



Please note that our 14 October GCC meeting will be held at the Wardroom, H.M.C.S. Prevost

- *Meet and greet 11:15 a.m.*
- *Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m.*
- *Speaker 12:00 p.m.*

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Meet and Greet: 11:15 hrs *Wardroom, HMCS Prevost*, Wednesday, 14 October 2015
11:30 hrs lunch service begins (*Please bring a guest*)

Meeting Start Time: 12:00 hrs meeting starts ****You must register through EVENTBRITE**** see below

Speaker: Speakers: **Henry Klausnitzer CD, CEM**
David O'Brien
(see page 2 for details)



Lunch Menu:



Eventbrite Registration

Members and Guests are **to pre - register and pay for lunch through the Eventbrite link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/garrison-community-council-meeting-october-14-2015-tickets-18638025837> Please be sure to bring your ticket with you to the meeting.

The lunch available will be Soup and Salad, Soup and Sandwich, or a Hot Entrée



Election Writ Restrictions

Please note that ability of military personnel to make public announcements has been somewhat restrained now that the writ for the election has dropped. This has an impact on our meeting speakers for September and October as well as Unit articles for our Newsletter.

Speakers: 14 October GCC Meeting at HMCS Prevost

Speaker: Henry Klausnitzer CD, CEM

Henry is the Manager of the Emergency Operations and Training Centre for the City of London; Corporate Security and Emergency Management Division and has been with the City for the past 10 years. He is a graduate of the Emergency Preparedness College in Ottawa, and is a Certified Emergency Manager with the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Henry has a military back ground with the Canadian Army and has served for the past 33 years, regular 2 PPCLI, 2nd and 3rd Bn The RCR, RHQ & Battle School and in the reserve force RHFC, 4RCR. Henry is presently the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 4th Bn The RCR and he will be retiring next year in August 2016.

Speaker: David O'Brien

David O'Brien is the Division Manager, Corporate Security and Emergency Management for the City of London. He is responsible for the Municipal and Corporate Emergency Management Program as well as Corporate Security, Fire Safety and the Downtown Camera Program within the Corporation of the City of London.

Previous to this David was employed as a Threat Analyst with the Ontario Provincial Police. His responsibilities included the assessment and management of many different types of violent individuals. David has provided expert evidence on numerous occasions in the area of threat assessment and management.

David is a graduate of the University of Windsor and resides in London with his family.

GCC's September Meeting Speaker

Speaker: Mr. Gary Vienneau presented on the Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC)

The IPSC supports ill and injured members, veterans, their families, and the families of the deceased. They consist of a Services Section, Support Platoon and Partner Organizations.



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Message from the GCC President

I am sure that you too found that the Summer has flown past much too fast and that it is hard to accept that Fall is upon us.

Your Executive and Board have been busy putting the finishing touches on the GCC programs for the current year. The September meeting was well attended and many of us learned a great deal about the vital work and services provided by the IPSC at Wolseley Barracks. Our sincere thanks to Gary Vienneau for his informative presentation as well as his personally passionate commitment to provide these services to the Canadian Forces personnel and their dependants.

Our thanks also to all who pre-registered using Evenbrite for the September meeting. Apologies to those who did not receive what had been ordered. Effort has been made to ensure that members and guests preordering will receive the items ordered. Those not preordering will have to gamble on there being some extras brought by the caterer. We will do our best to accommodate.

Applications for the Student Bursary Program have been distributed to all London and area units of 31 CBG and HMCS Prevost. The selection committee will deliberate during October on the applications received and make their recommendations to Board of Directors in time to be announced at our November meeting.

Recently several of the Executive had the opportunity to visit and assess the new Combined Mess Facility in Beaver Hall at Wolseley Barracks. We certainly recognize and understand the need for the changes and were most favourably impressed with the renovations and potential flexibilities the new facilities should be able to support.

In assessing the various areas now available, it was decided that the Junior Ranks Mess Facility provided the necessary space and accommodation necessary for our GCC meetings. We look forward to holding our November meeting in the Junior Ranks Mess. Unfortunately the facility is not available for our October meeting because of a licensing issue.

It is certainly our hope that you will be joining us at the October 14th meeting in the Wardroom at HMCS Prevost when Dave O'Brien and Henry Klausnitzer will explain the operation and functions of the City of London Emergency Services Control and Training Centre. Members of the GCC will have an opportunity to tour this facility in Byron on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. Note: Sign up of members for this tour must be done at the Oct 14th meeting if you have not already done so.

We especially are looking forward to recognizing one of our own members as the Honoured Veteran. Join us to add your congratulations and recognition of outstanding service to Canada by Phil Spencer, OMM, SBSStJ, CD (BrigGen. Ret'd).

Advance Notice: As a result of Remembrance Day falling on our usual meeting day, our November meeting will be held on November 18.

We look forward to your attendance at our October 14th meeting and, as usual, you are encouraged to bring a friend who can join you in supporting the Canadian Forces.

Cheers,
Jack



Honoured Veteran, Month of October:
Brigadier General Philip Spencer, OMM, SBStJ, CD



Brigadier General Philip Spencer, OMM, SBStJ, CD

Brigadier General (BGen ret'd) Philip Spencer served 36 years in the Canadian Forces. His service includes overseas postings to the U.K., Germany (3NATO tours), Czechoslovakia and Cyprus where he commanded 1RCR Battalion Group (1974-1975). He was Commander of CFB London and The RCR Home Station from August 1980 to July 1983.

In Czechoslovakia (1978-1980) he was the Canadian Military Attache in Prague, providing useful Service intelligence not only on Czechoslovakia but also on other satellite countries and the USSR.

The Royal Canadian Regiment celebrated its Centennial Year in 1983 which was highlighted by the visit of its Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. Prince Philip, who attended a Trooping of the Colour (5 regimental colours) ceremony on July 1 at J. W. Little Memorial Stadium at U.W.O. BGen Spencer commanded the parade which involved all 4 battalions of the Regiment and 3 Airborne Commando (RCR).

BGen Spencer's last 2 postings were as Chief of Staff, Canadian Forces Europe based in Lahr, Germany (1983-1986) and Director General Land Doctrine and Operations at NDHQ in Ottawa (1986-1990).

BGen Spencer is invested as Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM) and as Serving Brother of the Order of St. John (SBStJ)



In retirement, BGen Spencer's many volunteer contributions to the community include serving as Board Chair of the The Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) Museum for 6 years.

Officer of Order of Military Merit (OMM)



31 Canadian Brigade Group: Commander's Column

An informal view of the Brigade's activities.

This short article, normally penned by a member of the Brigade staff, will offer a casual look at 31 CBG. Written with an intent to avoid heavy use of military lexicon, acronyms and abbreviations, the Commander's Column supports information sharing to groups with diverse backgrounds and will, hopefully, offer a less formal view of the Brigade overall, or the examination of specific issues or events. I welcome suggestion of topics you would like to see covered in these columns.

*K.S. Bertoia
Colonel
Comd 31 CBG*



31 CBG Infantry: Historical Connections to the First World War

In the previous Commander's Column we examined the perpetuations held by 31 CBG units of Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) units of the First World War. The six infantry regiments in the brigade perpetuate, between them, a total of 25 CEF units. Of these 25, six were battlefield units (four infantry battalions and two machine gun battalions). The remaining 19 units were battalions raised in Canada that were absorbed into the Canadian Corps' reinforcement system.

Perpetuations of CEF units are also held by other units of 31 CBG.

1st Hussars. From the regiment's lineage document published by the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH), the 1st Hussars, connections to the battlefields of 1914-1918 comes from the evolution of the 7th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles to become the Canadian Light Horse:

“The 1st Hussars recruited 'A' Squadron of the '7th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF', which was authorized on 7 November 1914. It embarked for Great Britain on 9 June 1915. This squadron was re-designated:

- *'2nd Canadian Divisional Cavalry Squadron, CEF' on 30 March 1915;*
- *'First Canadian Hussars (Special Service Squadron), CEF' on 31 January 1916;*
- *'B Squadron, Canadian Corps Cavalry Regiment, CEF' on 12 May 1916; and*
- *'B Squadron, Canadian Light Horse, CEF' on 21 February 1917.*

It disembarked in France on 17 September 1915, where it fought in France and Flanders as part of the Canadian Corps until the end of the war. The squadron was disbanded on 6 November 1920.”

11th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA. Originally the “1st Brigade of Artillery” (1887) and renamed in 1913 to the “1st (Howitzer) Brigade, CFA,” 11th Field Regiment was renamed again after the First World War. In 1920, this regiment became the “11th Brigade, CFA,” a title which matched its new perpetuation of the CEF unit “11th Brigade, CFA, CEF.”

From the DHH lineage document for 11th Field Regiment, we find the following synopsis of this perpetuated unit:

“The 11th Brigade was mobilized in England as the '11th (Howitzer) Brigade, CFA, CEF' on 1 February 1916. It disembarked in France on 16 July 1916, where it provided field artillery support as part of 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery in France and Flanders, until its absorption by the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery in mid-March 1917. The brigade was disbanded on 23 October 1920.”

31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgin's). 31 CER's perpetuation of the “91st Battalion, CEF,” dates back to when this regiment was Infantry. As an infantry regiment of the Canadian Militia, it was awarded the rights of perpetuation for the 91st Battalion, a unit that was recruited in the County of Elgin and was mobilized at St. Thomas, Ontario. The 91st Battalion sailed from Canada on 29 June, 1916, and, shortly after arriving in England, was broken up for reinforcements, the soldiers being transferred to a number of Reserve Battalions from which they would join drafts of men for front line units in France and Flanders.

When we consider the First World War, many people seldom look further than the lists of battle honours held by regiments. Often, when closer examination takes place, the focus is commonly placed

on one of two aspects, either the battlefield actions of perpetuated fighting units of the CEF, or the attestation and experiences of “home town heroes.”

Many researchers and authors have tended to avoid examination of the complexities of perpetuation, which has helped to keep the importance of this aspect of the history of Canadian Army units in the shadows. When this avoidance approach occurs, the history of a home town hero may even skip mentioning of the unit the soldier fought with on the field of battle, perhaps because the author cannot find an easily described way to connect that unit back to the local area. In fact, the soldier’s battlefield unit it may even be perpetuated by a regiment on the other side of the country, making the drawing of easily acknowledged connections even more challenging.

When a researcher focusses on battle honours, a perpetuated fighting unit and all its soldiers are readily connected to a perpetuating modern unit, while the contributing role of the many units those soldiers may have come from as reinforcements can be often overlooked. As a further complexity, there are those battle honours awarded to regiments of the Canadian Militia which represent not discrete unit actions in battle, but the presence of 250 or more soldiers from their perpetuated units that provided reinforcements, often to multiple participating fighting units.

The lists of battle honours held by units appear to be a simple and direct link to the battlefields of the First World War. But these can be complicated by the intertwined roles of the fighting units and the perpetuated units broken up for reinforcements. These battle honour lists are deserving of even closer examination once it is realized that some named honours represent the actions of two or more units in battle, the result of amalgamations over the years which formed our current units and combined perpetuated list of honours.

We also find that the stories of individual soldiers can be as varied and complex as those of the units they served with. Other than the soldiers of the first Canadian contingent, nearly every soldier who fought in France and Flanders with the CEF was a reinforcement. These soldiers each belonged to with the unit they enlisted with in Canada, and later joined a fighting unit of the Canadian Corps (perhaps passing through a variety of Reserve Battalions or other static units along the way). As a result, each of these soldiers should be remembered and honoured by two modern regiments, the unit now perpetuating his unit of enlistment, and the unit now perpetuating his battlefield unit. Neither “claim” to that soldier’s history should take precedence over the other; and each such soldier deserves to have both sides of his story told.

To help visualize the interwoven legacies that come from the overseas battalions of the First World War, the soldiers of the 33rd Canadian Infantry Battalion provide an example. Recruited and raised at London, Ontario, the 33rd Battalion was authorized on 7 November, 1914, and sailed for England on 1 April, 1916. The sailing list for this unit contains 1499 officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers. Of these, the great majority would have joined units in France and Flanders, and we can identify 399 casualties from this sailing list.

It is in the examination of the 399 casualties and the list of units they were serving with at the time of their death (or the injuries, wounds, or sickness that led to their death) that we start to see how many units have connection to the soldiers of the 33rd Battalion. The casualties of the 33rd Battalion are identified as soldiers of 40 different units spread across the Canadian Corps (plus one with the Royal Flying Corps). Among these we find the following links with 31 CBG units:

- 92 with the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion (perpetuated by The RCR),
- 28 with the 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion (perpetuated by the RHLI),
- 16 with the 33rd Canadian Infantry Battalion (perpetuated by The RCR), these would be soldiers who died while still in Canada or the United Kingdom,
- 7 with the 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion (perpetuated by the E&K Scot),
- 4 with the 19th Canadian Infantry Battalion (perpetuated by A&SH of C).
- 1 with the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps (perpetuated by A&SH of C).



Each battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force has a similarly complex legacy connecting the trenches of the Great War to the units and communities of the modern Canadian Army. We best serve the memory of these soldiers when we remember, and recognize, that they, like many modern soldiers, often have affiliations to multiple units and regiments.



4RCR Update

4RCR has returned from Ex STALWART GUARDIAN in CFB Petawawa in late August and has reconstituted in London. 4 RCR has a busy training schedule with Ex ROYAL VALOUR occurring in Cedar Springs and London on 17-21 September. Ex ROYAL VALOUR is the battalion's exercise that enables the soldiers to complete all individual battle task standards training required each year. On the weekend of 25-27 September, Sierra Company will train alongside the Navy in Port Stanley on Ex ERIE VALOUR. The soldiers will conduct amphibious training and force protection training.

In addition to training, 4 RCR is busy supporting numerous events and tasks throughout the region, including the Western Fair.



Significant Military Dates- October

The list of significant military dates each month serves as background for the GCC's Honouring Veterans Initiative. The list is not conclusive and is for reference only.

Oct 1, 1944	WWII	The start of the Scheldt campaign as the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division crosses the Antwerp Canal and the 3rd Canadian Division crosses the Leopold Canal.
Oct 2, 1918	WWI	The battle for Cambrai is fought on the Western Front (02-08 Oct). Lieutenant-Colonel Peck was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courageous leadership during the fighting for the Drocourt-Quéant Line, near Cagnicourt in France.
Oct 4, 1951	Korean War	The 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade takes part in Operation Commando. This operation established the line held by the 1st Commonwealth Division during the remainder of the fighting in Korea.
Oct 5, 1813	War of 1812-14	Battle of Moravian Town between American and British forces: aboriginal leader Tecumseh is killed.
Oct 5, 1944	WWII	Pilots from No.401 Squadron, RCAF, destroy a German Me-262, becoming the first jet-propelled aircraft shot down by the Royal Air Force or the Royal Canadian Air Force.
Oct 8, 2001	Afghanistan War	Minister of Defence Art Eggleton announces the details of Canada's contribution to the campaign against terrorism. Canada's initial commitment involved 2000 personnel from the Canadian Forces and included the deployment of ships, aircraft and a small contingent of soldiers. It is the biggest mobilization of the armed forces since the Korean War.
Oct 11, 1899	Boer War	The South African War (or Boer War) begins.
Oct 13, 1812	War of 1812-14	Battle of Queenston Heights between British and American troops. Major-General Sir Isaac Brock is killed in action.
Oct 13, 1937	Spanish Civil War	The Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion is first introduced into combat at Fuentes de Ebro, Spain.
Oct 25, 1845	Crimean War	For his actions at the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, Lieutenant Alexander Dunn of the 11th Hussars earns himself the Victoria Cross. He is the first Canadian to win the VC.
Oct 26, 1917	WWI	The battle of Passchendaele begins. Captain Christopher O'Kelly of the 52nd Battalion, with his men, advanced about one kilometre into the enemy positions near Passchendaele, Belgium and captured six "pillbox" fortifications, ten machine guns and over 100 prisoners. For his actions Captain O'Kelly earned the Victoria Cross.
Oct 28, 1955	Cold War	HMCS St. Laurent (second of name) is commissioned as the first warship of all-Canadian design and construction.

October Events:

1. Oct 3 2015, Veterans Memorial Parkway Tree Planting,
Location HQ: Starlim, Tartan Drive & VMP



See attached Web Site:

[Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program - London Ontario](#)

2. OCT 2 and 3 2015 Fanshawe 1812 event
hosted by the Royal Scots Grenadier Company will be hosting the Fanshawe 1812 event
at the Fanshawe Pioneer Village.



See attached Web Sites: www.royal-scots.com & www.royalscotsgrenadiers.com

3. RLMI Upcoming Events Location for meetings: Byron-Springbank Branch 533 Royal Canadian Legion, Lower Level, 1276 Commissioners Road, West
 - Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Meet & greet: 1900hrs; Speaker: 1930hrs **Speaker: WO Chuck Graham**
Topic: Combat in Afghanistan RLMI Website: www.rlmi.ca

4. **Oct 21, 2015 - GCC Members:** Tour the Emergency Operations and Training Centre located at Firehall # 12 in Byron on Wednesday Evening, October 21, at 19:00 hours [7:00 pm].

GCC Meeting Dates- 2015

Program planning for the remainder of 2015 is underway. Suggestions from members are always welcome. Please contact any member of the executive with ideas. Below are the remaining dates for the Fall of 2015.

- 14 October, HMCS Prevost: Dave O'Brien and Henry Klausnitzer, "London Emergency Operations and Training Centre"
- 18 November, WBOM: AGM, Chief Kobarda, London Fire Services



GCC EXECUTIVE

President: Jack Scott

Treasurer: Lynn Coates

1st Vice President: Gerry Treble

3rd Vice President: Doug Acton

Past President: Jan Delaney

Secretary: Keith Roden

2nd Vice President: Geoff Hutton

Garrison Advisor: LCol Dan McLean

Next Meeting: *October 14 at the Wardroom, HMCS Prevost with lunch service beginning at 11:30 a.m., and speaker at 12:00 p.m. NOTE: Eventbrite Registration required.*

Dave O'Brien and Henry Klausnitzer will be our speakers

