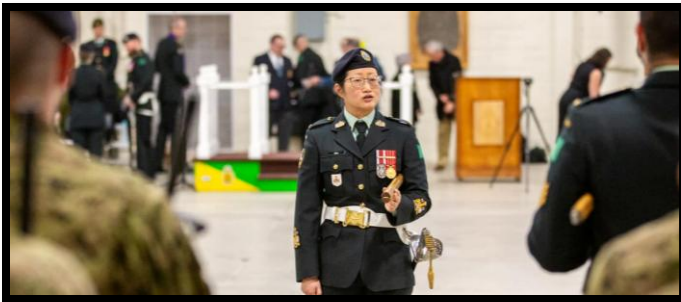




Volume 4 Issue 2

31st March 2025

Welcome to Spring and our new Regimental Sergeant Major. (RSM) Lily HUA C.D.



Chief Warrant Officer Hua begins our March news with words of welcome. "Hello all, my name is Lily Hua and I would like to introduce or re-introduce myself to everyone who is part of the 32 Sig Regimental family. On 12 January 2025 I formally took over as the new RSM for the regiment at the Change of Stick

Parade. I'm sorry that not more of you were invited to the ceremony. We hit a snafu when the planned parade in November was cancelled very last minute and so a quick change had to occur. A little background, I joined the then 709 Toronto Communication Regiment in 1997 as a Radio teletypist. I came back to 32 Sig Regt in 2015 after a detour of a dozen years in Vancouver with 39 Sig Regt. I have always thoroughly enjoyed all the changes the Sig trade has gone through despite the challenges that brings. I'm never bored, and each training night will always be different. My goal for the next 3 years is to support the development of the future of our trade as we continue with the transition both in



technology and culture. Lily. CWO HUA, RSM 32 Signal Regiment. **Welcome back RSM!**

Exercise STRIDING HERMES 7-9 March 2025, took place at Canadian Forces Base Borden. The aim was to validate and strengthen practical Signals tasks such as Communication management and

headquarter tactical moves and set ups. Toronto Squadron provided Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) and IT support capabilities for the Regiment. This was the culmination of the Battle Task Standards for Command Post and Tactical radio.



The photographs are courtesy of MCpl Desiree Cardenas and her team. Members of 32 Sig Regt prove that snow is no obstacle to Canadian signallers whether calibrating a satellite or setting up a VHF antenna. With snow in mind, a fine picture from Capt Palakovic who visited the HQ & Sig Sqn in Camp Adazi. (Reproduced with kind permission PAO Camp Adazi). A welcome addition for any "Camps I have known" collection.



On 28th March 2025 709 Toronto Army Cadet Corps congratulated newly promoted signallers who were provided with their Signals lanyard. Also congratulated were Cadets of the month and the Regional Level Range Team. Well done to all. Photographs by permission of Lt(N) Johnnie Vu, CD.



On Friday 28th March 2025 at 4 Divisional Headquarters, in Toronto, two of our Signallers were promoted to Master Warrant Officer (MWO).

MWO Duncan Lloyd, C.D. and **MWO Leandro Mawbey-Puglia, C.D.** Both serve with the Divisional Signals and were heartily congratulated by staff and colleagues. Congratulations for well-deserved promotions. We are proud of you both. Congratulations.



1st March 2025 the 206th Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball was

held at the "Beanfield Centre" in Toronto. The Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont was present with

General Romer accompanied by Maj Ric and Natalie Rangel-Bron. Also present were Capt. Rankin and CWO Hua, sharing a convivial evening with Julie Lloyd and Capt Rob Carter from 32 Sig Regt. The evening was complemented by a fine showing of members of 31 Signal Regiment from Hamilton and London.



It is always a pleasure to share news. In the January Despatches we recognised our Regimental members who had received the **King's Coronation medal**. In March, more good news about awards for our members.

Mr David Douglas OMC, PhD, GCJ, FSAScot a member of the Toronto Signals Trumpet Band received The Queen Elizabeth II Medal for Good Citizenship on 10th March 2025.



This was awarded for his work with the Toronto Signals Band, our Regimental Family Council, his work with the Order of St Joachim and the Noble Hearts Foundation.

HLCol (Ret'd) Alex Moseanu C.D was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Governor General on 28th February 2018.

This was awarded for his work as a member of the Warriors Day Parade Council; as an Aide de Campe at Rideau Hall, and as a volunteer with the Army Cadet League of Canada. In October 2024 **HLCol (Ret'd) Alex Moseanu C.D** was also awarded the King's Coronation Medal by Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont in "commemoration of his Majesty's Coronation".



On 28th March 2025 **Maj (Ret'd) Hal Buller C.D.** was awarded the King's Coronation Medal at the Denniston Armoury in Toronto. Hal was nominated by the Commissionaires Great Lakes (CGL) for his 12 years of service.

On the 28th March 2025 the **Friends of HMCS HAIDA** conducted a presentation ceremony at HMCS STAR in Hamilton. Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont is the Patron for HMCS HAIDA as the Honorary Flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy. Honorary Captain Jeff Topping in the presence of Lieutenant Commander Michael Di Berardo C.D, CO of HMCS STAR conducted the presentation of King Charles III Coronation Medal. LCol Lisa Smid, Commanding Officer and MWO Tanner of 31 Signal Regiment attended the ceremony as five medal recipients were members



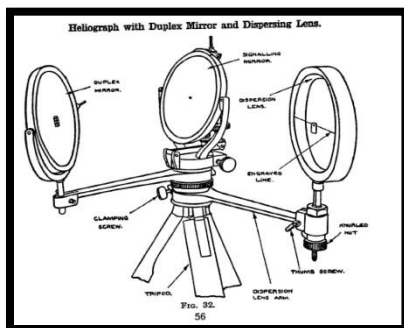
of the Vintage Signals Team and two were retired COs' of the Hamilton Signals Unit. Members presented with Coronation medals were: **Lt (N) (Ret'd) Peter Dixon** a long-time volunteer on HMCS HAIDA, a Naval historian, a VST member and expert on HMCS HAIDA. **David Golding** a long serving volunteer for both the Burloak Naval Veterans and HMCS HAIDA. **Andrew Barber** a Korean War veteran who served on HMCS HAIDA in Korea, a prolific volunteer and advocate for sharing Veterans stories with the VST and on HMCS HAIDA. **LCol (Ret'd) Richard Bialachowski** a retired CO of signals and 70 Comm Gp. Since 2008 a Board member for the Friends of HMCS HAIDA and Legal Advisor. A multiple volunteer for many organisations and a dedicated member of the VST. **HCol (Ret'd) Kenneth Lloyd** a retired CO of three Signals units including Hamilton and Toronto and the UK; a past President and Board member of the Friends of HMCS HAIDA and the VST. **Ms Margaret Mathers**, the first female Navy engineer who served in the engine room at sea. A dedicated engineer who worked on the Lancaster Bomber at Mount Hope and had devoted herself to the care of HMCS Haida's engines and its countless visitors. Also present was **Mike Vencel** a Cold War Veteran and retired RCN Electrician, had earlier received his Coronation Medal. Mike, a VST member is known for his dedication for telling Canada's Naval story to generations of school children and Legion members.



Capt's (Ret'd) Kirk Campbell and **Rick Little** provided a Vintage Signals Team display about Petty Officer (PO) Telegraphist John Savory of the British Royal Naval Beach Signals Unit No. B7 on D-Day, 6th June 1944. The Beach Signals Unit used Heliographs and Aldis lamps to control the arrival and departure of shipping from the Invasion Beach near Le Hamel, Normandy on "Gold Beach". The official Report on



The Heliograph is being used by (PO) Telegraphist John Savory. Behind him an Aldis lamp is in use. "Gold Beach 6 June 1944. Sourced at p.256-7 in "Beachhead Assault" by David Lee, published by Greenhill Books (2004)



"Operation Neptune", the Naval plan for D-Day Force J reported that: "V/S {visual signals - RF}, as usual, proved invaluable, ...in controlling the arrivals and departures of convoys and shuttle service groups, and included the successful use, in the early stages, when the sun shone." "The Heliographs and Visual Signals had an important role in coordinating communications from the Beaches to the ships off shore." The "Dispersing Lens" is a rare lens used to disperse the mirror flash so that it may be seen up to 15 miles distant on board a ship

as it moves on the waves. Kirk and Rick displayed the VST "Dispersing" lens which they had previously used at the CNE in Toronto to send a signal to HMCS HAIDA. The Beach Signals Units also carried **Aldis lamps**, an example, of which **Mike Vencel** donated to our display for this special occasion.

We hope you have enjoyed this extended edition of "Despatches". Please add to our articles and correct any of our reports. Our past editions can be found on the **CECEM** website and the website at **Friends of HMCS HAIDA**