



“Take Post”

The Journal of The Toronto Gunner Community

Edition 6, 17 July, 2015

NEWSFLASH
**Four Cadets going to
RMC! See Page 12**

THIS EDITION

- 7th Tor First Place in Exercise ULTRA NIAGARA 2015
- FOUR Army Cadets to RMC!
- Limber Gunners – always there, everywhere!
- Your Regiment at Meaford
- Two Centuries of Gunners
- New Regimental Colonel RCA
- 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

MESSAGE FROM MAJOR RYAN SMID, MMM, MB:

*Sir, Very pleased to report to you that the Regiment's marching team (Sgt Kase, MBdr Jackson, Bdr Krulevich, and MBdr Fleet) **won first place!** Our running team (Sgt Wood, MBdr Bhatti, Gnr Gee, and Gnr Chan) came in fifth. **When those two times were combined, we also had the fastest overall time in the Bde.** Sgt Kase was awarded a Comds coin for having the fastest female marching time.*

I should also point out that we were the only unit that actually entered a second running team (Bdr Demolitis, Sgt Lloyd, Bdr Yip, and Bdr Espeut).

All in all an outstanding day for the Regt due largely to the leadership displayed by Sgt Kase who was the Team Captain and prepared the team for the competition.



Exercise Ultra Niagara 2015

A Reason to Be Proud - From a Gunner's Eyes

By Gunner Brendan Gee

This year, Exercise Ultra Niagara took place during 3 to 5 July 2015. As a Regiment we have once again proven that we are ready and prepared to win. The twelve-member team from 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA competed toe-to-toe against other 32 CBG units in tough competition and over difficult terrain. **When the dust settled, it was our team's resolve and unwavering determination that led to us to be crowned 1st overall.**

Each member on the four-person marching wore their army boots, pants, t-shirt and carried a 55lbs rucksack for their 25km leg in the 100km relay. Sgt. Kase stepped off first in the early morning and put on a performance that earned her the fastest female marcher. Bdr Krulevich and MBdr Jackson kept the momentum going and put our team neck-to-neck for first place. Then, as the dark of night was coming quickly, MBdr. Fleet rucked up and took off for the final leg of the marching relay. Not only did MBdr Fleet put the team clearly and undisputedly in first, he completed his portion in less than four hours.



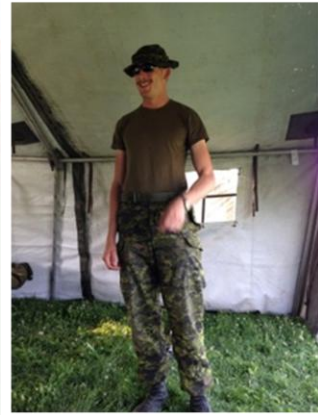
The two running teams consisted of a mix of experienced runners and beginners also performed incredibly well for their 100km relays. Team one kicked off quickly with Bdr Chan, then followed by experienced runner Sgt Wood, then MBdr Bhatti, and finally Gnr Gee. Team two began with Bdr Damolidis, then Bdr Yip, then Sgt Lloyd and finally Bdr Espeut.



Master Bombardier
Bhatti, on the run!



Sergeant
Lloyd, giving it
his all!



Master Bombardier
Fleet
("Fleet of Foot")

Entering into competition is important because it forces us to raise our level of fitness, commitment to each other, mental fortitude, team cohesion and leadership within our Unit. Although at times we might get lost, hurt and frustrated, we will refuse to quit. Our Esprit de Corps is fortified every time we step out and prove that we are the best and that we are fully capable to do whatever it takes to achieve our objectives. When we come together as a Regiment and test ourselves there will be very little that we cannot accomplish.



The Team

The proudest moment is not in just winning first overall, or having the fastest teams but that every member that decided to cross the start line also crossed the finish line.



Sergeant Kase – Fastest Female Marcher



Master Bombardier Jackson and Sergeant Kase congratulated by Colonel Dwayne Hobbs, Commander 32 Brigade



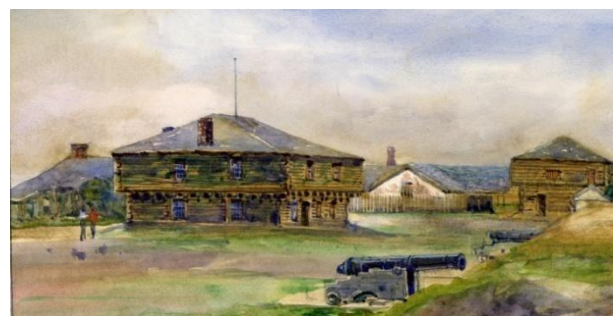
Left: Sergeant Lloyd and Gunner Gee resting

UBIQUE

TWO CENTURIES OF FIREPOWER!

Fort York – 23 May, 2015, by Major John Stewart

On May 23rd, Fort York was a part of Doors Open Toronto and hosted the celebration of 200 years of Artillery in Toronto. The event was organized by 7th Toronto Regiment and included two fire missions; one at noon and the other at 2:30 PM. A total of just over 1,000 Torontonians witnessed a great display of guns covering a 200 year period being fired in the Fort.



Guns and Gunners of All Ages



Gunners of 2 RCHA

On the left of the line, the Fort's venerable 6 Pounder, fired by two of the Fort's Artillery personnel dressed in the 1812 uniform. Next to them was a 6 Pounder (the Gun you see on Artillery cap badges) that was manned by two Gunners from 2 RCHA, again dressed in period uniform. Further over, the 7th Toronto Regiment's 25 Pounder from WWII was fired by the 7th Toronto Limber Gunners, firing in Battle Dress. Next was a detachment from 7th Toronto Regiment firing the C3 and on the right of the line was an M777 crewed by a full detachment from 2 RCHA.

Two Centuries of Firepower 1812 to 2015



The event included a Gunner reunion and a tent filled with very happy Gunners and guests, sampling the sweets made from the Fort's own recipe book from the 1800s.

A very popular bar-b-que was set up and served hundreds of hamburgers and hotdogs. While waiting in line, visitors were subjected to a barrage of Gunner propaganda and recruiting pitches by the Regimental Major and several relentless Gunners from the Regiment. This was truly a great celebration, and strengthened the bonds between 7th Toronto Regiment and 2 RCHA. The Army made some great new friends from the visiting public that day, and they will all be brought into the fold!

An Eye on the Sights



**Our Sights are set on
Old Gunners, Friends
of Gunners and those
who want to be friends
of Gunners – UBIQUE!**

Message from 7th Toronto Command Team



***Canadian Forces Liaison Council
provincial awards ceremony at
Queen's Park on March 11, 2015***

From left to right:

*Brigadier-General Kelly Woiden, Director
General Land Reserve, along with
members of the 7th Toronto Regiment,
Royal Canadian Artillery, Captain Paul
Thompson, Battery Captain, Lieutenant-
Colonel Paul Szabunio, Commanding
Officer, and Master Warrant Officer
Mardie Reyes, Sergeant Major.*

While most of our soldiers are away on training, instructing, and various other tasks, the so-called slower pace of Regimental life during the spring/summer months has been anything but.

Operationally, we have been at the forefront of several high-profile deployments. In late-April, no effort was spared to source and send Bdr Tenzin to Nepal with the DART, which spearheaded Canada's humanitarian relief efforts following that country's devastating earthquake. Within 48 hours, Bdr Tenzin was identified for his language skills, located on tasking in CFB Wainwright, loaded onto a C-130 Hercules transport, flown back to Trenton, administratively processed Class "C" at the Unit, and then sent back to Trenton for final link-up and deployment with the DART. Administration clearly remains a *principle of war* for good reason.

Similarly in June, another no-fail task came for a Defence and Security Platoon in support of the PANAM Games. Presently, Unit soldiers form part of a team seconded to the RCAF to provide security for high-alert air force assets. The soldiers have been trained in the use and application of very robust Rules of Engagement, and are very much at the forefront of Canada's defence. When the task was first launched, it was anticipated that at least six weeks would be needed for 32 CBG to fill positions and for soldiers to be trained. Supported by 7th Toronto Regiment, 32 CBG met the call in *half* that time, proving that lightfighter "soldier first" skills make no differentiation to hatbadge. *The speed with which this unfolded further underscores the utility of the Unit's High Readiness Fanout List (HRFL), ever ready to launch individual soldiers or formed groups on very short notice.*

On the training and professional development front, the Unit has again been an outstanding contributor to the Army's training and public engagement strategies. At Artillery Regional Summer Training in Meaford, 7th Toronto Regiment is greatly over-represented in number and level of instructors and key leaders provided, including Maj Ryan Smid as 48th Depot Battery Commander. For the August STALWART GUARDIAN concentration in Petawawa, the unit will again be over-represented in leadership, providing the bulk of command appointments, including the Artillery Command Team under the Regimental Major and RSM's lead, and Major Smid as the 32 Territorial Battle Group DCO.

During early-July's Exercise ULTRA NIAGARA 100 km marathon/soldier skills event, Sgt Amber Kase's captaincy saw the Unit's marching team of herself, MBdr Jackson, Bdr Krulevich, and MBdr Fleet win first place! Our running team of Sgt Wood, MBdr Bhatti, Gnr Gee, and Gnr Chan came in fifth, leading to the fastest combined Run-plus-March time in the Brigade! If that wasn't enough, the unit also fielded a *second* running team of Sgt Lloyd, Bdr Demolitis, Bdr Yip, and Bdr Espeut. The Regimental Major and RSM capped-off the day by promoting MBdr Fleet, and seeing Sgt Kase awarded a 32 CBG Commander's Coin for the fastest female marching time.



Kevin Hebib of Fort York

On the Regimental Community line of effort, the Old Fort York 200 Years of Firepower event, under Maj Stewart's lead, was an outstanding 'connect with Canadians' event that we hope to become an annual affair. Together with Old Fort York's staff, 2 RCHA soldiers, the Limber Gunners, and the Unit itself, a *battery's-worth* of guns encompassing over 200 years of Toronto Artillery tradition was on public display. Well over 1000 people saw two centuries Toronto's

firepower history, for which 7th Toronto Regiment is now entrusted to perpetuate. Relatedly, the Band is gearing for a high-profile concert event that will also be sure to place the unit at the forefront of Toronto's greater Arts Community in November.

As we prepare for another busy training year, it's important to note this will be a year of transition and building on your successes. WO Robert Morningstar is leaving us for Regular Force career advancement. Myself and other key members will also be leaving in late autumn. And talks of a Regimental Freedom of the City for next spring, in celebration of a Regimental milestone, are in discussion.



As my tenure as Commanding Officer approaches its final phase, I am convinced—and humbled—beyond any shadow of doubt that you are all well prepared to launch the Regiment into a bold new future that *you yourselves have built*.

Carry On and Take Post! P.A. (Paul) Szabunio, Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Officer



Toronto Gunners

News from The Toronto Gunners

There are certainly lots of things happening in the Toronto gunner community, some tied to Regimental events and some solely with the Toronto Gunners and Limber Gunners, with plenty of opportunity for the gunners in Toronto to get together.

The regular first Friday of the month lunches still carry on at the RCMI although August will be held at the Albany Club due to the annual shut down of the RCMI. The stalwarts of these monthly Friday lunches couldn't bear to miss a month such is their dedication to fine food, beverage, fun and frolic. You would think they would have run out of war stories to tell but somehow they don't and for those who don't make it a monthly "must do" event, they should.

The 8th annual Woodbine Race day was switched from Wednesday evenings to a Saturday afternoon in hopes of building more attendance but it was mostly the same crew which shows up annually who attended which makes us wonder if the late date of June is wrong or whether there is not enough general interest in the horses at Woodbine, something we will have to think about over the coming year.

Later in August, 8 or more gunners will play in the Ontario Police Memorial Tournament, a tournament which starts by the firing of our 25 pdr, quite the novel way to get things off with a bang. Once again, our LG is out there supporting the community and waving the gunner flag.

This coming year, as so much of the TG executive work is similar, often a duplication of the executive work of the LG, it was decided to combine the TG/LG meetings into one conducted on the evening which the LG meet. So much of the financial detail, family gunner matters etc. we're being covered off in both meetings that this new format will reduce the number of minutes going out and the number of meetings. The intent is to focus on our LG activities as this operational arm of our gunner community is the key face to the GTA and the ideal landing spot for those who retire from the Regiment.

Recruiting new members into our Association has always been a challenge of finding former gunners and getting them signed up. We need the younger members of our association to reach out to gunners who served with them to continue the bonds of friendship developed through years of serving together. I'm still looking for the person who runs the Black Hand Facebook group to see if we can start using social media as a more effective way of staying in touch as an association, so if any of you know who it is, please let me know.

UBIQUE!

David Burnett, President, The Toronto Gunners, Work: 905-415-2012, Cell: 416-560-6552, email: dburnett@endtoend.com

A Shot Downrange – Words from Honorary Colonel Ernest Beno



Regiment – you continue to amaze me with your accomplishments, both operationally and as a Regimental Family. Being a long-time Regular Force type, I didn't know a lot about the Militia – I never realized just how dedicated the men and women are, how much is asked of them, and how much they give as volunteers. Winston Churchill said that Reservists are “*twice the citizen*,” meaning that they hold down a job or go to school while living the life of a citizen, but they also volunteer to serve their country. 7th Toronto surely does that – the Regiment serves Canada as both a front-line operational unit and as the Canadian Armed Forces presence in Toronto. Our Regiment faces a relentless operational tempo while actively engaging in civic activities and events. I cannot thank our Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and soldiers enough for all that you do. You continue to amaze me.

My congratulations to the Regimental Family on three special activities:

- Our accomplishments on Exercise Ultra Niagara are incredible.
- Two Centuries of Firepower was absolutely fantastic.
- Having four cadets from 105 RC(Army)CC selected for the Royal Military College (Cadet MWO Billy Campbell, Cadet WO Stefan Janjic, Cadet WO Ahan Chauhan and Cadet WO Hao Chuan (Danny) He) is remarkable. I would be surprised if any Cadet Corps ever had such a high rate selection for RMC. This is truly amazing, and the whole Regimental Family wishes these outstanding cadets great success at RMC and a wonderful future in the Canadian Armed Forces. Congratulations also to 105 RC (Army) CC and the families of these wonderful Cadets!

I do hope that Take Post serves as a reminder to all about all the great and continuing accomplishments of our Regiment. I seek to continue with my “ates”: communicate; facilitate; celebrate; and, collaborate. Please remember that our “Centre of Gravity” is PEOPLE. We need to attract the right people with the rights interests, enthusiasm and skill sets to be part of our Regimental Family. Sarah Valiant is one example of the right type of person with the right motivation. She has been tremendously creative, helpful and hard working towards our Garrison Ball effort and Two Centuries of Firepower. We have made her an Honorary member of 7th Toronto Regiment. And, I understand that our Limber Gunners just recruited Dean Owen and his buddy, Brad as new Limber Gunners. Great news! Each and every individual in the Regimental Family should continue to seek out, attract and recruit more wonderful folks to support our Regiment. As you can see in this Take Post, the Regiment is thriving – communicating, facilitating, celebrating and collaborating on the operational front and in support of our greater Regimental Family. What a motivated, professional and caring team! I continue to be impressed with and proud of 7th Toronto Regiment - **Good Shooting! UBIQUE!!** Hon Col Ernest Beno, OMM, CD

My Experience in Nepal Working Alongside Canada's DART

Bdr. SonamTenzin

I have been serving in 7 Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery for four years. This past spring, I was deployed to Nepal as part of the DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) in response to the recent tragic earthquake because of the languages that I spoke and my cultural understanding of the Nepalese people. My role there was to serve as a LCA (Language and Cultural Assistant) for the DART members. More specifically, it involved advising DART on cultural matters as well as interpreting for their soldiers on the ground.



I arrived in Katmandu, Nepal at May 4th 2015 and immediately worked with CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation), Medics, and the Engineers. With CIMIC our objective consisted of establishing relations with the NGOs, and local communities in Nepal. While working with CIMIC, I was able to better appreciate the efforts of other nations' military as well as the assistance NGOs were providing, after having seen their work first hand.

One of the basic pieces of equipment the CIMIC provided were Portable Solar Radios which were used to ensure that the people without electricity or any form of communication were still able to receive some measure of news or entertainment. They were also able to coordinate supplies and information between the Nepali military, government and the NGOs. Similarly, with the Medics my objective was to interpret everyone's concerns and to provide a clear line of communication and understanding between the Canadian Forces Medics and the victims of the earthquake.

While working with the Medics our focus was to assist the villages and towns affected by the earthquake, which were often hard to access. In regards to the engineers, my job was to provide clear communication with the locals and assist them in construction related hindrance. With the Engineers we were able to assist the locals in clearing road obstacles and demolishing houses which were determined to be hazardous for their residents.

While working with the DART, I was able to gain a much deeper appreciation for the Canadian Forces members in their selfless acts and contributions to the effected people of Nepal.

105 (7 Tor RCA) Army Cadet Corps

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

It has been an action packed training year at 105 in Streetsville with the finale being a water rafting weekend.



Captain Bob Dhillon in lead raft with a group of cadets.

Four Cadets off to RMC!

This year marked 105 – 7th Toronto Regiment RCA, Royal Canadian Army Cadets 40th year! For the first time in our history we have the pleasure to announce that 4 of our senior and retiring cadets are headed off to RMC and the Regular Officer Training Programme (ROTP). We are very proud of C/MWO Billy Campbell, C/WO Stefan Janjic, C/WO Ahan Chauhan, C/WO Hao Chuan (Danny) He, and know that they will be a positive addition to RMC.



Engineering seems to be the common background for our cadets and they have been selected to RCEME or Combat Engineering:

- Cadet Campbell & Chauhan - Electrical/Mechanical Engineer
- Cadet He & Janjic - Combat Engineer

Having these 4 young men grow up through the program, by giving 6 years of themselves we can say we met the mission of the Cadet Program which is to contribute to the development and preparation of youth for the transition to adulthood, enabling them to meet the challenges of modern society, through a dynamic, community-based program.



C/MWO Billy Campbell, C/WO Stefan Janjic, C/WO Ahan Chauhan, C/WO Hao Chuan (Danny) He, are the four individuals accepted into RMC from the 105 Battery

The cadet program is further committed to attain this vision by living shared Canadian and military values, paying particular attention to:

- **Loyalty**, the expression of our collective dedication to the ideals of the Cadet Movement to all its members;
- **Professionalism**, the accomplishment of all tasks with pride and diligence;
- **Mutual Respect**, the treatment of others with dignity and equality; and
- **Integrity**, the courage and commitment to exemplify trust, sincerity and honesty.

We wish them the best of luck in their studies and a bright future in the CAF.

Summer Postings

105 Battery has some other notable mentions with our junior officers and senior cadets staffing various positions.

At Connaught Summer Training Centre our RSM CWO Ashley Anderson is the Camp RSM, Lt. Bianca Fung is the Head Coach Bravo Company, Fullbore Marksman, OCdt Kelvin Chu is the Public Affairs Officer,. OCdt Peter Tran is Delta Coy Platoon Commander.

As Camp RSM CWO Ashley Anderson had the distinct pleasure of leading a group of 14 cadets from cadet units all across Canada, at the flag raising ceremony today celebrating Canada Day and the 50th anniversary of the Canada Flag on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Well done Ashley!



Connaught Camp RSM CWO Ashley Anderson had the distinct pleasure of leading a group of 14 cadets from cadet units all across Canada.



MWO Talekar, Company Sergeant-Major Echo Company, Blackdown Camp

Two of 105 Batteries Senior NCO's are working at Blackdown Summer Training Centre, MWO Cen, as CSM and MWO Talekar, Company Sergeant-Major Echo Coy. As well as 2Lt Neil Harper is Foxtrot Company Divisional Officer.

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

UBIQUE!

7th TOR at Meaford - Artillery Summer Training 2015 and 48 Depot Battery

By Bdr Jaclyn Farrell-Jobst, 15 Bty, 7th Toronto Regiment RCA



Above: Major Smid, BC 48 Depot Battery, addresses the battery.

48 Depot Battery is the training battery for all 4 Canadian Divisions located in Meaford, Ontario. 48 Depot Battery is led by Major Ryan Smid from 7th Toronto Regiment as Battery Commander and MWO Dennis Franken from 42nd Field Regiment as Battery Sergeant-Major. The battery is comprised primarily of the six major artillery regiments from Ontario however, this summer we have trained Canadian gunners from as far away as British Columbia. Thus far we have seen great success on four courses with another five underway.



Above: MBdr Mikkola stands between the trails as a candidate on Gun Det 2ic Course

The MSVS + Gun Tow course, which kicked off 48 Depot Battery's fully loaded schedule, saw great success and qualified four members from 7th Toronto Regiment. The Command Post Technician's course, which was led by 7th Toronto's WO Morningstar, also had great success as this year all candidates who started the course completed the qualification, including two of our own Bombardiers.

The Gun Detachment Second in Command Course was led by our own Lt. Lum and Sgt Bankasingh. The three week gunnery intense course pushed candidates to take the next step and this year, 9 Battery will have two new, qualified number 7's. The Gun Detachment Commanders course ran right after and was led by Capt. Stewart. The result is 3 new Gun Commanders for 7th Toronto!



Above: Bdr Shao fastening a cam net to the MSVS while supporting the Gun Det 2ic course.

Firing Troop, 48 Depot Battery's support troop, is dominated by members from the regiment. Firing Troop has had a very busy schedule since early May both for supporting the courses and learning new skills. Many of our new gun drivers who graduated this summer from the MSVS + Gun Tow course moved on to gun drivers for both the Gun Det 2ic and Gun Det Cmdr's courses.

Firing Troop members have had great opportunities to explore new skills such as how to conduct a vehicle check point and actions on ambush drills in a convoy. 9 Battery's Gnr Limoges experienced what it is like to command a team inspecting a potentially dangerous vehicle with aggressive detainees! All of Firing Troop also had a little taste of mountain operations with a training day at Meaford's rappel tower. In the same week, Firing Troop members tried their hand on the Confidence Course which 9 Battery's Gnr Thayaparan reminisces as one of the best training opportunities of the summer.

The highlight of new and exciting training this summer was the three day horseback riding training. All members of Firing Troop and BHQ were given the chance to head out to Wind Song Ranch in Woodford, Ontario for a two hour lesson and hour long trail ride. There was much enthusiasm to learn amongst all new horseback riders especially from Gnr Krushnisky and Gnr Klaver who excelled at communicating and directing their horses- even though they were paired with Wind Song's more stubborn horses! At the end of the three day training cycle Firing Troop's leadership received a special lesson on how to load a horse and embarked on the task to fasten an 81mm mortar and personal kit to a horse. Tremendous learning and fun was had by all.

With two phases already complete and the last underway, there is still much to be achieved for 7 Toronto regiment here at 48 Depot Battery. All staff and students will continuously strive for the same success that has been seen this summer and the success will be celebrated at the final graduation and smoker in August.



Above: MBdr Gawley giving the command to “Fire” during the final mission on the Gun Det Cmdr course.



Above: Having a great time and learning new skills! Gnr Krushnisky and Gnr Limoges ride their horses for the first time!

Below: Gnr Klaver mastering communication and leading a horse!



Colonel Tim Young Appointed Regimental Colonel, RCA

On the 24th of June 2015, Colonel Timothy (Tim) R. Young, CD, became the new **Regimental Colonel** for the Royal Regiment, taking over the responsibilities from Colonel J.M.D. Bouchard. The Regimental Colonel plays a key role in the management of the Royal Regiment as an institution. Together with the Director of Artillery, Colonel T.J. Bishop, the two colonels manage the Royal Regiment on five lines of operation that are outlined in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Family Strategy. While the Director manages the first two lines of operation - developing capability to sustain the regiment in operations, and assure excellence in leadership through succession planning, the Regimental Colonel manages the remaining three. They are - *nurturing the family institution, connecting with Canadians, and celebrating our heritage.*



Whether it is supporting gunners and their families either regular, reserve or veterans, communicating with Canadians from coast to coast, or planning and supporting key events in our rich heritage, the Regimental Colonel is the de facto steward and authority when it comes to implementing the guidelines and orientations promoted in the family strategy. For more details,

the family strategy is available to download from the Royal Regiment's website, www.artillery.net.

Colonel Young, is in his 36th year of service to the Royal Regiment and is well positioned to assume the responsibilities of the Regimental Colonel. He began his career in the ranks as a Reservist in the 56 Field Regiment in Brantford, Ontario (Master Bombardier). As a Junior Officer, he developed his gunnery skills as an Airborne Gunner in 2 RCHA, and holds parachute wings from five different nations. He further developed his gunnery skills becoming an Instructor-In-Gunnery and later the Chief Instructor-In-Gunnery at the Artillery School.

On operations, Colonel Young commanded F Battery, the third Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2001, and as the Commanding Officer of 1 RCHA, he force generated all artillery support for Task Force Afghanistan in 2009. He served a tour in Afghanistan in 2009 as the Chief Operational plans in Task Force Kandahar. On domestic operations, he deployed to the Ice Storm in 1998, floods in both Ontario and Manitoba, counter drug operations with the RCMP, and the 2010 Winter Olympics. Colonel Young has held numerous staff appointments over his career, most notably - the Director of Land Requirements 2, a strategic planner on the Army Staff, an Executive Assistant to the Chief of Military Personnel, and a Resource and Business Planner for the Vice Chief of Defence Staff Group. Colonel Young holds two graduate degrees; a Master in Defence Studies from RMC, and a Master in Business Administration from Athabasca University. He currently holds the appointment of Director Army Personnel Management (G1) of the Canadian Army.

We are all pleased to have Colonel Young as the senior Gunner looking after Regimental Family matters for the RCA. **Good Shooting, Tim!**

UBIQUE!



THE TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION (Established 1978)

Liberation of Holland - 2015

The Foundation would, once again, like to take this opportunity to thank our Chairman and Honorary Colonel, BGen Ernie Beno, and the financial sponsors of the Liberation of Holland - 2015, The Final Push for the outstanding job of arranging and supporting this event utilizing the facilities of the Foundation for managing the funding and for CRA tax receipt purposes.

As noted in the previous Take Post, this trip was a worthwhile endeavour to honour our veterans and those who gave their lives to liberate the Dutch people some seventy years ago and to provide an educational experience for all those who participated. Further details of the journey are available in the 5th edition of the Take Post newsletter.

The Toronto Gunners (TG)

For financial reporting purposes the TG has now officially become a "division" of the Foundation with CRA tax receipts for its annual dues (TG/LG/RCAA) now being issued through the Foundation as "directed" gifts. All other aspects of the TG will remain the same for the support of the Regiment, the Limber Gunners and the RCAA Associate memberships.

The Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball - 2015

As noted in the previous Take Post the Ball, was an overwhelming success. The Foundation is currently awaiting, subject to the final recollection of accounts, the monies to be received from the Ball for use by the Regiment and for long term investment. In addition, as part of their sponsorship packages each of the sponsors received from the Foundation a special commemorative, pictured below, designed specifically for this purpose.

*In Appreciation of Your Support
to the
Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball - 2015
UBIQUE*

Note: Copies of this commemorative, suitable for engraving, are available through our own Limber Gunners by contacting the treasurer at: treasurer@limbergunners.ca



Foundation Website

The Foundation website is being reviewed with an eye to revamping it and bringing it up to date.

We are still looking for articles, including photos, about the various recent fund raising efforts which have been undertaken on behalf of the Foundation including The Two World's of Charlie F theatre event and the Garrison Ball.

Ubique

Paul Kernohan, Treasurer, The Toronto Artillery Foundation - pkernohan@rogers.com



Limber Gunners Artyfacts - July 2015 - By: Major (Retired) Ron Paterson

Great Warriors!!!!

(They'd Scare the Heck out of any Enemy!)



The Limber Gunners have had a very busy May, June and July. I would like to thank all the members for their participation and contributed to the success of these events.

The Limber Gunners participated in the Liberation of the Netherlands Festival and Parade on May 2 and the "Ontario Police Association Memorial Ceremony of Remembrance" at Queens Park with a 3 gun salute. The Limber Gunners fired 2 X 25Pdr. with the 7th Toronto Regiment Guns for the 21 Gun Salute at Queens Park for Victoria Day on May 18th.

We then took part in the Two Centuries of Fire Power at Old Fort York on May 23rd. It was a great success. There was a 6 Pdr Muzzle-Loading gun supplied by Old Fort York Guard, a 9Pdr. Muzzle Loading Gun supplied by 2 RCHA, a 25Pdr QF Howitzer supplied by the Limber Gunners, a 105mm C3 Howitzer supplied by the 7th Toronto Regiment and a M777 Howitzer supplied by 2RCHA. There was great liason between gunners of the Old Fort York Guard, 2RCHA, 7th Toronto Regiment and the Limber Gunners. The 6 Pdr, the 25Pdr and the 105mm C3 Howitzer fired two salutes and the 7th Toronto Regiment Band played throughout the event. A BBQ was laid out for all the guests and participants by the 7th Toronto Regiment.

On May 28th the Limber Gunners fired a 3 Gun Salute for Inspector Charlie Green's Retirement Dinner in Oshawa.

On May 30th the LG took part in the Ontario Regiment's Museum Militia Show – Aquino Day, with the Limber Gunners participating in a firing and movement show with tanks and armoured vehicles from the WWII period.

On June 13th the Limber Gunners were part of the 30th annual Highland Creek Heritage Parade.

Canada Day July 1st was very busy for the Limber Gunners. The LG fired a 3 Gun Salute with one 25Pdr at RCL Branch 258 in Highland Creek at 12:00 noon and a second 25Pdr. fired a 21Gun Salute with the Guns of the 7th Toronto Regiment at Queens Park.



The Limber Gunners will be carrying out training starting in November, and will be holding short administration meetings on the first Monday of each month followed by training.

It has been a busy, but tremendously exciting Spring!

Upcoming Events – August to September

- **August 22** – The LG will be part of the Warriors Day Parade at the CNE
- **August 26** – The Limber gunners will fire a Shot Gun start for the Ontario Police Memorial Tournament
- **September 5th and 6th** – The LG will take part in a 2 day event for the Coe Hill Warriors Day Parade and a 3 Gun Salute.
- **September 8** - the LG will host a Regimental BBQ at Moss Park Armory (This year on a Tuesday, since Monday is a holiday)

Our “Limber Gunners” in Action



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

The LG is still looking for a Limber and a second Field Artillery tractor.

UBIQUE! Ron Paterson sevenartygunner@rogers.com

A Whiff of Gun Powder and Cordite



7th Toronto Regiment, RCA Band

By Lt Nick Arrigo

The 7th Toronto Artillery Band has spread out across the country since stand down. Cpls Jack Erdman, David Boutin-Bourque, Anna Dickey, Dawn Rego, Caitlin Coppell have all travelled to Ottawa for employment at the Ceremonial Guard. All of these musicians are returning member to CG and we wish them well and look forward to their return to the 7th Toronto.



The process has been completed, the work was done, and we now wish to congratulate Corporal Dawn Rego on her promotion. She received her promotion while at Ceremonial Guard, Ottawa, after the go-ahead was given from our Chain of Command. Congratulations Dawn!

Cpl Caitlin Coppell is taking her PLQ while out at Ceremonial Guard and are proud to have her join the rank of Master Corporal upon her completion of the course.



Many members of the band have assisted 32 Brigade band division by participating in the two Meaford graduations parades (June 4th and June 27th). Both dates required a full day commitment from the member to honour the BMQ –Land graduates. The band leadership wishes to express its appreciation for on-strength members and associate members who participated on both parades.

On July 1st, the band supported the Regiment three gun crews for the Canada salute on the north side of Queen's Park. It was beautiful Wednesday morning. The band played from 11:00 until noon, and then played the anthems as the 21 gun salute began. The audience was very receptive to the selections band played. Children and adults alike came up to musicians to have a photo opportunity with the band members and our Regimental drums.



September will be a time of change for our band. We have young musicians in the University environment - Cpl Anna Dickey will be taking her Masters in Performance at The University of McGill, Cpl David Boutin-Bourque will be attending North-Western University for his Masters Course come September, Cpl Adriana Douvris will be relocating to Ottawa to become Dr. Adriana Douvris where she will begin her career. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours. You are always welcome back.

Our upcoming events include performances at the CNE between August 22nd and September 7th, and on Friday September 11th we will play the Tin Hat Mess dinner in Oakville.

Unveiling of the John McCrae Statue

By: WO M. Bechmanis and Sgt D. Musgrave

The blood red poppy has become an internationally known symbol of remembrance allowing us to honour those who have served and paid the ultimate price, ensuring the freedom of future generations. Due to the advent of a new type of warfare, the devastating slaughter on the Western Front was unimaginable. Witnessing firsthand the sheer bravado and determination of Canadian Soldiers, and the pain he felt at the loss of his friend, Lt Col McCrae's words captured a moment in history for all time.



Under steady eyes and a warm sun, on Sunday 3 May 2015, the John McCrae Statue was unveiled at Green Island Park in Ottawa marking the centennial anniversary of the most enduring and renowned poem of the Great War, 'In Flanders Fields'.

Attending these anniversary events were Sgt Dan Musgrave (15 Bty), Sgt Jim Etorma (130 Bty), MBdr Brian Moniz (9 Bty) and WO Mike Bechmanis (9 Bty). Our Honorary

Colonel, Brigadier General Ret'd E. Beno was also in attendance.

This solemn anniversary was first marked by a Mess Dinner at the Canadian Museum of Civilization on 2 May attended by veterans, serving members of the Royal Canadian Artillery, the Medical Branches, political figures and foreign dignitaries. The spirit and camaraderie evident at this function paid homage to those who served this country before us.

The unveiling had a host of typical military parade moments the following day. But that's not the point of this article. We cannot effectively convey the emotional words of the Belgian diplomat from the Flanders region who was present as a guest of honour, and how his speech reinforced the brotherhood between their country and ours that was forged through Canadian blood spilled on battlefields such as Ypres and the Somme.

If you have not delved into the history of the Canadian military during WW1, then you owe it to yourself to do so. You need to engage with this poem to understand who John McCrae was and why he truly represented what it means to be a citizen soldier. You owe it to those who have served before and to yourself to be able to understand your role in this world as a uniformed Canadian Soldier. This poem has been read and heard by generations of Canadians, and it has been adopted globally as a symbol of remembrance and sacrifice in the name of one's country. This statue, along with our remembrance will provide a visual reference of the man who wrote a legendary poem in the mud and blood of an epic battlefield in a foreign land 100 years ago.

They served their King and Country faithfully and loyally to the end, and we will remember them.

WO M. Bechmanis and Sgt D. Musgrave



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)



9th Battery

Did you know...

In edition 5 of Take Post, Brigadier-General Turner discussed 23rd Field Regiment's third Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ken Lander. Ken Lander was 9th Battery's first wartime Battery Commander. In December 1941 Major Lander was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and took command of the 17th Field Regiment.

"Just before Christmas [1941], we had a new Colonel. Our new colonel was Col. Ken Landers [sic], who came to us from the 11th Army Field Regiment. He was a very short man and had been in the permanent force. He was soon to make his presence known through his spit and polish. The regiment became Lander's Lilies, a name most artillery men did not want to be tagged with. But over the years with the discipline, spit and polish, we were a terrific regiment."

Memoirs of Gordie Bannerman VAC Website

Another Commander of 9th Battery, Major FT McIntosh took command of 17th Field Regiment on 20th August 1944. Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh was killed in action just four days later.

"The next gun position was in a valley behind MONTEMAGGIORE. It was a very deep valley but all means of ingress and egress were under observation and Jerry's harassing fire policy was very active. The Recce party went in one vehicle every 15 minutes and arrived complete just in time to sweat out a VICTOR target on the receiving end. The guns came up under cover of darkness on an innocent-looking but very bad road and the final score turned

over was 1 tank, 1 3-tonner, 2 15cwt. During the whole occupation enemy shelling was considerable and Lt-Col. F.T. McIntosh was killed after being with the Regiment four days."

History of 17th Field Regiment

The 17th Field Regiment RCA did a march past in 1942 for their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth.





Gunners of the 17th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (R.C.A.), firing a 25-pounder gun near Castel Frentano, Italy, 10 February 1944. Stirton, Alexander Mackenzie, Photographer

9th Battery's Commanders in WW II:

Major K.N. Lander
Major G.A. Rogers
Major E.C. Tate (also a BC in 17th Field Regiment)
Major E.G. Cowley
Major FT McIntosh
Major R.F. Walker
Major D.G. McLeod

E troop decorated a gun tractor like a horse and fitted an ammunition trailer up with a seat for Major HE Brown and his new bride, a Canadian nursing sister. They rode in style fitting for a bride and groom with an artillery regiment. 2. (Memoirs of Gordie Bannerman)



Regimental Part II Orders

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

Honours and Awards

- The following received the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD): Sgt R. McNutt
- The following received the Operational Service Medal -Humanitas:
 - MWO P. Reyes
 - MBdr S. Roodzant

- The following were awarded the 7th Toronto Regiment Command Team Commendation:
 - Capt D. Aliberti
 - MBdr K. Noh
- The following was made an Honorary member of 7th Toronto Regiment: Ms Sarah Valiant

Promotions

- The following was promoted to Captain: Capt E. McBride
- The following was promoted to Master Bombardier: MBdr O. Fleet
- The following was promoted to Master Corporal: MCpl D. Antonov
- The following was promoted to Corporal: Cpl D. Rego



Bombardier O Fleet promoted to Master Bombardier by Major John Stewart

Regimental Family Calendar Of Events

- 15 - 30 Aug - Ex Stalwart Guardian 15. CFB Petawawa. 4 Cdn Div Reserve Summer Concentration.
- 8 Sep - Stand up BBQ/Parade. Parade will take place on a Tues as Mon is a Holiday.
- 10- 12 September 2015. The 2015 RCA Association AGM and RCA Training Event. Will be held in Ottawa at the Chateau Laurier Hotel
- 19 Sep - IBTS Range Day. 4 Cdn Div TC Meaford
- 21-23 Sep - Ironman Competition - Petawawa

NOTICES

1. Take Post, Edition 7

The next Take Post will be published by 18 September 2015. Articles to be submitted by 11 September 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!



THUNDER IN THE SKIES: A Canadian Gunner in the Great War

An extraordinary, newly discovered account from an ordinary Canadian on the ground in the crucial battles of the First World War.

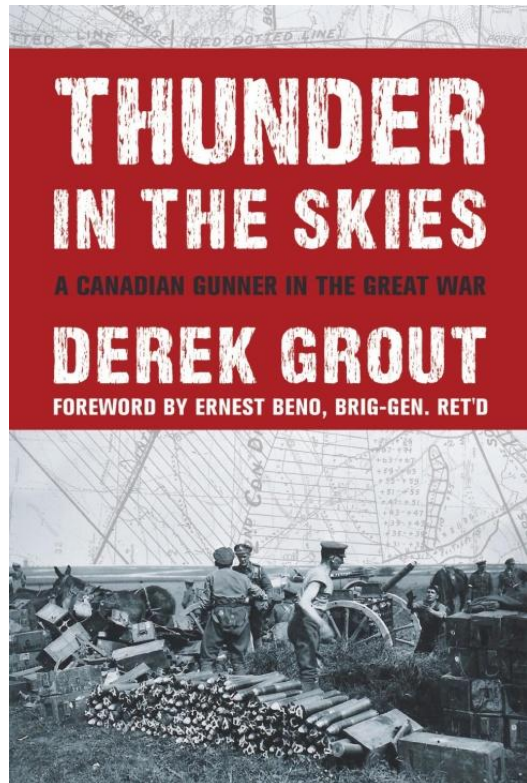
What was it like to be a field gunner in the Great War?

Drawing on the unpublished letters and diary of field gunner Lt. Bert Sargent and his fellow soldiers, *Thunder in the Skies* takes the reader from enlistment in late 1914, through training camp, to the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, the Hundred Days Offensive, and home again with peace.

Posted just behind the front lines, Sargent and field gunners like him spent grueling months supporting the infantry in the trenches. Theirs was a very different war, as dangerous or more at times as the one on the front lines. As an ordinary Canadian writing letters home to ordinary people, Sargent gives a wrenching, insightful account of a tight-knit band of soldiers swept up in some of the most important battles of the war that shaped the twentieth century.

Thunder in the Skies details the daily life of artillerymen fighting in the First World War in a way no other book has before.

Available for purchase beginning 29 August, 2015.





**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”



**Senate of 7th Toronto Regiment
Feedback from the Regimental Family**

Your Honoraries and Regimental Senate wish to make our Regimental Family a strong, cohesive and vibrant team that supports the members of 7th Toronto Regiment. We would appreciate your ideas on how we can do that.

This is for members of the Regimental Family 7th Toronto Regiment, and Friends of the Regiment. Please complete the feedback form and offer ideas.

1. **Take Post.** What do you think of Take Post

No Use	Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding

Comments:

How can it be improved?

-
-
-

2. **Website.** What do you think of our Website?

No Use	Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding

Comments:

How can it be improved?

-
-
-

3. **Facebook.** Do you use Facebook/other social media?

No	Yes

What do you think? Recommendations?

4. **Regimental Social Events and Functions.** What do you think of the Regimental social events and functions?

No Use	Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding

Comments:

How can they be improved?

-
-
-

5. **Employers/Bosses.** Have you ever invited your employer, boss, teacher, etc to a Regimental activity?

Would you? Recommendations:

-
-
-

	No	Yes
Did You?		
Would You?		

6. **Friends/Family.** Have you ever invited your friends and family to a Regimental activity?

Would you? Recommendations:

-
-
-

	No	Yes
Did You?		
Would You?		

7. **Limber Gunners.** Do you know anyone who might wish to join the Limber Gunners? They do not have to be ex-military! Google Limber Gunners.

Comments:

No	Yes

8. **Toronto Artillery Foundation.** Have you ever donated money to the Toronto Artillery Foundation (which supports Regimental activities)? Just Google Toronto Artillery Foundation.

Comments – How can we raise more money for the Foundation?

No	Yes

9. **Your Feedback and Recommendations.** How can we all help continuously maintain and improve morale, cohesion and Regimental spirit in the Regimental Family?

-
-
-
-
-

Feel free to provide your name and email address (NOT ESSENTIAL). Should you wish to volunteer in support of the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, Regimental Family, please advise.

NAME

EMAIL

Submit Feedback to the Regimental Orderly Room (Special Box) or Email beno@kos.net