

The 19th



Vol. I No. 8 19th ALBERTA DRAGOONS — CONNAUGHT ARMOURY, EDMONTON

April, 1958



The junior school currently being held at the Dragoons' training wing in the 109th Street Armoury, is being conducted by the 23rd Militia Group. Subjects are: military law, map using, NCO duties and the study of such weapons as the rifle, pistol, sten gun and light machine gun. The group pictured above are studying the pistol. Chief instructor is Lieut. P. K. Huffman of the 19th, who is being assisted by Second Lieut. B. Spellman.

TRAINING

Emphasis in the training programme is being placed on local defence. During the winter months several groups have been studying the various phases. One group has been taking first aid at Connaught Armouries, another studying traffic control at the Prince of Wales Armouries. Currently, instruction in local defence is being given by the I cadre on Mondays at Connaught Armouries, traffic control is being studied at the Prince of Wales Armouries on Mondays and Wednesdays and every other Sunday. At the 109th Street Armoury recruits parade on Monday and Wednesday and those attending the junior NCO school being conducted by P. K. Huffman, parade all day on Saturdays.

Major E. F. Hill, unit Training Officer, has conducted several showings of films on atomic warfare and on January 27th arranged for Lt.-Col. J. Cluny to give a lecture on the fundamental principles of nuclear atomic energy.

THE CADETS

The 19th Alberta Dragoons Cadet Corps is in the midst of a busy training programme under the direction of Capt. H. Ulmer, Chief Instructor, and Capt. R. G. Wheatley, cadet training officer, and Lt. K. G. Taylor.

Attendance at parades in the Cadet Corps has doubled since October. Cadets are receiving instruction in voice procedure to prepare them for wireless exercises using the No. 6 set.

The Cadet Corps has been allotted approximately eight vacancies for selected cadets to attend the cadets' trades training courses at Vernon, B. C., for seven weeks during July and August.

Recent promotions include Cadet Gordon Tandrup to sergeant; Cpl. J. G. Novosad to WO2, and Cadet Pattison to sergeant. The Cadet Corps still has room for new members, and boys between the ages of 13 and 18 may apply at Connaught Armouries on Tuesdays at 1930 hours.

ALLIED REGIMENT TO AMALGAMATE

The commanding officer of our unit, Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron, recently received a letter from 3rd The King's Own Hussars in Britain, informing us that the "3rd Hussars" is due to amalgamate towards the end of this year with the 7th Hussars.

The letter goes on to say, "We would like to invite any of you who may be our way during the year to come and look us up, and we shall be delighted to see you."

COMING EVENTS

April 25th — Combined Mess Dinner "Dragoons" and KOCR's,

April 26th — Red Chevrons entertain 19th Alberta Dragoons Association, King Edward Hotel.

April 27th — Range Practice at Winterburn.

May 4th — Range Practice at Winterburn.

May 10th — Dragoon Ball

May 25th — GOC's inspection.

June 15 to 21 — Summer Camp at Wainwright.

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Published in the interests of the 19th Alberta Dragoons CA (M) to promote fellowship and understanding among all ranks.

This publication is issued under the authority of Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron Commanding Officer, 19th Alberta Dragoons.

The contents of this publication have been edited and authorized by Capt. C. C. Howard.

Editor.....Capt. C. C. Howard
Assoc. Editor.....Maj. V. H. Kupchenko

THE C.O. REPORTS

During this year that I have been with the 19th Alberta Dragoons and have had the opportunity to meet you all from Whitehorse to Wetaskiwin, I have come to realize what a fine thing it is to wear the 19th flashes on my shoulder and I have become as proud as any of you of the traditions and customs of the 19th. What was originally "your" Regiment has now become "my" Regiment too.

The past training year has been as successful as we could hope for in view of the various changes that occurred during the year. Trades training and certain aspects of regimental training had to take second place to the special courses and other commitments that were given to us. However we achieved a great deal. It now remains for us to make the best possible showing at Summer Camp and I hope that everyone of you who can get away for the week, will be with us at Wainwright in June.

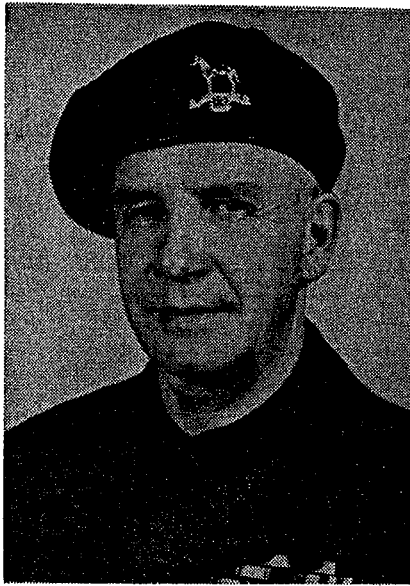
A limited amount of training will continue throughout the summer and there will be week-end exercises and schemes for all who can attend.

Next year promises to be one of the most interesting ones ever — you will be hearing all the details shortly.

If everyone of us can bring in one new recruit to the Regiment in the fall, when our new training season starts, we will be all set for the most successful training year in the history of the Regiment. Will you do your share?

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY

Regimental Sergeant-Major Malcolm Jack was Santa's assistant as gifts were distributed to over 100 children of the officers and men of the regiment when Santa visited them on Sunday, December 15th, at Connaught Armouries.



About 50 officers and sergeants of the 19th Alberta Dragoons turned out on Friday, March 28th, at Connaught Armouries to a farewell dinner given by the sergeants for MQMS J. C. "Sid" Slater.

WO2 Slater, who is retiring from Militia service, started his soldiering in 1906 at Lloydminster when he joined the cadet corps. In August, 1914, he joined the 101st Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers at Edmonton, arriving in France the following February where he transferred to the 1st Canadian Field Ambulance. He was wounded once as well as being gassed and was twice commended for bravery. In May, 1919, he was discharged with the rank of corporal.

In June, 1940, he joined the Fusiliers going from them to the South Alberta Regiment. Here he was introduced to the tank and as a mechanical sergeant took his training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and in 1944 went into action in France. He was wounded on August 18th and sent back to England. After being hospitalized and serving as an instructor he returned to Canada in 1945 receiving his discharge in October.

He joined the Dragoons in 1946 and has been the key man in keeping the armoured cars operating.

During the evening Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron, commanding officer of the 19th, presented Sergeant-Major Slater with a bronze horse, emblematic of the 19th Alberta Dragoons. The horse was suitably engraved and presented with the good wishes of all ranks.

Col. Cameron to Major Browne, "I wish they wouldn't put such big words in my speeches. I like to know what in hell I'm talking about."

OFFICERS TAKE NEW POSTS

At a meeting of the officers in November, called by Lieut.-Col. D. F. Cameron, commanding officer, several changes were announced. Major R. A. Cawsey, who commands "D" Squadron at Wetaskiwin, is now second in command of the regiment. Since business requires Major Cawsey's presence in Wetaskiwin, Capt. A. B. Browne (now Major) acts as his assistant at headquarters in Edmonton.

Major E. A. Michon has been transferred to 23rd Militia Group. Capt. E. F. Hill (now Major) replaces Major Michon as unit training officer.

Major A. G. Lynch-Staunton is in charge of general military training while Lieut. R. G. Wheatley and 2/nd Lieut. K. F. Tandrup are responsible for cadet training.

Major D. J. Knoll and Major V. H. Kupchenko have retired to the supplementary reserve.

PASSING OUT PARADE

Major Keating of the 25th Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, was the Inspecting Officer at a Passing Out Parade for recruits from various units of the 23rd Militia Group that took place at the 109th Street Armouries on Wednesday, April 2nd. After the inspection Major Keating congratulated the men on their achievement and wished them well in their future militia training.

The recruit course was conducted by Lieut. A. T. Dean of the 19th, who acted as chief instructor. Lieut. Dean was assisted by WO2 P. B. Moore, Dragoons and Sgt. T. H. Dakers of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

19th's ARMY SHOW

The 19th Alberta Dragoons' Army Show sponsored by the Dragoons Association and being administered and organized by members of the regiment, will be held in the Jubilee Auditorium on October 18th.

The show is based on variety acts held together by the story of a man who joined the army and what subsequently happened to him.

Anyone having an act or who is a performer, please contact Lieut. D. Coinner at 44643 (res.) or 44025 (bus). Anyone wishing to help back stage contact S/Sgt. W. D. Smith at 36130 (res.) or 293683 (bus). For help out front or on traffic control, contact RSM M. Jack 553823 (res.) or 46411 (bus). More men are needed to make up a balance in the acts. Auditions and rehearsals are being held at Connaught Armouries Tuesday and Friday nights at 8:30.



DRAGOONS' FORMAL BALL

The commanding officer and officers of the 19th were hosts at a formal Valentine's Ball in Connaught Armouries, Saturday evening, February 7th, when a number of distinguished guests were present. Seated from left are: George Prudham, Mrs. D. F. Cameron and Mrs. Prudham. Standing are Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron, commanding officer, and Major Donald Ramsey.

SERGEANT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

The Sergeant's Mess annual New Year's Eve Ball was held in the Sergeant's Mess on January 31st, in the upper hall of Connaught Armouries. About one hundred couples came out to celebrate the advent of the New Year.

WO2 R. D. McLaughlin, Mess President, with Mrs. McLaughlin, Sergeant-Major M. Jack and Mrs. Jack, received.

OFFICERS' LADIES' NIGHT

The Officers' annual Ladies' Night was held in Connaught Armouries on December 7th, when Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron and officers of the regiment played host to about 46 couples.

Guest speaker was Alan MacDonald, city solicitor.

The toast to the regiment was made by Major V. H. Kupchenko, Lieut. P. K. Huffman replying. The ladies were toasted by Capt. A. B. Browne, with Mrs. R. A. Cawsey, Wetaskiwin, replying. The commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. D. F. Cameron, welcomed the guests on behalf of the officers of the regiment. Head table guests included Mrs. Alan MacDonald; Mrs. D. F. Cameron; Brigadier Fred Jenner, commanding officer of 23rd Militia Group and Mrs. Jenner; Mrs. E. S. Bryant, and a former CO of the unit, Lt.-Col. E. S. Bryant.

Capt. Meadows was presented with the CD medal during the evening by Brigadier Jenner.

The Dragoons Rifle team wound up the season's activities with a shoot against the RCMP team at Connaught Armouries. Although the team's standing was not high, members showed considerable improvement during the past season. Members were: Lt. H. R. Littke, team captain; Capt. R. A. Hicks; Lt. K. G. Taylor; 2/Lt. K. E. Tandrup; 2/Lt. A. B. Mottershead; RSM M. F. Jack; Troopers R. E. Michon and K. I. Polley.

19th ALBERTA DRAGOONS EVENTS

The Commanding Officer and Officers of the 19th Alberta Dragoons held their annual mess dinner in the upper hall of Connaught Armouries on March 1st. About 60 officers and their guests were in attendance for the twentieth annual dinner since the regiment's re-organization 12 years ago on April 1st, 1946.

Second Lieutenant A. B. Mottershead proposed the toast to the Queen. Captain A. E. Campbell toasted the regiment and Major E. F. Hill replied. Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron welcomed the guests and introduced the speaker, Major General Chris Vokes.

Among those present were: Major E. H. Statchoury, Major Don Ramsay; Capt. C. H. Clark; Capt. J. Ouellette; Major E. A. Michon; Capt. V. P. Cole, Devon; Capt. G. B. Eaton; Capt. V. J. H. Hughes, Westlock; Lis. C. W. Mimer, J. S. Speakman, D. J. Storey and H. A. Taylor from Wetaskiwin.

During the evening Major General "Chris" Vokes presented the CD to Major A. B. Browne and Col. Cameron gave Major Knoll a stein. Major Knoll has retired to Supplementary Reserve.

Officers of the unit came from Wetaskiwin, Westlock, Devon and Camrose. Capt. R. A. Hicks, president of the mess, was responsible for the arrangements.

The only difference between April and March is that you don't expect it in April.



SERGEANTS' MESS DINNER

The Sergeants' Mess of the 19th held its annual Mess Dinner in Connaught Armouries on Friday evening, February 20th. Above, front row are: WO2 R. D. McLaughlin; Lt.-Col. D. F. Cameron, commanding officer and guest speaker; WO1 M. Jack, regimental sergeant-major; WO2 C. Robson of Whitehorse. Back row: WO1 W. Raistrick, WO2 G. P. Flaws, Capt. S. Kruper and WO2 B. Crooks.



WETASKIWIN BAND

At the 19th Alberta Dragoons' annual Armistice Day Ball in Connaught Armouries, bandsmen from Wetaskiwin played as an orchestra for the 60 couples attending. The Dragoons in the orchestra are: Cpl. R. H. Chandler, band's instructor; Sgt. Harry Lomness; A. C. Yochim, L. W. Wilson, Jack Rasmusson and Lovell Schmaus.

SSM A. PARKIN TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE

Sergeant Major Al Parkin, after completing 10 years of continuous service with the 19th Alberta Dragoons at Wetaskiwin was officially transferred from the Canadian Army Supplementary Reserve, at a formal parade held on March 19th at the Wetaskiwin Drill Hall.

Sergeant Major Parkin transferred to the local unit in 1948 from the Edmonton Regiment. During hostilities of the second world war

he served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and was wounded during action at Normandy.

In appreciation of his many years of good service, S.S.M. Parkin was presented with an engraved tankard and his wife received a cream and sugar set.

Recruit, after listening to Captain Meadows' glowing description of the many advantages of being a member of the Dragoons, "That all sounds fine. Now, tell me, are there any disadvantages."



Major Cawsey is shown above presenting S.S.M. Parkin with an engraved tankard, a gift of appreciation for the splendid work he has performed with the Alberta Dragoons during the past ten years. S.S.M. Parkin is now endeavoring to organize a Cadet unit in Wetaskiwin.



THOMAS RATTRAY RETIRES AFTER 39 YEARS' SERVICE

Thomas J. Rattray of Wetaskiwin, having completed a total of 39 years' service with the Canadian Army, was officially retired effective January 17th, 1958. He joined the Central Alberta Horse in 1913 and served with this unit until he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915 when he served in France with the 10th Battalion with Norman MacEachern and Vic Scott, both of Wetaskiwin. Tommy was wounded at Paschendale on November 11th, 1917, and spent nine months in hospital before he was invalided back to Canada in the fall of 1918.

In 1920 he joined the 2nd Northern Alberta Battalion and served with this unit for five years until his work demanded he move to the Northwest Territories. Returning to Edmonton in 1930, he joined the Edmonton Fusiliers and served with this unit until 1939 when he joined the Edmonton Regiment and spent the next six years and seven months in their service.

Following the cessation of hostilities of World War II, Tom moved to Wetaskiwin when he became employed as caretaker of the Drill Hall and at the same time serving with the 19th Alberta Dragoons from 1946 until his time of retirement.

Mr. Rattray is the last member of the Alberta Dragoons to have World War I service and is one of the very few members of the Canadian Army entitled to wear both the Efficiency Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration for Long and Distinguished Service.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Rattray will continue to reside in Wetaskiwin where he is employed by No. 13 Works Coy, RCE.