

ARMOUR

BULLETIN

DES BLINDES



VOLUME 10

This Bulletin is published under the authority of BGen J.J. Barrett, CD, Commander Combat Training Centre. Views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy or opinion unless otherwise stated.

EDITOR - Captain D.L. Craig

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, C/O Armour School, Combat Training Centre, CFB Gagetown, Oromocto, N.B., E0G 2P0.

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REDACTEUR - Capitaine D.L. Craig

Toute correspondance doit être adressée au rédacteur, aux soins de l'École des Blindés, Centre d'Instruction de Combat, BFC Gagetown, Oromocto, N.B., E0G 2P0.



ARMOUR BULLETIN

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our Branch professional publication, The Armour Bulletin, is produced by the Armour School at the Combat Training Centre. This issue contains a great variety of articles; some of professional interest, some nostalgia, some information and of course a sprinkling of humour.

The production of this issue has been especially trying, because of the lack of articles submitted. The few submissions were gratefully appreciated but its time that the Armour Bulletin represented the entire Branch and not just the tankers in Gagetown. The distribution has been greatly increased in an attempt to encourage a greater return of professional interest articles from all "Black Hats", both militia and regular. It is requested that YOU give this project your maximum support by writing and submitting an article this year.

In conclusion, I express appreciation to Ms. Louise Smith, who helped me put this issue together, and to all the authors who gave so freely of their time.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN AN ARTICLE FOR THE BULLETIN YET?

D.L. Craig
Captain
Editor

CONTENTS / CONTENU

Article Page Number

FORWARD/AVANT PROPOS - DIRECTOR OF ARMOUR	4
MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL COMMANDANT	6
BIOGRAPHY OF THE COLONEL COMMANDANT	7
DETERRENCE AND DETENTE - A VIEW	8
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO RUMOUR	13
JUSTICE IN VALHALLA	15
A JUNIOR OFFICERS VIEW OF RSS EMPLOYMENT	20
AFV RECOGNITION/IDENTIFICATION DES VEHICULES BLINDES	24
INTEROPERABILITY - AN INITIAL IMPRESSION	25
10e ANNIVERSAIRE DU 12eRBC	28
HAPPINESS IS A HUSSAR	31
KNOW YOUR REGIMENT - THE QUEENS YORK RANGERS	38
BOOK CORNER/COIN DES LIVRES	40



Charge of R.C.D.

MOREUIL WOOD

APRIL 1918

S.O.M.S. AMG, R.C.D.



DIRECTOR OF ARMOUR'S FOREWORD

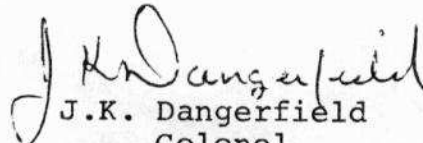
In the last issue of the ARMOUR BULLETIN I was privileged to have the opportunity to provide some philosophy in the foreword and to give a SITREP on some of the latest developments in the Branch. In this issue, I hope to re-emphasize and update some of those points.

The ARMOUR BULLETIN is quickly maturing into a first class publication. I attribute this to the excellent effort of the Armour School at CTC and to the increasing number of individual contributors who are taking the professional interest and time to address the activities, problems and solutions that involve all of us. I strongly urge all members of the Branch to continue this dialogue. Without this exchange of ideas on the "informal organization" chain we will have difficulty in maintaining the dynamism, motivation, energy and aggression that has characterized our Arm for centuries.

Events are proceeding on schedule for us, despite some serious financial setbacks that plague the Forces and the country as a whole. The Canadian LEOPARDS will be delivered on time and the RCD will be operational on them by the time you receive this BULLETIN. B Sqn 8CH at Gagetown will complete its work up this summer and will join the RCD this fall for NATO exercises. I received the first COUGAR on behalf of the Branch on 23 January and that distribution is on time, with the Regular Force completed by November 80 and Militia completed by April 81. Courses to convert our personnel to LEOPARD and COUGAR are in progress now and we shall have sufficient unit and RSS instructors trained to receive these vehicles. Our Regular Force manpower increases are proceeding slowly but constantly. The Mobile Command study on the implementation of the Reserve Plan 26 is completed and we will see an incremental and steady increase in the training, organization, tasking and integration of our Militia units towards a truly "Total Force". We shall be training towards our traditional role of combat as part of balanced all arms teams, exemplified in the major Mobile Command exercise "Rendezvous 80".

All in all, we should be heartened by the progress we are making. It may not be as fast as some would like, but it is on the up side of the graph. Pulling together, we can keep it that way.

My best wishes to all ranks for 1979. It has the makings of a great year.


J.K. Dangerfield
Colonel
Director of Armour

Too many people look forward to the good old days.

A Smile a Day, Keeps the Boss Thinking.

Anytime the going seems easier, better check to see if you're not going downhill.

In looking for the facts to prove we are right, too often we overlook the facts that prove we could be wrong.

However long and hard the climb to the top may be, the bottom is only one mis-step away.

Never resent problems on your job. Exerience comes from learning what to do when something goes wrong.

*The man who is prepared, has his battle half fought.
(Cervantes, "Don Quixote", 1615).*

Thou shalt not pass b y me, lest I come out against thee with a sword. (Numbers 20:18).

A Message
From
The Colonel Commandant

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven".

In 1967 this quotation from the scriptures seemed so right when Rolof Beny used it in his book commemorating our national centennial. Less than five years ago it was our government's avowed intention to eliminate the tank from our forces yet on 27 August of this year I stood on the dock in Halifax and watched the first of our Canadian based Leopard tanks roll off the container ship. That this quotation kept running through my mind is perhaps understandable in the circumstance.

During forty odd years of service, I have learned that the lows of yesterday and tomorrow are invariably followed by the highs of today and the day after tomorrow. Realizing this, life in the services becomes a little easier, more understandable and much less frustrating. It permits one to survive the dark days and still maintain faith, hope and enthusiasm for the future.

Certainly 1978 will be recorded in the corps history as "a very good year". My limited contact this year with our militia and regular regiments confirms my belief that the spirit and morale within the corps are of a high order and understandably so. The arrival of new tanks, and other new equipments on the visible horizon, make a soldier's life exciting and the challenge of mastering these new equipments is the icing on the cake. Add to this the wise and understanding decision taken to permit the rebirth of the corps schools, including ours, and we can justifiably look to the future with enthusiasm.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this message to you through the courtesy of the Armour Bulletin. I sincerely hope that all ranks in our militia and regular regiments will look upon the Armour Bulletin as their own and along with their regiments contribute to its content.

We all have a busy and challenging year ahead and I know that the standard of professionalism, for which the corps is renown, will permit us to meet all our commitments. Meanwhile, I will continue to look forward to the day when I am back on the dock watching tanks roll off headed for such places as Calgary, Petawawa and Valcartier.

Biography

of

The Colonel Commandant

Brigadier-General E.A.C. Amy, DSO, OBE, MC, CD (Ret'd), The Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps has a long and proud association with the Corps.

BGen Amy was commissioned in October 1939 after attending Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. During the Second World War, he served in England, Italy and North West Europe and at the age of 26, commanded his Regiment.

He was awarded the Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order and was twice wounded in action.

He served with the Commonwealth Division in Korea in 1952/53 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire and the US Bronze Star for meritorious service.

He commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons (1953-1956), the RCAC School and served as the Director of Armour for the Canadian Army. He also served on the staff at SHAPE and the NATO Standing Group in Paris.

In 1964, BGen Amy commanded the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Forces in Cyprus. Soon after his return to Canada, he was appointed Commander of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Calgary, Alberta. In September 1966 he became Commander of 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in West Germany. Prior to his retirement in August 1970, he was the Director General Operations (Land) at NDHQ.

Following his retirement, after 32 years Regular Force service, BGen Amy was appointed Colonel of the Regiment, The Royal Canadian Dragoons. He served actively in this post from 1970 to 1975. In January 1978 he replaced MGen B.F. MacDonald, DSO, CD, in the appointment of Colonel Commandant, The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

Deterrence And Detente — A View

by Capt TJI Burnie

The deployment, shape and size of the Soviet Armed Forces are dictated by their roles which are to: defend the territory of the USSR; deter attack by any nation and, should deterrence fail, to bring any war to a conclusion favourable to the USSR; support and maintain Communist rule in certain Warsaw Pact countries; and within their capabilities, support Soviet political aspirations world wide. The roles of the Soviet Armed Forces readily appear as an extension to two basic features of Soviet foreign policy. First, a need for security (combined with mistrust) and second, a policy which includes the threat and use of military force to safeguard and expand her spheres of interest and to win over an unstable area.

As an expression of her need for security, she will constantly attempt to split and weaken her potential enemy. By advancing into the oceans up to now controlled by the West, she will attempt to establish her importance as a world power, which all will recognize, and strengthen her influence on the developing countries.

Soviet conduct in the Middle East conflict has proven that, by no stretch of the imagination, can she be counted among the peaceable powers and that she is not afraid of stirring up armed conflict and massively supporting an aggressor if it is a question of weakening the West or gaining new satellites as long as she does not have to grapple directly with the US. This approach is a strategy aptly named the "influence strategy". Vis-a-vis the "conflict strategy".

The First World War was won in Europe, as was the Second World War, Japan and China notwithstanding. In a Third World War, the decisive battlefield would again be Europe. The reason is simple: Eastern and Western Europe combined, with a population of 640 million, have by far the greatest industrial potential in the world in the form of highly-skilled work-force.

Moreover, they possess more than half of the world's industrial capacity. A capacity which, in Eastern Europe alone, has increased ten-fold since the Second World War, it still continuing to grow rapidly and exceeds that of Western Europe by more than 50%.

To counter Soviet ambitions in Europe, NATO was formed in 1949. The *raison d'etre* of NATO lies in the political sphere rather than in the military sense of large military forces in being. It's political effectiveness lies in the fact that an aggressor who makes war against any Western European country must also take on the whole of Western Europe and the US.

With the end of the Second World War, the US's military problems seemed to be solved. Based on an evaluation of their performance during the war, and the fact that they were in sole possession of the atomic bomb, they appeared capable of presenting an absolute counter-poise to the all expansionist aspirations of the Soviet Union under Stalin. However, in view of the disarmament wave which engulfed the armed forces until 1948, the realization of any strategic concept without mobilization would have been questionable. Strategic doctrines, developed subsequent to 1949, led to the development of special operational principles and to changing organizations. It was common to all concepts that they depended on being attacked first before they were to become effective. A primarily offensive interpretation is not to be found in any of these concepts in either the area of nuclear or conventional warfare.

The concept of massive retaliation was devised. The armed forces were only to be so strong as to be able to present a credible deterrent in conjunction with the threatened use of nuclear weapons. The conduct of primarily offensive operations was precluded. This massive nuclear retaliation against the Soviet Union was the strategic concept during the fifties era of the US policy of containment.

At the outset, it was obviously clear that the US could realistically employ the principles of massive retaliation to their advantage. Subsequently, when nuclear parity had been achieved in the early sixties, a doctrine of "flexible response" was initiated and is in vogue today. This concept allows the allies to respond in a controlled and adequate manner in the event of a crisis or attack. In addition, the US responded to mutual deterrence by seeking political accomodation with the USSR. This relaxation of tension became known as "detente".

A range of options are available to Allied leaders in their application of flexible response in the event of an escalation of the conflict strategy by the USSR. The prime objective would be to stop aggressive action, while at the same time, reducing escalation. Examples would be: destruction of a city for a city; destruction of the Soviet nuclear capability (very difficult); limited strategic retaliation as a warning; and tactical deployment of nuclear weapons against invading forces. The latter would serve to: demonstrate a determination to fight and use nuclear weapons; stop an invasion; and restrict destruction to the combat zone. However, one must consider that the use of

strategic or tactical nuclear weapons can serve as a two-edge sword which may result in negotiation or escalation.

We should briefly examine what might trigger an attack by the Soviet Union on Western Europe or the US. One could theorize several motives for an attack on Central Europe but four appear readily feasible. First, the transformation of political conditions in an adjoining country by supporting a previously introduced revolutionary movement or by exploiting wide-spread dissatisfaction engendered by political or economic instability. Second, the elimination of an actual or presumed source of threat in an adjoining region. Third, the seizure of a pawn for bargaining purposes by occupying territory in an unprotected or insufficiently protected region as a point of departure for expansion by negotiating under coercion. Fourth, the occupation of an area considered vital because of economic or raw material potential or indispensable from the point of view of power politics.

Considering the reasons listed, it is difficult to imagine that the Eastern bloc would initiate offensive action so long as the balance of nuclear forces between the super-powers exist and as long as the US continues to feel it has a major commitment in Central Europe.

Albeit detente is the catch-all word used to describe the political mediation between the super powers, it is realized by both powers that each are capable of mutual assured destruction (MAD) no matter who sparks the aggression.

As manifestations of detente, there are two major control devices which are under constant negotiation. The first is the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), in which the initial formal accord was concluded by the Moscow Agreements in 1972, and is known as SALT I. Fundamentally, it halted competition in the building of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems and offensive ballistic missiles; however, it did not reduce by a single missile the nuclear armament of either side. SALT II is under active negotiation and will attempt to solidify the limitations concluded in SALT I. The second control is popularly known as the Mutual Balanced Forces Reductions (MBFR) but is now called, in response to Russian insistence, Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe (MURFAAMCE). Its' primary function is to reduce tension between the super powers by a mutual reduction in forces on site in Europe and hopefully, in the course of time, total withdrawal.

In addition to the two control measures mentioned, the considered keystone of East-West detente was the 1975 Helsinki Agreement on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The declaratory document provides for the possibility of the resumption of normal economic, cultural and political relations.

In 1974, US President Ford and USSR Party Chief Brezhnev reached various agreements on strategic nuclear weapons but did not deal with the question of possible agreement in the field of so-called "tactical nuclear weapons". These pertain to nuclear weapons integrated into the Soviet Armed Forces, particularly the Army and those of the Tactical Air Forces. Additionally, they also pertain to the intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBM). On the American side, they are combined under the term Forward Based Systems (FBS) or Theatre Nuclear Weapons. These are American nuclear-capable aircraft and missiles deployed in and around Europe (and North-East Asia) that have the range to attack the Soviet Union. Hence, nuclear weapons stationed in Germany, which fall under this category, are of special significance to both military alliances, particularly as they are an important component of the respective alliance doctrine.

The former American Defence Secretary, James R. Schlesinger, had outlined the significance of "Theatre Nuclear Forces" in his annual Defence Department Report for the fiscal year 1975 as follows: First, they are necessary to keep up the principle of deterrent as long as opposing forces maintain similar capabilities. Second, they are intended to offer alternatives other than resorting to strategic weapons should the deterrent principle fail. Third, in regard to the doctrine of flexible response, the use of nuclear weapons should not be ruled out if it serves to stop aggression. Additionally, the Defence Secretary also emphasized that actual use of nuclear weapons involved many unknown factors and that the present inventory of these weapons in Europe was unsatisfactory. Also, there were no substitute for conventional forces.

The current controversy over the use of the Neutron bomb is a proposal to the application of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe although it should be noted that the Neutron bomb is, in reality, a nuclear warhead. It can be affixed to the Lance missile, which has a range of 10 to 12 miles. Notwithstanding, it is a nuclear weapon; it is not correct to speak of it as an "enhanced radiation weapon". It is more accurately described as a "reduced blast and heat weapon" and it is designed to inflict battlefield casualties with radiation while limiting blast damage. The wrangle over its suggested use ranges, on the one hand, as the weapon to act as the equalizer to counter the Warsaw Pact's 3 to 1 numerical advantage in tanks. On the other hand it postulates that the "cordon sanitaire" of the nuclear arms threshold has been substantially narrowed; consequently, it will become increasingly simple to cross.

Although the US appears to be bending toward the Soviet Union, it has been placed in a position where it must now consider upgrading its weapons systems in response to the continued growth of Soviet strategic forces. The US military planners feel there are three principle tasks. These tasks are: deterring a Soviet nuclear attack; fighting a major conventional war; and responding to brush fire wars. To react to any of these probable tasks is expensive in manpower and money. This expense provides impetus to the US on maintaining detente.

During the recent Geneva talks on SALT, US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko issued a joint communique. "The difference between the two sides have been narrowed". Although there remains political and ideological splits, SALT is an area of potential agreement and thus a barometer of detente. The US is striving for considerable slashes in the US and Soviet Arsenals but that will probably have to wait until SALT III.

During the tenure of Dr. Henry Kissinger as the US Secretary of State, he developed a four point programme covering: the elaboration of the principles for the regulation of Soviet-United States relations; un-remitting political discussions to solve outstanding issues and to reach cooperative agreements; the development of economic, scientific, medical, environmental, technological and cultural relations; and arms control negotiations, particularly those concerned with strategic weapons. That programme was aimed at accepting the fact detente was not the complete answer to negotiation with the USSR but in the hope of easing detente to an acceptable level of deterrence coupled with gaining cooperation in removing the cause of crises.

In a campaign speech on March 1, 1974, US President Ford announced that detente was no longer part of the vocabulary of American foreign policy. However, the USSR considers detente as an extension of the peaceful-coexistence policy which was introduced at the twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956. The US foreign policy with regard to detente appears to be softening in an attempt to reduce tension while the USSR, although being cooperative, continues to believe that detente is a means of strengthening the Soviet system at the expense of the West.

Current NATO talks, spearheaded by the US, have convinced the other member states that the Soviets have escalated their military posture. NATO has attempted to come to grips with the problem and offset this imbalance. The Neutron bomb is the most recent example; but, the vacillation on the part of the US has created a rift in the NATO community while the Soviets claim the new strategic arms accord and, perhaps even East-West detente, will be jeopardized. Once the Soviets see a positive reaction by NATO, and in particular the US, they may well become more cooperative in pursuing detente and arms control.

People who never have time usually do less than anyone else.

If you have to keep on making mistakes, at least make new ones.

The man who follows the crowd will never be followed by the crowd.

The Gospel

According to Rumour

Author Unknown
(Thank Goodness)

Brethren, this issue's lesson is taken from CFP 224 and is the Gospel according to the Director.

In the beginning there was only your void, a nothingness that was a real DANGERFIELD. Now this here was really no fit state to be in. So the Holy One decided to create something WORTHY of his powers. After wandering AMYlessly through the void, One finally decided a NEWELL world would be a nice touch. So He ordered a GROSS of resources, COLLETTed them together and began to piece together his plot. After He had CONOVER his plan with much CAREW One started to build.

First He said, "Let there be light" and within the hour there was a LIGHTBURNING. Next, One GERVAIS'd the huge water mass which existed and directed that the large LAKE be divided by dry land which He called Earth. To break up the massive BROWN areas One brought forth grass and all manner of fruit bearing plants. On the third day a light was made which BURNS only in the day to separate day from night so One could see how the other half lived. Then He brought forth both fish and fowl to inhabit this place; everything from TROUGHTON's to PEACOCKS and all manner of crawly things came to exist and multiply. Thus ended the fifth day.

RENY looked about and saw things going just swimmingly He decided to create a creature of His own image to live, supervise and pay the BILLINGS for this new complex. ADDY Ceen the future equal rights problem One might have created both man and woman on this six day. However, One was EXLEYdingly tired from working SAVARD and needed His rest. Actually there was some METHVEN in his madness, for ADDY Put woman on earth on day six He would get no rest on the seventh day - or any other time for that matter.

Man was then pressed into SERVICE to name all of the things One had created. He defined both the Heavens and KELLS fires. He named all manner of drinking fluid as BEVERIDGE. Man got some tired so One took ELLARD plot of ground, beautified it and called it GARDAM of Eden. After man had CONWAY about Eden by himself he became exceedingly lonely.

So One, after ribbing him a bit, took pity on him and created woman. Now man, not being of the landed GEDDRY, wondered how to support this woman. There was no MILNER to grind the oats nor any TAYLOR to make clothes. However, he need not have worried. The garden had a BROSKIFful of fruit, adequate leaves for coverage and umpteen places for one to sow his oats.

But there was one tree from which they could not eat; the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (CFP 305). This should have been OK, for in One's words things were going swimmingly and both could be sufficiently sufficed elsewhere. However MURPHY's Law took a hand in events as one day the subtle serpent MCNABBEd woman and convinced her to eat some of the forbidden fruit. Man saw woman in the act and was also tempted. After, he also shared some of the fruit. Feeling somewhat MEGILLty the pair clothed and hid from One. It didn't take any great SEAR to know that One would not be pleased. Some form of SEVERANCE would be required.

Now when One found out, He was very angry. He rang the old CAMPBELL to summon the pair from hiding. No longer would they be allowed to live in the garden. One took back the ALLEN key for the front gate, gave them a stout warning, issued them a HENRY rifle and sent them on their way.

They took up residence on O'CONNOR street over in COPELAND in a small hovel where they began to beget. In no time they begot NICHOLSON who begot PARKINSON who begot RASMUSSEN who begot exceedingly inebriated because he couldn't beget.

Life could have ended right there except for the great kindness of old One. He continued to direct things and let all manner of living things multiply to create better and greater forms of life.

The moral is self-evident. Whatever is created will have imperfections but will grow to be great inspite of itself.

Thus speaketh the Director, "the future is bright".



Justice in Valhalla

History says Carlyle, is the biography of great men. To Karl Marx and Lenin, it is the story of impersonal struggles and movements. The war in North Africa was a quaint admixture of both. On the one hand, a clash of armoured forces, unmatched in mobility and striking power on the other, a tremendous clash of personalities that wielded those instruments of power.

As the armoured divisions of the 8th Army and the Afrika Korps swept across the Western Desert, the names of Montgomery and Rommel were etched on the burning sands as living legends for all time to come.

These two dynamic characters that remained interlocked in fierce combat never in fact met on earth. Montgomery is said to have constantly carried a photograph of Rommel on which he had inscribed "This is the man I must defeat". Montgomery never became an obsession to Rommel, though he is known to have remarked to his Chief of Staff after the Alamein disaster, "This general they call Monty, has an astute mind. I wouldn't rate him as a dashing commander, but he planned this operation to perfection".

Such admiration was mutual, as when Winston Churchill, speaking of Rommel's exploits in the Western Desert, said in the House of Commons, "We have a daring and skillful opponent against us, and may I say, across the havoc of war - a great general".

There is no doubt that both these characters would one day meet in Valhalla, that select place in heaven reserved for heroes. It is interesting to visualize what would be the reaction of either when summoned before the Court of Supreme Justice. The author has tried to depict such a situation.



The action of the play passes in the court of justice in Valhalla. The year is 2044, almost a century after El Alamein. Rommel, in his characteristic desert outfit complete with top boots, peak cap, and binoculars, is standing right. To the extreme left is Montgomery, wearing his familiar double-badged beret. Three judges are seated on a raised platform positioned in the center and to the rear of the stage. Faint amber lighting provides an ethereal touch to the setting.

VOICE Erwin Eugen Johannes Rommel, Field Marshal, Commander, German Afrika Korps. (Rommel nods toward the jury).

VOICE Bernard Law Montgomery, Field Marshal, Viscount, the Victor of El Alamein. (Montgomery proudly assumes a stance as he looks askance at Rommel).

ROMMEL "Victor of El Alamein", (with scorn) You never won Alamein, neither did we lose it. We gave it to you on a platter".

MONTY "Well, I realize Alamein is a sore point with you. But that is history, Old Boy. The world knows that I, Montgomery, Commander of the British Eighth Army defeated the invincible German Afrika Korps at Alamein and chased the notorious "Desert Fox" and his Panzers, 1,400 miles back to Tunisia where they were flung into the Mediterranean".

MMEL "I was not present at El Alamein. I arrived after it was lost. In fact, it was lost before it was fought. I never had any illusions about that - you had a 3 to 1 superiority. I would have rated you a very poor general had you lost. But Montgomery, had I just half that superiority over you, I would have crushed your 8th Army into the desert sands, the way I smashed the Maginot Line. When I took command of our retreating army, I had only 40 tanks against 800 of yours. I had no option but to fight a holding action - yet I held you at bay for 7 months. History will record my action as the greatest masterpiece of evasion".

NTY "Well, it is not without reason that they called you the "Desert Fox". And I dare say, you did give me a few anxious moments".

IEF JUDGE "In the name of justice we pronounce: To Montgomery is accorded the perfection of planning and executing Alamein: To Erwin Rommel goes the credit of exemplary resistance in the face of overwhelming odds, having created Kasserine despite Alamein".

ICE And it came to pass that latter day military historians contrived to unravel the enigma that surrounded these two antagonists in the weird drama of the Western Desert. You, Montgomery, were a strategist and a planner, and above all, a brilliant organizer. Erwin Rommel, military thinkers regard you as an unparalleled tactician, an outstanding animator, and an audacious operator.

MMEL "I know your type - the epitome of the Staff College man, with your classical concepts of planning and execution. Camberly, I suppose, taught you not to attack until you had a 3 to 1 superiority. Any fool can win a war with such preponderance as you had. Imagine trying to conduct or invigorate a mobile operation from a caravan, in which you went to bed each night leaving strict orders that you were not to be disturbed. You British Generals surprised me the way you conducted operations sitting 70 miles behind the front".

NTY "I reckon there were a few drawbacks in our system, and I rectified a few, but that does not mean I endorse your action of springing up on the frontline from tank to tank like a damned blue-arsed fly".

OICE Language, Monty, language. You are in heaven now!

NTY *(Half embarrassed, regaining his composure)*
"You were plain lucky, Rommel. It's your "FINGERSPITZENGEFULH" that worked every time - that peculiar intuition or sixth sense that is supposed to have made you a legend. But I am afraid you cannot fight a modern war from the point of a spear like Napoleon on the bridge at Lodi. Under any other circumstances you would have been a dismal failure. You were plain lucky - just plain lucky".

MMEL "Montgomery, has any admiral ever won a naval battle from a shore base? I identified tank warfare with war at sea. I defied the text books written by military pundits because I realized that in mechanized warfare it is mobility that always proves decisive. The only way to achieve such mobility is to remain embroiled in the changing fortunes of the battle, right there at the point of the spear. If I am not mistaken, it was your own C-in-C Alexander who dubbed me the "master of mobility"".

CHIEF JUDGE "It is for the court in Valhalla to confer upon Montgomery superiority over Rommel in preparation for battle, superiority in knowledge, thoroughness, and versatility. To Rommel is given the unparalleled distinction of boldness and daring in action, coupled with a rare tactical sense that surpassed that of Montgomery. In essence, Montgomery was the Planner and Rommel the Executor."

VOICE Rommel, as a Commander in the Western Desert, you constantly devised the essential element of victory - surprise. In what has been termed "the terrible etiquette of the battlefield", you were never a conformist. It has been said of you that in the forties you were the personification of the 20th century captain, about whom the British theorists in their speculations about the future war had dreamed in the thirties. Perhaps with your bold decisive actions, typical of your mastery of the Blitzkrieg, you brought to a world war slowed down by the memory of its predecessor, the dash and splendor of the cavalry. But Erwin Rommel, against you in the balance rests a charge. You took grave administrative risks, often unjustified, and certain military critics even charge you as having lacked any logistical sense.

ROMMEL "Yes, I agree, I often strained my logistic chain to a breaking point. But not without reason. I never let my offensive spirit be inhibited by administrative restrictions. I accepted logistics as a hazard of war and I attacked when no other general would have dared - least of all a general like Montgomery. But mark you, it was not always that I took such risks deliberately. More often than not, my promised supplies never reached me. Had I been there at Alamein with even matching strength to oppose Montgomery, the British would have been deprived of the legend of the Viscount of El Alamein. And reflect for a moment, Montgomery had I been there on your side instead of Horrocks, the breakthrough to the airborne bridgehead at Arnhem might have been a different story. Who knows, you might even have ended up as the Duke of Arnhem".

VOICE Montgomery, you always preferred a balanced attack with your resources strictly arranged. But in striking contrast to Rommel, you always had to be spurred into action. You tended to exercise excessive caution, and had to be constantly urged by Churchill to launch the offensive.

MONTY "I was never a gambler such as Rommel. Neither was I a bit anxious about my battles. If ever I was anxious, I never fought them. I waited until I was ready. To Hitler, North Africa was a sideshow and therefore of little concern. To the Allies it was vital. Therefore, I could not afford to lose. Besides Rommel, I was eventually destined to be in command of greater numbers than you could ever have managed. It was I who quantified the meaning of administration in large-scale operations. Quite clearly you never understood this, for as Von Rundstedt once remarked, you were unsuited for higher command, even though you were truly a capable commander in the desert with limited forces at your command, mind you".

CHIEF JUDGE "The war in the desert was in truth a Quartermaster's nightmare. Rommel could never be confident that his spearhead would be firmly supported by its shaft. Montgomery was a careful compiler of victory like Monash, Allenby or Haig. Rommel's type of instinctive, split-second command always involved tactical and administrative hazards. In the war of sea on land, which is how the desert campaign was fought, Rommel was more of a Beatty while Montgomery chose to play a Jellicoe".

VOICE In leadership and morale we discern the greatest enigma. Erwin Rommel, in your papers you wrote a treatise on leadership stating, "A Commander must try above all to establish personal and comradely contact with his men, but without giving away an inch of authority". Your relationship with your troops was more of trust than of deep affection. Montgomery, you went the other extreme to achieve popularity of a kind unknown to Rommel. Wellington was "Daddy Hill" to his troops. Allenby was the "Bull", Eisenhower was always "Ike" and you, Montgomery, were always "Monty". But when the Afrika Korps talked of Rommel they just called him Rommel.

MONTY "When I came to North Africa you were already a legend. My troops referred to you as the "Phantom General". It was I who electrified the morale of the battered 8th Army. They needed a general like me".

ROMMEL "You, Montgomery, were the general for your soldiers - the public relations type with your fancy headgear and flashy press interviews. I on the other hand, was a "soldiers" general. If I became a legend it was despite myself. You strived to become one, amidst a flash of controversy".

MONTY "Nothing succeeds like success. What the 8th Army needed was success and I was the only man who could create Alamein".

ROMMEL "Not really, Monty. Had Strafer Gott's plane not been shot up by my fighters, he would have faced me at Alam Halfa and Alamein. No, you were only second best. Though I must admit, you proved better than I expected and I sometimes wished I had a Chief of Staff like you".

MONTY (*Advancing toward Rommel*) "Do you know Erwin, now that you mention it, I have often dreamed of reenacting the Arnhem assault with you on my side. It would have been a different story".

CURTAIN

VOICE When all the lesser men of our times have passed into the oblivion of darkness, history will strike forth the names of Rommel and Montgomery, the former as the "Phantom General" affectionately known as the "Desert Fox", the latter as the controversial "Monty", the victor of "El Alamein".

By Comdr Sushil Isaacs

ARMOR Magazine Mar-Apr 1978

A JUNIOR OFFICER'S VIEW

OF

REGULAR SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYMENT

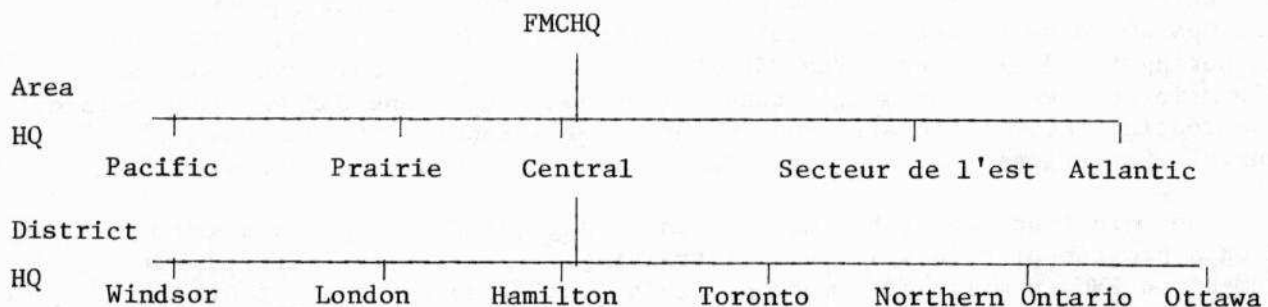
by Lt B. Finn

During the past two hundred years, Canada's Reserve Army, or militia, has figured prominently in the development of our country. From the earliest days when all able-bodied men were registered for military service, if and when the need arose, to to-day's all volunteer concept with regular, organized training, the militia has gone through many changes.

In more recent years, with the ever growing administrative complexity and complicated technology associated with modern armies, it has become necessary for many regular standing armies to provide personnel support to their reserve organizations to advise and assist in all aspects of training and administration.

Within Mobile Command there exists a large organization called the Regular Support Staff (RSS) which provide support to our militia units. In this article I wish to describe the functions of the RSS and present a general view of how the militia functions.

The following line diagram will assist in understanding the organization of the militia. In particular, I have chosen to describe Central Militia Area (CMA), and London Militia District (LMD) where I was posted for two years.



(Continued)

Line diagram (continued)

London

- 22 (London) Service Bn, London
- 4th Bn Royal Canadian Regiment, London;
plus an outlying company in Stratford
- 1st Hussars, London; C Sqn 1 Hussars, Sarnia
- Elgin Regiment (RCAC), St Thomas
- 56 Fd Regt RCA, Brantford, with sub-units in
Simcoe and St Catherines
- Highland Fusiliers of Canada, Cambridge and
Kitchener
- Grey and Simcoe Foresters, Owen Sound and Barrie

The senior officer in LMD is a reserve Colonel, and the senior Warrant Officer is a reserve CWO. Within the command branch, the Senior Staff Officer Ops and Trg is a regular force Major who is also the officer commanding the RSS within his district. Each branch of the district headquarters has at least a regular force Captain and Sr NCO performing routine administrative functions.

I was attached for two years to the Elgin Regiment (RCAC), a reserve armoured regiment in St Thomas, Ontario, as the Unit Support Officer (USO). On my staff at the unit included: the Unit Training Assistant (UTA), a Crewman O11 MWO; the Unit Support NCO (USp NCO), a Crewman O11 MCpl; and the Unit Administrative Assistant (UAA), an Adm Clk 831 Corporal. Our support base, CFB London, provided a Permanent Quartermaster Assistant (PQMA) who worked directly for the Base Supply Officer and was not technically a member of the RSS.

As USO, I acted as an advisor and gave assistance to the unit Adjutant and the Unit Training Officer. The UTA worked with the Training Squadron 2IC and Ops WO to help prepare training timetables, course reports, UERs, and assist during field training. The USP NCO looked after the unit transport and vehicle maintenance for the unit's twenty-five vehicles. The UAA was responsible for the routine daily administration in the orderly room. The PQMA was responsible for organizing and accounting for all unit equipment and kit.

The main function of the militia is to augment FMC in peace and war, based on a program of mainly individual training. In order to fulfill this commitment to FMC, a militiaman must devote a considerable amount of his own free time to training with his unit. The majority of militiamen hold either a full or part time civilian job. Giving up an annual two week vacation and many nights and weekends puts a considerable amount of pressure on the militiaman. On one hand, he is being pressured to attend as much training as possible

to benefit himself and his unit; whereas, his civilian job commitments to work overtime in a factory or to go away for several days on a business trip will normally take priority over militia training. Unfortunately, Canada has no legislation in effect whereby a reservist can take military training leave from his job without penalty in pay or job seniority. This system is in effect in the United States reserve system, and has proved to be highly beneficial to the industry, the armed forces, and the individual reservist.

I have discovered that there are several problems encountered at the unit with respect to the conduct of training. It has been my experience that every militia unit has a core of dedicated officers and men who can be depended upon to participate in training. This generally accounts for sixty percent of the unit's total enrolled strength. Another twenty percent can be brought out of the woodwork if their peers give them encouragement and help. The remaining twenty percent won't show up unless an exceptionally well-planned and adventurous weekend or special parade is called. Thus, the unit's yearly training plan must be somewhat more flexible as militia units don't have a "captive audience".

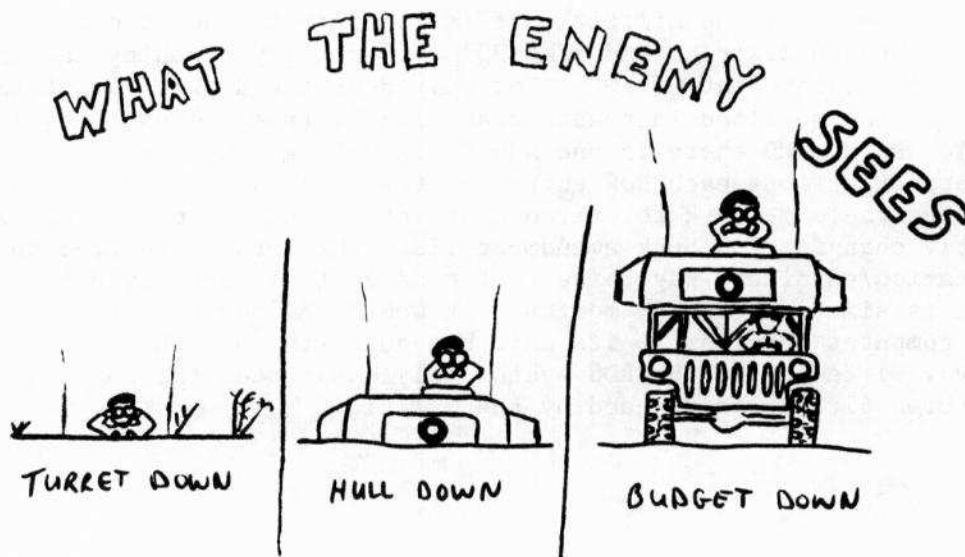
An individual militiaman's total training time, regardless of rank, consists of forty-four days of field and classroom training, fourteen days of summer concentration, and two days of district exercises for a total of sixty days. Militiamen are paid for half-days (parading under six hours) and full days (six to twenty-four hours).

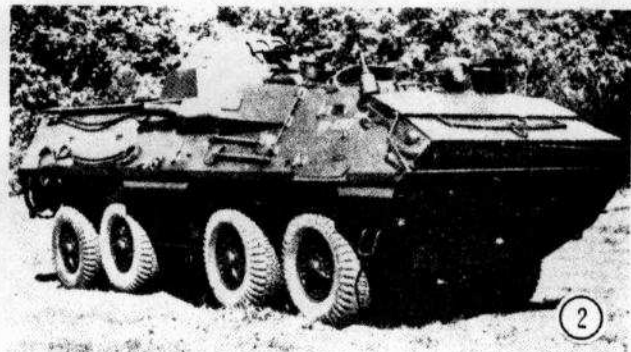
Twice during my two year RSS posting, I studied unit pay sheets to determine how much work was required by a militiaman to perform the training and administrative tasks given to him. Both times I obtained a figure of one hundred ten days, as opposed to the present allocation of sixty days.

The reserve system in Canada uses a computerized information system called the Reserve Data System, or RDS. In addition to the normal amount of paperwork required to enrol a new soldier, publish a qualification or course, or award, and pay a soldier, the militia unit is required to submit one of several RDS forms through district and area HQ's, eventually reaching the one and only RDS computer located at HQ FMC. Not only does the drawing up of the form take time, but the workload increases dramatically from the unit level to FMC. For example, at HQ LMD there is one Adm Clerk 831 Sgt who receives, verifies, and further actions each RDS entry for seven units. At HQ CMA, a staff of NCO's does the same work for seven districts. Because of the workload and the constantly changing RDS book amendment list, the total time from the date of qualification/enrolment/pay raise to the date it is actually published and takes effect is six weeks to ten months. It would obviously be ideal if each unit had a computer terminal at its unit headquarters, but this would be far too expensive. I feel that the RDS system only duplicates the work that can be done on forms already being used by the militia.

The militia is gradually receiving more and more recognition as an important community organization. Until the late 1960's, the local militia unit figured prominently in the community. They were generally large in size, they were organized and funded by the taxpayer's money, and generally most of its officers and sr NCO's held important posts in the community. As we enter what appear to be tough times economically, many young people are looking for a new adventure and challenge in life. One of the challenges the reserves have faced lately is the increasing number of demands put upon it by private citizens, community organizations and police forces. For example, the Elgin Regiment has provided valuable service to the St Thomas community during several severe winter storms by rescuing stranded motorists, delivering vital medical supplies to hospitals and industries where workers were stranded, and assisting police to carry out their tasks. In late 1977, after an Ontario Provincial Police dog tracking team failed to locate a missing hunder in dense forest, a ground search party from the Elgin Regiment was called in. It was only by the fine leadership and organized search plan developed by one of the unit's troop leaders and his men that the man's body was found. Militia units continually assist the community during Red Cross Blood donor clinics, Remembrance Day ceremonies, local veterans functions, and actively recruit during local fall fairs.

Learning about and adjusting to the militia will probably be a difficult period for a young RSS officer or man. He will have to overcome many obstacles, the greatest of which will be his own reluctance to accept the modus operandi of the Reserves. It appears that in coming years, more and more young officers and NCO's will be posted to RSS positions across Canada. It is important for us as professional soldiers to assist the Reserves as much as we can.





AFV RECOGNITION TEST

answers on page 37



IDENTIFICATION des

VEHICULES BLINDES

reponses à la page 37



Interoperability-

An Initial Impression

by Major R.E. Acreman, CD

Interoperability is a difficult concept to define. Certainly the requirement for national forces to interoperate on the battlefield in terms of logistics, communications, administration, ecetera, is largely self-evident in a NATO or other alliance context. As well, such forces will often have an obvious need to be mutually supportive in a tactical operation. In its broadest sense, interoperability might reasonably be described as a euphemism for the well known principle of war-cooperation.

During the 1976 Fall exercise period in Germany, my squadron, A Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons on several occasions had either under command or in direct support American or German sub units. Such attachments included: a Vulcan Platoon, Infantry Platoons, a 4.2 in Mortar Platoon and a full company complete with TOW and organic mortars. To me at least, this was a new dimension of interoperability, and while the experience was interesting and rewarding, a number of difficulties were encountered.

Upon my return to garrison that Fall I did some cursory research on the subject. In a 1976 US Army paper titled, "A Study In Parallelism With a View to Improving Interoperability", the term itself was not defined, but it seemed to refer to the ability of battalion and company equivalent size organizations of two nations to operate effectively when grouped together in a tactical setting. The aim was indicated as, "analyzing tactical doctrine differences and similarities in order to derive recommendations to help both US and Canadian troops to interoperate better on the battlefield". A review of this study indicated that it compared doctrines, it did not specifically address the question of how doctrine is implemented in both forces. Implementation of doctrine is largely realized through the adoption of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

SOPs are undoubtedly the most important factor in the interoperability equation. They detail the organization for battle of the unit and establish the procedures necessary for an efficient operation in the field. It follows that if components of a combat team or battle group are unfamiliar with the unit SOPs, then something less than an efficient operation will be the result. This was the experience of A Squadron. American or German sub units grouped with the squadron had no knowledge of Canadian SOPs, much less those which were unique to the Dragoons. Organizations, drills, battle procedure, command and control measures, resupply techniques, routines, reports and returns and so on, while in some cases derived from similar doctrine, were absolutely dissimilar at the implementation stage.

The SOP problem is a serious drawback to interoperability. Unit SOPs are written in a very comprehensive form. A significant portion of the training year is devoted to ensuring that squadron and unit personnel are well versed in these procedures. Having mastered these techniques, it is then necessary to tackle the thorny problem of infantry/tank cooperation. This once again entails the learning and practice of

common drills and procedures. Notwithstanding this time and effort, problems with combined arms training still arise. These problems are inevitably more severe when functioning under the interoperability concept where little if any time or energy has been given to SOP familiarization.

The example of the leaguer will serve to illustrate the extent of the SOP problem. Suppose an American infantry company is attached under command of a Canadian tank squadron. This grouping could very well take place at night under radio silence as occurred on Exercise DONAU SAFARI, a brigade level FTX. The following information must be passed to the US company commander, it must also of course be relayed to the lower levels of command:

- definition of a leaguer including the open and close variety,
- the leaguers purpose,
- occupation drill,
- arcs of responsibility,
- sentry routine,
- switch-off procedure,
- stand-to drill,
- local defence plan,
- leaguer orders,
- resupply and maintenance procedures,
- action on ground attack,
- action on air attack, and
- breaking leaguer, and so on.

Having to explain this particular SOP is very time consuming. To leaguer properly at night requires considerable practice. It just doesn't happen of itself. Moreover, if fatigue is a factor the problem is aggravated. In fact the requirement to explain interoperability, "as you go", contributes to the fatigue factor as detailed explanations at all levels replace rest. The overriding consideration, however, is operational effectiveness. The leaguer is a tactical formation. Failure by the grouped sub unit to perform the SOP properly could jeopardize the very survival of the entire combat team. Imagine if due to a lack of understanding of and familiarity with this SOP, sentries are not placed or they are improperly sited. Imagine if the company is unsure of the required action if the formation is bumped by enemy. Imagine if the local defence plan is not properly implemented. Can we afford the inevitable result?

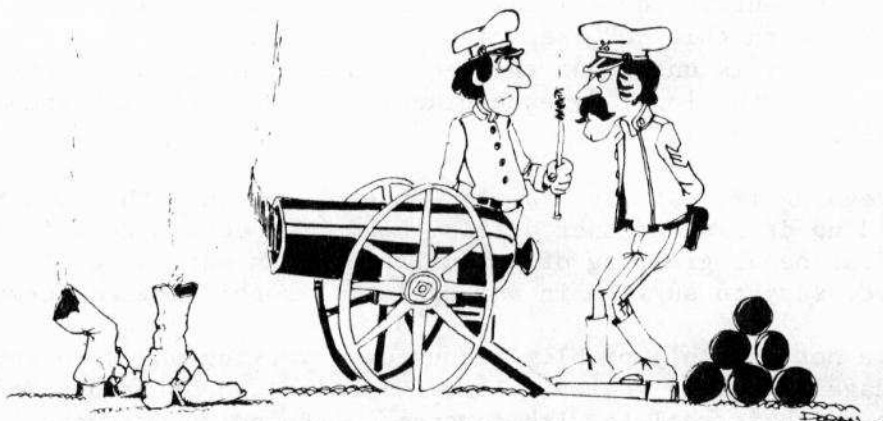
The foregoing is just one example - there are many others: harbours, battle formations, held up drills, contact drills, etc. The combat team is simply that - a team. The spontaneous grouping of sub units between nations will not result in the kind of team necessary to survive in war against a sophisticated enemy.

SOPs are not the only problem encountered working under an interoperability concept. Language is also a real problem. Canadian and US troops employ an extensive military jargon which is replete with acronyms. "Bounding overwatch" and "fire and movement", although essentially the same in meaning, are foreign to the respective troops. Moreover the language differences of day to day conversations between Americans and Canadians can create difficulties. In peacetime and at higher levels of organization, the problem may not be acute, however to a combat team in war it could be critical. A simple communication error, made even more likely through fear or fatigue can have disastrous results. It happens on exercise, it will happen in war. A "team" must speak the same language.

There can be a significant disparity in the standard of training and discipline between the respective forces. When a bi-national combat team is formed the contrast in standards is accentuated. This can cause problems for both commanders, particularly when casualties are heavy. A potentially dangerous we-they situation could develop. The standard of at least one component of the team will be compromised. This problem can be overcome with good leadership, but the problem does not occur in a uni-national combat team. A marriage of fighting arms must consist of two equal partners at least in terms of training and discipline.

It would seem that it is necessary to return to first principles and ask the fundamental question. Is there a requirement to form bi-national combat teams and battle groups? If so, what is it? Can the requirement be satisfied in another way? Is it sufficient that both forces be aware of each others training methods, equipments, operational drills, battle procedures, and so on to a degree that will make them capable of fighting "side by side", or is it necessary that components of both forces be grouped, and fought as "teams"? The answers to these questions are neither clear nor readily available.

Interoperability does offer distinct advantages. It makes both partners more flexible in employment; it broadens the professional base of both officers and men; and it also offers cultural and political spin offs as well. It is important however to recognize the serious problems encountered at the working level. Problems with SOPs, communications, disparate standards of training and discipline, and logistical support cannot be lightly dismissed. These problems significantly impair operational effectiveness in peace; they will do so in war.



I SAID TWO IS LOAD... THREE IS FIRE!!

10e Anniversaire du 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada

by Lt D.J. MacNeil

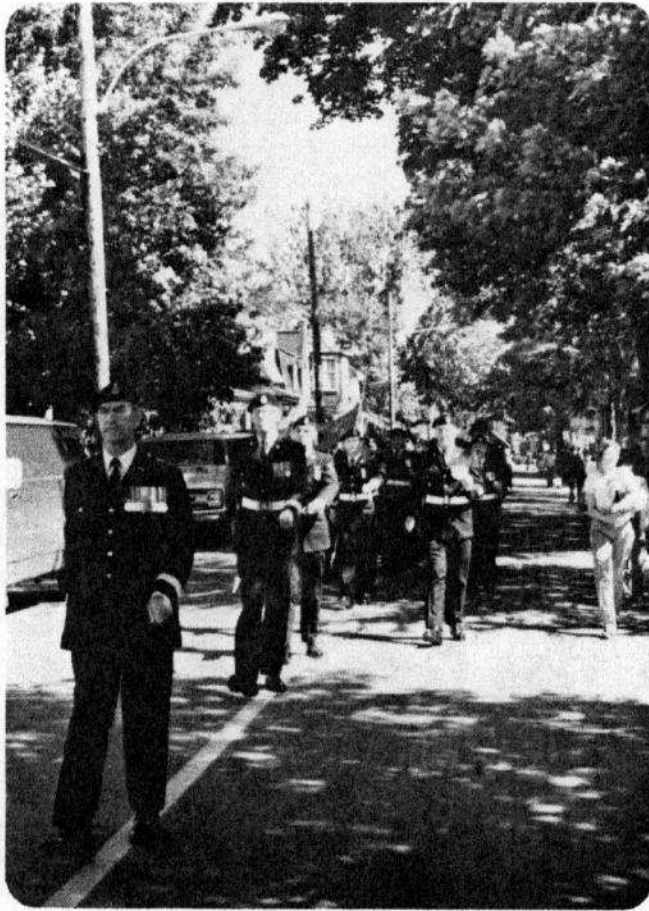
Samedi le 10 Juin 1978, a marqué le 10e anniversaire du 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada. Le don des clefs de la ville de Trois-Rivières, un hommage aux anciens combattants et aux anciens drapeaux, le dépôt d'une gerbe de fleurs au cenotaphe régimentaire et le cocktail d'honneur marquèrent cet événement. Réguliers, miliciens et cadets du régiment étaient rassemblés en cette journée, soit environ 700 têtes coiffées du célèbre beret noir.

Au début de l'après-midi, dans le Parc Champlain, face à la Rue Royale et à la place de l'hôtel de ville, le maire Gilles Beaudoin fit don des clefs de la ville au régiment. Ensuite, la prise du salut a été acceptée par le colonel du régiment, le Général J.V. Allard, le Lieutenant-colonel F.A. Johnson, le maire Gilles Beaudoin, et le curé Louis Massicotte. A la tête de la parade était le Major-général J.P.R. LaRose, le premier commandant du 12e RBC.

Par après, à l'église anglicane St James, un hommage fut rendu aux anciens drapeaux et, par la suite, le Général Allard déposa une gerbe de fleurs au cenotaphe régimentaire.

Pour les membres du 12e RBC ce fut une journée mémorable pour leur régiment; le premier et le seul régiment blindé français régulier au Canada. Une journée mémorable pour un régiment qui se distingua sous des noms différents à la lière et à la 2ieme Guerre mondiale. Une régiment qui passa une période record de près de six mois au front sans être relevé et la seule unité canadienne à avoir combattu aux côtés de toutes les armées alliées sur les fronts ouest de l'Europe.

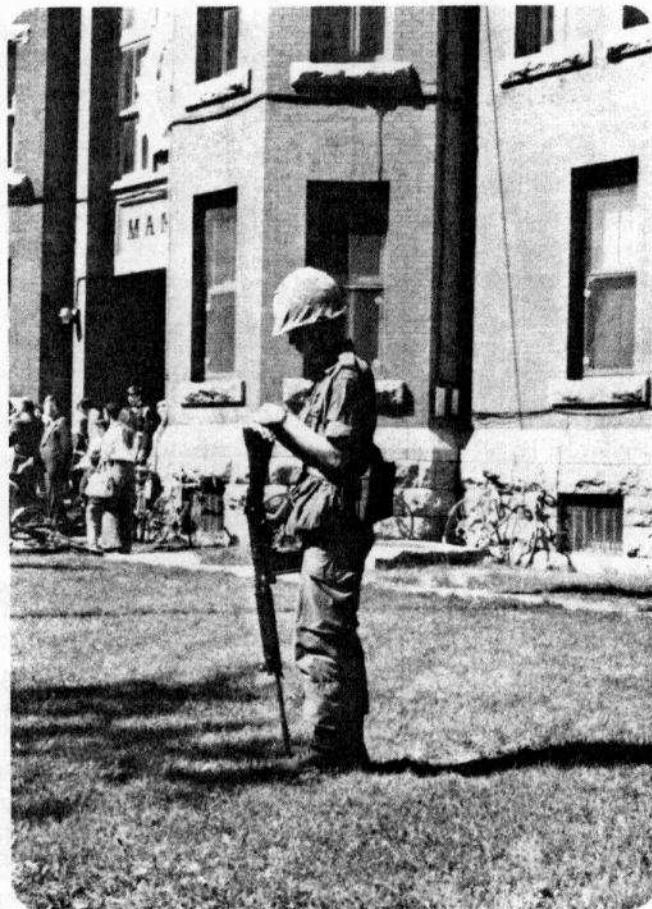
Cette journée inoubliable restera dans la memoires de tout les membres du 12e RBC; une journée où toute la gloire des batailles passées réplendit sur les officiers et hommes de troupe. En terminant le 12e RBC voudrais remercier les autres unités blindés qui nous ont rendu hommage durant cet événement. Adsum.



Le Major-général J.P.R. LaRose, premier commandant du 12eRBC
à la tête de la parade.



Allocution du Colonel honoraire du régiment, le Général J.V. Allard.
A l'arrière nous apercevons le maire de Trois-Rivières monsieur
Gilles Beaudoin, l'abbé Louis Massicotte ainsi que le Lieutenant-
colonel F.A. Johnson.



Homage à nos anciens combattants disparus.

Happiness Is ;

A HUSSAR

by Major W.D. Murray, OMM,CD

"This perspective was written by a Hussar for Hussars, but as many Hussars are in the other Regiments and vice versa, it could apply to any Regiment with minor modifications. Perhaps it is, above all, an expression of the author's affection for the Regimental System which has preserved the tactical integrity of the combat arms in generations of wars, peace-keeping and peace".

While doing intellectual research the other night (reading the comics in the Toronto Glum and Pale) I came across some cartoons of Snoopy the beagle. He was lying on the ridge-pole of his dog-house beaming with satisfaction as he reflected on some of his exploits, real or imagined.

An analogy struck me. I cast my memory quickly over two decades under the Hussar badge. An avalanche of recollections, anecdotes and episodes of regimental happenings swept before my mind's eye. I found myself laughing at some of them and remembering with warmth many others. I suppose it is the sum of such things which keep we mere mortals enthralled by the regimental system, which stimulates us in time of difficulty and bonds us in time of ease. The pseudo-supermen we often encounter profess to find their jollies in statistics, mis-applied computer technology, the illiterate jargon of the advertising world and the impersonal cruelty of management rather than leadership. There is no doubt that some of them get rich and/or promoted, yet I prefer my life full of good fellowship and happy memories to their psychopathic success and emotional poverty. Let me relate a few recollections - some humorous, some humorous in retrospect and some in respectful admiration of those involved at the time. Catalogue them as you see fit.

We were "clannish" from the first. It was about a year until our new cap badges, "tow-cable" lanyards and "Pepsi-Cola" shoulder flashes were supplied. Wearing RCAC badges and shoulder titles in the interim, we looked disdainfully on the unfortunate souls who "hadn't made it". I remember a Strathcona LCol arguing with Maj George Catton that the Hussars were nothing but RCDs and Straths who had lost their badges. George retorted, "We got the best of both regiments and you have what is left". Argument cease fire.

Even the Mascot got into the spirit of things. During a Massed Parade in Gagetown, with all of the brigades and regiments from eastern Canada lined up for inspection by MGen Bogert or some dignitary, young Princess Louise II decided to challenge 3 RCHA for the Brigade right-of-line. Observers said it all started when the Mascot was viciously bitten by a flying insect, but we all know that it was sheer 8th Hussar enthusiasm. The Mascot snapped the lead rope from the Groom, wheeled and went galloping full steam for the centre rank of 3 RCHA. Gunners fled in all directions. A few cries of "Whoa, dammit" from pre-war gunners impressed not our young lady. With 3 RCHA scattered in a shambles, much to their chagrin and the chuckles of thousand of others, the Mascot trotted off the square and began to browse, serene in the knowledge of a job well done.

Quick wit was ever a Hussar trait. One day in a summer concentration, Tpr Ouellet of C Squadron was coming up the Lawfield Road with his $\frac{3}{4}$ doing double or triple the speed limit. Coming over the brow of Cootes' Hill, he passed a MP truck stopped by the roadside. Realizing what he'd done, and seeing the MP vehicle start to move in his rear-view mirror, he skidded to a halt, ran back to meet the MP and panted, "Boy, am I glad to see you. There's a terrible accident down at the South end of camp and I'm going for help". The MP thanked him, turned around without noting Ouellet's vehicle or licence number and headed South. Ouellet carried on to main camp without incident.

Regimental life was beneficial for junior officers who were slow to abide by the rules of the game. Col Rad wisely decided that young careers should not be black-balled forever for youthful misdeameanors. He reckoned that instead of formal punishments which would be recorded forever on a person's file, a short, medium or long burst of Extra Orderly Officer, depending on the frequency of the offense, would cure most growing pains. It was not uncommon to have old Merv Springer, the Mail Clerk in Gagetown, sidle up and say, "What's this I hear about the Gestetner running wild with your name on Orders, Sir?"

Princess Louise II was not the only Hussar to achieve distinction on a GOC's parade. There was the Troop Leader whose four tanks rolled past the Reviewing Stand, traversed an exact 90° and dipped the master weapon to maximum depression in salute. MGen Bogert, to say nothing of the Brigade Commander and CO, were less amused than were the spectators when a couple old dried-up oranges rolled out of the 20 Pr and onto the road. the Gestetner ran wild again.

Happiness was not just in those things which accidentally or deliberately brought laughs. Happiness was and is the personal satisfaction of seeing, and being part of, proper military things happening the right way at the right time. It included being told by the Regimental Technical Adjutant to flush all water reservoirs in the Centurians with a solution of baking soda before going out on the summer concentration and having the Troop Sergeant say, "Our Troop did that two weeks ago". Happiness was being picked, from among twelve tank troops in the Regiment, to put on a Troop Shoot demonstration for the summer concentration. Happiness was having a tank gunner who, to win a bet with the Artillery Captain Range Officer, cut both vertical 2" x 4"s holding a shooting-in screen with two rounds of APDS at 1,000 yards. Happiness was being told, after the CO had observed every tank troop of the Regiment go through a troop fire and movement-cum tank-infantry co-op test of his own design, that your troop was the best-trained in the Regiment, and ready to go to war. Happiness was seeing somebody from the crew or troop getting a "command role" when their junior NCO course graduated. Happiness was seeing Hussar officers and NCOs go on Instructors' courses and achieve a B grading, which was Outstanding in those days. Happiness was when Hussar junior officers had a higher pass rate on their promotion exams (six in one week, all compulsory) than any other unit in the brigade or the Armoured Corps. Happiness was having wise and discreet sergeant-majors, "SQs" and sergeants who tactfully talked brash young captains and lieutenants away from pitfalls and ensured that the troops did not get screwed about while fledgling leaders matured.

Happiness was in day-to-day things. It was in having vehicles, radios and weapons continually maintained and serviceable at any hour of the day or night - ready to switch on and go without fuss. It was in having so ingenious a track plan and such good concealment in harbour that the squadron commander went around the position three times before dark without detecting your presence, and finally had to be brought in by a guide. It was in having every vehicle and gun log book up-to-date when the Battle Captain pulled a surprise inspection. It was in finding a route and getting the whole troop through a wood or across a swamp which some other troop or squadron "had tried and found impassible". It was in having the Adjutant inspect your Individual Training Records (forerunners of UERs) two days after a range practice and watching his disappointment as he found every score correctly entered, dated and signed off. It was in having an accurate Troop Book with everyone's number, trade qualifications, range records, medical category, family particulars, education and so on. It was in pulling into harbour at dusk, wet or dry, and seeing everything happen without any commands necessary - sentries out, range-cards made, last parade done on the vehicles, including the weapons and batteries, personal weapons cleaned, oiled and re-assembled, sentry and wireless watch rosters advised to all and supper put on to cook. Minimum noise, maximum concurrent activity and self-reliance on everyone's part - these preceded military management courses by quite a few years.

Hussars take things seriously. One time the Sergeants' Mess had draught Mossehead for Happy Hour (in those days, messes in New Brunswick had to buy at least 50% of "local" beer, as opposed to "foreign" beer from Quebec and Ontario). Just before closing time, Bruce Damery asked for a pint of Molson and was told that no bottled beer could be sold until the draught was all gone, by order of the A/RSM. Always a stickler for principle, Bruce took unto himself five pitchers of draught over the next four hours, drank his pint of Molson, and went to his tent to sleep. He arose at 0530, woke the A/RSM and invited him to go for a run. The latter refused.

A Squadron really came into its own in Egypt - 120 highly diverse characters, all potential court-martial suspects because of their irascible individualism, channelling their innumerable talents and boisterous good humour into a common direction under the shrewd human leadership of that exceptional officer Phil Neatby. The SSM was Howie Ferguson, the Ops O was Walt Murray and the AO was the Minstrel, Bill Weagle. What a trio! No one, including the Squadron Commander, was ever certain from day to day whether they were out to assume control of the UNEF, start a war with the Canadian Base Units, out-pace all the rest of the Canadian Army in everything whatsoever, embarrass Canada into pulling out of UNEF, cause a riot, get the Old Man sent home in chains, or what. Whenever the SSM smiled there was something afoot. When Bill Weagle looked serious and wouldn't talk to anyone for half an hour, a plot was being hatched. When the Ops O got Maj Neatby involved in one of the latter's philosophic discussions on military professionalism, it was apt to be a smoke screen. This practical approach was infectious. Rarely a day went by when one crew was not needling another, when one troop was not plotting how to "one-up" another, when the troop leaders and troop sergeants weren't figuring out some approach to endeavour to sell a bill of goods to SHQ, when the SQMS, Bing Geldart, was not figuring out how to circumvent the scale of issue to get a worthwhile quantity of whatever was needed from the Supply Company for the legitimate needs of the Squadron, when the SSM was not making the Contingent RSM look like a bumbling tumble-weed (which he was) and so on.

Even the Big Effendi (Maj Neatby) got into the act. He very quickly earned a niche as the best CO in the Canadian Contingent and among the multi-national arms units who shared our frontier-watching duties. They all looked up to the Squadron, even the highly professional 4th Guards (1st Rajputs) and 3rd Punjabs of the Indian Army.

Like every Sinai recce squadron, A Squadron learned to scrounge with flair. Eggs were scarce. Good meat was scarce. Ice cream was scarce. Coffee was scarce. The tea ration was very generous. Every Bedouin family in the desert had a few chickens. Black marketing was illegal. Looking after the Squadron is a moral obligation. Step One - take all excess pounds of tea out to the "Hudson's Bay", a little Bedouin trading post 15 miles inland. Trade the tea for several dozen fresh eggs. Keep enough eggs for the Squadron's needs. Step Two - take the surplus eggs to the Ice Cream Plant and

offer a good quantity to the Indian Service Corps who ran same, in exchange for full use of the Ice Cream Plant on Thursday. Step Three - take Chief Cook and a few helpers to scrub and disinfect Ice Cream Plant every Thursday morning. Spend the remainder of the day making about four times as much ice cream as the Squadron will need for a week. Step Four - contact all other messes in UNEF and offer fresh ice cream for barter. Step Five - send vehicle around to other messes on Friday to effect exchange of goods - a few sides of bacon from the Canadian Base, a few roasts of beef from the Yugoslavs, some delightful fresh coffee from the Brazilians, a case of fresh-frozen poultry from the Danors and so on. As a result, A Squadron, like all Canadian recce squadrons which preceded it to the Sinai, ate far better than any other contingent or headquarters, including the Canadian Base Headquarters. No wonder our visitors always showed up just before mealtime.

There, as with a tank squadron, happiness was in a legion of little things. It was there when Sgt Wilmot and his Transport Section won the UNEF Safe-Driving Award for the year. It was there when the Squadron SMG Team won the UNEF competition. It was there when Sgt Ward raised the first Canadian flag to fly over a Canadian military installation (this due to Time Zone differences). It was there when every last vehicle in the Squadron scored over 92% in a MTI (fore-runner of the current LMI) despite old vehicles, harsh terrain, constant dust and sand, dirty fuel, poor quality POL and a dearth of spare parts. It was seeing Tpr "Jed" Doyon, at the wheel of an old 3-ton Bedford truck loaded with four tons of fuel drums, drive with sure ease down the MSR when eleven consecutive days of rain had turned the northern Sinai into a quagmire. It was in having the Contingent Sr MO inspect the Squadron and outposts and say that it would be humanly impossible to achieve any increased standard of sanitation. It was in seeing Tpr J.C. Scott volunteering to co-drive the POL truck three days after being released from a hernia operation because he "couldn't just sit around while all the boys were working". It was in seeing Sig Smith and Tpr McNeil come first and second on a Canadian Contingent Junior NCO Course. It was in attending one of the Wednesday afternoon officer/Sr NCO training sessions and hearing an excellent analysis of 8 NBH operations in Italy given by A/Sgt Carl Oakley. It was in seeing Cpl Chesterman and Cpl Carter hit a series of home-runs, to beat the pants off UNEF Transport, to celebrate the afternoon of our UN Medals Parade Day. It was in sending Bill Weagle home to Canada for the Capt-to-Maj promotion exams and getting a wire back saying that he passed with Distinction. It was in having signallers, cooks and mechanics who were every bit as capable and as fanatically dedicated as were the rest of us. It was in having day-to-day squadron internal administration of a standard never surpassed. It was in hearing, day and night, a precise Voice Procedure never achieved in Canada. It was in seeing fieldcraft, navigation and recce troop movement in which carelessness could never be found. It was in having the best Chief Clerk (Wally Madison), the best Chief Cook (Charlie Cyr) and the best Chief Mechanic (Ssgt Malmsten) in the UNEF. It was in having LCpl Jim Faille, who was SHQ radio operator that

afternoon, behave with the aplomb and speed of an experienced Brigade Major in relaying SITREPs to the UNEF Commander, the Contingent Commander, UNEF Operations and UNEF MP after our southern outpost on the Wadi El Azariq had been mistakenly shot up by Egyptian soldiers chasing some Egyptian Police whose visit to the Frontier had not been advised to the Army. It was in having Sig Munro, on duty in the OP tower in the southern outpost, who remained at his set and kept on accurately reporting to SHQ until a jeep with a supplementary mast was rigged up below, even though a bullet coming through the wall has missed his arm by four inches. It was in having a patrol comprising Young Nedward (Sgt Ed Landry) driven by Little Billy Gorf (LCpl Bill Forgue) and Cpl Chesterman (now our SSM) driven by Tpr R.B. Duncan (later a Service Corps officer) go to the aid of the southern outpost when the shooting occurred. From the time the radio call was logged in at Rafah, it took their patrol 28 minutes to cover the 30 miles of desert trail and sand dunes from SHQ to the beleaguered 4 Troop. Some say the M151 jeep is unstable. It behaves pretty well for an expert driver!

Young officers think that military writing is an archaic instrument of torture designed to keep modern youth from chasing girls at night. Today's crop are not the first to complain. Take the case of Gene Lake. The big Newfoundlander was in B Squadron in Germany. Maj Catton instructed him to draft the Adm Instruction for the move to Hohne for gun camp. Gene spent the weekend composing his masterpiece. Confident of his staff duties, he took it in Monday morning for the Maj's blessing and signature. Old George Catton read a few paragraph headings and said, "How come you don't mention traffic control?" Back to the books for another evening of study and re-writing. Tuesday's comment was something like, "Where is the recovery plan?" On Wednesday, it was something like, "Do you think we might consider medical support enroute?" On Thursday, the OC wondered if "Maybe we should think of taking some two-holers and ablution benches if we're going to be there for two weeks", and so on. Two weeks and ten revisions later, B Squadron had an excellent Adm Instruction and Gene Lake had learned for life the lessons of planning and preparation.

Some showed genius at an early age. I was going upstairs one day and met that blonde beanpole who was President of the Audit Board, Maj Rick Falkner (affectionately known in the Regiment as "Old Yaller"), coming downstairs looking frustrated. On reaching the top of the stairs, whom should I see skipping down the hall but a smiling Jim Fox. I asked him if he was turning queer. "No", he said, "I just foot-worked my way out of the audit of the Officers' Mess".

There is a charming frankness about the Hussars. One night, I was in a "hootchie" watching a cribbage match between Tpr "Mad Hatter" Beales and Tpr Dave Collins. Collins had the audacity to win three games in a row. The Hat looked up and said, "Davey, I wish you'd go to the Thousand Islands and spend a winter on each".

There are still some people who misunderstand discipline. It is NOT a medieval heritage of hangings, floggings and starvation in jail. It IS the ultimate in cooperation. When we admire the intricate team-work of a champion athletic team, we are in fact acknowledging their team discipline. When a symphony orchestra performs a difficult composition flawlessly, that is discipline. It is even so in the military - every member doing his own job to the best of his ability every day, trying at the same time to do a little extra so that something will go a little better for someone else, or for everyone else, in the unit. Military discipline is no more than mutual trust and unselfish cooperation by every member of the unit for the total well-being of all. Put in that light, it ceases to be a burden and becomes a reliable and enjoyable way of life. As in any organization, the Regiment needs a command structure to ensure that all the problems are assessed and that all the needs and challenges are met. This is a boon, for otherwise every single person would have the horrible and impossible task of looking after everything.

We cannot all become clan chiefs. To the Rads, Woottons, Quinns, Camerons, St. Aubins, Mitchells, Beveridges, Kells, Lightburns, Billings, Chandlers, Shaws, Olsons, Levesques, MacLeans, Geldarts, Pushkarenkos, Dziobas, Partridges, Messers and Prouses of the world, we respect your accession to our Regimental Thrones and thank you for wise, constant and unselfish leadership. To those Hussar officers who have gone on to, or will, become generals, we have full confidence in your continued excellent skill and wisdom. You are better leaders for having been Hussars. We are ready to follow you in war. To those among us who have the ability to reach the top, good luck and Godspeed. We know that your Hussar background will stand you in excellent stead. For the hundreds of the rest of us, regimental life in the Hussars still offers more satisfaction than anything else imaginable. This is the greatest fraternity in the world. It is so because of the people in it. That is what makes the regimental system invincible and timeless. Only you can keep it ticking. Let us soldier on.

Recollections are guaranteed to be at least 80% accurate, give or take a dozen.

ANSWERS/RESPONSE

AFV RECOGNITION TEST/IDENTIFICATION DES VEHICULES BLINDES

1. AMX 10 RC.
2. OT 64.
3. Chieftain.
4. BMD.
5. AMX 30.
6. BRDM 2 being serviced by a RUS TM 65 Rapid Decontamination System.

THE QUEEN'S YORK RANGERS

(1st American Regiment) (RCAC)



DESCRIPTION

A shield, surmounted by a crown, and surrounded by a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks knotted at the point of the shield; on the shield the description "Queens Rangers 1st American" in Roman capitals, one word to a line.

THE QUEENS YORK RANGERS
(1st AMERICAN REGIMENT) (RCAC)

BATTLE HONOURS

Northwest Canada 1885, Ypres 1915, Festubert 1915, Mount Sorrel, Somme 1916, 18, Flers-Courcelette, Thiepval, Ancre Heights, Arras 1917, 18, Vimy 1917, Hill 70, Pilchken, Langemark, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, St Quentin, Amiens, Scarpe, Drocourt-Quéant, Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Cambrai 1918, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders 1915-18, perpetuates the 20th, 35th, 127th and 220th Battalions, Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919.

HEADQUARTERS: Toronto, Ontario

ORGANIZATION

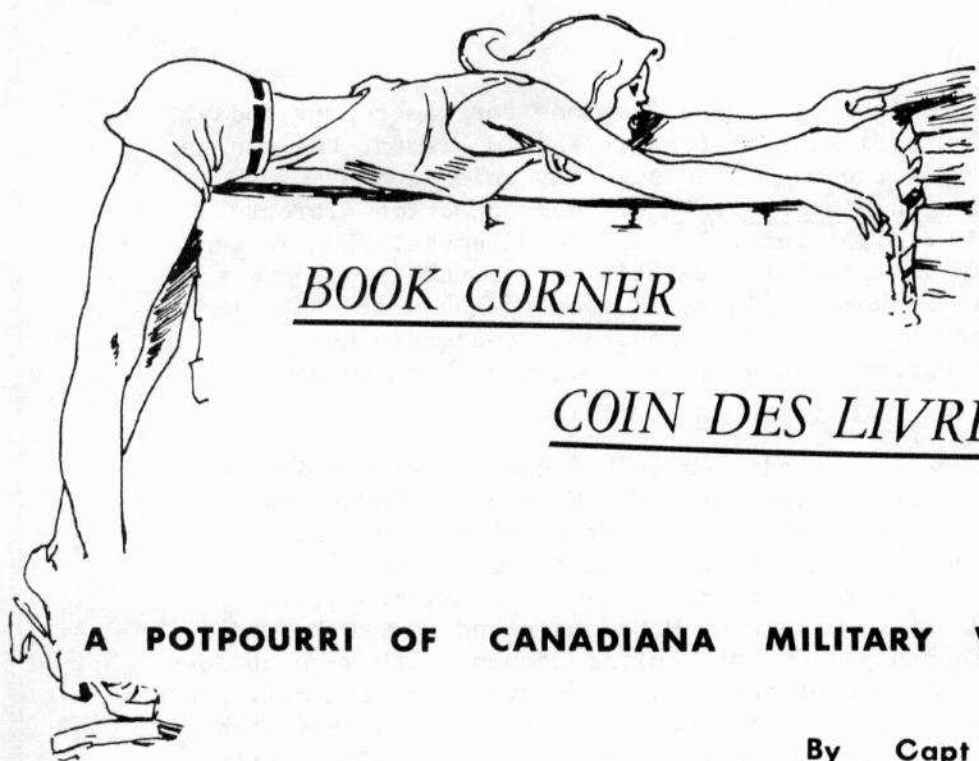
The Regiment originated on 14 September 1866, when the "12th York Battalion of Infantry" was authorized to be formed from five independent companies. It was redesignated: "12th Battalion of Infantry or York Rangers", 10 May 1872; "12th Regiment York Rangers", 8 May 1900, "The York Rangers", 1 May 1920. It was reorganized as a two battalion regiment on 1 January 1922. On 1 August 1925 the second battalion, The York Rangers was amalgamated with the West Toronto Regiment (auth on 15 January 1921) to form "The Queen's Rangers" which was redesignated "The Queen's Rangers, 1st American Regiment", 1 December 1927. The York Rangers and The Queen's Rangers 1st American Regiment, were amalgamated on 15 December 1936 to form "The Queen's Rangers (1st American Regiment) (M.G.)" It was converted and redesignated: "The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment)", 5 March 1942; "25th Armoured Regiment (Queen's York Rangers)", 19 June 1947; "The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment)", 4 February 1949; "The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment)(RCAC)" on 19 May 1958.

HISTORY

Early History. The Regiment provided four companies for the York and Simcoe Provisional Battalion for service in North West Canada, 1885. During the South African War, 1899-1902, it contributed volunteers to the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

First World War, 1914-1919. The Regiment contributed volunteers to the 4th Battalion, CEF, upon its formation in September 1914, and later recruited for the 20th, 35th, 81st, 83rd, 127th, and 220th Battalions, CEF. The 20th Battalion served with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division from 15 September 1915 until the armistice. Two VC's were won by members of the 20th Battalion; Sgt F. Hobson on 16 August 1917 and Lt W.L. Algie on 11 October 1918. The 127th Battalion became the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops shortly after its arrival in France on 13 January 1917. The 35th and 220th Battalions provided reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field.

Second World War, 1939-1945. Details of the Regiment were placed on active service on 1 September 1939 for local protective duties. The Regiment mobilized "The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment)" on 5 March 1942. This unit served in Canada until disbanded on 15 October 1943. A 2nd Battalion served in the Reserve Army.



BOOK CORNER

COIN DES LIVRES

A POTPOURRI OF CANADIANA MILITARY WRITING

By **Capt JM Snell**

It was not all that long ago that the writing of Canada's military history was synonymous with the names Stanley, Stacey or Nicholson. The last part of this decade has changed all of that. In terms of the Canadian publishing sphere, the last half of the 1970s has experienced a minor explosion in the field of military writing. Once obscure names and facts, often hidden by those dedicated collectors of Canadiana militaria (to coin an awful phrase), are now nationally significant.

In the next few lines, I hope to present an overview of some of the better writings of the last few years. As with any broad subject, it is often difficult to definitely categorize the parts of the whole. Nevertheless with reckless abandon, I will attempt to look at various types of these military missives.

Undoubtedly the most difficult type of military history to cover is that of a period such as a war or a century. Perhaps the most important piece to come forth in the past five years is the history of Canadian military involvement in the Second World War. Out of the Shadows: Canada in the Second World War by WAB Douglas and Brereton Greenhous (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1977, hardcover) is a bold and successful experiment. Although some areas of the War are all too quickly covered, the book with excellent pictorial support, examines in some depth all facets of Canada's wartime programme. For those of us who believed that Canada's mobilization into a fulltime and equal partnership with the Allies was easy and professionally handled, this book will be upsetting. Douglas and Greenhous suggest that our all too glorified transition into a significant power was both painful and slow. "The army went through agonies of command problems and performed less well than the public realized or some historians have admitted. The navy also experienced terrible growing pains when large scale expansions began in 1940, and until 1943 it was unable to hold its own in the war at sea. It was also not until 1943 that the air force was able to provide overseas units of greater than wing strength". (pp 249). Out of the Shadows is a must for all students of military history.

The area of biography is a much more rewarding one for the reader today. One of the primary functions of a biography is that it should present the man as part of his era and not just simply the man. The superbly told account of General Sir William Otter in The Canadian General by Desmond Morton (Toronto: Hakkert, 1974, 423pp, casebound, \$12.95) fulfills that requirement. Des Morton writes with some sympathy of his grandfather's militia career that started with the Fenian raids, continued through Wolseley's expedition to the West and culminated in his appointment as the first Canadian general. (Generals have a tendency to dominate military biography - that will come as a shock to some readers).

Professor RH Roy continues this tradition in his Biography of Major General George Pearkes. For Most Conspicuous Bravery (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1977, 388pp, casebound) is a most sympathetic presentation of a brave and significant Canadian. This volume is crammed full of details of the life of George Pearkes. However, one or two areas are rather quickly skipped over. One wonders how serious was the friction between McNaughton and Pearkes? Did Pearkes really accept his appointment as GOC of Pacific Command with such obvious enthusiasm? After all, Pearkes was one of the very few senior Canadian officers who had experience beyond battalion level prior to the war. Nevertheless, the biography is a welcome addition to our limited repertoire of "generals as heroes".

Placed against these two general biographies are two paperbacks. Bruce West, the noted newspaperman, has woven an interesting tale of pilots during the Second World War. The Man who Flew Churchill (Toronto: Totem, 1976, 201pp, paperback, \$1.95) is the story of Churchill's pilots on his now famous global flights as well as being a tale of the development of Ferry Command during the War. The voyages aboard the converted Liberator flown by an American with a Canadian crew working for the British were a significant part of Churchill's strategy in dealing with his allies. It is great reading in the familiar West style. The second work is autobiographical. Ben Dunkelman's autobiography, Dual Allegiance (Scarborough: Signet, 1978, 275pp, paperback, \$2.25), is a personal account of his participation in two very different wars. Dunkelman is a Canadian and a Jew. The soldier's skills developed in a Canadian uniform during the Second World War were later utilised in 1948 during the War of Independence in Israel. Although not quite the swashbuckler advertised on the cover, it is an "intriguing tale".

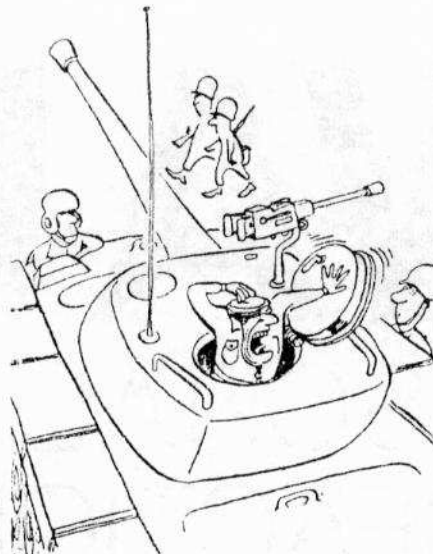
Nineteenth century military history has not gone unnoticed. Des Morton really established his name with the appearance of The Last War Drum in 1972 (Toronto: Hakkert, 193pp, casebound, \$9.00). In his simple style, the North West Campaign of 1885 is presented in fluent detail. Complemented by a large number of original period photographs taken by Captain James Peters, both Middleton and Riel receive relatively objective treatment. His conclusion is a simple one: "For the survivors the campaign went on... Only the vanquished kept their silence. They had won every battle save the last" (pp69). Roy MacLaren has made a habit of giving Canadians glimpses of their participation in some rather obscure international events. His first work covered the Canadian involvement in Siberia 1918-1919. Canadians on the Nile 1882-1898 (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1978, 184pp, casebound), may overplay the significance of the Canadian contingent but it does uncover a little known Imperial involvement. The incredible scheme

of "Chinese" Gordon in the relief of Khartoum draws together a familiar list of Canadian actors including Garnet Wolseley and the Denison brothers (Clarence, Frederick, Charles, George, John Septimus and maybe one or two others). The belief that Canadian voyageurs of the late nineteenth century who bore no resemblance to the originals could be the all saving answer to this uniquely Victorian expedition seems rather absurd today. It makes delightful reading even if the military connection is rather tenuous.

Quickly in passing I will mention two other types of books - the Regimental history and the coffee table picture history. Three recent regimental histories are of note. JL McWilliams and RJ Steel, The Suicide Battalion (Edmonton: Hurtig, 1978, 226pp, casebound, \$11.50), is a readable history of the 46th Canadian Infantry Battalion (South Saskatchewan) during the First World War. B Greenhous, Semper Paratus (Hamilton: RHLI Regimental Association, 1977, 446pp, Casebound \$16.95, paperback \$12.95), recounts the composite history of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry from Ridgeway until today. Finally, WB Fraser, Always a Stratchona (Calgary, Comprint, 1976, 252pp, casebound, \$12.00), is the story of a famous western cavalry regiment.

Of the coffee table books, Ken Bell, Not in Vain (Toronto: U of T Press, 1973, 144pp, Casebound) has not received the acclaim due. A simple but moving look of the Second World War in Europe, Not in Vain can usually be found relegated to the discount table of most bookstores. The second book, Peter Robertson, Relentless Verity (Toronto: U of T Press, 1973, 234pp, casebound \$10.95), is a dramatic look at Canadian Military Photographers since 1885 and is published as part of the excellent Public Archives of Canada Series.

In the last few paragraphs I have endeavoured to highlight some of the Canadian military works that I have found significant in their contribution to the development of a large and valuable source of secondary documents that the student of Canadian military history can turn to. Several others have undoubtedly been overlooked. A couple have been ignored since they do nothing more than capitalize on the current interest. Some of the above selections will be challenged as contributing anything to the field; but even if they do not, they are good, enjoyable reading.



"Now stay open!"

WANTED

ARTICLES

for the

ARMOUR

BULLETIN

REWARD

PERSONAL
SATISFACTION