



15th Field Artillery Regiment

Officers' Mess

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

April 2004

*Published by authority of LCol Dean Drysdale CD, Commanding Officer.
Editor/Publisher - Maj RE Mugford CD, msc*



*The Commanding Officer
Of
15th Field Artillery Regiment,
Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*Cordially invites you to
The Parade, and subsequent activities,
for
The Change of Command*

Between

*Lieutenant Colonel D.B. Drysdale, CD
and
Major D.S. Kuhn, CD*

*To be held in
Bessborough Armoury on
24 April 2004
at 1100hrs*

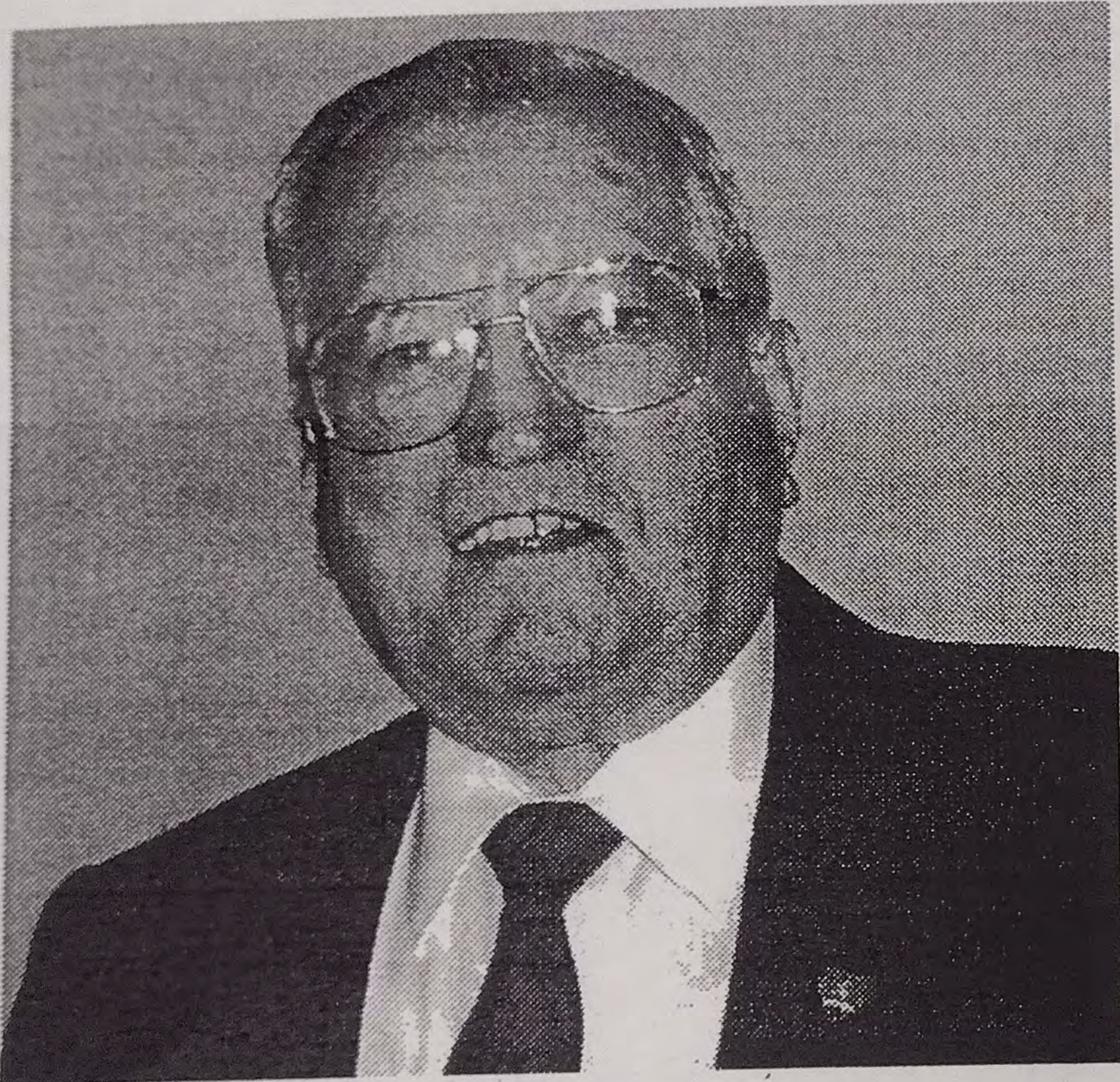
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The Parade will be followed by dynamic demonstrations, and static displays, highlighting the mission of the Regiment as well as the two Cadet organizations housed in the Armoury. Thereafter there will be Receptions in the various Messes.

RSVP to: Second Lieutenant C. Hui by E-Mail at hui.c@forces.gc.ca or by telephone at 604-666-4371.

MEMBERSHIP

In Memoriam



Lt-Col DE GAYTON EM, CD

15 Mar 1920 – 13 Jan 2004

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Edwin Gayton was born in Regina on the Ides of March 1920. The family re-located to Deer Lake in 1930 where they became active in local events with Doug and his two brothers (Ross and Roy) participating heavily in the building of the Burnaby Lake United Church all the while maintaining a thriving entrepreneurial poultry business by re-selling their father's chickens and hens back to him.

Doug, due to the influence of Major John Moore, a next door neighbour, sought membership in the British Columbia Hussars shortly before his eighteenth birthday, and was so attested on 19 February 1938. The significant attraction of the Hussars at the time

was the use of the MG as the vehicle of choice. Doug, upon mobilization on the 26th of August 1939 found himself at manning the Narrows Battery, underneath the northern end of Lions Gate Bridge, as an acting sergeant. Shortly thereafter Doug was transferred to Yorke Island where he worked for a future brother-in-law Lieutenant Pat Keen – in the new Hussars rôle as the 1st Coastal Searchlight Regiment.

Upon arriving in the UK, then Sergeant Gayton, was involved in dispatch riding (DR), and general survey issues building upon the six month survey course offered in Camp Petawawa before embarkation. OCTU raised its ugly head as then Colonel MacNaughton (soon to be Leslie), wanted the Staff Sergeant billet occupied by S/Sgt Gayton. Doug proceeded to the long course and was Commissioned directly into 'The Royal Canadian Artillery' as a Lieutenant - an unusual scroll.

Doug served in various capacities, in various units, arriving in North West Europe in October 1945. Seconded to the Public Relations Group, then Captain Gayton was the Detachment Commander for 4 PR Group, with responsibilities for broadcasting through the Occupied Areas.

Upon returning to Canada, Doug was demobbed...or so he thought. The MP's arriving at his doorstep convinced him otherwise, and he reported to Camp Shilo as the Transport Officer – having reverted to Lieutenant. It was during this time he married Thelma Keen in April of 1949. Doug returning to his Captaincy and as an IG, was posted from Shilo to Fort Osbourne Barracks in Winnipeg where he carried the secondary duty of supporting the Provincial Boxing Association. 'Snowy Owl' soon beckoned and Doug

transferred to Fort Frontenac, leaving the historical Kingston for South East Asia, serving on the teams in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and being present during the final French departure in July 1956. This fourteen month tour was highlighted by one, one-way telephone call to his wife. Doug contracted dengue fever, and was grateful he missed malaria.

Returning to Fort Osbourne Barracks, and then back to Camp Shilo, Doug served as the first PMC of the new Officers' Mess. Sojourns to Fort Sill to work on the Honest John project interrupted this tour. Fort Leavenworth, and the United States Command and General Staff College, Class of '62, then rose on the horizon. This year long course resulted in life-long friendships all of which accorded Doug with pleasure.

The heady times of the early sixties saw the Gayton family posted to Washington, DC where Doug was attached to the Defense Intelligence Agency, first at the Pentagon and then at Arlington Hall Station. Upon completion of this tour, a posting to CFHQ in Ottawa followed where Doug served in the Director-General Manpower and Control shop and took his release.

Retiring after 32 years Doug and Thelma returned to their home, Vancouver. Doug had contacted the Heath organization, and through a meeting which involved recognition by clothing and which arm held a newspaper, Doug was asked to start up the Western Canada operation – eventually Heathkit Electronics Centre's were located in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg. Doug retired at the age of 65 from this phase. Federal politics now loomed hard on Doug's horizon. His association with Preston Manning and the course the Reform and then the Canadian Alliance parties were able to chart for Canada brought pride. Another wide group of friends were a result this association,

especially his Candidate. His hard work was honoured, interestingly, by a Liberal, the Honourable Steven Owen, in presenting the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Lieutenant-Colonel DE Gayton EM CD RCA was celebrated by his family and friends, eulogized by Lieutenant-Colonel RV Stevenson, and set-free by Captain The Reverend AJ Pell at St John's Anglican (Shaughessy) Church. His untimely, unexpected passing, is mourned by his wife of 54 years and his son.

In Memoriam



Col Alfred Ogilvie HOOD ED, CD

passed away March 25, 2004. Survived by his wife Ruth, son Derek (Margaret) and two granddaughters. Private family remembrance. Col Hood commanded 15 Coast Artillery Regiment (predecessor of 15 Fd) from 1942-43. In lieu of flowers, donations in Memory of Alfred may be made to the Broadmead Lodge Foundation, 4579 Chatterton Way, Victoria, BC, V8X 4Y7.

In Memoriam



Maj Stuart Austin MAITLAND CD

Born in Vancouver on June 22, 1920, passed away on January 28, 2004 at the Royal Columbian Hospital after a lengthy illness. Stu is now with his beloved grandson, Craig, killed in a plane crash on May 31, 2003, his brother Ron, and brother-in-law and good friend, Russ Halford. Surviving him are his

devoted wife of 62 years, Vera, his much-loved son and daughter, Bruce (wife, Alison Willoughby.) Gail Turner (husband, Dr. Robert), his cherished grandson, Derek, niece Lynette Ferris (David), nephews Richard Halford (Janet), Brian (Hiromi) and Keith Maitland, 4 great nephews, 4 great nieces and 2 great, great nieces. Stu will be missed by his family and friends, especially his lifelong friends, David Ross (Iola) and Richard Gregory (Noreen, Deceased). The three friends served together overseas in Britain and Northwest Europe with the 2nd Survey Regt RCA. Our sincere thanks to his home support workers, Nathan, Rose, Linda and Josie, who helped Stu remain at home until the last 3 weeks. There was no formal service at his request. A Memorial Tea was held on Tuesday, February 3rd, at the Arbutus Club, 2001 Nanton, Vancouver. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Epilepsy Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.

Vancouver, raising four children. He worked tirelessly and happily around their home. He loved gardening and animals. He was employed by the Federal Government throughout his working life and in the mid-70's earned his degree in Real Estate Appraisal. Gordon continued to be very active in military life through the Militia Reserve and became a Lieutenant-Colonel and CO (1965-1968) of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA at Bessborough Armoury. At the end of his term as CO he was posted to Militia District HQ as Colonel and Militia Advisor to the Area Commander. His involvement with the military was very important to him. As a charter member of Hollyburn Country Club, Gordon enjoyed curling, swimming, golf and social activities. Doris passed away in 1991. Gordon met his new life partner Edith-Mary Stevenson when he moved to his West Vancouver condominium... she soon became his wife. They have happily resided in West Vancouver enjoying a rich social life and many world-travelling adventures since their marriage in 1993. Gordon was very involved with the Kiwanis club and was also active in the strata council of his condominium. He gave endlessly of his time, energy and advice, always cheerfully. Gordon was predeceased by his son Richard (Dick) in 1992 and his grandson Michael in 1999. He is survived by his loving wife Edith-Mary; his sister Joan and brother-in law Bill Jackson; his children Ken (Joanna), Rosalie (Keath), and Gaye (Ron); daughter-in-law Halley; and grandchildren Todd (Diana), Tina (Stan), Erin, Reyan (Jennifer), Simon (Lindsey), Ben, Sarah, Owen, Travis, and Brennan. Proud great-grandfather to Connor, and Finlay. Gordon is also survived by Edith-Mary's children, Tim, David, Mary-Ann & step-grandson Justin. Gordon touched many people in his long, happy and fulfilled life and will be very greatly missed but never forgotten.

In Memoriam



Col Gordon Maurice PLATT CD

A final salute to a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, community server and friend to all. Gordon passed away peacefully in his sleep, in his 86th year March 17th, 2004. Born in England, July 23, 1918, his family immigrated to Canada shortly after his birth and made Winfield, BC, their home where he spent his early childhood. Gordon's family moved to North Vancouver where he eventually graduated from North Vancouver High. He served Canada proudly in WWII and later met his wife Doris in England. After the War they returned to set down roots in West

Retiring Commanding Officer



**Lieutenant Colonel
Dean Drysdale, CD**

Lieutenant-Colonel Dean Drysdale was born in Victoria, BC and grew up in Langley, B.C. He enrolled in the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as an Officer Cadet in April 1981. As life, education and employment entailed moving he maintained his service to Canada with 'Les Fusiliers de Sherbrooke', 'Le Regiment de Hull', 30th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, and 20th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, before returning to 15th Field Artillery Regiment. He was promoted Captain in 1985.

Lieutenant-Colonel Drysdale completed the Militia Command and Staff Course in 1989. He instructed on the Combat Team Commanders course on two occasions and in 1991 was granted the qualification. He also accompanied the Egyptian Army on the invasion of Kuwait as an observer in 1991.

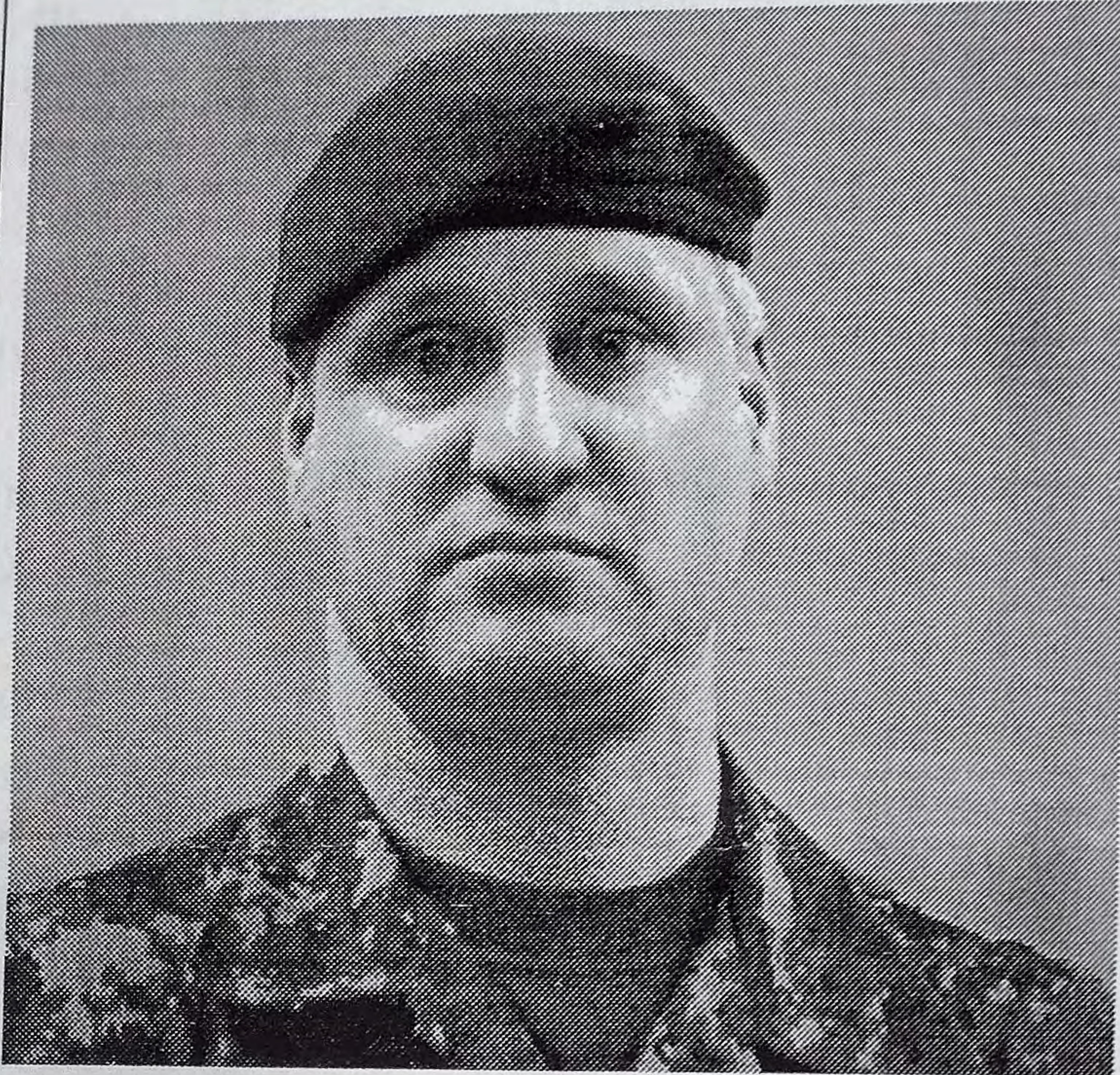
Lieutenant-Colonel Drysdale was appointed Battery Commander of 68 Battery in 1991 and was promoted to Major the following year. He established the Battery in the Aldergrove area

and built it from scratch to a strength of 70 soldiers over a period of 5 years. In 1996 68 Battery was amalgamated with 31 Battery and he assumed command of 31 Battery. Major Drysdale served as the Second-in-Command of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment from 1998 to 2001. Lieutenant-Colonel Drysdale was promoted to his present rank, and assumed command of the Regiment, in August 2001. LCol Drysdale has been awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration, the Canada 125 Medal and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. LCol Drysdale completed a BA at Bishop's University, an MBA at INSEAD, and a PhD at City University – London. He is currently employed as a Professor of Business Management at Kwantlen University College and he runs his own consulting firm in the area of corporate finance.

Did You Know...

An artillery parade is always handed over "at ease". This practice dates back from the period before recoil mechanisms when guns had to be run back by hand into firing position. After hours of sponging, loading, firing, and running the guns back into battery, gunners were exhausted. Commanders, extending their congratulations to gunners for their contribution to victory, granted them the privilege of receiving accolades "at ease" rather than 'attention'.

Incoming Commanding Officer



MAJOR DANIEL KUHN, CD

Major Daniel Kuhn was born and raised in Sault Saint Marie, ON. He enrolled in 49th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as a Private in June 1982. He was promoted to Bombardier in June 1983 and was Commissioned from the Ranks as a Second Lieutenant in September 1984. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in September 1988 and became the Comptroller of Northern Ontario District (Sault Saint Marie). He assumed Command of 148 Battery in 1989. Upon completion of his Battery Command he became G1 Promotions/Appointments, in Land Force Central Area Headquarters (Toronto) between 1991 and 1995. He was then appointed as the G1 of Northern Ontario District (Sault Saint Marie) holding that appointment between 1995 and 1996. He was promoted to the rank of Major in June 1996.

Thereafter he moved to BC and became G1 of 39 Canadian Brigade Group (Vancouver) until 2002. From June 2000 until March 2001 he

served on Rotations Six and Seven with Operation Palladium in Bosnia. In January 2002 he was appointed as the Second-in-Command of 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Between 2002 and 2003 Major Kuhn was seconded to Veterans Affairs as the Transition Coordinator. In August 2003 he served as the prime Liaison Officer between the military, and the Provincial Operations Centre, in Kamloops, during Operation Peregrine, the military fire-fighting efforts in support of British Columbia.

Major Kuhn is a graduate of the Militia Command and Staff College and holds the Joint Warfare Intermediate Qualification.

Major Kuhn has been awarded the Canadian Decoration and has received from the Commander of the Multi-National Division (South-West) in Bosnia, Major General Hillier, the Commanders Commendation, and from the Chief of Staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Stabilization Force (Bosnia) Brigadier General Kullack of the German Army, the Chief of Staffs Commendation. For his performance and professionalism during Operation Peregrine he received a personal letter of commendation from the Task Force Commander, Brigadier-General Fenton, Commander of Land Forces Western Area.

In 1987 Major Kuhn completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, in both Marketing and in Management in the United States at Lake Superior State University. He is an Accredited Human Resources Professional and is currently employed as a Human Resources Manager for Home Depot Canada. He is a Former Commodore of the Vancouver Squadron of the Canadian Forces Sailing Association and is the Protocol Officer of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.

He is married to the former Adriana Robles Sanchez and resides in Maple Ridge BC.

The Battle of the Atlantic Dinner

1 May 2004

The Battle of the Atlantic Dinner is held annually by the Naval Officers' Association of BC. It is a "Dine the Ladies" with a mess dinner format. The location has normally been in HMCS Discovery, but is sometimes held in a different location. Last year it was held aboard HMCS Ottawa. This year it will be in Discovery and the guest of honour will be Commodore Roger Girouard, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific. The dinner usually is scheduled to be as close as possible to Battle of the Atlantic Weekend (1st weekend in May), but sometimes there is a conflict with the Military Ball and the date has to be adjusted. This year, fortunately, the dinner will be on May 1st and there is a good separation from the Military Ball date.

Although the dinner normally reflects on the Battle of the Atlantic, this year the dinner will be focusing on the RCN actions in support of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

The NOA hope to have an ensemble from the 15th Field Band in support of the dinner.



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

*The President and Directors of
the Naval Officers' Association of
British Columbia
request the pleasure of the company of
you and your guest(s)
at the
Annual Battle of the Atlantic Dinner
on
Saturday, May 1, 2004
1900 for 2000
at
HMCS "Discovery"*

Cost: \$65.00 per person
RSVP Bob McIlwaine,
3587 West 32nd Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V6S 1Z1
(604) 263 6143

*Mess Dress or Black Tie
(Ladies Equivalent)
Miniatures*

RCA Museum opens in new building at CFB Shilo.

The Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Museum holds the largest collection of artillery-related artifacts in the country. Located at Canadian Forces Base Shilo in southwestern Manitoba, the Museum holds over 60,000 artifacts that tell the story of Canada's proud military heritage.

The highlights of the collection include one of the largest collections of Canadian Military Pattern vehicles in the world, the famous Gregg Canadian Collection, together with rare examples of World War I and II, Korean War, and Cold War vehicles and self-propelled guns. Of the 65 military vehicles the Museum holds, those of particular importance include a rare example of the Otter armoured reconnaissance vehicle, the accommodation caravan in which Gen HDG Crerar, the first Canadian to command a combined Canadian Army in an operational theatre of war, lived from D-Day through VE Day, one of four armoured Staghound vehicles remaining in the world, the extremely rare Czechoslovakian RM 70 rocket launcher and an example of the Cold War-era rocket launcher, the Honest John. There are over 100 weapons systems and nearly 400 small arms dating from 1792 to the present on display.

The Museum displays artifacts that are central to our national identity such as the original plate from which Punch magazine published John McCrae's famous eulogy to the fallen soldier, "In Flanders Fields", a scrap of birch bark with Louis Riel's handwriting, artifacts from Vimy Ridge and original propaganda posters dating from 1916.

If you are 'on line' visit the Museum site at the Website of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery at:

www.artillery.net

Spanish Army artillery group fields rapid-deployment 'hands-free' howitzer

The first of the new mobile artillery groups planned to be acquired by Spain's coastal artillery organization was expected to achieve its initial operating capability in April 2004. The mobile group includes eight 40km-range General Dynamics Santa Barbara Sistemas (GDSBS) 155/52 APU SBT 52-caliber 155mm towed howitzers, forming the GACTA (Grupo de Artilleria de Costa, or coastal artillery group) Movil 155/52. On the road, the GACTA comprises some 22 vehicles, including radar, command and support vehicles plus the howitzer tractor vehicles which also carry an initial stock of ammunition. For long deployments these would be supplemented by additional ammunition vehicles drawn from the Spanish Army's central logistics pool. Jane's International Defense Review - first posted to <http://idr.janes.com> - 11 March 2004

HOWITZER 155/52 APU SBT

Description

The 155/52 APU SBT is a howitzer developed with Spanish technology, for fire support and protection missions with high performance, low maintenance cost and a reduced crew. GDSBS developed the 155/52 APU SBT Howitzer in the framework of the Joint Ballistic Agreements. Its design follows the most modern concepts in large caliber artillery worldwide.

Advantages

The 155/52 APU SBT howitzer is at the cutting edge of large caliber artillery. Its features guarantee its effectiveness and operability as a result of: high mobility cross-country, inertial navigation, ballistic computing, high rate of fire, range over 40 km with base bleed ammunition, simple operation, easy to maintain. It can be used as coastal or field artillery and



HOWITZER 155/52 APU SBT
Ready for action.

it can be easily integrated into different Command & Control Systems.

Characteristics

The 155/52 APU SBT Howitzer, with 155 mm caliber and bi-mast mount, with firing angles: -40° and $+30^{\circ}$ in azimuth and -5° and $+68^{\circ}$ in elevation Length in autonomous/firing modes: 10,664 mm/13,995 mm Height in autonomous mode: 2,230 mm Width: 2,820 mm Weight: 13,500 kg

Auxiliary Power Unit

The 155/52 APU SBT howitzer is equipped with a diesel engine supplying hydraulic power to the drive wheels, assuring a high cross-country mobility. Features: Diesel engine. Maximum power: 106 HP. Transmission: Hydraulic. Maximum speed: 18 Km/h.

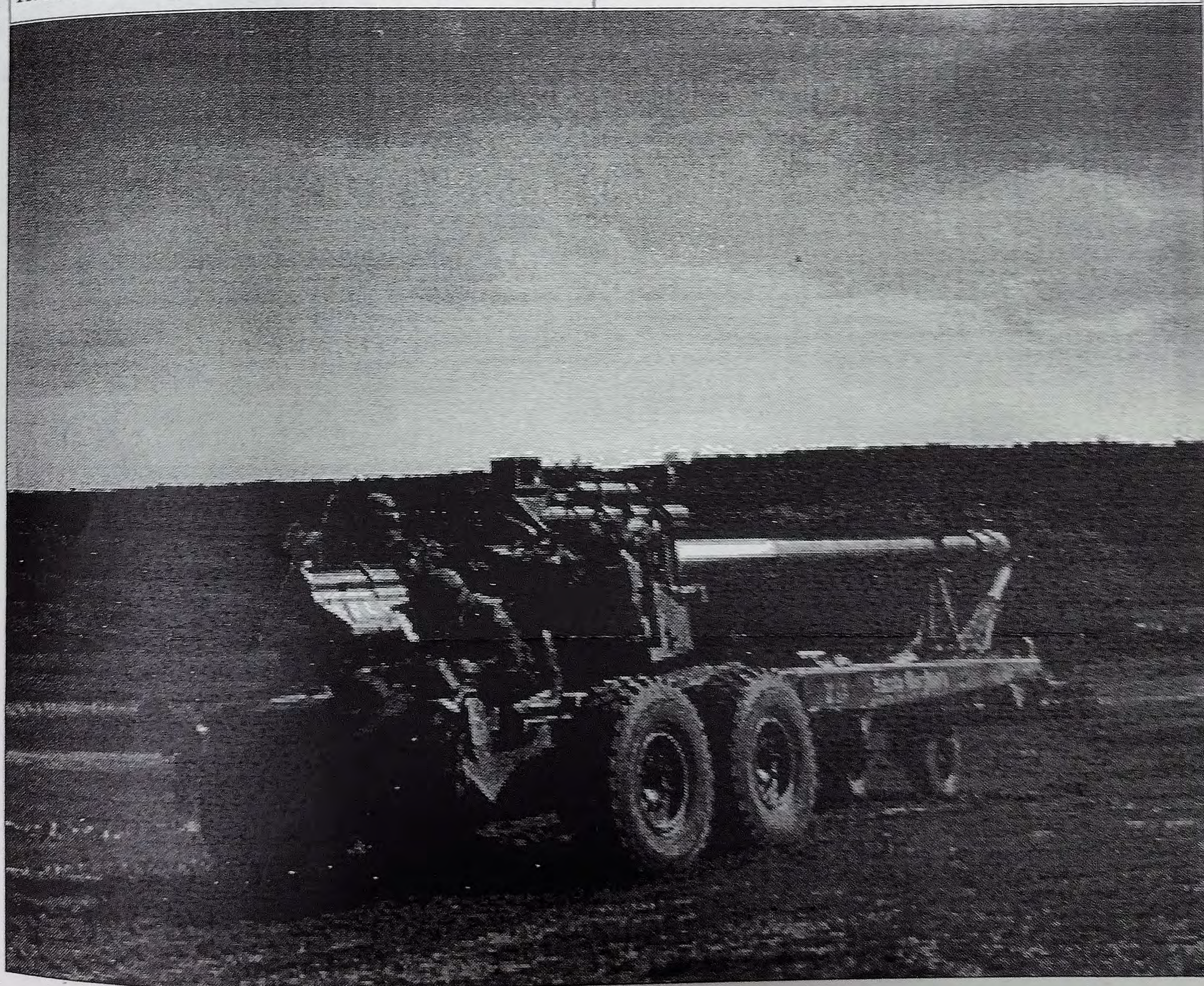
Maximum slope: 30 %.

Subsystems

Inertial Navigation. Ballistic Computing. On-Board Computer. Automatic Laying and Firing Systems. Command & Control Interface. Hydraulic Ramming System. Automatic Primer Magazine. Breech Automatic System.

Weapon System

Caliber 155 mm. Barrel length: 8120 mm. Chamber: 23 liters. 3 stage muzzle brake. Single block autofretaged barrel. Screw breech. Plastic pad obturator. Automatic opening breech Operation. Oleopneumatic counter-recoil mechanism. Brake: Recoil and counter-recoil hydraulic rod with absorber.



HOWITZER 155/52 APU SBT
Ready to deploy

Coming Events

Mark your calendars! Here are some important dates for upcoming Regimental and Mess activities. Further details will be published in the next newsletter.

The Mess is open for lunch every Wednesday. Mrs Lum serves a 5 course meal for only \$12.00. First Wednesday of the month is always 'roast beef' day. Ladies and other guests are always welcome.

24 April 2004 - Regimental Change of Command Parade. See Page 1.

1 May 2004 - Battle of Atlantic Dinner. See Page 7.

29 May 04 – 59th Annual Military Ball at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Deadline - Early Bird Draw!

This is a gentle reminder that the early bird draw will close on **Friday, April 16th**. For those that purchase their tickets prior to the deadline they are eligible to win a package for two including two nights accommodation to the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. Early bird tickets are just \$80.00 CDN or \$65.00 US per person if purchased before Friday, April 30th. After that, tickets then jump to \$85.00 CDN or \$70.00 US per person. Reserved tables of ten are currently priced at \$800.00 per table before Friday, April 30th and \$850.00 thereafter. To order your tickets, simply log on to: www.militaryball.ca for ticket information.

59th Annual Garrison Military Ball Hyatt Regency Hotel

Saturday, 29 May 2004

Debutante News & Notes

Several events have already taken place as we prepare for the presentation of the Debutantes to the Queen's representative and their fathers. These functions stress the history of the Military Ball, the significance of our debutante tradition that recognizes the sacrifice families endure as a result of military service. The debutantes and their junior officer escorts learn social and dining etiquette, the art of conversation, dress, deportment and ballroom dancing.

An orientation meeting took place in February at the 15th Field Artillery Regiment Officer's Mess, followed by a March luncheon at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. This month the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are graciously hosting Afternoon Tea and on May 2nd the final event will be held at Seaforth Highlanders Officer's Mess. This includes a luncheon, hair and make-up consultations, dance lessons and a full dress rehearsal in ball gowns and uniforms.

Attention Members!!

Are you 'on line'? If you have a computer and an email address, contact the editor at:- bob.mugford@shaw.ca and I will put you on my email distribution list, giving you an electronic edition of this newsletter and regular email updates on what is happening in the Regiment and the Mess.