

The 44th Trains to Success

by 2Lt L. Bloomfield

During Ex Devils Delight held November 18 to 20, members of 44 Field Engineer Squadron's support elements along with the Field Troop practiced harbour drills and DP's. The weekend started off with a night move into the training area and once the Harbour area was established, Adm Troop coordinated a night DP. At first light, Field and Adm Troops participated in pyrotechnics training using thunder flashes, smoke grenades, para flares and setting trip flares. Midmorning, the Squadron was on the move again followed by a daylight DP. Late Saturday afternoon the Adm Troop moved again and, as the harbour was established, the warning order came to prepare for another night move. Shortly after dark, Adm Troop watched as the Field Troop moved passed their position, a fifteen minute wait for the move order then they were on their way to Stoney Creek training area. There was just enough time to get the modular up before the last night DP of the exercise. Before first light on Sunday morning, enemy troops (in reality HQ staff and Adm Troop) attacked the field troop who had dug in and defended a wet and very snowy mountain crossroad. Shortly thereafter, a cease fire was declared and the unit packed up for the final road move to the Trail Armoury for cleanup and debrief.

The Christmas festive season was ushered in traditional style with the JR Mess hosting the Squadron Dance and Adm Tp hosting the Kids Party. On the night of December 16th, the Unit held its JR Christmas Dinner with the first Commanding Officer of the Unit, Maj J.B. Biker, as the guest of honour. During the dinner, our CO, Maj C.D. Wright, was pleased to announce that Lt Mark Ziemann, Sgt John Sorenson and Cpl Julia Taylor were to be presented with the Commander PMA's Citation for Outstanding Performance and that Cpl Michelle Lee, now with 6FES, and Sapper Monty Basaraba were to receive Commander's Letter of Commendation.

On February 10-12, members of 6 FES joined the 44 FES for communications training during EX TIRED TOT. This 48 hour CPX practiced the Unit in engineer and first line adm support in a defensive scenario.

44 Field Squadron's First Aid Team completed in the Mary Otter First Aid Competition on February 16th. The team consisted of Med Aide, Pte Neil Olsen, Storesmen Cpl Braden Broderick and Cpl Don Conway, and Sapper Monty Basaraba with Team alternates Pte Blaine Passuti and Pte Jason Palmer. The team put out a good effort and gained some very valuable experience.



Storesmen Cpl Braden Broderick and Cpl Don Conway monitor troop radio traffic during exercise tired tot.



Major Doug Wright of the 44th Field Squadron accepts the coveted Donor's Challenge Trophy from Red Cross Trail Branch president Shawn Melenka for last week's spring blood donor's clinic. The 44th had over 60 per cent participation from its members.

Photo by Lloyd Mack

Squadron gets hand from other engineers

By TIMES STAFF

Trail's 44th Field Engineers Squadron will soon be on a better road to destruction.

With the help of an engineering regiment and equipment from the Canadian Forces Base at Chilliwack, the 44th is replacing the trail that serves its Stoney Creek small charge demolition range near Warfield with an all-weather road.

A contingent of 24 soldiers and officers from Chilliwack has been working on the 1.5-kilometre stretch of road since Oct. 3 and are expected to complete construction this week.

"The road used to be just a trail that limited our ability to get personnel and vehicles up there, particularly in bad weather conditions," said Capt. Al Jensen.

The 15 Support Squadron from Chilliwack arrived with six dump trucks, two armored bulldozers, two armored loaders, and compaction equipment. The trucks have been busy moving gravel from Cominco property near Seven Mile Dam to upgrade the road, which, like the demolition range, is also on land leased from Cominco.

The demolition range is located north of Cominco's Warfield plant. The 55-member 44th Engineers Squadron used the range for training.



VISITING TRAIL ARMOURY recently was Brigadier General Silva as he inspected the 44th Field Engineer Squadron. Pictured above, General Silva, accompanied by 2nd-Lt. Greg Sorensen, Maj. Doug Wright and Sgt.-Maj. Glenn Hodge stops to talk to Cpl. Sharman Thomas while inspecting the Field Troop of 44 Field Engineer Squadron. Commander's citations were presented to Cpl. Julia Taylor; Sgt. John Sorenson and 2nd-Lt. Mark Ziemann for their outstanding performance and contributions to Pacific Militia Area during the past year. The general also presented 2nd-Lt. Don Parks with his commissioning scroll and promoted Acting Sgt. John Sorenson to Sgt., 2nd-Lt. Greg Sorensen to Lt. and Cpl. Steve Hughes to Acting Master Cpl. The squadron concluded the parade by honoring General Silva with a march past.



Niels Petersen photo

READY TO BUILD a stronger defence for Canada, these 44th Field Engineer Squadron recruits march with part of a 'bailey bridge,' gearing up for the Squadron's Open House May 13 (see story below).

Field Engineers looking for members

By NIELS PETERSEN

Fifty people in Shavers Bench know there is strength in numbers, and they want to increase the numbers of their unit.

They're members of the 44th Field Engineers' Squadron. The unit wants to attract more people to join the Primary Reserves militia, and is holding an open house Saturday, May 13 in its Seventh Avenue armory in Shaver's Bench to encourage people to sign up.

"A lot of people in Trail don't even know we exist," said Major Doug Wright, the unit's commanding officer.

A 1987 federal government white paper on national defence gave an expanded role to the militia in the Primary Reserves. A three-fold increase in reserve forces across Canada is planned by the year 2002.

The reserves compliment the regular Canadian Armed Forces, and are ready to shoulder weapons and equipment to provide technical and combat support in case of an emergency. The militia is the army wing of the reserves, as opposed to the navy or air force.

Reserves undergo the same training, have the same

equipment, and the same uniforms as the regular army. The difference is that militia personnel are part-time, and are paid as such. Field engineers are a special branch of the militia.

"We provide the bridge demolitions, mine warfare, water supply... basically to maintain mobility for the friendly forces and deny it to the enemy," Wright said.

The 44th Squadron, founded in 1947, has 50 soldiers aged 17 to 43 years, including eight women. A few regular army officers supervise and train the unit.

Wright says the unit is holding the open house to explain what the militia is, and what it has to offer.

"It's a good training background for any individual," Wright said. "For militia men it provides a second career, or it provides enhancement of an individual's primary career."

Recruits can train to become engineers, radio operators, cooks, automotive mechanics, or other support personnel.

"There's the sense of doing something worthwhile and beneficial for your country," he added. "Plus it provides an income."

Local shooters taking aim

by KEITH McQUIGGAN
Managing Editor

The FNC 1 is a heavy military rifle.

At least it is when the heaviest implement you are accustomed to shouldering is a camera. I was warned about the kick of the Belgian-made rifle and some of the shots I squeezed out showed it.

The last few showed a drifting pattern to the right. "You started anticipating the kick," Capt. Jim LeBlanc explained. "You can see how the shots strayed."

LeBlanc still complimented my accuracy. Five of seven were well within the target and the last two still on the paper. Some rounds fired by members of the militia

squadron were kicking up dirt behind the posted targets.

It was the first time I had lifted a rifle since a day 25 years earlier when I had used a .22 at Boy Scout camp. All I learned that day in Boy Scouts was that despite being right-handed I sight a rifle better with it tucked against the left shoulder.

Just seven 762 mm cartridges for me, that's .308 calibre to hunters, but an hour later while driving I could feel a dull pain in the shoulder. Too bad the bruise had not come to the surface. I would have had color photographs taken of my first military wounds.

As it was I was accorded the privilege of firing a weapon, something I've

held philosophic quarrels with most of my life, at a newly opened shooting range on the Casino Road. The 44th field engineers squadron is still putting finishing touches on its own range but has wrapped up work on an adjacent facility for the Trail Wildlife Club.

Capt. Art Wriedt explained that the squadron spent about a year, mostly on weekends and days off, installing the two shooting ranges. He had explanations why both will benefit local marksmen.

He said the Wildlife range offers hunters a proper facility for testing and correcting the sightings on their rifles. Wriedt said there are a few undeveloped bush spots in



Keith McQuiggan photos

Capt. Art Wriedt, centre, instructs squadron members in target practice procedure, top photo, at the new shooting range on

Casino Road. Below, scores are tallied during a perusal of the targets.



the Trail area where some hunters go for rifle testing. He said this wandering off in areas presumed to be isolated always leaves the chance of a tragic accident.

The military is happy to have its own range. Until this one was installed local squadron members and cadets had to go to military installations at Vernon or

Chilliwack for target practice.

Major Doug Wright said the convenience also saves taxpayer money that would be spent shipping off the

practising marksmen.

Wright has just started his tour of duty as commanding officer of the Trail squadron. Many of its members, who devote their spare time to the military, are excited to have Wright because he is regular army. He's no spare-timer, he's regular issue.

Wright just finished seven years at the Canadian Forces' base at Petawawa, Ont. He said his assignment is partly a recognition of a lack of available part-time officers. There are no other regular army commanding officers in western Canada although one is expected to be posted soon in another B.C. community.

People like Wriedt are

happy to benefit from the leadership experience of someone who is full-time.

Back on the shooting range weekend soliders clean their rifles, slap in ammunition cartridges and assume prone firing positions. They shoot on command then walk in single file to the targets, 100 metres away. Scores are tallied and bits of paper glued over the bullet holes. This army saves all the money it can.

Once my assignment was finished I drove back to town. As I pushed a grocery cart through Safeway I waited for someone to notice my peculiar posture. "Combat wounds," I want to tell someone.

Military reserves are remembered

By GINO D'APPOLONIA

Submitted

Christina Lake: Over the years there has been a gradual dwindling in the number of military reserve establishments in the East and West Kootenays. While this may be a sign of the times, one must remember the role of Canada's military in today's changing times. Canada's military is not the military we associate with a clash of military might and destruction, but rather a military presence with a velvet gloved mailed fist which is devoted to construction, help for those less fortunate, and peace.

At one time there were in the Kootenays seven military reserve units. D company Rocky Mountain Rangers, Cranbrook; 17th Field Engineer Squadron, Kimberley; a Field troop of the 44th Field Engineer Squadron, Creston; a Field Troop of the 44th Field Engineer Squadron, Nelson; a Field Troop of the 44th Field Squadron, Rossland; 24th Medium Anti-aircraft Regiment, Trail. These have all disappeared, all have become a memory and all have vanished since the cessation of the last world war. These were all units, active, training, developing men and women and making Canada and the world a better place to live in. These sent men and women out to far-off places

dedicated and trained in one aspect – the maintenance of peace. This type and quality of training has earned for Canada a Nobel Prize in peace-keeping and also has brought us a world's demand for our expertise in this field. This type of dedication has made a Canada that people want to come to, a country synonymous with peace and a country that people want to live in, to raise a family, and to establish businesses free from the fear of a world in turmoil.

Of the seven units only one remains, only one is left, only one reserve military training unit can answer the roll call, and even its future is in jeopardy.

Historically, this last remaining unit, 44th Field Engineer Squadron, has contributed mightily in the cause of peace. When one looks at the roll call of troubled nations one would more deservedly ask where haven't they served? Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, Cypress, Germany (when there were two, East and West), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Yugoslavia, all have seen members from our unit there; all concerned with an effort to restore peace and ease suffering. They have served Canada and the world with a quality and capacity which bespeaks of the type and level of their training. They, 44th Field Engineers,

forsake the peace in Canada and the comfort of their homes, to travel to far places in an effort to ease tensions, to offer succor to the less fortunate, and to try to bring peace to war-ravaged countries.

To our local community, Trail, and to the communities of both East and West Kootenay's 44th Field Engineer Squadron has been a bastion of help, hope and inspiration.

When no funds, resources or means were available it was this little unit who rose to the task, offered the manpower, the expertise and the necessary energies to bring the tasks to fruition. When flood waters threatened West Trail with death and destruction, who but the 44th Field Engineer Squadron, rallied to the cause, evacuating citizens, sand-bagging, setting up shelter in the Armories, and when the muddy torrent threatened the business core with total inundation, it was this unit again who at great risk, blew the river wall and saved the community.

Red Mountain has been visited on three occasions and when the tasks were completed, a world class ski course resulted. From this development world class skiers came bringing fame and acclaim to themselves and to Canada. Children Parks in Trail, otherwise a dream became a reality

under the hand of these engineers. Rory Girl Guide camp, a bridge in the Christian Valley over the West Kettle River for handicapped children all attest to the training of this unit. Of this latter bridge, it replaced an outmoded unsafe foot suspension bridge and perilous 30 mile dirt track road, now they, the children can reach their camp with a short safe trip across the river. Two hazardous deteriorating Cominco dams were removed, Stewart and Ainsworth, with complete safety, with no destruction of property and to the complete satisfaction of the federal and provincial Fisheries and Environmental agencies.

An old dangerous bridge was removed over the Elk River at Morrissey Creek, a bridge was built over the Bull River, north of Galloway, an outmoded school concrete cistern was removed at Playmore junction, Rosebud Park at Salmo, cross country trails were built at Nancy Greene Lake, Krukenberg Island bridge, Castlegar, all done in a fashion that bespeaks of the type of training these men and women undergo. In the years of my association with the unit I have not witnessed or had to treat one serious injury or casualty all attesting to the dedication this unit has to safety and training standards.

For manpower recruits came from a wide area. The Boundary Country - Grand Forks, Midway contribute several members and in fact their honorary lieutenant colonel lives at Christina Lake, Nelson, Castlegar, Rossland, Trail, Blueberry, Fruitvale, and now two new training detachments, Creston and Cranbrook. These all provide a means of employment for our young people, all be it part time, but it is employment and training all in one.

Are we to be the witnesses to the demise of this small unit? This small unit which has contributed such mighty deeds to the regional area, to Canada and to the world. It is said that from the little acorn the mighty oak grows, hence, let us not be the witnesses to its demise. Let us raise our voice in unison to save if not for ourselves, but for the citizens of the region, the citizens of Canada, the citizens of the world and the generations to come.



Sapper Elaine Gower of Nelson, a reservist with 44 Field Engineer Squadron, works on the erection of a medium girder bridge across the Battle River during Exercise "On Guard 90."

Photo by Sgt. Colin Blackburn

44th Field Engineer Squadron takes part in "On Guard 90"

By TIMES STAFF

Trail's 44th Field Engineer Squadron culminated another year of reserve training at Exercise "On Guard 90 - West" from June 29 to July 8.

The local reserve squadron participated in the annual militia concentration at Camp Wainwright, Alberta working together with 3,000 permanent force members and 1,500 reservists as a single army.

"Exercise 'On Guard 90' is a new stage in militia training: functioning as part of the 'Total Force' envisaged by the 1987 Defence White Paper," a release from Pacific Militia Area headquarters states. "The integration of full-time and part-time soldiers facilitates future co-operation and raises the level of the reservists' military skills."

In 1990, the scale of the reserve concentration was at a higher level — Pacific Militia Area and Prairie Militia Area trained as a single Western Canada Brigade, with regular force members of 1 Combat Brigade Group. The exercise was visited by General John de Chastelain, chief of defence staff; Mary Collins, the associate minister of national defence; and Governor-General Ray Hnatyshyn. Employers who give their reservist-employees unpaid leave to attend military exercises were also hosted. They witnessed the final defensive battle in which the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry stormed positions defended by reservists in the driving rain.

The Pacific Militia Area is one of five regional commands for Canada's army reserves. It is made up of some 1,600 members of the Primary Reserve assisted by over 75 members of the regular forces. Reserve members are trained to a level that allows them to augment the regular forces; they are also available for

service during natural disasters.

Members of the Primary Reserve are expected to attend training and administration nights at least once a week as well as participating in occasional weekend exercises. The period June-August is devoted to intensive and continuous training at area rank and trade schools, principally at Nanaimo and Vernon camps, and at national schools of the forces which qualify members for a special trade or promotion to a higher rank.



An anonymous Ninja Turtle showed up for the food line with the B.C. militia at Camp Wainwright.

Photo by Sgt. Colin Blackburn



Rev. Lloyd Northcott, formerly of Trail, conducts service for reservists at Camp Wainwright.

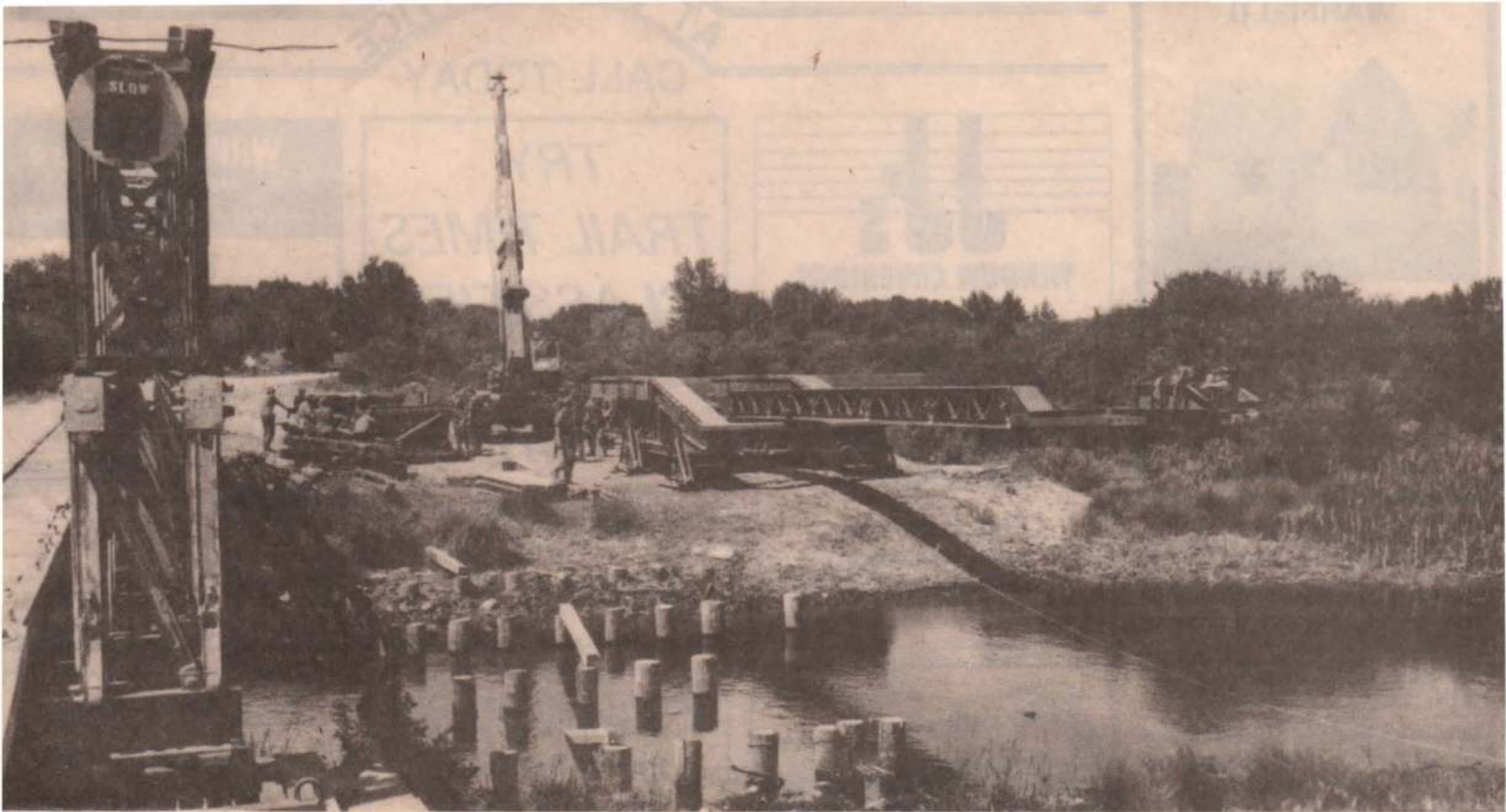
Trail troops build bridge

Over 1,000 army reservists from Trail and other parts of B.C. participated in their annual training concentration at Camp Wainwright from June 20 to July 9.

This year's exercise involved a river crossing, establishment of a bridgehead, and a breakout against an opposing force. Military engineers from Trail and North Vancouver ferried the infantry across the Battle River in assault boats at night and then built a girder bridge over the river for vehicles.



Reserve military engineer sergeants Greg Esner, of Trail (left), and Roger Kishi, of Vancouver, assemble bridge.



Reservists assemble modern aluminum girder bridge next to an earlier steel Bailey bridge (above). After the exercise was over (below), the troops slept it off on their back to B.C. aboard a Hercules transport plane.





Keith McQuiggan photo

Polar dippers race out of the water, photo above, then trudge away from the beach in blankets.

Polar bears brave chilly river for event

By TIMES STAFF

Air temperature -1 degree Celsius. Water temperature 3 degrees Celsius. Soliders, prepare for assault. Charge!

And in they went, seven hardy military pioneers staffing the inaugural New Year's Day polar bear dip at Gyro park. A few civilians appeared for inspection but no one outside the sponsoring 44 Engineers Field Squadron plunged into the body-chilling Columbia River on the tenth hour of 1988 to welcome the new year.

The enthusiastic polar bear dippers ignored the water and air temperatures and, having stripped to swimming gear, ran and dove into the river. Shrieks and whoops (surely not of surprise) filled the crisp morning air and the bathers splashed each other for a few seconds before bounding with equal vigor out of the water. They were quickly under blankets and layers of dry clothing.

The charter polar bears were later rewarded with certificates of recognition for having braved the elements to advance their military careers. Organizers are hoping that next year some members of the general public will join in. They could take notes from the Vancouver event and add some unusual costumes to the dip.

A few of the spectators missed everything. They appeared around the 10 o'clock starting time but the military, always right on time, waited for no one. Major Doug Wright, recently stationed in Trail as the field squadron's commanding officer, was not overwhelmed by the temperatures which did benefit from clear, sunny skies. "The last three years we held this in Petawawa, Ont., we had to use chainsaws to cut holes in the ice so we could get in," he recalled. See you next year.





Nancy Rode-Scott photo

NICE DAY FOR A DIP: The sun was shining and the temperature hovering around five degrees below zero on New Year's Day when 10 hardy souls, including one woman, cavorted into the icy Columbia River

at Gyro Park. As one swimmer commented later as he shivered in a blanket, "I feel better now than when I got up this morning". Great cure for a hangover.



The intrepid (top to bottom): in, out and on the way out of 1 degree C water. Nancy Rode Scott photos

By Times Staff

Twenty-four hardy souls leaped into the Columbia River on New's Year's morning amid screams of encouragement and agony in Trail's third annual Polar Bear Swim.

This year's event attracted four females and six youths. Three young members of the 44th Field Engineer Squadron were dressed in full combat uniform and camouflage paint and entered the water that way, boots and all.

It was an overcast day, which helped raise the temperature to one degree above Celsius. The water temperature was a balmy four degrees. Last year sunny skies drove the temperature to eight below, but the water temperature remained the same.

The Polar Bear dip attracted only seven people in its first year, 14 the next and with this year's figure swelled to 24, the 44th Field Squadron is hoping for even better things next year.

One of the swimmers was Bruce Borsato, who said he was one of the original seven and also participated last year. "It was great, no problems. Getting out is not much fun, though." Borsato said he even took time off work to go for his dip. "I wouldn't miss it."

All the participants were treated to hot drinks following the event and were given a certificate proving they had started the New Year off right.



Carol Vanelli photo.

Capt. Richard Mackenzie, left, commanding officer of Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 1703 in Trail, accepts the Canadian Declaration Award from Major Doug Wright, CO of 44th Field Engineer Squadron. The award, for 12 years' service, is the highest honor available to him in Canada.



POLAR BEAR PROCEEDS: The 44 Field Squadron turned over a cheque for \$45 to Linda Rouhiainen of the Sunshine Little Children's Centre which was collected at the New Year's Day Polar Bear Service. Presenting the money were warrant officer T. McKimmie, left and Major C. Wright.



ANNUAL SAPPER POLAR BEAR SWIM



This is to Certify that

Doug Wright

In this New Year, the first day of 1990
did plunge into the dark, icy water
of the Columbia River thereby becoming
a member of the Sapper Polar Bear Club
44 Fd Engr Sqn Trail B.C

WEATHER CONDITION Overcast
AIR TEMPERATURE 71°C
WATER TEMPERATURE 74°C

G. G. [Signature]
COMMANDING OFFICER 44 FES

Top marks awarded

By TIMES STAFF

Canada's top soldier gave high marks Monday to the militia and army cadets in Trail. Lt.-Gen. Jim Fox, highest-ranking soldier in the Canadian army, inspected the troops at the Trail armories during a West Kootenay stopover. Earlier in the day he looked at the suspension bridge at Zuckerberg's Island built by the 44 field engineer squadron from Trail.

"You're looking good," he told both militia and cadets. Militia are reserve military personnel while cadets are younger and considered civilian members of a training program. Fox recognized that the 44 field engineer squadron has few military neighbors in western Canada. He said militia "has been through some tough times" lately but has received encouragement from the federal government's white paper on defence spending.

"I think you should look at the signs as intentions to really make things happen," Fox told the gathering. "I encourage you to stick with it. The future is a very positive one." Fox encouraged cadets to stay with the training program which offers summer employment. "It's a good program to help you develop confidence, to help you develop leadership. It's great to be here and see you looking so good."



Keith McQuiggan photo

Shawn Womacks, far right, receives scrutiny from Lt.-Gen. Jim Fox. Others include, from left, Lt. Bruce Borsato, Major Doug Wright and Sgt.-Major Glen Hodge. Story at left. See also photo page 3.

Keith McQuiggan



In unmilitary fashion the highest-ranking soldier in Canada's army was late.

That Lt.-Gen. Jim Fox was still eating dinner at the Colander had a direct effect on the stomachs of young people standing a mile away at the Trail armouries. The longer he stayed away the more the stomachs in the armouries churned.

Two groups occupied the floor of the Shavers Bench building. At one end stood the militia, reserve soldiers, practising their salutes and formations. At the other end was a more relaxed, and younger, group. Some of the cadets have been members so short a time their street clothes contrasted jarringly with the drab green uniforms prevalent in the room.

I asked one officer what could be the worst possible outcome of this visit by Fox for anyone standing and waiting in the armouries. "Wet their pants, I suppose," he said. "Embarrass themselves somehow, in front of the lieutenant-general and in front of their peers. They'd have to live with that."

I said the young cadets looked nervous and he nodded. I asked if that apprehension extended upwards in the ranks. He nodded again in a way that suggested he was not excluding himself.

The noise did not stop. Orders were flung at soliders and the soliders moved instantly. Uniforms were dusted and adjusted and the proper stance at attention, heels together toes not, was reinforced.

Finally a murmur announced Fox, who answers only to Trail native Paul Manson in the entire military command, had arrived. But he could not just walk in. Military protocol took over in a fashion that suggested everything I had seen in the past 20 minutes was playtime.

Higher-ranking officers who had dined with Fox took their turns saluting into the armouries. Two, three, four times part-time soldiers assumed command. The pecking order was completed when Major Doug Wright, full-time soldier and commanding officer of the 44th field engineer squadron, held the floor.

Fox walked in and stepped up on a podium. The most powerful soliders from sea unto sea is short, has bushy eyebrows and an angular face. I expected a tall, big-boned man.

In fact I noticed during the evening that most of the half-dozen officers travelling in Fox's entourage are slight. They project a determination and discipline that comes from years of soldiering.

As Fox walked through the lines of militia members and cadets there was a perceptible wave of tension. The tension darted from face to face along the ranks as Fox approached. It subsided where he had passed. He said later, upon hearing this observation, "they're all thinking, 'please, not me, don't stop at me.'"

Fox inspires nervous tension and dispenses a relaxing parade-side manner. Each of the people

he stops at, every third one, every fifth sometimes, is asked their length of service, where they've trained, how much they like it. "Stick with it," he says so consistently it becomes the predictable end of all his conversations.

Upon completing the inspection he stood before the assembly and said just the right thing. They looked good, he said, these members of a lonely military enclave in the mountains of British Columbia. Fox went next to references to the federal government white paper on national defence which calls for increased armed forces spending.

"Stick with it," he advised, "Things are going to happen."

Later the parade broke off. Fox and his retinue met privately with Wright and other militia representatives. Wright was using topographical maps to indicate the new shooting range at Casino and other military benchmarks in the area.

Fox turned to me and, in a cordial manner, delivered another pep talk on the army and its cadet program. Both his sons have marched into the program.

Colonels and captains drank coffee and inspected the room while Wright and Fox scrutinized maps. It suddenly occurred to me what really set Fox apart from everyone else in that building on that night. He was the only person fully at ease.

It may be lonely at the top but it also appears to be relaxing.



Way to go!

A change in weather encouraged 93.2 percent of Trail residents to take part in the Participation Challenge. There were hundreds out for yesterday morning's Mayor's Walk which paraded throughout East Trail and the downtown core.

Photo by Nancy Rude



**RESERVE ENGINEER
TRAINING SQUADRON**

**ESCADRON D'INSTRUCTION
DE GÉNIE DE LA RÉSERVE**

ADVANCED ENGINEER TRG CRSE - 1989

REAR (L-R): Nigel Spink, Jean Rodon, Simon , Lionel Boxer, Frank Luet,
Paul Dubois, Mike Belanger, Robin Addison.

FRONT : mtdo Pete Abbott, , me, Harris Sugimoto, Mike Voith
CWO Don Roger.



and

Nelson 1989 Winter Games Society

request the honour of your presence at the

Premier's Reception

on Thursday, the twenty-third day of February,
nineteen hundred and eighty-nine

from nine o'clock in the evening until eleven-thirty o'clock in the evening

at

Maryhall,

Canadian International College

820 - 10th Street, Nelson, B.C.

in honour of Premier and Mrs. Vander Zalm

PRESENTATION OF THIS INVITATION
WILL BE REQUESTED AT THE DOOR

RT & TIE



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NELSON B.C.
FEB. 23-26
1989



I WAS A

GUEST

OF

BRANCH

51

NELSON

B.C.



photos courtesy of Trail Air Cadet

AIR CADETS START NEW YEAR On the Labor Day long weekend the cadets of the 531 Squadron started their 1988-89 training. The year started with a gliding-bush exercise with cadets from 581 Squadron, Nelson. The cadets stayed at the Trail airport and each cadet went flying

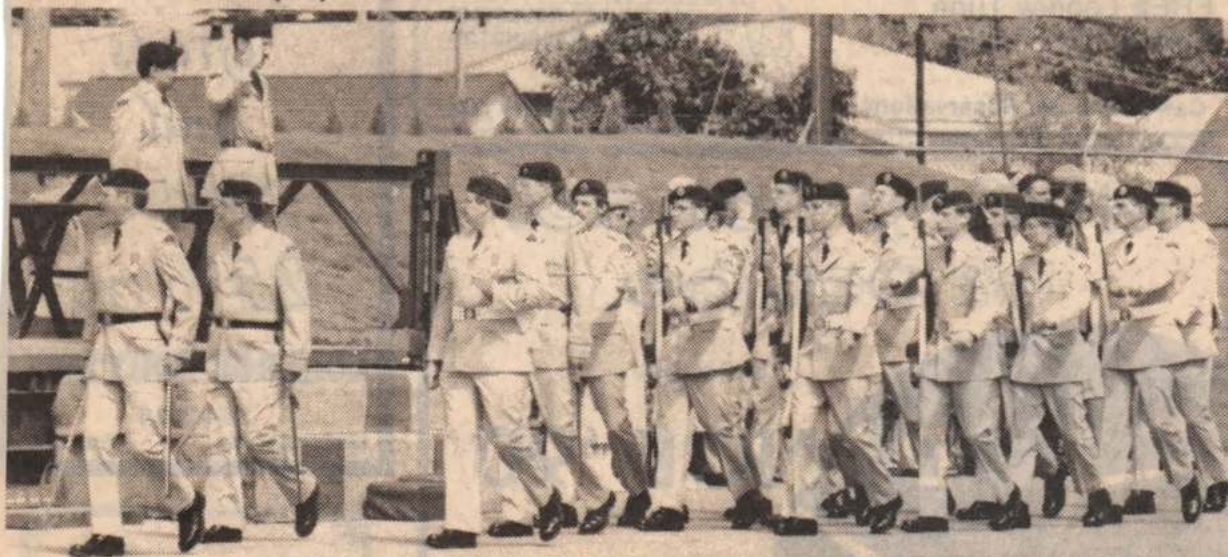
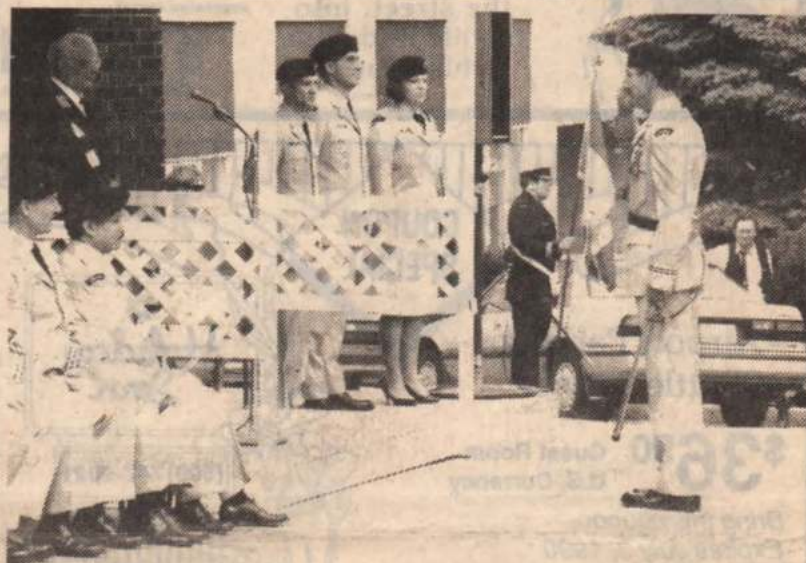
in the Air Cadet Gliders. Photo at left, a cadet watches an aircraft land at Trail. Photo at right shows Major Wright, CO of the 44th Field Engineer Squadron (Militia) Trail with First Sgt. Chris Buckley and Warrant Officer Second Class Derek Campbell.

Parade review

Major Doug Wright accepts the honor of Freedom of the City bestowed upon the 44th Field Engineer Squadron from Mayor Marc Marcolin on Saturday. The honor of Freedom of the City has only been presented eight times since 1961.

General Gerry Silva, Commander of the Pacific Militia area, shared the reviewer's stand with Major Wright for a final march past by the 44th Field Engineer Squadron honoring Wright on the change of command at the local militia unit. Major Bill Wenman, the new unit commander, led the march past.

Photos by Lloyd Mack



44 FIELD ENGINEER SQUADRON

CHANGE OF COMMAND

9 JUNE, 1990

Major C.D. (Doug) Wright, CD

Major Wright was born in Westaskiwin, Alberta in 1953. He enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in August 1971 and attended the Royal Military College, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering.

Upon completion of Military Engineer Officer training at Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering at Chilliwack BC he was posted to the CE section, CFB Edmonton as the Requirements Officer. In 1977 he was posted to Headquarters Canadian Forces Europe in Lahr W. Germany as an Engineer Project Officer and a year later moved to Baden W. Germany as the 2 i/c of the CE section.

In 1980 Captain Wright was posted to 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, Petawawa Ontario where he served as Heavy Equipment Troop Commander, Airborne Field Troop Commander and Adjutant. During this time he also spent a six month tour in Cyprus with the Canadian Airborne Regiment and attended the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston. In 1983 he was transferred to HQ Special Service Force Petawawa as the Brigade Training Officer. During this tour he was also the SSF OPI for the C.A.S.T. Brigade in Norway. Two years later he returned to 2 CER as the Deputy Commanding Officer.

He was promoted to his current rank and took command of 44 Field Engineer Squadron in July, 1987. He is transferred this summer to Land Forces Central Area Toronto.

Major Wright is married to the former Mary Tauscher of Barrhead, Alberta and they have one daughter, Melissa, age 6.

9 JUNE, 1990

CHANGE OF

COMMAND CEREMONY

NOTE: ALL GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO BE SEATED BY 1415 HOURS.

MARCH ON THE NATIONAL FLAG Spectators Please Rise

REVIEWING OFFICER ARRIVES Spectators Please Rise

GENERAL SALUTE.....	Spectators Remaining Standing Until completion of General Salute
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REVIEWING OFFICER INSPECTS TROOPS..... Brigadier-General Silva does Inspection

SQUADRON MARCH PAST..... Spectators Please Rise when Squadron Marches Past.

SIGNING OF CERTIFICATES..... Major Wright, Major Wenman,
Brigadier-General Silva

SQUADRON MARCH PAST..... Spectators Please Rise when Squadron Marches Past.

SQUADRON ADVANCE IN REVIEW ORDER..... Spectators Please Rise on Advance and remain standing during General Salute.

REVIEWING OFFICER DEPARTS.....Brigadier-General Silva departs. Spectators
please remain standing.

MARCH OFF THE NATIONAL FLAG..... Spectators are requested to remain standing until the National Flag has been Marched Off.

BRIEF HISTORY OF 44 FIELD ENGINEER SQUADRON

44 Field Engineer Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers was formed on 5 June, 1947.

The Squadron was first quartered in the Tadanac Barracks, Tadanac, B.C. The unit moved from this location to downtown Trail, into the building now used by River Belle Restaurant.

The present Trail Armoury was constructed in 1953, and the Squadron was relocated after its completion. The unit shared the accommodation with 24th MAA (Medium Anti-Aircraft) and a company of CWAC (Canadian Women Army Corps).

The Squadron was known as 44th Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers - until the fall of 1977, at which time it was renamed 44 Field Engineer Squadron, Canadian Military Engineers

The Squadron has won the Hertzberg Trophy for the best Militia Engineer tasks (Canada wide) in 1981 for a dam demolition project near Stewart, B.C.

In 1982 the Squadron won the trophy again for a road construction project on Red Mountain near Trail and in 1984 for a suspension bridge constructed at Zuckerberg Island, Castlegar, B.C.

CANADA NATIONAL TEAM

vs

SOVIET UNION OLYMPIC TEAM

Thursday, January 4, 1990
at the Trail Memorial Centre

Section 12 Row A Seat 1

\$12.50 reserved seating

7:30 p.m.

RSS PACIFIC

Presented to:~

Major C.D. Wright

who served Pacific Militia Area
for the period

3 July 1987 to 6 July 1990

in recognition of dedicated service
and achievement in support of

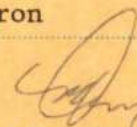
44 Field Engineer

Squadron



T.H.M. Silva, BGen
Commander
Pacific Militia Area





M.H. McMurray, Col
Commanding Officer
Regular Support Staff
Pacific

