

Ex ROGUISH BUOY

By Capt Marc R. Parent

With the beginning of November autumn breeze and temperatures near the freezing point, the majority of people dress warmly and tries every way to stay dry. That's just the opposite of what the Army Combat Divers had in mind. In fact, Exercise ROGUISH BUOY 11 was conducted from November 5 to 18 in Kingston, Ont, set up by the ADC (Army Dive Centre), a component of the CFSME (Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering). This exercise was intended to bring together the various dive teams from the four Combat Engineer Regiments in order to enhance esprit de corps of Canadian divers, perfect our techniques and sharpen our underwater abilities. A Dutch delegation and an American team were also present in order to share their techniques but also to promote cohesion and international cooperation.

Out of 32 members, 5 CER deployed 8 divers on this exercise, Lt. Hebert, Diving Officer (I), MCpl Chouinard, Diving NCO, MCpl Labbé, diving supervisor, Sap Plourde, team storekeeper, corporals Boily and Jambrich and Sap Wilson and Avila-Rivas, divers. The team was augmented by Capt Marcotte and Capt R. Parent. The 10-diver team took advantage of the scenarios to complete nearly 60 hours of diving in all.



Tasks during the exercise were diverse and represented an interesting challenge. Among these we can mention the visit to the WOLFE ISLANDER, a former Kingston-Wolfe Island ferry that was scuttled in the middle of Lake Ontario at an average depth of 20 meters. One visit to this wreck was at night, giving to the dive a ghostly atmosphere. This type of diving is very complex because of the depth and thus the limited time you can spend under water. In addition, the wreck is a danger to divers, who can entangle their cords or damage their breathing equipment if they do not pay attention to all their movements.

Other interesting tasks were, for example, cleaning the bottom of *Navy Bay* and *Deadman's Bay*, where the equivalent of a full washing bag of old cartridges and ammunition was collected. There was also some seabed search and identification to identify future sites for the transit of clean water pipes.

5 CER innovated by undertaking the construction of a winter carport at the bottom. This task was very demanding in terms of preparation and planning before diving since it requires assembling with many small screws and nuts. In addition, the task requires underwater communication, patience and body resistance to cold.

In addition to the diving tasks, the exercise included jumping from a C-146 Griffon type helicopter (HeloCast), and several other social activities, such as the Remembrance Day ceremony which allowed us to discover Kingston and take a moment to pay tribute to our brothers in arms. ROGUISH BUOY 11 was a great experience for all participants, and there is no doubt the aim of the exercise was met!

CHIMO!