



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community Edition 15, 18 January, 2016

THIS EDITION

- Meet our Senior Serving Gunner
- UN Duties in South Sudan
- Honours, Awards, Promotions All Around!
- MWO Robinson – appointed RSM and promoted CWO

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



Regimental Part II Orders - Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

Promoted to Captain: **Capt Jeremy Lum**



Christmas Dinner Awards

- CWO Rosa Service Award – Bdr Yu
- LGen Guy Simonds Best Communicator – Bdr Koufis
- Capt Lightfoot Award (Best PWT 3 shot) Bdr Bassi
- Best Mortarman – Bdr Gee
- Best Tech – Bdr Latta
- Snr NCO Leadership Award – Sgt Bhatti
- Gunner Joe Green Award – Bdr Kwan
- Best Gun Layer Award – Gnr Sultan
- Best Direct Shot Trophy – Sgt Noh
- Best Det Commander – Sgt Stradalowitz
- Best Bandsman – MCpl Venturana
- BGen Brown Award – Sgt Choi
- Howard Cable Award – Patricia Beck

Promoted to Captain: Capt Jerry Ma



Promoted to Lieutenant: Lt Dan On



Promoted to Lieutenant: Lt Juraj Proner Promoted to Second Lieutenant: 2Lt Sam Kang



Promoted to Sergeant

Sgt Graham Hall



Sgt Karol Stradalowicz



Promoted to Master Corporal:
MCpl Venturanza



Promoted to Bombardier:
Bdr Shivam Bassi



Promoted to Bombardier
Bdr Chilipala Bdr Leo Fong



Promoted to Bombardier
Bdr Kwan Bdr Sadiasa Bdr Vaz



Sgt Kevin Noh –
Receiving OP PROVISION Coin



The following were awarded the Commanding Officer's Commendation:
Maj Navraj Grewal Capt Jeremy Lum, WO James Lombara,
MBdr Allen Noh



The following were awarded the Commanding Officer's Commendation:
Sgt Conway Lalor MBdr Adam Potts Bdr Rosa Shao



Take Post, Edition 16

The next Take Post Edition 16 will be published by 14 March, 2017.
Articles to be submitted by 07 March, 2017 to: beno@kos.net

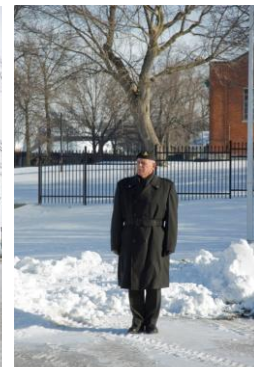
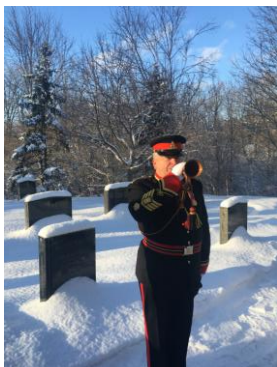




REGIMENTAL FAMILY CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
20 January, 2017	Special Guest Night Officers Mess. Former Commanding Officers are the "Special Guests."	All members of Toronto Gunners, Senate, Foundation members invited. Cadet Corps Officers invited.
20 January – 19 March (weekends/intermittent)	CP Tech course (MPA)	
27-29 January	Ex DRY ICE II (Burwash)	
10-13 and 17-20 February	LCMR Course (MPA)	
18 February	4 Can Div Artillery Jr Ranks Gala Fontana Primavera 77 Woodstream Blvd. Vaughan, Ontario	RSVP by 1 February 2017 PMC Allen Noh: 647-289-8488 OR 416-633-6200 ext. 5325 allenoh@yahoo.ca OR allen.noh@forces.gc.ca
20 February	Family Day	Contact Captain Aliberti
25 February, 2017	Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball	Run by 32 Service Battalion.
04 March	Toronto Artillery Foundation Craft Beer Tasting	Moss Park Armoury Contact Captain Laxton elaxton@gmail.com
01-10 April	Gunners Return to Vimy, France (and Battlefields of Europe)	Hon Col, Hon LCol, Maj Stewart and five members of the Regiment to participate



7th Toronto Regiment Supporting the Funeral of Brigadier-General WW Turner, CD – Former Colonel Commandant





Senior Serving Gunner - Major-General Michael Rouleau, OMM, MSC, CD

My name is Major-General Mike Rouleau and it is a pleasure for me to contribute to the 15th edition of Take Post at the request of your Honorary Colonel, BGen (ret) Beno. A quick proviso upfront however; I have been the Senior Serving Gunner for all of two months now and as you will see from what I write, I do not hide the fact that I have been dislocated from the RCA for a good portion of my career. That said, I am tremendously honoured to serve as Senior Gunner!



I joined CAF at 16 as a Private in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa in 1984. Enrolling in the Officer Candidate Training Program (OCTP) in 1985 as an Artillery Officer Cadet, I was commissioned in August, 1986 serving back to back tours in le 5ieme Régiment Légère du Canada and 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Lahr, West Germany finishing up as BK B Battery. By 1993 I had two operational tours; Croatia in 1991 as a European Community Observer at the start of the war and 1992 on Roto 0 of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Croatia with the 1R22eR Battle Group who opened the Sarajevo airport.



I went to a very young Joint Task Force 2 in 1994 serving as adjutant, Assault Troop Commander and Sabre Squadron Commander until 1999 where I released from CAF as a major, becoming an Emergency Response Officer with the then Ottawa Carleton Regional Police Service. The events of 9-11 drew me back to JTF 2 however where I served as Chief Instructor and Commanding Officer with stints in Africa, Afghanistan (as the SOF TF Commander 2006/07) and the Middle East. I hold a BA, two Masters Degrees and have completed Staff College, the National Security Program, Harvard University's Senior Leader in International Security Program and most recently, the US military's General/Flag Officer's *Pinnacle* Program. As someone who joined CAF

out of high school, I am a proponent that education opens the mind.

I really love being a soldier because it allows me to work with motivated, like-minded people and in my almost 30 years of service, I have always found different challenges to confront. I currently command Canada's Special Operations Forces Command, a force of about 2,200

spread across five units and with a very high operational tempo. As such and in addition to my actual job responsibilities, I am the CDS' Senior Serving SOF Officer. Accordingly, when I was asked to be Senior Serving Gunner, we agreed that Brigadier-General Simon Hetherington, Commander 3 Canadian Division, would play an outsized role in helping me. If you have not met him, you should! We served together in 1 RCHA and he is one of the finest Gunner GOs we have produced. He and I will work closely together on RCA matters needing the Senior Serving's attention.



So I have plenty to re-learn about the RCA and I plan on visiting, *inter alia*, your regiment in the coming months to hear from you: that the leadership and shop floor feel is going well, or needs improving. For me, the Reserve Force has always been an important piece of CAF. Your sheer presence across our great country means you are often more the face of CAF than our Regular Force. But that comes with a great responsibility because Canadians judge all of us through a small sample size which means competence, service and professionalism matter, always.

One thing I know is that quality is agnostic of what 'force' you belong to, regular or reserve. I have seen individuals from the Reserve Force eat up JTF 2's Selection to become among our top operators. Pat, from a reserve unit in the GTA comes immediately to mind. General Crerar of WW2 fame once said: *'If a Permanent Force Lt Col and Militia Lt Col were up for the same job, I'd take the Militia officer – if someone could become a Lt Col after just one night of training a week, he must be good.'*

Crerar was onto something because Canadian generals like Hoffmeister, Matthews and Keefler, all from the Reserves, were among our finest fighting leaders of the war. Regardless of where one comes from, what is needed to succeed on operations is some experience, a willingness to change and innovate and the ability to marshal warrior spirit toward a mission-set. And we are lucky in the RCA because we all wear the same hat badge!

What do I believe in? That soldiering is a very honourable profession. We are the sheep-dogs of our society, protecting the herd alongside others like police, fire and ambulance. I believe we ought to reflect the best of Canada; serving with zest, being strong through a diverse cohort making us operationally more value-added (my interpreter on a recent visit in Iraq was a QoR sergeant, doing amazing work). I believe in team play and accountability all superimposed on solid leadership. I believe in being honest and forthright and never saying something of another

organization that I would not say if their commander was sitting next to me. I believe that CAF's value proposition emanates from the 'shop floor'; that as leaders, we need to set conditions that allow us to unleash the creativity and goodness soldiers always provide. I believe that all of this is anchored by a healthy and vibrant military ethos and culture and that anyone who wears our uniform and maliciously tarnishes our brand must be held to account. Finally, I believe in balance across all things and lifelong learning – especially for leaders. To take just what CAF gives you through training is to be a technician. I feel that if you add to that training with personal study, mentorship and reflection, you become a craftsman.

What does the future hold for the RCA? To be certain, we need to be comfortable in a change environment because that will remain a constant. As will the need for the Royal Regiment to remain ready to deploy and employ on the shortest possible timescale the instant the Army Commander calls. I plan to spend the coming months collaborating with the Director and others on this very issue. I believe it is in our best interests to study carefully our lessons in Afghanistan, the more recent STA lessons from Gunners supporting my operators in Iraq and what the allies and others are doing in Iraq, Afghanistan, Eastern Europe and North Africa. It is my desire to have a professional discourse on 'RCA Futures' in the coming year.

Lastly, let me say a word on our most important capability – people. It is vital that we never lose sight of trying to grow the next generation. Next to core operational output, I have that as my second most important task as Commander CANSOF. The next generation should be better than the one it follows but that only happens with good and innovative training, a focus on professional military education, mentorship and careful succession planning. Growing strong *leaders* is foundational to a strong RCA. And I am not just talking officers here. Senior Enlisted Leaders, who represent the loadstone of our culture and tactical capabilities, must work alongside their officers in command teams if we are to maximize the potential which exists all around us.

I will close here; consider this a teaser belt! Let me re-state how proud I am to be your Senior Serving Gunner. I welcome the chance to serve the Guns again and I very much look forward to meeting you in Toronto before too long. **Ubique!**

Major-General Mike Rouleau, OMM, MSC, CD





RSM 7th Toronto Regiment – Chief Warrant Officer Robinson, MMM, CD



Commander 4th Canadian Division, Brigadier-General S.M. Cadden, has officially appointed Chief Warrant Officer David Robinson to be the Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 7th Toronto Regiment and simultaneously approved his promotion to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. The Regiment is extremely fortunate to have CWO Robinson whose technical knowledge, experience, and dedication to the CAF is virtually unparalleled. All members of the Regimental Family express our gratitude for your service to our Regiment and formally welcome you to our Family! **Good Shooting!**

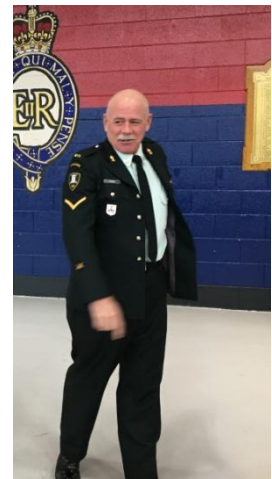


7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Aiming Point – Commanding Officer and RSM

On behalf of the RSM and myself, I wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back to the Regiment after what I hope was a relaxing and rewarding holiday! You certainly deserved a break after all the hard work and training that took place this past fall. I am confident that 2017 will be a successful year for our unit full of challenges and opportunities for every member of the Regiment.

Although it doesn't really feel like it, winter has arrived and with it is our annual requirement to refresh our winter warfare skills. Accordingly, we will be conducting Ex DRY ICE I and DRY ICE II in the month of January. The former is open to all members of the Regiment and consists of practical and theory conducted at Moss Park Armoury. The latter will be a practical exercise commanded by Capt J. Lum which will take place at Burwash, Ontario where I will guarantee there is lots of snow! Capt Lum has planned an exercise for a troop sized element which will serve to both challenge you while simultaneously ensuring that you learn how to survive in winter conditions.

January will also see the commencement of a unit run Command Post Technician's course. I am very proud of the fact that 7th Toronto Regiment is capable of running such a highly technical



course internally which would not be possible without the dedication and experience provided by the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of our unit. A special thanks to Lt D. On who has



volunteered to be the Course Officer and to WO M. Bechmanis who has volunteered to be the Course Programmer. It is because of their efforts that soldiers from both our sister Regiment, 56 Field Regiment, and 11 Field Regiment will also be able to participate demonstrating significant synergy amongst the artillery of southern Ontario. Most importantly this will provide our soldiers with an important pre-requisite which will both allow them to continue to progress in their artillery careers while simultaneously providing the Batteries with greater redundancy.

February will see the Regiment involved in more Individual Training as we undertake to run an M777 course in Petawawa in conjunction with 2 RCHA while simultaneously running a Light Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) course in Moss Park Armoury. The two courses will culminate in a single live-fire exercise in Petawawa. These courses serve to increase our ability to provide augmentation to 2 RCHA as is directed in Op REINFORCEMENT. Our relationship with 2 RCHA couldn't be stronger as those of you who have attended Ex STALWART GUARDIAN in the past two years will testify. Developing the LCMR capability will only serve to strengthen this relationship and make our unit more operationally deployable.



M777 Howitzer and Light Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR)

March represents the culmination of our training year and thus we will once again be participating in Ex COOPERATIVE GUNNER which will see us fire regimentally in conjunction with both 56 Field Regiment and 11 Field Regiment. The chance to have four separate firing units under command of one Regimental Headquarters rarely occurs in Canada in either the Reserves or the Regular Force. We are extra-ordinarily fortunate to be able to participate and contribute to the success of this exercise which this year is being planned and organized by 56 Field Regiment. The live-fire portion of the exercise will take place in Meaford but will be preceded by a regimental-level CPX which will take place in Brantford, Ontario in early March.

April represents the commencement of the new training year (in part because it coincides with the fiscal year). Thus we will commence with the cycle of completing the Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) with a focus on the live-firing of our personal weapons (C7). It is also our intention to run a First Aid course in this month anticipating that most of our major equipment will be shortly tasked in support of Reserve Summer Training at Meaford. April is also significant in that the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge will be observed.



We are fortunate to be able to send five members of our Regiment to attend this event in France and a further two members of our Regiment as part of a Firing Party in conjunction with 2 RCHA. Truly an honour. The remainder of the Regiment in Toronto will participate in a ceremony to recognize this significant event on 9 April.

May will be our last month of parading prior to the summer. Our last parade will be the Gun Salute on Victoria Day which will also serve as a Family Day in similar fashion to last year. This is an excellent occasion to bring your employers and family members to see a gun salute at Queen's Park and then to participate in a BBQ at Moss Park Armoury. There will be plenty of food, displays, booths, and games for all to enjoy. Mark your calendar now to ensure that you and your family are available to participate in what will be a great send-off for the commencement of summer.

Running through April and May will be a series of collective training exercises in which 2 RCHA will participate in Wainwright, Alberta that is designed to help them achieve high readiness. Any soldier in 7th Toronto Regiment who wishes to participate in any or all of their exercises during this time frame will be permitted to do so as we have no higher priority than to provide augmentation for potential operational deployment. Dates for these exercises have been pushed to your leadership so if you are at all interested don't hesitate to enquire further.

Finally, I am very proud to report that 7th Toronto Regiment will be the lead for the Territorial Battle Group from 1 September 2017 to 31 March 2018. This is truly an honour for our Regiment and reflects the confidence that the Commander has in the soldiers of this unit to perform to a higher standard. Accordingly, there will be a series of professional development days and weekend exercises commencing 1 April and running virtually every month through to the end of March 2018. As we will be the lead in September 2017,

INVICTUS GAMES

TORONTO 2017

*The **Invictus Games** are an international Paralympic-style multi-sport event, created by Britain's Prince Harry, in which wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans take part in sports including wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing.*

we can expect that any military tasks that are required in support of the INVICTUS games will be ours to execute. It is my intention to fill all of the key command and leadership positions within the HQ with personnel from our Regiment. Further, it is my intention to Force Generate a Platoon complete from within our Regiment which is normally a task only given to the infantry. I have the utmost confidence in the soldiers and leadership in our Regiment to perform these duties at the highest standard.

The next year promises to be busy and I have no expectation that everyone participates in everything. That is simply impossible. But I do expect that you will contribute to the success of our Regiment in some tangible way over the next year. If everyone carries some of the load we will be able to accomplish great things. The RSM and I are extra-ordinarily grateful to be able to work with such highly dedicated soldiers. Let's have a great year!

Good shooting! Ubique!

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

CWO D Robinson, MMM, CD
Regimental Sergeant Major





9th Battery – Exercise HOGTOWN GUNNER II

By: Lt Juraj Proner

From 25-27 November 2016, 7 Toronto Regiment embarked upon the second gun-exercise of the training year: Ex. HOGTOWN GUNNER 2. The regiment as a whole participated in the exercise, with 9 Bty focusing on core gunnery skills and realistic tactical scenarios.

To be ready by first light on the 26th, 9 Bty deployed the Friday night to Caen pad the night prior. The recent ‘refresher’ experience of HOGTOWN GUNNER 1 was readily apparent, with the battery moving without pause straight from the bus that brought the troops up to the tractors that then moved them into positions to fire. While there was no snow on the ground, the chill of the recent rain and continuing light drizzle ensured that comfort was at a premium for the gunners working to meet their timings. Despite every depression around the feet of the troops being full of water, morale stayed high.

The first round was fired at 0800. The fire-plan (composed by the OP and the CP) was assisted by the good visibility and surprisingly co-operative weather. The gun-crews speculated, only half-jokingly, that this was an early Christmas gift from the base RSM (who allegedly owns a ‘weather machine’).

This fire-plan in particular benefited from the good weather because of the type of rounds fired. It is relatively easy to make a fire plan that only needs to call for HE rounds, as their effect and ability is unaffected by weather conditions. 9 Bty opted for a combined use of HE and SMK rounds, with the latter being very dependent on weather conditions to function correctly (relying on wind, conditions on the ground, planning for extreme precipitation etc.). 9 Bty took full advantage of the conditions presented and pulled it off.

By noon the guns had ceased firing and were moving westward through the training area. While on route to their next position, the battery practiced “quick actions” (stopping to fire while moving in response to a call for immediate fire). The battery continued to practice *dry* quick actions until 2000, when it reached the last position of the day to fire day, a sudden snow-storm swept the area and within minutes seemingly the entire base was under a layer of wet snow. This, as well as the aforementioned soft earth, caused some serious mobility issues of the trucks and howitzers. Admirably, the soldiers of 9 Bty manhandled the howitzers through the thick, slippery mud into an appropriate firing position. The illumination missions commenced and lit up the training area of Meaford. Once finished, the battery redeployed to the weather havens in preparation for the next day.

On Sunday, the troops split into two groups: one group to complete the 13km BFT rucksack march this year, while the other went to the rifle range to qualify for PWT 3. All participants completed both qualifications successfully.

Ex HOGTOWN GUNNER 2 was intended to test the ability of 9 Bty troops on both their gunnery as well as their ‘basic’ soldier skills. With the experience of Ex HOGTOWN GUNNER 1 as well as relevant training on parade nights behind them, the battery met all objectives. The exercise was not without unplanned issue or discomfort, but meeting and overcoming those are the entire point of a field exercise. 9 Bty collectively looks forward to the remainder of the training year, growing as soldiers and gunners.



15 Light Fighter Battery – Ex HOGTOWN GUNNER II

By: 2Lt Won

HG2 began as a typical live-fire exercise with some friendly competition to see which mortar detachment could deploy first to win the BC’s Pennant. With 3 tubes deploying, the race was won by Sgt Stradalowicz and his detachment 25B. From their first position, the exercise continued on with 15 Bty following their Fire Plan.

However, HG2 2016 will go down by the gunners in attendance as a story of personal triumph over physical and mental adversity. While the live firing executed during this exercise was extremely swift and effective, the defining event was largely considered the dismounted trek at night to the link-up point in order to restock on ammunition. The troops’ strength, endurance and will were tested as they traversed—with mortars on their backs—through dense forests and ankle deep swamps in the dead of a sudden winter night. The troops and leadership kept each other accountable and pushed forward with determination and sheer grit, making it through the night and executing the successful fire mission the next day with lightning speed effort and accuracy. With the troop leadership of BSM Bankasingh, Sgt Lee, Sgt Lalor, Sgt Bhatti, Sgt Stradalowicz and MBdr Mikkola, HG2 was a challenging and camaraderie building exercise that brought out the physical and mental toughness of the 15 Lightfighter troops.

In the end, it was another hard-earned exercise to close out the 2016 training year and another one for the books.





7th Toronto Regiment - Annual Soldiers' Christmas Dinner

Written by: OCdt Vladimir Babishin



On 10 December 2016, 7th Toronto Regiment (7 Tor) held the annual Soldiers' Christmas Dinner. This annual event also happened to be the second time it was held at 7 Tor with LCol Ryan D. Smid as the Commanding Officer (CO) and the first time for MWO/MGnr Dave H. Robinson as the acting Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). Traditionally, Christmas Dinner presented an excellent opportunity for the entire regiment to recognise both collective and individual accomplishments and achievements and to spread some cheer and joy in the spirit of the Holiday Season.

The event started with lectures/presentations by the regimental officers and guests, followed by CO's address. Regimental Padre Capt Clark presented first with a lecture on ethics, emphasising the specific values of integrity, loyalty, courage and duty set out in the 'Statement of Defence Ethics'. The second presentation, delivered by Mrs. Thida Ith, Health Promotion Manager in the



Personnel Support Programme (PSP), was a briefing on the drugs and alcohol awareness. This presentation came well in time, since holiday celebrations often present particularly tempting occasions for overindulging in consumption and leading to unexpected and potentially adverse consequences. The third presentation was the annual safety and security briefing by the Regiment's Second-in-Command (2IC) Maj Grewal, Unit General Safety Officer (UGSO) and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Coordinator. His presentation was augmented by personal stories from Maj Dean, who reiterated the importance of fire safety. This was followed by a special guest presentation on the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) by Mrs. Marilyn Lawson-Dickinson, Department District Service Officer for Toronto. The RCL provides benefits ranging from educational scholarships/bursaries to assistance in housing to all veterans and their families, regardless of whether members of the RCL or not.

In conclusion of the presentations, CO LCol Smid and RSM MWO/MGnr Robinson presented the regimental plan for the first quarter of 2017. The parade then followed with promotions and appointments, honours and awards.

During the parade, LCol Smid also distributed new cap badges. After the conclusion of the parade and the taking of the Regiment's photograph, the dinner commenced. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by Regimental music band's playing Christmas songs and regimental chants. In the spirit of the regimental tradition, the youngest member of the junior ranks present – Gnr Sultan – swapped tunics with the CO and performed the latter's functions over the dinner. Similarly, the eldest Bombardier present – Bdr Kwan – swapped tunics with and performed the functions of the RSM. Both did a good job, as testified by the pictures taken during the awards ceremony. The near-natural good fit of the CO's and RSM's tunics may be the sign that these might become the permanent dress for Gnr Sultan and Bdr Kwan some time in the future.

Gnr Sultan Becomes Commanding Officer and Bdr Kwan is RSM



After the dinner, the members retired to their respective messes, where celebrations continued. What a great way to end the year and to boost the morale and spirit for the upcoming Holiday Season!

A Resounding Rendition of "The Screw Guns"



Written by: OCdt Vladimir Babishin



Regimental Christmas Charity Drive: Helping Our Neighbourhood

Padre David Clark

Since I joined the Regiment in 2013, it has been my privilege every year to serve as OPI for the Regimental Charity Drive. This annual effort is an excellent opportunity for serving members, together with the wider Regimental community, to offer concrete assistance to families struggling with poverty in the area around Moss Park Armoury, thus enabling the Regiment to act as a good neighbour.

Our partner in the neighbourhood is the Community Ministries department of the nearby Salvation Army (located at the corner of Shuter St. and River St.). Each year, the Salvation Army provides an up-to-date “wish list” of items in demand. This enables us to focus our efforts on the specific donations that will be most needed, including gifts for children as well as various household items.



MBdr Buccella and WO Sylvester smile after completing delivery on 12 Dec 2016

After this list has been widely distributed, serving members and the Regimental community purchase new gifts to donate. This year, I was impressed by the support of the Ubique Chapter of the IODE. First, the IODE provided a large donation of new children's books. The Salvation Army staff were delighted by this generous donation, noting that these books will help their current efforts to encourage literacy among the families they serve. Second, Patricia Geoffrey (Chapter President) had the innovative idea of setting up a collection for the Regiment's Charity Drive at a symposium: this initiative brought in another substantial set of donations. These additional efforts, coupled with the dependable generosity of our serving members and the Regimental community, ensured that—once again—we collected a considerable amount of donations.

Every year, soldiers of the Regiment help me deliver the donations, and this year I was assisted by WO Sylvester and MBdr Buccella. After we make the delivery, staff at the Salvation Army sort the donations, then invite parents to select gifts that their children would enjoy. This way, parents are afforded the joy and dignity that comes with presenting their children carefully-selected gifts on Christmas morning. All those who donated to this Charity Drive should be pleased to know that every donation made a difference to a family in need.



Photo on Right:

On the left is Patricia Geoffrey RN, President, IODE Ubique

Centre: Captain Dustin Aliberti

Right: Master Bombardier Dickenson

And driving the getaway toy vehicle was Master Cpl Okem



A few years back: WO Woodhams, MCpl Ramirez, Sgt Tallud and Capt Clark, pictured with Salvation Army staff, deliver donations on 16 Dec 2013





7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Saint Barbara's Day Dinner-Dance

By – Captain Jeremy Lum



MBdr Mikkola and his lovely date

On Friday, 2 December 2016, 7th Toronto Regiment dressed in their civilian finery and Capt Jerry Ma in his Patrols; flocked to Mississauga's Capitol Banquet Hall for an evening of drinking, dining, and dancing. The occasion was St Barbara's



Day, and the regiment's break from a formal Mess dinner to one

of more contemporary tastes was keeping in tone with the innovative nature of the current training year.

The serving members and greater Regimental Family provided a strong turn-out, and in addition family and friends of members were also invited. Attendees were greeted at the door by representatives of the three Messes, and encouraged to buy tickets for the raffle with wonderful prizes being donated by each Mess, the Toronto Gunners and the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire. From there, everyone entered the main hall, with tables set all around a wide dance floor. Until the dinner started, mingling was actively encouraged, with members urged to get to know their peers better in a non-professional, informal setting.



Bdr Damolidis and her friends enjoying the evening with friends

After everyone found seats (which, instead of being segregated by Mess, was dictated entirely by personal choice), dinner was served. A wide array of choices were available, with everyone free to choose what best suited their personal tastes. As the plates were cleared, the floor was turned over to MBdr Allen Noh for the moment of the night everyone was waiting for, the raffle draw. The two most notable winners were

MBdr Jasmin Buccella, as both she and her date won 2 sets of Maple Leafs tickets, and 2Lt (now Lt) Juraj Proner who won the sought after GPS watch ensuring

that he will hopefully never get him or his troops lost again. When 2Lt Proner came up to receive his prize, he made a point of commandeering the microphone to announce that he owed his

successful draw to WO Lombara, who apparently convinced him to purchase a seemingly absurd amount of tickets. This public display of appreciation was greeted with much fanfare by the crowd.

From thereon, the combination of an eager crowd and an open bar (not to mention the music provided by the DJ, Sgt Conway Lalor) created the kind of atmosphere where it is impossible to not enjoy oneself. Everyone hit the dance floor inspired by the enthusiastic dance moves of MBdr Owen Fleet. The evening became a night which became a morning. The regiment left only grudgingly, their feet sore and their grinning faces sweaty, when the lights came on and the venue politely guided them out.



Gnr Brister singing his heart out at the end of the night

Initially the idea of moving away from our traditional St Barbara's Day mess dinner celebrations was met with some apprehension; however everyone who was present at this year's dinner and dance was more than satisfied with the new format. It truly was an opportunity for the Regiment, Regimental Family and all Gunners in the Toronto area to get together and not only commemorate our patron Saint but to come together and enjoy a well-deserved night out.



A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno



The Musket General Beno had in Basic Training – Just Kidding!!!

Dear Regimental Family – I am proud to advise you that we have prepared and published our Regimental Family Strategy for 2017, reaching out five years to 2022. It sets out the plan for continuous development and improvement of the Regimental Family of 7th Toronto Regiment. Our Mission is simple – and it is inclusive of past, present and future: ***To foster a credible, relevant, cohesive and valued 7th Toronto Regiment.*** This is what we will strive to achieve. All leaders in the Regiment and Regimental Family will be given a hard copy of the strategy. We ask them to take full ownership of the Regimental Strategy to further our vision, mission and shared goals in the long-term interests of 7th Toronto Regiment and our Regimental

Family. We seek the full and enthusiastic support and commitment of all members of the Regimental Family.

We also published our Foundation's Business Plan for 2017, including a budget for the coming year and projected budgets for the next five years. Our Vision remains: *that we have a professional, accountable, resilient, focused and successful charitable Foundation that meets the non-public financial needs of and maximizes the benefits to the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA and the Regimental Family of 7th Toronto.*



Our Foundation Mission is: *Celebrating Toronto's Artillery heritage, serving its Gunners of today, investing into our Regimental legacy of tomorrow.*

I believe that the centre of gravity is fundraising – bringing in sufficient funds to meet the needs of the Regiment and Regimental Family. Our Fundraising Committee, chaired by our Hon LCol Mark Clearihue, is very much aware of the key role they play in supporting the Regiment and Regimental Family.

In late December we sent out a note in my “Honorary Colonel’s Annual Appeal” and received a very nice response from many donors, however several folks have not yet mailed in their normal contributions. I ask that you please dig out my letter and the envelope with the return address on it, and kindly contribute to help support our past, today and the future. Thanks for remembering or re-considering.

I am pleased to note that our Foundation investments are at the \$400,000 range, a level which will give us sufficient annual investment income to meet the needs of the Regiment, for now. But, as can be seen by our budget in the Business Plan we will need much more support to meet all the wishes and hopes of our Regimental Family. So, we will continue fundraising initiatives.

April the 1st will see ten members of our Regimental Family go to France to visit World War 1 and WW2 battlefields and study the war-winning role of the RCA. The trip will conclude celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

NEWSFLASH:

SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY COLONEL – 7TH TORONTO REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY

1. AUTH IS GRANTED TO APPT K52 560 976 LCOL BARRY ROLAND DOWNS (RETIRED) AS HONORARY COLONEL THE 7TH TORONTO REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM 28 APRIL 2017 TO 27 APRIL 2020 INCL AND TO GRANT HIM THE HONORARY TITLE OF HONORARY COLONEL

My special thanks to Warrant Officer Hicks as the Trumpeter for General Turner’s funeral, 19 December, and also to RSM Robinson for his support. Our Limber Gunners, Frank Moore and Larry Goucher, with our Quad and a bier from 2RCHA carried General Turner from the Memorial Arch at RMC to his service at Currie Hall. All very dignified and fitting for our former Colonel Commandant and a great Gunner.

Lastly, on behalf of the Regimental Family it gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Senior Serving Gunner, Major-General Mike Rouleau, OMM, MSM, CD. Sir, thanks for taking the helm of the Regimental Family of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Thanks for your article in this Take Post. We look forward to your leadership and guidance.

Good Shooting! UBIQUE! Ernest Beno, BGen (Retired), Honorary Colonel



7th Toronto Regiment Soccer Team

By Captain Eric Laxton

There’s a new team in town! Under the leadership of “Coach” Bdr Perez, the 7 Tor Gunners soccer team has been playing in the indoor league at the Hangar on Sunday nights. After coming out to a flying start to the season, winning five of its first six games, the team has been faced with some challenges of late. The team has, however, valiantly fought in games after field exercises and has maintained a standard of play and commitment that can be commended. As ambassadors of 7th Toronto on the pitch, displaying the core values of physical fitness,



competitiveness, sportsmanship and teamwork, the soccer team aims to continue its strong play to finish the season and to proudly represent the Regiment in future seasons still to come. Go Gunners Go!

Front Row: Gnr Tomayo, Gnr Sultan, Gnr Vaz

Back Row: Capt Laxton, Bdr Waterman, Bdr Perez, MBdr Noh, Gnr Chen

Missing: Gnr Chlipala, Bdr Rosa, Bdr Mazzilli, Bdr Maturana, MBdr Buccella, Gnr Staikos, MBdr Dickinson, Cpl Okem





105 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 105 Army Cadets Honour Veterans With An Overnight Vigil

Written: C/Sgt. Lu. D, Edited: C/WO. Desai. S



C/MWO Fu.K. is captured standing on guard during the overnight vigil. He has been dedicated to take part with the overnight vigil for the past three years.



Remembrance Day is a day to respect, recognize, and reflect. This year a group of young Cadets from 105 Royal Army Cadet Corps (RCACC) in Streetsville, did exactly that. The night before Remembrance Day, the cadets took part in an overnight vigil, taking turns to stand in silence and commemorate our honourable veterans and soldiers and reflect upon the service and sacrifices they have made. Taking place at the Streetsville cenotaph and spanning the entire night, more than thirty cadets participated in this year's event: a record number for this activity.

Each year, youth from all around the world, in the Commonwealth and other nations, participate in a variety of ceremonies and traditions paying respects to the fallen, and this overnight vigil is just one of among many ways that Cadets get involved in the community.

A short ceremony preceded the vigil. Parents, children and passers-by alike gathered in front of the cenotaph to witness the 105 RCACC march down to begin their night of memorial service. The ceremony featured speeches from Major Paul Preikschas, the Commanding Officer of 105 RCACC, and Marika Booton from Branch 139, Royal Canadian Legion. Two poems were also read during the ceremony: "A New Generation Of Veterans", written by David Delaney and read by Cadet Warrant Officer Desai; and "In Flanders Fields", written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, and read by Cadet Sergeant Lu. After the playing of National Anthem and the Royal anthem, the cadets were left to themselves for the night, where they took alternating shifts, never once leaving the cenotaph without guards.

The morning after the vigil, many of the cadets remained to participate in the City of Mississauga Remembrance Day parade and Remembrance service, while others played key roles in organizing and participating in their school's ceremonies.

The tradition of the Streetsville overnight vigil has been held for three years thus far, and serves as not just a way to respect fallen veterans, but also to protect and guard them. The historical purpose of the vigil is to guard those fallen soldiers as they pass to the afterlife, ensuring their bodies are not further harmed or mutilated. While the physical bodies of the soldiers now safely rest, their spirits and valour remain with us forever. Their traditions live on not just in the lives of veterans descendants, but in the lives of those who carry on remembrance and respect in the community. "If it weren't for them (the veterans and the fallen), the freedom we take for granted

today wouldn't exist. I participate in the vigil, and cadets, to honour their bravery, and respect their sacrifice towards our country" says C/Sgt Lu, a Guard Commander during the vigil.

The Cadet program is a great way for youth to get involved in the community, particularly in the weeks leading up to and including Remembrance Day. While the old remember and recall, the new take up arms and continue the tradition of honour. May the fallen veterans rest in peace. Lest we forget.



818 Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force Cadets –



Happy New Year from 818 Squadron. Activities resumed after the Christmas break with our participation in the Captain G. Elms Memorial Tartan Shoot on Saturday, January 7th. The shoot is organized and hosted annually by the 48th Highlanders Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps at Moss Park Armoury. Approximately 50 teams participated representing Sea, Army and Air Cadet units from as far away as Bracebridge. 818's top shooter at the event, Sgt.

Steve Deonarine scored an impressive 175.9 out of a possible 200 points on 20 prone competition shots. Thanks to 2Lt Patrick Orr for his coaching efforts. Next competition is the Cadet Zone Shoot to be held February 25th at the Orangeville Agricultural Centre.



Sgt Deonarine lines up a shot



Display used in electronic scoring system

On January 4th, cadets applying for Flying Scholarships wrote their qualifying exams at the Staff College. Results are not yet in, but all four candidates are confident that they did well. Next step is the merit selection board interviews on February 11th. Good luck to all and thanks to 2Lt Rydel Hemings for her ground school instruction and coaching of all National Course applicants.





DP1.2 Artillery Troop Commander Mod 2

By: Lt On

DP1.2 is the second mod of the Artillery Troop Commander course. The course is a demanding 13 weeks, where DP1.1 Artillery Troop Commander Mod 1 left off. The course starts off learning everything taught on 1.1, but instead this time with a 6 gun battery. This made reconnaissance of a suitable gun position both more tactically and technically challenging. The course furthers into special procedures, which are more than just your simple area neutralization missions, quick actions, open actions, local defence of the gun line while deployed and while on the move, and lastly, regimental fire planning.

Quick actions are when an entire battery is out of action, and are currently moving to their new area of operation. During this movement, they receive the call for fire. The battery quickly deploys in the nearest deployable area, and engage in the fire mission. This process would normally take less than 5 minutes, but due to safety precautions would realistically take 20-30.



Candidates were able to participate in airmobile harassing fire tasks. Harassing fire tasks are when one gun becomes out of action, and moves to a remote location, fires a few rounds to disrupt the enemy, and returns to the battery location. Using these tactics, CF-147F Chinooks were used to sling load an LG1 Howitzer, where they deployed to a remote location on top of a mountain. 5 rounds were fired, and the detachment would return to the battery.



Local defence of the gunline was a key evaluation point for the roles of a Gun Position Officer. Candidates had the opportunity to write detailed orders, and command a live defence battle with both small arms, and a GPO's open action. An open action is when the Howitzer is used in a direct fire role, meaning that the target can be seen and engaged.

CH-146 Griffons were used during the course. They played the role as Close Air Support, where the GPO would command the live battle, while maintaining communications with 3 Griffons, which would identify, and provide support with their door gunners. With the support of the Griffons, airmobile reconnaissance of gun positions was possible; very similar to a regular recce, except airmobile ones are very rapid. The recce party would depart the helicopter after it landed, had approximately 5 minutes to do a quick ground recce, and the helicopter would take off. This was due to the loudness of the aircraft, quickly giving away the position.



The last 2 weeks were reserved for Regimental Fire Planning, where instead of one battery participating in a fire plan, two three gun batteries would both engage on a regimental fire plan. Candidates had experience being the Regimental Command Post Officer and Operations Officer. Overall, the course coupled with DP1.1, supplied the necessities to be a successful troop commander in an operating regiment.





THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION

(Established 1978)

Happy New Year to all our Toronto Gunner Community Family.

2016 was a year of continued transition for your Foundation under the leadership of our Chairman and Honorary Colonel, Ernie Beno.

For the first time in a number of years the Chairman had instituted a general fund raising campaign specifically to increase the monies under long term investment so that the Regiment will benefit in the future with a more stable source of funding for ancilliary costs not generally covered by direct government funding. This effort brought in some \$7,500.00 for long term investment through the Foundation Investment Committee.

Actual long term gifts from new and existing members for 2016 amounted to some \$31,600.00 with a number of newly created Permanent Members and Benefactors. With these gifts and growth of our monies under investment the investment account now stands at just over \$400,000. With an anticipated return of 5%, before overheads, this means that the Foundation can now increase and better maintain the annual return to the Regiment in the future. For the first time in a number of years the Foundation was able to send monies from the proceeds of investment (approximately \$2,000) to the Regiment for its use in supporting and benefiting the members.

The Foundation had a very busy year what with the organization of the McDermott concert last fall, fund raising to equip the new Foundation Band with uniforms and working towards sending 4-5 Unit members to Europe in 2017 to attend the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the World War I Battle of Vimy Ridge. All three of these initiatives were successful and we look forward to more such in 2017.

St Barbara's Day Dinner Dance - 2 December 2016

In order to maximize Regimental attendance and as part of its ongoing commitment to the welfare and support of extracurricular activities for Unit Members and the Regiment itself, the Foundation directly subsidized the ticket price for fifty junior members and guests.

Regimental Special Guest Night - 20 January 2017

All of our members should have received an electronic invitation for this upcoming Regimental Special Guest Night to honour all the former Commanding Officers of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA.

We encourage all our Members and the various components of the Regimental Family and their Guests to attend this event to celebrate the Regiment and its former CO's by enjoy an evening of good food, and comraderie, and to connect to and show your support for our Regiment.

Succession

As we are sure you are aware LCol (Ret'd) Barry Downs has been designated as the new Honorary Colonel to succeed BGen (Ret'd) Ernie Beno this Spring. Right now, we are still awaiting the official confirmation of this appointment. But at this stage we are taking this opportunity to welcome our new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Mark Clearihue. Mark has already been out to a number of Regimental events to introduce himself to the Regiment and the Toronto Gunner family in general.

Honorary Colonel's Annual Appeal - 2016

Just a brief update on the Honorary Colonel's Foundation Annual Appeal for long term funding of the Investment Account. To date \$3,610.00 has been received to date in response to his appeal. It is not too late to donate and still receive a CRA tax receipt for the 2016 tax year but the window of opportunity is closing quickly.

Upcoming Foundation & Regimental Events

Please keep the following meaningful dates on your horizons:

- Regimental Special Guest Night - 20 January 2017
- January - December 2017 - Celebrations for Canada 150 - Official events/salutes, etc. not yet confirmed
- 09 April 2017 - 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

Again, all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

Ubique Paul Kernohan, Treasurer, The Toronto Artillery Foundation



IODE Ubique

IODE UBIQUE & SMOKE'S POUTINERIE – A GREAT COMBINATION

By : Lisa Smid

Smoke's Poutinerie served up outstanding fare to start the New Year right for 7th Toronto Regiment. Everyone arrived to sight of the great black, white and red Toronto landmark that is Smoke's Poutinerie parked in the bay doors of Moss Park Armoury. With representatives from all members of the Regimental family present, the first training night of 2017 commenced with wonderful food, stimulating conversation and great camaraderie as many of those present enjoyed poutine in either its traditional form or covered with any number of delicious, mouth-watering toppings. IODE UBIQUE was very happy to have been given the opportunity to host this "first Monday of the month" January dinner and being the health conscious ladies that we are, we ensured that we chose a meal with all five food groups covered. For those that might have been worried that the huge meal sized serving of poutine might break some New Year's resolutions, their fears were assuaged by the Commanding Officer who had everyone run back and forth the armoury floor after the Regimental Parade with bellies full of poutine, cake and cookies!



IODE UBIQUE would like to thank all those who supported this event. Over \$350 was raised and all proceeds will be used towards our goals of supporting the Regimental Family and outreach programs to the community. A very special thanks is extended to a member of the Regimental Family for an extremely generous donation. Happy 2017 to all; we wish all members of the Regimental Family a great year ahead!



Left to Right: Klara Proner, Jodi Parps, Brooke Timpson, Lisa Smid, Heidi Steinberg, Melinda Parker-Thompson, Karen Jackson

Patricia Geoffrey RN, President, IODE Ubiqye



7th Toronto RCA Band

On December 4th, the band performed at the Brookside Court Retirement for a Christmas/holiday concert. It also allowed us to honour a former member of the band Cpl Nancy Lawson who resides at Brookside now. The performance was well received and the residents were entertained to music of the season and some favourites of the Cpl Lawson who spent more than 35 years with the band.

The band put on a brief concert for the Regiment on December 10th at the all ranks Dinner. We performed our traditional 7th Toronto Version of the T'was the Night Before Christmas with words adapted to fit our Regiment.

We also had guest performers assist us in playing Sleigh Ride as the CO LCol Smid and our RSM Robinson competed for title of most accurate whip player. Both Gentlemen performed very well and took their cue from the conductor flawlessly.

The band would like to honour two members who received awards this year within the band.

First is the associate award, the Howard Cable Memorial Award. This is presented to the member of the Regimental band who is an associate member who goes above and beyond in the effort to make the band a well functioning and highly effective ensemble. The award this year was presented to Patricia Beck.

The “Bandsman of the Year” was presented to a serving member of the band who was present at all functions of the band this year. She was responsible for the sheet music and worked on this job tirelessly. She has made her presence felt in the Regiment by being on exercise and demonstrating a high level of readiness with IBTS and she was nominated to represent the Regiment in France this April. She is also on the nomination list for PLQ 2017. The award was presented to Corporal Joanna Venturanza.



Upcoming concerts.

The band will be holding it's second annual Spring Concert at the end of April. Details will be published in the next issue of Take Post.

7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Band Christmas Party

By Musician Zachary Everett

The annual Band Dinner took place on Monday, Dec 5, 2016 in the Officer's Mess of Moss Park Armoury, with over 60 guests in attendance. A grand buffet dinner of roast beef and chicken was enjoyed while a five piece band led by Debi Sander Walker played a variety of Christmas standards and popular songs. Throughout the evening door prizes were awarded ranging from a box of chocolates the size of a pace stick to brewing company branded clothing – even a harmonica was up for grabs!

Before the dining tables were moved to make room for a dance floor, awards were given out by members of the band. Sgt. Trish Beck (ret.) and Cpl. Doriann Forrester continued the tradition of “real band awards,” given in honour of memorable events from the past year. These awards

included replacement drumsticks, should some be lost in the middle of a parade, to temporary rank slips to match a case of mistaken identity. As for the more serious honours of the night, MCpl. Joanna Venturanza received the Bandsman of the Year award and Sgt. Beck (ret.) received the very first Howard Cable Band Associate award, a new honour presented to associate members of the band who are not currently serving in the military yet assist greatly in the smooth operation and performance of the ensemble.

7th Toronto Regiment Band Christmas Party



The band would like to thank all who attended the festivities, from the serving and former officers who continue to support the band all the way down to the newest members of the ensemble. Everyone helps in creating the great pride the RCA Band of 7th Toronto takes in representing our Regiment in the community. **Ubique!**



Limber Gunners Artyfacts - for November 2016 Take Post

Limber Gunners Artyfacts for-January 2017 Take Post

The Limber Gunners anticipated that Remembrance Day would be the last event of the year. On December 13th The LG was honoured to be asked to participate in B/Gen. Turner's Funeral on Monday December 19th in Kingston. RSM David Robinson followed up and acquired the 2 RCHA 25Pdr with Bier from CFB Petawawa. Paul Kernohan arranged pick-up from Abrams towing and the equipment was delivered to Kingston on December 16th. The LG sent the Quad and Limber from MPA to Kingston with an Abrams Tilt and Load on December 19th. Frank Moore and Larry Goucher were driver and Co-Driver in Battle Dress at the Funeral. Joe McCormack, Paul Kernohan and Ron Paterson and members of the Regiment assisted with the loading and unloading of the Quad and Limber. I would like to thank RSM David Robinson for great work in coordinating the guard provided from 2 RCHA, the Quad, Limber and 2 RCHA 25Pdr with bier to make the Funeral a memorable success.



For 2017 the Limber Gunners have a busy winter. We intend to refurbish the 2 RCHA Limber by replacing the tires, painting the Limber, installing TAC Signs and installing a new canvas Apron. We will replace the Torn Canvas on Quad that occurred during transport from B/Gen Turner's Funeral in Kingston. As well we will look into the feasibility of refinishing the 25Pdr without shield in front of MPA and converting the gun into a Funeral Bier. We intend to outfit the Limber Gunners with 10 new Battle Dress Uniforms and 20 Summer Dress Uniforms.



The Limber Gunners will take part in Cadet training around the end of April. Additionally we will carry out training after our monthly administration meeting covering Safe loading of a Casing, Safe 25Pdr. Gun Drill, Safe Driver Training and a First Aid course.

The Limber Gunners will be carrying out Driver Training on Saturdays in April 2017, and the LG will hold short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Limber Gunners will be carrying out a stores review and check in February
- The Limber Gunners first event will be the Ontario Police Memorial Remembrance Ceremony and Salute on May 7th, 2017

To the members of the Regiment that have retired ,and you if you like the smell of the gun powder, 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 is still looking for a second Quad

The Limber Gunners

UBIQUE! Ron Paterson sevenartygunner@rogers.com



Operation SOPRANO – South Sudan

By: Captain Adeel Zafar



“The conflict in South Sudan has seen tens of thousands killed, hundreds of thousands flee the country as refugees and millions displaced inside the country.”

In January 2016, I learned about an opportunity to deploy as the National Support Element Operations Officer (NSE Ops O) to Operation SOPRANO in South Sudan. Aside from the fact that I met the required qualifications, I knew very little about the mission, the country and specific responsibilities of the Ops O within the operation.



Operation SOPRANO is the Canadian Armed Forces’ (CAF) participation in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the military component of a “whole-of-government” engagement in South Sudan. On 09 July 2011, South Sudan became an independent republic with its capital at Juba on the White Nile. UNMISS was established under Chapter VII of the United

Nations Charter on the day of the country’s independence in order to consolidate peace and security. Another role for the UNMISS is to help establish conditions for development as the situation faced by South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region. Following the crisis which broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution that reinforced UNMISS and reprioritized its mandate towards the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring, support for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and for the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. Currently UNMISS consists of approximately 14,000 uniformed personnel and approximately 2,000 civilians from more than 50 countries. Since its inception, the mission has endured 46 fatalities.

The youngest country in the world, South Sudan is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. Its population of approximately 12 million comprises of numerous tribes, Dinka being the largest one and Nuer being the second largest. President Salva Kiir who has been the President of the

country since its independence belongs to the Dinka tribe. Riek Machar, a Nuer, was the inaugural Vice President until he was dismissed in 2013 after an apparent coup d'état attempt by him which resulted in the beginning of the unrest that continues to this day. South Sudan's military is known as the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). At the time of the apparent coup d'état, the military divided in two, one remaining loyal



Capt. Zafar with Military Liaison Officers (MLO) from the Brazilian military.

to President Kiir and the other swearing allegiance to Vice President Machar. Forces loyal to Machar are now known as the “Sudanese People's Liberation Army – in opposition” (SPLA-io). The two forces had heavy clashes following the attempted coup that reportedly included massacres resulting in tens of thousands of people killed and approximately 3 million people displaced. Following the violence in 2013, Machar and his forces fled the capital and went into hiding. In August 2015 a peace agreement was signed between the government and Machar's rebels that reinstated Machar as the Vice President. In April 2016, weeks before my deployment, Machar returned to Juba and was sworn in again.

In Juba, the UNMISS has two compounds known as Tomping and UN House. Tomping occupies approximately 0.5 km² of land next to the airport and deals mostly with equipment and personnel moving through Juba. UN House is located approximately 15 km southwest of Tomping and holds the main headquarters of the mission, as well as sub-compounds of different troops contributing countries. Adjacent to UN House there are two Protection of Civilian camps that hold approximately 40,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Despite the short distance, the travel time between the two UN compounds can take up to one hour due to poor road conditions and unpredictable weather.

The country's dynamics and my understanding of the Ops O's role in Op SOPRANO intrigued me immensely. I submitted my name and was selected for the position. So began the process of checking off a long list pre-deployment requirements including numerous vaccinations, several on-line courses and an unconventional medical required by the UN that took several visits to various medical facilities. One of the requirements was the Peace Support Operator Course (PSOC) hosted at the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) in Kingston. The month-long course is mandatory for all CAF members deploying on UN missions and is mainly oriented towards providing training for UN Military Observers. Although my role was very different from that of an Observer, the course provided some great insight on how the UN operates as an organization. The course also included some lectures on the local culture and the environment.

It was somewhat discomfoting to learn about all of the dangerous wildlife and diseases in that region. It was even more disconcerting to know that the only Role 2 hospital run by the Cambodians in South Sudan had lost its status due to some occurrences of malpractice. We were issued a backpack full of medical supplies and with some instruction on how to use them.

The new NSE team that included the selected Chief Clerk (C Clk), Sgt Chris Gouthro and I departed for Juba on 08 May 2016. The arrival terminal of Juba International Airport was a sight that cannot be easily explained without pictures or video. Taking pictures in South Sudan, however, can be one of the fastest ways to be detained by the SPLA under the suspicion of spying. Some of the words that may help paint the picture are heat, humidity, congestion, pushing, stench, yelling, starrng and confusion. Not all of the airport officials wore uniforms or displayed credentials; at times we found ourselves following someone's instructions simply because they seemed enthusiastic. There were times someone would take our passports and disappear for a while which would cause a temporary anxiety. This was a great introduction to how business was conducted in the country. Over the following months, we would have regular visits to the airport for various reasons and soon grew accustomed to how things were done.

Task Force South Sudan (TFSS) consisted of 11 members between the ranks of Sergeant and Major, as well as one Lieutenant-Colonel who was appointed the Task Force Commander (TFC). Members of TFSS occupied some of the very significant positions within the UNMISS: they were either employed as Staff Officers (SO) in Juba or as Military Liaison Officers (MLO) in more remote areas hundreds of kilometers away from Juba. TFSS members working in Juba lived out of Canada House and drove to their work locations in Canadian owned vehicles that displayed UN markings.

Depending on the number of CAF members transiting through Juba, there were 8 to 13 military personnel living in the house at any time. Canada House was a reinforced compound located approximately 2 km South of Tomping compound that had 12 rooms, 4 kitchens, 3 living areas, an ad-hoc gym and a small swimming pool. Canada House was established to provide significantly better



Task Force South Sudan, Roto 9 at Canada House

living conditions than the ones that existed in the UN compounds, as well as to serve as an alternative infrastructure for other Canadian Government personnel including the Canadian embassy staff. However, in early 2016, Canadian Joint Operation Centre Headquarters (CJOC

HQ) determined that residence at Canada House was no longer ideal as travel between the house and UN compounds was exposing the TFSS members to greater risk. CJOC developed a plan that would see a team of approximately a dozen experts go from Canada to Juba in mid-July 2016 in order to conduct a deliberate closure of the house and ship all of the non-required equipment back to Canada. All residents of Canada House would move to one of the two UN compounds depending on their place of work. The NSE team could not live in the UN compounds as they were technically not part of the UN. The TFC was keen to retain the NSE and had received an authorization to keep the C Clk and the Ops O in Juba at a suitable residence other than the UN compounds after the closure of Canada House.

The key responsibility in my role as the Ops O was to coordinate and facilitate all activities for the TFSS. Other responsibilities included reports & returns between TFSS and CJOC, security, hiring and managing local nationals to perform guard duties and maintenance, coordinating movement of all Canadian personnel and equipment, purchasing items, establishing and maintaining relationships with the Canadian embassy and other key contacts, and establishing and maintaining contracts with service providers such as fuel, internet, water etc. The C Clk and I worked closely together to ensure the conduct of these duties. Phase 1 of our typical day would normally start at 0700 Hrs along with the rest of the members of TFSS. During this phase we would often travel throughout the city and between the UN Compounds as there was a curfew on travelling during the evenings. Phase 2 of our day would start at about 1500 Hrs when it would be 0800 Hrs in Ottawa and would generally end by 2300 Hrs.



Ad hoc IDP – Thousands of civilians forced into the Topping camp to take refuge during the crisis and lived in deplorable conditions for weeks as the camp was not prepared such situations

Travelling through the city was exciting as we would see or experience something for the first time in our lives on most of our trips. Some experiences were entertaining and others somewhat scary. Driving in Juba required concentration, patience, faith, luck and the anticipation of something strange to occur. Section-sized groups of SPLA armed with machine guns and grenade-launchers were seen all over the city. They generally had a standoffish attitude that kept the mood somewhat edgy. During one of our trips, I was driving the lead vehicle while the C Clk was following in a different vehicle in a very slow moving traffic. We noticed an armed, dismounted group of SPLA soldiers on our left, rushing across the road in the general direction of our vehicles. One of the soldiers fired a shot. For a moment we thought we were the target, which would have been very unfortunate as we were armed with only pistols. Very quickly we realized that the target was another individual who was trying to run away from them and ended up in between our vehicles. As we continued to move slowly, we could see in our rear-view mirrors that the individual was caught and the soldiers had proceeded to administer a thorough beating.

On 07 July 2016, two days prior to the country's Independence Day, there were reports of SPLA-io soldiers firing on a government check-point killing five SPLA soldiers. The following day, clashes broke out between the presidential guards and the vice-presidential guards less than one kilometer southeast of Canada house. Heavy machine gun fire and Rocket Propelled Grenades could be clearly heard. We immediately activated the lock-down procedure and accounted for all TF members, as two of the members including the TFC were at UN House and one member was at Topping. This was the beginning of the violence that continued until 11 July 2016. For

the next several days, there was absolutely no freedom of movement in the city and all UN personnel were prohibited to leave their compounds. The violence spread all over the city, and gun fire around and over Canada House was the norm for that period of time. We continued our reports and returns among the TF as well as with CJOC and the Canadian embassy via satellite phones, cell phones, text messages and radios. Fighting came inside of both of the UN compounds that resulted in 2 UN peacekeepers being killed and several injured. The weaponry used that could easily be seen or heard from Canada House ranged from bows and arrows to attack helicopters including artillery and tanks. A ceasefire was announced on 11 July 2016, but freedom of movement remained severely restricted and isolated gun fire was heard for the next several days. The staff of the Canadian embassy along with many other embassies was evacuated. The media reported more



Throughout the crisis, members occupying Canada House maintained situational awareness and sent regular SITREPs

than 300 killed, thousands injured and hundreds of cases of rape and looting of shops and residences including the World Food Program warehouse. Locals indicated that the numbers in reality were far worse than reported in the media, as journalists had absolutely no freedom of movement during or days after the violence.

Under the circumstances, CJOC ordered all members of the TF to be moved to UN compounds immediately and to carry out a hasty closure of Canada House within six days utilizing only the resources and manpower that existed there. This was a significant departure from the original plan that included a team of experts and a closure time of four to six weeks. Additionally, CJOC ordered for the NSE to return to Canada as the risk of us living outside the UN compounds was not acceptable. Considering the house existed for more than five years, there was a substantial amount of sensitive or valuable materials accumulated that required movement, destruction or storage that we lacked. The closure process was extremely tricky to say the least but the intent was achieved in time.



On 29 Aug 2016, the flags were taken down and Canada House was vacated

On 29 July 2016, the flags were taken down and Canada House was vacated with the TFC, the C Clk and I being the last ones to leave. The plan was for the C Clk and me to drive ourselves to the airport and for a couple of members of the TF to meet us there to help us with the luggage and to take the vehicle from us. While on route, we were informed of large groups of protestors blocking the gates of UN compounds as well as the routes to the airport. We were advised against getting close to the protests in vehicles with UN markings. Since being on the roads was not a wise option, we decided to seek temporary refuge from a local friend who owned a restaurant in another civilian compound. After a few hours, we were informed that the protest had dispersed and we could travel to the airport. Since the violence, the air threat level frequently fluctuated, and one could never be sure whether the flight would actually take off or be

grounded. Ours did, and a day later we were in Canada three months earlier than we expected.

In terms of experience, I could not have hoped for a better deployment than this. I learned a great deal the experience and from everyone that surrounded me including the TF members, military personnel and civilians from other nations, the local population and of course the SPLAs. I learned from the locals how one can smile often despite how little one may have.





A Brief History of the 26th Field Regiment, RCA

No, not the regiment that currently exists in Brandon Manitoba; but, a Toronto regiment that existed for seventeen short months as part of the Canadian Active Service Force (CASF) during the Second World War.

Following the attack on US forces at Pearl Harbour and British possessions in the Far East, on December 7th 1941 Canada declared war against Japan. On March 16th 1942, Lieutenant General Stuart, the Chief of the General Staff, recommended to the Minister of National Defence that the situation warranted mobilization of additional forces for the defence of Canada.

General Order 309/42 dated May 12th 1942 authorized the formation of the 7th Division including divisional artillery. Prior to the formation of the Home Defence Divisions, units had been allocated to Brigade Groups; the 20th Field Regiment with 15th Brigade Group and the 23rd Field Regiment¹ with 17th Brigade Group. The 26th Field Regiment was allocated to the 20th Brigade Group which was originally to be part of the 8th Division. As the Infantry units of the 8th Division were concentrating at Niagara-on-the-Lake at the end of August 1942, a decision was made to deploy the 6th and 8th Divisions to the West Coast and 7th Division to the East Coast; this decision caused a re-allocation of infantry brigades to the divisions. The 20th Brigade Group was transferred to the 7th Division. Following the reorganization the artillery of the 7th Division consisted of the 20th, 23rd and 26th Field Regiments, together with the 8th Anti-Tank and 10th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments.



MAJOR B. B. OSLER, MAJOR BRYSON, MAJOR P. S. OSLER

Appointed to command the three new active service batteries being mobilized out of the 7th (Toronto) Regiment R.C.A. (Reserve) are the three men shown here, all officers of the 7th Regiment. Major B. B. Osler will command the new 7th Anti-Aircraft Battery, Major Gordon Bryson the 117th Field Battery, and Major Peter S. Osler the 118th Field Battery.

Toronto Star June 12th 1942

¹ The 31st Battery, raised by 7th Toronto Regiment was a sub-unit of the 23rd Field Regiment. The 23rd Field Regiment later became the Self-Propelled Regiment of 5th Canadian Armoured Division – but that is another story.

The 26th Field Regiment was formed under the command of an Ottawa gunner, Lt. Col G.E. Crain, MC. Crain, a Civil Engineer by profession had served with the D/74 Howitzer Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery during WW I. In June, a "brief but vigorous recruiting campaign

MOBILIZE 3 NEW BATTERIES FROM TORONTO'S 7TH REGT.

Famous Reserve Artillery
Regiment Sets New High
in Supplying Batteries

[was conducted] in Toronto to secure volunteers for the three batteries – the 117th, 118th and 119th."² Taking command of the 117th and 118th Batteries were two well-known Toronto Gunners; Major Gordon Bryson, commanding 117th and Major Peter S. Osler the 118th. Another Toronto Gunner, Captain J.G. Cassels was appointed as Adjutant and would later take command of 119th Battery.

Recruiting in such a short period of time had not been fully successful; when the Regiment concentrated at Petawawa at the end of June, it was brought up to War Establishment with "Members H.D." (Conscripts for Home Defence under the National Resources Mobilization Act commonly referred to a "R" men or "Zombies").

At the beginning of October the 26th Field Regiment joined the 7th Canadian Division at Debert, Nova Scotia and assumed its operational role (the Division took over from 4th Armoured Division when it moved overseas). The Camp at Debert "was still under construction, and problems of accommodation had to be solved by the use of canvas".³ The conditions at Camp Debert were far from ideal, "7th Division War Diaries refer on more than one occasion to the excessive rainfall during the autumn months; the Assistant Director Medical Services stated that heavy rains flooded the village of Debert, where one building was washed away, and many leaks showed up in roofs of huts".⁴

During June and July of 1943 the Regiment had a change of scene going to the ranges at Tracardie. On return from firing at Tracardie, the regiment moved into new quarters in Sussex, New Brunswick. This was the unit's final station. The rundown of the 7th Division had begun, and on 15 November 1943 the 26th Field Regiment was disbanded (General Order 15/44).



² Gunners of Canada Vol.2 p.502

³ Report No 8 Historical Section (G.S.) Department of National Defence "The 7th Canadian Division" 19 Oct 46

⁴ ibid



Photos from Our Past

Can You Identify Anyone in this Photo?



04 Glenboro Ave. West 50
TORONTO 12, Ont 1hov

The Canadian GUNNER

This publication is issued on the authority of Colonel J. W. D. Symons, CD, Commandant, Royal Canadian School of Artillery, Shilo, Manitoba.
The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by Capt J. W. Watt, RCA

Vol. 13, No. 46 SHILO, MANITOBA, JUNE 24, 1960

TORONTO GUNNERS HONOUR ST. BARBARA — The Toronto Artillery Officers' Association turned out in recent proportions recently on the occasion of the Association's Annual St. Barbara Dinner. The affair was held in the College Street Armoury under the general chairmanship of Major D. G. Pyper, MC, Association President. Brigadier W. A. B. Anderson, OBE, CD, addressed the gathering on the role of the artillery in nuclear warfare. His remarks were clear and concise and of immense interest to the assembled officers. Lt Col J. Kellier Mackay, DSO, VD, LLD, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, proposed the toast to the Regiment. Many distinguished guests attended the dinner. Those seated at the Head Table are shown here. Front row left to right: Brigadier J. N. Gordon, DSO, MC, President, Toronto Artillery Officers' Association; Lt Col The Honourable J. Kellier Mackay, DSO, VD, LLD, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Major General H. A. Sparling, CBE, DSO, CD, General Officer Commanding, Central Command; Lt Gen G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO; Brigadier H. T. Airey, CD, Honorary Lt Col 1st Field Regiment, Toronto.

CD, Commander 13 Militia Group; Brigadier P. A. S. Todd, CBE, DSO, ED, Honorary Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery; Brigadier W. A. B. Anderson, OBE, CD, Vice Adjutant General, Deputy Chief of the General Staff; Major D. G. Pyper, MC, President, Toronto Artillery Officers' Association; Lt Col The Honourable J. Kellier Mackay, DSO, VD, LLD, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Major General H. A. Sparling, CBE, DSO, CD, General Officer Commanding, Central Command; Lt Gen G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO; Brigadier H. T. Airey, CD, Honorary Lt Col 1st Field Regiment, Toronto.

Field Regiment, Guelph; Lt Col C. D. Cambridge, CD, Officer Commanding, 1st Locating Regiment, Toronto; Lt Col A. E. Page, CD, Officer Commanding, 44th Field Regiment, St. Catharines; Lt Col J. G. Oiler, MBE, ED, Honorary Lt Col 29th Field Regiment, Toronto; Colonel E. Lancaster, ED, QC, Honorary Colonel, 44th Field Regiment, St. Catharines; Lt Col G. A. Rankin, DSO, ED; Captain D. E. P. Armour, ADC; Lt Col B. H. M. Pedman, CD, Senior Artillery Militia Officer, 15 Militia Group; Lt Col H. A. Farthing, ED, Senior Artillery Militia Officer, 17 Militia Group; Lt Col F. A. Haycke, CD, Officer Commanding, 42 Medium Regiment, Toronto; Lt Col E. R. Clench, MBE, ED, Honorary Lt Col 44th Field Regiment, St. Catharines.

**Can You Identify Anyone in this Photo?
We Believe this is the 60th Anniversary of the Band**



Good Shooting!

UBIQUE!





*The President of the Mess Committee,
Gunners, Bombardiers
And
Master Bombardiers
of
7 Toronto Regiment*

*Cordially request the pleasure of your attendance at the
4 Can Div Artillery Jr Ranks Gala*

To be held on Saturday, 18 February, 2017

Fontana Primavera

77 Woodstream Blvd.

Vaughan, Ontario

Cocktails: 1800 hrs - Dinner: 1900 hrs

Dress:

Mess Kit

DEU (White Shirt w/Bowtie)

Jacket and Tie / Cocktail Dress

RSVP by 1 February 2017

PMC Allen Noh: 647-289-8488 OR 416-633-6200 ext. 5325

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More Info:
Capt Laxton
elaxton@gmail.com

7th TORONTO



**Toronto Artillery Foundation
X
Craft Beer Tasting**

Enjoy tastings of unique craft beers from local breweries!

From 1900 hrs, March 4, 2017

Moss Park Armoury (7th Toronto Officer's Mess)

\$30 (proceeds support the TAF)

Includes 5 x 6 oz samplers, commemorative glass & snacks



Loyal Gunners

3rd Field Artillery Regiment (The Loyal Company) and the History of New Brunswick's Artillery, 1893-2012

Loyal Gunners uniquely encapsulates the experience of Canadian militia gunners and their units into a single compelling narrative that centres on the artillery units of New Brunswick. The story of those units is a profoundly Canadian story: one of dedication and sacrifice in service of great guns and of Canada.

The 3rd Field Regiment (The Loyal Company), Royal Canadian Artillery, is Canada's oldest artillery unit, dating to the founding of the Loyal Company in Saint John in 1793. Since its centennial in 1893, 3rd Field—in various permutations of medium, coastal, and anti-aircraft artillery—has formed the core of New Brunswick's militia artillery, and it has endured into the twenty-first century as the last remaining artillery unit in the province.

This book is the first modern assessment of the development of Canadian heavy artillery in the Great War, the first look at the development of artillery in general in both world wars, and the first exploration of the development and operational deployment of anti-tank artillery in the Second World War. It also tells a universal story of survival as it chronicles the fortunes of New Brunswick militia units through the darkest days of the Cold War, when conventional armed forces were entirely out of favour. In 1950 New Brunswick had four and a half regiments of artillery; by 1970 it had one—3rd Field.

Loyal Gunners traces the rise and fall of artillery batteries in New Brunswick as the nature of modern war evolved. From the Great War to Afghanistan it provides the most comprehensive account to date of Canada's gunners.

