

The Golden Spur



The Canadian Association of Forces Linemen Newsletter
December 2004



Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy
New Year

To all Members and their families

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members. This is once again the end of a very busy year for all members. In the last year, we have certainly experienced tremendous changes within the Line trade with the retirement of many senior trade members and associates. On the bright side, the trade is getting younger members at the top and it is nice to see that deserving members get to stand at the plate and prove what they can do.

Well my term as the CAFL president is coming to an end after two years in office. During this period, I had the privilege to participate in a few events around the country and meet with retired linemen and newer trade members. On each occasions, I was greeted with tremendous friendship. I especially enjoyed discussing trade adventures with the old boys and quickly realized that even though the name of the players may have changed, the theme remained the same, the hard work, the pride of workmanship, the camaraderie and foremost the overwhelming sense of belonging to a very select group of individuals. I would be remised if I did not mention the spouses and families who through the good and bad times could always be counted on to support each and every one of us. Their superb support is the key factor to the success of our trade.



In closing, I would like to thank you all for the outstanding support you have provided me with in the past two years. I especially want to thank the national executive for their valued assistance in preparing newsletters, maintaining the membership list and for representing me at different functions. A special note of appreciation goes to Darren Cluney and Sue Bard for their outstanding contribution to our association by maintaining and constantly improving our Web site.

I ask you all to keep supporting the association, uphold trade values and traditions and to provide your new president (Les Thomlinson) with the same level of support I enjoyed.

The National Executive joins me to wish you their very best for the holiday and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Signing off;

Mike Huard
President
CAFL

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Mike Huard	President
Les Thomlinson	Vice-President
Serge Fugere	Treasurer
Frank LeBlanc	Fellowship
Wayne Babcock	Membership Rep
Arnie Murray	Editor

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Marc Scheppler	President
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Maritime Region (New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island)

Bernie Currie	President
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Quebec Region (Quebec)

Tony Ogrinc	President
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Central Region (Kingston and surrounding areas)

Darren Cluney	President
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Petawawa Region (Petawawa and surrounding areas)

Ken Noseworthy	President
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National Capital Region (Ottawa and surrounding areas)

Wayne Babcock	President
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Prairie Region (Manitoba & Saskatchewan)

Jeff Sandney	President
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Western Region (Alberta)

Gord Heaton	President
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Pacific Region (British Columbia)

Brian Homuth	President
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CAFL NEWS LETTER WESTERN REGION

As President of the Western Region of the CAFL, as well as the president of the Evansburg, AB Royal Canadian Legion, a special bond has evolved over the last six years or so.

Along with the 14 annual camp outs which the Civi side of the Line Association has hosted, and shared, with the Edmonton Line Crews, we have offered a special place of honour in our town of 1000 people.

Each November 11, the Edmonton Line Crew has journeyed the 70 miles west of Edmonton to wow our town and honour our legion and cenotaph with their military presence (Buggsie Leaburn & Kenny Fage would roll over if they saw linemen doing this.)

With the five man Guard of Honour posted on the four corners of the Cenotaph and the NCOIC manning the flag pole with the rest of the crew resplendent in their greens. The blend of present and past veterans gives the town a military boost, the likes of which this area has never known before.



WO Dave Dauber, as well as his predecessors, has always made a great effort to have the guys as close to home as possible to partake in the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Our +75 and +80 year old WWII vets also like to elbow in, after the service and roast beef lunch is over, to swap war stories with the young guys. One of our vets, Signals Sgt. Lou Anderson (attached to the Arty) was set up with his wireless van beside the bridge when Smokie Smith won his VC in WWII. And so it goes, beer, linemen and good times.

We were honoured this year with a visit from Lt. Col. Loos GD, CO of Kingston CFJSR and CWO Read LW, RSM CFJSR.

So, to all linemen past and present, remember "Linemen are Forever".

Gord Heaton

Pres. Western CAFL

CFJSR DETACHEMENT EDMONTON

We returned to a different shop this summer after a much needed rest. MWO McEvoy pulled up stakes and relocated to Line Training to be the new head honcho. Said he hated to go, but seemed to be in an awful rush, hmmm, I wonder... Anyway, Sgt Troy Byrne, and MCpl Will Whitaker have gone to the “Mother Ship” in Kingston, (lucky them), Cpl Kevin Snyder to Winnipeg, Cpl Kevin Felts to Wainwright, and Cpl Bill Cunningham to Suffield. We now have the task of bringing MCpl Troy Polak, and Cpl Jason Abel up to the trade leading standards maintained here at Detachment Edmonton. After a few days of marshalling equipment, both crews were on the road.



One crew was off to do some antenna maintenance in Cold Lake, the other to Yellowknife. The first crew of Sgt. “Moe” Morin, MCpl Billy Pronovost, Cpl’s Steph Proulx, Pat Hall, and Pte’s Sammy Septimo, and Mark Pelton, battled the brush with machete’s at the overgrown tower sites in the remote low-level comm. Sites in PLER, and everyone enjoyed a chopper ride or two.

Pte Sammy Septimo doing maintenance in Cold Lake.

The Crew of Sgt. Dale Sullivan, MCpl’s Will Whitaker, and Troy Polak, and Pte Ricki Gower were kept busy fighting with bugs, and an osprey that decided to build a nest on one of our towers tried to carry away Pte Gower (she probably thought one of her eggs had hatched).



MCpl’s Polak, and Whitaker assisting Pte Gower in Yellowknife. Note the “Bug Hats” Not just practical, but fashionable too.

The western area C.A.F.L. campout was held this year at Seba Beach the 13-15 of August this year. Golfing, great food, great people, and even a few lies around the campfire ensured a good time for everyone this year.



Les Bjerknes, Gary Welsch, Don McNair, Gord Heaton, Bill Escott, Moe Morin, Mark Pelton, Pat Hall, Billy Pronovost, Pete Fox missing.

The Det. has successfully Completed DRT training this year, most of the lectures were very informative especially for the newer members. TOET's followed by the range was exciting, we blasted off 1000 rounds, some members are being nominated for the JTF as they are exceptional marksmen (not). As for the map and compass training Pte Septimo is now changing his name to Magellan, I think he gets lost at the grocery store



Sgt Morin, Pte Pelton, Cpl Abel. Rock, paper, Scissors for “dat way”

Even with all the “hard core” army training, we managed to have a few filler classes like: manhole entry, high angle rescue, and how to write PDR's. Not to leave out the best part the BET, the expression “it aint easy walking on water” has a completely new meaning (ouch blisters). Thanks allot to Sgt Lacasse and MCpl Jessome who came all the way from the mother ship in Kingston to teach us First Aid and NBCD. Much appreciated.

With the arrival of September, and about a foot of snow, the new Detachment Commander cleared in, MWO (Joe) Piovesan. Fortunately, he has been posted to Alberta in the past and was not overly surprised to see a ton of snow on Labour Day.

Were all looking forward to completing a busy fall with projects in Cold Lake and Good old Wainwright, cant wait to get a big feed of deer and moose steaks. Followed of course, with a well-earned opportunity to spend time with families and getting some R & R during the Christmas break. After New years, some more refresher training, more on the trade side this time. Then its back on the road for the Grand Daddy of all projects, (put me in, coach) the BC Island swing. Hey, it's a dirty job, but someone has to do it.

All members of CFJSR Det Edmonton send warmest regards to all serving and retired Linemen and their friends and families.

Written By: Cpl Patrick J Hall. AKA (Onion Head)



MARITIME REGION

Greetings from the Maritime Region/ N.B., P.E.I. here in Gagetown. An unusual cold, snowy winter with a damp spring has lead to great summer weather for all you folks who may be visiting the Atlantic Provinces this summer.

With summer came the start of another APS, newly promoted to MCpl Larry Bartlett was posted to 3 RCR in Petawawa and Ben Champagne to 2 RCR here in Gagetown, our lost of experienced Lmn will surely be the RCR's gain. MCpl Norm Leblanc is heading to 2 Sigs in Petawawa after one short year here; maybe the fishing is better up that way. We would also like to welcome MCpl Byrne from Wainwright, Cpl's Brian Murray and Rick Naugler from Kingston, and Cpl's Sebastian Wauthier and Jim Penny from the School. We would also like to mention our line counterparts in 2 RCR and bid a fond goodbye to MCpl Kevin Duffett off to Petawawa, MCpl Steve Williams to the school and welcome to Cpl Digou to 2 RCR.

The Line Section recently had a Fishing Derby in May. Thanks to Ben Champagne's green acres property that borders on a lake, you could not get a better spot to set camp (his yard) and fish. An excellent time was had by all. Everyone in the section did their part to make this a success. Ben, Andy and Chris got caught in some high winds on the lake in a canoe equipped with an electric motor that was just not cutting it. Thanks to Chris's navy experience and Norm Leblanc's boat they were able to navigate the high seas. Not a lot of fish were caught but there was no shortage of stories told around the camp fire that evening. We hope to continue with this event next year.

I won't talk much about work, as with all work centers, there is lot's to do and to add to it, the Line Section here has just recently taken on the maintenance at Camp Aldershot N.S. Glad that the cable plant there has been re-done from the ground up and is in good shape. The new MDF Bldg here in Gagetown has just been completed and the adventure (cutover) is in progress.

I would like to say a few words about this retired Lmn (Bernie Currie). I'm having a good time working here in the section as a civilian assisting the Install and Repair section on base. When I'm not pulling or looking for Cat 5 cable in bldgs, I am extremely busy with the infrastructure within J-7 (the schools). Along with that I'm working on my short game on the golf course in the summer and my out turn in the Curling Rink in the winter. The Line Trade continues to be good to me and I hope to do a few more years with it here in Gagetown.

As for the 100th year C&E Birthday, activities are planned here at 3 ASG Signal Sqn in the fall. Some of the events being prepared are a Meet Greet, Curling Funspiel and a Dinner/Dance. As with all functions, the Line section will offer its full support, besides what's an event without Lmn, I need not say more. In closing, from all the Lmn here in the Maritime Chapter wish everyone a fun/safe holiday with your family and friends.

The Gagetown Crew

CFB BORDEN

Seasons Greetings from CFB Borden, CFSTG TIS Base Telecommunications Line Section. We hope this finds all the linemen across this great country safe, sound and whenever possible home with their loved ones during this holiday season.

Currently the Line Section here at Borden consists of WO Blair MacKnight, Sgt Jody Sherrington, MCpl Rob Cassista, Cpl Jason Scagnetti, LS Jon Leroux, and Cpl Rod Perez from 709 Comm Regt Toronto. With Sgt Sherrington away on his 6B course and Cpl Scagnetti on his QL5, we are feeling the manpower crunch more than ever. We lost 3 members this past year with WO Lester Henry being posted to CFB Esquimalt and Sgt Ken Jones and Cpl Mike McCauley posted to CFJSR Kingston, we hope you guys have settled into your new positions and are doing well.

Here at CFB Borden the Line Section is responsible for the outside cable plant, this means no structure wiring with the exception of some inside Fibre Optic cabling. We have almost one hundred manholes and close to two hundred buildings that are interconnected with approximately twenty thousand copper pair and two thousand strands of fibre. These are distributed through four distribution frames placed strategically throughout the base. This adds up to a busy yearly maintenance schedule and a state of playing constant catch up with our maintenance concerns.

We are also involved in various projects throughout CFB Borden. Through careful planning and with specialized equipment we have been able to complete some challenging cable installs this past year. The Circled Pines Golf Course had over two kilometres of fibre pulled through our manhole system and was also fed with copper cable. The Rod and Gun club also had over 1800 meters of fibre and copper cable installed underground and on pole line. In addition, CFJSR Det Petawawa has been invaluable performing work to the highest standards for our manhole bypass from the MDF and the new barrack blocks. Thanks guys!

Our yearly setup and tear down of Blackdown park cadet camp came off without a hitch. Cpl Scagnetti spends two weeks each spring and fall providing various communications needs to ensure the cadets are able to have a successful training camp. The diesel powered cable locators were also keeping us busy this year, after a couple of incidents the contractors now know what a dig permit is and how to get one filled out.

The new year will find us trying to accomplish as much maintenance as possible before the busy end of the fiscal year is upon us. With Sgt Sherrington and Cpl Scagnetti back we will be poised to meet all challenges head on and accomplish our goals. From all of us here at CFB Borden, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Through
Cassista RJA



CFJSR DETACHMENT HALIFAX NEWS

By John(Jack) Hunt, Associate Member

Fall 2004

The year is flying by. Christmas will be upon us again very soon. Everyone within CFJSR Det Halifax worked exceptionally hard this year (as usual) and should get a little something extra in their stockings.

The following line personnel were posted into CFJSR Det. Halifax: Cpl Marty Leblanc from LLWC Halifax, Cpl Rudy Skalaa from Cold Lake, Cpl Randy Finlayson from Edmonton, Pte Tom Boyce from CFSCE, Reservist Cpl Jake Skalaa from Glace Bay and Pte Jamie Hardy from PAT Platoon, who recently returned to CFSCE Kingston for his QL3 course.

Once posting season was over and summer leave completed, the crews headed for Goosebay and Gander for their annual cable/antenna maintenance trip. Once the crew in Goosebay finished, they joined up with the other crew in Gander to complete maintenance on the FRD 10A (Big Antenna).

After a job well done on the Rock (Newfoundland), everyone in CFJSR Det Halifax was on their way to PEI for adventure training, including civilians who volunteered to go and endure the activities. This adventure training was made possible by the dedication and perseverance of MWO Tom Sonier and WO Mark Scheppler. Itinerary for this particular adventure training was to bike across PEI which is a distance of 289 kms. There were two teams of bikers and a trail party to provide drinks, munchies, lunches, etc., at certain rest points. By the way, I biked 105 kms (not bad for an old guy!). This bike adventure lasted five days including four nights of camping and spanned the province from Tignish on the west side to Elmira in the east. During this gruelling bike ride, in spite of sore rears and knees, fun was had by all. Meals provided by Cpl Steve Martin and Wenda Watson were of a culinary delight!

Upon arrival home, we received word that Scott Nelson had passed away. CFJSR Det Halifax and local line work centre attended Scott's funeral in New Germany. MWO Tom Sonier gave the eulogy, which was the highest of standards for a well-respected lineman within the Department of National Defence. Sadly, earlier in the summer, Scott's wife Margaret passed away after a lengthy illness.

Finally, the cable and antenna crews will be in Greenwood and Gagetown between now and Christmas and Sgt Hewitt and Sgt Aucoin are back in school until Christmas for their QL6B course.



Happy Holidays from CFJSR Det Halifax

71 G COMM

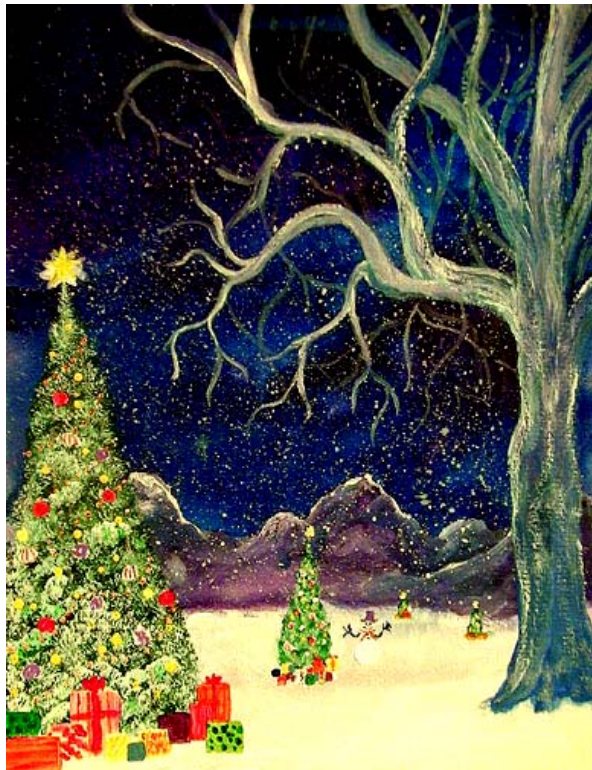
Good day to all. For those of you who do not know, 71 Comm Grp is in Montreal, Quebec and looks after 3 units: 712 Com Sqn Montreal, 713 Com Regt Beauport and 714 Com Sqn Sherbrooke. We are supposed to be 25 Lmn but actually we are 33.

We just had a trg weekend at the end of October for all Res Lmn in Quebec. We did it in Valcartier in the bldg of the base Line Work Centre. We had 13 members which is pretty good since we have 7 in class B and some others are working during the weekends. MWO Lafreniere from St-Jean gave an excellent presentation relating to his LCS duties. We also had the participation of Cpl Leute (reg Lmn) who provided an excellent refresher trg on the DSP4300 test set.

A lot of good points came out from the weekend and we are looking forward to do the same thing next year. There is an excellent collaboration between the Reg LCFs and the Res LCFs. For those who are familiar with the prestigious "Jean Romard challenge", we had reserve competitors for the past two years who placed very well in the competition. It is a bad timing for us since our members are attending training in Kingston or Shilo during that time frame but so far we managed to send a few every year. This summer Cpl Laberge from 713 Com Regt finished second during the national competition. We were very proud of him. It would be appreciated if a team from all regions could attend next year's competition scheduled to take place in June 2005.

Farewell to all and hope to hear from you soon.

JC Paiement



HELLO FROM 2 CMBG HQ & SIG

It has been a long time since our last communiqué and for good reason. The Sqn has been extremely busy since coming back in February from a successful mission in Afghanistan, and lot has happened since then.

First of all, we would like to extend our congratulation to the following newly promoted members. Sgt Mike Walsh, Sgt Bill Grandy, Sgt Rob Nicholson, MCpl Rob Nickerson, MCpl Joe Bell, MCpl Ron During, MCpl Rich Townsend. Also Lt Joe Kemp and Lt Scott Oikle commissioned from the ranks.

The Brigade has grown in leaps and bounds in the last few months. We would like to welcome the following new members. Sgt Mike Walsh, MCpl's Joe Bell, Frank Evans, Larry Gaudet, Norm Leblanc, Rich Townsend and Ron During, MCpl Larry Bartlett (1RCR), Cpl Corry Holloway, Cpl Rob Blake (2 SVC), Pte's Kent Hennigar, Ron Keegan, Matt Kozera, Matt London, Adam Rowsell and Dustin Turpin. By the way, we are now the second largest lineman section in Canada after CFJSR Kingston (mother ship).

We also lost newly promoted Sgt Grandy (congrats) to CFJSR Petawawa, Cpl Letendre to 1 RCR and Cpl Sluiter to 1 RCHA. Also new to the base are WO Mike Hervieux and Pte Murphy to CFJSR. Linemen to leave the area are WO Jim Power left Petawawa for Kingston and newly promoted Sgt Rob Nicholson who is going to Suffield.

One of the many activities we took part of is the Jean Romard competition and our congratulations goes out to our own Cpl Mike Chiasson for taking 2nd place overall (way to go). Last year, we regrettably we had to cancel our annual Bill Hanson fishing derby do to the units' deployment. However, this year made up for last. Cpl Noseworthy, who had taken over as president of our chapter from Sgt Grandy did an excellent job. The location had to change due to unavailability of our regular location, but a new spot was found in Deep River, and after countless hours of brush clearing and cleaning up it was ready for the event (thanks to all that helped). Cpl Chiasson took the trophy this year with the largest fish (Sturgeon) for the adult division and Theodore Ladouceur took the youth division.



We are now preparing for our Christmas events with our dinner taking part on Dec 10. The work here never stops; we have MCpl Bell and Cpl Noseworthy going to Afghanistan and Cpl Chiasson going to the Golan, (good luck guys). I could go on forever but I wont because space is limited. Above all, we would like to extend everyone a merry Christmas and prosperous new year.



Diamonds in the Rough

ONCE A LINEMAN, ALWAYS A LINEMAN.

GREENWOOD

Hello to all from the heart of the Annapolis Valley 14 Wing Greenwood, and more specifically 14 TIS Sqn Line Section.

The Section has undergone some minor changes since the last Golden Spur. Most notably, MCpl Rich Townsend was promoted to his present rank and shipped off for some field fun as a part of HQ & Sigs in Petawawa. Replacing him in the relatively confusing world of the Air force is myself, Cpl Mike Conway, in from 1 Line Sqn Kingston.



Finally the section is whole again. The crew was pretty short on manning as MCpl Tony “Olive Drab” Skinner and Cpl Pat Cavanaugh were fulfilling their operational obligations in the Middle East. In fact, Pat liked it so much; he just had to go back for another six months, returning in early August. It seems the only place he likes better than the UAE is Greenwood! That left LCF Sgt Dan Zajac in “the rear with the gear” shovelling driveways and mowing lawns for his dearly departed line crew.

As the posting season and summer leave came to a close, there was work to be done and not a lot of guys to do it. Line section tackled an antennae job outside of 9 Hangar, which entailed replacing, retuning, and refurbishing antennas mounted on a 100’ structure. The project gave the crew some invaluable refresher training on safety, rigging, and use of various test equipment that we do not always employ.

The fall season brought some more Linemen to the Wing as Sgt Aucoin and his crew from the RLWC in Halifax completed a major installation at the new Flight Simulator building on the Wing. Also, the Halifax antenna crew headed by my MCpl Jody Jones were on hand to perform some maintenance in the area. It’s always good to see some friendly Linemen faces down this way.

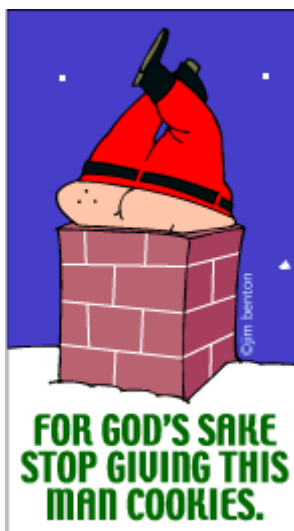
Now that projects are done and out of the way, we intend to get down to what we were put on this Wing to do...maintenance, and lots of it. The LCF in his infinite wisdom decided that the bitter months of January and February should be spent indoors on closets, and I don’t think he has any arguments. Of course, if we have any more incidents like the “Blackout of ‘04”, we may very well be stuck hanging off a tower in the middle of a snowstorm. Fingers crossed on that one.



(MCpl Skinner and Cpl Cavanagh living the high life)

The next big event of the winter is the C&E curling bonspiel. This event has typically been well attended by LMN 052 in the Atlantic region, and I know first hand it is an excellent event. So if your in the area, (or not), be sure to head down to the Valley for a little Beer & Brooms.

Until next time keep it safe and Happy Holidays to you and yours....





SEASONS GREETINGS FROM OTTAWA

Well its that time of the year again, when we say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. From MWO Wayne Babcock, WO Les Thomlinson, Sgt John Campbell, Sgt Dave Burgess, Sgt R Dinelle, MCpl A Cerone, MCpl R Kliche and MCpl J Stephens. This year we thought we would put a little humor into the letter instead of the usual.

Trivia:

Why do we "pass the buck"?

Hunters, of course, never pass the buck, preferring instead to take careful aim. However the rest of us are all occasionally guilty of not taking responsibility when we should. But what is this "buck" that we pass when we offer our pathetic excuses? Surely it can't refer to the American slang for a dollar bill. No, we don't come that cheap. In fact, that hunter I mentioned is connected to the origins of the phrase. "Buck" was originally buckshot, which was used as a token in card games, being passed to the person whose turn it was to deal. One responsibility the dealer had was to place the first bet, which not everyone wanted to do. If they weren't up to it, they could pass the buck. There you have it: your deal.

Wit:

A Lineman was taking it easy, laying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God. God", he said, "how long is a million years?" God answered, "In my frame of reference, it's about a minute." The Lineman asked, "God, how much is a million dollars?" God answered, "To me, it's a penny." The Lineman then asked, "God, can I have a penny?" God answered, "In a minute."

Humor:

'Twas the night before Christmas,

He lived all alone, in a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the mantle just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary; I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly. The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United Nations soldier. Was this the hero whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed? I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here. I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my god, my country, my corps." The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still and we both shivered from the cold night's chill. I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

In closing we wish everyone god speed and best wishes in the New Year. The Lineman here in Ottawa send VVV

One never needs their humor as much as when they argue with a fool.

WISHES FROM KABUL



Claude Cantin, Simon Chateaufneuf, Patrick Dennie, Gerry Lambert, Mike Savoie, Gaetan Aylwin, Zane Sanford
MCpl Krist Gummer, Cpl Mike Purdy & Missing Cam Hardy

CFSCE KINGSTON

On the 10th of September 2004, 18 elite members of the Canadian Forces Line trade assaulted in force on CFSCE. The objective was to complete a Lineman Journeyman course without fear or worry of the fight ahead. The assault crafts came in many different forms, i.e. Trains, Planes and Automobiles. The first task was to re-org with the staff that had been there for some time. The staff first straightened out their kit and quarters, and then led them into the first assault.

They say, "Battle is glorious but horrible at the same time." and I will never forget it. The enemy was strong but not strong enough. The elite members attacked the 30-foot poles, the 70-foot sticks and the 150-foot tower with extreme prejudice and with no remorse. Within one day, the first wave of enemy was defeated. "MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON THEIR SOLES"!



With that glorious victory these elite members celebrated with the grand opening of "NATE'S PLACE". Many beers and tears were spilt there. It is said, "celebrations never last forever and war never sleeps". Their next foe was a formidable one, it had two faces, and its name was "Erecting and Dismantling a Mallard Tower". This is a strange name for an enemy, but still, an enemy. This battle took several weeks, fortunately they took no casualties and once again were victorious, "MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON THEIR SOLES"!. With yet another battle won, this elite force of 18 was poised to face and defeat any enemy in their way but first some rejoicing was in order at "NATE'S PLACE". There were many more beers, tears... and a broken window.

After a short break these hardened 18 craved more battle. They got what they asked for, but didn't want what they got. This enemy was the toughest and ugliest yet. The battle is still raging, but I had a chance to visit the battlefield recently, "OH GOD, THE HUMANITY OF IT ALL"! The battlefield looked like a gladiator pit after a robot war. Helmets on, eyes of stone, MR1 in hand they continue to fight diligently. I know that these troops will defeat this enemy some day soon (Friday). When that day comes, I WILL meet them at "NATE'S PLACE" for beers and tears and maybe a dirty pillow.



God speed to the following members of Line Journeyman 0401.

Cpl. Champoux USS St. Jean
Cpl. Daigle CFJSR Petawawa (Algonquin for I don't know, what do you wanna do?)
Cpl. Holloway HQ & Sigs Petawawa
Cpl. Jackman HQ & Sigs Petawawa
Cpl. Langlais Valcartier QG & ET (PLUM)
Cpl. Letendre 1 RCR Petawawa
Cpl. Neilson 8 Wing Trenton (Man down)
Cpl. Niles CFB Halifax (as old as the Nile)
Cpl. Perron QG & ET Valcartier
Cpl. Pitcher CFJSR Petawawa (85%)
Cpl. Saunders 1 Line Sqn (ab)
Cpl. Scagnetti CFB Borden (good god put your boots back on)
Cpl. Sluiter 2RCHA Petawawa (SLUITER BROKE A WINDOW)
Cpl. Stacy 5 RLLC (squeak)
Cpl. Villeneuve 1 SVC Bn Edmonton (do I look good?)
Cpl. Wauthier CFB Gagetown (seabass)
Cpl. Whalen 1 Line (please don't tell my WO)
Cpl. Young CFJSR Petawawa (pikie)



Cours d'apprenti 0402(F)

Lorsque nous sommes arrivés à Kingston, au commencement du cours, un grand nombre d'entre nous se connaissaient déjà. Quelques-uns étaient en OJT à Valcartier, Borden et Kingston donc ils avaient déjà une petite base du métier. Cela fut appréciable pour nous tous, car plusieurs fois ils purent nous offrir de petits conseils utiles. Nous avons débuté notre QL3 avec treize personnes et fort probablement nous finirons le trois décembre avec ce même nombre.

Nous avons aussi apprécié le poleball car cela nous a appris à avoir confiance en notre équipement, ainsi qu'en nous même. Nous avons également eu la chance de défier les autres cours et d'apprendre à mieux les connaître. Jusqu'au beau jour que le cours 0501 nous a envoyé le défi, que nous avons pris avec plaisir. La première joute se passa très bien pour nous, il nous restait 8 hommes au sommet des poteaux. Après cette joute nous avons eu de nouveau règlement qui ne nous fessai pas plaisir du tout, mais avec bon cœur nous avons été écrasés. Nous avons laissé savoir que les nouveaux règlements étaient stupides, après obstination l'OC, le SSM d'esq ainsi que ses disciples ont fui les lieux assez vite merci. Grâce à cette journée super nous avons eu en cadeau une petite session de nettoyage de pelles et de contage de clous un vendredi après-midi. Mais juste pour vous dire quand même que la dernière joute on la gagné.

Il faut bien aussi conter au moins une couples d'anecdote qui c'est passer durant le cours. Une journée pendant que nous étions entrain de creuser pour planter des poteaux, un gars du cours a prit la peine de nous mentionner de faire attention pour ne pas tomber dans le trou d'un poteau que nous venions de creuser car nous étions prêts à installer un nouveau poteau de 30 pieds et il avait enlevé la palette par-dessus. 30 seconde après avoir averti le monde deviner qui est dans le trou? Bravo vous avez deviné oui oui le même gars qui nous avait averti était dans le trou. Mais le plus drôle c'est que notre Cplc riait de lui, pis deviner qu'est-ce qui est arriver au Cplc? Boom dans le trou lui aussi par la suite mais pas dans le même. Une autre petite incident le site de pole line a vue quatre personnes se trouver tous sur les fesses lorsqu la corde qu'ils utilisait pour tirer liguatureur lâcha. Il avait environ un pied d'eu un gros trou d'eau environ 20-30cm de profond.



En tous, nous avons très apprécié le cours car c'était un nouveaux défis pour nous tous. Le professionnalisme des instructeur ainsi que l'instruction rendu étai de haute qualité. Nous sommes tous fière d'avoir réussi cette exploit et d'avoir entré dans la famille de Poseur de Lignes.

Étudiants 0402(F)

Sdt Charest (Ottawa)
Sdt Comeau.JF (Kingston 1 line)
Sdt Comeau.M (Kingston 1 line)
Sdt Gaudet (Kingston 1 line)
Cpl Gauthier Brousseau (Kingston 1 line)
Sdt Gunville-Vachon (Petawawa base crew)
Sdt Launay (713 R comm)
Sdt Marois (Kingston 1 line)
Cpl Michaluk (Valcartier)
Sdt Parent (Petawawa)
Sdt Rioux (Edmonton)
Cpl Roy (Kingston 1 line)
Sdt Tanguay (Edmonton probablement 3PPCLI)



HONORING ONE OF OUR FELLOW LINEMAN
Signalman William Todd Gray, MM

On Oct 21, 2004, during the occasion of the CFJSR Building Dedication Ceremony, the National CAFL President (Mike Huard) presented the Signalman William Todd Gray, MM medals to Lcol Greg Loos Commanding Officer of CFJSR HQ.

Signalman William Todd Gray was born on 7 April 1911 in Edinburg Scotland. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Regimental Number D21413, on 14 January 1940 and was discharged on 21 July 1945, serving a total of five years and 189 days. Signalman Gray was posted overseas on 14 July 1940 as part of 1 Canadian Corps Signals, departing Halifax on 24 July 1940 and arriving a Greenock, Scotland on 1 August 1940. Upon his arrival in England, he was taken on strength of 7 Corps Signals which was formed from 1 Canadian Corps Signals on 21 July 1940. On 25 December 1940, 7 Corps ceased to exist and reverted back to 1 Canadian Corps Signals. While in England, Signalman Gray received his training as a lineman and achieved his Lineman qualification on 18 June 1941.

Signalman Gray distinguished himself during the latter stages of the war in Italy in December 1944 during the advance on Ravenna and Godo, just north of Rimini on the Adriatic Coast. For his actions in these battles, he was awarded the Military Medal. As a result of his dedicated service to Canada in World War II, Signalman Gray was awarded the following medals:

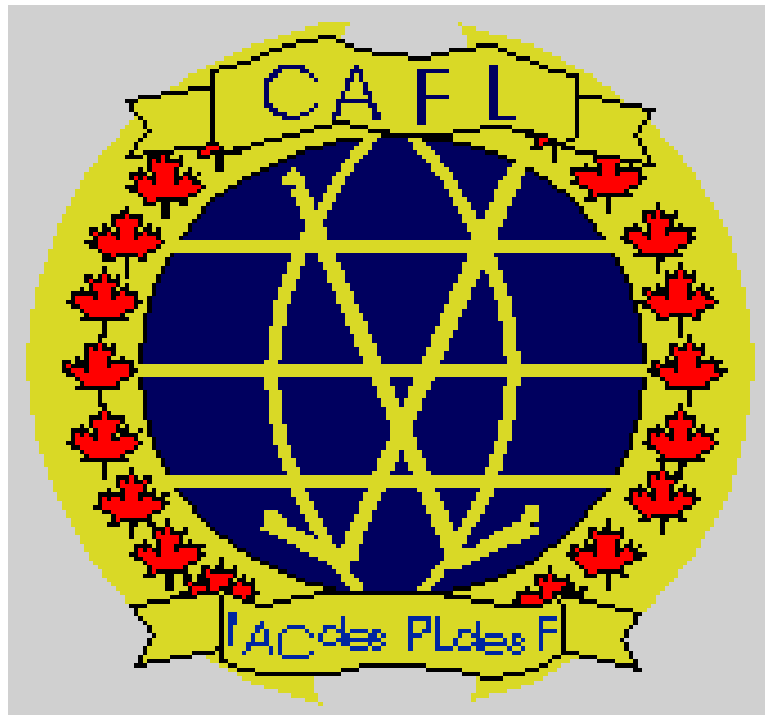
- Military Medal
- 1939/45 Star
- Italian Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
- War Medal

The medals being presented that day were available to CFJSR only through the hard work of Canadian Forces service and ex-service members. These medals are on loan to the Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment from the Communications and Electronics Museum. The medals were donated to the museum through the efforts of the Canadian Association of Forces Linemen.

CAFL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

**The sixteenth annual general meeting of the CAFL
Will be held at the NAVCAN Training Institute,
1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, Ontario on Monday
the 21st of February 2005, commencing at 1900 hours.**

All association members are encouraged to attend.



www.cafl.org

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
FORCES LINEMEN**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

NEW	
RENEWAL	

Given Name	Nickname	Surname	Rank
Street Address			
City	Province	Postal Code	
email address:			
Telephone : Home	Office		
Training: I completed my Group 1 or Lineman TQ 3 Training			
From:(date)	To: (date)		
Enclosed is a cheque/money order in the amount of \$ To cover membership dues for the period			
1 Apr 20 to 31 Mar 20 .			
Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and the membership year is from 1 April to 31 March.			

Signature:	Date:
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Forward application to: CAFL
Minto Place Postal Outlet
PO Box 56069,
407 Laurier Ave
Ottawa, ON, K1R 7Z1

NOTE: Some members find it convenient to pay for 2 or three years in advance.