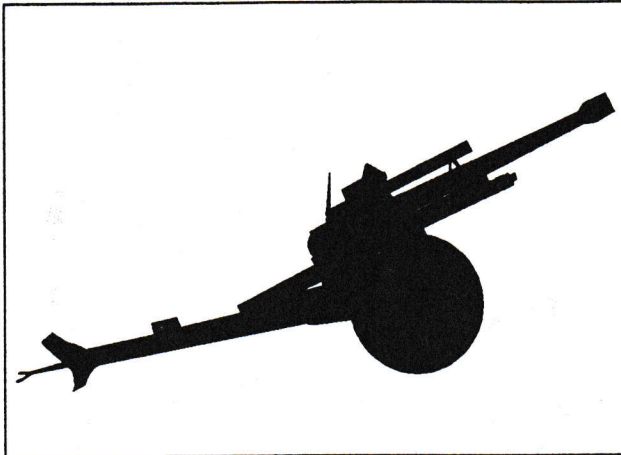




NEWSLETTER

FIFTEENTH FIELD REGIMENT RCA OFFICERS' MESS

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7



28 SEPTEMBER 94

Published by authority of
LCol J Brownlee-Baker, CD
Commanding Officer,
15 Field Regiment, RCA

Editor - LCol D E Gayton, CD, RCA

1. REGIMENTAL NEWS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

It certainly does not seem as if twelve months have passed since I wrote my introduction to the 1993-94 training year. LCol Doug told me it is, was and I am late!

Once again, the summer was filled with qualification courses and again the Regiment did exceptionally well with a number of A's and B's. Our recruits, who are not graded, also received some excellent course reports. The recipients of A's were:

<i>Lt Gayton</i>	<i>31 Battery</i>	
<i>Bdr Ruiz</i>	<i>68 Battery</i>	
<i>Bdr Enns</i>	<i>68 Battery</i>	<i>3 "A" Grades</i>
<i>Bdr Skuce</i>	<i>68 Battery</i>	<i>2 "A" Grades</i>
<i>Gnr O'Malley</i>	<i>31 Battery</i>	
<i>Gnr Erickson</i>	<i>68 Battery</i>	

The following came top of their courses with "B" grades:

<i>Lt Gayton</i>	<i>31 Battery</i>
<i>Gnr Baker</i>	<i>68 Battery</i>
<i>Gnr O'Malley</i>	<i>31 Battery</i>

All round, an excellent summer from the Regimental perspective.

Ex Western Challenge 94 was cancelled this year due to funding shortages. However, Ex Prairie Gunner was organized at short notice by LCol Andrew Leslie, CO 1 RCHA, in SHILO, for all Land Forces Western Area (LFWA) gunners. The exercise was a success with enormous problems being overcome to get the soldiers to SHILO and back.

The training year for 1994/95 has a different flavour from previous ones. The annual Thanksgiving weekend exercise at FORT LEWIS is cancelled as the training priority up until December will be on infantry skills. This is due to an edict from Land Forces Command (LFC) HQ which wants an emphasis placed on the "pedestrian" side of the house. I am concerned that our gunner skills will get rusty and have made the necessary representations. However, we must try to make the whole plan work. We do start Artillery training in December working up to March 1995 when we will fly to Shilo for Ex Limber Gunner, again coming under command of 1 RCHA. We will also fire our Operational Evaluation during this period. I feel the year will be busy and varied. If tackled in the right spirit the Regiment will be much more rounded tactically and technically.

Besides the operational training, 1995 will also mark two milestones in the Regiment. Firstly, on February 4th, funds permitting, the Regiment will exercise its right to the Freedom of the City to mark our 75th Anniversary. Secondly, on 22nd April, Peter Learmonth will assume command of the Regiment.

With regard to personnel and appointments, the Regular Force Cadre has now departed and we are left a hard core of five: (The Regimental appointments will be listed at the end of this letter.)

<i>Capt Dennis Rintjema</i>	<i>Adjutant</i>
<i>Capt Glen Hamilton-Brown</i>	<i>Tasked to Croatia</i>
<i>WO Don Gatward</i>	<i>A/RCPO</i>
<i>Sgt George Dempsey</i>	<i>Trg NCO</i>
<i>Sgt Chantal Grondin</i>	<i>Chief Clerk</i>

Those of you who have been to lunch recently will have noticed an absence of three guns. These have been sent, along with 122 others from across Canada, to Holland for an upgrading and rebuild. This will have some effect on our training. However, the Air Force have to be persuaded to fly us to SHILO where we can use the equipment of the RCA Battle School.

All in all, I know it will be a busy year. It may get even busier when the Defence White Paper comes out. No we are not yet a swimming pool, or a daycare or anything other than a well housed, well motivated Reserve Regiment in the Royal Canadian Artillery.

I wish you all well and now the festive season is quickly approaching, I hope to see you all again.

REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

CO	LCol John Brownlee-Baker, CD
2i/c	Maj Al Woo , CD
SO2	(CO Designate) Maj Peter Learmonth, CD
Adjutant	Capt Dennis Rintjema
Adjutant	Capt Dan Wort
RCPO	Capt Kent Wickens, CD
QM	Capt Dave Montrose, CD
Tn O	Capt Ron Mathews
Fin O	Lt Glen Plunkett, CD
Dir of Music	Capt Richard Van Slyke, CD
Padre	Capt (P) Archie Pell, CD
RSM	CWO Vic Yano, CD

31 Battery

BC	Maj Leon Jensen, CD
BK	Capt Steve Watkins
BSM	MWO Jim Jacobsen, CD

68 Battery

BC	Maj Dean Drysdale, CD
BK	Capt Steve Burridge, CD
BSM	MWO Jim Ingram, CD

2. **ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

by LCol John Brownlee-Baker, CD

I recently attended the RCAA Convention in SHILO where numerous "matters Arty" were discussed. The major one, which effects our constitution, was the opening up of the RCAA to all ranks. This would bring it into line with the Royal Artillery Association which always has embraced the whole of the Gunner family - not just part of it. I realize this will be a contentious issue and I am quite prepared to discuss the question between now and next year when the Executive Committee will vote on it. Peter Learmonth will be the unit representative by that time. However, I was elected as the Western Area representative and will vote according to the wishes of the members of this Regiment, both serving and retired.

3. PMC's REPORT

The following were elected/appointed as your current Mess Committee at the May 1994 General Mess Meeting:

<i>PMC</i>	<i>Maj Alfred Woo</i>
<i>VPMC</i>	<i>Capt Steve Burrige</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Capt Ron Mathews</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>OCdt Don Lamb</i>
<i>Housing</i>	<i>Lt Iska Scholl</i>
<i>Entertainment</i>	<i>Capt Kent Wickens</i>
<i>Wines</i>	<i>Capt Dennis Rintjema</i>

Please feel free to approach any of your Mess Committee members with your ideas, proposals, or requests regarding Mess affairs.

The Entertainment Director, Capt Kent Wickens, ably assisted by Lt Doug Gayton, organized a boat cruise on Saturday, 27 August 1994. Members in attendance were treated to a great evening of drinks, food, and good company in a yacht on a gently rolling sea in the beautiful Vancouver Harbour. Please take special note of the Carol Ship Boat Cruise scheduled for the 16th of December.

It has been confirmed that the Guest Night on Saturday, 29 October 1994 will follow a Halloween theme. Dress will be costume. It is hoped that this inaugural event will delight the member's other half or escort, supplementing the more formal Guest Night on 18 February 1995.

4.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MESS MEETING

There will be a General Mess Meeting convened on Thursday, 27 October 1994, at 2100 hrs in the Officers' Mess, Bessborough Armouries.

All members, regular and associate, are encouraged to turn out for the meeting, and naturally, for the post-meeting socializing.

5. UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DRESS</u>
1 Oct 94	Movie and Pizza Guest Night	Casual
15 Oct 94	Subultan's Night in the Trenches	As <i>Apocalypse Now</i>
29 Oct 94	Halloween Dine & Dance	Costume
11 Nov 94	Remembrance Day	No IA
25 Nov 94	Beer Brewing & Movie Evening	Casual
27 Nov 94	Grey Cup Party (& Beer Tasting)	Casual
3 Dec 94	St Barbara's Mess Dinner	No 2 (M-1)
9 Dec 94	Beer Bottling/Tasting & Movies	Casual
10 Dec 94	Regimental Christmas Dinner	DEU + Apron
11 Dec 94	Kiddies Christmas Party	Casual
16 Dec 94	Carol Ship Boat Cruise	Casual
18 Dec 94	CO's Christmas Tea	Multi
01 Jan 95	New Years Day Levee	No IA

6. 75th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

On February 2, 1995, the Regiment celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

The 75th Anniversary Committee has planned a series of events to help commemorate this milestone. The Committee, composed of the 2i/c, RSM, DMus, and representatives from the Regimental Museum and Associates of the Officers' Mess, has recommended the following:

3-5 Feb 95 Regimental Reunion to include an Open House, Regimental Mess Dinner, receptions, and Church Parade

22 Apr 95 Freedom of the City of Vancouver, Change of Command Parade

Undoubtedly, other complimentary events during the course of the year will underline attaining the three-quarter century mark. The Committee has also recommended the production of the following commemorative memorabilia:

Regimental Band Recording - a medley of music and marches on cassette from the sole surviving military Band in BC

Anniversary Brochure - A booklet of pictures, drawings, and prose richly detailing our history. We are seeking authors, artists, and artisans to assist in this endeavour.

Your assistance in identifying and locating former members associated with Bessborough and the Regiment is needed and will be much appreciated.

7. **CURATOR'S REPORT: 15 Field Museum Reps Attend Museum Course**

by Maj RV Stevenson, CD

Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, Quebec was the site of the 28th Annual Military Museums Course organized by the Organization of Military Museums of Canada from 14 to 21 August 1994. This is an annual event held at various bases across Canada with the 1995 course scheduled for CFB Shearwater, Nova Scotia.

Capt Keith Brown and Maj and Mrs RV Stevenson attended from our Museum along with local representatives from HMCS Discovery, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Royal Westminster Regiment, and the 12 (Van) Service Battalion. Just over 100 people, including guests from England, Germany, Russia, and the USA represented approximately 65 museums. For the second year two staff members from the State Museum-Reserve of Military History of Borodina, located 124 km west of Moscow attended. Their museum is located on the battlefield where Napoleon was defeated in 1812.

A full programme which included lectures on "The Care of Outside Exhibits". "Collections Management", field trips to militia museums in Three Rivers and Levis, Artillery Park and the Citadelle in Quebec City, a coast artillery fort undergoing restoration at Fort La Mariniere, Levis is a sampling of the wide variety of the week's course.

Accommodation at the base was a unique experience for most as they lived underground in the "Diefenbunker" (The Emergency Regional Government and Provincial Warning Centre). An enjoyable reception was hosted by Mayor Jean-Paul Lallier in the Quebec City Hall council chamber. A formal dinner held at the Quebec Garrison Club and a dinner at Les Anciens Canadiens restaurant provided welcome social breaks.

If this whets your appetite why not volunteer some of your spare hours at YOUR museum. We need 4 or 5 helpers to put in only 2 or 3 hours a month. Talk to Keith Brown or Vic Stevenson and - who knows! maybe you will be off with us on next years course.

8. **REGIMENTAL GUNS TO BE UPGRADED**

The Regiment's six 105 mm C1 Howitzers will be undergoing upgrading which will provide improved ordnance (longer barrel giving increased range), recoil mechanism, and related modifications. The first three guns have already been withdrawn for shipment to Holland where the work will be carried out. The improved guns are scheduled for return delivery to the Regiment early in 1997.

And YES! - the ancient cannons in the front are still going to be remounted by CE - Jericho!

9. **THE GURKHA APPEAL (CANADA)**

The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 7 Tanager Avenue, Toronto, ON M4G 3P9 has been established for destitute Commonwealth War Veterans living in the Third World. Twenty-six VC's have been won by Gurkha's. Many Gurkha veterans are now homeless, poverty stricken, helpless. They helped us as Comrades-in-Arms in World War I & II. Now it's our turn to help them. Please send a contribution to the Trust at the above address. Tax receipts will be issued. For further information, please see the brochure posted on the Mess Notice Board or call Lt Eleanor Haydock at 266-6965.

10. **NEWLY JOINED ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

We welcome Capt Keith Graham, CD formerly RCAF and RCSigs.*

11. **NEW SERVING MEMBERS**

Welcome to Capt Steve Watkins who joins us from 1 RCHA in a Militia capacity.

12. **LAST POST**

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of two members of the Gunner family.

*Lieutenant Colonel Barry Clemmons, CD (former Commanding Officer 15 FD RCA)
Colonel David W Francis, CD (former Director of Artillery) who died in an ultra-light crash in Florida 16 Apr 94*

13. **WHERE CAN I BUY REGIMENTAL ACCOUTREMENTS?**

Members have asked where they might obtain Regimental Ties, medal ribband, crested goods, blazer crests, model guns, medal re-mounting, etc. Two sources are:

Royal Canadian Artillery Kit Shop
Attn: Regimental Captain
Home Station
CFB Shilo, MB R0K 2A0
(204) 765-3533
CSN 257-3533
fax 257-3388 (attn KIT SHOP)

Marks of Distinction
Attn: Capt Wm Amos, CD
PO Box 26582
Blundell Centre Postal Outlet
Richmond, BC V7C 5M9
(604) 241-4599
fax 241-5611

14. **REGIMENTAL CREST FOR OBITUARY NOTICES**

Members are advised that the Vancouver Sun and Province have available, upon request, the mat of our Gunner Crest for inclusion in notices.

15. MESS FACILITIES: WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS & THURSDAY EVENINGS

*All members are encouraged to attend and support our excellent luncheons held every **Wednesday**. The luncheon includes soup, salad, entree, hot beverages, desserts (which always include cheese trays) and is served from 1200 to 1330 hours for the very modest sum of \$10.00. Join us afterward for weekly cribbage challenges or quiet, and sometimes not so quiet, discussions.*

Associate members are also reminded of our standing invitation to join the serving officers Thursday evenings following the parade. The Mess is open from 2000 hours on these nights - as is the Museum should you wish to bring guests for a memorable evening.

GREAT SCOTT !!

IS THIS OUR 15TH FIELD REGIMENT IN DRAG ?



Gunners of a Coastal Battery somewhere in England, December 1941, were rehearsing a Charity Christmas Show when the alarm went. They had to run to man the Guns. British Authorities censored this photo.