

TAKE POST

THE JOURNAL OF THE TORONTO GUNNER COMMUNITY

Summer 2022 Edition 28

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This journal, "Take Post", is published under the authority of the Honoraries of the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Take Post reaches out to all Gunners and those interested in being part of the Regimental Artillery Family of the Greater Toronto Area.

The purpose is to share information and strengthen the ties between serving members, retired Gunners, Gunner families, friends of the Artillery, and the Greater Toronto Community.

Notes, letters, and articles to the "Editor" can be sent to HLCol Jeannette Chau at jchau@sympatico.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE HCOL



Gunners of 7th Toronto and Friends of the Regiment,
Hoping this issue of Take Post finds you well.

The end of May saw the Regiment hold its final parade of the training year and stand-down for the summer. It was a year once again influenced by COVID-19 which created barriers to normal activities and influenced the conduct of training exercises, recruiting, and get-togethers.

Thanks to our Command Team and all ranks, the Regiment continued to function effectively with all primary responsibilities being addressed and through the use of technology to assist with communications, meetings, and training. However, it was great to have Moss Park Armoury gradually re-open in recent months to afford the in-person interaction that is at the heart of Regimental life and its purpose.

COVID-19 is still with us but things are much more positive than they were a year ago, with both Ontario and Federal guidelines showing continuing signs of easing up and facilitating more normal operations. Let's hope this trend continues while remembering that, whatever obstacles come our way, the Regiment and the CAF will find ways to adapt and get our core responsibilities accomplished.

During the stand-down, I am looking forward to attending in-field training activities this summer as our soldiers participate in individual and unit exercises 4 CDTC Meaford and elsewhere. These are critical components of our training responsibilities and a great opportunity for soldiers to engage and enhance their qualifications.

We have all witnessed the military incursion by Russia into Ukraine this year. Canada has responded by committing significant amounts of munitions to Ukraine to assist in the defence of their country. It should come as no surprise to Gunners that some of the most sought-after assistance is artillery, with Canada sending M777 howitzers which have been well received.

This should serve as strong testimony that the Guns continue to play a crucial role in the defence of Canada and in joint operations with our Allies. Your core skill as experts in delivering firepower to the battlefield remains as important as it was in past large scale conflicts. Excellence in gunnery never fades as a principal tool in the profession of arms. Always be aware that your cap badge signifies one of the Army's most important and effective battle functions.

In other news, we were pleased to have our Limber Gunners recently participate in Aquino Day at the Ontario Regiment Museum in Oshawa after a long period of inactivity. We are hoping that restrictions on firing our historic 25 pounders will soon be lifted and that the Limber Gunners can fully deploy to traditional events and salutes.

As mentioned in the last edition of Take Post, the Toronto Artillery Foundation was able to team with our great friend tenor John McDermott on two virtual concerts last November and December. These events raised in excess of \$20,000 which will help the Foundation in its core purpose of supporting 7th Toronto Regiment with meeting expenses not covered by government. We have had early indications that John will assist us this coming Fall

with another concert in which the Foundation will be beneficiary. We are very fortunate to have his continuing support.

Remember that if you need assistance of any kind, reach out to your colleagues, your chain of command, to the 7Tor support unit, or to your Honoraries.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, safe, and productive Summer. Stay dedicated to your individual and unit responsibilities. Hoping to see you in person again soon!

UBIQUE!

HCol Mark Clearihue

WORDS FROM THE CO

LCol J.W. Dean

I hope this article finds everybody well and enjoying their summer. The Regiment is happy that we finally seem to be pulling out of the Pandemic. We were restricted from parading in the Armoury during the January to mid-February timeframe. There were lots of online courses to complete including the new Performance and Competency Evaluation (PaCE) system. It appears that for the immediate future, the Primary Reserve will continue to use the historical Performance Evaluation Report (PER), but we will be ready once the chain of command directs us to make the switch.

We were fortunate to be able to get back into the Armoury in Mid-February and immediately got back to the swing of regular in-person parading. Guns which had been unserviceable in the early part of the training year were returned to the Regiment enabling us to meet our Battle Task Standard for Artillery Live Level 3.

The Regiment was fortunate to host BGen Scott, Comd 4th Canadian Division and CWO Robin, 4th Canadian Division CWO in April 2022. They were impressed with the Observation Post and Command Post Exercise activities that we demonstrated making the visit a huge success. One of the outcomes of that visit was direction that we will likely lose the Light Urban Search and Rescue (LUSAR) task in favour of an Artillery related secondary mission task (new task still TBD).

The Regiment has made significant progress in the area of Individual Battle Task Standard Qualifications during the pandemic. We were able to get 80% of our members qualified on the basic weapon systems which was remarkable given the training constraints.

We were extremely happy to see members of the extended family back in the Armoury on May 22. It had been over 2 years that civilian visitors were not allowed in the building. I see Ron Patterson and his Limber Gunner Team at Moss Park frequently as they work to catch up on 2 years of running maintenance.

We were also happy to welcome back the Toronto Police Service Military Veterans Association into the Armoury, who presented the Toronto Artillery Foundation with a donation of eight thousand dollars! Part of this visit also included an explanation of the history of Gunners and the Toronto Police Service dating back to World War One (the presentation is included later in this edition of Take Post).

Reserve Summer Training (RST) was decentralized for our trade courses in the Artillery this summer. The decision to decentralize training was based on the number of serviceable howitzers and pandemic restrictions identified during the winter months. Course qualifications will be evaluated during Exercise STEEL RAIN 22, which is the Artillery Summer Concentration which is being led by 56 Fd Regiment in Meaford between 19 – 28 August 2022.

The Regiment will be welcoming in 18 new Gunners in the fall after having gone through this decentralized training system. 7th Toronto Regiment was the lead on a number of courses during RST including the MVSV Driver Wheel course (MLVW Replacement), Gun Detachment Commander Course, and Gun Area Technical Supervisor Course (CP Supervisor).

Many of our Full Time Unit Cadre were tasked to instruct on courses this summer. Their support to RST was instrumental in getting as many personnel qualified as we did. Thanks for your support!

The Regiment is looking forward to seeing everybody back in the fall. We have the following training weekends coming up:

- a) 23-25 September 2022 – Small Arms Exercise (Borden)
- b) 21-23 October 2022 – Gun Exercise (Meaford)
- c) 6 November 2022 – Remembrance Day Parade (St. Clements Church)
- d) 11 November 2022 – Remembrance Day Gun Salute (Queen's Park); and
- e) 25-27 November 2022 – Gun Exercise (Meaford).

4th Canadian Division is currently in the process of moving from the BUILD Phase of Operations into the CONTINGENCY Phase of Operations. This means that we will see an increase in deployment opportunities over the course of the training year. 7th Toronto Regiment has always punched above its weight class with respect to supporting Operations both Domestically and Internationally.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back in the Fall on Monday 12 September 2022, when the Limber Gunners put on their traditional BBQ. We missed having this BBQ during the 2 years of the Pandemic. It will be great to see everybody out again! Have a great rest of the summer, and safe shooting for those out in the field.

LCol Dean.

Ubique!



LCol John W. Dean, CD
Commanding Officer
7 Toronto Regiment, RCA

REGIMENTAL ORDERS PART II

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

PROMOTIONS

Maj Laxton
Maj Thompson
Capt D.S. Areseneau-Bruneau
WO Bingham
Sgt Marshall
Bdr Bacon
Bdr Bland
Bdr Erikson
Bdr Gaudet
Bdr Haigh
Bdr Wong
Bdr Yin

AWARDS

CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION

HLCol Chau
Sgt Browne
Sgt Noh K.
Bdr Devlin
Bdr Farrell-Jobst
Bdr Oussatchev



CBG COMMENDATION

Gnr Gaudet
Gnr Meehan
Gnr Shapiro
Gnr Zeta

Congratulations to all!



Appointments

As of Mar 2022

NAME	POSITION
<i>RHQ</i>	
LCol J.W. Dean	CO
CWO M.I. Bechmanis	RSM
Maj C.R. Roach	2IC
<i>9 Bty</i>	
Maj E.J. McBride	BC 9
MWO J.M. Murray	BSM 9
Capt M.R. Galloway	BK 9
Capt F.Y.H. Fa	GPO
Sgt M.M.W. Litwin	BQMS
<i>15 Bty</i>	
Capt P.A. Thompson	BC 15
MWO J.C. Lombara	BSM 15
Capt Jones	BK 15
2Lt A.F. McDermott	LUSAR TC
Sgt C.J.R. Harris	RECRUIT TROOP TC
2Lt K. Chu	IBTS Cell Tm Ldr 1
2Lt F.T. Malik	IBTS Cell Tm Ldr 2
<i>130 Bty</i>	
Capt E.C. Laxton	BC130
Capt R.J. Morningstar	ADJT
PO2 S.M. Hamilton	CHRA
Lt L.F. Orellano-Castillo	FINANCE OFFICER
Sgt J.C.S. Wood	FIN NCO
Maj S.A. Graham	OPS O/RCPO
Capt T.C. Cooke	FSCCO
WO B.R. Bingham	OPS WO
MBdr Mason	LUSAR SME
Sgt A.W. Noh	RQMS
Capt D.A.R. Clarke	PADRE
Capt N.A. Arrigo	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MWO D.M. Hicks	BAND 2IC
Sgt J. Latta	RECRUIT OFFICER

HEGG VISIT

On 31 March, 2022 the 7th Toronto Regiment held a 21 Gun Salute in honour of the visit of Her Excellency the Governor General Mary Simon.


Good shooting!



RESOURCES

NEW SOLDIER'S HELP CARD

An updated Soldier's Help Card is now available. See below. Hardcopies may be obtained from the Padre.



Soldier's Help Card

If you or a **BUDDY** are depressed, in distress or in crisis, access these services. **Do not leave a buddy unattended.**
 If you are in **DANGER**, call 911 immediately.
 If you need **URGENT medical or psychiatric** attention, go to the nearest hospital immediately.

24/7 CAF Mental Health Services
Member Assistance Program 1-800-268-7708
Family Assistance Program 1-800-866-4546
 Voluntary and **confidential**, for all CAF members, Cadets, and their family members who have personal concerns that affect their **well-being** and/or work performance.

Sexual Misconduct Response Centre 1-844-750-1648
www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services/sexual-misconduct-response-centre.page
 Call **911** if you need **emergency** assistance.
 Report sexual misconduct or sexual assault to your **local police**.
 Download the "Respect in the CAF" app.

24/7 Confidential Civilian Programs
Ontario Mental Health Helpline 1-866-531-2600
Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) 1-800-463-6273
Distress Centre of Toronto 416-408-HELP (4357)



The 'Family Battle Box' provides resources intended to inform and support Military and Veteran families. It includes support services and crisis services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can be accessed at this link: <https://my.stickyfolios.com/tgyzr1p41qdp>

Any member, Regular Force or Reserve Force, or a member of their family may contact the Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program (CFMAP) for any reason. CFMAP counsellors will ensure that families are connected with supports appropriate to their unique situation. While both providing mental health supports, the key difference between CFMAP and the Family Information Line is that CFMAP provides referral to clinical counselling and mental health treatment services while the Family Information Line provides emotional support and counselling services. **CFMAP - Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program**: 1-800-268-7708

Are you: a currently serving reserve force member whose issue is individual and NOT in the context of a family need or issue?

Are you: a family member of a regular or reserve force member; or a currently serving regular force or reserve force member and the issue for which you are seeking help is in the context of a family need or issue? We will help you find appropriate support

Contact **TMFRC Prevention, Support and Intervention Coordinator - Shara Claire**, Shara.Claire@TorontoMFRC.ca

UNIT SUPPORT CELL

Reminder that the Regiment also has a Unit Support Cell for all members of the 7th Toronto Regiment. Should you feel you need to reach out to somebody during COVID 19, the following pers are available to receive your call:

- a) LCol John Dean, Commanding Officer
Email: John.Dean@forces.gc.ca
Phone: 416-999-5175
- b) MWO James Lombara, Battery Sergeant Major
Email: James.Lombara@gmail.com
Phone: 647-829-9844
- c) HCol Mark Clearihue, Senior Regimental Advisor
Email: Mark.Clearihue@gmail.com
Phone: 905-330-3072
- d) HLCol Jeannette Chau, Senior Regimental Advisor
Email: JChau@sympatico.ca
Phone: 416-697-9511

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

818 ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADET SQUADRON



On behalf of the Cadets and Staff of 818 RCACS I would like to extend thanks and gratitude for the support provided during this past training year by the members and leadership of 7th Toronto Regiment.

This year was full of growth and change that lead to a very successful training year for our cadets. We had our entire group of cadets complete their proficiency levels and earn promotion.

Additionally, this summer we have a handful of cadets attending summer training opportunities for the first time in 2 years, including Warrant Officer Second Class Primrose who is attending the Power Pilot Training Course in Steinbach, Manitoba.

I have provided images from our Annual Ceremonial Review that took place this past June.

Please enjoy the pictures and hopefully more in-person activities can be shared with 7th Toronto Regiment as we move forward into the new training year come September. That way, hopefully we can all celebrate together as we commemorate 818 Squadrons 50th Anniversary with a get together of some kind come spring 2023.

Daryl Abbott, Captain
CO 818 RCACS

105 RCACC STREETSVILLE ARMY CADETS

A Time to Remember: Cadets at 105 RCACC Overcome Another Year with Dedication and Unity!

Article by: Master Warrant Officer Karen Nayiga,
Cadet Correspondent
105 Streetsville Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps



Year-end Annual Review held 11 June 2022

Since returning to in-person training, life was not quite yet “back to normal” for many cadet units. Despite still wearing masks and not being able to fully participate in community service opportunities, cadets at 105 Streetsville RCACC located in Mississauga, Ontario made the most of their time together. With the second half of the training year in full bloom, the pressure was on to get cadets working on their drill and dress before the end of the year. Thankfully, it's safe to say that the whole 105 community had a triumphant end to the training year, due to their united commitment to excellence. From hiking several kilometres at Kelso Provincial Park to

celebrating the Annual Ceremonial Review, here are some of the most memorable activities that cadets at 105 took part in from April to June.

Lisgar Community Clean Up

If there is something cadets at 105 love doing the most, it's serving their community. With the gradual removal of covid-19 restrictions, returned opportunities for cadets to volunteer and get active around the neighbourhoods of Mississauga. The most notable event 105 cadets volunteered at was the Lisgar Fields community Park clean-up held on April 30th. In total, 37 cadets participated in the cleanup. Not only was the weather beautiful, but the cadets displayed how committed they are to giving back and serving others beyond themselves.



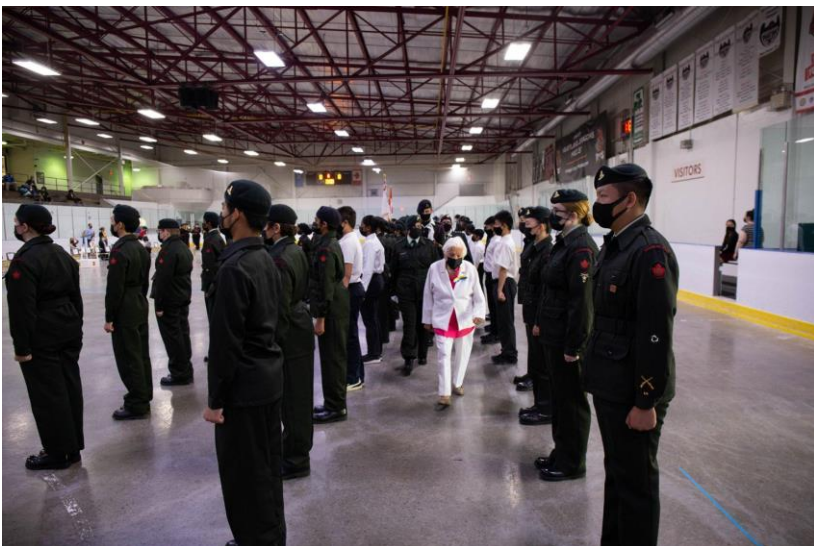
105 Cadets pose with the garbage collected during the community clean up held on April 30th, 2022. Photo by MWO Nayiga K., Cadet Correspondent.

Navigation and Trekking Field Training Exercise (FTX)

From May 28-29, 105 cadets participated in the Nav Trek FTX both at the cadet centre and at Kelso Provincial Park. Applying GPS and navigation concepts taught in class, cadets were split into teams and together, they hiked about 9km around trails with varying levels of difficulty. Other activities also included a scavenger hunt to engage cadets in friendly competition. Despite the heat and getting lost multiple times, cadets enjoyed the experiential learning that was provided at Kelso!



Cadets stop for a break along their 9km hike during the Nav Trek FTX held on May 29, 2022. Photo by: Capt. Shannon Pecore, Commanding Officer.



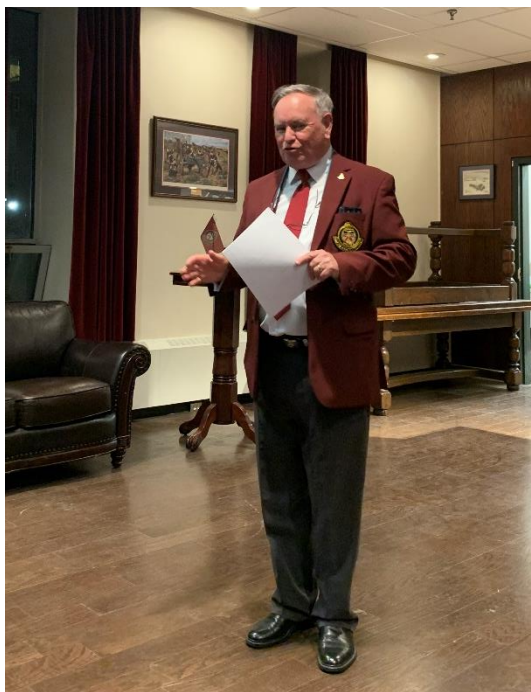
Reviewing Officer Mrs. Hazel McCallion inspects the parade during the Annual Ceremonial Review. Photo by Neil Patterson.

47th Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR)

After a year of hard work, the whole 105 community joined in celebration on June 11, 2022, to mark contributions and memories made in the training year. The long-anticipated event came into fruition thanks to 105 officers and civilian volunteers, family members and the unit's support committee. Among those in attendance were members of the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Legion in Streetsville and Army Cadet League. Likewise, the event would not have been a success without former Mississauga Mayor Mrs. Hazel McCallion, who served as this year's Reviewing Officer! In all, 109 cadets were on parade with their polished uniforms and drill on full display. Aside from the many plaques, medals, and honours awarded to cadets for their commitment this training year, being able to finally parade again in person after two years brought joy and a feeling of togetherness to the community of 105 RCACC.

As a new and more promising training year soon approaches, it's paramount to reflect on the victories made this past training year. Whether through joining band, being selected on a regional expedition or receiving a rank promotion, each cadet at 105 has something to be proud of! All in all, this training year far exceeded the expectations of many at 105 RCACC and with its ending, only brings excitement for what next year has to offer. Best of luck to cadets who are aging out, venturing into post-secondary education or going to summer camp. The future looks bright for what is in store at 105 Streetsville Royal Canadian Army Cadets!

TORONTO POLICE MILITARY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



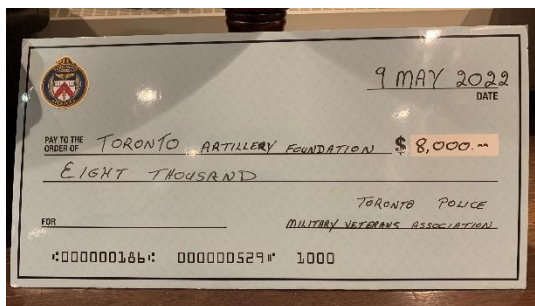
On 9 May 2022, the Toronto Police Military Veterans Association generously donated the proceeds of their fundraising to the Toronto Artillery Foundation (TAF).

The main purpose of the Toronto Artillery Foundation is to receive and maintain property and funds for the benefit and welfare of the 7th Toronto Regiment and the members thereof.

The Toronto Artillery Foundation wishes to acknowledge and thank the Toronto Police Military Veterans Association.

For those of you who don't know, the Toronto Police and the Toronto Artillery have a long history together.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Dana Gidlow, CD. gave a speech that was prepared by Matthew Scarlino, Historian – Toronto Police Military Veterans Association that spoke of the history together that was fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable to listen to.



For a copy of the speech, please see below.

Thank you TPMVA!

9 May 2022

Coppers and Gunners

The links between Toronto Police and Toronto Artillery

Note: The following is a prepared speech from Matthew Scarlino, Historian – Toronto Police Military Veterans Association on occasion of a charitable donation to the Toronto Artillery Foundation, 9 May 2022. Sadly, a COVID-19 infection kept the author from delivering the speech, though it was ably presented by Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Dana Gidlow, CD.

Good evening distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The intertwined history of the Toronto Artillery and the Toronto Police is a rich one. Forged over a century, including two world wars, other conflicts and domestic service, our two organizations have shared members and values for a long time.

I'm going to speak to our closeness by looking at our service in conflict and key individuals that unite our organizations and our associations.

Gunners have served in the Toronto Police from the earliest days. A look at our Nominal Roll from 1886 shows that our **Deputy Chief, William Stewart**, was himself an artillery veteran. As for the regular beat constables, the nominal rolls simply marked prior military service as being with the "Canadian Volunteers". Undoubtedly, there were gunners among them.

Constables, 2nd Class:								
54	John Irwine	Methodist	34	5 ft. 11½ in.	"	"		April 5, 1882.
101	Jos. O. Stewart	Episcopalian	30	5 ft. 11½ in.	Canada	Single		April 19, 1882.
104	Richard Jarvis	Methodist	31	6 ft. 3½ in.	"	Married		April 19, 1882.
110	Wm Ellis	Episcopalian	25	5 ft. 10½ in.	Ireland	"		Sep. 14, 1882.
117	Joseph Nelson	Presbyterian	28	5 ft. 10½ in.	"	Single		Oct. 11, 1882.
10	John Stormont	R. Catholic	31	5 ft. 11¾ in.	"	Married	8½ yrs. in Royal Irish Constabulary	Oct. 11, 1882.
115	George Watson	Methodist	32	6 ft. ¼ in.	England	"	12 yrs. Royal Horse Artillery	Oct. 11, 1882.
116	John Mullhall	R. Catholic	27	5 ft. 10½ in.	Ireland	"		Oct. 16, 1882.
122	Charles Bell	Episcopalian	26	6 ft. 2¾ in.	"	Single		Feb. 15, 1883.
123	Michael Larkins	R. Catholic	26	5 ft. 11½ in.	"	"		Feb. 15, 1883.
126	John Fyfe	Presbyterian	28	6 ft.	Scotland	"	2½ yrs. in Edinburgh Co. Police	March 2, 1883.
77	Abner Noble	Methodist	26	5 ft. 10 in.	Ireland	"		March 8, 1883.
127	John W. Whiteside	Episcopalian	28	5 ft. 11 in.	"	"	6 yrs. in Royal Irish Constabulary	April 12, 1883.
128	David McKee	Methodist	25	5 ft. 11 in.	Canada	"		April 12, 1883.
129	George King	Episcopalian	31	5 ft. 10 in.	England	Married	2 yrs. in Metropolitan Police, London	April 12, 1883.

PC George Watson, late The Royal Horse Artillery, listed on the 1886 Nominal Roll.

One key figure was **Constable George Watson**, who had served twelve years in the Royal Horse Artillery. PC Watson was an important figure in the foundation of the Toronto Police Mounted Unit, that same year. Selected for his police talents and his expertise riding the tough draft horses of the RHA, he was promoted to Sergeant and was instrumental in the early success of the Mounted Unit, which continues to serve the citizens of Toronto to this day.

It was during the **First War** that our two organizations really forged their bonds. The guns still being horse-driven, four mounted policemen joined Toronto's 9th Battery when the war broke out in the autumn of 1914. They escorted the police force's donation of 19 police horses to the Battery.

Of our men in 9 Battery, there was:

Constable **Thomas Hugh Dundas**, atop police horse **Bunny**, who rose to the rank of Battery Sergeant-Major. He would be wounded repeatedly and was the most decorated Toronto Police officer serving in the First World War. He won the Military Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and was Mentioned-in-Despatches.

Constable **Ernest Masters**, was commissioned from the ranks due to bravery in the field.

And Constable **Charlie Chalkin**, atop police-horse **Mischief**, served in the battery until halfway through the war, when he served as a Mounted military policeman patrolling the streets of France, no doubt keeping gunners out of trouble.

Constable **William Connor**, atop police-horse **Charlie**, served in the battery until being commissioned from the ranks. As a "*FOO*" [Forward Observation Officer], he was wounded severely by a trench mortar while directing fire onto the enemy in the Ypres Salient. He was evacuated and died shortly afterwards.

Of the 19 police mounts in the Battery, **St Patrick**, or "*Paddy*" was among the first to fall, killed in action during the fierce fighting at St Julien in 1915. **Mistake** and **Juryman**, **Vanguard** and **Crusader** and thirteen others would perish by war's end. The only horse to survive the war was **Bunny**. A popular letter-writing campaign erupted in Toronto for the safe return of Bunny – but since Bunny wasn't an officer's mount he was sold off with the others to Belgian farmers rebuilding their country.



Police Mounts on the Western Front with the 9th Battery, CFA, from the painting Toronto Police Mounted Unit 1886-1986 (inset) by Eileen Bordessa.

Aside from the 9th Battery, 44 Toronto police officers served in various Artillery units, including subsequent Toronto batteries, and as far afield as the British Army. This number constitutes 28% of the Toronto Police contribution in the First World War. Three of these gunners made the ultimate sacrifice and many more were wounded. For Gallantry, they accounted for one Distinguished Conduct Medal, Two Military Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal and Mention in Despatches.

It was shortly after the war that Constable **John Faulds**, who had served as a gunner in France, was elected first President of the Toronto Police War Veterans Association. Faulds had joined Toronto's 34th Battery. It was known as the "Aquatic Battery" as membership was made up of members of the Toronto Argonaut Club, The Toronto Canoe Club or the Balmy Beach Club. Faulds had risen to the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major of the the 9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. He was awarded a temporary commission that the Toronto Daily Star reported was for bravery in the field.



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1266, Item 6818

John Faulds (right), former RSM of 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and first President of the Toronto Police War Veterans Association. City of Toronto Archives Fonds 1266, Item 6818.

This gunner, **John Faulds** was instrumental in founding of our association, in the summer of 1920. He was instrumental in the erection of our memorial tablets at police headquarters; the creation of our annual memorial service; and the establishment of our yearly socials.

During the interwar period policemen who had served as gunners swelled the ranks of our association, and many were members of the Toronto Artillery associations in existence at that time. Men such as **Charles Hainer MM** who would later die in the line of duty while serving in the Motorcycle Squad.

Unfortunately for a historian, personnel records of the **Second World War** remain largely private and undigitized, so our records from that time are less detailed. Our contribution to the Artillery this time would be smaller, with many policemen joining the Air Force and Navy unlike in the last war.

At least 10 of our officers are known to have served in the Royal Canadian Artillery. It was a small but solid contingent where half held leadership positions - with a Captain, two Battery Sergeants-Major, and two Sergeants among them.

While their exact contributions during the war still largely unknown, they would serve the city with distinction after the war.

One gunner, **Constable Roy Sople**t, led a daring rescue during the SS Noronic disaster. In 1949, the pleasure cruise burst into flames overnight in Toronto Harbour with 524 souls on board. Sople was one of the first officers on scene and without hesitation jumped into the lake and rescued countless panicked swimmers in the darkness. While over a hundred people died in the disaster, not a single one was lost to drowning thanks to Sople and a few other rescuers.



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 1518

"Noronic Burns". City of Toronto Archives Fonds 1244, Item 1518.

Another gunner, **Constable David Cowan**, was celebrated in newspapers for a daring fire rescue in February 1951. Cowan came upon a building engulfed in flames and charged into the upper floor apartments kicking in doors and rescued an elderly woman. When reaching the street with her, he was overcome by smoke and collapsed, spraining the poor woman's ankle after saving her life.

Later that year, former Battery-Sergeant Major and Acting **Patrol Sergeant Joseph Battersby**, would be killed in the line of duty. The survivor of two world wars died while trying to secure a downed hydro wire scene.

The soldiers of 7th Toronto Regiment, additionally tasked with Light Urban Search and Rescue, would do well to remember these men.

Postwar, many gunners again joined the ranks of the Toronto Police, including two big personalities that would be active in the Toronto Police War Veterans and Toronto Artillery Associations.

Captain Francis Burtram "Bert" Saul CD was one such character. He was a veteran of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Canadian Artillery. He survived the Dunkirk evacuation, and was wounded during the Normandy Campaign. Starting as a police officer in Forest Hill after the war, he retired as the Staff Inspector of Metro Toronto Police's Internal Affairs Unit. Bert had also continued service in the militia and was known as the no-nonsense RSM of 42nd Medium Regiment. He was firm, but fair, with a unique sense of humour. He used that experience while drilling cadets at the Police College as a Staff Sergeant in the 1960's. One now-retired member can still remember a dressing down he got from Saul on the parade square. "Craine!" he barked, "You will be s*** upon from a great height ... with incredible accuracy!"

Bert was a founding member of the Toronto Artillery Ex-Sergeants Association and an active member of the Toronto Police War Veterans, who often led our Warrior's Day Parade contingent. Bert passed in 2001.



*Captain Burtram Francis "Bert" Saul, CD.
RCAA Annual Report 2001.*

Also active in both of our organizations at this time was **John Bremner**. John served in the Korean War driving ammunition for the guns. After the war he joined the North York Police and was later amalgamated into Metro Toronto Police where he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant at downtown's 52 Division. John was involved with the Toronto Artillery Ex-Sergeants association and was a key member of the Limber Gunners, where he drove his beloved *FAT* (or Field Artillery Tractor). John passed in 2016.

Bringing us to **today**, we have in our organizations **Dieter Lorenz**, who served with the guns in Germany during the Cold War – or should I say the “First” Cold War? Also among us is young officer **Kelvin Chu** who represents the next generation of police gunners.

I'm now going to close with an excerpt from a letter written by **Constable Hugh Banks**, a fellow mounted officer who was serving with the 53rd Battery, RCA in England in that edgy summer of 1940.

“... I gave up my position to enlist and was finally sent overseas. I left behind my wife and three children. While overseas I received the sad intelligence that my wife had died. I shall never forget as long as I live the kindness bestowed to me by the Officer Commanding and the Chaplain of my unit.

Captain Rae McCleary, the chaplain, has linked himself to me for life by his great understanding sympathy. When he told the lads of my battery of my loss, a movement was started among the troops to raise money to send to Canada for the erection of a headstone on my wife's grave [...] and the stone was carved as directed by a veteran of the last war.

When it appeared that the right thing for me to do was to come home on compassionate grounds to my motherless children, I was eventually paraded before Major-General Victor Odlum. He extended to me a very manly sympathy. His words of counsel and advice I shall never forget. He told me to sit down for a moment or two; he turned to his desk and taking his pen, began to write. In a moment or two he came toward me, evidently touched by my great sorrow, and said, “you will have extra expense when you get home, and I want you to accept this little gift from me,” and he handed me a cheque for \$25”.

One thing missing from the letter however, is that back home in Toronto, the head of the Battery's Welfare Committee, Mrs Medland, cared for the three young children herself until Banks returned. It is clear from this letter that all members of the Artillery family - including officers and other ranks and auxiliary associations - come together to take care of one another in times of need.

It is in the spirit of this letter, that the **Toronto Police Military Veterans Association** makes our donation to the **Toronto Artillery Foundation**. May your soldiers and their families always be taken care of, and their memories never die.

Thank you, and “*Thank Gawd the Guns*”.

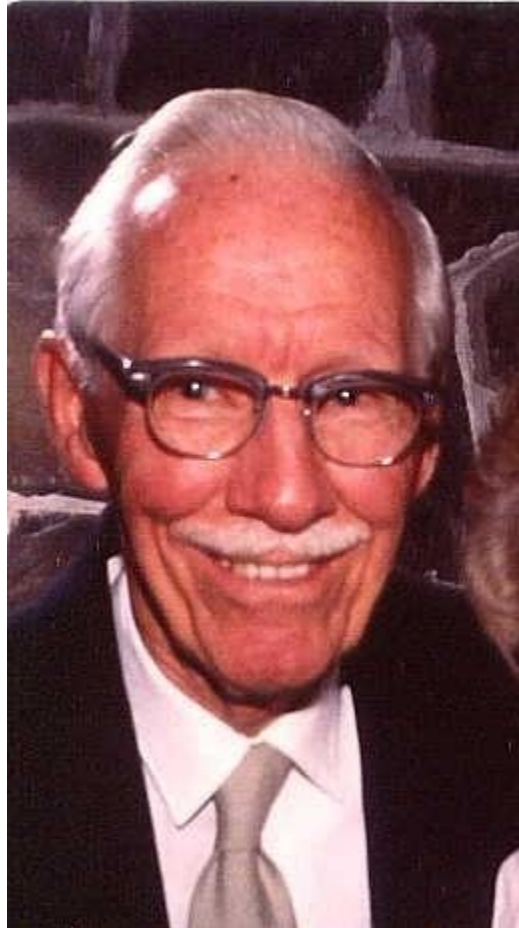
Postscript

After writing this, a few more details came to light of one Toronto Police Officer, PC Geoffrey Rumble, who joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in the summer of 1940. He would fight in the Italian Campaign and Northwest Europe. By April 1945, Rumble was now a Captain and serving as a Forward Observation Officer in the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade. After tough fighting against paratroopers and Hitler Youth in the Dutch town of Zutphen, Captain Rumble was briefly interviewed by war correspondent Douglas Amaron.

Amaron wrote that Rumble had sent a man forward during this fighting to see what was happening. He heard a shout which he interpreted as meaning that it was all right for him to move up, but when he arrived he found the Canadian wrestling with a German in a slit trench.

"I dealt with the German: then we all got into the trench," Rumble said. "Did you kill him?" asked his Colonel. "I don't know" Rumble replied "...he was underneath."

After the war, Rumble rejoined the Toronto Police Department and was promoted to Sergeant. By the end of the 1950s, Rumble was in charge of Drill and Department at the Toronto Police College, a role he would turn over to none other than Bert Saul.



*Major (Ret'd.) G. A. Rumble ED.
Rumble served a total of 42 years with the Toronto Police and died in 2008.
Dignity Memorial, 2008.*

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- Donated Police Horses (City of Toronto Archives)
- Artists rendition of Police Mounts serving with 9th Battery (Painting, Mounted Unit 1886 – 1986)
- John Faulds
- Guns at Ortona (Charles Comfort Painting)
- SS Noronic Rescue (Wikipedia)
- Bert Saul (RCA Association Booklet)
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LAST POST

In Memory of LARRY GOUCHER



GOUCHER, Irving Lawrence "LARRY" –

Larry passed away Saturday, April 16th, 2022 at age 73, in Lakeridge Health Oshawa Hospital, with his wife Nancy at his side. His heart finally wore out after a lengthy fight with a mystery brain mass.

Larry was a member of the Limber Gunners and participated on many a salute right up to the time of the pandemic.

He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and was recently honoured with the Lifetime Membership Award.

As a member of the Limber Gunners, he had the great privilege and honour to ride in the quad truck leading the funeral procession for Cpl Nathan Cirillo in 2014.

He always had a ready smile and participated with energy and enthusiasm.
He will be missed.

LEST WE FORGET

Good shooting!

UBIQUE

