

## THE ESSEX AND KENT SCOTTISH

# REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

### GREETINGS FROM THE HONORARY COLONEL

I cannot express how pleased I am for the opportunity to provide some remarks in this newsletter. In keeping with the Christmas season, it is appropriate that I give thanks to all ranks for the privilege I have been given of serving the E&K Scot in this official capacity. My role as Honorary Colonel has been made quite simple by the fact that the Regiment is well trained, well respected by our communities and the military chain-of-command, and constantly focused on improvement. Similarly, our Association, the Scottish Borderers Foundation, Delta Company and the Ansell Club are all strong, well led and committed. While we all wish that there was more money for individual and collective training, professional development and courses I am confident that we will get through this lean period in good order. We always have.

Soldiering is a "full-contact, team sport" since everything we accomplish is because of someone else – whether comrades-in-arms or family – taking on part of the mission. On 8 December at the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner we thanked the junior ranks and congratulated a few high performers. Well done all! With the year 2009 quickly coming to a close it is time to slow down, reflect on our

many successes and, most importantly, thank our families that have supported us in our jobs, school or time away with the Regiment. Use the Christmas period to "recharge your batteries", spend quality time with your family and friends and share the good fortune we have as Canadians. Consider sending an e-mail or letter to someone deployed overseas. If you are the one in need of some help then take the important first step of asking your friends in the Regimental Family for advice and assistance.

I wish all of you an enjoyable and safe Christmas season. I look forward to the New Year when I will have a chance to get to know those I don't already know. When we meet please take a few moments to tell me what is on your mind and with that new found knowledge I promise to do my small part in making the Regiment better.

Semper Paratus! Hardy Wheeler



### GREETINGS FROM THE HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL



On behalf of my wife Linda and myself, I wish to extend warmest greetings to the Essex and Kent Scottish Regimental Family. The holiday season is a great time to visit with friends and family. It is

an appropriate time to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings each of us has received over the past year.

The holiday season can also be a difficult time for remembering those that are no longer with us, unable to share food, drink, storytelling and friendship. It is a time

to remember and honour those soldiers who are no longer with us.... "We Will Remember".

This past year has been an exciting and proud time for me to have had the honour of being appointed your Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. I have witnessed soldiers of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment perform admirably during training, at graduations, parades and numerous Regimental functions. It has been a privilege getting to know many of you and learning of your experiences.

Throughout my travels around the city, county, province and country, I am always eager to speak of the good work and service to Canada, by the men and women of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Brause has detailed the operational successes and highlights for the

the Regiment in his message. In the interest of newsletter space I will not repeat those fine accomplishments.

With pleasure, I will continue to take forward the good news of the Regiment to the community. In clos-

ing....Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to one and all!

Semper Paratus! Glenn Stannard

## GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Another year has almost passed by and our Regiment continues to perform well here in Canada and overseas. Your determination, professionalism and dedication to duty have been noticed by so many in our local communities, and indeed, in the Canadian Army. The training has been demanding, your tasks have all been achieved, and the

continued professional development of our NCOs and Officers have met with great success.

This year has seen the stand up of our new Honorary Colonel Hardy Wheeler, our new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Glenn Stannard, and the visit our CINC, Prince Michael of Kent. We have conducted our first Windsor Tattoo and Sunset Ceremony. We have deployed many soldiers overseas in Afghanistan. Just recently, we conducted a great St Andrews Day Concert featuring CALEDON, the three famous Scottish Tenors, and raised a huge amount of money for the Regimental Association and Band. Our unit has been the lead for over a year in planning and

conducting all Bde level collective training for BG 31-09. Our Regimental Band continue to be great ambassadors in our community and support our numerous parades and formal dinners with great music. Last, but not least, the Regiment is about to issue it's first Regimental Manual, outlining our history, customs, traditions and dress regulations. Our motto, **Semper Paratus (Always Ready)**, truly means something to all who serve and support this regiment.

Delta Company, our Essex and Kent Scottish Association, and the Mess Association Members in Chatham (The Ansell Club) continue to do sterling work to support our troops and expound the great virtues of our soldiers to our citizens in our communities. Our Regimental Senate and Scottish Borderers foundation regularly meet and provide advice and support this Regiment in many valuable ways.

To the serving members, our wonderful Association, members of Delta Company, to the great Association members of our Chatham Messes (The Ansell Club), the volunteers and serving members of the Essex and Kent Scottish Pipes and Drums, The Regimental Senate and the Scottish Borderers Foundation, I want to thank you all for a terrific year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, or winter festive break, and a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Semper Paratus! Morris Brause

## GREETINGS FROM THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR

My wife Tanya and I wish to take this opportunity to wish all the members of our Regimental Family a Merry Christmas and the best for 2010. I have a special level of gratitude to our soldiers, who in 2009, made E&K Scot the envy of most of the other units in Ontario by your professionalism in hosting a Royal Visit as well as ram-rodding the first ever Windsor Military Tattoo and Sunset Ceremony. We were in the media spotlight, and you did our predecessors and our Regiment proud. We achieved all of our mandated operational training objectives, and then some, all the while maintaining a high level of esprit-de-corps.

With the current reduction of funding, comes the streamlining of our prioritized training in an effort to 'do more with

less'. This slowdown of the operational tempo will give you each a golden opportunity to spend more quality time with your loved ones. Once again, I encourage you to more actively support one another as well as your Regiment, by getting involved with your mess and our E&K Scot Regimental Association.



Semper Paratus! Sean Wilkins

## E & K SCOTTISH REGIMENT ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Time seems to go by quickly, as another successful year for your Association draws to an end. Your Board of Directors continues to support the serving members of our Regiment. On Dec 8, several members of the Board received the distinct honour of helping serve the troops their annual Christmas dinner this year at Tilston Armoury. Your Association also helps to show its appreciation for our soldiers, by also making a monetary donation towards the dinner. Many individuals on your Board, assisted the members of Delta Coy and Ansell Club in providing Christmas gifts to our soldiers and we were welcomed to enjoy the comradeship of the evening with our soldiers.

We have one of our soldiers on tour overseas, Cpl Duff, and to somewhat help make his Christmas a more merry one, our association sent our yearly care package to him in Afghanistan. Thanks to Board member Pat Coughlin, for his work on the 'care packages'

Everyone had a great time at our "again" fun family day held in Chatham in September. Every child attending went home with at least one prize. Thanks to Blake Harding and Megan Mehaffey-Pfeifer for spearheading this event not to forget the help and kind donations made by all individuals involved and especially the Ansell Club.

The Field of Valour dinner, although not one of our association functions, but coordinated and put together by a group of our association members, was very well attended. Everyone enjoyed the evening, especially renewing old friendships with the Veterans of our Regiment, who had come from far and wide to the Wheels Inn. Thanks go out to Rocky Schram, Bill Carruthers, Blake Harding and our Regimental Major, Greg Childs.

Sunday Nov 29 was our first formal fundraiser in partnership with the Royal Scottish Country Dancers and the Pipes and Drums of the Regiment. We were fortunate to acquire an outstanding trio of "Scottish Tenors" known as 'Caledon'. Anyone who did not get the chance to attend, missed a phenomenal evening of entertainment. We are looking at bringing them back again in 2011. Our pipe band and the Royal Scottish Country Dancers also added to the success of the evening.



Wearing 'Support The Troops' Red Shirts (Left to Right) Seated: Megan Mehaffey-Pfeifer Helen McCabe Maurice Snook, Cathy MacDonald, 1<sup>st</sup> Row: Doug Pfeifer Gary Dick, Jack Goddard, Francine Nantais-Hillman, Eric Skelton, Hardy Wheeler Rear Row: Rocky Schram, Bill Carruthers Jim Purdy, LCol Morris Brause W.O. Al McCabe ,Blake Harding, Pat Coughlin, Col Rae Martin ,Maj Greg Childs).

Maurice Snook, one of our existing Dieppe vets and a Director on our Board, was having difficulty attending meetings, so he graciously relinquished his position on the Board. At the association's Annual General Meeting, our bookkeeper, Megan Mehaffey-Pfeifer was appointed to fill Maurice's vacant position. Our congratulations to LCol (ret'd) Hardy Wheeler on his appointment as Honorary Colonel of the Essex and Kent Scottish.

We look forward to seeing you at the Essex & Kent Scottish Regimental Association Bi-annual Reunion to be held at Tilston Armoury on 11<sup>th</sup> September next year. On behalf of your Board of Directors, I extend to each of you a Merry Christmas and everything prosperous for 2010.

Doug Pfeifer, President





## 59 ROYAL CANADAIN ARMY CADET CORP



59 RCACC attends Seniors Weekend Leadership Camp in October 2009



Mcpl Jinkerson and Sgt Butler pace out the bearings.



59 RCACC receives the Strathcona Award during the Corps annual inspection of 2009.



Members of 59 RCACC join Chatham Area M.P. Dave Vankesteren at Tecumseh Park in Chatham ON. During Canada Day. M.P Dave Vankesteren is a hard working member of Delta Coy, E&K Scot.



59 RCACC on Parade!!!

## 1086 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET CORP

This year training year has been a busy one so far. In early October the corps was represented at the Regional Orienteering Competition by 6 of our cadets. A number of them successfully completed the course and brought home a total of 6 medals, and 4 of the cadets placed well enough to move on to the Provincial Competition. The cadets who attended the Provincial Competition not only gave up their Halloween but did very well. Our Regimental Sergeant-Major, Cadet Master Warrant Officer Frank Renaud placed second in the province for his age group.

I have recently taken over command of 1086 Corps from Captain David Mercer, CD. At the parade we were presented with the Lord Strathcona Shield for the top small corps in Western Ontario Area. 1089 RCACC owes a great deal of gratitude to Capt Mercer for his efforts as Commanding Officer.

1086 has conducted their first weekend training exercise of 2009. This exercise was conducted at Peacekeeper Park and it was a fun weekend for all of our cadets. On top of all the required training we were able to have the cadets participate in an orienteering and a navigation exercise.

The corps is steadily increasing in size. We currently are parading about 30 cadets. It seems that almost every week we have 1 or 2 new recruits.

We are looking forward to the New Year.

The corps will be having at least one more weekend training exercise.

We will also be competing in the Zone Shoot on the Daisy

Air Rifles. In May we will be sending a team up to the Band and Drill competition again.

Although the training year for the corps is a busy one, all the cadets and staff are very dedicated to the program. All the members of the corps give their all, throughout the year and without their dedication the corps and the training program would not be as successful or as much fun.

Captain Monica Repaye

Commanding Officer

Windsor Walkerville Army Cadet Corp



WE LOOK FORWARD TO A REPORT FROM 2715 AND 2918 RCACC IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER



For the Junior officers and Senior NCO's, our CO, LCol Morris Brause and RSM Sean Wilkins demonstrate the finer slight nuances of etiquette, paying special attention to finger positioning while enjoying a refreshing cup of tea. This was one of several teas hosted in the Major TE. Steele MC Mess, by the ladies of the Kent Regiment Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE).





A22157 Pte George Alfred Dixon

George Alfred Dixon was born in Alberta in 1919 and later moved to Windsor in 1923. Although his mother died when he was five, George was loved and raised by his older sisters, but mainly by Mary, who at age fifteen had to quit school to help her father bring up George and several of her other younger siblings. He grew up and attended school in the Windsor vicinity.

George's best buddy was a young fellow named George Hardcastle. The two best friends, found it difficult, as did so many, to find work in the 1930s. George A. also had an adventurous streak. Once, he went out west

by way of railroad boxcars, to visit his oldest sister Erma who lived in Alberta.

When war was declared, the two inseparable Georges were enthusiastic recruits for the Essex Scottish. George Dixon had a beloved dog named "Sookie" who he turned over to George Hardcastle's family to look after while he was gone. A niece of George Alfred, Violet (grandmother of current E&K Scot Pte Mark Hecnar Jr.) can remember quite well when the Regiment left Windsor by train. Perhaps they were going to Camp Borden for more training prior to shipping overseas. Violet was only about four years of age when her uncle George hoisted her up on to his shoulders so she could see everything better at the train station.



"Best Friends" the two Georges – L-R George Dixon & George Hardcastle, circa 1938.

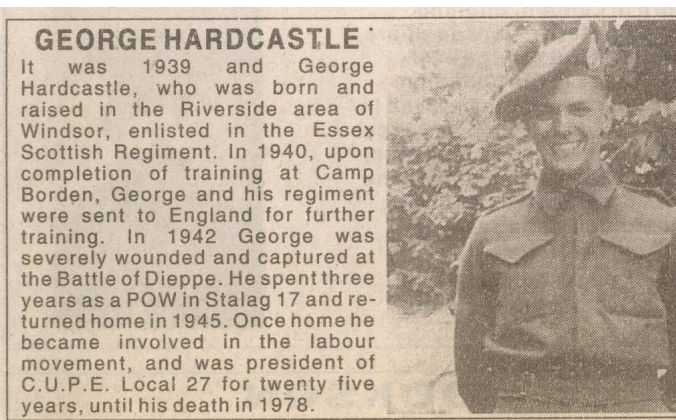
When the Essex Scottish Regiment was stationed in England, George A. met an English girl, Irene Lyons.

They married in 1941 and a son Thomas (named after George's father) was born in March of 1942, several months before his father lost his life during the 'Operation Jubilee' Dieppe Raid on 19 August 1942. Young Thomas Dixon and his mother Irene, as a widowed war bride, came to Canada after the war. They settled in the



The Essex Scottish Pipe Band was taken at the corner of Wyandotte St. & Kildare Rd. circa 1940. Among the spectators are members of the Dixon family.

Windsor area, where Irene remarried. Tragically, young Thomas lost his life in a car accident at the age of twenty four, only one year older than his father's death age. Compounding this tragedy was that this Thomas' son, also named Thomas, was killed in a motorcycle



accident in his early twenties as well. In a cruel twist of fate, it seems that this family line was doomed not to go on.



George A. Dixon (soldier behind pole in the back). It was taken on the E-53 carrying the Essex Scottish overseas.



Front left is Pte Marc Hecnar (g-grand nephew of George Dixon) with Dieppe veteran Art Rossell front right (Art's story will be in the next edition of the newsletter)



Canadian War Cemetery Hautot Sur Mer in F 24.

Submitted by Major (Ret'd) Tom Mountain  
Member of The Ansell Club



# NEW HEADSTONES IN MAPLE LEAF CEMETERY FOR VETERANS BURIED IN UNMARKED GRAVES



Lt Gov. at the Maple Leaf Cemetery Dedication

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2009, 48 newly laid military headstones were commemorated in a ceremony in Legion Memorial Field, a section of Chatham's Maple Leaf Cemetery devoted to military veterans. The Honourable David C. Onley, O. Ont, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, was the guest of honour for the commemoration and unveiling of the new headstones. This sombre and very moving event was attended by approximately 200 local dignitaries, politicians, veterans, soldiers, Legion members, musicians, participating students and

citizens.

The 48 headstones were each covered by a Canadian Flag which was removed by students from John



New Headstones covered with Canadian flag

McGregor Secondary School, as the name of each veteran was read aloud. A message representing the Crown was delivered by His Honour, David Onley outlining the significance of having proper headstones to honour those buried from 29 different units, had sacrificed so much. As many of the deceased veterans had belonged to the WWI 186<sup>th</sup> Bn



Sgt Morrison and Sgt Mitchell fold the flag from the last headstone.

LtCol M. Brause speaks at Cemetery Dedication.

and 18<sup>th</sup> Bn of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the Kent Regiment and Essex Scottish, all predecessor regiments of The Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment, our Commanding Officer, LtCol Morris Brause, CD was given the honour of being the keynote speaker. LtCol Brause spoke of the pro-



Maj Greg Childs welcoming His Honour into the mess

past member of The Kent Regiment, organized and coordinated this very moving ceremony which was committed to set things right for these 48 veterans.

Lt Gov. & Mrs Onley in the Major Si Steele MC Mess.



A guest, LtCol Morris Brause, C-K Mayor Randy Hope and Town Crier George Sims await the arrival of the Lt-Gov.

found contribution to Canada, made by these soldiers, sailors and air-men.

64 unmarked veterans graves were identified, from both World Wars, The American Civil War 1860-65 and even 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Imperial battles in Egypt. Some are still being painstakingly researched for future

grave markers. LtCol (Ret'd) Jim Stokes, Regional Director of the Last Post Fund with the assistance of local historians Major (Ret'd) Tom Mountain and Mr Jerry Hind researched each unmarked grave and approached the Last Post Fund to finance the gravestones. The Last Post Fund is a volunteer organization, funded through private



His Honour and Mrs. Onley being piped into the Col E.M. Ansell OBE, MC, VD Armoury

contributions and is committed to provide military grave markers for deceased veterans who's estates were unable to financially provide a headstone. This was one of their largest projects which coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Last Post Fund. A ballpark estimate of the cost was believed to be close to \$100,000.00. LtCol Jim Stokes, a





## THE ST. ANDREWS 'CALEDON' CONCERT AT TILSTON ARMOURY



The 3 Scottish Tenors known as 'Caledon' from Left to Right Alan Beck, Ivan Sharpe and Jamie MacDougall

On Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 approximately 300 guests and members of our Regimental Family were treated to the awesomely powerful singing ability of the Three Scottish tenors, Alan Beck, Jamie MacDougall and Ivan Sharpe, known as 'Caledon' with Michael Barnett playing the Keyboard. This internationally renowned trio was in the midst of a 5 month tour, now in the USA after performing in Australia. They readily agreed to perform at the Major F. Tilston VC Armoury as a benefit fundraiser for our soldiers and Regimental Association. Our own Pipes & Drums accompanied them on several tunes, the most moving being 'Amazing Grace'. Although the drill hall acoustics left a bit to be desired, our guests certainly were treated to a magnificent concert. A great deal of thanks goes to the



Caledon puts a spin on their awesome performance

many volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this international event to fruition. Plans have been discussed for another 'Caledon' concert in the future.



Alan Beck, Ivan Sharpe and Jamie MacDougall are 'Caledon'

The Editor



Pipes and Drums playing 'Amazing Grace' to accompany the Caledon tenors



Tenor Jamie MacDougall comes down off the stage to dance with a guest.



Commanding Officer LCol Morris Brause thanking Caledon and guests of the Regiment

## WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE 2009



Soldiers marching to Dieppe Park.

there is a much higher awareness of the great deeds being performed by our men and women domestically and abroad.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, the Regiment had representation in numerous communities through our Regimental Area Of Operations in South-western Ontario. In Windsor, a contingent of E&K Scot paraded at the Dieppe monument



Wreath laying at Dieppe Memorial Windsor.

to mourn the devastating loss of so many brave Essex Scottish soldiers 67 years ago at Dieppe, France. We then marched off to the ceremony at the Windsor Cenotaph, followed by fellowship in the mess.

In Chatham, a contingent of E&K Scot from Ansell Armoury paraded at the Kinsmen Auditorium, for the Remembrance ser-

A number of Regimental personnel spoke to groups of civilians and organizations during the week ending on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. This is an annual effort by the Canadian Forces to remind Canadian citizens of the sacrifices made by our service personnel during conflicts in our past history as well as the current war in Afghanistan. Every year, requests to the Regiment for speakers are increasing, as

vice, then they marched to the Chatham Cenotaph where our wreath was re-laid at the consecrated monument,

and a message of inspiration was delivered.



Present Arms to 'Last Post'

Our soldiers and Regimental Family members were treated to a complementary turkey dinner cooked and served by the members of The Ansell Club, followed by comradeship in the Maj Si Steele MC Mess and WOII Stu Kirkland DCM Mess.



HCol Wheeler laying wreath for the Essex and Kent Scottish at the Windsor Cenotaph while a Regimental Private maintained vigil, resting on his arms reversed.

## FIELD OF VALOUR 8TH NOVEMBER 2009

The Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Field of Valour dinner and professional development training event at the start of the 2009 Week of Remembrance. 132 guests and members of our Regimental Family attended, enjoying the historical displays and fellowship. Acquaintances were renewed with our senior Veterans, many who had travelled from great distances to be with us. It was amazing to find out how much our Veterans from WWII and Korea had in common with our serving Afghanistan Veterans.

Once again the Wheels Inn came through with a splendid meal, while the Regiment wrapped itself in its Colours, enjoying our Scottish traditions. The Valour Committee, E&K Scot Associa-

tion, and Ansell Club pulled off another excellent event. The theme of our audio-visual presentation was the phenomenal Canadian and 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion successes of the last 100 days of WWI.

Tentatively, Field of Valour will be hosted by the Regi-



E&K Scot Weapons Display

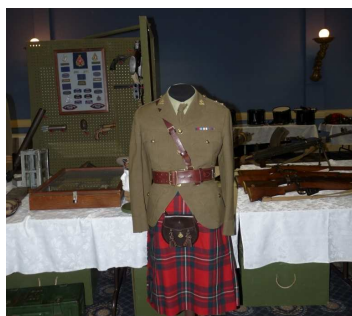


ment in 2010 during the Week of Remembrance. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Editor



'Old Salts' Majors Tom Mountain & Gary Mardling chat with new soldiers



World War II Regimental uniform and weapons display



Captain (Ret'd) Frank Archibald M.C., Corporal Joy Ward and Mrs Vi Jones.

## PARADE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONOURARY COLONEL



LCol Morris Brause, 31 CBG Commander John Celestino, and HCol Hardy Wheeler at the signing

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, The Essex & Kent Scottish conducted a welcoming parade of LCol (Ret'd) Hardy Wheeler's appointment as Honorary Colonel to the Regiment, by the Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Peter

betterment of our Regiment and our community at large as a Rotarian. The Regimental Family is very pleased at HCol Wheeler's appointment and came out in force to wish him well on this new duty.



HCol Hardy Wheeler takes the salute on the march past.

The Editor

MacKay. HCol Wheeler has enjoyed a very distinguished military career in the Regular Force, in numerous international postings, with the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Canadian Airborne Regiment, commanding all recruiting centres in Ontario and commanding the Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment.

HCol Wheeler oversaw the formation of the current Regimental Association and was its president for six years. He was the driving force to get 'Duty Nobly Done', the authoritative history of The Essex & Kent Scottish written and published. He has worked tirelessly since 1989 for the



HCol Hardy Wheeler and 31 CBG Commander John Celestino with signed appointment certificate.



Colour Party marches past their new Honorary Colonel

## MILITARY HUMOUR

The Commanding officer of the Regiment was waiting for the coffee to finish of brewing, so he decided to kill a little time by asking all assembled a question.

“How much of sex is work and how much is pleasure?”

The DCO said 75% work, 25% pleasure.

The Adjutant said 50-50

A lieutenant responded 25% work, 75% pleasure, depending on how drunk he was at the time.

With no consensus, the Colonel turned to the Corporal in charge of making coffee.

“What’s your opinion, son?”

Without hesitation, the young Corporal responded,

“100% pleasure, Sir!”

The Colonel was surprised “Why?”

“Because, Sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me do it for them!”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event (Location)	Date
Stand-To/Levee & 0900hrs Breakfast (Ansell)	January 01 2010
Ladies’ Dining-In Night (Ansell)	January 09 2010
Delta Company Mess Diner (Tilston)	January 16 2010
Military History Symposium (Tilston)	February 05/06 2010
Garrison Ball (Tilston)	February 06 2010
Hochwald Dinner (Tilston)	Tentative Date: March 06 2010

## EDITOR’S MESSAGE



120 members of the Regimental Family enjoy soldiers’ Christmas Dinner at Tilston Armoury on 8th December. Dinner was served by Officers and Senior NCO’s.



Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year

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