



# THE 709 COMMUNICATOR

Magazine of the 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment



Captain (Rt'd) Fred Butler-Caughie, CD and Lieutenant Flavia Beriault take a break following CO's Parade.



### Commanding Officer's Message Major G. Stasyna CD

Happy New year both from a calendar and a federal fiscal year. I begin my message focussed on finance. Our previous fiscal year of 2009 has seen the Canadian Forces, particularly the Army feel the effects of financial cutbacks which have mirrored the recession that the country and world are currently facing. Over the past year, we have faced four separate periods of budget reductions. Toward the end of the year, these cut backs forced us to scale back on our activities severely. Fortunately with the strong efforts and support of our soldiers, the Regiment continued operating. Our new financial year sees a reduced budget of approximately 10-15% from 2009. We will have to scale our operations and training to meet the challenge during these fiscally restrained times.

The Regiment has also completed its first year within the new 2 Operational Support Group Head Quarters (2 OSG) which replaced the former 70 Communications Group HQ. In December 2009, LGen Andrew Leslie announced the disbandment of 2 OSG and all of the remaining Communication Groups across the country. The Regiments and Squadrons will be transferred under command of the various reserve Canadian Brigade Groups (CBGs). For 709, this will mean falling under command of 32 CBG in Toronto. 700 Comm Sqn will also fall under command of 32 CBG whilst 705 Comm Sqn will align with 31 CBG in London and 763 Comm Regt will be transferred to 33 CBG in Ottawa. 772 Electronic Warfare (EW) Squadron has been amalgamated with 2 EW Sqn in Kingston and on April 17 2010 stood up as 21 EW Regiment under the command of LCol Cooper. The tentative date for our transfer of command from 2 OSG to 32 CBG is Oct 1, 2010. A formal parade and ceremony will be scheduled for the October time frame.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of a number of members of the Regiment and Regimental family. Captain Fred Butler-Caughie has been our Group Chaplain for many years. He will be retiring this summer. We will definitely miss the outstanding services that Fred has provided us. I hope that he will still be able to participate in some of our key events from a civilian Chaplain's role as finding a replacement for him will be difficult. Major Alex Moseanu has also retired. Alex has provided enormous support to the Regiment throughout the years. His current role as President of Jimmy and Associates should allow us to profit from a contin-



ued level of participation within the Regimental family.

Our operations and training continue particularly with priority going to Op Cadence (the G8-G20 summit) along with Operation Nanook (Arctic Sovereignty). The Regiment has also successfully run a Basic Military Qualification with approximately 30 recruits made up from potential signallers and other Bde units. We have also run our Army Tactical Communication Course through the Brigade Battle School.

At this time I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Honorary Colonels Sally Horsfall, and Jack Lee for the continued and undying support of the Regiment. The Toronto Signals Band, Hong Kong Ex Servicemen's Association, 709 Cadet Corps, Dutch War Veterans, American Post along with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service continue to prove their effect on the maintenance of a health Regimental family and will hopefully continue to be pillars during our transitional times.

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge the continued hard efforts of our rank and file soldiers within the Regiment. We have numerous members deploying to Afghanistan and participating on Domestic Operations including the G8-G20 Summits. The business of Signals will continue to be a viable part within the army environment.

*Spiritus Manet*

G Stasyna  
Major  
Commanding Officer

## From the Honorary Colonel

By HCol. Sally Horsfall RM SSSStJ CD



I have just finished reading applications from some truly outstanding members of 709 for our first educational bursaries. I think we often look at our soldiers and see their performance at the unit, on parade, or during exercises – but too often we miss those other parts of their lives. It was good for me to review the précis of their “other lives” – definitely soul

renewing!

You will recall last fall, Hon LCol Jack Lee and I wrote to you asking for donations to the S.H.E. Fund of the Regimental Advisory Council 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment. The purpose of the donations is to build an endowment fund in perpetuity from which we can provide educational bursaries annually to enlisted members of 709. This year I'm delighted to announce we will be awarding \$1,000 education bursaries to two worthy applicants. We are pleased to announce that the winners are Pte Adnan Khan and Pte David Luu. Congratulations to them both.

The criteria for the bursaries are still being refined, and will no doubt alter according to future experience, but this year the bursary was open to “a student in a recognized post secondary institution or a distant education program pursuing a university degree or college diploma.”

It is our hope that friends of 709 will continue to give generously to the fund in order that we can continue to assist some of our outstanding soldiers.

A very special thanks to those that helped last year. We will keep you informed as the endowment grows. What better way for all of us to have a lasting impact even after we've moved on to other things.

On behalf of the Advisory Council, I would also like

to thank Capt Joe Plut our Treasurer and Lt. Heather McClory, our Secretary for all their hard work.

Wishing you a happy and fulfilling summer.

*Spiritus Manet*

## From the RSM MWO R. Carter CD

Again we come to the end of another busy unit training year. But is it really the end because by the time the Communicator comes out in print we could be close to or just after the G8/G20 summit. This is one of the biggest security operations to ever be held in the GTA and 709 members will be part of this historic operation. So much for “stand down”.

We have MCpl Gajewski deployed in Afghanistan with TF1-10. In addition we have others continuing deployment training (WO Corrado, Sgt Major and MCpl Lloyd) for TF 5-10. They continue the Regt tradition of providing trained soldiers for both domestic and international operations. We also have members of the unit filling various tasking at schools and bases across Canada.



Other members will be completing the mandatory trade and leadership courses required to enable them to become employable and deployable soldiers of the unit. We wish then the best of luck on courses. What will the next training cycle bring? Right now the unit is preparing to join 32Bde sometime in the fall (parade possibly sometime in Oct). But we will continue to provide skilled soldiers that the army needs for now and into the future.

In closing, I want to thank all members of the Regiment for the outstanding work they have done during the past year. To have a safe summer whether training or relaxing and return to the unit in September ready for the new challenges ahead.

**“SPIRITUS MANET”**

**Communication Regiment**

Maj. G.I. Stasyna CD  
Commanding Officer

Capt. H. Buller CD  
Adjutant

MWO Robert Carter CD  
Regimental Sergeant Major

HCol. S. Horsfall RM SSStJ CD  
Honorary Colonel  
and Chair Regimental Advisory Council

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

**709 Communicator**

Capt (Rt'd) F.J. Butler-Caughie CD  
Editor

WO1 Eric Cozens  
Editor Emeritus

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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**

From the Editor:

As the training year 2009/10 draws to a close, we reflect back on some very substantial changes within and without the of Regiment.

From within we saw MWO April White retire from her role as Regimental Sergeant-Major and MWO Rob Carter stand to as the new RSM.

We were busy sending our members out on taskings and deployment training and preparing for the G8 and G20 Summits being held in Huntsville and Toronto respectively.

We live and work while plans for changes to the organization of the Communications & Electronics Branch are developed with an anticipated start-up of fall 2010.

There are changes to the organization of the Communicator as I return to the role of Editor following in the footsteps of Captain Steve Brickenden and MWO (Rt'd) Eric Cozens. I will do my best to maintain the high quality publication that you, the reader have become accustomed to.

As you will notice in the masthead, I will have already entered the ranks of honourable retirement as you read this volume. I have been privileged to have been your Padre for these past eleven years.

Of course, one never really retires from military service, we find ways to still support the Regiment and the men and women who serve in it. I certainly will not be an exception. I will make myself available whenever needed and in whatever capacity to support you.

***Vocatio ad Servitium***

**Thank you very much for  
your advice Mr. Kerr**



### Chaplains in the Canadian Forces Captain (Rt'd) Fred Butler-Cauchie, CD

Chaplains in the Canadian Forces descend from the British model of having volunteer clergy embark on military campaigns. This dates back to the time of Edward I.



In 1914, the Canadian Contingent was quickly assembled to go to France. Hundreds of clergy followed their soldiers to the assembly point at Valcartier. At first, no chaplains were to go. Then, the minister of Militia, Sir Sam Hughes, chose 33 chaplains, six of whom were Roman Catholic. It was only in 1917 that a Roman Catholic priest, Rev. W.T. Workman, was made assistant Director in London. This lack of sensitivity to the religious needs of the Roman Catholics would be a contributing factor to the formation of separate Protestant and Roman Catholic services in 1939. During the First World War, 524 clergymen served in the Canadian Chaplain Service (CCS). Of this number 447 served overseas in Flanders, Siberia and the Mediterranean.

After the First World War, the Directors office in Ottawa closed down and the Canadian Chaplain Service dropped out of existence. Civilian religious organizations lost interest in the military, although many ex-chaplains joined with units of the Non Permanent Active Militia.

In 1939 as Canada began to re-build its fighting forces. Church of England Bishop George Anderson Wells, Bishop of the Caribou and to this day the most decorated chaplain in the British Commonwealth, from his home in Victoria, through high-ranking Militia contacts, offered to serve in any capacity. Within weeks he was on his way to Ottawa, with his First World War files in hand, to re-establish the chaplain service. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops was already organized.

In the early days of WWII the Chaplain Corps was mainly comprised of seasoned WWI Chaplains. Indeed, it was not until 1943-44 that younger men were brought to the allied front lines. Canada's most famous Chaplain POW of the Second World

War was Honorary Major John Weir Foote, VC. He served with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry from Hamilton, Ontario and was captured on the beach at Dieppe. Newspapers of the day called him Padre X of Dieppe. The men called him "an angel of mercy". No one will ever know how many people Foote helped that day. The wounded he carried to the landing craft owed their lives to him. When given a last chance to escape, Padre Foote chose to remain on the beach, because that is where his services were most needed. Years later, when the Victoria Cross was awarded, he placed the medal in his regimental museum. He said that many of the men who fought that day deserved the award as much as he did.

On 9 August 1945, following the end of WWII the Governor General in Council authorized the establishment of the Canadian Chaplain Services Protestant and Roman Catholic. On 1 October 1945, the Adjutant General issued an order setting up chaplain services, with an establishment of 137 Protestant and 162 Roman Catholic chaplains.



**Ministry in the field**

Chaplains have maintained a vital role in Canada's military every since. When called upon by the United Nations to provide troops for the Korean War, Canada responded quickly. When our forces embarked for Korea their Chaplains went with them to provide spiritual nurture and practical care to the rank and file and officers.

From a group of well intentioned volunteers in WWI to today our Chaplain Corps has developed into the well trained and diverse chaplaincy of today.



**Ramp Service for Fallen Comrade**

04 April 1994 saw the opening of the Canadian Forces Chaplains' School at CFB Borden. I was privileged to be in the first serial to be trained in this new facility.

The makeup of the Canadian populace is vastly different from the periods of our world wars. At the time of WWI, Canada was largely a nation of white western Europeans. Today we are a microcosm of the global reality. Today we have many religious expressions in our citizenry and indeed in our military.



**Christening at a CF Chapel**

Today's Chaplain Branch is becoming more and more reflective of this reality. Today we have three distinctive Chaplain Badges representing our Chaplains of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths.

As the makeup of Canada and its Forces evolve so will the Chaplain Branch in order to serve the needs of our Military personnel and their families.

It has been my privilege to serve as a Military Chaplain since 1993 and from 1999 as Group Chaplain for 70 Communication Group and Regimental

Chaplain of 709 Communication Regiment.

As you read this edition of the Communicator, I would have already retired. I will continue as Editor of this magazine and will never be too far from the action. For the past three years I have been training Lt. Flavia Beriault to become a Chaplain. I have also been training a Lt Mark Kalvaitis at 705 Comm Sqn throughout this training year.

It is my hope and prayer that they will become part of a new generation of Chaplains working tirelessly to meet the spiritual, psychological and temporal needs of the Members and Families of our Canadian Forces.

***Vocatio ad Servitium***

**CONFÉDÉRATION INTERALLIÉE  
DES OFFICIERS DE RÉSERVE (CIOR)**

**2Lt Peng  
709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment**

CIOR was founded in France in 1948. The organization consists of a group of reserve officer associations connected to NATO. Each summer, some 180 competitors from various allied countries meet for a military pentathlon competition. The competition consists of pistol and rifle shooting, land and aquatic obstacle course, and orienteering. This year, I had the honour to participate the competition in Sofia, Bulgaria with seven other reserve officers from across Canada.



**Lt. Peng Receives Command  
Badge**

The preparatory training started the day after we had arrived at St. Jean, Quebec. Each day was packed with physical training, in which both endurance and explosiveness are essential components. We would start the day with the ranges, pistol at 25 metres and rifle at 200 metres. After lunch, we

would train on land and water obstacle courses for the rest of the day. The next day we would be transported to a 'remote' area, usually mountainous and swampy forest for orienteering training. We trained six days a week, and rested on Monday.

Of the five events, the shooting seemed to be the least physically demanding part. However, soon I found that to be

a delusion. Lying under the blazing sun for three to four hours and still maintaining unwavering concentration is no easy task. Sweaty palms, fatigued muscles, and sunburned skin, but still firm and slow trigger.

The 50-second swim for the aquatic obstacle course was probably the longest minute of my life. I have never in my life appreciated air so much as I count my strokes toward the end of the pool, gasping for air every time I surface to climb over the obstacle. Exhausting, but rewarding. Other Canadian Officers, however, did not find the aquatic obstacle course as difficult as I did, especially the two Navy officers, one of which is a combat diver onboard HMCS Scotian.

The 500-m land obstacle course seemed straightforward and interesting at the first glance. Soon I was to realize that too, was a deceiving game. The obstacle course demanded unreserved explosiveness and endurance, and a pair of robust knees to take the high impact from jumping from 5-metre ladders. Long and resilient legs would also help if one comes to the 4-step. With about two feet of space between two step-plates, and a vertical differential of one foot, powerful and enduring legs will triumph over a pair of stubby legs, especially when



Course Candidates

the 4-step is situated at the second half of the course, well after all the simple sugars have depleted in one's body. Therefore, it was appropriated dubbed the "killer".

Orienteering was the longest event. Approximately two hours of running in the woods, uphill and downhill, swamp and Red rose field. Luckily, unlike St. Jean, there was no mosquitoes in the landlocked city of Sofia.

The five events lasted three days. Plus four weeks of pre-competition training in St. Jean and a week of acclimatization in Bulgaria, the entire CIOR experience was about six weeks. Admittedly tough and physically demanding, the experience was unique, rewarding, and eye-opening.

It was no exaggeration a "true test of a soldier's combat fitness". Therefore, I strongly encourage all officers and senior NCMs to apply for the next CIOR competition, which will be held in Norway. This will be one of the experiences that one will cherish forever.

**709 Communication Regiment  
Junior Ranks' Ball**



**The Organizing Committee  
AKA "The Wise Guys"**



*"They're not the only Wise Guys"*



**Eileen & Fred Butler-Caughie with  
John Spears**



**Major Ken Lloyd, Captain Hal Buller  
Major Greg Stasyna**



**RSM R. Carter & wife; HCol S. Horsfal SSSSt CD**



**A very well attended Ball**



### WO Lee Whalen, CD Posted Out

Warrant Officer Whalen originally joined the Armed Forces as part of the Youth Training Employment Program in 1983. After completion of the Basic Train-



ing in Cornwallis Nova Scotia and completing his Radio Operator QL 3's he left the military for 5 years. WO Whalen re-entered the CF as a regular Force member in 1989. Over his 21 year career, he has been posted to CFB Calgary working with 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group HQ & Signal Sqn. He served with 1 Combat Engineer Regiment for 3 years in Chilliwack and Edmonton. He also worked in Edmonton for 4 years with 1 CMBG HQ & Signal Sqn and the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC).

Lee has served on 4 tours overseas. His first tour was in Croatia in 1993 when the war there was still

raging. WO Whalen was part of a United Nations' Force in the Golan Heights in late 1997 – Jun 1998. Under the Canadian Military's NATO commitments, Warrant Officer Whalen served in Kosovo with the National Command element from May to Dec in 1999 and also in Bosnia from Sep 2002 – Apr 2003. WO Whalen has 4 medals from these tours as well as the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the Canadian Decoration.

In July, 2003 he was posted from Edmonton to the Land Forces Central Area Training Centre in Meaford, employed as the Signals Sergeant. In July, 2006 WO Whalen was posted to 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment serving as the Operations and Training Warrant as well as the HQ Tp TSM. Warrant Officer Whalen has been with 709 for 4 years and is posted this coming July to CFSTG Tech Svcs TIS at CFB Borden, where he will be tasked as the Ops WO.

WO Whalen currently lives in Toronto with his wife, Stephanie and 5 of his 7 children. He hopes to continue in the military for a number of years. He assists with the 709 Cadet Corps and enjoys quality time with family and friends.



### CO's Parade—March 2010 Promotions



**The Honorary LCol ceremoniously promoting to Corporal, Hernandez and Collado  
Pictured below with the Honorary, the A/CO Capt. Perry and A/RSM WO Ben**





## **Jimmy and Associates Newsletter**

### **Christmas Lunch 2009**

Although by now the Christmas lunch/dinner seems far behind us, it will always remain memorable because we were experiencing rotating power 'brown-outs' during the event. Food had to be heated in unique ways (in pots of water over the gas stoves) and in the microwaves during the few minutes of rotating bursts of power. Although it took a bit longer to get the food organized, the day was terrific with excellent attendance (over 35 people) good food, and wonderful candle-light ambiance.

### **New Year's Levee**

The Officer's Mess was open for business on New Year's Day. The weather cooperated and several members of J&A were on hand to help welcome the New Year. Thanks to the Commanding Officer and his Officers for hosting the levee!

### ***Important Dates:***

Annual BBQ will be held on 17 July 2010  
Place to be determined.

Annual Christmas Party to held in the Warrants'/Sergeants' mess 05 December 2010

### ***Details:***

While this is not an election year, we always look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM to bring you up to date on the 'state of the nation', as well as enjoying some social time together. The weather should be nice, so no excuses – come on down and be a part of your Association!

### ***Dues***

Please note that your annual dues are now Over Due! Please forward your cheque in the amount of \$20.00 (regardless of single or double membership) made payable to Jimmy and Assoc. as follows:

***Rose Kelly  
20 Sancrest Dr  
Scarborough, ON, M1P 4A5***

## War & Peace: A Biographical Overview of the Home front in WWII and Peacetime Soldiering

By WO 1 (Rt'd) Eric E V Cozens REME

My story begins in what was once the sleepy little seaside Town of Dover on the tip of the South East Coast of England just 33 Km from Cap Gris Nez and Calais in France.

Dover; the place of my birth, was a Military Garrison Town dominated by an almost perfectly preserved 11<sup>th</sup> century Norman Castle on the towering white cliffs that have made that little town so famous. Little did I know what amazing adventures and travel lay in store for me and other members of my family. News was not communicated with the rapidity we now come to expect and the looming threat of war still seemed somewhat remote even in 1939. All this was to change with great impact on both the military and civilian population:

All schools were in the process of closing in preparation for the evacuation of all children to Scotland, Wales and various rural areas that were able to accommodate additional children. My Brother and I were evacuated, each to a different town in South Wales. Quite a wrench for two young boys to be separated from parents and from each other for an indeterminate period. Children can be pretty cruel at times and although my foster parents were very kind and took good care of me, at school I was treated like an invading foreigner by the local children because (to them) I had a foreign accent and had invaded their homes and school. Meanwhile my parents had rented a home in Canterbury just 24 Km from Dover where the schools were still open and my brother and I were able to return home. Little did we know what new problems would develop?

My brother (13 months my senior) was able to gain

entrance to the secondary school but I was not so fortunate and, as a result, my schooling ended at the age of 13. From then on I became virtually a resident of the City Library in an attempt to make up for lost tuition. I then discovered that my best opportunity to continue learning was to apply for an Apprenticeship at the local "Invicta Motor Engineering Works". With the dire shortage of labour after the massive conscription drive, I was gladly accepted and so commenced a 4 year Apprenticeship at the age of thirteen.



London during the Bombing of WWII

Although one became used to the frequent air raids and aerial "dog fights" there was a change for the worse when, in 1943 the City of Canterbury came under massive bombardment in what was known as a "Baedeker" raid (a whole separate story). Over twenty five percent of our city was totally destroyed

in that one night of bombing and it brought the horror and destruction so much nearer home although we were very fortunate in that we suffered only minor damage to our house. The V1 ("Doodlebug") flying pulse jet bomb was a menace because of its unpredictable behaviour. When it ran out of fuel it would dive and explode on impact. The V2 however was worse because it would arrive without warning from a very high altitude and the result was far more devastating. I gained much experience in assisting with civil defence so that my subsequent military service became ever more desirable.

At 15 years of age I applied for and was accepted into service in 'C' Coy the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn KHG. I underwent Infantry training together with men who, like my father had served in the 1914-1918 war and I was treated as a man rather than as a boy. It was a wonderful experience and the psychological effect of wearing uniform, carrying arms, and doing Guard Duty at the RAOC store in Sturry was truly rewarding. When I learned of the formation of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942, my firmly established intent to enter military service gave me an achievable goal. At age 17 I enlisted at the Recruiting Office in Rochester and

was accepted for immediate service in the Territorial Reserve (like our Reserve Force). Six months later I was accepted to Serve in the Regular Force, first with the 9<sup>th</sup> Kings Regiment and then to my beloved REME.

The first posting was to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Battalion REME at Poperinghe in Hampshire undergoing (again) full military training followed by training first as a Driver Mechanic then as a Vehicle Mechanic. My engineering apprenticeship that was cut short by only a few months stood me in good stead and the subsequent examinations were easy to accomplish. After a brief posting to 15 Command Workshop I was posted in the winter of 1945-46 to Germany. I embarked from Dover on the MV "Royal Daffodil" (you can "google" this vessel) to the Transit Camp at Calais, France for a few days and thence by rail to the Transit Camp in Osnabruck, W Germany.

My first unit in BAOR (British Army of Occupation Ruhr) was in Hanover at the Hannomag 12 Base Workshop REME to work on base overhaul of heavy Earth Moving Equipment. Six months later I was attached to 4 Engineer Base Workshop RE to attend an Operator Excavator course where I learned to operate Bulldozers, Cranes, tracked and wheeled Excavators as far as the 100 ton Lima. From there, after successful completion of the course I was posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Engineers Equipment Workshop in Langenhagen located on the Alte Flughaven. This was an absolutely wonderful posting where I gained my VM ('B' and 'C' Vehicle) First Class plus the Army Certificate of Education (ACE) First Class, with a distinction in Engineering Machine Drawing. At least there was some satisfaction for a previous school drop out after years of "catch up".

I was fortunate in that by my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday I was promoted to Sgt. Because of my background with experience in Heavy Engineering Equipment I was then posted to HQ Central Inspectorate REME in Minden, Westfalen to join the Mobile Team that covered the whole of BAOR and the Port Operating Group RASC at the Hook of Holland. It took a year to complete each tour covering Schleswig Holstein, the Harz Mountains, Hamburg (to inspect Searchlights, Beach Lighting Eqpt and Generators for the Berlin Air Lift where we gained a trip on the Sunderland Flying Boats) and the rest of the zone down through the Ruhr Gebiet and Rhineland.

During this five year tour in Germany I was attached for short periods to the Norwegian Brigade

at the HQ in Flensburg on the Danish border and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion US Army in Hohne (previously known as Belsen) plus a spell on "Operation Woodpecker" in the forests of Nord Rhine Westfalen. This was my first experience of "Peace Time" soldiering and a great learning opportunity as well as an exciting experience. In January of 1951 I was informed that I was to attend a training course in the UK – the 18 month long "Artificer Training Course" that would lead to even greater opportunities and rewarding postings. The Course covered 'A' (Armoured), 'B' (Soft Skin) and 'C' (Engineers Equipment) Vehicles, plus all the



ancillary trades including welding/brazing, sheet metal work, blacksmithing, EMD (engineering machine drawing), carpentry and ECE (communications equipment). In addition to all that, more intensive military training plus daily PE.

On successful completion of the course I was posted to 2 Base Workshop Tel-el-Kebir (TEK) Egypt where I learned first hand that the term "Peace Time" soldiering is something of a misnomer. Guerrilla warfare that we now more often refer to as "insurgency" was rife. After the military coup under the command of General Nguib; there was a concerted effort to oust the British Forces from Egypt despite the long standing treaty and enormous employment advantage of the many military and civilian establishments. There were many incursions into TEK Garrison despite frequent patrols by the resident Infantry and Armoured units. Theft and physical attacks lessened after the Garrison were brought up to full establishment and after the second coup by Col. Nassar's forces the attacks lessened and finally (despite the fact that Nassar was

not particularly pro British) it became fairly peaceful.

I was given permission to purchase WD surplus equipment and stores and was then able to build a house on encroachment within the Garrison. Seven of the senior ranks gained that privilege so that little more than a year after my arrival in TEK my family was able to join me. I also built my own furniture so my Aet' training in carpentry certainly paid dividends. Although it was still necessary to travel in groups with loaded weapons it really became a really good posting. I gained further promotion to AQMS (Artificer Quartermaster Sergeant [MWO] ) and was occupied in a combined role of CSM and WOi/c Quality Control at 2 BW. I was also involved in the handover ceremony on the closure of the Base in Egypt prior to the withdrawal of all troops and most European civilians.



CWO Eric Cozens & wife, Kathy during service in Hong Kong

I was returned for another tour of duty in BAOR for three years with 118 Coy (GT) RASC that was involved in the ill conceived and ill fated incursion back to Egypt. This was a thankfully short lived error on the part of the French and British Governments. Finally back to Herford, Bad Salzuflen and Osnabruck for the remainder of the tour. The next posting was for three years in West Africa, where I was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force (RWAFF). I was promoted to WO1 ASM (Artificer Sergeant Major /CWO) and was Commander the 3 Force Workshops in Kaduna, North Nigeria. I was required to wear the uniform of the RWAFF and my troops included Hausa, Tiv, Yoraba, Ebo and Fulani – quite a mix but they all got on pretty well despite their tribal differences. However; during the last year of my secondment Nigeria gained Independence and many resorted to their original religious and tribal differences and enmity. Major Victor Banjo BSc, recently promoted to command the Force Workshop, was assassinated merely because he was an Ebo as were several oth-

ers of the Southern tribes. Fortunately that happened just after we left for UK.

After a two year posting to HQ Western Command as Senior Examiner Central Inspectorate covering the West of England from Lancashire to the South Coast, North Wales and the Isle of Mann I was posted back to Germany as Commander 25 Corps Engineer Regiment Workshop. 25 CE Reg't was one of the best postings and the greatest unit to serve in. This was a three year tour again followed

by a posting to 3 Brigade Workshop in Kowloon (Hong Kong New Territories) where I was appointed PWF (Principle Workshop Foreman). In addition to the HKEME element there were also 140 British troops on strength. I was also appointed Sailing Secretary for the 48<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Infantry Brigade Boat Club at Gordon Hard. Additionally I was Also appointed to membership with the HKYSA and the RHKYC. My service with Gurkha troops was most rewarding,

The Gurkha troops are among the finest in the world and it was indeed a privilege to be with them.

During this tour of duty there were some unpleasant occasions when the Chinese would frequently cut off our water supply and many bombs were planted in the most unlikely places and some quite violent riots especially over on Hong Kong proper. I designed and supervised the building of the Armoured Rail Cars that were to be used to barricade the railway bridge at Lo Wu crossing into mainland China in the event that the Manchurian Brigade elements that were covering the Chinese side of the border would attempt further incursions into the New Territories. This was certainly a VERY interesting and challenging tour of duty. The greatest redeeming feature of all of my tours of duty was the fact that with few exceptions my family accompanied me. Kathy and our two sons Clive and Grant also gained very much from our travels

## Welcome Home Marine. 709 Comms. Hosts US Marine Returning from Afghanistan

By Jonathan Levin-Turner, Assist Adjutant Post 176

American Legion, District 20, San Fernando, California

On December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, the 709 Communications Regiment hosted a very special welcome home for United States Marine LCpl. Nathan Hall of Camp LeJuene North Carolina. LCpl. Hall had just returned from a 6 month tour of duty with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 8<sup>th</sup> Marines (“Americas Battalion”) after an intense tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. LCpl. Hall’s unit saw heavy loses and was rendered combat ineffective.

LCpl. Hall’s parents, Bill and Leslie Benke-Hall, moved to Canada for employment reasons and wanted to do something special for their son’s first visit to Canada, his new home. I was contacted by the US Consulate to see how something could be arranged. The Hall family is originally from Connecticut, and wanted their son to have a homecoming like other US soldiers return from theater. Since their son was embedded in operations in an unknown location, with only a Sat phone to communicate once a month, there was a vague window of mid-December that he would be home after a 2 week de-stress at his home base of Camp LeJuene. Once everything was confirmed and LCpl. Hall returned stateside, things fell quickly in to place. Major Alex Moseanu was contacted and the 709 quickly volunteered the Officers Mess to host the venue. LCpl. Hall’s mother, Leslie, an executive at TD Bank, also mentioned that Gen. Rick Hillier was a colleague and she had met him, and hoped he may also attend. Gen. Hillier was unable, but sent an autographed copy of his autobiography and a CDS challenge coin, which came in handy later on. I’ll get back to that!

With very little prep time, Major Moseanu, Major Greg Stasnya, and Capt, Hal Buller came through with all the necessary logistics to make the event a great success. Nathan arrived at the 709 Officer’s

Mess, in full dress blues, December 14<sup>th</sup>, and was very surprised as he entered the Armoury. In attendance was the Consul General of the United States and Staff, colleagues of the Hall family from TD bank, Members of the American Legion.



(L-R) Maj Moseanu, Capt Buller & LCpl Hall

General Hillier’s book and CDS coin was presented by Major Moseanu, and certificates were presented by the American Legion, US Congress, and many moving speeches were made. LCpl. Hall was overwhelmed and Canada Military showed its great hospitality and comradeship. The Lance Corporal’s sister, Katrina, had not seen Nathan in many months and was very emotional as he arrived home safely. The following weekend, the members of the 709 were invited to the Rogers Centre by TD Bank to enjoy box seats for a Raptors game. Great food and fun was had by all, and the Raptors even won!

The CDS coin came in quite handy when following the Regimental Christmas party, LCpl. Hall was commandeered by the junior enlisted members of the 709 to go to a nightclub. When coins were slapped down, it pretty obvious who DIDN’T have to buy rounds.



As amazing as it was to have the LCpl. Home safe and sound, more wonderful it was the Canadian Forces and the 709 Communications Regiment opened its heart and its doors to welcome home a hero, and he was able to be with his fellow heroes of Canada.

### **Officer Commanding A Troop Lt. S. Lee CD**

Every year A Troop, 709 Communication Regiment's Operational Troop, faces numerous challenges and as always commanding A Troop is a wild adventure. This past year has been no different. We as a Troop have seen, faced and overcome many challenges and changes throughout this training year. As always we have continued to achieve the goals set before us with enthusiasm and dedication.

This year has been filled with numerous professional opportunities and A Troop has taken advantage of them all. With the new additions of highly sophisticated communication equipment this has increased our capability and effectiveness of command and control to meet our ever increasing mandate. As always A Troop has trained hard and worked harder. Producing and providing excellent results while continually striving for even higher standards.

The soldiers have responded and supported a great number of taskings this year. These taskings have included supporting various 32 Brigade units in their training, community organizations and their events from ski marathons in Ottawa to the Girl Guides 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally, domestic operations and the ever challenging international operations to places like Afghanistan.

For A Troop the “year” is never truly over. The taskings do not stop and we will continue supporting numerous operations and taskings like the G8 and G20 Summit throughout the summer until we are back in the fall.

On behalf of all the soldiers in A Troop we wish you all a wonderful summer. To another year and another wild adventure!

### **Officer Commanding Bravo Troop Lt. M. Tu CD**

The role of Bravo Troop in the unit is to provide training to new members to the unit. Usually this encompasses personnel newly recruited into the unit off the street, up to privates qualified to the Soldier Qualification (SQ) level, also known as Private (Basic). Bravo Troop prepares recruits for their Basic Military Qualification, Soldier Qualification and also prepares new officers for their Common Army Phase. B Tp also provides a number of courses that are mandatory prior to a soldier being

loaded onto their apprentice level trades training, and they are divided into the following streams: Driver Training, Pre-Signals Training, and Army specific training. The entire training package usually encompasses the entire training year and is quite arduous and demanding on both staff and students on a Class A basis. As Officer Commanding Bravo Troop, it is my responsibility to ensure that every candidate is successful in all aspects of this training regime so that they are eligible to attend their initial trades course whether they be a signaller, logistician, officer or technician.

Bravo Troop also has an implied responsibility in teaching new recruits and privates; military discipline and bearing in order to prepare them for deployment into Alpha Troop as skilled operators. One can say we are half way between basic training and operator training. As such, as OC B Tp, I demand a higher standard of dress and deportment from the troop and there is always constant “encouragement” from the section commanders, troop sergeant and sometimes, the troop Warrant. This positive reinforcement is necessary to build these soldiers into mature, self-dependant, and intelligent operators, as these qualities are required by all trades in a signal unit where often, they will be deployed into small detachments that operate in isolation.

Commanding Bravo is a unique and challenging task. It is also one of the most rewarding. Between the lack of instructors, lack of vehicles, and disciplinary and personal issues, the work never stops for the OC. However, they key to having a successful year in Bravo Troop lies in the hearts of the staff. I must say that over the last few years in Bravo Troop, I've had some of the best staff and officer could ever ask for. The candidates are dependant on the staff to provide the required training for their future in signals. The staff work tirelessly to prepare lecture, administer tests, and instruct new soldiers in all aspects of driving, maintaining, and servicing the LSVW, and developing their voice procedure skills. Imagine having to teach a 16 year old with no experience how to drive a 2 tonne truck in the sand dunes in Borden, or downtown Toronto for 16 hours straight, in the dark. That would explain my nicotine addiction, stunted growth and jitters.



**HLCol. Gary Knoff, CD Retires 01 May 2010  
700 Communication Squadron**



**Major G. Stasyna, CD & HLCol. G. Knoff, CD**



**HLCol G. Knoff, CD & Colonel Lackonick, CD**

**And the Band Keeps Marching On ...**

By John O'Leary



The Band has made some changes and is ready for a very active 2010 season. Wilf Roblin, Bandsman for over 37 years and Drum Major for most of that, has decided to gracefully step down. His service has been marked by dedication and a commitment to the honour and heritage of our Regiment and its Band.



- May 8 Cambridge 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day
- May 24 Woodstock for Victoria Day
- May 29 Stoney Creek Flag Day to celebrate the 1813 victory
- June 12 Ancaster Heritage Day celebration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest settlement in Upper Canada
- July 1 Port Credit for Canada Day

But the first test of our new Drum Major and the hardiness of the Band in 2010 came on March 13 at the Cambridge St. Patrick's Day Parade. The weather was damp and alternated between drizzle and outright rain. To preserve our bushbys, it was

But oh how much we've grown. The traditions of the Signals Band could not have been better honoured or combined with a new century's openness than through the selection of the new Drum Major, Marilyn Longstreet Sturino. Yes, this is the granddaughter of Harvey Longstreet, the first Drum Major and the daughter of John Longstreet who passed while at the head of the Band leading a parade in 2007. Marilyn joined the Band in 1999 when membership was opened to women. Her dedication and enthusiasm have been evident in her work as Section Leader and as a member of the Band Executive team.



The 2010 season is important for a number of reasons. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy. To honour this distinguished branch of the Canadian Forces, the Band will be playing a past favourite, "Victory at Sea" while on parade throughout the province. Several parades this season have special military or heritage significance.

decided to wear the summer caps as these have a plastic cover for just such an occasion. Things began well and members coped with the odd gust of wind. However, the intersection of Queenston and Lowther should be renamed Waterloo Crossing.



The Major raised her mace to signal a tune. The drummers began the roll-off. Then silence. The Major spun about to see her once smartly turned out command scattered about the street. As we came into the intersection, a gust of wind came round the corner and up off the street and sent those summer caps sailing. People were scurrying everywhere. Partly upset about breaking formation but giggling none the less at the pandemonium.

After few moments, order was restored, and in the finest Signals Band tradition, we marched on. ... with one hand on our hat.

Respectfully submitted,  
John O'Leary

## Coe Hill Warrior's Day Sept. 6, 2009

In a town north of Peterborough, Coe Hill Ontario put on their version of Warrior's Day Parade. I had the honour and privilege to have been their reviewing officer. The populous all participated in the municipal event from the mayor to dignitaries from all levels governments. The weather was bright, sunny and a warm September Sunday- ideal for a parade. The town's Fair Grounds was the assembly area, start and finished line for the parade. The grounds also served as a memorial service of reverence and lying of wreaths in remembrance of the fallen comrades.

This year a troop of Royal Canadian Dragoons came all the way from CFB Petawawa with their LAV's. The troopers had just returned from a six months tour of Afghanistan. They were honoured during the post parade ceremony by the throngs of towns' people and visitors who came to witness the parade.

The military vehicles of various vintages from WWII to present day were put on public viewing. Even two Metro Toronto Police officers brought their mounts to town and during the static display offered children an opportunity to jaunt around the fair grounds.

I was absolutely impressed by the number of restored military vehicles that went by the reviewing dias. The vehicles were in pristine and well maintained condition. One can see the time, expense and tender loving care that went into the impeccable machines. Military vehicles included many variants of jeeps, bren gun carriers, trucks of all sizes, armoured vehicles, tanks and even a artillery limber. It is known to be the largest assembly of World War II and post war military vehicle parade in Ontario.

Many thanks to parade executive and Frank Von Rosenstiel for an opportunity to be their reviewing officer and the town of Coe Hill for their hospitality. Major Moseanu and I thoroughly enjoyed the time spent that day in remembrance of our warriors past and present.

Jack Lee, HLCol 709



## Obituaries

### WO Douglas James ROSS Annis, CD

WO Douglas James Ross Annis was born February 21, 1919 the son of Howard and Elsie Annis and grew up in the westend of Toronto. He joined the Royal Canadian Signal Corps October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1940.

During WWII, Douglas served in England, Italy, France, Holland, Germany, and with the UN Peacekeeping force in Korea. Returning home Doug was attached to the 2 Toronto Service Battalion out of Moss Park armory as a Warrant Officer. He retired out of the CF just shy of 30 years service. After the service, he was employed for 25 yrs with Wood Gundy.

Douglas became the Poppy Chairman and with his connections on Bay Street led to incredible contributions for the Poppy campaign fund.

On November 2009, WO Douglas Ross Annis became his last posting and remembrance became reality. He quietly passed away and will be missed and remember by all.

### Francis Leonard Thornton, CD

Frank Thornton, CD passed away peacefully on February 28, 2010 at home in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. Frank was the beloved husband for 64 years to his wife Heather. He and Heather were married June 1945 in Middlesex, England.

Frank served overseas with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Division Signal Regiment having service in England, Italy and northwest Europe. He served with the Militia Signals in Canada from 1947 to 1959 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment Toronto. Frank was an Honorary member of the Sergeants Mess of 2<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment, an Honorary member of Jimmy and Associ-



ates. He was a Life member of the Signallers Club in Kingston. He was the co-founder of 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Divisional Signals Association.

Friends and Family of 709

With deep sadness we announce the passing of our dear friend, Frank Thornton on February 26, 2010. Frank was a veteran of WWII and a long time Honorary member of Jimmy & Associates.

A celebration of his life was held on Saturday, March 6.

### Major (R'td) Graham Thompson

Sent on behalf of the Branch Leader, Branch Advisor and the Branch CWO, with deep sadness.

Major (Rt'd) Graham Thomson passed away peacefully yesterday (Sunday), 18 April 2010. Graham was 100 years 8 months. He was veteran of WWII and a life time supporter of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, C&E Branch, and the Canadian Forces. He was a founding Board member of the Military Communications Museum. Graham served as Major in WWII with 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Signals and supported the Division through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

The funeral service was held Friday, 23 April 1230 hrs, at St Andrews Church 130 Clergy St in Kingston, Ontario and followed by a reception at Fort Frontenac Officers Mess.

Friends and Family of 709:

With deep sadness we announce the passing of our dear friend, Frank Thornton on February 26, 2010. Frank was a veteran of WWII and a long time Honorary member of Jimmy & Associates.

A celebration of his life was held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. at the Trull Funeral Home, 1111 Danforth Ave. (east of Donlands Ave.) Toronto.



## Friends for Life

Cadets are all about making friends.

Although cadets learn skills that will provide great value in the future, the most valuable gain is measured in the number of new friends that will be made during a cadet's career.



I thank you all for allowing me the privilege of being your Commanding Officer and I thank you for your friendship. I will never forget that.

Captain Rick Leswick, CD, BA  
Commanding Officer.

Cadets share a unique experience. Sometimes the challenges that are offered during the training programs test individuals to the limits of their endurance. But they never work alone. There is always another cadet to offer help and encouragement.

Cadets do not always succeed to the full extent of their training missions but they never completely fail either. There can be no failure when a fellow cadet stands by to offer their genuine support. "Hey, don't worry, next time you'll do better." And in most cases, they do.

The friendships that cadets make at the corps, during exercises with other cadet units, and at summer camp, will last a lifetime.

Today's inspecting officer is my best friend, Major Patrick Douglass. We met in air cadets back in 1967. We instantly became friends and over more than 40 years we have maintained that friendship even though Pat joined the regular forces and was posted to a number of foreign locations. Despite the geographical distance between us, the friendship that had been fostered as cadets has endured.

I found it appropriate to ask my friend to be the Reviewing Officer for tonight's event. Maj. Douglass has traveled here at his own expense from his home in Winnipeg, Manitoba to preside over this review, which will be my last as Commanding Officer.

Over the past five years as CO, I have started many new friendships among the officers, staff and just as importantly, among the cadets too. It is a unique gift that officers are presented with as we get to watch young people, sometimes full of trepidation, who are able to gain confidence over the years as they approach adulthood.

## By Tara Brautigam, The Canadian Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The highest-ranking member of the Canadian Forces to die to date in Afghanistan was a career infantryman and "rising star," admired for his smarts and professionalism and loved as a friend with an infectious sense of humour, one of his fellow colonels said Tuesday.



Col. Geoff Parker, 42, a one-time commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, was killed when a man believed to be working for the Taliban drove a car full of explosives into a NATO convoy during morning rush hour on the edge of Kabul.

The attack also killed 12 Afghan civilians and five U.S. soldiers, making it the single deadliest strike against the coalition in Afghanistan's capital city in more than seven months.

Parker, based at Land Force Central Area Headquarters in Toronto, was in Kabul preparing his team for an upcoming undisclosed mission, said Col. Simon Hetherington, deputy commander of Task Force Kandahar.

"The post he was preparing to fill was important and of such high profile that he was hand-picked from across the army to do so," Hetherington told a news conference at Kandahar Airfield.