
many divergent approaches to defining and resolving Future Army Bandwidth requirements and capabilities. It is grounded in the technology of today or near term and by no means does it advocate a “star wars” approach. You do not need to be an engineer to digest it, (although it always helps to be an engineer in doing anything...but I digress). Lastly, although *Future Army Bandwidth Needs and Capabilities* was directly written and oriented for the United States Army, it definitely is applicable to the Canadian Army's destination. We can learn much from these observations.

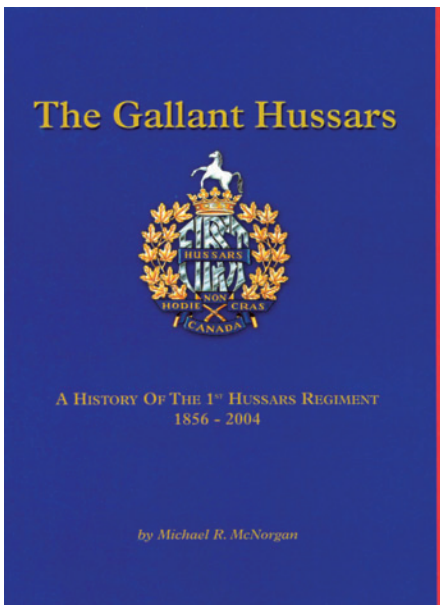
THE GALLANT HUSSARS: A HISTORY OF THE 1ST HUSSARS REGIMENT, 1856—2004

Michael R. McNorgan, published by the 1st Hussars Cavalry Fund, 2004.

ISBN 0-09694659-1-2. Hardcover, 359 pages, illustrations, maps, 12 appendices, index.

Available from the 1st Hussars at www.firsthussars.ca.

Reviewed by Major John R. Grodzinski, CD



The last several years have witnessed a revolution in the regimental history, taking the genre from the typical “how our regiment won the war” narrative that was accompanied by a few blurred photos and poorly drawn sketch maps to well researched, detailed study loaded with illustrations, superb (and original) maps and published in a nicely designed format. A few examples of titles meeting this new standard include Donald E. Graves' *South Albertas: A Canadian Regiment at War*, Graves' *Century of Service: The History of the South Alberta Light Horse*, John Marteinson and Michael McNorgan's *The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps: An Illustrated History* and George W. Beal's *Family of Volunteers: An Illustrated History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada*. These books have not only enriched our understanding of the “regimental system”

inherited from the British, but also our appreciation of military history. The *Gallant Hussars* continues this recently established tradition.

The 1st Hussars owe their origin to the St Thomas Troop of Volunteer Militia Cavalry and the First Troop of Volunteer Militia Cavalry of London, both formed in 1856. Eventually both troops merged to become the St Thomas and London Squadron of Canada, and in 1872, the unit was expanded and renamed as the 1st Regiment of Cavalry. By 1892, they became the 1st Hussars. The regiment defended Canada during the Fenian Invasions and provided volunteers for the South African War, specifically to the 2nd (Special Service) battalion the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, A Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles and the South African Constabulary. Like many other regiments, the 1st Hussars did not mobilize during the First World War. Rather, they provided volunteers for other newly created regiments,

such as the 1st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, the 7th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles and the Canadian Light Horse. Following the travails of the interwar period, the 1st Hussars were mobilized on 1 September 1939. They served briefly with the ad hoc 1st Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized) before converting to an armoured regiment in February 1941 with the designation 6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars). The Hussars landed in Normandy on D Day as part of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. They continued operations in North West Europe to the end of the war. Since then, the regiment has been stationed in London, Ontario, where it has continued training as a reserve armoured regiment and providing augmentees to domestic and international operations and to other units and formations.

The *Gallant Hussars* is not the first published history of this unit. In preparing it, Mike McNorgan sought to add to previous studies by offering greater detail about pre-Second World War history and to provide a “wider audience with some of the unit's rich history.” McNorgan was an outstanding choice to write this book as he commenced his military career with the 1st Hussars. After joining the Regular Force and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, his interest in his former regiment continued throughout his career. He continued to collect documentation and oral history dealing with the 1st Hussars.

While this is a popular history, McNorgan has made good use of the primary and secondary sources, creating a readable and interesting account. While both the history of the regiment's early years and the modern era are well covered, most of the book deals with the regiment in the Second World War. The author provides a good general overview of the conversion of a cavalry regiment to armour. He describes the challenges of training and preparation for the landings in Normandy, where two squadrons of the 1st Hussars employed the Duplex Drive Sherman tanks that were to “swim” ashore after being launched from the LCTs. The third squadron was equipped with the Sherman Vc Firefly, armed with a 17 pounder gun. The Firefly was the only allied tank that could take on German armour. Perhaps the most interesting chapter deals with the 1st Hussar's “Black Day” that occurred during the June 1944 Battle of Normandy, where along with several other Canadian regiments, they experienced heavy casualties. On 11 June 1944 at Le Mesnil-Patry the 1st Hussars, with a company of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada under command, suffered 45 fatal casualties. McNorgan has studied this battle for many years and his account is not restricted to a simple narrative—he lays the blame for its failure with the commanders of the 3rd Canadian Division and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. McNorgan believes these commanders rushed into the operation at the cost of sufficient planning and preparation. His analysis provides more fire for the debates on Canadian performance in Normandy.

Perhaps the most difficult period to write about in the history any regiment is the period after 1945. Despite the many policy changes regarding the reserves implemented over the last half-century, major equipment and doctrinal changes, wars, domestic and international operations and other major events, few useful records from this period have found their way into regimental and national archives. The job of any historian researching this period is therefore, difficult. Notwithstanding the lack of records, McNorgan has managed to give an insightful look at the challenges faced by

the post-war Militia, and the valuable role it has played in the conduct of international operations, such as Bosnia or Somalia, and in the normal routine of the Army.

The *Gallant Hussars* concludes with a number of excellent appendices, covering such topics as the nominal rolls, several rolls of honour listing dead and wounded, orders, medals and decorations, including citations where known, a list of commanding officers and regimental sergeants-major among others.

The illustrations are well chosen and in many cases, presented for the first time. They offer insights into many aspects of regimental life, personalities, the cavalry, the armoured corps, wartime and other operations. Generally, their quality is quite good, although, unfortunately, several were blurred—apparently as a result of being digitized.

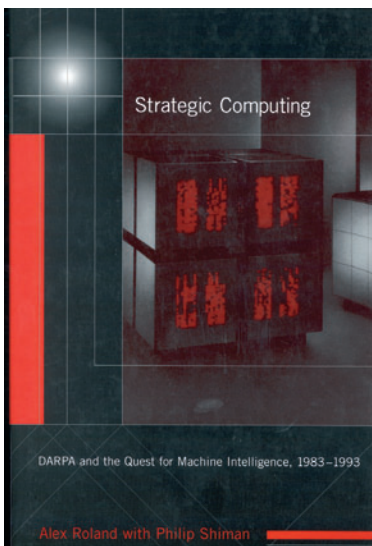
Of particular quality are the splendid maps, charts, organizational diagrams and illustrations produced by Chris Johnson, an armour enthusiast who has established himself as one of the finest technical illustrators and certainly the best cartographer in Canada.

With its solid research, outstanding illustrations and appendices, *The Gallant Hussars* succeeds in the author's aim of documenting the 1st Hussars rich history. It is well illustrated and supported by outstanding maps and diagrams. *The Gallant Hussars* follows the tradition of other recently published regimental histories and provides insight not only into a specific regiment, but the history of the Army as a whole. While some readers might demur from regimental histories, they will undoubtedly agree that the insight offered in *The Gallant Hussars* makes it a valuable addition to any library.

STRATEGIC COMPUTING: DARPA AND THE QUEST FOR MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, 1983-1993

By Alex Roland with Philip Shiman, (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2002), 427 pages, HC, USD\$50.00.

Reviewed by Major Andrew B. Godefroy, CD, Ph.D.



The rearmament of the United States in the early 1980s was perhaps most often characterized by the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). SDI, popularly referred to as “Star Wars”, was a project of monolithic proportions that symbolized what U.S. President Ronald Reagan described in March 1983 as “...a comprehensive and intensive effort to define a long-term research and development program to begin to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles...”. Specifically, SDI proposed a combined ground and space-based ballistic missile defence system that, in theory at least, would create a near impenetrable wall against any possible large-scale Soviet nuclear attack. Though the Cold War ended before SDI became a reality, “Star Wars” remains synonymous with this period in history.