



“Take Post”

The Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community

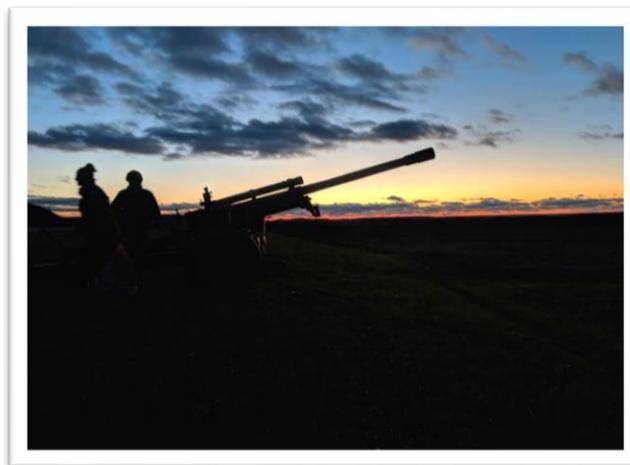
Edition 22, 23 December 2018

THIS EDITION

- December Social Events
- Bunny the TPS Horse
- FTX Hogtown Gunner
- FTX Trident Juncture
- John McDermott Concert
- RCAA 2019

This journal, “Take Post” is published 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 Community.

Notes and Letters to the “Editor” can be sent to barry@partnersindemnity.com



Regimental Orders Part II

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

Promotions

Maj Curtis Roach

Capt Mike Galloway

Capt Jeff Fry

MWO James Lombara

MWO Darrin Hicks

Sgt Joanna Venturanza

Cpl J. Rodrigo-Candappa

Cpl Eggen

Bdr Yeboah-Bamfo



Major Roach promotion



Capt Fry promotion



MWO Hicks promotion

Decorations

Maj Stewart, CD 3

Bdr Ross. CD

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR	
1 Jan	New Years Day – Levee at RCMI hosted by 32 CBG
7 Jan	Regimental Stand-Up Parade
18-20 Jan	FTX White Walker 1 Meaford
8-10 Feb	FTX White Walker 2 Meaford
20 Feb	Family Day Holiday – no parade
22-24 Feb	Regimental CPX
23 Feb	Toronto Garrison Officer Ball – Sheraton Centre
22-24 Mar	FTX CO-OP Gunner

December’s Social Events

December is a busy season for all and the Regimental Family like to pile on leading up to Christmas – here are the highlights.

On Dec 2 the Ubique! chapter of the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire (IODE) hosted the Children’s Christmas party. Children and grandchildren of soldier’s past and present were entertained with crafts, pancakes and an early visit from Santa. The IODE is a registered charity that promotes citizenship and scholarship in Canada. The Ubique! Chapter has an affiliation with the 7 Toronto Regiment. They can be contacted for membership or donations at iodeubique@gmail.com.



TPS Mounted Unit, with Bunny on the right, visits the IODE Christmas Party

The next day, the Band's Annual Christmas Dinner took place at Moss Park. This looked to be the last year that Trish Beck and Doriann Forrester act as MC's their shtick is going to be missed.



"I missed the lesson on Mess Dinners on Phase Training" – 2 Lt Kwok

The Toronto Gunners held their monthly luncheon at the RCMI on 7 Dec which hosted the entire Regiment for St. Barbara's day the next evening. The band sounded fantastic in the main ball room for the dinner attended by about 70 gunners and sappers. If you are interested in the Toronto Gunners contact the President Capt (retd) David Burnett at dburnett@endtoend.ca



Limber Gunners and Toronto Gunners at the Soldiers Appreciation Dinner

Finally, the Soldier's Appreciation Dinner was held on 15 December. This year the soldiers were allowed to vote for personal gift or donate the money to a local women's shelter. Happy to

say, the soldier's big hearts never stop and the gift to the soldier's will be differed and donated to a local woman's charity.

The annual awards were given out as well, this year's winners were:

Brig Brown Trophy for Best Course Performance – **MBdr Litwin** (OPD2iC) and **MBdr Buccella** (Gun Det Cmnd)

Best Signaller – **Bdr Antonecchia**.

CWO Rosa, MMM Best Service Support Trophy – **Bdr Bassi**

EJ Carter Trophy for Solider Musician – **Cpl Howells**

Howard Cable OC Award for Associate Muscian – **Taylor Gamble**

Hawkeye Trophy for Best PWT3 Score – **Mbdr Litwin**

Best Mortarman Trophy – **Gnr Yeboah-Bamfo**

RSS Trophy for Best Arty Tech – **Bdr Tenzin**

BSM Tully Trophy for Best Gun Layer – **Gnr Dhaliwal**

SNCO Leadership Award – **Sgt Musgrave**

Joe Green Award – **Bdr Tenzin**

CWO (Mr Gnr) Robinson Award for Best Athlete – **Capt Aliberti**

Best Sniping Gun - **MBdr Browne**



MBdr Litwin is the inaugural winner of the Hawkeye Trophy

This holiday season will mark the last for Major John Stewart, CD. His uniformed service to Canada began as a Cadet at St. Andrews School in the 1970's and was uninterrupted until he

reaches retirement age on his birthday in January 2019. That is over 40 years of service! John served the guns for most of his career but also with the 48th Highlanders of Canada, Gordon Highlanders in the British Army as well as being seconded to the Intelligence Corps. He served in theatre in Afghanistan as well as in Latin America. He served as an attaché to the Canadian Army in their liaison in Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Uruguay. In the last decade, Maj Stewart has been involved in the RCA Senate which sourced and gifted the Diamond Jubilee brooch to our Captain General. After holding almost every office at 7 Toronto Regt, John will remain with Toronto Dominion Bank. He plans to spend more time with Patricia and their dog Joey in Muskoka as well as donate more time to his interests with University of Toronto, the Corps of Commissionaires and the Cadets. He will have more time to scour the planet for rare pipes and pipe tobacco as well scour Ontario looking for some big brook trout. Good Shooting Sir! You will always be a welcomed visitor to the Regiment.



Maj John Stewart speaking at his DwD (left). The Grey Lion of Afghanistan (right).

Noise and Silence: The Remembrance Day Salute

At 1100 hrs on 11 November 1918, all along the Western Front, the deafening noise of battle gave way to an eerie silence; indeed, “the guns fell silent” has become a commonplace for describing the end of the First World War. This year, the Imperial War Museum in the UK sought to recreate the soundscape of the very minute when the Armistice took effect: the museum commissioned a sound production agency which, using fragments of “sound ranging” film that survived the war, was able to reconstruct how it sounded on the Front when the guns indeed fell silent. Accordingly, it is now possible to listen to a reconstruction of that moment when the echoes and reverberations of destruction yielded suddenly to the silence of peace. (For

more on this, including a link to the sound reconstruction itself, readers can visit [this article by the Smithsonian Institution.](#))

Each year at Queen's Park, the 7th Toronto Regiment (RCA) contributes to the public observance of Remembrance Day in Toronto with an event that replicates, in one sense, the end of the First World War—with noise giving way to silence. At 1058 hrs, the Padre issues a Call to Remembrance, inviting all to remember those killed or wounded, as well as families left behind. Next, a bugler from the Regimental Band plays Last Post, with the final note ending at 1100 hrs, just as the howitzer fires the round marking Two Minutes of Silence. As the noise of that round echoes through downtown Toronto, and that gun falls silent, soldiers and members of the public enter the quiet *and remember*.



After Two Minutes of Silence and the Piper's lament, the Regiment fires 21 subsequent rounds to honour and remember the dead. These rounds are fired by serving members of the unit (firing the C3 howitzer) and by the Limber Gunners (firing the historic 25-pounder). As the rounds fire at intervals of one minute, a quintet of the Regimental Band plays carefully selected hymns and solemn songs. Other than the command to fire every 60 seconds, there are no words spoken during this time. This event thus offers the public an opportunity to pause, and—between the silence and the noise—to reflect and remember the suffering, service, and sacrifice of soldiers at war. Next, the Padre offers a brief Prayer of Remembrance, followed by the quintet playing the Royal Anthem and O Canada. With the Padre's Benediction, the service of remembrance is complete. *Lest we forget.*

Then follows interaction with members of the public, who are invited to approach the guns and meet the gunners: this provides Canadians with a memorable opportunity to meet and thank serving soldiers. Often former members of the unit attend this event, who take this opportunity to

greet their former comrades-in-arms. This year, members of the unit were afforded the privilege of attending a reception at Queen's Park as guests of The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario: for those who were able to attend, this was certainly a rare honour. After soldiers returned to Moss Park Armoury, a chili lunch was laid on in the Sergeants' Mess.

The Salute is possible through the dedication of members who contribute their time and efforts. This year, the Salute was commanded by BC9, Maj Roach, capably assisted by GPO9, Lt Proner. The excellent Quintet consisted of Cpls Dubois, Eggen, and Sandford, and WOs (retired) Trow and Mincoff. Appreciation is extended also to all the Limber Gunners who volunteered their time. As always, this effort was supported by dedicated staff from Ops, Transport, and the RQ.
--written by Capt David Clark, Regimental Chaplain

John McDermott – Lest We Forget a 100

On Monday, November 5th, the Toronto Artillery Foundation hosted an early evening event entitled: "Lest We Forget - A 100th Anniversary Commemoration of WW1" at The Yorkminster Park Baptist Church at Yonge & St. Clair. The evening featured internationally renowned tenor John McDermott, who has graciously assisted the Foundation for three straight years by performing a Remembrance Week event. John is well known for his support of those who serve and has performed in many military-themed events across Canada and the United States. The Toronto Artillery Foundation Band, lead by Nick Arrigo, also performed several numbers as well as accompanying soloist Ruth Ann Onley. Many serving and former members of 7th Toronto Regiment were in attendance at the concert, including former Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Bitove, O.Ont., who greatly assisted with the event's production. Former Prime Minister John Turner and former Ontario Lieutenant-Governor David Onley were also in attendance. It was a great show, featuring period music from the Great War which ended 100 years ago. There were also several readings by 7th Toronto soldiers of passages from those who served in that terrible conflict, including "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. Proceeds from sponsorships and ticket sales help the Toronto Artillery Foundation support 7th Toronto Regiment with funding support for special events, leadership training, and other needs of serving and veteran members not covered by government.



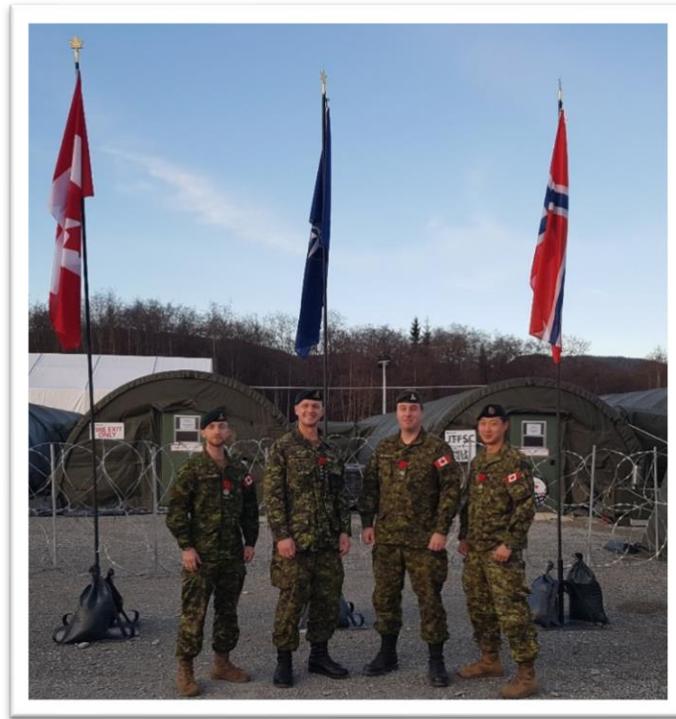
John McDermott (back) with the TAF Band leader Nick Arrigo (right) and friends

Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE

The largest military exercise in Norway since the 1980s took place this past autumn 2018. Four members of the 7th Toronto Regiment took part in EXERCISE TRIDENT JUNCTURE (EX TRJE) as part of the Joint Task Force Support Component (JTFSC). It was a NATO-led high-visibility exercise meant to demonstrate the enforcement of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, in which an attack on a member state is an attack on all. The main phases of the exercise were the deployment (Sep-Oct), live field exercise (25 Oct-07 Nov), a command post exercise (14-23 Nov) and the redeployment (Nov-Dec). EX TRJE involved approximately 50,000 participants, which included navy, army and air force elements from 29 NATO nations. It also included 250 aircraft, 65 vessels, and 10,000 vehicles. The land scenario involved a Northern and Southern Force, with fictitiously named countries, simulating a conventional war not unlike the large scale military exercises that took place during the cold war. The Northern Force of three multi-national brigades comprised of Canada, Norway and Sweden respectively as the lead nations for each brigade. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) was the allied amphibious force. The Southern Force was comprised of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The Northern Force conducted an offensive pushing south, with a simultaneous USMC amphibious landing and land offensive. This was followed by a subsequent counter-attack in which the Southern Force would regain the initiative and push the Northern force back over the course of 3 days.

For the Canadian Army, the main training audience was 5 CMBG of 2 Division, much of which comprised the 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment (the Vandoos), which was the lead for the multi-national brigade during the exercise, which also included soldiers from the French and Bulgarian armies. The weather in Norway in the fall is very wet and cold, with intervals of mild

and freezing temperatures, providing the ideal adverse training conditions for all participants in the exercise.



From left to right: Sgt Jackson, Capt Aliberti, MWO Bechmanis, MCpl Choi
. Camp Orkla, Orkanger, NORWAY.

I was deployed with the Joint Task Force Support Component (JTFSC) as the Defence & Security (D&S) Platoon Commander. The National Command Element (NCE) was housed in the Camp Orkla as well. I departed with the advance party, and departed from Trenton on the CC-177 Globemaster. This aircraft is truly impressive being 17m in height, 52 m in length with a wingspan of 52 metres. This hulk of an aircraft can transport a leopard tank, up to three griffon helicopters at once, and has the capacity to transport 100 passengers. After the seven hour flight and an 18 hour layover in Oslo, we landed in Vaernes, the APOD (Airport of Disembarkation) for allied land forces in Norway.

Camp Orkla was the site from which the JTFSC and National Command Element (NCE) would operate. Located in the town of Orkanger (pop 8,000), about 40 km from the city of Trondheim and Vaernes Airport. When I arrived at the Camp Orkla site, there was nothing yet built at the camp site, besides some modular fencing and few previously existing small wooden buildings. Everything else would have to be constructed with Canadian personnel and equipment, and various contractors. The camp was being built on top of an old race track, which must have been cleared and plowed during the summer to make way for the tons of gravel that would be dumped and leveled on the site. Looking at the 500x500m open area, with pooling water and constant precipitation, the transformation of this place was going to be interesting.

The entire advance party stayed in a civilian camp ground called Oysand Campgrounds, which consisted of rows of small cabins close to a beach, with local ablutions, catering and van rentals to transport us back and forth to Camp Orkla. From there we'd drive in every day and work on the camp construction, receiving deliveries from contractors, receiving rental equipment and of course, building mod tents. At first, the security measures were minimal. The D&S platoon consisted of only myself and four corporals from 33 brigade working in pairs of 12-hour shifts, providing gate control, key sign in/out, and roving patrols. The advance party included not only the JTFSC, but staff from the National Command Element (NCE) staff and Theatre Signals Unit (TSU). By October 4th, most of the main body had arrived, as well as my entire platoon.

The standing tasks for the D&S Pl were gate access, roaming patrols, reception, building key access, escort of contractors and foreign military personnel, continual refueling of heaters and generators, kitchen duties, duty driver, and other tasks given by the Camp Commandant (Camp Cmdt) or the Camp Sergeant Major (CSM). When the time was right I briefed the platoon on all the critical and secondary tasks, key dates & timings, contact numbers, expectations and restrictions. The security posture was permissive at first, as we were in a NATO country and had the issue of contractor deliveries coming to the camp site at a furious pace, companies setting up the huge mega-tents for the mess, ablutions and CQMS, and trucks dropping off sea cans. I created a Standing Orders document, which would serve as the reference for all D&S members. The security duties which started out as just a general list of potential tasks, evolved and hardened over time along with the overall security posture. By the time the barbed wire and the Level 2 area of the JTFSC/NCE command post was setup, security measures had been ironed out, standing orders had been published, and security roles & duties were clear.

The initial camp setup had its share of challenges. Water drainage was an issue handled by the camp engineer, who constructed an effective drainage system that alleviated the initial flooding facing the camp. Norway is also known for its strict environmental laws, and minimizing spills to Norwegian standards was a challenge, especially given the constant rain, which increased the risk of spreading hazardous materials during any rainfall. For deliveries made by host-nation contractors, the workers often didn't speak English and sometimes had no inventory listed in their paperwork (which was also not in English). Flexibility was needed in order to keep construction on schedule with the movement of equipment and personnel. Eventually, the day-to-day camp routine set-in. The gym sea can was unpacked and constructed, running trails outside the camp were mapped out, and the "flying kitchen" became operational with regular meal hours. 5 CMBG equipment and material were loaded off the port docks soon afterwards, with the subsequent setup of 5 brigade camps in the towns of Fremo and Gasbakken. Despite some initial challenges, the NCE and JTFSC were running at full capacity well before the time the live exercise began. Throughout the exercise, I arranged for various PD opportunities for my platoon and the camp as a whole. I organized trips to the Rustkammeret Military Museum in Trondheim, and arranged for C4ISR IBTS on the 117 manpack and RA2000 field phone. Where time allowed there were also courses made available on forklift and mini-loader training and B1 404 validation.

One initiative that unfortunately fell through, was professional development and integration of the D&S Pl with the Norwegian Home Guard. The Home Guard (HG) is the Norwegian equivalent of the Canadian army reserve. I learned very quickly however that their structure is completely different and didn't lend itself to generating personnel and equipment for tasks in the

same manner as Canadian reserve units. The HG is divided into districts, based on the geography of their counties (province would be the Canadian equivalent). The HG is structured around territorial, light infantry companies armed mostly with HK-416 rifles (similar to the C-7 and M-16), with no combined arms capability. There is a HG Rapid Reaction Force (RRF), which comprises 3000 soldiers at a higher state of readiness, mainly to respond to domestic issues. The HG is not structured around units and battalions with commanding officer, but of independent companies (33 territorial companies for instance in the HG-12 District). HG soldiers work a total of 6 days a year, with officers and specialists working 9 days a year. There are exceptions of course, such as the reservists called up to provide force protection augmentation due to EX TRJE, RRF, and staff officers that keep the Home Guard running in their district headquarters. Overall, the Home Guard is very much a part-time militia. The HG-12 were unfortunately too tied up with local security tasks to respond to requests for PD.

There were some minor challenges that our reservists faced on this exercise. Class A reservists were unable to purchase items at the canteen due to the acquittance role payment system which only worked for regular force members. Regular force members use a different pay system. D&S Pl Comd & 2IC instituted a chit system, in which we could take cash and issue a chit for the exact same amount attached to our acquittance tab. In this way, the reservists of D&S Pl were able to purchase comfort items. Also was the issue of Canadian Land Duty Allowance (CLDA). The initial instruction stated that TD would be authorized for this tour, however it was only CLDA. Fortunately, none of the reservists had taken out a cash advance, so the financial impact on them was minimized. These are not things which register a blip on the grand scheme of things, but perhaps something for reserve units to keep in mind when we send our soldiers on an exercise or deployment.

The overall exercise was touted as a success, and besides the usual friction that comes with the movement of 50,000 participants and all the required supplies, equipment and vehicles, there were really no major incidents to speak of, morale was very high throughout the exercise.

---written by Capt D. Aliberti who is employed as the RSS Adjutant.

FTX HOGTOWN GUNNER

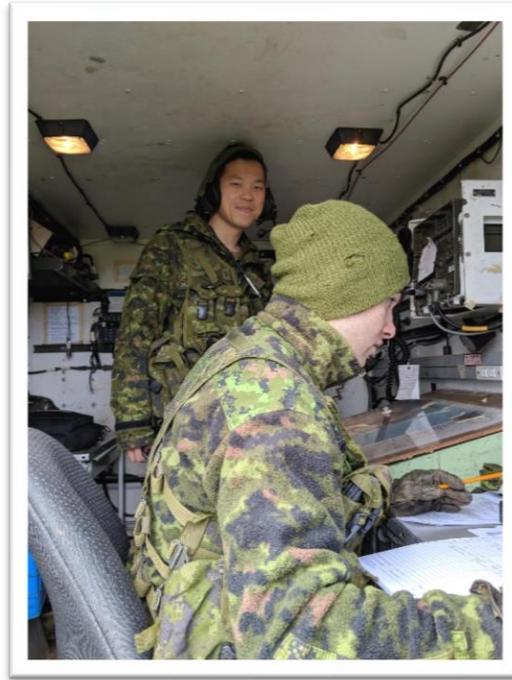
On 12 October 2018, Moss Park Armoury was buzzing with activity as it usually does on Friday evenings, but this Friday was especially busy with the change of 48th Highlanders Change of Command parade. Despite the shortage of parking I managed to find a spot for my car. I made my way inside with all my kit. I knew that I would be spending the exercise in the OPs, and so I brought my shooting kit along with all the logs that would be required. After signing in, I went down to the basement level to sign out my rifle and various other mission essential items. Before I knew it, 7th Toronto regiment RCA was on its way to 4th Canadian Division Training Centre, Meaford, to meet 56th Field Regiment RCA.

Our OP party deployed early Saturday morning to Caen Pad. It was a nippy October morning, and the wind coming off of Lake Huron was merciless. , and there was a thick veil of fog covering the vast plain to our front which we knew was the impact area. Even though nobody

said it out loud, everyone knew this was a poor start to the exercise, because with such thick fog, observing the fall of shot would be near impossible. Nevertheless, we offloaded our kit, set up our position, and tested our communications with the other Gun Line. Because of the poor visibility, we grew more and more anxious as 4F drew nearer, and then to our great relief, a crack in the clouds formed and out came the sun; the fog evaporated within a matter of minutes. We were finishing up the last of a few basic fire missions to get everyone warmed up when we received orders to occupy a new OP.

We arrived at Finger OP, nicknamed as such because of its distinctively shaped contour lines on the map. It is a long, narrow hill, and on three sides are steep inclines leading down into the plains of the impact area. We fired several different types of missions from there, including quick smoke, and illumination missions. Everyone in the team was quite experienced in their positions, and we operated at a high level of efficiency. There was even a debate that was resolved by referencing B-GL-371-002/FP-001, Field Artillery, Volume 2, Duties of the Battery Commander and the Observer. I enjoy these types of disputes over technical details of fire discipline because I think it makes everyone a better gunner at the end of the day. These technical debates are an integral part of gunnery.

The remainder of the exercise ran quite smoothly, and we returned to Moss Park armoury on Sunday afternoon feeling exhausted as usual, but it was a right kind of exhausted, after giving it everything you've got and you achieved great success.



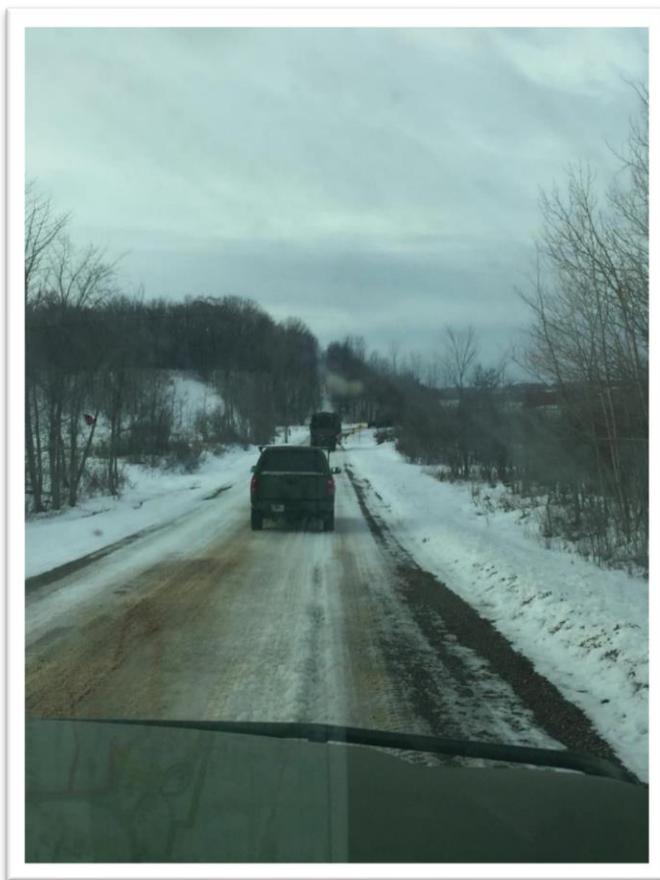
--written by Bdr J. Latta who is employed as a OP Det Member in 9 Battery

FTX AUTUMN GUNNER

On Friday, 23 November 2018 7th Toronto Regiment RCA along with 56th Field Regiment RCA deployed to the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, Ontario to attend FTX Autumn. The Primary intent of the exercise was to support 56th Field Gun Detachment 2IC course. This was a unique and exciting exercise for me, as it was my first time I deployed as part of the Observation Post Party, since joining the regiment in 2010. Upon the late Friday night arrival, the initial brief and necessary kit was issued in preparation for an early morning reveille. After a hearty Meaford Haybox Breakfast, my detachment was issued its move orders, and we set out to occupy the observation post. We deployed on the side of a hill, using a snow bank and cam nets as concealment. As expected, with a late November exercise, with rain and howling winds, the weather conditions were less than ideal. While monitoring the radio, I heard that some vehicles from the gun line were getting stuck in the mud and they were given the opportunity to practice their recovery drills.

Despite the signal issues we were able to fire simple area neutralization missions throughout the day and conclude with a deliberate smoke and coordinated illumination missions. Although I was had no part in it, the 7Th TOR Gun detachments were also able to practice their sniping gun drills. Autumn gunner was a successful and challenging exercise. It was eye-opening for me, it has expanded my perspective of the Artillery with seeing different weapon effects and another end of a fire mission.

-written by Bdr Antoneccia, who is employed as a OP Signaller in 9 battery



Gunners Partnering with the Toronto Police Service

Over the last few months the Toronto Artillery Regimental Family has renewed acquaintances with an old friend, the Toronto Police Service. The current Regiment maintains many local civilian police who continue to serve both their community (full time) and the country (part time). Many others have used employment in the 7 Toronto Regiment as a step off point to careers in policing all over the country. Many of those former members stay in touch with the Regiment through the greater Gunner Family.

Barry Downs, the Honorary Colonel and former Commanding Officer hosted the Toronto Police War Veterans Association and their president Dana Gidlow at the Officers Mess this fall for their annual dinner. The Toronto Police Veterans have been a Permanent Member of the Toronto Artillery Foundation for many years.

This social collaboration led to both Toronto Police historian Matthew Scarlino and Toronto Artillery historian LCol (retd) Colin Mouatt to investigate further the intricate ties between the Regiment and the Police Service.

Firstly, the fallen.



William Joseph Sanderson CONNOR, Police Constable #239 of the Mounted Squad, was single and lived at 620 Ontario Street.

Constable Connor had previously served in the Canadian Field Artillery, and re-enlisted with Toronto's 9th Battery in September 1914 soon after war was declared, volunteering to accompany police horses overseas which had been donated to the military. He proceeded to France from England, and was transferred to the 4th Battery of the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery as a replacement. On July 4th 1916, in the Ypres Salient, Connor was in front line trenches acting as a Forward Observation Officer directing artillery fire onto the enemy. Later in the day, Connor was severely wounded by an enemy mortar and evacuated to a field ambulance. He died the following day, Wednesday, July 5th 1916.

Constable William Joseph Sanderson Connor lies buried at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery in Belgium.



David Hammond Johnson, Police Constable #511 of the No. 5 Police Station (in the area north of Bay St and Bloor St W), was a single young man who lived at 571 Euclid Avenue.

On December 5th 1914, Constable Johnson enlisted in Toronto's 14th Battery of Canadian Field Artillery, and in May 1915 sailed to England on the SS Missanabie for further training. Johnson landed in France in September 1915 and proceeded to the front. On Sunday, November 19th 1916, at the Battle of the Ancre, Johnson was struck by shrapnel in the chest and abdomen, and was evacuated to a casualty clearing station, where he died of his wounds.

Constable David Hammond Johnson lies buried at the Contay British Cemetery in France.

George Brewin Stannage, Police Constable #452 of the Toronto Police Force, lived at 17 Sultan Street with his wife Emily. Stannage had previously served as a police officer with the Warwickshire Constabulary in England.

On November 1st 1915, Constable Stannage joined Toronto's 34th Battery of Canadian Field Artillery. From England he proceeded to France on November 17th 1916, where he was transferred to the 22nd Battery of the 6th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery and moved to the front. On July 2nd 1917 Stannage was wounded but remained at duty in the field. Stannage was promoted to Bombardier on January 24th 1918, an artillery equivalent to corporal. Stannage was again injured on March 20th 1918, when a draft horse under his charge became frightened and bolted, kicking Stannage in the head. Stannage was transferred to hospital, and returned to the front 5 days later. On a "fine" Sunday, April 22nd 1918, Stannage was killed in action when his battery was hit by enemy howitzer fire, in the Ficheux area south of Arras. Constable George Brewin Stannage lies buried at Bellacourt Military Cemetery, Riviere.

We will remember Them.

Answering the Call to Arms and Acts of Valour

Forty-four of the TPS's 155 strong WW1 contingent, or 28%, served with the artillery. Most joined through the 9th Battery or their subsequent iterations. While most of the WW1 contingent were infantry, their loyalties would be divided amongst many different regimental associations, so the biggest bloc would be those of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

Many influential policemen had served with the artillery, such as Inspector Thomas Crosbie (Battery-Sergeant Major of the divisional ammunition column), and the second Toronto Police War Veteran's Association president, John Faulds (~1923-1925) (Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery).

Several TPS artillerymen were decorated for gallantry, their citations below:

Police Constable (401) Thomas Douglas Crosbie DCM - Distinguished Conduct Medal

Citation: 311373 B.S.M. T. D. Crosbie, 3rd Divl. Amm. Col., Can. F.A.

For gallantry and devotion to duty. About 9a.m. on 28th August, 1918, a large enemy shell landed in a dump located on the Arras-Cambrai road between Arras and Faub St. Sauveur, killing seven men and wounding five of the dump personnel. He was blown twenty to thirty feet by the explosion and wounded slightly, but with great gallantry and utter disregard for personal safety he immediately got water and put out the burning ammunition and prevented more casualties. Notwithstanding his wounds and the severe shock he had received, he continued to issue ammunition until relieved. His example throughout was most inspiring to the men.

Date of Action: 28 August 1918

Date Announced: 16 January 1919

Police Constable (448) Thomas Hugh Dundas MM MSM - Military Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Mention in Despatches

Military Medal Citation: 42480 Act. Cpl. H. T. Dundas, Fd. Art.

For Bravery in the Field.

Date of Action: Information Missing.

Date Announced: 11 October 1916

Meritorious Service Medal Citation: 42480 By. S./M. T. H. Dundas, F. Arty.

In recognition of valuable services rendered with the Forces in France during the present war.

Date of Action: Not applicable.

Date Announced: 17 June 1918

Mention in Dispatches Citation: Dundas, 42480 By. S.M. T. H., M.M., 9th By., 3rd Bde.

Deserving of special mention.

Date of Action: Not applicable.

Date Announced: 8 July 1919

Police Constable (438) Arthur James Mitcham MM - Military Medal

Citation: 316952 Gnr. A. J. Mitcham, F.A.

For Bravery in the Field.

Date of Action: 3 November 1917

Date Announced: 23 February 1918

This N.C.O. with other Gunners on the morning of November 3rd 1917 forced the personnel of two gun crews that went into action in a position. These two crews kept their guns in action although during the whole period the area within a radius of 500 yards was subjected to a continuous bombardment with shells that were coming in at an average rate of twenty per minute. Ammunition was set on fire in the position and one of the shells was so close that the Gunners were knocked down by the force of the explosion. This N.C.O. and the Gunners with conspicuous bravery, stuck to their guns, and maintained fire. They were absolutely without cover, and miraculously escaped injury. Within three minutes of withdrawing the men from their guns, one of the guns was hit and the whole shattered.



Bunny

We all know nature suffers the wars of man and no species has suffered or scarified more over the centuries as horses. Until mechanization in the last century, horses have been the prime mover from Genghis Khan's Mongol Horde to Napoleon's Grand Arme'e and slugging in the slime of the Great War.

In the last year, the Toronto Police Mounted Unit brought the name Bunny back, to honour all the horses lost in war. An excerpt from Colin Mouatt's yet unpublished history of Artillery in Toronto succinctly explains the importance of the name and the wartime bond.

Of the 81,000 Canadian horses that went to war only about 60 were returned to Canada, all the other surviving horses were sold to the Belgian government for forty pounds each. One of the 9th Battery's horses received special, though not successful, attention. The Battery Commander, Major George Cook, wrote to Toronto's Mayor Tommy Church; *"Bunny" as he is called, is*

almost as famous as the battery he has guided so often. I should like to think that the city of Toronto will get him back again"

Bunny was a strawberry roan gelding, a commercial grade horse, a mix between a work horse and a riding horse. He was one of the 18 horses donated by the City of Toronto from the Toronto Police Mounted Unit in 1914, before the Battery left Toronto. By the end of the war only one of these 18 horses, Bunny, was still alive.

With strong support from the Mayor of Toronto, the board of police commissioners, the chief of police, members of the police force, the media and ordinary citizens, a plan was made to bring Bunny back to Toronto and the city agreed to pay all transportation costs. A local newspaper reported *"In all likelihood "Bunny" who formerly was the pride and pot [sic] of the Toronto Police Department horses, will come in for his share of honor for his four years of faithful service at the front, for the request from the officer commanding the battery in which "Bunny" was a leader to Mayor Church, regarding the animal may not fall on deaf ears. The Mayor has turned the letter over to his colleagues on the Police Board, and the matter is under consideration."*

But before arrangements could be made, the Quartermaster General dictated that only horses of officers would be transported back to Canada. Bunny would never see Toronto again."

OVERSEAS MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA
ARGYLL HOUSE. 246 REGENT STREET.
LONDON, W. 1.

To - 24th April, 1919.
The Quartermaster-General,
Department of Militia & Defence,
O T T A W A.

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst.,
(H.Q. 54-21-19-15 Vol. 2) regarding a horse named
"Bunny."

You are advised that a contract has been entered
into with the Belgian Government, whereby they receive
all Canadian horses in France on demobilization at the
flat rate of £40.0.0. per head. This arrangement only
excludes a limited number of Officers' chargers.

For most of the war, Bunny had been ridden by Sergeant-Major Thomas Hugh Dundas, one of the five police constables that volunteered to serve with the Battery when the horses were donated. . Bunny's

original rider, until he was killed in action, was Dundas' brother.
Thomas Dundas was one of only twelve original 9th Battery men that returned from France with the Battery.

The new Bunny, standing at 17 hands, is gentle giant, you can easily recognize him around Toronto as, on his blanket, he sports not only the TPS badge but also the RCA crest. He has begun to make appearances with the Regiment at salutes, the Soldier's Dinner and he joined Santa in visiting the IODE *Ubique!*'s Children's Christmas party on 2 Dec.

The RCAA - 2018



The RCAA

So what is the RCAA? The Royal Canadian Artillery Association is, simply stated, the heart of the Gunner Family in Canada. The RCAA is the national level grouping of Canadian Gunners, founded in 1876, which acts to promote the effectiveness and welfare of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. It also plays a larger role in advocating for all matters related to the defence of Canada... but let's stick to the Gunner stuff for now.

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

Who is a member of the RCAA? The good news is that if you are wearing a uniform and are serving in a Gunner unit then you are. Your unit maintains your membership in the RCAA and ensures that you gain all the benefits of that membership, whether you are aware of those benefits or not. If you are no longer in a Gunner unit or are no longer in uniform you might still

be a member of the RCAA... but you'll have to make a bit of an effort to make sure you are. You need to get your membership directly from the RCAA or through your local association, The Toronto Gunners.

What's in it for me? Maintaining your lifelong connection to the artillery, for one. Don't forget: Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner. Another is helping to make sure that the needs of current and future generations of Gunners are taken care of. Yet another is keeping informed of what is happening in the Regiment via the monthly newsletter. How about paying less for car and house insurance? Believe it or not, members of the RCAA can get insurance rates that are up to 20% better than average consumer rates just by being members (check in the newly revamped RCA family web site at <http://rca.wordpress.member365.com/regimental-family-affinity-programmes/> to get details of how you can take advantage of this).

Last October the RCAA held its 133rd Annual General Meeting in Ottawa at the Morrison Artillery Park, the home of our friends at 30th Field. The AGM is always coupled with a training event which provides a great professional development opportunity to all Gunners, serving and retired. The RCAA is force to unify the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as well as to foster useful intellectual discussion. It continues to develop and grow to ensure that it remains relevant and provides tangible benefits to the Gunner Family, both those in uniform and those who have retired.

If you have any questions about the RCAA please feel free to reach out to me, LCol (retired) Jim Brazill via jbrazill@rogers.com.



Photo: the assembled attendees at the RCAA Annual General Meeting.

Limber Gunners

Good day fellow gunners and friends,

2018 was a very busy year (as always) for the Limber Gunners.

We said goodbye to a few much-loved Limber Gunners in the past 12 months and welcomed some much-needed new members.

As always, we started our year supporting the Regiment at the Victoria Day salute, this got us into a good groove as we then moved on to the Highland Creek festival which is always a fun day talking up the historic equipment to anyone with an ear.

While the Regiment goes on summer stand down, we start the busy part of our schedule, starting off at the Aquino weekend supporting the Ontario Regiment tank museum in Oshawa, like always, it seems this weekend is very hot and dusty, lots of members took time supporting this event, it is one of our better engagements, getting to fire many rounds over the 2 day event while taking part in the WW2 battle.

For Canada Day we again supported the Regiment during the salute at Queens Park. We were then front and center taking part in the 200 years of Firepower down at Old Fort York, it was hot and sunny, but we did an excellent job and got rave reviews from the organizer, always nice to see the historic mortar and 8 pounder fire beside us.

Warrior's Day parade down at the CNE ends our summer schedule, it was a success again this year and we seem to always be a crowd pleaser, even though there was a threat of rain, we had a full crew, nothing stops us!



During the fall we again headed out for another Saturday to the Tank Museum, always there to support us we take extra care to make sure we support them when asked, it was bigger than expected as some 1500 people showed up, another good event.

Remembrance Day is the usual end to our schedule, again the Limber Gunners outdid themselves, ferrying both 25 pounders up to Queens Park with the Quad when our second gun mover couldn't make it. It was nice to see so many former members show up to watch and hopefully we enticed some old gunners to join our ranks.

The Limber Gunners are a volunteer organization, we support the unit when asked and there are so many other things we do behind the scenes that usually go unnoticed, many of our members go above and beyond the call.

Without the leadership (and harassment) of Ron Paterson and Paul Kernohan, we would not be able to function, they make sure all the events are manned and organized. Another honorable mention goes to the Tank Museum, they maintain our equipment and without them (Frank Moore) we would not have rounds to fire and equipment to show off.

I'm sure I missed a few events, and hopefully I didn't forget to mention anyone, but in the end, we had another great year, see you in 2019.

The Limber Gunners are made of members that previously served the Regiment. The LG takes part in 18 events a year, as well as these events the Limber Gunners ran a First Aid Course and a Driver Training Course for its Members this year. The last three events of the year have kept the members very active.

Bombardier Aerospace 90th Anniversary at Downsview September 29,2018

The Limber Gunner and the 7th Toronto Regiment were invited to support the 90th Anniversary of Bombardier Aerospace. The Limber Gunners and the 7th Toronto Regiment provided a static display and took part in the parade around the Bombardier Downsview display area. The Limber Gunners fired a 3 gun salute to celebrate the occasion. Bombardier was pleased by our participation thanks to the following members Otto Skerlan, Gord Kowealishen, Erich Schmidt, David robinson, Don macGillivray,Ian Farquharson,Dave Rae, Steve Singh,Paul Kernohan and Ron Paterson

Ontario Regiment Museum WWII Tank Day Oshawa October 13,2018

The Ontario Regiment Museum asked the Limber Gunners to take part in the WWII Tank Day. The event involved the Limber Gunners taking part in a Firing Movement with WWII tanks and track veicles in a firing movement display for a thousand spacetators in the field on the north side of the Museum . The LG fired the 25Pdr in a advance to contact with the armoured vehicles. The LG also set up a static display. A special thanks goes out to our members, Otto

Skерlan, Erich Schmidt, Ken Foster, Larry Goucher, Dave Rae, Steve Singh, Jame Kurpresak and Joe McCormack.

Remembrance Day Salute Queens Park November 11,2018

The 7th Toronto Regiment and the Limber Gunners fired a 21 Gun Salute to comemorate the 100th Aniversary of the WWI Armaticе in 1918. The 7th Toronto Regiment provided 2 105 mm C3 Howitzers and the Limber Gunners provided 2 25Pdr. QF Howitzers for the Salute with one gun detachment in Battle Dress and one Detachment in Blues and Greys. The Limber Gunners had only the Quad to tow the 2X 25

Pdr. The LG ran a shuttle to accommodate getting the guns to Queens Park and the return to MPA. Remembrance Day LAG members that supported this 100 Year Anniversary were Joe McCormack, Brian Higgins, Jeannette Chau, Ken Foster, Otto Skerlan, Ian Farquharson, Steve Singh, Dave Anderson, Gord Kowalishen, Dave Rae, Erich Schmidt, James Kurpresak and Paul Kernohan

The Limber Gunners will carry out equipment maintainence through the Winter months and start in the Spring with a Driver Training Course on the Quad.

---written by Sgt (retd) Joe McCormack, CD

