



Journal of 32 Signal Regiment eCommunicator

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About the eCommunicator

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

The views and opinions expressed in this periodical are those of the contributors and not those of the Department of National Defence, its Units or Officers, including the Commanding Officer of 32 Signal Regiment.

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<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/32-signal-regiment/index.page>

Command Team

Commanding Officer's Message



As the year 2019 came to a close, the winter issue of the Communicator allowed us take a look back on an incredible year.

2019 started off almost as usual. We looked forward to the annual Winter Indoctrination/Winter Warfare training weekends. We prepared our Corporals for their up-coming PLQ, our Sergeants for their ALQ courses while our Captains were hard at work at their AOC course. Taking advantage of increased recruiting pace, we prepared our candidates for their series of BMQ and BMQ-Land courses.

Spring arrived with a vengeance. In April, we demonstrated our capabilities in Domestic Operations by contributing significantly to OP LENTUS supporting 32CBG's Battle Group to assist the relief efforts in Bracebridge and Ottawa areas. The Regiment achieved a record of putting out a signals detachment in three hours and forty minutes after receiving the call-out order. Subsequently, as our personnel rotated into the Battle Group, we provided personnel to most key staff positions.

May was a significant month for the Regiment. 32 Signal Regiment was selected by the Commander Canadian Army as one of two Army Reserve Signal units to be the lead in implementing the Cyber Mission task. This important strategic tasking allows the Regiment to contribute to the defence of Canada in the Cyber Domain; the new 5th Warfighting Domain. This tasking is also historically significant as it takes the Regiment truly into 21st Century warfare.

In June, we bid farewell to our well worn CF Green beret. The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals reverted back to our Royal Blue colour berets. In the same ceremony, 32 Signal Regiment introduced to the world our new Regimental Crest which was recently received royal approval by the Queen. It signified a new phase in our identity as a single regiment and one family, after the amalgamation of 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment and 700 (Borden) Communication Squadron back in 2011.

By the end of summer, our soldiers returned successfully from their career courses. These successes strengthened both the capacity and capability of the Regiment. We have over 20 soldiers who received their DP1 qualification, 9 Corporals ready to be promoted to MCpls and officers who completed staff training. At the same time we achieved our first success in the Cyber MT in providing a Cyber Liaison officer supporting 2 CMBG on their Road to High Readiness.

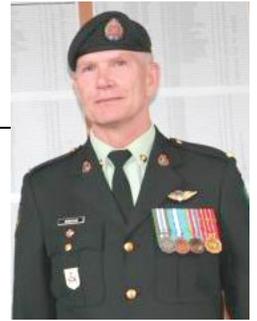
The Fall was again a busy time. Our Regimental history was approaching completion and was ready for publishing in December. Promotions were conducted over this period and 12 Canadian Forces Decorations were awarded to our long serving members. Our soldiers volunteered to augment 2 CMBG for their up-coming deployment and members participated in a NATO level Cyber operation exercise.

Throughout 2019, our Honorary Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel were hard at work preparing to set up our Regimental Association in the New Year. This new organization will bring together all our disparate affiliated groups in order to pool our resources to more effectively support the Regiment and promote the welfare of all members of the Regimental Family.

Every year, 32 Signal Regiment can justifiably claim that we had a hectic year; however, 2019 was really above and beyond. Looking back, the Regiment working together, has made significant progress on all fronts. The Regiment has grown stronger in term of capabilities and capacity and received a new and important mandate in the form of Cyber Mission Task. Working together as a team, we have laid the ground work for future successes in the new and exciting decade.

Command Team

Regimental Sergeant-Major



Good day to all.

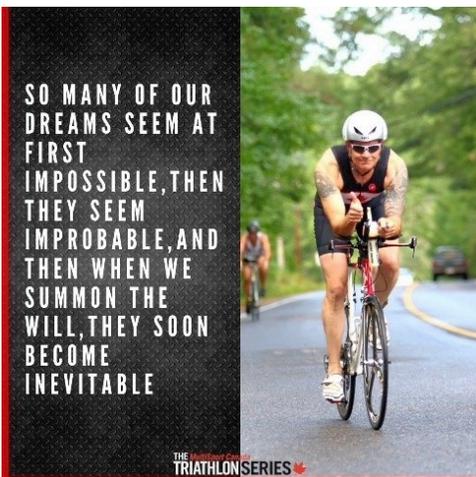
It has been yet another amazing and busy year in the Regiment. The operational tempo of this unit never ceases to amaze me. Both the Commanding Officer and I are extremely proud of all your endeavours. Your skills are in great demand throughout both the brigade and 2 CMBG as they move through the Road to High Readiness. In my first address to the Regiment as RSM, I asked for three things from you:

Number One, Commitment. You have shown your commitment and I challenge you to continue to commit when and where you can. Almost every weekend there are troops out the door supporting others and whether it is a weekend EX, DOMOP or other task, we, more specifically YOU, always step up and fill the bill.

Number Two, Professional Development. Education, Training, Employment Experience and Self-Development are the pillars that make up Professional Development and we are hitting the mark on all four. Our Regiment has one of the highest PLQ graduate numbers in the Brigade and that is no small feat. The younger soldiers still in school continue to produce top marks while learning skills in the army which are easily transferable to every aspect of civilian life. The soldiers employed in the public sector continue to bring those experiences and knowledge to the Army Reserves making the circle complete. Continue to strive for excellence and never stop learning.

Number Three, Physical Fitness and Mental Health. Everyone is doing a great job looking after their fire team partner and there are numerous avenues of assistance so if required please approach your chain of command. There are many reasons to stay fit, one only needs to Google it to see the lists. Apart from some of the main health related benefits staying fit is a soldier's responsibility. It will help to lower the risk of injury while we perform the duties required from us. Case in point, a 55 year old soldier still jumping out of airplanes. The FORCE (Fitness for Operational Requirements of CAF Employment) remains our only required annual fitness requirement. However, there are many other tests which some of our pers undertake. More info on all your fitness requirements and questions can be found at the following link or speak to your local PSP rep.

<https://www.cfmws.com/en/AboutUs/PSP/DFIT/Fitness/Pages/default.aspx>



Sports are much more than fun and games

We have all heard that a healthy body helps a healthy mind and sports and fitness are a great way to achieve both of these goals. The CAF has a longstanding and rich sports history where competitive sports are considered an integral part of the training and development of its members. From grassroots participation to National CAF Championships, sports contributes to the development of leadership skills, esprit de corps and physical fitness while fostering the competitive spirit. As of 1 Sept 2015, class A reservists are eligible to participate in all aspects of CAF sports program, including intersection/inter-unit, regional, national and international sporting competitions. The Commanding Officer is a huge supporter of this initiative. As a member of the Canadian Armed Forces Triathlon Team I am able to compete in the CF National Triathlon Championship each year as well as compete with

the team in the Ironman 70.3 Triathlon in Mont-Tremblant. The Regiment has also had members participate in the National Volleyball Championships as well as the CISM Taekwondo Championships and the World Military Games.



Canadian Armed Forces Triathlon Team at the Subaru Ironman 70.3, Mont-Tremblant



I would like to wish everyone safe travels and have a happy holiday season. Remember to take some time for yourself to recharge the batteries and get ready for another busy year.

VVV

CWO S.G. Graham, RSM

Honorary Colonel Jim Leech, C.M. CD



The summer and fall of 2019 have been very busy times for the Regiment's Honoraries:

- Visiting Regiment in the field: Over the summer, HLCol Lloyd and I made two visits to visit Regimental members exercising.
 - DP1 Course, Meaford – we had the opportunity to observe a “CP Teardown” and were impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm of the group. During lunch and my address to the troops, I noted that in 1965, I undertook similar training in the same area of the Meaford Range!
 - Exercise Stalwart Guardian, Camp Petawawa – we joined up with other Regimental Honoraries towards the end of the exercise. Following a detailed briefing on a large-scale map we travelled by helicopter to the northern part of the range to witness the final offensive at day break. Following the successful capturing of the objective, we had the opportunity for casual conversation with the soldiers who had been on the go, non stop, for 18 hours. At one point in the proceedings, BGen C.J.J. Mialkowski , Commander 4 Canadian Division, presented me with my Canadian Decoration medal. This presentation was a complete surprise to me, cooked up by the CO, RSM and Chief Clerk.
- Bi-monthly meetings with CO, DCO and RSM – as Honoraries we meet every second month with the Regiment's senior leadership to discuss the health of the unit, activities of the Regimental Advisory Council and, this year, the completion of the Regimental History Book. One significant project that will carry into the New Year is the re-organization of our Regimental Family leadership

(Regimental Advisory Council, Band, Cadet Corps, Vintage Signals Team, etc) to ensure a financially sustainable, vibrant and engaged Regimental Family. Ideas to increase membership from more recent retirees as well as expanding to include serving members are under consideration. This is important work – it is our future - so **if you have ideas to contribute, please contact HLCol Lloyd.**

- Regimental Book – it's here!! Thanks to the efforts of WO Renny DeGroot-MacKinnon this 350 page, hard cover, coffee table book is now available. The book is an impressive compilation of articles, photos and anecdotes from former and current members that traces the evolution of our predecessor units from pre-WW I to today. Complimentary personalized copies were distributed to each serving member as the Regimental Association's gift during our yearend celebrations. Additional copies are now available for sale through the Orderly Room.

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Ken Lloyd, CD, M.A.

Since our last newsletter the Regimental Family has been involved with anniversaries and displays for D-Day, Armistice, Liberation of Holland, Battle of the Atlantic and the introduction for Cyber. It has been a year of opportunities to share our Signals story. The Vintage Signals Team has attended 86 days of events since January. This has included the Canadian National Exhibition, the Youth Conference in Davos in Switzerland and the Legion week on the Danforth as well as the D-Day celebrations at the Warplane Heritage and the Military Museum in Hamilton. The photograph here is from the Remembrance Day display in Casa Loma with the Queens Own Rifles who provided the picture.



On the aspect of the C&E Branch Governance Working Group, the report was presented and approved at the C&E Week in October 2019. As a member of the Working Group, I was privileged to be part of the year long process of construction, research and approval. This was a useful preparation for our own journey to review our Advisory Council Constitution. Research was also conducted into the Governor Generals Horse Guards, the Lorne Scots and the RCR Museum who have all been through a similar 'reflection' of how their Regimental Councils work. A Regimental Working Group has been formed and consultations have occurred with the Officer's Mess, the Band, and the VST. The WOs' & Sgts' Mess and the JRs' Mess are yet to be consulted. The President of Jimmy and Associates is a member of the Working Group. The aim is to create an organisation that works through cooperation and coordination, where decision making is by consensus. The Working Group is still in the consultation phase and hopes to complete this by the year end. More to follow and with the written proposals already received there is a lively and exciting time coming up for the Working Group to view the varied thoughts and ideas. Many thanks to those who provided their views.

Through the intervention of LCol Lai and 2Lt Manu Bhardwaj my experience of the world of Cyber stepped beyond Scutale and Enigma into symmetric key cryptography and block encryption. Boiled eggs with alum and vinegar faded before Least Significant Bit Steganography. I had the opportunity to attend a six-day compressed Cryptography and Steganography course. With the generous help I received from fellow students and the CO the course was an amazing journey into the present cryptographic world. Thank you all.

The Outreach program continues to expand. The Liberation of Holland is moving towards May. Bringing cyber together with Signals we are developing the "Deceptive D-Day" program into our "Interactive Enigma" experience which includes a digital replica Enigma provided by a generous donation from MWO Hua. It will be exhibited for the Liberation of Holland celebration in May at Dennison Armoury. Capt Roger Caron (Ret'd) is leading our rebuilt Line Team, which has already been asked to attend the celebration with our new dispatch bike that was at the CNE. Finally, if you need a gold shirt or new jacket, the latest VST fashion wear is now available.

From the Regiment

Awards and Promotions



Top: HCol Jim Leech receives the Canadian Decoration from BGen Mialkowski.

Right: Jim Kelly promoted to the rank of Captain.



It is always a pleasure to share good news. We have many outstanding and notable members within our Regimental family. We would like to recognize those members who have been honoured and sadly, this is sometimes missed. If our members who have been recognized for outstanding achievements have been missed, please let me know by email kenlloyd mediator@gmail.com.

In November 2019, our Honorary Colonel, Jim Leech received further notable recognition with an honorary degree from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He said, "Being recognized by one's alma mater with its greatest honour is quite humbling. I am fortunate to have graduated from the two best universities – RMC and Queen's." Our Honorary Colonel is also Chancellor of Queens University, Chairman of the MasterCard Foundation, Senior Advisor with McKinsey and Company, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on the Canada Infrastructure Bank and retired President and CEO of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Outside of his business connections, HCol Leech has taken leading roles in the "True Patriot Love Foundation" for which he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation, for which he was honoured with an outstanding citizen award. He has co-authored *The Third Rail: Confronting Our Pension Failures*, which received the 2014 National Business Book Award. In 2014, he took part in an expedition to the magnetic north pole to raise awareness and funds for military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He was invested as a member of the Order of Canada in 2014. The honorary degree by RMC is a worthy recognition for our Honorary Colonel.



Andy Barber, a member of the Vintage Signals Team is a veteran of The Royal Canadian Navy who served on HMCS HAIDA. He received the Minister for Veteran's Affairs Commendation in July 2019. Andy received his award for his compassion and dedication to veterans. He is active as a member of the Friends of HMCS HAIDA, Director of HAIDA volunteers, Secretary for the Korea Veterans Association; Secretary for the Burloak Naval Veterans a member of the Canadian Legion Branch 139, Chairman of the Veterans Committee of the Halton Naval Veterans Association and Duty Veteran at Citizenship Courts for new citizens. Andy has been active in raising naval memorials to Korea veterans and visits schools with the Vintage Signals Team to share his story as a Naval Signaller.



From the Regiment

Awards and Promotions



Maj Hal Buller (Ret'd) received the Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation in July 2019. Since leaving the Canadian Forces in 2012 Hal has been the Flag Party Commander and the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Commissionaires Ceremonial Marching Unit which parades across South Western Ontario. Hal is also a member of the 32 Signal Regiment Advisory Council. The Council raises money and assists the Regiment and associated units such as the Cadets and the Band. Hal's efforts as a volunteer extended to being a Civilian Instructor with the Oakville Army Cadets, helping the Oakville Legion to raise funds for Veterans and Cadets. Hal is a member of the

Warrior's Day Parade Council and assists in the communications and operations of the parade. As a member of the friends of HMCS HAIDA, Hal also volunteers in the radio room and shares his experience by explaining and demonstrating military communication.

Hal is a long time member of Jimmy and Associates and is in his third consecutive term as President. He is also the commander of the Regimental Flag Party. In 2017 Hal's volunteer service since 2012 was recognized with the presentation of the Queen's volunteer medal in 2017 by Mayor John Tory. The medal was awarded for his service in the Commissionaires Great Lakes Ceremonial Marching Unit and his participation in various events honouring veterans and as a member of 32 Signal Regiment Advisory Council. More recently, Hal was one of the first volunteers to join the Governance Working Group tasked by the Advisory Council to make recommendations for reviewing the Regimental Advisory Governance.



Major Ric Rangel-Bron is the Commanding Officer of 709 RCAC, the previous Commanding Officer of 142 Mimico "Determination" RCAC Sqn and Aide de Camp to Honorary Lieutenant-General Richard Rohmer. In July 2019 Ric was presented with the Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation for his active involvement in recognizing and supporting Canada's veterans and still serving military personnel for a number of years. He demonstrates a remarkable dedication to this cause. Ric has assisted with the planning and delivery of commemorative events for the anniversaries of D-Day and V-E day as well as the Ontario Veteran's Memorial and Premier's Ceremonial Advisory Committees. In Christmas 2006 he created "Operation Booster shot" which collected magazines, cards and chocolates for troops deployed overseas. In 2008 Ric started "Share a Cup with a Brave Canuck" which encouraged 45,000 Canadians to donate a \$10

Tim Hortons Card to troops in Afghanistan. In his work with Toronto Paramedic Services, Ric has provided medical support to families and participants of the repatriation of fallen Forces members and played a role in the renaming of Highway 401 to "The Highway of Heroes". In 2014 Ric led a medical team supporting 100 veterans attending the commemorative ceremonies in Normandy. As a Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Officer, he created, coordinated and led educational and cultural trips to the United Kingdom, France and Belgium for cadets in 2008, 2012 and 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018.



Ontario Award for Paramedic Bravery Recipient: Ric Rangel-Bron.
Ran into a burning house three times to help everyone evacuate safely.

From the Regiment

Summer Activities



From the Regiment

Honorary Colonel Honorary Doctor of Law (LL.D)

Kingston Ontario | November 15th, 2019



On November 15, HCol Jim Leech was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law (LL.D) degree from the Royal Military College of Canada. Representing 32 Signal Regiment at the Convocation were: HLCol Ken Lloyd, Col Alfred Lai and RSM Steven Graham. Also in attendance were MGen (ret'd) John Leech and former Colonel Commandant, BGen (ret'd) Bill Richard.



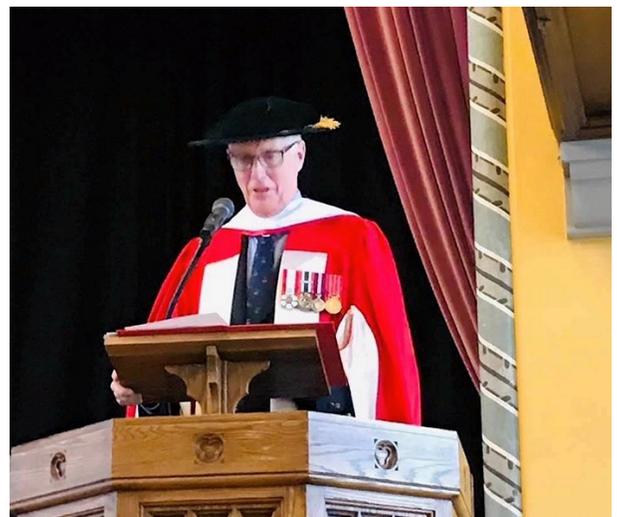
HCol Leech began his Convocation Address noting that: "there is no greater honour than to be recognized in this manner by one's alma mater". He described the "**competitive advantage** that his military experience provided throughout his business career:

- ◆ I had learned how to manage up and down;
- ◆ I had attention to detail;
- ◆ I had worked in a persistent "mission focussed" culture – one that **would not fail**;
- ◆ I was used to and in fact thrived on challenges;

- ◇ I knew how to analyze problems or a situation - in real time;
- ◇ I knew how to make decisions, again, in real time – also how to adjust in the face of new information, in real time;

- ◆ I had had a boat load of formal and informal leadership experience;
- ◆ I had self-discipline, resilience, loyalty and dedication to the team;
- ◆ I had lived and worked internationally; and
- ◆ Employers loved that I called everyone "sir" – hey a little respect goes a long way and makes an impression!"

Dr Leech concluded his remarks with some advice to the graduates, the most important of which was: "Be Generous: with your time, with your money, with your concern. Volunteer in your community. Help junior members of the team. Give a leg up to someone who's struggling. The success they enjoy as a result of the help you gave them will be some of the most meaningful rewards you'll ever receive."



From the Regiment Remembrance Day Dinner

Toronto Ontario | November 2019



From the Regiment Remembrance Day Parade

Toronto Ontario | November 10, 2019



From the Regiment

Remembrance Day Parade

Oakville Ontario | November 11, 2019 | by HLCol Lloyd, CD



Sleeting snow in St George's square for the Oakville Remembrance parade as Lorne Scots stand vigil.

Halton Regional Police march briskly past the improvised saluting post at the Oakville Parade.



It was beautiful on Sunday! On Monday November 11th snow and sleet hammered in from the West and slush accumulated on shoulders and uniform caps. Dignitaries and Members of Parliament scurried from the shelter to stand at an impromptu saluting post for the Oakville Parade. We stood at the salute as the Parade marched briskly past. Commonsense prevailed and a foreshortened parade and ceremony was gratefully received and appreciated by all.

HLCol Lloyd takes the salute with Mayor Burton, Regional Chair Gary Carr and MPP Crawford at the Oakville Parade.



The Parade on Sunday 10th Nov was Chilly and clear with a full complement of Dignitaries and Organisations. The Parade stretched the length of Lakeshore Road from the Legion to the Memorial at the Harbour.



32 Signals Regiment have provided the Reviewing Officer for the Civic Remembrance Parades in Bronte and Oakville since 2016. The Lorne Scots provide the Cenotaph Guard from their Armoury. The Cenotaph Speech with its Signals theme was provided to the Mayor who requested a copy.



From the Regiment

Remembrance Day

Toronto Ontario | November 11, 2019

St. Mary's Remembrance Day Assembly

by Capt Marwan Deeb, CD

Monday, November 11th, Capt Marwan Deeb spent the morning at St. Mary's Catholic elementary school for their annual Remembrance Day assembly. Never having a Canadian Armed Forces soldier before in their attendance, this was a special occasion for the school and the students. Captain Deeb presented the CAF approved PowerPoint adding his spice of experience and character to engage the audience of students from junior kindergarten to grade eight. The children were in awe and excitement because of the CADPAT uniformed soldier in their midst.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, Capt Deeb was swarmed with questions from the audience who were disappointed that they had to go back to class with unanswered questions. This event provided not only the children or adults in the audience with a unique experience and opportunity to connect to the Canadian Armed Forces, but also encouraged the soldier to brush up on military history, knowledge, public speaking and connecting with Canadians. It is an opportunity that should be repeated frequently and encouraged by the chain of command.

Health and Welfare Visits



Visit at Bridgepoint.
LCol Gary Knopf (Ret'd) with HLCOL Ken Lloyd,
LCol Alfred Lai and CWO Steve Graham.



Luncheon Meeting on October 24th, 2019.
LCol Jack Lee (Ret'd), Col John Catto (Ret'd) and
BGen Lucien Maes (Ret'd).

An Unforgettable Experience

by David Douglas, Past President, Jimmy & Associates

I had the honour and privilege of representing the Toronto Signals Band, the 32 Signal Regiment and Jimmy and Associates at the 'Festival of Remembrance' celebrated at Royal Albert Hall on Remembrance Saturday in London England. The concert was attended by HM Queen Elizabeth II and the entire Royal Family. It was also a pleasure meeting and greeting fellow members of the Commonwealth's "Sigs" who were also in presence.

On Remembrance Sunday, Carol and I attended the Cenotaph to honour the War sacrifices of our service men and women, proudly wearing my Jimmy Blazer. The whole week was filled with pageantry, pomp, circumstance, and commemoration.



Royal Canadian Logistics Service Branch

The Royal Canadian Logistics Service Branch Newsletters are available online:
<https://www.cfla-alfc.org/log-branch-advisor/>

Canadian Forces Logistics Association
<http://www.cfla-alfc.org/>

Logistics Branch Kit Shop
<http://www.canex.ca/military/military-kit-shops/logistics-branch.html>



"SERVITIUM NULLI SECUNDUS"

From the Regiment

New Year's Levee

Toronto Ontario | January 1, 2020



From the Regiment

Junior Ranks Mess Committee

Toronto Ontario | by Cpl Bright, PMC



Plans for the 2020 – 2021 32 Signal Regiment Junior Ranks Mess Committee

Since seeing everyone at the 40th Annual Junior Ranks Ball the 32 Signal Regiment Junior Ranks Mess Committee has been very busy. We want to personally thank all the attendees who were at the Canadian Forces College Armour Heights Officers Mess to celebrate the momentous event.

With the conclusion of the annual formal, it was time for some of the mess members to pass the torch to a newly elected committee. This year, there was a high level of interest from the Junior Ranks in joining the committee. Hence, two positions were created to facilitate the demand. I believe that if we have more members on the committee, we are stronger as a team. The new members of the 2019 – 2020 Mess Committee consists of:

- Cpl Bright, Chris – Mess President
- Cpl Yang, Robin – Mess Vice-President
- Cpl Opara, Daniel – Secretary
- Cpl Gupta, Rudy – Treasurer
- Cpl Wilkinson, Eric – Social Convener
- Pte Soukhnev, Steve & Cpl Chi, Tyrone - Mess Trainee

The new team is looking into planning three exciting events for 2020. Our intent is to plan adventure training, the Junior Ranks formal and an additional unit event.

Adventure training has been long requested by our members and is finally in the process of being facilitated. After a quorum on the issue, the troops decided that a two day guided canoe tour in Algonquin Park would be the best choice. During the Christmas holidays, the committee will be creating a budgeted proposal on the event. More to follow in the coming year.

The 41st Junior Ranks Formal will take a bit of a different turn this year. We have decided to host the event at Fort York. The current tentative date is 16 May 20. Be sure to mark your calendars. We will be sending out more information closer to the date.

Finally, the Junior Ranks have informed us that they would like to see a smaller event before the training year concludes in June. Some ideas being considered are axe throwing, parkour courses, and an indoor obstacle course.

With more members on the Junior Ranks Mess Committee we hope to achieve more than in years past. With more events comes the challenge of financing and we need your support. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to the PMC, Cpl Chris Bright at chrisbright@hotmail.ca. We appreciate the support from the unit and its extended family.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and loved ones.

Sincerely,

PMC Cpl Chris Bright

A summer in Gagetown

by OCdt Manu Bhardwaj

Every summer new OCdts and 2Lts in the Canadian Army descend upon CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick to attend the Basic Military Officer Qualification-Army (BMOQ-A) course. With its prerequisite course, the BMOQ, being common to all three branches of CAF, BMOQ-A lets the Army shape the new military members into future Army leaders. While the training revolves around tactical skills, the focus throughout is on the candidate's ability to demonstrate that they are an effective leader. Run by the Infantry School with staff mostly from the three regular force infantry regiments, BMOQ-A is a 12-week course with a total of 18 days/nights in the field and the rest in garrison. There are 14 POs to pass in this course but the real test for candidates is to lead a reconnaissance patrol detachment during the final 9-day ex. Graduating from the course allows new officers to proceed to trade specific DP1.1 training at their respective Corps Schools.

In the summer of 2019, it was my turn to attend this course. Upon arrival at CFB Gagetown I was surprised by the scale of this endeavour - an entire mod tent city is sprung up every year to accommodate the candidates. In my platoon there were 40 candidates from both the regular force and primary reserve - some coming directly from CFLRS, St. Jean and RMCC, Kingston while others, like myself, from the various Army Reserve units across the country. In terms of MOS, we had candidates from Infantry, Signals, Logistics, and REME. We even had four foreign officer cadets from the militaries of Ukraine, Malaysia, Jamaica, and Colombia.



Home for the next 12 weeks!



After completing the final field ex.

The course itself is divided roughly into six parts - Garrison Phase-1, Range Week, Field Nav Ex, Garrison Phase-2, Battle School Field Ex and the Final Field Ex. With the customary briefings and in-clearing paperwork out of the way, the first phase started with the platoon confined to base for the first four weeks. During this time

we mostly attended classroom based knowledge and skill classes. A highlight of this phase was the road to mental readiness sessions. Although it has a rather benign sounding name, it is anything but that. After briefing candidates on techniques to cope with stress and still retain command presence, the instructors spent the next three days employing various methods to induce physical and mental stress and encouraged candidates to apply what they had learned in class to rise to the challenge. Although the fatigue, uncertainty and friction of countless minor events occurring simultaneously did manage to get stress levels high, the common experience brought everyone in the platoon close together.

Following the 1st garrison phase we had the range week, where we got qualified not only on using new weapons but also on acting as the OIC/RSOs of the range. For four days we would be bussed to the ranges and had to ruck back at the end of the day. The range week culminated with the Cowling Cup competition. It is conducted at the section level and includes six stands. Once a section completes a stand they are given the coordinates to the next one and must navigate to it. The overall distance that candidates cover is approx. 17 km and culminates in the obstacle course. The highlight for me was applying the soldiering skills we had learned so far in the course and bonding together as a section. Looking back, I feel lucky to have been part of 4 section. The boys were a blast to work with and awesome team players.

A summer in Gagetown

After the range week, the field part of the course kicked in. For the navigation phase, we spent four days in the field doing day and night time nav exercises. The training area of CFB Gagetown presents a unique terrain to practice these skills. This was followed by a brief 4-day garrison phase, which included classroom sessions on the theory of offensive and defensive ops, battle procedure, and a demonstration of how platoon weapons systems work at the Argus range.

Final part of the course saw us back in the field for five days for the battle school followed by the nine-day final field ex. During battle school we applied what we had learned in class, but the real tests were to come during the final field ex. To pass the course, all 40 candidates had to lead a section during attack, lead a defensive operation and finally, lead a recce patrol detachment. Doing 120 assessments meant that the patrol base was a hub of activity 24 hours of the day. The candidates were obviously very tired from the round the clock activity but the instructors also put in a lot of effort to ensure the assessments were completed on-time.

Once the field exercise drew to a close it also signalled an end of the course. Almost overnight the staff became less formal. We returned to garrison and started the out clearing process. A few days later I was handed my course report – I had been graded 'above average' and that left me satisfied. I had left behind my wife and young son back in Toronto to attend the course for two and a half months and reading the positive comments on the report did make me feel that I had something to show for their sacrifice. And now with the BMOQ-A behind me, BSOC in Kingston follows in the summer of 2020!



Taking a familiarisation ride on a LAV6 while on a break from cleaning all the weapons and pioneer tools.

The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
<http://rcemecorpsgemrc.ca/>



Jane Umpherson (Jenny Jenkins)

by HLCol Ken Lloyd, CD



"Do you know what a Degausser is?" Bright eyes sparkling, as 96 year old Jenny Umpherson smiled and laughed. "Not many people know that. I did lots of jobs. I'm a Signaller." Jenny was in the Bronte Legion after the D-Day Parade on Sunday 2nd June. Jenny wore her Naval Blazer and cap, laughed and shared greetings in her native Welsh. Jenny was in the Womens Royal Naval Service (WRENS) and remembered the build up to D-Day. As a trained Signaller she was posted to the Docks and iron piers for assisting with the loading of the landing craft. Standing on the concrete pier above the moored landing craft, Jenny used flags to signal as vehicles and tanks reversed into the flat bottomed craft. Jenny was there for three days as the loaded ships then pulled away to await the invasion. Jenny served in Dover as a Degaussing recorder from 1943 to 1945 and it was her signals qualification that provided Jenny with a part in history as she organized the landing craft and tanks for Operation Neptune, the Naval plan for D-Day.

Dover in September 1943, when Jenny first arrived, was being bombed and shelled on a daily basis. Dover is barely 22 miles from the coast of France. The enemy guns at Cappe Griene in France fired 1,000 shells a week and their daily firing soon gave their favourite part of Port Dover the nickname of "Hell Fire Corner".

Jenny standing with flags ready on a loading Pier during D-Day operations, July 1945.



Jenny Umpherson wearing her WRENS cap shares a story and some Welsh jokes with Ken Lloyd.

Jenny married a RCAF Pilot Earl William Umpherson in July 1945, left the Navy and moved to Canada. Jenny raised a family of 3 boys and 3 girls in Perth Ontario. Jenny currently lives in the NorthRidge Long Term Care home in Oakville.



Technology Topics

Transmission Lines

by WO Richard Lacroix, CD



In the previous edition of Technology Topics I introduced the readers to Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast (ADS-B) technology. In this edition's column, it is only fitting that we conclude this series by exploring transmission lines.

Transmission lines, aka feed lines, come in many various forms such as open wire, parallel lines (ladder line), coaxial cable, waveguide or microstrip just to name a few. They all have one thing in common; to connect the receiver-transmitter to the antenna system.

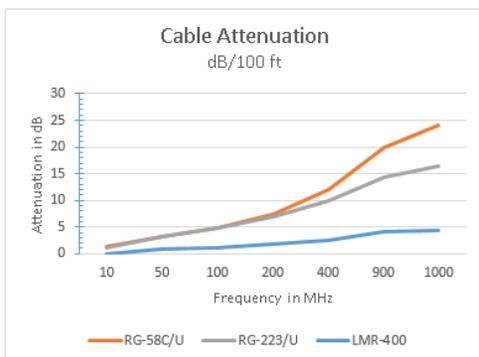
Do not worry, I have no intentions of delving into the theory of transmission lines — that would be far too complex for this article. For those of you who are interested in the complexity of transmission lines you are welcome to visit this [Wikipedia article on Transmission line](#) or even perhaps pick-up a copy of the [ARRL Handbook](#) from your local amateur radio distributor. Now in its 97th edition, The American Radio Relay League has been publishing this comprehensive handbook since 1926.

When it comes to transmission lines, receivers, transmitters and antenna systems we are going to keep it simple (KISS). There is all but two key points to remember:

- a. Based on their type, transmission lines have a maximum usable operating frequency; and
- b. The longer the length, the greater the signal loss (attenuation).

For several decades, my defacto, every day, go to transmission lines have primarily consisted of RG-58/U or RG-223/U [coaxial cable](#). Just because RG-58/U happens to be my defacto, this does not necessarily signify that it is the best choice in a transmission line. It just so happens that I purchased a 1,000 ft. roll of it many years ago at a surplus store therefore it happens to be handy. I do prefer RG-223/U over RG-58/U which will become evident as you read on further. Since I suspect that most of you reading this article are Signallers, you will most likely identify with this type of transmission line as that black (or copper looking) piece of wire connecting the radio to the antenna.

Now, back to business. Remember what I previously mentioned — maximum usable operating frequency and attenuation. Let's have a closer look. The chart to the left illustrates the performance of 3 types of common coaxial cables, RG-58/U, RG-223/U and LMR-400.



To put this into perspective I have translated those results into practical applications which the reader can relate to;



A tactical HF radio station operates from 2 to 30 MHz. Theory illustrates that a 100 ft. length of RG-58/U coax will yield roughly 2 [decibel \(dB\)](#) of attenuation at 30 MHz.



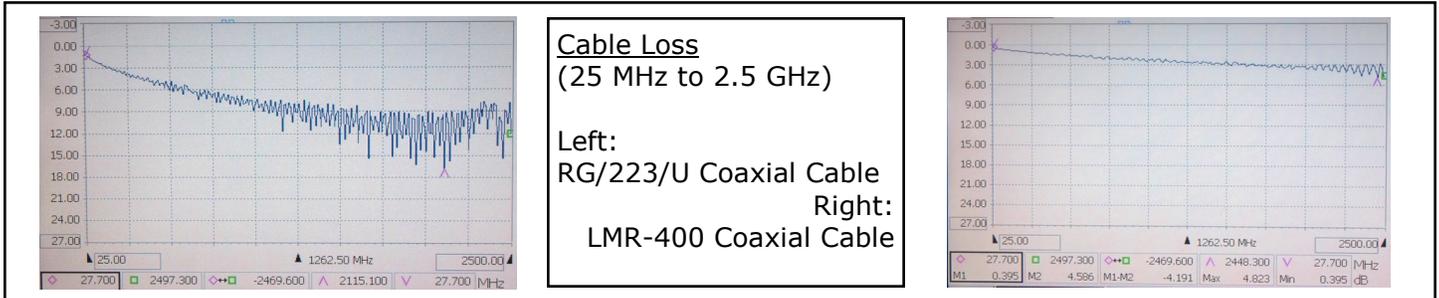
A tactical VHF radio station typically operates from 30 to 88 MHz. Theory illustrates that a 100 ft. length of RG-58/U coax will yield roughly 2 dB of attenuation at 30 MHz to roughly 4 dB of attenuation at 88 MHz.



A tactical UHF radio station operates from 220 MHz to 400 MHz. Theory illustrates that a 100 ft. length of RG-58/U coax will yield roughly 7 dB of attenuation at 220 MHz to roughly over 8 dB of attenuation at 400 MHz.

An ADS-B antenna operates at 1090 MHz. Based on the previous examples, it should now be obvious to the reader that, unless it is kept to a very short length, RG-58/U coaxial cable will be unsuitable as a transmission line for this platform. Based on our chart, RG-223/U would yield an improvement and ideally, LMR-400 would be far superior.

Theory set aside, here are some real-life measurements under actual use. The figure below on the left is a 55 ft. length of RG-223/U vs. a 50 ft. length of LMR-400 coaxial cable in the figure on the right.



Now, let's put those decibel values into perspective. In relationship to radio waves and transmission lines, here are the true hard facts. *Source: [Fleeman, Anderson & Bird Corp Losses and Gains per dB](#)*

- 1dB of loss represents approximately 21% of the signal being lost;
- 2dB of loss represents approximately 37.5% of the signal being lost;
- 3dB of loss represents approximately 50% (half) the signal being lost;
- 6dB of loss represents approximately 75% of the signal being lost; and
- 10dB of loss represents approximately 90% of the signal being lost.

Our tactical VHF radio station with a 2 to 4 dB transmission line loss connected to a ground plane antenna atop a VIXAM mast through one, or perhaps multiple pieces of RG-58/U coax may no longer look so impressive anymore. Based on what you have learned, what are your thoughts?



Results of my experiments using my home-built co-linear ADS-B coaxial antenna revealed that at higher frequencies, the choice in transmission line is critical with relationship to being able to achieve long range reception of aircraft data signals.

The theory behind calculating transmission line loss, antenna gain and effective radiated power is known as [link budget](#).

About the author.

Richard Lacroix has been a radio hobbyist since the mid 1970s and has been professionally employed in both the commercial and military communication fields since the mid 1980s.

Cadets

709 Signals Army Cadet Corps

Fall 2019 Newsletter | by Maj Ric Rangel-Bron, CD

Greetings one and all!

It seems that it was only a few short days ago I had the honour of standing in front of the Cadets of 709 Toronto Signals for the very first time, yet the training year is half over! For me, the time seems to be flying by, especially since I am still trying to make things "green" in my "blue" brain. For the Cadets though, I am certain that this is the norm and they continue to do the good things that they do week in, week out.

Of course, there have been some changes, most significantly in our staffing. With the departure of Maj Morgan to another Unit, Capt Trojanowski departing to start her family, and the loss of various civilian staff for educational purposes, we are a bit understaffed. That said, those who are here (Lt Monteleone, 2Lt Magtira and CI Gazzelone) are doing a good job taking on new responsibilities, and we have seen the addition of one Officer (Capt Ash) who has transferred into the Unit. We have also had outstanding assistance of fellow Officers and Civilian Instructors from our sister Unit, 142 Mimico Squadron, from time to time, which we appreciate. Thank you to Capt Singh, 2Lt Bochenek and CI Valentine for all of their dedicated assistance!

The Cadets have been quite busy the first half of the training year, with some new experiences now under their belt. Of course, our core programme training continues weekly at our LHQ, and the Cadets are working diligently at learning new skills, principles and theories. The fun really comes out when we are in the field or doing MST day training. On these dates we have hands on training, fresh air and exercise, and strangely enough – only eat MRE's all weekend!



Our first test of our field skills occurred on the last weekend of September with a three day FTX in a new training location near CFB Trenton. In addition to a weekend diet of MRE's, Cadets participated in a variety of field training skills, from identifying BIV sites, hoochie building, constructing campsite lines, trapping and skinning small animals, safe fire building, identifying hazards and dangers in the field and 0630hrs fitness sessions! There was also a 5km hike along the brush shoreline of Lake Ontario, and a large bonfire on the Saturday night filled with Cadet driven entertainment. And of course, there were MRE's all weekend long!!



We also participated in the Army Cadet League semi-annual Tagging programme, which is a significant

fundraiser for the Cadet programme, providing monies for activities not supported by DND, and, of course, to pay our rent at our LHQ located at St Thomas Aquinas School.

Our Gold Star & Master Cadets were challenged during their weekend participation in the Regional Senior Cadet Training. Over these two days senior Cadets from across the NGTA are gathered to undergo an intensive programme focusing on leadership and personal development. I am pleased to say that all of the 709 participants were successful in this mandatory training activity!

Cadets

709 Signals Army Cadet Corps

One of the cornerstones of the Cadet programme is building good Canadian citizens, and part of this is through community service activities. Your 709 Cadets continue to demonstrate that they are proud young men and women who support their community through participation in activities such as the annual Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign. For three weekends Cadets joined the Legionnaires in their Poppy Campaign, distributing Poppies and raising funds for the various Legion programmes. We are proud to support Branch 75, who are always very supportive of our Corps.



Of course, 709 gave back in more ways than the Poppy Campaign. This year, for the first time 709 Cadets and staff joined in Operation Raise A Flag at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, a programme that sees some 150,000 Canadian flags planted on the grounds surrounding the Veterans Wing of Sunnybrook Hospital. Every November 10th, hundreds of volunteers come out and plant Canadian flags so when the Veterans who reside at Sunnybrook wake up on Remembrance Day their home is surrounded with thousands of beautiful flags! I am so very pleased to say that we had Cadets and a number of our parents join in, and our group is responsible for planting over 5,000 Canadian flags. What a grand way to show our Veterans that we remember and thank them for their sacrifice, bravery and our freedom!

Joining the Regiment at the annual Remembrance Day Parade is a high point in our training calendar. For the Cadets, there is no greater honour than to be with our Regiment on parade as we commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those who have served Canada, and those who serve Canada today. We remember and honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We also recognize and thank all of those who have served to keep our nation strong and free. Thank you for letting us join your ranks – we do so with great pride and respect!

Another first is the participation of Army Cadets (and not just 709) in Ontario's Ceremony of Remembrance at Queen's Park on Remembrance Day. Ten 709 Cadets were chosen to join 60 other Army, Sea and Air Cadets from the NGTA in this provincial ceremony. The Cadets formed part of the honour guard, 'hosts' and escorts for Veterans and dignitaries and assisted in the laying of wreaths during the ceremony. Some of the 709 Cadets joined a small contingent

of Sea and Air Cadets assigned to the platform party, which included Premier Ford, Brigadier General Mialkowski, 4th Canadian Division Commander, and our very own Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Knopf, representing Canada's Veterans, in laying the official wreaths.



Even as we approach the Christmas season, our training continues and 709 Cadets spend the day on the Range and in fitness activities at Fort York. This day long activity will see each of our Cadets undertake their annual Range requalification and achieve a level of marksmanship proficiency. In addition to the range time, the Cadets lead each other in a variety of sports and fitness activities that challenge their leadership and organizational capabilities, while providing fun for the entire Corps.

Cadets

709 Signals Army Cadet Corps



And the final "first" for this part of the training year saw 709 Cadets invited to participate in the Lieutenant Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at Her Honour's Queen's Park Residence. Joining an intimate group of specially invited Cadets and citizen guests, 709 Cadets enjoyed an afternoon with the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, as she welcomes Christmas in Ontario.

Cadets and staff enjoyed a dance on our final training night of 2019, which was planned by the newly formed Cadet Mess Committee and supported by our Corps Support Committee, and a grand way to have everyone relax as a Corps family as we go into the holiday season.

We look forward to the second half of the training year, from future FTX's and training opportunities, to our trip to the RCCS Home Station at CFB Kingston in March for a weekend of orientation and first-hand experience with our Affiliated Unit and the RCCS!

From everyone at 709 Toronto Signals, we hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year! We look forward to joining our Regimental family in the days and weeks to come.



Cadets

2250 The Muskoka Pioneers RCACC

by Capt Laura Pepper, Commanding Officer, 2250 The Muskoka Pioneers RCACC

December is already here and with it comes a myriad of community service opportunities for our cadets! Seems the word is out that our cadets are becoming willing and able members of our community – I am very proud of your efforts! We have had a busy fall with training three nights a week and some weekends for most cadets. Our senior cadets started the year off with a Leadership Canoe weekend in early



September. We have participated in several parades, Fall FTX at CFB Borden, Remembrance Day Overnight Vigil as well as Poppy Sales. We showed our respect for our veterans by participating in the dedication of the new Cenotaph at the Mactier Legion. We have helped with the Manna Food Bank Thanksgiving Food Drive and assisted the Salvation Army with their Christmas Kettle Drive. Our orienteering team participated in the Area Orienteering Competition in September despite the rain and cold. Our marksmanship and biathlon teams have been training in preparation for upcoming competitions and our drill team has also been training each week at Muskoka Beechgrove Public School. We have participated in three Christmas parades this year and served veterans as well as community members at three Christmas dinners.



Our 1st year Green Star cadets are learning all the basics about the cadet program and our returning cadets have come back from summer training with enthusiasm. Our cadets are ready to take on new challenges for learning and personal growth. We have had an amazing year of accomplishments from Top Cadet in the CAF Basic Parachutist course to Top Marksman on the Full-Bore Phase 2 Marksmanship course. Our cadets have been all over Canada for training this summer. All this

activity means that our cadets are super busy juggling cadets, family commitments, school, work and of course their social lives!

I am also pleased to have had the honour to attest OCdt George Laver and OCdt Cecilia Patenaude into the Canadian Armed Forces this fall. These new officers have already jumped in with both feet by taking on their new roles as Assistant TrgO and AdminO respectively. They are both already working on their first of many required courses. Congratulations!



Thank you to 32 Signals for their ongoing support. Thanks also to the officers and civilian staff that make this unit so successful – we couldn't provide so many opportunities for our cadets without your dedication and commitment to the program!

Thank you to Mrs. Lisa Vivian and her Support Committee team for everything that they do behind the scenes. The Support Committee is rewarding all the cadets for their hard work and dedication by providing us with a wonderful Christmas Mess Dinner then on December 18th a special fun night at Jack's Urban Jungle in Barrie. Many thanks to the Support Committee for making this possible.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday ... see you in the New Year!

Cadets

142 Mimico Determination Squadron

by Capt Sarah Hind-Powell

Annual Training Mess Dinner



On Friday, 20 December 2019, the cadets and staff of 142 Mimico Squadron RCAC celebrated the holiday season with a mess dinner. The dinner was organized by the cadet mess committee, led by our PMC, WO2 Daria Quinn, and supported by our Sponsoring Committee parents.

We were joined by special guests LCol Alfred Lai from 32 Signal Regt and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 643. By attending this mess dinner, cadets get to participate in and learn about one of many important CAF traditions.



All enjoyed good food, good company, and good fun! The PMC tested our holiday trivia knowledge and some cadets were lucky enough to leave with a prize from the raffle draw.



Associations

Toronto Signals Band

by Dawnie Wilson

Season's Greetings from the Toronto Signals Band. We wish you all a joyous holiday season. We have celebrated 94 years of marching and entertaining thousands with our music. Despite a declining membership we keep on marching. We are embarking on 2020 with a focus on recruiting new members.



2019 has been a steady year of parades and concerts:

- ◆ April 17 — Beaches Easter Parade;
- ◆ June 10 — Army Cadet Inspection, FYA;
- ◆ June 15 — Air Cadet Inspection, FYA 9am, Change of Command 2pm;
- ◆ July 1 — Port Credit Canada Day Parade;
- ◆ Aug 17 — CNE Warriors Day Parade;
- ◆ Sept 7 — Cambridge Warriors Day Parade;
- ◆ Oct 8 — CO Parade, FYA;
- ◆ Nov 10 — York Cemetery Remembrance Day;
- ◆ Nov 11 — Remembrance Day service in Newmarket;
- ◆ November 16 — Santa Claus Parade in Richmond Hill;
- ◆ November 24 — Santa Claus Parade in the Beaches Toronto;
- ◆ Nov 30 — Port Hope 1pm and Fenlon Falls at 5pm;
- ◆ Dec 7 — with Stoney Creek Santa parade and Concert at RCL Branch 622.

We look forward to our Christmas celebration with members of Jimmy and Associates and Regiment officers on Dec 13. The band will hand out our service and achievement awards at this time.

On Sept 24th we held our AGM with 23 Band members and 4 special guests from our Regiment - CO Alfred Lai, HLCOL Ken Lloyd, Former CO and Honorary band member Greg Stasyna and LCol Jack Lee (ret'd).

The new executive was mostly acclaimed with 2 new positions being filled:

President: Ted Blight
Vice Pres: Dave Cameron
Treasurer: Maureen Crawford
Secretary: Jillian Ross (new)
Business Manager: Drum Major Burke Gerhardt
Member at large: Lyra Jarrell
Public Relations Officer: Dawn Wilson (new)

To keep the band running smoothly we thank those in other important roles:

Uniform Management and Inventory: Dave Cameron & Chester Jablonski
Instrument/equipment: Doug Johns
Liaison with Regiment: David Douglas
Drum Major: Burke Gerhardt
Sigs Mess/ Bar Manager: Sheri Luloff & Burke Gerhardt
Music Committee: Ted Blight, Jenn Blight, Bruan Collingdon
Music instructor: Barry Bell
Social Committee: John Parkinson & Dawn Wilson
Toonie Draw: June Beaumont
Chase Car: Chester Jablonski
Mascot owner/manager: Ken Richards and son Patrick (Contra Bass)

Associations

Toronto Signals Band

Our guests from the Regiment spoke and offered helpful suggestions for recruiting in the future. Lyra Jarrell has designed new brochures and business cards for the Band to distribute on parade and in the area of Fort York Armoury.

On Oct 5 the band was represented by Drum Major Burke Gerhardt, baritone player Brian Collindon, snare drummer Lyra Jarrell and tenor drummer John Parkinson at the CNE Warriors Day parade Awards Dinner. On behalf of the band they accepted two awards, 1st place for the colour guard and 3rd place for the best band. Congratulations TSB.

This year we lost two long serving members. Eddie Robinson joined the 2nd Signals in 1956. In 1958 he joined TSB as a snare drummer. In Dec 2018 Eddie received his 60-year service award. What an incredible accomplishment! Eddie remained an active member until the end of Feb 2019 when he was diagnosed with a terminal illness. On May 25th the Band with past members and HLCOL Ken Lloyd with his wife in attendance performed a thank you concert for Eddie and his family/friends. Sadly, two days later on May 27th Eddie passed away. Many friends, family and past/present band members gathered on June 22nd for a celebration of life service. Heartfelt eulogies were given by his three adult children and a lifelong friend and former DM Marilyn Sturino. Eddie... we love you... we miss you... KEEP ON MARCHING!!!

We also lost Angus our Band Mascot. Angus was a beautiful 12-year-old St. Bernard who was a St. John's Ambulance therapy dog. Angus marched with us for over 5 years in Easter and Santa parades. He wowed many parents and children and excited hundreds of dogs along the way never missing a beat or misbehaving. We thank Ken and Patrick for sharing their extraordinary pet with us.

On a happy note wedding bells were ringing on October 27th for Sheri Lulof and Greg Stasnya. Sheri is an 18-year member of the band, guard captain and bar manager. She has spent many years on the executive mostly as secretary. She is also a supreme Bell player (Xylophone). Greg is former CO from 32 Sigs for 10 years and an honorary band member. CONGRATULATIONS Sheri and Greg. We wish you many happy years together.

My 11 years with the band have been a most rewarding and fulfilling experience. If you love music and marching, I encourage you to join us in a practice. We will teach you. We meet at Fort York Armoury on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on the third floor Toronto Signals Band Mess.

Jimmy and Associates

by Major Hal Buller, CD (Ret'd)

Hello. There has been very little activity in relation to Jimmy & Associates, so I am hard pressed to compose an article.

One of our regular events, however, is an annual Christmas get together. The Regt hosted the entire regimental family to a sit down dinner recently. It was a great experience to get together with old friends, tell some stories (lies), and just enjoy each others' company. I also always look forward to hearing the CO recount what the unit has been up to. As a lifetime member of [AFCEA](#), I still have a strong interest in the profession of being a Communicator.

Membership dues are due January 2020. The fees remain the same as last year, \$20.00 p/p/couple.

Associations

Jimmy and Associates

Another event that has recently transpired is the annual general meeting of the [National Council of Veterans Associations](#). I attended as a representative of the [Communications and Electronics Association](#). A great deal of discussion about the pension process and Veterans' eligibilities took a lot of concentration to stay in tune with.

<https://www.afcea.org/site/>
<https://ottawa.afceachapters.org/>
<https://ncva-cnaac.ca/en/>
<https://ncva-cnaac.ca/en/legislative-program/>
<https://cmcen-rcmce.ca/>

Vintage Signals Team

Vintage Signals Team Make Connections at The Queens Own Rifles Remembrance Day Display



The Vintage Signals Team recently assisted the Queens Own Rifles with commemorating Remembrance Day.

The Team of Rick Little, Mike Triska, George Stal, Don McGillivray shared our story with several hundred visitors to Casa Loma.

They shared the story of how Bellini wheels worked with an interested Sergeant from the Regiment.

As well, they shared the story of Y stations with and their connection to Casa Loma with astonished visitors. Whom more than once were overheard to ask why the story of Signals aren't more well known?



The Team were delighted to share the story of the first encoded messages dating back 2,500 years.

They also shared the story of why one Signal plan changed how aircraft communicate today. And how it was at Vimy Ridge that Signallers put their lives literally on the line.

The Team had visitors from Washington, New York and Chicago come through their display. Each one left the display with a better understanding of how important a role communication plays in both peace time and in the theatre of war.

Associations

Vintage Signals Team



Vintage Signals Team with the Canadian Armed Forces Display at The EX In 2019

by Kenneth Lloyd, CD. M.A.

“Hold the Line, I’m on the other phone” smiles and laughter, a family share the thrill of a field phone and switchboard at the Armed Forces (CAF) Display in the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), Toronto. The Vintage Signals Team was



side by side with the CAF recruiting desk and the Toronto Family Resources

display. Visitors to the Vintage Signals display cranked magneto phones, waved Signals flags and flashed messages using the sun. The more adventurous visitors were invited to create their own Morse code key using an elastic band and bits of tin, then send cipher messages using a Bellini wheel. The Deception plan for D-Day came to life with Erika and Amanda, our Navy WRCNS telling the ‘ENIGMA’ story. Andy and Ron, veterans of HMCS HAIDA, shared tales of the D-Day Navy plan and demonstrated how semaphore was sent from ship to ship. The Organizers estimated 20,000



visitors came to the display. Our Team provided visitors with over 1,000 Information cards as well as legacy military badges and history pamphlets from Veterans Affairs. Canada pins and flags were very popular as visitors celebrated and remembered the continuing legacy of our Armed Forces. Coincidentally, the CNE had added significance for many of our Sikh visitors who shared their story of a Heliograph Signal Station at Saraghai on the North West Frontier. In 1897, Sepoy Signaller Gurmukh Singh continued to send messages by Helio until overcome by Afghan tribesmen. He and the 21 Sikhs at the Helio station are remembered in India and the UK. A Sikh visitor said he had only seen Heliographs in films - he had never seen one working.



Would like to know more?

Please contact Ken Lloyd at:
vintagesignalsteam@gmail.com

Well done Vintage Signals Team and many thanks to Rick Little, Mike Leatham, George Stal, Paula Ann Simon, Donna Carvalho, Erika Pavlovic, Amanda McInnis, Dave Hayward, Andy Barber, Ron Kirk; Paul Windmoller and Ken Lloyd. With special thanks for the amazing support of 32 Brigade and the CAF for pulling together and making the CNE Display such a phenomenal success. Our 12 volunteers provided 57.5 days.

Associations

Vintage Signals Team

Danforth Legion Celebrates A 6 Year Friendship

“This is so cool!”

The students from Secord Public School waved signal flags, spoke on magneto phones and sent Morse code by heliograph. Uniforms from veteran Legion members were pulled on and ‘selfies’ taken. Students listened avidly as Legion members told gripping stories and the Vintage Signals Team shared the excitement of sending secret messages.

During Legion Week 14-21st September 2019, Branch 11 of the Royal Canadian Legion teamed up with the Vintage Signals Team and provided a Remembrance experience for local schools on the Danforth. The friendship between the veterans of the Signals Team and the members of Branch 11 began in 2014 when June Smith with Helen Pearce saw the Signals display at the Canadian National Exhibition. Since 2014 The Vintage Signallers and Branch 11 have provided an unbroken Remembrance experience for over 1,000 local students for 6 years. “Do you know what a bully is?” hands shoot up as the students rush to answer June Smith’s introduction to Canada’s fight against oppressors and aggressors. Branch 11’s Legion week has begun with these words for 6 years and is still going strong. The Vintage Signals Team value the Friendship of Branch 11 and the amazing team that host the Danforth Legion Week. Special thanks to Anne Davis and Andrew Hudson of the ‘Beach News’ for the wonderful pictures that have made this newsletter possible.



6 years ago In 2014, Ken Lloyd of the Vintage Signals Team and Danforth students send a message by Signal flags.



6 years ago in 2014, Helen Pearce, Ken Lloyd, June Smith and George Stall at Legion Week opening ceremony.



EAST TORONTO BRANCH 11
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 9 Dawes Toronto, ON
 Telephone: 416-491-1111 Web: WWW.RCL11.COM

YOU ARE THE **SPRIT OF REMEMBRANCE**

Legion Week

Visit our memorabilia on Canada's Military History WWI & WWII current conflicts.. View our collection of uniforms and try some of them on. Listen to a few of our Veterans tell their stories.

Everyone Welcome!
Come join us at our Annual Community
Free Admission

Monday, Sept. 17th - Thursday , Sept. 20th, 2019
 10:00 am - 8:00pm
 Friday, Sept. 21st, 2019
 10:00am-3:00pm

Talk to our Veterans!
 Visit with Hamilton Signal Corps
 and see how we communicated in WWI
 Join us for a most interesting way to spend
 an hour or two!

Let US remember that its the 100th Anniversary of the end off WWI



Events and Notices

Wedding Announcements

Sheri Lulof and Greg Stasny | October 27, 2019



I Was A Soldier Once

I liked the idea that as the commercial said; we did more by 0700 than most people did all day. I loved as range safety officer getting shots down range by 0800. I loved the brutality of route marches because they set us apart from my civilian friends, as most of them could never have hacked the pace. I liked standing in an United Nations observation post just before dawn in a faraway land, realizing that I and other soldiers in my unit were doing something very special by representing Canada and the Canadian people, undergoing physical and mental strains that many could not or would not face to keep our country safe and ready. I loved climbing up cargo nets in full battle order and rappelling down cliffs. I loved running the assault course. I liked the early morning runs and the late night polishing before a parade.



I liked the smell of the quartermaster stores, an odd mixture of gun oil, canvas preservative, leather, hemp rope and cigarette smoke. I liked the racks of rifles and sub machine guns and I loved the gun sheds and tank hangers where the vehicles and weapons of war gleamed dully and exuded strength and capability and the power to "get er done" if need be. I loved the name of the equipment when I started off, Sherman, Fabric National, Sten and Bren because they spoke to me of the proud days when our fathers used them successfully in WW2. Our #36 Grenada was the same as our grandfathers used in WW1 for God's sake! I also loved when the 105mm and the M 109 gave way to them M 777 and the guns could shoot accurately over 30 kilometres. I loved it when the old lady "the deuce and a half" was finally replaced by the modern MLVW. The Centurion tank gave way to the Leopard and within weeks our tankers showed NATO they were the best.

I liked our soldiers, from all parts of the land, from cities of upper Canada, small towns of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. They came from the mountains and from the prairies from all walks of life. I trusted and depended on them as they trusted and depended on me for professional competence, for comradeship, for strength and courage. In a word we were "soldiers", then, and forever. I liked the surge in my heart when word was passed that a unit was deploying, and I loved the infectious thrill of riding homeward in convoy waving at the cars we passed and at pedestrians who I was sure looked at us with envy as we rolled through their villages on our way back to base. I loved waving from the back of a truck at the kids in cars that would trail us for a while before finally passing.

The work was hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; and the parting from family painful, but the companionship of robust army laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the military was ever present. I once enjoyed the best 2 hours sleep in my life laying on the ground at a rest halt while doing a patrol. The weather was overcast but warm and a slight drizzle did not deter my snoring, which could be heard 4 men down the line. Another 4 or 5 hours would have been nice, but there was work to be done.

I liked the fierce and dangerous activity of the Infantry Rifle Coy as we began an advance to contact. I liked doing the recce for a harbour where I had to hide up to 40 pieces of wheeled and tracked equipment from the enemy. I hated having to run ahead of our vehicles in complete darkness and trying to be quiet as the drivers and co-drivers tried to back vehicles and trailers into a black hole as quickly as possible so others in line could pass and find me and also be properly positioned and put away. One could hear cursing and unmeant bitching as crews stumbled in the dark to erect cam nets and digging in for protection from an enemy attack as we cut and poked branches holding up the nets to break the vehicle outline so as not to be recognized. The lucky ones had a relatively small vehicle, others, a two and a half or a 5 ton to cover that even in day light would take an hour or more. At night it was dangerous, demanding and extremely hard work. In the rain or freezing snow this necessary chore was brutal.

Watching my fellow soldiers as they took down the cam nets, loaded fuel, ammunition and rations for yet another long day. Feeling truly exhausted and knowing it was going to get a lot worse before it got better, actually added value to the experience. We were soldiers and this is what it was like.

I loved the name and the history of my Regiments;

- "The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada"
- "The Royal Canadian Regiment"
- "The Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers"
- "The Royal Canadian Engineers".

I loved the parades, the colours on parade and the guidon presentation, the march past, the roll past, the advance in review order and the sound of my hand slapping the stock of my rifle during the Present Arms. I could feel the National Anthem inside me while the band played it. Some liked "The Queen" or "O Canada". I loved "The Maple Leaf Forever".

I loved walking through our position in complete darkness checking the welfare of my men and NCO's and ensuring them that they were not alone, as we stood in our trench at first light, on stand to. I liked the weight of my steel helmet on my head and the embrace of my webbing. It made you feel like superman though in your heart you surely knew you were not. I loved the weight of my rifle or pistol and knowing I could outshoot a lot of my men. It was an ongoing competition during range practice to outdo your friends as well as your superiors. There was pride in self and country and growing mastery of the soldier's trade. An adolescent could find adulthood. A man could find fulfilment and old man finds great joy. I will never forget that I was once a soldier. There is no higher calling. I would do it again in a heartbeat. I liked the traditions of the Army and those who made them.

I was a soldier once

Last Post—In Memoriam

Band Master Charles Edgar Wakelin, CD



On the morning of August 16, 2019, Charles E. Wakelin passed away at age 90, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. He will be remembered and missed by his loving wife Ruth (Green), of 67 years, daughter Sandra, son Robert and wife Deb, grandchildren Daniel, Christopher and wife

Tanya, Richard, Peter and great-grandson Connor. He is survived by his many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was born to Arthur and Thelma, in the City of Toronto and was predeceased by his brother William and sister-in-law Dinah.

Chuck was a trumpet player in 8th Signal Regiment and subsequently became the Band Master of the Toronto Signals Band.

Judy Rhonda Brickenden



Judy Rhonda Brickenden (Godemair), 68, passed away Saturday August 17 at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital surrounded by her family and friends.

Judy was born on September 3, 1950 in Chappleau, Ontario. She has spent the last 10 years living life in St. Thomas ON and had recently retired from Starwood Hotels. Judy is survived by her loving husband Steven; her children Lori (Jean), Kim (Ally), Tom (Sherry); her sister Sheila and brother-in-law Dave. She had 7 grandchildren, Jamie, Mikey, Morgan, Jayden, Jayce, Jordynn and Kael. She was predeceased by her mother Ruth and father Frank along with her daughter Lindsay.

She was an avid traveller and had just returned from a trip to Europe with her husband where she lived her last days making the most amazing memories. Judy had served with 2605/709 Army (Signals) Cadet Corps.

Mrs. Verna Askin



I am saddened to announce the loss of our dear friend and life member of Jimmy & Associates, Verna Askin. Verna passed away August 18, 2019 and was predeceased by her husband Bill.

Sergeant Bill and Verna were among the founders of Jimmy and Associates.

Warrant Officer Lee Andrew Whalen, CD



After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, Lee passed away at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre on Tuesday, August 27th, 2019 at the age of 60. Lee was born to Irene and Robert Whalen at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on

May 17th, 1959. He is survived by children Glen, Adam (Jocelyn) and Celina. Will be missed by his loving fiancé Diane and her daughters Kerri and Amy. Proud grandfather of Alexander and Olivia. Dear brother of Debbie (Mike), Paul (Pauline), Jesse (Melanie), Tim (Cindy), Bobby (Brenda) and the late Susan. Lee graduated from Eastview Secondary School and later went on to serve with the Canadian Armed Forces for 31 years. He will be remembered for his big heart, love of the military, the Maple Leafs and Blue Jays, and all creatures.

The Regiment will remember WO Whalen when he was assigned as a Regular Force Advisory to the Toronto and Borden Squadrons. He was also a staunch supporter of the Army Cadets program and in his spare time assisted in the training with our cadet corps.



Last Post—In Memoriam

Mary Brigid McClory



Brigid McClory passed away peacefully at Centenary hospital on Sunday December 15th at the age of 87, with family at her side. Brigid will be missed by her loving children - David (Zaheda), Heather, Denise and Michele.

She was a kind Grandma (Gma!) to Madeleine, Eli, Aidan and Azizah. She was predeceased by her dear husband George in 2009.

Brigid was born in Dublin, Ireland and was a proud 65-year resident of Scarborough. Her visitation, funeral Mass, burial and reception were a fine tribute to her active life. Family, neighbours and friends from her many activities shared many warm memories and funny "Brig" stories.

Colonel John Catto, CD (Ret'd)



It is a sad occasion when a death of the member of the Regiment is announced. It is particularly devastating when we lose a patriarch of the Regiment, Colonel John Catto, CD.

He started as a cadet in the Reserves like his father and became Commanding Officer of the 2nd Signal Regiment from 1966-68.

Later, in 709 Communication Regiment, he served as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel then Honorary Colonel of the Toronto Signal Regiment from 1996-2003.

Colonel Catto served as Senior Staff Officer, Communications, Toronto Militia District from 1978. He enjoyed his time as the Senior Reserve Advisor, Communication Command from 1981-87, and on the Communications Reserve Council. He continued to serve on the 32 Signal Regiment Advisory Council through 2019.

Alfred Francis Smith



SMITH, ALFRED FRANCIS
With heavy hearts, we announce that Alfred Francis Smith left us peacefully at the age of 95. On December 16, 2019, under the care of staff that he had grown very fond of at the Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre, he decided to let go of this

world. Al, as friends and family referred to him, was born on April 19, 1924 in Toronto, Ontario. Nobly, he joined the Air Force in World War II as a Navigator.

Music was a great passion for Al. He played the trumpet and drums beautifully, and for years he was key member of the Toronto Signals Band, the Muskoka District Band and the Gravenhurst Bifocals Concert Band. Al will be remembered most for his musical inclination, dedication to family, generosity, and the sweet tooth that he passed down through three generations. Donations can be made to the Sunnybrook Foundation in honour of the heartfelt care that Al received during the last 6 years of his inspiring life.

Donation: <https://donate.sunnybrook.ca/>

Angus, Band Mascot

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that after 12



years of bringing smiles to those he met Angus passed away peacefully today with Cinn and his human family by his side.

Throughout his 8+ years as a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog and 5 years as mascot for the Toronto Signals Band he always brought joy and smiles to both young and old alike and comfort to those in need of it most.



DONATION FORM
THE REGIMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
32 SIGNAL REGIMENT
Charity Registration # 119113686RR0001

WO Renny MacKinnon (Ret'd)
7509 Cavan Rd
Bewdley, ON
K0L 1E0

Dear Renny:

I would like my donation directed to:

The Regimental Advisory Council - 32 Signal Regiment: \$ _____
(for Regimental activities including 32 Signal Regiment & their Cadets)

The SHE Fund: (i.e. Bursaries for our Soldiers) \$ _____

The Toronto Signals Band: \$ _____

My total gift equals: \$ _____
my gift

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES payable to: The Regimental Advisory Council – 32 Signal Regiment
and mail to our Treasurer, WO Renny MacKinnon (Ret'd), 7509 Cavan Rd, Bewdley ON, K0L 1E0

Please send my receipt for income tax purposes to:

Name: _____

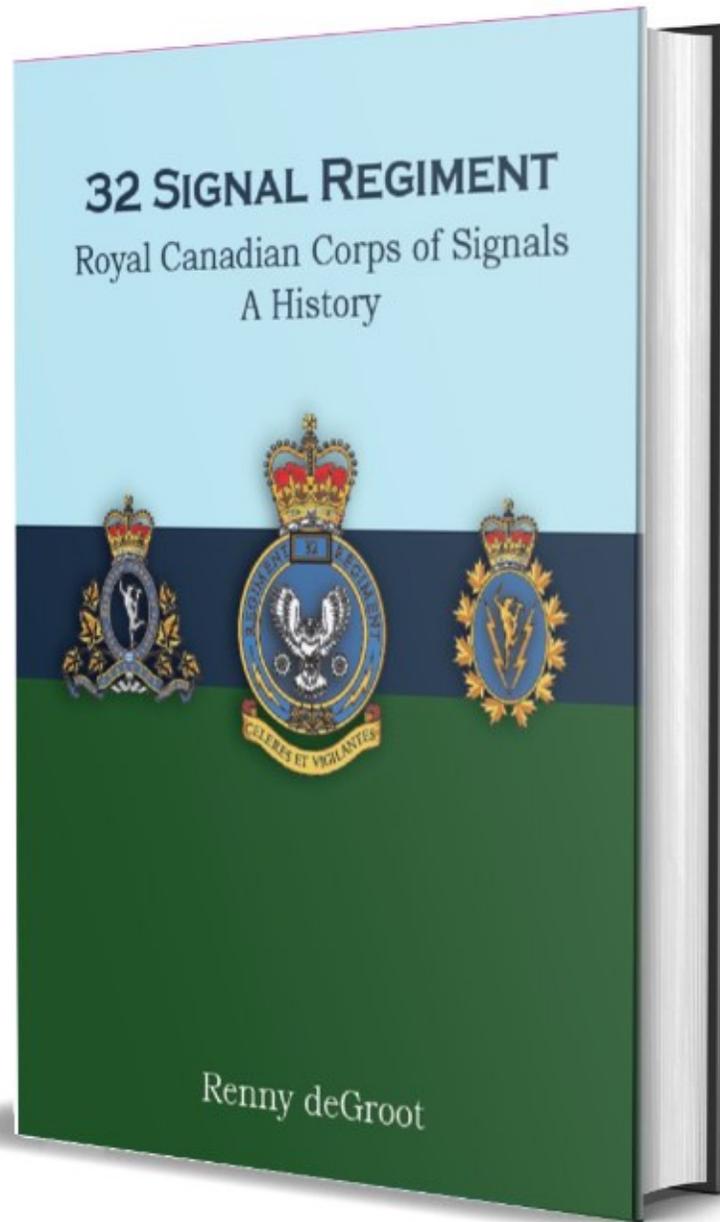
Telephone: _____

Address: _____

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The long anticipated Regimental History is in the final phases of being ready. This work was kicked-off as a celebration of the Regiment's 110-year anniversary in 2017 but, like fine wine, it took a while to come to fruition. This hard-cover 'coffee-table' style book will be available before Christmas for purchase from the Regiment for \$50.00. This has been a team effort with many contributors for the articles, photos, illustrations and historical details. Details of how to get your copy will be shared on the Jimmy and Associates Facebook page, and <http://torontosignals.ca/> when the logistics are finalized.

What's inside? Stories and photos of Regimental people and events dating back to our inception through to 2019 and beyond! This is not a 'dry' history of dates and organizational restructures (OK, there's a bit of that) – but for the most part it is a collection of stories told by and about our people. You'll read about Regimental members you've heard about and known. Maybe, you'll even see your own face!

This is a keepsake that everyone at all associated with the Regiment, past and present will want.

32 Signal Regiment Royal Canadian Corps of Signals: A History (in paperback) is now available for purchase on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.ca/Signal-Regiment-Royal-Canadian-Signals/dp/0993694756>