

**ARMOUR**

**BULLETIN**

**DES BLINDES**



**VOLUME 13**

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*REDACTEUR - Capitaine P.A. Donnelly, C.D.*

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# ARMOUR BULLETIN

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

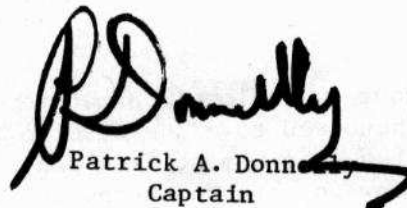
The Corps' professional publication, the Armour Bulletin, is produced by the Armour School at the Combat Training Centre for distribution of some 900 copies.

In this issue we are presenting a group of articles which we hope will stimulate your interests about varying aspects of the Armoured Corps.

We have articles from our past history, some about present day real problems and others about recommendations for the future.

I feel that the Bulletin should always have something to say and if it is going to keep on saying it, it must have the support of its members.

So if you have an idea for a story or the results of a study which can make this Bulletin that much more interesting to read - submit it today for Volume 14. You have everything to gain by sharing your knowledge - Someone said "Knowledge is Power!" Well, it isn't worth anything as long as it is kept bottled up inside. So give it a try! In conclusion, I would like to thank Mrs Frances Smith for her cooperation and patience in making the production of this Bulletin possible.

  
Patrick A. Donnelly  
Captain  
Editor



## A Message

From

## The Colonel Commandant

As your new Colonel Commandant of The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps I am honoured to add a word to the Armour Bulletin. Last October I accepted the appointment from General Ned Amy and it is my intention to follow in his footsteps and continue the work of strengthening the Corps.

General Worthington, whom many of you knew, spoke to the graduating class at the Armoured Corps School in 1963 and stated that; manpower is not the measure of greatness in our military profession. He mentioned that there are three vital and interdependent essentials which have stood the test of time. They are the quality of our training, the quality of our equipment and the quality of our leadership; and the greatest of these is leadership.

I intend to keep these three essentials in mind and I trust that you will do likewise, so that together we can continue building the Corps on a strong foundation. My aim is to visit the Armour School and all of the Militia and Regular Regiments during my tour of duty, in order to discuss and find solutions to our mutual problems to improve the quality of our training, equipment and leadership.

In our profession of arms we are more fortunate than most, in our belief in a strong Corps family. The corner-stone of this family is what we call the Regiment, and the Regimental System. It is the regimental traditions which guide our destiny to overcome obstacles in both peace and war. When morale is high and men believe in one another, leading is relatively simple. When we talk about traditions, I believe we are talking about our regimental badges, our discipline and standards, our guidons and roll of honour, regimental institutions and the way we do things in the regiment, which identifies each family group and sets us apart within the Corps. Each Regiment, in a sense by being different, but still believing in the same spirit, adds strength and respect to the Corps family. I hope we have not cast the Regimental System aside, since it has proven itself in battle and I doubt that it is replaceable. We have often heard that, "the old have wisdom and understanding". Maybe it's time to slow down and listen.

BRIG GEN S.V. Radley-Walters,  
CMM, DSO, MC, CD

## BIOGRAPHY

### OF

#### BRIGADIER-GENERAL SYDNEY VALPY RADLEY-WALTERS, CMM, DSO, MC, CD

Brigadier-General Radley-Walters was born in Gaspé, Quebec in January 1920. He graduated from the University of Bishop's College in 1940, and was commissioned in the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers) in October of that year.

During the Second World War he was awarded both the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross for his outstanding leadership and gallantry as a squadron commander. He commanded the Sherbrooke Fusiliers in the Occupational Force and later brought them back to Canada.

After the war he served on the staff of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School at Camp Borden as chief instructor, and later was a liaison officer with the U.S. Army.

In September 1952 he was appointed to the directing staff of the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, Ont. He served in senior staff appointments at Headquarters, 1st Canadian Division, from October 1955 to March 1957. On April 1, 1957 BGEN Radley-Walters became commanding officer of the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), serving with the unit at Camp Gagetown and in Germany.

He attended the NATO Defence College in Paris from February to July, 1961. On graduation he became Lieutenant-Colonel (logistics) at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), also in France.

He left SHAPE in July, 1962, to take up the duties at Camp Borden, Ont, as commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School. In Aug 1965 he attended National Defence College, Kingston, until July 1966 and then took up the appointment of Director-General Training and Recruiting at Canadian Forces Headquarters, Ottawa.

BGEN Radley-Walters was promoted to that rank in June 1968 and became commander of the 2 Combat Group, and Commander CFB Petawawa, Ont.

On July 29, 1971, he was appointed commander of CFB Gagetown, N. B.

He retired from the Canadian Armed Forces on 30 Dec 74 and resides in Wilno, Ontario.



DIRECTOR OF ARMOUR'S FOREWORD

During the first week of April this year, the Regimental COs and Armour staffs from NDHQ and FMC got together as the Armour Board, to rewrite the Armour Appreciation. For those of you who know little about this document, it essentially spells out where we hope to go over the next few years. It seeks to link up the present situation in the Corps with the long range plan as detailed in the Armour Study 1985-1995. The Appreciation, which is now referred to as "Armour 1981-1985" reviews our developments and problems in the areas of training, personnel and equipment. The major deduction from the 1981 Armour Board is significant. To adequately address our problem areas, let alone solve them, we need TANKS in all of our regular force regiments! Equipping regular units with main battle tanks (even a squadron's worth for now) would take the strain off the limited resources at the Armour School and the Regiments. We could develop and maintain a more appropriate level of individual, crew and unit "Armour" expertise and develop some depth for our reinforcement/augmentation tasks. Cougar has helped, but will never replace a tank! Having tanks in Canada would also release a number of Cougars to the Reserves, thereby putting our Militia Regiments in a more viable state.

Tanks for Canada; that is our quest! I recommend the reading of Armour 1981-1985 to all officers and senior NCOs in the Corps. It represents a discussion of view which is not only healthy, but necessary.

This Armour Bulletin is another means of airing our views and sharing important information with others in the Corps. If we are to call ourselves professionals we all must continually seek to review the past, improve the present and plan for the future. The Armour Bulletin offers a superb platform for such endeavours. Regrettably the response in the Corps could be improved. I would like to see submissions from more of you, particularly from those of you in the Militia, in RSS and on staff.

Get involved. On s'engage et puis on voit.

Col C. Milner, CD



## CDN ARMOUR SCHOOL VISITS US ARMOUR SCHOOL

By Capt Patrick Donnelly

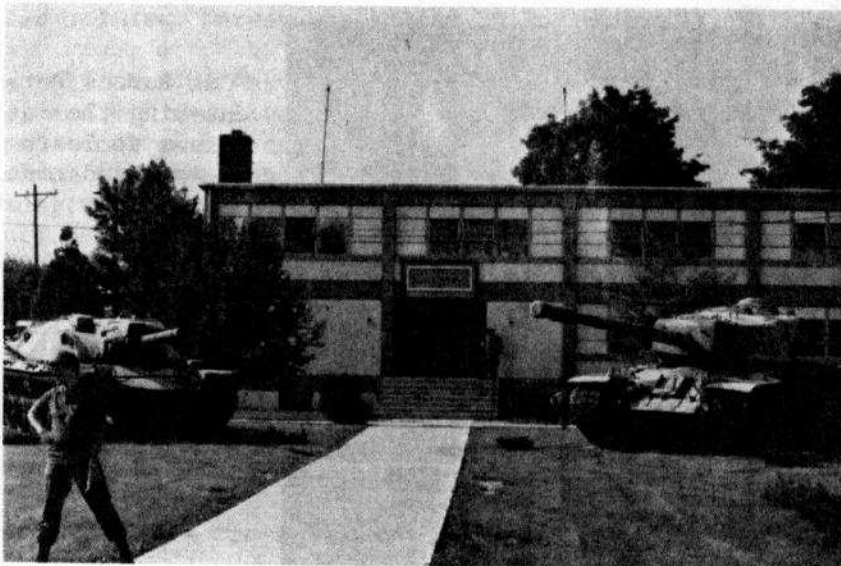


From 2-5 Dec 1980 thirty-seven lucky Canadian Forces personnel from the Armour School based at CFB Gagetown had the pleasure of getting a first hand look at the US Army Armour Centre at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Their first impression was size and numbers of everything. There were training Brigades, hundreds of tanks and thousands of personnel. From Gaffey Hall where we received a warm welcome by BG John L. Ballantyne Assistant Commandant through Boudinat Hall (Command, Staff and Doctrine and NCO Academy Briefing), Holder Complex (a huge Comms, D&M and Gunnery training facility), Skidgel Hall (Weapons Department), Patton Museum (History of US Armour Corps), Post Exchange (A sort of Canex), Marshall Hall (Maintenance Department), Boatwright Facility (2nd line maintenance hangar) and Wilcox Range (XM-1 tank, Himag testbed area) they answered all our questions and were delighted by our keen interest in their profession.

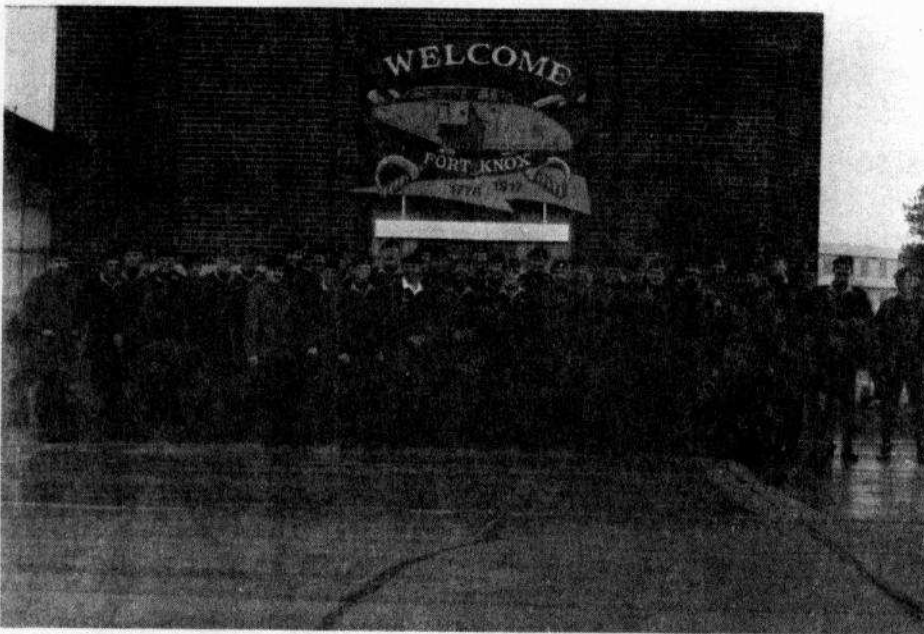
Can you imagine 20,000 military personnel on one base with 10,000 civilian employees, a Maintenance Brigade, a tracked vehicle that does over 70 m.p.h. with a 75mm automatic cannon.

Seventeen electrically operated cutaway M-60 tank turrets for use on the miniature range. We even got a close look at the Russian T-62 tank and the brand new XM-1 American tank with its 1500 horsepower and 105mm gun. Would you believe a skeleton that smokes and tells jokes for use as a training aid. A revolving classroom built on a navy gun turret.

Upon return with the US Air Force in a C-130 Hercules from Military Airlift Command (By Mac Airlines) based in Little Rock, Arkansas we touched down twice at Fredericton Airport - I mean both physically and mentally after a rewarding and exhilarating experience.



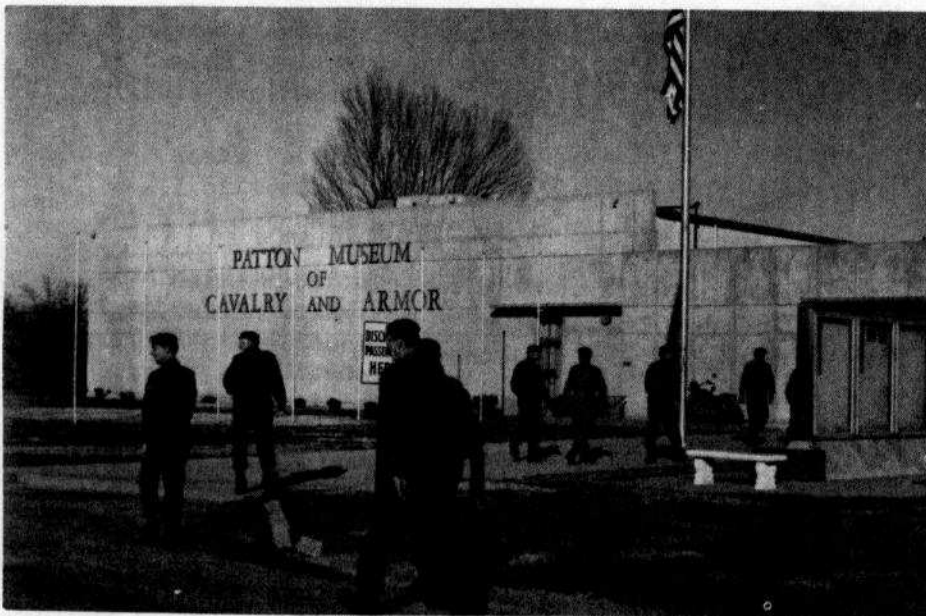
HQ 194th Armd  
Brigade displaying  
(L-R) MBT-70 and  
M103.



"Thirty-seven personnel from the Canadian Armour School at Standiford Field, Fort Knox, Kentucky, U.S.A."



"The XM-1 or General Abrahams tank with its 1500 HP engine and 105 MM gun".



"Cdn Forces Personnel entering the Patton Museum to learn about US Armoured history".



Brigadier H.M.W. Harvey, VC, MC, CD, CdeG

Brigadier Frederick Maurice Watson Harvey, recipient of the Victoria Cross, the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre and one of Canada's military heroes of the First World War, passed away in Calgary on 21 August 1980.

Brigadier F.M.W. Harvey was born in Athboy, County Meath, Ireland on September 1, 1888. He graduated from L'Ecole du Science in Dublin, in 1908 and shortly thereafter immigrated to Canada. In 1911, he bought a 1,100 acre ranch at Fort MacLeod, Alberta.

Brigadier Harvey married Miss Winnifred Lillian Patterson of Fort MacLeod on 4 March 1914. Mrs Harvey's father was a member of the NWMP and later became a member of the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton, Alberta. The only son of Brigadier and Mrs. Harvey was killed in World War II.

In 1915, F.M.W. Harvey enlisted in the Canadian Mounted Rifles in Fort MacLeod, and was sent overseas with the cavalry. He was promoted through the ranks and received his commission as a Lieutenant. In 1916, Lt. Harvey was posted from the Canadian Mounted Rifles to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). While serving with the (Lord Strathcona's Horse - Royal Canadians Regiment) as a troop leader in C Squadron, Lt Harvey won the Victoria Cross for bravery.

On 27 March, 1917, the final objective of a series of attacks made by the Canadian Cavalry Brigade was reached. In the evening, attacks were prepared

against the German-occupied high ground around the villages of Guyencourt and Grehaussart Wood. At 4:30 p.m. the Artillery opened fire and continued until 5:15, when they lifted their barrage beyond the objectives to allow the attacking troops to move in. A blinding snowstorm which had briefly delayed the attack eased off, and "C" and "A" Squadrons of Lord Strathcona's Horse moved forward in open order. At first they were shelled: then, as they drew closer, they came under fire from German machine guns. It was here that Lieutenant F.M.W. Harvey distinguished himself and won his Victoria Cross.

The Strathconas, with Guyencourt in view, had charged onto a ridge on the left front of that village, where they were confronted by machine guns and strongly wired positions. They then swung to the right, rode at the northwest corner of the village, and won the partial shelter of its walls.

It was at this point that Lieutenant Harvey performed the conspicuous deed of valour that was recognized by the highest award:

He was in command of the leading troop of the charging Strathconas, riding well in front of his men. He was close to the edge of the village when, by the failing light, he discovered a deadly menace to his command set fairly across his course - a wired trench containing a machine gun and a strong garrison. He swung from his saddle and sprinted straight at the gun, firing his revolver as he ran. He reached the triple entanglement and hurdled it, shot the machine gunner and jumped on the gun.

The man at the gun must have lost his nerve and his wits in the face of that amazing, swift frontal assault: his hands must have fumbled, misguided by his flinching brain: we know that his gun jammed.

As a result of this action the Germans were pushed back into the fringes of the Hindenburg Line.

The Regiment woke early on the morning of 28 March to be greeted with the news that the key position of Montdidier had fallen during the night, that Amiens was threatened, and that the Regiment had orders to move at 4:00 a.m. They travelled all day wondering what was happening and seeing evidence of confusion everywhere. At one point a patrol under Lieutenant Harvey passed through the French infantry lines to charge a party of Germans in the village of Fontaine. Surprised at seeing horsemen galloping towards them, the enemy immediately withdrew in confusion. Fearing an ambush if he proceeded further and seeing French infantry coming up in what he imagined was his support, Harvey began to withdraw when, to his surprise, he found himself and his patrol surrounded and placed under guard by the French troops, who believed them Germans in disguise. They were only released after Harvey interviewed the

French divisional commander,

In due course, Lieutenant Harvey, VC, received the French Croix de Guerre for his work in clearing the village.

On 30 March 1917 2nd Troop under Lt Harvey was the advance guard for C Squadron.

About 250 yards from the corner of Moreuil Wood, Harvey's men came upon four or five Germans looting a French transport wagon, and "did them in". As they reached the northeast corner they came under fire, dismounted, and moved into the woods to engage their tormentors.

Lt Harvey remained in the northeast corner of the Wood as a fire base while Lt. Flowerdew and the remainder of "C" Squadron began their momentous ride. The action at Moreuil Wood had gained much needed time for the allies which was now paying off.

What had been a gap, and threatened to become an irreparable rupture between the British and French forces, was now being seated. Reinforcements were arriving.

The Germans didn't regain their balance until 1 April, when a last despairing effort was made to reach Amiens. It was too late. As a result of that battle, Lt Harvey was awarded the MC and a fellow Lieutenant was awarded the VC.

Lt Harvey continued to serve with the Strathcona's throughout the remainder of the First World War.

He was promoted to Captain and returned to Calgary with the Strathcona's at the end of the First World War. Captain Harvey then served at Aldershot, England and at the Royal Military College in Kingston until he returned to Calgary for further Regimental duty in 1927. While serving with the Regiment as Captain and Major he won the Guide's Cup on four occasions. The Guide's Cup was a demanding 15 mile cross country compass race with 6 to 8 jumps that tested both the rider's and horse's abilities and fitness.

He also directed the Regimental Polo team to victory in the Alberta, and Western Canada Championships in 1934.

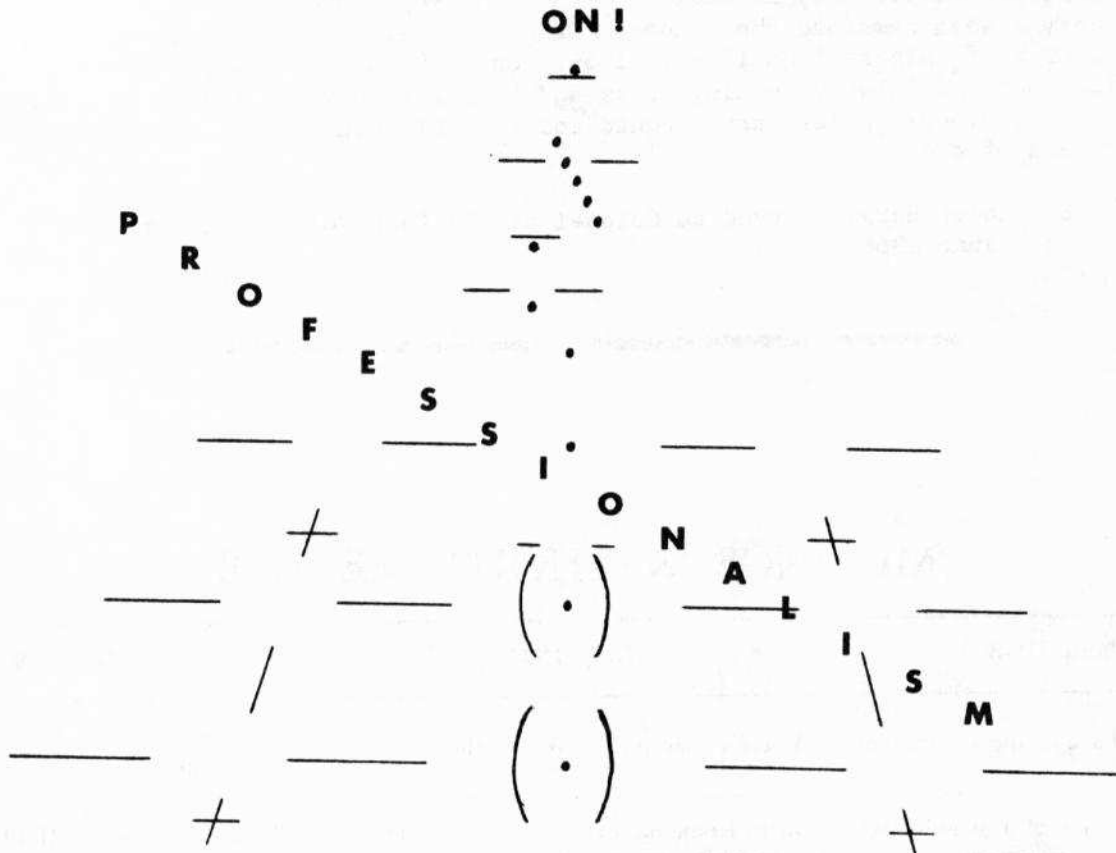
After being promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, F.M.W. Harvey assumed command of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) on 15 December, 1938. He commanded the Regiment until 20 July, 1940 when he became Commandant of Currie Barracks. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commander of the 13th Alberta Military District. He held this position until 1946, when he retired after a long and most gratifying career in the Canadian Army which spanned 31 years.

During retirement, Brigadier and Mrs. Harvey travelled extensively but Calgary always remained their home. Brigadier Harvey lived in the Chinook Park area of Calgary from 1949 to 1959. In 1959, he moved approximately 10 miles south of Calgary to Lloyd Lake and bought some land so that he could keep horses. Brigadier Harvey owned and rode his own horses until he reached 85 years of age.

Brigadier Harvey served as Colonel of the LdSH(RC) from 3 September 1958 to 3 June 1966.

## MUSINGS WITHOUT METHOD

England 1943	Italy 1944	N.W.E. 1945
Don't tell me we have to dig slit trenches?	Where's that pick and shovel?	These tools should be worth at least a hundred guilders.
Off to London on leave! I wonder what kind of girl I'll meet this time . . .	Off to Rome on leave! I wonder what kind of girl I'll meet this time . . .	Off to Paris on leave! If all reports are true . . .
Army cooking is terrible.	Army cooking is terrible.	Army cooking is terrible.
We troopers are badly underpaid. Now if I was a corporal . . .	We corporals are badly underpaid. Now if I was a sergeant . . .	We sergeants are badly underpaid. Now if I was a sergeant-major . . .
I write more letters than I receive.	I write more letters than I receive.	I write more letters than I receive.
This is a good billet. Only 45 minutes from London.*	This is a good billet. The walls are all stone and three feet thick.	This is a good billet. The only building in town with a roof on it.
If I had ten pounds I'd take a week's leave.	If I had an extra pair of boots I'd take a week's leave.	If I had a carton of cigarettes I'd take a week's leave.
Shell—Traverse left—Steady—On—500—Men—Fire!	There they go! SHOOT!!	Don't fire. We'll take 'em prisoner.
This war will be over by the end of the year.	This war will probably go on 'til 1970.	Well! It's about time!



ARE YOU ON TARGET?

in contact with junior leaders and men? Do you know your men? (personal matters that are a problem to a man are problems for a leader).

- ..... supervising subordinates when instructing or in command to ensure correct methods and current information is being passed on - not restricting initiative but available to aid and correct as required?
- ..... maximum time is spent on vehicles, "the guts of the Corps", rather than pushing paper and hanging around offices. Training is accomplished in lecture buildings, vehicle parks and hangars, indoor ranges and most importantly on vehicles in the field.

..... utilizing all available facilities to ensure training is as realistic as possible:

driving and maintenance training on vehicles by all crew members;  
radio exercises incorporating basic fault finding;  
weapon handling and safety precautions on all weapons;  
map using and judging distance over varying terrain with and without the use of optics;  
AFV recognition training using slides, photos and models;  
NBCW training, checking mask fitting and maintenance;  
crew and troop tactical exercises, both "live" and "dry";  
use of dormant gunnery aids - eg. target gear at Wainwright, Meaford and Gagetown that can add realism to training by the use of portable moving and pop up target gear.

..... Upgrading crewmen using formal/informal instructional methods that will give invaluable instructional experience to our junior leaders, including the young troop officer, rather than using the "select few" experts in various subjects.

..... GMT continuation emphasizing skill at arms and regular use of personal weapons.

..... Proper preparation of Performance Evaluation Reports stressing "best rated highest" (an aid to promotion boards would be a reflection of inter unit standing - eg. first of 20 MCpls in the regiment, second of 20 etc.)

..... Counselling done on a regular basis.

..... Disciplinary and training problems - thorough investigation to determine "root" causes and the corrective measures to be taken: IS IT? poor instruction/poor example/lack of supervision/poor orders - "ANY ORDER THAT CAN BE MISUNDERSTOOD WILL BE MISUNDERSTOOD"; nervousness or inability to readily master new skills or knowledge; peer associations; excessive abuse of alcohol or drug experimentation/use; honest mistake.

REMEMBER: OFTEN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A GOOD LEADER  
AND AN AVERAGE ONE IS JUST GIVING A DAMN.



The word uniform comes from the Latin "unus", meaning "one" and "forma", meaning "form". Literally translated they mean having one homogenous form, or in the colloquial "all alike".

There are a few cases in ancient history where uniforms were known, notable among them being those of Rome, in the days of the Caesars, and the white and crimson of Hannibal's Spanish regiments. However, they were not common, most fighting men merely wearing their workaday clothing when called to go to war. This accounts for the importance of the colours and standards which were used as rallying points.

The first permanent regiment was raised by Henry VII and were Yeoman of the Guard. They wore the first official uniform, consisting of red coats with the Tudor Rose embroidered on the front and back of the coats, a felt hat, and breeches and gaiters, very similar to their present dress.

In 1645 parliament raised the first standing army, and the whole army was dressed in red coats, with distinctive colours of regimental facings grey brèeches and a flat felt hat. For service in Ireland the colour of the coats was changed to russet.

Cavalry units were late in achieving uniformity in dress chiefly because, unlike the infantry, they were led by the wealthy rather than officered by professional officers. These wealthy commanders exercised their rights to a distinctive dress for their units.

The head dress changed from the helmet, to the felt hat, then to the cocked hat, still worn by senior naval officers, and civilian dignitaries, in a modified form.

By 1756 a lot of the flaps, lace and loops had disappeared, but the buttons and guard stripes, used in lieu, are still to be found in the dress uniforms of many units.

In 1780 the coats, which up to that time, had, had long full skirts were shortened drastically, and it became necessary for the greatcoats to be taken into wear.

By 1800-20 the white or grey breeches, and gaiters gave way to trouser and the ankle boot. Helmets which had disappeared from the infantry around 1650-70, and for the cavalry thirty years later, were re-introduced. (Sounds familiar).

Dress regulations of 1855 replaced the helmet with the shako and abolished the epaulette. Again in 1880 regulations replaced the shako with the spiked helmet.

After the South African War, the Indian khaki was taken into wear, after it was changed to the olive drab mixture in wear in the late 50's.

The first recorded instance of British War Medals issued goes back to the year 1588, when they were awarded by Queen Elizabeth 1st, as "Armanda Medals". Early medals were only bestowed on senior Officers, but in 1650 the Dunbar Medal was issued to all ranks, this award however was made in sizes of gold, silver and bronze, according to rank. Britishers who fought at the Nile and at Trafalgar received medals, gifts of two gentlemen named Davison and Boulton, and the authorities gave permission for them to be worn.

In 1816 there came into being the first war service medals as we know them to-day. They were known as the Waterloo Medal, made of silver and with the same pattern to all ranks, this custom, with few exceptions, has been followed ever since.

In 1849 it was definitely laid down that all who served in a campaign were to receive a medal even if they actually saw no fighting. The first issued under this order was the Punjab Medal.

It is said that medals were originally suspended from a gold chain, but history records that coloured ribbon was issued with the Waterloo Medal.

When the granting of medals for war service became an established practice, a single engagement was marked by the award of silver clasp or bar for attachment to the ribbon of the medal granted. This system continued until the end of the South African War 1899-1902.

Many people believe that a son may wear his dead fathers medals, not true. Medals awarded posthumously are always given to the next of kin for retention.



"Mud in Gagetown,  
Impossible!"

# Lessons of The Great War

## TACTICAL

1. The greatest lesson to be gathered from the world war is that no attack in modern war is feasible or likely to succeed against an enemy in position unless his resisting power has already been paralyzed either by:
  - a. some form of surprise; and
  - b. preponderating fire, powerful enough to produce the effect of surprise.
2. The offensive is by far the most difficult operation of war in modern conditions, and because it is towards its solution that all measures of reorganization or re-equipment should primarily be directed. Reduced to its simplest terms, the problem is how to knock out or neutralize the unlocated machine gun.
3. The introduction and increase of the AFV is an attractive alternative because covering fire can be produced without elaborate fire plans and because it speeds up the whole tempo of the attack. Moreover, the fact that the tank combines the power to blind and penetrate the defence - the roles formerly allotted to artillery and to infantry and cavalry respectively - must in suitable country enormously simplify the organization of attack.
4. The necessity for providing infantry with effective protection against AFV's is of vital importance if the enemy is likely to be equipped with such weapons.
5. The key to the problem of converting an assault/attack into a breakthrough appears to be a highly mobile reserve containing a powerful punch supplied by AFVs and mechanized artillery, with a sufficiency of cavalry or lorry borne infantry and mechanized machine guns to secure successive bases from which the tanks can make a fresh bound. The addition of low flying assault flights as maintained by some foreign countries is also worthy of consideration.

\* (extracts from the "After Action Report" on WWI prepared in 1932)

6. In previous times pouring in more riflemen may have been evidence of perseverance and determination on the leaders part. Today it is an indication that the leader does not know his trade.

#### TRAINING

7. Training Manuals. With so much advice available there is a danger of the officer seeking the answer to a specific problem from a page in some book rather than from common sense, reinforced by well-digested military knowledge. When he errs, he is apt to lament his folly in having got on to the wrong page rather than to blame his lack of judgement and common sense.

8. As regard exercises, both with and without troops, we feel that the fog of war has frequently been too thin, and that perhaps undue attention has been paid to "How to do" something, rather than "What to do".

9. There are certain aspects of training which are quite independent of organization and equipment, and in concentrating on these we cannot go wrong. Physical fitness is one of them. Another is the training of leaders on whom the efficiency of the army depends; the development of the qualities of common sense, decision and character, as apart from pure knowledge, are the characteristics of a leader.

10. It is important to recognize the great expansion of our existing forces which a national war would demand. Since this expansion will be necessary in war we ought to try and produce from our regular army the highest proportion of junior leaders. But in our peace training, we are apt to lose sight of this and to keep on raising the standard of the small regular nucleus in directions which do not produce the leader, and to a pitch which is unattainable by war trained recruits.

11. In peacetime the men actually serving provide a means of training the cadres in duties and command, and in this connection we agree with the policy which aims at tightening the bonds between the Territorials and Regulars. Though it may interfere with the latter, we think that this is more than compensated for by the opportunities offered to regular officers and NCOs for supervising the training of men, of which the existing weakness of their own units might otherwise deprive them. Those who thus do a period of training with Territorial units return with added confidence and an increased sense of responsibility.

12. We think the infiltration of the regular personnel into the Territorials is the best solution, but since conditions must be more difficult in the Territorial than in a regular unit, only the best officers and NCOs must be selected.

#### PERSONNEL

13. One of the gravest mistakes of the Great War was to permit large numbers of potential officers to be killed as private soldiers in 1914-15.

Rationing of the available man-power both as regards quality and quantity from the earliest stages as between industry and the services is as necessary as in the case of other raw material of which the supply is limited. It is for the War Office to ensure that the proportion allotted to the army is not squandered by putting square pegs in round holes.

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Today's situation ... A combination of compromises, patch solutions and in-lieu equipment ... including field expedient anti-armour weapons.



## 1ST HUSSARS

Regimental March: Bonnie Dundee

Motto: HODIE NON CRAS

### BATTLE HONOURS

South Africa, 1900

FIRST WORLD WAR: Somme, 1916, Flers-Courcelette, Ancre Heights, Arras, 1917-18, Vimy, 1917, Amiens, Scarpe, 1918, Drocourt-Queant, Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Cambrai, 1918, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders, 1915-18.

SECOND WORLD WAR: Normandy Landing, Putot-en-Bessin, Le Mesnil-Patry, Caen, The Orne, Bourguebus Ridge, Faubourg de Vaucelles, Verrieres Ridge-Tilly-la Campagne, Falaise, Falaise Road, Quesnay Wood, The Laison, Chambois, Calais, 1944, The Lower Maas, The Rhineland, The Hochwald, Apeldoorn, Bad Zwischenahn, North-West Europe, 1944-45.

Headquarters - London, Ontario

Allied Regiment - The Royal Hussars (PWO)

### ORGANIZATION

The Regiment originated on 31 May 1872 when the "1st Regiment of Cavalry" was authorized to be formed from four independent troops of cavalry. Re-named the "1st Hussars" in 1892, it was subsequently redesignated: "6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars)", 1 Apr 1941; "1st Hussars (6th Armoured Regiment)", 4 Feb 1949; "1st Hussars", 19 May 1958.

### HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY. The Regiment contributed volunteers to the Canadian Contingents during the South African War, 1899-1902.

FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1919. The Regiment contributed volunteers to the 1st Battalion, CEF, upon its formation in September, 1914, and made up the major part of RHQ, A and B Squadrons of the 7th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, mobilized in January, 1915. On 31 March 1915 7CMR was detailed to supply the Divisional Cavalry Squadron for 2 Can Div. This unit, which went overseas that June and by September was in the lines in Belgium, was redesignated the Special Service Squadron, 1st (Canadian) Hussars in January, 1916. With the establishment of the First Canadian Corps the divisional cavalry squadrons were reorganized into The Canadian Light Horse Regiment in which the 1st Hussars became B Squadron. In the triumphal march over the Rhine at Bonn, 1st Hussars formed both the advance guard and the guard of honour to the Corps Commander.

SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939-1945. The Regiment mobilized as the "1st Hussars, C.A.S.F."

on 1 Sep 1939. This unit was reorganized and redesignated "1st Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized) C.A.S.F.", 1 Mar 1940; "6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars)", 11 Feb 1941. It embarked for the United Kingdom on 13 Nov 1941. It landed in Normandy on 6 Jun 1944 as a part of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, in support of the 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The active unit was disbanded on 31 Jan 1946.

#### 1946 TO THE PRESENT

When the active Regiment was disbanded in Jan 46 many of its members from the London district joined the militia unit. The 1st Hussars continued to carry on tank training in local areas like Ipperwash Camp, as well as at the Armoured Corps School in Camp Borden, Meaford Ranges, and in summer concentrations at Camp Petawawa. In 1951 A History of the First Hussars was published, and that history was recalled in 1956 with a celebration to mark the centenary of the formation of its founding unit, the 1st London Volunteer Cavalry Troop. During the latter part of the 'fifties the unit became involved in national survival training—a demoralizing exercise that challenged the ingenuity of commanders to maintain troop interest.

The 1st Hussars returned with relief and pleasure in the 'sixties to an armoured role, albeit only as a recce force. During this decade also the Regiment's Guidon was presented by the Queen in 1967, and closer ties were established with our British allied regiment, the 11th Hussars (PAO). In 1969, when the latter were combined with the 10th Hussars (PWO) to form the Royal Hussars (PWO), the 1st Hussars Hon Col and CO were present at the Amalgamation Parade in England. Since then, reciprocal visits between the regiments have been frequent.

The 'seventies have brought a number of exciting events, some of which evoke nostalgic memories. In 1971 a large delegation travelled to Courseulles-sur-mer where a 1st Hussars' D-D tank, which had sunk on D-Day and was recovered after nearly 27 years in the sea, was dedicated as Canada's most impressive memorial to those who participated in the Jun 6 invasion of Normandy. In 1972 the Regiment celebrated its hundredth anniversary with a Change of Command, a Centennial Parade with a horse-mounted vanguard dressed in period uniforms, a Ball, and a Remembrance Drumhead Service in Victoria Park at the unit's memorial tank "Holy Roller". In another tribute to past achievements the Regiment and Association participated in strength at 1974 beachhead ceremonies commemorating the 30th anniversary of D-Day.

During these years, despite equipment shortages and problems caused by integration, unit training went well. In 1972 the 1st Hussars received the Cumberland Trophy as the best armoured unit in Ontario and Quebec. During the next couple of years the Regiment took advantage of increasing supplies of training equipment. Both recruiting and morale picked up considerably, as combat clothing, stores and vehicles arrived, and reports were confirmed

that the Canadian Forces were to get a new battle tank. In the summer of 1975 the Hon Col, CO and RSM visited with The Royal Hussars at Suffield Tank Range in Alberta to watch them operating Chieftans under simulated battle conditions.

As the result of DND's "single force" concept, a growing number of 1st Hussars have been serving with Canadian regular units at home (including Olympic Games assignments), with NATO forces in Germany, and on peace-keeping missions in the Middle East. In various other ways this close rapport between regular and reserve, so conducive to regimental morale and general military know-how is being maintained. Air lifts in Hercules and helicopter have provided an exciting insight into combined operations.

During 1976, the Hon L/Col, CO and RSM had the opportunity to visit the RCD in Lahr. Particularly rewarding in this cooperative effort has been the continuing support furnished by the 8th Canadian Hussars. Their "Travelling Circus," and their generous provision at CFB Petawawa of facilities for training in weapon, radio and tracked equipment, have made a tremendous contribution to the battle efficiency of the 1st Hussars.

This fruitful relationship with both Canadian regular armoured regiments as well as with the affiliated Royal Hussars has kept alive the interest of 1st Hussars in track and turret expertise. Hopefully, with the advent of MOWAGS and Leopards, the unit may someday become a real armoured regiment again!

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"That is not how to cross the Delaware!"



# AFV RECOGNITION TEST

answers on page 33

## IDENTIFICATION des VEHICULES BLINDES

reponses à la page 33



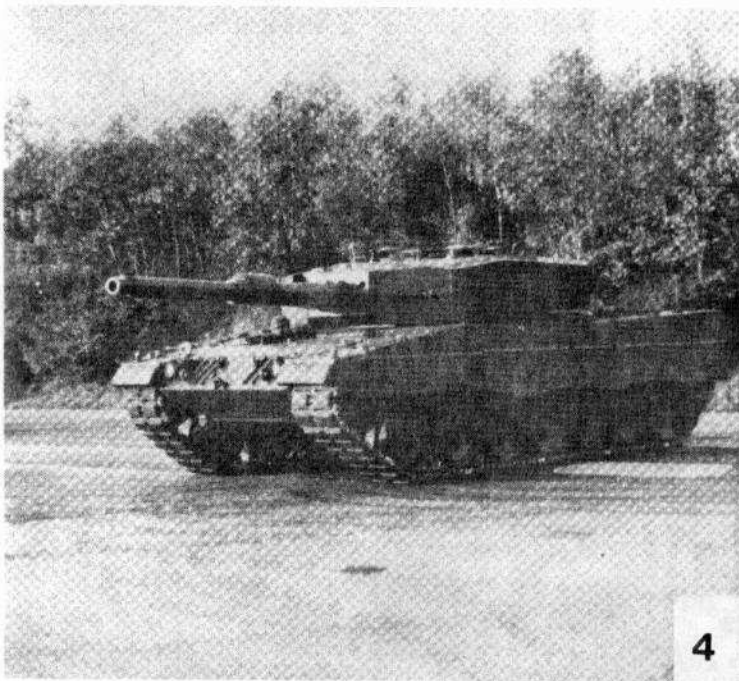
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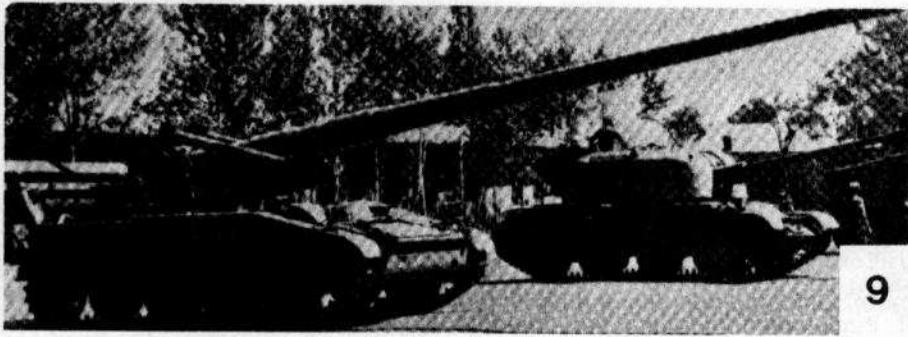
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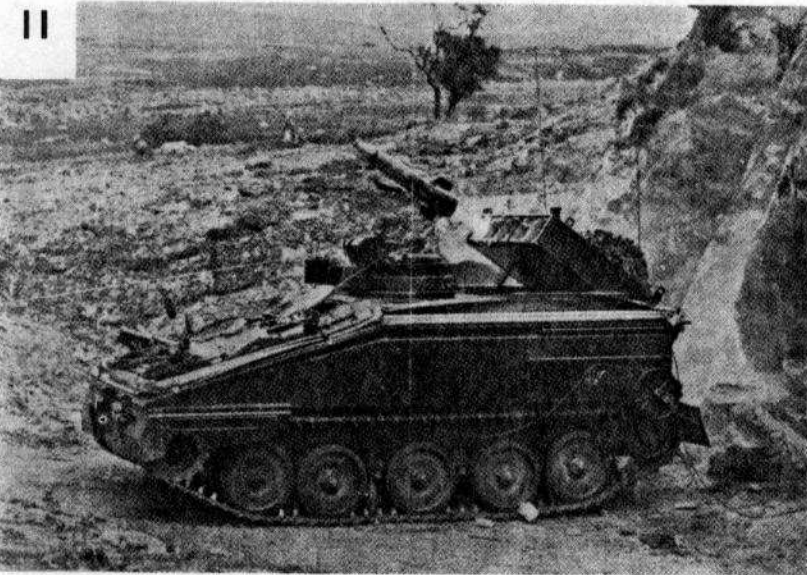
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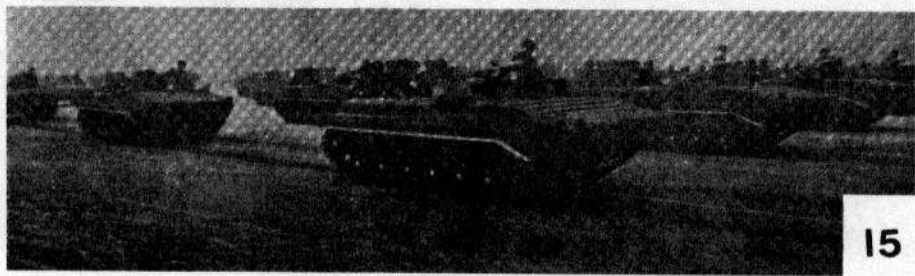
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15

## UNIFORMS

by Tactics Squadron Instructors

Tactics Sqn of the Armour School is staffed with WO's and Snr NCO's from all of the active Armour Regiments. These instructors are exposed to the full range of armour training. Opinions in a group such as this are varied, although certain topics seem to have the concurrence of the group. One of these topics is the excess of clothing on issue to the armour soldier. The problem, as we see it, is critical. Because of the large amounts of clothing on issue there are too many different orders of dress. Uniforms that meet the requirements of air-frame technicians, fire fighters, and other non-combat trades should not be imposed upon the fighting soldier.

Basically, a tanker requires three different categories of clothing with the emphasis placed on clothing to meet his combat role. These categories of clothing are:

1. Clothing to meet his combat role, all seasons, all climates.
2. Dress uniform, all seasons.
3. Every day working non-field uniform.

Presently we are issued with a wide variety of field clothing...combat clothing, summer crew suits, winter crew suits, and full or partial winter kit. The different combinations of these uniforms used in different locations and seasons can be heavy, bulky, and impractical. In most cases these uniforms meet a specific role, but it is the uniform that has a multi-purpose function that we should be looking at. The following items of clothing, only, would meet the combat role:

1. 3 x combat pants and shirts.
2. 1 x combat jacket.
3. 2 x combat boots with overshoes.
4. Winter clothing as required.

With this issue, one combat jacket has been eliminated. There is no requirement for two combat jackets. The summer and winter crew suits could go. Crew suits are restrictive in nature and routine matters such as defecation drill in a NBCW situation is very difficult to perform. Anybody who has been forced to pick up his shovel and paper on a cold rainy day and head for the tree line will agree that crew suits are not totally practical. Because of the unique role these crew suits play, the crewman must be issued with combat clothing in any case. The winter crew suit, for example, meets the requirement while the crewman is in his AFV, but the fact is there are many diverse tasks that must be performed by the crewman outside his AFV. These cannot be done with a winter crew suit. The layer principle of clothing is the only system that works in cold weather. Canada leads the world in this type of clothing. Why duplicate it with a bulky, single-purpose unit? It is a fact that crewmen have more space in the AFV's when wearing crewsuits, but they can perform their duties without any great loss of efficiency with combat and winter clothing. In a time of war, replacement crew members from the adm troops and HQ Sqn would be reporting to the AFV's in combat clothing in any case. One of the arguments in favour of the crewsuit is that wounded crew members can be removed more easily from a burning tank, etc. This is a point we must be conscious of, but combat clothing does not hamper this operation to any large degree. In any case the bottom line should be if Armd Crewmen are going to have crew suits winter and summer (then withdraw the combat clothing and winter parkas).

In the past ten years there isn't anything in the Canadian Armed Forces that has been discussed more than the CF uniform. The pros and cons of the CF uniform can be left to the experts. The one point that can be mentioned is that because of the colour of the uniform the shirt selection is limited to very light colours. This is not always practical for a soldier. With tans or brown colours for a shirt a soldier will look sharper and feel more comfortable for a longer period of time. For example, soldiers prefer their 'thousand-mile' towel to the white one.

The work dress uniform came on the scene originally to serve the purpose of the eight-to-fivers in the non-combat trades and to save money on combat uniforms for the combat arms soldier. The uniform has become burdened down with corps and regimental insignia and accoutrements that would require a tailor per troop to keep it sorted out. Every new order of dress seems to add to an existing order of dress, (ie) we now have the sweater but the WD Jacket remains. The WD uniform should go!! This would eliminate several orders of dress.

There are other areas of clothing issue that could be assessed:

1. Shirts - In the past one type of shirt was issued which was used with the dress uniform, work uniform summer and winter. We now have three types of shirts doing the same task. The light green short sleeve summer shirt is of such a colour and nature that a soldier requires double the official issue in order to survive in that order of dress. Solution - get rid of at least two types of shirts.
2. Footwear - In the past soldiers were issued two pairs of ankle boots and one pair of shoes with overshoes. Now, two pairs of combat boots and another pair of overshoes have been added. The reality of the situation is that soldiers rarely wear shoes and overshoes. Solution - combat boots with combat overshoes would be sufficient.
3. Headdress - A tanker requires only a beret and a toque. One problem area is unit toques are appearing without corps standardization. If the armoured corps wants its soldiers to wear a black toque in cold weather, it should be issued. Black is not a practical colour against a white background.
4. Regimental Accoutrements - these items should be controlled at corps level, especially the size and placing of these items on the uniforms. Because of the frequent changes from regiment to regiment, uniforms are damaged in the taking off and sewing on of these insignia.
5. Cannex Parka - In order to make the work dress livable in winter, soldiers have been buying the Cannex parkas. This indicates that the work dress uniform is not complete.
6. Greatcoats - They served a real function during WW I and II. It was part of the combat uniform. Does it serve a real need now? Research will show that parkas are more suited to the needs. Solution - Withdraw the greatcoat.

7. NBCW Suit - It is presently a one-piece unit and it meets the NBC threat quite well. Of course, the best defence against NBC agents is to dig a hole in the ground and stay in it. But, as tankers/ combat arm soldiers we have operational functions that must be performed during these threats. A suit such as this must be looked upon in the light of giving the best possible safety against NBC agents coupled with the most practical tactical use. If one had to wear the suit longer than twelve hours, the two piece suit would be more suited; and if one had to stay in the suit for forty-eight hours, it would be a must. Unless all personnel were very disciplined, many casualties would result because of shortcuts taken during urination and defecation drills.
8. Misc. - Small, but very important items such as shaving kits and shoe-shine kits should be looked at in the light of the best possible item to do the task. Some soldiers' shaving kits now are very bulky through no fault of their own. They must buy them on the local economy. Eating from mess tins presently on issue does not help in sustaining the morale of troops. If they must be metal to meet the requirement, another metal other than a soft aluminum alloy would probably be more practical.

The Canadian Soldier has much more clothing than is required to meet his needs. Because of the singular use of most items of kit on issue, we have a weight and bulk problem that does not fit well with our new generation of AFV's. Canadian soldiers doing tours in warm climates such as Cyprus have twice the kit as that of his UN counterpart. A hard look for clothing that serves different roles would be in order.



**"No I'm not speaking to you, and that is final!"**

## PROBLEMS IN REALITY - TACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN GERMANY



By: Lt S.A. Martin

There are those who say that being on exercise in Europe just isn't what it used to be. The days of driving hell-bent-for-leather across the German countryside appear to have gone forever. Modern times and rising costs have taken their toll, and year by year, greater restrictions are being imposed on training movements across Germany. In this article I propose to touch briefly on a few of the more obvious problems encountered during an exercise with the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Perhaps the most obvious problem was that of tactical movement. Throughout the early portion of the manoeuvres in August and the beginning of September, crops were still in the field and harvesting had just got underway. This restricted cross country movement to existing trails that wound their way through fields. This often canalized troops by forcing them to adapt column formation to move through unharvested areas. However, it was often feasible to move the troops along the large number of parallel trails and thereby achieve some sense of realistic movement. Due to recent changes in what are often called "black tracks" (in reference to the manner in which they are marked on the map), maps were often not up to date and troops would on occasion become separated, giving rise to tactical risks and some losses. Fire positions also become more difficult to adopt. In many instances, tanks had to adopt poor hull down positions, when better locations were only a few meters away but in the middle of a wheat field.

Once the crops were in, cross country movement improved but at the same time another difficulty arose, that of multitudes of small fenced-in pastures. This again created obstacles that had to be circumnavigated. Fences also caused lengthy down times for tanks unlucky enough to run through the many strands of barbed wire. Lengths of wire wound tightly around drive sprackets sparked many an outburst of indelicate language.

Night movement across open country was severely restricted and the only night moves occurring with a few exceptions, were on main roads. In the cases where this rule was broken, blackout lights had to be used and even then, movement was restricted to little more than a kilometer off a main or secondary road.

The multitude of good roads in Germany did allow for fast and accurate movement when required resulting in quicker reaction times to changing enemy situations.

Harbours, although for the most part realistic, presented a number of problems unique to Europe. Because of extremely light control of German woodland resources, severe restrictions on military traffic have been imposed. Damage to existing trees by military vehicles and personnel is considered to be a major problem. Restrictions now in effect include: no bushes

or branches may be cut for camouflage, limited digging in forested areas, and site clean-up after leaving woods. These restrictions often caused delays in entering and leaving hides and harbours. Upon entering wooded areas, the first person to arrive was often the area "Forstmeister," the German equivalent of the Forest Ranger. It is his responsibility to ensure that all persons using the forest leave it in the same condition that they found it. Replenishment in these locations also comes under close scrutiny. If any fuel is spilled, it is the responsibility of the crew to ensure that it is properly cleaned up. If more than one litre of POL is spilled, the damage has to be reported through the chain of command to allow special clean-up crews to arrive and remove the contaminated soil.

Perhaps the busiest group during an exercise is the Damage Control Section. This organization is responsible for collecting data on damages caused by Canadian troops and to repair as many minor cases of destruction as possible. As a Troop Leader, it is the responsibility of the officer to compile a weekly damage trace, showing the exact route his tanks took (to within 100 m) as well as making out damage report forms on any damages to civilian property and equipment such as broken fences, overturned trees and damaged farm implements. These traces and reports are then held in the higher echelon for use in claims against the Canadian government by German civilians.

There is no easy solution to the dilemma of unrealistic training during major exercises. The civilian population of today is not ready to stand idly by as native and foreign troops create havoc on their farmland. In light of the astronomical replacement costs, it is clear why NATO nations are becoming reluctant to give their forces free play in the staging of exercises that inevitably result in damage to civilian property. It is here that the problem of realism in field training comes to a head. Unless we are willing to take up the costs of productive training in Germany, the overall value of annual exercises, no matter on how large a scale, will continue to decrease in direct proportion to the increased restrictions placed upon tactical troop movement.

As one old Sgt said, "Tread carefully son, that's expensive grass you're walking on".





## NFCS - FULLY EXPLOITED?

by Capt R.S. Richards

As more and more people are becoming familiar with the Leopard C1, the capabilities of its various fire control systems are being more completely understood. The Night Fire Control System (NFCS) in particular receives a lot of attention. For those who have not had the opportunity to investigate it as yet, the system is built around the PZB 200, a low light television camera which is mounted externally with a monitor mounted inside the turret. There is a set of aiming dots which can be superimposed upon the monitor and therefore the system can be used to employ direct fire. A calibration graticule can also be superimposed onto the monitor.

As an observation device, the PZB 200 is outstanding. It is effective to over 2000 meters under normal conditions. This, coupled with the tank's two AN/VVS 501 II episcopes, has made the Leopard incredibly effective at target acquisition at night. Unfortunately, there are several drawbacks to the system which severely limit its ability to apply accurate aimed fire.

As stated earlier, there are a set of aiming dots built into the system. The ranges which can be selected are 500, 750 or 1000 meters. So, even though the crew commander can spot a target at 1800 meters, he would have to wait until it was almost upon him in order to engage it.

There is another method that has been developed in order to extend the maximum range of the system past 1000 meters. It takes advantage of the interaction between the stabilization system and laser from the primary sighting system. If the tank is in the stabilization active mode and either a change in range or ammunition is applied to the primary sight, the gun through the stabilization system, will physically correct for any changes required in elevation. In other words, if a gunner were laid on a target with his primary sight and he lased or changed his ammunition select while the tank was in the stab active mode, the gun would automatically elevate or depress the required amount. The gunner would notice that he would only need to re-lay for line. We take full advantage of this by converging the NFCS and IFCS at APDS 1000 meters. The gun is initially laid using the NFCS, the laser is fired and the gun sets itself. If HESH is being fired, the gunner would select HESH on the IFCS prior to firing. Employing this technique, the range of engagement is increased to 1500 meters; still not nearly comparable to the effective observation range of the system.

There are many other limitations inherent in this technique besides the range. The following are the major concerns:

- a. the amount of drift in the stabilization system varies between tanks, however it is an ever present hazard. Unless the round is fired immediately after lasing/ ammunition selection, there is a good chance the gun



will drift off target;

- b. there is no correction made for azimuth;
- c. when engaging with APDS, the gunner must re-lay and re-laze prior to each round;
- d. there is no way of checking whether the gun has elevated or depressed the correct amount;
- e. should a malfunction develop in either the stab system or laser, the technique cannot be employed;
- f. multiple target engagements are very difficult; and
- g. most importantly, moving targets cannot be engaged.

A general problem that exists whether the fixed aiming dots or the full stab technique is employed results from the difficulty in converging the NFCS and IFCS. This is accomplished by laying the IFCS on a well-defined aiming mark and adjusting the camera mount until the NFCS is converged, since it is not possible to adjust the position of aiming dots. The adjustment procedure on the mount is a very long and difficult one which requires at least two people. The adjusting mechanism is good for making a rough alignment, however it is extremely difficult to achieve a very fine convergence.

There are two ways of correcting most of these problems. One way would be to modify the system so that a greater variety of ranges could be selected. The problem of converging would still be present and it would take considerable time for the gunner to select ranges; this is assuming that the modification could be accomplished without major changes to the components.

Another way would be to inject a ballistic graticule into the camera in place of the calibration graticule. As shown in fig 1, the calibration graticule pattern is housed on the end of a small "flashlight". The light emitting diode shines through the pattern and it is superimposed on the target image. It would be a simple matter to replace the calibration graticule with a ballistic graticule. A suggested form is as shown at Fig 2.

With a ballistic graticule as suggested, all of the above mentioned shortcomings of the present set-up would be overcome. The ranges would be increased to 2400 meters for APDS, 2200 meters for HESH and 1500 meters for COAX. Other benefits would be that the gunner's actions would be greatly simplified, and the techniques and fire orders would very closely resemble those used for the IFCS and SFCS. Also, the calibration graticule

can be adjusted for azimuth and elevation. Therefore, the camera mount would only need to be roughly aligned, the gunner could make a fast, accurate, fine convergence using the azimuth and elevation adjustment knobs.

The author conducted a trial during The Royal Canadian Dragoons' gun camp in March-April 1980. A rather crude ballistic graticule pattern was made on a piece of clear talc and this was fixed onto the face of the monitor. Due to the roughness of the graticule pattern and the parallax induced by not having the pattern actually superimposed on the target image, the trial results were not as good as had been hoped. However, the basic advantages as listed above were very evident.

At present, the NFCS is being utilized far below its capabilities. By simply replacing the calibration graticule with a ballistic graticule, the system can be used to its full advantage.

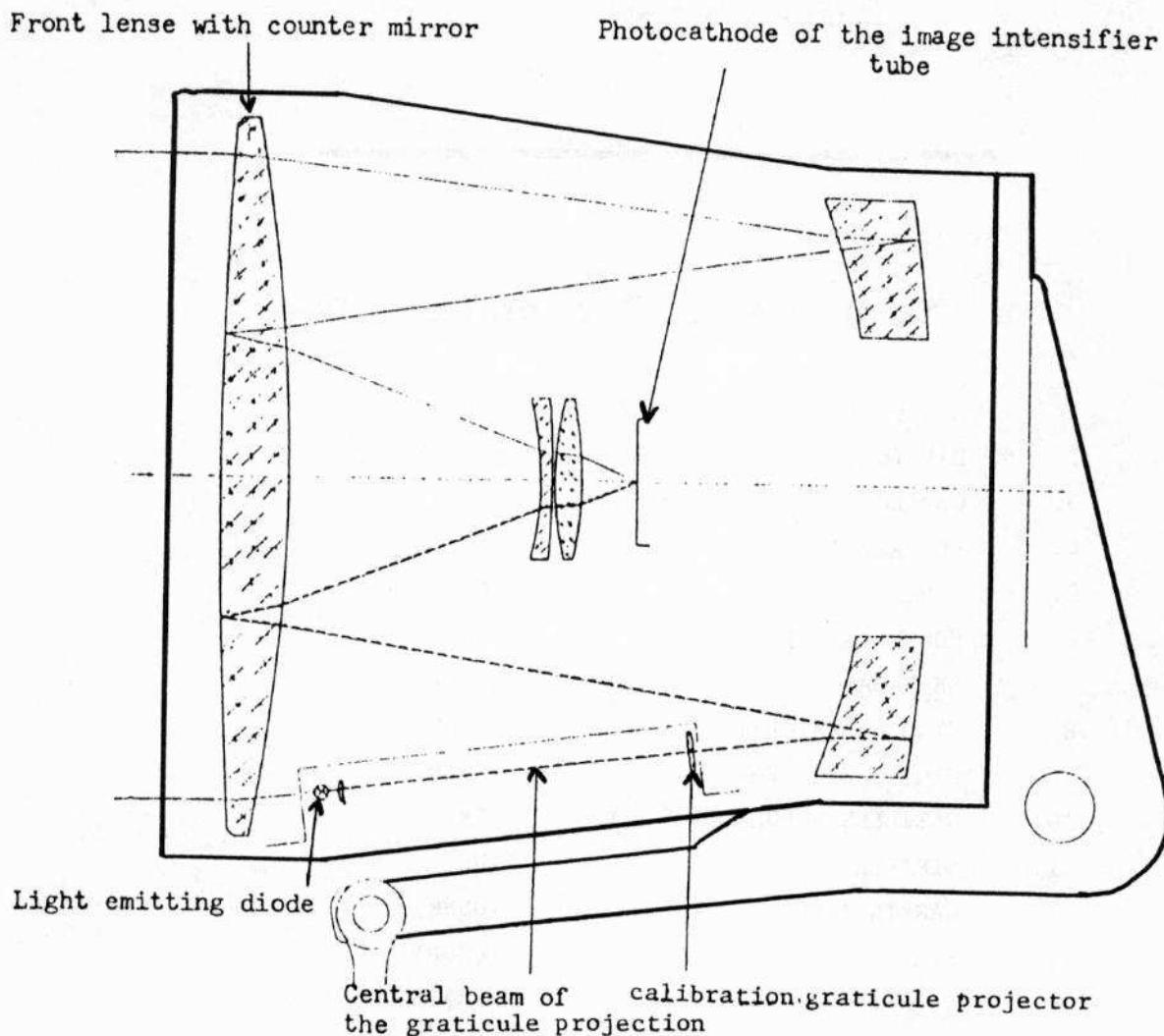


Fig. 1

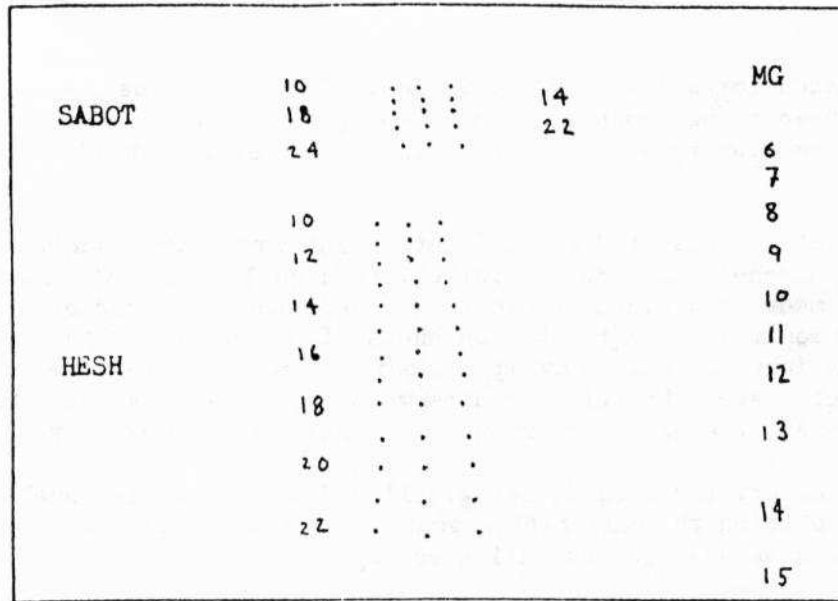


Fig. 2

NOTE: Not to scale.

## Solutions To Recognition Test

1. AMX VC 1 (FR)
2. HIP (Mi-8) (USSR)
3. GEPARD (FRG)
4. LEOPARD 2 (FRG)
5. COUGAR (CDN)
6. HOUND (Mi-4) (USSR)
7. SHERIDAN (USA)
8. HIND As (Mi-24) (USSR)
9. M107 - ZSU 57-2 (USSR)
10. GAZELLES - PUMA (FR)
11. STRIKER (UK)
12. GASKIN (AS-9) (USSR)
13. BTR -60P (USSR)
14. DAUPHIN (FR)
15. BMP (USSR)

## 12eRBC AT FORT KNOX

By Capt D. Charron



B Squadron from 12e Régiment blindé du Canada participated last January in an exchange program with the Buffalo Soldiers of D troop 10th US Cavalry, 194th Armd Bde. The Sqn of 50 members flew down to Fort Knox, Ky, for some tank training while their counterparts, the Buffalo Soldiers flew up North for some good solid, basic training - winter training that is. Wonder who got the best deal....?

Fort Knox with a population of 57,000 is situated 50 KM Southwest of Louisville in the bluegrass State of Kentucky. In 1940 the US Armour Force was established there and in WW II it trained more than 15 armoured divisions. Today the school and center still carry on the traditions of training armoured soldiers. Also situated in Fort Knox are a basic training group, Godman Army Airfield, a general hospital and medical and military research activities. However, the best known installation is still the US Bullion Depository established there in 1937 by the Treasury Department.

B Sqn being the first tank sqn of the regt had the privilege of training on the M60s. The experience was a worthwhile one in all aspects. The Sqn members got a chance to gaze in bewilderment at so much army equipment. From the air it resembled a spoiled child's room filled with army dinky toys. Tanks, tanks and more tanks littered everywhere, trucks 2½, 5/4, jeeps, 548s and ARVs were all lined up and ready to roll. After the bewilderment stage the individuals got a chance to practise their gunnery and driving skills on the M60s. In no time the guys became so proficient in the drills and on shooting the 105 that after only an hour of practice the exercise had to cease and new targets put up to replace the shot up ones. Afterwards a five day exercise was planned where the individuals carried out their battle procedures and worked though the Sqn's SOPs and tactics.

On the cultural side the sqn had a chance to work with their counterparts. New friends were made and the language barrier was quickly forgotten. Souvenirs, mementos and the like quickly changed hands. Tours were organized by our hosts to show off their state and its many attractions. Among the ones that were visited were: the Mammoth Caves; the underground caves that have been carved by millions of years of erosion, the Hermitage; President Andrew Jackson's home and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

The trip was a success. The soldiers were able to broaden their horizons and witness someone else's culture. Questions were raised, discussions were carried out and a whole new experience was lined. Someday we'll be side by side with our American counterparts, what better way of learning each other's ways than by these small exchange programs? Let us hope such programs will continue to flourish and expand.

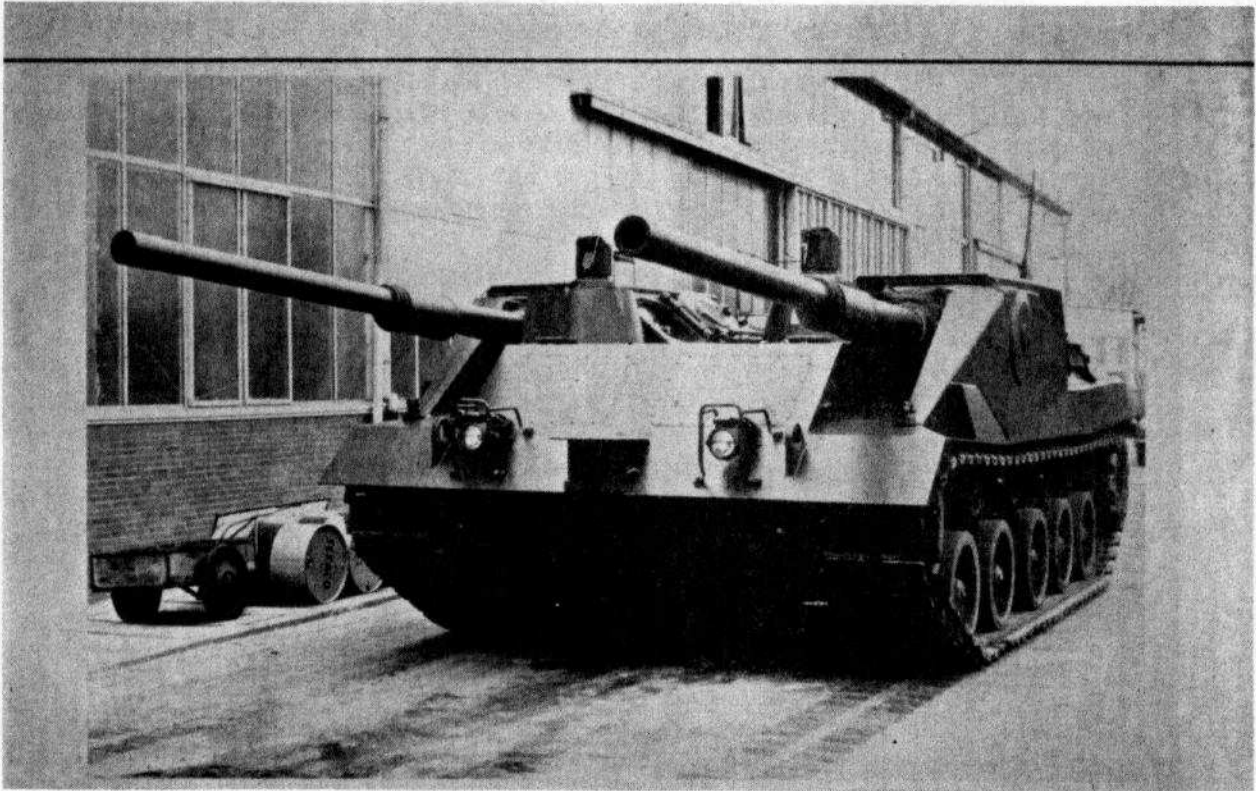
Adsum!



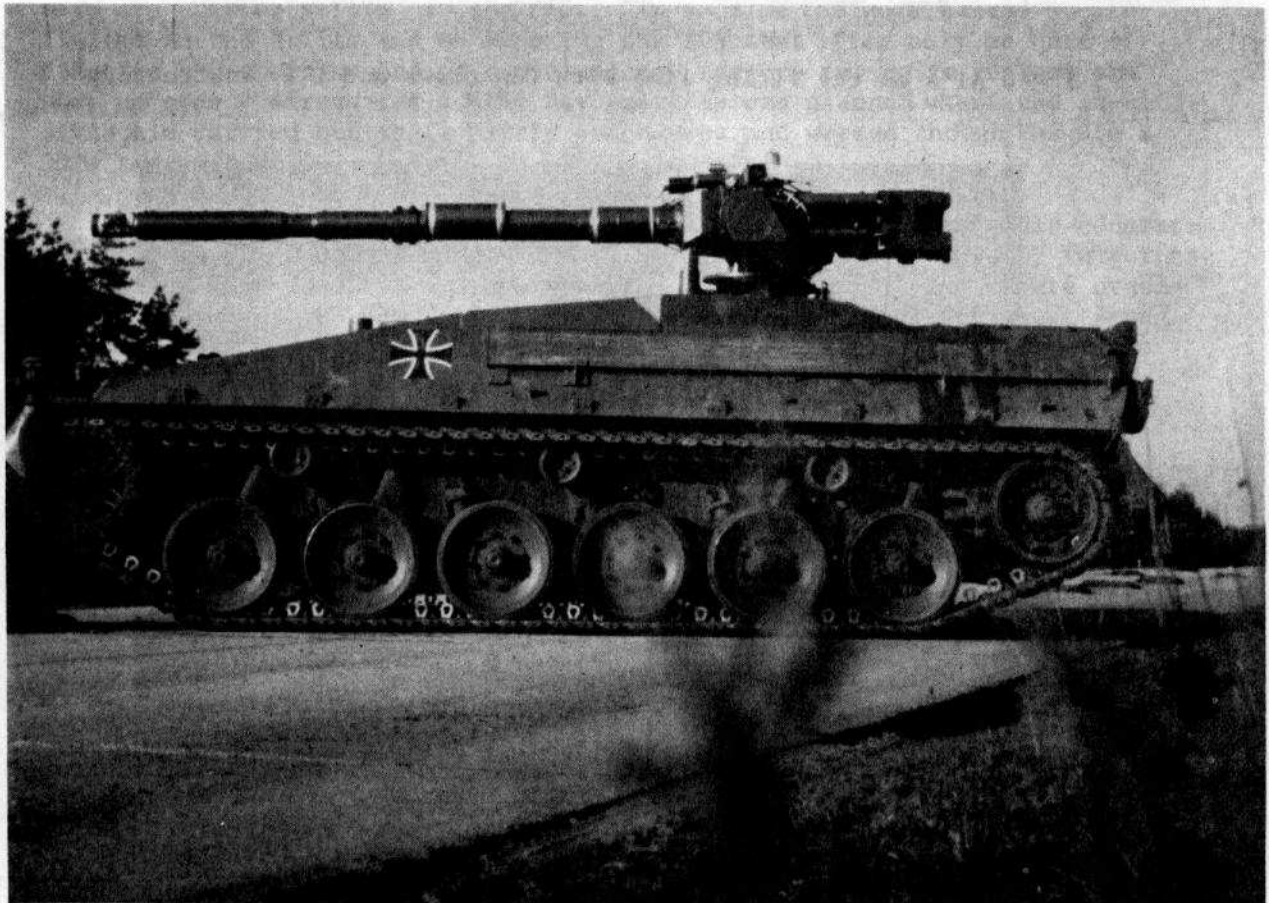
"3 X M60 A1's on the firing line with Cdn crews and U.S. instructors".



"A Cdn manned M-60 with U.S. DS on a cool spring day - Note the snow".



"Twin 105 mm guns on Test Rig VT 1-1 (German)"



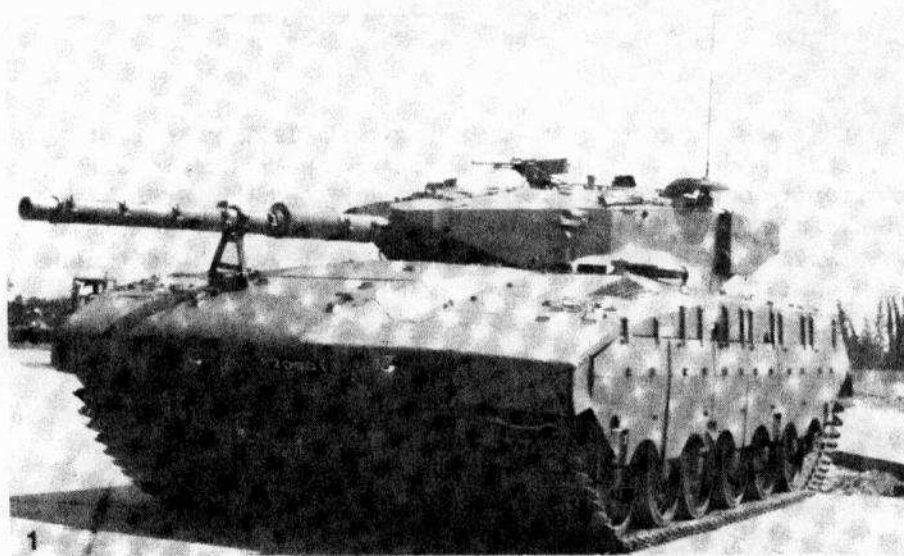
External Wpn Sys Battle Tank with limited traverse and a hull-bound three man crew (German)"



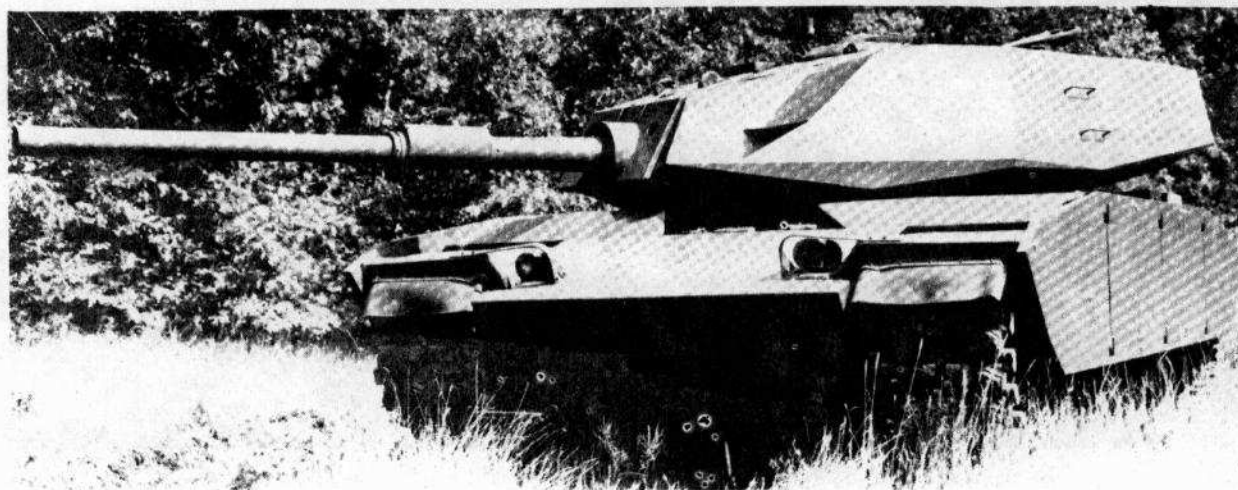
High Mobility Agility (HIMAG)  
Test Vehicle does 77 MPH (USA)



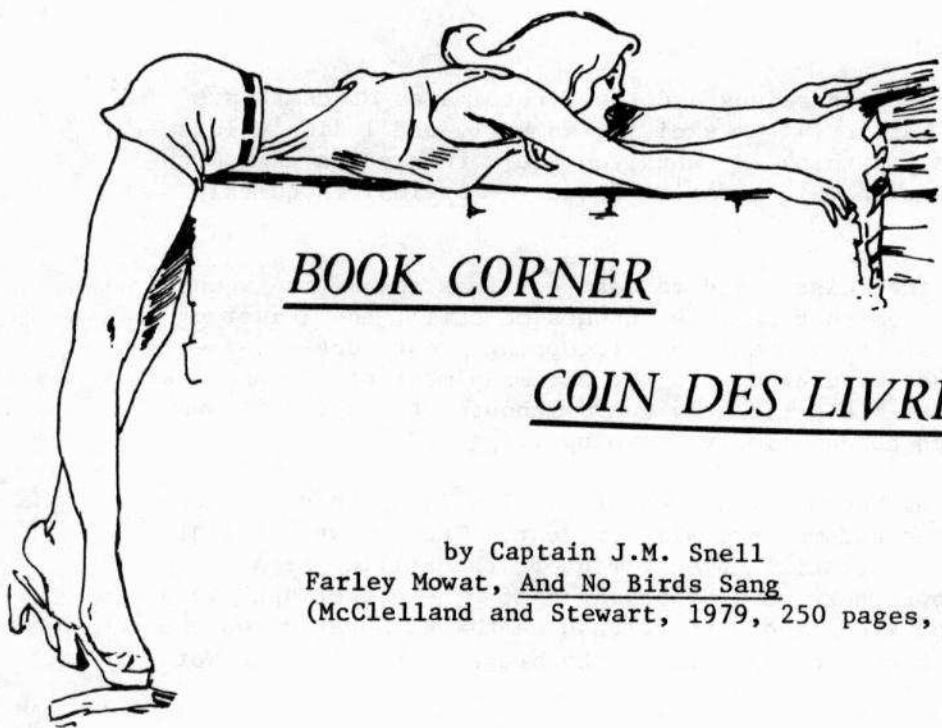
HS TV-L Test  
75 MM High velocity automatic cannon (USA)



MERKAVA (ISRAEL)



M-60 rebuilt with  
added armour (U.S.A.)



## BOOK CORNER

### COIN DES LIVRES

by Captain J.M. Snell  
Farley Mowat, *And No Birds Sang*  
(McClelland and Stewart, 1979, 250 pages, \$13.95)

As the possibility, even feasibility, of a Third World War increases, many professional soldiers have commenced speculating on the nature of war. What will be the nature of the next war? (Hackett, The Third World War). Others have addressed the nature of combat itself. That is, what is it really like to be in combat? (Keegan, *Face of Battle*) Farley Mowat's latest work starkly confronts us with the reality of war including the hooded horsemen of fear and death.

And No Birds Sang is Mowat's very personal story of one man's involvement in The Second World War. Unlike Timothy Findley, who reviewed this volume in Saturday (Nov 1979), I found that I was unable to set this story aside. And No Birds Sang can quite easily be subdivided into two separate stories. The first of these starts in 1939 as Mowat tries to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. However, the RCAF was uninterested in 18 year olds with the appearance of a fifteen year old. He has to accept a private's position in the 2nd Battalion (Militia) of his father's regiment - The Hastings and Prince Regiment (Hasty Pees). However it is not until spring 1941 that the call to active duty comes.

His commissioning, training in Great Britain and the preparation for battle are all a prelude to the more serious component of Mowat's message. In his first action, young Farley finds himself literally in over his head. He has disembarked from the landing craft in eight feet deep water. The image of the smallish lieutenant, laden with at least sixty pounds of combat gear walking along the ocean floor, holding his breath until his head clears the surface, is one that we can readily identify with. The first days of fighting in Sicily



are somewhat unreal as confusion reigns and the first images of death are stamped out. The joy of battle (It was exciting as hell, and I didn't lose a single man --- It makes you think --- When you see a twenty ton tank with four guys in it go whoof in one big burst of flame --- pg 103) is quickly distilled.

It was not the dead that distressed me most - it was the German wounded --- One ghastly vignette from that shambles haunts me still: the driver of a truck hanging over his steering wheel and hiccupping great gouts of cherry-pink foam through a smashed windscreen, to the accompaniment of a sound like a slush-pump sucking air as his perforated lungs laboured to expel his own heart's blood --- in which he was slowly drowning .. pg 112.

From here on, the book becomes a series of battles in which slowly the reality of the two horsemen becomes brutally evident. The almost suicidal death of his friend, the penetrating cold of winter, the killing of a young soldier who had helped Mowat survive, the belief that "The higher ups" were mindlessly committing exhausted troops to certain death and Mowat's own encounter with fear slowly begin to edge him to the breaking point - The Worm as Mowat labels it:

These were the victims of what was officially termed "battle fatigue" - "shell shock - they called it in the First World War. Both descriptions were evasive euphemisms. The military mind will not, perhaps not dare, admit that there comes a time to every fighting man (unless death or bloody ruination of the flesh forestalls it) when The Worm - not shell and flame - becomes his nemesis --- My own understanding of the nature of The Worm, and of the inexorable way it liquifies and then consumes the inner substance of its victim, was chillingly enlarged on the day we broke out of our bridge head (pg 230-231).

Those familiar with previous Mowat's works, especially the classic The Regiment may initially feel cheated and that Mowat is not up to par. However, images of And No Birds Sang continue to return. Rereading is well worth the effort. As Timothy Findley concluded: "It is much to Mowat's credit that, when the book ends, you are left just as he is - hanging over the precipice from which he has dangled all his life and death, crying into a dreadful emptiness: come back".

## ROMMEL: THE MAN AND THE MYTH

Rommel - Battles and Campaigns by Kenneth Macksey (New York: Mayflower, 1979)

Kenneth Macksey's comprehension of armoured warfare, particularly the tactical and technical aspects, has been well established. Students of military history not familiar with the development of tank warfare would be well advised to read Macksey's Tank Warfare: A History of Tanks in Battle. By turning his attention from the general to the specific, Macksey has demonstrated excellent versatility as a historian. As the dust jacket rather succinctly stated it, his "new study of Rommel's battles and campaigns brings the cool eye of an expert in tank warfare to bear on the military exploits of this legend, and examines critically his achievements and failures".

Perhaps of all the prominent leaders of the Second World War, Erwin Rommel has received the greatest amount of acclaim which is all the more amazing when one remembers that he was on the losing side. The myth of Rommel was well utilized in the development and reconstruction of post-war Germany. His charismatic (to use an overworked and overrated description) appeal to his soldiers and his immunity to death are legendary and have been well documented here. However, Macksey has cut away the hyperbole and rhetoric associated with the myth to provide an accurate assessment of Rommel's strengths and weaknesses.

A common thread running throughout the action is the fact that, unlike a large number of German generals, Rommel was not born and bred to lead. His struggle to gain professional advancement and recognition was hard fought, often at the expense of friendly and working relationships with his peers. As Macksey's indicates, "from the cradle to the grave, he was in conflict. In that competitive environment...he developed into a fighting animal who, once the tocsin had sounded, scarcely understood what it was to relax". (page 7).

This constant pressure to excel often served as the basis for his weaknesses. His inability to function with his staff is illustrative of this. During the 1940 advance to the sea through France, the headquarters of Rommel's "Ghost Division" was torn with internal problems as Rommel failed to grasp the need for an efficient and coordinated headquarters. His lack of administrative ability and foresight often robbed him of the opportunity to successfully complete his plan. More than not, his inferior logistical situation, particularly during the North African campaigns, stemmed from his inability to cooperate with those responsible for his support. By the same token, Rommel often became so over involved in minor details that he would literally take over the task of a battalion commander during a battle.

But the myth of Rommel was compelling. Auchinleck and his cautious offense succumbed to his reputation as Montgomery to a lesser degree may have.

"Indeed, (as Macksey writes) one occasionally receives the impression that Montgomery preferred to abstain from provoking Rommel, in case this dangerous enemy might lash out when cornered". (page 168).

Macksey concludes with his own version of Rommel's role in the conspiracy to assassinate Hitler. Rommel is not given credit for any significant part in the affair. He is seen as an interested bystander and not a committed participant.

Macksey has given us a fine portrait of a dedicated soldier. It is difficult to fault Rommel for his maintenance of his aim. Parts of the myth obviously existed but the legend is not without blemishes. Macksey has admirably juxtaposed both sides of Rommel's character in a highly literate and entertaining volume. As a final note, the book is well worth reading solely for the superb graphic and photographic support. The splendid collection of photos is varied and of a high quality. They strikingly illustrate the text. For a military history buff, they are worth the price of the tome.



"Who said Leopards cango any where !!?"