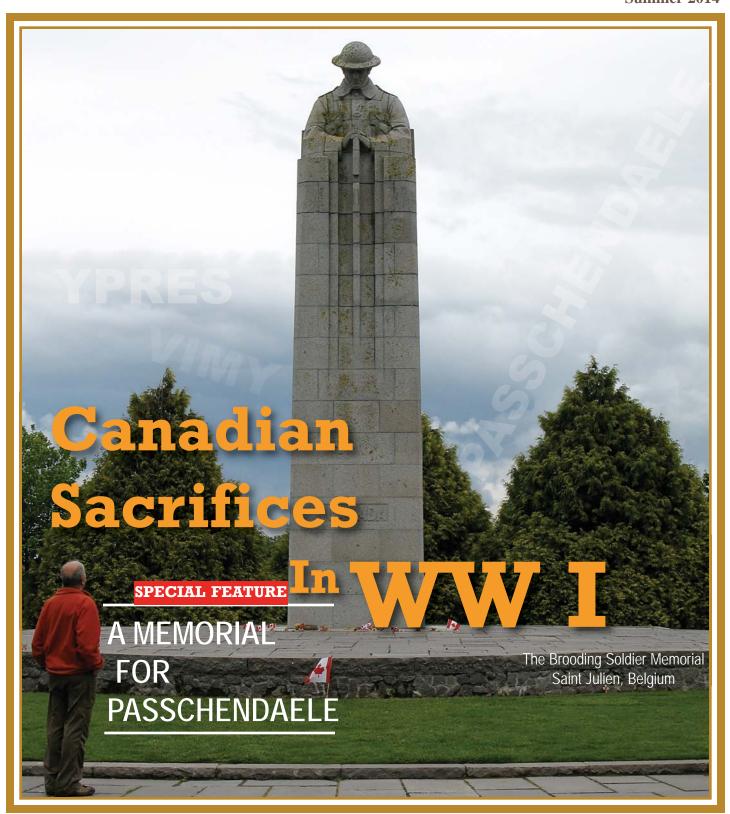


REGIMENTALLINES

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014





ow that election fever has abated somewhat (other than the mayoralty marathon), our intrepid boy-reporter and publisher-extraordinaire, Sgt Colin Rowe, must add "editor" to his many titles, in preparing this year's Summer edition of Regimental Lines, has had the unusual problem of an abundance of material contributed.

As I mentioned last year during Memorial Weekend, Canadians are going to be constantly reminded of our involvement in the Great War. To commemorate the centenary of the war's start at the end of July, I had the pleasure of attending a scholarly symposium sponsored by our Honorary Colonel's organization, the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History at Trinity

<u>President's Message</u>

College, U of T (an alma mater that colonel Graham and I both share). In addition to the most eminent Canadian military historians, there were also some of the infamous - Conrad Black sat a few rows in front of me. The second day included a reception hosted by the Lieutenant-Governor and capped by an evening concert/presentation at Varsity Stadium attended by 5,000 people (including many Horse Guards and family members).

In this issue of your newsletter, you will be able to read the CO's reflections on his first year of command, as well as Colonel Jim Claggett's overview of the very exciting GGHG Memorial Project. Also included will be Part 1 of Colonel David Friesen's trip to Flanders to place a memorial at Passchendaele; a bike ride in Normandy to benefit victims of PTSD; the rejuvenation of the Regiment's Jr NCO ranks; and much, much more.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer and, if you find yourself in town, make sure to come out and support Warrior's Day at the CNE.

Nulli Secundus

Chis Bright President



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Official Publication of the Governor General's Horse Guards Assoc.

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(Photo I.D. needed at the main entrance)



COURAGE IN AFGHANISTAN

I have recently released my latest book, Canadian Courage In Afghanistan. It can be purchased online at

www.lulu.com Just enter the title and my name (John Johnson). All Royalties go to **Paws Fur Thought**, a charity that supports Canadian service per-



sonnel with Post traumatic Stress Disorder. As someone who went to hell and back with PTSD, it was a No Brainer to support. Kindly support my efforts, but more importantly, their efforts and sacrifices during the War in Afghanistan.

Thanking you all in anticipation.

John D Johnson
NORTH WALES

SPRING SURPRISE

I receive the Regimental Lines via email and also get a hard copy. I read the Spring issue while in Florida. It wasn't till I got back to Ontario that I reread the hard copy. I didn't get to the last page till now. On the back page I noticed the picture of my father. Went to check to make sure it was him on the back of the motorcycle and when I read the names you have him in the side car. I think the two Jim's got mixed up. That is definitely my dad, Jim Vallance on the back of the Indian, so I suspect that is Jim Landles in the sidecar.

Thank you for this newsletter. I feel so connected to the GGHGs. My Dad loved to talk about the GGHGs. I

remember when my sisters and I had to type up the roster for the reunion. (Got to know a lot of names!) Still vaguely remember the Christmas parties in the old armories downtown Toronto. The picnics, one in particular when I was a teen and my boyfriend dragged me across the finish line after I fell in the three-legged race. (Still married him!) Going up to the Riding Club to watch my sister Margaret ride. That was the first year you allowed girls. Think she outrode the boys too! And of course, going out for the Remembrance Day services and the Warriors Day parade. Fond memories. Thank you

Christina Crawford (Vallance)

OAKVILLE, ON

KEEPING IN TOUCH

After my Father Tommy Fountain died in 1996 we kept up the dues for a few years just so the family could have some contact with the Association. Over the years we have enjoyed getting the newsletter and now Regimental Lines. Now that we can check out the website we can keep in touch that way. I must admit it is fun to see old pictures and there is my Dad. I am sure not many people now still remember him but he is with you in spirit.

Mary Ellen Balez
BRAMPTON, ON

THANK YOU

I thought it was time that I wrote to you as the editor of your wonderful "Regimental Lines Newsletter" of which I have just received the Spring 2014 edition. Firstly, I must let you know that I have never served in the Canadian Forces, as all my 22 years of Military Service was in "The Welch Regiment 41st Foot" from 1949 to 1971 of the British Army. My old Regiment was Allied to The Ontario Regiment in May 1928, so, long before I came to Canada to live, I came to Oshawa with my wife every other year

from 1971 up to my wife 'Passing' in January 1999.

Yes, I thought you might like to know who is this person writing to me??? My name is William H (Bill) Davies BEM and over the last 13 years since coming to Oshawa to live I have made a number of friends Serving and Ex-Service members of your "Fine Regiment", just to name a few CWO Brian MacDonald, Hon, Lt Col Jeff Dorfman, Maj (ret'd) David Mezzabotta, Director of Music Capt P.J. Van Auken and many more. I am a 'Past President' of the Ontario Regiment Association (2010 - 2012) and I am 83 years old this year and alive and kicking, By the way, two of your members, CWO Brian MacDonald and Sgt Faye MacLachlan are going on a 14 Day Tour I have organized to The Normandy 'D' Day Beaches, plus a few days in Paris, Deippe, Arras, Vimy Ridge, Ypres, and Beaumont Hamel. We depart Pearson International Airport on Tuesday 15th July 2014 and return from Gatwick on Tuesday 29th July 2014.

Finally, thank you for a great Newsletter Magazine. Yours in Comradeship.

Bill Davies.

OSHAWA ONTARIO

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wow.. Thank you so much for sending me your Spring Newsletter. The article about the Remembrance Day ceremony and the impact my students and school made on the day is so fulfilling. I especially loved the part about the national anthem.. it gave me chills as well!

Thank you again for letting us be a part of this special day, and please let me know of any events in the future that my students could attend or be a part of!

Ashley Gerardi Grade 3/4 Teacher St. Edward Catholic School

WILLOWDALE, ON

In Memoriam

We wish to convey our heartfelt condolences in acknowledging the recent passing of the following:

ANTROBUS, William "Bill"



passed away June 20, 2014 in Qualicum Beach Vancouver

Island at the age of 86. Most of the old-timers will remember Bill as the Men's Mess Steward and he was also

the father-in-law of retired GGHG Sergeant Tom Gallant who married his daughter Lucy in 1975. Bill was a member of the 25 Service Battalion. He worked for the City of Toronto until he retired in 1986 and later moved to British Columbia.

BAYNES, Anne -



A volunteer rider with the Cavalry Squadron, passed away on April 25th at age 34. A funeral service and reception was held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at

the Taylor Funeral Home in Newmarket Ontario

DUNCAN, Wilfred Malcolm - Father



of GGHG 2IC, Maj Scott Duncan, died on April 2, 2014 in his 85th year after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born and raised in

Toronto, he completed his Bachelor of Applied Science (Civil Engineering) at the University of Toronto ('52). He served with the Canadian Officer Training Corps, achieving the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. As a Civil Engineer

and Urban Planner, he worked in the residential land development industry until the age of 70. A leader in designing and developing suburban subdivisions in the GTA, Mac was a Director with E.G. Faludi and Associates, President of Urban-Regional Engineering Consultants Ltd., Vice President of Genstar Development Co. and later owner and President of Duncan-Land Consulting & Management Inc. His noted achievements include the design projects of St. Andrews residential development in North York, the Genstar Glen Abbey development in Oakville and large residential communities in the GTA for Toronto's leading builders. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 57 years, son Scott (Laurie), daughter Renee (John) and grandchildren Kathryn and Matthew. A funeral service was held at the Mt. Pleasant Visitation Centre in Toronto on April 6, 2014.

HARDING, Sgt Robert John - GGHG WW II Veteran and Member of the GGHG Association, passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2014 in California. Very few details are known at this time.

SAMS, BERY



BERYL - A long-time
Member of the
GGHG Association and widow of
the late Capt Roy
Sams, a former
Officer with the
GGHG Cadets,
passed away on
July 20 at St.

Michael's Hospital after a brief period of hospitalization at the age of 95.

Beryl made an effort to attend as many regimental events as she could and was with us at the last Memorial Dinner and the Association's AGM and Christmas get-together in December. She was proud of her membership in the GGHG Association and her years of attendance at our functions even after the death of her husband, is a testimony to her loyalty and dedication. She was also a regular attendee at the RCMI Military History Nights for the past several years and is featured on the front cover of the latest copy of their Newsletter sitting on the front row at the last Military History Night.

In keeping with her wishes, Beryl was cremated and no funeral service was held.

WALKER, John Alexander - Former



Mess Manager of the Ontario Regiment, passed away on Wednesday June 11th, 2014 at Lakeridge Health Oshawa at age 67. John was a tremendous community

supporter and will be sadly missed by his many friends he made throughout his volunteer time with numerous associations and the many social occasions shared with the Governor General's Horse Guards Association.

He treasured his time as Administrator of The Officers Mess at the Ontario Regiment. John was a member of Ontario Regiment, Rotary Club of Oshawa, Past President 2006 and Paul Harris Fellow, and was Past President of the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce 2010. He was an avid supporter of the cadets, 151 Chadburn Squadron.

A funeral service was held at St. George's Memorial Anglican Church in Oshawa on Monday June 16th.



In 2013, The GGHG Calvary and Historical Society and the GGHG Board of Trustees, under the direction of Col (Ret'd) Claggett commenced the GGHG Memorial Project. The aim of the project is the commemoration of the members of the Regiment who have served throughout its storied history.

he Memorial Project will recognize all the various units that the current day Regiment has the privilege to perpetuate or has been directly associated with through its contribution of soldiers and officers to the defense of Canada.

Project Objectives:

1. Catalogue, picture and maintain current inventory of GGHG memorials;

- 2. Build GGHG memorials to commemorate Regimental Battle Honours and/or Key Regimental Events;
- 3. Establish and maintain a digital database of all Regimental Fallen

The Project

The memorial project is being rolled out over a number of years in order to achieve key historical milestones.

The approach of the 100th year anniversary of WWI (The Great War) will see the Project placing memorials commemorating the efforts of the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles and the 3rd Battalion (Toronto Regiment).

2014 to 2020 - World War 1 Memorials

- St Julien (Completed 2013)
- Passchendaele (Completed June 3, 2014)
- Mount Sorrel (Planned 2014)

- · Ancre Heights
- Vimy
- Scarpe
- Flers-Courcelette
- Hill 70
- Amiens
- 100 Day Offensive (Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Cambrai, Valenciennes)

2019 marks the 75th year anniversary the Italian Campaign of WWII and the Project will be placing key memorials across Italy to mark this important campaign for the Regiment.

2017 to 2019 – World War 2 Memorials

- Liri Valley
- · Gothic Line
- Melfa Crossing
- Misano Ridge
- Lamone Crossing
- Fosso Munio
- Ijsselmeer

2015 to 2020 – Canadian and 'Other' Memorials

- South Africa
- Northwest Canada
- War of 1812 Canada
- · Toronto Memorial

Memorial Design

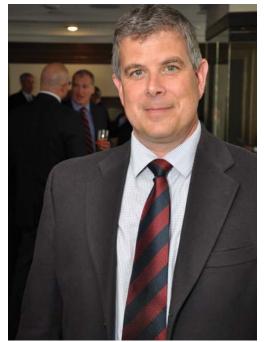
A project has various memorials designed that will be custom tailored to the historical significance of a site and recognizes key architectural or natural features of the surrounding area. The memorials are being appropriately situated at a Battlefield or within a community to highlight the significance and historical meaning of the location and its

relationship to the Regiment. Each memorial includes a description of the battle or event that occurred and the Regiment's contribution to that effort.

Where appropriate, combined memorials with other units are being undertaken.

The GGHG Memorial Project is the combined efforts of various members of the GGHG Board of Trustees, serving Regiment and volunteers supportive of the GGHG Regimental Family. Please see the GGHG Historical Calvary and Historical Society Website for regular updates on the progress of the GGHG Memorial Project.

http://iwdclient.com/gghgsociety/



Col Jay Claggett

The Memorial Project is funded through the gracious donations from the Regimental Family and the general public. Should you wish to support this project please do so at http://www.gghgsociety.org/





St. Julien Memorial completed in 2013

3rd Battalion (Toronto Regiment)



A MEMORIAL FOR PASSCHENDAELE

On June 3 2014 a Memorial was dedicated to the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles and the 3rd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at Vine Cottage, the site of the final objective of the World War 1 battle of Passchendaele. Major Scott Duncan and HCol and Mrs David Friesen attended for the Regiment.

THE GREAT WAR

When Britain went to war in 1914, Canada was a young country with a population of 7 million. The army comprised a small permanent force of cavalry, infantry, artillery, engineers, service, and administration totaling just over 3.000 men and 700 horses. It's principal role was to train militia and to man a few coastal garrisons. The militia was located in virtually every community of any size in Canada, and included close to 60,000 men.

Canadians, particularly those of British descent, felt a strong connection to Britain. Many were first-generation Canadians, who had family in the old country, and identified with the Empire with pride and a sense of obligation.

Between 1914 and 1918, 245,000 Canadians joined the CEF. Sixty-five thousand died, and 150,000 were wounded, many several times.

Forty-seven thousand of the dead are buried in hundreds of cemeteries that lay along the Front occupied by British Army over four years, stretching 100 kms from the Somme north to Ypres and 15 kms beyond. On the Menin Gate (6,998) and Vimy Memorial (11,995), the names of the remaining Canadians are inscribed.

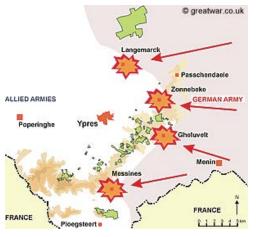
YPRES SALIENT

At the outset of the war, the German Army drove deep into

Belgium and northern France, and were finally stopped at the Marne on the approach to Paris, and then pushed back to a line running from central Belgium south to the France – Switzerland border.

From January 1915 a stalemate situation existed between the Allied and the German armies. The British sat firm in a defensive semi-circular Front Line around Ypres. This was Ypres "salient" a bulge, into the German Front Line here. To the advantage of the Allies it forced the Germans to provide extra manpower to hold a longer section of Front Line.

However, a serious Allied disadvantage was that the Germans had knowingly secured good positions along the edges of this salient. From the south of Ypres there is a naturally occurring spur of high ground which continues around the eastern side of the town of Ypres. It runs in a north-easterly direction from Messines in the south to Pass-



chendaele in the north.

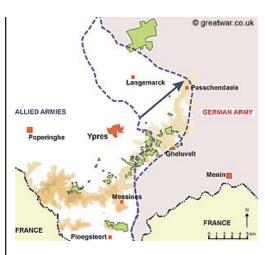
The advantages to the Germans were many. Not only did it provide a view across our positions and rear areas, but also the daily life of the German soldier was

affected by the better drainage of the positions located on higher ground. For the British, the area of Belgian Flanders was low-lying and prone to flooding due to the heavy, clay-based soil. The 3 years of bombardment turned the ground into a horror - a morass of craters and mud churned to a slurry which was impossible to cross.

PASSCHENDAELE, THE 3RD BATTLE OF YPRES

From early in 1916 it was the intention of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.), Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, to break out of the Ypres Salient. Having successfully secured the high ground of the Wytschaete-Messines Ridge in the Battle of Messines (7th-14th June 1917) the plan for the next operation was to advance against the German Front Line east and north-east of Ypres. On reaching the strategically important high ground of the Passchendaele Ridge, the intention was to continue to push eastwards, cutting off access for the German forces to the Belgian ports, used for shipping and submarines (U-Boats).

A British offensive in Flanders before the autumn weather closed in would also draw the focus of German Army commanders away from the French battlefields in the south. A large-scale offensive by the French, in April of



1917, failed. Very high casualties resulted in a struggle to maintain discipline in some of the French units and soldiers mutinied.

In Flanders, the Third Battle of Ypres was launched on 31st July.

The British Fifth advanced in a north-easterly direction away from its positions near Ypres with the Passchendaele Ridge in its sights. The French First Army was on its left. The British Second Army, was on its right, holding the ground won during the Battle of Messines a few weeks earlier. Some ground, approximately two miles, was gained on the first day, but that night rain began to fall. The ground all around the British attackers quickly turned into a quagmire

Churned up by the artillery bombardment of the German Front Line and rear areas, the ground the British were now having to advance across was badly damaged and filling up with rainwater which could not drain away through the heavy clay soil. Added to this, several small streams flowing through the area had their natural drainage channels destroyed. Due to persistent rain over the next few weeks the whole operation became literally bogged down in thick, sticky Flanders mud. Conditions were so bad that men and horses simply disappeared into the water-filled craters.

The British advance turned into a series of battles, inching closer to the Passchendaele Ridge in a series of actions with limited objectives. The capture of the Passchendaele Ridge eventually took over 8 weeks to achieve. The Canadian Corps, following their success at Vimy Ridge, had become known as the "shock troops" of the British Army. It fell to the Canadian Corps to wage the final 4 weeks at Passchendaele Ridge.

The great tragedy for the British Army and the Imperial Forces of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, who suffered so many losses in the fight for the few miles from Ypres to the Passchendaele Ridge, is that only five months later almost all of the ground gained in the mud and horror of the battles for Passchendaele was recaptured by the German Army during its April offensive in 1918.

THE CANADIAN OFFENSIVE

As at Vimy, all four divisions of the Canadian Corps would see action However, the mud, flat terrain, and relative lack of preparation time and artillery support would make Passchendaele a far different battlefield than the one the Canadians encountered at Vimy Ridge.

General Currie took the time to carefully prepare as much as possible and on October 26, the Canadian offensive began. Success was made possible due to acts of great individual heroism to get past spots of heavy enemy resistance. Advancing through the mud and enemy fire was slow and there were heavy losses.

The following description from the memorial stone describes action by the 4th CMR and the 3rd Bn.

"On October 26th, 1917, after two weeks of preliminary operations, the Canadian Corps launched a two pronged attack with the 3rd Canadian Division to the north and the 4th Canadian Division to the south. The 4th CMR, part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division, was on the left flank advancing upon Wolf Copse as its intermediate objective."

"During the fighting near Wolf Copse, Pte T.W. Holmes of the 4CMR rushed forward through a hail of bullets from German machine guns to silence the enemy block houses that had pinned down the lead companies of the advance. Because of Pte Holmes initiative in clearing the enemy block houses, 4 CMR was able to capture its objective. Pte T.W Holmes was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Wolf Copse."



The Second Battle Passchendaele: Dedicated by The Governor General's Horse Guards, 4th CMR's Perpetuating Regiment. June 2014

"On October 30th, 1917, the second stage of the Canadian Corps advance commenced with the 3rd and 4th Divisions fighting to gain a base for the final assault on Passchendaele. After a seven day tactical pause that permitted a divisional relief in place, the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions were ready for the final push to secure Passchendaele Ridge."



The Second Battle Passchendaele: Dedicated by The Governor General's Horse Guards, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Regiment of Canada - the 3rd Battalion's perpetuating Regiments. June 2014

"On November 6th, 1917, the 1st Canadian Division, having relieved the 3rd Division continued their advance along the northern flank of the Canadian Corps sector. The 3rd Battalion (Toronto Regiment), part of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st Division attacked Vine Cottages, a German strong point protecting the northern approach to the Ridge. Notwithstanding stiff resistance from the defenders of Vine Cottage, the 3rd Battalion secured their objective and set the ground work for the final attack that secured Passchendaele Ridge on November 10th 1917."

"During the fighting for Vine Cottage, Cpl C.F. Barron of the 3rd Battalion rushed three German machine guns positions that had held up his company. Upon silencing the guns, Cpl Barron turned them upon the German front lines. This action was instrumental in allowing the advance to continue and for the Vine Cottages to be secured. Cpl Barron was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Vine Cottage."

Fighting at Passchendaele took great bravery. Nine Canadians earned the Victoria Cross in the battle: Private Tommy Holmes, Captain Christopher O'Kelly, Sergeant George Mullin, Major George Pearkes, Private James Peter Robertson, Corporal Colin Barron, Private Cecil Kinross, Lieutenant Hugh McKenzie and Lieutenant Robert Shankland. Two of these men, MacKenzie and Robertson, did not survive the battle to receive their medals.

Editor's note: Part 2 of this report will be continued in the fall edition of Regimental Lines with accompanying photographs. In the meantime, please visit the GGHG Association's website where images from the visit are posted.

The Commanding Officer



year has passed since RSM Anderson and I took over the Regiment from LCol Develiadis and CWO Jimenez and what a year it has been!

The Regiment has achieved new levels of success, built in part on our great history and also on the goals that we have set for ourselves for a strong future.

In training, the Regiment is working closely with the Queen's York Rangers, and the Ontario Regiment to create a combined Reconnaissance Regiment. This combined force, with each regiment providing a Squadron will be working with a Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons in this summer's training concentration. The lessons and experiences gained by working together has produced better training opportunities, and is being watch with great interest by entire Corps, and Army itself. Captain Henderson's Squadron is a key component of this training and is leading the way, and is being recognized as well as a dynamic force, able to meet and exceed the demands being placed upon it. Well done 'A' Squadron!

'B' Squadron sets the condition for training, concentrating on individual training, allowing for soldiers at all levels to prepare for, and be successful in their courses. The GGHG continues to have successful candidates return

from courses ranging from Basic Military Qualification, to the Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron Commander's Course. The efforts to prepare people, place them in positions to gain the experience, brush up on tactics, and briefing techniques is no small task. Captain Cngranov's Squadron sets a solid base for all of us to build on.

The Cavalry Squadron continues to thrive. The ride season is getting longer, and longer, with nearly every weekend having an event, sometimes three in a single day. The Cavalry continues to provide a unique, and much sought after, public duty experience bringing great pride to the Governor General's Horse Guards. I am looking for more people to join this great organization, as there is more work involved with the increased exposure.

The Regimental Band continues to provide world class music, and has been personally requested by the Lieutenant Governor to play at his various departure events. What can be said about a military organization that has a waiting list to join, because of the vibrant venues, and gigs, the Band plays. Well done to the entire ensemble, the only organization that has a mounted fanfare team in Canada.

Our Cadet Corps – the 748 and the 2402 – continue to develop exceptional talent amongst the cadets, both corps have put on excellent annual inspections and are wrapping up their training years by exceeding their training objectives. A large number of cadets are on course at summer camp this year as well as taking staff cadet positions.

Buttons Troop and Company hosted the Second Annual Tank Day for both cadet corps at the Ontario Regiment Tank Museum. The cadets got some much needed track time and a great time was had by all – thanks to Bob McTaggart and the Ontario Regiment Museum for all your hard work in putting this together for our cadets.

The Regimental Trustees and Regi-

mental Association also must be commended for their fine work, and specifically the Association for perpetuating the traditions of the Regiment with our serving and non-serving families. Recently the Association hosted the annual D-Day Dodgers dinner with the Ontario Regiment Association and the event was a great success. A special thanks to Brian McDonald and Faye MacLachlan for making the dinner possible. I would also like to thank Colin Rowe for his tireless and never ending job of support through the "Regimental Lines" and website.

The Society continues to grow, and demonstrate the value proposition upon which it was created. The Regiment has a new, one stop web page that is amazing. You must check out, www.gghgsociety.org, it is a great location for the Regimental Family to have one spot for information and new photos. Thank you Philip Russel for all your hard work in setting the Society, and this web page.

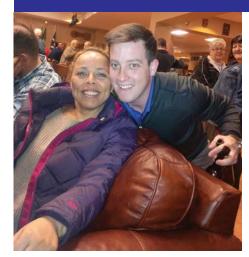
The glue that keeps the unit together is the Regimental Headquarters. With all of the various parts doing so much, without the strong efforts of the Operations Officer, Captain Steve Knowles, The Adjutant, Capt. Branko Gasperlin, the Chief Clerk, Petty Officer Second Class Jennifer Gauthier, the Quartermaster Sergeant Kevin Evans, and all of the staff working with them to track this on a daily basis the Regiment would not be able to work as efficiently as it does.

It is all of you that make the Regimental family work. You create today's history, and set the conditions for a vibrant and bright future.

The RSM and I are humbled to be part of this, and looking forward to what the next few years bring to all of us the Regiment.

Chris M.. Stewardson Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Officer

ARMOURED CORPS IRONSIDES XXXVII



Yes, what happens in Kingston stays in Kingston. Sgt Janet Smith (left) kicking back during the social evening with a young RCD Officer.



Representing the Regiment in their new jackets were (from left) MWO Shouldice, Cpl Vondercrone, Sgt Smith and Cpl Butterfield.



The number 1 seeded team skipped by CWO Davidson (right) included MCpl Billy Davidson, Linda Mezzabotta and Cpl Elmenhoff.



The surprise of the tournament was the GGHG Association team. (From left) Team skip Maj Mezzabotta, Cpl Clarkin, Tpr Grady and Sgt Rowe.



Cpl Elmenhoff extolling the virtues of a hearty breakfast when curling starts at the crack of dawn.



Cpl Butterfield can attest to the fact that the dinner laid on at the Saturday banquet was not only appetizing but at a cost that could not be matched.



Who said that close only counts in horseshoes? This shot required the measuring tool and verification by Col Steve Kelsey (3rd from left), the Director of The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.



This year's Ironsides was a great weekend of curling and camaraderie and MWO Shouldice and his team were proud recipients of some of the hardware handed out.

'ROUND THE REGIMENT



Another fine showing by the Governor Generals Horse Guards at this year's Cavalry Luncheon which returned to the RCMI after a 3 year hiatus over at the Albany Club.



Six GGHG RSMs in the room for the Cavalry Luncheon. (from left) Capt Henderson. Capt Crngarov, Hon LCol Dorfman, CWO Anderson, Maj Mezzabotta and Capt Brady.



Newsletter Editor Sgt Rowe (left) and Association Secretary, Cpl Clarkin, sampling some of the selections at the bar in the newly renovated RCMI.



A visit by Maj Mezzabotta and Sgt Rowe at Sunnybrook to see GGHG Veteran Al Sellers, resulted in a chance meeting with former CO, Col Bob Rutherford.



Sgt Anderson, one of the organizer of this year's Games Day II and known for, motivating his team with his aggressive play and intimidation tactics.



On hand to support the Tank Saturday activities back in May were the Commanding Officer of the GGHG, LCol Stewardson and Commanding Officer of the OntRs LCol Rostek (right) seen here with GGHG Cadet Instructor 2Lt Bob McTaggart.



Both the GGHG 748 and 2402 Cadet Corps had the thrill of a lifetime with hands-on experience in an APC on Tank Day in Oshawa. They also learned how important a helmet can be inside the vehicle.

'ROUND THE REGIMENT



GGHG WW II Veteran George Elson was among the three Dodgers in attendance at this year's D-Day Dodgers Dinner hosted by the GGHG Association.



RCD Veteran Don White was another D-Day Dodger at the dinner which was held in the beautiful dining room at the Stouffville Legion.



Rounding out the trio of D-Day Dodgers was Ralph Kearns, an Ontario Regiment Veteran.



At the D-Day Dodgers Dinner, 2Lt Bob McTaggart made a presentation to David Mountenay, President of the OntR Museum on behalf the of GGHG Cadets.



GGHG Association Executive Members Brian MacDonald and Faye MacLachlan striking a regal pose at the Regimental



The smile on the face of Cpl Butterfield (left) is validation that he has organized another successful Regimental Ball.



GGHG Association President Chris Briggs taking time to "let his hair down" with his partner on the dance floor at the Regimental Ball.



This enduring image of Capt Zeitoun (left) and Capt Van Auken making a grand entry into the Liberty Grand, affirmed that the Horse Guards were in charge of the Garrison Ball this year.

BLACK HAT BBQ



This year's Black Hat BBQ was a resounding success with the Ontario Regiment playing host at their museum which may well become the home for the event. The venue is already booked there for next year.



After many years of keeping the annual barbecue going at CFB Borden, it must give Capt Shaw (above) a great feeling to see that the tradition will carry on in the capable hands of the OntRs.



Many decades of service here among the boys of the "Old GGHG Brigade" at the BBQ. (from left) Capt John Drygala, MWO Bob Hannigan, Sgt Terry Bannon, Cpl George Lancia, WO Keith Craig.



Col Bob Chapman (right), President of the Ontario Regiment Association was happy and eager to give a guided tour of the museum to Col Steve Kelsey, Director of Armour, who took time out of his busy schedule to attend the Black Hat BBQ.



Good company, steak and chicken on the grill and beer served on the honour system was a winning combination for Association Vice-President Craig Anhorn (left) and Association Member Lt Richard Gunn.



The Association Executive was out in full force for the afternoon headed by Past-President MWO Charles Vondercrone (left) and current President Chris Briggs.

"A" SQUADRON

wenty Fourteen (2014) has made itself to be a strong year for training and professional development among the members of 'A' Squadron, with much of the credit going to the recent influx of much needed Master Corporals at the beginning of the year, who have proven to be an invaluable asset to the Squadron leadership.

The Regimental initiative over the last couple of years to replenish the depleted Junior NCO ranks has provided 'A' Squadron with 7 new Master Corporals to date, and more are on the way. This boost in leadership manpower has allowed the stretched Senior NCOs and Officers to take a step back, being able to spend more time planning and organizing future training on parade nights. As a result, the quality of training among 'A' Squadron's members has improved.

This year's Parade Night training focus has been geared toward the development of individual soldier skills. 'A' Squadron members spent time in the SATS practicing marksmanship, as well as gunnery on makeshift pintle mounts to simulate being in the hatch of a G Wagon. Soldiers also ran through Calls for Fire, using simulators for much of the practice, which not only gave them a refresher on how to call in and bracket Artillery, but also a bit more training on their radio procedure as well. On top of many of these skills, soldiers also practiced dismounted patrolling and ambushes, getting a much needed refresher on these skills before employing them on weekend exercises. On top of all of this, the troops were even able to learn how to use shotguns, which was a new and unfamiliar weapon system to most members.

BRIGHT

FUTURE

'A' Squadron's weekend training has been both demanding and challenging, with the Squadron participating in its first Division level Recce exercises with the QYRANGs and ONTRs during Worthy Lance 1 and 2. At first the learning curve was steep, as the Squadron needed to acclimatize to working as a part of a Recce Regiment, but in no time it was able to coordinate itself with the other units and develop a strong battle rhythm and pace. This is only the opening chapter in what will likely be a new and exciting change in operations, as the Squadron looks forward to its first summer concentration at the Divisional level this August.

While there was a lot of hard work to be done during training weekends, it wasn't without its fair share of fun. 'A' Squadron participated in Ex Worthy Target in March, which was a consolidated gun camp between the Horse Guards and its two fellow Recce Regiments, and sported enough ammunition to not only run through all the members of the three units, but the more than 80 civilian guests who attended. 'A' Squadron's leadership was able to run their range in a highly efficient and safe manner, reducing wait times to a bare minimum and eliminating what downtime there was through engaging and exciting background activities. Once again, 'A' Squadron's new junior leadership has proven to be a valuable asset, as their high turnout
was not only
enough to run the
range that was assigned
to us, but also to provide
additional support to other
ranges which were low on
staffing.

While the Squadron now has several new Master Corporals, the push to develop and train them has not ended by a long shot. The next step for these newly trained Junior NCOs is to become Crew Commander qualified, and the Squadron's Senior NCOs and Officers have been making substantial efforts to prepare these new leaders for the tough courses that lay ahead of them. Crew Commander preparation training has been run for these members beginning in March, going over many of the skills that will be essential on course, and providing as much practice as possible on Parade nights via sand table reviews of concept and traces on simulators, as well as weekend PD sessions that were organized on the Senior NCO's initiative.

With several new Master Corporals preparing to go on their Crew Commander course this summer, and even more Corporals rising up to the challenge and enrolling in PLQ, the future of 'A' squadron's leadership is looking bright, all thanks to the hard work from all ranks to procure more junior leaders.

Lt Stefan Kessler LO, 'A' Sqn



BAND NOTES Cpl Anthony Nero

WOUNDED WARRIORS CANADA

GGHG Band



On the final day of the Battlefield Bike Ride over 100 riders rolled into Vimy Ridge as a unified group of Canadians united in National Pride and a common cause as Cpl Nero played the Last Post.

Battlefield Bike Ride 2014

n 6 June 2014, over 100 individuals from all over Canada, and a handful of Australians from Soldier On, came together to take part in a memorable and emotional 700 km trip through the countryside of Normandy, France. The goal of this ride was to raise money and spread awareness about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a long-term psychological condition associated with Operational Stress Injury, and to remember and honour the many Canadians who paid the ultimate sacrifice in their service to Canada during the two world wars. Many of the individuals who took part in the ride were serving or retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces, who at some point in their lives experienced PTSD or are still coping with it. Others included family members, friends and strong support-

The ride began at Juno Beach on the 70th anniversary of D-Day where, on 6 June 1944, Canadians from the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and com-

mandos of the Royal Marines, with support from the Royal Canadian Navy, landed in order to provide flanking support to the British push into Caen, as well as to capture the German airfield at Carpiquet.

The ride continued towards Rouen, with a stop at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, where 2044 Canadians were laid to rest after the Second World War. An emotional service took place, with the bugler and piper sounding the last post, lament and reveille. After a restful day off in Rouen, the team pedaled their way toward the shores of Dieppe, where allied soldiers from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division raided the German defences on 19 August 1942. This raid proved to be costly for the allies, with 907 killed, 586 wounded and 1946 captured. Another service was held at the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery just outside the town.

The team continued their journey into Amiens, stopping at a few of the many small commonwealth cemeteries

along the road. Two of the bigger memorials that were visited included the Australian War Memorial Cemetery in Villers-Bretonneux, where over 770 soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Force are laid, and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, one of few memorials where the battlefield and related terrain are kept in a preserved natural state.

The final day of the ride was the shortest, but most emotional for everyone. For most, this was their first visit to the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, the centerpiece of a 250-acre preserved battlefield that encompasses the grounds upon which the Canadian Corps made their assault during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The final service of the trip was held at the memorial, which sits atop hill 145, the highest point on the ridge.

Next year, Wounded Warriors plans to take its riders through Belgium and Netherlands, and then to Italy in 2016.



DART OP RENAISSANCE-Philippines

As part of a Government of Canada response, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) provided humanitarian support to the Philippines following a typhoon that hit the country on 8 November 2013. CAF members began deploying to the region on 13 November 2013 and the mission officially ended on 15 December 2013. Among those fortunate to be a part of this mission was Sgt. Phil Aviado of the Governor General's Horse Guards who recounts his experience in a land where he also has roots.



Sgt Phil Aviado

arrived at the island of Panay,

Western Visayas in the Phillipines on Nov 27th, 2013. I took a 33hr ride on a C17 with five other Liason Officers via Comox, Hickam Airfield (Hawaii),

Anderson Airfield (Guam) and landed on Iloilo airfield. From there, we took a harrowing four hour drive through a narrow road teeming with tricycles and jeepnees (think on stretch Jeeps being used as mini buses) to Roxas City. Our average speed was 40kms. The tricycles' max speed was about 35kms - usually with about 7-8 people riding the damn thing. (The Filipinos are small. I feel tall here.)

There are no traffic lights or traffic stop signs here. There are no one way signs and any other traffic signs (do not enter) are just suggestions. Traffic in Roxas city looks like Saturday afternoon at Costco, except that instead of shopping carts, its tricycles, bicycles, jeeps, buses and cars. Somehow, by some miracle; there's no accidents (so far) that I've seen.

I currently work for J9 (CIMIC) LCdr Brunner. Before I arrived, J9 did the logistics, field work, operations, planning and liason; in short - everything. I volunteered to stay back, and help organize the J9 cell and buy him some operational maneuver room. So

now I do, the field work, operations and liason with the NGOs, Engineers (ours), Medical Staff(ours) and logistics.

The work is surprisingly just like Recce Ops but easier. (You don't have people shooting at you and the population LOVES the Canadians - tall white people are looked upon like Rock Stars).

My language skills proved handy to J9 and the TF HQ. I could negotiate in Tagalog and provided a quick translator service to the immediate area. The local population's English is much better that our Quebecois' English so my Tagalog is not in demand as much as Ottawa thought. The Liason Officers are all (except one) Tagalog Speakers with an in depth knowledge of the culture. This made imbedding the LO teams with the targeted location much more effective, as the population welcomed them with open arms to their homes. (When the Filipinos first heard the LOs speak Tagalog, it was as if E.T. had spoken perfect English). The LO Teams are having a great time in the field. Everyone here (except me) wishes they were out there living with the population. The hospitality is unparalleled, the tropic view is beautiful and local food is excellent; Roxas City is the Philippine's seafood Capital. Unfortunately, we are forbidden to partake in them until the PMed clears the establishment. Also unfortunate, is that the PMeds are not really adventurous. (Some of them didn't like to entertain the idea of Balut - google that for more information).

Now for the work. Typhoon Yolanda (as the Filipinos called it) only spent six hours wrecking the Island. What it did was carve a path of destruction about 12km wide from the East to West, leaving large parts unaffected. The death toll was no where near Tacloban, since the local Governor of Capiz Provice, Panay - ordered the population to the shelters and threatened to jail any who refused. The only foreign military forces in Panay are the Canadians. This is strictly a Canadian Show in terms of Military relief. The level of cooperation with the local government, NGOs, the Philippine Armed Forces and the DART is so far ABOVE ideal, that all the NGOs and the TF HQ are stunned. What we are doing is sending the LO teams to areas that no NGOs have touched or remain ignorant of. From there were gather the conditions on the ground looking for the CCIR (food, water, shelter, route access and medical immediate, near term and long term needs). We then pass the compiled, analyzed and prioritized information to NGO cluster groups as potential tasks for relief and rescue.

This is classic RECCE pull (OPs, Patrols and Route Recces to determine the main effort or avenues of advance), a skill that we often practice in our trade craft. The NGOs operate in clusters to avoid duplication of efforts and cooperate to assign resources to fulfill the population's need. The DART also assists with unique Engineering, Helo Support and Mobile Medical Teams. We are also pumping millions of pesos (43 pesos = 1 CAD) to the local economy as we buy local goods and souvenirs.

All in all the job is morally rewarding, and I see that the good old Canadian way of being humble, yet helpful, pays dividends.



PERSPECTIVES ON GGHG GAMES DAY II

Cpl Chin BAND MCpl Leung
A' SQUADRON



n February 22, 2014, members of the Governor General's Horse Guards participated in the unit's Regimental Sports Day, which saw several "call signs" go head-to-head against each other in a variety of activities. Each respective call sign was led by a senior NCO and a junior NCM. 11A was spearheaded by Sgt Maj Shouldice, 11C by WO Kalk, 11E by WO Woodcroft, and 11G by WO Serkies. The remaining soldiers were then assigned to each call sign in order to complete the teams. There was a large representation from each troop in 'A' Squadron, including many from all facets of the Regiment. Members of all ranks were able to make an appearance, including some officers and members of the band. The day's event peaked at over 55 personnel.

The day commenced with each call sign preparing to face each other in a round robin tournament style competition and collecting points based on a victorious outcome. Each call sign would have to compete in soccer, basketball, and hockey. Although some call signs excelled at one sport over another, the winning call sign was determined based on the total amount of points collected throughout the tournament. Overall, the sports day proved to be quite

arduous for many of the participants, as break times in between games were sparse and total time for all of the scheduled games to be completed spanned the duration of the entire afternoon. In the end, WO Woodcroft's call sign, 11E, garnered the most points and claimed the title as the champions for the Regimental Sports Day.

After the resounding effort by all participants and organizers, the Mess was opened for all members to relax and rehydrate with hops based beverages. The gathering at the Mess proved to be a raucous affair, as members who could not participate in the day's events began to make an appearance. At the Mess, members were able to relax and participate in some Mess entertainment, which included various card games, pool, and dominoes. The main headline of the night was Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), which was slated to feature several notable fighters and drew the

interest of many members attending the function. Throughout the evening, a large array of food products were made available for purchase, including Jamaican beef patties, hotdogs, chips, and pizza. The proceeds earned from the sales were put forth towards funding the upcoming 125th Anniversary of the Governor General's Horse Guards Regimental Ball. All members were encouraged to attend the ball, as it is always a memorable experience and guaranteed to be a remarkable event.

On the whole, the Regimental Sports Day and Mess event proved to be highly successful. Awards were slated to be presented at the next CO's parade for the 11E. Some former Horse Guards made an appearance at the Mess and

were able to catch up with their colleagues. Events such as these only work to create new bonds within the unit and continue to strengthen the regimental family. As soldiers, we commit a large amount of our personal time throughout the year in order to participate in training events. However, it is important to remember to also find time to appreciate the time with one another, as it is easy to get caught up with the constant flux of our daily lives. After such an exceptional showing, all troops are



The coveted Games Day trophies

encouraged to attend the future sports days or Mess functions. With the assistance of the troops and Association members, more prizes and awards are in sight. The wheels are already in motion to plan the next event and all members of the unit, past or present, regardless of rank or affiliation, are welcome to participate.

Special thanks to Lt Kessler, WO Smith, WO Kalk, Sgt Anderson, Sgt Aviado, MCpl Akintunde, MCpl Castillo, MCpl Leung, MCpl Ng, MCpl Nooristani, Cpl Butterfield, Cpl Chin, and Cpl Newton, for organizing the occasion and to all of those that made the event a reality – hope to see you at the next event.

MCpl Victor Leung 'A' Squadron

hat happens when you get about 40 Horse Guards in a gym with hockey sticks, soccer nets and basketballs on a Saturday afternoon? Sounds like the start to a bad joke but for the four teams that showed up for Sports Day on Saturday February 22nd, 2014, the competition was anything but a joke. This was my first time attending unit sports day and I have to admit, after two games of soccer, ball hockey and a game of basketball backto-back-to-back (you get the idea)... I was beat! That is to say figuratively speaking as my team - shout out to Team Echo led by



WO Woodcroft Winning team leader

WO Woodcroft – won the day undefeated with a 5-0 record. Though the competition was fierce and I was definitely sore for about a week after, the event was incredibly fun and a | Regimental Band

wonderful way to meet other members of the Regiment in a friendly but competitive setting. After all of the hard work and running around, the teams reassembled in the Mess to kick back, enjoy a beverage and a delicious assortment of food.

Many individuals also brought board games or card games to play while relaxing with some buddies. All in all, I think the organizers of Sports Day did an outstanding job and I hope to see more events like this in the future. For those of you who did not attend this one, I would challenge you to come out next time and join in on the fun. See you on the courts!

Cpl S.V. Chin

RL



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Remembering the old with the new

This summer WO Ron Serkies headed out to B.C. with his pickup truck and stopped off in Humboldt Sasketchewan at Legion Branch 28 where he met up with the manager of their museum, Rev Al Hingley. Ron and the Regiment were in Humboldt in 2012 for the raising of their camp flag over Fort Denison.

By Melanie Jacob Journal Staff Writer Humboldt Journal

the memories of loss, sacrifice, and bravery and now the Royal Canadian Legion museum has more in its collection.

As a former member of the Governor General's Horse Guards, Ron Serkies has recently bestowed upon the museum some of his personal items following his retirement on February 25.

"We were here back in 2012 and presented the camp flag, so I figured since I'm going to B.C., I'd stop here

and donate some items personally," said Serkies. "Two of the items belonged to the regiment and were titled to pass on to the museum here."

Among those donated, Serkies has included his uniform jacket, boots with spurs, sword belt, and regiment camp flag. He had been collecting items over the past 43 years, although some items he couldn't hold onto or had to return.

"This is stuff you're allowed to keep once you retire," said Serkies. "They don't want it back either because it was next to your skin or you ended up purchasing it anyways."

Serkies had called the week prior asking about donating the items. Rev. Al Hingley had known him from when

(From left to right) Nick Sokolan, Mayor Malcolm Eaton, Ron Serkies, and Rev. Al Hingley stand together with the items donated to the Legion Hall museum by Serkies from his time with the Governor General's Horse Guards.

he had been in Humboldt in 2012 with a group to see Original Humboldt, so it was a pleasant surprise for him.

"I'm developing a display for the Governor General's Horse Guard in the museum right now, so I was happy that he picked us to donate to," said Hingley. "Any artifact helps tell the story and helps us understand better."

According to Hingley, these items help represent the more contemporary horse guards, especially since every military outfit differs slightly in some way. He likes to have many examples to show how they vary and to tell their stories.

"To groups that come to visit, war not only destroys, it also defines," said Hingley. "We know best who we are as Canadians by the stories told. There's the militia and there's war, but there's also the home front and what it meant to live in Canada."

The Governor General's Horse Guard was originally known as the Governor General's Body Guard of Ontario. During the Northwest Rebellion in 1885, part of the squadron's



The Governor General's Horse Guards camp flag flies high in perpetuity over Fort Denison in Saskatchewan.

duty was to secure the supply depot and telegraph station in Humboldt, hence the connection.

"The more we learn about the guards who were right here in our locale, the better it is," said Hingley. "Having these particular artifacts from the guards reaffirms our happy association with them and helps us experience more of their story because they don't just ceremonially ride around on horses; they've also been in active duty in conflicts around the story."

In other words, these artifacts and all other items donated to the museum act as a link between the past, present, and the future. The history of the guards is alive in these items and those memories are passed down to youth and anyone who cares to learn.

"Not everyone is crazy about history," said Hingley. "To develop a relationship with those folks, it's all a part of the story and who we are. The more we know, the smarter we are."

For Serkies, Canada's history might be one of the things that influenced his interest in the armed forces at an early age. He began his military career right from high school and was promoted to sworn officer in 1984. He worked various jobs in the military throughout his career, but ended up stationed in



Always time to take in the beauty of the Canadian Rockies.

Toronto as one of the horse guards until the end of his career.

Now, he'll be spending his time volunteering at another military museum and donating a few items there as well.

"I believe a place should have historical value with some of this stuff," he said. "When we visited here, I liked what Rev. Al had actually done to preserve the history of the military."

Hingley is hoping these artifacts will help people appreciate the military more and realize that their contributions are national, not just provincial.

Serkies, meanwhile, is just hoping nobody forgets what the military has done and continues to do.

"I'm hoping that with these items, they'll recognize the sacrifice people have done to keep Canada safe and free," said Serkies.

RL



Ron's trip through Saskatchewan allowed him to see some of the devestation, like the flood above which turned parts of the prairie into lakes.

GGHG ASSOCIATION

Veterans

Cpl Gene Baycroft Sgt Earl Brown Sgt George Chalmers Lt Doug Chant Sgt Brian Colwell Mai Eric Constantinides Tpr Norman Coulson Tpr Roy Crate Sgt Charlie Dobson Tpr George Elson Tpr Fouda Eman MWO Gerald Griffin Sgt Earl Harlock Tpr Peter Hires Tpr Reuben M. Holman Hood Tpr Fred Tpr S. Mickey Kaneko Tpr John E. Lang Tpr Jack Lusty Tpr William H. Lyons McCleverty Tpr Harry Tpr Robert Pacey Capt Douglas Scythes Sgt Alfred G. Sellers Tpr Larry Small

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Tpr William

Maj Eric W.

Tpr Harry

Tpr Harold

Tpr Ed. A.

Smith

Stafford

Taylor

Wayte

Wasylycia

Soo



2LT BOB McTAGGART

This is the first time in many years that both the 748 and 2402 GGHG Cadet Corps have attended a combined operation



n May 10th, 2014 Buttons Troop and Company sponsored the Second Annual Tank Day at the Ontario Regiment Tank Museum in Oshawa; the day was the conceived and executed by former Museum President LCol Leo Morin and Bob McTaggart Chair of Buttons Troop. Our friend Leo is no longer with us and did not see the great success that Tank Day has become, the event will be carried on annually in his Memory!

The day was attended by both the commanding officers of the GGHG and the Ontario Regiments, representatives from Buttons Troop and Company, the GGHG and Ontario

Regiments, as well as officers and cadets from both the 748 and the 2402 GGHG Army Cadet Corps. This is the first time in many years that both cadet corps have attended a combined operation and both corps have agreed that it was a great success and there are plans for combined exercises in the future.

The cadets got some much needed track time, they are all proudly affiliated with an armoured regiment but yet most had never been inside a running armoured vehicle. Events like this make for a tangible and tactile experience where the cadets get to experience the rough along with the smell of fuel, the vibrations of the motor, and all the

dust that goes along with an open hatch. All - in - all, the cadets loved every minute of the experience!

Each cadet from each corps received a certificate of achievement for attending.

The cadets suggested we should do something more for the Tank Museum to thank them. So, with the help of the GGHG Association a presentation was made at the annual D-Day Dodgers Dinner.

Thanks again to the Ontario Regiment and especially the Ontario Regiment Tank Museum for supporting us and making this annual event a great success.

Warriors' Day Parade

93rd - Established in 1921





Oh for the good old days of having your own Mess, a few games of chance after the dinners, and saving yourselves a trip to the bar even if it was not your beer of choice. Don't know if the period of immunity is still in effect but does anyone know these suspects?



Official Publication of the Governor General's Horse Guards Association Financially supported by the Governor General's Horse Guards Foundation

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