



THE GUARDS STAR

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- February 2021 -

From the GGFGRA President
MWO Stephane Marleau, CD (Ret'd)

It has been a difficult year for everyone and many of our traditional Association activities have been slowed down or cancelled. However, the association continues to support the Regimental family in as many ways as we can. The Association continues to support various endeavours, which include the very active 150th Charitable Campaign steering committee and the newly formed 150th Anniversary Committee.

I had the honour of representing the Association at the Regiment's Nov. 11th live streamed Remembrance Day commemoration at Beechwood Cemetery where we were able to honour our fallen at the tombs of Rogers and Osgoode. I also participated on behalf of the Association at the Regimental Christmas Dinner, hosted virtually on Zoom and had a chance to interact with many of our serving soldiers. The regiment has been adapting very well to the current situation.

Although we had to cancel our annual reunion dinner, I would like to thank Joe McNulty and Brad Hampson who did their best to see if it was feasible. We are hoping that we will be able to have one in 2021.

Throughout the pandemic the association has helped to assist former members and serving members alike through various activities like grocery runs for shut ins and financial assistance for serving members having difficulties making ends meet. It is heartening to see that the Association is able to be there for its members.

On a final note, I would like to highlight the efforts of Nicholas Petit, one of our museum curators, to procure a piece of regimental history. He was able to acquire at auction the North West Rebellion Medal of CSgt Henry LeBreton Ross. Thanks to Colonel Bryan Brulotte and Jim Milne for helping Nic in this endeavour. We hope to have more information on CSgt Ross in a future edition of the Guards Star and we look forward to seeing this medal on display.



We hope that 2021 will bring back some normalcy to our association activities but as always, we ask that everyone stay safe and hope that together we can get through this difficult time. UP THE GUARDS!



**Message from the Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding**

LCol Vincent Quesnel, CD, AdeC

Fellow Guards and members of the Regimental Family,

I hope that this fresh edition of the Guards Star finds you and yours in good health. The challenges we have faced over the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic have certainly created a trying year for all of us. When the initial lockdowns were imposed last March, elements of the Regiment went into high gear as we prepared to support Operation LASER, the Canadian Armed Forces response to the pandemic. Significant credit is due to our Operations and BOR staff for getting our troops out the door to the Division and Brigade task

forces. In all, the Regiment contributed 76 members to Op LASER over the course of last summer.

Due to the health measures, it was necessary to cancel the annual summer training and ceremonial programs. However, given our expertise, we were tasked to provide a standing contingent to support the National Military Cemetery at Beechwood, and we filled a large proportion of the task for the National Sentry program at the National War Memorial. Both teams did exceedingly well and represented the Regiment with distinction.

Training and regimental life have been challenged by the health protection measures, distancing and successive lockdowns that have affected us all. But, despite these challenges, we have been adapting and have seen great success in many areas. Prior to March of 2020, video calls and livestreaming were not means we considered in conducting our business; yet, now, these are part of our ongoing routine. Taking advantage of DND's rollout of the Microsoft Office 365 platform, I am pleased to say the Regiment was a leader in adapting it to support our activities. From the initial town halls, to our weekly training, we have found ways to use these new tools to stay connected and complete our tasks and training when we cannot work in-person. Some examples that stand out include musical performances by the band, our Remembrance Day ceremony livestream on Facebook and staying in contact socially with a virtual Christmas dinner.

Looking ahead into 2021, we have begun planning for the resumption of summer training and ceremonial functions including a return to Parliament Hill. Details are still being worked out and will still be subject to the priority of public health; however, we will be prepared to deliver the summer program of the Ceremonial Guard should we get the go-ahead; and I am earnestly hopeful that we will.

Planning for our 150th anniversary is now well underway, and with LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay (Ret'd) at the helm of the events committee, we are sure to celebrate the occasion in style. Another development to look forward to is that, at the request of Her Majesty, we anticipate an official task to Change the Guard at Buckingham Palace in 2022, as a fitting way to mark the special year.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the challenges we face every day, whether that is trying to work from home while children attend classes at the kitchen table, living alone in isolation for days and weeks on end, or concerns for loved ones - well, struggling or ill. During this time, we need to make extra effort to check in on our friends, peers and family especially as the pandemic wears on. Don't be afraid to reach out to those you've not heard from and make it known that you are there. Often, simply being there to listen is enough. So, I encourage you to reach out often, whether you are offering help, or need it, and I look very much forward to a time soon when we will all be able to gather again.



Message from the Regimental Sergeant Major CWO Guy Doucette, CD

Wow— I looked to see when I wrote an article as Sergeant Major for the Guards Star and well, this is the 1st, and it is coming in the last months of my appointment as Sergeant Major. Having said that, I would like to thank the association team and the 150th committee for organising the restart of the Star. Ever since I joined the unit in 1991 I looked forward to receiving my copy of our newsletter. The Guards Star has always been a fantastic way to keep us informed of the wider regimental activities and not just what is happening in your Coy or mess.

What else has happened in my term as Sergeant Major? Pandemic, CHECK. Okay what else? We continued the integration of Ceremonial Guard back into the Regiment as part of our Strengthening The Army Reserves (STAR) mission task. We have consistently had soldiers deployed on international operations and tasks from Latvia to Ukraine, Iraq, Jamaica and Egypt. With MCpl Usher being deployed for well over 400 days in likely the longest deployment for a footguard since WW2. Domestically we provided soldiers and leaders to all manner of tasks (both ceremonial and green) such as Op Lentus, with the domestic response company for the floods, to Ceremonial Guard and the National Sentry Program, and last summer the complete contingent of the National Military Cemetery. We continue to either be the lead or major contributor for reserve shooting teams at CAFSAC and have had both combat arms and musicians participate in the Iron Warrior competition.

Over last 3 years we have also had some success in getting some of our NCO's some interesting and useful courses. MCpl O'Brien attended the Enhanced Wilderness survival course on the west coast and MCpl Jiang has recently completed rappel tower operator course. The Pandemic has not helped some of our other asks, however the Bn Ops and CSM's are consistently looking at the national calendars for opportunities on any course we can get positions.

Continuing with courses, we need to grow the unit and we have a need for leaders. Thanks to the hard work and leadership of CSgt Kowlessar and his team, we have a successful leadership development training/professional development entity helping prepare the next generation of MCpl's and Sergeants. I cannot stress this enough that we need the Guardsmen and Corporals to step up and go on ISCC and/or PLQ A, depending on your trade. We have only on paper half of our authorised positions at the MCpl rank filled, and the same at the Sergeant rank: the regiment needs leaders. I know some soldiers don't want to go on course because they think they are not ready or don't think they have enough experience. Don't worry, you do, and the leadership

development team will help you where you need it. We need you to step up.

We are heading into our 150th year. There will be lots of events with the highlight looking like the GGFG potentially mounting the guard in England. This task will see us providing 100 soldiers and 35 musicians for approximately six weeks in London. The overall commitment with pre-training and preparation is probably in the range of two months for most. The timeline is probably Oct 2022 to Nov 2022. Please let your chains of command know if you are interested in being part of the task so we can put names to positions.

In the shorter term, this summer will again be influenced by COVID-19, but will include a likely modified Full-Time Summer Employment model from around 1 May until about 5 September, a modified CG and National Sentry Program and the potential for positions at the cemetery, as well as other tasks all over Canada. Please pass your names up the chain of command for these as well.

I will finish off by hoping everyone is staying safe, be COVID aware and I look forward to seeing everyone back at the drill hall as soon as we can.



**Doing The Honours: Bryan Brulotte is a
Man on a Mission**
HCol Bryan Brulotte, CD

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In 2022, the Governor General's Foot Guards will commemorate their 150th anniversary. This is a proud occasion for the regiment and Honorary Colonel Bryan Brulotte is intent on making sure this momentous milestone is celebrated in fine fashion.

At first glance, the projected plans for recognizing the GGFG's 150 years of service to Canada is staggeringly ambitious. There will be a Freedom of the City parade through the streets of Ottawa, celebratory mess dinners, commemorative coins and a rededication of the regimental colours.

Currently at City Hall, there is a commemorative plaque and the GGFG colours are displayed from the rafters above the main hall of Ottawa's city hall building. However, a new structure has been commissioned to refurbish the monument and co-locate it with a glass casing for the rededicated colours. This will ensure that visitors will see these storied colours, but also understand the significance of them to both the GGFG regiment and the city of Ottawa.

Other signature projects commissioned to capture the GGFG's glorious history include an illustrated, glossy coffee table book, an original illustrated artwork montage by artist-illustrator Katherine Taylor and a short video history.

The regiment's military legacy is certainly an impressive one. On 7 June, 1872 Queen Victoria authorized the raising of a battalion of Foot Guards in the Dominion of Canada's new capital. This new regiment was to hold the same precedence as that of the Foot Guards in the British Imperial Army. As such, to this day the GGFG remain the senior infantry regiment in the Canadian Reserves.

Since 1879 the regiment has been housed at the landmark Cartier Square Drill Hall adjacent to the Rideau Canal. Tourists and residents of Ottawa are familiar with the scarlet uniforms of the GGFG performing the ceremonial changing of the guard during the summer months on the grounds of Parliament Hill and at Rideau Hall.

However, most spectators watching the precise drill moves made to the rhythmic beat of martial music are unaware that the GGFG is first and foremost a combat infantry regiment, and it always was. In 1884 members of the GGFG accompanied the British led Nile military expedition into the Sudan. The following year the GGFG provided a company of sharpshooters to accompany the field force dispatched to quell the North West rebellion. Elements of the regiments served in South Africa and the entire regiment deployed in both World Wars. During the Great War three GGFG soldiers – Major O'Kill Massey Learmonth, Sgt Philip Konowal and Cpl Leo Clark – were awarded the Victoria Cross. More recent campaigns include the deployment of GGFG members to augment peace keeping forces in the former Yugoslavia and as members of the battle groups dispatched to fight the war in Afghanistan.

Closer to home, the regiment sent troops to assist with the flood disaster relief in Manitoba in 1997. During the ice storm in the Ottawa valley in 1998, the GGFG mobilized an entire company to aid the civil powers. The regiment was called upon again to assist the Ottawa floods of 2018 as part of Op LENTUS. More recently, the GGFG soldiers have assisted with Op LASER, the military support for long term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Somewhat fitting for their 150th anniversary, the GGFG will be adding a unique chapter to their regimental history in 2022. It is planned for the GGFG to assume the ceremonial guard duty at Buckingham Palace in London, England for a three week period in November, 2022. This will mark the first time the GGFG have performed these prestigious duties. For a reserve unit to recruit and train the necessary contingent of about 150 personnel would be a daunting task even without the lingering restrictions of COVID-19. However for Bryan Brulotte, the primary sponsor behind many of these elaborate 150th anniversary celebration

plans, this project is a “no fail mission. And we have an outstanding team to pull it off.”

For those individuals who are familiar with the career path and Brulotte’s personal dedication to the Canadian military, will know that such a declaration is not simply hollow bravado. Brulotte was born the son of an enlisted soldier in the Canadian Armed Forces who retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. In 1978 at the age of thirteen Brulotte joined the Army Cadets. Four years later, he enrolled in the regular force and began his officer training at the College Militaire Royal in Quebec. He excelled within this structured military academic environment, topping his phase three infantry training component and graduating as the Cadet Wing Commander.

As an officer with the Royal 22nd (Vandoo)s Regiment, Brulotte was stationed in West Germany where he successfully completed the challenging French Army Commando course. During his posting to Europe, Brulotte also qualified for Parachute wings from both the British and German armies. From 1990-1992 Brulotte served as an aide-de-camp for the Governor General at Rideau Hall. During this stint, Brulotte had the opportunity to interact with world leaders and heads of state both at home and abroad.

In 1993, Brulotte resigned his commission with the Regular Force but remained on the Supplementary Reserve list. Through hard work, dedication, discipline and his “no fail mission” attitude Brulotte started a modest placement agency which he soon built into a human resources empire.

What began as a one-man operation powered by shoe leather, MaxSys has grown into a corporation with annual sales over \$100 million, generated by fourteen regional offices nationwide. While Brulotte was in the process of becoming a captain of industry, in 2007 at the age of 43 he rejoined the militia to become a captain with the Governor General’s Foot Guards. Retiring from the Primary Reserve six years later, it was a natural choice that he be appointed Honorary Colonel of this same regiment. Although that term as Honorary was to expire, the regiment elected to extend Brulotte’s engagement until after the 150th anniversary celebrations.

To help bring his grandiose 2022 commemorative plans to fruition, Brulotte has enlisted the able assistance of LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay (Ret’d). Herself being a member of the GGFG regiment, Chilton-Mackay has long been the directing dynamo responsible for staging the hugely successful annual Army Balls. On a daily basis, she will be the executive director of the 150th Committee, that is composed of volunteers.

In addition to supporting the GGFG regiment, it must be noted that Brulotte has always been incredibly supportive of the Canadian military as a whole. For instance, of the 14,000 personnel that MaxSys places per year, approximately 1,000 of those are ex-military

veterans. As a corporation, MaxSys contributes roughly \$450,000 annually back into the military community as charitable donations. For instance MaxSys contributes over \$200,000 a year towards military community advocacy. This effort aims at raising awareness of veterans’ skill sets to potential employers nationwide. Event sponsorships to which MaxSys contributes includes the annual legacy RMC dinner, the Toronto Garrison Dinner, True Patriot Love Dinner, the Vimy Dinner, Army Ball and Victory Ball. To assist homeless veterans, MaxSys makes an annual donation of \$20,000 to the Shepherds of Good Hope in both Toronto and Ottawa. On the scholastic side, MaxSys also funds seven academic bursaries which are available to deserving reservists who are seeking to enhance their employability through advanced studies.

From commemorating the 150 year history of a proud regiment to investing in the future of young soldiers, Honorary Colonel Bryan Brulotte is clearly a man on a “no fail mission”.



Message from the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel HLCol Mark A. Matheson, MSM, CD

Hello to the Foot Guard Family – I hope you and yours are doing well in the face of this crazy Covid 19 situation. I was truly delighted when Stephane and Art offered me the opportunity to say a few words in the latest Guards Star. As many of you know, a few years ago, the Regiment embarked upon a charitable campaign as a means of celebrating the Regiment’s 150th anniversary. Under the strong leadership of my predecessor MGen Mike Ward, the 150th Charitable Campaign has blazed a new trail within the CAF to celebrate significant milestones. Rather than just celebrating “us” and the Regiment’s distinguished history, the 150th Charitable Campaign wrote a new page by deciding instead to give something back to Ottawa and the surrounding communities. These communities have grown the local citizen-soldiers wearing our cap badge and served Canada in war and peace for 150 years, and we wanted to show our gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

With that in mind, our campaign has focussed on several essential causes in our community. First, working in partnership with Soldiers Helping Soldiers, VETS Canada, the Commissionaires Ottawa, and the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), we have raised over \$250,000 to help address Veteran’s homelessness in our community. Besides direct support to some of our battle buddies living on the streets, that includes a substantial contribution to Veteran’s House – a new facility that will be a supportive home to 40 vets who would otherwise be “bivouacked on the streets”. I am both gratified and saddened to say that the first resident will be a former

member of the GGFG who has been living in her car for an extended period. Obviously, the GGFG Charitable Campaign is having a direct, positive impact on this heartbreaking contemporary issue, but more needs to be done.

Next, the campaign is looking to the future by empowering brighter futures for our youth through the Governor General's Foot Guards Youth Achievement awards. Designed to inspire and recognize the next generation or "New Guard" these awards will be tailored to promote the attributes expected of Foot Guards including the "Pursuit of Excellence, Going Above and Beyond; Overcoming Adversity; Drive & Determination, and Pride of Service to the community and Canada." The result will be bursaries to deserving youth from our community, so that they may continue to grow and become even more outstanding citizens in the future. To do that we need your help.

With 150 years of distinguished service, it is no surprise we also want to recognize our forebears. To date the GGFG has contributed \$25,000 for the Hill 70 memorial. A renown battle honour on our colours, two members of our regiment earned the Commonwealth's highest honour for valour in the face of the enemy – the Victoria Cross – at Hill 70 in 1917. Looking ahead, we also look forward to supporting HCol Bryan Brulotte in his initiative to honour the regiment's proud history and connection to Ottawa and the region by a prominent display inside City Hall. Your support is requested to help celebrating our heritage.

It's hard to express how very proud I am of the progress to date. Since its inception our campaign has raised over \$350,000 (70% of the target) in support of these charitable activities, while also helping our community partners raise another \$500,000+. That is an amazing achievement at anytime, but especially during a pandemic.

As infanters, we know that momentum is key to taking an objective. With \$150,000 yet to go, we need your help to sustain the attack. Fundraising will continue until the end of sesquicentennial in Dec 2022. I would ask you to consider making a monthly contribution in support of the GGFG 150th Charitable Campaign and the Regiment's 150th Birthday Celebration. Please fix bayonets and join us in helping make both the 150th Charitable Campaign and Birthday Celebration events to remember. Thank you. Up the Guards!



**From the Executive Director,
150th Anniversary Organizing Committee**
LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD (Ret'd)

Greetings fellow Guards! I am writing to you in my new capacity as the Executive Director of the 150th Anniversary Organizing Committee. The Committee has been working hard to put together numerous Events, Projects and Activities which will help us to celebrate our 150th Anniversary coming up next year in 2022! In the coming weeks a 150th Website will be launched which will be the place to go to register for and find out all information related to our events, including purchasing of tickets and merchandise memorabilia.

Though events will be held throughout the year, there will be two main weekends of activities planned. The first will be held close to our actual Birthday (June 7, 1872) and the second in the early fall as a Homecoming Reunion Weekend. Here are some preliminary dates to mark on your calendars:

Saturday June 4, 2022

Morning (Ottawa City Hall)

-Freedom of the City Parade on Elgin Street followed by the unveiling of a new Colour Case Monument housing an existing Stand of Colours in the foyer of City Hall, with a Mayor's Reception to follow.

Evening (Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club)

Officers and Sr NCO's Birthday Dinner - by invitation

Tuesday June 7, 2022

Evening (Cartier Square Drill Hall)

Regimental Birthday Party and Smoker

August 22 – 28, 2022 (Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club)

Ladies LPGA Golf Tournament – Sentries, Band and Association Volunteer Participation

Friday September 30, 2022

Evening (*Cartier Square Drill Hall*)

Homecoming Meet and Greet and Displays

Saturday October 1, 2022

Morning (*The Guards' Chapel – St. Bartholomew's Church*)

150th Commemorative Service

Afternoon (*Cartier Square Drill Hall*)

Social Gatherings and Displays

Evening (*Location TBD*) Guards' Homecoming Gala Ball

Some of the projects we are working on include a Guards 150th Montage Artwork by artist Katherine Taylor, a 150th Coffee Table book, a Guards' 150th Coin, Royal Canadian Mint Collector's Coin, Canada Post stamp, 150th Whiskey (which can currently be purchased through the GGFGRA website), and other merchandise as we get closer to the event.

The Coffee Table book will essentially be a photographic depiction of the Regiment, historical but also current. We are in need of high-quality photos that

are at least 1 mb, 300 dpi. The photos will portray the life of the Regiment and it's members and will be arranged into topics such as Training, Operations, Public Duties, the Band, Mess Life, Recruiting, the Drill Hall, Community Involvement, Cadets, Museum, Guards' Chapel and the Regimental Association. Please start looking for photos that you wish to submit for consideration to be used the book.

Lastly, the 150th Website will include a Donation portal in which we are asking for your support in order to raise funds associated with both the Charitable and Celebratory campaigns. In addition to celebrating our 150th, the Charitable campaign is raising monies to address Veteran's homelessness in Ottawa; initiate a GGFG Youth Achievement Awards programme; and to contribute to our Heritage projects. Please see the article submitted by HLCol Matheson for more information. The Charitable Campaign has reached 70% of their goal of \$500,000 and we need your support to get us over the top.

I look forward to updating you throughout the year as we look forward to marking this important milestone in the history of our esteemed Regiment in 2022. Please spread the word! Up the Guards!



The Guards in Review

Col Rob M. Foster, MSM, CD



This is believed to be one of the earliest images from the Regiment. While it is a well-known photograph to many in the Regiment the actual names of the individuals are a mystery. What we do know is that the Library and Archives database identifies the photo taken in 1875 as "C.O. - Col. Ross of Governor General's Foot Guards". In May 1874 the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, wife of the Governor General, presented our first stand of Regimental Colours so the date of 1875 for the photo seems accurate. This particular studio photo is not attributed to a photographer, which is odd and means that it is likely not the work of the most prominent photographer in Ottawa, William Topley who has an extensive collection available at the Library and Archives. Now to determine what we don't know.

With a little bit of work I have taken the opportunity to try and figure out who is who. If you believe I am in error please let me know as the work is based on some Internet sleuthing. Using a spreadsheet created by the late WO John Swan of the NCOs of the Regiment I was able to list of names of Sr NCOs serving in 1875. Using that as a baseline I searched all 30 names against images in the library and archives database. I only used photos of people that are available online. All comparison photos are from the Topley collection unless otherwise noted between 1868 and 1881 with the assumption that individual facial features would not change much in the time period beyond facial hair.

The only person we know for sure is Lt Col Thomas Ross, the first Commanding Officer and known as the Father of the Guards. He was instrumental in raising the Regiment. He is in the Centre with his chin resting on the sword.



The officer in rifles uniform is likely the Adjutant, John Rhodes formerly of the Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery sitting to the left of Lt Col Ross. It is possible that he is still wearing the uniform of the Civil Service Rifles but this seems unlikely. The Glengarry cap was a common headdress but it is not clear why he is wearing the cross belt? Any ideas? He could be an officer from the QOR who was attached, William Egerton Hodgins. But it is not confirmed that Hodgins was in Ottawa in 1875. He is wearing a sword and also has a swagger stick in his right hand.



The Senior Colour Officer is likely Telmont Aumond. He was an original officer of the Regiment who served for many years. He was second in command of the Canadian contingent that went up the Nile River to rescue General Gordon at Khartoum in 1884. I personally thought that Aumond had moved on from the Regiment in the 1880s but a recent photo uncovered in a Sandy Hill Walking tour showed a photo of him with other Guards including Charles Winter, but that is a future story.



The Junior Colour Officer is most likely Gerald H. Bate. The photo was not found in the Library and Archives Database but rather from the "findagrave.com" which includes his obituary and information on his brother, H.A. Bate who commanded the Regiment. The Bate family were prominent in Ottawa known for real estate. Bate island on the way to Hull is named after the family.



Based on ranks the RSM, James Keating, in on the far left holding in his right hand a drill cane. It is possible that this is the same drill cane that rests in the officer's mess at Cartier Square. I am not aware of any photos of James Keating in the Regimental inventory.



The Drum Major at the time should be Lambkin as he held that appointment a year earlier. He stands between the two Colour Officers holding the Drum Mace. Based on the comparison of photos I think it might be Desloges who joined after the presentation of Colours in November 1874. (Photo: Mr Desloges, Dec. 1873, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP397606)



The two Colour Sergeants and the four Sergeants all carry weapons, the 1853 Enfield rifled musket with bayonets fixed. This was the commonly issued weapon to the Militia at the time. It was not uncommon for the weapons to be stored in personal lockups at home for use at shooting events on weekends.

The two Colour Sergeants are in interesting positions, one is in the back row and the other is seated. The Colour Sergeant in the rear appears to be Christopher Graburn (1839-1908) Born in Lincoln County, England on 24 December 1839, sixth son of Marmaduke Graburn, he was educated at the Diocesan College at Lincoln. He emigrated to Canada with three of his brothers in 1857, bought land at Ottawa, and took an accounting job with a lumber merchant from 1865 to 1871 before taking an accountancy job. He left Ottawa in the spring of 1882 and moved to Winnipeg. The source for the biography is http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/graburn_c.shtml (Photo: Mr Graburn, Feb. 1872, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP386425).



Colour Sergeant Lambkin, a veteran of the Fenian Raids was transferred into the Regiment in 1872. His appointment in WO Swan's spreadsheet suggests he was the RQMS which may be the rationale for why he was given the opportunity to sit even though he is carrying a rifle. (Photo: Sergt Lambkin, Jul. 1868, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP406359)





The Sergeants are all in scarlet's with the exception of the first person in the list that appears to be wearing a working patrol-type uniform. I was not able to confirm any real information about the sergeants so this is largely speculation. Sgt Sutherland was promoted into the Sergeants Mess in 1873 and he remained until 1889 as the Orderly Room Sergeant. This may be the rationale for the difference in uniform. (Photo: Sutherland, Nov. 1871, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP417759)



Sgt G. O'Connor joined the Regiment in 1873 and was immediately promoted into the Sergeant's Mess indicating past service in another unit. (Photo: O'Connor, Sept. 1875, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP370133)



Sgt Green joined the Regiment in Nov. 1874 also directly into the Sergeant's Mess. (Photo: Green, Oct. 1875, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP370188)



Sgt W. Blanchard joined the Regiment in Nov. 1873 directly into the Sergeant's Mess. (Photo: Blanchard, Nov. 1873, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP396595)



Sgt R. Salter joined the Regiment in October 1874, directly into the Sergeant's Mess. (Photo: Salter, May. 1872, Ottawa, Photographer: William Topley, DAPDCAP386719)



Dissecting a photo that is 146 years old is no easy task and I may have gotten it all completely wrong. I'd like to think that a couple are right! I would welcome any thoughts or suggestions to help identify the people in this photograph as we journey towards the 150th celebration of the Regiment. Up the Guards!



**Regimental Band of the GGFG
1967 Canadian Centennial**
Maj Jim R. Milne, OMM, CD (Ret'd)

The 1967 Centennial year was an extremely busy one for the Regimental Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards. During the June-July-August

period the band fulfilled approximately fifty concerts and parades. Earlier in the year a directive had come down to all reserve bands that the future of all bands would be considered if they didn't commit fully to the Centennial celebrations. Well the "Governor General's Colourful Foot Guards Band" certainly met the standard expected.

THE STACCATOS and LES CAILLOUX!
JULY FIRST
SEE THEM **FREE**
at Lansdowne Park

It's a Royal Hullabaloo starting at 2:30

and also featuring:-

- * **BOBBY GIMBY!**
and the Chelsea School Choir
- * **OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERETTES!**
- * **THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S COLOURFUL FOOT GUARDS' BAND!**
- * **THE OCCASIONAL FLASH**
- * **THE LAMONTE CRANSTON QUINTETTE!**

AND the most thrilling moment of all - a visit by HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN!

Show starts at 2:30
27,000 FREE SEATS
at LANSDOWNE PARK!
Featuring the Staccatos and Les Cailloux

THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The advertisement by the Centennial Commission for the "Royal Hullabaloo" at Lansdowne Park was one of the highlights. The appearance of the Queen and Prince Philip being the main attraction. A reporter covering the event remarked on the unusual performance of a Foot Guards Band playing Rock music which was very well received and one of the highlights of the event.

Immediately after the "hullabaloo" the band bused for Rideau Hall to perform at the Royal Garden Party, where the first recipients of the Order of Canada were assembled. When we arrived at the intersection of Rideau and Sussex there were large crowds lining up and blocking one side of the intersection.

There arose one of the situations which one can look back upon with humour but at the time caused panic. One of Ottawa's new police constables refused to let the bus proceed through the intersection. There the bus stalled until a senior police officer arrived to sort things out.

Fortunately the route down Sussex was clear as we sped to Rideau Hall to set up "just in time". Her Majesty and Prince Philip walked down the path passing by where the band was set up to perform. The Prince stopped and said to Bandmaster Frank Bonner to "I Say - didn't I just see you chaps at Lansdowne Park?" "All Bonner could reply was "Yup". At the end of a busy afternoon the band relaxed with beer glasses - filled not with beer but French Champagne (HM insisted that the champagne served at the garden party be French Brut, not Bright's Canadian champagne). WO2 Bonner was conducting the band because the Director of Music - Capt. Alex McCurdie - had suffered a heart attack earlier in the year, so the conducting duties were shared between Bonner and Band CSgt. George Aubrey.

The band continued with it's usual summer concert series in the band-shell at Lansdowne Park. In addition there were ten concerts on the main steps of Parliament hill. Following one of those concerts The Ottawa Citizen newspaper headlined "Guards beat records. The Governor General's Foot Guards Band

smashed Parliament Hill band concert attendance records Wednesday night when the 49 man militia band attracted 5,000 spectators”.

Other enjoyable Centennial events were the visits to Ottawa Valley communities. Many smaller communities in Canada received grants to celebrate the Centennial. The GGFG Band was invited to help them celebrate. And celebrate we did as the towns were awash with money to spend on food and drink. We think that the number of people in the band equalled the population of one small town. They had spent their grant on a new municipal garage/ fire hall. When the band returned from a short but very hot parade, they were taken to the hall where tubs of iced beer awaited -- purchased with their Centennial grant no doubt. In addition to official GGFG appearances the band also performed for all the home games of the Ottawa Roughriders football team. Dressed in different uniforms (i.e. not GGFG) the band played music for the snappy halftime shows presented by the Rough Riderettes. The GGFG also provided a colour party of NCOs for the games, who also wore special uniforms.



Centennial Year was also unusual for the GGFG as there were two State events in which the regiment took part. In March there was a State Funeral for Georges Vanier. In April the new Governor General Roland Michener was installed. The photo of the band with Roland Michener was taken one Sunday morning that fitted into the busy schedules of the band and the new Governor General. He wanted to do the photo as he had played cornet as a youth in his home town of Lacombe, Alberta.

Unfortunately there are many anecdotes connected to all the Centennial events but not enough space to relate. I wish I could tell you about the time “Flying Nun” star Sally Field sidled up to the Drum Major to get a reaction from him.



No. 1 Company Adapts to Training in a Pandemic

Maj Nicholas Fysh, CD
Officer Commanding, 1 Company

The rifle company has had a challenging training year so far as a result of the pandemic. We have had to make several adjustments to how we conduct training and institute several last minute plan changes in order to continue to function. It has without a doubt been frustrating at times, however we have also demonstrated an ability to adapt and work together in less than ideal circumstances to carry on and deliver effective training.

Initially we began the training year with in person training in September off site at Alta Vista (The old NDMC building). This was in order to minimize the number of people at Cartier Square on a Tuesday night and keep training outdoors and distanced as much as possible. Additionally we also observed standard COVID mitigation practices such as wearing masks at all time and the regular sanitization of hands. Our training has been focussed at the section level both to really focus on developing core soldier skills, but also to make training more resilient to disruption. While training away from Cartier Square was an adjustment, being able to train outside without other distractions turned out to be very positive. Section Commanders had the space to run practice section attacks and tactical movement with their soldiers and overall I think we benefitted from the change in venue. After the first couple weeks we had found our rhythm and were able to minimize the amount time required for weapons draw, signing pay sheets, and other administration so that we could maximize the amount of time spent rehearsing skills. Things were going pretty well.

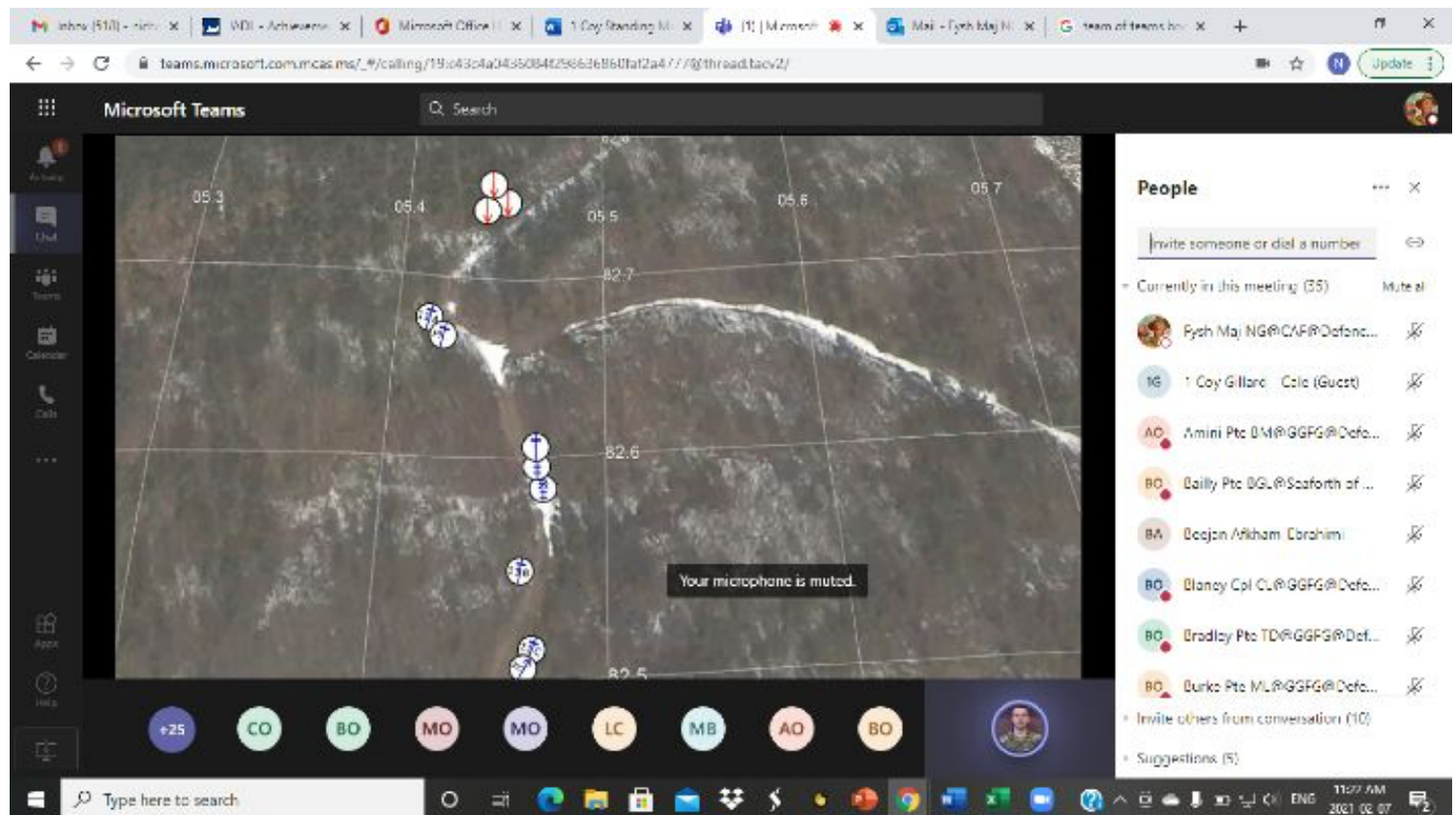
This lasted until early October when in-person training was restricted as a result of updated provincial direction due to rising COVID numbers. Thankfully the Regiment has leaned well ahead on leveraging Microsoft Teams as a tool for virtual training so we had a mechanism ready to go. Organizing a replacement training program that could be conducted virtually was a little bit more challenging and we were initially a bit rocky. We soon found our feet and were able to deliver training on voice procedure, tactical theory, and patrolling theory over Microsoft Teams. We also had an urban operations subject matter expert from the Infantry School deliver a lecture on the battle of Ortona as well as attended a virtual Remembrance Day. While virtual Training is not in any way ideal we were able to develop several lessons learned on what training works best virtually and how to deliver it, the biggest one being that the more it can be devolved down to the section level the more engaging and effective it will be.

One bright spot this year has been the Leadership Development Training Program (LDTP). Over the past few years CSgt Kowlessar has run a training program to effectively prepare our junior NCOs for the Primary Leadership Qualification and Infantry Section Commander Courses. This year the program

was moved to No 1. Company (along with CSgt Kowlessar as chief instructor) and expanded to a larger group of ~30 soldiers. While the LDTP has been similarly affected by COVID disruptions, CSgt Kowlessar has been able to run a handful of training events (some in person, but mostly virtual) where members of the program are learning, practicing, and gaining confidence with the estimate in a range of tactical scenarios.

By the end of November we had been given the green light to resume in person training and we were back at Alta Vista. Shortly after we participated in the regimental C7 range weekend in Kingston (originally

training for the time being. Using the lessons from the fall we have carried on with virtual training and started to implement creative solutions. Because we can't conduct field exercises we instead conducted a virtual Cloth Model Exercise (CMX) over MS Teams that was organized and led by Lt Papanikolaou. The Company reviewed section attacks, actions on for recce patrols, and platoon hasty attacks and then "rehearsed" them by moving icons around on the map. While moving icons around on a screen will never come close to training in person, it does have the advantage of giving everyone a sense of the bigger picture of how the whole section or platoon is working together. Over the course of the exercise I was extremely pleased to see junior members



No. 1 Company virtually rehearsing a platoon hasty attack over Microsoft Teams

scheduled for October) where Capt Gagnon ran a master-class on how to run a range and mentor shooters (because I guess he knows a thing or two about shooting). Sgt Dupont-Choinière came away with the title of top shot from the weekend. Having lost a good deal of in person training time, we elected re-scope the exercise at the end of November to focus on section attacks in detail and cover the ground we had missed while we were relegated to online training. Over the course of the day we practiced Section attacks in detail and progressed from conducting frontal attacks to flankings. We finished off the training year before the holiday break with bit of fun by conducting a navigation competition in the arboretum on the last night before stand down.

We have already started the winter training plan in 2021 and once again find ourselves confined to virtual

of the Company making smart decisions on where elements should move and what they needed to do based on an a good appreciation of the ground and the tactical situation.

A personal highlight for me so far this year has been seeing the junior leaders in the Company step up to take initiative and ownership of company training. Whether it was MCpl Afkham-Ebrahimi planning the navigation competition, MCpl Jiang leading a demonstrating of a section flanking, or Sgt Muldoon conducting virtual all arms call for fire training, the Company's junior leaders really stepped up to the plate and made things work. I also benefitted greatly from an experienced Company "brain trust" with steady advice and leadership from MWO Webb, Capt Gagnon, and CSgt Kowlessar which allowed us to develop the best solutions for adjusting training, and keep things afloat.

We will continue to endeavour to run the most effective and engaging training we can in the circumstances with a number of theoretical and professional development activities scheduled. We will however be ready to shift back to in person training once we are permitted. Whatever the pandemic throws at us this winter and spring, No. 1 Company will be ready to adapt. Up the Guards!



Notes from the Band (COVID-19 Edition)

Cpl Ann Gregory, CD

The Regimental Band has remained active throughout the pandemic, quickly adjusting to each new situation and the accompanying restrictions as they arrived.

Our training year started with a band exercise – a weekend of intense musical rehearsal, team building and planning at Cartier Square Drill Hall over the Labour Day weekend, following a strict protocol of masks and physical distancing. The weekend culminated in a successful Facebook livestream concert entitled “Together in Song”. We were thrilled to be able to perform together as a band, spreading the joy of music while safely connecting with Canadians in their homes and trying to bring some normalcy to a very new reality.

The Labour Day concert had many musical highlights, but to me the featured soloists stole the show! Cpl Declan Kinghorn performed “All Those Endearing Young Charms” on euphonium, a piece with a central musical theme and variations on the theme demonstrating both his musicality and technical proficiency. Cpl Eric Gauthier performed “Concerto for Clarinet” a 1940’s jazz composition by Artie Shaw with wailing clarinet melodies and virtuosic cadenzas.

We followed the concert with both an in-person and virtual inclearance, my 36th GGFG inclearance, and obviously the most unique. Since then, the band has focussed on its small ensembles realizing that when in-person events are possible, this may be the most logical option for performances at smaller gatherings.

During periods where we were (and continue to be) unable to rehearse in person, the band has productively used this time to reflect on how we can best contribute to the CAF (both now and in the future) and to Canadians as a whole.

Although most of us never worked with them, we are saddened at the passing of former GGFG musicians, CWO Jack (Kip) Fleming [former GGFG bandmaster], Sgt Len De Carle and MCpl Don Peterkin (trumpeters), and Sgt Ian Rothwell (trombone). All died of natural causes. Len was the oldest living Guardsman

and a few members of the band played at his 99th birthday on January 1st, 2020.

As we were preparing for a socially distanced Christmas concert, the band had to quickly adapt to doing recordings from home. Over the Christmas season the Saxophone Quartet, Jazz Ensemble, Brass Choir, and Clarinet Quartet’s Christmas carols were released on the Guards’ Facebook page with about 3,000 views.

Since the arrival of COVID-19, the band has become proficient at doing recordings from home, starting with our first video, Vanished Army, a metaphor for the fact that we had “vanished.” Sgt Bianca Toledo has used her video editing skills to assist with the majority of our YouTube productions, and many members of the band have stepped up to help in various capacities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb11MjiEzRA>

During the pandemic, church services also explored the virtual platform and the band recorded Eternal Father as a hymn for the May 3rd Sunday service at St. Bartholomew, the Guards chapel. The band demonstrated our flexibility as many of the musicians performed both as instrumentalists and vocalists for this hymn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llPQbT4cCvY>

For Canada Day, we performed You Raise Me Up which was a tribute to the CAF members who deployed to Long Term Care Facilities as part of Operation Laser. You Raise Me Up featured Sgt Tammy Shaw (vocalist).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xgvn_gqr_kU

For Remembrance Day the Regimental band released a video featuring Fernleaf Headstones as the musical contribution to our video “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”, November 11, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zew9CyIujAM>

Virtual ceremonies and virtual concerts have become the new norm. I was honoured to play Last Post for the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and V-E Day along with Ceremonial Guard’s Pipe Major MWO Al Clark on May 8th of last year (125K views).

We continue to strive as a band to become better musicians, to reach out through music, and to serve the CAF and Canadians. If nothing else, the pandemic has encouraged the band to explore new skills including video and audio production and has allowed us to share our multi-instrumental and vocal talents in the virtual world.