

Bulletin des Artilleurs de Montréal

# Sheldrake's Log

Montreal Gunners Newsletter



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## President's message by Maj (Ret) Charles de Kovachich

### 150 Years of Service

A few months ago one of our Ottawa colleagues handed me a copy of the history of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal Battery. In its original form, this book was published in 1898 and reviewed the origins of our unit since its creation. Apart from its historical appeal and Victorian English writing style I noticed something that was probably not meant to be the centre of attention to the people who had put this artifact together. One third of the content of the book was left available for advertising purposes to the patrons of the Battery.

This may seem mundane until you read the names of the people on the honour roll. They are the members of families who made up the Montreal Square Mile, such as R.B Angus and the Lord Strathcona. Molson's Bank and the Sunlife Company. Henry Birks and Hemsley. Standard Life and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. These patrons reminded me what the roots of our unit really are and why it was originally created before confederation. The unit was clearly a grass roots organization made up of concerned loyal citizens who were willing to sacrifice and risk much in the defense of their citizens and their way of life.

Another sign of commitment from the members of the battery can be reflected in the story of Maj. Stevenson who as an alderman of the city in 1862 suggested that properties on Mount Royal be purchased for the purpose of the creation of a public park. It took dedication and

the firing of a 100 gun salute in November of that year to finally allow the members of the battery to lead a procession up the Mountain on May 24<sup>th</sup> 1876.

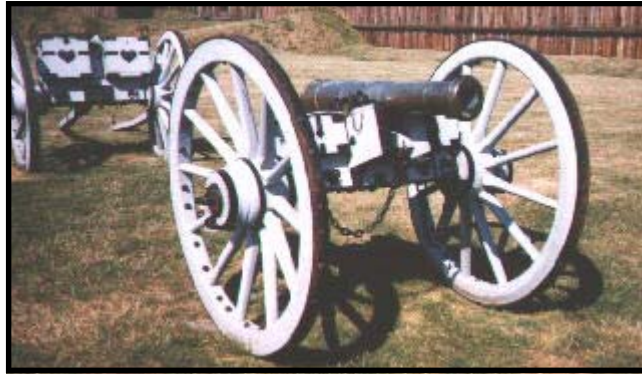
This part of our history has not been lost to the citizens of Montreal. In the early 1980s an organization whose sole purpose is to maintain and protect the interest of the Mount Royal Park was created. The organization is called Les Amis de la Montagne and they are made up of volunteers supported by patrons that represent the most successful businesses in Montreal. Companies such as Hydro Quebec, the Jean Coutu Foundation and the Molson's Foundation are behind this group. In view of our common history, the AAM have approached this organization to see if we could invite them to celebrate along with us. The discussions are ongoing and therefore I can only report that we have found an interested collection of citizens that would attend our Ball on October 1st of this year. Our situation has created excitement for them and an opportunity for us to include prominent Montreal citizens in our celebration in October.

All this, to report to you that this celebration is quite a bit bigger than another mess dinner or even a change of command parade. It strikes at the root of what the Second Field Regiment stands for as a unit. As members or former members of this unit we have an obligation to bring into our celebration all the citizens who have benefited from the existence of the Regiment for 150 years. We should be proud of what has been done. We should all be proud to be associated with our unit.

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## Artilleurs et amis des artilleurs

L'Artillerie existe à Montréal depuis 150 ans. Au cours de toutes ces années, l'Artillerie a formé des centaines de milliers de montréalais, québécois, canadiens, qui, à un moment ou l'autre, ont défendu la liberté de leurs concitoyens, sur leur territoire ou à l'étranger. Ces citoyens au service de leur pays sont vos ancêtres et vous perpétuez leurs souvenirs et leurs enthousiasmes à assumer la défense et le maintien des valeurs à la base de notre structure politique et sociale.



6 pounder

Les Forces armées, dans un gouvernement démocratique, garantissent un climat propice au développement d'une société dont les assises sont les valeurs fondamentales de la personne. Dans un pays de moyenne puissance et non-militariste, la Réserve devrait prendre une plus grande importance, puisque, à moindres coûts, l'État compterait sur une population élargie de citoyens entraînés pouvant répondre aux besoins militaires. Ce fut le cas au début de la colonie et de la confédération; même à cette époque, le Réserviste ou le Milicien comme on l'appelait alors, avait un statut et une reconnaissance social élevé et envié.

Par exemple, le capitaine de milice dans une petite communauté était tout aussi important que le maire, souvent même il était le maire. Dans les grandes villes, les notables et les riches marchands ou les grands décideurs y appartenaient. Traditionnellement, lors des grands conflits mondiaux, les régiments de la Réserve furent l'organisation de base de la mobilisation des troupes, qui s'illustrèrent sur de nombreux théâtres de guerre

Plus près de nous, la présente génération de réservistes collabore d'avantage aux tâches militaires par une participation importante aux missions de l'ONU et de l'OTAN et aux

opérations domestiques. Tout comme leurs prédécesseurs, ces réservistes ne craignent pas de mettre leur vie en danger pour défendre la liberté. Les notables d'antan ne forment plus la base de la Réserve, mais des citoyens assez bien représentatifs de la société canadienne, venant de presque tous les domaines et de toutes les professions.

Même si le rôle du Réserviste a changé au cours des 150 dernières années, il reste aussi important et fondamental; il a pour objet la protection de la liberté, tout en mettant à la disposition des Canadiens les ressources indispensables pour intervenir efficacement lors de crises majeures de type militaire ou humanitaire.

Faudrait-il s'intégrer d'avantage aux us et coutumes de nos contemporains. Il y a sans doute plus d'une façon pour se faire valoir et reconnaître auprès de nos concitoyens. Voilà la mission que devra se donner la famille régimentaire au début de ce prochain cent cinquantiennaire.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Mesdames, Messieurs, votre observateur,

Sheldrake.

## UN APERÇU DES ACTIVITÉS DU 150<sup>e</sup> ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA 7<sup>e</sup> BATTERIE

### Rappel historique

La Loi de la Milice de 1855 autorisa la formation de plusieurs unités de Milice, dont des batteries d'artillerie de campagne. La 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal Battery, fondée le 27 septembre 1855, devint la première unité d'artillerie à Montréal dans le nouveau régime politique. Lors de la Première Guerre Mondiale, cette batterie, commandée par le major A.G.L MacNaughton, prit le nom de 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, et assura la pérennité de l'artillerie à Montréal, sans discontinuité, de 1855 à aujourd'hui. Incorporée au 2<sup>e</sup> Régiment d'Artillerie de Montréal, elle fêtera son 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de fondation en 2005.

Cette borne historique sera, pour l'Artillerie de Montréal, une occasion de sortir de sa modestie habituelle en soulignant sa présence dans la communauté montréalaise et en rappelant, à sa population, les services qu'elle lui a rendus au cours de ce siècle et demi entre autres, par la reconquête de la liberté lors des grands conflits mondiaux, le maintien de la paix dans le monde sous l'égide de l'ONU et la protection de la souveraineté nationale.

### Les activités du cent cinquantième

Sous la coordination d'un comité, présidé par le commandant-adjoint du 2<sup>e</sup> régiment d'artillerie de campagne de Montréal et réunissant, entre autres, le colonel honoraire, le lieutenant-colonel honoraire et le président de l'Association de l'artillerie de Montréal, différentes activités sont en cours de préparation pour souligner cet événement :

1. Le Régiment et l'Association s'associeront aux Amis de la montagne, "Les Tuques bleues", pour le nettoyage du Mont-Royal un samedi de mai 2005. Ce sera un premier pas pour sceller une association permanente avec ceux qui protègent maintenant ce site écologique et

grand parc urbain, que le major A.A. Stevenson a contribué à créer en 1862;

2. La **Présentation du fanion de la 7<sup>e</sup> Batterie** à la Ville de Montréal le 4 juin 2005 pour symboliser notre longue association avec la ville. Le fanion sera hissé au mât de l'hôtel de ville sur le Champ-de-Mars et les autorités municipales recevront les membres et les amis du Régiment pour un vin d'honneur ;

3. Une **Exposition historique** ouverte au grand public, sous les auspices du Musée de l'Artillerie royale canadienne et du Musée Stewart-MacDonald de l'Île Sainte-Hélène ;

4. Des **Journées portes ouvertes** aux communautés montréalaise et québécoise;

5. Une **Campagne médiatique** pour faire connaître le Régiment à sa communauté civile.

Pour culminer avec trois activités sociales de plus grande envergure :

- Le **BAL de l'Artillerie**, le soir du samedi 1<sup>ER</sup> octobre 2005; et
- Un **Rassemblement de la troupe et cérémonie de passation de commandement** sur le Mont-Royal, le lendemain, le dimanche 2 octobre 2005, commémorant la fondation de la 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery RCA ; et
- La **Célébration de la Sainte-Barbe**. Le 3 décembre 2005, dans le cadre des Fêtes du 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, le 2<sup>e</sup> Régiment d'artillerie de Montréal sera l'hôte des tous les artilleurs du Québec.

### La Présidence d'honneur

Le Bal de l'Artillerie de Montréal et le Rassemblement sur le Mont-Royal seront placés sous la présidence d'honneur de la représentante de notre Capitaine-général, L'honorable Lise Thibault, lieutenant-gouverneur de la province de Québec. Y seront aussi conviées les autorités civiles et militaires, dont le maire de Montréal, les maires des arrondissements Ville-Marie et Côte-des-Neiges, le colonel commandant de l'Artillerie

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## AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 7TH FIELD BATTERY

### A brief history of the battery

The Militia Act of 1855 authorized the formation of permanent, paid Militia units, including a number of field artillery batteries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> "Montreal" Battery, formed on September 27, 1855, became the first Montreal artillery unit of the new Militia. During the reorganizations of the artillery at the beginning of World War I, the battery under the command of Major A.G.L. McNaughton, saw its name changed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery. The permanence and continuity of the Montreal artillery, without interruption, since 1855 was thus ensured. Incorporated into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment of Montreal, the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery this year celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding.

This historic milestone will permit the Montreal artillery to renounce its usual modesty to highlight its presence in the Montreal community and to remind the population of Montreal of the services that the unit has rendered over the past century-and-one-half, amongst others, by the defence of liberty during two world wars and Korea, peace-keeping missions throughout the world under the flag of the United Nations, response to domestic emergencies such as the ice storm of 1998, as well as the defence of Canadian sovereignty.

### Activities to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Under the co-ordination of a committee, headed by the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment of Montreal and including amongst others, the honorary colonel, the honorary lieutenant-colonel and the president of the Artillery Association of Montreal, a number of activities are planned to highlight this event:

1. The Unit and the Association will join Les

Amis de la Montagne, "Les Tuques bleues", to clean up Mount Royal during a Saturday in May 2005. This will be the first step in establishing a permanent association with the group that currently protects this ecological site and grand urban park that Major A.A. Stevenson of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal Battery helped to create by his initiative in 1862;

2. The presentation of the standard of 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery to the City of Montreal on June 4, 2005 to symbolize our long association with the City. The standard will be hoisted on the flag mast of the City located on the Champ de Mars (near the location of the former Craig Street Drill Hall, home of the Montreal gunners for 80 years) and the City will receive the members and friends of the unit at a civic reception;
3. The opening of an exhibition of artefacts formerly in the museum at Craig Street and now stored at the Stewart Museum on St-Helen's Island;
4. An Open House organized by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, an annual event to acquaint the citizens of Montreal and of the province of Quebec with the regiment;
5. A media campaign to highlight the history of the Unit.

The program will culminate with three major social events:

- **The Artillery Ball**, to be held at the historic Windsor Hotel the evening of Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005;
- **A change of command parade** to be held on Mount Royal, the following day, Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, commemorating the founding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, RCA; and
- **A St-Barbara's Day Mess Dinner**, to be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 at which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment of Montreal will host all of the Quebec gunners.

The Guest of Honour

The Guest of Honour at the Artillery Ball and at the Change of Command Parade on Mount

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> "MONTREAL" FIELD BATTERY

### 1855 to the present

#### History

Although there has been an organized militia in Canada for more than 300 years, militia artillery units have a more recent origin. Not until 1725 was it reported that militiamen were being trained in gunnery at Quebec, and that a nominal roll of militia artillerymen was maintained. The Loyal Company of Artillery of Saint John, which still exists, was raised in 1793. A Royal Militia Artillery Company was formed in Montreal in 1812, and at least three militia artillery companies and two troops of drivers were embodied during the War of 1812-14. The Royal Quebec Volunteer Artillery, a militia unit for many years, originated in 1830, and it was the guns of the 1st Toronto Artillery Company that blew Mackenzie's rebels out of Montgomery's Tavern on 7 December 1837. In 1838, a General Order dated 28 February constituted the New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery under Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Hayne.

For the most part, these early artillery corps disappeared with the circumstances that stimulated their creation. For our purposes, the artillery of Canada originated with the Militia Act of 1855, which provided for seven field batteries and five foot companies of artillery in a new volunteer active militia. One of the first of the new artillery units was the Montreal Field Battery, which was gazetted on 27 September 1855. By the spring of 1856 the battery had recruited to its full establishment of seventy-five all ranks, and had been equipped with three 6-pounder brass smooth-bore muzzle-loading guns and one 12-pounder howitzer.

Its commander, Major W.F. Coffin, set an exacting standard for his battery. He paraded it for gun drill each Wednesday afternoon, and for foot drill every morning at 5 AM. He demanded and received full attendance at all parades. As a result, the Montreal Field Battery gained an excellent reputation throughout the British Army.

One of the more unusual feats of the battery was climbing Mount Royal with all of its guns

on 10 November 1862 to fire a Royal Salute in celebration of the Prince of Wales' twenty-first birthday. Until this time the mountain had been considered inaccessible to horse-drawn vehicles, and the battery's ascent led to the acquisition of Mount Royal as a public park by the City of Montreal.

On 1 June, 1866, the Fenians crossed the border and the battery was ordered to the frontier near Huntingdon. While it fired no shots at the enemy, the unit became deeply involved in a battle of administrative mismanagement. On 25 May, 1870, armed with 9-pounder smooth bores, the battery was dispatched again to the Huntingdon area to repel the Fenians. Again it returned to Montreal without firing a shot.

One of the more unpleasant duties of the militia was to aid the civil authorities when the local police were unable to maintain public order. The militia units of Montreal were called on to perform more than their fair share of such service. Elections were spirited events in the 1860s, and Montreal mayoralty contests were especially vigorous. On one such occasion the battery was under arms for four days.

In 1872, the Government purchased a number of British 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled wrought-iron guns. This was ideal equipment for the Canadian artillery, for during its service the 9-pounder proved a simple, robust gun, admirably suited to the rough handling of a half trained but enthusiastic force in a rugged, little-developed country. During the next six years, all the field batteries were equipped with this serviceable piece of ordnance.

When numbers were assigned to the militia artillery units in 1895, the corps was officially designated the 3rd "Montreal" Field Battery, Canadian Artillery. There was great excitement in the battery when, in the spring of 1898, it was rearmed with six 12-pounder breech-loading rifled guns, the most up-to-date

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> "MONTREAL" FIELD BATTERY

### 1855 to the present

#### Uniform

The first uniform of the Montreal Field Battery, selected by the officers in 1855, was highly original. The officers' dress consisted of a dark-blue frock-coat like that of the Royal Artillery, with two rows of eight gilt buttons and a plain high blue collar that carried the rank badges. In period photographs, the pointed cuffs appear to be of a different colour from the coat - probably red - and the shoulder scales end in solid metal crescents.

Dark-blue trousers trimmed with a wide scarlet stripe were worn over black boots with steel spurs. Major Coffin, the battery commander, wore riding boots that came well up on the thigh and were fitted with jack spurs.

A crimson net sash was worn over the left shoulder, and the white leather sword-belt, fastened with a square metal belt-plate, was worn about the waist. Sword-slings were of white leather.

The most unusual feature of the uniform was the shaggy black monkey-fur cap. It was similar to a guardsman's bearskin except that the front of the crown projected slightly, and the front of the cap was ornamented with a large bullion tassel suspended by a gold cord.

The dark-blue round forage cap with gold lace band and



black leather dropped peak had a full crown, and was similar to the forage caps of British officers of the Crimean War period. A large embroidered grenade was worn on the front of the forage cap.

The sole period description of the original dress of the men states only that they wore blue uniforms and black monkey-skin busbies.

Officers' winter dress included a round black astrakhan cap and a long double-breasted greatcoat of dark cloth with collar and front opening trim of black astrakhan. The coat was braided across the front with six loops of black cord, each ending in a crow's-foot, and the cuffs were trimmed with an Austrian knot of black braid. The white leather sword-belt was worn over the greatcoat. Knee-length winter boots were worn with jack spurs.

The original uniform of the battery was short-lived, as a standard artillery uniform was adopted in 1863. Thereafter, the general pattern remained much the same until full dress was discarded in 1914.

For full dress, the battery adopted the fur busby of horse-artillery pattern with gilt curb chain, red bag, and a white plume - feathers for officers and hair for other ranks - fixed at the front of the cap. A gold cord cockade was set top centre in the front of the officer's busby, and the gold cap lines were fastened around the neck and looped up on the left breast. Yellow woollen cord appeared on the busbies of other ranks.

The plate illustrates a subaltern officer of the 3rd "Montreal" Field Battery in mounted review order in 1893. The dark-blue cloth tunic had nine buttons in

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-President

Your Association has been working along-side the members of the Regiment to prepare an outstanding celebration. This celebration will be a key social event in Montreal this year. It will truly put the unit on the Montreal forefront. I hope that you will want to join us for this once-in-a lifetime event.

We have crossed the start line and only a few months left before H hour. Come and join us as a volunteer or celebrant.

Ubique.

*(Continued from page 5)*  
-History

field equipment in the British Army. However, subsequent experience in South Africa demonstrated that the recently acquired 12-pounder was totally inadequate for modern warfare. It was replaced by the 18-pounder quick-firing gun, which began to arrive in Canada in 1906 and soon became the standard armament of the Canadian Field Artillery.

In August 1914, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal Field Battery finally went to war. At Valcartier, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sherbrooke batteries were amalgamated under the command of Major A.G.L. McNaughton to form the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery, Canadian Field Artillery (CFA). It was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, CFA, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Divisional Artillery. In November, the unit was redesignated the 7<sup>th</sup> Battery, CFA, when the field-artillery brigade establishment was changed from three six-gun batteries to four four-gun batteries.

Four years later, the battery returned from the First World War with battle-proven professional competence, and resumed militia duties in Montreal. The militia was mobilized again in 1939, and the 7<sup>th</sup> "Montreal" Battery served throughout the war as a unit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, RCA, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division.

In the 1946 reorganization of the militia, the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery remained on the order of battle to preserve the traditions and continuity of service of one of the most venerable units of the Royal Canadian Artillery, the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Montreal" Field Battery.

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-Un aperçu

royale canadienne, ainsi que les Amis de la Montagne.

**Nouvelles de dernières minutes** : La célébration de la Sainte-Barbe sera peut-être rehaussée par la présence de la Gouverneur-général. À être confirmée.

Le Master Gunner St.James's Park, General Sir Alex Harley, qui devait s'arrêter au manège de la Côte-des-Neiges le 24 septembre pour une rencontre et un déjeuner informels avec la troupe a dû annuler pour conflits d'horaire. Mais ce n'est que partie remise; le colonel honoraire déploie son "artillerie lourde" pour convenir d'une autre date.

*(Continued from page 4)*  
-An Overview

Royal will be the representative of our Captain-General, the honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec. Also invited are other civic and military officials, including the Mayor of Montreal, the mayors of the boroughs of Ville-Marie and Côte-des-neiges, the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as well as les Amis de la Montagne.

Late-Breaking News: The guest of honour at the St-Barbara's Day Mess Dinner may be the Governor-General. To be confirmed.

It was hoped that The Master Gunner St-James Park would be able to visit the unit as part of our anniversary celebrations, however, it appears that his busy schedule will not permit a visit this year.

## The Canadian Forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

### A Sentimental Military

By Nic Boisvert

Canadians have developed a deeply sentimental attachment to their military. The outpouring of approval for the dispatch of DART, the Disaster Assistance Response Team, to tsunami-struck Sri Lanka is matched by nodding agreement for calls by politicians and now also foreign policy think tanks to establish a Canadian peacekeeping brigade.

Both those examples prove our attachment is sentimental in the purest sense of the word – based upon emotion rather than reason. Like Turkey Catholics who go to church only at Christmas because it seems the thing to do, we cry to “Send in the military” whenever crises arise or disaster strikes. We have little idea what they should do, other than a sense that disciplined troops are the only ones who can accomplish something useful. When the crisis is over, we blissfully repress any thoughts as to the continuing costs of their upkeep. The reality is that a decade of decline has left us with a military that has little capability to contribute to a crisis requiring real military force, either at home or abroad. But it still makes us feel good about ourselves, and that’s what is important.

Our governments sense this, and have found the Canadian Forces a soft target for penny pinching. Worse, we have let them get away with doing the very least – or in the case of the recent tsunami relief, less than the very least. To a certain extent DART deserves the fawning attention for all the good work accomplished by its 200 members, but it is an embarrassment in comparison to the larger international relief effort. When it finally arrived three weeks after the event, the US Marines were leaving because the initial disaster assistance response was completed and the relief effort was settling into coping with the long-term structural problems of a third-world country afflicted by endemic poverty. That is aid agency work, not a military task, and we don’t have to go overseas to do it. DART could set up in the

emergency ward of any major Canadian hospital and be just as gainfully employed. Think of what a blessing its water purification equipment would have been to the citizens of Walkerton, or for too many of our native reservations.

The answer is not, as suggested in government press leaks, to expand DART to include also elements of CIDA, DFAIT and the RCMP. A bigger bowl of alphabet soup will not result in a better military tool, just more layers of unwieldy bureaucracy requiring more hired Antonovs to transport it. What it will improve is the unit’s ability to drain precious funds from real military capability. It might be progress if it pushes the government to take action on the strategic airlift file it has been ignoring for the last half-dozen years. Or better yet, to consider the acquisition of a dedicated, purpose-built amphibious support vessel (that is, don’t try to cram it into the Navy’s Joint Support Ship project, as the anticipated demand will guarantee those ships not being available for the Navy’s vital role of at-sea replenishment).

What we really need if we are to return our Forces to military credibility is to suspend our sentiment and focus on appearing more and more capable. A Canadian brigade, self-deployable with integrated sea and air elements giving it real punch, could make a truly independent contribution to any number of real and projected scenarios. The 5000 troops identified for the proposed peacekeeping brigade equate to roughly the number of bodies required to flesh out our 4000 infantry in their existing under-strength battalions. But this talk comes just as the Army has abandoned the brigade as a fighting formation because it is so far behind in real military hardware. Candid assessments by the military admit it will take at least five years and probably \$4 billion to rebuild, which incidentally look very much like the figures cited by Senator Colin Kenny’s

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*-A Sentimental Military*

defence committee a couple of years ago. Some scoffed at it then, but what does the government offer now? Pre-budget leaks suggest the military will get about that amount of new funding, but stretched over 10 years.

A 10-year phased-in renewal with only modest funding is proof that our government is simply not serious about military renewal. Continued skimping on that scale means we are headed for the worst of all possible worlds. The need to replace so many obsolete types of fighting vehicles, ships and aircraft is so immediate that we are entering a decade that will make the rust-out of the 1980s look like a warm-up act. Our sentimental attachment to the Army means it will suck most of the available funding from the other services, and even then we will still be unable to send abroad brigade-level forces worthy of an independent command. Our Navy has enjoyed great recent success in commanding Coalition forces abroad, but instead of sending off the task group that earned us those commands, we might be able to send a single frigate to do the bidding of US commanders, along with all of the other fourth or fifth tier naval forces that prefer at present to look to Canada for leadership. The Air Force's already marginal capacity to patrol our own skies will erode further, so that those Canadian cities fortunate enough to be located near the border will have to seek security from the nearby string of United States Air Force bases. For those not so unfortunate, there will always be the annual visit of the Snowbirds, their ancient but cute Tudor jets not getting any cheaper to maintain.

It is getting a little tedious repeating the obvious, but it is clear that the message has not sunk in past Canadians' surface level of sentiment. As Finance Minister, Paul Martin presided over the gutting of the Canadian Forces to wrestle the federal budget under control. Now, as an activist Prime Minister in good times with massive surpluses, he has an obligation to re-invest in the expeditious return of the Canadian Forces to fighting form. Sentiment might fool the home constituencies, but it doesn't cut it before an international audience, who are looking to the CF as the necessary centerpiece for Canada's return to

relevance in the world. That return to the glory days of Canadian diplomacy is increasingly doubtful. More likely we will have something equally familiar to be sentimental about – Paul Martin's replay of the Trudeau rust-out.

(Nic Boisvert is a former public servant with an interest in defence. He writes on behalf of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Free use may be made of this piece so long as reference is made to CCS21 and its Web site – [www.ccs21.org](http://www.ccs21.org).)

*(Continued from page 6)*  
*-Uniform*

front and two behind at the waist; the front was edged in scarlet cloth. The coat was split behind to the waist with a blue flap on the back of each skirt; the skirt opening was edged with scarlet cloth. Each flap was edged with gold cord and ornamented with three gilt buttons.

The scarlet collar was edged with gold lace, and trimmed around the base with gold cord; embroidered grenades in frosted silver were set at each side of the collar opening. The blue cuffs were trimmed with an Austrian knot of gold cord and laced according to rank. The shoulder-straps were edged with gold cord with rank badges embroidered in silver. In 1893, the shoulder-straps of militia artillery officers were ordered to be of red cloth.

Dark-blue trousers with a wide scarlet stripe down the outside seam were worn over black Wellington boots fitted with steel spurs; pantaloons were worn with black butcher boots and steel jack spurs. As can be seen in the plate, the officers of the battery wore a white leather pouch belt and sword-belt with sword slings of white leather, and a plain black sabretache with gilt badge and white slings.

The dress of the NCOs and gunners was like that of the officers except that the collar and cuffs were edged with yellow cord, and the backs of the skirts were without flaps. In 1883, the gunners discarded the black leather leggings issued to field batteries and replaced them at their own expense with black riding boots and pantaloons.

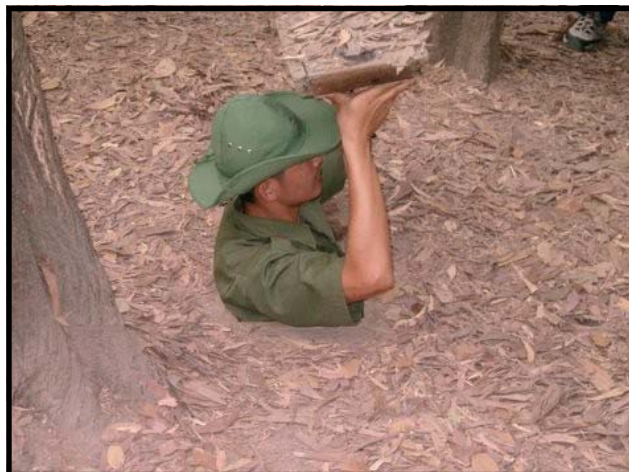
Other ranks carried swords with steel scabbards, and white leather sword-knots and slings. The white waist-belt was fastened by a gilt belt-plate ornamented with the battery badge; the white pouch belt held a black leather pouch.

## Why They Lost The War

Your Observer recently travelled to Vietnam and Cambodia and, among other things, spent some time visiting military sites and talking with soldiers. A detailed log should follow but “en attendant” here are some photos that partly explained why our friends next door lost the war.

Bombs were being dropped on the wrong targets. The bomb craters are still there, but the Vietnamese Army (yes this is their real name) Command was located deep under the mountain. And was never troubled by all the bombs dropped kilometres away.

The photos of the disappearing soldier were taken in CuChi. It took exactly 10 seconds for this soldier to vanish from our sight. CuChi is located about 70 km West North West of Ho Chi Min City. The CuChi tunnels were part of a network of 250 km of tunnels and underground chambers constructed over a period of 50 years. It was originally designed to fight the French Forces in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. And then the American. CuChi is particularly interesting because, unknowingly of course, the American build an important military base right on top of the tunnels. Once the base became operational it took them 8 months to figure out why a few soldiers were being killed in their sleep every night.



Disappearing act 1



Disappearing act 2



Bombing craters



Disappearing act 3

# Nos personnalités People in the News



C Bty guys arriving in LZ in Tora Boro



2 C Bty guys on Op Anaconda



B Company walking out to take over  
Perimeter security in Kandahar



Hand over from US Army to Canadians

**L'Association de l'Artillerie de Montréal**  
**Artillery Association of Montreal**

C.P. 40557, 2963 boul. Saint-Charles  
 Kirkland, Qc  
 H9H 5G8

Président	Maj. C. de Kovachich
Vice-Président	Maj. D. Dussault
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Director	LCol S.J. Goldberg
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Director	Col T.K. Stafford

## Warning Order!

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 7<sup>th</sup> Battery

Please note that the Regiment is planning to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the 7<sup>th</sup> field battery in Montreal on the week-end of the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2005. Mark this date in your calendar as a must attend event. You will be kept informed of the schedule of events and how you can be involved in this activity over the course of the year. Keep those eyes peeled and be ready to observe and pass it on to your friends.

### Adhésion à l'Association de l'Artillerie de Montréal

Depuis plus de 50 ans l'Association maintient un lien entre le Régiment et ses anciens membres ainsi qu'avec d'autres personnes intéressées à l'artillerie.

Il nous permet de soutenir le 2<sup>e</sup> Régiment d'artillerie de campagne ainsi que de maintenir un lien avec les anciens combattants à l'hôpital de Ste-Anne, de se garder branché par le biais de notre journal, le Sheldrake's Log, et d'assister à nos colloques et d'autres activités du Régiment.

Devenir membre de l'Association est facile, mais il revient aux membres actuels de contacter les anciens camarades et toute autre personne qui pourraient être intéressés à s'inscrire.

Veillez transmettre le nom ainsi que l'adresse de votre candidat à :

L'Association de l'artillerie de Montréal  
 CP 40557,  
 2963 boul. St-Charles,  
 Kirkland QC H9H 5G8  
 a/s Adhésion  
 ou par le courriel à :  
 <jamesldodd@videotron.ca>

Il nous fera plaisir de transmettre une demande d'adhésion accompagnée d'une lettre explicative.

### Membership in the Artillery Association of Montreal

For more than fifty years the Association has been providing a link to the Montreal gunners or former members of the Montreal regiments and others interested in the artillery.

As well as supporting the 2 Field Regt. it keeps in touch with veterans in Ste-Anne's Hospital and keeps everyone "on net" through Sheldrake's Log, a lecture series and invitations to regimental events.

Joining the association is simple but it depends on existing members to make sure that their old comrades and other interested parties are presently signed up.

Just send the name and address of your referral to:

Artillery Association of Montreal  
 P.O. Box 40557,  
 2963 St-Charles Blvd,  
 Kirkland QC H9H 5G8  
 Attn. Membership  
 or e-mail to:  
 <jamesldodd@videotron.ca>

We will send a membership application form and an explanatory letter to encourage enrollment.