SPECIAL EDITION

Vimy 100
In Memoriam: Dr. Peter George
Operation LENTUS

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C.H. (Chris) Marvin CD

Vimy 100
I have been remiss in not providing timely updates to the Regimental Family on the goings on within the unit.

April 9th, 2017 saw the Regiment commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge; this was a focal point for recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of Canadians during the First World War for the Canadian Army, 31 Signal Regiment and the Hamilton Signals Association and Vintage Signals Team. I have run out of superlatives in describing the efforts of the HSA and VST in keeping alive the history of signaling in Canada and abroad by Canadians; there is simply no
finer similar organization anywhere. I am attaching the April VST Bulletin on their Vimy 100 activities for a comprehensive overview of their efforts.

Of particular note for the Regiment was the reception of a message hand-delivered by a member of the VST that read “Canadians Victorious at VIMY 100 years ago...We salute and remember them". I relayed this message to the Commander of 31 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Chris Poole, who then saw fit to forward it to all units in the Brigade. We were also fortunate to have MCpl Russ represent the Regiment in person at the commemoration at the Vimy Memorial in Arras, France. We received the following from MCpl Russ shortly after the conclusion of the ceremonies:

“Today was a beautiful day to remember and honour the Battle of Vimy Ridge 9 April 1917. The sun has been brightly shining on the monuments and the ridge, which was not the case 100 years ago. The names of the 3,594 soldiers were read while we waited for the ceremony to start. Boots with a poppy inside were placed around the monument in remembrance of the fallen. It was so emotional and overwhelming seeing the amount of Canadians who came here to Vimy today in honour to remember those soldiers who fought and died. PM Trudeau, the President of France, and the Royal Family were in attendance and each highlighted the significance of Canada and how Canada was born on Vimy Ridge. I cannot imagine what life was like for those 7,000 Canadians who fought on this ridge. Words cannot express the feeling that I have and for the amount of Canadians who had fallen here. Lest We Forget.”

**Dr. Peter George**

It is with great sadness that I must acknowledge the passing of Dr. Peter George, President Emeritus of McMaster University and Honorary Colonel of 31 Signal Regiment. A memorial service will be convened in Peter’s honour on June 11th at McMaster University.

The opportunity to work with Peter played no small part in my decision to assume command of the Regiment. I knew Peter previously through my days as a graduate student at McMaster. He was considered by many as the elder statesman of university presidents in Canada and the prototype for that position. His is an incalculable loss not only for the Regiment, but for the Corps, McMaster University, the City of Hamilton and the entire nation.

Peter was very much looking forward to leading our efforts in strengthening our community footprint and facing the challenges of furthering the interests of a small Regiment housed among very large units that are household names. It now falls to us who remain to build on the foundation he has laid.

**Operation LENTUS**

I am pleased to inform you that the Regiment has deployed 7 soldiers to the operation supporting the flood relief efforts in Quebec. Deployed operations are our raison d’etre, and I have received nothing but positive feedback with respect to the performance of our signalers in the field. We are currently providing not only communications support to the manoeuvre elements, but connectivity to higher headquarters, including 4th Canadian Division and 2nd Canadian Division. The capabilities we deployed included everything from man-pack radios to the Light Communications Suite (LCS); a comms system designed specifically to facilitate command and control between headquarters, and in a secure environment if required.

It is now the expectation of Canadians that their Army trains for, and deploys on, domestic operations. Training for these types of operations is now firmly entrenched in our operating and training plans. Our people answered the call on very short notice, i.e., a few hours, and put the
needs of Canada above their own; the entire Regimental Family can be justifiable proud of their efforts and performance.
Photos of the Month