



The 709 Communicator
The Magazine of 709 (Toronto) Communications Regiment
Vol 4: Issue 1 **June 2008**
Spring/Summer Edition



YOUR IN THE ARMY NOW

Circle is Complete as 709 Returns to Land Forces Element



The Regiment marches past B Gen Gary Stafford
Photo by Jim Taylor

The Communications and Electronics Branch, which is responsible for nearly all communications and electronics matters in the CF, was formed by several other elements namely the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, the Royal Canadian Air Force Telecommunications Branch, the Royal Canadian Navy Communications Research Branch and some elements of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The CF Reorganization Act in 1968 brought the communicators of the three services together to form the Communications and Electronics Branch. All three services operated trans-

Canadian message networks; the Air Force also had a ground to air communication system. These systems eventually came under one organization, the Canadian Forces Communications Command (CFCC). Personnel of the Communications and Electronics Branch, one of the CF largest, carry out their duties all across Canada and around the work in support of the United Nations, NATO humanitarian and domestic missions. Effective 1 Apr 1965, Strategic Communications of all elements were fully integrated as Canadian Forces Communication's System (CFCS), later Command in its own right. By mid 1966 strategic communications units and tactical field units had been reorganized on regional basis and unit names were changed from former single service designations to 700 series numbered communication squadrons in which reported to a regional Communications Group HQ.

On 27 August 1971 ADM O officially authorized an establishment of Communication & Electronics Branch (C & E). C&E cap badge was approved and changed to the current badge on 10 Apr 1972.

In 1968 the Toronto Signal Regiment was in command of LCol John Murphy, CD. Under the new structure Colonel Murphy was the first CO to command 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment from 1969 to 1970. 700 (Borden), 705 (Hamilton), 709 (Toronto), 772 (Kingston) and 763 (Ottawa) falls under 70 Communication Group. Its

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Commanding Officer's Comments



Maj. Greg Stasyna CD
Commanding Officer

This has been the final year for the Regiment as part of the Communication Reserve under the Information Management Group as an independent command. On April 1 2008, the Communication Reserve transferred back into the Land Force (Army) after 35 years. The Regiment and family have marked this occasion with enthusiasm. There will be new challenges and opportunities for the C&E branch within the Land Force. The Regiment will continue to adapt to meet our new commitments whilst maintaining our history as Toronto Signals. With new technology and the demands on the Canadian Forces from overseas operations (particularly Afghanistan), our resources remain stressed. Our efforts have pointed to preparing our soldiers to regular force standards. As a result, courses become longer and qualifications become more challenging for the reserve soldier's schedule. Coupled with that, our training and education strategy must balance Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) with our trade standards which are becoming more multifaceted as computer and information systems continue to evolve within the CF. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all soldiers and associates for their hard work during the past months. To our soldiers leaving the unit for new postings and retirement, I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours. Your efforts make us who we are! *Spiritus Manet!*

Major Greg Stasyna, Commanding Officer

Regimental Sgt Major's Comments

Writing another "spring message" means another training year has come to successful completion. As with other years, this training year was extremely busy and rewarding for members of the Regiment who found themselves providing support to Brigade exercises and training courses, participating in Group level exercises and training and of course attending Regimental exercises and functions. All levels of training provided us with the opportunity to test and expand our trade knowledge and to showcase our talents.



MWO April White CD
RSM

With the training year over, the summer training cycle begins which requires members to travel to various Bases to fulfil taskings or train. For those attending training, work hard and take advantage of the expertise of the training staff you have full access to. For those taking taskings, I know this means for many, separation from family and friends but you are fulfilling a critical task and without your skills and expertise, training of our soldiers would not be possible. Thank-you for your dedication.

While I take a short hiatus over the summer, I will remain involved in key personnel, planning and disciplinary issues but day-to-day administration will be carried out by WO Carter and WO Asals. I will make every effort to attend local graduation parades as I look forward to congratulating you on your training achievement and milestone in your career.

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HONORARY COLONEL'S COLUMN

Hon Col Sally Horsfall SS StJ CD RN



This year is a particularly celebratory one for 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment. The first Militia Signals unit was formed 100 years ago in Toronto; while the names may have changed and mergers have occurred, all things have led to 709 as it exists today – Happy 100th Anniversary.

We are also celebrating yet another change in Signals structure this year as we begin the transformation of the Communication Reserve. As of April 1, 2008 all of 70 Comm Group will be under the authority of the command of LFCA. 709 will continue to maintain business with 32 Brigade as in the past, so from a soldier's point of view things won't seem very different – though the next few years will be interesting.

As we move towards the end of this training year, may I wish everyone a happy, busy and informative summer. Be safe and take care.

Spiritus Manet!

EDITORIAL

by MWO Steven Brickenden CD

It is not often these days that I actually get a chance to fall in on a Commanding Officer's parade, but I went out of my way to do so on April 5th, for the Change of Command Authority which put 709 back into the army after 35 years. As Brigadier General Stafford was walking down the line, he remarked, "Welcome back to the army, sergeant major." In recent years we have seen tremendous changes in the military structure which seem to have gone back to the days prior to unification in 1968. We have gone back to 3 services with separate uniforms and it is only at the very top levels of the command structure where the difference no longer appears to matter.



I've spent my entire career in the army, no matter what it may have been called, and in some strange manner, it felt good to me to be *back home*, as it were. The changes that have and will continue to take place over the coming years will be a win-win situation for both the Regiment and 32 Brigade. It's good to be back in the army and for those of you who have not experienced it, may you grow to be as proud of it as I am and always have been.

Spiritus Manet



CORRECTION: The photo on page 18 of the December 2007 edition incorrectly identified MCpl Glen Piltzer, CD.



709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment

Maj. G.I. Stasyna CD
Commanding Officer

Capt. H. Buller CD
Adjutant

MWO April White CD
Regimental Sergeant Major

Col. S. Horsfall SSSStJ CD RN
Honorary Colonel
and Chair Regimental Advisory Council

LCol. J. Lee CD
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
and Unit Historian

Capt (Rev) F. Butler-Caughie Gr. COSJ
Padre and Unit Welfare Officer

Maj. Alex Moseanu SBStJ, CD, ADC
Museum and Archives

709 Communicator

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The editor reserves the right to modify or reformat material received, within reason, in order to make best use of available space, appearance and layout.

This is a limited production, domestic publication produced with the permission of the CO for the purpose of recording the activities within the Regiment and the Regimental family. It is intended to provide a wide variety of material relating to military communications and military affairs, both at home and abroad.

Comments or submissions can be sent to
editor709@yahoo.ca



Cpl Duncan Lloyd is 700 Communications Group Soldier of the Year

For the second year in a row, a member of 709 has been awarded the Soldier of the Year Award. Cpl Duncan Lloyd received the award from the Group RSM, CWO Brown CD at the Commanding Officer's parade April 7th.

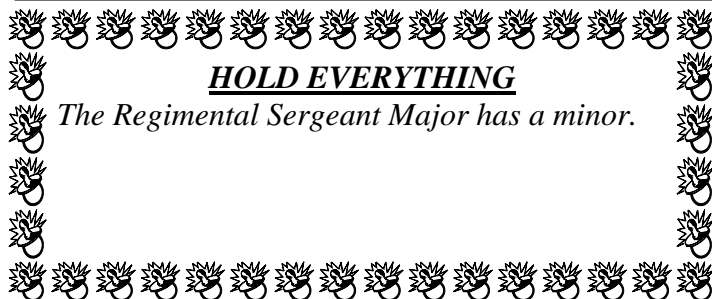
The final decision rests with the 70 Communications Group RSM's who consider all nominations. Last year's recipient was MCpl Gajewski.

Congratulations to Cpl Lloyd.

RSM's Comments—(Continued from page 2)

I echo the sentiments of the CO; the Regiment is strong and successful because of your dedication, professionalism and commitment. The CO and I very proud of the Regiment and what we've accomplished.

MWO White, C.D.
RSM Spiritus Manet!



HOLD EVERYTHING

The Regimental Sergeant Major has a minor.



A Day in the Life of a Broken Soldier

By Capt Hal F Buller

On Mon 31 March I go into the hospital for arthroscopy on my left knee.

Back in October, I was working at the school in CFB Kingston for a month. The job was assessing students on their skills as duty officers in the field. They were living and working in a camp in a training area in the bush. I got to go back to my room in transient quarters in between my 12-hour shifts. One evening, as I was walking out of the training area in the dark, I tripped in a rut or tree root on the trail, and fell.

At first I was diagnosed with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. I went in for physiotherapy on a torn ACL, but it did not heal. I got sent in for an MRI and then it was discovered that I had a torn meniscus (the lining inside the knee joint).

The surgery is to go into the knee and trim back the torn and rough edges along and around the tear in the cartilage. The surgery is outpatient day surgery. I go in at noon and come out that evening. I should only need a few days recovery time. I have holidays I need to use up, so I am going to be off work and at home the next three weeks.

Monday 31 March 2008, Surgery Day;

I say goodbye to Lynda in the morning as she goes to work. We have concluded that there is no need to loose a days pay for her to sit and wait in the hospital. I will take transit to the hospital, and she will pick me up after work.

I leave the house at 09:30 to catch the bus at the stop at the end of the street. I've had nothing to drink or eat since last night. I leave valuables such as watch and rings at home as per instructions. I feel naked without my watch, cell phones (both of them). I show the bus driver my GO pass and the fair is just \$0.50. Thank you Oakville transit. I arrive at the Oakville GO station at 10:20.



Capt Buller and his wife Lynda
Photo courtesy of Hon LCol J Lee

A ticket for the 46 bus to York University is \$6.70. The bus leaves at 10:40 from stop number 3. One old grey haired gimp lines up with all of the youth and their backpacks. Nice comfortable bus, lots of legroom. After a pleasant ride along the 407, with a couple of stops along the way, we arrive at York U. The bus pulls into a wide looping mall. We drive past a line of TTC buses and come to a stop on the far side of the boulevard. I get off the bus and decide to cut across the boulevard as the most direct route back to the TTC bus stops. I am sure that this is a nice grassy field in the summer, but now it is a sloppy muddy icy potential death trap. I choose the least muddy and therefore iciest path across the 200-meter wide boulevard. My mind wanders to the potential irony of slipping and falling and damaging my knee further or worse the other knee while crossing this minefield.

I make it to the row of TTC bus stops only slightly muddier and slightly shaken. There are four stops: Steeles West, Steeles East, Jane, and Keele. Well, I need to go south on Jane and then east on Finch to get to the hospital. I will go and wait at the Jane bus stop. I am so clever. Time passes. I have no watch, no cell phones. Three Steeles busses pass, three Keele busses pass. "Excuse me

Broken Soldier (Continued on page 17)



In the Service of Peace

By MCpl Helena Major



Medals Parade in the Golan — a proud moment
Photo contributed

The military has taken me far and wide. I have had the pleasure of being apart of two tours to date. My first experience took me to Golan Heights, the other to a secret location, somewhere in South West Asia. Both proved to be invaluable experiences that have shaped me, not only as a soldier, but also as an individual. I am truly thankful and consider such opportunities as chances of a lifetime. They have become apart of me and have become permanent highlights in my life and in my career as a Reservist. I jokingly say to my colleagues, “*I have been mysteriously bitten by the travel bug. I hope it leaves my system soon, because at it stands, I am itching for my third tour*”.

My second deployed journey began when I was one of the candidates selected for Mercury Surge. I was quickly shipped off to Kingston to work hand-in-hand with the Joint Signals Regiment, in the hopes of deploying overseas. After successfully meeting all the criteria to be eligible to deploy, I soon found myself on a plane heading to the desert (Camp Mirage), to support the Afghanistan mission.

I worked as a Radio Operator in the Commcen and was also assigned the position of Commcen 2 I/C. The primary role of

the Signals Detachment in Camp Mirage was to provide deployed units with 100% reliable secure and non-secure telephone, fax and data communications.

One of the many jobs of a radio operator consisted of receiving and sending messages over secure and non-secure means, processing such messages and filing them. With a switchboard to manage, the responsibilities entailed directing and filtering calls, as well as, setting up conference calls. The shop ran 24/7 with shift work rotations spread amongst 5 Operators. Midnight shifts were the most tiresome and hardest to bare.

The most difficult aspects of our job involved working through communication glitches and communication lockouts. When communications ceased, we had to act swiftly, diagnose the circuits affected, execute basic trouble-shooting and immediately contact the appropriate personnel. Essentially, we had to ensure a prompt and effective means of restoring the affected circuit (s). In cases of communication lockouts, we notified key personnel, kept accurate logs, and filtered all incoming and outgoing traffic. During such times, our jobs became extremely important in nature and truly had an impact on operations at large.

As the Commcen 2 I/C, I was also responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of the Commcen, in efforts to increase overall efficiency. I had to plan, maintain and update the shift schedule, delegate tasks, supervise performance, review the previous day’s traffic, ensure proper compliance to message handling procedures, and deal with any personnel problems that presented themselves. I was kept fairly busy to say the least. Camp Mirage is known by many to be quite the vacation resort, however, behind the scenes; long hours are pulled and sometimes weeks go by without a day off. During

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downtime, one had ample opportunity to work up a sweat at the gym, travel downtown, explore the beaches or go on a shopping spree. Shopping was one of the activities I embraced passionately, as did many. Heading down to some of the hot spots, one



Receiving the Commander's Commendation for Volunteer Work

could bargain for hours on end. "Copy DVD", "Genuine fake watch", "You look, no buy", were just some of the common lines blurted out by local vendors hoping to lure you into their shopping nest. You had to be wise and assertive in your shopping dealings. If your bargaining skills were not up to snuff, you could find yourself paying three times the amount for an item, which you could have bought next door for peanuts. I learned fast the shopping do's and don'ts, I bargained to the bitter end and managed to acquire a truck full of souvenirs, not just memories. Mailing the souvenirs home proved to be quite the challenge.

One proud moment, while I was deployed overseas was when I single-handedly caught a camel spider in the mess, in a paper cup. While everybody was running away from the creature, I was running after it, in utter excitement. That day, I proved that not all girls are afraid of such hairy beasts; some actually have quite a fascination with them. I quickly became good friends with the P-Med, since we shared a common interest.

Overall, I have no regrets, I am beyond grateful for having had the opportunity to serve my country abroad, on two separate occasions. The sacrifice to leave your family and friends is minimal in comparison to the pride you feel when you know you are doing what you have been trained to do, in a real life, operational setting. The memories I have gained will never be forgotten; they will forever remain with me.

One crucial lesson I learned while I was overseas is the importance of teamwork. In support of teamwork, comes the willingness to promote diversity and constantly strive to overcome interpersonal differences. "One Team, One Mission" was the motto we lived by.

Perhaps the most difficult part of our job did not stem from the duties that were expected of us, but rather, the emotions that we had to cope with, especially during the ceremonies. This was the time to show our respect and pride to our fallen comrades. Such ceremonies were a strong reminder of our purpose there and our need to support the operations and our troops in Task Force Afghanistan, through thick through thin.

MCpl Major works in the Orderly Room

"Samuel Morse most have lost his mind if he believes in this idea himself!" - Senator Oliver Hampton Smith, (1842) after having seen a demonstration of Morse's new invention.



Let the Mess Bells Ring Out! AWARDS

Hon Col Sally Horsfall CD.
Presented by former CO and former Hon
Col Catto on the CO's parade, May 5th.



Capt Rick Leswick, re-
ceives his CD. It took a
long time to get the details
of his former service coord-
inated. (L to R) Maj Greg
Stasyna CD, Hon LCol
Jack Lee CD, Capt Rick
Leswick CD, Maj Bain CD
(Area Cadet Officer) and
MWO April White CD,
RSM.



MCpl Lo (left) is pro-
moted to Sgt by
Group Commander
LCol Mclellan.

BGen Gary Staf-
ford – promoting
Pte Jothirajah to the
rank of Cpl (right
photo)



“The sergeant is the Army.” - General Dwight D. Eisenhower



PO2 Steve Browning, receives a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by General Hiller, Chief of the Defense Staff, honoring his 27 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces. He was also presented with similar accolades from the Administration & Logistics Branch, the Canadian Navy, the Province of Ontario and Canada.

Cadet WO Vanessa Deneault (with Capt Rick Leswick, RSM April White and Maj Greg Stasyna) has successfully completed her National Standard of Cadet Excellence. NSCE takes almost three months of training and testing and it is the highest award that a cadet can achieve. WO Deneault, the Corps' senior ranking cadet, completed this while attending school, and being very active in sports such as rugby.

Above that is the appointment as Master Cadet. Well done Warrant!



Mr. Warren Leonard, Manager, Office of Emergency Management for the City of Toronto, receives his Regimental Plaque from LCol Durwin Mclellan, Group Commander, 70 Communication Group, and BGen Gary Stafford, Deputy Commander, LFCA



Signals Celebrates a Century in Toronto 1907 / 2007

The history of the Commonwealth's oldest Corps of Signals began on 24 October 1903, with the signing of General Order Number 167 authorizing the organization of a Signalling Corps (Militia).

The first involvement of Reserve personnel began in 1904 with the appointment of a District Signalling Officer from the Active Militia for each military district. By 1905 training of officers and other ranks in the Active Militia really got under way. Training in visual signalling was with the heliograph, lamp, flags and semaphore - telephone and telegraph communication were already in the hands of the Engineers. As a point of interest, Signals shared communications responsibilities with the Engineers until 1919.

In Toronto the first Militia Signals unit was formed in 1907 as the 2nd Signalling Company. In April, 1911, the Military Districts were converted into Divisional areas, and under General Order 96 in 1913 the Corps was renamed the Canadian Signal Corps and reorganized into Signal Companies for Divisions and Signal Troops for mounted Brigades. Upon mobilization on 20 August 1914, the 1st Canadian Divisional

Company at Valcartier was reinforced by men from Toronto's 2nd Signal Company, which made major contributions in recruiting Signallers for service overseas during the First World War.

The post-war organization of Signals in the Non-Permanent Active Militia (NPAM) began in the 1920s with the formation of Signals Battalions, one for each of the 11 Military Districts in Canada, as well as Signal Companies and Troops, one of each located in Toronto.

In 1921 the NPAM Signals assumed the title "Canadian Corps of Signals" as distinguished from the Permanent Force element of the Corps, which was granted the distinction "Royal" in 1921. Undoubtedly one of the most outstanding NPAM Signals units during the inter-war period was 2nd Signal Battalion in Toronto, which won the Malloch Trophy for general proficiency several times between 1928 and 1937. During the summer of 1935 and 1936 all Militia Signals units of Eastern Ontario concentrated at Camp Borden with all available equipment.

In 1930 the 2nd Signal battalion became known as the 2nd Divisional Signals. In order to train a nucleus of troops to serve formation higher than Division, the General Staff in 1935 authorized the formation of an additional Corps Signal unit: "A" Corps Signals in Toronto.

Upon the outbreak of war in 1939, the NPAM Signals in Toronto consisted of Headquarters Signal Area, "A" Corps Signals headquarters with 1 and 2 Company, and 2nd Divisional Signals. Signals units were among the first to leave Toronto for active service, providing the volunteers needed to bring 1st Divisional Signals, 2nd Divisional Signals, and 1st Corps Signals of

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RC Sigs assist a German officer arranging the surrender of Nazi forces ending the Battle of the Scheldt during WWII. *Photo from*



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headquarter is currently CFB Kingston. After 40 years Communications/Signals returns under the umbrella of Land Forces Command. A special Commanding Officer's parade was held on April 7 to officiate the welcome back by Deputy Commander of Land Central Area BGen Gary Stafford, CD; the 32 Canadian Brigade commander, Col Gerry Mann, CD and Commander of 70 Communications Group, LCol Durwin McClelland, CD. The Commander of Land Forces Central Command inspected the parade and exchanged the old Communication command badge for the Land Forces shield. 709 will continue in its current form and operate as part of 70 Comm Group along with 763, 700, 705 and 772. 70 Comm Gp HQ

falls directly under Land Forces Central area HQ in Downsview. In co-operation with 32 Canadian Brigade Group which consists of 11 units that cover the Central Ontario area. The Regiment now join the larger "transformation" that has been occurring within the Army for sometime. The future may bring some re-organization but 709 will begin to expand to work as the operational tempo remains high and will have to now achieve and maintain army battle task standards in addition to the communications trade skill.

Our command badge and flag has changed, but our "Jimmys" will stay securely fastened on our uniforms. Our Regimental spirit remains –

Spiritus Manet.

Jimmy & Associates ANNUAL BBQ:

The Jimmy & Associates will be holding their annual Barbeque on Saturday, July 26th, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The location will be the same as always, which is a member's farm near the Metro Zoo (north-east corner of Scarborough).



The cost is \$10 per person, which covers a steak, the remainder of the food dishes being provided by those attending. Bring your own lawn chair, plate and cutlery, plus a non-perishable item for the Gourmet Basket to be raffled off. Cash bar only, and Craft & White Elephant Table (bring any items you wish to get rid of, that someone else might want). All proceeds go to Jimmy & Associates.

All are welcome (except children or pets, please). This year, the J&A are opening up this event to members of the Dutch-Canadian Legion as well. **RSVP is required to John Speirs at 905-469-9337 by Saturday, July 12th.** Please advise what food item you would like to bring. Come join us for our best-loved event of the year!



ARMY and NAVY CADETS TAKE ON THE COLD

You hear the stories in the newspapers and on television all the time. Young people not getting enough exercise, or spending too much time on the computer and such stories worry about the future of today's teens. But in February, in Blackdown, there was little evidence to suggest that these stories were always true. Under the supervision of approximately 15 staff, over 180 army and navy cadets from corps throughout Southern Ontario, challenged old man winter and they came out on top. The incredible task of organizing the logistics was handled by Maj. Gary Bonnell, from the QYR Cadets and included units from Toronto, Markham, Mississauga and Shelburne Ontario. Prior to deployment in the field, a pre-exercise training weekend was held at Fort York Armoury where the Garrison Common provided an excellent place to practice skills.



MY NIGHT WITH THE CDS

By Captain Rick Leswick, CD
CO 709 Communications Regiment Cadet Corps

It is easy to see why he's the boss. General Rick HILLIER, Chief of the Defense Staff is one of the most magnetic personalities I have ever met.

On Saturday, February 23, 2008 I attended the "Yellow Ribbon Gala" at the Fort Gary Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This was a fund raising event by the Winnipeg Military Family Resource Centre, and the general graciously offered his services as the guest of honour. Renowned international vocalist Loreena McKennitt who also serves as Hon. Colonel of 435 Squadron, in Winnipeg, entertained the gathering with the haunting beauty of several of her songs, but the star of the show however was the CDS. General Rick HILLIER has established an enviable

reputation as a most effective and personable chief of the defense staff. Not afraid to engage detractors of the CF in meaningful and constructive dialogue, he has raised the morale of the troops to an all time high. While the recent announcement of his intent to leave the position was not surprising, it was still, disappointing.

I had been invited to the event by my friend of more than 40 years, Major P.A. Douglass, CD. "Paddy" and I were air cadets, serving with 707 Squadron so many years ago that our annual inspections featured fly-bys of lighter-than-air balloons.

I asked Paddy if he would have the CDS sign my dinner program so that I would use it as a silent auction item for our upcoming second annual St. Paddy's Day (no relation to the major!) corps fund-raising event. The CDS complied and after dinner, fortified by

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the Canadian Active Service Force up to strength. For example, the war diary of the 1st Divisional Signals indicated that 2nd Divisional Signals (Toronto) provided four officers and 99 other ranks for No.2 Company.

During the six years of war over 400 Officers and 4,000 men proceeded to Signals Units from Toronto. They won many decorations for distinguished service. During WWII, citizen-soldiers from the Militia provided 8 Officers Commanding Divisional Signals, and well as many senior officers in command positions, including Brigadier C.S. McKee CBE EC and Colonel F.S. MacPherson MC MM VD ED.

Following the war, the Canadian Armed Forces underwent a series of reorganizations - in 1947 the NPAM was renamed the Canadian Army (Militia). Signals units were redesignated Regiments, Squadrons, and Troops. Following suggestions presented by the Canadian Signals Association to Army Headquarters that Reserve Force units should not be decentralized below Squadron level, a reorganization in 1950 resulted in the formation of two Toronto Signals units, the 2nd Signal Regiment and the 8th Signal Regiment. These units demonstrated their capabilities at Signals concentrations at Camps Borden, Niagara and Petawawa.

On February 1st, 1965, the 2nd and 8th Signal Regiments were amalgamated into the Toronto Signal Regiment.

In 1970, the unit was moved from the command structure of the Land Reserve to become the responsibility of Canadian

Forces Communication Command, and was renamed 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment, under the direct command of 70 Communications Group in Trenton. In spite of its primary responsibility to Communication Command, a great deal of support is provided to Toronto-area Militia units.

In post-war years this Regiment has continued to win acclaim in annual competitions - most notably the Clark Trophy. 709 received the Freedom of the City of Toronto in 1978, and in 1979 provided a Guard of Honour for HRH Princess Anne, The Colonel in Chief.

The Regiment has sponsored 709 Toronto Communications Regiment Cadet Corps (formerly 2605 Cadets) since its inception in 1957, and the level of support in terms of material and personnel has always been greatly appreciated by the Officers and cadets of the Corps. 709 personnel have accompanied the Cadet Corps on exercise, have instructed the Cadets in Communications Procedure, and have provided a CP and detachment for a Garrison-wide FTX.



Hon Col Sally Horsfall cuts the 100th Anniversary Cake in the Officer's Mess following the parade.

Text taken from Website www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3605/709hist.html

“Leadership” Is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”

General Dwight D. Eisenhower



Pte Henry (25 Svc Bn) tests his radio net.



Sapper Moon (right) of 32 CER and Sgt Taylor-Baptiste (left) of 25 Svc Bn program the 522 Net radio.

WORK HARD! 709 Regt instructors assist in graduating 22 members of 32 Brigade Group Battle School in basic radio operation. Photos contributed.



PLAY HARDER! Members of the Regimental family enjoy the annual Regimental Ball.



SERVE THE COMMUNITY! Members of the Regiment participate in Emergency Preparedness week, at Centennial Park, Etobicoke..

Photos Contributed



Regimental Advisory Council Meets

The Regimental Advisory Council held their 42nd annual meeting May 14, 2008 in the Officer's Mess. Twenty-one of 25 members attended the dine-in and general meeting. It was a lively occasion and much was accomplished in regards to the Regimental family. The Colonel Commandant of Communications and Electronics, Col George Lackonick, from Kingston, attended this year's meeting of the Advisory Council.



left to right

Front Row: LCol Bud Chandler CD, HLCol Jack Lee CD, HCol Sally Horsfall CD, Maj Greg Stasyna CD, Col Commandant George Lackonick CD, LCol Peter Wilson CD

Back Row: WO1 Eric Cozens, LCol John Hughes CD, HLCol Gary Knopf CD, Sgt Robert Blenkhorn CD, CWO John Speirs MMM CD, Capt Joe Plut CD, LCol Peter French CD, Col John Catto CD, LCol Shannon Regan CD, Lt Heather McClory, Lt Paul Cowley, Lt Nancy Watson, LCol Paul Murphy CD, Maj Don Kerr CD, LCol Dan Russ OMM CD



Biography LCol W. E. Gunson, CD

Born in Lancaster England, Lieutenant-Colonel William Earnest Gunson was educated in the Lancaster Royal Grammar School. In 1959 he joined the Royal Air Force as an Aircraft Apprentice. He graduated from No. 1 Radio School RAF Locking as a Junior Technician in July 1962. LCol Gunson saw service with Bomber Command, 1962-1964, at RAF Finningley, Yorkshire and with the Far East Air Force at KAI-TAK, Hong Kong, 1964-1967. From 1967—1973 LCol Gunson was a Missile Control System Specialist at No. 30 Maintenance Unit RAF Sealand in Flintshire, North Wales. LCol Gunson retired from the

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709 Regiment: An Important part of Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Signals Personnel involved in many activities.

Aid to the civil power, in the post Cold War years, has become a far more important segment of the overall role assigned to 32 Brigade than it ever was before. Providing support to communities in times of crisis be they natural or man made disasters, is a crucial element to the task of the Canadian Forces. Knowing that this is true and preparing for the possibility, 709 has taken a futuristic approach in getting to know the essential role played by the civilian amateur radio operators who make up the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). After 22 members of the regiment and the cadet corps successfully passed their test and were assigned their call signs, the newly licensed HAMs took the next step by being part of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) winter contest last December. Using the Regiment's HAM Radio Club call sign VA3TSR (for Toronto Signals Regiment) qualified HAM operators took part in a contest whose obvious aim was to contact as many other HAMs as possible using long-distance equipment and frequencies. In the process of exchanging transmissions with operators as far away as Wales, the operators had to practice the very



VE3SPE MCpl David Spessot transmits on the 80 meter rig.

skill sets that would be used in an emergency.

Another such contest is scheduled for late June, where the radio's will have to operate from stations using mobile power supplies and antenna. Again the primary aim is to contact as many people as possible. But it also practices operating under adverse conditions where a regular power supply is not available and improvisation is the key to success. 709 aims to keep on-the-air for 24 hours on three different bands at the same time. This is going to require assistance and any interested person (you do NOT need to be a licensed HAM operator) can participate. At the Annual General Meeting of the ARES group, held in April at the Toronto Emergency Operations Centre, members of 709 were introduced to the civilian volunteers. You never know who might show up at these meetings as I ran into an old friend and former comrade from Ottawa, Gord Hewitt, a person I had not seen in over 25 years! He's one of the ARES coordinators for Durham Region.

Should the order come down to deploy in support of rescue or relief, the knowledge of what the civilian sector can do, may be the difference between life and death to those in need. Want to get involved? Advise the editor at the editor709@yahoo.ca for further information.



At the ARES AGM
Photos by Jay Ritchie and Ted Cowie



Broken Solider (Continued from page 5)

driver, do you know when the next Jane bus comes by?" "Yes, around 4 o'clock. It's rush hour only service". I am so clever.

I catch the next Keele St bus. I am so clever. "Driver is there a discount fare when connecting from other transit services?" "What?!" "Never mind, transfer please" \$2.75 cash fare. We head north out of the York U campus to Steels Ave. then turn east towards Keele St. Going exactly opposite from my end destination, but I am so clever, I now what I am doing. This new service on TTC buses is pretty good; the next stop is announced and displayed on a screen. Here comes Keele Street. Wait shouldn't he have turned right onto Keele? "Driver, I need to go down Keele to Finch!" "Relax, this is a Keele bus, but we don't go down Keele. Step back of the yellow line please!" I enjoy a tour of North York's industrial complex east of Keele, south of Steeles. Eventually the bus turns left onto Keele and the next stop is Finch. I get off the bus and look around.

There is a TTC stop right in front of me. I will go there and wait for the Finch bus. I am so clever. I lock eyes with the driver of the Finch bus as he drives by. He didn't look too concerned about my lost and beseeching gaze. The second driver that drove past didn't even look at me. I turn around to check. Yes this is a TTC stop. What is this small print below the TTC colours? "107 only" Wonder what that means? Hey, there is another Finch bus on the other side of Keele St. If I hurry I can just catch him. What are you looking at mister? Haven't you seen any one with a limp run for a bus before?

I catch a #35 Finch bus. Finally I am heading west towards the hospital. I am so clever. I arrive at 12:47 according to the newscast playing on the lobby TV. I go upstairs to the fifth floor reception office for day surgery.

The small office has one person facing a screen on the far wall with her back to the

door. "Hello, I am here for day surgery" Mumble, Mumble to the screen. Huh? "What is your name?" directed over her right shoulder. Hal Buller. Mumble, Mumble to the screen. Huh? "Do you have some ID?" directed over her right shoulder. And so it goes. I get checked in as other nurses come and go into the office and have a conversation with the screen lady. Interesting how she turns to talk to them directly each time they come in and interrupt my check in procedure. "Put these on, put your clothes in the plastic bag, and report to the nurses station across the hall"

I go into the change room and strip, and then stuff my clothes into the plastic bag. I put on the pajama pants. They are two sizes to small, they end mid calf, the fly doesn't close, my gender definition is prominently displayed. I put on the hospital gown, opening to the back. It is two sizes to small. My rear is a prominent projection. At least my gender definition is now modestly paneled. I tie the ties behind my neck and at the small of my back. Boy I have to work on my flexibility. It sure is difficult to tie a bow where your fingers just barley can touch. Next comes the robe, open to the front. It is two sizes too small. My belly is a prominent projection to the front. My arms bulge out of the too tight sleeves. The ensemble is completed with a pair of slip on disposable tissue slippers and a hair cap.

I report to the nurses' station to laughter and applause. It seems I am the only person in recent memory to have put on the three pieces of clothing in the right order, openings facing the right direction, and without keeping on my personal under clothing. That and my prominent projections out of the too small items have endeared me to the staff right away.

"Have a seat here while we set up the IV." I now have three lovely young ladies holding

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Broken Soldier(Continued from page 17)

and stroking my hands. They debate who will get the privilege of, and how they will go ahead and poke me. Eventually Betty earns the right. "Hold still, you wouldn't want me to miss would you?" "OK, take this IV stand with you and go down the hall way to the waiting room. A porter will fetch you shortly"

My eyeglasses are safely stowed with my clothes in the locker at the nurses' station. This looks like it could be a waiting room. It has a bunch of blobs that appear to be people in similar attire to myself. I can't see any empty chairs; I will just stand here in the hallway. "There is an empty seat over here sir" says a helpful young lady taking pity on the grey haired invalid with the IV pole.

A porter comes with a handful of binders, he rattles of a half dozen names, and the room partially empties. I continue to stare at the TV that I can't hear, and can't see. The next porter with a half dozen binders includes my name in his list. "Follow me please." Our small hooded, slippered and gowned group shuffles off, me taking up the rear with my IV pole clattering along over the tiles. We take the elevator down to the surgery floor to another waiting room.

One by one, nurses call a name and take away a member of our small group. A man appears in front of me. I squint to try to recognize him. It is my surgeon, Dr Stephen Reed. We exchange hellos, shake hands. "I need to mark your leg" Huh? "I need to mark your leg. Which leg would you like to have operated on? Lift your pant leg please." I lift up my left pant leg (no easy feat since it is two sizes to small). Out comes a black marker pen. He draws two arrows, and another mark of some sort. I conclude that it is doctor hieroglyphics for "cut here". Nice touch, having me decide which leg to offer up.

Along comes a nurse to say it is my turn.

Can I go to the washroom first? Nope, too late! We go into OR4. There is what appears to be a small table or a large crucifix in the center of the room. "Lie down here please, extend your arms out to the sides please." Off come the pajama pants. No room for modesty here. "Take a couple of deep breaths from this oxygen mask!" Those are awful big lights. I wonder if they are 110 or 220 volts?

Hey those lights are different! (Circline fluorescent, 110 volt, gold egg crate shade, in case your were wondering.) Who put this fur blanket around my tongue? Hey my knee doesn't hurt any more! Whoa, Zen moment here! Is it over? "Are you awake, Sir? You are in recovery, everything went fine." Yup, those are some interesting light fixtures.

A porter comes to wheel me off to the day surgery ward. I watch the gold Circline fluorescent fixtures flash by overhead. We arrive back on the fifth floor. "Scoot over onto the bed please." OK I will sit up and move over to the bed. Am I sitting up yet? Why can I still see the light fixture if I am sitting up? Apparently I have to put more effort into this! Hey what is my left arm doing out there? Is that my left foot? This scooting isn't as easy as it sounds. Eventually I settle down onto my new bed. Hey the light fixtures are different! (triple tube 36" fluorescent, silver egg crate shade, 110 volt, in case you were wondering.)

The fur coat around my tongue is gradually dissolving. I am starving. A Harvey's hamburger would be great right know. The clock on the wall says 17:00. I study the fluorescent fixture for a while. The nurse comes with my clothes, and says Lynda is waiting for me at the front door. I get dressed. It is nice to wear clothes that fit again. The porter wheels me down to the car.

Hi Lynda, good to see you. "How do we get out of here? You give me directions." I reach

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OBITUARIES

COOPER, Evelyn

It is with deep sadness, I regret to inform you of the death of Mrs. Evelyn Cooper wife of our deceased past Honorary Colonel Jack Cooper, CM CD. She passed away in early January 2008 at the ripe age of 95 years young.

CASSERLY, Frank Wilson (Bud) - former Adjutant of 2nd Sigs (1955)

A wonderfully long and happy life came to a peaceful end on Friday, February 15th, 2008. In his 93rd year, Bud was predeceased by his beloved wife and best friend, Betty (nee Clough) in 1997. He will be greatly missed by his dear friend Lorraine Bryan with whom he shared so much in recent years. A funeral service was held February 20 with a private interment at Pine Hills Cemetery. If desired, donations may be made in Bud's memory to The Salvation Army.

Biography (Continued from page 15)

RAF as a Sergeant in December 1973 and immigrated to Canada in January 1974 with his wife Diana and his two sons Michael and Steve. LCol Gunson's military career restarted in November 1974 when he was commissioned as 2Lt CELE Officer, joining 700 (Borden) Communication Squadron. From 1974-1983 LCol Gunson was employed in the Technical Service Group of Xerox of Canada as Senior System Technician, Computer Printer Systems Division.

After two years Class C callout at 706 Communication Squadron CFB Borden, LCol Gunson took a position as Technical

Manager with Hughes Owens Ltd.

Apart from a one-year break December 1981-1982, LCol Gunson saw continuous service with 700 Communication Squadron. He was appointed Commanding Officer in May 1981. LCol Gunson handed over command was appointed SO Sigs in Toronto Militia District May 1988.

LCol Gunson was transferred to 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment and appointed Command Officer 11 May 1989 and relinquished command April 1990.

Bill is currently retired and living comfortably in Allison, Ontario.

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at least two glasses of wine, I, just a lowly captain, approached the CDS. I thanked the gentleman and complimented him on his outstanding speech and he graciously sent his compliments to the cadet movement. I told the general that the program he had signed would be used as a silent auction item for our corps fund raiser. General HILLIER turned to his aide, and said, "I think we can do better than that, can't we major"? The other officer smiled and then the general asked me, "Captain, could you use a Maple Leaf jersey signed by Mats

SUNDIN?" I was speechless, and for those who know me well, that is an occasion to behold. Several days later, the jersey arrived from national defense headquarters and my only disappointment was that the CDS himself had not also signed it. It was great to have the captain of the Leafs signature, but it would have been even better to have the jersey emblazoned with the moniker of a general from a "winning team."

Active bidding took place at the St. Paddy's Day pub night and more than four hundred dollars were raised as a result of the gen-

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Broken Soldier (Continued from page 18)

down to pick up the Map Quest printout. Wait! What did they teach you at flight school! Never introduce a third motion to your inner ear. Too Late! I have just bent down to pick up a slip of paper from the floor of the car is it accelerates forward and around a left turn. There it is, motion sickness. Take the side roads, not the highway. We may need to pull over. We make it to Eglinton Ave before I open the door and watch the shoulder of the road flash by. *RALLLLPH* I call out to the passing tarmac. Thank goodness for the nothing to eat or drink since last night. So much for that Harvey's hamburger.

I recline the seat and concentrate all the way home. Finally we arrive. I step out of the car. Now I am no longer concentrating. The motion sickness wins the battle. The neighbours pull back the shades and stare out at me. "Why is he leaning over and shouting at his front lawn? Why does he have to do it over and over again?"

Home at last, nice warm bed, hungry as hell, too nauseous to care. Staring up at the light fixture (remote controlled fan/light combo, in case you were wondering).

Capt Buller is the Adjutant for 709 Regt



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eral's kindness.

This small episode in the general's career shows the mettle of the man who is affectionately known as "The big COD", in reference to his Newfoundland heritage.

I will cherish my brief encounter with General Hillier and will always respect him as "the boss."

Coming Soon to a Communications Regiment Near You!

CADET 51st Annual Inspection Parade—Sunday June 1, 2008 at Old Fort York.
DEU S2. Markers are called at 1430. Rain— parade will be held at the armoury.

Band Practices

⇒ The Band and Guard will practice at HMCS York (Fort York Armoury if it rains)
June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at 1930. The public is welcome to watch!

Band Appearances

- ⇒ June 7th at 1200 —Stoney Creek Flag Day Parade
- ⇒ June 14th time TBA— Ancaster Heritage Day Parade
- ⇒ June 15th time TBA— Welland Rose Festival Parade
- ⇒ June 28th time TBA— Bowmanville Sesquicentennial Parade

Warrior's Day at the CNE is August 16th, family tickets available from the family tickets chairman Len Pelletier leonard_pelletier@hotmail.com Ph 416-493-8099.
Parade will move off at 1030 and the saluting base will be at the BMO Field.