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Former Base Commander died age 84 Page 6



Incoming 2PPCLI CO LCol Jesse van Eijk seen here last fall involved in 9mm PWT when he was 1CMBG's COS. *Photos 1CMBG*

2PPCLI CO approaches soldiering 'hands-on'

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

2PPCLI's new CO is hands-on when it comes to soldiering. Prior to his virtual CoC ceremony held June 22, LCol Jesse van Eijk told the *Stag* what his approach is when it comes to leading soldiers under his command.

"I tend to be very hands-on," he explained. "I like getting in the trenches, be that doing range work, maintenance work, staff work, or literally digging a trench."

"Leadership by example is about more than just storming the hill — it's getting invested in everything the organization does, demonstrating enthusiasm and working to make it better."

Born in 1982 in Vancouver, BC, but growing up mainly in Regina, Sask., after leaving Vancouver Island, LCol van Eijk graduated from Kingston-based RMC in 2005 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He also holds two masters degrees — defence engineering and management, defence studies — completed in conjunction with the Tech Staff course and the Joint Command and Staff Program.

When it comes to his military training, 2PPCLI's new CO took his standard infantry officer training at CFB Gagetown. His Canadian Army (CA) courses also include basic reconnaissance, urban operations instructor and combat team commander.

His family history when it comes to the military is limited, with his

parents immigrating to Canada from Holland. One of his grandfathers flew PBY Catalina flying boats.

When it comes to deployments since joining the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), LCol van Eijk was a platoon commander with TF 1-08 in Kandahar, and went to Poland in 2017 as Task Force Commander of the Op REASSURANCE Land Task Force.

While he's a big rugby fan, when it comes to having a favourite NHL or CFL team, he will cheer for any team playing against Toronto.

Prior to his arrival from Garrison Edmonton, where he was 1CMBG's COS, LCol van Eijk participated in the *Stag's* Q&A for incoming commanders to introduce them to their soldiers, but also the Base.

Shilo Stag (SS): Why did you pursue a career with the CAF?

JvE: "I've had an interest in the military since I was a kid. I can't really explain why — it really just always appealed to me to some extent. Like a lot of young people joining, I certainly didn't have a clear idea of what I was getting into, but I have had a blast with my career and genuinely look forward to coming to work."

SS: What was your influence in choosing the Army/Navy/Air Force as your military career?

JvE: "I've always enjoyed being outdoors, camping and team sports, so the Army was a pretty natural fit for me."

SS: What were your thoughts when you were informed you'd be taking command of 2PPCLI from LCol Mike Reekie?



Volume 60 • Issue 13

Pandemic Circulation: 1,500

Printed bi-weekly by
Struth Publishing, Killarney MB



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The Shilo Stag is produced every second Thursday.

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday prior to the week of publication. Submissions can be sent to the Stag via email at stag@mymts.net, dropped off at the Stag office located in CANEX or via Inter-base mail.

Submitting articles and photos for print:

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a cutline which names the individuals in the photo; what's taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.

• • •



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A CAF medical technician assists with COVID tests at an alternative isolation accommodations location. Lab technicians train (inset) to help with COVID-19 testing in hospitals at a Canadian Armed Forces laboratory.

Photos 2Lt Miguel Moldez/TF BISON PAO

1RCHA's contribution to Task Force Bison helps Manitoba battle COVID third wave

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

Three weeks into the creation of Task Force BISON, 1RCHA's detachment has formulated an ideal routine.

"Our tempo now is at a steady state," offered 1RCHA C Bty BC Maj Ian Van Dyke. "We have a routine in place compared to when we first arrived."

As the Task Force BISON commander, Maj Van Dyke co-ordinates three priorities for CAF members involved in helping Manitoba with its third wave during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have three technicians involved with labs," he explained. "We're also involved in alternative isolation accommodation, with two sites."

Maj Van Dyke also liaise with a separate team of aeromedical experts from the Royal Canadian Air Force. A detachment from 436 Squadron at CFB Trenton assists the province with medical evacuations from Manitoba hospital ICUs. The aeromedical team's staging area is CFB Winnipeg.

1RCHA's contribution to Task Force BISON commenced after Premier Brian Pallister reached out to the federal government to secure help for the province's taxed medical health facilities, with ICU's overwhelmed by COVID-19 and patients had to be flown to hospitals in other provinces for treatment.

"We have nine [members] from 1RCHA here, including myself," said Maj Van Dyke. "Plus Maj Joel Bernier from 11 Canadian Forces Health Services, who is overseeing mili-

tary medical staff operations on the ground."

He added, "The medical technicians and nursing officers come from across Canada. They are assisting in the province's alternative isolation sites, helping relieve some of the pressure on civilian staff."

The three lab technicians are assigned to two hospitals, where they help process COVID-19 tests.

1RCHA's contribution on the ground sees artillery soldiers working in 12-hour shifts and providing transportation services, plus non-medical duties.

CFB Trenton's aeromedical team prepares the patients for the move from a hospital to take flight in a special module in the back of a Hercules strategic airlift aircraft, which is set up for these medical evacuations.

According to Maj Van Dyke, two drivers from 1RCHA play a key role by assisting the aeromedical evacuation team on the tarmac at the airfield.

1RCHA's contribution has helped relieve the pressure on Shared Health Manitoba, noted Maj Van Dyke, especially during the province's COVID-19 resurgence.

"We're here to provide support ... best way to describe it is we lead from behind. There are set priorities in place, and we respond to requests."

The task force is part of Op LASER, which is the federal government's response to Manitoba's call for military assistance during the COVID-19 crisis. There's also Op VECTOR, where 1RCHA and previously 2PPCLI, mobilized soldiers to work out of Northern Manitoba's Indigenous communities helping military medical staff provide vaccinations and other duties including establishing isolation quarters.

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New 2PPCLI CO plans to invest in his soldiers, junior leadership

From the front

JvE: "Extremely honoured of course. Commanding a unit is an exceptional privilege and one I am looking forward to. I've had the opportunity to work with the unit from the brigade HQ for the past three years and have always been impressed with the drive to get after training and can-do culture."

SS: *What did your job entail as 1CMBG COS prior to learning about your new posting?*

JvE: "I'm overall responsible for making sure the brigade HQ is functioning properly to support the commander. The COS assigns tasks to staff branches, reviews all key products, manages important files personally, and provides a sounding board for the Commander and COs to bounce ideas off of."

"In practice, it's a bit of a mix of being a circus ringmaster, James Bond villain henchman and newspaper editor at the same time."

"It's been a huge amount of fun and given me a great insight into what the HQ and units are working on. It's certainly one of the best jobs to move into a CO appointment from."

SS: *What did you know about CFB Shilo and its history, and that of 2PPCLI, before arriving here?*

JvE: "2PPCLI was the unit I asked to be posted to coming out of phase training in 2005 and I was; for all of three months before being cross-posted to the 1st Battalion. Like all Patricia's, I know about the Battalion's history at Kapyong and Medak as well as more recently in Afghanistan and now Latvia."

"As I noted above, I've had a great platform to watch the unit for the past few years and keep an ear to the ground on recent developments."

"When it comes to the Base, not a lot to be honest. I know the Germans used to have a presence and that the last time I was at the CANEX you could buy a beer and a super soaker from adjacent aisles."

SS: *Describe your personality when it comes to soldiering — and when you are away from the job?*

JvE: "I think anyone that knows me would all agree I love soldiering, almost to a fault. I'm always excited to use the kit and get after some good training; and then have a laugh about what went well and what was a disaster afterwards."

"Away from the job is sometimes hard to distinguish. I like taking my truck, tent, guns and some friends into the woods and rambling around."

SS: *What makes a good commander when it comes to dealing with the day-to-day 2PPCLI operations?*

JvE: "From everything I have seen so far, all 2PPCLI needs is a light hand on the reins to point it in the right direction. The Battalion will simply get after and put down any problem put in front of it."

"Where I can contribute is in providing that overall guidance and then pitching in where my experience or particular authorities can help."

SS: *What are your objectives for 2PPCLI during your two-year tenure as the west starts high readiness preparations, especially during a COVID pandemic?*

JvE: "With 1CMBG having just wrapped up its high-readiness preparations on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and AGILE RAM, we are now moving into a phase of maintaining that preparedness so our immediate objectives for the first year will be centred there."

"We will focus on holding ready all assigned forces to respond in Canada or on expeditionary ops if called upon. That means keeping our skills sharp and our equipment ready to roll."

"In the summer of 2022, the brigade will once again be



LCol Jesse van Eijk gestures during discussions while participating in Ex TACTICUS RAM.

Photo 1CMBG

deploying forces on our current slate of major named operations — [like] Op REASSURANCE, IMPACT, and UNIFIER — so we will prepare forces for whatever tasks we are assigned, deploy, and recover them, while ensuring that rear parties keep after the home game of domestic readiness and baseline training."

"In the end, the objective is to have done everything asked of us and to leave the Battalion in excellent condition for the next team."

"COVID is just another factor, we will plan for it and deal with it until we don't have to anymore."

SS: *Finally, what goals have you set for the men and women under your command at 2PPCLI, plus goals for yourself once you have boots on the ground at CFB Shilo?*

JvE: "I often tell people I have three criteria for what makes a good day: Learn something — there's always more to know; teach something — help those around you learn; and make something better — it doesn't have to be big, implementing a new TTP, cleaning up the office, or renewing the cam on your trench all count."

"I expect that if we are a unit that cares about our mission, our equipment and each other and works to do those three things routinely then other goals will fall into place. For myself, I definitely see the first while being weighted towards learning a lot."

"Beyond that some key goals are: Investing in our soldiers and junior leaders by giving them the time and space to train and learn; maintaining the unit's reputation for training hard; the unit being a place where people are excited to come to work in the morning; and giving back some time to families, the Army has asked a lot of them over the past few years and we will again."



Mike O'Shea
Winnipeg Blue Bombers

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Manitoba 

No Levis jeans, 'jazzy' shirts worn by apprentices attending school

Early artillery training occurred in Manitoba at Camp Shilo

Col (Ret'd) Peter Williams Stag Special

While artillery training had taken place at Camp Shilo since its establishment, a level of activity which increased during two World Wars, it was not until 1946 that the Royal Canadian School of Artillery (RCSA), with responsibility for field, medium and anti-tank gunnery, was established in Shilo.

This coincided with the move of 71st Field Regiment RCA — later re-designated 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1RCHA) from Petawawa, Ont., to Shilo.

A separate RCSA for anti-aircraft gunnery was established in Picton, Ont.

Post-war artillery establishments were greatly understrength, to the point where staff serving at the RCSA found themselves regular members of "coal fatigues" in order to keep heating systems operating.

The original anti-tank range was built by Second World War German POWs.

In 1954, it saw the establishment of the Apprentice Training battery, in which young men aged 16 would complete a two-year course as the start of their career in the RCA.

In their first year, apprentices received normal recruit training, instruction in national survival and physical training, and tuition in high school academic subjects. Extra-curricular activities included voluntary service in the apprentice trumpet band and also against teams in the Manitoba Secondary School Athletic Association.

Apprentices were not permitted to wear such exotic clothing as Levis jeans, so-called "jazzy" shirts and windbreakers nor could they consume alcoholic beverages or purchase cars.

During the first six weeks of training, they were not granted any passes out of camp, but after this time they may have been granted weekend passes to Brandon or Winnipeg.

This was partially made up for by a so-called "generous" leave of 10 days at Christmas, four days at Easter, and annual leave of 30 days, with up to four days travelling time.

The second year of training consisted of learning a Gunner trade, such as surveyor or technical assistant, with further academic upgrading. During this phase, the cadets were allowed more passes, and special social functions were arranged for their entertainment.

Two years later, the RCA Depot was formed at CFB Shilo, and given the task of training all recruits for the RCA. From across Canada, young men came to the Depot for an introduction to military life and the art of gunnery.

Having completed his training, and at the same time improved his academic standing, the potential Gunner would take a short non-tradesman driver course, qualifying him to drive light vehicles.

Then came the ceremonial passing out parade from the Depot — after which the young soldier was handed over to the school for training to the Group 1 level in one of the artillery trades. They would be trained as a gun number, technical assistant, an RCA signaller or a surveyor — before being posted to a regular unit.



Bdr E.C. Master inspects the rifle of Gnr J. Noseworthy during training at the RCA Depot in the 1960s.

Photos submitted



Soldiers hone their firing skills on the M109 during training at CFB Shilo in 1968.

As of 1965, the Depot had trained more than 3,000 recruits, including some for the Infantry and the Ordnance Corps.

With the graduation of Squad No. 164 in the early summer of 1968, the RCA Depot closed down, having trained several thousand recruits in the 12 years of its existence.

The RCSA was commanded by a Chief Instructor of Gunnery — a lieutenant-colonel — with senior instructors for gunnery, target acquisition, missiles, trials and evaluation and tactics. There was an Exchange Officer from the UK and a Liaison Officer from the United States.

In carrying out its role in maintaining the efficiency of the RCA at the highest level, the RCSA was to devote a major part of its activities to instruction and training — particularly through the conduct of specialized courses for candidates selected from artillery units of the Regular Force and the Militia all across Can-

ada.

The schedule for a typical year would include more than two dozen courses varying in duration from a short two weeks refresher for "I" staff, to the Artillery Staff course, which lasted a whole year.

It was the artillery staff course which trained the IGs, instructors in gunnery, who with the Assistant Instructors in Gunner (AIGs) and who were Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), have long made a tremendously impor-

tant contribution in maintaining the high state of individual training of artillery officers and NCOs, and the technical efficiency and operational standards of RCA units.

Subject matter in the differing courses would range from gunnery to survey, radar and other techniques for acquiring targets, signalling, artillery tactics, missilery and nuclear target analysis.

Classes were kept small, the candidates in each course generally numbering less than 30. The RCSA also played a role in administering promotion exams for officers.

In 1968, the RCSA conducted basic training for new Army and air environment officer candidates on behalf of the recently unified Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

That same year, training was conducted on the 155mm M109 self-propelled howitzer, which had just come into RCA service.

In addition to giving instruction, the RCSA included among its activities an extensive program of testing military equipment and conducting a variety of trials to assess the value of new or improved artillery techniques.

It was not unusual for as many as a score of formal trials of one kind or another to be in progress during a single year.

One continuing series of projects which produced highly-developed skills and much more valuable data was in the locating — target acquisition — discipline. This included trails and instructions on drones and counter-mortar radars.

For many years, the school also published *The Gunner Bulletin*, the RCA's professional journal, containing articles on doctrine, tactics and equipment.

The RCSA would remain at CFB Shilo until 1970, when it was relocated to CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, together with the Infantry and Armour Schools, to become part of the Combat Arms School, and which is known today

as the Combat Training Centre. On July 11, 2007, the school was re-designated as the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery (RCA) School.



Here is the graduating class of a Group 4 chief meteorological assistant course taught at CFB Shilo's artillery school in 1963.

Soldiers learning at artillery school inspire their Commandant

Kimberley Kielley
Shilo Stag

A former CFB Shilo COS is the first female Commandant of the Royal Regiment of the Canadian Artillery School.

Posted to New Brunswick in 2019, LCol Katherine Haire will complete her role at the artillery school located at CFB Gagetown this summer and head to Ottawa to work as the Executive Assistant (EA) at Canadian Army Headquarters with the Commander of the Canadian Army (CA).

LCol Haire originates from Oshawa, Ont. She always wanted to help her community. She thought about becoming a police officer or working for the Canadian Coast Guard, but had a change of heart when a Royal Military College (RMC) rep came to her high school to do a presentation.

She was 18 when she joined the CAF at a recruiting centre in Toronto, then enrolled at RMC in Kingston shortly afterwards.

Starting her career in the Navy because she always loved the ocean, she had a change of heart when she arrived at RMC. The Army was a better fit after talking to people about other trades and she asked for a transfer to artillery.

From 2002 to 2003, she was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as Troop Commander (TC) and Gun Position Officer (GPO). The rest is history.

In a virtual interview with the Stag, LCol Haire discussed her current role at the artillery school, her time on this Base, her past and where the road will lead after CFB Gagetown.

Shilo Stag (SS): What has it been like in this role running an Artillery school?

LCol Katherine Haire (KH): "It has certainly been the highlight of my career to be the Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery School and to work alongside such incredibly dedicated men and women and to oversee the training of so many Gunners and artillery officers.

"It has been a very challenging time for the school. For the last year, we have been delivering training within a COVID-19 persistent environment.

"This has meant any time a regional restriction or CAF force protection measure changed we have had to adjust our plans. Some of the impacts included cancellation or rescheduling of courses, extending dates of courses, modifying the method of delivery to distance learning just to name a few.

"That being said, I am extremely fortunate to have staff at the school who are amazing professionals and completely dedicated to training soldiers for the Royal Regiment.

"They have worked tirelessly to adapt to the new environment and did everything necessary to ensure that we continued to deliver the necessary training."

SS: Did you look at the job from a woman's perspective or as a soldier?

KH: "I consider myself a soldier and officer first. Yes, I am a woman and that may shape my perspective to an extent, but when I consider how I am going to lead the school to deliver the individual training for the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, I do so as an artillery officer.

"We cannot simply look at things from the perspective of a man or a woman. We need to embrace all aspects of diversity.

"I think it is always important to understand our perspectives and our own biases and to always consider the diverse perspectives out there.

"Our perspectives are not only based on our gender, but also our experiences and other factors that define us including religion, race, sexual orientation and other factors that might differentiate us.



Then Maj Katherine Haire, the Base COS participated in paint night at the Officers' Mess.

"The organizations we lead, including the artillery school, are composed of diverse groups that represent all Canadians and it is important we leverage all perspectives and foster diversity of thought. When we do this, we experience the true benefit of our diversity."

SS: How did your military career bring you to this position?

KH: "When I graduated from Royal Military College, I was first posted to [Garrison] Petawawa as



Then 1RCHA CO LCol Stephen Haire promoted his wife (above) to her current rank during an awards and honours ceremony held at the MPTF. LCol Katherine Haire parades (below) during her CoC ceremony when she became the first female Commandant of the Royal Regiment of the Canadian Artillery School at CFB Gagetown, NB.



staffing situation.

"[Another example is] equipment serviceability. It is always a challenge to have enough guns, ambulances and vehicles.

"The staff work tremendously hard with 5CDSG Tech Services to ensure that we always have the minimum needed but it is always a challenge."

SS: How have you dealt with your job during the pandemic?

KH: "It has been and continues to be a complete team effort. Everyone came together to do their part to enable us to continue to deliver training.

"From the soldiers in W Battery who deploy the guns and STA resources in support of training, to HQ Battery who support all training with vehicles, drivers, communications and logistics to operations and training staff and orderly room staff who coordinate all the training and administration for students, and finally to the instructors in the training batteries.

"Without any of these integral parts of the team, there is no way the RCAS could have continued to function. We leveraged virtual platforms to conduct meetings, orders groups and even ceremonial parades.

"We stream parades on Facebook and have invited families to watch virtually. It has been a challenge to not be able to all come together for social and ceremonial events that are so important for us as an Army, but I believe we have adapted in the best and safest way possible."

SS: Did you teach any artillery classes or participate in classes to hone your artillery skills?

KH: "I participated in as many courses as I could, either taking briefings from students on STA Tech Supervisor, FSCC WO or artillery operations officers courses.

"I also engaged regularly with the instructor in Gunnery and assistant instructor in Gunnery courses. "I also took as many opportunities to get out in the field and see the students during their confirmation exercises.

See **COMMANDANT** page 7

a Gun Troop Commander (GTC) and deployed to Afghanistan. I worked up to being a Forward Observation Officer (FOO) and Forward Air Controller (FAC).

"In 2005, I was posted to the artillery school and completed the instructor in Gunnery course and taught FOO courses and observation post detachment commander courses until 2008.

"I commanded F Battery at [Garrison] Petawawa. It was a Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery.

"I completed Joint Command and Staff College at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. I spent a year in Ottawa, where I was the Gender Advisor in the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS) for a few short months and completed second language training.

"I believe it was my time as an instructor and I had a diverse background within the artillery that made me a potential candidate to be the commandant of the school."

SS: What have you learned about yourself in this role?

KH: "I learned I still have tremendous passion for teaching and training soldiers. I have truly loved every minute I was able to be engaged with the training be delivered.

"While I was no longer in the primary role of teaching I could influence the resources and tasks of the instructors and I always tried to ensure they felt supported.

"It was truly inspirational to see the instructors in Gunnery and assistant instructors in Gunnery mentoring the next generation of soldiers and officers."

SS: What are some of the challenges you have faced?

KH: "COVID-19 [has been] a long period of uncertainty and constantly changing. This had a big impact on staff.

"Fatigue and stress of isolation impacts the health of all of our soldiers, but I must say staff have faced these challenges head on and have shown resolve to achieve our mission.

"[For example], personnel shortages. Like many units we do not have the full complement of staff. We have had just less than 80 per cent of our establishment and this means we are reliant on augmentation or exporting courses.

"We have benefited from staff from all across the Royal Regiment including 1RCHA who provided staff to multiple courses and took on delivery of exported courses on our behalf.

"Our staffing is expected to improve this summer because the Commander Canadian Army has issued direction to staff training establishments to 95 per cent. This will be a welcomed improvement to our



Base COS Maj Katherine Haire lays a wreath during Remembrance Day ceremonies held indoors at the MPTF.

Col (Ret'd) Douglas Bagshaw Walton 1936 - 2021

Military career spanned 42 years, including 1RCHA CO in Lahr

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

A "paratrooper" with Army as his DNA and a former CFB Shilo Base Commander died May 4 in Vernon, BC, after a long battle with vascular dementia.

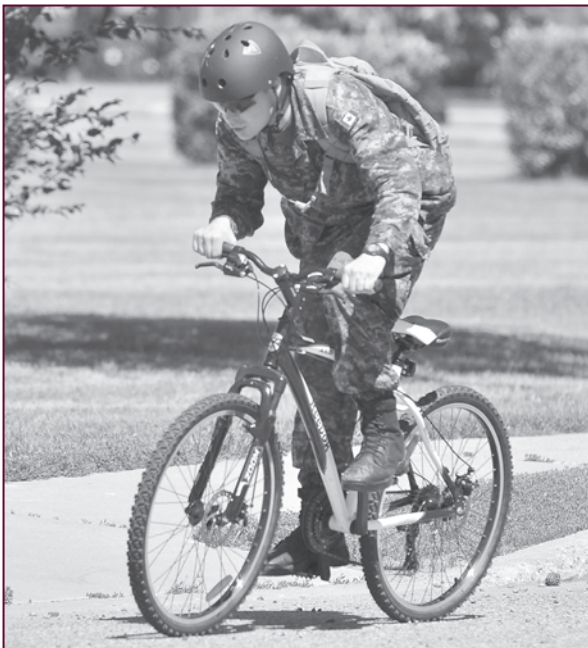
Col (Ret'd) Douglas Bagshaw Walton was 84.

Born and raised in Brandon, as a youngster he enjoyed all sports, especially hunting, curling and the handyman projects he did with his late father Percy.



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BASE STANDING ORDER



BSO 3.6 All persons operating a bicycle within the confines of CFB Shilo shall wear a certified helmet. Bicycle passengers including those in trailers, where permitted, shall wear a certified helmet. The MP PI Comd may authorize the temporary seizure of a bicycle where the operator fails to wear a helmet.



The military always intrigued Doug and he joined the Artillery Reserves in the Army at age 14. After five years employment at Anglo Canadian Oil, he entered the Regular Army as Second Lieutenant.

His military career spanned 42 years, culminating as CFB Shilo's Base Commander from July 1988 to July 1991.

Doug met the love of his life, Doreen, at a teen dance in Brandon — "Not for 50 cents?" — and they were married in 1961. Son Jack joined the family in 1968 and the family had adventures at numerous postings in Germany, Wales as well as Canada.

Throughout Doug's career he achieved four parachute certificates during respective postings: Canadian, British, American and German.

Ask Doug, what did he do in the Canadian Army and he would reply he was a "paratrooper." He accumulated 341 jumps, with 37 in Britain.

In 1974, Doug commanded 1 Airborne Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery in Cyprus setting up camp at the Nicosia International Airport Sector while on peacekeeping operations for six months.

Another highlight was a NATO position commanding 1RCHA in Lahr, Germany for two years.

Afterwards, returning to Canada during the 80s his leadership abilities were clearly recognized as he served as Commandant at the Combat Training Centre at CFB Gagetown, Chief of Staff (COS) of the Atlantic Militia Area and eventually Base Commander at CFB Shilo from 1988 to 1991.

The Waltons retired to Vernon in 1991 and built their house in Coldstream, BC. In his retirement, Doug served as Okanagan zone commander for the Cadet League and as area commissioner (Interior) of the St. John's Ambulance.

For the summers from 1994 to 1997, Doug was CO of the Vernon Cadet Camp. He was later Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in 2001 and then in 2009 Honorary-Colonel of the British Columbia Dragoons.

He stepped down as Honorary Colonel of the British Columbia Dragoons after a 53-year career which actually began with a little white lie which he told Kelowna reporter Grant Scott for a March 2012 story.

"It was just a marvellous life. It all began in 1950. I was 14 and I had three friends and we were all able to get into the militia, four years under age. All of our fathers were first world war veterans, and one was a second world war veteran as well. We had done nothing but play soldier since we were nine and 10 years old," recalled Walton.

"There were no Army Cadets back then, so they arranged for us to lie about our age, which today, I can just imagine. We were firing live rounds at [CFB] Shilo, all the time. They wouldn't even think of doing that today, but it was the best



Col (Ret'd) Douglas Walton

experience of our lives."

Walton's career included tours with 2RCHA, and as captain with the Royal Canadian School of Artillery.

In 1976, he commanded 4 Airborne Commando at the Montreal Olympics, an event which was on high alert after the slaughter of members of the Israeli Olympic team at the Munich Games in 1972.

"At the start of the year we trained for riot control, SWAT teams, we trained for everything you can imagine. It was quite stressful on the troops," said Walton.

After a career which saw him move 22 times, Walton said he was looking forward to settling down. "Somehow or other, my wife thinks it's enough."

During his long life, he was made an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in 1979

and the Order of St. John in 2006, and was awarded Minister of Veterans Affairs commendation in 2010, largely due to his participation in the Remembrance Day ceremonies held in Vernon.

In his retirement, Doug actively enjoyed hunting with his son Jack, skiing with Doreen at Silver Star, golfing (not so much), and family Sunday dinners with Doreen, Jack, Tracy, Kerry, Shannon and, Radar the cat.

Other hobbies were court mounting medals, music, carpentry, sewing and being the neighbourhood handyman.

Friends loved to hear Doug reminisce about his military reflections, join in his infectious sense of humour, relish the numerous social gatherings at the Walton's abode and knew it was time to head for home when Doug played "Auld Lang Syne."

During Doug's rich and fulfilling life he was a loving son, husband, father and grandfather. His DNA was "Army."

A real guy, tough and solid. Doug was a character, a tremendously dedicated soldier and the military people admired him, respected him, and loved him.

Throughout his long battle with vascular dementia, his wife was beside her "Rocketman" caring for him at home and eventually at Gateby Intermediate Care Residence, where the family is grateful for the wonderful care provided by Dr Long, staff and volunteers.

Doug attended his own Celebration of Life in 2019 at the Army Cadet Camp graduation parade surrounded by military personnel, cadets marching to their own band, guns firing and bagpipes playing in the distance one month before entering Gateby, so a memorial service will be held sometime in the future because of the pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society, St. John's Ambulance Brigade or the Nature Conservancy.

See **YOUNG** page 8

CFB SHILO'S
CANADA DAY
FIREWORKS & DRIVE IN MOVIE

JULY 1ST

Fireworks - Leslie Parade Square - 10:45pm
Drive In Movie - HQ Parking Lot - 11:15pm
Popcorn, Cotton Candy, and Water will be provided!

Registration is required!

Please email shilorecreation@gmail.com to register.
Event guidelines will be emailed upon registration.

Open to CFB Shilo/Sprucewoods residents and members of the Defence Team.

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Free ads (non-profit only) restricted to members of the CAF, employees of CFB Shilo and the residents of the surrounding area.

Employment

CANEX needs you: Sales associate part-time position with 13 to 32 hr/week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Starting salary is \$12.53 per hour, progressing to \$14.77 per designated pay band. Under the direction of the department supervisor, a clerk/cashier scans customer purchases, processes transactions, and accepts payment. He/she prices, stocks shelves, counters and display areas with merchandise and keeps stock in order. He/she performs cleaning duties as required. Apply in person at CANEX admin office, or NPF Human Resources office at base HQ.

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Services

Looking for a job on the Base? Submit resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to npfhrshilo@cfmws.com OR for more detailed information on the jobs offered at CFB Shilo visit: www.cfmws.com

Base Chapels

St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel
No Sunday service
Padre Lazerte - ext 3381
Padre Smallwood - ext 6836
Padre Walton - ext 3088
Padre Chang - ext 3089
Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Confessions by appointment
Padre Nnanna - ext 3090
Padre Shanahan - ext 3698



LETTER HOME FROM FRANCE

Fritz's machine gun bullet grazes private's heel

Editor's Note: During the First World War Pte Cecil Minary served in the CEF, beginning his military training at Camp Hughes prior to being shipped to England for further training. He saw his first action soon after Canada's involvement in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. His great-great-niece Kendra Minary has spent the COVID pandemic going thru the original letters he wrote home from England and France prior to being KIA on Aug. 28, 1918. The Lewis gunner died on the battlefield after his crew was hit by a German artillery shell. The Stag will share Kendra's great-great-uncle's letters with our Stag readers to give you a peek at what a soldier was contemplating with pencil and paper while in the UK training or in France in a trench waiting for the next attack or counter-attack. Cecil's letters are transcribed as they were written, so this includes his spelling, grammar and punctuation. Of note, from his letters home he rarely described his clashes with Fritz, instead preferring to enquire about life on the family farm or what his family and friends were doing back in Manitba. Unlike some some soldiers who would share their war stories in their letters, Pte Minary had his own distinct writing style no matter if it's his dad, sister or a relative. He also made the job of Army censors easier by not including war details which would be blacked out. That's the reason why his letters are "somewhere in France" once he left England for the Western Front.

829297

Somewhere in France
52nd Battalion
July 5th 1917
Canadians BEF France

Dear Edna.

Well hear (sic) I am again still alive and feeling fine as usual your welcome letter of June 12th arrived the day before yesterday, there were seven others with it and three more again last night, so I can't say that I'm feeling blue for lack of letters. Annie said that Chesley had won another game of ball from Glenboro this time and that they were to play Nesbitt that evening June the eighth, Berta Prette said that she and Lucy might go to Nesbitt this summer so if they did go, they will likely be out there now. We just got back out yesterday from the other trip up the line so am feeling a little tired yet from the long hours, so please excuse me if I make some funny mistakes.

This trip was rather exciting and a little trying on the nerves for we went over the top and chased Fritz (sic) back a piece, there was not much of a scrap though for Fritz (sic) had quite a start on us and we only managed to get a few of the poorest runners. I cam through fine and dandy only got a machine gun bullet through the heel of my boot as I was going through Fritzies (sic) barbed wire, the hot bullet burnt the side of my heel a little that was all. I was over the other evening to find Reuben Orr but found out that he had got a Blighty but could not find out how Badly wounded, he was over the top the same time I was.

What Edna do you think I'll soon be an old man, twenty two tomorrow what do you know about that eh? But say Edna those two boxes that sent must be almost here now it is nearly a month since you sent them so my hopes are high.

Well this is all the news I have for this time so will close hoping to hear from you soon again.

With love to all,
your Cousin Cecil
829297 Pte C.E. Minary



Kendra Minary proudly shows off her great-great-uncle's First World War portrait. Pte Cecil Minary trained at Camp Hughes before going overseas, seeing action in France. He wrote many letters home to his family and relatives, and those original letters are now at the Wawanesa Museum.
Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

Posted?

Shilo Stag

Posted to CFB Shilo this summer? Posted out of CFB Shilo this summer?

Check the information found at the below link to ensure you are up to date on the latest provincial health orders that might affect your trip. Plan accordingly whether you are arriving in Manitoba, or perhaps are off to an Army Base in Alberta, Ontario or New Brunswick. Or your purple trade sees you being posted to RCAF locations across Canada, or perhaps you find yourself heading for a Navy posting to either the west or east coasts.

www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-de-fence/campaigns/covid-19/dit-hht-local-community-conditions-info.html

Commandant inspired working with staff

From page 5

"I wish I could have spent more time engaged in teaching or with classes, but there is a lot of administration that also needs to be completed and I was also the deputy director of the artillery, so I supported the director."

SS: *Did your role as COS working alongside CFB Shilo's Base Commander give you ideas on how to work in a command posting?*

KH: "I have learned something from every job I have ever done. From being the Chief of Staff, I gained a greater appreciation for the important role which civilian members of our defence team play and we need to leverage their expertise and we truly are 'One Team.'"

"I also learned from the two Base Commanders who I worked with, how important community/family support

is. This has been a challenge in COVID-19 because we have not been able to come together physically to socialize in the last year."

SS: *Finally, what will you miss about the job once your CoC ceremony is held this summer?*

KH: "Definitely the people. I love working with the soldiers and civilian staff and am inspired everyday by what they are able to accomplish."

"I will miss drives out to the training area with Bombardiers sharing their perspectives with me. I will miss seeing Gunners evolve from privates unsure of what a Howitzer is into confident soldiers who are ready to be posted to one of our fine Regiments."

"I will miss the candid conversations with the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) CWO [Eric] Normand. I will definitely miss all the tremendous personnel I have worked with."

NOTICE TO READERS

Newsprint is a porous material: there are no known cases of transmission of COVID-19 through paper products. The World Health Organization (WHO) says potential transmission of the virus is extremely low via commercial products. Papers are mechanically printed and bundled, wrapped for delivery and placed on news stands or delivered to outdoor points by our Base carriers. Be reassured, all of us involved in delivering the Shilo Stag to you are taking the recommended handling and distancing precautions. Newsprint does not transmit the COVID virus.

Young major witnessed Turkish Army battle Greek Cypriot fighters

From page 6

Following his recent funeral, former colleagues posted their thoughts to the funeral home's website:

Don Walker

"Doug was my CO on two occasions and I can attest to the fact he was well-liked and respected by all his soldiers. We always admired how Doug always remembered everyone's first name when meeting them or in a receiving line. Ubique."

Darrell Dean

"I first met Doug in Germany, at the Combat Team Commanders course and in staff college. We served together in NDHQ when Doug was Director of Artillery and I was Director of Armour. He brought sanity and humour in what was sometimes an upside down world. A great leader who inspired and was respected and admired by his soldiers, NCOs, officers and those of the other combat arms who worked with him."

Al Mills

"I first met Doug when we both joined 2RCHA as 2Lts in 1960 in Winnipeg and then served with him in West Germany and the Airborne Regiment. We had many great family get togethers. He was a great soldier and dear friend. Airborne! Ubique!"

Cliff Jamieson

"Doug was a great mentor and friend to me. He was a true soldier and very fine officer. I will always cherish the memories of his complete devotion and loyalty to our nation, the Army and

his family. The Canadian Airborne Regiment, the Royal Canadian Artillery and the British Columbia Dragoons have lost one of their greatest supporters. 'You are good-to-go, Jumper.'"

Larry Mintz

"As you know, our lives intersected many times in the course of our respective careers and postings and our names are also featured on a couple of handover certificates. Doug's personality and enthusiasm positively shaped the lives of those who worked with and for him throughout his life and service. He will be long remembered by all those who were fortunate to know him."

Ken Hague

"Doug was my commanding officer at the Artillery School from 1980 to 1982. We often had mini-Happy Hours on Fridays before heading to the Officers' Mess. At one of these mini-Happy Hours, Doug provided a colourful commentary on the war in the Falklands between the British and Argentinian forces. He ended it by singing, Don't Cry for Me Argentina. My thoughts at the time were, 'Don't quit your day job, Sir. You are an awesome officer and leader, but a singer, not so much!' Stand easy, Doug."

Earle King

"Col Doug Walton became a good friend when I first met him at the School of Artillery in CFB Gagetown and, then later on his posting to Halifax as the COS of the then Atlantic Militia Area. We had an immediate affiliation through the RCA. At that time I had the privilege of commanding 1st RCA. We hunted the wily deer of Nova Scotia on several occasions. Doug was well-liked

and respected by all he met. I dare say, 'He was a soldier's soldier.' Doug is still remembered by the artillery fraternity here in Halifax and we wish him a well-deserved, 'Stand Easy.'"



Cyprus 1974 — This picture was taken about two months after the 1974 Turkish invasion of Northern Cyprus. The picture was taken on the roof of the terminal building of the Nicosia International Airport. In the photo you can see on the left the Secretary General of the United Nations at the time, Kurt Waldheim. On the right is Capt Mike Walker and behind him and mostly obscured is the then CO of 1 AB Bty (RCA), Maj Doug Walton. The other civilian behind Waldheim is unidentified. The picture was taken around October 1974 when Waldheim was being given a tour of the area where a battle took place in front of the 1 Airborne Battery positions. The actual battle took place Aug 14 to 16, 1974 between a battle group of the Turkish Army and the Greek Cypriot fighters. Those who saw the battle will never forget it.

Photo supplied by Mike Walker

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A former CFB Shilo Base Commander, Col David Walton inspects soldiers during a parade featuring a member of the Australian Army.