



# HELMET LINER GAZETTE



Following Articles taken from the Veterans Affairs Canada Newsletter "Salute"

## A Fair and Compassionate Plan for Canadians Connected to Agent Orange Testing

*Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs (centre) chats with the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and John Chisholm, a Veteran and member of the Department of National Defence Fact-finding and Outreach Advisory Panel.*



On September 12, 2007, the Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs announced a one-time, tax-free Agent Orange ex-gratia payment of \$20,000. Joining him for the announcement was the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence.

The payment is related to the testing of military herbicides, including Agent Orange, at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown. It is estimated that 4,500 people will receive the payment.

"Our Government regrets that so many years passed with this issue not being addressed," said Minister Thompson to Veterans and local politicians gathered for the announcement. "Today we are proud to announce a plan that is fair and compassionate."

**You may qualify for the Agent Orange payment if, between June 1 and September 30, 1966, or between June 1 and September 30, 1967, you:**

- were posted to or training at CFB Gagetown

OR

- worked at CFB Gagetown

OR

- lived in a community within five kilometres of CFB Gagetown

AND

- Have an illness associated with exposure to Agent Orange, as determined by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM Update 2004).

### Who can apply?

To qualify for the payment, individuals must have been alive on February 6, 2006, and meet the following:

- (1) Between June 1, 1966, and February 6, 2006, the individual must have been in the process of being diagnosed with any one or more of the following medical conditions:

- chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)
- soft tissue sarcoma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Hodgkin's disease
- chloracne
- respiratory cancer (of the lung/ bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- prostate cancer
- multiple myeloma
- early onset transient peripheral neuropathy
- porphyria cutanea tarda
- type 2 diabetes
- spinal bifida

The individual must be diagnosed with any one or more of the medical conditions mentioned above no later than April 1, 2009; and

- (2) At any time from June to September in either 1966 or 1967, the individual (or, in the case of an individual diagnosed with spinal bifida, the biological parent of the individual) must have:

- worked or lived at CFB Gagetown;
- been posted to or training at CFB Gagetown; or
- Resided in a community of which any portion laid within five kilometres of the perimeter of CFB Gagetown.

You may apply on your own behalf, and/or as the primary caregiver of an individual who passed away after February 6, 2006 but who



would have qualified for the payment.

For More Information and to Apply call 1-888-854-1803 (or toll-free TTY number 1-800-465-7735) for an application. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2009.

### Canada Remembers Dwight Wilson

Mr. Percy "Dwight" Wilson passed away May 9, 2007 in Toronto. He was one of two remaining Veterans who served Canada during the First World War. Mr. Wilson, who was 106, enlisted twice and was discharged twice for being too young. He later tried to enlist during the Second World War, but was told he was too old. Mr. Wilson's passing leaves only one known surviving Canadian First World War Veteran, Mr. John Babcock, who lives in Spokane, Washington.

More than 600,000 Canadians fought in the Great War between 1914 and 1918. Discussions are on-going into how to best remember the contributions and sacrifices of "Canada's greatest generation."

### A Second Opinion

Sometimes you might not agree with a decision Veterans Affairs Canada makes about your disability benefit. Did you know that there are impartial lawyers at the Department who will help you take a second look at your case? The Bureau of Pensions Advocates (BPA) has a team of lawyers who will act on your behalf. These "pensions' advocates":

- Will provide free legal service if you are unhappy with a disability benefits decision.
- Will represent you at Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) hearings.
- Are experts in the field of disability benefits claims.
- Respect "solicitor-client privilege."
- Follow the same ethical codes and protect your privacy just as their colleagues do in private practice.

A recent survey conducted by BPA found that 95 per cent of you who have used an advocate's services were satisfied or very satisfied with their help. When it comes to help provided at Appeal hearings, 92 per cent of you appreciated their services.

If you are unhappy with your disability benefits decision, you can contact BPA at **1-877-228-2250** or visit [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca).

### Following Articles taken from Military Newsletter "The Maple Leaf" Keeping the peace in all circumstances

*by Capt Claude Pigeon*

What on earth could our former parish priest do over there? That is what one of my parishioners asked a friend of mine when she heard I was going to Afghanistan.

This is my attempt to answer that question for both her and myself, and to describe the significance of my ministry as a priest in the CF. After serving four years as a Reserve chaplain, my bishop authorized me to join the Regular Force. I have been the chaplain of the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment in Valcartier since January 2006, and currently in Afghanistan as part of Roto 4 of Operation ATHENA.

How can a priest with a desire to be a good shepherd in every way see his assignment as a military chaplain, as a peacemaking mission in a place where conflict is causing injury, division and death? As a parish priest, it was easy for me to say "Peace on this house" when arriving in parishioners' homes as Jesus asks his apostles to do. But here in Afghanistan, what is my role?

A chaplain's work can be compared to that of a first respondent: it involves a combination of skills in such areas as social work, psychology and crisis intervention. The chaplain lives on site with military personnel, shares their day-to-day activities. To explain my presbyterial ministry in a theatre of operations, I will use a trilogy that is well known in cleric circles. Like all those who are christened, but in a special way because of his ordination and his pastoral mandate, the military chaplain is at once a priest, a prophet and a king.

As priest, my ministry of prayer and offerings is unique in this area of conflict. I strive to be God's messenger during the daily mass. I strive to be God's messenger when I am alone while the majority of military personnel participate in an operation. I strive to be God's messenger when the entire Church congregates to praise the Lord. And I strive to be God's messenger when saying a prayer during a pastoral conversation to bless a soldier or to wish him well when he has opened his heart to share a problem.

As prophet, I announce and denounce time and time again. Sooner or later, all military men and women come face-to-face with their conscience and have to carry the weight of certain questions they hope to find the answers. Why am I here? How is my mission affecting me? Why is there so much pain and suffering around me? Inspired by the Gospel, the chaplain listens and teaches, thereby inviting others to look into themselves to find the serenity that makes answers possible through a peaceful dialogue with one's soul. I am no longer surprised that several great saints had a military past. Life in the military makes us reflect on the big questions surrounding the meaning of life and good and evil, and paves the way for one's spiritual quest.

As king, the chaplain takes on the role of he who defends the weak and the poor, who judges fairly and who rights wrongs. This role is especially important when you consider the impact distance and extended separation have on couples and families. The chaplain listens to those who wish to talk, encourages them to open themselves up, to communicate and to seek reconciliation. He refers people to professional resources; requests leave for situations of marital crisis, etc.

I'd like to add one last thing. In the CF, chaplains do not bear arms, not even to defend themselves. This surprises many people, including military personnel. I have been in Afghanistan for two months, and I have spent more than two thirds of my time visiting



forward operating bases, where missions are carried out in the Canadian area of responsibility, and I share the day-to-day life of my fellow service men and women. When I am asked where my weapon is, I like to say that I don't carry one because my role is to remind all soldiers that the purpose of their mission is to make it so that all can live without having to bear arms.

### **The last known First World War veteran**

*by Steve Fortin*

Veterans Week is an ideal opportunity to remember those who served Canada in times of war, in armed conflicts and in peace. Now that cameras show us images of war throughout the world, it is too easy to consider the sacrifice of the thousands of people who died in the name of the ideals as commonplace. Yet, the loss of a loved one, of a member of one's family, and all the pain such a hardship brings reminds us that building a better future has a price. Veterans and their loved ones will never forget it, no more than those who are currently serving in the CF.

When today's military members look at the past for veterans who have known war in another time, one name in particular is likely to draw their attention—John Babcock, born on July 23, 1900, on a farm in Kingston, Ont., is the last known veteran of the First World War. He celebrated his 107th birthday on July 23.

At the age of 15, Lance Corporal John Babcock joined the 146th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Sydenham, Ontario. A few months later, he arrived in England, where he served in Reserve battalions. In 1917 he was assigned to the Boys Battalion (also known as the Young Soldier's Battalion), while waiting until he was old enough to go to the front lines. The war ended before he reached fighting age.

In an interview with Veterans Affairs Canada Mr. Babcock recounts his memories with sorrow: "It made me sad. I felt I wasn't a "real soldier." However, as the veteran himself admits, one of the secrets of his longevity is the intense physical training he underwent while in the military. Then as now, nothing stops Mr. Babcock: he got his pilot's licence at the age of 65, his high school diploma a few years ago, and wrote his autobiography for his 100th birthday.



### **A very ordinary school... in Afghanistan**

*by Capt Catherine Larose*

As part of a reconstruction and security activity, members of A Squadron, Battle Group visited a small school in the Spin

Boldak district to distribute a few hundred school bags to students. Led by Major Pierre Huet, CF members gave out backpacks, pencils, notebooks and pencil cases to some 200 young Afghans. This was a happy surprise for children of all ages, all the more welcome because they have so very few school supplies, if any at all.

This school is different from those we see in North America; it provides instruction to about 300 boys and only 70 girls, who study in a separate wing. Classrooms are very small and modest. The paint on the walls is peeling and, even though the roof provides protection for the children, it also serves as a shelter for all kinds of birds. The only thing the building contains is a few desks and benches and a small chalkboard on the wall. In some rooms, children sit on the floor because there is no furniture. Classes, on subjects like Pushto, mathematics and religion, are only taught in the mornings, for 10-day periods, and Friday being a day off.

The purpose of the squadron's visit was mainly to distribute school bags, and to take stock of the school and the surrounding area. To gain the trust of the people, the CF has to ensure their security. Less than a year ago, a bombing forced the school to close. Terrorists, in their efforts to kill teachers, destroyed one side of the building. Due to a lack of funds, the hole caused by the explosion still has not been repaired, so Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) personnel will visit the school in the near future to assess the damage and make the necessary repairs.

School bombings are frequent in southern Afghanistan, which makes it difficult for the government to find teachers willing to work in conditions where they are regularly targeted, most notably because they teach girls. Unfortunately, the intimidation tactics are working, because there are currently very few teachers in the Spin Boldak schools.

A Squadron's visit to the school will help to stabilize the life of the children and teachers in the area.

### **CAMP X – Canada's secret spy school**

*by Bruce Forsyth*

Despite the current mission in Afghanistan, many Canadians still think of Canada as a peacekeeping nation. Our military personnel have served or are currently serving on numerous missions world-wide as members of UN and NATO peacekeeping forces. However, during the Second World War, Canada played a significant role in many aspects of the war effort and distinguished itself in numerous battles and campaigns. Not well publicized though, was Canada's contribution to "Secret War": Camp X.

In 1940, Great Britain and the Commonwealth were on the brink of defeat. The US had not yet entered war and it was looking very grim for allied forces. The Royal Air Force had fought a brave battle, the Battle of Britain, and held off a German invasion of the British Isles, but defeat at the hands of the Nazi war machine was a very real possibility. British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill saw what was happening and decided something had to be done. He instructed his friend, the head of the British Security Co-ordination (BSC), Canadian born First World War hero Sir William Stephenson, otherwise known as "The Man Called Intrepid", to establish a training camp in Canada for the purpose of training secret operatives in the art of espionage.

The camp, officially known as Special Training School #103 but commonly referred to as "Camp X", was established on 280 acres of land east of Toronto, on the shore of Lake Ontario near the border between the towns of Oshawa and Whitby. This location was chosen as it provided the seclusion needed for the camp's clandestine operations.



However, very few people knew the true purpose of Camp X. Defence Minister Colonel James Ralston and RCMP Commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood were let in on the secret, as was the head of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, since the public were told that the radio antennas dotting the property were CBC broadcast antennas. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie-King was left out of the loop since BSC feared he would shut down the camp as a violation of Canada's sovereignty by Great Britain.

Another purpose for establishing the camp was to unite Great Britain and the US. At the time Camp X was being constructed—the summer of 1941—the US was still refusing to join the war effort. Others saw this as a mistaken position as evidenced by the over 30 000 Americans who crossed the border to join British and Canadian armed forces. Even before the US entered the war on December 7, 1941, agents from America's intelligence services expressed an interest in sending personnel for training at the soon to be opened Camp X. Agents from the FBI and the Office of Strategic Services (fore-runner of the CIA) secretly attended Camp X. Most notable was Col William Donovan, wartime head of the OSS, who credited Sir William Stephenson with teaching Americans about foreign intelligence gathering.

Camp X officially opened for training on December 6, 1941, the day before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Trainees at the camp learned sabotage techniques, subversion, intelligence gathering, lock picking, explosives training, radio communications, encode/decode, recruiting techniques for partisans, the art of silent killing and unarmed combat. Camp X offered no parades for its graduates and none were ever publicly recognized for their accomplishments.

By the time Special Training School #103 terminated training operations in 1944, up to 2000 students had graduated from the camp.

In 1945, Igor Gouzenko the Soviet Embassy cypher clerk whose defection exposed the Soviet spy threat in North America was hidden at Camp X along with his family for two years. Prime Minister Mackenzie-King was first advised about the camp's existence when it was suggested that Gouzenko be hidden there.

Post-war, the camp was re-named the Oshawa Wireless Station and turned over to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals as a wireless intercept station, military talk for a spy listening station. The Oshawa Wireless Station continued operations until 1969 when it too closed. All remaining buildings were demolished or relocated elsewhere and the property abandoned. Records pertaining to Camp X were either locked away under the Official Secrets Act or destroyed after WWII.

Even the end of the war brought no parades or official recognition for Camp X veterans. They simply went home and did, as they were required to do during the war; they kept quiet. It's only been in recent years that many Camp X veterans have felt comfortable talking about their experiences.

Today, the former site of Camp X is a passive park, appropriately named "Intrepid Park". A monument was erected in 1984 to honour the men and women of Camp X, a camp that many in the intelligence world consider to be the finest espionage training camp of the Second World War.

For more on Camp X, visit <http://webhome.idirect.com/~lhodgson/campx.htm>.

## Canadian footprint in Congo: Op CROCODILE has real impact

*by Kristina Davis*

There are rolling hills and grasslands in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They believe the relentlessness of the shantytowns.

Men live to the age of 42; women to 44, according to the United Nations. It's a sobering statistic that reflects the staggering poverty and systemic conflict that has plagued the region.

"It's a broken country," says Major Louis Xenos, a training officer serving on Operation CROCODILE, Canada's contribution to the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

Based in Kinshasa, Maj Xenos is part of an 11-person multi-national training cell. Drawn from countries including Russia, Guyana, Pakistan and India, the cell is tasked with delivering a six-day course to military observers serving on MONUC.

In all, there are about 600 military observers in the DRC. Established by the UN Security Council, MONUC itself was created to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Accord signed in 1999. With a budget exceeding \$1 billion, it is the largest and most expensive mission in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations. Canada has contributed a nine-person team to the effort.

The military observer's course includes subjects as diverse as patrolling and driving, as well as ensuring each candidate has the required level of English proficiency. It also reviews MONUC policies, and command and control structure. While the course has a low failure rate, Maj Xenos says candidates have been sent home in the past.

The course typically averages 15 to 40 students; although the most recent course saw 42 observers participate. Maj Xenos just delivered his third course since arriving in-theatre nearly two months ago.

He says language remains one of the biggest challenges. Given the variety of accents and the fact that for some, English is their third or even fourth language, he says the use of plain language is critical. "When you are instructing, you speak slowly," he explains. "You don't use slang or other expressions," he adds.

Computer skills is another area that sometimes presents additional challenges. Not every military regularly uses technology, he explains. To ensure that everyone is on the same page, two periods of computer training are included in the curriculum. Maj Xenos says these skills, especially the use of Lotus, are important. "It's the primary means of communication with the brigades," he says.

Success, he adds, comes when all the candidates graduate. And, using course critiques, they are always looking to improve the curriculum. His goal, he says, is to improve the quality of training and documentation.

Based in Kinshasa, Maj Xenos says he's seen a lot of poverty and homelessness in the bustling city. Polio is also a concern. The local infrastructure is basic at best, and the availability of utilities such as water and electricity fluctuate greatly. Roads are few and riddled with potholes. No major roads link any major cities. There's no postal service to speak of in the country.



Yet, he says, the local population readily recognizes the Canadian flag. They know, too, that Canada has no vested interest in the area, no ulterior motive for being there. That knowledge breeds a certain trust.

Maj Nick Torrington-Smith is an information operations officer working in Kisangani. He also collects and analyzes information for the regional brigade. And while he's previously worked with NATO, this is his first experience in a multi-national environment.

Given that his job is so dependent upon language and nuances, he says it can be a challenge. It's especially so when the end goal is to communicate to the population. The last thing he would want is for the message to be opposite than the one intended.

He says a lot of his more recent work has been to re-assure the population ahead of a kinetic operation. And while info ops are well used and understood in Canada, it had to be modified to not only the UN context, but also to reflect local expectations and beliefs.

"Sometimes you have to explain the intent and the expected outcomes," he says. And when he first arrived, Maj Torrington-Smith says there was not much focus on info ops. He says he's trying to make people more aware of not only its capability, but also its impact. "We're getting successful in that respect," he offers.



He says true success will come when more and more people ask for input.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roch Giguère, the Chief of Staff for Sector 2, is also based in Kisangani. He says locals there also are familiar with Canadians. "They are quite happy we are here," says LCol Giguère. "They recognize the impact of MONUC."

Plus, he says, the Congolese often approach CF personnel to tell them of friends or relatives they have in Toronto or Vancouver. They also make an extra effort to speak English, even knowing that many of the CF members speak French. "You can see the difference," he adds, "when you have the Canadian flag on your uniform."

As the Chief of Staff, LCol Giguère co-ordinates the tasks of all the staff officers in the sector. He, too, says language is a challenge. Staff officers are drawn from at least eight different countries. As a francophone, he says he well understands the obstacles one sometimes faces when working in a second or third language.



Despite the challenges, he's already seeing successes. He points to a recent disarmament operation—still underway at the time of our interview—which, if successful, could very well have a domino effect. "If we can show," he explains, "that we can take care of this group ...we are expecting that other rebel groups might join the process."

He's especially proud of this process because just a few months ago, negotiations ground to a halt following nearly seven months of talks. "With a lot of work and a lot of patience, they started negotiating again. It looks very good," he says.

In Kisangani, the CF team lives in what LCol Giguère terms one of "the best" houses in the city—near the river and in the middle of the equatorial rain forest. By local standards, it's topnotch, but far from comparable to anything in Canada. "We do gymnastics with the appliances in the kitchen," he says by way of an example. "If we plug them in at the same time, the electrical outlets can't sustain them."

Despite this, a situation he says they now laugh about, he's philosophical about this deployment. He says his goal is to create a team spirit among the staff officers and to exploit their strengths for the benefit of MONUC. He thinks he's making good progress.

Plus, he offers, it's been 10 years since his last deployment. LCol Giguère wanted this mission to remind himself of what it means to be Canadian, to better appreciate the quality of life at home and to remember the sacrifices made on overseas deployments.



"I was afraid I had forgotten," he says thoughtfully. "And near the end of my career, I thought it was important to get a reality check."

And while he knows the operation in Afghanistan is at the forefront—and should be—he says it's still important for personnel to leave behind a solid, Canadian footprint.

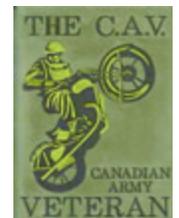
## A soldier and his Motorcycle

by Sgt. Jody Hudec

National Defence Headquarters is holding a national treasure. It cannot be found in the corporate offices, but in the library. A rare volume, *The Winged Wheel Patch* by Ken Messenger and Max Burns, is tucked away on a shelf, the one and only book on the subject.

*The Winged Wheel Patch* will not only fascinate you with the adventures of dispatch riders of the First World War and the extraordinary uses of military motorcycles in the Second World War; it will draw you into another kind of story: A story of a relationship between man and machine.

Pre-war riders were usually young professionals, as the motorcycle had not yet attained a mass appeal. They rode for the excitement of it and, not surprisingly, many of them answered the call for dispatch riders in the First World War. Their training consisted mainly of group rides.



The first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) disembarked in England October 3, 1914 accompanied by nine cars, 275 bicycles and nine motorcycles. By the Second World War, between September 1939 and May 1945, there were approximately 700000 motorcycles produced for the combined allied effort. These numbers are all the more impressive when one considers the unfavourable perception of motorcycling predominant in North America at the time. The Canadian military, itself not completely immune to this attitude stated, in the Canadian Army Training Memorandum No.6 of 1941: "...the general opinion exists that a motorcycle is merely a glorified bicycle for the younger generation."

Despite the bad press, you will find stories like those of Corporal Leno Caron, Cpl Conrade Nelson, and Sergeant Morley Young, WWII dispatch riders (DR) whose shared experiences weaved together like the strings of a macramé: distinct, yet each definitely part of a total fabric. Notes taken from official war diaries present a fascinating look into the life of a DR.

These stories of the DRs piqued an interest and a quick Internet search graciously gave another great story, proving that the motorcycle and soldier have planted a wheel print firmly in history.

Their names are Peter “Trapper” Cane and Yannick “Doc” LeBrun. Mr. Cane enlisted in the military in the 1970’s, serving with the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry and The Canadian Airborne Regiment. This lifetime motorcyclist suddenly found himself paralyzed from a jump gone wrong. He retired medically in the 1990’s after 18 surgeries and two years in hospital. What kept him going was getting back on his bike.

He soon made friends with “Doc”, a third generation soldier who joined the Royal 22e Régiment in the 1980’s. Like Mr. Cane, Mr. LeBrun found himself injured during a mission and retired a few years later. Despite injuries, both loved the military. With this in common, as well as the love of a good motorcycle ride, a new era arose between soldier and motorcycle.

They co-founded “The Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Unit” or, “The CAV”, a motorcycle organization for serving and retired members or those who just want to support the Canadian Veteran. As Mr. Cane states, “Strength and Honour is our motto. The physical hardship we endured, the mental discipline we needed to conquer obstacles has made us stronger, smarter and uniquely qualified to continue serving our communities and country. We hope to keep alive the bonds formed during our military service.”

The CAV is a well-organized unit growing across Canada and has collectively helped raise for international, national and local charities \$1.6 million and counting. A quick look at the event schedule shows the unit to be a force truly brought together by a soldier and his motorcycle.

The CAV presently has 28 units and 780 riders, 1 800 registered supporters and is gaining true “strength and honour” with each kilometre its members ride.

Mr. Cane and Mr. LeBrun are simply representatives of the fantastic resource that makes up the CAV and its many riders. Their families, the Veteran Supporters, and the many Canadian that have joined, ridden with and continue to serve this great country are the real heroes. Either serving or retired, they are “A soldier and his motorcycle”.

To find out more about The CAV go to [www.thecav.ca](http://www.thecav.ca).

*Sgt Hudec is a RMS clerk with DFASO.*

## **The United Nation Military Observer (UNMO) in Observer Golan - Damascus (OGG-D)**

By Maj Fred Gallant (CDN)

Taken from UNTSO News

Arrival and OP All UNMO’s who arrive at OGG-D are initiated to the in-clearing procedures, training in Damascus, training tour in Tiberias, and training tours in Ausbatt and Finbatt.

But all these exciting events pale as the time approaches for the new UNMO’s first deployment to the “OP”. Before describing the life of the new UNMO on the OP, let us look briefly at the Golan Heights UNTSO deployment.

UNTSO mans 11 OP’s on the Golan, 6 of these on the A side from OGG-T and five on the B side from OGG-D. These OP’s are under the operational control of the UNDOF Battalion in whose area they are located. Suffice to say that in OGG-D, we have five OP’s 58, 57 and 56 in order from south to north located in the Finbatt area and 72 and 72 located in the Ausbatt area.

Now we return to our new UNMO. The day before his departure for the OP he does the final shopping. Departure day is Tuesday for OP’s 56, 57 and 58 and Friday for OP’s 71 and 72. D-Day finds the UNMO nervously kissing his wife goodbye and hauling his OP basket with all the essentials that he will need to live on the OP for a week.

At 0730 LT the senior, a much experienced UNMO, who will be the junior’s guide and mentor for the next seven days, arrives with the OP vehicle. They load the gear and at 0800 get a briefing by the Operations Officer about the current situation, and then depart. Monitoring the radio net and keeping contact with OGG-D HQ they either drive to AUSBATT (OP 71, 72 or POSITION 60 (56, 57 and 58).

On arrival they are greeted by their respective BUNMOs doing the liaison between the battalions and the UNMOs. The battalion duty officer gives an operational briefing and summarizes the key incidents of the last week.

The team then departs for the OP and is hailed enthusiastically by the team going off, then, a complete and detailed operational and administrative handover briefing is done and soon the team is on its own. The senior establishes the schedule for the week. Who will be the indoor man and the platform observer for each day, and also the cooking schedule? The senior on OP 72 identifies the area where most violations occurs and shows them to the junior.

Most of the time, violations are created by shepherds. Once a violation is observed a patrol is requested from the company at POSN 20 who will go out to confirm the violation and try to settle it. Quietly the UNMO settles into the routine of cooking and looking. By day three the junior knows the area and is ready to show his knowledge to the BUNMO. The week quickly goes by with the UNMO leaving the OP for occasional test drives or jogging. Each absence must be of one hour, no more.

They also receive and brief people such as training teams, senior staff members, the OP development officer and local workers. Too soon seven days have gone by and peace has been maintained on the Golan Heights due to each UNMO’s vigilance and the new team arrives...

### **Minutes**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **The Blue Helmets Inc.**

10:30 hrs. 27 October 2007

R C Legion Br 93Oromocto NB

Present:

Fred LeBlanc                      President  
Fred Gallant                      Secretary

1. Meeting was called to order at 1030 hr.
2. The opening ceremony was held.

3. The Agenda was approved  
     Moved Bill Gillen      Seconded John Perry      Carried
4. Minutes of Annual Meeting 21 October 2006 were approved as written.  
     Moved Marcel Richard              Seconded Ron Richard      Carried
5. Financial Report was submitted by the President)  
     Moved Dorothy Gayton              Seconded Roger Clement    Carried
6. Correspondence  
     Revenue Canada has contacted us about arrears on submission of financial reports for years 05 and 06. And must be done right away in order for the association retains it's charitable status. Action to be taken by the President.

7. Committee Reports

- Ceremonies: John Perry submits his resignation.
  - Peacekeepers Plaque was presented at the Oromocto Cenotaph with an appropriate service on 24 October 2006.
  - Barkers Point Cenotaph ceremony was held on 5 November 2006 followed by a reception at the Corbett St Wesleyan Church.
  - Marysville Remembrance Day Service was held followed by a reception at RCL Br 15.
  - Peacekeepers Day was held on 9 August 2007 at the Fredericton Cenotaph followed by flag raising at city hall. WE had a reception after at RCL Br 4.
- Dress Coordinator: Marcel Richard stated that he is not a Sgt at Arms when it comes to enforce the dress code. He will meet the Executive in order for the dress to be reviewed and published in the newsletter with the stipulation that it be adhered to.
- Membership: Fred Leblanc gave the following;
 

Total	111
Paid 2007	86
Not renewed for 07	13
Not renewed for 06-07	8
Not renewed for 05-06-07	4

In future all those two years or more in arrears will be dropped from the membership list.

- Newsletter  
     Want more input. Send personnel experiences with UN.
- Constitution: Fred Gallant      Nothing to report.
- Public Relations Fred Doucette Nothing to report

8. Old Business

- Monthly breakfast will continue on third Friday of each month. Please come on out at Cannon Crossed at 8am.
- Plaque Milltown Work in Progress, need \$900.00, Will continue, and has bought a wreath to place on behalf of Blue Helmets. Dorothy & Bill Gayton
- Peacekeeping Memorial Day 9 August. Short service at cenotaph. Flag was raised at city hall. UN Flag flew for a week. Stand too followed at Br 4 RCL.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Fred Gallant gave the report. (See Attached).

9. Election of officers.

- Elected by acclamation.
  - President              Fred LeBlanc
  - Vice President        Bob Terry
  - Secretary/Treasurer   Fred Gallant.

10. New Business

- Nobel Peace Prize Bar: More to follow
- Survey results.(19 out of 111 responded)
- As a result it was proposed that the majority results of the survey be adopted. Proposed Fred Gallant Seconded Marcel Richard Adopted
- Remembrance Day LHHS Friday 9 November 2007 am. 5 Nov Display to be set up by Marcel Richard including a C-7, White cross Flags and a Helmet with desert cam.
- Poppy campaign. Br15 RCL needs help at Brookside Mall Liquor Store. Call Fred Leblanc with times you can serve.
- Date and times to be announced
- Church Parade at United Pentecostal Church Downing St. Marysville at 1030 for 1100 Remembrance Service Barkers Point Cenotaph 4 November. At 12:30 reception to follow at Wesleyan Church on Corbett Ave Barker's Point.
- Remembrance Day

- Marysville Legion at 1000-1030. Form up at Gibson Memorial School yard on Canada Street Ceremony at Cenotaph, Reception at Legion.
- Oromocto Cenotaph Restoration.
  - Proposed by John Perry to donate \$200.00 for the project. Seconded Bill Gillen. Carried
- Web Page. Fred LeBlanc was given permission to spend up to \$150.00 to set up and maintain a Web Page for The Blue Helmets.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 hrs.

12. Closing ceremony was held.

Fred Gallant (Secretary)

**The Blue Helmets  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
After Action Report**

1. The Blue Helmets held their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at The Fredericton Inn 1-3 June 2007. The attached Itinerary was adhered to.
2. Those who attended certainly met the objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which were to have a weekend that was memorable, emotional, relaxed and above all fun. The following comments were received from attending members.
  - a. "Just a note to express my thanks and appreciation to the committee for all the work in organizing the Anniversary dinner for members of the Blue Helmets. The dinner was excellent and conviviality prevailed at every sub-event. It was a job well done and anybody in attendance who did not have an enjoyable time should be advised to seek counselling. Most enjoyable for me was meeting some members for the first time and renewing acquaintances with others I had not seen for some time". Bill Gillen
  - b. "Thank you and your executive for a well organized 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. My wife was quite impressed with our get together and the ceremony. Good food, good friends make for a good time. Nice to have met everyone and wish the turnout would have been bigger. Again thank you all for the welcome. Please pass this message on". Gil Soucy
  - c. Many verbal comments echo these comments.
3. The anniversary was attended by only 24 including guests. In spite of the low numbers everyone who was there had a good time.

In the Service of Peace and for our Veterans  
Fred Gallant CD  
Secretary  
The Blue Helmets

**Letter from your President**

Fellow Members

The first decade of The Blue Helmets has been a busy and interesting period and it is hard to believe that ten years has already gone by. Founders of The Blue Helmets are as follows:

George Boyko (born 15 Nov 1940 deceased 29 July 2006), James Carter, Robert Dow, Jack Furzer, Fred LeBlanc, Sidney Mollen, Percy Paul, John Perry, Walter Schwartz, Louis Simard, and Robert Terry.

Just a highlight of what activities we had going during our first decade:

- Have yearly reunions which include the semi and annual meetings.
- Purchased school supplies and soccer balls for 130 students of grades 1 to 4 attending two schools adopted by our troops in Bosnia.
- Send materials to our troops in Golan Heights, Bosnia and other missions to help them celebrate Canada Day.
- Attended Base Gagetown's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony on 01 July 1998
- Publish our own newsletter "The Helmet Liner Gazette"
- Participated in out of country (USA) memorial day parades
- Participated in other community within the province Old Home week parades
- Three of our members were selected to have their CPSM presented by the Governor General during the inauguration of the Canadian Peacekeepers Service Medal in September of 2000
- Three members as invited guest including myself were able to travel to Ottawa to view the CPSM inauguration.
- As a first east of Ottawa 45 members had their CPSM presented to them at CFB Gagetown and that was before the regular forces received theirs.
- We designed a CPSM certificate that is presented to members after they have received their CPSM
- A plaque was designed to commemorate the RCMP, Peacekeepers and NATO members who made the supreme sacrifice for peace and freedom. The plaque has been dedicated on the Fredericton NB and Oromocto NB cenotaphs and with the hopes of doing the same in other communities. For additional information please contact me.

- Fund raising for the Fredericton Veterans Health Unit's wheelchair bus and commemorative cenotaph plaques.
- Created our own website which can be viewed at [www.thebluehelmets.ca](http://www.thebluehelmets.ca)

On a regular basis:

- When and where possible PR is done to promote The Blue Helmets
- Pass the word out about the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM) and the Special Service Medal (SSM) assist in completing and submitting applications and make presentations.
- Participate in the Canada Day parades
- Assist with the yearly RC Legion Poppy Campaign in The Blue Helmets Uniform
- Have war medals remounted for some of the local veterans.
- Participate in local High school Remembrance Service
- Members from various areas participate in the Remembrance Parades and lay wreaths on behalf of The Blue Helmets for our fallen Peacekeepers.
- Ceremonies are held at cenotaphs to commemorate 09 August as Peacekeepers Memorial Day and 24 October the anniversary of United Nations and in both events the UN Flag is raised at the City Hall.
- Assist in the Remember project by visiting local Elementary schools and talk to them about peacekeeping.
- Have a monthly breakfast get together that is held on each third Friday of the month.

To everyone who assisted in any or all of the above activities thank you very much, without your assistance we would not have achieved the goals of The Blue Helmets, hopefully we can do as well during our next decade.

**In the Service of Peace and for our Veterans**

Fred LeBlanc CD  
President



The Blue Helmets members and students with New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham and Justice Minister TJ Burke at the School's 2007 Remembrance Service (photo signed by the Premier)

#### **While on United Nations Mission in Sarajevo**

Fred Doucette a members of The Blue Helmets is the author of a book titled "Empty Casing" A Soldier's Memoir of Sarajevo under Siege to be published in February 2008

When Canadian soldier Fred Doucette was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a UN peacekeeper in 1995, he had a premonition that this tour of duty would be different. He had been posted to Cyprus in the 1970s and 1980s, but the horrors of the Bosnian conflict of the 1990s were beyond imagining.

Doucette takes us to the heart of the conflict as the Bosnian Serb forces launch a massive, concerted assault. Sarajevo, the largely Muslim Bosnian capital, is devastated. Thousands of Sarajevo's perish. UN forces tasked with imposing and maintaining peace between the warring forces, realize this is an impossible task.

Upon his return to Canada, Doucette begins his own war with posttraumatic stress disorder. Nightmares and flashbacks plague his days and nights. Traumatized and disoriented, he must learn to face himself, his family and his army once again.

With raw emotion, *Empty Casing* tells the story of the making and unmaking of a soldier, and the growth of a man.

Empty Casing - Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Group

<http://www.douglas-mcintyre.com/book/9781553652915>

Another good book to have in your personal library

### Remembrance Day Poem

By: Elizabeth LeBlanc (at the age of 9 in 2006)



#### *Poppies*

Shining bright and red  
Showing love  
For the brave ones  
Who gave us freedom  
We hope it stays  
That's why we have Remembrance Day!



#### *Soldiers*

Fought in the war  
Gave us peace  
Some lost their life  
Some survived  
That's why we remember  
On Remembrance Day!

#### *A Cross*

It shows peace  
Where they were buried  
A poppy in the middle  
It shows respect  
We take a minute to remember  
On Remembrance Day!



#### *War*

Guns, bombs  
Fire and smoke  
Some died  
Some survived  
But they gave us freedom!



### My Hero, My Daddy

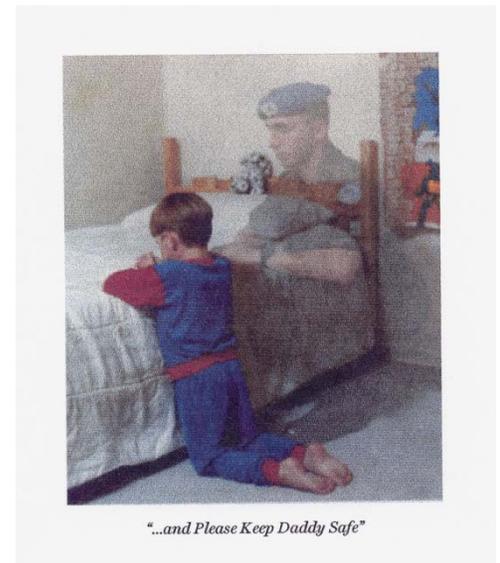
I thank God for my Daddy everyday,  
For he serves our country in many ways,  
It's as if he's on twenty-four-hour call,  
Be with him Lord, may he never fall.

Sometimes he leaves for six months straight,  
We get lonely and anxiously wait,  
He helps our country in times of need,  
We miss him so bad our hearts bleed.

Many of you will never know,  
The Love and tenderness he always shows,  
His hugs are soft and his kisses sweet,  
I treasure the nights he sings me to sleep,

My hero, my Daddy, he will always be,  
Thank you Lord for the ways he loves me,  
Please stay by his side, let him feel not alone,  
For I love my Daddy and I pray he comes home.

Author: Laura Morin  
In The Maple Leaf



Note: Laura Morin, wife of CWO A.J. (Fred) Morin, wrote the following poem for their four-year-old daughter Shareena while CWO Morin was performing a tour at CFS Alert in 1998. "She wrote it because our daughter asked a lot of questions and made some of the comments that are in the poem," says CWO Morin. "I would like to share it with other CF members that have gone on tours or who will be in the future."



*On behalf of The Blue Helmets Executive we wish everyone a*

*Merry Christmas Joyeux Noel*