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VOL. 42 ISSUE 6

17 Wing Winnipeg / 17e Escadre Winnipeg

MARCH 30, 1994 / FREE

THE IRON CURTAIN IS LIFTING

"Since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, I can finally sleep peacefully," said Adrien Dewinter, a former member of the Dutch resistance during the Second World War. "I used to be afraid that war would break out again. My youth and that of thousands of other men and women was ruined by the war. Since disarmament has begun in Europe, I have fewer and fewer nightmares."

By Captain Stephane Grenier

In a classroom at the General Spoor Barracks in Ermelo, the Netherlands, Major Bob Taschereau, an inspector with J3 Arms Control Verification (J3 ACV) at NDHQ, is conducting a mission briefing for the other members of his multinational team consisting of four Canadians, one Britisher, one Spaniard and one American.

The J3 ACV teams, including Taschereau's, are tasked to proceed to former East bloc countries to verify compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

Taschereau and his people are headed for the Czech Republic. Once assembled at Ermelo, they have only a few

hours in which to review the applicable sections of the Treaty and make final preparations for the mission.

Upon reaching Czech soil, they will have approximately 36 hours in which to conduct the inspection, note serial numbers and complete their reports. The tight schedule does not appear to pose a problem, however. "The Czechs' word is their bond," said Taschereau. "They are well organized and are complying with the guidelines of the Treaty."

The site to be inspected is Terezin, a small fortified town about 60 km from Prague - one of many in the Czech Republic currently affected by disarmament. Under the provisions of the Treaty, the team must enter the country through Prague and, from there, be escorted by members of the Czech verification unit for the entire duration of their stay. As in many other countries, a police escort is also provided.

During the inspection, the team will have to ensure that the Czech Army has not only disposed of the 61 Soviet-made M-30 howitzers, but that it has done so in accordance with the

provisions of the Treaty. Howitzers cannot be destroyed in just any manner: the Treaty is very specific. The barrel must be severed into two sections at a point less than 100 mm from the breech ring; the breech must be welded to the breech ring, or cut; the left trunnion must be cut; and, finally, the trail legs must be cut into two equal parts. While this process may seem quite complicated, the result is simple. "For all practical purposes, the aim is to ensure that these guns can never be fired again," explained Captain Simon Kitchener, a Canadian artillery officer with the inspection team.

The disposal methods are stringent and vary according to the equipment. For example, tanks can be disposed of by crushing, the fuselage of combat aircraft must be cut into sections, and so forth.

"The inspection that we're going to do will be quite easy," explained Captain Moore. That is not always the case, however. "Last year, I was with a team that went to an armoured fighting vehicle (AFV) site at Wünsdorf, Germany. We had to climb



August 1993 - Major Georges Babkine chats with a Russian escort officer during a reduction inspection in Wunsdorf, Germany. Over 400 armoured personnel carriers were disposed of on this site. (Photo Director Imagery Exploitation)

into more than 400 BTR 60s and BMP 1s to ensure that each of them was part of the equipment subject to the Treaty.

The team took off from Ermelo in the wee hours of the morning. Less than two hours later, the KLM Boeing touched down in Prague. The customs procedures were expedited for the members of the multinational team, unlike the other passengers. Major Imrich Luky, a Czech armoured officer employed in the arms control office in Prague, had arranged everything. A bus and police car were waiting at the airport for the inspectors. The team was then given a capsule briefing on the disposal site and a work schedule proposed by the Czechs. They were then taken to Terezin.

The site was absolutely impeccable. The Czechs had taken the trouble to line up the equipment in an orderly fashion to make the inspectors' task easier. The serial numbers were readily visible and the equipment arranged in such a way as to preclude any confusion about the identification of the various components of the howitzers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frantisek Sekanina, the site commander and a career artillery officer, watched quietly as the inspectors read off the serial numbers. "I used to be the master of artillery; now I am the master of the destruction of all this equipment," he remarked. Although his tone betrayed a touch of nostalgia, he admitted that he was relieved that the Cold War is finally a thing of the past.

The Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty was signed on 19 November 1990, following

negotiations conducted in Vienna between the 22 nations of NATO and the former Warsaw Pact. Its purpose is to limit the quantities of conventional weapons, thereby preserving the military balance between NATO and the former Soviet bloc.

In more concrete terms, the Treaty limits the two groups of countries to 20,000 tanks, 18,000 armoured personnel carriers, 20,000 artillery pieces, 6,800 combat aircraft and 2,000 combat helicopters. Besides being the first of its kind — that is, a treaty that enables both parties to inspect one another — the CFE Treaty makes it possible to reduce arms significantly. In fact, before it came into force, the countries of the Warsaw Pact had, for example, 29,000 tanks and 40,000 armoured personnel carriers.

Each country therefore had to determine the quantity of weapons to be destroyed so that each side of the military equation would be equal. For example, the number of tanks

Continued on page 15...

PRIME MINISTER CHRETIEN VISITS WINNIPEG



Prime Minister Jean Chretien deplanes from a Canadian Forces Challenger aircraft at 17 Wing Winnipeg on 2 Mar 94. The W Comd, Col Proulx, and the aircraft Captain salute the PM. While in Winnipeg, the Prime Minister visited Mind Computers and was the guest speaker at a luncheon.

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Focus on Training Systems: CALL THE TRAINING DEVELOPMENT HOTLINE

If you have ever had questions about training within the Canadian Forces, you can now call the Training Development Hotline to get answers, advice and guidance you need.

Canadian Forces Training Development Centre (CFTDC), located at CFB Borden, fulfills a dual role. While its emphasis is in research and development, it is also directly involved in helping to solve training problems for the CF. It also provides training related to the steps in the Canadian Forces Individual Training System (CFITS) including instructional techniques, instructor supervision and the design and evaluation of training.

CFTDC comprises of two companies; Training

Company conducts courses to prepare personnel to work in a CF training environment. Training Development

Company provides advice and guidance on training matters to CF schools and units across the country. It is tasked with conducting training research, designing, developing and implementing courses and providing training consultative services to DND.

Over the past year, the Training Development Hotline has helped over 150 standards personnel, supervisors, training managers and others in their search for assistance on a wide variety of training matters. The Hotline has given personnel across Canada direct access to invaluable advice and assistance offered by CFTDC. Questions range from "What

can be done to ensure we are delivering good training?" to "How can we make use of computers in instruction?"

The Hotline also receives calls for the provision of more than just a quick answer to an immediate problem. Often, a caller needs the direct assistance of a Training Development Officer. In these cases, either short term consultancies or longer term projects through the Training Development Services Program can be arranged.

Anyone, military or civilian, can access the Training Development Hotline services by calling:

(705)423-3319 or
(CSN)270-3319

Wing Transport Profile

Dennis Desharnais, has been a long time seasonal member of the Heavy Equipment Section in Wing Transportation. He began working for DND in winter of 1955, and is completing his 40th season this winter.

"Des", as he is normally called by his crew-mates was born and raised in St. Pierre, MB. He moved to the city of Winnipeg when he married Anne at the age of 19. They recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 14th. He has four grown children, two sons who live and work in B.C., and two daughters who live and work in the Winnipeg area. When asked why he continues to work at the age of 69, Des replies "I don't like to sit around, even at home. If I do not have anything to do I pace around the house and that drives my wife crazy".

During the summer



months, Des works construction. His favourite piece of equipment is the grader, and he takes great pride in operating it well. Des is a very quiet but knowledgeable man and is highly respected by all WTN staff. (Photo by Cpl D. E. Desrochers)

CANADIAN FORCES PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE FUND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM

1. For the past seven years the Canadian Forces has offered an Education Assistance Loan Program to assist serving and former members and their dependants with costs of post secondary education. This program offers low interest loans of \$1,200, \$1,500, or \$2,000 per student.

2. Several changes have been introduced in the program since its inception:

- the age restriction has been removed permitting loans for spouses and retired members themselves;

- there is no longer a limit on the number of loans per family;

- loans are now also available for full-time post graduate studies, post secondary education diplomas or certificates, or for any full-time adult education training program that is employment related;

- the period of service required to be eligible has been reduced from ten to five years.

3. To be eligible, the serving or former member must have served in the Canadian Army, after 1 October 1946, or in the Canadian Forces, after 31 January 1968, and have a minimum of FIVE years Regular Force military service. Selection may be based on family income, years of service and individual family circumstances.

4. Loans are repaid by the member over a twelve month period beginning in September of the year in which the loan is granted. The repayment schedule including service charges is as follows:

AMOUNT OF LOAN	MONTHLY REPAYMENT
\$1,200.00	\$103.00
\$1,500.00	\$128.75
\$2,000.00	\$171.67

5. Application forms are available from Canadian Forces Base Financial Counsellors, district offices of Veterans Affairs Canada, and the Provincial Command offices of the Royal Canadian Legion. They may also be obtained by writing to CFPAP, 245 Cooper Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0G2.

6. The deadline for submissions is 30 June 1994. No late submissions will be considered.



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Managing Editor/Directeur-Gérant	-Capt Tom Walls	-833-5547
Production Editor/Production		-833-6334
Financial Co-ordinator		
Business Manager	-WO C.I. Karpenic	-833-5230
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Systems Manager/Graphic Artist	-Jeff Cyr	-889-3963
Production Asst (French page)	-Nicole Whebhel	-889-3963
Volunteers	-WO Bill Temple
	-Sgt Bill Sproul	
Advertising/Publicité	-Mr. Jim Holland	-832-0115
	-Al Buckle/Nola Brelis	-832-6141

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CADETS SALUTE THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIRFORCE SERGEANT KARL STRIEBY TO BE GUEST SOLOIST

By Tracie Roath, Concert Media Coordinator

The Air Command Band's own Sergeant Karl Strieby will perform with ninety of Prairie Region's most talented air, sea and army cadets in a concert at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall, Thursday, April 7th at 7:30p.m.

Accompanied by the cadet band, Sgt. Strieby will perform the Rondo from Mozart's Concerto No. 3 in E Flat for French Horn. The concert also features a selection of Hoagy Carmichael tunes, music by Ralph Vaughan Williams and a mini-tattoo to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In 1978, three years after graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Music degree, Karl Strieby accepted a faculty position at the Mount Royal College Conservatory of Music, where he performed with the Mount Royal Woodwind Quintet.

While in Calgary, he performed frequently with the Calgary Philharmonic and did a wide variety of other freelance jobs in the Alberta area.

In 1988, after becoming a Canadian citizen, Karl joined the Canadian Forces and shortly thereafter became a member of the Air Command Band in Winnipeg.

Sergeant Strieby is married to another musician, flautist Martha Durkin, of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

CADETS SALUTE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIRFORCE, is a dynamic fusion of music performed by ninety young individuals chosen from air, sea and army cadet units across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and



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Tickets are ten (\$10) dollars for adults and five (\$5) dollars for seniors and youth under 19, and are available from Select-A-Seat at 780-7328.

For more information please contact: Major Howard Mar at (204) 833-5183 or Lieutenant (Navy) Norm Peters at (204) 833-5336

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RETIREMENT



On 18 Feb 94 Maj G.J. Liboiron, SO AF 2 at AIRCOM HQ, was presented with the Canadian Forces Certificate of Service by the Deputy Commander Air Command, MGen L.W.F. Cuppens. Gerry retired on 25 Feb 94 following 23 years of service.

Jameswood School: IN THE HEART OF THE MILITARY COMMUNITY



Majors J.C. Fowler and B.W. "Buzz" Bezanson recently presented two Snowbirds posters at an assembly of Jameswood School students and staff members. Pictured from left to right are Major Fowler, Miss Ashley Baziuk, Mr. R.J. Strongman, Mr Matthew Lewis, and Major Bezanson. The posters are on display in the front entrance of the school, and are a symbol of the cooperative relationship which exists between the school and the members of the 17 Wing community.

STARWATCH

By Jim Bryce

If you are thinking about buying a telescope it would be a good idea to purchase it before July as an event of considerable astronomical interest will occur on or about the 21st of that month. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 which has been captured from its orbit by Jupiter and will crash into the giant planet with effects that should be visible from Earth through a moderate sized telescope. The comet is in pieces, travelling through space in a line reminiscent of a string of pearls so there will actually be a series of collisions. It was discovered by Shoemaker and Levy on the 24th of March 1993 and it seemed at the time of discovery to consist of seventeen separate nuclei. Subsequent calculations show that in March of 1992, nine months before it was discovered, it passed very close to Jupiter, perhaps as close as 50,000 kilometres. It is probable that the comet was a single body until it was torn apart by Jupiter's gravity during this near collision. Now, having travelled around the Sun it is again approaching Jupiter but this time its trajectory will result in a direct collision.

There is some uncertainty at this point about the time of the events but one estimate has the centre of the chain of nuclei impacting on Jupiter at 1:00 A.M. E.D.T. on 21 July. The impacts will be spread out over six days with the first occurring on 18 July and the last on the 24th. These dates may shift by a day or even two, as calculations are refined

closer to the event but one thing is fairly certain, the impact will take place on the side of Jupiter facing away from us. Jupiter rotates in 9 hours 55 minutes and the calculated point of impact should be visible from Earth between one and a half to three hours after the event.

What can we expect to see? There is considerable variation in the estimates of the size of the various nuclei but it seems likely that the larger pieces have an upper limit of two kilometres in diameter. At a combined magnitude of 14, the comet is too dim to be seen in most amateur's telescopes but what we will see is the effect of the collision on Jupiter's normally stable cloud bands. The comet will be travelling very fast at impact and the pieces will quickly explode in the thick Jovian atmosphere but they should penetrate deeply enough that disturbances in the cloud bands will be visible for several hours after the event. One problem is that Jupiter will be high in the sky at sunset and will set about midnight limiting our observing time, but with the large number of impacts expected, even one or two clear nights will give observers a good probability of seeing some effect.

Returning to the subject of buying a telescope. Interesting though it will be, the collision is not a sufficient reason in itself to make such a large purchase but if you have a great interest in astronomy and have always wanted to buy one, this would be a good time. Don't rush into the purchase. For a first telescope you need to temper your

enthusiasm. There are many very expensive telescopes tucked away in basements and cupboards because their owners were drawn into the hobby in a rush of enthusiasm that waned after an initial frenzy of observing. Go to your local library and get a book on telescopes to learn about the various types and the characteristics to look for. Another good idea would be to look for a copy of "Astronomy" magazine at your local news store and browse through the advertisements. My choice for a starter scope would be a six inch Dobsonian reflector. You will want it to have a 6 x 30 viewfinder and will want eyepieces of 25mm, 12mm, and 6mm focal lengths. If the telescope is an F8 these eyepieces will give magnifications of 50, 100 and 200 times respectively. With some skilful shopping you should be able to get this outfit for less than \$500.00. A telescope of this size will show Jupiter to fine advantage and will bring most of the objects I write about in this column into view.



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SAFE DRIVER AWARDS



Front Row, MCpl Bayette, LCol Smith, MCpl Bartel R. Row; Mr. Chilton, Cpl Roach, Cpl Begin, Cpl Penner, Mr. Morsette. (Photo by Cpl DE Desrochers)

Safe Driver Awards were presented during a Wing Transportation Parade held on 1 Mar 94 in building 87. The awards are incentives for both military and civilian professional drivers to recognize expert performance by avoiding vehicle accidents. It consists of wallet sized certificates and a pin for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of accident free driving. With the Wing Transportation Officer, Maj. J.G.M.Senechal looking on, LCol A.L.Smith, the Wing Logistics Officer presented the awards. Mr. Chilton received the 15 year award while the 10 went to MCpl Bayette, MCpl Bartel, Cpl Roach, Mr. Jones and Mr. Hamilton. The 5 year pins went to Cpl Penner, Cpl Begin, Mr. Morsette and Mr. Ferguson.

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CFANS Update

By Course 9306

CFANS has seen some spectacular developments lately in the world of sports as well as entertainment. Students and staff enjoyed a day at the curling rink at the First CFANS Brier Tournament. Although most were new to the sport, a few ringers like Capt Anil "I curl on ice just as well as I curl my hair" Mohan and 2Lt Kharim "How do I use this broom?" Schlievinski demonstrated their prowess on the ice. Kurt "I didn't do it" Lalonde didn't do anything to the ice surface, nor did he do it twice. 2Lt Eric "Andretti" Johnsrude also saw some action on the ice as he became well acquainted with Capt Dave "My new car!!!" Howes. In entertainment, "Coates' Comedy Hour" debuted Saturday night with special guest stars Capt Mike Hogan and some guy from Base Ops. Course 9306 would like to thank all the organizers for biffing their Saturday night with the bogus night flight. Just remember, revenge is a

dish best served cold. Luckily, 9306 was prepared to fly to Lincoln if necessary, unlike some other courses. Course 9309 seems to be disliked by everyone including their Course Director as they haven't seen him in a few weeks. When questioned about it Glen Russel responded "I can't understand it, I know I'm a hell of a nice guy. It must be the rest of the class." The rest of the class was overheard saying "Yeah, whatever." Actually, Course 9309 would like to file a missing persons report on their course director Capt Smith. If anyone has information as to his whereabouts, please contact 9309. Course Senior of your local detachment of the RCMP. Capt Fenton seems to be trying to get an early release by faking a bum leg. Witnesses say they saw him take a fall on the ice during a hockey match. Oddly enough, there was no one around him. With a sports related injury to use as an excuse for everything and anything, Capt Fenton was heard to say "I feel just like

Capt Coates, except my injury is real.' In flight safety news, helmets are now required for students on course 9308 when entering the baggage compartment. Eric Bergeron was overheard saying "Zut!" 2Lt Graham Edwards commented on the new helmet requirement and suggested it be implemented for bicycling as well. In an unrelated story, OCdt Kent Molyneaux was ready to cancel his F17 due to a dent in the Gonzo. Upon inspection, however, the dent proved to be an aerodynamic feature of the aircraft, mainly its nose. Kent has been scheduled for a remedial external inspection class. In squash news, nothing has happened. Just like course 9401's social life. This is unlike their cleaning life, which has seen plenty of action particularly in the map room. Finally, congratulations are extended to Course 9307 for their successful checkrides.

TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON PRESENTATIONS

On 01 Mar 94 the W Log O, LCol Lee Smith presented members of Transportation Squadron with their Special Service Medals. Recipients: (Front Row, L-R) Cpl J.A. Jackson, MCpl R.J. Teshier, MCpl J.D.A. Charron, LCol Smith, Cpl R. Gauthier, MCpl G.J.M. Tanney, MCpl M.C. Guay, MCpl J.D. Matkowski. (Center Row, L-R) Cpl W.A. Moyer, Cpl B.N. Penny, Cpl J.L.T.H. Manseau, MWO R.J. Wright, MCpl C.D. Hennigar, Cpl P.R. Beaudin, Cpl T.E. Penner, MCpl P.A. Kay, MCpl H.T. Marsh. (Rear Row, L-R) Cpl D.J. Fraser, Cpl G.B. Terkelsen, MCpl W.K. Everett, Cpl T.R. Harris, Cpl K.E. Torfason, Cpl D.J. Begin, Cpl M.T. Duncan. (Top photo)

The W Log O, LCol Lee Smith presents Cpl Jan Jerrett with Transportation Squadron's employee of the Quarter Award for her performance during the Fourth Quarter. (Bottom Photo) (Photos by Cpl DE Desrochers)



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WO Pritchard-Thornhill	ACHQ	Feb 3	\$100
Cpl Belhumeur	2PPCLI	Feb 17	\$100
D Byrne	MRFC	Feb 17	\$100
Lt Bonneville	Minto	Mar 3	\$100
Cpl Wood	WCE	Mar 3	\$100
LCol Chapman	402 Squadron	Mar 19	\$100
MCpl Wasmund	WATCO	Mar 19	\$100

7 CANADIAN FORCES QUALITY ASSURANCE REGION MEDAL PRESENTATIONS



DND Quality Assurance is currently undergoing substantial re-structuring and policy changes nation-wide to reflect changing times and improved methods of doing business with Civilian Contractors.

LCol BJ Meindl, Regional Commander 7CFQAR (formerly 401 CFTSD), recently used his 'State of Region' address to present SSM medals to military members of the organization. (Photos by Pte Dave Payne.)

LCol Meindl presents the SSM and CD to Sgt Alain Desrochers.



LCol Meindl presented the SSM to Sgt John Leroux, Bristol Aerospace.



LCol Meindl presents the SSM to Sgt John O'Neil, Bristol Aerospace.



LCol Meindl presents the SSM to Sgt G. Feltman, Bristol Aerospace.



LCol Meindl presents the SSM to Sgt Gil Lantagne, Bristol Aerospace.



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JUDO CLUB NEWS - INNER CITY TOURNAMENT

By Steve Broughton, President

On February 12 1994, many of our kids entered their first Judo Tournament at the annual Inner City Open. This tournament is a youth only competition, for kids under 21. If you can picture a scene in your mind of nearly 250 youth competitors plus several hundred parents and relatives nervously awaiting and watching others compete, plus all the noise of each club cheering on their friends, the whole scene can be a bit intimidating. Many of our kids were a little white in the face at times, however all 21 of our kids distinguished themselves and brought much honour to the club. All of the

kids fought well, but we had one outstanding competitor, Jessica Delaney. Jessica fought so hard and expertly that she was chosen over all other competitors for the Most Sportsmanship Award. All of our kids were outstanding, and because of this we brought home 10 medals.

JUNIOR WOMEN BRONZE

- 52 KG Anjolie Demeri SILVER
- 66 KG Sarah Broughton

13 UNDER GIRLS SILVER

- 35 KG Jessica Delaney SILVER

KG Megan Hidson SILVER

- 40 KG Joanie Larose BRONZE
- 40 KG Tania Larose

13 UNDER BOYS BRONZE

- 60 KG Tyler Hunt BRONZE
- 45 KG Chris Warrack

SENIOR WOMEN BRONZE

- 52 KG Diana Newbury

UNDER 21 MEN BRONZE

- 78 KG Dana Larose

Presently many of our kids plus adult members are training very hard for the Provincial Championship Tournament, which will be held in Portage La Prairie on the 12th of March. Good luck to all of you.



Team 17 Wing Winnipeg Innercity 1994



Jessica Delaney preparing to throw opponent.



Sarah Broughton throws opponent.



Jessica Delaney pins opponent.

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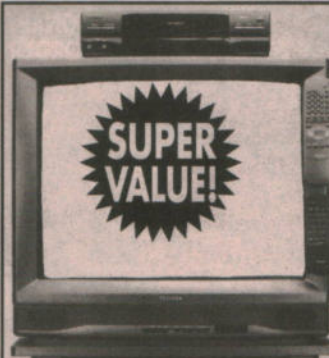
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2 PPCLI WINTER EXERCISES

WE WERE READY!

Bravo Company.

We received the call early in the second week of February to aid our allied Republic of Slobovic. The UN wanted us to occupy AORs in the southern regions of that country and conduct winter operations in the hopes of countering threats from "Rrachian" insurgents. How ironic that the unit had only recently completed winter indoctrination training. We were ready.

Upon receipt of the Wing O all leaders began looking at the grid references they had been given only to find that these coincided with those of CFB Shilo. How unsettling. Shilo in mid to late February. Perhaps we would experience a chinook! No wait; that's Calgary and the 1st Battalion! Oh well! We have parkas. We were ready.

The first few days of the operation, known as Northern

Strike, was designed to make our presence felt. We actively conducted company-sized maneuvers and operations within respective AORs so as to deter any aggressive "Rrachian" action. The "Rrachian hords" were not deterred. Their miscalculation of our intent led to our program of reece and fighting patrols into their section and detachment-sized story holds, as well as company-sized advance to contact operations that cleared platoon-sized "Rrachian" positions. All of our pre-training and indoctrination had prepared us for their tactics. The time spent in Winnipeg had prepared us for their weather. We were ready.

The final day of the "conflict" saw 2PPCLI conducting a right wing attack on the final "Rrachian" defensive position in an area that looked remarkable similar to an area we had referred to in the past

as Gibson House. The initial company-sized offensive was launched by Bravo company at 0515. The temperature was -34°C. The enthusiasm displayed by the assaulting troops was a source of inspiration to those in the fire base. Never had such a display of energy and dedication been seen as on that "frosty" morning. After the battle, those "fortunate" souls in the fire base were heard to comment, "I would have been just as excited if I had been able to feel my fingers and toes!" In looking back on the events of that fateful week, one cannot help but wonder how long these "Rrachian hords" will remain silent? Perhaps they will rise again in mid-April and again in mid-June. Regardless of when or where they choose to rise again...we will be ready! (And hopefully it will be warmer.)



C Coy, C6 gunners take advantage of the high ground to provide covering fire.

Administration Company

By Capt Ian Renfrew

Well the word came down a couple of weeks ago that Adm Company would be spending a night at the St Charles ranges as part of our winter indoctrination training. For someone whose previous training in winter outdoor survival was limited at best, it looked like it could at least be interesting if not fun. Preparations got underway and lectures were organized on everything from how to recognize and treat cold injuries to how to light a stove without also igniting yourself, your tent, and everyone else along with it.

The big day finally arrived complete with -30°C temperatures and gusting winds. "All the better for practising winter survival", I was told. On arrival at the ranges an unfortunate oversight was discovered we'd been issued sleds and harnesses but no dogs! Hopefully the CF corrects this problem in the future. In any case we eventually reached our destination and got the tent set up without too much fuss.

The night was basically

uneventful except for the occasional musical interlude from the nameless individual who must have eaten too many beans the night before. When morning arrived a quick check revealed no deaths from hypothermia, so we crawled out of our cozy sleeping bags, packed up, and went home.

The whole winter indoctrination was only a few days long but I did learn a couple things about winter exercises. The pressure cooker does not whistle when the IMPs are cooked in spite of what certain "helpful" individuals would have you believe. Also, there are no such things as "right" and "left" military snowshoes, and showing up for company PT with a string prominently attached to the left one is not a great way to demonstrate your personal initiative.

On the whole, winter indoctrination wasn't quite as enjoyable as a trip to Hawaii, but it was a learning experience. Hopefully it makes February's battalion exercise in Shilo a little easier.



The Friendly Forces sweep through Enemy Forces lines.

EXERCISE STRONG CONTENDER 94

By AJ Orr

Well it was that time of year again, time to get back into shape (after a couple of weeks off for Christmas) and get ready for the ICMBG sports competition, Ex Strong Contender. So after a couple weeks of physical training by the sports teams and some hard work for the rest of the battalion to pick up the slack, the unit was looking to put in a good show at the annual tournament in Calgary.

On 27 Jan 94, the teams loaded up with hockey equipment, broomball sticks, volleyballs, floor hockey equipment and of course,

cowboy boots. After arriving in Calgary, the teams had a couple of days to acclimatize themselves and do any last minute brush-ups on their skills. With a meet and greet occurring Saturday night, the ceremonies were now complete and the 2VP teams were ready to play.

The first day of the tournament proved to be very promising for the battalion as each team played (and thrashed) the LDSH(RC), (it was a rough day for the Amoured Corps). Monday was a bye for our athletes and that gave us a chance to look at our competition. As the week went in and the round robin

came to a close, 2VP found themselves with hockey and broomball finishing first, while volleyball and floor hockey finished third. The volleyball still had a glimpse of hope as the Second Battalion battled for first in the semi-finals. After a very long, close match, 2VP redeemed themselves for their slow finish in the round robin play. This brought 2VP to the finals to meet the LDSH(RC). Even though the volleyball team was still tired from their earlier match against 1VP, they managed to keep the momentum and win the gold, three games to one.

This brought us to Friday and the broomball finals

against the LDSH(RC). It was a hard fought game and the LDSH(RC) played our Rebels tough, but at the final buzzer it was another gold for 2VP. An hour later was the big hockey game - the Battle of Manitoba - between 2PPCLI and 1RCHA. The first time these two teams met it was a rough, hard hitting game and the final proved to be very similar. The score was closer, 3-2, however the result was the same. The hockey team probably would have put the puck in the net more if they would have put five players on the ice instead of 4, but hey, if you can do it with 4, why not?

So at the end of the exercise,

the final total was 2PPCLI - 3, everyone else - 1. The floor hockey team didn't bring home the gold but with a third place finish, there was no doubt who the overall winner was...2VP!

All in all, it was a good exercise. Morale was high, competition was strong and a good time was had by all.

On behalf of all the competitors of 2PPCLI sports teams, we would like to thank all ranks of the unit for "picking up the slack" to give us the chance to practice and compete in exercise... STRONG CONTENDER 94.

ISE - NORTHERN STRIKE

CHARLIE COMPANY



C Coy, C6 gunners take advantage of the high ground to provide covering fire.

THE ENEMY FORCE

By Lt JM Jasper

From 15-21 February, 2PPCLI was deployed on exercise Northern Strike, a battalion size winter warfare exercise. This is the first winter exercise the battalion has been on in years, however many of its sub units have done extensive winter training. The scope of the exercise was fairly straight forward, off operation at the battalion level. The Ex gets more complex however when the weather effects the soldiers, logistics and virtually every other detail that comes into play. Even blitzkrieg modern warfare slows to a plod in minus double digit temperatures, especially when the Mech soldiers of 2VP find themselves foot-borne in the light role.

Cbt Sp Coy's part in the Ex was to play en force, the cruel "Rrachian" army, attack the small nation of "Slivovica" (CFB Shilo) who in turn asked the mighty Canadian army for assistance. The en force included "golf platoon" (mor platoon), "beaver platoon" (pnrs), and AAP. Each platoon was assigned to harass a rifle platoon as they advanced southward down the rugged Shilo training area on the bat-

talion trace. For Cbt Sp the Ex consisted mainly of defensive operations, delaying actions, platoon and company in the defensive, and our favorite, the harassment ptl. The area ptls gave the en force the chance to run amok in the battalion's area and create a little "arty sim" havoc in an otherwise peaceful, sleeping company hides.

Speaking of hiding companies, the Shilo training area is a better place than one would think. The infanteer, once unmounted, quickly learns how un-flat Manitoba can truly be. There may only be a smattering of contour lines on the map, however, there are ten times as many nine meter hills in between them. Map reading skills got a good workout, as did the old leg muscles humping around and over hill after hill after hill.

In the end even the most experienced soldiers relearned a few lessons and some people learned the hard way about fighting through the objective at minus 30. Other lessons learned were to never eat an arctic turnip, try to hid when its time to change the blue baggie, and never believe the warrant if he dares you to lick the C6 feed cover. VP

By Lt Dawe

March 16th saw Charlie Company, 2PPCLI deploy to Shilo for a week long battalion winter exercise. The exercise would consist of six days of platoon and company level dismantled operations including advance to contacts, reece and fighting patrols as well as company level attacks.

The second day, set the tone for the remainder of the week as Capt Hunt, OC, C Coy (aka "the Gazelle") lead the snow-shoe borne company through a challenging series of attacks over a 12 km stretch of rugged "enemy-occupied" territory. Although the members of the company were well prepared for the exercise, many lessons were learned on this day. These included the importance of dressing appropriately for strenuous physical activity as well as keeping oneself well hydrated in these conditions.

The following day saw C Coy advance further into "Rrachian" held territory, having successfully overrun several enemy strongholds on its route. By now the members all had a chance to properly

acclimate themselves to Shilo's conditions. In addition, the newest members were becoming more familiar with their roles which played a major part in the overwhelming success of C Coy's advance.

The third day would be followed by a night of reece patrolling in preparation for the next day's upcoming platoon raids. Both platoons managed to successfully infiltrate enemy territory and carry out their raids on the unsuspecting "Rrachian" objectives.

In the early morning of the fifth day, C Coy set out on a company deliberate attack. As the sun rose on the enemy objective the machine gunners "opened up", followed several minutes later, by the right flanking lead by Capt Hunt. Sgt Maxell and his blood thirsty band of 'Berzerkers' were actually seen sweeping through the objective wearing nothing more than loinclous and mukluks.

The exercise was finally coming to a close much to the chagrin of everyone involved as the temperature had reportedly dropped to some-

where near absolute zero.

However, C Coy would set out on one more attack as 2PPCLI would conduct an early morning raid on the final enemy stronghold.

It was dark and cold as the troops amassed near the line of departure on the final morning of the exercise. A certain tension could be felt in the air as the men of C Coy and the remainder of 2PPCLI paced around and swung their arms back and forth to keep warm.

After several hours of marching and waiting; H-HR had finally arrived for C Coy. With the roar of artillery pounding the enemy objective and machine gun fire ripping through an otherwise beautiful morning, C Coy advanced on their objective successfully wiping out all enemy resistance.

As the smoke cleared and the men gathered in small groups exchanging laughs and cigarettes as only soldiers do. There was an unmistakable feeling of accomplishment and a sense of pride among the members of C Coy for a job well done.



A Coy's firebase and friendly FO's rain down fire on enemy force.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday 3 April 1994
at 1:30-3:30pm
Junior Ranks Mess

Come out for a hot dog lunch and easter egg hunt outside. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Make sure they bring their own basket to collect their goddies.. Please register your child by signing up on the list in the Junior Ranks (S) or by calling the mess at 833-6285.

2 PPCLI JUNIOR RANKS LADIES ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is a list of our proposed activities for the up coming months. All dates are tentative and most take place when the Battalion is away. To keep up to date on our activities watch for our advertisements in the VOXAIR.

APRIL 15 - Battalion leaves(?)
APRIL 17 - POT LUCK SUPPER

Bring your favorite dish. Entertainment will be provided for the children. Don't miss this one. We had a great time at the last one when the men were in Yugo. Petland came in with some animals to educate and entertain the kids. Give us your ideas!

MAY 8 - MOTHERS DAY
You must RSVP for this one! There will be a catered brunch and child care will be provided upstairs so you can eat in peace.

MAY 11 - Battalion Back (?)
JUNE 15 - Battalion leaves(?)
JUNE 18 - LADIES NIGHT
OUT MEET AND GREET
Take this chance to get out, put your feet up and socialize with the other ladies.

JULY 1 - CANADA DAY
FAMILY BBQ. Celebrate Canada Day the old fashioned way. stay to watch the fire works at Assinaboine Park.
JULY 15 - BATTALION BACK(?)

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The JRLA has been active in a number of ways. We have held a MEET AND GREET, a POT LUCK SUPPER where Pet Land came in with animals. From that supper we collected recipes which were added to recipes collected from across Canada, (friends and families of Canadian soldiers serving in OP HARMONY); thus creating the "FRIENDS COOKING TOGETHER" cook book. Copies are available by phoning Bonnie Jolly 832-7321. The books are \$4.00 each and the money raised will go to the funding of our activities. Another Fundraiser we undertook was a CRAFT SALE at lipsett Hall. It was a great success and the money raised will be funding the events currently scheduled.

The JRLA will be purchasing a square on the Wall of Names quilt being put together by the Manitoba Childrens Museum to celebrate their moving into a new building at the Forks.

Now that you know what we have done and the kinds of things we would like to do, we need your input.

1. WE NEED A LOGO!
Something that is all our own. Our advertisements and news letters are very boring without a letter head. We will pay \$10.00 to the winner. Submit all drawings to Brenda Hudson. All drawings will be judged by you at our POT LUCK SUPPER APRIL 17.
2. Please take some time think about the following survey. What are YOU LOOKING FOR in the JRLA?

What kinds of activities do you want to see or do?

Can you help on the committee?

Can you volunteer some time to help at functions?

Would you be willing to help deliver newsletters?

Please give us any comments or suggestions that you may have so we will be able to keep the JRLA alive and fun!

3. If you are not on our phone list, or were missed please let us know so we can personally inform you of any changes that may occur on our present schedule.

Please phone Bonnie Jolly with the answers to your survey or if you have any questions or concerns at 832-7321.

Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity CELEBRATION 94

Saturday 16 April 1994

Celebration is an annual fundraising event which brings homeowners, volunteers and friends together, young and old. Celebration 94 events consists of a buffet dinner, auction/raffles for children and adults, games for the children and live entertainment until midnight. Music will be provided by the Dust Rhinos, High Rock Cree

and Glenn Zaretski & Randall Payne. This event will be held at the Indian/Metis Friendship Centre (Dufferin & Robinson, west off Main st). Doors will open 5:30pm, buffet dinner from 6:30-7:30pm. **Tickets:** \$10 per person & \$25 per family. Tickets are available until 8 April from the Habitat office at 75 Archibald or by calling 233-5599.



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ALL STAR TRIBUTE TO CURTIS

By Barry Sweeney

A sudden gust of wind, a lighting rig topples and the career of one of the most gifted entertainers ended. Curtis Mayfield's career stretches back to the mid-fifties when he became a pivotal part of the now legendary 'Impressions'. A dozen and a half top 40 singles kept the 'Impressions' rolling and when Mayfield went the solo route he reaped a pair of gold singles with Freddie's Dead and Superfly.

A toppled lighting rig crashed down on his back totally paralyzing him at a free concert in Brooklyn, August 13, 1990.

'All Men Are Brothers' (Warner Bros) is a stirring tribute by numerous superstars in the music business. It is all the music of Curtis Mayfield. He wrote the songs (co-writing 'Amen' with John Pate, Sr.) The depth of his musical genius is witnessed by the fact that his 'Amen' was featured in the movie Lillies of the Field and he scored such films as Superfly, Piece of the Action and Short Eyes, a movie which he also appeared in.

This project is huge in scope and deep in talent. From the opening strains of Gladys Knight's heartfelt 'Choice of Colors' through such world talents as Whitney Houston (Look Into Your Heart), Bruce Springsteen (Gypsy Woman) and Eric Clapton (You Must Believe Me) through the recorded magic of Rod Stewart, Phil Collins, Stevie Wonder and Elton John, they all came to pay homage to salute a fallen leader who had taken music to new heights and had been paralyzed in a freak accident at a benefit concert.

The concept behind 'All Men Are Brothers: A Tribute to Curtis Mayfield' was simple: artist and producers' royalties would be paid



Curtis Mayfield

directly to the man who made it all possible. Meanwhile Warner Bros. Records, in keeping with the spirit of the project, arranged for an additional royalty to be paid the artist.

A total of 17 songs and the set highlight is Curtis singing with the Repercussions on 'Let's Do It Again'. It's the first time he had tried singing since the accident because he can't keep enough breath in his lungs.

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To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
 To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
 To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
 To expose feelings is to risk exposing our true self.
 To place your ideas, your dreams,
 before the crowd is to risk loss.

To have is to risk not being loved in return.
 To live is to risk dying.
 To hope is to risk despair.
 To try at all is to risk failure.

But to RISK WE MUST,
 Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing,
 The man, the woman, who risks nothing,
 does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.

Anonymous

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THE TOMB OR LIFE?

By Padre SG Hopkins

Easter reminds us of the choices we have in life and these choices may be seen in the story of the empty tomb and the risen Christ. The tomb is the symbol of despair, the finalities of life. In the tomb we bury our hopes and our dreams. We shroud our feelings of loneliness and estrangement so that we can prevent our being vulnerable and having to risk more pain. That is the tomb but then there is Easter, the symbol of hope and life!

Thomas Carlyle said that Easter shows "that truth crushed to the earth will rise again" and "that no lie can live forever." So we are confronted with the choice between the tomb or life.

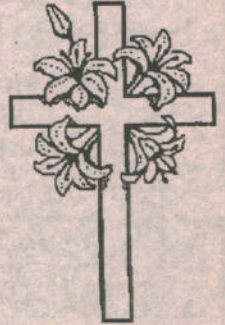
We rise up in the morning like the followers of Jesus on that day so long ago and we go to the tomb. We feel the lingering warmth of the rising sun and at the same time we sense the despair of the dark

and foreboding tomb. There in the cool of the morning we meet the young person, perhaps an angel; we meet the one whom we believe to be the gardener, yet it is not. There is always the stranger that meets us in our journey and suggests that we can change our route, he leads us to examine our pilgrimage from birth to death, and so we are aware of mystery - the possibility of hope.

There are those moments of choice that can change our lives. Our tears in the long night of the soul reveal our desire to become healthy and whole. We make our resolution that morning will be different and wait for the dawn of a new day. We approach the tomb and with courage we discover that something quite unexpected has happened. The tomb is empty! We face our fears and overcome our tendency to deny and avoid our pain. However, life calls us to more than an empty tomb. We are

challenged to choose to live with meaning and purpose. We can make some sense out of our suffering and the living Christ goes before us. Good will ultimately overcome all opposition, is stronger than evil. Life will outlast death. Truth is greater than lies. Love is more powerful than indifference.

Easter dares us to believe, to choose between the tomb and life. I share with you a poem that I believe tells us of the "leap of faith" we can take in life, if we are to truly live.



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- If you are interested in being listed in the registry, contact the Wing Environmental Officer at loc 6774.

17 Wing Flying Tigers Swim Team

PRE-COMPETITIVE SPRING REGISTRATION

Session: Wednesday 5:00 - 6:00pm

April 20 - June 22, 1994

Cost: \$20.00 for 10 weeks

Register in person on 5 - 15 April
from 4:30 - 6:00pm at Northside pool or phone
Head Coach (mornings only) at 837-1199.

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The JRC(N) will be selling a 12 foot Columbia Satellite and Cheyenne IR/D (integrated receiver/descrambler) by a sealed bid. The highest bidder will take it regardless of the amount bid and the cut off is 1 Apr 94. Inquiries can be made to the Mess Manager at Loc 5427 or

it can be viewed at the Junior Ranks Mess. Sealed bids can be dropped off at the Mess Manager's Office during normal working hours (07:30 to 15:00). The highest bidder will be notified on the 1st of Apr 94 by the PMC of the Mess.

GOLF GOLF

17 Wing Winnipeg Golf Club will be holding their General Membership Meeting at 1900hrs on 12 April 1994 in building 90.

All are Welcome!

GOLF GOLF

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Fortieth Anniversary

23-25 June 1994

All former and currently serving members are invited. Events include Employee Luncheon, Open House and Dinner Dance. Seating is limited, so apply early.

For more information, please contact:
40th Anniversary Committee
Captain Franz Ohler
Tel 973-4532
7CFSD 18 Wing Edmonton
PO Box 10500 Edmonton
AB T5J 4J5

17 Wing Winnipeg Warrant Officer and Sergeant's Mess

Easter Dinner and Egg Hunt

Food: Turkey, Ham and all the trimmings

Cost: Members \$10.00,

Guests \$12.00,

Children \$5.00 (6 to 12 years),

Children under 5 are free

Advance ticket sales only from

7 March to 28 March 94.

Contact mess at local 6769 or 5245

for more information.

First come first served.

This is a very popular event...

Date: Sunday 3 April 94

Place: Fireside Lounge/Dining Room

Time: 1600hrs - Egg Hunt

1700hrs - Dinner

Dress: Casual

435 TRANSPORT SQUADRON

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Attention Chinthes!

Our proud Squadron will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, a grand reunion has been scheduled for the weekend of 6-8 May 1994 in Edmonton, Alberta. Former Squadron members wishing more information are asked to contact:

Mayor K. T. Oreziak, 435 Transport Squadron
Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, P.O. Box 10500
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4J5
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Joint and Combined
Operations -
The Way Ahead

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All are invited to participate in this event, which includes several social activities. This is a event that should not be missed!
For more information, contact:
Capt Mike Savard
434 (CS) Squadron at
(902) 460-1952 or
Autovon 479-1952.

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A Word from the Chaplain

By *Padre Lucien Roy (RC)*

The arrival of Spring coincides with the Christian Celebration of Easter. Yes! Easter is about Life, rebirth, renewal, rejuvenation, all these things we associate with Spring. More importantly Easter is about Resurrection, the Resurrection of Christ.

The difference between Spring and Easter is that Spring is about Nature, whereas Easter is about Us.

When Catholics gather to celebrate to celebrate Easter, they follow a tradition as old as the Church of the Apostles. Like them, they do a great deal of recalling and remembering, for their religious experience came to them from the Jews who recalled the goodness of God. They proclaim the

beautiful poem of Creation, recalling God creating and admiring his Creation: "God saw that it was good"; they also celebrate the creation of Man and Woman and their appointment as Stewards of Creation and "God saw that it was very good". All this tells us that God has a special place in his heart and for us, and this goes a long way back, from the time when he bound Himself by a Covenant: "I will not forget you my People; I have carved you in the palm of my hand. Does a mother forget her baby, or a woman, the child within her womb? Yet, even if these forget, I will never forget my own".

This divine commitment culminates in Jesus who joins the human family, lives out the drama of our life, of our

struggles against all that threatens our life, our happiness: he lived like us, he struggled, he suffered, he died.

Easter is about Resurrection, Christ's Resurrection, and our own, because we are in this together. Easter tells us that God cares, that he cares enough to want for us the best life possible and to fulfil his dream, he has spared nothing, not even his Son.

Easter is this awareness that we are precious in God's eyes.

Easter is about God's present and continuing commitment to our cause; it is the promise that he will never let us down.

On behalf of Micheal Brown and myself, I would like to wish each and everyone a most Happy Easter to one and all!

Un mot de l'Aumônier

Padre Lucien Roy (RC)

Qu'il fait bon de revoir le Printemps! La température s'adoucit; le sol réapparaît à mesure que disparaît son manteau d'hiver et bientôt nous verrons renaître la vie dans la nature.

C'est dans ce contexte du Printemps qu'il nous est donné de célébrer Pâques. Pâques, c'est la fête de la Vie! Pâques nous parle de Renouveau, de nouvelle Naissance. Pâques nous parle de Resurrection.

La fête de Pâques nous invite au souvenir. Le beau poème de la Creation proclame au cours de la Vigile Pascale nous présente ce Dieu créateur aimant sa création: "Dieu vit que cela était bon"; son amour se dirige en particulier vers l'Homme et la

Femme a qui il a confié le soin de cette Création "Dieu vit que cela était très bon".

L'histoire du Salut nous révèle que depuis le commencement nous avons du prix aux yeux de Dieu, qu'il a toujours été préoccupé de notre bonheur et que cette préoccupation a atteint son point culminant en Jésus qui devient notre frère pour marcher avec nous et nous soutenir dans nos combats contre tout ce qui menace notre vie et notre bonheur.

Jésus nous a tellement pris au sérieux qu'il a souffert, qu'il est mort, mais Dieu l'a ressuscité pour proclamer que le mal et la mort n'auront pas le dernier mot.

Pâques nous parle de Résurrection, la Résurrection de Jésus, notre frère, solidaire

avec nous dans la souffrance et la mort afin que nous puissions partager la Victoire de sa Résurrection.

Pâques n'est pas seulement du souvenir ou du passé. C'est la fête d'un Dieu qui s'engage envers nous aujourd'hui dont l'amour jamais ne décevra.

Pâques est la fête qui proclame que nous avons du prix aux yeux de Dieu, que nous sommes de grande valeur à ses yeux.

Pâques est pour nous la fête de Renouveau, quand renaît en nous cette conviction qu'il s'est personnellement engagé à son épanouissement et notre bonheur.

Au Nom de Michael Brown, Agent de Pastorale, et en mon propre nom, je voudrais vous souhaiter une Joyeuse Pâques.

Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Holy Thursday - March 31

-Mass of the Last Supper at 8:00 p.m. Washing of the feet, Vigil of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.
-Father will be available for private confessions.

Good Friday - April 1

-Service at 3:00 p.m. includes Celebration of the Word (including the Reading of the Passion), General Intercessions, Veneration of the Cross and Communion
- Station of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. after which Father will be available for private confessions.

Holy Saturday - April 2

-Easter Vigil at 9:00 p.m. includes celebrations of Light, Celebration of the Word, Celebration of Baptism and Celebration of the Eucharist.

Sunday - April 3

10:00 a.m. French mass
11:15 a.m. English mass

St. George's Chapel

Holy Thursday - March 31

Service at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 1

Service at 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - April 2

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 3

Service at 10:00 a.m.

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-Vigile du Saint Sacrement jusqu'à minuit
-Durant la Vigile un prêtre sera disponible pour confessions

Vendredi Saint - 1er avril
-Office du Vendredi Saint a 15h00
-Chemin de la croix a 19h30
-Après quoi un prêtre sera disponible pour confessions

Pâques
Samedi Saint - 2 avril
-Vigile Pascale à 9h00 inclus les célébrations de la Lumière, de la Parole, du Baptême de l'Eucharistie

Dimanche - 3 avril
-Jour de Pâques messe en français à 10h00
-Messe en anglais à 11h15

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BAGS FOR ALL MAKES

The Air Force and Peacekeeping: THE RCAF AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY FORCE - NEW GUINEA.

By MajorWA March

In January 1962, Indonesian military forces began an active campaign against Dutch forces in Dutch West New Guinea on the Island of New Guinea in the South Pacific.

Eventually, this campaign culminated in early May with an assault by Indonesian paratroops, in conjunction with sea-borne army units, which indicated to the world that the Indonesian government was prepared to use force to wrest West New Guinea from Holland. The United Nation pressed the Dutch to seek a peaceful solution and the result was the Middlesburgh Agreement between the two belligerents. The agreement meant that effective 1 May 1963, the territory known as West New Guinea would come under Indonesian control. To facilitate the transfer of power, the UN was to administer and govern the area for a seven month period beginning on 1 October 1962. Part of the UN force that began to take up positions in the fall of that year were twelve members and two aircraft of the RCAF.

From the beginning the UN force found itself as the unwanted "third cousin". The entire force consisted of a 1200 man Pakistani battalion and the small RCAF force. Although it had been given the impressive sounding title of the United Nations Security Force (UNSF) it was outnumbered and out-gunned by both the Dutch and Indonesian forces on the ground. For the Canadians who were to make up the entire air contingent of this operation, notice of this assignment came as a complete surprise. Although there had been some coverage in the newspapers about UN involvement in New Guinea, no mention had been made about Canadian participation. All it took, however, was a phone call from Air Force Headquarters, and three pilots, eight airmen and a wing com-

mander found themselves on their way to the other side of the world with two amphibious Otters.

The scramble to assemble the necessary supplies, equipment and spares for the mission was impressive to see; not to mention the medical, dental, and immunization requirements. All the required preparations were completed by the end of August and at 2 a.m. The group left Trenton in the back of two Hercules aircraft. The Hercs were so crammed with the white-painted Otters and spares, that the passengers had to sit in the Otters during the entire trip. As the Commanding Officer of the force, Flight Lieutenant A.E. Richards, stated, "This is not the most comfortable way to travel across the Pacific." Nevertheless, travel in this manner they did and three days later they arrived at their new home - the Mokmer airport at Biak on an island just off the north coast of West New Guinea.

First impressions of the airport were not promising. The Canadians arrived in the middle of a severe equatorial rain storm and it appeared as if the rain "struck the tarmac with a savage force and rebounded into the air where it seemingly turned into steam". Buildings around the perimeter of the field appeared to be either temporary tin structures or of dirty yellow stucco construction. As soon as the crew opened the doors of the transport aircraft they were assaulted by hot, humid air similar to a rather large sauna. To make matters worse, the airport manager had no idea that the RCAF would be arriving and there were neither quarters or hangar space available. The Canadians were also informed that as the Mokmer airport was to be the main staging area for the evacuation of Dutch personnel it was highly unlikely that the situation would improve.

Hurried negotiations took



The Amphibious Otter

place between the RCAF, the Dutch and an American support unit that was also there to assist the UN. Fortunately, the Americans agreed to share both their facilities and their rations which were flown in weekly from the Philippines and prepared by American cooks. This saved the RCAF contingent from "living off the land" so to speak or an even worse fate of sharing the rations of the Pakistani battalion. Although the quarters were cramped they were more than adequate for the task at hand.

Two days after their arrival, the Otters were completely assembled and ready to fly. Information about the routes the RCAF were to fly was provided by Dutch pilots of the local Kroonduif Airlines. The attitude of the Dutch towards the UN personnel was often mixed and varied from quiet support to open hostility at what they saw as an intrusion into Dutch affairs. The pilots, some of whom had been trained in Canada during the war, provided valuable guidance and insight into the difficulties that the Canadians would face.

With an almost complete lack of navigational and weather facilities, and no search and rescue backup, it was "seat-of-the-pants" flying at best. One pilot noted that "It had the added spice of being both dangerous and unusual. We flew over the beautiful blue and jade coloured waters of the Pacific, over dense jungles where the darting white of the cockatoos contrasted with the vivid green mat of the foliage, and over mountains where lightning cracked in the peaks and where the thunder rolled down into their mist-shrouded valleys. It was breathtakingly beautiful from the air, a glut of our sense of sight and colour, but we always knew that we

were only an engine failure away from one of the cruellest and most unforgiving pieces of terrain in the world."

Navigation was undertaken using large scale World War II vintage maps which made finding some of the more remote locations almost a matter of luck. In order for the Otter to carry a useful payload, the amount of fuel carried had to be restricted which meant that they normally had only enough to reach their destination and a 45 minute reserve. If the weather was unsuitable to land or to continue, the standard procedure was to effect a water landing and wait until it had improved. The selection of a sheltered landing area did provide some problems. Often the Otters would set down in a clear area of one of the local rivers hoping that a submerged log would not be encountered. A safe landing did not end the difficulties since it was then a matter of manoeuvring and securing the aircraft against the prevailing current. Ever present in the minds of the Canadians was the fact that there were no search and rescue facilities. A mistake or an accident would place them in a precarious position with no expectation of outside assistance.

Landing at some of the "airfields" presented unique problems of their own. Most of the landing strips had been constructed by either the Japanese or the Americans during the war and were intended for temporary use. The surfaces varied from grass and mud to crushed coral, with little maintenance done to them since they were first built. Often, the only way to ascertain the condition of a field was to actually land. Surrounding many of the fields were the relics of war: burnt-out aircraft, abandoned machinery, and the ever-present empty beer bottles. Facilities at the strips

were primitive and everything was done by hand. This often provided the opportunity to get to know the local population as the RCAF personnel negotiated for extra hands to help with loading and unloading.

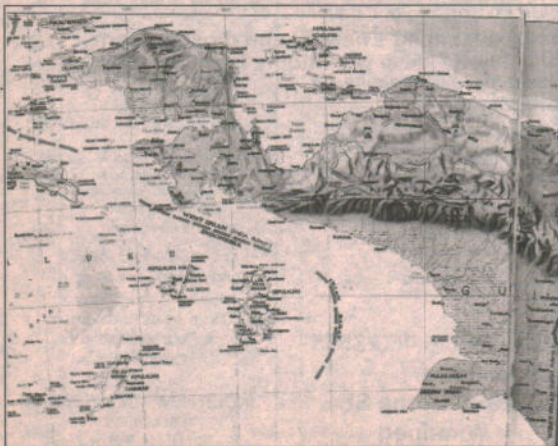
The RCAF contingent was informed in March 1963 that the Indonesians were negotiating with the Canadian Government for the purchase of the two Otters. If this sale was finalized then it was determined that Air Transport Command would not be sending an aircraft to pick up the Canadians and they would have to return by commercial means. This caused some concern because none of the Canadians had passports due to the speed in which they had departed. Fortunately, the sale was never finalized and on 27 April, the first of two Hercules arrived to repatriate the men and equipment. On 30 April, the final Herc took-off from Biak and turned towards Wake Island and Canada, leaving behind the new nation of West Irian.

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THE IRON CURTAIN IS LIFTING

Continued from page 1...

in the Czech Republic must be reduced from 1,617 to 957, armoured personnel carriers from 2,315 to 1,367, artillery pieces from 1,516 to 767, and so on. The same applies to all signatories to the Treaty.

The members of the J3 ACV staff conduct two or three inspections a month. "The inspectors are away an average of two weeks every month," explained Colonel Gary George, Director of J3 ACV. For example, in 1992 alone, this organization consisting of just 22 service personnel conducted over 65 inspections in countries of the former Warsaw Pact. "Besides being frequent, the inspections usually take place in remote areas. Towns like Totskoye, Russia and Baku, Azerbaijan, are not exactly tourist centres," he added.

Nevertheless, the inspectors are glad of the opportunity to visit countries to which access had previously been denied. "Like anything else, it's a matter of getting used to it," explained team member Dave Tatham, a master technician with the British Joint Arms Control Implementation Group and an old hand at this sort of inspection. "However, you have to be careful about what you eat and drink. On one visit, a British team had to be quarantined because the lads had caught diphtheria."

Besides routine inspections, teams are often required to

conduct surprise inspections. In such cases, the target country is given only 48 hours' prior notice and the actual inspection site is not divulged until the inspectors arrive in the country. In this way, no one has time to move the equipment or alter the site.

The former members of the Warsaw Pact are just as appreciative of the opportunity to inspect NATO countries and monitor the reciprocity aspect of the Treaty. "It was absolutely tremendous to be finally able to touch an F-4 Phantom," said Lieutenant-Colonel Holan Frantisek, an air-defence radar specialist in the Czech Army. "After 24 years' service, I finally got to touch the fighter that I had been trained to shoot down in the event of hostilities."

That evening, after the inspection, the Czechs organized a small reception for the team. There is not much to do in Terezin, but Czech hospitality and the opportunity to swap war stories made the evening memorable. Despite the cultural differences that exist between the peoples of the East and the West, it is obvious that bonds of friendship were forged during this brief visit. After the meal, everyone took a few moments to exchange badges and various other items as a memento of their comrades in arms who used to be on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

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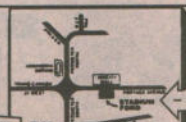
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