



THE 709 COMMUNICATOR

The Magazine of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment

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SPRING EDITION



709 (TORONTO) COMMUNICATION REGIMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. A CHALLENGING TASK PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY BY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT DURING 70 COMM GP EX. JUPITER TRILLIUM 2006

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709 (TORONTO)
COMMUNICATION
REGIMENT

Commanding Officer:
Captain G. J. Stasyna, CD

Honorary Colonel and Chair of the
Regimental Advisory Council:
Colonel S. Horsfall, SSSStJ RN

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel:
Lieutenant Colonel J. Lee, CD (Ret'd)

Regimental Sergeant Major:
MWO M. Mallia, CD.

Adjutant: Captain H. Buller, CD

Regiment and Corps Historian:
Honorary LCol J. Lee, CD

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"The 709 Communicator"

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The periodical is not intended to provide "news" nor is it a "News Letter". It is produced as a "Magazine" containing a wide diversity of material relating to military communications and military affairs, both at home and abroad.

THE 709 COMMUNICATOR

The Magazine of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Captain G. J. Stasyna, CD

with a lovely evening of singing accompanied by the piano.

Operationally, the later end of 2005 and first part of 2006 have been very busy. The Canadian Forces have been undergoing a period of change. The new command structure has not yet fully touched the Communication Reserve. However, its effects on changing the structure of the army has definitely had an impact on our growing demands for telecommunications support. Canada Command, Joint Task Force Central, along with Full Spectrum Operations, make up the new environment in which 709 Communication Regiment must work and live.

The Regiment has participated in numerous exercises throughout the old and new year. Of particular note were Exercise Crimson Tide 05, Jupiter Trillium 06, and Jupiter Tower together with our regular Regimental training and special tasks. All of these exercises are focusing on domestic and full spectrum operations. At the time of writing, the Regiment is preparing for the annual Comm Res "Skill at Arms" competition in Ottawa. Additionally, we will be participating in the Iron Talon series of exercises, designed as 32 Brigades workup exercises for this year's summer concentration in CFB Petawawa, called Exercise Vigilant Guardian 06.

This year I have had the privilege of being selected as the CO of the Signals Squadron for Exercise Vigilant Guardian. The exercise will be a departure from traditional operations. It will focus on Forward Operation Bases (FOBs) that will be similar in concept to what our troops are doing in Afghanistan are doing. It will prove to be both a challenging and exciting time for our troops this year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Regiment who have assisted me with my new command. I have developed a fierce loyalty in serving as CO of 709 and I hope to foster harmony and *esprit de corps* throughout my tenure. Of particular note, I wish to thank my RSM, MWO Marcel Mallia, my Adjutant Captain / Major Hal Buller, and all of the staff who have worked so hard to make this unit run together with our affiliates. They include 2605 Cadet Corp, Jimmy and Associates, their Flag Party, The Toronto Signals Trumpet Band, and The Regimental Advisory Council.

Spiritus Manet!

A MESSAGE FROM HONORARY COLONEL SALLY HORSFALL, SSStJ RN

Another interesting year is slipping by. Congratulations to all of you who have participated in this year's exercises and of course to CO Capt Greg Stasyna who, as a prolific photographer, has supplied lots of visual evidence for this publication.

Corporal Won-Ho Kim is in Afghanistan and had his picture taken with Prime Minister Harper – what a photo op! Lt Alfred Lai is training in Petawawa to be deployed to Afghanistan and Cpl. Helena Majors and Cpl. Duncan Lloyd are back from the Golan Heights. Welcome home.

Many of you were present when BGen Hines visited this spring. He has now been promoted to MGen but will remain Chief of Staff Assistant Deputy Minister (Information Management) at NDHQ. Some of you may recall MGen Andrew Leslie from his days as Commander of Military Communications. He has been promoted to LGen and appointed Chief of the Land Staff.

Kudos are in order for our very own and much loved Toronto Signals Band. For 80 years members have proudly marched in military parades, trumpets blaring. Some of today's band members had grandparents and great grandparents in the band. This year, under the leadership of Band President Orton Beaumont and Drum Major Wilf Roblin will be one of great celebration.

It is with regret that we learn our wonderful and dedicated Eric Cozens will be resigning from his role with the Communicator. Eric has tirelessly contributed his editorial and photographic skills to this publication since its inception in 1998, and we are all very grateful to him. So grateful, in fact, that henceforth he will be on our masthead as Honorary Editor. Thanks Eric.

Have a great summer everyone.



A Message from the Editor



I am writing this with an element of sorrow and regret. I find that I am unable to continue with the production and editing of this, your Regimental Magazine. My eyesight is deteriorating to the extent that I find it increasingly difficult to type, compose and layout this publication. Even with the facilities provided by the "MS Accessibility" features and an array of magnifiers, it is I fear beyond my capabilities.

On a brighter note: I wish to thank LCol Jack Lee for his untiring support, encouragement and input. Thanks also to Capt. (Rev) Fred Butler-Caughie for his generosity and his skillful conversion of the publication from MS PUB to a PDF format to facilitate printing and for his many contributions. I greatly appreciate the support and encouragement from those who have provided written and graphic material. A special thanks to Honorary Colonel Sally Horsfall for her kind comments, much valued support and guidance.

My wife Kathy is well known within the Regiment for her fund raising activities and unfailing good humour. She has been my source of creativity, unfailing supporter and much loved partner for over 53 years. Both of us regret that we will seldom be in attendance at future events as neither of us are able to drive and we live in a rather remote area. Additionally, I have to complete some audio projects for the REME Museum in the UK and articles for the REME "Craftsman" magazine. I believe that, if I don't get that project completed this year, it will never reach fruition.

Much progress has been made since the first edition was published in 1999, when we started with photo copies of an original, printed on a rather basic "Inkjet" printer. There is now a need for someone to take over the task of producing a Regimental Magazine. If there is anyone, in the Regiment or within the "Regimental Family" that feel that they would enjoy the challenge of creativity and the reward of involvement in an interesting project, please contact: **LCol Jack Lee at 905-712-9607 or write to: <jkwlee@ican.net>**. Any assistance in the future production of the "709 Communicator" would be gratefully received.

I have enjoyed the honour and privilege of serving as a member of the Flag Party, Task Team Secretary and Magazine Editor in an affiliation that has lasted over 16 years. I will never forget the way in which both Kathy and I have not only been accepted, but absorbed into the Regiment. As an old soldier I am truly thankful for the privilege of being accepted as a member of the Regimental Family. **Please don't let this project die. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Thank you all for your friendship and support.**

Arte et Marte

Please note: My E-Mail Address is now: <eric.cozens2@rogers.com>

Eric E. V. Cozens

Signals Cadets Do Christmas Dinner – 1812 Style

By Master Warrant Officer Steven Brickenden
Operations and Training Officer 2605 Signals Cadets

In the Norman Jewison film, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye once said, "Because of our traditions, everyone of us knows who he is and what God expects him to do." Within the close-knit family of the Canadian military, the same can be said for the traditions that govern certain events in our training calendar. One such tradition is the annual Christmas Dinner. It is a time when the officers and senior non-commissioned ranks serve the junior ranks the traditional roasted dead bird – sorry – turkey while resisting the temptation to pour hot gravy all over someone's head. The annual cadet Christmas dinner, this year, paid honour to the traditions of 1812 and to the history that sits quietly less than 200 meters from our back door.



L-R: Front Row: Hon LCol Jack Lee, Maj Alex Moseanu, Cadet WO K. Brown, Cadet Sgt F. Trinh, Cadet Cpl A. Grigsby. Rear: MWO (RSM) Marcel Mallia, Capt Greg Stasyna (CO 709 Comm Regt), and Capt Rick Leswick (CO Signals Cadets)

This year, instead of doing the usual dinner at the Legion, 2605 chose to hold their yearly function in the Block House at Old Fort York. Under the direction of Capt Rick Leswick, the Corps' new Commanding Officer, 2605 has made a commitment to work with the staff at Old Fort York to help preserve this portion of our military and cultural heritage. It was only fitting that the dinner be held in this historic building which is, according to the Old Fort York historian, who gave us a brief description of what life was like back then, the second oldest military building in all of Toronto. This building actually saw combat during the War of 1812 and in the subdued light, similar to what it would have been like back then, the members of 2605 Signals cadets partook of a meal that was over laid with the images and memories of those on both sides who fought and died here almost 200 years ago.

With Hon. LCol Lee as the guest speaker, approximately 30 cadets sat down and enjoyed a meal in a place, which would have housed over 100 troops in 1812. It is difficult to imagine what life would have been like back then. Crowded quarters, low pay, poor food...on second thought maybe it isn't too hard to imagine after all. Colonel Lee's remarks followed the theme of traditions, remarking on how his own long and distinguished career began as a cadet with what would later become 2605 Signals Cadets. His comments were echoed by the Commanding Officer, Capt Rick Leswick who also started out as a cadet.

The meal finished, and the toasts to the Queen, fallen comrades, 709 Communications Regiment, "Jimmy" and the Corps all being done, the highlight of the evening came for some cadets who were not properly dressed. Cadet Master Corporal Fletcher Trinh was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Cadet Private Andrew Grigsby was promoted to Cadet Corporal.

The year 2605 has seen some pretty interesting changes to the Corps. The change of command as Capt Errol Myers completed his tenure as CO and Capt Rick Leswick returned to the fold to begin his second term. New staff came on board as former Cadet CWO Brasanna Ravindran and former Cadet MWO Reesha Kaushal (2736 RRC Cadets) returned as a Civilian Instructors (CI). Toronto Police Staff Sergeant Frank Bezanthal, another former cadet, also returned as a CI and we welcomed Dr. Mike Leahy to coordinate the Parents Support Committee. Also, the Corps has undertaken a closer relationship with the Friends of Old Fort York to help preserve and spread the news of our oldest military traditions, vowing that their memories will not be forgotten.

What does 2006 have in store? More training, more adventure and more fun for all the cadets who have chosen to be part of that process to continue our traditions. For without them, as Tevye said, "Our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof."

(Thank you Steve for your continued support and much valued contribution to the "709 Communicator". An interesting and new perspective on an ancient tradition in a historic environment. Editor



MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL '05

ATTENDEES AT THE TORONTO GARRISON BALL



From the left: OCdt Mike Tu, Capt. Hal Buller, LCol Rick Bialachowski, Capt. Greg Stasyna, HLCOL Jack Lee

The 2605 (Signals) Cadet Corps - Winter indoctrination

Thank you OCdt Elliot for the excellent photography. I regret that with limited space, I'm unable to do justice to your good work. Thanks also to Cadet Cpl Griggs, Cadet Pte Nesbitt and Cadet Khaper for first class reporting.

Editor.

In early February, while the rest of Southern Ontario was enjoying what almost amounted to a tropical heat wave, 16 Cadets of 2605 RC(Sigs)CC ventured up to CFB Borden for a Winter Indoctrination Exercise. For many of these young people, it was their first time outside of Toronto, other than school trips, and for most of them, it was their first overnight military venture. Led by WO Brown & Sgt Lam, 15 Cadets made the trip to CFB Borden to be kitted out to spend the night in the Band building of the Blackdown Cadet Training Area. The exercise was not only for the Signals Cadets,



but was a major joint Exercise involving Cadets from the Queen's York Rangers, the Queen's Own Rifles, the Engineers and an Air Cadet Squadron, with a total of about 150 Cadets on parade.

Waking up the next morning, the Cadets had the enviable pleasure of being introduced to IMPs, those "fabulous" rations prepared for field use by the Military when fresh food isn't an option – strangely enough, the Cadets seemed to enjoy them – perhaps it was the novelty that enhanced the meal....

The morning's training was familiarization for the Cadet with the fundamentals of snowshoeing, tent building, and stove & lantern lighting. The practice march with packed toboggans up and down hills was quite a challenge for most of the Cadets but all made it through with no accidents, except

for a broken trace line pulling a toboggan. Lunch consisted of yet another IMP. This was cooked by the Cadets in their lines, where they'd practiced raising their tents.

After lunch, the tent groups packed up the toboggans and went out to the bivouac area in the field. This time, the Cadets had to move wearing rucksacks full of their own kit, as well as pulling the toboggans full of the tent group's gear. There was even a locked fence that had to be surmounted. Once they arrived at the bivouac area, the tents were set up and dinner was prepared.

Due to heavy wet snow fall, the evening's exercises were cancelled and the Cadets were allowed to go to bed early. Later in the evening however, the excessive snowfall caused a bough to fall on one of the Officers, so several of the CIC Officers did the rounds of the tent lines vigorously thumping the trees that overhung each of the tents in order to knock off the accumulating snow before it grew too heavy for the supporting branches.



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LIEUTENANT COLONEL FREDERICK H. ROBINSON CD (RETIRED)

Lieutenant Colonel Fred Robinson first joined the Signals element of the Canadian Forces 81 years ago in 1925. After long and very eventful service, he has maintained a close association with the world of communication, until he recently retired after 34 years as a member of the Regimental Advisory Council where he had served as Treasurer. We thank LCol Robinson for allowing us the privilege of recording an account of some of the very interesting episodes in his very distinguished and colourful career.

Editor.

Lieutenant Colonel Robinson was born in Dalton-in-Furness, England, on October 23, 1911. He moved to Winnipeg in 1921. He joined 10 District Signals in 1925 together with his pal Wilf Downie. He was only 14 years of age when enlisting but he could be taken for a 16 year old. Fred enjoyed the training on one night of each week. Pay was 2 street car tickets! After qualifying in VT, he was paid \$3.00. Fred then studied LT and qualified in WT. Pay increased to the magnificent sum of \$12.00, with Certification. His involvement in HAM radio helped in this advancement. Attendance at the Camp Hughes summer camp provided great lessons in horsemanship, schemes, range work, genera duties, pay and camaraderie.



**LCol F. R. Robinson CD
CO of 8 Signal Regiment 1959**

Fred left both Signals and school in 1927 and worked in a lumber yard. He had once read a news article showing pictures of a luxury coach, part of a train traveling across Canada. Passengers wore headsets. Also, there was a picture of the Radio Operator in uniform. Having seen that, Fred applied for and got the job (WT Certificate did it). There were two years of luxury, with First Class Travel and Hotels in Vancouver, Ottawa and Chicago. In 1930, came the great depression. With all luxury gone and much unemployment, Fred decided he would continue with his education. He entered the Jon Bjarnason Academy to finish High School. By 1940, he was running his own Radio Shop in Winnipeg, with 5 employees. Business was terrific.

Jack O'Connor (who was in Sigs) delivered a letter from Fred's former CO, asking if he would spend one night each week training Sigs in Wire-less theory. This would qualify them for trade pay. He accepted. When war was declared, the Unit was activated and, the group asked Fred to go with them. New radios and parts were scarce and his employees were joining up.

The CO said: "Come on Robbie, it's only going to last a year!". So Fred closed his shop for the duration of the war and enlisted, much to the horror of his wife and his brother (who had served in WW1 and was badly wounded). Fred purchased a new house and car, completely paid for, that he left with his family. They reluctantly agreed to his leaving. Fred was posted to 3 Div Sigs, Kingston as a Sergeant. After Kingston Training, they went to Debert NS in transit for overseas service. The CO ordered that four of the troops would go back to Belleville and Kingston for Officer training. The Adjutant at Vimy was Jim Pattenson. Jim had a Norton motor bike, on which they went to the airport for flight training after working hours. They got 9 hours in taking off and landing. When gas-line for civilians was cut off there was no more flying. After qualifying at Vimy, Fred was appointed OC Motorcycle Trg. It was a great job.

Fred was then posted to 'L' Section, 6 Div Sigs, to take the Section to 9 Bde in Val Cartier to train with the Bde. Skis, Snow Eqpt, Bde Exercises and a great group. Al Paterson (a well known person in Sigs) was promoted to Cpl to run the Orderly Room. 6 Div was to guard our East and West Coasts, with 9 Bde going to the East. Jim Pattenson from Vimy became 2ic 6 Div Sigs and he posted Fred to Vancouver.

The Japanese Invasion was expected, so training was with Pacific Command using U.S Equipment. As part of Fred's duties as OC Line Sec line was laid on the West coast of Vancouver Island, from the south to Campbell River. They equipped fishermen with a phone and alligator clip so that they could report any unusual sightings.

Fred's Mother and Father were killed in a fire in Winnipeg. That meant a temporary move. On return to Vancouver, the CO told Fred he was to act as the OC unit Convoy from Vancouver to Prince George. At Prince George he had to take two crews of 10 to build a pole line through the mountains from Prince George to Prince Rupert. Each under a civilian Foreman and mostly using the cross arms on the railway poles. A good job.

Fred learned to use dynamite amid fantastic scenery. He also had a 'track scooter'. They finished everything on time. Fred then told the CO that he had left a lucrative Radio Business to join up and all he have been doing was either training or being trained. The CO said "You must be psychic, I have a request for two Officers; one for UK and one for Australia," Fred asked for the UK. The CO added: "You were to be posted as acting Major but, as any overseas posting drops a rank, you can go as Captain".

Fred went to Windsor NS and became OC Draft of 16 Offr's and 300 ORs, embarking on the converted troopship "Ile de France". Fred was also Traffic Officer. The boat was crammed. One meal each day in 3 shifts. Boat Drill, Emergency Drill etc. After landing at Glasgow, Fred was OC Train to Cove. This allowed him to stand at the back of the train and wave to the cheering crowds. A brief claim to fame. More training at Cove. Then three weeks after D Day, Fred was posted to 2 Corps Sigs in Normandy. Various jobs; they heard that a train carrying Line Equip was wrecked near Montreuil, so Fred took a Jeep and 2 Lts, Stu Rolphe, and our Don Kerr to reconnoiter. They didn't find the train but got to Winnizele, where the Germans had just left, so they were entertained in great style by the locals.

When the Unit reached Calais, Fred was met by Major "Moose" Grant, 2ic of 3 Div Sigs, who told him he was to stay in Calais and train 100 signalers for the Scheldt Assault. He was given Lt Haig, a CSM, 3 Sgts 6 Cpls, a field kitchen, and a batman named Darling (yes - Darling! He also enjoyed all the jokes).

Two days before the course ended, 'Moose' Grant, with Officers and NCOs arrived unexpectedly at 7 am to check the results to date. The group was mustered and put through their paces. Grant was well satisfied. "Give them a good time on Friday, Robbie", and he did. A party included the Mayor, Chief of Police and locals, using the Town Hall.

Fred was next posted to 10th Armd Regt in Breda, Holland. A 2 day trip by Jeep. Their Sigs Officers had suffered a mental breakdown. The Regt was on a weeks rest, prior to going to Arnhem. Fred met the Officers, many from Winnipeg and he spent time with the Sigs Troop and he made a few changes in procedure.

The Germans were being driven back toward Arnhem. Operation 'Market Garden' was a disaster. They had reached Elst, an island just short of Arnhem and were working with the US 82nd Airborne Div. They exchanged Sigs sketches. The Germans bombed the dykes and the island was flooded. They were withdrawing to Nimegan, civilians were climbing on the tanks with what they could carry and being swept off as the guns rotated. Fred found lodging in a farmhouse, together with John Lunderville, OC of the LAD. While reforming in the new location, the Germans started launching V2 Rockets.

The V1 (flying bomb) was bad, but the V2 rocket with a huge warhead was devastating. The V2 Rockets were being fired toward Amsterdam and London. The unit was ordered back to the 'safe' side of the Neder Rhine Bridge where they were billeted in a vacant Convent. The automatic telephone system was restored by Sigs and they laid line to the Sqns.

Mud was a big problem. Tanks were on hard standing and really immovable. Engrs were busy building roads with rubble from demolished buildings, ready for the next push. Fred's unit was the Fort Garry Horse. He borrowed a horse from a local farmer, so that he could visit the detachments.

All went well 'til a low air battle panicked the horse. It threw Fred off and then galloped home without him. Normal transport for Fred was a Heavy Utility Personnel (HUP) vehicle, equipped with 3 19 sets, a small switch board, and a 'liberated' dentist chair, good for a bed and could also swivel to desk and 19's.

The "Battle of the Bulge" started near Masstrich. The British were given Canadian Tanks. They had difficulty using the 19 sets, so they 'ditched' them and used U.S. sets. Fred took a CSM and a couple of trucks to recover the 19 sets. The CSM traded a German P38 for a US Jeep and I guess he used it for the duration.

The Germans were in the Hochwald Forest. The Fort Garry Horse were in support of the Essex Scottish, using one Sqn in our next action. Fred went with the OC of the Garry Horse. Many casualties and wrecked tanks. They got through the Hochwald and arrived at the Rhine. Engrs were building pontoon bridges at UDEM. The troops were to cross the next day using Artificial Moonlight.

Monitoring traffic in the HUP, Fred heard the unique engine of a Messerschmitt. Then- 'Bang Bang' - A 20 mm shell hit the superstructure of the HUP. The next thing Fred knew, he was being put in the Ambulance with three others to go to the RAP. He got a 'shot' of sedative and was then on his way to Louvain in Belgium. There was shrapnel in Fred's head and arms. The Nurses in the Hospital were incredibly beautiful (part of Rehab?). Fred was in hospital for two weeks and then moved to Knocke - a posh resort on the French Coast. The beach was covered with mines and Tank traps.

After a weeks leave in England, Fred was posted to Ghent as 2i/c of the Repatriation Depot, processing volunteers for the Japanese front and incomers for occupation duty. One volunteer going out was Lt Fred Hall, later CO 8th Sigs. Fred and Fred Hall spent a couple of good evenings in Ghent. Fred's time came to return home. He left England on the 'Louis Pasteur' with John Rintoul - later the CO 2 Sigs. Back in Winnipeg, a warrant was issued to take 7 deserters to Kingston for Court martial. En route, Fred spoke with them, all were farmers and had left to help on their family's farms. This was not desertion, more like AWOL. They had the option to choose between a layman or lawyer for defense. That also determined who would prosecute. They requested that Fred would defend them. Fred agreed and, the result was that they were given minimum punishment.

Fred landed in Toronto after the war. Still no new radios or parts were available in Winnipeg. Fred's first job was as Inspector, War Assets at Ajax, using the ex shell filling plant together with 12 inspectors, sorting train loads of now surplus eqpt from both Air Force and Army. Much was destroyed, buried or burned to keep it off the civilian market. Fred eventually joined Bell as Tech Maint Offr. Also joined 8th Sigs, eventually becoming CO. Fred retired from Bell in 1976 as District Manager, Computer Networks. Fred maintained his ties with Signals working as Treasurer (32 years) with the Regimental Advisory Council until his recent retirement. Fred says that he felt indebted to Sigs. It got him back to School and broadened his outlook on life.



A more recent photo of LCol Robinson with his wife Marion

winter indoctrination

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For the Cadets, the night passed uneventfully except that the male Cadets occupied a tent that was continuously dripping on the inside, all through the night. Morning produced the usual grumbles that have been heard around military bivouacs since time immemorial, with the single exception that there were NO complaints about the temperature of the water for shaving!

The Cadets completed their ablutions, then cooked their own meals (IMPs again!) before striking the tents and loading the toboggans. This time, however, the rucksacks were transported by vehicle, allowing the Cadets to focus on snow-shoeing and toboggan-pulling in order to get back to the Blackdown lines. It was a straight forward trip back, with only a few missed turns.

A longer walk home than outbound, collecting their rucksacks and returning the kit drawn on Friday evening. Then the Cadets were free to select yet another "delicious" IMP meal. With a warm lunch in hand, the Cadets boarded the bus for the trip back to Toronto. En route, they entertained each other with short speeches about their experiences during the weekend.

In their speeches and in the written reports, the Cadets spoke about overcoming their fears and finding great satisfaction in having completed tasks that they'd thought were going to be too much for them to manage. One of the Cadets had been so intimidated Saturday morning that, going into the field was not on, asking to remain behind. As there wasn't any possibility of doing so, the Cadet went out with the rest. On Sunday, that Cadet was one of the most effusive about the experience.

The Cadets and staff of 2605 RC (Sigs) Cadets, thank 709 for their material support given (Sgt Battista and staff) and the ongoing support of the Regiment in all their endeavors.

EXERCISE JUPITER TRILLIUM 2006

Acknowledgements and thanks to Capt Greg Stasyna, CO 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment for the information and photographs from the Exercise. JT'06. Working in close co-operation with the Civil Authorities, is an interesting development in which 709 Comm Regt personnel provide much valued support. Ed.

Exercise Jupiter Trillium was the second in a series of two 70 Communication Group Exercises. The first JT exercise was held in January of this year out of CFB Trenton, Belleville Armoury and the Mountain View airfield. The second JT exercise operated out of Toronto, Borden, and Ottawa.

Both exercises were based on supporting domestic operations and operated on the premise of support to the civil authority, directly operating with police, fire and emergency medical services. Emergency communications will play a major role. The efforts of 709 Communication Regiment, together with the other communication units within 70 Comm Gp focuses on supporting the integration of military operations with civilian services.

The thrust of the second Jupiter Trillium exercise was to integrate HF and VHF communications with local municipal, regional and provincial authorities. During the second exercise, 709 successfully integrated TCS system communications with the joint Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR).

HUSAR is a combined Fire, Police, EMS and public works team that responds to major building collapses. During the second Jupiter Trillium exercise an integrated command post was set up by 709 at the HMCS York site. It consisted of multiple military command posts and the HUSAR communications command post. Using the ACU 1000 unit, both civilian and military radio systems were integrated and were able to operate together.



This provided a distinct proof of concept for this operation.



Golan Heights: Roto 85

By Cpl. Duncan Lloyd. 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment

A ghost town in ruins, a relic of the last war! Where houses and shops once stood, there is now only rubble, and impact craters. As I drove from the Israeli side and into the Syrian side, this was my first sight. The town of Quneitra, which was destroyed during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, is now a museum. Every Friday, Syrian families went there to have picnics and to remember the past. Families would gaze over the barbed wire, into Israel, and remind themselves of what was once theirs. Israel had a similar method of preserving the past. As I drove along the Israeli roads in the Golan Heights, I would see the 30 year old, destroyed rusted hulks of Syrian tanks. This made me realize that the past is certainly alive, on both sides of the UNDOF Area of Separation.



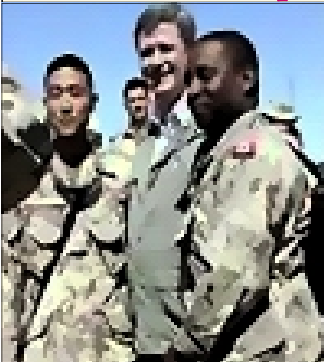
CPL DUNCAN LLOYD IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force's (UNDOF's) mission is to monitor an area of separation between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights mountain range. My job as part of the Canadian Sigs det attached to UNDOF HQ in Syria, was twofold. One was to act as a rad op for the HQ and the other was as the Signals Dispatch Service (SDS) for the mission. SDS required us to drive between the camp on the Israeli side, the camp on the Syrian side and into Damascus. As SDS, we encountered many obstacles, mainly fearless pedestrians and poor Syrian driving. It wasn't unusual to see 4 cars side by side on a 2 lane highway, or to have cars coming head on at you at 100 kph. Driving in Damascus was especially challenging for me, as I was learning to drive 'stick shift'. I still remember the words of my det commander as we drove in high speed, intertwining traffic "By the way, if you stall, we're going to die. And relax for God's sake!"

Driving was just one fantastic experience among the many in Syria. Others included Hezbollah moving in next door to drop shells on the Israelis, jumpy Syrian soldiers who almost shoot because they can't see the 'UN' on the side of the vehicle, and trying to get a good bargain from one of the local shops. The Syrian locals were quite hospitable, especially the shopkeepers, who would invite you into their shops to drink sweet tea and smoke cigarettes. The mosques are another burning memory. 5 times a day, the loudspeakers on the local mosque would blare the call to prayer. No matter where you were on the camp, you could hear it clearly. Whether we were sitting outside the mess listening to artillery, mine clearing or the call to prayer from the local mosque, I would have to say we all felt quite welcome in Syria, and I feel a great sadness, that I may never see that ancient country again.

Corporals Lloyd and Major have recently returned from a tour of duty in the Golan Heights. Duncan has provided a most interesting and graphic account of the tour. Excellent photography also.
Ed.

Corporal Won-Ho Kim in Afghanistan



Cpl Won-Ho Kim. Shown here with the Prime Minister in Kandahar

Acknowledgements to TOM HANSON of CP who provided this photograph.

P rime Minister Stephen Harper poses for pictures with Canadian troops. At the Kandahar base March 13. 2006.

M any of the troops from 709 Comm Regt have served, or are serving in Afghanistan. Few however are shown in photographs. Much of what goes on in Afghanistan is shrouded in secrecy since the change in role for Canada. Those who have served in "hot spots" around the world, know that communication efficiency is paramount to the success of any mission. A task undertaken in the tried and true traditions of the Regiment.

"On behalf of all Canadians, I want to tell you how proud I am of the work you are doing. You have put yourselves on the line to defend our national interests, ensure Canadian leadership in world affairs, and help Afghanistan rebuild into a free, democratic and peaceful country," said Prime Minister Harper. "Your work, serving in this UN-mandated, Canadian-led security operation, follows in the proud Canadian tradition of providing leadership on global issues and protecting our national interests".



Corporal Helena Major

Congratulations Cpls Major, Lloyd and Kim on a job well done. Cpl Kim is still serving in Afghanistan

Canada has steadily increased its involvement in Afghanistan since the removal of the Taliban regime in the fall of 2001. From August 2003 to December 2005, Canada's military commitment was largely Operation Athena, based in the capital, Kabul, as part of the International Assistance Force, which had the aim of providing intelligence and security to allow "rebuilding the democratic process." In the spring of 2006, Canada took a major role in the southern part of the country, with a battle group of more than 2,000 soldiers called "Task Force Afghanistan", based around Kandahar. Canada also currently commands one of the main military forces in the area, the Multi National Brigade for Command South.

A CELEBRATION - THE ANNUAL REGIMENTAL DINNER

Once again, the main hall of the Fort York Armouries echoed to the sounds of revelry and merry making from the many who were fortunate enough to attend the Annual Regimental Dinner for 2005.

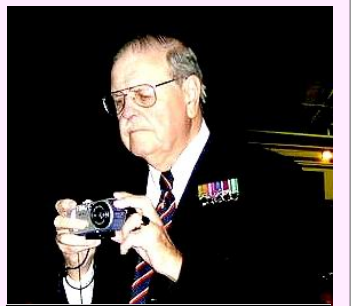
As is the tradition with 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment, the occasion had some formal moments and words of wisdom from the Honorary Colonel and the Commanding Officer. Then on to the celebration of the comradeship and *esprit de corps* enjoyed by all ranks of the Regiment. What is unique about 709, is the strong support from the retired members, the Band, and others who form the Regimental Family. One of the reasons that this is celebrated on the main floor of the Armouries, is that there are so many in attendance. On these pages, your scribe has attempted to portray as many as possible of those who attended. However, there are some limitations in the ability of the camera (and its operator) and the lighting, for which I apologize. I will limit the wording in order to display those photos that have sufficient clarity.



Great food, good wine, animated conversation and a spirit of comradeship. An occasion to make new friends and chat with pals.



AT FORT YORK ARMOURY DECEMBER 2005



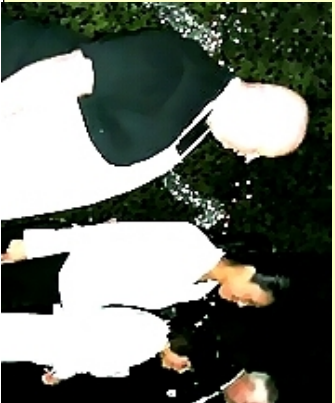
"I THINK IT NEEDS RE-WINDING BUT, I CAN'T FIND THE KEY!"



709 (TORONTO) COMMUNICATION REGIMENT DECEMBER 2005



With acknowledgements to Master Warrant Officer John Spieri C.D. (Ret'd). John made an excellent job of taking this picture considering that it was taken using a standard Digital Camera, with flash. The lighting in the Armouries does not lend itself to normal photography. Thanks John!



PERMANENT FORCE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ORDERLY ROOM



Captain Hal Buller, CD, Adjutant 709 Communication Regiment together with Sergeant Deborah L. Goodings, CD, Chief Clerk and Master Corporal Tammy L. Thomas CD, SWASM, Regimental Orderly Room Clerk.

**Sergeant Deborah L. Goodings, CD
Chief Clerk 709 (Toronto)
Communication Regiment**

Sergeant Goodings was born and raised in Southern Ontario. Following graduation from high school in 1979, she married Doug Goodings, who was a fire fighter in the Regular Force.

Sgt Goodings enrolled with the Primary Air Reserve in May 1988 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She then worked at CFS Holberg, British Columbia as a CR 3, as a claims clerk and timekeeper. In 1990, Sgt Goodings moved to Trenton, Ontario when she worked at the AR Flt Orderly Room, 426 Sqn and 429 Sqn. She was promoted to Cpl in Jul 1991.

After moving to Halifax where she worked briefly with Shearwater, she subsequently moved to the Regional Cadet Office as the camps clerk. In 1995, she returned to Trenton where she was employed as the ATOC Chief Clerk. In 1997, she moved to Winnipeg where she was promoted to MCpl in March 1998 as the A1 Reserve Taskings 2 clerk. In 2001, she was promoted to Sergeant and was Admin Assist to A1 Reserve. Sgt Goodings transferred to the Communication Reserve in Oct 2005 and was appointed Chief Clerk.

Sgt Goodings is married to Doug Goodings and they have two grown children, Jessica and Jason.

**MCpl Tammy L Thomas, CD, SWASM
Regimental Orderly Room Clerk
709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment**

Master Corporal Thomas was born to a working class family in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Her family consists of her Mother, Father (now deceased), four brothers and one sister. Following graduation from high school in 1987, MCpl Thomas worked at a few odd jobs before deciding to join the Canadian Armed forces.

MCpl Thomas enrolled with the CF as an Air Force Finance Clerk in March 1990 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Upon completing Basic training she was posted to Esquimalt, British Columbia where she worked in the pay office and had many different jobs such as Sub-cashier, Pay, Release, Claims and Maternity Clerk. She was promoted to Cpl in March 1994

In 1995, MCpl Thomas moved to Ottawa, Ontario. She spent many years in Ottawa during which time she worked for CFSU Ottawa (NPF, Claims and Foreign Service Section), Canadian Forces Language School where she was a student of French for a year, Directorate Information Management Security at Tunney's Pasture as an Orderly Room Clerk, a six month tour in support of Op Apollo in Dubai, UAB and finished off her career in Ottawa with DAPPP 2 as a Policy Compliance Clerk. She was promoted to MCpl in April 2003.

In July 2005, Master Corporal Thomas was posted to 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment in Toronto, Ontario, with the appointment of Regimental Orderly Room Clerk.

**CONTINUING WITH THE TRADITION
OF THE SIGNALS FAMILY**

Major Ken Lloyd, was a former Commanding Officer of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment. He encouraged the more active participation of the "Regimental Family" in support of the Regiment. To that end, together with Major Alex Moseanu they developed the "Task Team" concept.

Major Lloyd is now CO of 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron in Hamilton. He is continuing with the support and encouragement of the Regimental Family. Of course, that tradition includes the Signals Cadet Corps.

Currently, 705 Comm Sqn does not support a Cadet contingent, therefore Major Lloyd is actively in process of organizing the formation of that element. He is making a major contribution to 705 (Ham) Comm Sqn Family.

Congratulations Major Lloyd!



**Major Ken Lloyd.
Commanding Officer
705 Communication Squadron**

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL BALL 2006. HOSTED BY THE JUNIOR RANKS

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Jack Lee wrote; There were many invited guests. Master Corporal David Spessot added an International flavour to the assembly by inviting two of his friends from the USA; Staff Sergeant Joey Penuela, United States Marine Corps, together with his wife Tawny. The Commanding Officer, Capt. Greg Stasyna invited the Commander of 32 Bde, Col Gary Stafford and a couple of members of Metro's finest to the Ball. It was also delightful to see the Toronto Signals Band in attendance. A good time was had by all.



Stafford and a couple of members of Metro's finest to the Ball. It was also delightful to see the Toronto Signals Band in attendance. A good time was had by all.

I am taking this opportunity to congratulate the executive of Junior Ranks and the Ball Committee for the excellent dinner and dance.

Well done!



On this and the following page are shown some of the many who attended the Dinner And Dance. Unfortunately names are not available for all those pictured here. However, all of the photo's that are available are pictured here.

The Ballroom at the Europa is a superb setting for such a grand occasion and it is wonderful to see the event so well attended



Below: The CO, Capt Greg Stasyna with guests; Col Gary Stafford and members of the Metropolitan Police Force. All accompanied by their magnificently attired partners.



SCENES FROM THE "EUROPA" BALLROOM



Shown here are the members of the Junior Ranks Executive and the organizers of this great event. A professionally structured operation by professionals in their own field. The Junior Ranks Executive have shown superb creativity and organizing ability.





THE TORONTO SIGNALS TRUMPET BAND IN OTTAWA

A most historic event was augmented by the presence of the Toronto Signals Trumpet Band, resident band of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment. Shown above; members of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) of which, Mr. John Eaton is Chair. Also shown are members of the International Council, the Band and Flag Party, members of the Canadian Forces and Cadets. Honorary Colonel Sally Horsfall, who was also in attendance, has kindly written the following appreciation of the event.

SIGNALS BAND TAKES ON OTTAWA

Hon Col Sally Horsfall

Ahh! The view was splendid. As the warm bright sun dipped slowly towards the west, Scarlet uniforms against the grey stone of the Parliament Buildings stood out before the Peace Tower. Oh what a sight! Our very own Toronto Signals Band, playing with outstanding skill, for all the world to applaud. People came off the streets to watch and to enquire.

From Monday, May 30th to Sunday, June 5th 2005, the Canadian Forces Liaison Council hosted the International Conference on Employer Support for Reserves in Ottawa. An historic event made even more impressive by the performances of Toronto Signals Band at the opening evening held at HMCS Carleton and the following evening on the front steps of Parliament Hill.

Directed by none other than Drum Major Wilf Roblin, 58 members resplendent in their colorful uniforms entertained dignitaries from ten different countries. They had come together to discuss and share attempts to engender employer support for the reserve forces of their respective countries.

Representatives from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore and the U.K. gave fascinating presentations on their successes and failures. They also, during the week socialized in the goodwill of international people all with the same goal. The proceedings were chaired by Major General Herb Petras, Chief Reserves & Cadets, and John C. Eaton, National Chair CFLC.

Now, more than ever, the role they are playing on the world stage is a critical one, and the timing of the conference could not have been better. Dramatic and swiftly occurring political changes around the world continue to make their work both challenging and interesting. Certainly, international crisis will continue, and each of their governments will be relying more and more on the contributions of reservists to meet domestic and overseas commitments.

A very special thanks to Wilf Roblin, Ted Blight and all the members of Toronto Signals Band for their preparation time and outstanding contribution at this important event.



EXERCISE VIGILANT GUARDIAN 2006

TRAIN AS WE FIGHT



In Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces are engaged in Full-Spectrum Operations. This means the full range of missions from war-fighting to stability patrols to humanitarian assistance. It's a Three Block War. There is no front line. Leave the camp and you're a target. That's called the 'contemporary operating environment' of failed and failing states. From now on, this is how we'll train.

And that includes VG 06. Three task forces (one from each of 31, 32 and 33 Canadian Brigade Group) will be grouped under a Multi-National Brigade HQ. Each task force will include several companies of infantry, an artillery battery, an engineer squadron and an armoured reconnaissance squadron. Headquarters logistical elements will live in the National Support Element or MNB HQ (including Military Police and medical and intelligence assets). Those of us who've been overseas will recognize the structure. Within MNB HQ will be all of the functions that we used to call EXCON. 70 Communication Group will also be supporting the exercise. The CO of the MNB Signals Sqn will be Captain Greg Stasyna, CO of 709 Communication Regiment.

As units arrive in Petawawa on Saturday, August 19, they will be processed through the Reception, Staging and Onward Movement cell to emerge as elements of Task Force 31-06, 32-06 or 33-06. They'll move immediately into a Forward Operating Base (FOB) and begin operations at midnight. Note: these FOBs are being played in the factious country of West Isle, a country on a large island in the Caribbean with a history of colonialism, poverty, corruption and civil war by using CFB Petawawa as a factious town.

The next six days will be consumed by tasks on the first two blocks of a Three Block War – fighting and stability missions. The security of each base is everybody's business, and everyone does their share. Within each FOB will be a Quick Reaction Force and the artillery. There will be re-supply convoys and other kinds of convoys to guide and protect. Cordon-and-search operations will need infantry inserted by aviation. Presence patrols will continually explore dangerous terrain, day and night. Pockets of insurgents will be dealt with decisively. Vehicle checkpoints will be challenged by any number of problems. For some insight into what those challenges might be, just check today's news from Baghdad and Kandahar.



Civilians and reporters will be everywhere – especially reporters, both roaming and embedded. Section and platoon commanders will find themselves dealing with one media crowd while their leaders are talking to another.

You might recall that the CBC National actually broadcast from Kandahar for a week in March. You can expect something similar in West Isle, which has been in the international media for months. Explore this website; think about it; you'll be fine. It's a new kind of war.

THE 2006 NEW YEAR'S LEVEE AT FORT YORK ARMOURIES

Perhaps it was the weather or, perhaps the merry making and celebration of the exit from the old year. Whatever it was, it showed as a decrease in attendance at the Levee. Our own beloved Padre, Capt (Rev) Fred Butler-Caughie made a brief appearance accompanied by his wife Eileen. However, he did not stay too long as he is not in the best of at the moment. We all wish for his speedy recovery. Major Alex Moseanu also made a brief appearance but was called away to his duties as AdeC to the Lieutenant Governor. There were also fewer attendees from the other Regiments within the complex. A great shame, because this is a time honoured tradition that should continue and thrive. Here are a few pictures taken at the event, showing some of those that had the courage to face the New Year with a smile and a spirit of comradeship. Ed.



Two guests from overseas: Major Singh, Indian Army Corps of Signals accompanied by his wife. L-R : Col John Catto, Hon Col Sally Horsfall, Maj Singh IACS, Mrs. Singh, Capt Greg Stasyna and LCol Gary Knopf.



A couple of WWII Veterans were in attendance. Bob Blenkhorn (right) is a Past President and long serving member of Jimmy and Associates.

(left) Ernie Stein



The celebration of St. Patrick's Day was the perfect evening for a Mess Dinner, and on the 17th of March, 2006, the Officer's Mess hosted the first of many mess dinners to come. The evening featured comments from guest speakers; Deputy Chief Kim Derry from the Toronto Police Service and Commander Andrew Kostiuk from Toronto Fire Service and traditional Irish songs lead by Ms Danielle Bourre. It was good to see the forty plus associates, members, and friends of the Regiment in a gathering to celebrate the continuing success of the unit and as well, to welcome our new Commanding Officer.



The dinner featured a magnificent prime rib that appealed to everyone and it was followed by a delectable crème brûlée. Thank you to our caterers at Le Petit Gourmet, who never ceases to amaze us. I am sure that all of our guests found the evening enjoyable and even informative as the information passed on from Deputy Chief Derry and Commander Kostiuk allowed us to see the potential for combined military and civil service operations in the near future. The evening concluded with Ms Danielle Bourre leading us in traditional Irish songs and as the night came to an end, it is quite unmistakably clear that the spirit of 709 lives on.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAN A. RUSS, OMM CD



LCol Russ was born on August 11, 1940 in Hamilton, Ontario. LCol Russ began his military career in 1956 as a Soldier Apprentice. He graduated from Vimy in 1958 as an Operator Wireless and Line (OWL).

LCol Russ served with 1st Canadian Infantry Divisional Signals Regiment in 1958 until the formation of 2 Signal Squadron. LCol Russ served with the first Brigade, second Brigade, third Brigade and with the fourth Brigade. He also served the ONU in the Congo 1960 to 1962, with UNEF 1964-1965 and UNDOF in 1978-1979.

UNEF 1964-1965 and UNDOF in 1978-1979.

Upon promoting to Master Warrant Officer in 1978 he returned to Special Service Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron as the Chief Communications Operator. In 1980 he was posted to National Defence Headquarters Directorate of Communications Security 2-3. As the Allied Communication Security Agency Officer he was responsible for writing the Program Change Proposal for the Implementation of the Rapid Automatic Cryptographic Equipment.

Upon leaving the Regular Force in 1982 LCol Russ was transferred to 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron as the Deputy Commanding Officer. He commanded 705 from March 1988 until April 1992. During his tenure as Commanding Officer, LCol Russ also commanded the first two 70 Communication Group Recruit Schools and "On Guard 90". He transferred to 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment on 1 December 1992 as the Officer Commanding A Squadron. He took command of the Regiment from May 15, 1993 until the spring of 1995

LCol Russ and his wife, Beverley Anne, are parents to three children, Kelly, Daniel and Teresa.

Is this how it is now?

With apologies and acknowledgements to Author unknown



"Dear Andy: How have you been?
Your mother and I are fine. We miss you.
Please sign off your computer and come
downstairs for something to eat. Love, Dad."

BRIGADIER-General G. Hines at 709 Communication Regiment. An informal visit and tour

Brigadier General Glynne Hines visited 709 Comm Regt on February 13, 2006 when he was touring Regular Force units and Reserve units in the Toronto Area. He wanted to meet the leadership of the unit and make himself available to answer questions regarding where Communications stands in regards to the new Canada Command structure and other issues regarding reserves.

BGen Hines visited all the facilities and rooms in the Armoury in which 709 are resident. He is familiar with the business of the Comm Res operations as he was the Group Commander 73 Comm Gp in Winnipeg. The Band Executive, 2605 Cadets and Jimmy & Associates were present to represent the 709 Family. The visit is quite informal and it was an enjoyable occasion.



Private Lau to Corporal



Brigadier-General Hines



Private Chan to Corporal



Private Bassan to Corporal



L-R: RSM MWO Mallia, LCol McDonnell, BGen Hines, Capt Stasyna, LCol Lee



Private Hussein to Corporal

Pictured right: Members of the Regimental Family who attended on the occasion of the COs Parade and the visit of MGen Hines.

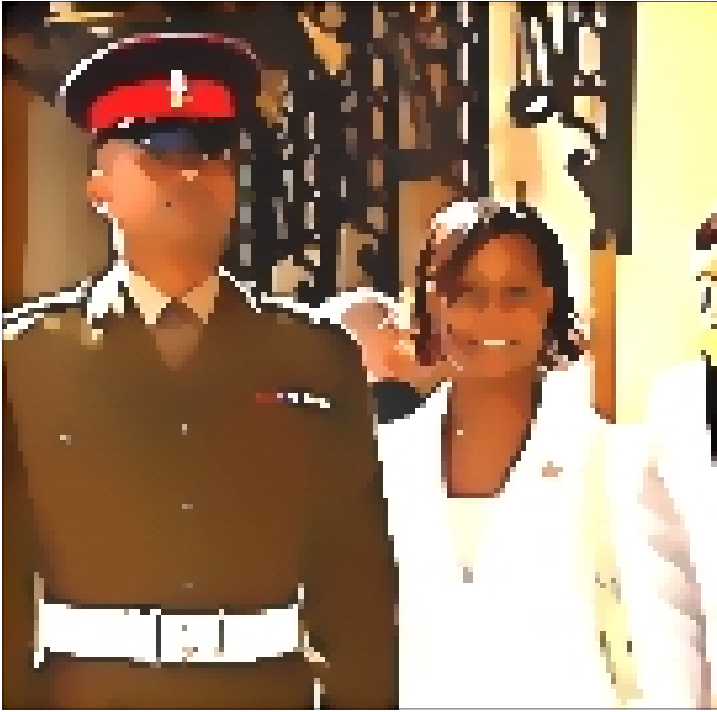


THE VICTORIA CROSS

(With acknowledgements to the MoD UK, the BBC London and Chris Fletcher, photographer)

The highest award for valour is the Victoria Cross now 150 Years since its inception in 1856.

25 year old Private Johnson Beharry was awarded the Victoria Cross for exceptional bravery in Iraq. There follows a short extract from the report of his action:



Pte Johnson Beharry, VC, pictured with Mrs. Beharry after the presentation at Buckingham Palace.

"His vision obscured by blood, Private Beharry forcefully reversed his Warrior Battle Tank out of the killing zone and the vehicle continued to move until it struck a wall and Beharry lost consciousness. By doing this, he'd enabled other Warriors to come to their rescue and extract the crew safely. His level-headed actions under intense close enemy fire, despite his extremely serious head injury saved the lives of his crew and enabled them to be evacuated to safety."

To date 1,355 VCs have been awarded. The most recent was that awarded to Pte. Johnson Beharry, a Warrior Tank Driver with the Prince of Wales Royal Regiment.

Iraq war hero Private Beharry was awarded the Victoria Cross by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Pte Beharry who was twice injured saving colleagues under enemy fire, is the first recipient of the UK's highest valour award since the Falklands War. He was told by the Queen: "You're very special".

"When I hear what I did, I can't really believe it was me," he said at Buckingham Palace after the presentation. "But what I did was my choice - I knew I had to get everyone out because I wouldn't have been able to live with myself otherwise. I think it's the training that just kicks in."

Thanks to a Generous Contributor



The production of this magazine is a costly venture. Without the assistance of Honorary Colonel Sally Horsfall and Captain (Rev.) Fred Butler-Caughie, the magazine would not exist. Now, **Dr. Michael Leahy PhD** has come to our rescue, having volunteered to assist with funding the production of the "709 Communicator". On behalf of the Regiment and Regimental Family, our readership, the Editor offers heartfelt thanks to Dr. Leahy for his generous offer.

Michael Wm. Leahy, Ph.D. is President of *The Learning Institute Inc.*, a private education firm. *The Learning Institute Inc.* provides academic upgrading for adults who have been seriously injured in industrial accidents. Dr. Leahy has spent his entire career in education, beginning as a classroom teacher, at both the elementary and secondary levels. Leaving public education, Dr. Leahy served as Executive Director of a private residential school. Subsequently, he worked as a consultant with a large international education organization in the United States before returning to Canada.

Concurrent to his career in education, Dr. Leahy has operated **A.E. Leahy Co. Ltd.**, an investment and management firm since 1981. Dr. Leahy wrote a monthly investment column in a financial magazine for 5 years. As well, for 19 years, Dr. Leahy was a platform speaker for investment and retirement planning seminars across the province of Ontario.

Dr. Leahy has earned a BA (History & Philosophy), MEd (Education Administration) and PhD (Planning & Management).

Thank you Dr. Leahy, for your generosity.

BUDDING AUTHORS!

Do you have an interesting story to share with the Regiment and the members of the 709 Family? This magazine is for and about our soldiers and readers. We would like to receive articles and anecdotal reports on interesting experiences that you would like to share with the readers. Don't worry about being absolutely word perfect. This is NOT an exam' and that's why there's an editor.

Photo's would also be most welcome. If you can 'e-mail' a 'JPEG' or 'TIF' file - PERFECT! If not, we will scan any hard copy you have and return the original to you. It may be necessary to edit your submission but, NOTHING will be lost from the original (see "Disclaimer" Page 2). Send your stories to us and we will do our best to publish articles in the upcoming issues.

Since space is somewhat limited, please try to keep your submissions reasonably short. However don't let that limit your creativity as it's always possible to "serialize" a good story.

Thank you in anticipation. For more information; please contact HLCol Jack Lee:

<jkwlee@ican.net> or phone 905-726-9607

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION (AFCEA). COMMUNICATION RESERVE SCIENCE-ENGINEERING EDUCATION AWARD

Award: *AFCEA Canada is pleased to provide two annual cash awards of \$1,000 to members of the Communication Reserve studying in a Science-Engineering area of interest to the C&E Branch and to AFCEA, one \$1,000 award for Non Commissioned Members and one \$1,000 award for Officers.*

Eligibility:

Officers and NCMs of the Communication Reserve who; have completed at least one year of reserve service and remain on effective strength as of July of each year, and have completed at least one year of full time education in a recognized Canadian college or university in an area of interest to the Branch and AFCEA and are enrolled full time in the program for the following year.

The academic years need not be consecutive years where the break in academic study is as a result of full time Reserve service. The Branch and AFCEA area of academic interest includes all science or engineering programs related to telecommunications, electronics and information systems industries. Each Communication Reserve Unit may submit only one applicant for each of the two awards. Where there are more than one potential applicant for each of the two awards, Unit Commanding Officers will apply the selection criteria outlined below, and Membership in **AFCEA** is not required and members of **AFCEA** Executive and their families are not eligible to participate.

Presentation:

The awards will be announced and presented in mid-September of each year at a national Branch or AFCEA event. Where successful applicants are unavailable to travel to the national event, arrangements will be made to present the awards locally at a suitable venue.

Application Process:

Members interested in applying for the education award are to indicate their interest to the Unit Commanding Officer. Upon approval of the Unit Commanding Officer applications will be forwarded directly to the Communication Reserve Headquarters G1. All applications must be received by the Comm Res HQ not later than 1 July of each year and are to include the following documentation; a covering letter of recommendation signed by the Unit Commanding Officer, a one page letter of application prepared by the applicant outlining how they meet the selection criteria outlined below.

The letter of application will be addressed to the AFCEA Communication Reserve Education Award Selection Board, applicants annual Performance Evaluation Report for the previous reporting period, transcript of the applicants marks for their previous academic year, proof of registration in the applicable program for the upcoming academic year. Applicants annual Performance Evaluation Report for the previous reporting period, transcript of the applicants marks for their previous academic year, proof of registration in the applicable program for the upcoming academic year.

Selection Process:

A Selection Board will be convened in July of each year to determine the successful applicants. The Board will be chaired by the Senior Communication Reserve Advisor and will include the Communication Reserve Chief Warrant Officer and an AFCEA representative as Board members. In recognition of the duality of the AFCEA Communication Reserve Education Award selection of the successful candidates will be based on; a high level of performance as a valuable member of the Communication Reserve, and a high level of academic achievement in science or engineering. financial need of applicants will not be considered as a selection criteria.

Questions:

Questions on this education award should be referred to the Senior Communication Reserve Advisor through the Communication Reserve Headquarters.

Further information of AFCEA Canada and their education and awards program can be found at www.afcea.ca.

THE TORONTO SIGNALS TRUMPET BAND

The Toronto Signals Band 80th Anniversary Celebrated with a Dinner & Dance



On Saturday May 13th, the Band held a very successful celebration, beginning at 6:00 pm with a Cash Bar followed by Dinner at 7:00.

The evenings events started with opening remarks mentioning significant events that occurred during the year 1926. This included the formation of the 2nd Armored Divisional Signals Trumpet Band. Over the years we have achieved a great reputation and earned over 350 Awards, Plaques and Trophies.

In 1956/57 the Band made a guest appearance in N.Y. State. The following day, in the Press we were proclaimed "Canada's Marching Ambassadors," a title we are proud to carry with us as we march into the future.

Following an enjoyable meal and after the official Toasts to the Queen, Canada, the Regiment and the Band, our President Orton Beaumont made an inspiring presentation, during which he thanked past and current members for their enthusiasm and dedication. He was also encouraged by the support given by 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment.

The Band received letters of congratulation from Buckingham Palace (The Queen's Correspondent), The Governor General of Canada, The Prime Minister of Canada, The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Premier The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Premier of Ontario, and the Mayor of Toronto. There were also several letters from past members that were unable to attend.



Many Prizes (40+) were won, plus the wonderful Door Prize, a VIA RAIL trip for two. Won by Joe Watson (Radar), as it turned out the Watson's were also celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary. Dancing followed and continued until 1:30 a.m.

Our Honored Guests; included; Honorary Colonel Sally Horsfall, Mr. John Eaton, and the C.O. of 709 Communication Regiment Capt. Greg Stasyna and Partner Julia Demico. Also in attendance was Mr. Bob Morris past President of Legion Branch 46. This Branch has sponsored the Band in the past eight Warriors Day Parades. Also there was Mr. Alf Smith, a past member, leader, Instructor and Band Enthusiast and Jim Durban a sponsor of the Band in the early 60's.

It was an excellent night, a great Party, enjoyed by all and worthy of our 80 Year History.

The Tartan Ball

A couple of pictures from the Tartan Ball, held at Erie, Pennsylvania, on March 4, 2005



SIGNALS BAND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- June 03 -- Stoney Creek Flag Day Parade C
- June 10-11 -- Hamilton International Tattoo C
- June 17 -- Highland Creek Parade C
- July 01 -- Cambridge & Chatham Canada Day Parades C
- July 02 -- Lexington Michigan July 04 Parade
- July 08 -- Cape Vincent NY French Festival Parade
- July 08 -- Belleville Drum Corp Show
- Aug 05-06 -- Kingston Fort Henry
- Aug 19 -- Warriors Day Parade C
- Aug 19 -- Waterloo Band Festival
- Sept 02-03 -- DCA Alumni Show Rochester NY
- Sept 09-10 -- Cambridge & Richmond Michigan C
- Sept 16 & 17- International Marine Tattoo
- Oct 21 -- Pumpkinfest Parade. C

Please Note: Only the events marked with a "C" have been confirmed. All others only initial contact has been made and is pending conformation.

JIMMY AND ASSOCIATES PROGRAM, 2006

- 1) 22 July 2006
Annual BBQ held at Freeman's Farm, Scarborough, next to Toronto Zoo. For information contact Joe Plut, Chairman Entertainment Committee, (519) 940-0392 (Home) OR Cell(519) 938-0466
E Mail: jplut53@hotmail.com
- 2) 23 September 2006, **ANNUAL RE-UNION, Days Inn, 400 & 401 Toronto**
Contact Jim Roberts, Vice President, Cell (416) 418-8458
- 3) December 2006, **Dutch Legion Luncheon, hosting Jimmy and Associates, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 82, Lakeshore just East of Mississauga Rd in Mississauga**
- 4) Jimmy and Associates Christmas Party, December, date to be announced.



Members of the J & A Executive at work

The Hong Kong Ex Servicemen's Association (HKESA)

June 20, 2005 was a historic moment. A Remembrance Service was held at the National War Memorial Square in Ottawa. The delegates from 48 Commonwealth countries sang the National Anthems with one voice, remembering their fallen comrades. The ceremony launched the 29th Tri-annual Conference of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-servicemen League (RCEL). There were more than two hundred ex-servicemen and serving members of the Armed Forces participating at Memorial Service.

Deputy Grand President General Sir Sam Cowan made the ceremonial opening speech followed by the Dominion President Mary Ann Burdett. Afterwards, veterans laid wreaths and listened to a children's choir. It was a special moment for Canada as 2005 was also the Year of the Veteran, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII. The speeches were most inspiring for the honoured guests and delegates.

The RCEL usually meet every three years. The League has a total of 57 member organizations from 48 Commonwealth countries. The RCEL holds its conference every three years. Her Majesty the Queen of England is their Patron and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh is the Grand President. This year Royal Canadian Legion hosted the conference in Ottawa at the Chateau Laurier hotel. It was a five day conference.

The RCEL has small staff in London working in office space donated by the Royal British Legion. Their committee not only arranges the triennial conference but they also give financial support to member organizations. Individual organization grants can be one-time or according to their special emergency needs. Each country represented at the conference had one vote, but it could be represented by more than one delegate. Making the journey for The Royal British Legion – Hong Kong Ex-servicemen's Association were association chairman Willie Mok OBE and Toronto branch chairman John Fung.

The objective of all member countries are to perpetuate and cement the ties of comradeship and friendship created by mutual service in defence. Also to promote and further the interests of all Ex-servicemen and especially the members of the Association and their widows, orphans, or the dependents of such members and of men who, had they been alive, would have been eligible for membership.

Hong Kong has a special representative within RCEL. This was because the association also looked after veterans in Hong Kong and the ex-servicemen who made their way living in other countries, such as UK, Australia, and Canada after Hong Kong returned to China in 1997.

On the second morning, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Albina Guarnieri officially opened the conference. She shared her experiences in the VA office. She also emphasized the importance of the recognition of servicemen via the education of the younger generation in their high school curriculum. The conference covered a variety of topics such as fund raising, use of poppy funds, involvement of youth in remembrance and aged care. All representatives were invited to dinners arranged and hosted by the then Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson and British High Commissioner to Canada David Reddaway. There was also a visit to the Canadian War Museum, Upper Canada Village and the National Art Centre.



At a Regimental Dinner in the Officers' Mess 709 Comm Regt, Left to Right: HCol Jack Lee, Commanding Officer Capt Greg Stasyna Mr. John Fung and Mr. Willie Mok



Left to Right: HKESA Branch Chairman John Fung, Hong Kong National Association Chairman Willie Mok and the then Governor General, Her Excellency Adrian Clarkson.

Fiji won the bid to host the 30th Conference of British Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) in 2008.

The HKESA also attend the Warriors Parades 2005 at the CNE.

HKESA not only supports the event but use the opportunity to meet other friends and mutual supports. For examples, the members from Royal Hong Kong Regiment and members from other Legions. In addition, they join the Band at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 614.

The annual events attracts members from other Legions and remembering our Canadian soldiers' brave history in WWII, and other Peacekeeping and missions such as Afghanistan.

Most importantly, HKESA participated in the new CO's change of command Parade at 709 Comm Regt. and other Regimental functions at 709 and various RCL affairs.

OBITUARIES, NOTICES AND BELATED ENTRIES



Jean Lisk
beloved wife of Earl Lisk. With sadness we report that she passes away in December 16, 2005.

Tony van den Akker.
On November 10, 2005 at age 69. Beloved husband and best friend of his wife Eda. Cherished father of Miranda (Bob) Myers and Wendy (Clint) Cummings. Loving grandfather of Brooke and Kiera Cummings. Also survived by sister Henny Bourdon. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Hounored friend of the Dutch Canadian Legion, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Jimmy and Associates.



Tony van den Akker

Tony did his national service in the Dutch anti-aircraft artillery and finished as a sergeant Radar Operator.

Immigrated to Canada where he worked as a sound engineer in the movie industry where he won many awards for excellence. An Emmy and two Genies among them.



Phillippina Catlander
Beloved wife of Bill Catlander. Sad to relate, she passed away in the late Spring of 2005

E. Carter Eustace - The Toronto Star of October 8th reported the death on October 5th of E. Carter Eustace, in Oakville. He served with the 4th Armoured Division Signals in WW11. He was a Life Member of Signals Club 209 and a long time member of Jimmy and Associates.

Master Warrant Officer Reg Sharp, CD

We sadly report the passing of a great soldier and much loved husband, father and former member of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment.

He joined 2 Signal Regiment in 1958, until joining the Reg Forces. He served with 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment in the 1980s as the units Regular Force Training Advisor, working under the authority of 70 Communications Group Headquarters in CFB Trenton.

Many soldiers remember Reg as the guy who always had something to say. Reg was always helpful and never hesitated to offer advice to any one, no matter what their rank or position.



**Master Warrant Officer
Reg Sharpe, CD**

Reg loved to tell stories. Some of his best stories were told between shift changes. He would not hesitate to invite you into his office for a coffee, smoke and story. He loved to recount tales of adventure and intrigue. His self portrayal was as the hero who saved the day. Some soldiers actually believed that his stories were true!!!!

Most soldiers will remember Reg for his dedication. He worked tirelessly in his tasks and was completely dedicated to the Canadian Armed Forces. The Forces was his other family. While Reg was always endeared to his wife Beverly, children and natural family, he also loved the military. He came from a long line of military officers who were all dedicated in their service to Canada. Reg personified what the ultimate Canadian citizen strives to be in the service of their country. He was more than just a citizen, he was a defender of all that Canada stands for. Through his service to the Forces, the Corps of Commissionaires and his family he represented Canada. He was a very dedicated and romantic hero who was without match in his endeavors.

Reg was a take charge kind of person. He was there, you worked with him and, in turn he gave you his loyalty, kindness and respect. Reg earned respect because he gave it. He was a man that everyone could trust and admire. A dependable soldier, a leader and a worker.

Now that Reg has left us, the Forces will be a little bit emptier. However, he has now gone to the heavenly army and will continue marching on. His soul is marching amongst us and that parade will always be here.

Reg was a veteran who loved his country. And it is certain that his country loves him.

HART, Joseph Walter - At Lakeridge Health-Oshawa on Wednesday, July 6th, 2005. Survived by his wife Margie June "Bonnie" (nee Scriver) of 59 years.

Joe was born in Deseronto, Ontario December 14th, 1922. Joe joined the Army in April 1942. He was in the RCCS in Canada, Britain, Sicily and Italy where he was with the a Div HQ, Eighth Army. He was one of the operators assigned to the famous Canadian Generals Guy Simonds and Chris Vokes. He went on to France, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

Returning to Canada in 1945, he went back to Duplate Canada, where he retired 29 years ago, after working for over 38 years. Joe was a life member of RCL 43 serving 3 years as President. He was also a member of a number of Associations including Jimmy and Associates

Geraldine "Gerry" Jane Barbour Hall - Gerry passed away after a lengthy illness, on Monday, April 17, 2006. She was the beloved wife of the late Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hall CD who was also the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 709 Communication Regiment.

Gerry was the retired head secretary, Runnymede Collegiate. She was mother of Wanda Hall and Philip (Judith) Hall, and their children Nicholas and Ashleigh. Dear sister of Roderick E. Davis, Jeanette King and Kenneth W. Davis.

