

## UBIQUE 150 OPERATION QUIC QUID

*Story: Colonel (Ret'd) Robert Poirier*

As previously advertised, OP QUIC QUID was successfully conducted on 14 July 2021.

The mission was to conduct a bicycle ride of 150 kilometers commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Winnipeg Field Battery and of A and B Batteries. The Winnipeg Field Battery is now 13 Field Battery, Portage la Prairie, part of 26 Field Regiment.

The riders were LCol Mark Wilson, Commanding Officer of the 38 Canadian Brigade Group Artillery Tactical Group; Captain Steve Sloat, the Adjutant; and Colonel (Retired) Robert Poirier, former CO of the ATG and former Commander of 38 CBG.

While the others were volunteers, we had one conscript, who nonetheless did her duty cheerfully and carefully - Deanna Wilson drove one of the support vehicles.

We met at 0700 at the Robin's Nest Cafe, near Carberry, Manitoba and 152 km from the destination. Coming from three different directions, and getting up at 4 in the morning, the assembly on time and on target was gratifying.



This is the *Before* picture, taken shortly before heading out at 0700.

The ride began on time at 0700 (ish) on a beautiful Prairie morning. Winds were light and slightly following, the temperature cool, the highway inviting and lightly trafficked. We decided to go in sections of 25 kilometers; Steve led; Robert followed; and finally, Mark brought the ride

into the City of Portage la Prairie. We veritably flew down the highway, arriving in Portage an hour ahead of the plan. Despite an episode of Keystone Cops, wherein Steve and Robert went off to meet Mark and cycle in with him, while Mark arrived on a different route and went off then in search of the first two, we will still well ahead of schedule.

Robert and Mark grab breakfast at J&Js (known to all who have ever served in Shilo) as we await the (presumably hungry) Steve.



In Portage, we took a quick group photo in front of the Armoury and went off for a pleasant and relaxed group lunch.

This is the *Middle* picture. A bit older, a bit wiser.



The second half of the trip was conducted in heat and somewhat more wind, although it was still a slightly following wind. There was much construction, including a warmish stretch of freshly laid blacktop, thus re-proving that black absorbs heat. And re-radiates it. Luke joined us



after his work, just east of Portage and rode the rest of the way in, accompanying each rider in turn and being young, fit and an avid cyclist, forcing the old boys to work harder in the heat!

Here are two riders on a typical piece of the Trans-Canada Highway across the Prairie. This picture was taken very close to Headingley.

We arrived at Colonel Poirier's house at 1548, over an hour earlier than planned. Not so tired, each with about 60 kilometers under their belt, and satisfied with a job efficiently done. Our average speed over the day was on the order of 23 kph, which is not too shabby.

Here is the (obviously staged) final leg with all four riders, and the *After* picture. Not looking much the worse for wear, at least not for (mostly) old farts.



And so, from the participants in **OPERATION QUIC QUID - "UBIQUE"**.

