



Sabre and Spur

The Official Newsletter of The South Alberta Light Horse | 2024 in Review



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Cover photograph: WO Brangwyn Jones. Ex. Western Sabre. Night shoot SALH.

Sabre and Spur
The official newsletter
of The South Alberta Light Horse

Volume 3, Number 11

Comments and submissions to Lt. K. Samraj
Kris.samraj@forces.gc.ca

A Squadron
Patterson Armoury
120 Cuyler Road SE | Medicine Hat T1B 3M4

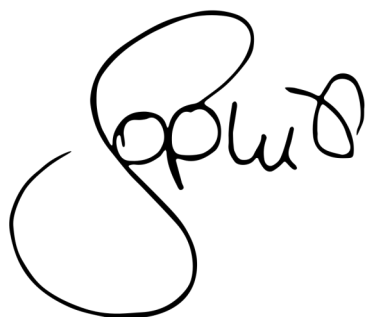
Vimy Ridge Armoury
337 Stubb Ross Rd | Lethbridge T1K 7N3

B Squadron
Jefferson Armoury
11630 109 St NW | Edmonton T5G 3H6

OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

HRH THE DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH

Over the last 120 years, members of our Regiment have served bravely and selflessly in the defence of Canada, with many members of The South Alberta Light Horse deploying this year on missions in Europe and at home in Canada. I am pleased that all members of our Regiment continue to uphold the proud legacy of service earned over decades.



HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh
Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order



OUR HONORARY COLONELS

HCOL. CATHY ROOZEN & HCOL. (RET'D) RALPH YOUNG

I am pleased to report on the year for the Regiment and Foundation on behalf of HCol. Cathy Roozen and me. 2024 was another active and successful year for the regimental family with many events and accomplishments.

As Honorary Colonels, we are committed to continuing to serve the regiment with the same strong stewardship as our predecessors. Alberta's Regiment has an exceptional history of service and achievement through all its members, active and inactive.

The Foundation has also continued its commitment of support for the regimental family through its active efforts at fundraising and fund distribution to benefit current regimental members while preserving the regimental military legacy.

Some highlights of 2024:

- The Foundation Board met in January, April, May and September to manage its affairs.
- The Foundation AGM was held on May 10 to approve directors and financial results. Troy Steele and Brian Talty were newly elected to the board.
- The Foundation ran a successful casino on November 28 and 29 with the support of many Association members.
- My term as Honorary Colonel ended on June 30, 2024. The SALH current and past Warrant Officers held a very nice dinner on July 3 and the Foundation held a retirement dinner on September 5. Several several regimental family

members were presented with Regimental medals for their service.

- The regimental family participated in the Welberg bell ringing events on May 4 and November 2 at Jefferson armory.
- In June the Foundation hosted Brigadier



Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, with Honorary Colonel (Ret'd) Ralph Young at his retirement dinner, 05 Sept 2024.

OUR HONORARY COLONELS

HCOL. CATHY ROOZEN & HCOL. (RET'D) RALPH YOUNG

General Steve Graham for dinner to show our appreciation as he left his role as CO of 3rd Canadian Division.

- The Foundation provided financial support to the three individual Battlefield Tours arranged by the Association in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Europe - Normandy (August), Belgium (September) and the Netherlands (Oct-Nov). We funded Foundation Coordinator Jenn Roggeveen's participation and she traveled to France & the Netherlands to learn about the regimental history and strengthen our relationships in Europe.

The Foundation awarded 10 scholarships to soldiers of the Regiment at the annual Soldiers' Appreciation Dinner on December 14th in Medicine Hat.

The Foundation's financial position remains strong with fundraising events such as the Casino and

Military Cup golf tournament, annual grant from the Lorraine Ginther Milner endowment fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation and other private donations.

As my final report as Honorary Colonel, I want to express my very sincere appreciation and deep respect for the SALH and its extended family for their mentorship and friendship during the past 6 years. I have been honoured to meet and learn from the experiences of many current and past soldiers, officers and colleagues in Canada's Armed Forces. Observing the dedication, professionalism and service of our military has been a gratifying and humbling experience. I wish to thank all who have supported me on this journey, and I look forward to continuing to provide support to the Foundation and the Association in the years ahead.

Semper Alacer,

HCol. (Ret'd) Ralph Young



LCol. Tom Bradley, HCol Young, Capt Brian Talty, CWO Marcel Chenier - 5 Sept 2024.



MWO Derek Rosendal, Sgt. Jenn Iskiw, WO Dave Bergt, CWO (Ret'd) Gerry Olsen, HCol. Young, CWO (Ret'd) Chuck Howie, WO (Ret'd) Garry Rolls, WO Adam Symington - 3 June 2024

OUR COMMANDING OFFICER

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS BRADLEY

I continue to be amazed at the commitment of the Regiment's members at volunteering for and excelling at all of the many challenges asked of this Regiment. Whether deployed overseas supporting the deterrence mission in Latvia, participating in training to support the Vietnamese military, supporting the training of the Ukrainian Army in Europe, fighting fires here in Alberta, participating in a multinational exercise with our US partners in Idaho, or supporting the many schools and courses across Canada, our Regiment continues to answer the call.

The highlight for me was the rededication of a headstone for Sergeant Arthur Melvin, a member of Calgary's 31st Battalion of the CEF from the First World War. Sergeant Melvin died during the fighting to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Buried in an unmarked grave, he was recently identified and through the efforts of our Honorary SAR, Walter Cami. We were able to properly honor his legacy by participating in the rededication of his headstone, this time fully recognizing his name and sacrifice. Padre Shane Hein, RSM Marcel Chenier and I were able to join one of the Association's Battlefield Tours and participate in a very emotional ceremony at the British Military Cemetery in Thélus where Sergeant Melvin is interred with other members of the Regiment who fell during the battle to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

All the visiting Canadians we spoke to at Vimy Ridge were proud that Canada still remembered one of its fallen and was taking the time to honour his

memory. The RSM will share more from our trip a bit further on in this publication.

As soldiers we represent the entire legacy of this Regiment and those whose lineage we perpetuate. Sergeant Melvin's generation would recognize the service and commitment of all members of our Regiment, whether in service to Canada here at home and abroad. No doubt this coming year will continue to bring us new challenges, but as we approach our Regiment's 120th year of service in 2025, we will continue to serve as have the many generations who have gone before us, with pride, distinction and that cavalry spirit.

Semper Alacer!

LCol. Thomas Bradley, MSM, CD



Left to right. RSM Chenier, Padre Hein and LCol. Bradley at Vimy Ridge.

OUR REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

This Saber & Spur article will be my last. This fall, I will hand over the appointment of RSM to MWO Derek Rosendal and move on to assume the position of 41Brigade Battle School Sergeant-Major (41Bde BSL SM). MWO Rosendal being a career reservist and SALH, you will be in good hands with LCol Bradley and him at the helm. Trust that they have all of your best interests, and those of the regiment writ large at heart as they shape the unit movement forward in these turbulent times.

I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your RSM. Being a regular force CWO, every day was a learning experience for me in what it meant to be a reservist. To coin a phrase from a friend of mine when I entered the Army Reserve “Don’t come here trying to fix us, we’re not broken, we just work differently”. He was right. I am still amazed and enamored at how you all balance your home life with your work life with your army life. For what it is you can achieve both individually and as a team with minimal time and direction. Three years ago, my message was of building in your minds what it was to be a professional reservist, and you have not disappointed. Our Regiment answers the call to serve time and time again. I myself am a better reservist for having spent my time among the soldiers and officers of this Regiment.

Growth and recruitment in the regiment is on the rise, as a matter of fact, just the other night I bore witness to OC HQ Sqn swearing in two young reservists in Medicine Hat. These two lads swore their oaths with pride ... and listened intently as the



wording on their enrollment certificates were read aloud by OC HQ Sqn. Thirty-six years later and those words still fill my chest with purpose and act as a navigation beacon to make sure that I am on the right path, so I put them here now for all of us to remember once again.

“In making the formal commitment to serve His Majesty King Charles the Third, King of Canada, his heirs and successors, as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, you have sworn to protect Canada, and to defend Canadian interests and values at home and abroad. You further promise that you will demonstrate the qualities of Integrity, Loyalty, Courage, Honesty, Fairness and Responsibility, putting service before self and personifying the attributes expected by the citizens of Canada whom you represent and who hereby put their trust in

OUR REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

you.”

Before closing, I would like to leave you with some of my advice:

Commit to training and operations as often as you can. Whether that is for Class C callouts, Class B courses, or Class A Wednesday and weekends. Teambuilding and developing your own leadership potential starts with showing up;

The first step on the path to being a professional reservist is to retain what it is you have learned either through training or through your experiences and apply that knowledge unfailingly every time you are called upon to do so; and

Your personal dress, deportment and discipline will speak volumes about you to all those around you. Your personal reputation will speak volumes about you to all those when you are not around them.

Lastly, and NEVER EVER FORGET ... “This is a fine Regiment; you can make it the finest.”

RSM



Left to right. LCol. Bradley, Padre Hein, and RSM Chenier on the search for the 3rd Division monument.



The 3rd Canadian Division monument at Vimy Ridge.



LCol. Bradley and RSM Chenier at the rededication ceremony for Sgt. Melvin.



Deborah, a tank hull from the Battle of Cambrai

OUR REGIMENTAL PADRE

REVEREND CAPTAIN SHANE HEIN

I am going to deviate somewhat from my usual habit of sharing the direct Word of God in this column to sharing instead a summary of my recent overseas experiences. This past autumn, the CO, the RSM, and I flew to Europe for the express purpose of rededicating a burial monument of a formerly unknown Canadian soldier who died fighting at Vimy Ridge. His name was Sgt. Arthur Davidson Melvin, and he was a member of the 31st BN CEF, a direct ancestor of our own South Alberta Light Horse.

When I first learned that this soldier had been identified after spending nearly 110 years in a generic “Canadian Soldier of the Great War” grave, I confess that I was somewhat puzzled over why we would devote precious resources to having the three of us fly to Europe from Canada, take hotel rooms and meals, and be compensated to boot, when any number of CAF chaplains and officers already stationed in Europe could have done the same thing much more cost effectively.

Though my time in the CAF had made me aware of regimental loyalties and how important they are to our troops, I still felt that this trip was difficult to justify for the sake of one long-dead infantryman. My views on the subject changed dramatically, though, once we arrived in Arras, France, and began to tour the Vimy Ridge site.

The whole experience had an enormous impact on me, particularly while the CO, the RSM, and I were strolling between the simple and uniform stone monuments that lined one of the many war cemeteries in the Vimy region.



Besides the staggering number of them, what struck me the most was just how many of these stone markers were inscribed with nothing more than “Canadian Soldier of the Great War,” though sometimes accompanied by “Known unto God,” which I took to mean “Known *only* unto to God.”

It suddenly dawned on me that Sgt. Melvin would be one of the very few unidentified Canadian soldiers killed in action during the First World War who would *ever* be properly identified. The task we were there to complete, therefore, was not some mundane military operation, but was, I now believe, quite extraordinary. The fact that this man was part of a unit of which I am now a member reinforced my growing belief that this assignment was more than worth the cost and, more importantly, that it had to be performed by us and no one else. This was one of *our* guys, after all. We, at the very least, owed Sgt. Arthur Davidson Melvin that much.

God’s richest blessings upon you all.

REGIMENTAL ROLL

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE

Colonel-in-Chief

Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Edinburgh

Honourary Colonel

Ralph Young 2018-2024
Cathy Roozen 2024-

Commanding Officer

LCol. Thomas Bradley

Regimental Second-in-Command

Major William Roberts

Adjutant

Capt. Robert Baglole

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Marcel Chenier

Operations Officer

WO Curis Romkey

Regimental Padre

Capt. Rev. Shane Hein

WO MacDonald, RHQ
Sgt. Sept, RHQ

MCpl. Seguin, RHQ
Cpl. Povago, RHQ

Cpl. Zezula, RHQ
Pte Cooper, RHQ

Pte Sevak, RHQ

HQ Squadron

Officer Commanding

Capt. Brian Talty

Capt. Turnbull, HQ
WO Fode, HQ
Sgt. Winton, HQ

MCpl. Smith, HQ
Cpl. Green, HQ
Pte Pringle, HQ

2Lt Mitchell
Sgt Balfour
Cpl Wright

Cpl deRuiter

REGIMENTAL ROLL

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE

A Squadron

Officer Commanding

Capt. Peter Rosendal

Squadron Sergeant-Major

Sgt. Jason DeJong

1 Troop

Lt. Samraj
MCpl. Engler
Cpl. Ireland
Cpl. Hoffman
Cpl. Payne
Cpl. Panta-le
Cpl. Griffin

Bdr. Ferguson
Cpl. White
Tpr. Wood
Tpr. Humphreys
Pte. Furey

3 Troop

Sgt. Jacobson
MCpl. Layden
MCpl. Huvenaars
MCpl. Longstreet
MCpl. Onoferychuk
MCpl. Ribeiro
MCpl. Hatch

Cpl. White
Cpl. Dueck
Cpl. Gallagher
Cpl. Lutz
Tpr. Konschuh
Tpr. Senobin
Pte. Hartfield
Pte. Dacruz

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Capt. Steven Ridders

Second-in-Command

Capt. Dima Vengertsev

Squadron Sergeant-Major

MWO Derek Rosendal

Battle Captain

Capt. John Lawrence

1 Troop

2Lt. Meurer
WO Symington
Sgt. Frew

Sgt. Sande
MCpl. Augustine
MCpl. Badmington
MCpl. Iskiw

Cpl. Baron
Cpl. Becker
Cpl. Fuchs
Cpl. Guttner

Cpl. Isley
Cpl. Jones
Cpl. Laughland
Cpl. Murray

REGIMENTAL ROLL CONTINUED

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE

B Squadron

Officer Commanding

Capt. Steven Ridders

Second-in-Command

Capt. Dima Vengertsev

Squadron Sergeant-Major

MWO Derek Rosendal

Battle Captain

Capt. John Lawrence

1 Troop (Cont.)

Cpl. Norgaard
Cpl. Putnam
Cpl. Reardon
Cpl. Schneider
Cpl. Stockman
Cpl. Tran
Cpl. Vorotilenko
Cpl. Visser
Cpl. Wang
Cpl. Wright
Tpr. Basilan
Tpr. Collins
Tpr. Coupland
Tpr. Dallon
Tpr. Paiement

2 Troop

Lt. Perreault
WO Tarrant
MCpl. Hall
MCpl. Johnson
MCpl. Lyder
Cpl. Bjarnason
Tpr. Sherren

3 Troop

2Lt. Iris
2Lt. Lee
2Lt. Majeau
2Lt. Ozsuer
2Lt. Petkau
2Lt. Sweet
OCdt . Munyankiko
MCpl. Waheed
Pte(B) Adams
Pte(B) Bhullar
Pte(B) Briones-Yantha
Pte(B) Campbell
Pte(B) Doiron
Pte(B) Fibke
Pte(B) Kucey

Pte(B) Littlechild
Pte(B) Maningo
Pte(B) Nasr
Pte(B) Senobin
Pte(R) Al-Awar
Pte(R) Alvarez Alvarez
Pte(R) Constantinos
Pte(R) Dacruz
Pte(R) Fraser
Pte(R) Gallagher
Pte(R) Simoneau
Pte(R) Van Wyk

Admin Troop

MCpl. Drinkell, SQ

Extra-Regimentally Employed

LCol. C Bradley (Kingston)	MWO Bergt (3 Div HQ)	Sgt. Veinot (41 CMBG Recruiting)
Lt. R. Westling (Real Property Operations, CFB Edmonton)	WO Morton (Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School)	Sgt. Caty Morin (TMM, Calgary)
Lt. L. Elliott (CFB Wainwright)	WO Ray Harris (3 Div HQ)	MCpl. J. Guszczewski (Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School)

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

Canadian Forces' Decoration

Sgt. Jason DeJong (2009-2024)

Sgt. Blake Sept (2011-2024)

MCpl. Tyson Engler (2009-2024)

Sgt T.E. Milner DCM Cane (Top Sgt)

Sgt. Adrian Winton

RSM Hamill Trophy (Top Marksman)

Capt. John Lawrence

Corporal Ernest Walker Cutmore Award

MCpl. Austin Longstreet

Leckie Trophy (Top Tpr/Cpl)

Cpl. Tran

The Falaise Trophy (Top Student on TAPV D&M or Gunnery)

Sgt. Jason DeJong

MCpl. Michelle Drinkell

Province of Alberta Coin for Op. Lentus

Capt. Rosendal

2Lt. Meurer

MCpl. Séguin

Cpl. Bjarnason

Cpl. Povago

Cpl. Stockman

King's Coronation Medal

LCol. Chris Bradley

Maj. (Retd) Paul Mast

MCpl. Tyson Engler

MCpl. Liam Lyder

MCpl. Catherine Séguin

Mr. Wes Krause (SALH Museum Curator)

SALH Regimental Association Scholarships

2Lt. Meurer

Cpl. Murray

Cpl. Gray

Cpl. Payne

Cpl. Tran

Tpr. Senobin

Promotions

LCol. C. Bradley

Capt. Lawrence

Lt. Samraj

Sgt. Frew

MCpl. Iskiw

MCpl. Smith

MCpl. Ribeiro

Cpl. Coupland

Cpl. Laughland

Tpr. Basilan

Tpr. Collins

Tpr. Coupland

Tpr. Paiement

Tpr. Wood

Tpr. Humphreys

COMMISSIONS & REBADGES

Commissioned

2Lt Lee

2Lt Majeau

2Lt Ozsuer

Rebadged

Capt. Fenner Kingston,

OC A

AWARDS, PROMOTIONS & COMMISSIONS, REBADGES



*Sgt T.E. Milner DCM Cane (Top Sgt)
Sgt. A. Winton*



*Canadian Decoration
Sgt. DeJong & Sgt. Sept*



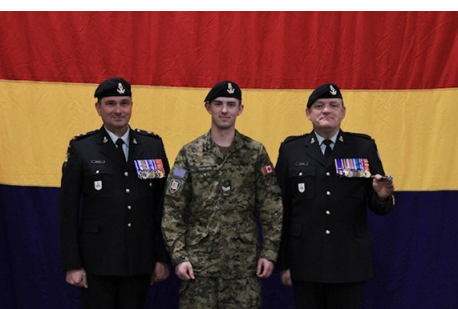
*Corporal Ernest Walker Cutmore Award
MCpl. Longstreet*



*RSM Hamill Trophy (Top rifle shot)
Capt. Lawrence*



Promotion of Sgt. Frew.



Promotion of Cpl. Coupland



*The Falaise Trophy (Top Student on TAPV D&M
or Gunnery) MCpl Drinkell & Sgt DeJong*



*The Leckie Trophy (Top Tpr/ Cpl)
Cpl. V. Tran*



*Promotion of MCpl. Smith and
MCpl. Ribeiro*



From left to right. 2Lt. Ozsuer, 2Lt. Lee, and 2Lt. Majeau receive their commissioning scrolls from LCol. Bradley.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE

- > **January:** In early January the SALH sent a member to Boise, Idaho to start the planning cycle with the 116th US Cavalry Brigade Combat Team for an upcoming training event. Our members completed Cold Weather Operator Course with other 41 CBG units in preparation for a deployment to Alaska as part of the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) exercise with 3 PPCLI.
- > **February:** Maj. Bradley deployed to Hanoi Vietnam to instruct with the Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation (DMTC).
- > **March:** MCpl. Guszczewski deployed to the Armoured School as part of the Assault Trooper writing board.
- > **April:** We conducted an Open house at both Patterson and Jefferson Armouries in an effort to boost recruiting. Our unit conducted our annual gun camp in CFB Suffield.
- > **May:** A contingent from RHQ deployed to Idaho with 116th US Cavalry Brigade Combat Team for a Bde level exercise. The Regiment ran our first TAPV RWS course in Medicine Hat where we conducted the theory portion of the course.
- > **June:** The unit deployed members on Op Reassurance with C Sqn LdSH(RC) to Latvia. Members of the Unit received Wildfire S100 training at CFB Edmonton in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season.
- > **July:** The unit sent new members to CFB Suffield to complete BMQ. Meanwhile, members who completed their BMQ earlier in the summer travelled to the Pacific Regional Training Centre in the beautiful city of Chilliwack to complete RQ Tpr.
- > **August:** The TAPV Gunners Crse conducted their live fire shoots qualifying new gunners on our TAPVs. The Regiment conducted the annual Division Training Exercise in Wainwright.
- > **September:** Our return to training saw Squadrons conducting annual readiness verification and their annual IBTS training.
- > **October:** A contingent from the Regiment flew to France to conduct a rededication ceremony for Sgt Arthur Melvin (31st Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force) who died in Thelus, France 9 Apr 1917 during the First World War.
- > **November:** Remembrance Day ceremonies included the Welberg Bell ringing in conjunction with Bevrijdings monument, Remembrance Day Ceremony at Holy Trinity Anglican Church for B Squadron. B Sqn participated in the joint Ex. Fox Nova.
- > **December:** On 15 Dec some SALH members left with 1 Field Ambulance and LdSH(RC) for Op Reassurance. The Soldiers Appreciation Dinner was held in Medicine Hat. Soldiers were recognized with awards, commendations and scholarships.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE



From left: Cpl. Povago, 2Lt Muerer, Cpl. Stockman, Capt. Rosendal. Op Lentus.



LCol Bradley and MWO Rosendal promote Cpl. Laughland.



Cpl. DésRosiers and Cpl. Buchholz with special guests.



Coin for Op LENTUS: 2Lt Meurer, MCpl Séguin, Cpl Povago, Cpl Stockman.



From left: Maj. Roberts, LCol. Bradley, Maj. (Retd) Mast, Capt. (Retd) Watt, CWO Chenier.



From left: LCol. Bradley, Wes Krause, Capt. (Retd) Watt, CWO Chenier.



A Sqn Floor Hockey Team. Soldiers Appreciation Dinner 2024. Patterson Armoury.



B Sqn Floor Hockey Team. Soldiers Appreciation Dinner 2024. Patterson Armoury.

OPERATION REASSURANCE

CORPORAL MARCUS HOFFMAN

In June 2024 myself and six others across all SALH locations were on a plane bound for Latvia, ready for a new and challenging experience.

This was after a short period in Edmonton for pre-deployment, where we merged well with members of the LdSH(RC) and met many new friends from other reserve armoured regiments across western Canada.

Before leaving for Latvia, we were set up to be a knowledgeable and effective echelon for the deploying LdSH(RC) tank squadron. Upon landing, members of the SALH found themselves in the A1, A2, as well as with the C Squadron Quartermaster. Each member learned a new position in an armoured squadron, and how it impacts the upkeep of a tank squadron.

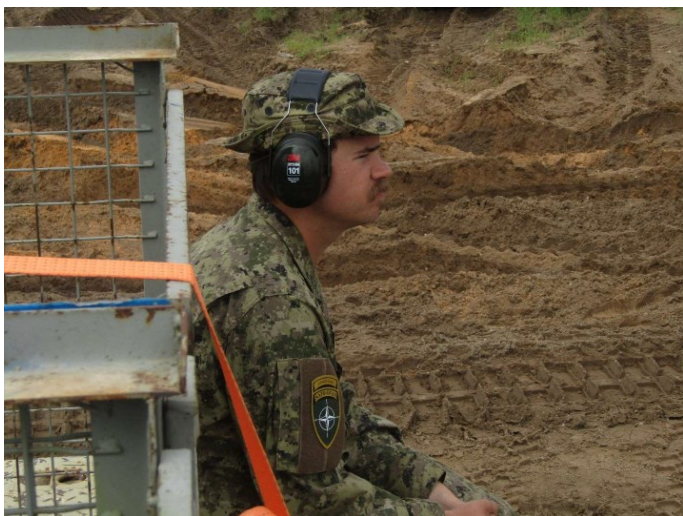
While deployed in Latvia, we found ourselves on a steep learning curve, working with over 10 nations, all of which spoke their own language. Initially, this was very difficult, but over the course of the deployment, we were constantly learning from each other, spending time watching the Spanish engineers conduct breaching drills, long marches with the Danish, and by far the best was working with the Polish Army. Time with the Polish counterparts was extraordinary, a fellow tank squadron that did not shy away from including us in their routine training. Members of LdSH(RC) C squadron got time on Polish small arms ranges, in depth look on PT-91s, multiple tank ranges and CQB force-on-force training. Overall working with the Polish was great. We learned a lot from their experienced and confident tankers.



Cpl. Hoffman in the A1 Echelon. Ex Silver Arrow.

OPERATION REASSURANCE

CORPORAL MARCUS HOFFMAN



Above: The beginning to the 25 km Dancon march.

Left top: Cpl. Isley and Cpl. Hoffman after successfully completing the 'Death March'. 57 kms in under 11 hours.

Left middle: Cpl. Murray at the ammo point, waiting to resupply a Leopard 2A4M.

Left bottom: Cpl. Isley prepares to conduct a replenishment on a tank range.

OPERATION REASSURANCE

CORPORAL MARCUS HOFFMAN

Most of our free time was spent exploring Latvia, spending most free weekends in Riga was entertaining as long as we didn't get into any trouble. PSP also assisted with day trips to Estonia and Lithuania, getting the chance to explore both nation's capitals and their immense history.

This deployment provided us with valuable experience and a deeper understanding of the operational intricacies of both an echelon and a tank squadron. With our regiment focussed on the new cavalry doctrine, the experience of working in the echelon may be unknown for some. It helped me understand the bigger picture of modern armoured warfare. I learned a great deal, made many new connections, and urge the Junior NCMs to consider a deployment to Latvia.



Above & right middle: Force on force training with the Polish Army.

Right top & bottom: A1 Echelon resupplies a tank troop on Ex. Silver Arrow.

Right middle: SALH members departing Latvia. Left to right: Cpl. Isley, Cpl. Griffin, Cpl. Dueck, Cpl. Visser, Cpl. Putnam, Cpl. Murray, Cpl. Hoffman.

MASTER CORPORAL LIAM LYDER

It was the first of February when six members of the South Alberta Light Horse (Corporals Griffin, Payne, Hoffman, Isley, and Master Corporals Onoferychuk, and me) boarded our plane out to Fort Wainwright Alaska. None of us had ever been to Alaska so we were all going to experience it for the first time together. Once we landed, we were given a brief by the base commander before being ferried off to a large inflatable vehicle tent, or what we referred to as home. The following day, once everyone had some time to situate themselves, we had to begin doing damage control as the -60c windchill had become an issue for our entire vehicle fleet. Our solution—turn the vehicles on and don't turn them off. This process continued for a couple days before the weather began to warm up to a balmy -20C at which point the real work began. As members of transport platoon we were generally busy with prepping/moving the battalions' snowmobiles, as well as unloading and delivering the battalions stores; this went on for roughly a week and a half.

Once the field was only a few days away the battalions work ramped up quite a bit as companies trained on helicopter inserts. After several days of this, and the launch date for the Ex being pushed back due to weather the battalion set up in several land, and air packets. This launch, from Fort Wainwright to Fort Greely proved rather slow as all land vehicles were given a strict speed of 30mph on the road. When we eventually arrived at Fort Greely we went right into the field, where the B Echelon found a parking lot to consolidate for the night. In the following morning, we moved to a new location,

closely following the frontline, this proximity allowed the B echelon to easily supply the rifle companies with any needed resources. Some could say we followed too close as we were attacked by enemy infantry, and artillery everyday until we moved to a new location. This move occurred halfway through the exercise and had seen the enemy attacks on the B Echelon cease, this end of enemy incursions can be attributed to the defensive emplacements Cpl. Hoffman and Cpl. Griffin had made behind our vehicles, as well as the rifle companies beginning to beat the enemy by a considerable margin. This considerable margin signaled the beginning of the end of the battle, and brought with its larger bounds for support as we began to ferry vehicles from/to various callsigns and picking up troops such as the pathfinder platoon.

Eventually, once dusk hit, we were given a FRAGO—the enemy would be attacking us that night. The rifle companies dug in, and the B echelon began preparing for a fight. Half of transport platoon, including Cpl. Isley went out as a tank hunting team, where once enemy forces had breached our lines managed to destroy 2 enemy vehicles, the other half of us remained with the B Echelon vehicles to maintain security. Eventually all troops returned to the B Echelon and end Ex was called after successfully beating the enemy. The Americans were given 30 minutes to breach our lines, It took them 6 hours. After the struggle to breach our lines end Ex was called the next day. We made our way back to CFB Edmonton, ending our time with 3PPCLI.

WORKING WITH THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL GUARD

CAPTAIN BRIAN TALTY

For Soldiers of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team - 116th CBCT, annual training was an international affair. While their brigade's headquarters conducted a command post exercise 4-18 May 24, soldiers from the 41 CBG incl the SALH participated, along with three Polish Officers observed and conducted a subject-matter expert exchange.

Approximately 12 officers from the 41 CBG, which incl four Officers from the SALH (LCol. Bradley, Maj Bradley, RSM Chenier and me), formed a brigade staff to participate in the 116th CBCT's staff exercise from 11-16 May 24. During the same week, the Idaho National Guard hosted two maneuver battalion commanders and one operations officer from 1 Warszawska Brygada Pancerna, Poland as part of the state's State Partnership Program.

"Fostering relationships with the 41st CBG and the 1st Warsaw Armored Brigade allows Soldiers of the 116th CBCT the unique opportunity to train with allied partners," said Col. Eric Orcutt, Idaho National Guard chief of the joint staff and former 116th CBCT commander. "It allows our Soldiers the ability to learn how other forces operate, build friendships

and develop cultural understanding with a force they could potentially work with on future missions."

The exercise was the third interaction between the Idaho National Guard and 41 CBG since November 2023 and gave soldiers from both armies the chance to work with a foreign unit without having to cross an ocean.

"Canada is an allied nation that supports the same missions we do," said Lt. Col. Cody Rutz, the 116th CBCT's executive officer. "It's easier for us to test interoperability with a NATO partner if we can train with our neighbor instead of having to travel to Europe."

The participation in this exercise cannot be undervalued. The Americans operate on a very different level than we do, much bigger and they have the tools and checks and balances to hold them accountable for their parade strength. The battle procedure and Operational Planning Processes (OPP) are very similar (with some minor language differences). Working in that environment with that number of participants who are giving you real time feedback on your deliverables during the OPP is an excellent learning environment.



LCol. Bradley briefing on his Battalion Air Assault.



LCol. C. Bradley, LCol. T. Bradley, Capt. Talty and fellow Cdn Bde Staff during the floor model walk through.

EX NORTHERN GRIZZLY & NATO RESERVE FORCES WORKSHOP

CAPTAIN FENNER KINGSTON

EX NORTHERN GRIZZLY

Between 17 and 19 January 2025, members of the Regiment participated in Ex NORTHERN GRIZZLY 25 at 4 Wing, CFB Cold Lake. The exercise sought to build interoperability between 41 CBG and the members of 4 Wing. The weekend focused on discussions of how reservists can augment 4 Wing's Wing Auxiliary Security Force (WASF) in the event of a request for assistance from the Air Force. 41 CBG, tasked with fielding a TBG in response to such a request, offers a semi-local solution to the Air Force, with Edmonton's reservists being less than three hours from CFB Cold Lake in an emergency. The weekend offered both RCAF and ARes personnel the chance to learn from each other and understand each branch's relative strengths and weaknesses. The weekend resulted in updates to the CFB Cold Lake base defence plan, meant to ensure the effective use of reservists to defend the Wing as its F-35s and accompanying infrastructure come online.

After the 4 Wing Officer's Mess welcomed the TBG members upon their arrival from Edmonton late Friday night, Saturday began with briefs. The TBG includes members of the SALH, 1 Edmn R, 6 Int Coy, 41 CER, 20th Fd Regt, 41 Svc Bn, 15 Fd Amb. While members of the TBG HQ sat through an explanation of the base, its layout, and its defensive situation, MCpls, Cpls, and OFP Ptes received 'train the trainer' training from the WASF Commander in the WASF course. This course ensures that junior members of the TBG can integrate themselves into the WASF if the TBG deploys and that members with PLQ can teach others at their home units. These junior

members continued with this training throughout the rest of the weekend while the TBG HQ received further briefs from the 4 Wing Operational Support Squadron (OSS), 11 MP Flight Cold Lake, the 4 Wing Legal Advisor, and the R2IC of the SALH.

Following the PowerPoints, the TBG HQ split into its elements, all of which prepared back briefs for the TBG Comd on what they could provide as defensive/supporting capabilities if called upon to defend CFB Cold Lake. The base defence plan, left to languish since the delivery of the F18s several decades ago, provides little in terms of guidance for augmenting units, and these TBG elements sought to help address this issue. While some of the ideas presented helped identify how ARes personnel can help 4 Wing's WASF, the complicated chains of command required for such an augmentation make the effective employment of this capability challenging. Further planning cycles between 4 Wing and TBG personnel, and the consideration of this problem at CJOC/Army HQ/RCAF HQ would be necessary to really resolve it. The F35s and their supporting infrastructure, known as the 'precinct', demand the implementation of robust defences by the US Congressional legislation involving their fielding. While tactical considerations such as those put forward during the weekend can enable strategic decision-makers to ensure proper construction and maintenance of the F35 precinct, these same decision-makers must then provide clear direction, and address some of the complicated chains of command, involved with Army support to the F35 program. All told, Ex NORTHERN GRIZZLY 25

EX NORTHERN GRIZZLY & NATO RESERVE FORCES WORKSHOP

CAPTAIN FENNER KINGSTON

helped provide some recommendations to help effective augmentation to the 4 Wing WASF but further estimates and pressure-testing of any defence/augmentation plans will be needed.

NATO RESERVE FORCES WORKSHOP

NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium, recently hosted 'HFM 390: Reserve Forces Workshop'. The conference included academics from Canada, the USA, the UK, France, Belgium, Slovenia, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Capt Kingston of A Squadron had the privilege to attend and present his research on the historical challenges to the RCAC Reserve, most of which stem from strategic policy incoherence since the end of the Second World War. The conference provided a forum for academics to discuss the lived experiences of Reservists, how Reserve Forces work in their respective countries, and what NATO can do to enable more coherent employment of Reservists.

As one of two PhD candidates in attendance, with the other coming from the Royal Military Academy of Belgium, the workshop provided these young academics with an excellent opportunity to see how professionals at the top of their fields deliver papers, how they debate ideas, and how their work can push strategic thinking forward. Most participants either served or currently serve in the Reserve Forces of their home countries, with Colonel being the most common rank in the room. Each presentation (roughly 8/day) gave the presenter 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes for questions. Col (Ret'd) Howard Coombs, Professor at RMC and Queen's University, served as moderator and, true to form, surprised the other nations present by being a stickler for these timings. For academics used to being given allowances for overtalking during conferences, this ruffled their feathers but kept discussion brief. Such strict adherence to allowed talk time would benefit His



*From left: Maj. Roberts, LCol. Bradley, Capt. Kingston, CWO Chenier.
Capt. Kingston rebadged to SALH. Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, December 2024.*

NATO RESERVE FORCES WORKSHOP

CAPTAIN FENNER KINGSTON

Majesty's Armed Forces. While the presentations stayed short, the keynote speakers included LCol (Ret'd) Mike Rostek and MGen Janeen Birkhead. LCol Rostek, former CO of the Ontario Regiment and now a defence scientist with Director General Military Personnel Research, discussed the importance of strategic forecasting for DND and how the Department anticipates long-term challenges to prevent ourselves from constantly fighting yesterday's war tomorrow. The day after, MGen Birkhead, Adjt General of Maryland and commander of all National Guard forces in Washington D.C. after January 6th 2021, presented how the Maryland Army and Air National Guard support their state. She also spoke about how, as the Adjt General, she has direct access to the state's legislators and the Governor's cabinet, a relationship which she leverages to get soldiers and aviators the best support possible. While unimaginable to an entirely federal institution like the CAF, the National Guard's example of cooperation with state-/province-level government can help inform how ARes CBGs interact with provincial governments. The presentations and keynote addresses showed how NATO's Reserve Forces share systemic issues, regardless of the system that governs them. Our allies also struggle with recruiting, retention, coherent force employment, equipment shortages, and keeping their soldiers up-to-date on their fighting skills. Despite these challenges, such conferences help the

alliance to develop more effective, practicable Reserve Forces, while also providing both leading experts and young academics the chance to further debate on how to enact necessary changes.

Other activities that ran concurrently with the conference included a Q&A with Adm Cavo Dragone, Chair of the NATO Military Committee, an address from BGen Serhii Melnyk, the Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, and an address from Mark Rutte, Secretary General of NATO. These sessions supported the first joint meeting of the NATO Committee on Reserves and the Reserve Federations, and the conference members had the opportunity to participate. The thrumming activity at NATO HQ needs to be seen to be believed, and for a junior officer/young academic, it helps contextualise why the alliance matters. Our allies recognise the threat posed by the anti-democratic forces arrayed against Western democracy. Canadians have an historical tendency to lapse into complacency given our physical distance from threats to Europe, especially since the end of the Soviet threat. With Russia encroaching on our allies' borders, and other anti-democratic threats testing our defences constantly at the threshold of outright conflict, our increased participation and engagement with the alliance remains a crucial element of our role internationally. Seeing NATO HQ at work shows just how much our allies value their freedom and how much further we can go to be a contributing ally. We are stronger together.

COURSES AND TRAINING

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE



Pte Louise Cooper, A Sqn, was Top Candidate on their BMQ.



Range day for B Sqn. RSO 2 IC Warrant Symington, "The Comms Master."



Cpl. Tran and Cpl. Wright making sure the rounds are on target on ATS-2.



BMOQ 0209, 1 Section with 2Lt Petkau, B Sqn.



2Lts Majeau and Ozsuer during BMQ 1237



2Lt Majeau, MCpl Hatch and 2 Lt Petkau

THE REDEDICATION OF SGT. A.D. MELVIN CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

“Known unto God”. These words chosen by Rudyard Kipling is what one would find on the face of many unidentified war graves found in the numerous Commonwealth cemeteries that dot the French countryside. Where possible, these graves are also marked by any other known information at the time of burial. Sometimes the symbol of the regiment the soldier served in are inscribed, or by a symbol of the soldier’s home nation. For Canadians that would be either an elk for Newfoundland & Labrador, as they had not joined in confederation at that time, or a stylized maple leaf for Canada. That was all the information that was found on a particular headstone: An unknown Canadian soldier from the 31st Infantry Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force (31st BN CEF), who fell in the Battle of Arras 9 April 1917. This unknown Canadian, through the combined efforts of the Canadian Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), would be identified 104 years later as Sergeant (Sgt) Arthur Davidson Melvin of Calgary Alberta. This then is his story.

In June of 2019, the DHH, through the CWGC, received a report from independent researchers detailing the possibility that the grave found in Plot 1, Row C, Grave 3, of the Bois-Carré British Cemetery in Thélus, France, was that of Sgt Melvin. Extensive research undertaken through the Canadian Armed Forces Casualty Identification Program, using historical and archival evidence including war diaries, service records, and casualty registers; as well as



9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY
"Killed in Action."
Whilst taking part in the attack at Thelus he was instantly killed by a direct hit from an enemy 77.m.m. shell which struck him full in the face.

Born 3 June 1887 in Udney, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Died 9 April 1917, aged 29, serving with the 31st Infantry Battalion ("C" Coy), CEF

THE REDEDICATION OF SGT. A.D. MELVIN CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

Calgary

Family member 'incredibly emotional' after grave of Canadian WW I soldier identified

Sgt. Arthur Melvin enlisted in Calgary, was buried as 'unknown soldier' in France



Joel Dryden · CBC News · Posted: Jul 20, 2023 7:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: July 20, 2023



ATTESTATION PAPER
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Arthur Melvin
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Arthur Melvin, Scotland
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Melvin Melvin, mother
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? South Lodge, Whitehorse, Yukon
5. What is the date of your birth? 4 June 1887
6. What is your trade or calling? Engineer
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes

Signature of Man: Arthur Melvin
Signature of Witness: Arthur Melvin

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Arthur Melvin, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfill the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, now to be attached to any act of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date: 15 May 1915
Signature of Man: Arthur Melvin
Signature of Witness: Arthur Melvin

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Arthur Melvin, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as

Sgt. Arthur Melvin, left, was first reported missing and later presumed dead on April 9, 1917, in the effort to clear and hold the village of Thélus, France. At right, the attestation paper, signed by Arthur Melvin in Calgary in 1915. (Submitted by DND, Library and Archives Canada)

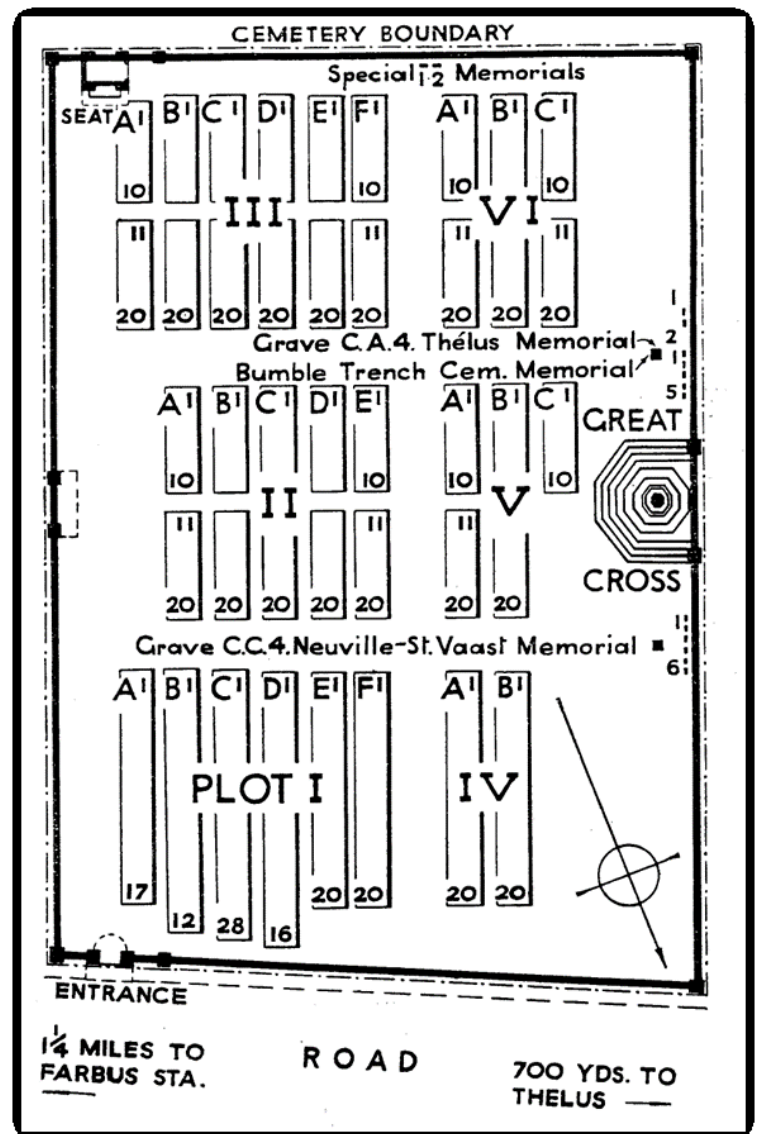
THE REDEDICATION OF SGT. A.D. MELVIN

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

scientific research with the assistance from the Canadian Forces Forensic Odontology Response Team and the Canadian Museum of History, concluded in October 2021 that this grave could only be that of Sgt Melvin. No other candidate matched the details of the headstone's partial identification. So then who was Sgt Arthur Melvin?

Born in Aberdeenshire Scotland in June 1887, Arthur Melvin's family immigrated to Canada in 1890. Arthur grew up in Calgary and was employed as a pipefitter when the Great War broke out. He enlisted into the 56th BN CEF on 18 May 1915 at the age of 28. Arriving in England on 11 April 1916, Melvin was transferred to the 31st BN CEF as part of C Company and sent to France where he was promoted to Corporal in September, and then to Sergeant in October 1916. During the spring of 1917 the 31st BN, as part of the 2nd Canadian Division of the Canadian Corps, at the Battle of Arras was tasked to take the high ground of Vimy Ridge, their advance taking the battalion through the French town of Thélus. At the end of the day's fighting on 9 April 1917, the 31st BN had taken and held Thélus, but at the cost of 15 members of the battalion killed, 69 wounded and 6 were missing, including that of Sgt Arthur Melvin, who was presumed killed in action that day at the age of 29.

Through the Canadian Army's perpetuation of units, the military history and honours of the 31st BN have flowed through many regiments to that finally of our regiment the South Alberta Light Horse (SALH).



Buried at the CWGC Bois-Carre British Cemetery, Thélus, France.

Grave location: I C 2 (3rd headstone on location).

Inscription: You lie in a grave we may never see as long as memory lasts you will be remembered.

THE REDEDICATION OF SGT. A.D. MELVIN

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER



Above: Sgt. Melvin's headstone.
Bottom: RSM Chenier raising the flag.



Top: The rededication ceremony for Sgt. Melvin.
Middle: Left to right; CWO Chenier, Padre Hein, Col. Galuga, LCol. Bradley.
Bottom: LCol. Bradley lays a wreath.

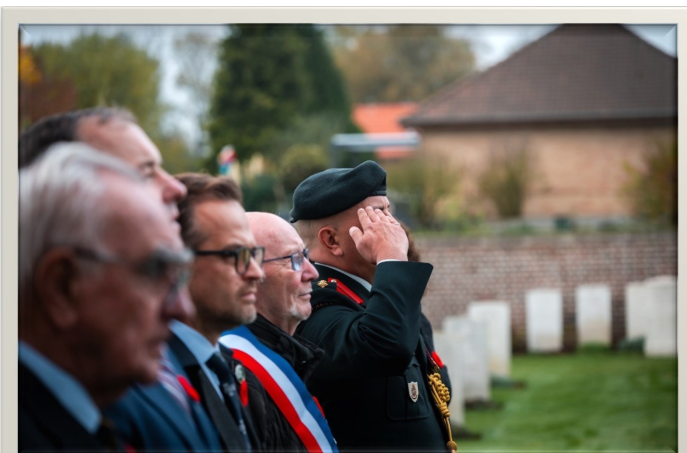
THE REDEDICATION OF SGT. A.D. MELVIN

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MARCEL CHENIER

As such it was our esteemed duty to conduct the rededication of Sgt Melvin's headstone, and on 30 October 2024 we did just that. Gathered in the Bois-Carré British Cemetery just on the outskirts of Thélus, a small contingent led by the SALH hoisted high the Canadian flag, we sang our Nations anthem, and we read the biography of Sgt Arthur Melvin. We recited In Flander's Fields, the Act of Remembrance, and saluted with pride through the Last Post and observed two minutes of silence for our fallen comrade, and wreaths were lain. The ceremony became all the more real for all of us standing within sight of Vimy Ridge, and for the words of the Mayor of Thélus. He spoke words of gratitude and of admiration for all of the Canadian soldiers that fought and for those who died in the liberation of their lands, the very lands that we were standing on that afternoon.

To date, the DHH and the CWGC have successfully identified the remains of 35 Canadians. There are currently 41 active investigations involving sets of remains, and 40 active investigations involving the graves of service members buried as unknowns. Nearly 28,000 Canadian military members who have died in the First World War, the Second World War, and the conflict in Korea have no known resting place. Rest easy Sgt Melvin, not only are you now known unto God, but by your fellow comrades in arms and your family as well.

RSM



Top: Bois Carre Cemetery, France.

Middle: Padre Hein with a blessing over Sgt. Melvin.

Bottom: The Last Post.

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT CAPTAIN (RETD) JASON WATT

2024 was a busy year for the Association. I'm proud of the work we did through the year. We have a lot of successes to celebrate, all of which are attributable to amazing volunteer work from our Board and other volunteers.

Our Membership Officers, Richard Mack and Paul Mast, have done incredible work making sure our membership lists are maintained and that we continue to grow our membership. Initiatives this year include free membership for those leaving the Regiment and our Affiliated Cadet Corps on good terms, as well as discounted pricing for annual

members who convert to life membership.

We saw the departure of our longtime treasurer, Lisa McLeod. I was very happy to see Lisa awarded the King's Coronation medal to coincide with the end of her term. Lisa did exactly what every volunteer should strive for – she left the organization in far better condition than how she found it. I know we'll continue to see Lisa at future events. Be sure to thank her for her amazing work and follow her progress at Veterans Connect Canada.

The entire board has contributed to what I'll call institutional stability. I believe we've set a familiar



2Lt Mat Meurer and George Kuhse receive their lifetime membership certificates.

THE SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT CAPTAIN (RETD) JASON WATT

and predictable cadence for board meetings and AGMs. The membership should have confidence that your board is operating in a responsible way. I've previously mentioned our treasurer and membership team. Our secretary, Ange Rolf, also does a ton of great work to keep us on track. Greg Yanda provides exactly the type of stabilizing voice that a past president should provide.

I've tried to raise the profile of the Association and the Regimental Family. It somewhat pains me that the South Albertas are so well-known in Normandy, West Flanders, Zeeland, and Brabant, but sometimes people in Edmonton and Medicine Hat have no awareness of us. In pursuit of better awareness of the Regiment in Canada, I've tried to enhance connections with a range of organizations, including the Medicine Hat Legion, the Sir Winston Churchill Society in Edmonton, the Royal Canadian Military Institute, and a host of others. Thanks to all those who have supported this effort.

We've corrected a big oversight in sending care packages to our troops who recently returned from Latvia. I'll soon be sending a new set of care packages to the troops we have there now.

We've seen many of our members awarded King's Coronation Medals. As of this writing, Swatty Wotherspoon, Lisa McLeod, Sticks Gallard, Wes Krause, and Paul Mast have all received this prestigious recognition. I have at least 2 more to distribute in 2025, and I believe the Association membership will ultimately end up with more than that. Thanks to Greg Yanda and George Kuhse for



their efforts in making this happen.

May of 2025 will see some big events. Along with the Dutch Canadian Club, the South Albertas will conduct a parade in Edmonton on May 4th to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. At the same time, Brian Talty and I will be in the Netherlands to see more than 1,000 Canadian schoolchildren converge on the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

I continue to have a massive to-do list. If you're able to help with administrative and communication tasks, I would love to hear from you.

I hope 2025 is as good a year as 2024 was for the Association. Thanks to all those who supported the Association through the year.

Semper Alacer,

Captain (Retd) Jason R. Watt, CD
President

South Alberta Light Horse Regimental Association

Above: Swatty says a few words. Left to Right: Doug Wotherspoon, Jason Watt, Swatty Wotherspoon, Bennett Wotherspoon.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

PRESIDENT CAPTAIN (RETD) JASON WATT

There is much to report here. 2024 saw us conduct three separate smaller-scale Battlefield Tours. Captain Brian Talty took a small contingent to France in August to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Falaise-Trun-Chambois Pocket. September, Brian and I took another small contingent to Belgium for the 80th anniversaries of various events connected to the Battle of the Scheldt, including a monument dedication in Zelzate, Belgium. And finally, in October and November, we took a mid-size group to the Netherlands for the 80th anniversaries of the liberations of Bergen op Zoom and Steenbergse/Welberg.

One of my favourite parts of these trips was that we had several family members of veterans along. Walking the ground is such a valuable way to connect with those memories of our families. It's very emotionally rewarding for me to watch those connections happen.

There will be no formal tour in 2025, but if you find yourself in Europe in May, please make a point of joining us in Bergen op Zoom for the 4 May activities. It would be great to see you there.

In September of 2026, Brian and I will lead a bicycle tour (at a relaxed pace; neither of us are cyclists) of Belgium and the Netherlands. This will run approximately 2 weeks. We're currently gauging interest. If you're interested to attend, please reach out. For soldiers who might attend, we're trying to keep this as affordable as possible.

These tours continue to be of great importance for the good name of the South Albertas. We are well-recognized across Northwest Europe, and we have

many valuable friendships.

If you're not able to join us in 2026, it's likely that we'll go back to a conventional bus tour in 2027 or 2028.

Captain (Retd) Jason R. Watt, CD
Battlefield Tour Committee Chair
The South Alberta Light Horse Regimental Association



Top: RSM Chenier receives official greetings from Mayor Ruud van den Belt, Steenbergse, Netherlands.

Bottom: Mimi Rogers reads from her father's memoirs at the Hochwald Gap, Germany.

THE BATTLE FOR KAPELSCHE VEER

MARIUS HEIDEVELD

The Battle for Kapelsche veer is all about the elimination of a German Bridgehead on the south bank of the river Bergsche Maas and north of the village Sprang-Capelle (The Netherlands).

This bridgehead could be used by the Germans for a side operation for The Ardennes Offensive.

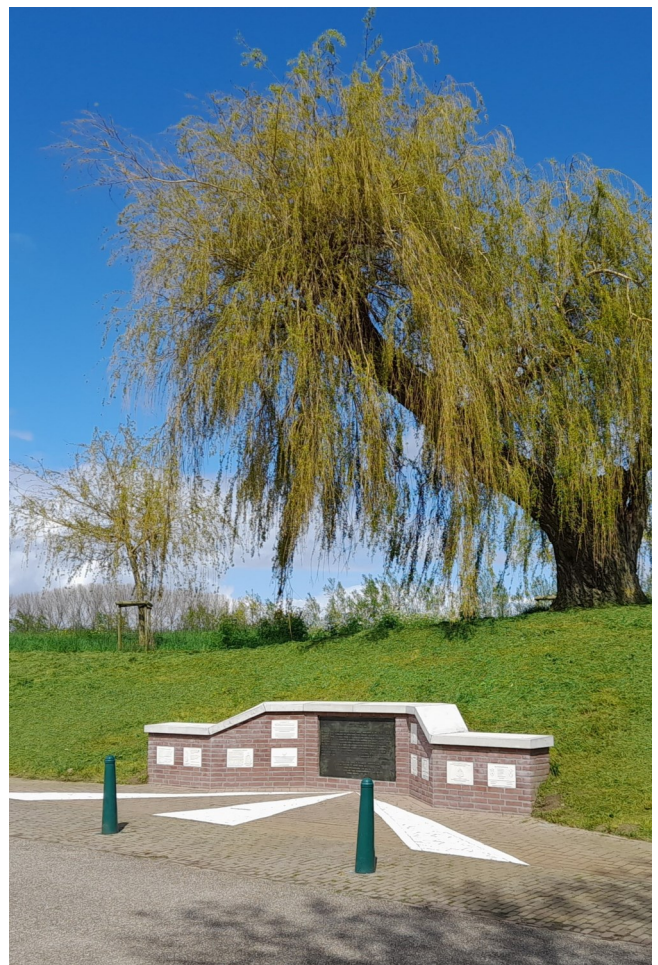
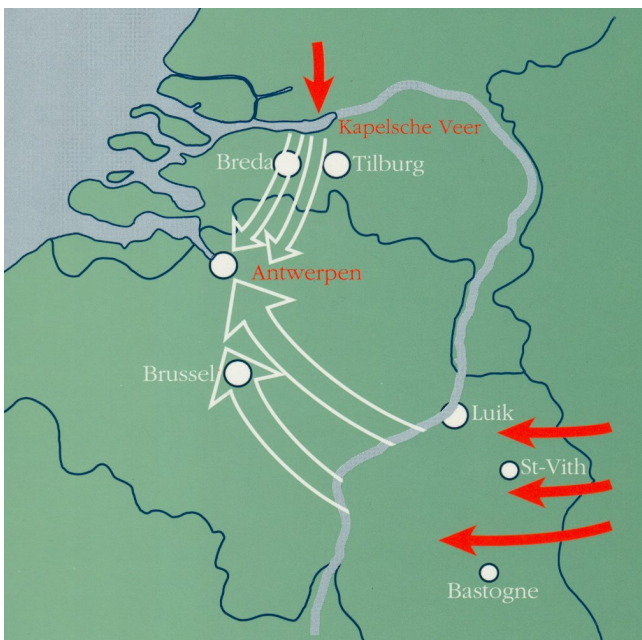
The German General Kurt Student (Army Group H) was the brain behind this side operation (Fall Braun) and this bridgehead. Once the Allies were informed about the bridgehead and the fact that German troops seemed to be preparing for something to come, it did not take long for a reaction.

The 1st Polish Armoured Division were at that time responsible for guarding this new and very long (approx. 40 km.) frontline and now they were given the task to eliminate the German Bridgehead. The Poles saw heavy fighting during their first attack

during the night of 30-31 December 1944.

Unfortunately they were not successful and one week later they attacked for the second time and, again, they did not manage to clear this relatively small sector along the river. Now the task was given to 47 Royal Marine Commando and No. 5 Troop (Norwegian)/10 Inter Allied Commando. They attacked during the night of 14-15 January 1945 with support from the 1st Polish Armoured Division (Operation Horse).

The commandos were given no easy task and with two British- and one Norwegian Officer killed it all



THE BATTLE FOR KAPELSCHE VEER

MARIUS HEIDEVELD

went from bad to worse. Short of ammunition and exhausted, the green berets had to withdraw from the battlefield.

Immediately after Operation Horse, General John Crocker (1 Corps) 'invited' General Christopher Vokes (4th Canadian Armoured Division) to take care of the German Bridgehead although by that time it was clear that it had no strategic value any more as The Ardennes Offensive was called off, and a solitary attack by the Germans from the north would be the equivalent of a suicide attack. Army Group H was also further weakened as it lost two infantry Divisions that were sent to fight east of Germany to help defending the 'Fatherland'.

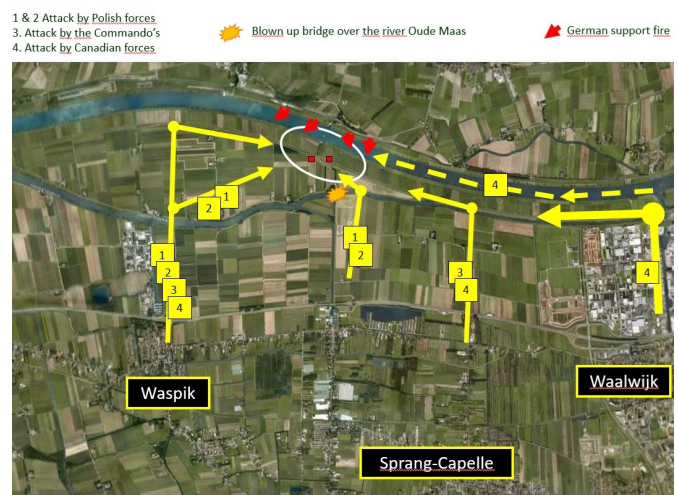
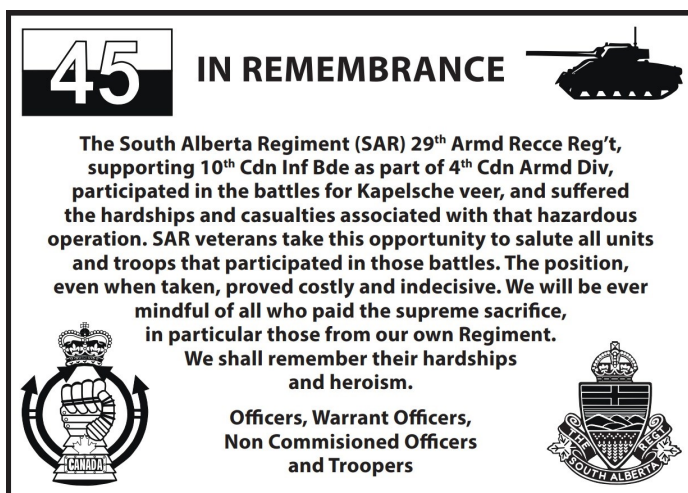
General Vokes was not keen to attack Kapelsche veer and demanded that he was given the time to provide a serious training program to the units involved. He also wanted to build in something different and that appeared to be an attack from the east in Canadian canoes along the river Bergsche

Maas by men from the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. A huge curtain of smoke was planned to keep the Canadians out of sight of the Germans.

The Canadian operation received the codename "Operation Elephant" and started on January 26th 1945. But right from the start a lot of things went wrong. A good example for this is that the Lincs in their canoes became sitting ducks as the generated smoke went up by strong winds.

The result was disastrous as almost none of the brave men in those canoes made it to shore safely to participate in the battle for Kapelsche veer.

The S.A.R. were in support of the infantry and had a hard time doing so. After the War, many described this battle as hell on earth. Many articles and chapters are written about the battle but one must have been there to know how it really was to fight against fanatic German troops under bitter winter weather conditions.



THE BATTLE FOR KAPELSCHÉ VEER

MARIUS HEIDEVELD

The battle came to an end on 31.01.1945 because of a change of command at Army Group H.

General Kurt Student was replaced by General Johannes Blaskowitz. This General had a completely different view on what was going on at Kapelsche veer. He made the only correct decision to give up this (now useless) bridgehead. He gave the German troops on 'the island' permission to turn back to the north bank of the river.

The S.A.L.H. often comes back to that one monument marked by a giant weeping willow in the open landscape north of Sprang-Capelle along the

river Bersche Maas. To remember the fallen and to reflect on this part of their Regimental history.

In memory of:

- Lt. Wilfrid Kennedy
- Lt. Kenneth Wayne Little
- Tpr. Lloyd Laprade
- Tpr. George William Noble

Marius Heideveld is an honorary member of the SALH Association in Europe.



2024 Netherlands Battlefield Tour participants and our local hosts pose during dinner at the Grand Hotel de Draak.

BROTHERS IN ARMS BY JAMES HOLLAND

LIEUTENANT (RETD) RICHARD MACK

Brothers In Arms: One Legendary Tank Regiment's Bloody War from D-Day to V E Day | By James Holland.

James Holland is one of the most renowned and respected writers of military history. He has been featured on many TV documentaries and has written several books about World War 2.

This book covers the story of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, a British Armoured Regiment that was one of three Armoured Regiments in the 8th Independent Armoured Brigade, that served with several Divisions as part of XXX (30) Corps, commanded by beloved Lt-Gen Brian Horrocks.

This book would be of great interest to those interested in the South Alberta Regiment, as they had the same organization and equipment, and fought in many of the same battles.

James Holland did extensive research and used many first hand accounts of this Regiment. He

interviewed many survivors, and made extensive use of archives to tell the story.

The Rangers often served with different units, and had to establish best practices and procedures with units that were not familiar with each other. They suffered tremendous casualties of over 150% in the “Sabre” or Tank Squadrons.

They were mainly equipped with the Sherman Mark 4 Tank. It was clear from the story that crews loved the Sherman. By 1944, it had been outgunned by German Tanks and deadly 88 mm and 75 mm anti-tank guns. The Sherman was mechanically reliable, had a quick traverse, and a gyro stabilizer to keep the gun steady on the move. It also could fire about three main gun shots compared to every German tank. It could fire smoke, high explosive, and solid shot anti-tank rounds. The British and Canadians also had an up-gunned Sherman that could hold a deadly 17 pounder main gun. These tanks were only



The 2024 Belgium Battlefield Tour poses at the new monument in Zelzate.

BROTHERS IN ARMS BY JAMES HOLLAND

LIEUTENANT (RETD) RICHARD MACK

available in limited numbers, and only one Firefly was given to a troop of 4.

The British / Canadian Armoured Regiments had 3 main fighting squadrons or “Sabre Squadrons.” Each squadron had four Troops of four tanks each, with a Reconnaissance Troop equipped with fast, but lightly armoured M5 Stuart Tanks. RHQ (Regimental Headquarters Squadron) also had a troop of tanks, with several light Dingo armoured cars. The Armoured Regiments also had a large number of trucks and jeeps for food and ammo supply, and to treat wounded.

It is important to note that the British/Canadian/American Armies were far more mechanized than the Germans at this stage of the war, and for the most part, had total air superiority. Less than 20% of the Allied Armies were Infantry or Armour, requiring a long logistical tail to keep them fighting.

The quality of the Germans varied greatly by this

stage of the war. The Germans had suffered catastrophic losses in manpower on the Russian Front. The elite divisions were about 20% of the total, and were used to prop up weaker units made up of conscripts and many non-Germans, including Poles, Czechs, and some Russian POWs who chose to fight instead of dying in Prison Camps. The best units were the Panzer Divisions, and Waffen SS as well as Fallschirmjäger or Airborne Forces in a ground role.

The Allies could easily replace equipment losses, but trained soldiers were much harder to replace. As the war progressed, there was a regular turnover of trained crews, especially tank commanders and troop leaders. As these troops needed to be exposed out of the turrets to easier spot targets, they suffered much higher losses, mostly to snipers. Many crew refused to serve as commanders due to the high losses.

The campaign could be described in several phases.

The Attrition Battles in the Normandy Country. (July-



Cpl. White and MCpl. Lyder. Op Reassurance, Latvia.



When in doubt, rack out. MCpl. Smith and Cpl. Pantaleone on the long drive back from Edmonton to Medicine Hat from range day.

BROTHERS IN ARMS BY JAMES HOLLAND

LIEUTENANT (RETD) RICHARD MACK

August 1944)

Because of the nature of the terrain, defense was much easier for the Germans. They placed most of their Panzer Division against the Canadians / British in the more open countryside, as opposed to the Americans, who were operating in closed terrain. Tank losses were tremendous for the troops in Field Marshal Montgomery's Army Group. For example, in Operation Goodwood, over 400 tanks were lost. The Germans were also suffering greatly, and gradually, the superior firepower of the Allies prevailed. The Sherwood Rangers suffered more losses in this campaign than all others combined.

The Breakout (August-September 1944)

The Americans were the first to break the stalemate in July, 1944 at St-Lo. They pivoted as the British / Canadians also broke out. This was a fluid, mobile battle in which the Allies could use their superior mobility as they crushed the Germans in the Falaise Pocket and drove like crazy across France. This was an exhilarating moment for the Rangers as they liberated town after town, and were greeted by cheering crowds who gave them liberal amounts of wine, Calvados (Apple Liquor) and Champagne. This time they still suffered losses by ambushes, often with handheld anti-tank weapons called Panzerfaust, which could destroy a Sherman with one shot.

The Rhineland Campaign (February-March 1945)

This campaign was in many ways similar to the Normandy Campaign, but with cold weather, and deep mud that made it difficult for tanks. The



MCpl. Layden and MCpl. Huvenaars provided ground support for a SAR Tech Ex. in CFB Suffield.

BROTHERS IN ARMS BY JAMES HOLLAND

LIEUTENANT (RETD) RICHARD MACK

Germans were fighting on their own land, and made the Allies pay dearly for every piece of land.

The Rhine Crossing and Final Victory (March-April 1945)

The crossing of the Rhine river was a masterpiece of a set-piece battle, Montgomery at his best. A massive artillery and air bombardment, as well as a 2 Division Airborne drop, kept the Germans off balance. The Sherwood Rangers crossed the Rhine on rafts, and did not suffer any losses. As they drove into Germany however, even though the Germans were clearly defeated, they often fought to the last man. The Rangers often faced troops as young as 14 years old. They also liberated a Concentration Camp, which for many, was a nightmare worse than any fighting.

As the war ended, the unit thought it would be deployed to fight the Japanese in the Pacific. This ended with the atomic bombs dropped on Japan. The Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry were then disbanded.

The greatest strength of this book is the personal accounts and recollections of those who served. Padre Captain Leslie Skinner kept an extensive journal from his experiences. The Padre is an important part of the Army. In addition to providing spiritual guidance, he helped care for the wounded, and carefully registered all deaths, in addition to making sure all soldiers had dignified burials. Many times Padre Skinner braved shellfire and snipers to rescue wounded. He was loved and respected, much like Padre Silcox of the South Alberta Regiment.

LCol. Stanley Christiansen commanded the Regiment for the duration of the campaign. Like LCol. Wotherspoon of the SAR, he was respected and loved by all who served under him.

An important lesson of the book is in the use of best practices. The British/Canadians made extensive use of specialty vehicles like the Churchill "Crocodile" or Flame Tank. The Germans were quick to surrender when they saw what it could do to a concrete bunker. The Flail or "Crab" tank was another innovative vehicle that saved lives. It was a Sherman with chains attached to a rotor to detonate mines. The Americans did not use these to any great extent.

The Americans had some great kit that the British did not take advantage of. One great idea was to put telephones on the back of tanks, so that Infantry could communicate with tanks. Another great American invention was the "Walkie-Talkie," a short range line of sight hand held communicator.

This is a great book for any lover of military history. It would also be a great read for serving soldiers, as they would see that many obstacles they face today were also felt by soldiers in the past.

It is important that we understand the great sacrifice that these men faced, to liberate Europe from evil and tyranny. With the war in Ukraine now raging, some valuable lessons can be learned as our soldiers face new and dangerous challenges. We must never take our freedom for granted, and remember the ultimate price that was paid by these brave men. We will remember them!

AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

RCACC 2313 MEDICINE HAT

2024 was an adventurous year for 2313 RCACC. The highlights started conducting Stage 2 marksmanship competition, which resulted in sending C/MWO Kenneth Collins, one of our marksmanship members to provincial competition.

In March we supported the Kiwanis Science Fair with 4 cadets attending to help in any way requested.

We also had our Drill Team practicing their hearts out and preparing for the Spielman Cup competition in Calgary in April. The team competed and took home 1st place at that competition, as well as C/

CWO Kobrin Klaiber taking home the Pinnacle Award for best drill commander and C/MCpl Avery Warriner taking the best dressed award.

From there, the drill team went back to practicing and went to Edmonton for the Kozar Cup in May. Again, the drill team proved their skill and took home the Kozar Cup.

In April we also held our 1 day exercise Competitive Compass, where the cadets learned how to navigate from point to point to point, having to return to a specified location.



AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

RCACC 2313 MEDICINE HAT

Our 2023-24 training year finished off with our Annual Ceremonial Review, with none other than LCol Thomas Bradley CO SALH as our Reviewing Officer.

October brought Bivouac Blackbird, our weekend Field Training Exercise, in which the cadets learned how to cook MRE's, set up and tear down camp, and other outdoor essentials.

Our corps not only supported the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Medicine Hat, we also supported

school ceremonies, the Bow Island ceremony and the Redcliff ceremony as well.

As always, it was a year full of training, community service, and pride for 2313 RCACC.

Captain Crystal Eichelbaum

2313 SALH (Kiwanis) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

3068 SALH RCACC has continued to rebuild following the pandemic. As Cadets continue to progress within the program, and new Cadets join, we are building Morale which is important for growing Corps strength.

Over the past year the Corps has continued to participate in training activities designed to enhance the classroom training of Army Cadets, and being a part of the Regimental Family has served to enhance that. Having the opportunity to interact with the Regiment and view the training and equipment utilized stimulates interest from the Cadets in Canadian Armed Forces, which is one of the aims of the program.

The Cadets have had the opportunity to participate in Field Training, Navigation Training, Marksmanship Training as well as an introduction to Cold Weather operations. They also took part in ceremonial parades with Vimy Ridge, Canada Day,

Remembrance Day and the Annual Ceremonial Review. They played sports and conducted citizenship activities at local senior homes where they were very well received.

As the Corps rebuilds it looks forward to the future, and the activities that are planned, both with the SALH and affiliated Cadet Corps, but also with other Corps that are part of our Zone Training Area. We are still relying on Fundraising to supplement our regular training activities with experiences that are beneficial to Cadets and provide opportunities to improve morale but are not funded by the Cadet Program. These opportunities are crucial for maintaining Corps strength as we move forward as they help build morale and esprit de corps.

Captain Alex Boos, CD

Commanding Officer, 3068 (SALH) Camrose
Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

RCACC 3053 LAC STE ANNE

2024 was an exciting year as our dedicated staff continued to deliver the cadet program to our small rural unit with many of the restrictions gone from the previous couple years making our job easier.

With a concentrated effort in recruiting by many individuals at schools, community service activities, trade fairs and even entering a cadet float in several local parades, we were able to dramatically increase our numbers. From 11 cadets in January 2024 to 27 in December 2024 it was a fantastic surge in numbers, although the Supply Officer is scrambling to outfit these new cadets within our limited budget!

Some of the credit in our recruitment also goes to the Regiment. With the strong support of SALH at several hands-on training activities; the retention of existing cadets and encouraging new recruits was very much appreciated. Travelling to Jefferson

Armoury three times to join the other affiliated cadet units and having an evening with the troops instructing lessons from map and compass, marksmanship techniques to checking out the equipment was exactly what these teens wanted to learn and do!

In 2024 we delivered a very interesting and diverse program to our cadets, and our esprit de corps is very strong because of those efforts! Our offices and training take place at the Local Head Quarters (LHQ) in the Onoway Heritage Centre. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful building for our use and makes the training easier.

An orienteering Ex and day hike at Chickakoo Lake Natural Area in both April and again in May was great for the cadets to enjoy map and compass in a beautiful locale. The weather was fantastic both



AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

RCACC 3053 LAC STE ANNE

times and much was achieved.

From May 2-4, our Cadet Parent Committee covered the costs for our cadets to travel to CFB Cold Lake. It was a trip we had planned in 2020, but we were just now authorized to conduct. It was very interesting to tour the different areas to learn about and ask questions regarding the many jobs available in the CAF at that base. I would definitely encourage cadet units to visit the base on a weekday and not on the weekend when most people are not working! In the evening we had the base pool to ourselves for a couple hours to allow the cadets to have less formal fun. Eating meals at the Air Force Mess was also a treat for all.

May 11th our small unit was able to participate in a Tri-service Drill Competition held in Stony Plain. With a dozen cadet units participating It was a good learning experience for our cadets to be able to do drill again and also help prepare the corps for the Annual Cadet Review (ACR).

Our ACR was held on June 9th at our LHQ. We were

very fortunate to have the CO of the Regiment as the Reviewing Officer. Colonel Bradley presented a couple trophies to very deserving cadets and addressed the crowd with a very encouraging speech. I'm sure our increased numbers on parade will be a pleasant surprise to him at our ACR in June 2025!

The unit was very fortunate to have 5 cadets (out of 11 at the time) attend summer training. They attended training centres from band on Vancouver Island to expedition and marksmanship at Vernon and Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre, to a staff cadet working at CTC Blackdown in Ontario. They all mentioned a great experience, and all want to continue with further training in the summer 2025.

September 2024 saw our unit begin to grow. The new cadets were eager to join us in our first community service activity at the Onoway Fall Harvest Festival. This was also great exposure for the unit.

October was busy with a Bivouac EX held near



AFFILIATED CADET UNIT UPDATES

RCACC 3053 LAC STE ANNE

Entwistle in which we joined with three other rural cadet units to conduct the mandatory training in the field. A great experience for the many new recruits. Then on the 27th we had a Range/Fitness day at the LHQ to instruct the new recruits in marksmanship techniques and range safety. This was followed by a sports session.

November was incredibly busy in looking back at the many activities and events. November 2nd was Poppy Day where we assisted our sponsor, the Royal Canadian Legion in Onoway with their local Poppy Fund campaign. A cadet flag party was provided for several school Remembrance Day activities in local schools and again on November 11th for the community ceremony with the rest of the unit marching behind. November 13th was a sports night at the Tri-Leisure centre's pool in Spruce Grove. November 16th was a joint sports day with the army cadets from Evansburg at Wildwood school for much games and fun. November 20th we were invited to

join our sister unit from Camrose at Jefferson Armoury for a night of training hosted by the Regiment. November 30th was a marksmanship practice as we prepared to enter a team in the zone air rifle competition to be held in January 2025. Whew what a month!!

December 7th we had an all day team-building activity at the LHQ. Marksmanship practice, sports, drill and uniform issuing filled the day that was cut short a couple hours because of a blizzard blowing in!

On the 11th we had our annual Christmas pot-luck supper for cadets and their families. A couple smoked turkeys and hams was required to feed the large gathering this year! It was a great time to reflect, relax and converse with each other before the unit stood-down for the holiday break.

2025 promises to be a good year for our unit as we continue to build on 2024's successes. Cheers!

Captain R.R. Heinz, CD



RQ ARMoured TROOP LEADER

LT. KRIS SAMRAJ

I spent last summer in the Lawfield Corridor of CFB Gagetown. The 24 candidates on course were split into three troops. 17 passed, 7 failed or withdrew.

Each day was the same. We got up at 6 am. The action began right away. By 6:15 most of us are ready. Our orders began at 6:30. The four troop leaders up for that day receive their warning order.

At 6:40 the troop leaders pass down the warning order to their troop. At 6:45 troop leaders go back to copy the trace. Two hours of battle procedure, then a run down to Amy Tank Park where our troop is getting our LAVs and TAP-Vs prepped. Then we step off for an eight-hour mission.

It feels like your brain will break. Lots to keep track—commanding your vehicle, controlling your troop, listening to what's going on with the other troops and additional orders coming over the radio. It didn't come together for me until the last couple weeks. That meant for weeks I was failing everyday. There are so many ways to fail. Safety infractions, losing track of what is going on the radio. For weeks it was fail, fail, fail, fail. By the end it slows down and things begin to click. The pieces come together, navigation, crew commanding, radio procedure, fire orders.

We had great instructors and staff. OpFor (including Cpl. Lutz) kept us guessing. Newly qualified troop leaders from our course are now with the Strats, 12 RBC, RCDs, Fort Garry Horse, Halifax Rifles, Queen's York Rangers, Sherbrooke Hussars, and the Windsor Regiment. Great to make friends with other armoured soldiers from across Canada.



Top: Worthy Tank Park, Lawfield Corridor, CFB Gagetown.

Middle: 2 Troop, ATL 0001, 2024.

Bottom: Receiving my SALH cap badge from the Commandant.

KITSHOP

- Regimental Ties and Blazer Crests
- License plates, bumper stickers, books
- New PT gear stock coming soon in all sizes
- Check out the webpage at www.salhra.net
- Payments through Square
- Inquiries and shipping requests
kitshop@salhra.net



SALH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The South Alberta Light Horse Regimental Association was formed by former members of the SALH who wished to have a connection with former serving and still serving members. The Association promotes friendship and activities such as social events, fundraising for veteran groups, and the South Alberta Foundation. We also attend Remembrance Day and other important events that may take place at Lighthorse Park or at Jefferson Armouries in Edmonton, or in Medicine Hat at the Patterson Armoury. Financial Support is also provided to Cadet Units.

Although most of the members are current or past members of the Regiment, anyone can join, often people who have a relative who served, or who have an interest in military and Canadian history.

We also promote and support Battlefield Tours to

Europe, to follow the footsteps of our soldiers who served and sacrificed their lives for freedom.

Cost to join is \$20.00 a year or \$200.00 for a Lifetime Membership. Soldiers leaving the Regiment receive a free one-year membership, or pay \$180.00 for a Lifetime Membership. A Lifetime Membership comes with a folder with The SALH Battle Guidon and Certificate.

Our current members are as follows: 162 total members, including 141 Lifetime, and 5 Honorary members.

There are 2 members responsible for membership.

- Lt. (Retd) Richard Mack for Northern Alberta
(membershipedm@salhra.net)
- Maj. (Retd) Paul Mast for Southern Alberta
(membershipmh@salhra.net)

THE LAST POST

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

MCpl. Dennis Becker

A Sqn | 16 Feb 2025

Jo Bakker-Bladder

Spouse of Hon. SAR Anno Bakker,
Friend of Regiment | 29 Apr 2024

Francine de Lanier

Spouse of HSAR Thierry Coppieters 't
Wallant | 18 Jan 2024

William (Bill) Grace

Founding Director of SALHRF | 06
Nov 2024

WO Rick MacMillan

5 Aug 2024

Tpr. Don Heffley

B Sqn | 31 Jan 2025

Matthew Schmidt

Son of Brad Schmidt | 3 Oct 2024

Douglas Smith

Former SALH member | 01 Apr 2024

David Symington

27 Jan 2025

Bob Watson

Former Regimental Quartermaster |
15 May 2024



*Sunset in the Lawfield Corridor.
Looking west to Worthy Tank Park.*



*Our continued thanks to all members, family and friends for their assistance in compiling the Last Post.
Please pass any notices of lost Regimental Family and Friends to the Editor.*