

## **CANADIAN ARMED FORCES DAY AND AIR SHOW AT CFB BORDEN**

"I can't believe they've just crushed my Heliograph target!" From the Vintage Signals Team Display at CFB Borden, the tail lights of the car parked under the tree were perfect for flashing Morse code signals. Our visitor, The Base Commander handed his Morse code card to his Aide and hurried over to get a closer look as the Battle tank rocked back and forth over my target.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, the Vintage Signals team combined with Captain Caron, RSM

Graham and WO Whelan to set up the 32 Signals Display at the Borden Air show. Sgt Palik scrambled canvas while MCpl Stubbings and Cpl Coffin weaved and lifted as the display took shape.

The VST of Rick Little; Dave Hayward and Terri and Don McGillvray quickly populated the display and the Signals story of the 100 days and the crossing of the Canal Du Nord came to life.

What began as cool and cloud ridden cleared into perfect Heliograph day with visitors increasing as the beginning for the air show drew closer. The 500 or more visitors took 250 Signals Post Cards with families enjoying the fascination of talking to each other through a manual switchboard using the magneto phones.

With such a perfect day the Heliograph demonstration was much in demand with a shared amazement at the capability of equipment over 100 years old to send encoded messages over 70 miles. "Really?" a visitor asked, "Well, we have used it to send a message across Lake Ontario from Toronto to Hamilton. It's getting the height that makes it possible."





This is the cue for Rick to come in with his demonstration of what happens when the sun goes away. The lamps are paired and family members send Morse code messages to each other with squeals of delight or remonstrations of “that’s not what I said” echoing around the tent.

For the many historian’s and school teachers, Dave has his display and maps of the 100 days Battle of 1918. This fine achievement of Canadian Arms is a notable achievement for Canadian Signals as went from static warfare to mobile joint operations with Air, Artillery; Armour; rapid Recce, cavalry and infantry. This is

an amazing achievement that demonstrates the flexibility and innovation so characteristic of the Canadian Corps of 1918.

By the end of the day, the team were tired and happy when Capt Caron, RSM Graham and WO Limbert arrived to retrieve the tentage and tables. On such a beautiful day immersed in Borden where the first Signalling School was set up and seeing the Canadian Signal Corps Camp flag flying once more over equipment that the Signallers in Borden would have trained on, it was a time for reflection nostalgia and a cold beer.



The Vintage Signals Team is proudly supported by 32 Signal Regiment