

**FROM THE DESK OF.....**  
**HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JUSTIN R. FOGARTY**

**BY E-MAIL**

June 8, 2011

My Dear Friends:

**33 SIGNALS FOUNDATION: OPERATION WOLFPACK HOLLAND:  
SITUATION REPORT**

I thought I would provide you with a report on the outcome of Operation Wolfpack which took place from May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Congratulations are in order for all those who participated. The jump team was comprised of the following individuals who all received wings:

Major Geoff Blair aka "Pronto Niner"  
Paul Boucher aka "Boucherman"  
Jason Coopens aka "IO"  
David Dixon aka "Green Flash"  
Rodrique Escoyala aka "Cow Bell"  
Justin R. Fogarty aka "Golden Hawk"  
Sergeant Jeff Grace aka "Fireman"  
Laurie Mack aka "Airborne"  
Glenn Miller aka "Dark Knight"  
Chris Naudain aka "Eagle Eye"  
RSM James Newell aka "Super Ribs"  
Seargant Gerry Umbach aka "Velcro Man"  
Sergeant Lisa Vandehei aka "Running Woman"

On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your heartfelt best wishes and for your financial contribution which made this event a huge success. Apart from the monetary aspect, everyone of the participants learned something about the Canadian forces history, about themselves and overcoming personal fears (sheer terror) in a team atmosphere. It is hard to believe that at an age when some of us should know better, when we know people should be playing golf or curling, our team was jumping out of a perfectly good aircraft. The wings that we wear represent many sentiments on many levels.

The first stage of our efforts have raised in excess of \$40,000. Another event which we are planning for September named Operation Thunder will increase the proceeds to well



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over \$200,000. In addition to supporting the 33 Signals Reserve Regiment, the proceeds will go to assist Canada Company's initiatives, True Patriot Love initiatives, The Signals Branch History Project and the Order of Saint George initiatives for the Canadian Forces family.

The experience of visiting battlefields in Holland where Canadians fought so bravely and lost so many lives was truly moving. We visited Nijmegen, Arnhem, Apeldoorn and Oosterbeek. We walked the fields where brave soldiers showed their valour and lost their lives in operation Veritable, Operation Blockbuster, The Hochwald Gap and of course the famous Operation Market Garden which was the Bridge Too Far at Arnhem.

The experience of visiting these hallowed grounds with our guide Everett Stieber and his wife Anabell left all of us speechless. Seeing the cemeteries where so many of our brave young men are buried was a testament to the sacrifice they made for all of us. Our Canadian soldiers have distinguished themselves in so many conflicts and are continuing to do so today in Afghanistan and other hot spots along from their humanitarian, peacekeeping and domestic roles.

After visiting these important sites, we reported to the Paracentrum at Teuge near Apeldoorn on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We commenced our familiarization with the base and started to learn about what would be expected from us over the ensuing week. On Sunday night we celebrated with a fairly quiet dinner and reflected what we were about to do. We watched the movie "Bridge Too Far" to put things into further historical perspective.

Reporting to the base on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> we started to learn about the theories of parachute jumping and began to practice parachute landing falls, emergency exits and parachute packing. Monday was a very long day.

The following day was again filled with more parachute landing falls ("PLF's"), how to exit the plane, how to recognize an emergency chute failure and deploy your reserve and how to use a capewell to release your chute once you have landed in an emergency situation. Our instructors combined Monty Python like humour coupled with horror stories and a little military discipline (including push-ups) to underscore the seriousness of this endeavour. After a long day of more PLF's, we returned to our hotel to prepare for an early morning first jump on increasing merit

At 0830 hours on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we had our first jump from 2000 feet. Everybody landed safely albeit the commanding officer Major Geoff Blair did manage to find a ditch to fall into. Although unscathed he was a site for sore eyes when he came into the hanger a little less clean than when he jumped out. Unfortunately someone on the first jump from the British Group broke his femur but the Canadian's did not suffer such a fate. Our British friend was rushed off to surgery and he is now on the road to recovery.

Following our first jump we all learned how to pack our chutes and worked as a team demonstrating to the Belgians, and the British present that the Canadian's could really work closely together. At approximately 1300 hours the same day we were up again jumping. There were no incidents on the second jump. A few of us had a few close calls but these are stories for later.

Following the second jump, we were able to work very effectively as a team and packed our chutes in good time. We were up again for our final jump of the day around 1830 hours that evening. Everyone landed successfully despite the fact that the winds were a little higher. Upon landing, we rushed to the hangar and packed our chutes late into the night and got ready for the next day.

On Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> we reported to the base and we practiced more PLF's. Then up we went for the two final jumps. The weather was calmer with low wind and our jumps got off without incident. Upon completion of the final two jumps we were awarded our Dutch Military B Para Wings. On behalf of the Foundation, we presented a beautiful memorial plaque with the newly minted coin of Queen Julianna to the Teuge Para Centre to Captain Simon of the Dutch Military as well as a commemorative plaque to Roy Mosby of the Pathfinder UK School.

Our instructors from Pathfinder UK, were amazing. Roy Mosby, Ian Marshall, Lance, Jason and Hervie all have in excess of 15,000 jumps. A very impressive group. They were also amazed with how well our group worked together as a team. That evening we celebrated with a nice dinner and toasted each other as newly minted members of the Airborne fraternity.

The following day on May 20<sup>th</sup> we returned to the base to repack our chutes for the final time. We saw a new group of Dutch Military recruits start their course. After saying goodbye to the folks at the Paracentrum Roy Mosby, Ian Marshall and Lance from the Pathfinder UK school took us on a tour of the Airborne museum at Arnhem and the cemetery nearby. It brought home to us what these young soldiers did jumping at low altitude into a hostile drop zone under fire with no reserve chutes. We had lunch at the famous hotel where the British paratroopers held out before being captured. The premises was full of photo's and reminders of bravery.

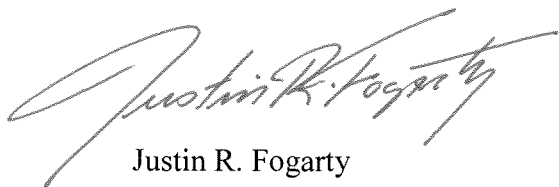
We have made lasting bonds of friendship with the Dutch people, the British Pathfinders UK group and our team that will be forever lasting. Words cannot really capture these feelings. I wish to thank you for sponsoring the foundation. The money we have raised will go to good work for a number of important causes.

I attach copies of photographs which were taken by Chris Naudain, aka Eagle Eye, of a few scenes from our experience. You can also see live videos of the jumps both inside and outside the plane. You will also see landings and training videos as well as cameras on some of our parachutists by looking at our website [www.33sigs.org](http://www.33sigs.org) and clicking on the space that says wolfpack videos. I also attach a pdf copy of our itinerary prepared by

Everett Stieber giving the details of the places we visited. A reading list is also attached for those who are interested. Everett graciously donated his time to guide us. He is an amazing authority and was so knowledgeable. Much thanks to him and his wife.

Again I wish to thank you for your generous support and I look forward to reporting to you with the final numbers and when we will be making presentations to the organizations of the funds raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin R. Fogarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Justin R. Fogarty

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel  
33 Signals Regiment