

Jan-Apr 2021

The Gault Press

*Official Newsletter of
The PPCLI Museum
& Archives*

Morale

*Embracing the
Suck & Finding
Humour (Despite
Everything)*

RV

*Reflections on a typical
rendezvous in the '80s*

WHEN HE WROTE DOWN UPSIDE

*An autograph book that
shows how patients kept
up morale during the
Great War*

“BOOTTOONS”

*3VP's take on life in the
Army*



Cover: PPCLI inspection at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1925 (P50(40.1)-1)

Photo courtesy PPCLI Archives



The Gault Press is created by the PPCLI Museum & Archives, located at The Military Museums in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. If you are looking to find out more about PPCLI and its history, please don't hesitate to contact us directly at ppcli.museumgm@gmail.com.

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Photo Credits

The PPCLI Museum & Archives, The Military Museums of Calgary, Calgary AB. Accessed October & November 2020

Cpl Gagnard, (artist). "BootToons", 3VP, 2019/2020
MCpl Phil Tobicoe Fonds, The PPCLI Museum & Archives, The Military Museums of Calgary, Calgary AB. Accessed April 2019

Neven-Pugh, J. (artist). "In Lieu of a 10 Foot Pole."
Ack, 22 February 2019.

Unknown (photographer). "Boots from Elk Point High School Remembrance Day Display", 11 November 2020

Canteen



BootToons

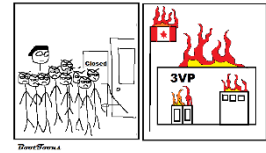
Morale



BACK IN THE DAY
REFLECTING ON THE 'RV'



WHEN HE WROTE UPSIDE DOWN
HOW PATIENTS KEPT UP MORALE IN THE GREAT WAR



BOOTTOONS
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR 3VP'S
TAKE ON THE WORLD
THROUGHOUT THIS EDITION!

2020 was....2020

Let's face it; deployed or not, civilian or military, 2020 was a challenge for everyone. Whether you feel you've been in constant quarantine just to travel between bases, have had visits with loved ones turned into buffering Zoom-meetings, or feel like you've been wearing enough PPE to face a brownout, it's safe to say that everyone has been impacted by a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic that puts absolutely everything into sharper focus.

But if there's anything that soldiers have taught me, it's how to look on the bright side of a bad situation, usually by staring straight into the dark. Employing Gallows' humour and tom-foolery (and at times, sentimental reflection), soldiers across the century have overcome staggering odds and circumstances to see another day. From Ypres to the 'Ghan, an attitude of perseverance has prevailed in the harshest of conditions.

In this edition, we attempt to convey that sense of "embracing the suck"; whether reflecting on days gone by,

capturing silly antics, or animating daily life with stick people, we hope these contributions from across PPCLI (and the ages) will bring a smile to your face.

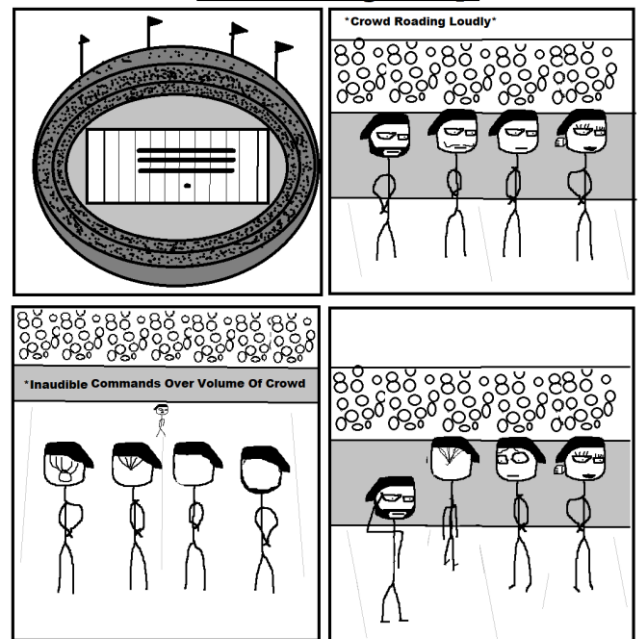
Or at least an eye-roll. ;)

Health and Endurance to all.

Sincerely,

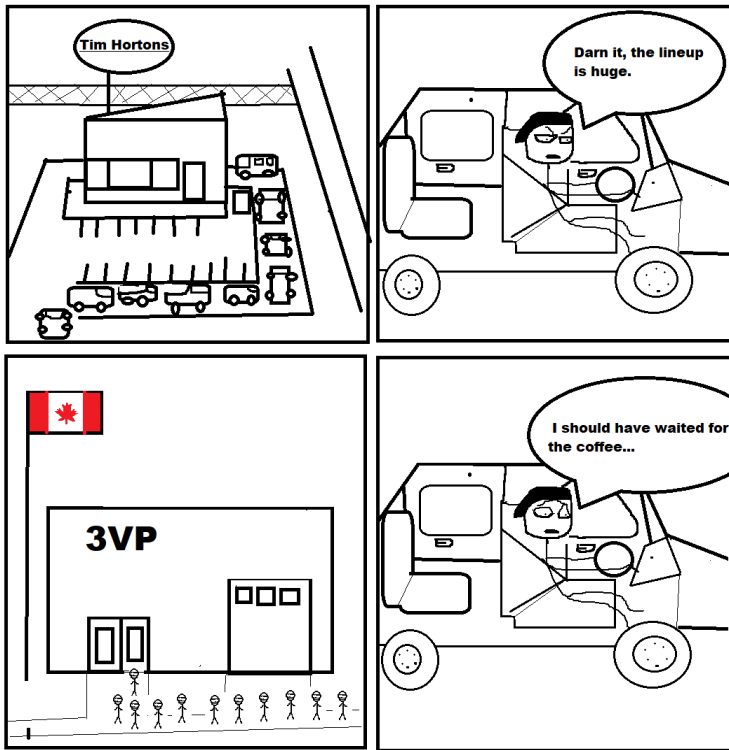
The Editor

The Grey Cup

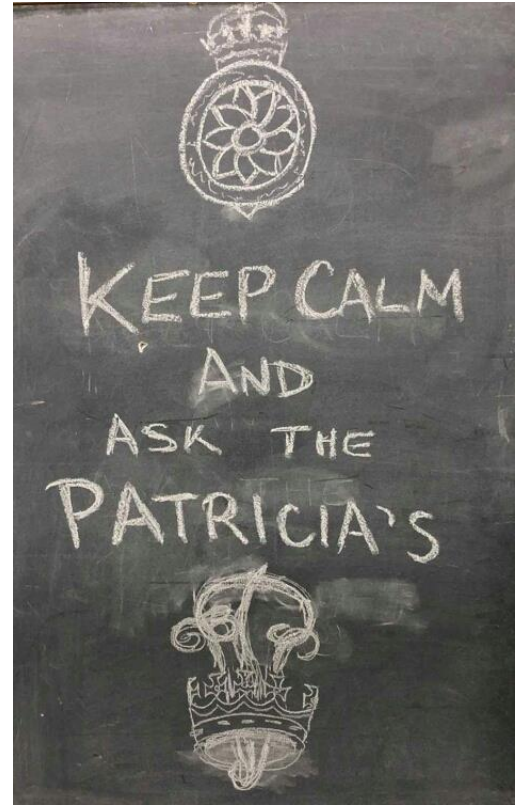


BooTtoons

Getting To Work



Bob Toon



Museum News

COVID-19: The Military Museums reopened 15 June after a 3-month closure in light of health precautions against spreading COVID-19. As a result, there has been some backlog in answering inquiries. The Museum entered a second lockdown in December and is currently closed to the public. We appreciate your patience as we do our part in minimizing the impact of this pandemic.

Medical Display: In honour of the frontline healthcare workers who have given (and continue to give) their all during this pandemic, a temporary display presenting the last 100 years of medical work and war is currently running in the PPCLI Gallery. Photos of an autograph book from this display are included in this edition.

Retirement: Jim Bowman, Archivist for The PPCLI Museum & Archives for the last 7 years, has officially retired. We wish him all the best for a happy and comfortable retirement!

Virtual Museum: The PPCLI Virtual Museum is up and running! Visit us while quarantined through the Regiment's website, ppcli.com. https://ppcli.com/vrtour/ppcli_vrtour_hm.html

Exhibit Developments: The Museum is planning a development project of the Para Company display in the PPCLI gallery. A three-phase project, the plan includes installing a larger physical display as well as a virtual reality component where visitors can experience jumping from a CC130 Hercules. The Museum is also continuing an ongoing project to restore the medals display.

PPCLI Archives: The PPCLI Archives is implementing a multi-step plan over the next few months to make our collection more accessible. During this time, we will still be accepting donations and can be accessed for research by appointment, but inquiries may take some time to get to... As it stands, inquiries may take a minimum of 8-12 weeks to answer once the Archivist has ack'd the request.

Accept

Adapt

Overcome



Back in the Day

Sgt Andrew Lowry, CD

How we have progressed, some say for the better and some old guys saying not so. Back in the day soldiering was an art form of sorts. We didn't have operations where we could shake out and put live rounds down range onto an enemy that was trying to kill us. We had few UN operations that gave us the ability to see if our fighting skills could matchup to our nemesis at the other end of the barrel, so how did we do the business of war fighting – less the fighting (most times, but the story of the company smoker is for another edition)? How were soldiers able to hone the craft of being “infanteers” in an environment where we could all be put into situations of misery and despair?

It was called R.V.

There is a difference from being *in* an R.V. to being *on* an R.V. Though they could both be miserable due to weather conditions and your position in the patrol, the exercise one was worse. The name stood for Rendezvous and attached to the end was the year that it was being run in (R.V. 81, R.V. 92..). It took place in Wainwright for the western guys like myself (1PPCLI, Currie Barracks) and lasted about 2 years in length; not really sorry, but it felt like it at the time. I do know that it was at least 2 months long and if you were in the CSM's good books then you could add on a few extra weeks to the front and the end for setup and tear down, score! The exercise began at the beginning of June

usually and ended in late July / early August, just in time to head to Suffield to support BATAS and the reserve exercise! Back then the Army had a great programme for weight loss by soldiering in June/July/ August with full kit, but sorry I digressed...

Rendezvous was how we did war fighting without the war. We moved through all phases of war and multiple live-fire ranges. We did Russian trench system clearing that taught the soldier to not be scared of his grenades. You entered the breach with the C6 firing you in and at the first dugout you posted your grenade, threw it around the corner (usually about 3 feet deep), went back behind the wall, *explosion*, then you and your fire team partner would simultaneously spin the corner spraying on full auto, one high one low lying on top of each other screaming “CLEAR”, then the next team would move up and so on till the trench was cleared or you had depleted the



company of people (most cases). Other times you would load up the Grizzlies and move out to the training area early in the morning and stay on location doing whatever situation was given depending on the phase and then after 5-6 days head back to the company Biv for the next phase, which was ADM.

Administration meant that all of the carriers were emptied, with floor boards off and the weapons were cleaned. Vehicle maintenance was done by the drivers, and if possible the interior was painted (which was the case with my Platoon warrant named Monkey McNeil, and anyone who knows him will

understand), then it was all put together again and the section 2IC let everyone know that they were ready. 2 days later back out again for a few days then back in again and so on...

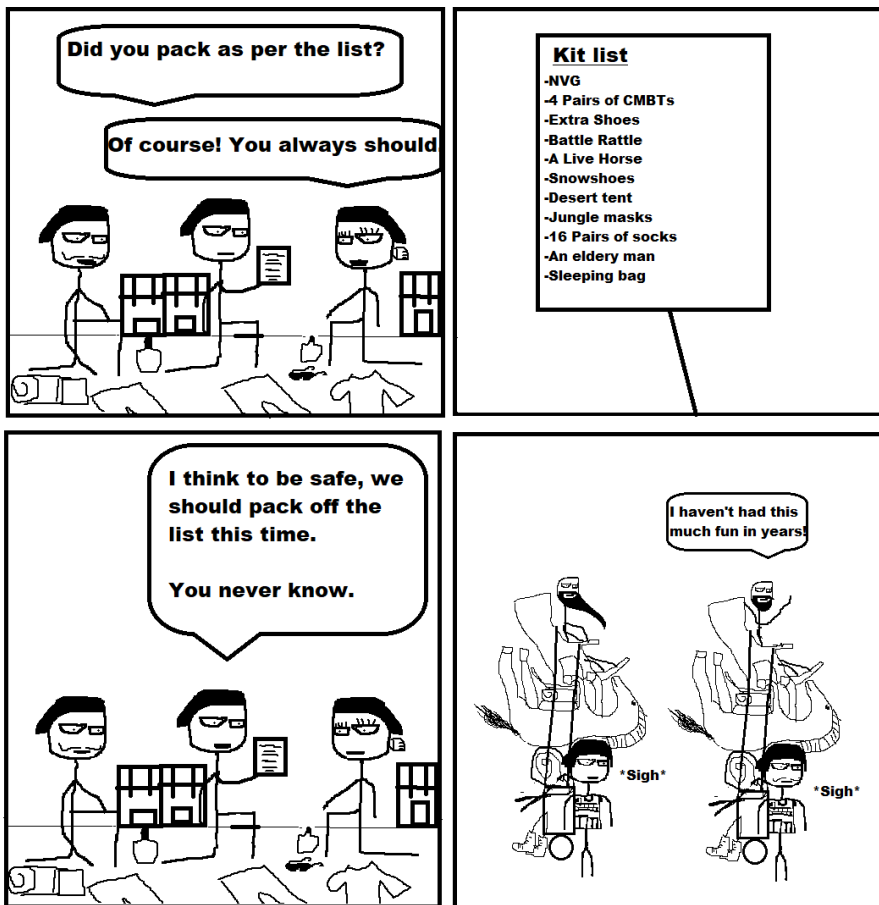
It was the purest version of ground hog day we had at the time, and to be quite honest I loved every minute of it. I loved the training, and I loved doing the business. It created a team spirit and an amazing *esprit de corps* that I will never forget. It allowed troops to know each other and, for leaders at the section level develop into competent leaders and for them to find out how they wanted to lead. You were forced to learn, ask

questions and most of all produce at a high level of competence to show that you knew your craft and how to implement it if required. You were Regimental through and through, hated the Strats and had an amazing spirit for your Company, and its individual characters (another story).

Don't get me wrong; R.V.s were horrible, but what I did get out of it molded me into the soldier I am today and that's saying something as I'm currently 55 years old, a Sgt, a Patricia and still motivated to do my job (DON'T JUDGE).

Yea but it still sucked!

THE KIT LIST



BootJournA



Finding Humour in the Gallows

Whether facing life-altering wounds, rocket-fire, or training, soldiers have always been able to find humour in the situation, no matter how dark. Not to be confused with dismissal, “Gallows’ Humour” is a mechanism for coping with difficult circumstances. From counting rocket strikes to writing rhymes about coffins, this habit of trivializing the terrifying has existed since time immemorable.

(Above left): a tension reliever outside TUA 55D in the town of Medak, Sector West, 1993

(Above right): sign from FOB Ma’sum Ghar, Kandak 1, TF 1-08 OMLT, 2008

(Below): page from a hospital autograph book; author unknown, likely a patient from a Commonwealth nation (Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand)

*It's not the cough that carries you off
It's the coffin they carry you off in*

T. O. S.

Finding Nurse Devitt

Included in the Medic's Display is a small "autograph" book from the Great War, filled with signatures, sketches, poems, and addresses from patients of at least two Canadian hospitals: No. 16 Canadian General Hospital at Orpington, UK, and No. 7 Canadian General Hospital in Etaples, France. Coincidentally, No. 16 was one of the hospitals which Princess Patricia regularly visited while volunteering, teaching patients embroidery. Soldiers from Canada, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand all put their mark to paper (and cover) from 1916 – 1918.

We are uncertain as to who the original owner of this booklet was; as it covers a couple of years and many wards, it was likely owned by a nurse, doctor, or volunteer. One nurse mentioned by name is a "Sister Devitt" – according to the Canadian Great War Project, there was one Canadian Nursing Sister named Devitt, Carrie Rose May, who worked at Orpington. Did this book belong to her? Unfortunately, we may never know. Interestingly, Nurse Devitt was on medical leave after an air raid on one of the hospitals she worked in; she returned to duty after five months.

Regardless of ownership, this booklet has connection to dozens of lives from across the globe, from men who fought at the first battle of Mons in 1914, Gallipoli in 1915, Ypres 1915, and Passchendaele 1917. Simultaneously honouring the nurses (and annoying the doctors) who looked after them, it is a touching tribute to the health care workers and casualties of this conflict.

When I was young I used to be
as smart a chap as you could see
Sister Devitt she asked me to
go and draw the Rations

Pte D. Hawthorne
1917
P. & J.

Pte Dugout
or the man
who fought the mouse
in the Dugout hole and
came out without a
scratch

Jan - Apr, 2021

When on this book you look,
When on this book you frown,
Remember the boy who spoilt
your charts in ward 20 by
writing them ~~unop~~ ~~scrips~~.

Tommy (who has lost himself) you haven't
come across a Battalion looking out
for a spare man, have you "Sir"?



ALF. G. JARMAN
4th Bn Canadians
6th Kington
Kent
22/9/18

Smile and the world smiles
with you
Be cheery as you can
And lend^{ing} a hand to others
It's the best motto in the land.

J H Peall 5170

16th Batt A. G. F.

With thanks for kind attention received W 19^{and}
Wounded Sep 24th Nov 9th 1917
at Ypres

Mr. W. Davis and
Mr. pte brog in older
days



Fatty: "Yus! I
was fairly done
in when they
transferred me to
ward 4. The sisters
never thought they'd
bring me round."

The other: "Well, they
must ha' done it.
You're ROUND ENOUGH
Now"

RMB

7.C.G.N.

6.5.18.

Here's. The Best of Luck.

The **Sister** We All.

Like Best In.

WARD. 20



663489. F. WEAVER.
P.F.C.L.L.
28/8/18.

19



"Now, I wonder why
the sister did not
know me when she
passed by. We used
to be old friends."

Bed 17. Ward 10. Ontario Military Hospital
15-3-17. Orpington Kent:

D. W. Fraser is my name.

Vancouver B.C. is my station.

I came to slightly with an indention. (2)

Best. Wishes.

McG. 256. Pk. D. W. Fraser.

Machine Gunner.

4 Coy. P.P.C. L.I.

PATROLLING OUTSIDE THE WIRE



THE ORIGINAL SOCIAL DISTANCING

PPCLI walk through an urban centre in Afghanistan, ca. 2008. Soldiers were required to walk 5-10 feet apart while traversing roads due to the threat of IEDs and ambush; by keeping apart, soldiers reduced the potential number of casualties in the event of a strike. Credit: PPCLI Museum & Archives

Archives is Mopping Up!

Archivists have done an excellent job attacking the colossal task of accessioning, organizing, and maintaining The PPCLI Archives – this process is now continuing with a focus on digitization and storage. As a result, The PPCLI Archives is implementing a multi-step plan over the next few months to make our collection more accessible. During this time, we will still be accepting donations and can be accessed for research by appointment, but inquiries may take some time to get to... As it stands, inquiries may take a minimum of 8-12 weeks to answer once the Archivist has ack'd the request. We thank you in advance for your patience during this busy time!





“The Dumbells”: PPCLI’s Comedy Coy in the Great War

During the Great War, PPCLI had its own Comedy Company, which gained notable fame for their productions. Like the famous “Wiper’s Times” of the British Army, the Dumbells satirized common experiences on the Front Lines, and although some of their work would be seen as offensive today, for the context of the times, the Comedy Coy provided comedic relief in the world of war.

An exhibition on the life and work of Jack McLaren, one of the key members, is currently on display at the Huron County Museum in Goderich, Ontario.

Photos (*clockwise from top*): PPCLI Comedy Company concert or party taken on 13 February 1917 (P30(211)-1); poster, ca. 1917-19; insert of program for “Stop That Noise!” ca. 1919.

PROGRAMME

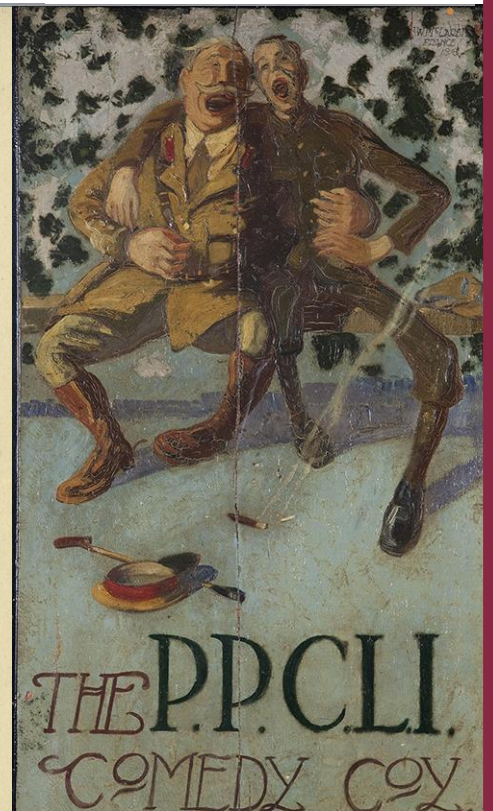
1. *Canned Harmony by the Maconochies*, Comedy Co.
2. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Comedy Co.
3. *Keystone*, Cunningham and Morrison.
4. *Rag-Picker*, Fenwick.
5. *Mary Ann*, Capt. Pembroke and Rube Chorus.
6. *Swanee Shore* (introducing Pas-à-Deux), Ham.
7. *Silly Ass*, MacLaren.
8. *The Blow almost killed Father*, Cunningham.
9. *The Spaniard that blighted my life*,
Capt. Pembroke and Powerful Beauty Chorus.
10. *Algernon*, Fenwick and Chorus.
11. *The Papers*, MacLaren and Lilly.
12. *Military Scenes*, Lilly and Cunningham.
13. *Selected*, Ham.
14. *By the Sea*, Cunningham.
15. *An Affair of Nations*, Comedy Co.

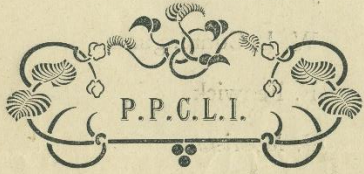
The Company :

Capt. H. E. Pembroke.
T. J. Lilly.
J. W. MacLaren.
W. I. Cunningham.
F. Fenwick.
S. Morrison.
N. D. Clarke.
P. D. Ham.

At the piano : Leonard Young,
9th Canadian Field Ambulance.

God save the King!





By kind permission of Lt-Col. R.T. PELLY, D.S.O.

The P.P.C.L.I. COMEDY Co

present their latest REVUE

"STOP THAT NOISE!"

to the 60th Battalion.

Photos: (above) cover of program for "Stop That Noise!" ca. 1919; (below) "P.P.C.L.I. Comedy Co. Give Excellent Concert", article from *The Brazier: A Trench Journal Printed and Published at the Front by the Canadian Scottish for the Third Infantry Brigade, No. 6* (15 November 1916); PPCLI Comedy members in civilian clothing (quintet), 13 February 1917 (P30(212.3)-1); performing "Marjorie, the Nurse" in 1919 (P30(231)-1); an actor personifying Canada in "An Affair of Nations", 1919 (P30(225)-1); group photo, ca. 1919 (P30(237)-1).

No. 6

France, November 15, 1916

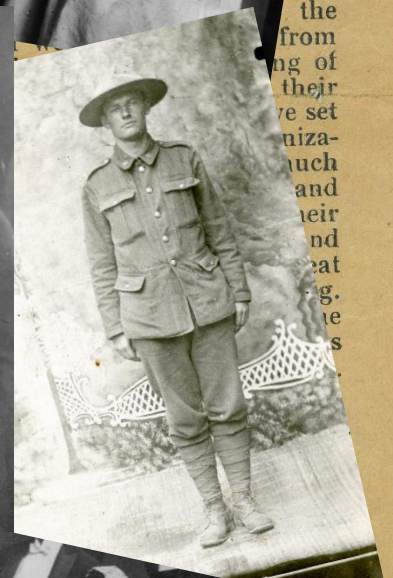
P.P.C.L.I. Comedy Co. Give Excellent Concert

P.131 A

talented company has been brought together in the Canadian Corps. Their efforts are worthy of every encouragement.

— from the Brazier

DURING the first few days of rest at the beginning of October the battalions of the Third Brigade were entertained to a splendid series of concerts by the P.P.C.L.I. Comedy Co. in the Y.M.C.A. at W—. There is an abundance of talent in this company and the concerts were greatly appreciated. The programme was full of good clean humour and some of the numbers pleased the audience so much that they had to be repeated several times. Perhaps the most popular item was the duet, "The Bad, Bad Boy," from the "Quaker Girl," by J. W. McLaren and F. Fenwick. The latter's impersonation of the "good, good girl" was an extremely clever piece of work. McLaren, who, by the way, is well known in Canada as a newspaper cartoonist, is apparently the handy man of the company as he is never long off the stage. His burlesque skit depicting the worries of a general tickled the audience immensely. His song, "No Change," was also well received. W. J. Cunningham as Charlie Chaplin made friends with his audience from the start. His make-up is excellent and the gestures and antics of the original "Charlie" seem to come natural to him. S. Morrison and T. J. Lilly also put themselves on good terms with the audience and the singing of P. D. Ham rounded off a splendid bill. The whole performance reflects great credit to the artistes and it is seldom, if at all, that such a



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their efforts are



ATTITUDE

When you can view any situation as a walk in the park

1PPCLI on a Clearing Patrol, 1975 (no location listed). Credit: PPCLI Museum & Archives, P91.7(39)-1

<p>FYSA:</p> <p>Mental Health Support Contacts</p>	<p><u>Urgent/Crisis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS Emergency 9-1-1 • Canada Suicide Prevention 1-833-456-4566 or Text 45645 • Calgary Distress Centre 403-266-4357 • Distress Line of Southwestern Alberta (CMHA) 1-888-787-2880
<p><u>Food Bank</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Association Food Bank - 403-367-8387 	<p><u>Homelessness/Financial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Affairs Canada 1-866-522-2122 • VETS Canada (Veterans Emergency Transition Services) 1-888-228-3871
<p><u>Mental Health Supports (Non emergency)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Affairs Canada Assistance Service (no claim required): 1-800-268-7708 • Calgary MFRC Supports: 403-471-6298 or email info@calgarymfr.ca • Royal Canadian Legion Command Branch Service Officers: 403-284-1161 • Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS): 1-800-883-6094 • Alberta 211 (for community and local government services and support) 2-1-1 • Your Family physician or clinic <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>~ The conversation starts with you ~</i></p>	

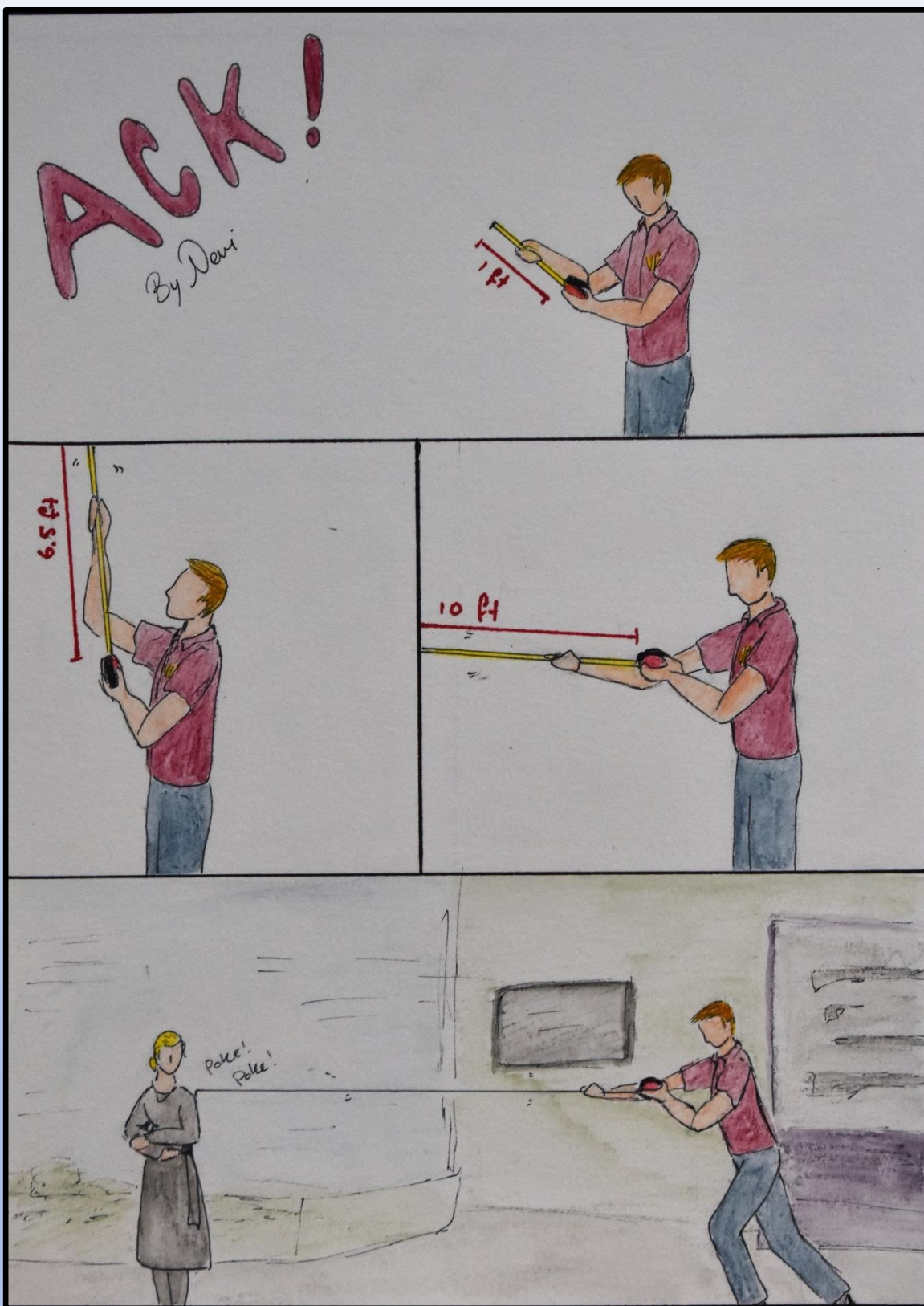


At Ease

The following are a collection of photos pulled from PPCLI Archives, catching members of the Regiment in moments of jest, regardless of being on patrol, parade, or doing PT. *Clockwise from top:* PPCLI inspection at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1925 (P50(40.1)-1); Pte Morley and Pte Pink at Camp Hughes, Manitoba, July 1927 (P50(95)-1); Physical training at Work Point Barracks in 1939 (P50(242)-1); Lt. Hub Grey on "A" frame carried by Dempsey, Korea, 1951 (P130(106)-1); cardboard signs in Afghanistan declaring: "This Way to the Suck!" followed by "Other Way, Stupid", Afghanistan, 2007 (Photo courtesy Capt Pappin).



Stay Healthy by Staying Apart



Stay Safe and Take Care! All the best for 2021!
Sincerely, The PPCLI Museum & Archives

ARTEFACTS WANTED!

FOR

PPCLI MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary AB, T2T 5J4

The PPCLI Museum & Archives is looking for information and artefacts related to PPCLI, including combat, domestic, and peacekeeping operations. Share your story to perpetuate the Regiment's history for future generations.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: (1) submit a memoir about an experience / tour serving as a Patricia (2) participate in an interview (3) donate an artefact or archival record

CONDITIONS: Please provide details and background (including ownership) on any stories or artefacts provided.

APPLY TO ppcli.museum@gmail.com FOR DETAILS