



# **“Take Post”**

## **The Journal of The Toronto Gunner Community**

### **Edition 3, 19 January, 2015**

#### **THIS EDITION**

- Soldiers Christmas Dinner
- General Turner – The Artillery at Bienen – 75 Years ago
- General Rohmer with 818 Falcon Squadron
- 9<sup>th</sup> Battery 100 Years Ago
- So Much More!

This journal, “Take Post” is published bi-monthly under the authority of the Honorary Colonel, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:beno@kos.net)

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#### **Message From 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Command Team**

Welcome to “Take Post’s” third edition. As we reflect on 2014’s accomplishments and look ahead to 2015, the Command Team is humbled by the spirit of engagement that marks 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment RCA, and it’s extended Regimental Community, as leaders within the Canadian Militia.

Building on renewal of two independently operating field batteries, the Regiment aims to conduct Exercise BLACK HAND in March, a wholly 7 Toronto Regimental-fires exercise, underscoring a rare level of collective capability within the Army Reserve. Together with 2



***Regimental pride surges as the CO, LCol Szabunio, marks renewed tradition at the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner***

Culmination in 2015 will be marked by an institutionalised Regimental Senate, which includes affiliated Cadet units and a revitalised Foundation. The Senate is already driving Garrison Ball 2015, in concert with the NHL Alumni Hockey for Heroes Challenge, and is reaching out to other units to catalyse a Toronto-area 'Museum of the Regiments' initiative. If that weren't enough, the Regimental Community showed outstanding leadership by raising and contributing in excess of \$5000 to the McCrae statue project in Ottawa, showing that we punch well above our weight.

These achievements, backed-up by an evident degree of competence, give our Regimental Community a high degree of credibility and voice. Make no mistake, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment has strong influence, from the tactical to the strategic levels of our Army and civic communities, thanks in no small part to your enthusiastic commitment.

RCHA, the Unit is actively planning the August summer concentration, while anticipating Domestic Operations during Toronto's PANAM Games in July.

Nearly 100 serving Gunners, associates and guests, including Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair, attended the St. Barbara's Day celebration this past December. New mess traditions abound: "Subbies' Carolling" builds relationships between unit members and with other Moss Park Armoury units; and the New Year's Eve "Grapeshot Mock Ball," and Officers' Mess Levée breakfast, saw over 40 family members and Unit friends present.



**Commanding Officers Commendation**  
***From Left to right are: RSM 7 Tor Regt, MWO Reyes; Bdr J. Browne; CO 7 Tor Regt, LCol Szabunio; 32 CBG Comd, Col Hobbs ; and 32 CBG BSM, CWO Lawson***

The RSM and I sincerely appreciate all you are doing to make our Regiment a guiding beacon within the Canadian Army and Militia for generations to come.

- Master Warrant Officer P. Mardie Reyes, Regimental Sergeant-Major
- Lieutenant-Colonel Paul A. Szabunio, Commanding Officer
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### **32 Canadian Brigade Group Commendation**

*From Left to right: RSM 7 Tor Regt, MWO Reyes; CO 7 Tor Regt, LCol Szabunio; Sgt Kase; Sgt Spanos; 32 CBG Comd, Col Hobbs ; Bdr Krulevich and 32 CBG BSM, CWO Lawson*

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### **A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno**



*Saint Barbara's Day Dinner with  
Chief Bill Blair, Toronto Police  
Services*

Happy New Year to all, and I wish the Regiment, our families and the greater Gunner community a wonderful 2015. Certainly the Regiment has been busy, but good busy. What a great turnout we had in the first parade of the New Year but also at our Soldiers Christmas Dinner and New Year's Levee.

My special thanks for the visit by Colonel Dwayne Hobbs, the Brigade Commander 32 Brigade, and his Brigade Sergeant Major CWO Lawson. They participated in "Commanders' Hours" with the Gunners and

Bombardiers/Master Bombardiers, and then with the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of 7<sup>th</sup> Tor. They provided insights to members of the Regiment and responded to questions from all ranks. I was impressed that they were so open, forthcoming and informative, and I was equally impressed with the sincere, meaningful and articulate questions from the floor. On behalf of all ranks, my thanks to Colonel Hobbs and CWO Lawson. Also my thanks to members of the Regiment – your interest and sincerity demonstrates to me and to Colonel Hobbs that all ranks in 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto are tremendously dedicated in serving Canada and serious about their Military profession.



I have been equally impressed with the dedication of our supporters and volunteers – be it the Band, the Limber Gunners, our Foundation, the “Toronto Gunners,” our Cadets or our Garrison Ball Committee. I’ll just talk a bit about the latter – this committee, headed up by our Captain (Retired) David Burnett, of the Toronto Gunners is putting together a tremendous program for this gala event – the social event of the year for the Toronto Garrison (March 28<sup>th</sup>). David has attracted strong and vibrant committee organizing all aspects of the Ball, and they are truly “on the ball!” The website is up and running, sponsors are supporting the financial requirements, tickets are selling, programs are being finalized, VIPs are being invited, music is being planned, and everything is falling in place as expected. This is a major Military operation demonstrating all those features of successful military planning and execution: Command driven, exercising “Mission Command,” collaborative planning, effective liaison and coordination, clarity in direction and instructions, outstanding “Battle Procedure” as activities unfold, and great teamwork all around. All very impressive, and I am most confident that our Regiment will again set the standard for others – and all who join in for the Garrison Ball will have a wonderful and memorable evening.



While I have the floor, I’d like to say a few words about our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel – Tom Bitove. I cannot be more pleased that 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto has him as an honorary. I have met few people as sharp, astute and focussed as he is – and yet so humble. I just want all ranks in the Regiment to know that we have a great community leader on our team (The Order of Ontario says it all), and an outstanding supporter of our Regiment. He is ever in the background but quick to step up to the plate to guide, lead and act. I ask that all ranks continue to engage in

discussions with Hon Colonel Tom – reach out to him and tell him about what you do as a gunner and tell him about your skills, experiences, aspirations and your job in the Regiment. We can all be so very thankful for having Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Bitove wearing our uniform and being on our team.



In closing this newsletter, again, welcome into 2015, which will be a busy but productive and meaningful year for 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment.

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



**7th Toronto Regt Honorary Colonel Commendation**

*From Left to right are: RSM 7 Tor Regt, MWO Reyes; CO 7 Tor Regt, LCol Szabunio; Gnr Altobello; HCol BGen Beno; 32 CBG Comd, Col Hobbs ; and 32 CBG BSM, CWO Lawson*

## Brigadier General Turner at War

### The Destruction of an Enemy OP at Bienen, following the Crossing of the Rhine

On 23 March 1945, all the divisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group were now in position to support the 15<sup>th</sup> Scottish Lowland Division and the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division, the two divisions allocated to the actual crossing of the Rhine. The crossing was somewhere near Rees. All the guns of the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group were allocated to support the two divisions doing the crossing. The Rhine River was about 500 yards wide at the point selected to cross the Rhine.

We were issued a map of the area with several hundred targets printed on it. We spent the better part of two days plotting these targets on our artillery boards and working out the “line and range” for all these targets and recording them on target records. All we had to do then was keep them up to date with the latest corrections for meteor (temperature, wind speed and direction, etc). This was done every four hours.



The artillery consisted of about 1,400 guns of all calibres - super heavy, 9.2 inch, 5.5 inch and 25 pounders. A representative from each artillery formation reported to the BMRA of the 51<sup>st</sup>



*Captain W.W. Turner sitting on his tank in The Rhineland awaiting orders to move on further into Germany*

Highland Division who was controlling the fire. I was sent as the representative of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Division. I reported to the BMRA who directed me to a tent attached to his Command Post. There must have been over 20 officers in the tent, each representing the various artillery formations in support of the crossing. I found a table and chair and directed my signaller to bring the radio remote into the tent. I spread out the large map with the Rhine crossing area and with all the targets plotted on it. We were located about 1,000 yards from our side of the Rhine.

As the battle for the crossing proceeded we were fully engaged in firing “Yoke” (Army Group) targets as ordered by the FOO’s who crossed the Rhine with the leading troop formations. There were also FOO’s

who parachuted in with the airborne troops. It was a busy but very exciting time.

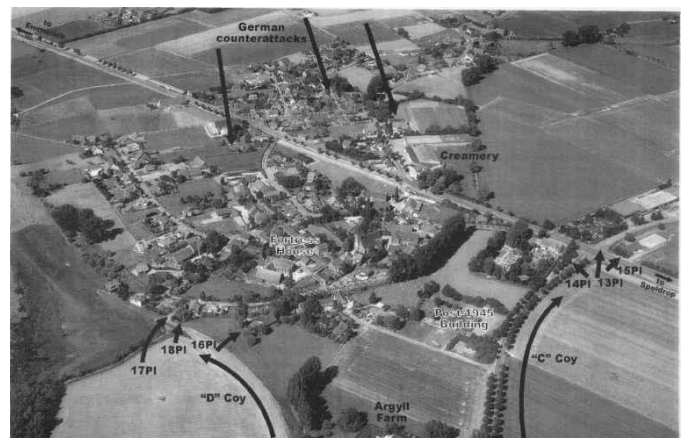
At one point the CO of the Black Watch (British) called the BMRA on the radio and said he was completely pinned down. Every time they moved forward they were fired on by enemy artillery. He thought the enemy fire was directed by an enemy OP located in the church tower in the small village of Bienen. He asked for one medium gun to try to bring down the tower. The BMRA asked him how far his battalion was from the tower. The CO replied “about 400 yards.” The BMRA told him to keep their heads down and don’t move. He then turned to everyone in the tent and ordered “Target No. 1234 - all engage, scale one. Time on Target (TOT) in 7 minutes.” (He gave the actual time.) Each of us in the tent passed on these fire orders to our respective artillery formation. This meant, in this case, that approximately 1,400 HE rounds would land at exactly the same second on the church tower in Bienen – or somewhere near it! We in the tent listened and at TOT minus 40-45 seconds, we could hear the super heavy’s, the 9.2 inch guns, followed by the medium guns and then between 10 and 15 seconds before TOT, the 25 pounders opened fire.



At exactly TOT we heard all 1,400 rounds explode on the village in a huge crump. The BMRA waited about a minute and then called the CO of the Black Watch on the radio and asked him if we had been lucky and hit the church tower. The CO replied “hit the tower – my God, the whole fucking village has disappeared and there isn’t much left but a pile of rubble.” Bienen had been a pleasant little village on the far bank of the Rhine.

Our advance continued and gradually we all crossed the Rhine and continued our advance into Germany. My Regiment crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge named “Uncle Stanley’s Bridge.” (Named after our C.C.R.A., Brigadier Stanley Todd.)

On one of our family holiday tours when we were stationed with the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Germany, we drove through Bienen. The church tower and the church had been rebuilt using many of the original bricks. The village was now rebuilt and expanded into a larger village.





**Note from the Editor:** *Brigadier General WW Turner was Colonel Commandant 1979 to 1986 and trained with 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment prior to deploying overseas in World War II.*

*The purpose of presenting this article to readers is to remind us all of the tremendous power of Artillery (when needed, greater than an Infantry Division), on immediate call to a Forward Observer Captain. This is still the case today, where a FOO can call in more resources to deal with a specific type of threat than can a Battalion Commander.*

*As an aside, my wife's mother's family originally came from the "Low Countries" before the creation of the nations of Germany and Holland. One day I came into the Fort Frontenac Mess in Kingston and I overheard General Turner telling fellow Gunners about his battle of Bienen. I said that I knew Bienen, and that I rode a bike out there (in Germany, just across the border from Holland) just two weeks earlier. I was in the village of Bienen looking for the tombstones of my mother-in-law's great-great grandparents – and there wasn't a stone left!!! Well, he got quite a chuckle out of that, and apologized!*

### **Tablet at Bienen**

THIS TABLET HAS BEEN PLACED BY A  
GROUP OF SURVIVING CANADIAN  
VETERANS OF THE NORTH NOVA SCOTIA  
HIGHLANDERS, 3 CANADIAN INFANTRY  
DIVISION, IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL  
MEMORY OF THOSE FORTY MEMBERS OF  
THEIR REGIMENT WHO FELL IN BATTLE  
AT BIENEN, GERMANY ON SUNDAY, MARCH  
25,1945 AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE  
FELLOW COMBATANTS OF 9 CANADIAN  
INFANTRY (HIGHLAND) BRIGADE AND 51  
BRITISH HIGHLAND DIVISION WHO DIED  
IN THE SAME BATTLE AND IN THE SAME  
CAUSE AND, AS WELL, IN RESPECTFUL  
MEMORY OF THOSE ADVERSARIES IN THE  
GERMAN ARMY WHO DIED ON THAT SAME  
FATEFUL DAY.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN,  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.  
ERRECTED AT BIENEN ON THE 55TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVENT, IN THE  
YEAR 2000.

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## 818 Toronto Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets

818 Squadron had a busy fall season commencing with tag days fundraising in September and a gliding day at CFB Borden in October, peaking with Remembrance Day activities and culminating with a seasonal cadet dining in before the Christmas break. A special thanks to parent members of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee for organizing this event.



Squadron staff and cadets participated in three Remembrance Day activities. On Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we continued our tradition of assisting the residents of Cummer Lodge, a North York nursing home, with their Remembrance Day service. Special thanks to 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regimental Band Sergeant Major and Drum Major, Sgt Darrin Hicks CD, for performing Last Post and Reveille. On the Sunday we marched in the 7<sup>th</sup>'s church parade as noted in the last edition of Take Post. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the provincial ceremony at Queen's park where cadets assisted as escorts to veterans and with organizing and laying of wreaths. Cadets were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet MGen (Ret'd) Richard Rohmer.



Flight Corporals Wang and Al-Shimmary  
with MGen (Ret'd) Richard Rohmer, OC, CMM, DFC, OOnt, KStJ, CD

The training program resumed on January 5<sup>th</sup> after the Christmas break. In addition to regular training, cadets are busy preparing for the selection process for national and regional summer training programs as well as upcoming inter-squadron/corps sports and marksmanship competitions.

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

## The Band of the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

Christmas is a social time of the year. The band held its annual Christmas party in Sergeant's mess at Moss Park on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This year was a huge success. Especially important to note was that the event was attended by many of the Senior Officers, Limber Gunner Association, and a record number of band members. The evening was a spectacular display of camaraderie and presentation of door prizes and award.

Traditionally, band members donate gifts for the door prizes which are raffled out throughout the evening. Under the organization of Cpl Forrester, Musician Trish Beck, Musician Anne Arrigo, and contributions from others in the band, presentation of the "Real Band" awards were presented to those who deservingly or otherwise throughout the year displayed instances of silly humanity. It is a lighter side to the band that has been a constant to help us keep it "Real".

We do present the Bandsman of the Year at the party. This is the only serious point in the evening. The voting has been open to the members of the band who have won it in previous years. The criteria for the honour of the award has been: *"The recipient will be one who has shown dedication to the band, always worked for the betterment of the group, is a good ambassador and makes him or herself available for many of the band's commitments."*



Musician Gerry Reidt recipient of the Bandsman of the year with CO Col Paul Szabunio and Lt Nick Arrigo  
This year's recipient has been with the band for many years. He is always ready to step up, and he is always accommodating to the needs of the band. The band members decided this year's recipient was Musician Gerry Reidt.

The band assisted the efforts of WO Bechmanis on December 20 and performed some Christmas music at the Children's Christmas Party. They entertained little one as they waited for the arrival of a special elf. Musicians included Corporal Amy Sandford, WO Ray Woodhams, Lt. Nick Arrigo, Musicians Anne Arrigo, Gerry Reidt, WO retired Phil Trow. A big thank you goes out to them for volunteering their time.

### **All ranks dinner and St Barbara's Dinner**

The Artillery Band provided musical selections and entertainment for the St Barbara's dinner on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the Regiment at the All Ranks dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The St Barbara's Day guests were entertained with Show tunes, marches, Christmas favourites and many Artillery tunes.

The All Ranks dinner experienced an Artillery version of 'Twas The Night Before Christmas, Sleigh Ride and 7 versus of Screw Guns (A catchy Christmas tune!!!)

### **Upcoming events:**

- January 31 2-3 Sit down concert Copernicus Lodge
- February 9 SAV (visit from Captain Richer (Supervisor of Reserve Bands)
- March 28 Mess Dinner at the Garrison Ball



## **“Tis The Season” Soldiers Christmas Dinner: A Holiday Tradition Enjoyed By All**

**By 2Lt Galloway**

On December 13th, 7th Toronto Regiment held their annual Soldiers’ Christmas dinner. This highly anticipated festivity once again proved a great way to wrap up the first half of the training year before standing down for the Christmas break. After conducting numerous mandatory annual lectures in the morning the officers and senior NCO’s of the Regiment rewarded the Junior Ranks for their hard work by serving them a delicious turkey dinner on the parade square at Moss Park Armory. This dinner was highlighted by the presentation of several awards and promotions, and the music of the 7 Toronto Band led by Lt. Nick Arrigo.

Once again the junior ranks provided a stellar rendition of “Screw Guns”, spilled cups and all. Also, as is the tradition, Bdr McCulloch, as the youngest member of the junior ranks in attendance had the honour of being named acting CO for the dinner. Likewise, the oldest member of the junior ranks, Bdr Yu was named acting RSM. Both did an outstanding job and may have a term as the 7 Tororont Regt Command Team in their distant future.

The dinner was enjoyed by all and was followed by members retiring to their respective messes to celebrate the holiday season. Not to be forgotten was the morning delivery of goods gathered from the Unit Christmas Charity Drive to the local affiliate of the Salvation Army.



*Exchanging of Tunics between CO 7 Tor Regt, LCol Szabunio and A/CO for the dinner, Bombardier McCulloch.*



*LCol Szabunio receiving Bombardier epaulettes from A/CO for the dinner, Bdr McCulloch while A/RSM Bdr Yu watches on.*



*Members of 7th Toronto Regiment dropping off gifts to the Salvation Army from the Christmas Charity Drive.*

*From L to R: Bdr Browne, Capt Padre Clark, Sgt Tallud and 2Lt Proner*



## **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](http://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

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## 105 (7 Tor RCA) Army Cadet Corps



As 2014 has come to a close and 2015 has begun, the cadets of Streetsville 105 RC(Army)CC are looking forward to another year of training and community involvement. 105 RCACC has been actively involved in the community of Streetsville and the city of Mississauga, thus

achieving one of the main goals of the Canadian Army Cadet Program to promote citizenship within the community.

In 2013, 105 RCACC organized an overnight vigil at the Streetsville cenotaph and stood guard overnight, becoming the first cadet corps in the community to do so. In 2014, the corps participated in a multitude of activities ranging from community clean-ups to serving Fish and Chips with the Streetsville Legion.



In the coming year, the corps is eagerly looking to continue promoting citizenship within the community and active living within other aspects of the program.





# **Exercise Cougar Spirit 1: 7th Toronto Regiment Soldiers Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> Artillery Exercise Of The New Training Year.**

**By Capt Brad Stewart**

On the weekend of 21-23 November 2014, members of 7th Toronto Regiment deployed to 4 Canadian Division Training Center, Meaford to conduct Exercise Cougar Spirit 1. This annual exercise is highly anticipated amongst the troops as it is typically the first live fire Gun and Mortar Ex of the new training year. This year proved to be no exception as both Firing Batteries conducted successful and highly rewarding training for their soldiers.

As the first gunnery exercise for 9 Battery and as to be expected in Meaford for this time of year, mother nature didn't let anyone down and dumped about 2 feet of snow on the Meaford training area a couple of days before the exercise. Despite the inclement weather, the soldiers performed admirably firing HE, Smoke and Coordinated Illumination missions. In addition to the live gunnery, soldiers were presented the added benefit of being able to practice vehicle recovery as road conditions were less than favourable and resulted in a few vehicles getting stuck. 9 Battery continues to move the yard sticks forward and is looking forward to the next live firing exercise, Ex BLACK HAND in March 2015.

Similar to 9 Bty, 15 Light Fighter Battery was able to achieve all the level 2 Battle Tasks Standards they had set out to achieve in their exercise instructions even though the concept of operations changed somewhat dramatically on account of the unexpected inclement weather. After receiving orders from the Battery Commander on Friday night the Troop Commanders began conducting Battle Procedure to ensure the remainder of the training on Sat and Sun would run efficiently.

Saturday morning began with the majority of the Battery conducting section attacks while the OP and CP crews carried out a CPX in the on-site Indirect Fire Trainer. Later that morning the Mortar Dets joined the CPX to make it a full-fledged training session. The highlight of 15 Bty's weekend took place Saturday afternoon as under the watchful eye of the GPO and newly Basic Mountain Ops qualified soldier, Bdr Ollivier-Brown, they completed three rope bridge obstacle crossings. The first was a simple introduction completed in fighting order, with the second done in marching order, included rucksack and mortar. Lastly the final crossing was completely tactical involving all of the security and elements that are doctrinally necessary. The Regimental Major and the RSM were both present to witness the second crossing and the troops seemed to quite enjoy the new skillset.

Saturday night was spent conducting dry occupation and deployment drills until about 2200 hrs. Finally, Sunday morning the Bty conducted a tactical movement and occupation at Cambrai pad where they were able to successfully fire two missions, both on time and on target.

Overall, Cougar Spirit 1 proved to be a roaring success amongst the soldiers and leadership of 7th Tor Regt. Everyone returned from the exercise in high morale and having achieved a strong sense of accomplishment. The March firing exercise truly can't come soon enough.



*Members of 9 Bty deploy the 105mm C3 Howitzer in Live Fire Ex at 4 CdnDiv TC Meaford*



*Members of 15 Light Fighter Bty prepare to set up the rope crossing.*



*Members of 15 Light Fighter Bty successfully conduct obstacle crossing.*

## **Warrant Officer Morningstar Receives Colonel Commandant Commendation**

The previous 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 4<sup>th</sup> Division but indeed to those from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.”*

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## **Report from the 2015 Rangers Cup Hockey Tournament Sponsored by 32CBG – New Year’s Levee Hockey Tournament**

**By: Sergeant Darrin Hicks, 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA**

Almost a year ago, the Battery Commander, 130 Battery notified us that the Brigade would be running a hockey tournament on New Year's



Day, 2015. The call went out to find any 7th Toronto soldiers who might be able to play. I've been playing adult recreational hockey for many years, including running my own corporate team for over a decade. I



also had a part time job as a rent-a-goalie for 5 years back in the

1990's. I haven't played since 2010 due to a knee injury after getting run over by a player on a break-away who lost control. My knee has recovered fully, but I still haven't found the time to get back on the ice. I decided to throw my 'mask' in the ring and submitted my name for the tournament.

It appears that there aren't many 7th Toronto Soldiers who play hockey, as only two names ended up getting submitted, and the other member canceled. This left me as the sole member of 7th Toronto in the tournament. Since one goalie does not a team make, I ended up getting attached to the Signals team. The first game was at 1000 hrs, and I showed up to the empty Signals dressing room. Eventually, just 4 members of the Signals showed up for the game. This was not enough as our first opponent, the Royals, had 15 players and 2 goalies. The Royals graciously agreed to detach 2 of their players to us and play the game as 4 on 4. Although we were still outnumbered, we ended up taking the game 6-3.

In the 2nd round, we went up against the QOR. The QOR had 20 players and 2 goalies. To make it more of a game, we borrowed some more players and a backup goalie from the Royals. The game, on the main ice surface at Canlan York, was very lively, but in the end we lost 2-0.

The QOR went on to win the final game and was presented the Rangers Cup by the 32CBG Commander.



All in all, it was a different and enjoyable way to spend New Year's Day. There were many spectators from all of the Regiments and their families. They also had a free family skate after the last game. I'm pretty sure that 7th Toronto has a few more hockey players than just me, and it would be great to see a larger representation at the tournament next year.

**Good Shooting! Sgt Darrin Hicks**

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## Limber Gunners Artyfacts

2014 was a very busy year for our Limber Gunners with 14 events. Events ranged from the first salute fired at Queens Park for the Ontario Police Remembrance Memorial Service on May 4<sup>th</sup> to the Remembrance Day Salute with the Regiment at Queens Park on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Limber Gunners were very proud when The Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell inspected the Guns of the Regiment on Remembrance Day.



*Limber Gunners Night Firing at Coe's Hill*

Major Ron Paterson would like to thank all the members, from as far away as Port Huron and Windsor who participated in all the 14 events and salutes. He would especially like to thank Frank Moore and Larry Goucher for their extra effort towards General Brown's Funeral and Cpl. Cirillo's Funeral.

The Limber Gunners will be carrying out training throughout January to April 2015. The LG will be holding short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training

- January 5<sup>th</sup> - Loading the 25pdr. casing with primer and black powder
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stores
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gunnery Training
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Driver Training and Gunnery Training
- April 11 & 18 – Driver Training

### Upcoming Events

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – the 16th annual Ontario Police Memorial Remembrance Ceremony Salute at Queens Park
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – the LG will be firing the 25Pdr. with the Regiment's Guns for the 21 Gun Salute at Queens Park for Victoria Day.

The LG is still looking for a Limber for the second 25pdr. If you know of one, please advise.

To the members of the Regiment that have retired, and if any like the smell of the gun powder, or driving a WWII Field Artillery Tractor, firing salutes with WWII Equipment, and taking part in an active tank day - **Join the Limber Gunners!**



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## **Regimental Part II Orders**

### **HONOURS, AWARDS, PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

The following received the Command Team 32 CBG Commendation:

- Sgt A. Spanos
- Sgt A. Kase
- Bdr Y. Krulevich

The following received the 7th Tor Regt Honorary Colonel Commendation:

- Gnr Altobello

The following received the 7th Tor Regt Commanding Officers Commendation:

- Bdr J. Browne

The following received his Canadian Forces Decoration (C.D.):

- MBdr M. Hwang

The following was awarded the CWO ROSA SERVICE SUPPORT AWARD:

- MBdr B. Moniz

The following was awarded the LGEN GUY SIMMONDS - BEST COMMUNICATOR AWARD:

- Bdr S. Waterman

The following was awarded the CAPT LIGHTFOOT AWARD:

- Gnr D. Limoges

The following was awarded the BEST MORTARMAN AWARD:

- Bdr K. Ollivier-Brown

The following was awarded the BEST TECH AWARD:

- Bdr O. Fleet

The following was awarded the SNR NCO LEADERSHIP AWARD:

- Sgt T. Bankasingh

The following was awarded the GUNNER JOE GREEN AWARD:

- Bdr O. Fleet

The following was awarded the BEST GUN LAYER AWARD:

- Gnr S. Pereira

The following was awarded the BEST DIRECT SHOT AWARD:

- MBdr J. D'Cruz

The following was awarded the BEST DETACHMENT COMMANDER AWARD:

- Sgt A. Kase

The following was awarded the BEST BANDSMAN AWARD:

- Sgt (Ret'd) G. Reidt

The following was awarded the BGEN BROWN AWARD:

- MBdr K. Noh

## **PROMOTIONS**

The following was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant:

- 2Lt J. Proner

The following were promoted to Warrant Officer:

- WO J. Brake
- WO J. Murray

The following were promoted to Sergeant:

- Sgt A. Kase
- Sgt M. Lee
- Sgt R. Tallud



The following were promoted to Bombardier:

- Bdr W. Nasir
  - Bdr D. Chan
  - Bdr J. McCulloch
  - Bdr S. Lockwood
- 

## Regimental Family Calendar Of Events

- 16-18 Jan – Basic Winter Warfare Course
  - 6-8 Feb - FTX Cold Start 2. 4 Can Div TC Meaford
  - 24 Feb – 105 RCACC Change of Command Parade
  - 6-8 Mar – FTX Black Hand. 4 Can Div TC Meaford
  - 10 Mar - Pre-Garrison Ball Swing Dance Lessons
  - 27 Mar - Heroes Hockey Challenge game between 32 CBG pers and Toronto Maple Leaf Alumni
  - 28 Mar – Toronto Garrison Officers Ball
  - April– Wine and Cheese Night. 7 Tor Officers Mess (TBC)
  - 09 Apr - Bad Thursday Mess Event (TBC)
  - May- CO's Annual Officers' Mess Guest Night
  - 23 May – Artillery Day Dinner
  - 24 May – Victoria Day Salute
- 

## **Did You Know?**

In 1928, former Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Major-General **Albert Bruce Matthews**, CBE, DSO, ED, CD, joined the Non-Permanent Active Militia, 30th Field Battery, 3rd Field Brigade<sup>1</sup>, RCA, as a Provisional Lieutenant. In 1936, Matthews was appointed Adjutant in the 7th (Toronto) Regiment and in 1938 he commanded the 15th Field Battery, as a Major. He was instrumental in mobilizing 15th Field Battery and accompanied it overseas in January 1940. While in the United Kingdom he commanded 3/23 Medium Battery<sup>2</sup>. He progressed in rank throughout the war and in November 1944 assumed command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division.



Forgoing a promising military career, Matthews returned to Canadian business life and he was appointed to directorships with Excelsior Life, Dome Mines and Standard Broadcasting. He was chairman of Massey-Ferguson from April 19, 1978 to December 12, 1978 and president of the Argus Corporation.

**General Bruce Matthews was one of the most outstanding Canadian commanders in World War II – a 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Gunner!**

<sup>1</sup>. In 1928, 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment consisted of 9<sup>th</sup> (Toronto) Howitzer Battery, 15<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Field batteries. Following the Second World War, 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment was re-designated as 29<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment.

<sup>2</sup>. 23<sup>rd</sup> Medium Battery was a component of 7<sup>th</sup> (Toronto) Regiment's 4<sup>th</sup> Medium Brigade. Following the Second World War, the battery was re-designated as 123 Medium Battery and the regiment re-designated as 42<sup>nd</sup> Medium Regiment.

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**NOTICES**

**1. Take Post, Edition 4**

The next Take Post will be published by 13 March 2015. Articles to be submitted by 6 March to: [beno@kos.net](mailto:beno@kos.net)

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

Please volunteer to help 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment organize the Garrison Ball 2015. Contact: David Burnett and or Major Ryan Smid.

[dburnett@endtoend.com](mailto:dburnett@endtoend.com) and/or [Ryan.Smid@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Smid@forces.gc.ca)

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**3. 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 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA and the greater Canadian Armed*



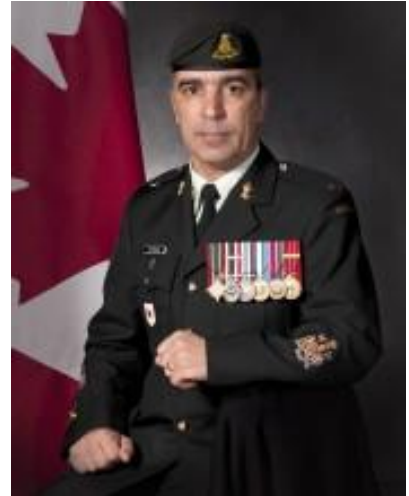
*Forces community  
Follow The Colours!*

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**RSM RCA Reserves Appointed – CWO Gittens**

On 31 October 2014, Chief Warrant Officer B.W. Gittens, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, RCA was appointed as the first RSM RCA Reserve.

This appointment was put into place to complement the Deputy Director Artillery Reserve position, both providing better Reserve communication and representation to the leadership of the Royal Regiment.



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**Sign Up For The Toronto Officers' Garrison Ball  
Tickets on Sale Now!**



**TORONTO GARRISON OFFICERS' BALL**  
March 28th, 2015 | 6 O'clock in the Evening | Liberty Grand | Governor's Ballroom

**Go To: <http://garrisonball.com/>**

Ticket prices for individual Regimental associates are \$150 each (plus HST and service charge) until 31 January 2015 at which time all tickets, including tables, go up in price.

A table of 12 is \$1,400 (plus HST and service charge) and so you can see that getting together as a group saves a lot of money per person.

As this Ball is being organized and hosted by the gunners, it behooves the Officers in the Toronto Gunners to make every effort to attend.

The theme this year is to take the Ball back to the heady days of celebration for the end of the war in Europe and to recreate the wonderful swing dance era which was so popular. The Liberty Grand venue will decorate nicely into that period of the 40's making for an excellent evening.

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**Fields of Fire Tours  
and Merit Travel  
Canada  
presents**



**Gunners Return to Vimy  
& the Battlefields of Normandy  
1 – 10 April 2017**



- Participate in the rededication of the Gunner Memorial on Vimy Ridge
- Visit important Gunner battlefields in Normandy and Dieppe
- Pay tribute to the war dead of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
- Attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremonies in Arras, France
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Locally (12-16 members) group presents personalized service

**For more information contact David Patterson  
at [dave@foftours.com](mailto:dave@foftours.com), or call 613-539-4660**

## Return to Vimy: Tour Itinerary

**Day 1 – 1 April** ... Depart Canada for Paris.

**Day 2 – 2 April** ... We arrive in Paris, meet our bus and then drive to Normandy where we will visit Juno Beach and the Juno Beach Centre. We will stay in Caen tonight.

**Day 3 – 3 April** ... Today we will start with a visit to Beny-sur-Mer cemetery to honour the Gunners there. We will then visit Verrières Ridge where the Corps Artillery was first deployed.

**Day 4 – 4 April** ... Departing Caen we will head for Dieppe. Though not a specific Gunner battle, many gunners landed on the beach with the infantry and a UK gunner earned the VC. We will tour the beach and museum and stay in a local hotel.

**Day 5 – 5 April** ... We will make an early start from Dieppe and drive to Ypres where we will look at the battles of 1915 around St. Julien and 1917 around Passchendaele. We will participate in the Menin Gate ceremony that evening and stay in Ypres.

**Day 6 – 6 April** ... Today we will visit the Somme. Starting with Beaumont-Hamel we will then tour the Courcellette battlefield before heading to Arras where we will stay for the next four nights.

**Day 7 – 7 April** ... We will tour the battlefield of Vimy Ridge before attending the Freedom of the City of Arras parade that will be held today.

**Day 8 – 8 April** ... Today we will parade at the Gunner Memorial in Thélus on Vimy Ridge and rededicate it to the memory of Gunners who fell in this important battle.

**Day 9 – 9 April** ... This day will be the big event as we attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremonies marking the capture of Vimy Ridge. Thousands of Canadians (including notable VVIPs) and French citizens will throng the memorial park to witness this historic event.

**Day 10 – 10 April** ... We will depart early to make flights from Paris that will return us to Canada.

Tour Price (Toronto departure)

Estimated CAD \$4,000 – (per person, Double occupancy)

(single supplement: \$700 – limited availability)

Final cost will be determined when hotels and transport are confirmed

Departure costs from other major airports (Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, Vancouver, etc.) will be determined based on demand

**\$500 per person deposit required when Bus and Hotel costs finalized**

Price includes:

- return air travel
- all meals
- all travel coach bus
- accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- services of historian/guides:

Not Included:

- travel insurance
- items of a personal nature such as beverages

**Note:** limited single room availability – “first come, first served”



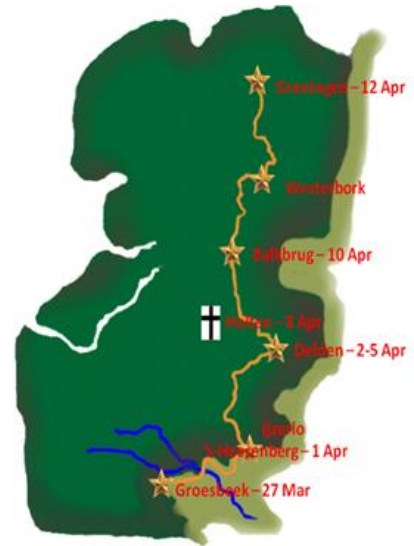
## The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands

### Keep Them Rolling – The Final Push Eastern Netherlands 29 March to 10 April 2015



Members of 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment will participate in The Liberation of Holland events in March-April 2015.

*"Keep Them Rolling, Netherlands"* is a group of re-enactors with up to 300 WWII vintage vehicles, guns, tanks, etc. KTR will stage a major excursion which they call *"The Final Push,"* covering the route that the Canadian Army covered as they pushed North from the Rhineland of Germany and on through Eastern Holland in the spring of 1945.



One of the first towns liberated in NL on Operation PLUNDER was 's-Heerenberg, on April 1st 1945. So, on April 1st 2015 KTR will push

### The Netherlands – Key Points

liberation



through 's-Heerenberg and hold a major

ceremony in the town. In 2010 (65th Anniversary of Liberation) 's-Heerenberg held a major ceremony with 2,000 spectators and the Royal Canadian Artillery place a 25 Pounder gun in the town as a monument. Note that 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA was deployed just outside the town in 1945).

On 1st April 2015 there will be a major ceremony in 's-Heerenberg, with about 150 vehicles (with at least four Sherman tanks), dozens of re-enactors and the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums. We will attempt to get some Canadian soldiers sponsored from the Regiment, 7th Toronto Regiment, and maybe a few others. The soldiers, as well as taking part in this ceremony will conduct organized battlefield studies.



Keep Them Rolling will proceed North and have ceremonies at the crossing of the Twente Canal (tough fighting and many Canadians killed), Holten Commonwealth Cemetery, the Westerbork Concentration Camp, and in towns such as Delden, Borne and Groningen.

Major Ryan Smid, 2 I/C, will lead the 7<sup>th</sup> Tor team, accompanied by Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno

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## 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade Canadian Field Artillery Summary of Events, and Information*

##### **WEST DOWN NORTH - SALSBURY PLAIN**

- Friday, Jan 1, 1915 - Holiday. Very wet and windy. Bde staff out looking for billets. HQs & remaining batteries not located.
- Jan 2, Saturday – Fine day. Brigade HQs packed up and moved into billets as did 12<sup>th</sup> Battery Ammunition Column and Depot Battery. HQ at BEECHINGSTOKE MANOR HOUSE WILTS.

##### **BEECHINGSTOKE**

- Jan 3, Sunday. - Wet all day. Billets comfortable. Men shaking down well in quarters.

##### **BEECHINGSTOKE**

- Jan 4, Monday. - Wet in morning. Roads very flooded. Practically impossible to get about. Decrease Sgt McKerney, 10<sup>th</sup> Battery No 92172, died at Bulford of meningitis.

##### **BEECHINGSTOKE**

- Jan 5, Tuesday. - Dry day. Observation Officer at LARK HILL with Aeroplanes. Decrease four horses dead, Ammunition Column.
- Jan 6 – Orders were given to the officers and Ranks. Attestation papers, Casualty forms and a complete nominal roll of the Brigade arranged alphabetically.
- Jan 7 – All units doing training and completing. Same at Beech House. Training is much better in weather.
- Jan 8 – Inspection of all guns sections painting guns. Issue of paint for painting guns pewter colour. Instructions issued re payment of billets. DECREASE: Lieut Robb Depot Battery left for Canada.
- Jan 9 – Inspection of billets by OC Units. Payment for same. Men very comfortable. Fitting in very well with inhabitants.
- Jan 10, Sunday - Church Parade all ranks. Fine day. Suspected case of meningitis sent to Bulford.
- Jan 11 - Lieut Robb permitted to resign. Decrease one officer. Decided in Bulford that case not meningitis.

- Jan 12 - Inspection by GOC of horses and billets. Reported favorably on both. Word that we leave for France early February.
- Jan 13- Marching order parade all batteries. Inspection of 9<sup>th</sup> battery by OC. Weather fine.
- Jan 14 - Inspection 10<sup>th</sup> Battery. Guns being painted look curious. DA column to send Lt Magun (sp?) and acting Lt Harcourt.
- Jan 15 - Gnr W Williams No 42762 struck off – discharged med unfit. Inspection 12<sup>th</sup> Battery and Ammunition Column.
- Jan 16 - The exchange between Lt Harcourt and Lt Magan (sp?) postponed by DIV ART ORDERS.
- Jan 17 - Sunday Church parade Weather fine.
- Jan 18 - Inspection of horses by D.A.V.S. Smith Southern Command. Section gun drill etc continuing. Weather fine.
- Jan 19 - Brigade day under direction of LCol Williams. Weather fine.
- Jan 20 -Slightly raining all day. BC's training with skeleton batteries.

#### BEECHINGSTOKE

- Jan 21- Inspection of all horses by V.D. with a view to casting unsuitable ones.
- Jan 22 - NCOs appointments made permanent. 5 men. H42776 J. Lucas 42627, S Alexander, 42161 J McLean, 62668 C Mc Pender (Sp?), 42026 PF Rooney struck off strength as deserter from this date.
- Jan 23- Skeleton Brigade practices at PATNEY and vicinity. Day Fine.
- Jan 24- Sunday. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Batteries bivouacked at COPSE FARM for firing practice tomorrow.
- Jan 25- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Battery firing practice. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Batteries bivouacked at COPSE FARM.
- Jan 26- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> batteries firing practice. Bde HQs returned to billets from COPSE FARM.
- Jan 27- All leave cancelled from this date. Course in Field Telephony started today.
- Jan 28 - Battery tactics under OCs & units. Billeting returns to be closed 2/2/15.
- Jan 29 - Battery tactics under BCs. Committee of Adjustment ordered for Sgt J Markney.
- Jan 30 - Ordered to turn in all excess vehicle stores. #33323 Pte Groffin A, C.A.M.C attached.
- Jan 31 – Capt Gunns (Sp?) being transferred to C.A.S.C. Third Class for Telephonists (Buzzer) Commences direction of Lt Col Sills (Sp?) R.H.A. with examples of ranging.

#### **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 9<sup>th</sup> Battery 100 years ago:

- Note that the 9<sup>th</sup> Battery is getting closer to crossing the Channel to France – the fighting War. They are concentrating on training, adapting to new technology, looking after their horses and equipment, preparing the guns, and dealing with the morale of the soldiers. Camp routine, church parades, inspections and VIP visits continue.

- One should note the importance of Administration – paying for billets, committee of adjustments, personnel records, etc – just like today!
  - January 11<sup>th</sup> – why did Lt Robb resign?? One wonders what the story is behind that! Some indiscretion perhaps? Or, incompetence? Or, cowardice? Or, did he come into some un-expected inheritance back in Canada?? Maybe he went on to serve in the ranks!!
  - You will note that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> five men deserted. No doubt had this happened in a theatre of operations (i.e., France) punishment would have been death by firing squad. One wonders why these five deserted, and where did they go? Did they somehow get back to Canada? Were they apprehended and punished? What became of them? Perhaps in future editions we'll find out.
  - Note the adaptation to new technology – signals equipment and the use of aeroplanes at Larkhill – the Battery mobilized with state-of-the art equipment, technology and doctrine before deployment to operations!
  - Here they are at this time of year 100 years ago. Next month you will see that they have a Royal Review (February 5<sup>th</sup>), then the next day pack up for the ship voyage to France, departing camp on the 11<sup>th</sup>. They disembark in France at 2:00 a.m. February 16<sup>th</sup> and make the four day journey to the front.
  - **Tune in next month, and learn what our forefathers encountered when they came up against the Hun! You'll be proud of 9<sup>th</sup> Battery!**
- 

