



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community Edition 13, 14 September, 2016 - Part B

Introduction

Because of File Size, this Edition of Take Post is broken into two parts – A and B. Part B gives the Colonel Commandant’s address to the Regiment, and explains succinctly and fully the significance the 150th Anniversary of 9th Battery and the legacy of 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA. We are most thankful to the Colonel Commandant for his support to the Regiment and the whole of the Royal Regiment across Canada. We trust that you will enjoy the photos of the Freedom of the City of Toronto and the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of 9th Battery.





REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OBSERVANCE OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF 9TH FIELD BATTERY RCA

The following is the address by Brigadier-General (Retired) James Selbie, OMM, CD, Colonel Commandant, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, in observance of the 150th Anniversary of 9th Battery, RCA:

Councillor Wong-Tam, HCol Goldring and other distinguished guests, Brigadier General Beno, Lieutenant-Colonel Smid, RSM Reyes, members of the Regimental Family of 7th Toronto Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery.

In 1966, the mayor and council of the city of Toronto graciously saw fit to grant to 7th Toronto Regiment, the ancient distinction of freedom of the city as an affirmation of the bond between the regiment and the citizenry.

Fifty years later, the Regiment has chosen to exercise the rights afforded by this honour as a most fitting way to mark the 150th anniversary of the formation of 9th Field Battery, the Regiment's senior battery.

As Colonel Commandant, I commend you on the style and pride with which you have done so. In observing 9 Battery's anniversary, we pay tribute to the institution of the citizen-soldier.

**Colonel Commandant
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
Brigadier-General James Selbie, OMM, CD**



An institution that throughout Canada's history has been an integral component of the defence and security of the nation and the well-being of its people.

On this occasion, we speak more specifically of the citizen-gunner and indeed, of the citizen gunner of Toronto and of York before it.

Recall that the formation of the Toronto field battery on July 6th, 1866, occurred during the summer of the Fenian raids

when citizens rallied to the colours in the face of attempts, by the United States-based Fenian brotherhood, to attack, in support of their political objectives in Ireland, targets in Canada west and other parts of British North America.

In joining the battery, which was renamed the 9th Toronto Field Battery in 1892, Torontonians of the day were emulating the example of their grandfathers, who in the spring of 1813, freely joined the Incorporated Artillery Company of Upper Canada Militia under the command of Captain Alexander Cameron – a barrister of muddy York and the first of a long line of lawyers who have risen to prominence amongst the Gunners of this city.

And on 27 April, scarcely a month after its formation, the company was in action manning six guns in the defence of York against the American amphibious assault.

A generation later, in 1837, the fathers of those first members of the Toronto Field Battery, in the form of the 1st Toronto Artillery Company, proved instrumental in helping quash, by way putting two cannon balls through the walls of Montgomery's Tavern on Yonge Street, an attempt to overthrow by force of arms the government of the day.

Thereafter, it was the descendents of the Battery's original members who volunteered for active service.

Twelve members of 9 Battery are included in the rolls of the Canadian batteries dispatched to the South African war in 1900. And, in 1914, men from the Battery formed the core of two of the first Canadian artillery sub-units to be deployed overseas as part of the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Canadian expeditionary force.

During the Second World War, 9 Battery was mobilized as a whole and assigned to 11th Army Field Regiment with which it served in England, Italy and North-West Europe.

We are especially honoured today by the presence of Captain Jack Rhind who served as a Gun Position Officer in 9 Battery during the Italian campaign.

With the post war decision to station Canadian troops in Europe, 9 Battery was chosen to generate one of the batteries – the 209th - of 79th Field Regiment which deployed to Germany in 1951 as part of the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group. Subsequently, that battery was renamed "G" battery and 79th Field became 3rd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. 3RCHA and with it, many of the original 9 Battery men, served in Korea from May to November 1954. Throughout the balance of the Cold War, 9 Battery, formed part of the deterrent capability that served to preserve peace in the face of the Soviet threat. During most of those years, the Battery was equipped with the CI Howitzer we dedicate today as a monument to that service.

I should add that it was this gun, mounted on a Sherman tank chassis, that Captain Rhind and his comrades used toward the end of the war.

Most recently, inspired by the example of those Toronto Gunners who went before them, members of the Battery volunteered for service alongside their Regular Force counter-parts in Afghanistan throughout the entirety of that conflict.

Women and men of the battery have and continue to demonstrate the great versatility of the citizen soldier by virtue of their varied and indispensable parts played in non-conflict operations at home - ranging from flood fighting in Manitoba to ice storm recovery in eastern Ontario - and in humanitarian efforts abroad - from Nepal to the Philippines. In the past year, they even helped with the reception of Syrian refugees seeking shelter in our country.

These contributions have not flowed in one direction alone. For in serving as citizen soldiers, you the members of 9th Field Battery and of 7th Toronto Regiment have learned the value and ways of teamwork, discipline, problem-solving, respect and loyalty which will forever benefit you as individuals and also the communities in which you live.

In conclusion, I would say that today is a fitting day to recall the oath you have taken as soldiers to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada and our Captain General – and the obligation this places on you:

To resist Her Majesty's enemies; to cause her majesty's peace to be kept; and, in all matters pertaining to your service, to faithfully discharge your duty.

Never forget that our guns are our Colours. Serve and defend them accordingly.

Our fellow Canadians hold the members of their armed forces in high regard – strive to remain worthy of this reputation and never let them down. Uphold the honour of our profession and be a force for good in Canada and the world.



*To each of you, I extend you my heartfelt best wishes for continued success, well-being and fulfillment - **UBIQUE - QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT!***

- *Brigadier-General (Retired) James Selbie, OMM, CD, Colonel Commandant, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

Our thanks to Brigadier General Selbie, our Colonel Commandant.



**Freedom of City of Toronto
Our “Colours” Lead the Way**



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA – Freedom of City



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Band – Freedom of City



7th Toronto Regiment Marching – Bayonets Fixed



818 RCAF (Falcon) Squadron and 105 Army Cadet Corps Marching Proudly



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA – Freedom of City



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA – Freedom of City



The Deputy Mayor Inspects the Regiment In the Rain



Bringing our Colours on Parade



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA – Freedom of City



Fine Soldiers!



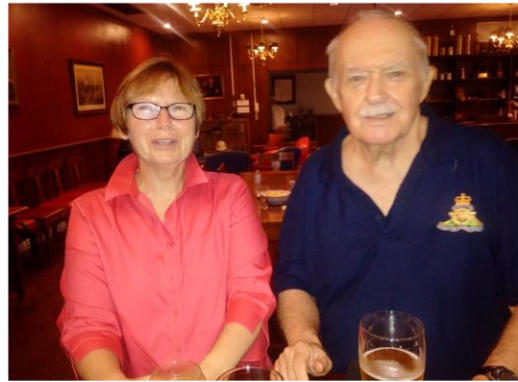
A Great Regiment



A Great Regimental Family



**Ron Paterson, George Hope,
Colin Mouatt**



**CWO John Mahon and Judy
Downs**



Virginia Thompson (Centre)



Dennis Downs and Scott Timpson



7th TORONTO RCA OFFICER'S MESS
invites you to a
WINE TASTING

**Officers, Toronto Gunners, Limber
Gunners, IODE and Friends/Guests**



A Night of Wine Tasting of the Wines of Southbrook Vineyards

Location: 7th Toronto Officer's Mess Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street, East
Toronto, Ontario

**Come and enjoy a wonderful social evening where you can sample the many
different types of red, white, and dessert wines from Southbrook Vineyards
from Niagara on the Lake.**

You will have opportunities to order bottles or cases of wine.

Date: **Saturday November 5th, 2016**

Time: 1900 hrs-2200hrs

Cost: **FREE**

Spouses are Definitely Welcome

Dress: Business Casual

RSVP: NLT October 25th to

Secretary: 2Lt Sam Kang - samkang95@hotmail.com

Or PMC: Captain Nick Arrigo - nick.arrigo@yahoo.com

OCT 1. 2016

LEST WE FORGET



A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED
– IN SONG AND VERSE –



JOHN McDERMOTT, along with his special guests, will host a memorable tribute of *music, performance and pageantry* in honour of Veterans and Service Personnel in the wondrous Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

October 1, 2016, 7:00pm

Tickets \$30 online or at the door

1585 Yonge Street, Toronto

(2 blocks north of St. Clair Avenue on the NE corner of Yonge and Heath)

lestweforgetevent.com

A FUNDRAISING EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION