



# The Frontenac Times

*In memory of The Wipers Times, with apologies to Captain F.J. Roberts,  
12<sup>th</sup> Bn, Sherwood Foresters*

Vol 2. No. 1

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2001

Price: 10¢, Granovian Occupation Army Scrip

## Editorial Comment

Welcome back to DisneyFort!

Once more into the breach ...

The TCSC. Why the hell would anyone want to be here? Remember this old refrain: "When you return on the senior course, you'll get to ...." Well? Where's the promised trip to Europe? Come on, we all know that the battlefield tour was the defining drunken moment of every CSC since the College's inception. Anyone who really thinks those lasting bonds of friendship among the senior officers were formed in Normandy Hall has been sniffing the whiteboard markers again. We're captains, we're not stupid, we know that "I was in staff college with him" has always just been a euphemism for "We were so drunk together during a week in Europe that we barely remember what countries we visited."

Majors who can hardly remember the paragraph headings of an Operation Order still remember who missed which bus, which DS were too drunk to get off the bus which days and what beach they stood on in sotted splendour watching the sun rise over the Aegean before sprinting to the hotel for a shower and breakfast.

So how did we get here? The TCSC, stripped as it is, is like attacking an enemy held ravine. There's no tactical advantage, it's just in our [career] path and it has to be taken. Well, it's "over the top" one more time for ten solid weeks of Korea, Normandy and endless DIs. I just hope they didn't think the best way to compensate for lost classroom room time was added study hours, because we all know what a spirit-lifting bonding experience that can be.

A military plan tainted by an attempt to satisfy the Commander's ego is unlikely to be the best plan: an irrelevant factor has been introduced into the calculations. - Montgomery, quoted in Norman F. Dixon, *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence*, 1976

Remember this one:

“We know it’s a lot of work, but when you return on the Senior Course, you get to go to Europe.”

Now it’s:

“We know it’s a lot of work – but you’re only here for ten weeks.”

Hmmm, we were prepared to come back for twenty weeks, and go to Europe.  
Only ten weeks → we feel *so* lucky.



What’s with this vertical-walled defensive system anyway? That went out with the arrival of gunpowder. We could at least be habited in a decent modern Vauban style fortress with ramparts and a moat that would better fit the tactics we’re using. Anyone for moving the course to Halifax?

A Lesson in Clarity:

Private Craigie T. Mackie; 2nd Gordon Highlanders: In February, 1916; I was a runner carrying messages from battalion headquarters to company headquarters. I went down to the village one cold windy day. I looked into an estaminet. Our support lines were nearby, so I went in the estaminet to see if there were any Gordon Highlanders in it. The madame shouted at me, "Ferme la porte!" I didn't know a word of what she had said. I asked, "What did you say?" She replied, "Shut the fucking door!" I knew then what that meant and ... I never forgot that. - Gordon Reid (Ed), *Poor Bloody Murder: Personal Memoirs of the First World War*, 1980

TCSC 2001 Week One

Monday – programmed IPT to 2300  
Tuesday – programmed IPT to 2300  
Wednesday – programmed IPT to 2300  
Thursday – programmed IPT to 2300  
Friday – programmed IPT to 2200  
Anyone see a pattern here?

- My schwerpunkt hurts.

So, why are you on this course?

- I was available.
- I couldn’t think of a good excuse to avoid it.
- I like the bars in Kingston.
- I thought TCSC was “Tele-Communications Support Course”
- The weather’s milder in Kingston than at home this time of year.
- My CM lied to me.
- They’re giving it to all Captains

Things to look forward to on the Command and Staff Course (from a Staff Course perspective):

- A European battlefield tour – a definitive professional development activity to enable officers to help place Canadian military history in perspective → Sorry, need the time for IPT.
- A technology package, because our officers need to acquire a better understanding of military technology and its impact on military operations in the RMA → Sorry, time better spent doing FLOCARK in Normandy Hall.
- A professional development writing package, because we need to take our officers’ professional ability to express themselves beyond military writing formats and PowerPoint → Sorry, we’ve going to do lots more OPP.

The Staff College has been devised to restrain and curb officers who are unable to remain at the official level of proficiency. - *The Young Officer's Guide to Knowledge*, by Senior Major, Fourth Edition, 1915

This course could have been developed by Microsoft.

- Step 1 - Develop program.
- Step 2 - Claim ready for public use and issue Beta version.
- Step 3 - Incorporate suffering users comments, debug, and make program work within existing constraints.
- Step 4 - Completely rewrite program, ensuring little compatibility with previous editions.
- Step 5 – Return to Step 2, repeat endlessly.

Now at your local Army staff training institution now - MS StaffCollege 2001!

Watch for the upcoming MS StaffCollege 2002!



*I think, therefore I am . . . still a Captain?*

I hope everyone noticed the none too subtle admonitions that there was a restrictive PP&S budget. We can only imagine what's next:

- Thanks for the two 29¢ pens and the 12¢ pencil. I guess I can use my \$85.00 Gerber multi-tool to sharpen the pencil.
- How short does the pencil stub have to be before I can turn it in for a new one?
- Q - "Why haven't you finished this OPP task?"  
A - "Because the College's talc ran out and we drank our personal talc money last night."

It a good thing the electrons in my computer are recyclable.

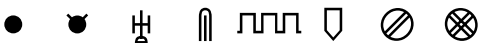
### The Arms (God help us):

**The Cavalry** → "The only advantage in cavalry is the smarter uniform. . . . , and the class of officer in the cavalry does not seem to take his profession too seriously." - Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, CBE, DSO, Army Diary 1899 - 1926, 1960

**The Gunners** → "Always [the British Army] set greater store by breeding than by book knowledge. . . . The first Lord Wavell quoted as the best confidential report he had ever read the following verdict by one Horse Gunner on another: 'Personally I would not breed from this officer.'" - E.S. Turner, Gallant Gentlemen; a portrait of the British Officer 1600-1956, 1956

**The P.B.I.** → Without doubt an infantry section thought of itself as 'we', but who were 'they'? In a manner of speaking, all the rest of the human race could be so classified:... - Charles Carrington, Soldier From the Wars Returning, 1965

**The Sappers** → Method of lighting fuze. The simplest method is to use matches. - Field Service Pocket Book (1926), Chap. 4 Sect. 26. Demolitions



### The Sports Section:

**Pr-emption - breaking Jaeger knees as he gets off the bus**

**Dislocation - playing a clean game so they can't capitalize on their power play**

**Disruption - taking out Lemieux during the game**

### Solving the eternal parking problem

Hmmmm ... which one was RB's reserved space? He said I could use it while he was away. Really!!

### Slowing the Tempo:

" ... for when you need time for your tanks to catch up ..."

### DS Quotes:

"We're looking for constructive criticism. But don't tell us about how your day is going. I could really give a ----."

"Let's keep the whining down to a minimum, shall we." (Whining = moaning, complaining, bitching)

"I always follow the path of least resistance."

### RECCE

1. Time spent on recce is seldom wasted.
2. Time wasted on recce is never recovered.
3. The quality of recce is directly proportional to the likelihood that operational plans will be based on fact and, therefore, be successful.
4. Recce is only as important as your boss thinks it is and this influences, the time, assets and consideration assigned to recce, so you'd better hope he thinks it's very important.
5. There is no need for recce if you know the Directing Staff's preferred option.
6. Poor recce promotes flexibility as well as rapid amendments to plans, but does not contribute to effective alternatives.
7. Recce complicates planning, planning is easier if information that contradicts a commander's plan is not gathered in the first place.
8. Recce is a dish best eaten cold, recce by fire may give the enemy more information than it gives you.
9. The COYOTE is an effective, high tech recce asset. The enemy has a solution to COYOTE. It is the anti-radiation missile (ARM). A COYOTE within ARMs reach will be blind (because they are turned off for survival), or dead. High tech solutions attract high tech counter-measures.
10. There is no effective replacement for good dismounted close recce.
11. The most important recce asset in any organization is the mind of a soldier. No level of technology can, on its own, decide it had better check over the next hill.

We know that the DS are under pressure this year. So to assist them the following is reprinted from Volume 1, Number 6 of *The Frontenac Times*

**DOES THE BELL CURVE CONFUSE YOU?**

**DO YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH AN ALPHABET WITH NO “A”?**

**DO YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE GRADES YOU ASSIGN?**

**NO LONGER!!**

We have a solution for you.

One which takes the guess-work out of grading and brings an element of fun to those late night estimate marking sessions.

And you can use it before or after looking at you syndicates’ work, with equal validity of results!.

**From the makers of Spin-A-Verb**

A whole new way to assign Staff College grades!

**SPIN-A-GRADE**

Spin-A Grade provides you a quick and easy method of assigning grades. It’s simple to use (even combat arms officers have mastered it after a few short hours of instruction.) It’s fun to use (although pilots may have to be reminded to put it down and actually work.) And it’s flexible, a set of handy grade inserts are provided to ensure a new challenge with every assignment, Spin-A-Grade comes with the inserts shown here and – special with this offer – the “solid C” insert – flat-line your young Guderians. Pick your syndicate’s slice of the bell curve, change the insert when the DComd says you’re marking too hard or too lightly. Stay on top, complete marking in record time and use that extra time to expand a useful professional skill – like golf.

You’ll be the envy of your peers.

**Hole-in -One your Schwerpunkt**

© Loser Platoon Productions, 1998

