



“Take Post”

The Journal of The Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 5, 21 May, 2015

THIS EDITION

- Exercise BLACK HAND
- Toronto Garrison Officers’ Ball
- Liberation of The Netherlands 70th Anniversary – The FINAL PUSH
- Cadets – Part of our Regimental Family
- 7th Toronto reaches 100 in 1966
- And Much More!

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

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

Exercise BLACK HAND 2015

By Lieutenant Colonel Paul Szabunio, Commanding Officer

On March 8th, 7th Toronto Regiment successfully proved its ability to train collectively, and operate independently at the Regimental fires level, marking it as unique within the Royal Canadian Artillery Primary Reserve. By some estimates, Exercise BLACK HAND 2015 was the first wholly self-contained regimental-fires level field exercise run by the unit in at least 15-20 years or more.



BLACK HAND was conducted at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre MEAFORD from 06-08 March, and culminated with a live, full-scale Regimental Fireplan involving two independently operating and commanded field batteries of the Regiment (9 and 15 Batteries under respective command of Majors John Dean and Ryan Smid). This activity was all coordinated and commanded by a unit-generated and -manned Regimental Headquarters operations and fire control cell, led by Major Nav Grewal and Captains Brad Stewart and Tuan On, which demonstrated a degree of technical command and control (C2) capability, and technical complexity, normally solely resident within our Regular Force Regiments.

**Regimental Command Post Exercise “BLACK HAND” – Moss Park Armouries,
06-08 Feb 15**

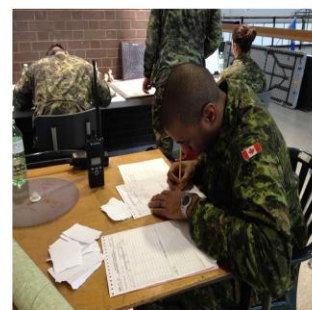
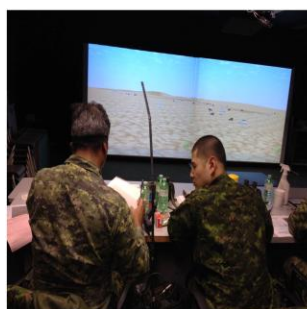
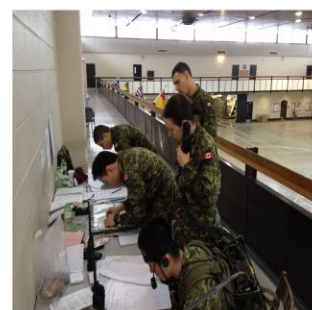
Aim: Push the training envelope by conducting a BTS II /III CPX within a level IV (Regimental) context in order to raise the bar of 7 TOR’s internal capabilities.

CO’s Campaign Plan Lines Supported: Soldier’s First; Professional Development

Intent: Command, control, and collaborative integration of fires from multiple fire units and effectors is a core artillery skill that must be sustained through active practice. This supports development of formation-level (TBG or higher) artillery command and staff skills required of combined and joint operations in the COE. Using solely 7 TOR endemic personnel and resources, conduct a Regimental level artillery CPX and expose Gunners to their doctrinal baseline level of operations (i.e. the Regiment). Use the CPX as pre-training for its first wholly unit-run live fire Regimental FTX in early March in Meaford.

Main Effort: Ensure Artillery technical firing drills in a Regimental context, up to and including deliberate Battery Commander level fireplanning, are developed and sustained.

Net Effects: Elevated sense of unit confidence and pride in achieving a very high level of individual and collective training capabilities. Instil esprit-de-corps by being one of the few Reserve Artillery Units in Canada capable of such individual and collective training using only unit-endemic resources.



Capt Laxton and Sgt Wood lead their respective OP and CP crews through firing drills (top); Lt Rasheed, MBdr Min, and Capt Alliberti direct fires onto the target (middle); Maj Grewal and Capt Stewart coordinate the fires of two batteries at Callsign ‘0,’ while Lt Henry copies down a Battery Commander’s fireplan at the gunline

Exercise BLACK HAND was preceded by a Regimental Command Post warm-up exercise at Moss Park Armouries in early February. Command, control, and collaborative integration of fires from multiple fire units and effectors is a core artillery skill that must be sustained through active practice. By practicing this in both dry and live-fire conditions, the Unit developed its own formation-level (Territorial Battle Group, Brigade, or higher) artillery command and staff skills that officers and NCOs need in combined and joint operations in the Contemporary Operating Environment. It also ensured that unit Gunners stay familiar with their doctrinal baseline level of operations (i.e. the Regiment).

Regimental-Level Live Fire Exercise "BLACK HAND" – MEAFORD, 06-08 Mar 15

Aim: Push the BTS II /III training envelope by doing so within a level IV (Regimental) context FTX, proving 7 TOR's unique ability to train collectively, and operate independently, at the Regimental live-fires level using only endemic unit resources.

CO's Campaign Plan Lines Supported: Soldier's First; Professional Development; Regimental Community

Intent/SoM: C2 and collaborative integration of fires from multiple fire units and effectors is a core artillery skill that must be sustained through live fire practice. This develops formation-level (TBG or higher) artillery command and staff skills required in combined and joint COE operations. Using solely 7 TOR personnel and resources,* conduct a Regimental level artillery FTX and expose Gunners to their doctrinal baseline level of operations (i.e. the Regiment). Exercise C2 through a unit-manned RHQ operations and fire control cell, demonstrating a degree of technical C2 capability normally resident solely within our RegF Regiments.

Main Effort: Regimental live fires, culminating in a full scale Regimental Fireplan, using 2x independently-operating and -commanded 7 TOR gun batteries.

Net Effects: It has been at least 20 years since 7 TOR last functioned at this level of self-containment, significantly enhancing 32 CBG's own Effects-Based collaborative-C2 capacity. A very high level of unit confidence and pride has been built by being one of the few Canadian Reserve Artillery Units capable of such individual and collective training using only unit resources.*



MBdr Min lases the Regiment's first target; Bdr Brekker and 15 (Lightfigther) Battery prepares to deploy; Sgt Laplante of 9 Battery records his gun (top L-R); Lt McBride plots a Regimental mission for the mortars; Maj Dean and Capt Laxton BC and FOO the first Regimental mission; Capt On, Bdr Waterman and Capt Stewart run the Regimental CP (Centre L-R); while the Gunners of 15 and 9 Battery deliver Regimental fires (bottom)

** BZ to 30 and 42 RCA for support when 7 Tor gear was grounded at the last-minute for technical reasons beyond the Unit's control.*

Unit soldiers were privileged to greet the Deputy Division Commander of 4th Canadian Division, Brigadier General David Patterson, during the exercise, who is himself a Gunner and former Commanding Officer of 2nd Field Regiment in Montreal. The Deputy Commander enthusiastically availed himself of the opportunity to load and fire several rounds from 9 Battery's pistol gun under command of Sergeant Evan Laplante.

None of this would have been possible without the gracious support of a number of 4th Division Primary Reserve Artillery Units, including 30th field who graciously loaned us their guns while the Unit's were in technical repair, and 42nd Field Regiment (Lanark and Renfrew Scottish) for their mortar sights. Kudos also go to 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) staff who supported background coordination and transport; and to 7th Toronto Regiment's Operations team, Gunners, and officers, whose outstanding dedication made this happen. All have the Regimental Sergeant Major's and Commanding Officer's deepest gratitude.

A very high level of Unit confidence and pride has been instilled by being one of the few Canadian Reserve Artillery Units capable of such a level of individual and collective training. The bar has been raised significantly, and represents a high-water mark of the current Command Team's vision of Unit capabilities with this return to our doctrinal roots, all to enhance 32 CBG's own effects-based collaborative C2 capacity.

Please see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/32brigade/sets/72157650871266220/> for more photos:

Operation THE FINAL PUSH By Master Bombardier Matt Jackson



In March-April of 1945, soldiers of the Canadian Army were welcomed with open arms by the people of the Netherlands in towns throughout the eastern area of that country. Seventy years later, Canadian soldiers were welcomed there once again, under radically different circumstances.



Lt. Lum leads the delegation in the ceremony held in 's-Heerenberg.



Sgt Hicks explains to the group the planning, execution, and significance of the crossing of the Twente Canal (pictured in background).



Guided by a local expert, the group was able to pinpoint the location of regiments (and even some batteries) during the engagements of March-April 1945.



Brig-Gen. Beno speaks to a congregation. The group was invited to hear a local orchestral-group at Zeddam

A delegation consisting of Brig-Gen. Beno, Maj. Smid, Lt. Lum, Sgt. Kase, Sgt. Spanos, Sgt Hicks, MBdr Gawley, MBdr Noh, and MBdr Jackson of 7 Tor RCA, as well as Cpl. Saiko of the QOR, took part in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands. From 29 March to 9 April 2015, the group visited battlefield sites, spoke with veterans of the conflict, and participated in a myriad of ceremonies commemorating the end of the conflict.

The group was based in 's-Heerenberg, and stayed in the same hotel (the 'Lantscroon') as the last group of gunners who went to the Netherlands for the occasion of the 65th anniversary. A photo of that group still hangs in the lobby, with a number of faces familiar to this 2015 party. The effort this year was conducted alongside the re-enactors group 'Keep them Rolling', which is an organization dedicated to the preservation/recognition of Allied efforts in the liberation of the Netherlands.

Each day would see the group depart as a whole to an interesting site of historical relevance or to a town celebrating its independence. A number of local experts accompanied them, and were

able to use authentic, contemporary documents to give the gunners an accurate idea of where soldiers marched, attacks launched, and even where specific batteries were deployed. In addition, each member of the group gave a small presentation at the various sites relevant to where they were. As a result, context and background gave each location relevance and imparted lessons on the listeners.



A Warrant of the KorpsVeldartillerie (Field Artillery Corps) gives a demonstration on the operation of a Panzerhaubitze 2000.



The group poses with their hosts atop a Panzerhaubitze 2000.



Under the command of Major Smid, the group conducted drill flawlessly alongside their counterparts in the Dutch army. This picture was taken in Goor, commemorating that town's liberation by Polish soldiers in the waning days of the war.



Maj. Smid speaks with a British veteran about his role in the battle for the eastern Netherlands.

Some of the sites and lessons stood out more than others. One notable example was when the group attended a 're-creation' of Allied troops crossing the Twente Canal under fire. At this point, seeing re-enactors dressed in period costume was a common sight, but what surprised the members of 7 Tor (and their ambassador from the QOR) was when the 'soldiers' started firing off hundreds of blank rounds, and took simulated artillery fire from the 'Germans'. The result was a highly immersive act that aptly depicted to everyone present the intensity of the struggle. Topping it off nicely was an extremely well-prepared presentation by Sgt Hicks giving an overall explanation of the greater battle for the Twente.

Another particularly interesting visit was when the group spent some time in at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, where 2,338 Canadian soldiers lay buried. It was a sobering sight for the group, to walk along the rows and graves and see men who had died in their late ‘teens or early twenties, driving home the risks and cost that is ever-present in wartime service. While there, Cpl Saiko gave an explanation of the actions of Aubrey Cosens, who was a QOR soldier and recipient of the Victoria Cross.

By the end of the twelve-day trip, everyone in the group now possessed a strong knowledge of, and in some manner even a personal investment in, the source of the excellent relationship between Canada and the Netherlands. Until they had crossed the ocean and experienced the sites and anecdotes first-hand, to most of the delegation that bond between countries had been best epitomized by numbers in a textbook. After this, the group as a whole has formed a better understanding as whole of the significance of Canadian efforts in the Netherlands.



High-ranking officials, civilian and military, from Canada, the Netherlands and Poland were present for the ceremony in Goor. Picture to the immediate right of Brig-Gen. Beno in this picture are three officers of the Polish Army.



Wherever the group went, local Dutch civilians enthusiastically greeted them in accurate, well-researched period dress.



Maj. Smid conducts an interview in 's-Heerenberg for Dutch media.

A snippet of the interview can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75qnY7U1y4&sns=fb>

(members of the regiment, including the Major’s interview, begins at the 0:55 mark).

A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno

Toronto Garrison Officers’ Ball



The Social Highlight of this year was the Toronto Officers’ Garrison Ball, 28 March – organized, led, coordinated and managed by Captain (Retired) David Burnett and Major John Stewart, above. Both will proclaim that it was a “team” effort, but it would not have happened without them leading the team. Like any military operation, this took vision, planning, coordination, collaboration, personal example and downright hard work. This was also an example of the great capacity that resides in our Regimental Family. The whole of the Regimental Family backed up David and John, and the outcome was incredible. I offer my personal and heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the 2015 TGOB. This is an example of how Lines of Operation 3, 4 and 5 (See Take Post 4 and our Regimental Family Strategic Plan) have a great impact on morale, cohesion, esprit de corps and pride in our Regiment – and this of course impacts directly on Line of Operation 1, our operational capacity.

It was a great pleasure for me to spend almost two weeks with nine of our 7th Tor soldiers in The Netherlands. What a sharp, professional and dedicated group. They make me proud, and I intend to provide more opportunities for members of the Regiment to represent Canada and the Canadian Army in similar excursions. I am very thankful that sponsors stepped up to the plate to make this possible.



Wherever I look, I see highly motivated members of the Regimental Family supporting our soldiers and making the Regiment a stronger and stronger unit – operationally, morale, cohesion, esprit de corps and fighting spirit. In closing, I continue to be impressed with and proud of 7th Toronto Regiment – a “Regiment certainly worthy of its Hire!!” **Good Shooting! UBIQUE!!**
Hon Col Ernest Beno, OMM, CD

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

The 7th Toronto RCA Band had a very successful evening on March 28th at the Toronto Garrison Ball. The brass quintet performed for the VIP reception prior to dinner and the mess dinner band entertained the guests for two and a half hours. The ensemble received compliments from the Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell and the Honourable Julian Fantino Member of Parliament and former Chief of Police, and many others.



Many thanks go out to the band for their professionalism and dedication to a polished performance.

As the summer is just around the corner, many of the musicians will be heading to Borden for courses or to Ottawa for Ceremonial Guard. This year our musicians will be taking the BMQ-L to facilitate their career progressions. We wish them all well and hope they return to us in September healthy and happy.

Opportunity knocks for many of our talented musicians. Cpl Moffat has won a spot in the Reg Force bands and is awaiting a posting. Acting MCpl Vallar has been working in Halifax all year and is to continue with her contract with the Stadacona Band.

The following musicians will be going back to school in September. Cpl David Boutin-Bourque will be attending Northwestern University for his master in clarinet performance, Cpl Anna Dickey will be attending McGill University for her Masters in Performance as well. Cpl Adriana Douvris has completed her Medical training and has accepted the next stage of her career in Ottawa. We will miss you all. Know that the door is always open and we hope you will always think of the 7th Toronto Band as family.

Upcoming Performances

- Brass Quintet will perform with the Gun Salute on May 18th 10-noon
- Artillery Day May 23 at Fort York Concert in the afternoon

- June 13 Highland Creek Festival
 - June 27 7th Toronto takes the lead for the Grad Parade in Meaford
 - July 1st the band will perform a one hour concert at the Gun Salute for Canada Day.
 - Aug 15-31 we will be performing at the CNE in conjunction with the military bands of 32 Brigade
-

105 (7 Tor RCA) Army Cadet Corps

RCA Regiment Family Through the Eyes of an Officer

By Major Paul Preikschas, Commanding Officer 105 RC(Army)CC

After reading the 7 Tor Regt's Family Strategy, I began to reflect on how we have come a long way, we as in the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) and the rest of the reserve force, but more importantly how we came together as a family.

In the past, the CIC officer was known as the Cadet Officer, a term I cringe when hearing, a term synonymous as – you are not an officer, type comment. We are NOT trained in Combat Arms, but our training is much more specialized, we work with Canada's youth.

I have been very lucky to have spent most of my career affiliated with the RCA, first off with 11th Field in Guelph, the affiliated unit of 1943 RC(Army)CC in Palmerston and then with the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA. I have asked my mentor and friend to contribute to this article, and LCol (ret'd) Ralph G. French, CD wrote the following.

“After retiring from the Militia after many years of service I was asked by Major Robert Lyon if I would be willing to join the ranks of the CIC and take command of a Cadet Corps, which turned out to be in Palmerston where I was raised. It almost felt like coming home.

I had some reservations about this move as I had had some contact with Cadet Corps CIC Officers in the past and I must say I was not impressed. In comparison to Militia Officers their overall appearance seemed be less than striking. As a general rule their dress and deportment was not what I was used to. Their physical appearance did not lend itself to setting an example for the young people they were training.

However I soon found out that those people were the exception to the rule. When I arrived in Palmerston I was introduced to 2Lt Paul Preikschas who had been commanding the 1943 Cadet Corps with no assistance for some time and had been doing a great job, well beyond his pay grade. Here was an Officer who put his whole body and soul into running a Cadet Corps. I almost felt sorry to take away the Corps from a very competent young man.

Paul made my transition from Militia to CIC an eye-opening experience. He was very well organized and in no time we were in sync with one another and the training began.

The strength of the Corps had suffered under previous COs and Paul was trying his best to bring the strength back up. With our new training concept and our best efforts we were able to entice many new recruits into the fold.

2Lt Preikschas has moved on since those days and has now taken command (again) of 105 Royal Canadian Cadet Corps, this time as Major. I have also retired again for the 3rd time, but left the CIC with a new respect for those people who take the time and expend their energy to make Cadets an experience that the young people will never forget.”

Ubique - LCol (ret'd) Ralph G. French, CD

It has been many years since my first command and I have been blessed with seeing our Regimental family grow.



2Lt Paul Preikschas with Cadet Jenna Rozema – Camp St. Barbara Outdoor Range

Over the years, cadets have grown up, and joined up, some to the Regular Force, some to RCA Regiments, both the 11th Field and 7th Toronto Regiment. I am proud to see that these young Canadians have decided to “Pay it Forward” and become members of the CAF, to carry on a long

tradition of Service Before Self. I am equally proud of those who became teachers, job supervisors, leaders in their community – better Canadians because of their experiences in the Cadet movement. CIC officers are responsible for cadet training, supervision, and administration, but more importantly, they are there for the youth of Canada and help in their personal and professional development.

***From little Cadet Rozema to Lt Rozema – Promotion Parade 105 RC(Army)CC
Capt Eric Edelsward, Lt Rozema, Capt Dhillon***

Lt Rozema is just one example of our



Regimental family, there are many more I've seen grow up and I am proud of their success working with the CIC and the Regiment.

In some cases the Cadet Corps and Regiment is provide the best structure these young people have. From the first day I walked in the Armoury to meet with the CO of the 11th Field Regiment until now, I feel at home with our Regimental family and we will work hard on carrying our our family tradition to the young people of Canada



LCol (ret'd) Ralph G. French, CD, Mrs. Gerri Preikschas, Major Paul Preikschas

One of the highlights of this training year was a visit to Moss Park Armoury and a tour of the workings of the Regiment. I want to pass on my thanks to the CO and the soldiers and Gunners who made the day a great event.



105 RC(Army)CC Group photo at Moss Park Armoury

105 is busy getting ready for our Annual Inspection on Tuesday the 26th of May, 19:00 hrs at West Credit Secondary School, and then many cadets are off for summer training at the end of the school year.

105 RC(Army)CC is very proud to be part of the 7 Toronto Regiment's Family Strategy.

UBIQUE!

Limber Gunners Artyfacts for May 2015

The Limber Gunners are going to have a very busy year with 18 events this year. The LG started the year with a 3 round salute and static display at the Toronto Garrison Ball on March 28th.

The Regiment ran a training day with the Limber Gunners taking part to train the 105 Cadet Corp on Saturday April 25th at Moss Park Armory. Mike Mercer introduced the cadets with a hands-on application of loading a casing with black powder and primer, and Dave Anderson introduced the cadets to the 25Pdr and the FAT.



The Limber Gunners took part in the in the Liberation of the Netherlands Festival and Parade .on May 2nd at Nathan Philips Square Toronto City Hall. Joe Mc Cormack, Steve Singh, Larry Goucher and Ron Paterson were deeply moved by the outpouring of appreciation by the Dutch-Canadian community on the parade and the Festival on Nathan Philips Square. The Limber gunners members also had an opportunity to carry a WWII veteran and his caregiver in the parade and met several WWII veterans at the Festival



The Ontario Police Association appreciated the Limber Gunners firing a 3 Gun Salute at Queens Park on May 3rd for the Ontario Police Memorial Remembrance Ceremony.

The Limber Gunners will be carrying out training starting in November. The LG will be holding short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training. After the meeting of May 4 the members installed the correct TAC Signs on the Quad, Limber and 2X 25Pdr's.

Upcoming Limber Gunner Events – March to June

- May 18th – the LG will be firing the 25Pdr. with the Regiment's Guns for the 21Gun Salute at Queens Park for Victoria Day .
- May 23rd – Fire Power Display at Old Fort York
- May 28 - Inspector Charlie Green Retirement Dinner salute in Oshawa
- May 30th - Ontario Regiment (Ferret Club) Militaria Show, Oshawa Museum- Aquino Day
- June 13th – 30th Annual Highland Creek Heritage Parade
- July 1st - Canada Day- the LG will fire a 3 Gun salute with one 25Pdr. at Branch 258 RCL Highland Creek and with a second 25Pdr fire a 21Gun Salute with the Guns of the Regiment at Queens Park



To the members of the Regiment that have retired ,and you if you like the smell of the gun power, driving a WWII Field Artillery Tractor and firing salutes with WWII Equipment and taking part in an active Aquino Day with tanks from WWII to Desert Storm. **Join the Limber Gunners !**

The LG is still looking for a Limber for the second 25pdr.

UBIQUE!

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets

818 Squadron had a busy winter and spring. In addition to the regular training program, highlights include participation in cadet air rifle competitions, a sports days and inter-squadron sports completion, and, along with our friends from 330 Squadron, participation in a parade on Toronto's Danforth Avenue to help Toronto's Greek community celebrate Greek Independence Day.



We had very successful spring tag days fundraising in April which puts us in a good position to plan for a potential recreational trip during the 2016 March Break.

Our Annual Ceremonial Review will be held on the afternoon of June 7th at Moss Park Armoury. We hope to wrap up the year in June with familiarization flying in private aircraft for or most deserving cadets.

Regimental Part II Orders

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

Honours and Awards

There will be some awards given out during the BBQ on 25 May

Promotions

Nil

Regimental Family Calendar Of Events

- 18 May - Victoria Day Gun Salute. Queen's Park. With support from the Limber Gunners.
- 23 May - Artillery Day Fire Power Display. Old Fort York. Connect with
- Canadians/Open Doors Toronto Event.
- 25 May - FTUC organized "Thank you BBQ" to the Unit. MPA
- 30 May - Artillery Day Mess Dinner (RCMI)
- 30 May - Aquino Day. Ferret Club in Oshawa. Limber Gunners Event.

- 1 June - Unit stands down for the summer.
- 7 June - 818 Toronto Falcon Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets
- 1 July - Canada Day Gun Salute. Queen's Park. With support from the Limber Gunners.
- 15 - 30 Aug - Ex Stalwart Guardian 15. CFB Petawawa. 4 Cdn Div Reserve Summer

A Celebration of VE Day in the High Style of the Royal Canadian Artillery – and a Win for Us!



Seventy Years Later, VE Day + 70 was celebrated in high style at the Liberty Grand and was a great win for the Regiment and the Toronto Artillery Foundation!

A longstanding military tradition in Toronto, the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball has been run since WWII by every Regiment in Toronto Garrison, a different unit running it each year. Even the HMCS York and the Air Reserve take turns! This year's event was organized and run by 7 Toronto Regiment and was an unprecedented success. The theme of the Ball was VE Day + 70 and the entire event was held in 1945 style, from the swing band to the décor including WWII posters, original pictures of VE Day celebrations in the streets of Toronto, sandbag arches, 1945 cocktails and lounging areas and even wait staff dressed in 1940's military uniforms with WWII hairstyles! There was no reception desk, as it had been replaced by a "Recruiting Stand". The programme, dinner, and every last detail were in the style of life in



1945. To see some really wonderful pictures of the event, visit: <http://www.garrisonballpix.com>



The Ball raised the bar this year in many respects including theme, food, ambiance and entertainment. To the joy of everyone, aside from the CO's greeting at the beginning of dinner there was only one speech, that being the Welcome by the Honorary Colonel. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor brought greetings from the Captain General, and the ball was opened by a feu de joie fired on the stage by Gunners of the Regiment. The dancing started at 9:30, about 90 minutes and

four speeches earlier than in previous years. It was a spectacular event that had a special purpose aside from providing leadership to the Garrison in celebrating special events, and that was to honour very special people. Following on that theme, four families who had lost sons in Afghanistan were welcomed as Special Guests and were humbly thanked for the sacrifice their families and loved ones had made.

We also had outstanding success in supporting the Wounded Warriors as a sponsored charity, and raised a record amount of funds for the Toronto Artillery Foundation. So, while 750 people including the Special Guests, Mayor John Tory, the Lieutenant Governor and the Ministers of Defence and Veterans' Affairs enjoyed a spectacular evening, the long terms winners of this event are the members of the 7th Toronto Regiment who will benefit from our profile as highly capable leaders in the Garrison being maintained.





This was truly a "Big Team" effort with all members of the Regimental Family being involved, from the committee consisting of retired and serving officers to the Limber Gunners firing a salute outside to call people to dinner, to the Band who really excelled in providing first rate music throughout. It was one spectacular evening of grand celebration, but with the funds raised by the event for the Toronto Artillery Foundation, the real success will be realized by the entire Regiment for many years to come.

Did you know...



In October 1942, **Daniel Roland Michener** PC CC CMM OOnt CD QC FRHSC(hon), lawyer, politician, diplomat and the 20th Canadian Governor General of Canada since Confederation, was commissioned as Provisional 2Lt and assigned to 9/15th Battery in the 32nd Field Regiment a component of the 7th Reserve (Toronto) Group RCA (7th Toronto Regiment's wartime designation at the time).

Ribbon bars of Roland Michener



Michener, The Right Honorable Daniel Roland (1900-1991)

Michener served as Canada's Governor General from 1969 to 1974 and then as Queen's 9th Chancellor from 1974 to 1980.

He was born in Lacombe, Alberta on April 19, 1900 and educated at the University of Alberta (BA 1920) and Oxford University, which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship.

While at Oxford, Michener met Lester B. Pearson, with whom he developed a lifelong friendship. He returned to Canada after graduate school and began practicing law in Toronto in 1924, founding the prominent law firm Lang Michener.

Michener was a Conservative member of the Ontario legislature for St David's riding (1945-1948) and a cabinet minister (1946-1948). He served as an MP for St Paul's Toronto (1953-1962) and was speaker of the House of Commons (1957-1962) during the same period.

He was a civilized and witty speaker but clashed frequently with his Conservative colleague, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Diefenbaker's Liberal successor, Lester B. Pearson, appointed Michener high commissioner to India in 1964, where he served until Pearson appointed him Governor General in 1967. He was also the first Canadian ambassador to Nepal.

He and his wife, Norah, made the office less formal by gestures such as discontinuing the use of the curtsy. Among his innovations were frequent state visits abroad, periodic meetings with Provincial Lieutenant-Governors, and the establishment of an Honours Secretariat (the Order of Canada having been instituted in 1967) at Rideau Hall. Throughout his life he was an extremely healthy and active man, and while in office he encouraged Canadians to lead a healthier lifestyle through the "Participation" program.

He was selected Queen's Chancellor when his term as Governor General ended in 1974. He was a good friend of the University and visited Queen's regularly, even after his retirement in 1980, to attend lectures of the Michener Visitorship, which was established in his honour to bring distinguished French Canadians to Queen's for lectures and discussions.

Michener was the second Canadian in history to be awarded the Royal Victorian Chain, and has had schools and awards named in his honour. Most notably, on August 26, 1979, Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed - who would later become Chancellor of Queen's - named a mountain in the upper valley of the North Saskatchewan River "Mount Michener."

The Queen's Pub in the John Deutsch University Centre is dedicated in his honour.

John McCrae Statue Unveiling

Global News – OTTAWA, 3 May 2015 – War poet John McCrae, who helped make the poppy an enduring symbol of the sacrifices of the First World War, has received his own enduring monument.

A larger-than-life bronze statue of Lt.-Col. McCrae was unveiled next to the National Artillery Memorial on a hillside overlooking the Ottawa River, about a 15-minute walk east of Parliament Hill. The site is apt: before he was a physician, McCrae was an artillery officer and his heart remained with the gunners, even as he tended to the wounded.

The statue by renowned sculptor Ruth Abernethy imagines McCrae at the moment he looks up from the notebook where he has just signed his name to what would be published as “In Flanders Fields.”



He is sitting on a broken tree branch, his cap perched on his medical bag in front of him, with a scattering of poppies at his feet.

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery commissioned the work and spearheaded the private fundraising that financed it.



In early May 1915, as the Second Battle of Ypres sputtered out, McCrae was serving as second-in-command of a Canadian artillery brigade and as brigade surgeon. He presided at the funeral of a friend who had been blown to fragments by a shell and afterwards, he jotted down the first draft of his famous poem. He wrote of his surroundings: the waving poppies, the lines of crosses and the birdsong competing against the muttering of the artillery.

The simple, poignant lines that were first published anonymously in *Punch* magazine have endured for a century. It is only one of more than two dozen poems McCrae wrote and published in various publications, but it is by far the best-remembered.

McCrae died of pneumonia on Jan. 28, 1918, and was buried in France, not far from the killing fields he immortalized.

Congratulations, thanks, and a resounding “Well Done” to Honorary Colonel Mike McKay of 11 Field Regiment, RCA for spearheading this project, supported greatly by former Colonel Commandants MGen John McInnis and LGen Mike Jeffery, and so many others. 7th Toronto Regiment, when one looks at all our donations, was a major supporter.

NOTICES

1. Take Post, Edition 6

The next Take Post will be published by 17 July 2015. Articles to be submitted by 10 July to: beno@kos.net

2. 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*

Follow The Colours!



THE MASTER GUNNER JOINS 7 TORONTO REGIMENT RCA IN CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE (An excerpt from “The Canadian Gunner 1966”)



The Toronto Gunners certainly looked back to their ancestors of the Regiment when, on 26 and 27 May of this year [1966], with the Master Gunner of St James’s Park as their guest of honour, they celebrated one hundred years of continuous service with the Militia. The Colonel Commandant [left] receives the Spode plate designed to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Artillery from the Master Gunner

The historic occasion got underway to a flying start on 26 May with a special guest night attended by some 160 serving and former officers. The highlight of the evening, apart from the formal recognition of the centennial of the Toronto unit, was the presentation by the Master Gunner, General Sir Robert Mansergh, GCB, KBE, MC, of a Spode Royal Artillery Plate to the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Artillery, which also falls in 1966. The plate, Number Six, was accepted on behalf of Canadian Gunners by the Colonel Commandant, Maj Gen A Bruce Matthews, CBE, DSO, Ed, CD. On the



same day, plate Number One was presented to Her Majesty The Queen as Captain General. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col LF Atkins, CD, announced that a unit officer, LT AD Camp had, at 0900 hours (Toronto time), placed a wreath on the Artillery Memorial at Vimy Ridge in memory of the men of 9th Battery who gave their lives in World War I.

A one man ceremony of remembrance. Lt AD Camp, representing 7 Toronto Regt, RCA on 26 May 66 placed a wreath on the [Vimy] monument as a tribute to Gunners of the 9th and 15th Batteries who fell in World War I.

On the evening of 27 May, the historic ramparts of Old Fort York resounded once again to martial music and familiar commands as the Regiment mustered for the Centennial Parade. Before a large crowd of friends and the general public, the Master Gunner inspected the Regiment and took the salute at the march-past. The Mayor of the City of Toronto, Philip Givens, QC, read a proclamation extending to the Regiment the Freedom of the City.

The parade also provided a moment of nostalgia for the Commanding Officer, who after serving with the Militia for 22 years, had completed his tenure of command and handed the Regiment over to his successor, Lt Col DA Reed, CD.

Another change of significance to the Regiment, was the retirement of Lt Gen Guy G Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO, CD as Honorary Colonel. General Simonds was succeeded in his appointment by Lt Col EA Royce, ED who has been Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 7 Toronto Regiment since it was re-constituted in March 1965.

The parade was punctuated by the firing of one hundred guns, and it was generally agreed that the Toronto Gunners had celebrated their centennial in befitting style.



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



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



Unveiling of the Artillery Memorial Thélus 1918



- 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 Vimy 100th anniversary ceremonies in Arras, France
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Led by experienced military personnel and academic historians

**For more information contact David Patterson
at 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 100th 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”

ANNEX A

Ubique and the Luck of the Draw

Brigadier-General W.W. Turner, CD

“We did not have the technology of today and had to rely on our own instincts depending on the situation.”

I graduated from R.M.C. in July 1942 following a two-year shortened course. I was immediately posted to the 31 Battery RCA from Toronto as a Troop Leader. The battery was part of the 23 Canadian Field Regiment (SP) RCA. The other batteries were the 36 Battery RCA from Cobourg and the 83 Battery RCA from Hamilton. I became a GPO in “B” Troop.



We had three C.O.'s in quick succession. The first was a veteran of World War I. We would go out on the firing ranges about 9 a.m. and return to barracks about 5 p.m. We changed into service dress for dinner followed by an evening of singing and drinking. He was replaced by a little man from the A2 Training Centre in Petawawa. He followed more or less the same routine as his predecessor. He struck me as having ants in his pants. He kept all of us in the mess every night after dinner singing songs (mostly rude ones) and telling rude stories. He lasted about six weeks.

Our third C.O. was a Lt Col Ken Lander who returned from England where he had been commanding the 17 Field Regiment RCA. A very dapper little man who was polished and pressed like we had never seen before. He walked around the Regimental area the first week and said nothing to anyone, not even in the mess. On the Monday morning of week two he fired all the B.C.'s but one whom he made 2i/c. He also fired a number of Captains and Lieutenants. He told all of them to be on the noon train that day for the holding unit in Petawawa!

Col Lander then ordered everyone to wear waist belts and anklets, shine all brass and Blanco all web equipment. He then started Saturday morning Regimental parades. Parade dress was in battle order and tin hats which were painted with shiny khaki paint and had the Regimental flash on them. He took a long time to inspect the whole Regiment and kept everyone at attention during his inspection and while he was on parade. Many passed out. Most I expect because their “battle order” was not correctly fitted. Gradually, as time went on, less and less of the Regiment passed out and finally, no one passed out.

During this time the C.O. ordered me to give RMC (Guards) foot drill to everyone in the Regiment. I was to give this to every senior N.C.O. from 11 to 12 o'clock every morning and all officers every afternoon from 4 to 5 o'clock. This included everyone from the 2i/c on down. The C.O. stood behind me on every one of these daily parades. The officers and senior N.C.O.'s then gave foot drill to all their men every day.

Our barracks reverberated to “Hup, two, three” all day for six weeks. After six weeks we switched to rifle drill. I was obviously the most unpopular officer in the Regiment. However, slowly but surely the officers and men began to realise how smart they were and it showed on the Brigade parades and when walking out.

After the C.O. was satisfied with the above he turned to gunnery. He was clever enough to get an I.G. for the Regiment and an A.I.G. per battery attached to the Regiment for gunnery instruction and command post exercises. Finally, we moved out on the firing ranges for live firing and where he concentrated on ‘Quick Actions’ and ‘Mike Targets’. This really got the spirits up as the results were announced and Regimental morale soared.

On one occasion when firing on the ranges, one of the G.P.O.’s made a technical error and his rounds landed well off the target area. The C.O. got on the Regimental wireless net and blasted the G.P.O. for several long minutes. When he finally paused to catch his breath the G.P.O. replied in a calm voice “Say again all after the first Jesus Christ.”

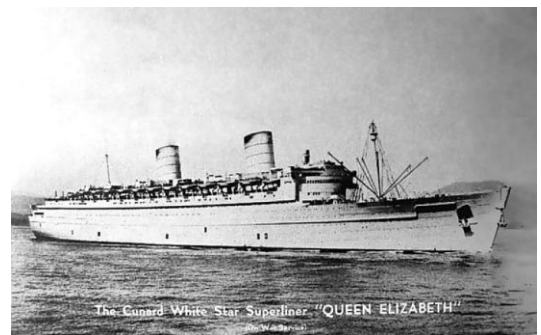
Our Regiment was equipped with 25 pounder Sextons. The gun was mounted on a Ram tank chassis built in Canada by the Montreal Locomotive Works. They turned out 2,300 of these for the Canadian and British Armies.



Sextons of the 8th Field Regiment, RCA fire a 21 gun salute on VE Day, Groningen, The Netherlands, 8 May 1945. LAC Photo.

Finally, our training in Canada was over and the Regiment took an overnight train to Halifax. As the train pulled up to the docks we could see

this enormous hull. It was the *Queen Elizabeth*. It was taking 20,000 troops over to England. She could sleep only 10,000 at a time so the remaining 10,000 slept in the hallways and passage ways, changing around every day after boat drill. There was only time to feed everyone two meals per day in eight sittings for breakfast and immediately followed by eight sittings for dinner.

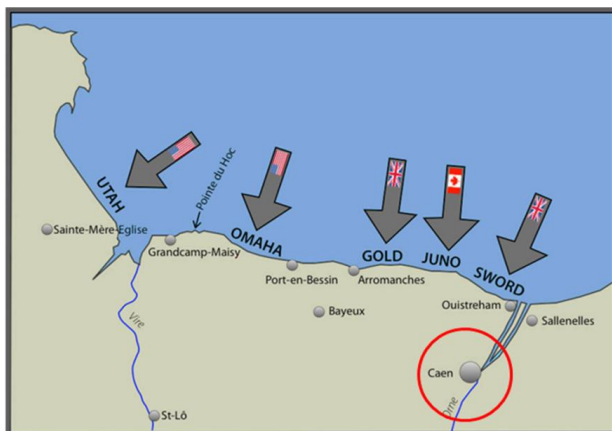


Once in England, training continued at a busy pace as we got closer to D-Day. The final big project was to waterproof all guns and vehicles. As G.P.O. (Troop Gun Position Officer) I was

detailed as the waterproofing officer for our battery and was sent off on a special one-week course to learn how to do this. On my return each gun and vehicle had its special box containing all the necessary waterproofing kit. We sweated blood putting all this muck on the vehicles and guns. We put special sidings up on the SP guns and every engine of each vehicle and gun was capable of taking 10 feet of water. The great day arrived when we drove the battery to a wading pool and every single gun and vehicle drowned! I was told to do it all again! The second time all passed.

This waterproofing was done a week to 10 days before sailing to Normandy. Therefore, all the guns and vehicles, when waterproofed, could not be moved. Everything would be overheated and would seize up. (We landed in Normandy on a floating dock without even getting our feet wet!!)

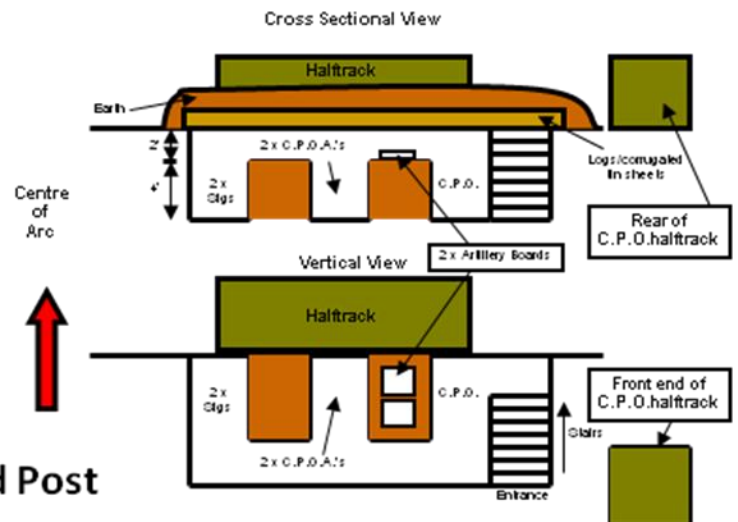
A few days before sailing to Normandy I was appointed C.P.O. (Command Post Officer – senior officer on the Gun Position) of the 31 Battery RCA. I had, up to this point in time, never been inside a Battery Command Post. And the Battery survey was rather complicated and not really understood by me. So, I had three “stadia rods” made - one for me and one each for the two G.P.O.’s. They were marked off in red and white strips one inch in width. I put one up by my battery director and instructed the G.P.O.’s to put one by their troop directors. All I had to do was read off the number of red and white lines between any two gratitudes on my director, multiply by 10 and that gave me the distance from my director. I then measured the angles to each troop stadia rod. On the basis of the known distance and angle I was able to derive the grid references for both troops. The Regimental survey troop was usually far behind us but when they did arrive in the Regimental gun area they normally accepted my Battery grid and passed it along to the other two batteries to establish the Regimental grid.



On arrival in Normandy, our first deployment was near Caen. We had been told that on arrival in Normandy we would have a couple of days to get used to the sights and sounds. However, as soon as we had de-waterproofed we went into action. The 4 Canadian Armoured Division took over from the 7 British Armoured Division, also equipped with Sextons. They were the famous “Desert Rats”. I took over from a C.P.O. and his Command Post. His battery command post was just a shell scrape with one C.P.O.A. on duty and only one artillery board (there should have been two – one for each troop). The cover on his artillery board was so grubby it looked like he had used it all the way from El Alamein in North Africa.

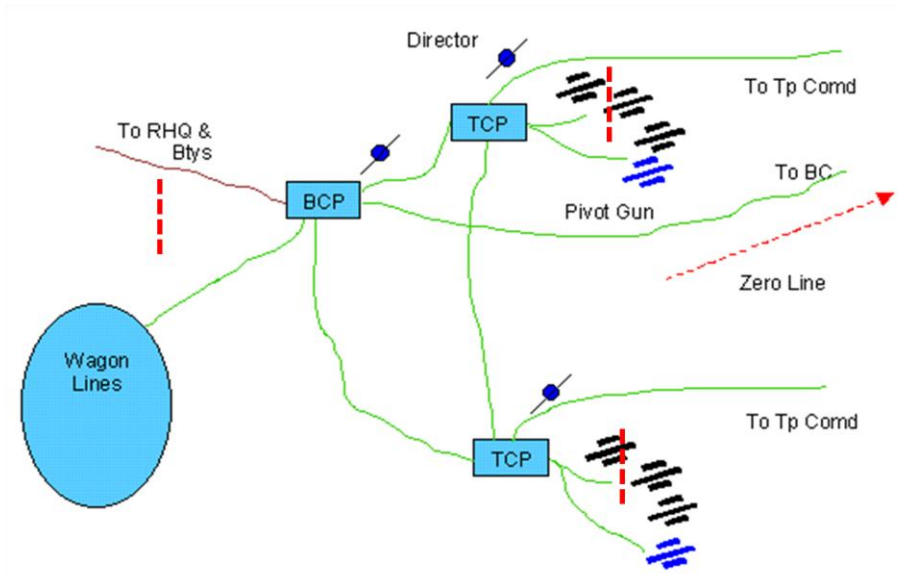


Half Track Command Post Layout



One of our first Battery Command Posts was near Caen where we dug the command post into the side of the railway embankment which ran down through Falaise and I believe onto Paris. Digging in a battery command post was normally quite an effort, especially when we sometimes moved three or more times a day. We soon learned to dig in a command post with the minimum of digging. We dug down about two feet, and then dug three slit trenches in the hole – one for the signallers, one for the two C.P.O.A.'s and one for the C.P.O., using the mounds in between to rest the two artillery boards. We then covered the hole with whatever was available. In Normandy, the Germans had cut down trees and stuck them randomly around the open fields to destroy any of our gliders that attempted to land – 13 to 15 foot poles called Rommel's asparagus. These poles were ideal to cover the command post. We used kerosene lanterns to light the inside.

At other times, we found strips of corrugated tin sheeting to cover over the command post. We then covered these tin sheets with the earth we had dug out of the command post. As we progressed further to the East, we gradually moved into barns and houses for our command post.



Battery Layout, World War II

This diagram shows a typical Battery Layout during World War II. **Note the following:**

- Four guns per troop (one designated Pivot Gun)
- Each Troop has a Command Post and a director/aiming circle
- There is comms line (wire) and radio comms from the Troop CP to the Troop Commander/Forward Observer, back to the Battery CP, and to the other Troop.
- Tannoy lines go to each gun.
- The Gun Position is commanded by the Command Post Officer (CPO)
- The Battery CP coordinates the firing data of the two Troops
- The Battery CP has line communications to the Troops, the Battery Commander and the Battery Wagon Lines
- Regimental Headquarters (the Adjutant performs the duties of the RCPO), and has line and radio to the three Batteries.
- Stadia Rods used for survey.



The photo (left) is 2RCHA in Korea, with the Command Post half-track in the foreground. The troop layout was similar to what Gen Turner describes in Normandy.

When we moved, the movement order was normally “Move now” to grid reference so and so. My halftrack was always ready and I would take off almost immediately with an artillery board,

two technical assistants, one signaller and the director and stadia rod. Normally, the three C.P.O.'s would meet the Regimental 2i/c at this grid reference. We would be given or pointed out our deployment area. We always deployed in a standard way. The senior battery was at the point, the next senior battery was deployed to the right rear and the junior battery to the left rear. There were many times when this put our battery rece party almost in the midst of the enemy scrambling to retreat to the next position to his rear.

The understanding in our Regiment was that if we were advancing, the C.P.O.'s went forward with the rece party. If we were withdrawing, then the A.C.P.O.'s went with the rece party. As we were always advancing, the C.P.O.'s always led from the front.

I do hope that this explains the great responsibilities of junior officers in war, how we led our Gunners, and how we ensured continuous, timely, accurate, safe and effective fire support for the other Arms.

These were very exciting times. **UBIQUE!** W.W. Turner, Brigadier General

Editor's Comment: In World War II, Korea, Afghanistan and today the C.P.O. (whatever name we call the senior commander on the Gun Position) has to be professional, technically smart, mentally and physically fit, ever alert, forward thinking, forceful and cool, calm and collected. They have to see and be all. They are the mentor to junior officers and the example for the NCOs and Gunners. They are driven leaders. They guarantee 24/7 fire support for the infantry, armour and other Arms. What a great example of all that in this article by our former Colonel Commandant, Brigadier-General WW Turner! Thanks Sir!

ANNEX B

The Guns of Oman



The following is a very brief overview of the Guns of Oman – The Editor has the good fortune of working with the Armed Forces of the Sultanate of Oman:

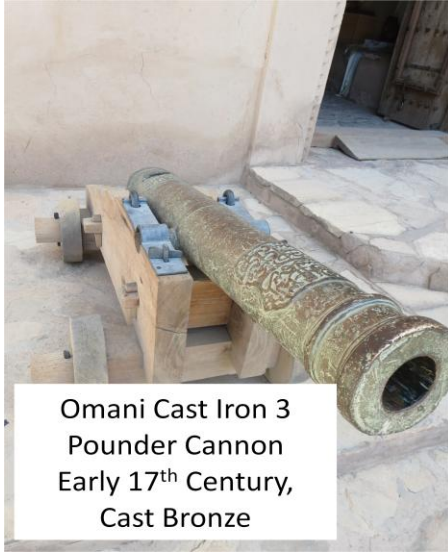


Nizwa Fort
1700's



Swedish Finbanker
18 Pounder

British
9 Pounder



Omani Cast Iron 3 Pounder Cannon
Early 17th Century,
Cast Bronze



Jabreen Castle

Equipment: Oman has four Artillery Regiments. Using open source information, their equipment consists of the following, however many of these may not be in use at this time:

- Type-90A 122mm MRLs (12)
- G6 howitzers (24)
- M-109A2 (15)-status unknown
- L118 Light Gun (39)
- Type 59-1 (12)
- Soviet Union M46 130mm Gun (15)
- FH-70 (12)
- 122 mm howitzer 2A18 (D-30) (30)
- L16 81mm Mortar
- M-102 105mm Howitzer (36)
- Brandt 120mm mortar (12)
- 2R2M 120mm SP\on VAB mortar (14)

Main Tasks:

To provide fire support to formations and units when ops deployed in the field



To provide Air Defense cover to formations and units when deployed in the field

To Locate & destroy enemy forces

G6, 155mm Rhino



The G6 is a 155mm long-range gun. The G6 is in service with the South African Army (43 systems - GV6 Rhino) and has also been exported to the United Arab Emirates (78 systems - G6 M1A3) and Oman (24 systems).

The G6 is a highly autonomous system with 700km vehicle fuel range, 50km weapon range using velocity enhanced long range projectiles and the ability to fire the first round within 60 seconds of the vehicle stopping.

In September 2001, the G6 achieved a range of 53.6km using the new velocity-enhanced long-range projectile (V-LAP) and the new M64 bi-modular charge system. V-LAP combines base bleed and rocket motor technology, while the M64 charge system increases muzzle velocity to 910m/s VLAP is part of Denel's new Assegai range of 155mm ammunition. The gun is compatible with all Nato 155mm ammunition, including extended-range full-bore (ERFB) projectiles

The G6 is operated by a crew of six - driver, commander, gun layer, breech operator, ammunition loader and ammunition handler.

The howitzer has on-board storage for 45 projectiles and 50 charges. Semi-automatic projectile loading is carried out using an electronically controlled hydraulic flick-rammer. Two loading chutes are installed at the rear of gun for direct loading from a ground ammunition pile.

British Light Gun



Russian 130 mm



Chinese 130 mm



Blowpipe and Javelin



35 mm



MISTRAL

