony. On route back to the unit, we stopped and paid our respects at the Gatehouse where there is a memorial plaque dedicated to the six Battalion members who were killed there on D-Day.

This trip to Normandy was unique in many ways and I thank Commanding Officer Col. Frank Lamie and all those involved for their kindness. Jan and I made numerous trips to Normandy over the years. I am so grateful to have been able to visit Normandy one last time and during such a significant year. I sincerely thank all the QOR for a wonderfully memorable time. ■

**B**rigadier General Ian Douglas had a long and distinguished military career that included a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cyprus from 1964 to 1965, command of 3 Mechanized Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Germany from 1975 to 1977, and eventual command of the Airborne Regiment from 1982 to 1985.

In 1988 Douglas was seconded to the UN as the deputy commander of the United Nations peacekeeping mission within five Central American countries (ONUCA) while based in Honduras. Toward the end of his career, Gen Douglas was appointed Canada's military attaché to the United States.

Once retired from the military, Douglas was engaged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to command 1,500 soldiers in Zaire, attempting to provide security to one and a half million refugees in camps, after the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Then he was the UN appointee to oversee negotiations to end the Sierra Leone Civil War. This initial attempt failed as, at this stage, there was no political will with RUF (the rebel force).



*The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 of Brighton, Ontario, circa 2010. With the Cadets and their leaders are LCol Brown, RSM Watson from CFLAWC and Gen. (ret'd) Ian Douglas. Photo courtesy of Gen. Douglas.*

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Douglas' expertise and experience made him a valuable asset to the Pearson Peacekeeping Institute, for which he initiated and delivered programs on demobilization around the globe.

Upon full retirement, Ian Douglas and his wife, Joan, settled in the town of Brighton near CFB Trenton in Ontario. Douglas quickly put down roots in the community and soon found himself organizing the construction of a new cenotaph, the renewal of its Veterans Park, and chairing the Legion's Poppy Campaign prior to Remembrance Day.

In thinking of avenues for poppy distribution the local cadet corps came to mind, but Douglas was shocked to learn there was no cadet corps in Brighton. He soon set the wheels in motion to establish one.

In the process of applications and the procedures to be followed, Douglas thought of a way to link the soon-to-be corps to Canada's airborne history. He decided to name the corps after the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion. He approached the battalion's veteran association. Their executive gave Gen Douglas their enthusiastic stamp of approval and the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 was eventually born in Brighton in 2010, with approval to wear the maroon beret and the 1 Can Para shoulder flash.

Ian Douglas would be the first to tell you he did not establish the corps on his own, but with an engaged committee that included another Canadian Airborne Regiment veteran, Clay Samis, and the full support of the Canadian Forces Advanced Warfare Centre, which is now known as the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre.

1 Can Para veterans were pleased to attend the various events of the cadet corps and to share their war experiences

with the eager young people. The cadets began to excel in national and international competitions in biathlon, drill, marksmanship and orienteering.

The World War II history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion inspired the corps to plan a D-Day trip to Holland and France in 2017, with the prime objective of visiting the graves of the fallen men of the battalion. Prior to departure, each cadet researched one of the men killed in battle and wrote him a letter. Once overseas, each cadet visited the grave of their chosen soldier. There, they spent a quiet moment, reading their letter aloud and placing poppies and other items of personal significance on the grave.

Later the cadets visited the monument at Vimy Ridge and surrounding tunnels to learn from Canadian summer student guides about the significant WWI battle that was a major turning point in Canadian military history.

In 2019, the corps again honoured the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion by travelling to Alberta for D-Day ceremonies at Ex Coelis (Out of the Clouds) Mountain at Siffleur Falls, which was dedicated by the province to the Battalion in September 2000. The mountain peaks are named for the 1 Can Para battle honours: Normandy, Ardennes, Rhine and Elbe. There, the cadets proudly paraded with veteran members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and current serving military before the only surviving 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion veteran who was able to attend, Pte Lucien Lamy, who fought in Belgium, Holland and Germany.

The cadets then journeyed on to visit Jasper and Banff National Parks, Calgary and the Royal Tyrrell Dinosaur Museum in Drumheller. Current corps CO Capt Robin Brooks and former CO and current Training Officer Capt Pam Hohner travelled with the corps, along with volunteer parents.

On 21 December 2019 the cadets gathered in Trenton for their annual Christmas dinner, where they welcomed back 15 former cadets, including six former corps RSMs, who spoke of how their experience as 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion cadets impacted their lives. Indeed, five of the six returning RSMs have gone on to enlist and the sixth has applied. The RSM who left the corps this June to go on to university has applied to become a cadet officer. Many other cadets have gone on to enlist through the years.

The cadet corps has stayed connected virtually during the coronavirus pandemic. The corps' Annual Ceremonial Review could not happen in the traditional way, but Zoom



## CAFA BRANCH #8 BORNEWEST – MAINLAND & DZVI



*In the summer of 2019, the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps #100 honoured the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion by travelling to Alberta for D-Day ceremonies at Ex Coelis Mountain at Siffleur Falls, Alberta. This 2,545-metre tall mountain was dedicated by the province to 1 Can Para Bn in September 2000. In Latin, Ex Coelis means Out of the Clouds, which is the battalion's motto.*

was used to celebrate and mark the end of their official year with a virtual ceremony on June 6<sup>th</sup> – D-Day. Awards were presented, among them the Cpl Fred Topham Top Green Star Award for participation, dress and deportment. Fred Topham, VC was a medic with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion. He suffered a head wound following the battalion's daylight drop across the Rhine River into Germany on 24 March 1945, during Operation VARSITY. In spite of his own wound, Topham continued to carry the injured to safety, then pulled soldiers from a burning tank as he was finally heading, as ordered, to an aid station for treatment. Topham was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery.

Other key awards are named significantly, recognizing two battalion commanders LCol Jeff Nicklin and LCol Fraser Eddie, as well as members Pte Jan de Vries and Sgt Ronald 'Andy' Anderson. An award is also given in the name of BGen Ian Douglas. The Top Overall Cadet Award is named for Sgt Chris Karagiannis, a member of the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre who was killed in Afghanistan in 2006. The Most Inspirational Cadet Award is named for Sgt Renee Laura Miller, one of the first cadets to join the corps, who passed away at the age of 16.

Hundreds of young men and women have passed through the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion Cadet Corps. They will carry the rich history of the famed Second World War airborne battalion well on into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ■

**C**AFA Branch #8 BorneWest Mainland and DZVI Associations continued to flourish in 2019 under the leadership of President Ed Dobson and Jump Master Alder Currie, respectively. Currently, we have 200 members including active members, life members and widows of former members.

### *From CAFA Branch #8, BorneWest Mainland*

At the March 2019 meeting Past President Rollie Keith was presented with a plaque to say thank you for five years of dedicated service as president of the BorneWest Mainland Association. His wife, Pam, was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers to also say thank you for her support.

Our last meeting before breaking for the summer was held in May. President Ed and his wife Marcie hosted a BBQ on May 26 for members of the executive and guests.

Two weeks later, several of our members, including Ed Dobson, Colin and Donna Stout, attended the annual D-Day parade at Siffleur Falls. The Chilliwack June 6 D-Day Parade was held at the Vedder View Garden Cemetery. Sergeant at Arms Walter Webster was in charge of organizing the parade. The military area of the cemetery is now called Legion Memorial Gardens and is located at 44675 Watson Road, Chilliwack, BC.



Photos taken during the some of the 2019 events organized by Bornewest.



We resumed our monthly meetings in September and began working on plans for the Remembrance Day Parade and our annual Christmas luncheon. In October we welcomed a new member, Fernando Portillo, who served with the Paraguay Airborne Brigade, 1998-1999.

The November 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at All Sappers Memorial Park, Vedder Crossing, which is located at the former CFB Chilliwack. It was very well attended by currently serving and retired military personnel. It is always very heartening to see so many families with young children attending the ceremony each year. Bornewest President Ed Dobson, assisted by Past President Rollie Keith, laid the wreath on behalf of Bornewest Mainland. The Reviewing Officer for the ceremony was Colonel (ret'd) Peter Kenward, the last commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Our annual Christmas luncheon took place on Sunday, December 22, 2019, at the Royal Canadian Legion. Sixty-four members, wives and guests gathered and enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner — roast turkey with all the trimmings — prepared by Bill Higdon, a past president and long-time activist of Branch #280, and his crew. As per tradition, the meal was served by our Airborne veterans. A good time was had by all! Guest speaker was Colonel (ret'd) Peter Kenward. An airborne mannequin, dressed and rigged out in full winter attire ready for a jump in Canada's North, was an unexpected "guest" at the luncheon. Thanks to Ed Dobson and Colin Stout for this unique addition to the luncheon!

December saw the passing of Monty Marsden, one of our 1 Can Para members. Monty was a 1 Can Para Veteran and aged 94. He obtained his wings at Shilo on 10 June 1944 and proceeded from there to the UK. He participated in the Ardennes Operation, and on the 24 March 1945 was



wounded in the Varsity Drop over the Rhine. He served on in the Canadian Army for a full career, primarily at Shilo and Rivers as a senior parachute packer/rigger. He was very active in the 1 Can Para Battalion Association over the years. Currently, we have 7 members of 1 Can Para listed on our Nominal Roll.

### ***From CAFA Branch #8, Bornewest DZVI***

Many, if not most of our functions, are done with the PPCLI, QOR, KVA and other military associations. This includes different branches of those listed above as they are located in different parts of Vancouver Island, as is DZVI membership.

For the last few years DZVI has attended the PPCLI Birthday celebrations on the 17th of March at the 6 Mile Pub in View Royal.

A memorial service was held on 12 April 2020 for Peter Seiresen (26 September 1930 - 26 December 2018). Peter was a Korean Veteran, member of DZVI and past president of KVA. The service was attended by family, friends, Senator Martin, and members of KVA, PPCLI, QOR and DZVI. (Senator Martin is the first Canadian of Korean descent to serve in the Senate of Canada and the first Korean-Canadian parliamentarian in Canadian history.)



## A PIONEER OF THE CANADIAN AIRBORNE

*Sergeant Darrel L. Harris  
left his mark as one of the first members  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion*

**I**n July of 1942, the Canadian military formed the parachute battalion and the call for volunteers began. Candidates from across the country travelled to Ottawa's Lansdowne Barracks where they went through stringent medical exams, psychiatric testing and rigorous physical testing. Only 27 were selected from over 400 candidates. Darrel Harris, who was a corporal at the time, was chosen as one of these select few. These men were the pioneers of the Canadian Airborne.

At the completion of their initial training, Minister of National Defense Colonel J.L. Ralston shook the candidates' hands, congratulated them for being the first group selected, and wished them luck with their course. This was the moment when the Canadian trainees found out two surprising details: They were to become instructors for an entire battalion of paratroopers and their training would be in Fort Benning, Georgia, USA. Harris and the others had mixed feelings about this news. They were excited at being chosen to be the foundation of this new unit, however, all of

A Memorial Service was held in remembrance of the seven jumpers who drowned on 8 May 1968.

Al Currie and Rachael Butler said Kwaheri to John (Parachute Regiment), as his ashes were taken up Mount Normandy at Siffleur Falls in June 2019. John passed away 19 January 2019. Both Al and John served in East Africa. Kwaheri is farewell in Swahili.

Thomas James Green "The Gunner" passed away 18 September 2019. Tom joined the Merchant Marines in Halifax at the age of 15 and served his country for the last two years of World War II. He served with the Canadian Army for almost 20 years. He did duty in the Airborne along with the RCHA Artillery serving in the Korean War and then with NATO in Germany. The Celebration of Life for Tom was attended by family, KVA, DZVI, Gunners Association and was held in the Gunners Officers Mess in Bay Street Armouries. "Tom was one of a kind, he will be missed."

On 6 June 2019, Corporal Weirnerman and Tom Martin carried Major General Pitts ashes up Mount Normandy.

Bornewest Mainland meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #280 Vedder Golden on Vedder Road, Chilliwack. Meetings start at 1130 hours. Soup and sandwiches are available at a reasonable price after the meeting. There is an open invitation to all former and current Airborne members to join us at the meetings.

AIRBORNE! ■





*Sergeant Darrel Harris receives his wings from U.S. Colonel George P. Howell, Commander, Infantry School Airborne Command. Harris was one of 26 men to graduate from the parachute course on September 11, 1942.*

these men had been looking for excitement and adventure overseas.

In August 1942 the men began their journey by train to Fort Benning. Upon arrival, they were issued kit required for the course and assigned their quarters. The following morning their intense training began.

In his memoir *Close Up & Stand In The Door* Harris recalls that "I always felt there was a real sadistic streak which formed a part of the composition of those American instructors. They really gave it to us, and I think that they were doing their best to see that we caved in. We suffered plenty at first, but no one wanted to bring the disgrace of quitting onto our heads. We had miles and miles of runs, unarmed combat, obstacle courses, rope climbing, log tossing and other heinous activities too numerous to mention."

Major Hilton David Proctor was the commanding officer designate for this new group that would become the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion. Being the commanding officer, he was the first to jump from the door of the C-47 Dakota on September 7, 1942. Unfortunately, tragedy struck. The plane that had been following the Dakota accidentally severed his parachute lines and he was killed on impact. The group that followed him out of the plane was unaware of the tragedy until the jump was complete and they were back on the ground. Despite being devastated and numb with grief over the loss of Major Proctor, the remaining 26 candidates graduated from their parachute course on September 11, 1942. Their wings were pinned on by U.S. Colonel George P. Howell, Commander, Infantry School Airborne Command.

Harris's instructor cadre was sent back to Canada to establish the A-35 Parachute Training Centre at Shilo, Manitoba. As the high tower was not yet complete, their first tasks involved hard labour as diggers and builders. Before

training in Canada could begin, the men were sent back to Fort Benning in November to receive additional instruction. Darrel was sent to the American barracks at Lawson Field where he attended the Jump Master Course. He remained there until the parachute school in Canada was ready to start its own courses.

While at Fort Benning, the cadre trained a new class of Canadians every week, shadowing American instructors. Eventually, Canadian instructors taught Canadian candidates. The number of qualified Canadian paratroopers had grown from the original 27 to over 600 in just six months, between September 11, 1942 to March of 1943. The Canadian instructor cadre was homebound for Shilo, Manitoba and full of anticipation at the thought of finally operating their own airborne school. Upon their return, the decision was made to name one of the new jumping fields after Major David Proctor. On September 7 1971 a cairn honouring Major Proctor was placed on that field to commemorate his untimely death.

The first group of candidates was put through its paces and were now ready for the parachute stage of the course. The first Canadian student drop took place on Monday, August 30, 1943 at an altitude of 1,500 feet out of #560 Lockheed Lodestar. Harris was one of the jumpmasters. This first jump made history in Canada; it was successful with no injuries and no refusals. This landmark event gave a sense of satisfaction to those who had been waiting for a whole year to see this day. Harris would go on to instruct many courses at the A-35 Parachute Training Centre during his tenure.

After the war ended in 1945, the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion and the A-35 Parachute Training Centre were deemed to be no longer required. The Parachute Training Centre in Shilo had turned out 1,362 graduates during its time of operation. Sergeant Harris considered his service to Canadian airborne development and history his proudest accomplishment.

Although happy the war was over, Darrel remembers a great deal of sadness as he and his comrades packed their kitbags and said their last farewells. The shouts from the parade square, the roar of the plane engines, the sight of white silk canopies floating to the earth above joyous young paratroops beneath them were all silent now. ■



## REMEMBERING D-DAY 75 YEARS LATER

*D-Day at Grangues,  
and the Canadian Connection*

*by John Fotheringham*



**O**n 7 June 2019, during the D+75 commemorations in Normandy, active and retired members of the CF, led by BGen (ret'd) Ernie Beno, OMM, attended a ceremony in Grangues to dedicate a new marker in memory of Private Joseph Aubin, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion, and an unidentified paratrooper, both killed in action in the early hours of D-Day.

Grangues is a small town several kilometres east of the 1 Can Para drop zones near Ranville. Canadian readers of this journal are likely familiar with the history and actions of the Canadian battalion on D-Day, but may not be as aware of the activities of their British brothers in arms on that day. Near Grangues, 52 British paras lost their lives that night, including 8 soldiers who were murdered by a German officer while being held as POWs.

In the late 1990s, a bronze plaque was installed at Grangues listing the 52 men, including those of 7<sup>th</sup> Para who were killed when the Stirling bomber transporting

them to Normandy was shot down, men from a downed Horsa glider, and the 8 murdered paras.

At that time, the veterans and French who installed the plaque were not aware that the remains of two other paras, including Private Aubin, had been recovered from the roadside after the war.

It was on the initiative of a local historian, who organises the annual commemorations at Grangues, that a plaque was finally installed in June of 2019.

Mark Worthington, Curator of Memorial Pegasus, the museum at Pegasus Bridge, explained the Canadian connection:

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**ABOVE:** Left to right, at the gravesite of Pte Joseph Aubin and an unknown soldier: Lt William Powers, CD, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA; Hon Col Steve Gregory, MSM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, RCA; BGen Ernest Beno, OMM, CD; Major Caleb Walker, CD, Army HQ.



*The gravesite of Pte Joseph Aubin of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion and an unknown Canadian soldier.*

“Men from 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion were dropped about 5 miles to the east of Varaville on the far side of the flooded Dives valley.

Several were making their way west, from their drop zone, through Grangues towards Varaville. While descending the high ground into Grangues, an MG34 or 42 machine gun mounted on an anti-aircraft tripod in a hedge opened fire killing two men. Whether there were more than the two in the group has never been ascertained.”

“Trooper Aubin and an unidentified para were buried by the roadside where they fell. A local man, from Grangues, buried them and was absolutely certain, due to the uniform insignia, that the unidentified soldier was also Canadian. Aubin is now lying at Ranville Cemetery. However, there is no listing for an unknown Canadian at Ranville Cemetery.”

What is interesting is that the Commonwealth War Graves burial records for the unidentified soldier, exhumed from Grangues with, and lying next to, Private Aubin lists him as “Unidentified Canadian Airborne.” There are only three 1 Can Para soldiers that were reported killed in action (KIA) on 6 June and who have no known graves: Corporal Winslow Oikle and Private Leslie Neufeld, both killed at the Gatehouse at Varaville, and Private Alex MacInnis. Private MacInnis was dropped in the same vicinity as Private Aubin, but from a different plane.

I am working with Mark Worthington and Ludovic Louis, a Normandy historian of the airborne landings, to see whether we can narrow down who might be buried in the ‘Known Unto God’ grave next to Private Aubin in the Ranville War Cemetery. I hope to be able to report further in the next issue of *The Maroon Beret*.

We will remember them! ■

## LE RÉGIMENT DU SAGUENAY

*Une histoire bien ancrée dans le coeur*

*par Sergeant Martin Beauseigle  
Technicien médical, Régiment du Saguenay*

Le 1<sup>er</sup> février 2020 avait lieu le 120<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Régiment du Saguenay (R du Sag). Plusieurs anciens parachutistes ayant appartenu au R du Sag ont alors saisi l’occasion pour se rassembler. Voici l’histoire bien ancrée dans le cœur de plusieurs militaires de cette unité.

En janvier 1983, le Régiment du Saguenay a reçu la tâche primaire du commandement du secteur de l’Est de fournir un peloton de parachutistes afin d’augmenter, en cas de crise, les effectifs du 1<sup>er</sup> commando (1Cdo) du Régiment aéroporté du Canada. Le Régiment du Saguenay assumait cette tâche jusqu’au 1<sup>er</sup> février 1995. Les parachutistes du R du Sag ont été fiers de participer aux exercices majeurs du 1<sup>er</sup> commando et surtout au « Berger Perron », qui avait lieu chaque année. Au cours de ces années, plusieurs parachutistes ont été formés; une communauté de fiers soldats a été constituée et ont porté fièrement le béret marron jusqu’à la malheureuse dissolution du Régiment aéroporté.

Lors de cette soirée, des traditions propres aux parachutistes du R du Sag ont refait surface. La mascotte Cac-tus a été remise à l’honneur, les t-shirts de parachutistes,

que chacun portait en dessous de sa tenue de soirée, ont été dévoilés et la fameuse tradition des "coins" a refait surface. D'ailleurs, un nouveau "coin" a été offert à tous les membres présents à cette soirée où nous sentions une certaine nostalgie du temps des parachutistes. Se réunir à nouveau, après ce brusque arrêt en 1995, a fait grand bien à l'ensemble du Régiment.

Parmi les anciens, le lieutenant-colonel (ret) Clermont Rhainds CD était présent et cela a fait plaisir à plusieurs de revoir le premier et seul commandant parachutiste du R du Sag. Durant la soirée, des chansons telles que « La Petite Charrette », « Le Père Abraham » et « Le Joyeux Promeneur » se sont fait entendre, peut-être au détriment des jeunes présents qui n'avaient pas vraiment connu ces bonnes années. Plusieurs histoires, que nous ne pouvons raconter, ont refait surface en plus d'un montage de photos d'époque présenté aux convives, créant plusieurs émotions. Certains ont même eu l'audace de porter leur blouson du bon vieux temps!

Comme on dit au Saguenay, la soirée s'est terminée « à pas d'heure » et nous espérons être en grand nombre lors du 125<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du R du Sag qui sera certainement encore une fois mémorable.

Nous espérons grandement que l'unité reçoive une fois de plus l'honneur d'être la seule unité francophone de réservistes à soutenir les efforts aéroportés au Canada. Ces années de fierté ont permis aux parachutistes du R du Sag de cultiver leurs compétences à différents niveaux; certains sont devenus militaires de profession ou ont lancé des entreprises, d'autres ont fait de la politique ou ont tout simplement poursuivi une carrière importante dans le civil. « L'esprit de corps », développé par les parachutistes à travers les années, a été plus fort que le temps. Même si nous ne nous croisons que très rarement, nous sommes toujours des frères!

« Airborne Huah! Dieu et patrie! » ■



Aéroport de Saint-Honoré 26-03-93 *Progrès Dimanche*

### Des parachutistes font des exercices de sauts

par Normand Bélvin

**SAINT-HONORÉ (NB)** — Des parachutistes de l'armée américaine ont tenu un exercice de sauts en compagnie de leurs collègues du Régiment du Saguenay hier à l'aéroport de Saint-Honoré.

Sous un soleil radieux, la bâtisse abritant le ministère des Transports du Québec (propriétaire de l'aéroport) était transformée en QG de l'armée où 75 parachutistes — 40 Américains et 35 réservistes — attendaient leur tour pour monter à bord du hélicoptère C-130 de l'Ohio Air Guard qui pouvait embarquer 42 hommes à la fois.

Chacun effectuait trois sauts de telle sorte que le ciel de Saint-Honoré a vu se déployer plus de 200 parachutes vers 21 heures.

Ce genre d'exercice militaire est toujours spectaculaire puisque l'appareil lâche les sauts à une altitude de 1000 à 1250 pieds. Sitôt sortie de l'avion par la rampe arrière, le vol libre doit se déployer à défaut de quoi le parachutiste doit agir rapidement et utiliser son équipement de réserve.

Une fois arrivés au sol, point n'est besoin de se soumettre à l'exercice de pliage. La volure est rangée dans un sac puis ramenée à l'édifice où a effectué la préparation de tous les parachutes de l'armée canadienne. Pour les besoins des manœuvres d'hiver, on avait empli 160 parachutes américains et 120 canadiens.

Qualification — Pour 17 sauteurs du Régiment du Saguenay, cette journée avait quelque chose d'excitant, car elle devait leur permettre d'obtenir leurs grades de parachutistes américains et inversement d'obtenir leurs grades de réservistes de l'armée américaine. L'un d'eux, l'adjudant Éric Bergeron de Jonquière, nous a expliqué que les parachutistes canadiens, qui ils soient de l'armée régulière ou de la réserve, peuvent espérer obtenir leurs grades américains une fois qu'ils ont accompli 15 sauts. Une fois ces 15 sauts complétés, ils doivent effectuer trois sauts américains.

Cela peut paraître banal, mais les règles sont telles qu'un parachutiste canadien ne peut sauter d'un avion américain lors d'un engagement militaire s'il n'a pas ses ailes américaines, et vice-versa.

Pour faire leurs trois sauts réglementaires, les parachutistes américains ont utilisé de l'équipement canadien selon la drille, les règles de sécurité et la philosophie canadienne. Les parachutistes du Régiment du Saguenay ont fait la même chose avec des équipements américains, selon les règles américaines. L'échange des ailes des nouveaux sauteurs doit se faire ce matin avant le départ des parachutistes américains pour leur base de l'Ohio.

**SANS INCIDENT** — Les troupes aéroportées américaines et leurs collègues canadiens ont envahi le ciel de Saint-Honoré. (Photos Jean-Luc Lévesque)

**PRATIQUE** — La rampe du Hercules permet des sorties plus faciles et plus en douceur pour les parachutistes.

**BASSE ALTITUDE** — À 1000 ou 1250 pieds, il faut que le parachute ouvre vite.

**EFFECTIFS** — Le hélicoptère C-130 pouvait embarquer 42 parachutistes à chaque envolée.





# THE REGIMENT IN CYPRUS, 1974

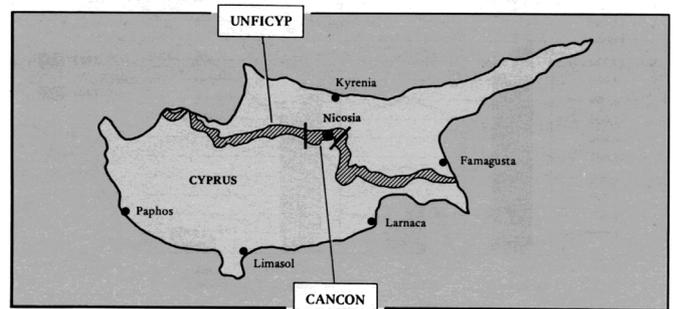
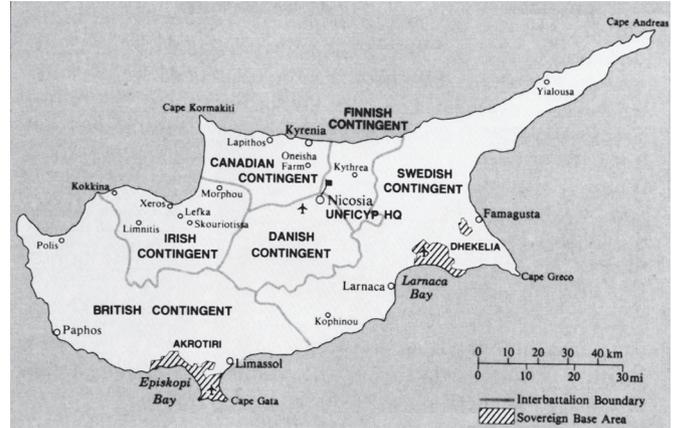
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## THE EDITOR'S STATIC LINES

As you read through you will find the articles are laid out in four parts. The first three report "The Coup", "The First Offensive", and "The Second Offensive." When read in consultation with the map you should sense the situation in the Turkish enclave prior to and after the first round of fighting and finally after the "Turkish Peace Force" went all out to establish the last line shown on the map. A somewhat telegraphic style of writing has been used to offer the situation exactly as it unfolded. The conclusion should have the effect of focusing your attention on what the war meant.

## PART ONE: THE COUP D'ÉTAT

The following is a letter written by a regimental officer to his family at home. He has kindly agreed to allow it to be published. It is as good an eyewitness account of the activities of the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), as a result of the coup, as can be found, and thus will form the basis of this story. It is dated at 1200 hours on Thursday, 18 July 1974.



Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Just a few hurried notes on what I saw, the day of the coup.

Monday 15 July 0835 hrs. I was just starting a routine meeting with the CO when the sirens went. A few minutes later we heard several explosions and gunfire and the Ops Offr came in and said that UNFICYP was on general alert – reason: unknown. At 0845 I left HQ Nicosia, District at Wolseley Barracks (by the Ledra Palace Hotel) for our administrative base BBC (Blue Beret Camp) near the airport 5 miles away. There was quite a bit of shooting going on as I made the trip and I was finally stopped at a roadblock on the hill to the airport just beyond the final roundabout. National Guard soldiers were manning the roadblock and my jeep was about the 7th vehicle stopped. There I waited for 3 hrs. At 0855 the head of a column of 14 T-34 tanks

*Maps of Cyprus. The top map is circa 1965, showing the locations of the various national contingents. The bottom map from 1974 shows the demarcation lines following the coup.*

2 CDO, Delta Company, Cyprus 1974. Front row: WO McMann, Cpl Lewis, MCpl Cawley, Capt Bragdon, MWO Witt, Cpl Mashrall, Cpl Demena, Cpl Bowen. Back row: Cpl Grafton, Cpl Chambers, Cpl Fairburn, Cpl Owens, Sgt Stevens, Cpl Stogard, Unknown, Cpl Webb, Cpl Shearer.

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and 6 BTR 152 APCs came through the roundabout and headed downtown. By 0910 they were engaging the Presidential Palace (reduced to ruin within the hour), the House of Representatives, the Paphos Gate Police Station and the Athalassa Tactical Reserve Unit (TRU) HQ and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corp. Two tanks stayed at the roundabout and, at irregular intervals, fired their .50 cal machine guns in the air. At 1100 hrs three BTR 152s with troops went out to the airport to finish off the TRU there. By noon the Greek Cypriot National Guard were in full control of Nicosia. That afternoon there was only sporadic fighting and an attack on the Archbishop's residence, and they took control of the central hospital with troops and a quad .50 cal AA Mount.

Throughout the time I was at the roadblock, I had access to the UNFICYP Motorola Command Net and they could get a play by play of the action. Quite interesting. By the time I got to BBC (1200 hrs), Log Coy (Logistics Company) had gone through its battle procedures and was ready – very professionally done even for the ‘hodge-podge’ that is the Canadian Contingent (CANCON) base.

That afternoon and evening Col Beattie, the Canadian Contingent commander and DCOS UNFICYP, was busy drafting messages to DND and External Affairs as we have no embassy here. We also learned that «M» might still be alive and well and living in his old stomping ground of Paphos. I then returned to Nicosia for an 0 Group then returned again to BBC to brief Log Coy. I learned that an Olympic Airways 707 (Greek) had landed at the airport! At 0100 Tues morning: finally went to bed at my house on the Green Line. There was a lot of firing throughout the night. Tuesday morning, I drove through town to work. The streets were deserted except for the tanks and some long-haired wild-eyed reservists. I spent the morning with Col Beattie and learned of «M»'s escape and pleas to the people and request for UN assistance. We also planned the evacuation of the 7 leave persons that were stranded on the island.

That evening there was a violent small arms fire fight at the courthouse which backs onto Wolseley Barracks. It was a bit too close for comfort with quite a few stray



bullets flying around. There were several other minor fights around town as well.

On Wednesday the curfew was lifted for a few hours and downtown Nicosia looked like normal except for the tanks and troops. The local police stations were open again and people were responding to the order to turn in all firearms. I didn't do very much that day.

Thursday. Some of the tanks have left and the curfew has been lifted during daylight hours. The airport has been opened again and we are expecting a Herc this afternoon to take out the leave persons.

I won't go into the political dealings in Athens, London, Ankara, New York, etc. and the escape of «M» as you probably know more about it than we do, although we do get the BBC World Series from the Sovereign Base Area. My main concern is still with the coup coming to an indecisive standstill and the new leaders looking for a scapegoat, they might just choose the UN for allegedly aiding «M». This could have repercussions for our troops in the street.

Meanwhile the Canadian Contingent (CANCON) and UNFICYP have been doing their jobs. So far, we have successfully prevented any outbreak of violence across the Green Line. This has been done by maintaining our presence despite certain dangers on the OPs (observation posts), helping and reassuring the Turks at every level and warning the Greeks at every level of the consequences of provoking the Turks – even accidentally. There have been some rounds «stray» into the Turk Quarter and some Turk casualties, and the Turks have mobilized and threatened retaliation. However, we have managed to keep the lid on.

During the height of the fighting on Monday we abandoned 2 OPs as being too dangerous, but they were re-manned later. Within an hour we were back to the status quo



*and then proceeded to increase our presence. The troops have done superbly.*

*Our latest crisis has been that UNFICYP stands guard over a large quantity of weapons*

*(enough for a brigade) illegally imported in 1972. The Gk Nat Gd (Greek National Guard) want it. I hope there is not a fight. (Ref my regime).*

*That's it to date. There has been a lot of shooting and we have been extremely lucky not to have had any accidental casualties. We have had several buildings hit by bullets. We never lost our freedom of movement around the Green Line but were forcibly prevented from going where the authorities thought we had no business. They were probably right.*

*Love \_\_\_\_\_*

The coup came as a complete surprise to UNFICYP. True, there had been considerable political unrest throughout the summer – bombings in Famagusta, Tactical Reserve Unit roundups of EOKA B supporters, government plans for reducing the time of service for National Guardsmen, and the President's impending plans to purge the Guard of its Greek national officers — and further action, including a possible coup, was expected. However, just as is described in this letter, up until 0835 hrs on Monday 15 July, it was the well-known UNFICYP routine.

### **CANCON BASE**

The reference to the “hodge-podge” at Logistics Company should be explained. Under command of the Coy 2 IC Capt L. Bowen during the temporary absence of the OC Maj Harries, Log Coy prepared for the emergency. They set up a perimeter defence, manned checkpoints, moved the ammunition into a more secure spot, and loaded the support weapons ammunition onto the appropriate vehicles, ready for deployment.

### **UNFICYP'S ROLE**

The remarks about UNFICYP and the Canadian soldiers doing their job must be emphasized. As can be imagined, the Turkish Cypriot community was very nervous about

the coup. UNFICYP and HQ Nicosia District reassured the Vice-President's Office (VPO) that the coup, as far as could be determined, was an internal Greek Cypriot affair, but it was the steadfastness of the Observation Company soldiers on the OPs and the active patrolling of the Green Line by the Recce Pl that lent credence to this reassurance. A couple of examples follow.

Only one OP was ever abandoned. That was OP Roccas Bastion, which was receiving a lot of stray SA (small arms) fire from the attack on Electra House. The OP was abandoned on order and was reoccupied one hour later. OP Paphos Gate was ordered to move 100 yards up Paphos Street as it was receiving considerable fire during the attack on the Police Station. The original position was later reoccupied.

Another instance of the UN's attempt to control the conflict came on the Tuesday night. The Turks complained that they were receiving tank fire from the Omorphita area. Major K.C. Eyre went up with his driver in the middle of the night to investigate. They found a lone T-34 shelling an abandoned ice cream factory and when the tank missed, the rounds were landing in the enclave. Major Eyre explained the problem and suggested that the tank move to the other side of the building. The tank commander was very cooperative. He promptly moved his tank to the new position and continued shelling the factory from the other side.

Further examples could be cited but the point is made. The contingent did everything it could to prevent the “intra-communal” coup d'état from developing into an “inter-communal” conflict. But for the intervention of the Turkish Army, five days later, it would have succeeded.

Aside from the two OPs mentioned and a few shots fired in the Recce Pl accommodation area, there was not too much danger on the Green Line itself. The danger lay in driving around in the Greek sector, including the usually routine trip from Wolseley Barracks to Blue Beret Camp (BBC). The Nat Gd erected checkpoints everywhere, and as the coup reached the indecisive stage, the long-haired irregulars became more and more desperate and irrational. Everywhere EOKA B types (a Greek Cypriot paramilitary organisation formed in 1971) were driving around in their cars with an AK-47 sticking out each of the windows. The new regime had little respect for the UN and our soldiers continually had cocked weapons stuck in their faces at the various roadblocks.

The coup itself was classically staged and militarily, except for letting Archbishop Makarios escape, was well conducted. As has been already mentioned, surprise was achieved and within 20 minutes of the first shot the tanks were downtown engaging the traditional targets for military takeovers. By noon Nicosia and the Cyprus government were under complete control. A curfew and the use of roadblocks quickly brought the population under control, helped, no doubt by the indiscriminate firing of .50 cal machine guns. By the following day the Greek Cypriot police were once more effective as witnessed by the population responding to the order to turn in all illegal firearms to the police stations.

The political aspects of the coup, although fascinating, are too complex to be analyzed in this report. In fact, some might say that they are too complex to be analyzed anywhere.

## **PART TWO: THE TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS**

### **PHASE 1 BEGINS – 20 JULY**

The Turkish Intervention Force at Mersin in Southern Turkey was placed on an alert footing on 17 July 1974. For Turkey, the implications of the coup d'état in Cyprus under the aegis of the government of Nicos Sampson were obvious; preparations for safeguarding the rights of the Turkish Cypriot minority were made. The imminence of an attack became evident from the preparations made by the intervention forces and the grouping of maritime transport in the Mersin sector.

On 20 July, at 0320 hrs, the COS at UNFICYP HQ, Brigadier F.R. Henn (British) called the Nicosia District HQ and asked to speak with the commander. The news was surprising; the Brigadier had received the information that the "visitors" were coming from the North. The contingent should be ready for any eventuality. At 0330 hrs the commander issued directives to the Observation Company:

1. Ensure that all the observation posts are immediately doubled, even after dawn;
2. The Golf Course observation post will be permanently doubled;
3. The PI Comd IC Mill will remain on the site in order to observe all activities coming from the north and in the sector of the National Contingent at Orta Keuy;

4. All the observation posts will be visited, and the personnel will be informed of the importance of immediately reporting activities in their sector of responsibility;

5. The administrative vehicles will not move unless it is absolutely necessary for them to do so.



To maintain close liaison with the factions, liaison officers (LOs) were appointed in the HQ of the adjacent districts; i.e., HQ FINCON, 3 Higher Tactical Command (3 HTC) and the Turkish Cypriot leadership. At 0606 hrs the LO at 3 HTC was dispatched to the Combined Operations Centre.

The Turkish invasion began early on 20 July; a jet attacked two Greek Cypriot gunboats near Snake Island, located 3 km west of Kyrenia. After a series of air strikes against military targets in Nicosia and Kyrenia, troops were para dropped on the plain near the north coast of Nicosia.

During the day troops were landed and para dropped in order to establish a corridor from the Nicosia-Kyrenia enclave to the sea. Fighting broke out all over the island and units of the National Guard circled the enclaves and the Turkish Cypriot centres.

The Turkish Cypriots, who were afraid that their sector of Nicosia would not be correctly identified by the pilots, attached red banners to their buildings and in front of their residences. No aerial fire was reported that could have hit these residences. At 0508 hrs, most the observation posts along the Green Line reported light fire and a build-up of troops and support arms. This light fire grew and a regular battle ensued. The observation posts, which were now located between two areas of heavy fire, became vulnerable since the sentry boxes offered no protection against small arms fire. At that time, the first observation post to be evacuated was the Golf Course post; as early as 0550 hrs the Turkish Cypriot combatants captured it, but the personnel occupying it were able to evacuate it without incident. This was the first UN post to be repainted red.

The first men were para dropped at 0604 hrs in the plain just north of the camp occupied by the National Contingent. Some 1,000 persons were para dropped from C-130 Hercules, OC-3 and C-160 Transall aircraft. The

operation continued throughout the morning and as early as 1200 hrs seven waves of men were para dropped and three loads of men were landed by helicopter in order to finally place the airborne brigade on the plain at Nicosia. They did not appear to attack the Greek Cypriot forward positions; they joined with the Turkish Cypriot troops.

Radio Bayrak, the voice of the Turkish Cypriot troops, announced that the deplaning was not to be considered a military intervention but rather a purely police action. The radio added that the Greek Cypriots should remain at home. Greek Cypriot radio's reaction was to announce the general mobilization and requisition of vehicles and to incite its community to fight without quarter because the Turkish landing as announced was only a bluff. The special message ended with the slogan, "Long Live Free Cyprus" and the airwaves were filled with military music of a rather boring and limited variety.

At 0652 hrs the commander gave the order to the observation company to withdraw the personnel in the factions' arc of fire. The factions had apparently fired a few rounds at random towards the UN positions. The soldiers of the National Guard increased the risks by firing on everything over-flying the sector – UN helicopters included. The Officer Commanding the Observation Company, Major K.C. Eyre, reported to the commander the situation of various observation posts: Hermes II and Constantine were moved to Beaver Lodge (PI HQ); Paphos Gate, moved to Roccas Bastion; Golf Course, evacuated; Paphos II, in position; Chimo, in position; Red Line III, in position; Flour Mill, in position.

During the first day, the observation posts had to be successively evacuated because of the cross-fire and direct fire. Some evacuations even involved withdrawal in front of the very Turkish residential sector. After 0740 hrs on 21 July, only the Flour Mill observation post was occupied; this was the only one of them having an arc of vision that could respond to the needs at that time.

At Nicosia, the duty officer of the Nicosia district (Canadian contingent) filed reports on the activities of the Turks and the Greek Cypriots. The situation resembled nothing less than a war movie. However, everything seemed calm in the COC except for the feeling of "waiting for the other shoe to drop."

Besides ensuring the safety of its troops, the UN also had to try to negotiate a local ceasefire; neither of the factions could decide to stop first. It was important for the LOs to

relay and to quickly receive directives related to contacts. The commander located in the Turkish Cypriot Vice-President's Office (VPO) relayed the following directives to the COC of the Nicosia district: the Turkish Cypriot troops have received the order not to fire in the Turkish Cypriot sector and the command wishes precise example of such fire; certify that we (the Nicosia district) have LOs in Turkish Cypriot troop and 3 HTC companies in order to apply and control the ceasefire policy; the Turkish national troops intend to remain in the enclave in order to protect Turkish Cypriots.

The efforts to deploy the LOs in the Turkish Cypriot troop companies were somewhat difficult. For example, in 2 Coy (along the Green line), the LO was disarmed and searched and then ordered to leave the sector. Further, HQ 3 HTC revealed to the UN LO that any ceasefire must go through National Guard HQ; 3 HTC was also reluctant to evacuate its troops from Ledra Palace, which, at that time, held 380 persons, including a group of the international press of more than 100 persons. The Palace was to witness major incidents during the combat. At 0855 hrs, 2 IC Maj G.C. Lewis went to the Palace in order to inquire about the fire. He managed to convince the soldiers of the National Guard and asked the command to intervene with the Turkish Cypriot troops in the same way. After a short pause, the fire began again.

The LOs received the order to inform their units to apply at ceasefire at 1000 hrs, this was impossible.

The National Guard fired mortars into the Turkish enclave and some fire positions were near the UN sectors. As a result, any Turkish Cypriot troop or Turkish Army counter-offensive could affect the UN personnel. At every echelon, the Canadian soldiers tried to locate these positions and convince the National Guard to move. It was very evident that the National Guard was using the UN personnel as a shield since both factions had a perfect knowledge of the sectors occupied by the UN personnel. The situation seemed to be repeated at the Nicosia international airport and the Blue Beret Camp (BBC); the artillery and anti-aircraft units of the National Guard deployed in a ravine located south of the BBC and Camp Kykko (HQ of the Finnish Contingent or FINCON). Thus, the CANCON LO, who was located at Kykko, could see the position of the battery 100 metres from the National Guard in the south and the bursting of the shells in the Turkish enclave located 6,000 metres further north at Guenyeli. The

Turkish mortar bombs began to fall dangerously close to the BBC because of fire that was too long. They fell beyond the airport road. In addition, after dropping their bombs, rockets and napalm on the camp of the Greek National Contingent and the airport, F-100 combat aircraft began to locate the artillery batteries of the National Guard towards the end of the day. The local commander was asked to move his batteries, but he failed to do so.

Meanwhile, at Louroujina, 14 miles south-east of Nicosia, the UN section wondered what was happening in the town; they also had their problems. The Turkish Cypriot troops, which had complete control of the town, had taken down all the UN flags and occupied the observation posts. The section was not disturbed in any way. The commander decided to leave them there.

The Ledra Palace Hotel dominated the Green Line and the Turkish residential quarter. Therefore, the Greek National Guard benefited from its fire positions. The Cypriot soldiers did everything in their power to neutralize the hotel, which projected over the Green Line. It was constantly assaulted by small arms, 50 mm, mortar and anti-tank weapon fire. The fourth facade was swept by flanking fire. It was a miracle that no civilian was injured. We constantly reminded both sides that the hotel housed civilians, women and children. At 1202 hrs the commander gathered a small group of about 12 persons in order to check the situation in the Palace and, if necessary, to evacuate injured women and children. Just when they were getting ready to leave the COC, a new wave of small arms and mortar fire dispersed the group. After negotiations with the Command and National Guard HQ, a local ceasefire was agreed to in order to permit the evacuation of civilians. This task ended at 1435 hrs on the following day. The civilians remained there.

At 1224 hrs, three 60 mm mortar shells exploded in the camp called Wolseley Barracks; one in the signals store, one in the office of the HQ Company and one in the vehicle park. The last shell caused the first five casualties in CANCON; the injuries were caused by shell bursts.

Meanwhile, electricity and water had been cut off in the sectors and the emergency generator was used to restore the facilities at the COC. However, there was not sufficient power to operate the air conditioner and we had to continue to operate at a temperature of more than 90 degrees F. It was a real sauna in the CANCON. The food began to spoil since the refrigeration system was no longer working.



The two factions again agreed to respect a ceasefire beginning at 1400 hrs. With the exception of the suburbs of Neapolis and Trakhones, which had been taken by the Turks, there was very little movement in the town itself. Mr. Hassan, the political LO at the VPO, had not been informed of the ceasefire. The ceasefire was violated at 1410 hrs when Turkish jets returned to bomb pre-selected targets in the town.

The sixth casualty in CANCON occurred at 1507 hrs when Pte Levesque was hit at his post near the Officers' Mess at Wolseley Barracks. The casualty was evacuated to the BBC, escorted by ferret patrol scout cars of the parachute squadron of the Royal Armoured Corps; at this point, this troop was under the command of the Nicosia district.

Several people at UNFICYP and in the National Guard believed at the outset that the Turkish forces (airborne and commando) were wearing the blue beret and flying the UN flag in order to sow confusion among the Greek Cypriots. Curiously enough, it is normal for these Turkish troops to wear blue berets. It is even more obvious that certain members of the National Guard were wearing UN berets. In addition, the Turkish Cypriot troops then began to wear the Canadian UN combat uniform, including jungle boots, as the Turkish Cypriot sectors were pillaged. The laundry contracts were held in this sector. At 1559 hrs the Canadians incurred their seventh casualty in the person of Pte Gasse, who was shot in the leg while he was driving his vehicle near the Green Line in the Maple Leaf Manor sector, the residence of the Recce Pl. He could not be evacuated until a local ceasefire had been established; at 1630 hrs he was transported to the BBC. A few rounds were fired in the direction of the ambulance without, however, causing



any damage. Another ceasefire was organized locally for 1700 hrs, but the factions claimed that they were unable to stop firing without having received the order from their own HQ. To add to the confusion, 3 HTC alleged that the National Guard had firm instructions not to open fire or return fire.

The Commander and a group of ten men returned to the Ledra Palace Hotel at about 1630 hrs in order to better evaluate the situation and try to place the sector under UN jurisdiction. The National Guard refused to leave the site and the journalists who were still there continued to report on the situation: the hotel was cut ...

### ***THE SECOND DAY – 21 JULY***

The situation in the town became more relaxed during the night of 20 to 21 July. Fire came from posts along the Green Line and the Ledra Palace Hotel. At 0320 hrs the Louroujina section reported that a UN flag had been returned and that they could move more freely in the town.

At 0417 hrs the eighth contingent casualty in the person of Lt R. McGrath of the Observation Company was reported. He was then UNO LO with 22 Coy, Turkish Cypriot forces, when he was hit in the arm by a bullet during an observation session. The Turkish hospital treated him and he was able to rejoin his unit.

The first mortar attack of the day in the Wolseley Barracks sector occurred at 0450 hrs with four bombs; two bombs hit Ledra Palace and two others hit the sport field. There were no casualties. However, an hour and a half later, the bombing and small arms fire began again in the Palace sector; the civilians began to panic and the Recce Pl sergeant in the hotel tried to calm them down and took them to the basement. He tried to stop the soldiers of the National Guard from firing; they were as nervous as the civilians.

Early in the morning, the observation company was busy evacuating civilians from certain areas of the town in

the British High Commission sector, which was found in the diplomatic district. The evacuations were completed at 0805 hrs without incident and some 50 civilians could again thank the Canadians for having gotten them out of a difficult situation.

The number of casualties rose to nine when Pte Simard (451) was hit in the elbow while fighting a fire. The shot seemed to come from the Turkish sector.

In the middle of the morning, the situation became more tense at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The water and rations were rationed, the damages to the buildings were high and the civilians wished to leave the Hotel. A few journalists had already left the premises. The 40-member National Guard Platoon refused to leave the hotel and the soldiers became increasingly threatening. Plans were implemented to evacuate the civilians from the Hilton. A serious obstacle was encountered when the soldiers in the hotel locked the doors and refused to let the civilians leave. It was thought at the outset that this was an attempt to take hostages. Everything returned to normal when the leader of the Greek platoon, a very nervous little man equipped with an AK-47, received the order from 3 HTC to free the civilians.

The British High Commission, in its official capacity, took part in the negotiations with the Cypriot Minister of the Interior. The embassies were given the task of ensuring the safety of their citizens. At 1435 hrs a convoy of 54 British trucks, one bus, two mini-buses and 10 civilian cars went to evacuate all the civilians from the Ledra Palace Hotel. The National Guard also had to be convinced to leave the hotel so that it could be declared under UN supervision. The negotiations in 3 HTC were deadlocked until 1600 hrs; the LO, Capt I.A. Nicol, informed us that he had suddenly changed his mind but that the hotel had to be occupied immediately by the UN. This latest decision came entirely by surprise, considering the fact that Sgt Dicaire and his group had been there for 18 hours. A local ceasefire was called to enable the Cypriot soldiers to leave the premises.

At 1645 hrs HQ UNFICYP was informed that the Ledra Palace Hotel was occupied by the UN. The commander of the Greek platoon insisted that his orders were to remain on the premises and that the Turkish Cypriot troops were to stop fighting. The LO at 3 HTC and a Cypriot interpreter came to clarify the orders received by the captain. The captain rallied his 40-man platoon and insisted that he would not leave the site if the Turks began to fire. The commander suggested that he go down on the road with him.

As the Cypriots began to evacuate the hotel, the VPO LO informed the COC of the imminence of a Turkish air attack on the Ledra Palace Hotel. At 1758 hrs everyone, except the recce section, which remained in the basement, had left the premises. The VPO declared that they could not stop the air attack since it was directed by Ankara. Mr. Hassan, the political LO at the VPO, was also concerned about this state of affairs because the VPO was in the fire sector. Wolseley Barracks was also in this sector! When the commander was getting ready to prepare plans to evacuate the section, Lt Leblanc, who was on a Turkish bastion on the side across from the hotel, reported that the FAC was in his sector and that nothing could be done at this level to stop the attacks.

The recce section received the order to assemble at the south door of the hotel. Meanwhile, Capt Forand with two Ferret armoured cars was dispatched to the parking lot in order to evacuate the section. The group promptly retreated to Wolseley Barracks and a few moments later two jets made a pass over the Ledra. One launched a burst of 20 mm fire that failed to hit its target. The Ledra Palace Hotel was reoccupied by the UN after the departure of the aircraft.

At about the same time, the VPO reported that the Turkish Air Force was getting ready to attack the Nicosia hospital since the anti-aircraft artillery of the National Guard was on the roof of the building. Indeed, there were two .50 cal weapons atop the building. However, the UN was able to convince the National Guard to remove them and, in this way, the attack was averted. At the same time, the Logistics Company witnessed the only attack of the F-104 Starfighters. It was noted that the F-104 pilots were more skillful than those of the F-100 Super Sabre. The excitement of the attack was caused by their low-altitude flights, which were made quickly and skillfully. Before the attack the pilots jettisoned their reserves, and a few fell on the BBC.

The day continued without incident and the commander took advantage of this pause to give orders to evacuate BBC and Kronberg in case the danger was too great. The second day ended; the Turkish forces had not advanced, but the corridor leading to the sea had been established.

### ***THE THIRD DAY – 22 JULY***

The major event of the first hour of this day was an attempted airborne landing made by Greek Nord-Atlas



transport aircraft. As early as 0130 hrs, the drone of these aircraft was heard, and several persons believed that it was the Turkish Air Force returning for a night bombing mission. Incidentally, a Greek Cypriot crew at the airport opened fire on one of their aircraft causing it to crash. Another aircraft made a forced landing and managed to stop against the other two aircraft already parked on the ground. Later, it was estimated that about 200 Greek commandos had landed on the island.

Throughout the night, the two factions increased their strength in forward positions. At 0326 hrs, UN HQ suggested a ceasefire in the town beginning at 0500 hrs. The VPO stated that such terms were the purview of Ankara. The decision could wait.

It was believed that everything had returned to normal when George, the waiter in the Officers' Mess, reported as usual. He was very disappointed to learn that the kitchen could not be opened for a few days.

At one point it was decided to withdraw the section at Louroujina for fear that the National Guard would attack the town. Two Ferret scout vehicles were sent in order to bring the section back to Nicosia. Meanwhile, the situation appeared relatively stable in order to make it possible to leave them on the site. This was transmitted to the Commander of the Force who added: "Keep up the good work; take possession of Ledra Palace and hoist the flag." The Ferrets remained under command. In addition to providing escort services, they maintained the UN presence on the Green Line by patrols.

At 1140 hrs the HQ Coy who were entrenched at BBC and Kronberg received the order to return to Wolseley Barracks – the paper war was also going to continue!

The UN initiated a ceasefire to take effect at 1600 hrs and the parties agreed after the usual delays. The Ferrets patrolling the Green Line were held by the Turkish Cypriot



forces under the pretext that there was no longer any Green Line. An hour and fifteen minutes later the Ferret armoured cars were able to leave. The mortar and small arms fire continued without interruption, especially in the Kronberg camp sector (Observation Company HQ). At 2006 hrs the commander ordered the company to ensure that all the personnel were under cover, prepare the withdrawal by being sure to bring the military materiel required, prepare a detailed withdrawal plan and advise when the company was at 60 minutes notice to leave the premises. At 2045 hrs the situation had considerably improved. The fighting stopped at nightfall. This pace of combat thus became familiar.

### ***THE PERIOD FROM 23 JULY – 12 AUGUST***

The ceasefire period was an occasion for the National Guard to group its elements while the Turks were acquiring more terrain; they expanded their enclave and/or their sectors.

At noon intense fighting broke out in the area of the Kronberg camp. This fighting caused movement of Turkish soldiers and Greek Cypriots; at one time, men from both groups requested refuge in the camp. This was what led CANCON's most serious casualty in the person of Capt Blaquièrre who was wounded when he tried to escort Turkish Cypriot force (TCF) soldiers to safety outside of Kronberg. The operation to rescue Capt Blaquièrre and Pte Plouffe (a bullet passed through his cheek and he spat it out in his hand) was led by Capt A. Forand, Commander of the Recce Pl who gave the order to a Ferret and a .50 machine gun to open fire on a National Guard position that was firing on the Canadians. In all, 400 rounds of .50 caliber and 200 rounds of .30 calibers were used and two Greek Cypriot soldiers seemed to have been killed. The local commander of the National Guard had been given prior warning.

Another incident occurred but CANCON was not informed about it until the following day. Because of the tactical importance of the Nicosia airport and the fear that the Greeks were trying another airborne landing, the Turkish Army decided to seize the airport. UNFICYP decided that it was necessary to intervene at senior levels and negotiated in order to remove the airport from the National Guard. At this juncture, the special assistant at UNFICYP, Colonel C.E. Beattie, played an important role through his intervention with the two groups on the Morphou highway.

The Nicosia district was tasked to take charge of the airport facilities and LCol Manuel deployed the second platoon of the Observation Company and the Logistics Company; the force was under the command of Maj D. Harries. A few hours later, fearing perhaps the imminence of an attack by the Turkish Army, UNFICYP ordered LCol Manuel to personally assume command of the airport defence force and the UNFICYP camp. His term lasted only one night; the responsibilities reverted to Maj Harries who was, in turn, relieved by the 16/5<sup>th</sup> Lanciers equipped with Saladin and Vigilant Ferrets.

In addition to the infantry platoon attached to the Observation Company, the airport was watched by clerks, mechanics, drivers, and cooks belonging to the Logistics Company. They had managed to find men who could operate the submachine guns and 106 mm anti-tank guns. If the Turks had attacked, Maj Harries' group might not have had fire supremacy. However, it was obvious that the guys were ready to remain in position to fight to the end. They were ready to fight if the perimeter of the airport was violated by the Turks.

On the following day, 24 July, the situation stabilized and Nicosia District HQ did what was necessary to learn the limits of the new Green Line. The Observation Company received the order to approach the centre of the old southern city and deploy its platoons outside the wall. Maj Eyre commanded this operation. He had three platoons and the support of four Ferrets. Obviously, it was quite an experience to walk between two factions who had fought for three days. Some difficulties were encountered from both factions and several bombs and explosives lay unexploded on the ground. At night fall the Green Line still belonged to us. On the following day the observations posts were re-established.

The other phase of the operation was commanded by Capt Forand, Commander of Recce Platoon, and consisted

in verifying, with the assistance of the patrols, the new line north of the town. These patrols were not conducted without incident, because the jeeps, which were still painted khaki, ventured into Greek and Turkish lines from time to time. The soldiers of the Turkish Army saw the UN soldiers for the first time; some of them were not aware of the UN presence in Cyprus. The operation continued without casualties and the Nicosia district was able to draw a new line.

The ceasefire was officially ratified in Geneva and a committee was formed to determine the exact position of the groups on the terrain. This committee was composed of military advisors, including Col C.E. Beattie of UNFICYP, Col J. Hunter representing Great Britain, the British High Commissioner, Turkey, Col Chakar and Maj Tsolaskis of Greece. The committee sent its recommendations to Geneva for the peace conference that led to a Turkish ultimatum on 13 August (they claimed more ground). On the following day, 14 August, the Turkish forces began the second phase of the combat in Cyprus.

### ***THE REGIMENT IS REUNITED***

With the deployment of the bulk of the Regiment to Cyprus in late July and early August 1974, the units that had been split in two were reunited and the Regiment was re-formed. The Regiment included: 1 AB Bty, 1 AB Fd Sqn, AB HQ and Sig Sqn, 1 Cdo, 2 Cdo, 1 AB SSU and a reconnaissance troop from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (*LdSH(RC)*). The Regiment deployed to Cyprus with all of its Canadian Forces Field Entitlement Table (CFFET), including first line holdings plus a seven-day stock of ammunition. Not to be forgotten are the M-113 APCs and Lynx reconnaissance vehicles that were shipped to Cyprus from Germany.

The Regiment was moving in with all the necessary "tools" to carry out its UN role and to ensure security of its own personnel, including prevention of abuses against peacekeeping Canadian soldiers on the part of the belligerents. The Canadian Contingent was to have some "teeth." There were to be no more cases of Canadian soldiers being disarmed or ignored. This point was made very clear when, on more than one occasion, road barricades put up by the Turkish Army, TCF and Greek National Guard units were forcibly removed by our soldiers. In very specific areas we insisted on our

freedom of movement and both sides learned to respect us for this stand.

The Regimental Commander assumed command on 2 August 1974 and gradually deployed the Regiment based on the arrival of personnel, vehicles, and equipment, and on the tasking from HQ UNFICYP. More OPs were established and the whole of no man's land was heavily patrolled. There was a great sense of pride among our Canadian soldiers; they felt more confident and were showing it. It was good to see the Regiment reunited.

### ***PART THREE: THE SECOND TURKISH OFFENSIVE***

As the Regiment was settling into its new environment and more supplies and equipment were being flown in, the Turkish Army was busy doing the same thing. More units, guns and tanks were being landed on the north coast near Kyrenia. These activities were to lead us into the second phase of the Turkish operation. From the small Turkish enclave which was considerably enlarged with the invasion of the island, the Turkish Army was to push east and west to capture over one third of the island, including all of its major ports.

Preparations on the Canadian side were marred by a very sad incident. On the night of 6 August, a Canadian patrol in a jeep approached a Turkish Cypriot roadblock. Shortly after the officer had stopped the jeep and had moved forward on foot to speak to the TCF sentry, shots were fired and the driver of the jeep, Para Perron, was hit. Two bullets had penetrated his back and he died during his evacuation by helicopter to the hospital.

As early as 0020 hrs on 13 August units had begun preparing for hostilities when HQ UNFICYP ordered ORANGE ALERT. The alert was issued when reports from the peace conference at Geneva continued to be pessimistic, and it was considered that a second phase of operations was likely on the part of the "Turkish Peace Forces." By then, our paratroopers had filled thousands of sandbags brought over from Canada for the construction of trenches and bunkers. Throughout the day of 13 August, Turkish vehicles were observed in the area immediately north of the city. Just prior to darkness at least 60 vehicles, 38 of them tanks, were reported in the town of Geunyeli. During the evening hours a continuous build-up was reported.

Some sporadic firing occurred during 13 August, but no serious or sustained firefights were reported. The National Guard, sensing something was about to happen, alerted their troops and some redeployment was noted.

At 1700 hrs, the regimental commander was called to a meeting at HQ UNFICYP where he was briefed on the situation. On his return he ordered all armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and Lynx (tracked reconnaissance vehicles) in the workshop to be operationally ready for 0600 hrs the next day. He also ordered all tracked vehicles to be painted white to avoid confusion with Turkish vehicles.

At 2200 hrs, Col G.H.J. Lessard, the Regimental Commander, issued orders in view of the imminent resumption of hostilities. These orders included contingency plans for thinning out of non-essential personnel from the Wolseley Barracks/Ledra Place Hotel area if subsequent events should prove it necessary.

At 2257 hrs, all lights in the town of Guenyeli were switched off, no doubt to prevent observation and to indicate Greek Cypriot locations, which remained illuminated. At 2258 hrs an unidentified aircraft with running lights overflew the FDLs in the city at about 10,000 feet. This aircraft was probably conducting a reconnaissance mission of sorts, and it was interesting to note that it appeared immediately after the Guenyeli lights were extinguished.

CANCON waited for the Turkish attack which now appeared imminent; the atmosphere of anticipation was not unlike that which is experienced prior to a parachute descent.

### ***DAY 1 – 14 August 1974***

Although activity on both sides continued throughout the hours of darkness, it was not until 0430 hrs, 14 August that the opposing sides began occupying their forward trenches. At 0455 hrs artillery fire was heard on the north side of the Kyrenia Mountains. This would later prove to be Turkish shelling of the Karavas and Lapithos areas.

At about the same time as Sgt A.M. Gallant of 2 Cdo was briefing his shift NCO on the orders that had been issued earlier at Regimental Headquarters, the aircraft arrived and the anticipation was over.

At 0505 hrs on 14 August 1974, those personnel of the Canadian Contingent on Cyprus who were not already up

and going about their duties were awakened by the roar of high-performance aircraft of the "Turkish Peace Forces." These aircraft, reported as Phantoms, began what would later be referred to as the Second Turkish Offensive on the embattled island of Cyprus. The aircraft, later identified as F-100 Super Sabres, were to spend most of the day bombing and strafing Greek National Guard positions around Nicosia. The aircraft were reported by OP CORNARO at the time as a formation of 10 aircraft. It was the largest sighting of Turkish aircraft made during the first attack of the second offensive.

It became apparent to UN soldiers manning OPs along the line of confrontation that both sides, in their haste to get at each other, were not overly concerned with the neutrality of the United Nations. Reports began to arrive at an alarming rate that both sides were firing at observation posts. At 0515 hrs the UN OPs KLONDYKE, ROSSLYN and CORNARO received aimed Turkish fire. This was in spite of the fact that the Turkish LO had earlier been informed of the locations of all Canadian Ops. The OPs remained in position until 0707 hrs when they were all withdrawn except for OP CORNARO, which held out until 0812 hrs.

Thus began two of many events that would allow those involved to tell "real" war stories (whenever they are able to corner someone long enough for the telling).

The first such event began at OP PEGASUS to the northeast of the city. This OP was situated at the extreme end of the 1 Cdo area of operations and, because of the distance involved, an APC from 2 Cdo had been dispatched the night before to evacuate the personnel if required. When the fighting around the OP got too intense for comfort, and as they came more and more under fire, an order was issued to evacuate the OP. As the APC moved out it was hit by several rounds of small arms fire. The carrier proceeded south toward the built-up area until it was disabled by an explosion. At the time of the explosion the crew was traveling with all hatches secured and vision was limited to the periscope. The crew was understandably stunned by the explosion, which they suspected was an anti-tank rocket. Since the APC was disabled and the crew commander expected a second shot to follow, he gave orders to abandon the vehicle. The crew dismounted and ran across an open field. The anti-tank rocket later proved to be an anti-tank mine, and the open field proved to be an unmarked mixed minefield.



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The second event took place at OP CORNARO, a tall hotel situated in the 2 Cdo area. This observation post, because of its commanding view, was considered important enough to man as long as possible. Having received intense small arms and machine gun fire from both sides, members of the OP party spent much of their time under cover and ventured onto the roof only during a lull in the shooting. Later, the Turks traded small arms fire for mortar fire, and this forced the OP party to the basement. When asked for a sitrep on the action in their area, a climb of six stories was required to get to a good vantage point. The elevator was still working but the Electrical Authority of Cyprus was not having one of its better days. At 0800 hours, 11 Turkish tanks had moved within 200 meters of the OP and it was ordered abandoned. However, due to the intensity of the fighting, travel by soft-skinned vehicles was precluded. Orders were given to immobilize the ¼-ton and ¾-ton vehicles at the OP and for the personnel to proceed to an RV where an APC would collect them. When the fighting died down that same night, a special party was sent in APCs went to recover the abandoned vehicles.

At about the same time, two APCs were dispatched to the Kennedy Hotel in the old city to evacuate UN civilians. As one pretty secretary was being carried into the carrier she was heard to say, «Thank goodness, the United States Army has arrived.»

Meanwhile, in the vicinity of the airport and Blue Beret Camp, a battle was forming up that would take three days to reach a definite conclusion. This battle had started early in the morning, with air strikes on the Greek National Contingent Camp, another abandoned camp known as Camp 50, and the Grammar School.

At 0800 hours, about 220-300 meters in front of OP CHARLIE, a whistle blew and a company of Turkish infantry

with six tanks in support moved forward in extended line. Their objective: Camp 50. Resistance appeared to be very little and the infantry moved slowly taking few casualties. After reaching their objective, the tanks remained while the infantry retired to their original positions. This was probably done to afford the infantry some protection while air strikes were made on their next objective. This pattern was to be repeated many times over the next few days.

The first Canadian casualty of the Second Offensive occurred at 0823 hours in the kitchen of the Ledra Palace Hotel. He was not seriously injured, but once again, Canadians appeared to be in a mortar impact area. Mortar rounds continued to fall in the general area of Wolseley Barracks, the Ledra Palace Hotel and Camp Kronberg for the rest of the day.

At 0900 hrs, a 20-vehicle convoy under command of Capt Wesko had been formed at Wolseley Barracks to evacuate non-essential personnel to Blue Beret Camp. This convoy was accompanied by the Deputy Commander who has been tasked by the Regimental Commander to take over responsibilities for CANCON Base at Blue Beret Camp and to coordinate the local defence of CANCON Base.

At 1005 hrs, a small panic broke out at HQ UNFICYP when it was reported that a Turkish tank flying a UN flag was sighted just down the road at RAF Nicosia Officers' Mess. The tank later withdrew, and it was discovered that the flag had actually been one flying on a pole in front of which the tank had parked.

At 1006 hrs, the Joint Operations Centre at CANCON attempted to arrange a local ceasefire effective at 1100 hrs. The Turkish Cypriot Vice-President's Office agreed immediately, but the Greek National Guard Headquarters would only agree if «the Turks agree and the UN guarantees that the Turks will not take advantage of the ceasefire and advance their disposition of forces.» Eventually a ceasefire was arranged within the city but based on eastern and western points that bounded the area and which had been agreed to by both sides.

This ceasefire lasted 24 minutes before being shattered by Turkish jets dropping napalm on Greek positions at the Grammar School and the Greek National Contingent Camp. At 1250 hrs the Turkish forces again attempted to secure the area of the Grammar School.

Once again, a local ceasefire was arranged, this one for 1300 hrs, but because of slow communications it did not become effective until 1330 hours.

Throughout the afternoon the ceasefire was broken by sporadic firing within the city. However, in the area of the Grammar School, both sides were involved in a full-fledged battle. This school dominates the ground to the south of the old Greek National Contingent Camp and was the first objective of the Turkish attempt to isolate the airport. The attacks on 14 August failed due to poor cooperation between artillery, armoured and infantry, and the stiff resistance put up by the Greek National Guard soldiers in the school. At 1655 hrs, Turkish air strikes dropped napalm and a 500 lb bomb on the area. After a long, hard afternoon, the Turks once again withdrew to the positions they had occupied prior to the operation. The Grammar School had not been taken.

Other parts of the island were generally quiet except for the area north of the new Famagusta Road, where at least three columns of infantry, preceded by tanks, were pushing eastward towards Famagusta. The tasks of these columns soon became apparent, as the centre group secured Famagusta, the left group took Bogaz and the Panhandle, and the right group a line generally following the old Famagusta Road.

At last light on the 14<sup>th</sup> approached (1830 hours) a relative calm descended over Nicosia with only sporadic firing reported. The remainder of the island not covered by the ceasefire saw continued fighting throughout the night. Much southerly traffic on the Kyrenia Road and eastward was reported. Strangely enough, little westerly movement was seen as it was expected that the Turks would also move on Morphou. The JOC operations log for that day was over 30 typed pages long.

### ***DAY 2 – 15 August 1974***

At 0508 hrs, the first artillery barrage began in an area northwest of the Nicosia Race Course. By this time, the entire length of the FDLs within the city had erupted into local firefights, and mortar bombardment posed an additional hazard to UN troops. Later in the morning, the National Guard started to fire again at UN vehicles in the city.

By 0700 hrs the F-100s had arrived back over the island. At long intervals throughout the day they attacked the Greek National Contingent Camp, the Grammar School and other targets around the city.

During the day, heavy refugee traffic was observed moving south out of the city. These refugees were to

become one of the major problems confronting CANCON and UNFICYP, as thousands of displaced persons camped out under the trees of the Troodos Mountains and in the numerous villages to the south.

The Finnish Camp at Kykko (near BBC) had been subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire as a result of the fighting going on around the Grammar School and the airport roundabout. After sustaining some 10 casualties, HQ UNFICYP decided to evacuate the camp, and the Canadians were tasked for the operation. Capt Bragdon's company of 2 Cdo, which had the APCs, carried out the evacuation under the "auspices" of Turkish aircraft which served them napalm. Capt Bragdon's men said that the Finns appeared reluctant to leave their trenches and enter the APCs. Their reluctance was understandable, but so was Capt Bragdon's temper – he did not wish to stay one minute longer than necessary and wanted to get his APC column out of the area.

With the hope of recovering the APC that had suffered a broken track from the "Turk anti-tank gun," the Regimental Commander had given orders for the recovery on the night of 14/15 August. The LdSH(RC) Armoured Recce Troop received a warning order that same night and made the necessary arrangements to effect recovery.

The task was confirmed on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> and a mechanized group consisting of two Lynx, a fitter's APC and an APC with infantry support were dispatched to the scene. As the lead Lynx approached the disabled APC a loud explosion occurred on the right front of the vehicle causing it to rise off the ground, swerve to the right and come to a halt. There was a considerable amount of black smoke and dust which obscured vision. The crew was thrown about inside the vehicle but did not sustain major injuries.

The crew commander, Lt Ross, traversed the cupola; however, no target presented itself. When no further hostile action occurred in the ensuing moments, an external visual inspection of the vehicle revealed that the right track had been extensively damaged. A larger crater nearby brought the realization that the vehicle was in an unmarked minefield. Now two vehicles were in need of recovery.

As Turkish intentions with regard to the area were not known at the time, a four-phase plan was initiated. A path to the original disabled APC was prodded by MWO Witt in order to investigate the damage to the vehicle. Concurrent to this, the Lynx crew dislodged the track and prepared it for towing. Meanwhile, the fitter's APC and the second



Lynx moved around the supposed edge of the minefield and attempted to find a safer route to the disabled carrier. The APC was finally pulled from the minefield with no further incident.

Two attempts were made at recovering the damaged Lynx. On the first attempt, the Lynx swerved setting off two more mines. These mines broke the left track and tiller bar and caused further damage to the right front side. On the second attempt the recovery was successful and both vehicles were recovered to Blue Beret Camp. Lt Ross, MWO Witt and WO McCarney had gone through a very dangerous period and showed much *savoir faire!* The sappers' anticipation became obvious. This incident guaranteed that the equipment brought from Canada would be used.

At 1300 hrs it became apparent that Camp Kronberg was a target area and 2 Cdo's APCs were ordered to standby to evacuate the members of 1 Cdo who were occupying the area. Within three minutes, four casualties were sustained due to heavy mortar fire. One of the more seriously injured was MWO D. Segin, who was hit by a large chunk of shrapnel tearing across his temple. Except for one section, all personnel from Camp Kronberg had been evacuated by 1308 hrs.

As part of the regimental deployment in early August 1974, CANCON took over responsibility for the Nicosia International Airport, and an Airport Task Force was formed based on 1 AB Bty and 1 AB Fd Sqn supported by 106 mm recoilless rifle detachments from 1 Cdo and 2 Cdo. It also had a British Swing Fire Troop under command and a Forward Air Control Party which could call on 12 Phantom aircraft for support. On 15 August Maj Harries, who was

commanding the Airport Task Force, reported that artillery rounds were falling uncomfortably close to the airport. It turned out that a National Guard battery to the south was firing over the airport at the Turks, and some rounds were falling short, probably due to old ammunition.

There were several attempts by the Turkish Army to infringe upon the airport perimeter – a 500-metre radius around the airport as determined by HQ UNFICYP – however the Turks were kept at bay. On many occasions the Airport Task Force readied itself to practice what it preached. Fortunately, the Turkish commander was cooperative on every occasion.

The next ceasefire arranged for 1400 hrs lasted for all of three minutes. Although this second day of the offence was busy, it was relatively quiet compared to the first day. Troops in the Ledra Palace Hotel area spent most of the day improving defensive positions. In the early morning, the Regimental Commander ordered that OP CORNARO be manned as observation over the battlefield to the northwest of the city was badly needed.

The Turkish forces in the area of the airport carried out routine feeding and replenishment and did not make any serious attempt to take the Greek National Contingent Camp or the Grammar School. In retrospect, the second day was a day of holding existing positions while the artillery and mortars on both sides fired with increasing accuracy. Most gains were made by the "Turkish Peace Forces" on other parts of the island. Once again, as during previous nights, sporadic firing was continued by both sides.

### **DAY 3 – 16 August 1974**

At 0600 hrs, the F-100s arrived for their regular morning run on the Grammar School area. This time, two direct hits caused severe damage to the structure. This was followed up some three hours later with the familiar whistle blast as the Turkish infantry, near battalion strength with six M-48 tanks in support, began their attack on the Greek National Contingent Camp and the Grammar School. Although the infantry began their attack in good order, the extended line soon began to stagger and became gapped as several casualties fell from small arms and extremely accurate artillery fire. The battle continued throughout the day with the Greeks giving up ground only after severe pressure.

As this battle raged on, the calm in the area of OP CORNARO, which was reoccupied the day before, was

shattered by a violent outbreak of fighting as the Turks began an attempt to take the Central Prison. Loss of the Central Prison area, which was fortified and defended by a company supported by mortars, would have forced the National Guard to abandon its positions on the west bank of the Pedios River. This would have isolated the other positions on the east side near Wolseley Barracks and the Ledra Palace. This Greek National Guard salient was also a CANCON salient, as we occupied the Kronberg Camp near the Central Prison, Wolseley Barracks and Ledra Palace area.

Let us now return to Sgt Gallant S.M. and his men at the observation post located inside the Cornaro Hotel. At 0926 hrs, shortly after the fighting had started, Cpl Lotoski and Tpr Alderson were pinned down on the roof of the hotel in a prone position for five minutes. The unwelcome observers finally extracted themselves to seek shelter in the basement. Twenty minutes later they were able to gain the rooftop once more, but immediately drew fire from both sides. The CO of 2 Cdo requested permission from the Regimental Commander to withdraw this section from the hotel. The evacuation involved two APCs covered by two Lynx under command of Lt Ross (LdSH(RC)); it was accomplished under fire, including a near miss by two 500 lb bombs directed at the Central Prison.

Meanwhile, anticipating a Greek National Guard withdrawal from the salient described above (Camp Kronberg, Wolseley Barracks, Ledra Palace area), the Regimental Commander ordered AB HQ and Sig Sqn, 1 Cdo and the engineer section attached to RHQ to prepare to defend the area and not to accept any "trespassing" on UN-controlled areas. The units were ready to execute the orders; support weapons were in position and barbed wire obstacles erected. Last-minute instructions were issued to all personnel. Then, both the local Greek and Turkish commanders were informed that no armed soldiers would be allowed in the UN-controlled areas, though surrender would be accepted after soldiers had given up their arms to the UN ... another way to add to the Regimental Museum weapons collection. Had the Turks been able to break through and capture, 1 Cdo would have been caught in a "sandwich."

At 1505 hrs, it was learned that the Turks would implement a full ceasefire on the island at 1800 hrs. By that time, much of the island from Morphou to Famagusta would be under their control.

At exactly 1800 hrs the ceasefire came into effect and at the same time the national flag of Turkey appeared on the roof of the Grammar School.

Although this appeared to be the long-awaited-for ceasefire, the one that would hold, sporadic fire was still going on when at 1935 hrs Col Beattie called CANCON JOC to ask

if his and the Force Commander's houses were still intact. He was advised that they were.

Priority tasks for the next day were to be the establishment of a UN presence between the two sides and the determination of a new demarcation line. The Regimental Commander briefed Maj Zuliani, the Regiment Major (RM), accordingly. At 2021 hrs, the RM issued patrol orders with the general task of confirming the southern line of the Turkish forces. This task was to intensify over subsequent days.

The night was again punctuated by exchanges of small arms fire but no large troop deployments were observed. At 0054 hours on 17 July, HQ UNFICYP warned all contingents to be careful of mines on roads where the National Guard had withdrawn. This warning was prompted by the tragic death of two Danish soldiers whose vehicle had hit a mine near Ambelikou. The warning was accompanied by a further warning that these minefields were indicated by two rocks being placed on either side of a road or track.

This fact was almost useless as the entire island is littered with small piles of rocks. Nevertheless, a great many Canadian soldiers out on patrol suddenly became "rock watchers."

#### **DAY 4 – 17 August 1974**

Early in the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> the patrols from F Coy, 2 Cdo were operating in the Kronberg area. In essence, except for the TCF occupation of the Cornaro Hotel, there was no significant advance by either side. Based on the damage



*Sentry room 1974 ceasefire*



and the abandoned weapons, the fighting was very close and extremely violent. A big surprise was the discovery that the National Guard had withdrawn from positions previously manned along the Pedios River. They had moved back to an apartment block 200 metres to the rear. The timing of the

withdrawal is not known, but the TCF failed to capitalize on it.

At approximately 0900 hrs the Regimental Commander, accompanied by the RSM, was visiting this same area when he noticed that the British High Commission had been occupied by the National Guard. Carrying on driving down Ayios Diomidi Street, a dead-end street on the west bank of the Pedios River, a TCF soldier came out from behind a house and pointed his rifle at the group. TCF soldiers, apparently having discovered the withdrawal of the National Guard, had crossed the river (for the first time in 10 years) and were looting the residences of rich Cypriots.

The Regimental Commander reported the situation to RHQ and gave orders to 2 Cdo to push the TCF back across the river. Then followed a series of tense incidents connected with this first TCF ceasefire violation in that area, and involving the Regimental Commander's party, Capt Peterson's company and the CO of 2 Cdo. The hate that the factions had for each other and the minimal importance they attached to human life was evident in these incidents. At one stage the TCF leader's friend got himself caught at the Greek end of the street and was about to be shot in cold blood. Fortunately, the Regimental Commander's party was in the location and immediately took possession of the individual, ordering up an APC to extract him.

The TCF leader, seeing the threats now being offered to both his friend and the Canadians attempting to save him, placed his loaded Thompson to Cpl Hartnett's head and said, "I am sorry, but if they kill my friend, I must kill you." Capt Peterson and his driver had found themselves

isolated and surrounded by the TCF at their end of the street. About this time, E Coy arrived supported by APCs and Lynx. It was great to see the men deploy wearing steel helmets and flak jackets and with weapons at the ready. Everyone knows how stubborn the TCF are, but there is one "language" that they understand and that morning they did. They agreed to pull back and after they did, Major Corbould escorted the TCF that we were holding "hostage" back across the river.

Over the next three weeks, Major Corbould and his men were to be involved in two more serious incidents in that same area. During one of them he got the famous ultimatum from the TCF — "You have five minutes to leave or ..." Major Corbould's reply, "Or what?" The Regimental Commander's decision, "Stay put." By that time the battery had deployed in support of 2 Cdo. These five minutes were very long ones and the air was electrifying. Once again, the UN won the day, but firmness was a must.

In this area, now held by the UN, was the British High Commission. On its grounds was a stately Bentley (the British High Commissioner's limousine), which was in obvious danger of becoming either a war souvenir or, in the worst case, a casualty. Not wanting this to happen, the Regimental Commander ordered that it be removed for safe keeping to 2 Cdo's area where it became the personal staff car of one MCpl "Boots" McDonald. Having risen quickly from the ranks of a Mercedes Benz owner to the dizzying heights of a Bentley man, MCpl McDonald made immediate use of the car to tour such faraway places as Blue Beret Camp. However, he was required to give up the car when a LCol Morris (CO 16/5th Lancers) needed the car to impress some Turkish soldiers who had crossed the Morphou Road and, as a result, had gotten a little too close to the RAF's Nicosia PMQ area.

By this time the UN was also in the business of the task. By 1445 hrs the bodies were being evacuated and the task would take about two days to complete. The incident illustrated however the length of time it took both Greek and Turkish forces to pass down orders to their local commanders.

A macabre side to the body detail occurred as one National Guard soldier was digging up a body and found it to be that of his brother.

Throughout the day artillery and small arms fire continued to break the ceasefire. In the Greek village of

Pyroi, southeast of Nicosia, National Guard positions were being shelled by the Turkish forces. The situation worsened and by 1730 hrs the Turks had secured the town. The National Guard had lost only a few soldiers in this battle but lost two of their tanks. One of these tanks was to turn up later in the town of Louroujina with a red star and crescent painted on the turret.

The day's last incident was logged at 2345 hrs when the Vice-President's Office complained that a UN OP near Cornaro Hotel was shining search lights towards the Turkish side. In fact, the "searchlights" were Coleman lanterns illuminating the OP – things were more or less back to normal.

Phase Two of the Turkish Offensive had come to an end.

### ***PART FOUR: CONCLUSION***

For the next few weeks the Regiment worked hard to firmly establish a demarcation line between the belligerents. This became a very dangerous risk due to the many unmarked minefields, the aggressiveness of the Turkish Army, and their continuous attempts to creep forward. Our sappers and the reconnaissance troop from the LdSH(RC) became deeply involved in this operation. The recon troop performed in an outstanding fashion and it is much admired by the Regiment. The whole operation was successful and the new Nicosia Zone (East) was first by far to compile a detailed trace of the many minefields and of the defensive lines for both sides.

Our troops were to come under fire on a few more occasions. One of them saw the RM, CO 1 Cdo, and the Turkish Liaison Officer pinned down in a ditch for a good 10 minutes. Lesson: Never approach the Turkish FDLs at night from the Greek side even if accompanied by a Turkish LO. This was the night Para Berger was killed and the incident was then being investigated.

The months of October and November saw 1 Cdo involved in the eastern sector and in the Louroujina area. Over and above the problem of putting a stop to the firefights that erupted at night in the old walled city, they had to provide the organization and the security force for the many exchanges of prisoners of war and refugees that took place in the Ledra Place area.

With the departure to Canada of our first advance party, everyone became very anxious to return home. We

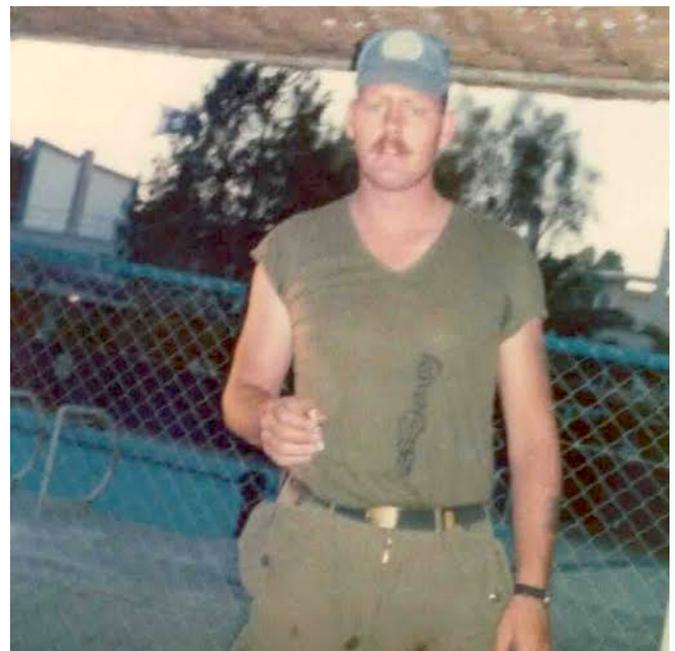
had come here to do a job, we did it ... it was time to leave.

### ***PART FIVE: HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS***

#### ***OPERATIONS ECONOMICS***

The following is an account which, by its free style, may indicate the extremely interesting and challenging job done by this cell of Nicosia Zone (East). Their task, despite the casual dialogue, was not at all casual. It was at times dangerous and always marked by frustration as the team continually was confronted by belligerence in attempting to obtain the cooperation of one side with the other.

"According to official sources, the Turks captured 48,000 pigs (also 280,000 sheep and goats, 1,400,000 chickens and 12,000 cows) when they occupied 40% of Cyprus. Unfortunately, Turks don't like pigs – to eat, anyway. So, I am escorting a Greek Cypriot farmer and his wife to their pig farm which is very close to the new Turkish lines and far away from the nearest Greek position. There is an air about the scene, as over 600 pigs are now dead in their pens and the only life is us, a trillion flies and 12 live pigs, very thin. We have wrestled one pig into the Greek [farmer]'s truck (WO Smith is nursing a sore knee from the pig's hoof) and, while the two British Para Squadron crews stand guard in their





Ferrets, my driver and I try roping another arrival. As I round the corner of a building, rope in hand, I find myself facing six Turks, weapons at the ready. I try talking to these chaps but no language seems compatible and my Turkish phrase book does not have the word “pig” in it. I should have gone to a chicken farm, maybe?

A quiet word to Laviolette (my driver) and he sends the Greeks away in a cloud of dust. We smile as the interpreter, who soon arrives, explains that the farm is under Turkish “control” and we are not to come again. I point out the health hazard to him and, later, to his administration, and when I return alone two days later, the dead pigs are buried in lime and the live ones are gone.

This is typical of the day to day affairs of Ops E, the Canadian Contingent’s Economics/Humanitarian Office, a staff of one officer, one warrant officer, one driver, two Ferrets (plus crews) and anyone else we can con into working. A lot volunteer.

Only two days before, we had been “assisting” five Greek families to retrieve their furniture from their houses, also very near the Turkish lines. This time we were surrounded by a whole Turk platoon and it took us 15 minutes just to calm down an old Greek lady long enough to get her moving back to Nicosia ... with her belongings, fortunately. Later, she offered us a bottle of wine, either in thanks or because she felt we needed it. She was a fortunate lady ... some 200,000 other Cypriots were refugees, living in tents with only the clothes on their backs.

The Canadians were fortunate too, having to deal with only 20,000 refugees in their district. Canadian patrols delivered tons of food and supplies, tents, blankets, and cots before the Red Cross and Welfare agencies got organized. And later on, they helped distribute Red Cross family messages to and from Turkish villages. White Canadian jeeps became the only means of

outside communications. Our doctors attended so many villagers in Kochati that they were considering moving the MIR there. How 400 people can be so sick so often still remains a medical mystery.

WO Smith was overseeing an electrical repair job on the Green Line while the Para Squadron stood watch. By now our trust was established and we had both Turk and Greek electricians working side by side. After all, we had provided escorts, for electricians, every day for almost two months while they repaired thousands of breaks in high tension lines and village feeder lines along the entire line of confrontation. A twitchy National Guard soldier let a shot fly from his machine gun, right beside my warrant. Within two seconds, Smitty was carrying the soldier by the scruff of the neck to his local commander who had agreed to allow the work to proceed. Our trust was intact.

We also provided escorts for water repairs immediately after the ceasefire. It took five days to restore water to Nicosia. But in the countryside, orchards went for weeks and even months without water – and they died. In fact, 80% of the citrus groves are in the “North” now, and many will require up to 10 years to return to full capacity. Citrus fruits are Cyprus’ main export item.

The Turks now control an area which is responsible for 70% of Cyprus’ economic output, in the form of agriculture, farming, mining, mineral resources, and industry. Also, the majority of the island’s tourist trade revolved around Kyrenia and Famagusta. And Ops E has requests to retrieve goods, protect lands and property, return workers, or water animals and crops from almost every Greek Cypriot who used to live in the occupied territory. We can only say “the Turkish authorities do not permit us to go there.”

And how many people do we see every day who want us to bring a relative to “freedom.” We have been successful on occasion but usually when I say “We’ll try” it is only to give a moment of optimism to the requester.

By and large we have a very high regard in the eyes of Cypriots. They come to the Canadians because they know the Airborne Regiment’s “can do” attitude. And if we can, we do. I will always remember the sign outside one of the refugees’ camps in our district. It had a hand drawn paratrooper under full canopy and underneath the words “All Canadians Welcome ... except those who don’t drink tea.” I suspect we all drink tea. ■

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Jan 2020



## THE LAST POST

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	OTHER INFO
4 JUL 2019	MWO BURT REED	INFANTRY BRANCH, AB REGT
12 JUL 2019	BGEN KEITH CORBOULD	PPCLI, AB REGT, 2 CDO
8 JUL 2019	CWO DOUG GUTTIN	
10 JUL 2019	PETER RONALD DAY	AB REGT, ARTILLERY BRANCH
28 JUL 2019	EMMETT ETHIER	WWII, 1 CAN PARA
7 SEP 2019	CAPT ROBERT GILBERT	WWII, REGT DE LA CHAUDIERE, OP VARSITY
14 SEP 2019	ADJUM ROCH DESJARDINS	R22ER, 1 CDO
18 SEP 2019	SGT TOM JAMES GREEN	AIRBORNE GUNNER
8 OCT 2019	SGT ARTHUR SUTTON	AB REGT
28 OCT 2019	COL JAQUES VALLIERE	R22ER, AB REGT
29 OCT 2019	MCPL DAVID RICHARD GUTHRIE	RCR, AB REGT, SKYHAWKS
11 NOV 2019	LCOL JOHN CRUZE	AB REGT
26 NOV 2019	13 FRENCH PARAS (FRANCE)	MALI

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	OTHER INFO
27 NOV 2019	RAYMOND CLOWES	AB REGT, SURVIVOR OF THE 1968 PETAWAWA DROWNING OF 7 PRE-AB REGT ARATROOPERS
8 JAN 2020	MWO ED ASHLEY	ENGINEER BRANCH AND AB REGT
3 FEB 2020	KEITH HOLLAND METCALFE	WWII
3 MAR 2020	MWO CHARLIE HT MERCER	MEDIC WITH THE AB REGT
21 MAR 2020	EDWARD BERNARD MACLATCHY	AB REGT, ARTILLERY
27 MAR 2020	BILL TALBOT	1 CAN PARA
5 APR 2020	CAPT GORD CARTER	GUNNER, ARTILLERY BRANCH, AB REGT
16 APR 2020	DENNIS CLARENCE "DUKE" CONNELLY	QOR, PPCLI, AB REGT
26 APR 2020	VINCE WALKER	3RCHA
26 APR 2020	JAMES "JIM" ERIC STEED	SUPPLY TECH, AB REGT
28 APR 2020	HUBERT MARTINEAU	R22ER, 1 CDO
24 APR 2020	DON PRYER	B GEN QOR of C
6 JUN 2020	STANLEY JOSEPH WHEELER	RCR, AB REGT
5 JUN 2020	JIMMY DOYLE	AB REGT HQ & SIGS
23 JUN 2020	LES BROWN	US FORCES IN VIETNAM, AIRMOBILE, FREQUENT GUEST AT ARAC FUNCTIONS

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