



"Take Post" The Journal of The Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 2, 15 November, 2014

THIS EDITION

- Regimental Family Day at Meaford
- General Turner serving in 7th
 Toronto Regiment 75 Years ago
- Bdr Fleet goes to Normandy 70th
 Anniversary of D-Day
- Brigadier General Ted Brown's Funeral
- 9th Battery 100 Years Ago
- So Much More!

This journal, "Take Post" is published bimonthly 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 and region community.

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

Message From 7th Toronto Command Team

Welcome to the second edition of "Take Post". This newsletter enforces and demonstrates our commitment to all members of our Regimental Community members.

The unit successfully conducted a Family Day event in Training Centre Meaford in September. This event gave an opportunity for our soldiers' families, friends and employers to showcase not only what they do in the field but to allow them the opportunity to see what it's like to be a soldier by allowing them to participate in various stands organized by the officers' and Senior NCOs of the Regiment.

This year proves to be a solemn year in the gunner community. Recent fallen gunners include Lieutenant-Colonel(LCol) Dan Bobbit, Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) Bulger and Brigadier General (BGen)(ret'd) Ted Brown who passed away last October. All three events received support not just from the Regiment but also from all gunners across the country. Thank you for all your sacrifices and service to our country.

Another successful Church Parade by the Regiment this past Sunday, 9 November 2014. The Regiment marched along Yonge Street to St Clement's Church and had the privilege of being in the company of the Honorary Colonel of the Army, Col Blake Goldring, MSM.



Members of the Regiment at the

Remembrance Day Salute this year had the privilege of being visited by our Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt, accompanied by the 4th Canadian Division Commander, BGen Lowell Thomas, OMM, CD.

Thank you to all members of the Regiment and to our Regimental Family for all their continued support and assistance in all our endeavours and for their support at Cpl Nathan Cirillo's funeral.

Master Warrant Officer Mardie Reyes, CD – Regimental Sergeant-Major Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Szabunio, CD, - Commanding Officer



Our New Colonel Commandant

Brigadier-General (Ret'd) J.J. Selbie, O.M.M., C.D.

The office of Colonel Commandant is an honorary one. It symbolizes the Regimental family and traditions drawing together all its members: serving and retired, regular and reserve. The first Artillery Commandant in Canada was appointed on 1 April 1925. On 27 September, 2014, Brigadier General (Retired) J.J. Selbie was appointed Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. A native of Brandon, Manitoba, Brigadier-General (Ret'd) James Selbie joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1973 as a Gunner in his hometown's Army reserve unit, 26th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. He received a Queen's Commission in The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery after studies at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria and his subsequent graduation (BA Politics) from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1978.



Regimental duty included service in G, J and U Batteries of 3rd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery at CFB Shilo 1978-82; command of Z Battery 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Germany 1986-88; and, command of the Air Defence Artillery School in Chatham, New Brunswick 1992-94. He also commanded CFB Shilo, the Home Station of The Royal Regiment from1996-97. Extra-regimental employment included two tours on the staff at Army headquarters in Montreal and three at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. He commanded the Canadian Contingent of the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1997 and 1 Area Support Group/Edmonton Garrison from 1997-2000.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he deployed as Chief of Staff of the National Command Element Canadian Joint Task Force Southwest Asia co-located with US Central Command in Tampa, Florida. He also deployed twice to Cyprus, once to Afghanistan and spent four rewarding years on the staff of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey. Brigadier-General Selbie is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, Kingston; Canadian Forces College, Toronto; and, the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where he earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in 2002 and was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal in 2005 for his service with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Brigadier-General Selbie's last posting was Director of Staff at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO's military strategic level headquarters in Mons, Belgium.

He retired from regular service in September 2010 after more than 37 years in uniform. He and his wife Anne make their home in Ottawa. He is a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association, the Royal Military Colleges Club and the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

A Shot Downrange - Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno

To all members of 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA and our extended Regimental Family – I guess that I am now officially your Honorary Colonel (Thanks for the wonderful Parade!) and look forward to doing what I can to support the members of this fine Regiment, and all Gunners and friends associated and affiliated with us. By now you know all about my four "ates:" Communicate, Facilitate, Collaborate and Celebrate. I'd like us all to keep these in mind as we move forward toward common goals, objectives and targets of opportunity. I am tremendously pleased with the volunteer spirit in the Regiment and the greater Regimental family. However, we need to bring in more volunteers, and I ask that you spread the word that 7th Toronto Regiment (and its extended Family) is a great Regiment, wonderful people, with a worthy cause, and looking for reinforcements. We are indeed focused and moving ahead, and the more helping hands we have the better things will be.



I was tremendously impressed with the outpouring of support for Brigadier-General Ted Brown's funeral and the support to Corporal Cirillo of the Argylls. The flagdraped casket of Brig Brown, carried down Yonge Street on the 25 Pounder towed by a Field Artillery Tractor showed who we are and what Torontonians think of us. Along the route pedestrians held their hand over their heart or saluted

(in their own way), and cars stopped and their occupants stood along the street paying respects. Very patriotic! Our Family Day in Meaford was a tremendous success, and I have heard great reports about our Band at Roy Thomson Hall.

Special words of thanks to contributors, including Bombardier Fleet, Master Bombardier Jackson, Lt Jerry Ma, Lt Jeremy Lum, Brigadier-General WW Turner, Colonel (Retired) Brian McGrath, Colonel (Retired) Brian MacDonald, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Colin Mouatt, the Toronto Gunners, Limber Gunners and Foundation, and so many others.

I'll keep asking around about how many have read Edition 1 and now Edition 2 of "Take Post." So, Officers, Warrant officers and Sr NCOs, give me a hand here. Let's make sure that all ranks get it, read it, and think about it. And the rest of us will try to disseminate it to the greater Gunner Family, especially those in the GTA.

Good Shooting! UBIQUE!! Hon Col Ernest Beno, OMM, CD

7th (Toronto) Regiment, RCA – Training for War in 7th Toronto, 1940 Brigadier General W.W. Turner, CD

After completing Grade 12 at High School in Victoria, B.C., we moved to Toronto in the early summer of 1940. My younger brother and I joined the 7th (Toronto) Regiment, RCA – a militia Regiment – for the summer. I was waiting to attend the Royal Military College (RMC) as a cadet. While with the 7th (Toronto) Regiment we attended training at their Armouries and, later in the summer, went over to Niagara-on-the-Lake for field training and live firing. We were equipped with WW 1 4.5 inch howitzers and 18 pounders.

We travelled between Toronto and Niagara-on-the-Lake by boat. This was great fun as the boat was packed with troops. At that time, the Regiment was made up of eight batteries split into two



Regiments, each commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel. The overall commander was a Colonel – Colonel Arnoldi. The battery I was with was in a regimental group of four batteries and was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alan Skaith.

It is interesting to note that Lieutenant Colonel Skaith, a couple of years later, reverted in rank to Major and was appointed Second-in-Command of the 23rd Canadian Field Regiment (SP) RCA, which was proceeding overseas with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division.

During the summer of 1940 at Niagara-on-the-Lake we fired our 18 pounders and 4.5 inch howitzers, went on many route marches, inspections, gun drill, small arms on the rifle ranges and, of course, a Sports Day. One of the batteries was commanded by a Major "Connie" Smythe. His battery consisted of a number of well-known athletes including Syl Apps, a gunner like my brother and I and on the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team, which was nicknamed "Connie Smythe's Sportsman's Battery".

In August 1940, I entered RMC as a Gentleman Cadet.

During the short summer break at RMC in 1941, those cadets going into the Gunners were sent to Petawawa to complete the first four weeks of the standard eight week qualifying course. My Father thought this would be a waste of time as it all had to be repeated the following year after graduation. So, he arranged for me to have an attachment as a 2nd Lieutenant to the 7th (Toronto) Regiment, RCA. This was a great move as I made a score of mistakes, both militarily and socially, while with this Regiment. Most of the officers were Ex-Cadets from RMC. On one occasion, at a Regimental Guest Night, and without any warning, the C.O. said, when we had all assembled in the dining room: "Mr. Turner, as the junior officer present, please say Grace." This

completely caught me by surprise and while I knew the proper Grace to say (For what we are about to receive, thank God) I blurted out "For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful!" This was met by howls of abuse from the other officers at the dinner!

We continued with our various training exercises at the Regimental Armouries and then proceeded by boat across Lake Ontario to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The training was similar to the previous year but this time Colonel Arnoldi used me as his A.D.C. This was a very good training exercise for me as no one told me what to do. I therefore tried to do what I thought was right – and made some terrible mistakes. I spent most of my time running around giving messages from the C.O. to the various B.C.'s.

As an example, on one occasion the Regiment, all eight batteries, was on a route march at Niagara-on-the-Lake and I was marching behind Colonel Arnoldi – both of us in front of the Regimental Band. At one point, and without any warning to me, the Colonel suddenly peeled off and disappeared. This left me "leading the parade!" I knew this was not right but I was not sure what was going on or what I should do. Finally, I decided I should "break ranks" and go and find the C.O. When I caught up to him, he was standing and taking the salute from each battery as it passed by. I started to fall in behind him. However, he said to me to go and tell Major Smythe that his Battery looked a complete shambles on the march past and for him to sort them out. Which I did and Connie Smythe told me to tell the C.O. that his Battery was the best Battery on parade and the rest of his comments were unrepeatable! When I reported back to the C.O. he asked what Major Smythe had to say...I did not tell him anything Major Smythe said!

I do not know how many of the Sportsman's Battery proceeded overseas with Connie Smythe but I do know that most of the Toronto Maple Leafs players stayed playing hockey for the duration of the war.



On another occasion on the rifle ranges, the Captain who was running the exercise stopped all the battery firing and told me to get down on the firing point. I opened fire with a burst of about 100 rounds – most missed! He ticked me off and had me fire one round at a time with the Bren Gun while the remainder of the Battery watched. Most rounds were either "bulls" or nearly "bulls." This example stood me in good stead in the next few years with my rapid firing.

After passing out from RMC in 1942, I went to Petawawa for the basic eight weeks gunnery course and found I was streets ahead of those who went to Petawawa the previous summer due to the fact that I had spent two summers training with the 7th (Toronto) Regiment, RCA.

I then joined the 23rd Field Regiment (SP) RCA and after more training with this Regiment in Sussex, NB we proceeded overseas.

Note from the Editor: Brigadier General WW Turner was Colonel Commandant 1979 to 1986. Upon graduation from RMC he served in Northwest Europe through the war, 1942 to 1945. General Turner Commanded 3 RCHA in Winnipeg and was Acting Commander 1st Cdn Infantry Brigade Group. He commanded the Canadian Contingent in Cyprus as a BGen and the Royal Military College of Canada. He and his wife

commanded the Canadian Contingent in Cyprus as a BGen and the Royal Military College of Canada. He and his wife Hope reside in Kingston, ON. He was recently awarded the Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier dans l'Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur),

effective March 27, 2014.



D-Day 70th Anniversary OP ANISY Bombardier Owen Fleet's Battlefield Tour to Normandy and Flanders

This June was the 70th anniversary of Operation OVERLORD and I was given the opportunity as a Gunner of 7th Toronto RCA to be part of the Quarter Guard organized by the Queens Own Rifles of Canada.

We arrived in Paris and were whisked off to Varaville near the River Orne. This was the first D-Day objective for 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion (1 Can Para), captured early on June 6th. We were briefed by LCol. (Ret.) Collin Edward "Ed" Rayment on the Canadian airborne operations on the left flank of the allied landings. After this we moved to the town of Anisy, a town reached by the QOR by last light on Jun 6th 1944, where we would be staying for the first four days in country.

The next morning we visited Atlantic wall fortress and saw

Longues sur Mer Battery, which consisted of four German 152-mm navy guns. We also went to the Juno Beach Centre and met with Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Laureen Harper. Later we visited Le Mesnil Patry, where the QOR fought in support of the battle for Caen.



On the 6th of June we went to Berniere sur Mer, site of the QOR Landing on Jun 6 1944 and we visited the house of the QOR or "Canada House" depending on who you talk to. That afternoon we were off to the Juno Beach Centre and heard Prime Minister Harper and Prince Charles speak. We the returned to Canada house for dinner and a vigil.

The next day we rode in a convoy of vintage Canadian military vehicles through the

countryside. We traded these in for a bus to Ardennes Abbey, the sight of a terrible massacre of Canadian Prisoners of War. We then returned to Pegasus Bridge and entered the museum proper and saw the original bridge.

The next morning, 8 June, we left Anisy for the last time bound for the beach of Dieppe, where Canad lost 3,000 killed or Captured out of a 5,000 man force in August 1943. We then drove to the Ypres Salient, where Canada's first battle in WW1 took place. We formed the Guard of Honour at the world famous Menin Gate ceremony, a very moving experience. On the 9th went to Newfoundland Memorial Park, Beaumont



Hamel and looked across the terrain from beside the caribou statue – over 80 per cent of the Battalion was killed or wounded in one day, in fact in 30 minutes (733 of 801 men), July 1st 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Next we visited the enormous crater at La Boiselle called La Grande Mine, which was famously filmed yet ineffective. Then on to the Thiepval Memorial and the names read up to this point began to weigh heavy on me.



Our last tour day was where we visited Vimy Ridge and the subways beneath her. As soon as we arrived we performed a ceremony of remembrance on the Vimy Ridge memorial before we were able to tour the subways and bear witness to how close the front line trenches came. We were all touched by that place and when we departed back to Canada the beauty of the

countryside and happiness of the people we met along the way came with us. It was a moving, educational and memorable trip which I encourage all soldiers to take.







The Band of the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

Performances

On September 28th, 11 members of the band boarded the buses to Meaford to perform for families employers and soldiers at the Regimental Family Day. The Band entertained families as they visited camouflage stations and artillery displays. Children had their pictures taken with our Regimental Drums and spouses of the troops tried their hand at conducting the band.



<u>Family Day in Meaford</u>: Lt Henry's spouse (Kate) stopped by to have her picture taken with the band. She played clarinet under Lt Arrigo at the Country Day School in King City.

The Brass quintet performed for the mass at Blessed Sacrament for Brigadier General Ted Brown's funeral. They were excellent representatives of the band and the Regiment. They were well prepared to play for The Members of the quintet included Sgt Darrin Hicks CD, Cpl Steve Abra, Cpl Amy Sanford CD, Cpl John Dewhirst, and WO Ray Woodhams CD.

Lt Arrigo arranged a special version of the opening hymn "Lift High the Cross" for the mass.

Throughout September and October, the band prepared for the 25 Annual Royal Canadian Military Institute Concert at Roy Thomson Hall. 21 members (on-strength and associate)participated for three evening rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and show on October 26.

Seen here.Cpl Katie Vallar and Lt Arrigo at Roy Thomson Hall for the RCMI concert.

Capt. Michael Lawson of the 48th Highlanders and Director of Music of the 7th Toronto RCA Band with Lt Arrigo The show was directed by Captain Brescasin (retired) former Director of Music for the 7th Toronto RCA Band. Lt Arrigo



conducted A Tribute to Irving Berlin and Colonel Bogey on parade in the concert which highlighted and saluted the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of World War One.

On November 1st member of the band and 32 brigade travelled to Whitby to perform for the unveiling of the Wounded Warriors monument at Cullen Central Park. It was a cold day but WO Woodhams, Cpl Sanford, Lt Arrigo, Cpl Dickey and civilian Anne Arrigo, looked great and performed with patience and grit in the first snowfall of the year.



Remembrance Day 2014 required many engagements from the band. Trumpeters were called upon to play Last Post at many services at nursing homes, local cenotaphs and legions. Corporal Steven Abra and Sergeant Hicks performed in the Toronto Area and as far as Guelph.

Our Regimental church parade was on November 9th at St Clements Church. We began the day by marching up Yonge Street from Eglington up to Briar Hill and into the Church for the service.

27 musicians were on hand to play hymns with the St. Clements choir and organist Tom Fitches



This picture was taken on November 10th at a Lasagna dinner for the officers and the band. From Left to right. George McCormick, Trish Beck, CplDoriann Forrester, Don Mincoff, and in the back Lt Arrigo

November 11th was very busy for the 7th Toronto Band. Our long standing parade and ceremony and Old City Hall was first on our list while our Senior Brass Quintet comprising of Warrant Officers (retired) Phillip Trow CD, Don Mincoff CD, Sergeant (retired) Trish Beck CD George McCormick and Andrew Nowry performed at Queen's Park for the Regiment's Gun Salute.

Attached posting and employment

Members of the band work consistently in their trade to attend auditions (both satellite and in person). This year has been no different. Corporals Greg Moffat and Caitlin Coppell have been hired for contracts in the Edmonton RCA Band for their expertise and musicianship.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday December 5th the brass quintet and mess dinner band will perform at the Saint Barbara's Day Dinner.
- Monday December 8th is our Annual Band Christmas Party. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. Ticket includes; buffet dinner in the sergeants and warrants mess. Live 5 piece band and door prizes. Cocktails 6:00 pm, dinner 7:00pm. Interested party goers may contact Lt Arrigo by email nick.arrigo@yahoo.com
- Saturday December 13th, the band once again entertains the Regiment and brings up unsuspecting officers to foster or destroy dreams of performing with the band!!!



7th Toronto Band Parades with the Regiment on Yonge Street, 9 November, 2014

The Toronto Gunners

As all of you must know by now that our main mission is to support the CO and the Regiment. We are also the glue that holds the non serving Regimental family, The Toronto gunners, together and I was thinking, after some of the discussion at our recent Senate meeting, that there is perhaps a better way other than email and newsletters to communicate with the family.

Some of you will laugh and some of you will groan, but the answer may just be that "thing" called Facebook.

Now for those of you who are digital natives (which means you grew up with the internet), you will laugh because you guys are already using Facebook all the time as it is a great social media tool for connecting. There already is a Black Hand Facebook out there connecting many serving members, but why can't we use this for the entire Toronto gunner family?

Now, for all you digital immigrants (which means those who were dragged kicking and screaming into the internet world), of which I am one and most people over 60 are, we are groaning as it means learning another internet-type thing and you all know how adverse "older" people are at learning new things. They can do it, contrary to their popular belief, and I've been told it is easy, at least that's what my 12 year old granddaughter says.

Could the controller of the current Black Hand Facebook group contact me please so that we could discuss expanding that avenue to a larger group?

Would anyone in the TG who is a digital native like to take on running our TG Facebook venture?

UBIQUE

Contact me: President@torontogunners.org
David Burnett, President, The Toronto Gunners

Work: 905-415-2012 Cell: 416-560-6552

email: dburnett@endtoend.com

The Toronto Artillery Foundation (Established 1978)



THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION

(Established 1978)

As we are sure all of you are aware Brig (Ret'd) H.E. (Ted) Brown, OBE, ED, CD passed away recently. The funeral brought together our Gunner Family and prominently leading the procession to the cemetery was the Foundation's Quad and Limber towing a ceremonial 25 Pounder, with bier mounted, on loan from the Base Borden Military Museum. Our equipment was used once again a few days later as part of the military funeral for Corporal Nathan Cirillo in Hamilton. On both these occasions the equipment was ably manned by personnel from our own Limber Gunners.

The Foundation AGM was held in the 7th Toronto Regiment Sergeants' Mess starting at 1745 hrs with a Board of Trustees meeting to deal with a number of changes to

By-law #1, the Foundation operating by-law, and the appointment of a new Secretary as LCol Ray Mikkola is not standing for re-appointment. The AGM and the regular Board of Trustees meeting thereafter commenced at 1800 hrs.

The recently appointed Honorary Colonel, BGen (Ret'd) Ernie Beno chaired his first Foundation AGM as its Chairman.

With the retirement of LCol Ray Mikkola as Secretary effective 27 Oct 14, LCol Jim Brazill has agreed to accept the appointment as Secretary with Lt Eric Laxton (9 Bty FOO) being appointed as Assistant Secretary at the same time. The head office address of the Foundation will be changed to Eric's office in accordance with the requirements of By-law #1.

The Foundation website can be accessed at www.torontoartilleryfoundation.ca.

The website will be updated, refined and made more professional in the near future including, we hope, a summary of its fund raising efforts. To that end we would again request that the special fund raising team provide a narrative and photos of the special event from last February so that they may be posted on the website.

The final pledge (Toronto Dominion Bank Group) from the special fund raising event was received recently and the necessary paperwork was completed and issued to the Donor.

For 2015 the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA is the designated host unit for the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball. In order to assist with some of the initial upfront expenses the Foundation has loaned the Regiment \$10,000.00 in bridge financing.

Ubique

Paul Kernohan Treasurer The Toronto Artillery Foundation



The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

By Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) Jim Brazill, CD

So what is the RCAA? The Royal Canadian Artillery Association is, simply stated, the heart of the Gunner Family in Canada. The RCAA is the national level grouping of Canadian Gunners,

founded in 1876, which acts to promote the effectiveness and welfare of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. It also plays a larger role in advocating for all matters related to the defence of Canada... but let's stick to the Gunner stuff for now.

So what does the RCAA do? It keeps tabs on what is happening in the RCA and provides assistance wherever possible. This assistance can take many forms: providing bursaries to help with post-secondary studies, communicating to help keep the Gunner Family informed, educating on matters of the Gunner profession and celebrating our rich Gunner Heritage.

Who is a member of the RCAA? The good news is that if you are wearing a uniform and are serving in a Gunner unit then you are. Your unit maintains your membership in the RCAA and ensures that you gain all the benefits of that membership, whether you are aware of it or not. If you are no longer in a Gunner unit or are no longer in uniform you might still be a member of the RCAA... but you'll have to make a bit of an effort to make sure you are. You need to get your membership directly from the RCAA or through your local association, The Toronto Gunners.

What's in it for me? Maintaining your lifelong connection to the artillery, for one. Don't forget: Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner. Another is helping to make sure that the needs of current and future generations of Gunners are taken care of. How about paying less for car and house insurance? Believe it or not, as of September members of the RCAA can now get insurance rates that are about 20% better than average just by being members (see the Orderly Room to get details of how you can take advantage of this).

Annual General Meeting, September 2014. In September the RCAA held its 129th Annual General Meeting in St Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec on the grounds of the College Militaire Royale. The AGM was coupled with a training event chaired by a distinguished retired gunner, BGen Dan Ross. The training event examined the future relevance of the Royal Regiment and how we can get there. It was a thought provoking and powerful discussion which began with a look at where we have been as a corps through presentations from LGen (retired) Mike Jeffery (Colonel Commandant) and LGen (retired) Stu Beare (Senior Serving Gunner). We also got an allied perspective from Brig Jonathan Calder-Smith, UK Defence Attaché and an RA gunner. As well we heard from a non-gunner voice, LGen Jon Vance – Commander of Canadian Joint Operations Command, on what he sees as vital tasks that the artillery can seize upon as we focus on the future in a resource constrained and less equipment plentiful environment.

What the RCAA Does for all of us Gunners? As shown this past September, the RCAA is a force to unify the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as well as to foster intellectual discussion and practical transformation. Our Association continues to develop and grow to ensure that it remains relevant and provides tangible benefits to the Gunner Family, both those in uniform and those who have retired. Join the RCAA – join now!

105 (7 Tor RCA) Army Cadet Corps

If you know any youth aged 12-19 yrs then you might check out **105 (7 Tor RCA) Army Cadet Corps** located at 170 Church Street in Streetsville.





We will have an article in the next edition of Take Post.

818 (Falcon) Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Toronto

7th Toronto Regiment RCA is proud of 818 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Here they are

on parade in the Regimental Church Parade, 9th November.



We will have an article in the next edition of Take Post.



See: http://818torontofalcon.weebly.com/info-on-818-cadets.html

Limber Gunners Support Funeral of Corporal Cirillo in Hamilton

Below is the Artillery Gun Detachment for the funeral of Corporal Cirillo in Hamilton. MBdr Moniz, pictured second from the right, was 7th Toronto's representative and the soldier who

helped pick up the gun from Borden, deliver it to Hamilton after the funeral for BGen Brown and make sure, along with Larry Goucher and Frank Moore, that the Argylls (ASH of C) were up to speed on its capabilities as a gun carriage.



Photo by Corporal Andrew L. Wesley

Left to right are: Frank Moore (LG's) MBdr Kevin Francis (11 Fd), Bdr Curtis Smethurst (11 Fd), Bdr Blake Halfpenny (11 Fd), MBdr Moniz (7 TOR) and Larry Goucher (LG's)

Acclaimed Second World War leader given military funeral in

Toronto By: Manisha Krishnan Staff Reporter, Published on Sun Oct 26 2014



Brig.-Gen. Harold Brown dodged death and commanded artillery in war and inspired today's troops with his pep.

While Harold Brown was gunned down by Nazis while fighting in Italy, his men thought he was done for. Yet his funeral would have to wait - for 70 years.

"He was lying on the ground and they thought he was probably dead," said Honorary Colonel Brig.-Gen. (retired) Ernest Beno.

Brown wasn't killed in that 1943 attack and he wasn't done fighting, resuming his post as commanding officer of 1st Field Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery after a hospital stay. He was laid to rest in Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery Saturday.

Brig.-Gen. Harold Brown, 103 when he died on Oct. 15, was believed to be the last of the Second World War's Canadian commanding officers.

"In my mind, he's one of the finest of Canada's greatest generation," Beno told the Star after the service. "He gave his life to Canada and doing what was right."

While in Italy, Brown employed a William target — an extremely rare military operation that calls for the use of all available weapons to fire on a single target, in this case, the German defensive fortification known as the Hitler Line, according to his biography.

He received the Order of the British Empire for exemplary performance and leadership.

Brown went on to participate in peacekeeping missions in Egypt and Vietnam. Closer to home, he was the honorary lieutenant colonel and honorary colonel of the 7th Toronto Regiment from 1986-1991.

Draped in a Canadian flag topped with his numerous medals of honour, Brown's casket was lowered into the ground Saturday as bagpipes played in the background. A short distance away, an honour guard fired a three-volley salute to the decorated veteran.

Lt.-Col. Paul Szabonio of the 7th Toronto Regiment said Brown was an inspiration to young solders.

"Any time you would be feeling down, tired, wallowing in self-pity, you would think of this man who could easily run up a flight of stairs until a year or two years ago," he said.

In Sept. 2010, Brown presented his grandson Mark Soteroff, an Afghanistan veteran who was wounded in action, with a Sacrifice Medal on behalf of the Royal Regiment of Canada.

Brown's son, Peter, said his father was a loving man, admired by many. "He was a leader of men," he said.

Right: Brig-Gen. Harold Brown pins a medal on his grandson, Master Corporal Mark Soteroff of Toronto, in 2010 after Soteroff who was wounded in action in Afghanistan.







The Firing Party performs a three-volley salute Saturday in Toronto to mark the passing of Brig.-Gen. Harold Brown.



A Trip to Gettysburg: A Civil War Perspective

By Lt. Jeremy Lum

At the end of February this year, our Regiment worked with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to plan a Staff ride to visit a few of the main battlefields during the American Civil War. The trip was designed to provide Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and Commissioned Officers with a greater understanding of the higher command's strategies and the political influences during the war. The trip was also attended by members of other Regiments within the Brigade. The trip was

preceded by an introduction to staff level planning, which provided the foundation to how we would be breaking down the battles and campaigns of the Civil War. As a junior officer this was the first time that I was exposed to such a high level of command planning. From this I was able to gain a better idea of how plans and strategies are created at a higher level, as well as how a commander and their staff team operate.

Upon arrival in the United States, we were met by several retired Officers of the Unites States Army and Marine Corp who acted as syndicate leaders and were subject matter experts on staff planning and the Civil War. Most of them had experience instructingat the U.S. Army Staff College. They were a great source of knowledge and information and created a sense of significance regarding the war and its impact on the country that can still be felt even today. As a Canadian I always viewed the Civil War as something in the distant past that had long been concluded. However, once we were on the ground, we realized how the war literally split the country in two and the scar can still be felt today, especially in the regions where the war was fought.



Above: Capt Tompson, 2Lt Lum and WO Morningstar inside the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico VA, USA

We were able to concentrate on how much of an undertaking it was to command such large armies, not just on the battlefield but also during movements from location to location. amazing to see just how much warfare has changed since the Civil War. Significant lessons were learned on how battles were fought, early methods of battlefield communications andthe differences in leadership styles from one General to another. From the perspective of an artillery officer, it was interesting to see how the guns were utilized during the Civil War in contrast to modern day conventions and tactics. We learned that during the Civil War, the guns were primarily employed in a direct fire role right at the front line as opposed to today's convention of indirect fire.

Despite all the differences and changes to warfare over the last century, there were also many factors that are still relevant today. This includes utilizing the terrain, logistics, maintaining momentum, morale and significance of leadership. These importance and modern day applicability of these principles was highlighted throughout the entire trip. It was an honour and privilege to have participated in this learning experience.



NCMs and Officers of 7th Toronto RCA: (from the left) Sgt Edwards, 2Lt Lum, Sgt. Spanos, OCdtBarski, Maj Smid, Sgt. Brake, SgtArrigo, Capt. Thompson, WO Morningstar, Capt. Stewart, Sgt. Polyvvyany, CaptLaxton, Lt Tempany, and 2Lt Puusa



Officers of 7th Toronto RCA with a 12-Pounder that was employed during the Civil War.

7th Toronto Family Day – Winning Hearts and Minds at Home

By Lt Jerry Ma



Regimental Family Day has previously been a tradition which brought together the regiment's family, friends, employers and community in order to provide a glimpse into our job as artillery reservists. This year, the 7th Toronto Regiment hosted its first family day in ten years at 4 CDTCMeaford. The aim of event was to revitalize the connection between the Regiment, our families and friends.



Members of the regiment deployed on Friday September 26th, 2014 and occupied a gun position in the training area. On Saturday, guests were driven up to CDTC Meaford, where they were able to observe the troops in action on the ranges. Guests were treated to live fire demonstrations from the C3 Howitzers, 81mm Mortars as well small arms. In addition observing the troops training in the field, guests were treated to presentations on the history of our unit as well as a live performance in the field from our esteemed Regimental Band. Various other interactive stands such as camouflage face painting also engaged children who were present.

Overall the event was a great success with over eighty guests in attendance. No moment was a dull moment. Participants were not only thrilled to learn about what their loved ones have been doing on weekend exercises, but also forged new connections with one another.

"Over all, I must admit my favourite part of the day was watching some of the young children take such an interest in what was going on. It was touching to see them asking questions and taking pride in what their parents do. I had a great visit and even made new friends" – Brooke Timpson

If any learning points are sustained from this event, it is that Regimental Family Days are crucial for networking, as well as forging stronger relationships within the community and at home. As many employers were also present, this was also an excellent opportunity to showcase the many

transferable leadership skills that the army can help to develop in its members. With the success of this event, the Regiment can expect this to continue this tradition in future years to come.



The 7th Toronto Regiment Band, under the direction of Lt Arrigo was in attendance and provided further excitement to an already high-spirited event

BdrDehghan applies camouflage face paint to one of the many young participants. Both young and old took the opportunity to get their army makeovers





Attendees learning about and handling various firearms, types of equipment, and clothing items used by soldiers.

Even with the events of the day, the soldiers ensured that they effectively made use of every training opportunity





MCpl Ramirez taking time for a family photo after showing them his home away from home

Restoring Airborne Jump Capabilities

By MBdr Jackson

On 31 Oct-2 Nov 2014, the Queen's Own Rifles embarked on Ex. PEGASUS STRIKE 2 in CFB Petawawa. With them, acting in the role of OP parties, were four members of 7 Tor RCA (Capt. On, MBdr Jackson, Bdr Fleet and Bdr Latta) and Bdr Halfpenny from 11th Field RCA. This is the first exercise in recent memory in which gunners



actually parachuted alongside the QOR into a tactical scenario.

The Exercise began with rehearsals. Gunners joined the riflemen in practicing their fieldcraft and soldiering skills before preparing for the jump on Saturday afternoon. For most of the jumpers (both QOR and RCA) this jump was slightly different, as jumpers would be carrying a smallerrigs on their person, using the CF small pack. This is opposed to the larger, heavier rucksacks that the 7th Toronto jumpers had grown accustomed to on Basic Para Course Serial 139, this past summer in Trenton. After harnesses were tightened, equipment properly stowed away, and all pre-flight checks conducted, the Hercules C130 took off towards DZ Anzio.

The jumps went off without a problem; the entire stick (nearly forty soldiers) exited the aircraft in two passes, with dozens more acting as support / security supporting the DZ. After landing, immediately loading a magazine into their rifles, and gathering their kit, the troops stepped off to the designated RV. When everyone had assembled into their respective sections, the troops marched off to their next objective; raiding an enemy compound.

The gunners were divided amongst the two platoons. Capt On, Bdrs Halfpenny and Latta with one, and MBdr Jackson and Fleet with the other. Within their respective platoons, the gunners acted as liaison for the (notional) battery which was supporting the QOR. In this role, the two parties advised platoon commanders as to what the guns could provide to have the best effect (e.g. duration of fire, danger radius, possible target locations).

After the platoons marched through the woods towards their objective, they took their positions and attacked. The attack went off smoothly. When they weren't calling in fire, the gunners acted as additional section-members in the infantry role. After the enemy compound had been hit, the platoons relocated to ambush an enemy convoy. There was no more need for fire support, but the

gunners proved their value and adaptability by continuing to serve in the infantry role throughout the exercise alongside the Queen's Own through to the completion of the event.

In the post-ex AAR, the exercise was deemed an unqualified success. The gunners had proved their merit in a tactical-jump scenario in addition to a straight-up infantry exercise. By Ex's end, the artillerymen were already discussing among themselves how to be even more effective next time; eagerly awaiting another chance to showcase their regiments' capabilities to the greater whole of the various combat arms and not simply within an artillery context.

The success of this exercise, with respect to gunners participating in airborne capabilities, has been the culmination of one entire year of planning. On September of 2013, 7th Toronto Regiment stood up 15 Bty as a new mortar qualified light fighter battery, capable of sustaining itself independently in the field. This summer, several of these soldiers were successfully chosen to participate in Basic Para Course 139 where they were subsequently jump qualified. Not only does this assist in accomplishing the goals of the Regiment in regards to developing contributable interoperable skills and capabilities, but also assists in fostering training opportunities with other regiments.



Above: Thirty six candidates initially attended the course. The twenty six successful candidates of the Canadian Forces Basic Para Course proudly pose for their class photograph alongside a CC-130J Hercules aircraft at CAAWC Trenton (above). The course candidates experienced added difficulties during the course due to technical issues as well as undesirable weather conditions. The candidates completed a total of five jumps. Candidates from the 7th Toronto Regiment included Bdr Fleet, MBdr Jackson, and Capt On.

Right: Candidates train in the flight room in order to practice their drills and also learn how to remedy parachute malfunctions while in the air



Right: Capt On (far right) calmly (?!!) waiting for the right time to jump.





MBdr Jackson (second from right), ready for his double-door exit.

Warrant Officer Morningstar Receives Colonel Commandant Commendation

The Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant-General Michael Jeffery, CMM, CD presented the Colonel Commandant's Commendation to Warrant Officer Morningstar, CD. The citation reads as follows: This Colonel Commandant's Commendation is awarded to Warrant Officer Robert Morningstar for the exceptional dedication and service provided to the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in developing the Reserve Senior Non-commissioned Officers of the future. His dedication and outstanding performance in both shaping and delivering the Gun Area Technical Supervisors' course over the past 4 years has contributed to the success of not just the Artillery Regiments of 4th Division but indeed to those from the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Divisions as well. His exemplary service in this regard personifies the very highest qualities of our Senior Non-commissioned Officers and serve as an example for his peers and subordinates to emulate.



7th Toronto Gunners Support the Juno Beach Centre, at Weston Golf and Country Club, 11 November





7th Toronto Gunners Support Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital, 11 November



Remembrance Day, 2014

Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt, accompanied by the 4th Canadian Division Commander, BGen Lowell Thomas, OMM, CD Inspecting the guns of 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, Queens Park - 11th November 2014





Regimental Part II Orders

HONOURS, AWARDS, PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

The following received their Canadian Forces Decoration (C.D.) 1st clasp:

• Maj R. Smid

The following were enrolled into the Canadian Forces as members of 7 Tor Regt (RCA):

- OCdt D.Q. On
- Pte (R) H.C. Fong
- Pte (R) M.U. Hassan
- Pte (R) E. Kwan
- Pte (R) S. Thillairajan

Regimental Family Calendar Of Events

- 09 Nov Toronto Garrison Gunners Remembrance Sunday Yonge Street March/Church Parade
- 10 Nov 7 Tor Regt Family Dinner prepared by 7 Tor Band
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day Salute at Queens Park.
- 21-23 Nov Ex Cougar Spirit 1. Gun/Mortar Ex at 4 Cdn Div TC Meaford

- 5 Dec Saint Barbara's Day Dinner
- 8 Dec 7 Tor Regt Band Christmas Dinner. Sgt and WO's Mess
- 13 Dec Soldiers Christmas Dinner at MPA
- 21 Dec 7 Tor Regt Kids Christmas Party
- December Possible Christmas Concert
- 01 Jan New Year's Levee/ Breakfast at MPA
- 05 March (TBC) Regimental Wine and Cheese Party
- 28 March Garrison Ball
- TBC Regimental Officers Function
- On or about 22 May Artillery Day Dinner

Did You Know?

September 1914: the first Canadian manufactured 18-pounder shell was fired by Sgt Gamble's detachment from 9th Battery.

Sgt Gamble was in training at Valcartier.

"By the last week in September the contingent at Valcartier was ready to move overseas. In the absence of an artillery range there was firing across the St. Lawrence at a white sheet erected on the far bank. It is recorded that the first Canadian-made 18-pounder shell to be discharged in the war was fired by Sgt. Gamble of the 9th Battery, who was to die at Ypres the following year."

* Gunners of Canada Vol 1 pp 198-199



Ordnance QF 18-pounder Field Gun, Camp Valcartier, ca. 1914.

NOTICES

1. Take Post, Edition 3

The next Take Post will be published by 16 January 2015. Articles to be submitted by 9 January to: beno@kos.net

2. 7th Toronto Regiment Senate Meeting - 15 December, 2014 (Tentative)

Plan for the next 7th Toronto Regiment Senate meeting to be 15 December (To be confirmed). It will be brief – essentially reports from all components of the Regimental Family on what they are doing for the Regimental Family, and a briefing on the 2015 Toronto Garrison Ball.

3. Toronto Garrison Ball Organizing Committee – Still Looking for Volunteers!

Please volunteer to help 7th Toronto regiment organize the Garrison Ball 2015. Contact: David Burnett and or Major Ryan Smid.

dburnett@endtoend.com and/or Ryan.Smid@forces.gc.ca

4. Toronto Gunners and Limber Gunners – Recruiting Now - WE WANT YOU!





Toronto Gunners and Limber Gunners

Join this illustrious group of men and women who serve 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA and the greater Canadian Armed Forces community.

Obituary for Brigadier General H.E. Brown

Harold Edward (Ted) Brown, OBE, OStJ, ED, CD, BA, Brigadier-General, Retired (Hawkeye)



At The Bradgate Arms Retirement Residence on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 in his 103rd year. Predeceased by his loving wife, Julia DeLacey Prindiville, (d. June 1999). He is survived by his daughters Susan Kohn (Carl) and Janet Williams (Robert) and son Peter (Cindy) of Ardrossan, Alberta, and his sister Shirley Park (Grier) of Thunder Bay, Ontario. He was the proud and devoted grandfather of Tracey May (James), Mark Soteroff (Natalie), James Cartan (Kelly), Elizabeth Cartan (Warren) and Alex Brown; and loving great-grandfather of Jack and Madeleine May, Mikayla Soteroff, Brooke Smith and Cole and Rhys Cartan. Brigadier General Brown served in WWII with the 17th Field Regiment R.C.A., and as Commanding Officer of 1st Field Regiment

R.C.H.A. in Italy and North West Europe. His post-war service was as Commander, Canadian Contingent, United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt in 1957; Commander, Central Ontario Area 1960-64, and as Senior Military Adviser, Military Component, Canadian Delegation, with the International Commission for Supervision and Control, Indo-China, 1964-65. He was also Honorary Lt. Colonel and Honorary Colonel of 7 Toronto Regiment R.C.A. from 1986-91. He was President of the Fort York Branch, Royal Canadian Legion in 1984, a Life Member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, and a member of the Soldiers' Tower Committee, University of Toronto.



Bursaries The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Bursaries The RCAA annually awards two bursaries to deserving Gunner members of Reserve Force Artillery units who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution on a full time basis. The LCol Jack Dehart MC, CD bursary is awarded to a Junior Officer who has successfully completed one year of post-secondary education, completed Artillery DP1 and is recommended by the Commanding Officer. The value of the bursary is \$1000.00. See Annex "A" for additional background on these two bursaries.

The Master Gunner E.M. "Chip" Evoy MM and Bar bursary is awarded to an NCM who has completed one year of post-secondary education, successfully completed appropriate military training and is recommended by the Commanding Officer. The value of the bursary is \$1000.00

Applications for the bursaries are found online at www.rcaa-aarc.ca. The application must be submitted to the Secretary RCAA no later than 31 December for award in March of the following year. In January, the Secretary will send copies of the applications to the members of the Executive Committee for review and vote. By 31 January the members will advise the President of their selected candidates. The President will compile the votes and the winners will be announced in conjunction with the RCAA Executive Meeting held during the CDA Conference in February. The president then will send a congratulatory letter and cheque to the recipients through their unit Commanding Officer.

The Heritage Campaign provides for the Reserve Force:

The Captain General's Diamond Jubilee Bursary Program (Reserve Force Education bursaries)

See: http://www.artillery.net/beta/capt-gen-dia-jubilee-bursary/

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Royal Canadian Artillery Association provides for the Reserve Force:

The Lieutenant-Colonel Jack De Hart, MC, CD Bursary and The Master Gunner E.M. "Chip" Evoy, MM & Bar Bursary

http://www.artillery.net/beta/bursaries/



The end of the Cold War resulted in drastic reductions to the defence budget, to the extent that by the mid-1990s defence planners in Ottawa made plans to cut the Militia in half. This would have removed Militia units from many Canadian communities and closed many armouries. At the same time defence headquarters and other overheads within the Department of National Defence were to remain and even to grow in some cases.

Led by Honorary Colonels from across the nation and buttressed by politicians from all levels of government, other community leaders, academics and retired members of Militia units, Reserves 2000 was created to refute the planned reductions. Over a period of time this was accomplished and today the Militia is still found in over 100 Canadian towns and cities.

However there are still those who would cut the Militia. Reserves 2000 believes this is the wrong policy for Canada and continues to advocate for the Militia to provide more defence capability - not less.

If you agree please become a supporter. Membership is \$100 annually and your contribution will allow Reserves 2000 to continue to work on behalf of the Militia. As a member you will receive our regular newsletter, Communiqué. For more information please visit our website at www.reserves2000.org. Look at some back issues of Communiqué to see how Reserves 2000 has continued to work on your behalf.

Please mail your cheque to Reserves 2000, 80 Church Street, Toronto, ON M5C 2G1

St Julien Centenary Tour

A WW1 Canadian Battlefield tour designed especially for the 10th Field Battery Associaton and Friends of the 3rd Battalion CEF

April 19-26, 2015 a 8 day tour featuring



Arras • Ypres • Vimy • Beaumont Hamel • The Somme • Paris

OUR MISSION

This tour is designed to have you walk in the footsteps of those volunteers to the 10th Field Battery and the 3rd Bn CEF who made history - to be the very places where a generation of young Canadians fought and many died. You will learn about the personal sacrifices of many by name and the details of individual struggles that took place during the Canadian European WW1 Campaign. Standing on the exact ground where these battles took place, you will make your own judgments on the immense valour displayed by our ancestors.

Economy air from Toronto to Paris return
Breakfast and supper each day on tour
Based on shared accommodation \$3495.00 Singles add \$750.

Space limited, do book early to avoid disappointment

Ed Rayment at 416-254-1999 • erayment@me.com



Fort York Branch 165

In the late 1920's, a group of downtown Toronto Business men, all veterans of World War I, initiated a luncheon club that by 1929 had evolved into the Business's Branch of the British Empire Service League. These early beginnings blossomed under the leadership of Brigadier-General D.C. Draper, CMG DSO. Some years later the club become Fort York Branch #165 of The Royal Canadian Legion. Current membership is in the range of 300. In Branch 165 our membership is still mainly composed of military members both Regular and Reserve, active or retired.

Our meetings are held at a number of very special venues such as the RCMI (Royal Canadian Military Institute), the Canadian Forces College, The Granite Club, The Hunt Club and include a social hour, lunch or dinner, followed by a guest speaker. Dress for some of our dinners is designated 'Mess Kit/Black Tie' but mostly business suit or a combination of both.

Our primary goal is to support both advocacy and financially the interests of veterans, especially those at Sunnybrook, Tony Stacy Centre, and as well the interest of the armed forces and cadets generally. The bulk of our financial support goes directly to the Veterans' Comfort Fund at Sunnybrook to assist a number of projects that have been identified and prioritized by the veterans themselves through their voice – The Veterans' Administrative Council.

Fort York Branch 165 seeks new members. Please submit the application form attached:

As at Nov 2010

LEGION Fort York Branch 165 4900 Yonge Street, Swite 600 Toronto, ON M2N 607

Fort York Branch 165 Membership Application

The information contained, on not not below, is Confidential and for the sale use of the Montership Charmon and the administration of member data. The information contained berein shall not be used for any other purpose, whatsoever, unless authorized, in writing, by the applicant.

Applicant Name:		
Family Name	First Name	and Initials
Rank:	Post Non	(OSt): CD etc.)
***		(cod; cb etc)
Address:		
City	/Province	/Postal Code
Telephone:	/Email:	
Date Of Birth:/	Citizenship:	
Next Of Kin:	Telephone Contact:	
Service Records: Army Navy Air F	orce Cadets Police Othe	Provide Description
Service No		
Type of Service:		
(Wartime/Peacetime		
Date of Enlistment:/_/ Year/ Month/Day	Date of Discharge:Year/M	onth/Day
I am a relative of a member of the Roy	ral Canadian Legion:	West of the second seco
	(If yes,	please print name and branch)
Privacy Statement: I have read the pri information contained herein may be p national member record data and other	rovided to the Royal Canas	lian Legion for the purpose of
Applicant Signature		
of any country. I hereby solemnly deci- whose interest(s) conflict with the avo- the overthrow of any government by fo propaganda. I hereby certify the correc-	are that I am not a member wed purposes of the Legion wer or which advocates, enc tness of the information co	deserted from, nor evaded service in the Forces of, nor affiliated with any group, party or sect and will not support any organization advocating ourages or participates in subversive action or ntained herein and apply for membership in rules and bi-laws of Branch 165 Fort York and
Date	of Application:/ Year/ Month/	_
This application is only valid when a upon receipt of member annual dues.	Proposer and Seconder has	re signed this application and additionally,
Proposer	Seconder	
Please Print and Signature		rase Print and Signature
☐ Flease ensure delivery of Legion Magazine.	English/French	Cheque to Treasure Date://

The Canadian Military History Podcast

Sgt Tristan Bankasingh was interviewed on the Canadian Military History Podcast in March of 2014. During the show, Tristan spoke about his experiences serving with the 7th Toronto Regiment and 5 (B.C.) Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. In this interview, he speaks about why he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, what his most memorable experiences are, who were his greatest influences to date and what challenges he's had to overcome.

Sgt Bankasingh is one of a list of Artillery soldiers and officers interviewed on the podcast to date, along with the late LCol Clifford R Baker, LGen Andrew Leslie and Col Peter Dawe. To listen to these and many other great episodes, please visit www.canadianmilitaryhistorypodcast.ca or subscribe to the show on iTunes.

For The Canadian Military History Podcast, contact:

Chief Warrant Officer Mike Lacroix CD 73 Ruffet Dr.

Barrie, Ontario L4N 0N8 mikelacroixcmhp@gmail.com www.canadianmilitaryhistorypodcast.ca



Sgt Tristan Bankasingh, RCA

ANNEX A

9 (Toronto) Battery's Great War 100 years Ago (Colonel Retd Brian MacDonald)

Ref: http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e047/e001150023.jpg

Time line:

AUG 4, 1914 War declared

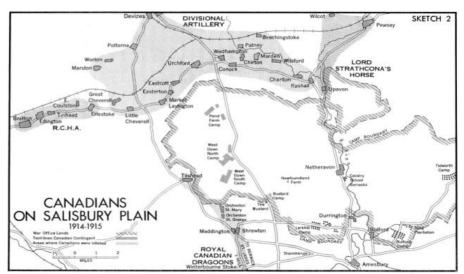
Oct 4, the first contingent sailed for England

War Diaries – 3rd Field Brigade Canadian Field Artillery

Date, Place Summary of Events, and Information

WEST DOWN NORTH SALSBURY PLAIN

("One hundred years ago 33,000 men of the First Canadian Contingent was encamped on Salisbury Plain. On the southern edge, very near Stonehenge lies Amesbury in Wiltshire.")



"On October 21, 1914 a quarter-inch of rain fell on Salisbury Plain followed by another inch in the next five days. In total it rained on 89 of the 123 days the Canadians spent in camp, a miserable existence which ironically helped prepare them for the waterlogged trenches of France and Flanders."

Nov Paraded for divine service but dismissed on account of rail which fell steadily all

morning.

Nov 2 Section drill and then paraded as a brigade in preparation for rehearsal for

review by H.M. the King. All ranks thoroughly soaked because of the rain.

Nov 3	Rain during morning stables but fine later. Brigade and battery drill and manoeuvre. Instructions received regarding communications to press etc. Commenced mounting guards with rifles. Part 2 Orders initiated.
Nov 4	A fine day. Had mounted paraded to road near W.O.5. and there reviewed by T.M. the KING and QUEEN, Lords ROBERTSON, KITCHENER and others. After inspecting on foot TM motored down the lines and were roundly cheered by all ranks. They went on to PIND FARM CAMP immediately. Compiled list showing all ex-regular officers and return of wagons.
Nov 5	Section training, battery drill and manoeuvre carried out despite the rain. Dismounted parades in the PM. Initiated letters roll call supervised by officers.
Nov 6	Pouring rain all morning. Orders went out to paint steel work of harness and saddlery drab. A number of transfers went through in Orders.
Nov 7	The first really fine day for some time. Examination of all brigade signallers by Lieut. McCreaoy C.S.C. Section training, battery drill, manoeuvre, fire discipline. Dismounted parades in P.M. Increase in forage rations. Permanent sanitary fatigue again instituted.
Nov 8	Church parade in morning. Captain Cornett of DAC gave sermon. Ground very muddy. Dull but no rain all day.
Nov 9	Lord Mayor's Show at London. Brigade represented by I NCO and 3 men from each unit and hdqtrs. Attention called to condition of horses also to shoeing of same. Lecture from Capt SAUNDERS re equitation and driving.
Nov 10	Ammunition column gunners being trained in batteries. Dull day with a little rain. Equitation and driving, mounted drill. Battery states and ammunition supply in morning. Laying, fuze-settting and stables in PM. Lecture to officers by Lieut CRAIG on laying.
Nov 11	Tremendous wind storm with rain in late PM. Diary of training similar to yesterday. Court of Enquiry held into loss of horses H3/16 and H3/26. Court Martial ordered on Driver Laxton 7 th battery. Lecture from Capt CRERAR to officers on methods of engaging.
Nov 12	In morning Major Leonard reported as Adjutant. Major Ralston moved over to D.A.C. to take command of the hq section there.
Nov 13	Adjutant notified Laxton that his court martial to be held tomorrow. C.O. on staff tour all day and went to LONDON in late afternoon.
Nov 14	Court Martial in session all day. Major Lindsay – President. Capt Gordon and Lieut Geary Members. Adjourned to Monday as taking of evidence not concluded. Units had mounted parade in the morning.

Nov 15	Heavy cold rain which stopped just befre church parade. Adjutant marched brigade over and Canon Almond preached. Shipped Strausbaugh (undesirable alien) to Bustard on route to Canada.
Nov 16	Row in brigade guard tent at one a.m. Two prisoners had to be handcuffed. Mounted parade in a.m. Court Martial broke up about 4 p.m. and papers sent at once to Bustard.
Nov 17	Heavy frost and mud frozen solid. C.O. again on staff tour. Mounted Parade in a.m. Doctor reports that gonorrhea beginning to show itself. Macdonnell, Bell and Burgoyne all attending divisional school. Lecture from Capt McEwan on ammunition supply.
Nov 18	Cold and clear with heavy frost. Batteries had some practice at casualties. Adjutant called to Hdqtrs W.D.N. Brigade orderly tent reported to be lousy. Apparent shortage in bread ration.
Nov 19	Again cold but heavy rain in P.M. Lecture from M.O. on sanitation and hygiene.
Nov 20	Cold and bright with occasional sunshine. Reveille at 6:30 ^{am} . R.C.H.A. returned 9 th battery guns used at Salisbury re Lord Roberts funeral. Laxton got one year hard labour. Jack from Gen ¹ Alderson on behaviour and discipline.
Nov 21	Very cold night with heavy frost. Posted picket at new post office tent at 11 P.M.
Nov 22	Cold with high wind blowing all day. Church parade made voluntary. Inspector of ordnance examined all guns in Brigade. Armoured sergeant not attending to business.
Nov. 23.	Quite cold. 7 th battery digging gun pits. Some difficulty in locating proper place. Adjutant discussed shortages of equipment reports with Staff Captain. New sergeant major S. Sanger (from Heavy Battery) reported.
Nov 24 th	Cold and bright. Adjutant prepared mobilization reports for weekly return of shortages. Laxton and some detention prisoners sent to ranges in wagon.
Nov 25 th	9 th battery making gun pits in digging area. Bi weekly return of stores submitted showing shortages
<i>Nov.</i> 26 th	S.M. SANGER appointed Bde acting S.M. from 24 th inst.
Friday, 27 th	The whole division paraded under G.O.C. near SHREWTON FOLLY Rifle Ranges.
Saturday, 28 th	Rain and very strong wind. CO and adjutant motored to SALISBURY in an endeavour to expedite the delivery of badly needed stores.
Sunday, 29 th	Dull all day with some rain. Divine service voluntary. Turned out detail at night to try and save post office tent from being blown down.

Monday, 30 th	Rain and wind all day and some marquees blown down. Reconnaisance officers out reporting on suitable locations for bivouac. No mounted parade. Lecture from Capt Wainwrigt on artillery material.
Tuesday, Dec 1 st	Mild with a few showers. Brigade had route march through TILSHEAD and SHREWTON and back through BUSTARD. 7 th battery and Hdqtrs horse lines moved across valley NORTH WEST of old location.
Wednesday, Dec 2nd	Wind and rain all day developing into a violent storm towards evening. Most of marquees again down. Mounted parade in AM. Adjutant took 7^{th} battery as O.C. on leave. Call from O.C. D^{ivl} ARTY.
Dec 3 rd , 1914	O.C. Bde at BUSTARD to see G.O.C. Unit commanders ordered to hook in at 8.10 PM without previous warning. Brigade reported to move off at 9 PM but was dismissed after inspection by O.C. Weather clear.
December 4 th	Heavy rain and strong wind. Both post offices and bde ante room tent blown down. Mounted parades off. O.C. Bde went on a brief tour in late afternoon.
SAT. DEC. 5 th	Colder with more rain in AM. Allowed the Canadian Postal Corps the use of part of orderly room tent until others quarters provided. Reported this to camp Brigade Major. Batteries out independently in AM.
SUN. DEC. 6 th	Heavy frost during night but wind and rain nearly all day. Several officers on weekend leave. Voluntary services at Tilshead church as Y.M.C.A blown down yesterday.
MON. DEC. 7 th	Dull all morning but rain held off until 1 P.M. when it fell heavily. Bde had route march through Nichmont, Coateston and Market Lovington. Horses show marked improvement in condition. Appeal before Col Burstell against sentence imposed on Gr Slade by O.C. Bde dismissed.
TUESDAY. DEC. 8	Horse died in 8 th battery during night and another had to be destroyed by Bde V.O. Inspection of all horses in W.D.N. by G.O.C. in AM. O.C. 3 rd brigade highly complimented by G.O.C on condition of horses in his brigade. Again telephoned Ordnance at Salisbury re stores but got no satisfaction. Lecture by O.C. Brigade on "Achievements of Artillery." Inspected all picquets between 9 and 10 PM,
Dec 9 th	Lieut Atkinson transferred from Divisonal Supply Column.

Note: Please take note of points from the 9 Battery War Diary

I would ask folks to consider the following points from the War Diary of 9th Battery 100 years ago:

- Note how "modern" the thoughts and descriptions are they were "modern" in their day!
- Care and condition of horses were a priority, just as gun tractors are these days.
- In spite of being at war, rest and recreation (weekend leaves) and church services were a vital part of Regimental routine. Disciplinary matters were dealt with expeditiously.
- Fitness (route marches) was a high priority. Training to deal with casualties also a priority.

- Note the cooperation between 9 Battery and the RCHA just as it is today with 2RCHA.
- Communications with the press was a serious concern.
- Ceremonial parades and the visits of dignitaries continued.
- Note the lecture on "Achievements of Artillery." They had an AAR and Lessons Learned process and IGs and AIGs were deployed to the front.
- Note the names of Captain Crerar and Major Ralston two Gunners who figure prominently in the next war 25 years later!
- Anyone travelling to Salisbury and Larkhill (Royal School of Artillery) UK can still find the Bustard Inn pub just a few kilometres west of Larkhill Camp on the Salisbury Plain where once stood Bustard Camp. They still have good beer!!
- And, the two greatest Lessons Learned from this War Diary are:
 - o We, 7th Toronto Regiment, have a long and glorious history to live up to; and,
 - We Gunners are just as relevant today as we were 100 years ago.



QF 18-pounder guns being inspected by Canada's Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, Bramshot, England, April 1917.

ANNEX B

A Gunner at War

Normandy to the Scheldt Estuary and Walcheren Island - The Fall of 1944 - 70 Years Ago!

Lt. Thomas W. McGrath, 3rd Medium Regiment, RCA



Col Brian McGrath (Son of Lt Thomas McGrath) presented with a golfing trophy at RCMI
Photo by Brian Barker of TorScots

BGen Beno asked me to write an article about my father's experiences as a gunner officer in World War II. My father died almost 15 years ago and left no memoires or diary of any sort. Like many veterans, he very rarely spoke of his wartime experiences, he responded tersely to questions about them, and only once did he "open up" to me, during a visit to one of his gun positions just outside Caen.

The following is based on that one experience, plus piecing together his passing remarks over the years while reviewing *The Gunners of Canada, vol. II* and *The Official History of The Canadian Army in World War II, vol. III* as they refer to 3 Med Regt. I wish I had access to the regiment's war diary, which I read in the museum in Shilo while on the IG course in 1972. At that time I was researching things to do with SP artillery and only glanced at 3 Med's diary but I suspect vague recollections influence me now. Dad was not a boastful man and if there are errors in what I write he would be annoyed and embarrassed.

My father was raised in Halifax NS, and was both a cadet and member of the Militia (The Halifax Rifles and the local artillery - probably 9th Hy Bty (How)). Although, when the war broke out he had just started his last year of university and despite his army background, he and a number of his friends went down to volunteer for the RCAF (they all wanted to be pilots of course) but he and most were turned away for various reasons – he for a broken nose. So it was that in 1940 that he graduated, married, and joined the Active Service Force. He was initially trained and employed as a pl comd in the West Nova Scotia Regiment but at some point he transferred to the artillery and it was while he was training at the Artillery Training Centre in Petawawa in Nov 41 that I was born, forever blighting my claim to be a Blue Noser. He was "sent on draft" to England in late summer 1942 and assigned to 3rd Med – I think this was fairly

soon after his arrival in England as we used to have a couple of photos of him with 5.5"s in Larkhill.

Dad landed in France with his regiment approximately 12 July 1944 as part of 2nd Canadian Army Group RA (AGRA) which consisted of 3 Med, 4 Med, 7 Med Regiments. Like the other medium regiments the 3rd had two eight gun (two troop) batteries (5 med bty and 87 med bty). I believe that 2 Cdn AGRA also included two British Regiments, 15 Med Regt RA and 1 Hy Regt RA

The Medium regiments were equipped with either 5.5" or 4.5" guns. Apart from the caliber the guns were identical and transition from one equipment to the other very simple for units familiar with either. The 5.5 (140mm) fired two different shells most common was a 100 lb shell which ranged to 14.8 km while a more expensive 80 lb shell reached 16.5 km (and carried more HE). The 4.5 " (114mm) fired a 55 lb shell 18km although the HE capacity was small it was considered a good gun for counter battery (CB) tasks. For both guns the "intense" rate of fire was 2 rounds per minute while 1 round was normal. (Bear that in mind when you hear of large ammunition dumping programs – 300 rounds per gun means 5 – 6 hours of continuous firing!)

In 1967 my father and I visited a field on the outskirts of Caen in which his troop first saw action, I've since made such a "first visit" with other veterans and was always emotional. We stood in a semi-neglected cow pasture with a railway embankment along the left side and my father pointed out where the gun pits had been, where the CP was where the kitchen was etc – nothing was apparent to me but cow patties. We went up on the railway embankment and from there you could see from the discoloration in the grass that he was exactly right.

It was there that he first fired, in support of the Canadian attacks on Bourguebus Ridge (OP ATLANTIC), Verrieres Ridge and much subsequent action. The gun area was very crowded (there were at least 24 Canadian field and medium batteries in an area about a third the size of the Meaford ranges) and exposed to German observation from high ground beyond the Orne river. It was here that the battery suffered its worst from enemy CB and from sporadic bombing (individual Luftwaffe planes would come in under cover of dark and drop bombs on targets illuminated by flares). At one point The troop was subject to accurate CB fire that put a dozen or more rounds right onto the gun position

Dad maintained that they were 17cm rounds, a claim that I suspect the historians would dispute based on what we know now about the guns available to the Germans: however I've never spoken to a WW II tanker who was ever shot at by anything less than an 88mm. So - yes Dad, any incoming CB was certainly at least 17 cm.

His troop was fortunate that most of the rounds didn't detonate – he remained forever thankful to the Czech munitions workers who he believed had sabotaged the fuzes. The Counter Battery Office asked them to examine the craters to get a groove bearing – while they was doing that the other troop officer, dad's best friend Lt. Pattinson, was killed when another incoming round detonated beside him. A little later the TSM lost a foot to a splinter, "He was a big very fit man and the wound was very clean and the medics said he's be fine, but an hour after he was evacuated we learned he had died." The battery remained in the position for several days and was well pleased to finally be moved to a less prominent gun position. Dad, said that their experience there reinforced the emphasis on digging - gun pits (and ammunition pits) to a degree that was never lost – as the air threat disappeared they might have disregarded cam nets at times (they caught fire when very dry) but never digging!

Dad's recollection of the battle of the Falaise gap seemed to be one of confusion, constant firing, and sudden switches in bearing. The stench of dead horses hung over all – one "funny" story was of a dispatch rider who lost control of his motorcycle and went head first into the belly of a bloated long dead horse which exploded, "Two days later he still got sick when he thought of it!" He greatly admired the rocket firing typhoons which he considered the key to the battle. He recalled that there was a period of about a week when "The whole damn army was sick."

That's a tale I've heard from several other vets and I wonder that no one has considered how it affected the army during the closure of the Falaise gap.

During the fighting on the Falaise road, 2 AGRA suffered heavily from two cases of accidental bombing by Bomber Command's heavy and medium bombers which were being used in tactical air support, a mission for which they were neither trained nor well suited. 3rd Medium Regiment was very fortunate not to be struck by any bombs but it certainly was well placed to see the full effect of the bombing on 8 Aug (OP TOTALIZE) and 14 Aug (OP TRACTABLE). Within the AGRA, 4 Med lost 11 killed, 26 wounded and a battery (+) out of action while 7 Med lost 12 killed, 28 wounded and 3 guns (the fourth gun kept firing on its assigned target) while other AGRA units, including the HQ lost 10 killed and 19 wounded – like the 7 Med Regt, troop, the AGRA continued to fire on the assigned targets throughout the bombings (which lasted up to an hour in both cases.)

The 3 Med regimental war diary describes the incidents. After the second accidental bombing the diary includes an understandable diatribe about the cavalier way of Bomber Command. His lasting contempt for Bomber Command contrasts with my father's respect for the tactical air support throughout the campaign and with the increasing coordination of air and artillery support – the tac air made increasing use of flak suppression fireplans and, on the odd occasion they neglected to do so paid with heavier losses.

After the breakout from Falaise, as part of 2 Cdn Corps, the regiment fought through the battle of Normandy and on up the left flank of the allied advance across the Seine and then to clear the channel ports. Their tasks generally included major CB and other preparatory fire plans, firing depth lines on barrages, CB on guns becoming active, counter flak tasks in preparation for air support etc. Many of these involved major ammunition dumping programs. My father recalled one of his early mistakes when he occupied a troop position with the nearest good road about 100 M to the right of number one gun. They had 200+ rounds per gun dumped that night and had to carry every round to the guns - over 200 M to reach number four gun, that plus the labour of digging in guns, ammunition, CPs etc and being ready to fire a fireplan next morning taught him a lesson. From then on he tried to ensure that every gun platform could be reached by a loaded service corps ammunition truck.

By 23 Sep the Corps was attacking Boulogne and 7th Cdn Recce Regt (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) was tasked to screen off the German positions at Cap Gris Nez and at Calais. 3 Med Regt was tasked to provide direct support. I believe that my father was tasked as a FOO with them. He used to describe with some relish taking on a couple of coast defence positions at Gris Nez and having "a sort of naval battle" which was relatively innocuous as the Coast defence guns had difficulty with the fleeting targets the recce presented and the 100 lb shells of the 5.5"s did little to the coast defence emplacements. The regiment seems to have regarded it as a break from the day-to-day slog.



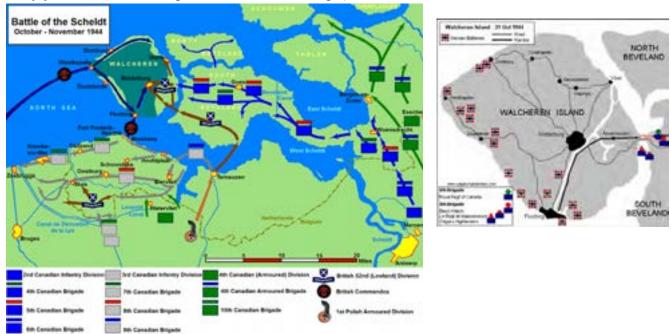
After the dreadful battle of the Breskins pocket the last stage of the clearance of the Scheldt was the capture of Walchern Island the southern portion of which is the town of Flushing. This was to be attacked by 4 Commando Royal Marines. Because of the ranges involved 2nd Cdn AGRA was positioned on the south bank of the Scheldt to provide fire support. I believe it was here that 3rd Med converted from 5.5"s to 4.5"s (presumably for the added range). An interesting aspect according to my father was that they got the fireplan, the 4.5" ammunition dumped, the firing tables etc long before they got the guns ... in fact he gave the impression that their 5.5"s were

withdrawn and the sat with empty gun pits for some time before the new guns arrived (a little poetic license?). In any case calibration etc was rushed.



Canadians in the Battle of the Scheldt in Zeeland, Holland, 1944

I know my father crossed the Scheldt to Flushing with 4 Cdo, he several times recalled that the fully loaded amphibious vehicles had very little freeboard and he fully expected to have to swim at some point (Non-fishermen Maritimers are dubious about boats at the best of times.) I'd always assumed he was a FOO, but as I write this I think he was more likely with the CO's party. He was by then unit IO and he saved a detailed copy of the fire plan, something he would more likely have at tac HQ than as a FOO. He also commented that the predicted fire was very inaccurate – something that the gunner history also records. (I had his copy of the fireplan for many years but I believe I gave it to the staff college.)



After Flushing, I lose track of my father's adventures. I once asked him if he ever got into Germany and he said "Yes, but only for about an hour so I could say I'd been there." Sometime in March 1945, he was selected to attend AOP training, and he was involved in that when the war ended, and they terminated the course. So he never did become a pilot



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, FAMILY DAY 2014



Lieutenant Colonel Szabunio escorts the Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt, accompanied by the 4th Canadian Division Commander, BGen Lowell Thomas, OMM, CD Inspecting 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA.

