



Volume 3 Issue 7

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November is a time of Regimental Exercises, and Remembrance. We are also catching up on 2 activities we missed. On Saturday, October 19th, 2024 at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden, Ontario, our six recruits on Basic Military



Qualification 1257 were preparing for their night navigation exercise. Our members were Pte Cooke; Pte Khan Z; Pte Leminoy; Pte



Malhotra; Pte Pinto and Pte Thearia. Our thanks to Sgt Nguyen, for providing this entry. If we have missed an event, please let us know. Also, to congratulate our new signalers who qualified in a combined Sig Regiment Rank Qualification Signal Operator (RQ Sig Op) 0010 course. This culminated over 19-24 August 2024 in a joint Field Training Exercise in Grayling, Michigan, U.S. Congratulations to our Signalers from 31 and 32 Signal Regiments. Also, a big thank you to the instructors and staff who made this course such a success. Special thanks to LCol Smid and MCpl Krebs-Vandeloosdrecht, for sharing this news.



For 32 Sig Regiment the Remembrance Day Parade was on Saturday November 9th 2024. The Ceremony took place at the Veterans Square and Cenotaph in Markham. The parade was well attended and was supported by a Remembrance dinner and Dine Out for Chief Warrant Officer Santos, the Regimental Sergeant Major. LCol Moore our Commanding Officer praised the RSM for his valuable advice and loyal service. (More info to follow) Thank you to MCpl Lin for the photograph of Capt Hanley and Capt Carter with 32 Sig





Regt members at the Unionville ceremony on November 11th, 2024. MCpl Lin shared of Regimental Remembrance events: 9th November at Markham Cenotaph Parade; 11th November at Bracebridge Memorial Park and the Unionville Memorial. Other images posted in the media include our Signals members at other Remembrance events.



In Hamilton 31 Sig Regt paraded from the John Foote Armoury with the Hamilton Garrison. This picture shows our Signalers formed at the front right of the parade.

On 6th Nov, Hon Col (Ret'd) Lloyd gave a Remembrance presentation to members of "Reliable Distribution Canada". The organisation specialises in transporting dangerous chemicals. The presentation focused on "The Cold War" stories of how peace was kept during the Soviet threat of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical war.



On 10th Nov Hon Col (Ret'd) Lloyd represented Signals at the Bronte Remembrance Parade. The Oakville Member of Parliament Anita Anand accepted the recognition pin of the "Vintage Signals Team" to present to our member who she would be visiting in hospital. Ms Anand MP said she would ensure our member received this recognition.



On 11th Nov there was a happy reunion at the Oakville Remembrance parade. Cpl Pringle, WO Lloyd, LCol (Ret'd) Duteau, Hon Col (Ret'd) Lloyd with Tim Mills a visitor from the UK, met at the Oakville Remembrance Wall and shared some tales and memories.



W.O. John COX

At the Remembrance Wall were noticed a couple who were looking at the name plaque of their son John Cox. In conversation with WO Lloyd, Mr and Mrs Cox said they had come to remember their son who had died in Nepean in November 2021. Their son started in the military in the Reserves with the Lorne Scots in Oakville then transferred to the Regular Army as a technician. Mr Cox said his son did not speak about what he did nor where he went but he thought he was in Signals, an ACISS Technician (Army Communication Information Systems Specialist). It was only when clearing his son's papers that he learned that his son had been to Bosnia and twice to Afghanistan, receiving multiple commendations including from the Artillery for fixing their gun sights.

His son spent time in Camp Mirage and Leitrim and was among the last Signals to depart from Kabul. This was an unexpected meeting and a rare opportunity to honour the service of a Signaler.

LCol (Ret'd) Greg Stasyna provides an article on Bandsman Ellie Cameron's Celebration of Life. "Bandsman Ellie Cameron passed away back in August 2024. Her husband, Bandsman Dave Cameron hosted Ellie's Celebration of Life on October 20, 2024. It was held at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club where both Dave and Ellie have been members for many years. An excellent turn out of family, friends, serving and former members of the Toronto Signals Band along with veterans of 32 Signal Regiment including former Commanding Officers Jack Lee, Ken Lloyd and Greg Stasyna. Also noting the excellent performance of DCAT singers of which Ellie was a member."



On November 11th 2024, L/Cpl Pat Lance passed away, 3 days before he was due to receive the French award of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. On Friday 22nd of November a Funeral Mass was held for Pat at St Kevin's, Church Welland followed by a Canadian Legion Service at Branch 4 in Welland. During the Funeral Mass the French Consul General presented the Legion of Honour to Pat's family.



In December 2022 on Pat's 100th Birthday, Hon Col (Ret'd) Lloyd and Capt (Ret'd) Little had been asked to present Pat with his WWII medals and to speak with him about his experiences.

At the reception, HCol (Ret'd) Lloyd shared some of Pat's memories of being the lead Signaler/driver off his Landing Craft under fire on D Day+3. "The ramp went down and I just gunned the engine with foot flat on the floor!". During the Falaise Gap, Pat took a Signals Line crew down an entrenched road to lay line ahead of the Canadian positions. As he drove along Pat noticed that the troops in the trenches lining the road were wearing different helmets than his and wore camouflage jackets, The only troops with camouflage jackets were German Waffen SS! He was on the wrong road! Pat turned around and drove at speed straight back. Pat had survived another day! Pat's family have a recording of the December 2022 interview and we presented the family with the Vintage Signals Pin for enabling a Signaller's story to be saved. Pat's son said that the VST Pin would be included in his father's Memorial shadowbox.



On 9th November 2024 Capt (Ret'd) Little; Capt (Ret'd) Campbell and Matthew Campbell of the Vintage Signals Team were at the Queens Own Rifles of Canada Museum in Casa Loma. With Flags and Lamps they demonstrated and shared the Signals story from the Persians to the



Cold War. Casa Loma is always a busy event with our team in prime position on the balcony above the QOR's Band. Our souvenir cards are

always popular providing contact information for the Friends of HMCS HAIDA and the Vintage Signals Team. The card also shows the Morse and Semaphore Codes.



On Remembrance Day, the 709 Toronto Signals Army Cadet Corps participated in the provincial ceremony at Queen's Park. On 10th November, 709 paraded with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 75 at St.Hilda's church.



Ex Noble Skywave a world-wide High Frequency Radio contest took place between 23-25 Oct 2024. Capt Carter in Toronto and Capt Baird in Guelph organised participants from 31 and 32 Sig Regts' with CFARS, MARS and amateur Radio operators with Mr John David, with his 30 members and Rick Little of the VST in Guelph. Our teams in Toronto, Borden and Guelph contacted call signs all over the world. At 21:41hrs on 24th Oct reports were being made with The Norwegian Jungle Centre in South America,

strong signals in Texas and with Europe not so good. Then in comes Latvia 6825km away, then Montevideo in Uruguay at 9,048km, Lima, Peru then as the ether moves in comes Frankfurt in Germany. At 21:54hrs on 24th Oct Capt Carter reported that Borden Det had 21 contacts and Toronto had 48. At EndEx Capt (Ret'd) Little reported almost 400 teams competing with CA254 having 271 contacts. The photo shows members of 31 Signals Regiment, Amateur Radio Club Operators and VST at Guelph Armouries.



On 16th November the tunes of "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer" brightened the streets of the Bowmanville Santa Clause Parade. The Toronto Signals Band set aside their Busbies, plumes and

flags for Santa hats, Christmas tinsel, festive bows and red noses. Their uplifting music and colourful display heartened the large crowd that came out to see them in the parade.

Late news from Burke Gerhardt, Drum Major on Wednesday 27 November. Sad news received that Gary Crawford, Band member, passed away at 11:30am. Burke writes that Gary, who was a close friend had a brief battle with cancer. 'Sincerest condolences to Christine and all the family. Our prayers and love to the family at this difficult time.' More details to follow.

"Despatches" is a periodic newsletter reporting stories from Signals Regiments in Ontario. Please send news, information and corrections to kenlloyd.mediator@gmail.com.