



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 11, 13 May, 2016

THIS EDITION

- The Batteries in Action
- Axe Throwing and Tug of War!
- Word from Down Under
- A Bit of Our Past
- Our Cadets
- The Czech Artillery
- And Much More!

This journal, “Take Post” is published bi-monthly under the authority of the Honorary Colonel, 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Take Post reaches out to all Gunners and those interested in being part of the Regimental Artillery Family of the Greater Toronto Area. The purpose is to share information and strengthen the ties between serving members, retired Gunners, Gunner families, friends of the Artillery, and the Greater Toronto Community.

Notes and Letters to the “Editor” can be sent to:
beno@kos.net



Warrant Officer Hicks sounding the Last Post for the dawn ceremony at the annual ANZAC ceremony at the Canadian Forces Staff College April 25, 2016

Regimental Part II Orders

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

The following was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp:

- Maj Dean

The following was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration:

- Sgt An

PROMOTIONS

The following were promoted to Captain:

- Capt Arrigo
- Capt Tempny

The following was promoted to Warrant Officer:

- WO Etorma

The following were promoted to Bombardier:

- Bdr Lewis
- Bdr Krushnisky
- Bdr Limoges
- Bdr Han
- Bdr Pereira



**Lieutenant Nick Arrigo
Promoted Captain**



**Private Mark Hill
Sworn In**



**Private Michael Jauernig
Sworn In**



Bombardier Han - Promoted



**Private Pooja Manoharalingam
Sworn In**



Private Will Staikos Sworn In



**Sergeant An
Receives CD**



**Sergeant Etorma
Promoted to Warrant Officer**



**Lieutenant Tempeny
Promoted to Captain**

Regimental Family Calendar of Events

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR	
7-8 May	Ex Sharp Shooter 1 (Winona)
23 May	Victoria Day Salute (Queen's Park)
23 May	Regimental Stand-Down for Summer, and Family Day
28 May	Two Centuries of Firepower, Fort York
27, 28, 29 May	Limber Gunners, Oshawa Military Equipment Demo
30 May	818 Squadron Change of Command
5 June	818 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Annual Ceremonial Review. Moss Park

	Armoury. Timings: 14:30
June to August	Summer Training
11 June	105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Annual Inspection. Moss Park Armoury. Timings: 12:30, Markers at 13:00.
18 June	Limber Gunners will be taking part in the Highland Creek Heritage Day Parade and static display
13-28 August	Exercise EX STALWART GUARDIAN 16 – Petawawa
10 September (TBC)	Regiment exercises Freedom of the City of Toronto – Celebrate 150 th Anniversary of 9 th Battery, CFA
10 September	Gun Dedication and Family Day
12 September	Regimental BBQ, Welcome Back
12-16 September	Adventure Training – Bruce Peninsula
16-18 September	EX SHARP SHOOTER 2 - Meaford
20-22 September	2 CMBG Ironman
01 October	John McDermott Concert with Toronto Artillery Foundation Concert Band <i>"Lest We Forget: A Tribute to those who serve in song and verse"</i>
21-23 October	EX HOGTOWN GUNNER 1 - Meaford
6 November	Regimental Remembrance Church Service
11 November	Remembrance Day
25-27 November	EX HOGTOWN GUNNER 2 – Meaford
December	Regimental Dance Saint Barbara's Day Activities and Events. Christmas Activities and Events



**WO Brake (BSM 130 Bty),
and LCol Smid welcome
New Recruits**



**Sgt Min and MBdr Potts
Train Recruits on Small
Arms Trainer**

Aiming Point – Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant-Major

By LCol Smid and MWO Reyes

In the last edition of Take Post, the RSM and I wrote about operational readiness and specifically the role of physical fitness in contributing to this goal. We noted that in addition to physical fitness there were several other components to operational readiness including mental resiliency and personal readiness. Given that the Regiment has recently completed a series of collective training exercises and the imminent commencement of Reserve Summer Training (RST), I believe that it is timely for us to write about individual and collective training and the role they play in making us operationally ready.

Indeed, when we consider the question of what makes us operationally ready for deployment, most people would immediately think of the training necessary to achieve our role as Gunners; i.e., the training it takes to get the projectile (the weapon of the artillery) to the target at the time requested by the supported arm. Sounds simple enough but those skills rest at the pinnacle of a pyramid of training that takes years and consists of both individual and collective elements.

From an individual perspective, training can easily be divided into four categories of increasing specificity: general military training; general army training; combat arms training; and artillery specific training. General military training is essentially your Basic Military Qualification and consists of such things as learning the rank structure, how to wear your uniform, how to do drill, and generally learning to work as part of a team. General army training is essentially the Basic Military Qualification – Land course and consists of such things as learning to fire personal weapon systems and the basics of how to survive in the field. Combat arms training is essentially encapsulated in Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS). Artillery specific training is essentially the Artillery Developmental Period 1 course at the successful conclusion of which you earn your artillery hat badge. Now you know how to fire the C3 howitzer but do you really know how to get rounds on target and on time? Definitely not!

There are numerous technical artillery courses required to achieve our end state. These would include virtually all the courses that are available to you at RST each summer such as Recce Technician and Command Post Technician courses; MSVS driver courses; Observation Post Detachment Second-in-Command course; Gun Detachment Commander course; Gun Area Technical Sergeant-Major course and the list goes on. I am relatively certain that the artillery trade is the most course intensive trade of all the combat arms which is a constant challenge.



***Soldiers of 7 Toronto Regiment
undertaking Individual Training on the
Recce Technician course at RST 15***

We are extremely fortunate to have redundancy across the board in our Regiment when it comes to these individual qualifications. This is something we will continue to build upon as it contributes directly to our operational readiness and is the reason that the RSM and I stress the importance of participation at RST either as a student, an instructor, or as staff. While it is fine to have all the individual qualifications necessary, they mean nothing if they aren't practiced within a collective construct which is why we have Battery and Regimental level exercises every year.



***Soldiers of 7 Toronto Regiment
participating in Collective
Training***

represents the culmination of our work each year.

We are provided money to conduct two Battery level and one Regimental level artillery exercise every training year. Most of you reading this will no doubt have participated in one or more of these over the years. These exercises allow us to practice the technical skills that are required in order to support the infantry and armour in operations. However, they do not allow us to practice all of the tactical skills required. As you can imagine, the exercises that allow us to practice at this level are few and far between and consist primarily of the STALWART GUARDIAN exercises held at the end of each summer. It is only at this level that we can actually achieve our end state of providing accurate fires at precise times in a combined arms context which

Everything above requires an exceptional amount of coordination and planning to execute and takes resources (time, money, personnel) from Brigade, Division, and higher. Seems complicated and probably doesn't concern you anyway. Wrong! It directly concerns you and there are things that you can do individually to ensure our Regiment's success. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Volunteer for staff, instructor, or student positions either during the summer at RST or throughout the year at the 32 CBG Battle School;
- When you are loaded on a course or are instructing a course, ensure that you prepare yourself in advance to succeed. Ask others who have already taken or taught the course what to expect; and
- Ensure you attend every field exercise possible which includes both IBTS and artillery exercises.

If you as an individual adhere to the three points above, you will be directly contributing to the operational readiness of our Regiment. The RSM and I are both very pleased with the number of

you who are already doing these three things and we strongly encourage those of you who may have more capacity to contribute to please do so for the good of our Regiment and the Army as a whole!

Good shooting! UBIQUE!

RD Smid, MMM, MB, CD
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer

Mardie Reyes, CD
Master Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major

Ex Black Hand - 9 Battery's Perspective

On 18-20 February 2016, 9 Battery (Bty) embarked in its most ambitious training exercise of the fiscal year; Ex BLACK HAND. Working in close conjunction with 15 Bty and another battery from 56th Field RCA, 9 Bty rolled up its figurative sleeves and conducted solid training for all involved.



9 Bty was given an ambitious timetable, with the intent being rounds going downrange earlier than usual for a weekend ex. The morning was to be devoted to battery targets, then escalated to regimental targets in the afternoon, recording key spots for use in the fire plan to be implemented on Sunday.

As the expression goes however, “No plan survives contact with the enemy”, and for 9 Bty the enemy in this case was CFB Meaford itself. Upon reaching the designated area to fire from, the various vehicles of the battery found themselves bogged down in unpredictably thick, viscous mud. The CP, gun tractors, and guns themselves were stuck in a scene reminiscent of the Russian steppes following a deluge.



Rather than discourage the troops on the ground, they were united in their efforts to dislodge the equipment. All ranks disembarked and participated in the (ultimately successful) struggle to free their guns. As he braced his back properly against the wheel of a C3 in textbook-perfect form, Sgt Gawley was heard to laugh to his troops “Just like Napoleon, boys!”

Once the guns were properly set up and the minor communications issues resolved, 9 Bty was in full swing by lunch. The afternoon, evening and night were spent recording the various targets to be used the next day. When the troops went to ground for the night, it was well-earned. The BC, however, was awake until the early morning, carefully devising the fire plan that would be put into action at 0800 on Sunday.

After the fire plan was disseminated, the 9 Bty OP party was the first of the three batteries to be ready to double-check their targets from the day before. A cursory check of each target was conducted, and within minutes 9 Bty was ready for their part in the fire plan to step off. Methodical planning and preparation paid off, and the fire plan went off smoothly.

The remainder of the Sunday in Meaford passed like any other ex at this point; the well-known rituals of filling and washing vehicles were conducted, equipment returned to the various quartermasters where possible. Kit was stowed away at Moss Park, and following dismissal from the CO, the participants in Ex BLACK HAND retired to the Senior NCOs Mess for a well-earned drink, and to begin the tale-telling that would romanticize the weekend, ensuring a strong turnout for the next exercise.

The CO noted during the dismissal parade that the regiment should be particularly proud of its efforts on this exercise. He noted that not only had it conducted training on the level unusual for its own 'comfort zone', but went on to speculate that 7 Toronto RCA was likely the only Reserve artillery regiment in the entirety of Canada that was able to successfully complete such an endeavour. Ex BLACK HAND was a success, and the regiment will have to work hard to meet and exceed the standards it has set.

Sergeant Matt Jackson

Exercise Black Hand – 15 Light Fighter Battery

By: Bombardier Dominic Chan

During the weekend of March 18-20, 2016, 15 Battery deployed to Meaford to participate in FTX Black Hand. The aim of this field exercise was to fire Regimentally with 9 Battery and 56th Field Regiment, and to focus on enhancing our technical skills. In 15 Battery, our method of transportation is always with our feet, but in a rare opportunity, we rode on a MSVS to our position for this exercise. This was all thanks to 32 Service Battalion that was out providing us with logistical support.



The Sun rises on the Mortar Line as ammo is dropped on position

We arrived to our firing position early in the morning of Saturday and got right into business. Recce sent down angles to place the mortars at the center of arc, the mortar detachments quickly set up and recorded their tubes, and the command post pitched up a nice toasty arctic tent in preparation to produce data. For the rest of Saturday morning and partially into the afternoon, 15 Battery was enjoying their time with firing numerous rounds down range while 9 Battery was sorting out their muddy situation.

For the whole exercise, I worked in the command post along with Lt Lum as the Command Post Officer, MBdr Noh as the Command Post Supervisor, Bdr MacDonell and myself as the Command Post Technician, and Bdr Park as the Signaller. Our combination was perfect and producing data for the tubes was quick and flawless. We were so fast that at one point during the exercise, we fired the tubes in 40 seconds after receiving data from the observation post. Even under the hours of deafening and



The Mortar Detachments dig drainage ditches as the Mortars sink deeper into the ground with each round. This is why the soldiers of 15 Bty are nicknamed the "Mud Gunners"

endless load burst of C6 machinegun fire from the position next to us, the mortar detachments and the command post still successfully communicated with each other and fired the tubes in an accurate and rapid manner. Throughout the exercise, Lt Lum was also employed as the Gun Position Officer and was constantly entering and leaving the command post (which disappointed the command post crew due to the continuous loss of heat) to ensure the mortar platform was running perfectly in every way and to boost morale. Under the instruction and guidance of MBdr Noh, the command post had a warm and organized office and this made the production of data to the tubes very smooth, swift, and effective.

By the end of the exercise, many rounds had been fired off and the tubes were dug in deep into the muddy ground as demonstrated by the picture to the right. Still, morale continued to be high throughout the mortar line until we got on the bus to head back to Moss Park Armoury. Every member of 15 Battery had an amazing time during this freezing and muddy exercise and learned something that will benefit their military and civilian career.

Bombardier Dominic Chan

A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno, OMM, CD

We continue doing great as a Regiment and as a Regimental Family. There is a lot going on, particularly this month – Victoria Day Salute, Family Day, Two Centuries of Firepower, folks going off to Meaford, and much more.

On April 9th (the 99th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge) we formed our “Toronto Artillery Foundation Band.” This Band is different from the 7th Toronto Regiment Band in that it is made up of volunteers who play as civilians, not as serving members. We are about to outfit this band in blazers with the Gunner crest and tie – not a uniform as such. They will report to our Toronto Artillery Foundation, and not to the CO 7th Toronto Regiment or the military chain of command. This will give us great flexibility in showing off our Foundation and the Regimental Family, and help us raise funds and friends.

The 7th Toronto Regiment Band and our Limber Gunners have been incredibly active. They are the “face” of our Regimental Family in the eye of the public. My congratulations on all that you do – so few doing so much on behalf of so many!!

The Regimental calendar is surely busy through the summer and fall, and I look forward to visiting our folks in the field in Meaford and Petawawa.

A special word of thanks to all those who have contributed to Take Post. I do hope that it serves our Regimental Family as intended – situation awareness, recognition of our troops, morale and esprit de corps, and communications within the Regimental Family. At the end of this Take Post is an article on the Czech Artillery – with my aim being to educate our soldiers in what other Armies do.

I wish everyone a wonderful spring, an enjoyable summer, and great success in your personal and professional life over the coming months.

You may recall that in the spring of 2015, the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland, we sent a contingent to participate in ceremonies, and learn about Canada's history.

Here is a brief youtube video of the 7th Tor contingent:

<https://youtu.be/PSGLQPZmYRo>



Lastly – I'd like to offer a special thanks to 2Lt Alex Won for his profound and meaningful article: "A Peaceful Canadian" and to Captain, Retired, Royal New Zealand Artillery, James Mitchelson for keeping in touch with "His" old Regiment.

Good Shooting! UBIQUE!

Ernest Beno, BGen (Retired), Honorary Colonel



*Sharing Ideas with Czech Military, and learning about their Artillery
(See the article on Czech Artillery at the end)*

A Note from “Down Under” (*Our First “Letter to the Editor!”*)

18 April, 2016

Dear Honorary Colonel

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time, better late than never.



I was an attached officer to the 7th Toronto Regt from mid 1969 to mid 1972 when I was working in Toronto. I made some great friends and still keep in touch with some of them. I have many memories of the times I spent with the Regiment.

I was looking through some old photos recently and found quite a lot of photos taken when on exercises and activities with the regiment. I recall reading in the Take Post of your Call for photos. Attached to this email are 4 Photos: *Capt Jurgen Rotsch firing a LMG at Winnona Range down by Hamilton Probably 1970. 2 Photos of the Troop command Post – Table pers Gunner Gemmal SIG.; GPO Lt Mitchelson RNZA; TARA Gunner Earling. Deployment to Borden May 6th probably 1971 or 1972. Second photo is of self. Caption on back of photo reads “April 8th 1972 – setting up the Command Post, temperature about 20F. The last photo- well I will leave that to your Imagination*

I read with interest the Take Post email each quarter the Regiment appears vastly different from that which I served with. You are doing great things and are to be congratulated on what you do for the regimental family.

I was very grateful of the hospitality that Jim Hubel and Barry Downs showed to my son Anthony and his College Ollie Te Eua when they were both attending the Canadian Forces Staff College in 2014. It was great to be able to call them and they were really good in looking after the boys. Ollie is now Colonel 3Bn RNZIR. Anthony unfortunately has had to transfer to the inactive Reserve as his work commitments do not allow him the time for the Active Reserve. Rather unfortunate as he was going to be promoted Lt Col and appointed Military Secretary.

Best wishes

Yours Aye

James Mitchelson

Captain RNZA (Retired)



*Troop command Post - Gunner Gemmal SIG.; GPO Lt Mitchelson RNZA ; TARA Gunner Earling
Deployment to Borden May 6th circa 1971 or 72*



Captain James Mitchelson - April 8th 1972 – setting up the Command Post, temperature about 20F.



Captain James Mitchelson at his finest!



Capt Jurgen Rotsch firing a LMG at Winnona Range down by Hamilton Probably 1970

Out Drag-Ropes! With Shrapnel! Hold Fast!

130 Battery surprised the firing batteries with their team cohesion, strategy and muscular strength during the Tug-O-War tournament at the CO's last Regimental Parade of the Training Year. Encouraged by Battery Commander Maj John Stewart, much pride was taken as the Battery came up with a quick plan and pulled together soldiers from Operations, Training, Headquarters the RQ and even soldiers so new they had not been issued uniforms yet!



Pictured from left to right MBdr Moniz, 2Lt Won, Pte Atchison, MBdr Potts, Pte Wight, Pte Hill, GnrVaz, Sgt Harris, WO Sylvester, WO Brake, Capt Thompson

KHALSA DAY PARADE

By Sergeant Bhatti

On the 24th of April, the 7th Toronto Regiment (7 Tor) partook in Toronto’s annual Khalsa Day parade; the third largest in Toronto. It saw over 85 000 participants from across the GTA. The 10 member detachment, lead by Sergeant Bhatti from the 15th Battery, were joined by 12 other members from across the Division.



The 7 Tor members included MBdr Potts, MBdr Stradalowicz, MBdr Buccella, Bdr Shao, Bdr Espeut, Bdr Pereira, Bdr Desormiers, Gnr Fong, and Gnr Sehdev. The beautiful parade, often dubbed the ‘sea of orange’, was a rich mix of free indian cuisine, Sikh martial arts, religious ceremonies, and beautiful April weather that began at the Better Living Centre, and ended at the Nathan Philips Square. Our members demonstrated their capability and equipment by having a C3 Howitzer from the 9th Battery, an 81mm Mortar, all surrounded by a mortar pit mock up, overhead camouflage netting, and an array of military kit for the public to try on and take pictures. “It’s really humbling to be able to demonstrate to the public that the Canadian Armed Forces is inclusive and embraces diversity, just as we know Canadians do,” said Gnr Sehdev.



Khalsa Day parade celebrates the birth of the Khalsa, where in 1699 AD, the 10th Sikh Master Guru Gobind Singh created a new order of Sikhs known as the Khalsa - the "Pure Ones". This new order required initiated Sikhs, males and females alike, to abide by a conduct and a way of living with strict moral and spiritual principles. This is what gave rise to the Sikh's 5 Articles of Faith: Kara (bracelet), Kirpan (dagger), Kanga (comb), Kachara (undergarment), and Kesh (unshorn hair). Sikhs have a strong martial heritage. In the World Wars, 83 000 turban-wearing Commonwealth Sikhs were killed, and close to 110 000 were wounded.

Sergeant Bhatti

Exercise Stalwart Validation

By: 2Lt George Proner and Sgt Matt Jackson

On 9 April 2016, members of 7 Toronto RCA and 56th Field Regiment embarked on Ex STALWART VALIDATION. The goals were twofold; to provide arty advice to the brigade CAX occurring simultaneously, as well as having troops provide quick-action and open-action drills within the context of a combined battery.

The day saw the troops at various spots all throughout the base conducting their quick-action drills. A quick-action occurs when the guns of a battery are travelling from one point to another and receive a call for fire support from observers ahead. The GPO, upon receipt, examines his map to find the nearest suitable area for deployment (taking into account the terrain, time to get there, the ability for the guns to reach the target, etc.). The guns are then deployed in a relative straight line, aimed along intended direction for fire. Moving with haste, the GPO will orient the first gun in the line onto the target, and the remainder of the battery will use this as their point of reference for their own orientation. Although care must, as always, be taken to ensure that the drills are performed perfectly, the key of a quick-action is exactly what it sounds like: Be quick!

The combined battery practiced these quick actions for the entire morning, receiving a visit from the CO and RSM of 7th Toronto. They were proud at the speed and accuracy with which the battery conducted their quick-actions.

After lunch, it was off to Caen Pad, where an open-action competition would be held. An open-action is where the Number 1 of the gun



*WO Smith (56 Fd) and Maj Ortiz-Sosa
award the BC's pennant to Sgt An for best
No 1's open action*

has a target within line of sight and he attempts to hit it, acting in similar fashion as an observer would, while his second in command takes charge of the gun. The competition was scored on a variety of factors, such as speed of the first round hitting the target, accuracy (how many rounds expended before the target was hit), and drills at the guns performed safely and correctly. Two 7th Tor and two 56 Field detachments faced off. All were eager to win the title. Although a strictly ‘friendly’ competition, it was evident that everyone involved took their roles seriously, and acted with admirable professionalism. When the Brigade Commander and Brigade Sergeant Major came down, they were very impressed with what they saw, commending everyone for their efforts.

Unfortunately for 56th Field, there could be only one winner, and it was no other than 7 Toronto’s Sgt An, who had the first and fastest round on target, and commanded his gun with a calm demeanour. Sgt An has invested some of his Saturdays at Moss Park with his troops, taking advantage of the CO’s policy of encouraging training on Saturdays to best utilize the Regiment’s resources.

At the conclusion of the last field exercise (Ex BLACK HAND), LCol Smid told the Regiment that, when it came to operating in a tactical environment, that “An 80% solution now is better than a 100% solution later.” 7th Toronto RCA now trains with this in mind, and the results of Ex STALWART VALIDATION speak to the Regiment’s adherence to the principle.

2Lt George Proner is a Troop Commander and Sgt Matt Jackson is an OP Det Commander, both in 9 Battery.

Exercise Black Hand, 130 Battery, By Captain Paul Thompson

For my time in the Regiment, 130 Battery seemed to have been an afterthought, I place where problem soldier’s go, a place where people go when they are releasing or enrolling. Akin to a hospital – the cradle, the grave and only crisis points between.

This year, 130 Battery was staffed with keen and active officers and Sr NCO’s with a vision to have the battery live up to its name “Headquarters and Service Battery.”

A year of growing and learning and even observing 2RCHA’s c/s 8 operate on FTX STALWART GUARDIAN 15 culminated in deploying on FTX BLACK HAND. With 9 Battery and 15 Battery deployed independently a real need for regimental support was evident. Standing up c/s 8 is great but when we look around the Regimental Stores and transit lines at Moss Park and all the kit we have to support is some extra jerry cans, hay boxes, chap stick and non-tactical civilian pattern vehicles, we couldn’t provide what the CO desired in this sense.

Rather than throwing in the towel and complaining about kit deficiencies, Battery Commander Maj John Stewart along with the Ops cell was able to work out a command relationship with 32 Service Battalion for the FTX. The Svc Bn had what an artillery regiment needs, the vehicles and skill sets to move, supply and repair a Regiment in the field.

Upon reaching Meaford the HQ part was already rocking as the Ops cell had shaken out the command post and the RQ's and BQ's were doing the last kit checks before the batteries went to their respective AMA's.

We had planned; at first light on Saturday we would co-ordinate with 32 Svc Bn who were not co-located. It is said a plan only lasts until first contact, this time, the plan didn't last first light. At first light, we were getting our first Recovery Requests from the Batteries in the quagmire that is Meaford. Upon physically moving to the location of 32 Svc we were quick to learn, things were done differently here. It was a startling that there is no training value for them in actually recovering vehicles - it is a task.



The leadership of the Service Battalion is geared to developing the skills of their subordinate officers as well as their operators. Repairing, driving and cooking are not the skills they were developing – these are the skills they are already the masters of. They are much more involved in training for planning, scheduling, prioritizing and preparing. They are very involved and cognizant of the push and pull of logistics that an Artillery Regiment on a weekend exercise rarely, if ever, considers. They put great responsibility on their drivers on convoys. A convoy containing at least one days living and fighting supplies for a battery is usually entrusted to a corporal. The difference in planning is also evident. Space and time is normally emphasised over on the enemy and tactics, which made sense as this is not a combat or combat support arm.

That said, when a “Triple R” (Repair, Recovery Request) comes over the radio there is not the sense of urgency that “Fire Mission Battery” gains. We had to realize that a Service Battalion is sometimes as high as a divisional asset and a flat tire isn't a high priority. In comparison, by the time the battery hears “Fire Mission Battery” all of the prioritizing and coordination has already happened, whereas receiving a RRR, their Estimate is just beginning.

On Saturday night when 9 Battery was throwing dozens of illuminating rounds we were able to show some of the mechanics, logisticians and cooks what we do. Some troops were able to pull

the lanyard on the C3 and see the organized panic that goes on during a fire mission. Hopefully they can bring some of what they saw in the freezing, muddy darkness back to their Battalion to consider what and who they are actually supporting.

The takeaway for 130 Battery leadership; we can see, from how a Svc Battalion operates that prioritizing and fully understanding the Commanders intent (in our case the CO, in their case the Div Commander) allows leadership on the ground to ensure that its capabilities are employed properly and timely. This has to be adopted into the c/s 8's understanding moving forward. As noted by their staff, 32 CBG has one HLVW wrecker and it is 21 years old while the brigade has 8 C3 howitzers. Who do you think gets more calls for support?

--Capt Paul Thompson is the Battery Captain of 130 Battery HQ, Svc and Training.

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron's High Flying March Break Trip

WO2 Tabatha Alder



This year for the March Break trip 26 cadets from 818 Toronto Falcon Squadron went down south to Florida to explore various aspects of aviation.

We departed at 1500hrs on Saturday March the 12th. It would be the start of a long 24-hour bus ride down to Florida. After an awkward sleep on the bus we arrived at our hotel late on Sunday afternoon.

On Monday March 14th the trip began to take flight, (although the morning was a bit early) the cadets got to try out their communication and team building skills at Escapology. Each team got to participate in two separate escape games, their goals: solve the puzzles and escape the rooms in 1 hour.



818 Toronto Falcon Squadron after completing their two escape rooms at Escapology in Orlando, Florida

After an adrenaline-filled morning it was off to War Bird Adventures, where the cadets saw some rather amazing planes and parts in the tiny hangar that was open to the public. Our squadron also managed to see a few war bird landings

and take offs from the flight line. A particular favourite was watching the Mustang as it landed and taxied to its hangar.

Capt. Garry Hendel giving ground school cadets Sgt. William Johnston, FCpl. Wannason Sinnaturai and FCpl. Steve Deonarine a lesson on counter-rotating propellers at War Bird Adventures



To end the day, the squadron visited Old Town, Kissimmee, where we had some time to explore, shop, and most excitingly to, go go-carting to unwind.

Tuesday March 15th was a day many of us will never forget. The squadron spent the whole day at the Florida Aerospace Discovery Center in Lakeland as they rolled out the red carpet for us. The Vice-principal of the onsite aviation high school treated us to a of the high school facility. Two Junior ROTC colonels took our squadron for a tour around the facility. Our more aviation-minded cadets were very impressed and jealous to learn that some classes were conducted in an almost fully functional Boeing 727, once a member of the Air Canada fleet.



Cadets of 818 formed up in front of the F-14 outside the Aerospace Discovery Center in Lakeland.

For our final long day of learning, we got to explore the Kennedy Space Center. The cadets loved the chance to explore and enjoy interactive exhibits while learning about becoming astronauts and the history of the space program. There was a lot to do, including learning about the launches and missions taken on at the Kennedy Space Center. Cadets of 818 particularly enjoyed exploring the Atlantis building as well the exhibits in the Mars Exploration building.



***The assembly center where space Vehicles are assembled before launch.
Photo by: FCpl Nixon Sinnathurai***

On our final day the cadets enjoyed the sun and waves at Cocoa beach and a short shopping trip in an open-air mall.

After our long 25-hour bus trip back home to Toronto, we were all ready to see our beds again, our minds full of new and wonderful experiences and memories that we will never forget for the rest of our lives.

818 Squadron Change of Command is scheduled for 1900hrs, Monday, 30 May 2016 at Moss Park Armoury. Capt Giovanni (John) Ferrara, CD takes over from Capt Garry Hendel, CD. Presiding Officer is Maj Pamela Evelyn, CD.

818's Annual Ceremonial Review is scheduled for 1430hrs, Sunday, June 5 2016 at Moss Park Armoury.

Reviewing Officer is the 7th Toronto Regiment Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan Smid, MMM, MB, CD.

What Went on in the Bowels of Casa Loma in World War II??

WONDERFUL INSIGHT into a Canadian story of which we all should know and be proud.



This story was offered by Warrant Officer (Retired) James McCullough, who served in 7th Toronto Regiment, 1965 to 1989 (Who won “Best Sergeant” one year and The McKeown Trophy for marksmanship in 1977).

The video clip is narrated by Lara Jean Chorostecki, a star of “*X Company*.” It is the story of “*Station M*,” a secret installation located in Casa Loma during World War II.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/xcompanytv/videos/1701020460157963/>

105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

Update from 105 – 7th Toronto Regiment RCA – Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp

By: Lt Bianca Fung



On Saturday, April 16, 2016, 105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps hosted a one day exercise Operation Riverside, which focusing on navigation and summer biathlon. The cadets took part in an orienteering route along the Credit River in Mississauga. For junior cadets, a map and compass was provided. As for the more senior cadets, a GPS was the only training aid given to help them navigate along the river. The summer biathlon took place both outdoors and indoors. The objective was to have cadets run a set distance before entering an indoor range where they were given 5 chances to hit 5 targets. For every target missed, meant an extra distance on the running course. Top cadet finished the course in 12 minutes and 40 seconds.

It was an enjoyable day for cadets as the weather was absolutely perfect. This weekend will prepare them for the upcoming navigation trekking weekend coming up in May.



Caption #1: Senior cadets of 105 RCAC and Lt Harper



Caption #2: Junior cadets navigating themselves along the Credit River in Mississauga.



Caption #3: RSM Janjic firing the daisy air rifle during the summer Biathlon competition.

Central Region Army Cadet Regional Expedition Ultimate Adventure 2016 (also identified as Ultimate Adventure Regional Expedition 2016) will be conducted in the Bruce Peninsula from 20 – 29 May 2016. The expedition will involve mountain biking and hiking.

Congratulations to our DSM, WO Robert Dobrowolski - he is one of 18 cadets chosen to take part in the Ultimate Regional Adventure Expedition this May in the Bruce Peninsula region!

Spring is a busy time for us with Fundraising events, weekend exercises and finalizing any training to get our cadets ready for their summer training.

We are gearing up for our Annual Inspection on Saturday June 11th at Moss Park Armouries. Markers are called at 13:00 hrs please come out and enjoy our annual review.

THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION
(Established 1978)



THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION
(Established 1978)
Membership Update

Benefactors

Mr. Thomas W. Atkins

To those who were members of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA at its rebirth in 1965 this family name will be very familiar. Tom is the son of the first CO of the Regiment, Col L.F. (Leo) Atkins, CD. And for the Founding Members of the Foundation Leo was the driving force, along with LCol John Gibson, CD, for the establishment of this Foundation in

1978. Leo had commanded the 29th Field Regiment, RCA (M) prior to being appointed the first CO of the 7th after the Hellyer unification and amalgamation in 1965.

Tom had contacted the Regiment to see about donating some of his father's memorabilia to the Regimental Family. Through discussions with the Regimental Major he was also persuaded to make a donation to the Foundation. That decision has resulted in him becoming a Benefactor of the Foundation.

You might say that Tom has returned to join the ranks of our Gunner Family with this donation in memory of his father, and we indeed welcome him whole-heartedly.

For those Permanent Members who feel that they may be closing in on the Benefactor level, please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer to verify your status of donations and consider becoming a Benefactor of the Foundation.

Permanent Members

Capt P.A. (Paul) Thompson, CD

It is always rewarding to see a Unit Member step up to the plate and make a donation to the Foundation especially when it makes him a Permanent Member. Captain Paul Thompson accumulated the necessary amount by various means such as gifts in kind and monetary gifts. Well done, Paul!

Reminder – Joining the Foundation

We would also remind those Unit members wishing to join the Foundation of the Foundation/Regimental Membership Fund Raising Initiative which allows you to accumulate the funds necessary to become a Permanent Member with any number of smaller gifts through automatic payroll deductions.

And for those wishing to become a Permanent Member do not hesitate to do so. The Foundation is open to all ranks and donations will be accumulated until you reach the \$1,000.00 mark at which time your name will appear as a Permanent Member on the Foundation Plaque which is located permanently in the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA, Officers' Mess. Please go to www.torontoartilleryfoundation.ca for further details.

A Piece of 9 Battery History

Through the good offices of LCol (Ret'd) Colin Mouatt the Foundation has managed to rescue and acquire a piece of the Regiment's history which, when you see the picture and brief description is a very appropriate acquisition in this 150th Anniversary year of 9 Battery.

Below you will see the map case which belonged to Lt D.G. Higgins acting BC of 9 Bty at the time of one of Canada's most significant formative moments, the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



British Canadian WWI CEF BEF Artillery Officers Map Case. Named LT DG Higgins 9th Bty CFA. Doug Higgins had temporary command of 9th Bty during the battle of Vimy Ridge.

In the next edition of the Take Post, Colin will expand on this subject and provide further details about this find and Lt Higgins himself.

The Band of The Toronto Artillery Foundation

The Band of the Toronto Artillery Foundation was officially stood up on 9 April 2016, the ninety - ninth Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The Band will be performing at various functions throughout the year in support of the Foundation, including the McDermott fund raising concert in early October, under the direction of our Director of Music Capt (Ret'd) Graz Brescacin.

At the same time our Chairman BGen (Ret'd) Ernie Beno has commenced a fund raising initiative to equip the Band with "Blues & Greys" type uniforms.

Ubique

Paul Kernohan

treasurer@torontoartilleryfoundation.ca

The Toronto Artillery Foundation

IODE UBIQUE –



Well the IODE Ubiique continues to grow. We now have 13 members and a Facebook page. We have a lot to do before Summer comes and we have it on good authority that we will get summer.

We continue to support the 7th Toronto Regiment and the next event is, the much anticipated, Family Day, scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016. After the 7th Toronto Regiment Salute at Toronto City Hall, we will be returning to Moss Park Armoury for Family Day festivities starting at 1pm. IODE members will be there to guide you through the myriad of events. I'm sure there will be some surprises. Of course, we will be assisting with the barbecue and keeping you up to date on our progress with our initiatives.

Not to be outdone, we will be present again, at the Centuries of Firepower on May 28th at Old Fort York. The activities start at 1:00 pm and will coincide with Open Doors Toronto. There will be a barbecue and a bake sale with goodies prepared by the IODE using recipes from Fort York's historical cookbook, "Setting a Fine Table."

If you or anyone you know would like to join this Dynamic group of fascinating women, our next meeting is on September 12, 2016 at 1930hrs in the Officers Mess at Moss Park Armoury.

Please contact the following email for more information: ubique.iode@gmail.com

Patricia Geoffrey, RN
President, Ubiique Branch, IODE

Limber Gunners Artyfacts - for May 2016 Take Post



The Limber Gunners had another busy spring this year with the following events; April 23rd – The Cadet Equipment Familiar Training Day with the 105 RCAAC and the Moss Park Air Cadets Squadron

training that was carried out by the Limber Gunners and 7th Toronto Regiment. The LG covered 25Pdr Gun Drill and the Characteristics for the Brown Bess Musket and the Snider, Martini Enfield and the Lee Enfield rifle from the 19th Century. The Regiment taught gun drill on the

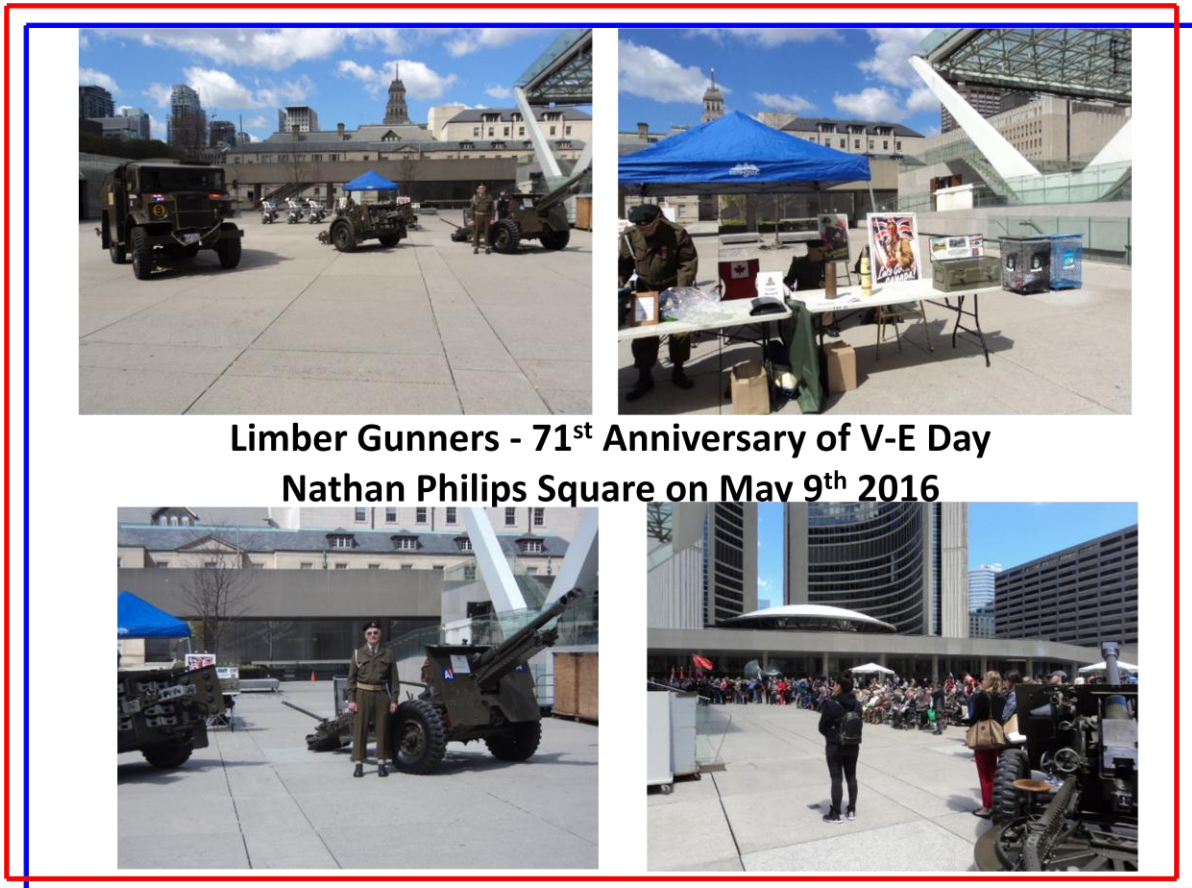


Figure 1: 105 RCAAC Cadet Firing the Snider Rifle

105 mm Howitzer C3 Mortar drill on the 81mm Mortar and FOO Training at the OP. Mike Mercer, Larry Goucher, Ian Farquharson, Otto Skerlan and Ron Paterson took part in the training for The Limber Gunners.

On May 1st the Limber Gunners fired a salute for the 17th annual Ontario Police Memorial Ceremony at Queens Park. The Limber Gunners got a little wet during the 3 Gun Salute but the salute was a success. Gord Kowalishen , Brian Higgins , Paul Kernohan , Jackie Coleman ,Frank Lloyd, Dave Rae, Bill Wallace and Ron Paterson took part in the salute.

The Limber Gunners were asked by the City of Toronto to provide a static display for the 71st Anniversary of V-E Day on Nathan Philips Square from 1000hrs to 1400hrs. The LG were dressed in Battle Dress and displayed World War II recruiting posters. Frank Moore, Larry Goucher, Bill Wallace, Steve Singh, Ron Paterson and Ken Foster took part in the display.



Frank Moore of the Limber Gunners will be installing a modified transmission and changing the clutch on the Quad during June 2016

The Limber Gunners carried out training throughout January to April 2016, and the LG held short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training, as follows:

- January 4th - Loading the 25pdr. casing with primer and black powder (completed)
- February 1st – Gunner Training (completed)
- March 7nd – Gunnery Training (completed)
- April 4th – Driver Training was not carried out due to the Quad requiring transmission repairs

Upcoming Events

- May 23 – the LG will be firing 2X 25Pdr. with the Regiment’s Guns for the 21Gun Salute at Queens Park for Victoria Day. Following the salute assisting in the Family Artillery Day B-B-Q at Moss Park Armoury
- May 28th – The 7th Toronto Regiment, 2 RCHA and the Limber Gunners will be taking part in a static display and firing a 3 Gun Salute for Two Centuries of Firepower at Old Fort York
- May 27, 28, 29th – The Limber Gunners will be taking part in a display and Firing Movement for Aquino Day Militaries Show at the Oshawa Ferret Club Museum
- June 18th The Limber Gunners will be taking part in the Highland Creek Heritage Day Parade and static display
- July 1st – Canada Day - the 7th Toronto Regiment and the Limber Gunners will be firing a 21 Gun Salute at Queens Park

To the members of the Regiment that have retired ,and you if you like the smell of the gun power, driving a WWII Field Artillery Tractor and firing salutes with WWII Equipment and taking part in an active tank day join the Limber Gunners and meet some of your old Friends The LG has located a second Limber and is in the process of negation with the owners of the Limber. The LG has a line on a second Quad.

Join the Limber Gunners!

UBIQUE! Ron Paterson sevenartygunner@rogers.com

**Limber Gunners
Ontario Police Memorial Ceremony at Queens
Park May 1st 2016**



**Cadet Training
With The Limber Gunners**





15 Battery's Axe Throwing Morale Night

The Principles of War state that the first and overarching principle is Selection and Maintenance of the Aim; hence, it's the principle that's well known and it's generally one that most soldiers are aware of when asked by a senior officer or a senior NCO. The second principle of war is the Maintenance of Morale; important because without morale, soldiers are less likely to perform at their optimal best when they are assigned orders, instructions or tasks by their superior commanders. In the worst case scenario, a lack of morale may lead to soldiers becoming disillusioned in the aim and objectives assigned by their commander. In an organization like the primary reserve, where soldiers are not mandated to attend every parade night and training exercise, having high morale is one of the key factors that leaders have consider in order to consistently have a high attendance during training events.



With that in mind, I decided to plan a battery morale night. I planned it in order for the BC and I to show our appreciation to the soldiers who worked so hard for us throughout the training year.

The first step was to figure out what the troops wanted to do. With that in mind, I recruited Bdr Allen Noh to assist in the planning process. He performed brilliantly. He solicited the soldiers for advice and options, booked the reservation with the venue, gathered all the information and provided a lot of excellent ideas to myself and the BC so that when it came time for the BC to seek approval from the CO, it was an easy decision to be made. 15 Bty would do axe throwing for their morale night.

On April 18th, 15 Bty met up at the Backyard Axe Throwing League, just off of Dufferin Rd and Hwy 401. After a quick registration process, we quickly met up with our instructors who explain the rules, regulations and safety precautions regarding the axes. Anticipation filled the air, as the battery eagerly awaited the instructors to be finished so that they can get their first crack at axe throwing.



Then came the opportunity to have a few trial runs, where the instructors took their time to mentor and provide tips on position and movement while throwing the axes. Finally we moved on to the round-robin series which saw two people competing against each other by random selection. Perhaps it was fate that the one of first few matches saw the BC and BSM facing off against each other in an epic duel between the command team. It was here that Maj Grewal discovered his excellent aptitude for axe throwing as he emerged as the winner, earning himself the moniker *Sir Nav*.



With that victory against the BSM, the BC's future victories against everyone else seems almost certain. As other competitors stood up to challenge the BC's might, he dispatched them despite an amazing effort by his opponents. This included Sgt Bhatti, who was the only person in the battery to make the clutch shot (worth 7 points) for a tying round, and MBdr Stradalowicz who held a considerable advantage until *Sir Nav* dug deep, refocused and ultimately snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. However, there was another competitor in the battery who emerge above all to challenge the BC. Bdr MacDonell, known by the moniker *The Mac Attack*, was also able to dispatch his



opponents despite an impressive showing by his competitors. One-by-one competitors fell under Bdr MacDonell's impressive axe throwing skills. As the battery moved to tournament or playoff style rules it was clear that the final match would be between Maj Grewal (*Sir Nav*) vs. Bdr MacDonell (*The Mac Attack*). After a long and hard fought battle between these two titans, it was clear that the undisputed Axe Throwing Champion of the battery was the BC; winning an impressive victory and securing himself as the greatest axe thrower within the battery.

After a long competition and photos the BC and I made a few remarks on the importance of the event and its significance to the battery. Included within those remarks were a few presentations to well deserving individuals for their contribution to the battery. MBdr Noh and Bdr Phillips won BC's Commendations for their hard-work and dedication to ensure the battery's success over the past few years. Finally, as the battery believes that no morale night is complete with a promotion, the BC took the opportunity to promote Gnr Pereira to the rank of Bombardier. A promotion that for an individual was more than well-deserved and a long-time coming. From his first day in the regiment, Bdr Pereira established himself as a hard-working soldier who gave 100% into every task he was given. It's clear that he has a bright future in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Overall, 15 Bty's 1st Morale Night was a raging success. It's clear that the axe-throwing abilities of many soldiers were discovered and the battery understood the importance of having a night where they can just enjoy each other's company, raise morale and establish memories that can be passed on and re-lived as they continue to serve in 15 Bty or in 7th Toronto Regiment as a whole.



WO T.O. Bankasingh
BSM 15 Battery



The Band of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA

ROYAL ARTILLERY.
One Corporal and seven Gunners.

VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY, CITY OF TORONTO.

This Company is fifty strong: it has a good Band, and a very elegant standard which was presented to them by the ladies of Toronto on the 4th of June, 1833. They have fifty Stand of Arms and two Field Pieces. The Officers are—Thomas Carfrae, Major, Silas Burnham, Captain, James Leckie, Captain and Adjutant, John Craig, 1st Lieutenant, Peter Paterson jun., 2nd Lieutenant.

Clipping from the Toronto Almanac 1834

Note: "It has a good band!"

Of course, it has always been so!

Soldier First. Musician Second.

By: Cpl Jack Erdmann



(Left to right) Cpl Venturanza, Cpl Jackson, Pte Howells, Pte Marshall, Cpl Erdmann, and Pte Hassan (15 battery) receive instruction on Immediate Action drills from Bdr MacDonnell

On 30 April, musicians in the 7th Toronto Regiment Band took a brief intermission on their musical duties to team up with bombardiers from 15 battery to prepare for their BMQ-Land course beginning on 8 May. Private Howells, Private Marshall, Corporal Jackson, Corporal

Venturanza, and myself were given a review of C7 weapons handling and safety drills as well as an introduction to the C6 and C9 rifles, which they will be using on course.

While the musicians were given the opportunity to review weapon handling, this also presented an opportunity for the senior bombardiers from 15 Battery who are preparing to go on PLQ in the future. Bombardiers Park, Chan, MacDonnell, Noh, and Latta practiced teaching weapon drill under the supervision of Master Bombardier Noh. All soldiers benefited immensely from this training and many thanks are due to those involved in making this training day happen.

All musicians pictured above will continue on to Ottawa following BMQ-Land to perform ceremonial duties on Parliament Hill this summer with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard along with Corporals Coppell, Rego, and Rush.

Thornhill Lions Club Dinner and Dance

On Friday April 29th the 7th RCA showband performed at the Thornhill Lions Club Dinner and Dance.

They entertained the attendees with tunes from Glen Miller to Smash Mouth. Dancers were amazed by the improvisations of Muscian Cory Sitek, Cpl Steve Rush, and the vocalizations of Cpl Dawn Rego. Other members of the ensemble included Capt Retired GrazianoBrescacin CD, WO retired Phillip Trow, WO Darrin Hicks, Cpl Taryn Jackson, MWO Chris Reesor of the 48th Highlanders, LS Jonathan Amador of the Navy, Sgt Lawrence Barley of the 400th Squadron and guest Pianist John Mckinley. The group performed 3-45 minute sets to the delight of the crowd.



Trombone WO (ret'd) Phillip Trow; trumpeter Cpl Taryn Jackson, and Musician Cory Sitek playing the chorus of I'm a Believer.



Saxophone section from left to right: Capt (ret'd) and former Director of Music Graziano Brescacin; Cpl Steve Rush; and Musician Cory Sitek

“Spring on The Pops”

The 7th Toronto Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery Band put on an ambitious Spring Concert on April 22, 2016 at Eastminster United Church in the Danforth. Audiences were dazzled at "Spring on the Pops" by a wide range of concert works from the opening flyaway work, *Storm Chasers* by Robert Sheldon, to the final rousing encore of *Marchmanship* honouring Canadian composer Howard Cable. This free concert featured several soloists from the band including Cpl. Steve Abra on trumpet and Mscn Cory Sitek on clarinet, as well as some notable Canadian composers such as Howard Cable, LCol Bobby Herriott, and Johnny Cowell. Lt. Nick Arrigo created a program that was engaging and challenging, but the band met the challenge head on, providing listeners with an exciting and entertaining Friday night. .

The band is grateful to LCol Ryan Smid, Commanding Officer of the 7th Toronto Regiment, for his continuing support of the band. The band is looking forward to featuring similarly diverse repertoire such as this in next year's spring concert. For audiences who are eager to hear the 7th Toronto Regiment Band before their next spring concert, they will be performing on Victoria Day at Queen's Park, the May 28th Tattoo at Old Fort York, and the Highland Creek Heritage Festival on June 18th.

Article by Cpl Taryn Jackson



Photo: The Band performing the opening march “Storm Chasers” by Robert Sheldon. Lt Arrigo conducting.



Cpl Steve Abra performing Marcella’s Waltz



Cpl Doriann Forrester, masterfully fulfilled the office of MC at the concert



Special guest musician Andrew Clark who performed the Children's March by Percy Grainger



Musician Cory Siteck performed LCol Bobby Herriott's arrangement of Dave Wolpe's jazz tune Hello There.



We would like to thank Maj Retired Ron Paterson and Paul Kernohan, for being at the concert to represent the Limber Gunners and Toronto Artillery Foundation. It was wonderful to have their support.



Lt Col Smid and his wife Lisa, the VP of the newly formed Ubique Chapter of the IODE, who graciously attended the concert



Our Commanding Officer LCol Ryan Smid addressing the audience



Lt Arrigo conducts Howard Cable's Marchmanship: the finale of a great show

Lt Arrigo would like to thank all the members of the band for working so diligently for the concert and a special thanks to Cpl Steve Abra, as our librarian, he has insured the folders are always in great shape and up to date. Congratulations also go to Warrant Hicks, our Drum Major and booker. He keeps the paperwork of the band and the booking of the personnel - consistently doing an excellent job. Signed: Lt Arrigo

The Conference of Independent Schools' Music Festival

On Sunday April 17th, 2016 "The Conference of Independent Schools' Music Festival" brought together over five hundred of very best music students from 38 participating Canadian Independent Schools. This festival is a remarkable opportunity for students and music educators to collaborate in a non-competitive atmosphere that fosters a high-level of musicianship and artistic expression. This year they celebrated over thirty years of music education and performance at Roy Thompson Hall.



Lt Nick Arrigo, Director of Music conducted the finale at the Conference of Independent Schools Music Festival. There were over 500 singers, orchestra and wind ensemble on stage.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tj1kaQ686HM&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jz9U53rIUzk>

A PEACEFUL CANADIAN - PERSPECTIVES FROM A 2LT

By: 2Lt Alex Won

There I was, sitting on a snow bank in Meaford at around 2:30 in the morning. It was a gun exercise in the dead of winter, and I found myself all alone in the world, sitting by the road on sentry duty. I was a Bomber then, and while nobody else really knew it, I was struggling greatly to figure out who I was, like many of us do when we're young. That night I remember how incredible the sky was. The Milky Way stretched across the horizon and the stars lit up the night. Everything was blanketed in white, and the silence was profound. I remember staring at the night sky for a time, and then all of a sudden in that instance, a random thought struck me like a lightning bolt. "*what the hell am I doing here?*" The thought pierced my skull and unsettled me greatly. There are some moments in life you will always remember. This was one of them.



Since that time a lot has happened to me (including leaving Canada and the Forces to live and work abroad), but that moment was irrevocably the start of a journey to where I find myself today: back with 7th Tor and one of the few blessed soldiers who can say they have taken BMQ twice—once as an NCM in 2003, and now as an Officer in 2016. I can tell you with absolute certainty that if I knew then what I know now, I would be telling a different story. But of course, that's just another road not taken.

I look forward—only forward—at the road ahead. There are endless intersecting pathways and forks in the road, any of which can drastically alter my fate. It's quite easy to make a wrong turn, and indeed I have gone down many roads which proved to be tangents in an otherwise linear journey towards an inevitable outcome. However, just as much as I continued to stumble and fall along my journey, it was in these moments of failure and aimlessness that I found what could only be described as *clarity of mind*, and it is the revelations within these moments of clarity that I wish to address.

MIRRORS

Identity was something I went in search of for a very long time, and I couldn't find what I was looking for simply because I did not have the right attitude. Being a spoiled child raised in first world affluence lends to a very entitled and short-sighted perspective of the world which is primarily based in endless consumption. Selfishness, greed and mental weakness are the outcomes of such behaviour, and it is easy to fall into the slavery of a *victim mindset* where nothing that happens to us is ever our responsibility. But how do you break free of it, particularly if you are never exposed to something different? What can be done to wake people from their sedation?

This is a difficult proposition for anyone to consider (let alone youth), and the longer one stays within that realm, the harder it is to escape. But escape is possible; it just requires hard work and an environment that forces people to face their problems head on and figure out ways to overcome them. After all, where else would someone be on sentry duty at 2 o'clock in the morning in the dead of winter if not in the military? What other reason would there be to be out there except for Regiment, Queen and Country? There are revelations that can only manifest out of a firm decision to attempt real challenges beyond what we are comfortable with, and it is these experiences that define and sharpen those who seek to better themselves in life. Nowhere else will one find the discipline, the drive and the integrity to achieve ones goals and objectives like that of a soldier—values that many brave people risk death to attain and exemplify.

MORTAL REALITIES

Most Reservists will never have to worry about dying in service to Country, but they are likewise trained to understand the importance of *Unlimited Liability*. We choose for ourselves to follow the commands given to us regardless of our personal opinions, knowing the outcome may be what it may. But ultimately, it is the full realization and sobering knowledge that no matter how much we may try, we cannot escape death in the end. The only thing we can do is make the most of the time we have left and understand the profound consequences of wasting it away in consumption, leisure and entertainment. While this may mean many things to many people (and not to say that anyone who indulges is in the wrong, as rest is essential), to me it means that we shouldn't be wasting our time doing things that add no value to our lives, because ultimately nothing in this world is truly about us. It is about helping and serving others—those less fortunate, or those who suffer perhaps from the same illnesses borne from first-world boredom, aimlessness and apathy—since a deep understanding and heart of service to others is one of the primary prerequisites for developing effective leadership in oneself. This, to me, is what it means to be a Canadian soldier, and at the highest level is a quality worth protecting and consistently striving towards.



PERSISTENCE

While it is easy to write about inspiration and perceived idealism, execution is another animal altogether, and I know for certain that I fall so very short of living up to the very ideals espoused in this article. Failure is a definitive human trait, and perhaps no matter how hard we try, we may not be able to become the example by which others should follow, and that would still be perfectly okay. Everyone has their own responsibilities and sacrifices that must be made on a daily basis, and nobody really has a right to say otherwise. However, the point of all this was never to reach whatever destination we had set out for ourselves. The value is not in reaching the end state because the possibility exists that we never may. Where the true value lies is in the *journey* and individual efforts made to continue moving forward in the face of adversity, as who we will become in the pursuit of our dreams is incomparable to the person we would end up as had we never tried at all—had we given up and accepted what happens to us as fate as if we were never in control of our lives to begin with. While it is crystal clear we cannot control all the circumstances we find ourselves in, what we can control are our reactions to them. How we choose to perceive hardships, challenges and obstacles is paramount to what we become in the face of such adversity. The point is to decide for ourselves what our reality will be, since the decision to never accept a temporary failure as a final one is what defines our character in the pursuit of our ambitions. The definition of endurance after all, is not how far we can run going downhill. It's about how long we can last going up.

In the end, I still have much to learn, as the perspective from a 2LT means I can only speculate at what occurs at higher levels, and I simply do not know what I do not know. It also doesn't escape me that I still have yet to experience most of what this life has to offer, but I haven't reached the end of my story, and chances are neither have you. While I do not know what tomorrow may bring, I do know that I am confident enough to tackle challenges head on and accept whatever consequences my decisions may carry. Thinking back on that night once upon a time, I know I have chosen the right path for myself regardless of how long it took me to get here.



Sometimes, second chances do exist, and the struggle through training I received going through Basic again merely reaffirmed and solidified what I had hoped to realize in all my youthful days staring at the night skies on those cold winter nights—a sense of purpose and identity. I am a Peaceful Canadian, and it is something worth fighting to defend. The revelation didn't happen immediately, but it happened inevitably.

2Lt Won is currently the Administration Officer in 130 Battery and will be completing artillery phase training in the future.

9th Toronto Battery 100 years ago

by LCol ret'd C.R. Mouatt, CD

On May 8th, 1916 the 9th Battery was in a relatively quiet area of the line in the Ypres Salient. It was on this day that Major Ewan Alan MacDougall the Officer Commanding the 9th Battery mysteriously disappeared.

The War Diary of the 3rd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery for May 9, 1916 states:

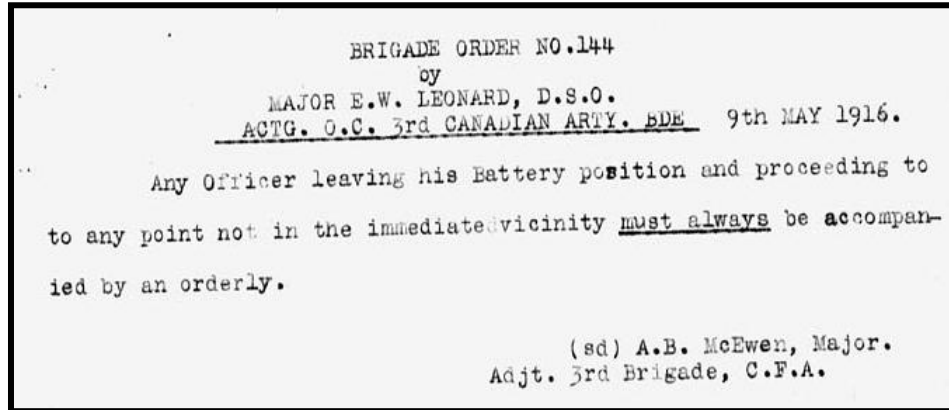
"About 4 p.m. yesterday Major E.A. MacDougall, O.C. 9th Battery left his battery to proceed to the trenches. He went alone and did not return to the Battery last night. This morning Lieut. Cawley sent out a searching party and the infantry also sent out a patrol but no trace has yet been found of the Major. Men working near the SWAN Chateau say an officer answering the description of Major MacDougall was seen passing there last night going in the direction of the trenches. That was the last time that he was seen. his description, last evening - and this was the last he was seen."

The next day (10th) the War Diary records at 9 a.m.:

"A searching party of twelve men accompanied by Major E.W. Leonard, D.S.O. [the Acting Officer Commanding 3rd Brigade] and Capt. H.B. Burgoyne, searched the route from the 9th

Battery to the trenches, paying particular attention to the canal, but no trace of Major MacDougall was found.”

Major MacDougall’s disappearance led to the following order being issued by Major Leonard:



In his book *"The Red Watch": With the First Canadian Division in Flanders*: written in 1916, Colonel John Allister Currie of the 48th Highlanders of Canada recalls an incident that had earlier occurred on the Gravenstaffel Ridge *"I turned a copy of the panoramic sketch [they had been prepared by French gunners] over to Major MacDougall of the Toronto Battery, when he went into the loft of a ruined house some distance away to check up his guns as they fired on the Poelcapelle road in front of us.*



I slipped quietly into a fire trench on the forward slope of the ridge to observe the guns at work also. I had sent word down to Major Osborne in the forward trenches to clear the men out of the redoubts on either side of the road so that if a shell fell short it would not hurt anyone. The Canadian "observing officers" were always very careful in "registering" as they called it. They began by sending their shots well over the German parapets, and gradually coming closer, instead of firing a shell short, another long and dividing.

While we were observing the Germans replied to our guns, and very nearly got Major MacDougall. Poor chap, he was subsequently assassinated by a German spy or sniper behind in billets. His clothing was stolen and worn by the assassin who was caught and suffered the death penalty."

Major MacDougall was born December 18, 1874 at Sitabaldi, Central Province, India. An architect by profession, he lived with his wife Maude Kate Harriett MacDougall, at 24 Avenue Rd., Toronto, Ontario.

During the South African (Boer) War he served as a Lieutenant with the Kimberly Horse. MacDougall joined the 9th “Toronto” Field Battery as a Lieutenant on June 10, 1907. He was promoted Captain June 10, 1912. On October 17, 1912 he was promoted to Major and assumed command of the battery.

9th Battery, CFA was organized for the Canadian Expeditionary Force in August 1914 under his command. It was recruited in Toronto from 9th Battery, Non Permanent Active Militia with reinforcement from 7th Battery (St. Catharines) and 14th Battery (Cobourg). MacDougall formally enlisted at Valcartier, Quebec on September 22, 1914.

Major MacDougall was declared “missing, presumed killed” at the Ypres Salient, Belgium May 8th, 1916 at age 41. He is memorialized on panel 10 of the Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial, Belgium

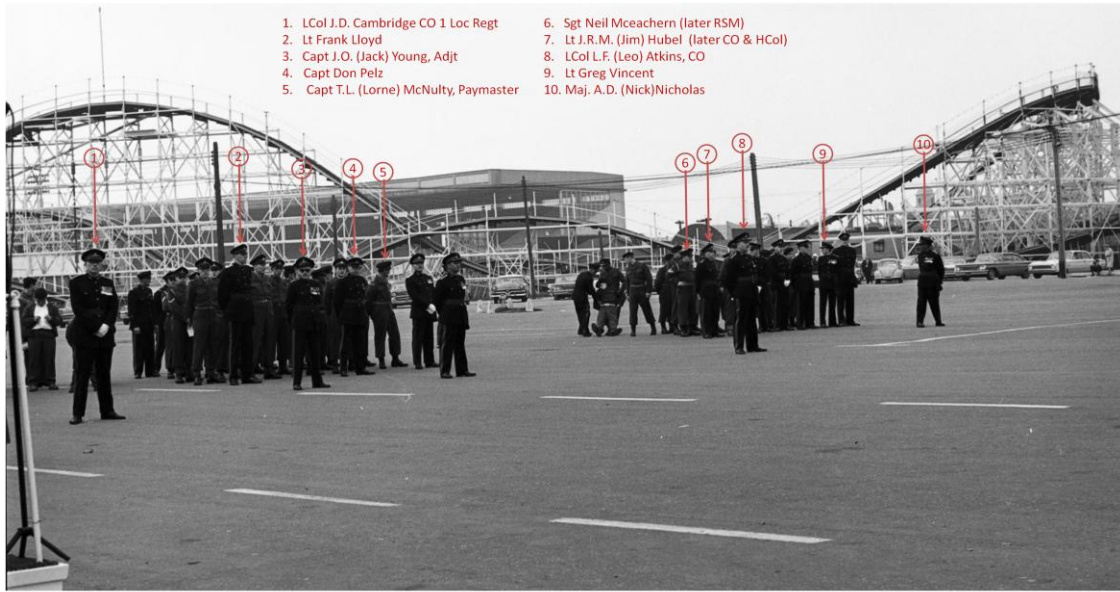
Photos from Our Past



**Honorary Colonel 7th Toronto Regt,
Lt Gen Guy Granville Simonds**



**Honorary Colonel Jim
Hubel with Lt Gov
Ontario**



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. LCol J.D. Cambridge CO 1 Loc Regt | 6. Sgt Neil Mceachern (later RSM) |
| 2. Lt Frank Lloyd | 7. Lt J.R.M. (Jim) Hubel (later CO & HCol) |
| 3. Capt J.O. (Jack) Young, Adjt | 8. LCol L.F. (Leo) Atkins, CO |
| 4. Capt Don Pelz | 9. Lt Greg Vincent |
| 5. Capt T.L. (Lorne) McNulty, Paymaster | 10. Maj. A.D. (Nick) Nicholas |

Toronto Garrison Artillery Memorial Parade - 1963



**1982 – DP 1
Training**



In the CP - 1997



????



NOTICE - Old Pictures:

We are looking for photos from Days Gone By for our Website.

Digital Photos can be emailed to Captains Paul Thompson or Eric Laxton:

paethompson@hotmail.com

elaxton@gmail.com

Hard Copies – address them to one of the above at the Orderly Room, or drop them off.

Join our Facebook Page: "7 Guns - The Black Hand"

Take Post, Edition 12

The next Take Post Edition 12 will be published by 15 July, 2016.

Articles to be submitted by 08 July, 2016 to: beno@kos.net



Good Shooting!

UBIQUE!



Lt Dan Kim with Brian Williams (CBC Sports) and MBdr Scott Roodzant. They attended the Invictus Games announcement by Prince Harry at the Royal York Hotel, 2nd May (Captain on left, not known)



A Bit of our Past

Limber Gunners and Friends of the LG – here is a bit of our past:

From the description of the YouTube Video:

"On Victoria Day in 2011, the Limber Gunners assisted 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery with a 21 Gun Salute at Queen's Park in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Limber Gunners were honoured to have the Colonel Commandant - BGen (Ret'd) E. Beno, OMM, CD as our Number 3. General Beno started his military career as a Gunner with 42nd Medium Regiment in Toronto. It was like a home coming. Before the salute, the Col. Commandant presented the Limber Gunners with a Commandant's Commendation for their work in preserving the history of the 25-Pounder."

The link to the video is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=780ugTsVIEQ>

There is also another video available from November 2011 of the 7th Toronto Regiment Band marching.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqjOPgAoTQg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWUCPzUMJAg>



The Toronto Artillery Foundation Band Appeal

Toronto Artillery Foundation
 20 Queen Street West, Suite 3310
 Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3R3

Registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as 119259323 RR0001

Website: www.torontoartilleryfoundation.ca

As Honorary Colonel, I seek your support for the creation of the Toronto Artillery Foundation Band. We wish to see the thirty Band Members dressed in Blazers with the Gunner Crest and Gunner Tie. Each set costs approximately \$400.00, but contribute what you want and can – and pledge over time if you wish.

Please donate to support your Foundation Band – tax receipts provided.

Pay Pal: See: www.torontoartilleryfoundation.ca Then hit the DONATE button

Cheques: Please make all Cheques payable to:

Toronto Artillery Foundation
 c/o The 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA
 Moss Park Armoury
 130 Queen Street East,
 Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R9

Toronto Artillery Foundation Band Donation Return		Date:
Name:	Rank and Post Nominals (if Appropriate):	
Mailing Address: Street:	Primary Telephone No.:	
	Primary e-mail Address:	
City:	Existing Donor? Yes: No:	
Postal Code:	Gift Type? Band Support:	



TWO CENTURIES OF FIREPOWER

Artillery Day at Fort York

Saturday, 28 May 2016. Beginning at 12:00 noon



Join the Guns and Gunners at Fort York on 28 May organized by Fort York and the Toronto Artillery Foundation. We will have guns from the early days of settlement in North America, to the War of 1812, the South Africa War, World Wars I and II, Korea War and Afghanistan.

All Gunners and Friends of Gunners are invited – young and old.

Open to the Public. Free Admission.

Celebrate Artillery Day, on 28 May, with a Bang!

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. – Gun Salutes at 12:45, 1:30 and 3:00



Good Shooting!

Contact Info: 416-392-6907

www.toronto.ca/fortyork

www.fortyork.ca

UBIQUE!



**WE ARE ALL RECRUITERS!
ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO
JOIN!**

**TELL THEM WHAT A GREAT REGIMENT WE HAVE, IN A GREAT
BRIGADE
TELL THEM WHAT ITS LIKE TO BE PART OF THE TEAM!
STRONG, PROUD, READY!**



**PLQ
2015-16**

PLQ ARMY REG	PLQ DL
18 Jan - 11 Mar 16	25 Apr - 27 May 16 (3 Serials)
29 Mar - 20 May 16	RST PLQ ARMY
2 May - 24 Jun 16	25 Apr - 17 Jun 16
30 May - 24 Jul 16	(2 Serials)
2 Aug - 26 Sep 16	20 Jun - 12 Aug 16
26 Sep - 21 Nov 16	
PLQ INF REG	RST PLQ INF
23 Jan - 7 Apr 16	4 Apr - 3 Jun 16
9 May - 18 Jul 16	6 Jun - 12 Aug 16

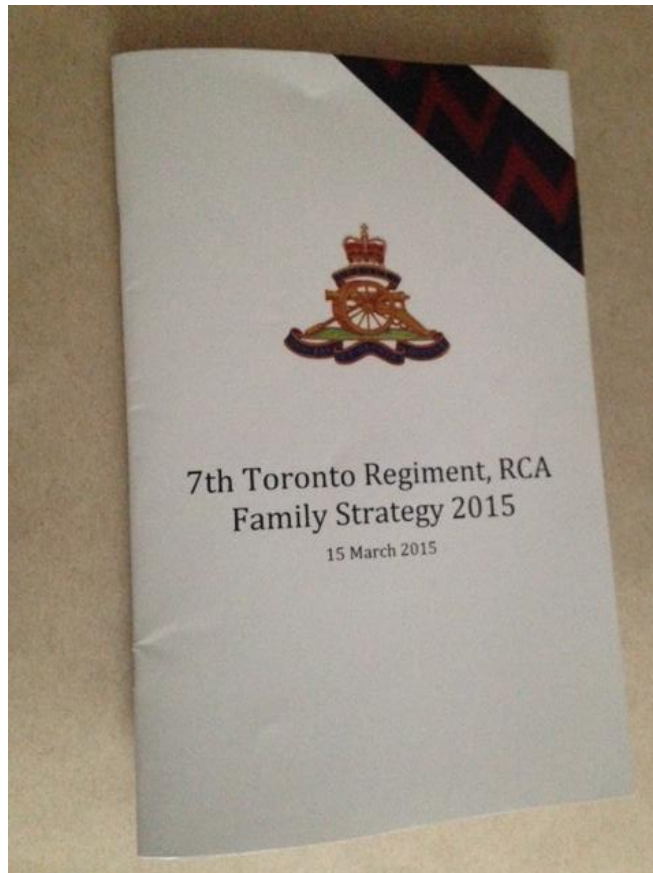
APPLY THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

**STRONG. PROUD. READY.
FORTS. FIERS. PRÉTS.**

Canada

Reminder
Read up on the Regimental Family Strategy:
(Soon on our Website)

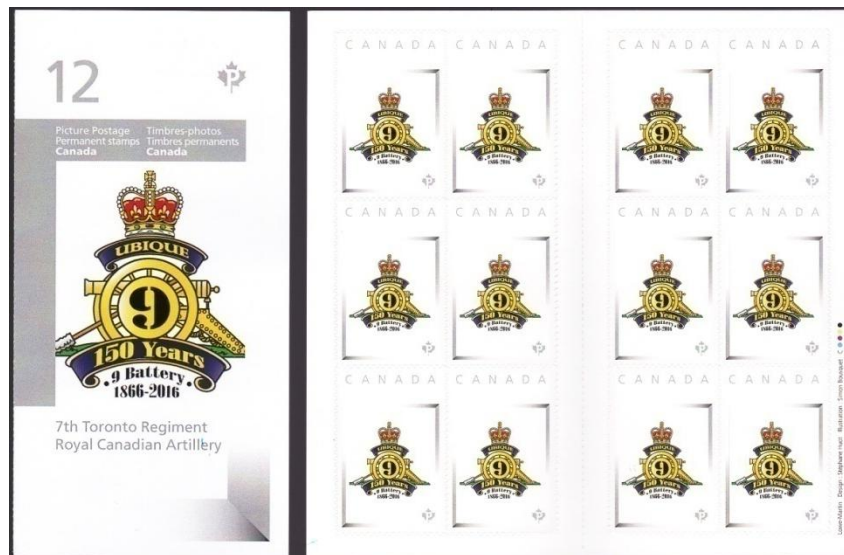
Mission
To foster a credible, relevant, cohesive and valued 7th
Toronto Regiment



Centre of Gravity of 7th Toronto Regimental Family
People – the right number of the right people doing the right
things for 7th Toronto

9 Battery Commemorative Postage Stamps

Commemorating 150 years of service to Canada, 9 Battery, representing 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, has produced letter postage stamps. Please contact the Editor if you wish to purchase books of 12 stamps. Estimated cost is \$15/book of 12.



Fortaleza Santa Teresa

By Captain Paul Thompson



On a tour I always find myself drawn to museums, monuments and military installations and this didn't change when I was lucky enough to visit Uruguay, officially the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (it does not translate correctly from the Spanish intended the *Republic East of the Uruguay River*). Uruguay is a small, sparsely populated country dominated by its neighbours Brazil and Argentina. It has recently become known as the Switzerland of South America and its capital, Montevideo, is the headquarters of most major Latin American International Cooperatives including MERCASUR. Its beach resorts are hubs of

South American playboys and the rich and famous. Its banks and its relatively stable peso have become a preferred hiding and investing place for its more volatile neighbours most wealthy citizens.

Best known for soccer and corned beef, Uruguay's history has been a struggle for identity. It has been a colony of Portugal, Spain and Great Britain and has been a province of both Argentina and Brazil and their successor states. It gained independence in the middle of the 19th Century but was normally a pawn for Brazil or Argentina. It was a hot spot, like many Latin American countries during the Cold War but recently has emerged as a stable nation with a functioning democracy with a high human development index, a high standard of living and very socially progressive attitude. It is strategically situated along



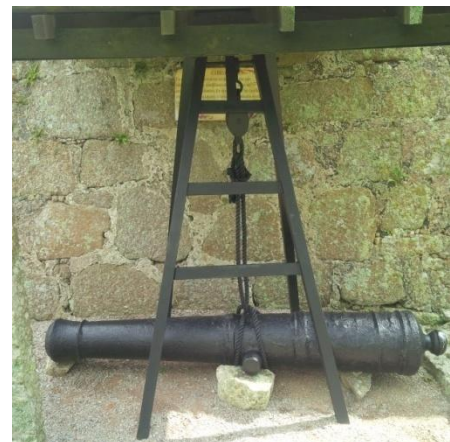
the Rio Plata and the large and passable Uruguay River. It controls the eastern side of the passage into the interior of the continent which is a shipping route for Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

As you enter Montevideo by passenger ferry from Buenos Aires it is evident as to how much trade passes through this basin. Queues of huge tanker ships are lined up to access Buenos Aires, Montevideo or further inland.

Montevideo itself is a very pretty city, with an historic, if not run down *Viejo Ciudad* and very modern downtown and luxurious oceanfront suburbs and condominium towers extending eastward along the Atlantic.

From Montevideo we drove north easterly towards the vacation village of Punta del Diablo, very close to the Brazilian frontier. With a specific interest in history I knew that that a restored fortress was the focal point of Government Parkland surrounding the small town where we were staying. Namely, the St. Teresa National Park, named after the Forteleza Santa Teresa that existed here during colonial days.

The southern part of the National Park is a military reserve. The Fortress itself is no longer used but the grounds immediately surrounding remain a manouvre area for the Armed Forces. It's cleared areas were gouged with tank tracks and along with its scrub growth someone used to Meaford or Petawawa in the summer would feel totally at home. There are gates where Military Police check identifications and roving patrols are obvious and perhaps not so obvious in the area. All were armed with the FN FAL. The Uruguay National Army is a small, professional force that uses a combination of NATO, Former Warsaw Pact and South American manufactured materiel. The National Army is proud of the fact that they provide more, man-for-man on UN led missions than any other nation on Earth.



From an artillery standpoint, the Uruguay artillery corps was considered the best in Latin America during the War of the Triple Alliance during the middle of the 19th Century. The Uruguayan contribution to the victory was mostly from their guns and their professional deployment of them. Today, their artillery is limited to a handful of Soviet-style rocket-launchers and no field guns.

While the War of the Triple Alliance was fought totally outside the borders of Uruguay there have been many occasions when Uruguay was threatened from within and without. The Fortress of Santa Teresa was put to the test several times.

The Fortress is situated strategically on high ground between the Atlantic Ocean and the Black Lake. From the ramparts of the Fortress one can see the Atlantic swells, the broad long beach that runs the length of the country to the east and to the west, the swaps and the literally black

water of the Laguna Negro and an almost unending flatness beyond. While situated inside Uruguay it is virtually the last stop between Brazil and the interior of Uruguay. This narrow strip of passable land is all that an army marching between Brazil and Argentina would have to move and a necessity to siege this fortress is evident. Bypassing would require a long detour into what would have been swampy wilderness until about 100 years ago when ranchers started to reclaimed and cleared the land.

Even now, the remoteness and massiveness of this Fort is astonishing. Being in the 21st Century, we felt we are far from any significant settlement and even further from one that has any industrial capability. Here before us stood a massive stone structure, literally in a sand-dune scrub forest built over 200 years previous. When considering the North American frontier forts we are used to, this structure is akin to large European fortified city, however, no city exists here; just swamp and sand. The massive walls, high and thick must have been a major engineering feat to quarry, lift and transport. The elaborate work on the bastions has been restored nicely. The thought of interlocking arcs of fire and of fields of fire and observation were not lost of the designers and engineers.

Everywhere you look along the parapets another bastion is close by. There are many antique cannons around the fortress. Unfortunately, many have lost their carriage and lay on the ground. Many of cannons are huge in calibre and length. Being more familiar with British or Dutch cannon design of the time (common in Canadian forts) made these monsters of interest. Like the British tradition the cannons have the Royal Cypher engraved or embossed on the barrel, however, as Uruguay has long been a Republic there is no regard to treating these as their colours as has become the tradition in the Commonwealth. They are simply relics. While most cannons were smooth-bore-muzzle-loading there was one light gun with rudimentary rifling. However, most were very large and very heavy with few if any distinguishing marks.



Apart from the cannonry, the relics that are resting here are impressive. There is the legend of a Sacred Relic that was brought by a priest and buried somewhere in the structure but also, the long forgotten Battle Colours of many Colonial Spanish Regiments. In the Flag Room they line the walls. Of note is the significantly large chapel on site. The chapel, along with the clergy's quarters are the most liveable and luxurious rooms, much more so than the Commanding Officers office, his residence and the Officers Mess.

Dating to the mid- 18th Century the fortress was

originally constructed by the Portugese who were slowly being pushed out of the Rio Plata by Spanish interests. From there the Fortress was captured or successfully sieged several times. It passed in possession between Portugese, Spanish, Argentine and then changed hands during the Uruguayan Civil Wars. The remoteness, as it would make it hard to initially construct would also make it difficult to resupply and reinforce.

While time drags on and the Fortress has remained for over 200 years – some things never change. Almost as soon as I stepped through the gates of the military base, clouds rolled in and a gale force winds began with rain opened up about an hour later. I didn't have to hunker down or keep on, I ran for my rental car and headed back to the beach.

- *Capt Thompson is the Battery Captain of 130 Battery*

THE ARTILLERY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Background

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Czech Military University in Brno, Czech Republic. While there, I learned a bit about their Artillery, and will share it with you now. My special thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Milan Kalina, a Gunner of the Czech Military University, for much of this information.



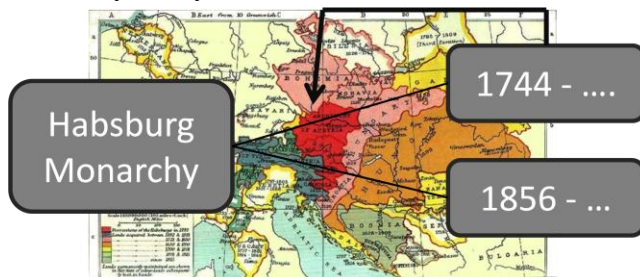
*Hon Col EB Beno at Spilberk
Fortress, Brno, Czech
Republic*



*Lieutenant Colonel Milan Kalina
Katedra palebné podpory
Fakulta vojenského leadershipu
Univerzita obrany*

History of the Czech Artillery

The Czech kingdom lost sovereignty in 1621 and became part of Austrian Habsburg's monarchy for nearly 300 years.



Artillerie „Bombardier“ Corpschulle
RUDOLFOV, CESKE BUDEJOVICE
the first Arty school in H monarchy

Artillery Academy
HRANICE NA MORAVE

There were strong Czechoslovak foreign legions, which fought well especially in Italy and Russia against the Habsburg's. Then, the first Czechoslovak republic was established in 1914 as a result of the WWI. Due to this fact there are not too many famous battles, which are nowadays a source of pride of many traditional armies and their branches of arms.

Famous Artillery battles

WWII can be considered as a source of the CZE artillery modern history. Because of the Munich Agreement in 1939 Czechoslovakian independence was lost. The country as well as its Army was dissolved and occupied by Nazi Germany on March 14, 1939 without any battle fighting.

In consequence, foreign elements of the Czechoslovak Republic (CS) Army were established in France, UK later on and in the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovak pilots are the famous example of this development. On the other hand, there was not established any significant CS land force in UK. Those were under supervision of the CS foreign government in London, UK established in Buzuluk, Soviet Union. This force finally developed into 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in Soviet Union consisting also five artillery regiments.

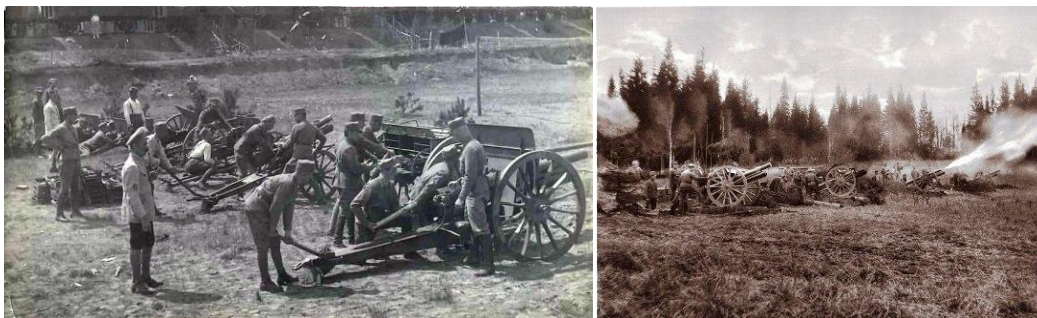
Exile Czech Artillery
1942



So, the most famous battle of the CS artillery used to be considered the Battle of Jaslo (January 15, 1945), where the artillerymen of all five CS Arty regiments successfully engaged German troops in long lasting massive artillery preparation. Before 1989, in the memory of that battle the January 15 was selected as “*Day of the Czechoslovak artillery and rocket troops*”. Nowadays, this tradition is not officially promoted anymore.

Early manufacture of guns

Czechs and Czechoslovakia have rather solid history in manufacturing guns. Looking at the current Czech territory, the earliest records about the gunpowder manufactured for firearms are dated back to the 14th century. The firearms were skillfully used already during the Hussites uprising in 15th century, primarily by the Hussites warriors. According to experts, thanks to them the word “*Howitzer / Haubitze, was spread out*” over the globe. Howitzer, originally in Czech “*houfnice*” meant at that time a short massive gun of caliber of about 200 mm firing into hordes (in Czech houf) of enemies.



The Hussites were also probably the first warriors who used placed firearms onto wagons while driving, so we can also speak that they created ancestors of armored vehicles and fire support concept.



Battle Of Austerlitz Reenactment, 4th December 2016

From the more modern era of 19th century, the Skoda Plzen company was representing another great chapter of artillery development. The Skoda company produced the most advanced weapons in the Habsburgs' monarchy and among other things provided the artillery armament materiel for entire Austrian Army and fleet. The Skoda Company was also promoter of guns with steel barrels and recoil-recuperator equipment.



**Heavy Artillery Super-Gun
Skoda Manufacture**

The former producer of the current main gun of 152mm SpGH mod. 77, the ZTS DubnicanaDVáhom, SVK, is actually the successor of SKODA Plzen gun making factory as well.

The Tradition of Saint Barbara

Saint Barbara's Day on December 4th is nowadays the main festivity day for all CZE artillerymen. It is celebrated throughout all CZE arty units, each one has its own local traditions for this day. The most important gatherings are organized by Chief of CZE artillery in Prague, by Commander of 13th Arty Regiment in Jince, and also by my Department of Fire Support in Brno. During the Brno event, the Artillery cadets are accepted as an apprentice to the honorable guild of artillery.

Saint Barbara's Day Ceremony Welcoming New Artillery Cadets



Current organization, Equipments, Units

The Czech Artillery consists of tube artillery and mortar units.

The tube artillery is centred into 13th Artillery Regiment in Jince (near to Prague). The regiment's structure is based on two Arty battalions (131st and 132nd ArtBn) **of three firing batteries each**. Those are armed with 152mm SpGH mod. 77 called DANA, 8 per battery, 24 per battalion.

The DANA came into service in 1981, and will be replaced by a NATO-calibre gun in the future.

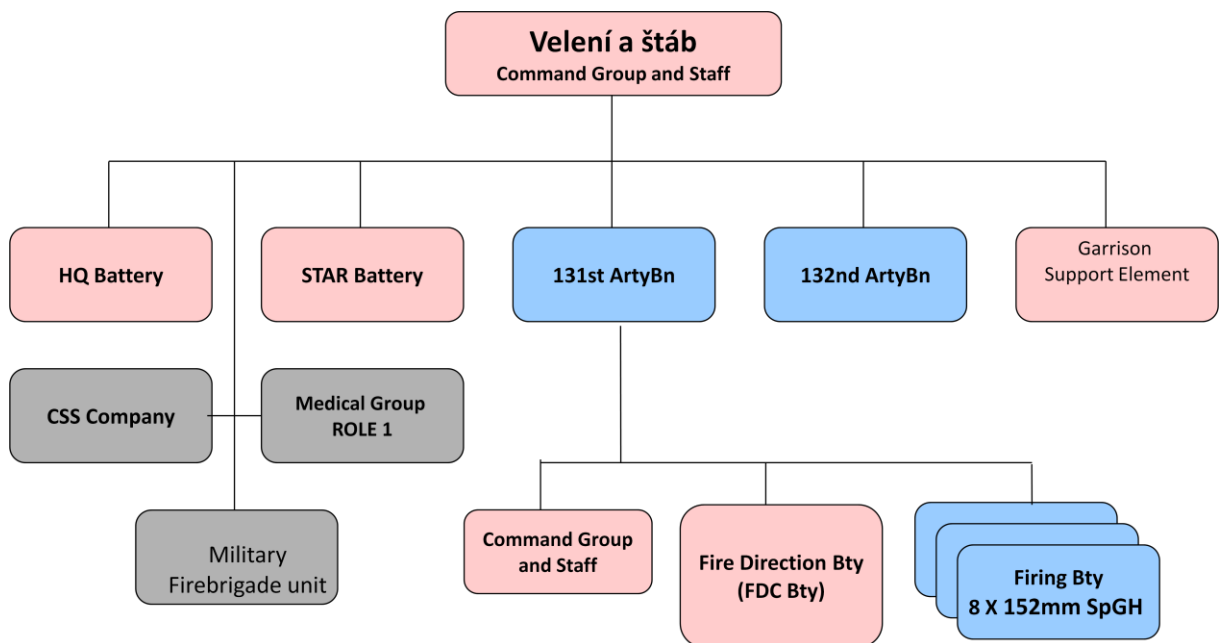


See: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/czecharmy/sets/72157625885224253>



See this Youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0IMPBg1Uio>

13th Artillery Regiment (48 Guns)



The DANA 152 mm SpGH

Weight	29.250 t	Effective firing range	18,700 m
Crew	5	Maximum firing range	20,000 m
Shell	HE, HEAT	Main armament	152 mm how (60 rds)
Shell weight	43.5 kg/96 lb	Secondary armament	12.7 mm (2,000 rds)

Caliber	152.4 mm (6.00 in)	Operational range	600 km
Rate of fire	4 rnds/min	Speed	80 km/h

Mortar units are organic to all maneuver battalions. There are mortar batteries of 12 120mm mortar mod.82 (towed), 4 mortars per 3 platoons in each of 4 mechanized battalions. 3 additional Light infantry battalions are equipped with platoons of 6 82mm mortar mod. 52. Those platoons are to be re-armed with 81mm NATO standard caliber mortars by the end of this year.



120mm "Minonet" Mortar

Basic Technical Data

- Towed weight: 240 kg
- Combat weight: 178 kg
- Crew: 3
- Length of barrel: 1,700 mm
- Line of elevation: +40° up to +85°
- Line of traverse: ±8°
- Minimum firing distance: 250 m
- Maximum range: 8,000 m
- Rate of fire: 10 to 12 rounds per minute
- Weight of projectile: 16 kg



Czech 82mm Mortar

SNĚŽKA Battlefield Surveillance Radar



Surveillance and Target Acquisition

“Arthur” Weapon Locating Radar



ARTHUR is Weapon Locating Radar (WLR). Locating 155mm and 120mm projectiles at range of 30 kms and tactical rockets (e.g. 227 mm) at 40 kms

Light Observation System (LOS)



LOS stands for Light Observation System. There is not any radar, just opto-electronic means of sights and Laser RF, which are used for observation and TA.

Artillery Training, Education and Types of courses

There are two main school houses, which includes responsibility for preparation the armed forces personnel, incl. artillerymen.

- Military Academy in Vyskov - dealing with NCOs preparation (courses). Small group of Arty specialists runs many courses per year ranging from Basic gunner’s course, Gun leader course, Firing data calculation course, Survey course, Call for fire course etc.
- University of Defence in Brno that provides accredited university degree education for cadets, future officers. The graduates after 5 yrs long studies with degree of Master of Science. The specialized modules, incl the artillery one provided by my department lasts final two years of their studies.



Education of Artillery Leaders



Exercises and Operations

Each of two Arty Bns of 13th Arty Reg runs its regular training. There is usually about one live firing event for a battery per year and one for Arty Bn (its module) every two years. Higher level training is associated with mechanized brigades; the Arty Bns are affiliated with to generate Brigade Combat Teams. The BCT based on the 4rd Rapid deployment brigade attached with 131stArtyBn was declared fully operationally capable (FOC) for NATO “Article 5” operations in 2014. Ex SABER JUNCTION, run by JMRC Hohenfels in Germany has become the traditional annual foreign exercise event for arty units of 13 ArtyReg. It is the most important live ex. event in terms of interoperability enhancement.

No firing units have been deployed for fire support to operations to date. They were just deployed as an ordinary patrolling security forces to Kosovo in 2006. There were also couple of deployed FOOs with ISAF/SFOR CZE Army engagement (1997-2002) and certain involvement of arty specialist with few CZE OMLTs and PRTs in Afghanistan (2010-13).

Future Developments

- The main effort is now put to start the process of re-armament of Arty battalions with new advanced NATO caliber gun.
- 82mm mortars mod 52 are to be exchanged by 81mm ones in 2016. The procurement is already finished.
- Target Acquisition means were recently upgraded and the process is ongoing.

Hockey – They say that they play Hockey in the Czech Republic!



For Info: The Bren Gun

The beloved Bren gun of World War II fame was a licensed version of Czechoslovak light machine gun ZGB 33, which was a modified version of ZB vz. 26, which British Army officials had tested during a



firearms service competition in the 1930s. The later Bren featured a distinctive top-mounted curved box magazine, conical flash hider and quick change barrel. The name *Bren* was derived from Brno, Moravia, the Czechoslovak city where the Zb vz. 26 was originally designed (in the Zbrojovka Brno Factory), and Enfield, site of the British Royal Small Arms Factory. The original and main designer was Václav Holek, a gun inventor and design engineer.



RM-70 M1972
122mm MLRS
Multiple Launch
Rocket System –
Czech Army
discontinued these
in 2011.

152mm SpGH mod.77 “DANA” (Samohybná)

