

The Rifleman

2017

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



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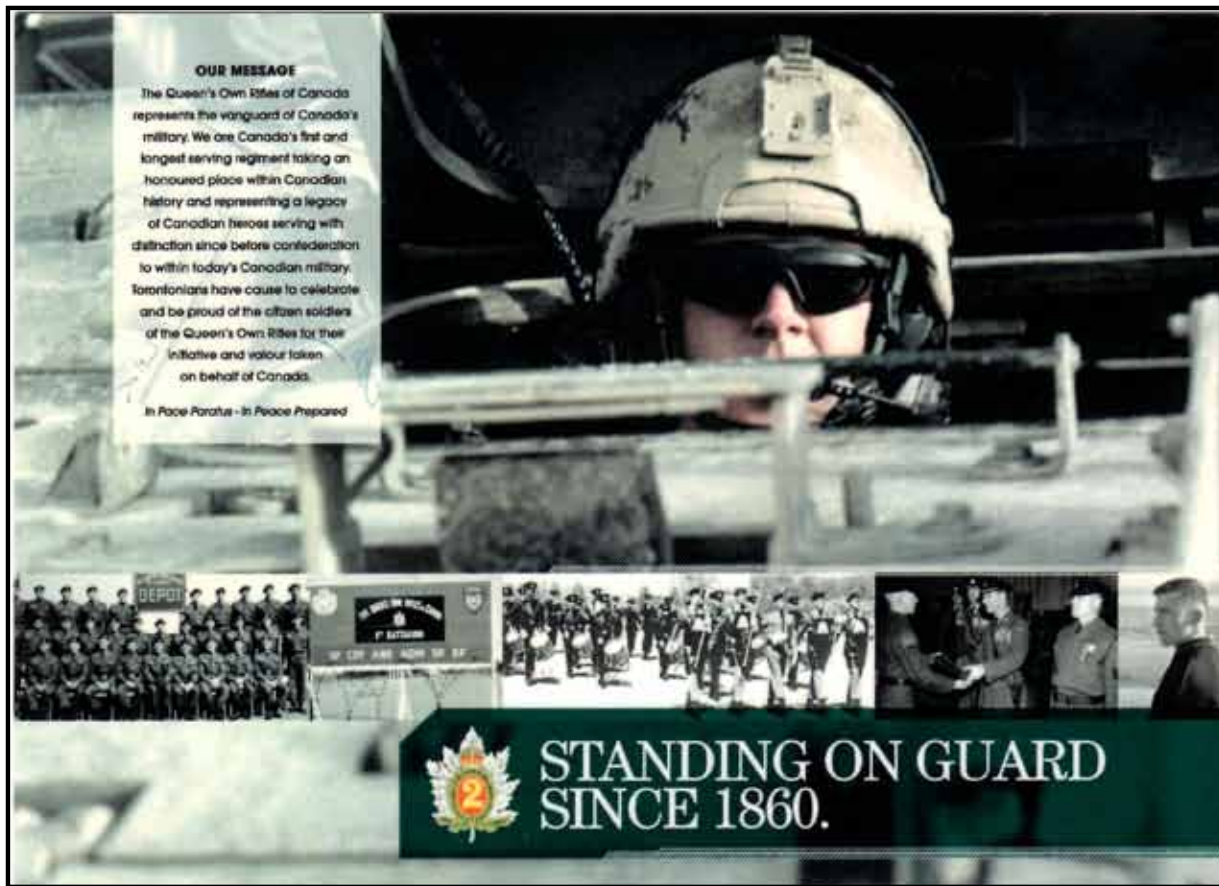
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
HLCol Lionel Goffart QC

Regimental Sergeant Major
MWO D.D.E O'Halloran CD

Regimental Secretary
LCol C. ED Rayment CD

President of the National Association
Bob Dunk

Regimental Adjutant
Capt A.B.T. Hermant CD



Note on Cover: The Guard and Regimental Band & Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada advance up the narrow lanes of Anisy, France after receiving the Freedom of the City of Anisy and the right, in perpetuity, to enter the village with Skirmishers leading, Swords fixed and Drums beating. The Battalion retraces the steps of D Coy, 1st Battalion QOR of C from late on the 6th of June, 1944, when they secured their D-Day objective - the only Allied Regiment to do so on that 'Longest Day'. The Guard moves towards Rue Rifleman Charles Lawson, past the Church where he was killed-in-action during the liberation of the village. The Battalion secured the name of the road to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of those who went before, forever changed by war and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice for Queen and Country.

The Rifleman 2017
Official Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

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Comments from the Editor

The period from June 2 2016 until July 31, 2017, was an active and very rewarding period for all of those of the Regimental Family both active, retired and friends of the QOR.

We have witnessed a tremendous period of accomplishment and reward at all levels. We apologize for the delay in printing the Rifleman 2017 but there was just too much outstanding information which needed to be written and collected from many areas of the regiment.

On 26 October Major General Walt Holmes MBE, MSM, CD succeeded Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson. Walt has had a distinguished career in the Regular Force and is no stranger to the QOR. His father served with the QOR in Europe during the last World War.



Walt served and commanded in both Royal Canadian Regiment and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Another first was the QOR Auction held in Nov 2016 to assist our contingent going to Vimy and Normandy in April 2017. The auction was made possible by the generous donations in kind by friends of the QOR as well as past serving members. A special note of thanks should be given to Phil Ten Kortenaar for his role as organizer and auctioneer.

On June 4, 2016, the regiment proudly paraded with the RHLI in celebration of the 150th anniversary of our first battle honour earned just outside of the Town of Ridgeway. This difficult battle was fought at a cost of 9 members of the QOR in the bitter fight against the battle hardened invaders called Fenians. The QOR Museum worked hard and created a fantastic series of displays for the actual event, and we were granted the honour of freedom of the town.



Our long serving and great friend Tom Martin of Victoria BC was awarded the Sovereign Medal for Volunteers by the Governor General of Canada. We all know how hard Tom has worked not only in the last year but throughout his whole life. He is a true supporter of the QOR. Plus Tom also was awarded the coveted Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation on 16 Nov 2016.



Unfortunately our dear friend Herve Hoffer and owner of the “House of the Queen’s Own” our landmark on June 6, 1944, suffered a stroke and passed away on 14 Jan 2017. He will be sadly missed. It was his great personality that honoured so many members of the QOR into his home. He will be sadly missed by all of his QOR friends.

Another death of an important friend occurred May 16, 2016, that being Jack Martin. Featured in this magazine is Jack receiving his dying wish to have his ashes spread on the Beaches of Normandy where he had landed on June 6, 1944.



In April of 2017 the QOR and band composing of more than 100 people celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. This undertaking was financed solely by Hon LCol Lionel Goffart. The trip also commemorated the naming of a street in the Town of Anisy France which was liberated by the QOR on June 6, 1944 after Rifleman Clarke Lawson. Clarke was killed in action at the foot of the church of Anisy.

Special thank to the important people who helped make this magazine. People such as Adrianna Misener who designed and assembled the magazine, Capt Adam Hermant and Capt George McNeillie who proofed the Rifleman. All worked well as a team and produced an outstanding product. I should point out that Capt Adam Hermant was the original founder and creator of the Rifleman and Capt George McNeillie was the first editor.

And finally, we salute our advertisers, without whom the Journal would not be possible. Our advertising support was provided by: Tiny Hearts by Brendan Caldwell • Tom Martin • The Museum of Ridgeway • Bank of Montreal • Bank of Montreal Nesbit Burns • CIBC • QOR Toronto Association • QOR National Association.



Good reading,

Yours regimentally

LCol C. ED Rayment

Regimental Secretary and Editor





Report by The Commanding Officer



To suggest that this has been a tremendous year for “Canada’s Oldest and Finest” would be an understatement. While maintaining our field qualifications and continuing to force-generate personnel for deployed operations, the Regiment marked several significant milestones and welcomed our new HCol, MGen Walter Holmes MBE MSM CD.

We continue to train, prepare and deploy personnel to augment 2 CMBG, component transfer to the regular forces or on operations in Iraq, Kuwait and eastern Europe. As the 4th Canadian Division embarks upon its high-readiness cycle, we remain flexible with our training plans and structure so we can support those operations while maintaining our FG capabilities in garrison. To this end, having the new Col C.O Dalton DSO & Col H.E. Dalton DSO Armoury back online this fall will enable Buffs Coy to once again have a second foot on the ground. BHQ, 60th, Victoria and Para Coy, along with the Regimental Band & Bugles and the Battle School detachment, will continue to operate out of our home station at Moss Park Armoury.

Happily, our cadet corps is also looking to move to the new Armoury, putting them closer to the Battalion. Both HLCol Goffart and I have had the opportunity to review our cadets over the last year and I’m pleased to report their esprit de corps and dedication remains high. This was never more evident than when they kept pace with the Regiment during a long and blistering day at Ridgeway. We will have yet another opportunity to work together when the Regiment facilitates the first ever Tri-Cadet exercise with a local Air Cadet Squadron and Sea Cadet Corps. Naturally, the Rifles are leading the way, with Capt Pershad planning and coordinating the exercise.

In June 2016, the Regiment was honoured by the people of Ridgeway and the City of Fort Erie when we were granted the Freedom of the City, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway and the Fenian campaign. A spectacular parade, with the Regiment leading the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and 2881 RCAC Corps through historic Ridgeway to the battlefield, saw 5,000 people come out to commemorate the “battle that made Canada” and the first Canadians to be killed-in-action defending our home and native land. The evening prior we enjoyed a mess-dinner-in-the-field, courtesy of the Sgts & WO’s Mess, on the battlefield itself, and followed up the commemoration with family day. Of the many displays and re-enactments was our own Regimental Museums display of Ensign Malcolm McEachern’s original tunic. Kudos to Maj (ret) John Stephens, Capt (ret) Larry Hicks, CWO(ret) Sean Kelly and the team of volunteers who made this possible.

Ten months after Ridgeway, the Regiment landed a Guard with our Regimental Band & Bugles in Normandie. The entire visit was a collection of special moments, thanks to the generosity of HLCol Lionel Goffart. Again, we were honoured after a heartfelt welcome at Bernieres-sur-Mer, where the Freedom of the City was bestowed upon the QOR of C, "...in perpetuity, with the right to march with Swords fixed, Skirmishers leading and Drums beating." The Guard marched on Rue de Queen's Own Rifles to the bunker on Juno Beach where we were joined by the Mayor and citizens, as well as the Hoffer family, to pay our respects. The Maison du Queen's Own Rifles was open for all and in the fitting moment, we paid tribute to Herve Hoffer, whom we unexpectedly lost in January of this year. Both Olivier and Nicolas Hoffer were appointed Honorary Captains and representatives of the Regiment in Normandie, in tribute to Herve and the amazing work and dedication the Hoffers have shown the Regiment and our veterans.

Despite the hectic schedule we had an opportunity to link up with LCol (ret) John Fotheringham and his group that joined us in front of the Maison for a tribute to Jack Martin. With the tide rapidly coming in, the RSM and I joined Col Fotheringham at the water's edge for Last Post and sprinkling Jack's ashes into the English Chanel. That evening, we were guests of the people of Bernieres for another combined mess dinner on very scared soil: Juno Beach itself.

Following a trace of the 1st Battalion's advance into Caen and the battles at Carpiquet and Le Mesnil Patry, the Regiment was again welcomed by Mayor Nicolas Delahaye and the people of Anisy. The Regiment received the Freedom of the City of Anisy, following which we dedicated their first new road in 400 years, to Rifleman Clarke Lawson, KIA late on D-Day at the foot of the church during the liberation of the town. On hand were the Regimental Association, the entire town as well as Mayors' of Bernieres-sur-Mer, Beny-sur-Mer, Riveres, Angurney, as well as the Juno Beach Centre staff and the Canadian Embassy from Paris.

The Regiment had the honour of marching to Menin Gate where the Guard formed under the very arch that the Canadian Expeditionary Force travelled past during the battles of the Ypres salient. HLCol Goffart, Maj F. Lamie and MWO C. Paris laid the wreath from the Regiment as our Drums and Bugles joined with the Last Post Association for the rouse.

The next day, the Regiment joined 25,000 others on Vimy Ridge for the 100th anniversary of when the Canadian Corps, fighting united for the first time, attacked and captured the previously unassailable strategic position. It's not often that you can surprise a Senior NCO (let alone five of them) and do so on sacred soil, so it was a fitting time and place to promote WOs Behan, Bridge, Hodgson and Leader, as well as Sgt Farrell. More on Vimy inside this edition of The Rifleman.

Despite the packed training schedule we managed to maintain our links with allied forces around the globe. Earlier in the year, the Battalion sent several sections to join our Allied Regt for some joint training with 7 Rifles in the



UK. We look forward to welcoming The Rifles to Canada next year for a reciprocal visit. Several Riflemen were able to make the long but rewarding trip to New Zealand for training with NZAF. Thanks to Maj Scott Moody, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre and 8 Wing Trenton, the Regiment led a combined-joint exercise which saw us force generate and project Para and IA capabilities for a 9,000 km round trip insertion into Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. 436 Sqn flew the joint force in a CC-130J, which was used for subsequent para insertions with US Forces. Alongside the US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations units, all forces participated in a simulated humanitarian operations insertion exercise in the Marine Corps Infantry simulator.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our families and friends, our employers and colleagues in other units, HQ's and organizations throughout the CAF. Many thanks to outgoing HCol Larry Stevenson for his years of dedication and mentorship and welcome to MGen Walter Holmes as our new HCol. It goes without question that we in uniform owe a great deal to our families and friends who support us in our duties and constant absences from home. Thank you for allowing us to serve Queen and country as we do.

Sadly, our Regimental family lost a stalwart supporter and true Rifleman this year, when CWO Scott Patterson passed away. 'Paddy' devoted much of his life to the Army: having been RSM of the Regiment, as well as 32 Svc Bn and the BSL; but his passion and knowledge of our traditions and history was exceptional and he was first and foremost, a Rifleman. He is dearly missed, and a reminder to all of the value of our friends and family. We look forward to dedicating DZ Patterson with all of you and our extended Regimental family in attendance, in the near future.



In Pace Paratus
S.Banerjee CD
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

REPORT BY THE HONORARY COLONEL



It is a pleasure for me to write my first contribution to the Rifleman since taking over as your Honorary Colonel last October. November and December were regimentally very busy months allowing my wife Lana and I an opportunity to get to know the Regiment better. We wish to thank all members of the regimental family for the way in which you have welcomed us into the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Some of you will know that my Father served with the QOR during WWII having joined the Regiment as a replacement in July, 1944. He stayed with the Regiment until the end of the War and did remain active with the Regimental Association for some time after. I am honoured to be able to wear his QOR cap badge and many of his original QOR buttons on my Service Dress.

I have had the opportunity to view and/or take part in all facets of the Regiment's life in my very short time with you. This has involved attending meetings where the business of the Regiment is conducted and participating in operational, ceremonial and social events. I have been most impressed by all that I have seen and how serving, former serving and friends of the Regiment work seamlessly and collaboratively towards the common goal of making the Regiment the best that it can be.

2017 promises to be an exceptional year for the QOR. The Normandy/Vimy pilgrimage in April, with its many activities of regimental significance, is but one of several events that will see the Regiment demonstrating its expertise and capabilities in a very public way. Operationally there is the possibility that serving members may once again be called upon to join their Regular Force counterparts on a significant and potentially dangerous operational tour. I am confident that with the Regiment's warrior and team spirit, all members will acquit themselves in an appropriate and professional way no matter the task at hand. I congratulate all of you on your past successes and I look forward to working with you on future regimental endeavours.

In Pace Paratus,

MGen (Ret'd) Walter M. Holmes, MBE, MSM, CD

Honorary Colonel



ANISY, FRANCE

The children from the school in Anisy, France painted this electrical sub station in honour of the Regiment after our visit in 2014, so that our soldiers would see it this year during the road dedication to Rfn Clark Lawson. Rfn Lawson was killed on Jun 6 1944 on the steps of the church of Anisy while liberating the Town of Anisy The Regiment marched right past this after receiving our Freedom of the City which was awarded to the Regiment by Mayor Nicolas Delahaye. The march to the street was chosen as the theme of the cover of this Journal.



Town's memorial on the outskirts

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES PRINCESS ALEXANDRA BURSARY FUND



The QOR Princess Alexandra Bursary was the gift from her Regiment to Her Royal Highness upon retirement as our Colonel-in-Chief in 2010. The Bursary is administered by the National Association. Serving members of the Regiment, descendants of former members, members of the QOR Cadet Corps as well as friends of the Regiment are all eligible to apply for a bursary to assist with their post-secondary education expenses. Information on how to apply for a bursary can be found at <http://www.qor.com/community/bursary.html>

The Princess Alexandra Bursary not only honours Her Royal Highness for her 50 years of service as Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, but contributes directly to the future of Canada. Recipients of the Princess Alexandra Bursary represent all regions of the country, and are enrolled in science, business, psychology, communications, education, music and medicine. As a result of the generous contributions from donors, they will graduate and start careers that will help to build Canada as we enter the 151st year of our country. Twenty-one young Canadians have already been awarded bursaries:

2010

Geoff Costeloe, Victoria, BC
CPL Rui Sarava, QOR, Toronto, ON

2011

CPL Dominique Arsenau-Bruneau, QOR, Toronto, ON
CPL Christopher Hinds, QOR, Toronto, ON

2012

No applications received.

2013

Morgan Cameron, Calgary, AB
Adam Freeman, Toronto, ON
Hannah Hryhoryshen, Sidney, BC
Rebecca Leitch, Kitchener, ON
Claudine Metcalfe, St. John's, NL

2014

CPL Dimitry Galameyev, QOR, Toronto, ON
Rebecca Leitch, Kitchener, ON
Melissa Mills, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

2015

CPL Azeez Baruwa, QOR, Toronto, ON
Hannah Hryhoryshen, Sidney, BC
Melissa Mills, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
Derek Stevenson, Regina, SK

2016

Samantha D'Amico, Calgary, AB
CPL Kody Kroontje, QOR, Toronto, ON
MCPL Robert Matthew Langille, QOR, Toronto, ON
Kelsey Pagley, Victoria, BC
Victoria Marie Power, Stouffville, ON

The bursary is dependent on your tax deductible donations, enabling us to help more young Canadians achieve their academic and life goals.

To make a tax deductible donation, make your cheque payable to 'QOR Princess Alexandra Bursary' and mail to Toronto Foundation, 33 Bloor Street East, Suite 1603, Toronto, ON M4W 3H1. Credit card donations can be made by phoning 416-921-2035 or online at <https://torontofoundation.ca/donate/> Under "Find a fund" type in Princess Alexandra and it will take you to the correct page to make a donation.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will go directly to providing bursaries for deserving young Canadians, all with a close connection to this great Regiment.

Bob Dunk
President, National Association, In Pace Paratus



JIM SHEPPARD'S MUSEUM

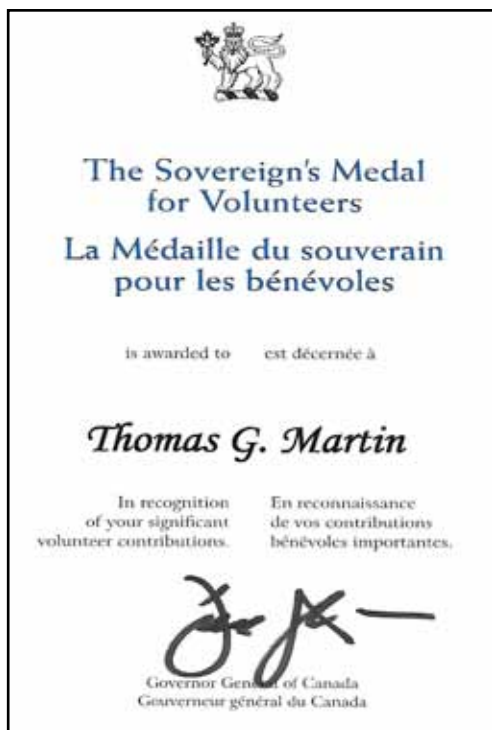
The History of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is something that far too often has been overlooked and at the national level as well as the local Association level. It is only lately that we are truly realizing that we have to take a personal responsibility to ensure that, "We protect our past for the future." One individual Rifleman is ahead of his time and is doing just that in his own community. Jim Sheppard of Rencountre East, Fortune Bay, NL. Jim enlisted as a Rifleman more than a half a century ago and has put together a personal collection of military memorabilia from his career and more particularly from The Queen's Own Rifles. At great personal expense, Jim has built a military museum in his community that holds his collection and proudly provides tours to anyone who visits. His knowledge of the history of every item impresses many a visitor. As a member of The Queen's Own Rifles Association, Jim is doing his part in "protecting our past for the future," We SALUTE you with pride. You can find a lot more by typing photos.qor-east.com in the text bar of your browser.



THE SOVEREIGN MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS 2016



Tom Martin Jr., Irmgard Martin,
Tom Martin Sr., Godson Tom Siebert.



Words by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

Volunteers like Tom Martin are the fundamental to the well-being of our country, reflecting the rich diversity of Canada's people and the many talents and interests which enrich our society. What you have in common is the support you provide to your community at the grassroots level and the positive impact you have on the lives of others, helping make our neighbourhoods and our nation stronger.

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers celebrates such individuals like Tom Martin who gave so much of themselves to others and to thanks them for their contributions. Accordingly it is my great pleasure to give Tom Martin this medal and to welcome him to the ranks of caring Canadians. Tom, thank you for everything you have done; you have made your community and our country stronger.





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A TRIBUTE TO JACK MARTIN



Rifleman Jack Martin landed in the second wave of QOR assault troops at Bernières-sur-Mer as a member of Mortar Platoon on June 6th, 1944. He passed away at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto on May 13th, 2016. A tribute to Jack's service to the Regiment was included in the 2016 edition of *The Rifleman* magazine.

On April 5, 2017, as part of the Vimy+100 pilgrimage, members of the Regiment, joined by a tour group of 50 civilians, paid tribute to Jack on Juno Beach in front of Maison de Queen's Own Rifles, at the exact location where Jack came ashore.

Following the reading of the eulogy that he gave at Jack's funeral, LCol (ret'd) John Fotheringham, CD was joined by the Commanding Officer, LCol Sandi Banerjee, CD and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, CWO Paul Martin, CD to spread some of Jack's ashes into the surf, followed by the Last Post and Reveille.

We will remember him!



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA TRUST FUND

Overall 2016 was a productive year for your Trust Fund as it continues its mandate of providing support to the Regiment, the Museum, Monuments and Memorials, RHQ and the Regimental Family. Several changes in the Trust took effect during the year. The Secretary resigned and Captain A. Hermant stepped in as acting Secretary. Lionel Goffart was appointed HLCOL and he became a non-voting Ex Officio Trustee. Former HLCOL Brendan Caldwell was elected a voting Trustee in his place.

At the end of 2016, the Membership of the Trust Fund was:

Voting members: Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD (Non-Executive Chairman), Major A. I. W. Schultz, CD, (President), Captain A. Hermant, OSTJ, CD, AdeC., (Acting Secretary), Captain R. Chan, CD (Treasurer), LCOL John Fotheringham, CD, (Chair Memorials), WO Phil Ten Kortenaar, CD, (Chair Finance Committee), LCOL C.E. Rayment, CD, , Former HLCOL, Mr. Brendan Caldwell, Captain Kevin Sheedy, CD, LCOL R. Campbell, CD, Associate Voting Member, Mr. Jim Lutz; and Non-Voting ex-Officio members, HCOL, HLCOL, CO, and the President of the National Association; also, Honorary Life Member BGen D. A. Pryer, CD,

The finances of the Trust Fund were stable during the year with fundraising for projects meeting objectives which include support of the Commanding Officer and the Regiment, The Regimental Museum and Archives, Monuments and Memorials (2 markers related to Ypres Salient to commemorate the battles of Mt. Sorrel, Somme 1916, Poziers, Flers Courcelette and Ancre Heights), The National and Toronto Associations related to meals at the Ridgeway Parade in June and as required in support of Op Anisy, April 2017. Designated funding was approved that supported Op Anisy, Book of Memorials (still in production) and a visit to our Colonel In Chief. In addition, The Trust was fortunate to receive bequests from two former members of the regiment directed to the Endowment Fund.



The last Rifleman Journal was nicely supported by advertising revenues which helps defray the cost(s) associated with both production and distribution. Thank you to all our advertisers.

Having said all of the above, fundraising continues to be our highest priority as our donor base continues to decline. We are pleased to acknowledge the effort this past year of both John Fotheringham and Phil Ten Kortenaar who organized and conducted a special fundraising auction in November. It was very successful (and enjoyable). This will take place once again this coming November.

As in past years the focus of support will be on the CO and the Regiment, The Regimental Museum and Archives, Memorials and Monuments (the latter the Cross of Sacrifice repairs) and support of RHQ including the Rifleman Journal.

Please see the insert card and support your Trust Fund. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$10 or more.

Yours Regimentally, Major Anthony (Tony) Schultz, CD



MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMENDATION



Left To Right • Front Row • Tom Martin (5) Back Row Patrick Bryson (4)
The Honourable Kent Hehr, P.C., M.P.

Since serving in uniform, many of Canada's veterans continue to provide outstanding service to their continue, their communities and their fellow veterans. To formally recognize the contributions of these outstanding Canadians, the Governor General authorized the creation of the Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation.

On the 16th day of November, 2016 The Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation and Insignia was granted to Thomas Martin and Patrick Bryson, Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association.

Thomas and Patrick generously giving of themselves and so both benefiting veterans and making manifest the principle that Canada's obligation to all who have served in the cause of peace and freedom must not be forgotten.



Remembering Hervé Hoffer: Keeper of Canada's remembrance flame in Normandy



Every year at the beginning of June, Hervé Hoffer lit a paraffin lantern and hung it from the balcony of his summer house overlooking the coast of Normandy, France. After sunset on June 6 – the anniversary of D-Day – crowds watched Mr. Hoffer carry the flickering lantern down to the beach and wade, fully clothed into the sea, where he tossed the lantern into the English Channel.

Speaking in French, he called it “a symbolic gesture to the Canadians who came from the sea, to give us back our freedom.”

Mr. Hoffer's lantern ceremony grew in popularity over the years, faithfully attended by residents of the village of Bernières-sur-Mer, young members of the Canadian regiments that stormed Juno Beach in 1944, and even surviving veterans of the battle. Afterward, they assembled at Mr. Hoffer's famous beach house, drinking beer and calvados liqueur, and remembering those who died in the war.

It was the place to be on June 6 for any Canadian on Juno Beach.

This year, no one knows who will carry the lantern when pilgrims gather again for the ceremony. Mr. Hoffer – one of the principal keepers of Canada's remembrance flame in Normandy – died suddenly on Jan. 13, at the age of 65.

His family's summer home is known as “Canada House,” the large, half-timbered house that looms conspicuously behind the seawall at Bernières-sur-Mer, one of the first French homes liberated by Allied forces on D-Day, in this case by soldiers of the Queen's Own Rifles regiment of Toronto.

On Jan. 9, Mr. Hoffer suffered a stroke while replacing a light bulb in his house. His wife, Nicole, found him on the floor at the foot of a ladder. He died in hospital four days later – leaving behind a shocked community on Juno Beach and many friends in Canada.



“He’s a hero to many Canadians, even though he’s a proud Frenchman,” says retired Major-General Clive Addy, the former president of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, who attended Mr. Hoffer’s funeral on Jan. 18, along with more than 500 other mourners.

“Hervé was absolutely dedicated to the idea of service to your country, the importance of democracy and the idea of education – especially educating young people about the war.”

Hervé Hoffer was born on March 4, 1951, the only child of Georges and Christiane Hoffer. He grew up in the French town of Enghien, near Paris, before moving with his parents to the city of Caen, in Normandy.

After finishing school, Hervé joined his father as an optometrist, working in the family eye clinic. He sold the practice in later years, preferring to distribute optometry supplies to shops and clinics across northwest France.

The Hoffer house in Bernières-sur-Mer is typical of the large, imposing holiday homes that were once common along the Normandy coastline. The Germans razed many of these beach houses during the Second World War, fearing they would be used as location landmarks for an Allied invasion force approaching from the sea. The Hoffer house – purchased by Mr. Hoffer’s grandfather in 1933 – was somehow spared the destruction, although the family was evicted from it during the Nazi occupation.

The house also miraculously survived the bombardment of the Allied invasion in 1944, despite the presence of German soldiers firing a machine gun at Canadian troops from the home’s front porch. In black-and-white photos of the time, the house is clearly visible, battered but still standing behind the seawall of what was code-named Juno Beach.

“This house was liberated at first light on D-Day, 6 June 1944, by the men of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada,” says a plaque in front of the building today. “Within sight of this house, over 100 men of The Queen’s Own Rifles were killed or wounded, in the first few minutes of the landings.”

Mr. Hoffer and his wife inherited the house – one half of what is actually a duplex owned by two French families – from Mr. Hoffer’s parents in the 1970s. Remembrance of the war had dropped out of favour by then, in both France and Canada. Mr. Hoffer’s mother and father, who had survived the Nazis as children, preferred to forget.

In 1984, the 40th anniversary of D-Day, Canadian veterans first began returning in sizable numbers to Normandy. Mr. Hoffer noticed the Canadians stopping outside his house and pointing at the building. Curious, he invited them inside and heard their stories – becoming aware for the first time that he owned the most historic home on Juno Beach.

“The veterans were still young and healthy then, and many of them stopped to chat and have a beer,” Mr. Hoffer once said. “Some asked if they could see inside the house. I made many friends, and it just grew from there.”

So began his 30-year obsession to preserve and honour the memory of Canada’s sacrifices on the strip of sand where he had spent his summers since childhood.

He made contact with veterans who had come ashore in Bernières-sur-Mer, particularly members of the Queen’s Own Rifles and Le Régiment de la Chaudière, of Quebec. He collected photos and war memorabilia and displayed it inside the house – which he dubbed “La Maison des Canadiens” or “Canada House.”

Today, the private home more closely resembles a museum, festooned with Canadian flags, regimental insignia and wartime maps and artifacts. On one downstairs wall, there is even a framed, bloodstained 500-franc note given to a Canadian soldier in Bernières-sur-Mer on D-Day, by a German soldier who pleaded for his life in exchange for the money. After surviving the war, the Canadian veteran presented the note to Mr. Hoffer years later on a pilgrimage back to Juno Beach.

Mr. Hoffer also made several trips to Canada, each time visiting veterans at home or in hospital, and once bringing a group of French schoolchildren with him. He also served as vice-president of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, an organization of historians and veterans that promotes remembrance.

Every year brought a parade of Canadians to the door – tourists, school groups, visitors on battlefield tours. All were invited inside by Mr. Hoffer and his wife, if they were home.

Rebecca Grimes, a French and history teacher at Centre Wellington District High School in Fergus, Ont., made several trips to Juno with students and fellow teachers. She says their visits to Canada House, and Mr. Hoffer's stories about what Canadian soldiers did for his family and his country, personalized the war "in a way that no textbook ever could.

"The French talk about the 'devoir de souvenir' – the responsibility to remember," Ms. Grimes says. "He embodied this value."

Christiane Avrard, who knew Mr. Hoffer since childhood and lives down the beach from his house, says she was surprised when he and Nicole first opened their home to Canadian strangers.

"When we were younger, he was a shy person, very reserved," she says. "But he was also kind and generous. And as an only child, he had no family other than his wife and his two boys. I think that's one reason why he became so interested in meeting and welcoming others."

Ms. Avrard says Mr. Hoffer had three great joys – his family, sailing on the Channel, and socializing with friends. He was known to be fond of a drink, but especially fond of sharing one with veterans. As the priest said with a smile at Mr. Hoffer's funeral mass: "Hervé is probably closer now to Saint-Émilion [a popular French wine] than to St. Peter."

As the popularity of Canada House grew over the years, so did the burden of maintaining the building and its collection of artifacts, and of keeping its doors open. Two years ago, Mr. Hoffer established the Canada House Association, a volunteer group, to help with the work. It will now assume responsibility for the house, along with Mr. Hoffer's wife.

Nathalie Worthington, director of the Juno Beach Centre, a privately run Canadian museum in Normandy, calls Mr. Hoffer "one of the pillars" of the remembrance community on Juno Beach, and his warmth was legendary. She says the Hoffers could have easily guarded their privacy and shut the doors of their famous house.

"But over the years Hervé realized what the house meant to others, what it meant to Canadians. As somebody who was so generous, it became his life.

"That house became what it is, only because Hervé and Nicole shared it, and built so much friendship with people in Canada."



QOR SOLDIERS' AUCTION

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge, and to support the naming of a street in Anisy (Normandy) after a rifleman killed there on D-Day, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada sent an Honour Guard and Regimental Band to Normandy and Vimy this April.

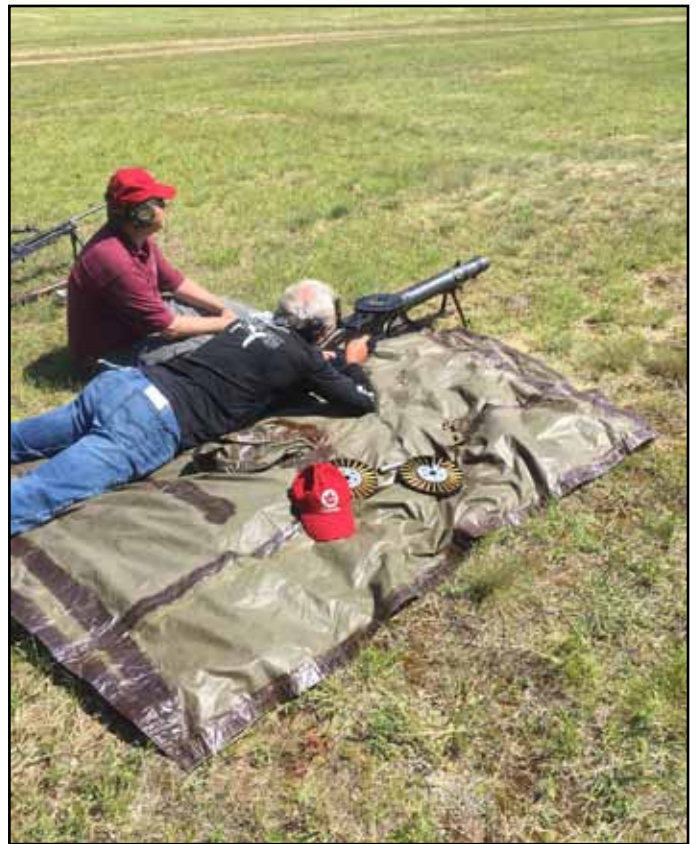
As part of the fundraising efforts to support this commemoration, the QOR Trust Fund sponsored an auction in the Officers' Mess at Moss Park Armoury on November 10th.

The \$30 admission fee assisted in covering the cost of Mess staff and food, and ensured that all proceeds from the auction went directly to supporting the pilgrimage for the serving soldiers.

It was fitting that an event to assist a pilgrimage in remembrance of fallen comrades be held on the evening before Remembrance Day. Following the playing of Last Post and Reveille, auctioneer Phil ten Kortenaar, assisted by John Fotheringham and Alan Bell, with John Stephens and Tony Schultz managing the finances, conducted a lively auction which raised over \$20,000 in support the Regiment.

A couple of highlights – two one-hour private sessions of ice time at the Air Canada Centre, and a range day for four, hosted by Rob Grieve and Phil ten Kortenaar, firing vintage weapons such as a Lewis Gun, Bren Gun, Thompson and Sten.

Thank you to all those members of the regimental family, and the corporate community, who donated items, and thank you to those that attended. Plans are underway for another event this coming November.



Rob Grieve, acting as Range Officer, observing a successful bidder firing one of the few functioning Lewis Guns in Canada, June 2017.

QOR MEMORIALS PROGRAMS 2016



The Regimental Memorial Program consists of three elements - cataloguing and maintaining the current inventory of QOR memorials in Canada and overseas; installing new memorials to commemorate QOR battles and sacrifices; and participating in services of remembrance when possible at the location of our memorials. LCol (retd) John Fotheringham and CWO (retd) Brian Budden are the coordinators of the Memorial Program.

In 2016, the Memorials Program concentrated its efforts on two new markers in the Ypres Salient, commemorating the 3rd Battalion battle honours of Mount Sorrel, and four earned in the Somme - Somme 1916, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette, and Ancre Heights. These were completed in cooperation with the Governor General's Horse Guards and The Royal Regiment of Canada.

For 2017, the Memorials Program has been approved for Trust Fund support for the maintenance portion of its mandate, mounting the existing markers for St. Julien, Mount Sorrel, and Somme 1916 onto pedestals to avoid damage by farm vehicles traversing the country lanes.

The Book of Remembrance at St. Paul's will also be updated to reflect newly discovered riflemen whose death is acknowledged as attributable to service. The Book at Canterbury Cathedral will be considered for updating in the future.

With the support of Veteran's Affairs Canada for funding for restoration of the cenotaph at St. Paul's. The quoted total cost is \$32,668 + HST, with VAC committing their support for 50% of the total cost. The Regiment, through fundraising, will be required to contribute the remaining 50%. This current cost includes adding the Afghanistan battle honour.

Please continue your generous support of the QOR Memorials Program through donations to the Trust Fund.

We will remember them!

LCol (retd) John Fotheringham, CD



THE THIRD BATTALION KIT AND EQUIPMENT

By MCpl Graham Humphrey

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum

As we all know the First World War was a time of ingenuity and great modernization of militaries and manufacturing. After the First Division was mobilized and sent overseas the rest of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was equipped with outdated Boer War uniforms and webbing, even though the British Military was one of the best equipped in the world. The first contingent which the 3rd battalion Toronto Regiment belonged to looked more like the British than we think. This can be attributed to the fact that they were issued a Canadian style of the British canvas webbing.

The Originals

On 22 August 1914, 32 Officers and 760 other ranks of The Queen's Own left for Valcartier. These men belonged to the best dressed and equipped regiment in the Toronto Militia. This is due to the fact that they travelled to England in 1910 and the Canadian Government issued them brand new uniform and equipment.

“This tunic was of khaki serge, with a collar and shoulder boards made of rifle green wool. This tunic had 7 oxidized silver Regiment bugle buttons with two chest pockets with the same size buttons as down the centre. Trousers with this tunic was of same khaki serge as the tunic and worn with long puttees.” (1)

Rank insignia for the Regiment for this “QOR Special” uniform was a drastic change from the black braid on Scarlet Wool backing but was of the standard line infantry rank insignia of a white chevron on a khaki wool backing.

Photo of the 1910 “QOR Special” uniform

As with the other ranks the officers of the Regiment had their own “QOR Special” uniform, which consisted of a tunic with five large frontal buttons, two chest pockets and two skirt pockets both with small buttons. This tunic had a high collar of rifle green melton wool that was rolled down. It also included cuffs and epaulettes which had a scarlet trim along the edges. This was the first time that a red whistle lanyard was worn with the tunic. The buttons were frosted silver and QOR of C collar dogs were worn which were similar to the cap badge but half the size in white metal or silver.





Pre-war 1910 Kirpatrick, Alexander Douglas

When the regiment formed its first contingent to the Canadian Expeditionary Force it looked quite uniform. There were only 700 of these uniforms in stock at the time in all likelihood. Because of this there was a contingent that did not wear any uniform but only webbing. The webbing that was issued to this group was of a new type which replaced the black leather Oliver pattern webbing which was called "W.E. Pattern '08." At this time the issued rifle of the Canadian Military was the Ross Rifle Mk.II which had replaced an older version of the Ross Rifle issued to the Regiment in 1910. The Ross Rifle was not loaded with stripper clips of 5 rounds but was loaded with single

cartridges. This canvas webbing is similar to the British issued Pattern '08 webbing with the only differences were the cartridge ammunition carriers. Instead of having five separate compartments to hold ammunition the Canadian pattern removed the top two compartments and condensed it into one large compartment to hold ten round package and five loose rounds with each bottom pockets holding a 10 round package. (2)

Original QOR Contingent

Photo of Original QOR contingent marching down University passing the Boer War memorial heading to Union Station to proceed to Valcartier – QOR Museum photo.



Original QOR Contingent

Photos of Original QOR contingent marching down University passing the Boer War memorial heading to Union Station to proceed to Valcartier – QOR Museum photo. Upon arrival at Valcartier the Queen's Own contingent learned that they would be grouped into the Third Battalion

Canadian Expeditionary Force with members of the Governor General's Body Guard and the Royal Grenadiers. With this, the Queen's Own "Rifles" tunics were replaced with a khaki wool seven button tunic minus the green facings. Where the "Rifles" seven button uniforms went is still a mystery to the museum. As with the same as the other ranks the pre - "QOR Special" officers would wear this uniform up until being replaced. Officers would privately pay for their uniforms with a new "service dress" style tunic. It included with an open collar with lapels and a more guards looking cuff which had rank sewn on.



3rd Battalion formed up in Valcartier



“QOR Special” officers uniform and its replacement worn on Salisbury Plains 1914’s

For 3rd Battalion insignia, the Battalion members who previously served in the QOR or other militia regiments would continue to wear their unit badges. But primarily they would wear the new Canada Cap badge which is similar to what the Canadians wore in the Boer War approximately 14 years earlier. This was a small badge with “CANADA” below a Kings Crown overlaid on a Maple Leaf. The collar badge was almost identical just smaller in size. “CANADA” brass shoulder titles surmounted by an outline were also worn.

Canada Cap Badge and brass shoulder title – Author’s Collection





Number 1 Company 3rd battalion on Salisbury plain October 1914

With training on the muddy Salisbury plain as well as combat experience the Canadian made seven button tunic would be exchanged for the British style five button tunic. This tunic was not as fitted which helped with movement. This feature was sorely lacking with the Canadian made tunic and with this change a small wool sweater could be worn under the tunic. (3)



Private wearing a British 5 button pattern tunic – Royal Regiment of Canada

As seen in the above photograph, the Battalion was issued with a new type of collar and cap badge. The cap badge was a die-struck open-leaved badge which replaced the original regiment's badge. This badge was first issued to the 3rd battalion Toronto Regiment on 29th January 1916 in bronze for officers and brass for other ranks. This did not apply to those who were still wearing the Canada cap badge. The officers of the Battalion wore a half-sized version in bronze on the collar. Other ranks wore a C above an Arabic numeral three on each collar which replaced the Canada Collar Dogs. (4) Once the Canadian Corps was raised as a unified force, Divisional and Brigade patches were issued. Since the 3rd Battalion belonged to the 1st Canadian Infantry Division a Red Melton Wool Rectangular and being in the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade a small Green Melton wool triangle was sewn in the center on the Divisional Patch. This would be worn until the end of the hostilities.



Insignia – Authors Collection

In late 1915, the Canadian Expeditionary Force started to replace the Ross Rifle, which was long overdue. The replacement of the Ross occurred due to its poor tolerance for dirt and grime which became apparent in the trenches of France. Also if the bolt was assembled improperly it could allow a round to be fired but would not lock in place. This would cause a serious wound to the individual. The Canadian Minister of Militia and Defence Sir Sam Hughes showed much disapproval with the change but the replacement of the Ross Rifle was completed by July, 1916 when the SMLE Lee-Enfield was issued.



Officer's Collar Dogs – Royal Regiment of Canada Collection

As the war continued the Third Battalion received endless amounts of reinforcements due to the astonishing casualties that were sustained. These recruits would come from many different Canadian Battalions which were raised in Canada but disbanded when reaching England. This was due to the high casualties in the fields of France. The Third battalion would receive many reinforcements raised by The Queen's Own at home. These included 83rd, 95th, 166th, 198th, and 255th Canadian Expeditionary Force. The men would continue to wear their insignia until either forced to change once they reached the reinforcement unit or once they were sent to the front line with their respective Battalions. The reinforcements wore the Canadian made seven button uniforms. In addition they wore various Oliver Pattern webbing which was replaced when a set of canvas webbing was available.



The following is an order from 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade instruction on replacements:

1st Canadian Infantry Brigade

September 11th, 1917

Reinforcements which are now being sent up are equipped with the leather equipment instead of the webb. The G.O.C. Therefore, desires that every possible step be taken to salvage web equipment from casualties and from the forward area. In this manner quartermasters may be able to accumulate a sufficient supply to keep the personnel of the battalions uniformly equipped with the web.

Divisional and Brigade markings of the 3rd Battalion

In closing many changes occurred throughout the First World War with new technology, uniforms and warfare techniques.

The biggest changes were seen with the rifles, uniforms and headdresses, to unique badges and accoutrements. The Canadian Expeditionary Force transformed into looking similar to their British counterparts. When the war began it was realized the Canadian Military was poorly equipped. As the war continued many advancements were made. These shortcomings would be greatly reduced when 21 years later Canada would go to war again against Germany.

It is also unfortunate that the Third Battalion CEF did not wear The Queen's Own cap badge and would form its own unit the Toronto Regiment after the war in the 1920s. This unit would eventually amalgamate with the Royal Grenadiers to form the Royal Regiment of Canada on 15th December 1936.



Sources

- (1) <https://qormuseum.org/history/timeline-uniforms/evolution-of-enlisted-uniforms-of-the-qorofc/>
- (2) <http://www.karkeeweb.com/>
- (3) “Khaki - Uniforms of the CEF”, Clive M. Law
- (4) Article from The Royal Regiment of Canada Museum
- (5) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_rifle
- (6) Library and Archives Canada
- (7) 3rd Battalion War Diaries



3rd Battalion Private would look like this by the end of the war

The first contingent from The Queen's Own was issued a “QOR Special” forage cap. This was constructed of the same khaki wool as the tunic and trousers but would have a rifle green band around the brim. With the withdrawal of the “QOR Special” uniform in Valcartier this too was replaced with a forage cap but without the rifle green band.

In 1916, a Model 1916 soft cap was introduced as well as a tin Brodie helmet. The soft cap was much easier for the wearer to stow away in one's kit. This is because the Brodie helmet was used in the front line trenches. In February 1916 the Third Battalion would be issued approximately 200 steel Brodie helmets from trench stores. This helmet resembled an old medieval helmet which was not meant to stop bullets but to protect from small pieces of shrapnel. It was painted in a dark smooth green colour. The inside had a

comfort pad and a leather chinstrap that was worn under the chin or on the back of the individual's head. Starting in January of 1919 the painting of divisional and brigade distinctive markings on the helmets were introduced. As shown below the orders state that the same brigade and divisional flash that are sewn onto the shoulder of the uniform were also to be painted on the helmet. (7)

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cdn Bns.

The painting of Steel Helmets should be completed forthwith.

D.A.A.D.O.S. Will issue service paint on basis of one pound paint for 15 helmets. Coloured paint for distinctive markings will be issued to Brigades on strength basis.

White paint for Divisional markings of vehicles will be divided amongst units demanding service paint for vehicles.

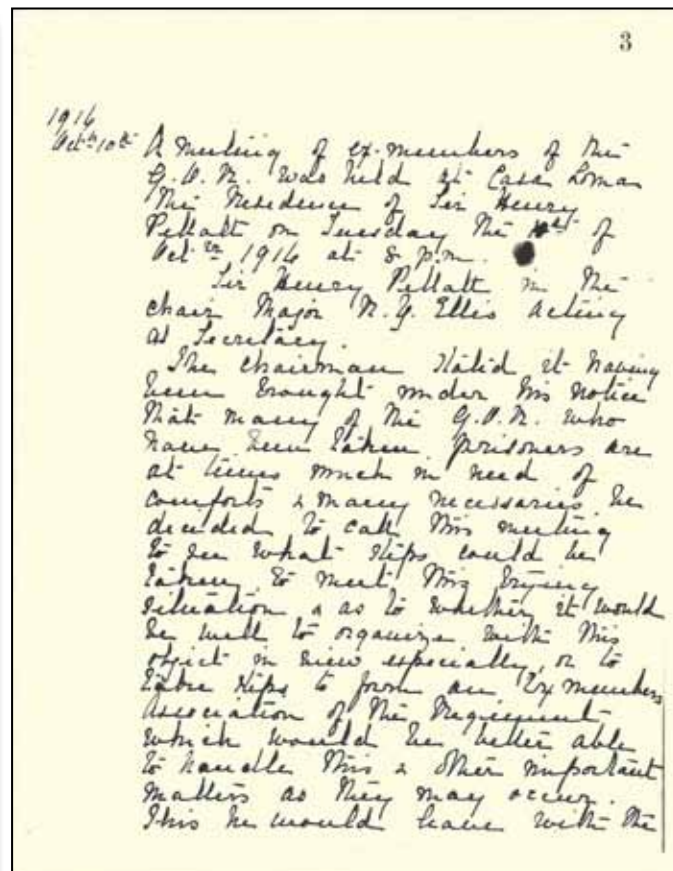
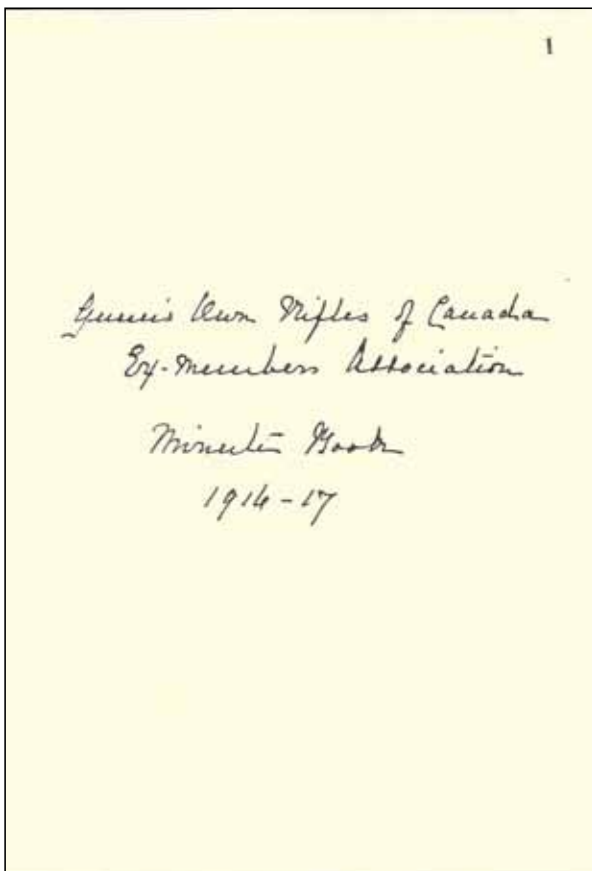


2016 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

2016 was a banner year for the National Association. The first major event was the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway. With assistance from Toronto Branch, we worked closely with the Town of Fort Erie on behalf of the Regiment for more than three years to plan a one-day event held on Saturday, June 4th. The festivities started with a recreation of the original 1866 march by the Regiment from the Town of Ridgeway to the battlefield, accompanied by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, known as the 13th Battalion at the time of the battle. Sgt. Adam Winnicki delivered by free-fall descent, a massive Canadian flag to begin the commemoration ceremony. Speeches by representatives from all three levels of government were followed by a rededication of the cairn and the unveiling of a new plaque listing all casualties of the campaign. A special memorial dedicated to the The Queen's Own's 'Ridgeway Nine' was then unveiled followed by a BBQ and social at the local recreation centre. Static displays provided by the Regimental Museum completed the day. Over 40 Association members were on hand to mark the occasion.

2016 also marked the 100th anniversary of the Regimental Association. Our AGM was held at Casa Loma almost 100 years to the day that the first meeting was convened by Sir Henry Pellatt. Much has already been written about the formation of the Association. Rather than repeat information already covered, please enjoy reading a copy of the minutes from the inaugural meeting, complete with Sir Henry's signature on the final page.

We look forward to a busy 2017 which will include our tour to Anisy, Normandy and Vimy Ridge for the 100th anniversary commemoration in April.



2881 QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES • ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS

With well over 50,000 members, the Cadet Program is Canada's largest government sponsored youth program. Membership is open to teenagers (male and female) from 12-18 years old. The 2881 Queen's Own Rifles (QOR) Army Cadet Corps is always looking for new members! If you're interested in joining the corps, and to learn a bit more about the unit, visit our website at www.qorcadets.com. There are also summer training opportunities available! We appeal to teenagers craving exciting outdoor activities where their personal limits as individuals and team-members will be tested. The hardcore outdoor-oriented will love the challenge!

Year Round Activities

Field training exercise (FTX) takes place down at Blackdown Cadet Training Center about 3 to 4 times a year. Cadets learn to navigate and survive outdoors.

Marksmanship Team

Cadets learn to shoot the Daisy Air Rifle, and have a chance to try out for the marksmanship team and attend the annual cadet shooting competition.

Drill Team • cadets have the opportunity to join drill team, improve their drill and also participate in the annual drill competition.



Additional Activities 2016

June:

Cadets attended the Battle of Ridgeway 150th Anniversary, doing a 5km march alongside Canadian Forces members.

September:

Four cadets along with staff, had the opportunity to attend the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on their Maroon Sword field training exercises.



October:

Cadets had their annual fall field training bivouac exercises down at Blackdown CTC where they learned to make improvised shelters, build tables and chairs out of wood and twine, as well as using stoves and lighting lanterns.

November:

2881 QOR cadets and staff had the honour taking part in the annual church parade down at Moss Park alongside The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



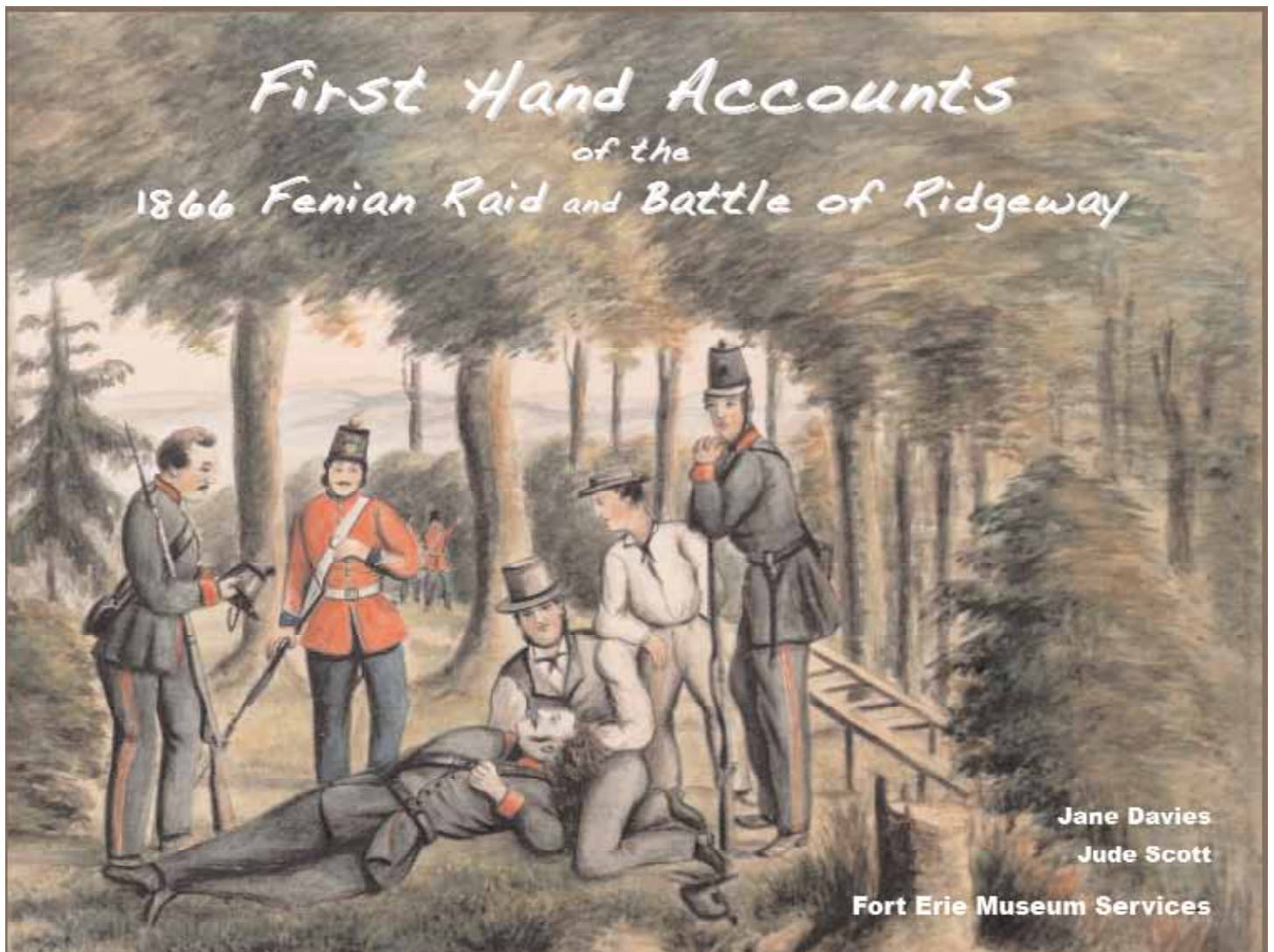
Visit us at www.qorcadets.com or e-mail us at qorcadets@gmail.com

IN PACE PARATUS – IN PEACE
PREPARED ACER ACERPORI –
AS THE MAPLE, SO THE SAPLING



This full-colour, 77-page, hardcover book features quotes from people who were involved with the 1866 Battle of Ridgeway, including: soldiers on the front lines; doctors caring for the wounded; and citizens fleeing from the enemy.

This book also features 23 paintings of the 1866 Fenian Raid done by artist Alexander von Erichsen.



**Cost \$18.66 (plus tax and shipping)
Contact the Fort Erie Historical Museum
402 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 339, Ridgeway, ON, L0S 1N0
museum@forterie.ca 905-894-5322**

MAJOR-GENERAL MALCOLM SMITH MERCER: THE HIGHEST RANKING CANADIAN OFFICER KILLED IN THE GREAT WAR BY FRIENDLY FIRE

By Gordon MacKinnon

Reprinted with the kind permission of Gordon MacKinnon MA

Deafened by a German artillery barrage, his leg broken by a stray bullet as he tried to move to safer ground, Major-General Malcolm Smith Mercer was fatally wounded by shrapnel from a British artillery counter-offensive trying to prevent the Germans from bringing up reinforcements.

The highest ranking officer of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) to be killed in action in the First World War, General Mercer succumbed to his wounds in the early hours of 3 June 1916 in No Man's Land at the foot of Mount Sorrel near the ill-fated town of Ypres, Belgium. But for the quick thinking and perseverance of a Canadian corporal sent out to locate and bury soldiers killed in the area, Mercer's body might have been lost forever in the quagmire churned up by the shelling.

Instead, the general was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery on 24 June 1916 in a full military funeral with all battalions of the Canadian Mounted Rifles represented. He was also posthumously Mentioned in Despatches by General Sir Douglas Haig for his valiant conduct, the third time he was so honoured.

Except among the Mercer family and students of the Great War, General Mercer's name is virtually forgotten today. The absence of letters and documents has meant that historians have overlooked the contribution of this hard working, amateur soldier who endeavoured to solve the problems of the new trench warfare of 1914-1916. However, the contents of a diary written by Mercer during the period 22 August 1914 to 10 November 1915 – now part of the collection of the Queen's Own Rifles Museum – give some insight into the conscientious officer who became the first General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the CEF's 3rd Division.

Mercer was born on the family farm in what is now north-west Toronto. Until age 25 he worked on the farm, acquiring a high school diploma and then enrolling at the University of Toronto in 1881. He must have felt embarrassed at being older than other first year students because he under-misrepresented his date of birth by three years. The Great Fire at the university in 1890 destroyed the student records, so it is not possible to know exactly when he made the change. Contrary to dates in published biographical sketches, census evidence is conclusive that he was born on 17 September 1856.

Mercer graduated in 1885 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He then studied law at Osgoode Hall and was called to the Bar in 1888.



While at university, he enlisted as a private in the Queen's Own Rifles of the Non-Permanent Active Militia, a prestigious battalion of volunteers. Mercer did not exploit the social position open to him as an officer as he nonetheless rose steadily through the ranks. However, he did excel at rifle shooting, resulting in several trips, not only to provincial and national competitions, but also to the Bisley Rifle Competition in England – as a competitor, and, in 1909, as the adjutant of the Canadian team. The Queen's Own Rifles grew to two battalions, and in 1911, Mercer became Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, replacing Sir Henry Pellatt, who was promoted to command the 6th Brigade. All known portraits of Mercer show him in the uniform of either the Queen's Own Rifles or the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He stood ramrod straight, six feet tall with dark brown hair and blue eyes, as well as a generous moustache that completely hid his mouth. Most observers noted that, upon first meeting, he created an impression of cool reserve.

Mercer established a comfortable law practice in 1889 with classmate S.H. Bradford that lasted until his death. The contents of his estate, auctioned in 1925, showed him to have been a collector of art, and included European and Canadian paintings, sculpture, porcelain, and antique furniture. Many of the Canadian paintings were by Carl Ahrens, whom Mercer had supported financially when Ahrens was a young artist.

Later, a fellow officer described Mercer as “a man who above all else took a sane view of life; quiet and reserved, with a touch of cynical humour but great kindness of heart, he impressed one as a born leader of men.” His “even temper, kind and open nature” continued to be noted by his friends and admirers well after his death.



The Call To Arms

During the early part of the 20th Century, Canada's only perceived threat by land was an expansionist United States, and the country had depended upon maintaining good relations with its American neighbours to avoid a repeat of military invasion last seen in the War of 1812, followed by some unofficial armed incursions by the Fenians in 1866. Britain, then in control of Canada's foreign and defence policy, followed a similar course of action and withdrew its troops in 1871, except for those garrisoned at the Royal Navy base at Halifax. Until 1904, by law, the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia had to be a British Regular and the few remaining British troops were withdrawn from fortresses only in 1905 when the British decided to cease using Halifax and Esquimalt as naval bases.

The Canadian defence force in 1914 was very small, consisting of 3000 Permanent Force Active Militia and 55,000 Non-Permanent Active Militia, and a navy of just two ships.

...the total authorized establishment of the (Permanent) Force was 3110 all ranks and 684 horses. It...comprised two regiments (each of two squadrons) of cavalry-the Royal Canadian Dragoons and Lord Strathcona's Horse; the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery with two batteries, and the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery with five companies; one field company and two fortress companies of engineers; one infantry battalion-the Royal Canadian Regiment; together with detachments of various service and administrative corps. The Permanent Force's main peacetime functions were to garrison fortresses on either coast and assist in training the militia.

Entry into the widely anticipated war was never in doubt, and plans to raise quickly a force of 30,000 volunteers had been made before 4 August 1914. However, this 1911 plan to give the commanders of the existing six Military Districts of Canada responsibility for recruiting the overseas battalions was peremptorily changed by Colonel (later Lieutenant-General) Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia and Defence in Sir Robert Borden's Conservative government. Hughes initiated matters through a night lettergram to 226 militia commanders, ordering them to recruit volunteers. This impractical, impromptu, chaotic methodology eventually had to be modified, but it led to the CEF being composed mainly of numbered battalions, not battalions carrying the names of existing militia units.

Because there were very few professional officers, senior militia officers who appeared to be competent and had the right political affiliations and opinions were given senior appointments within the new CEF. Lieutenant-Colonel Mercer had never seen active service, but he possessed the political and religious qualifications needed to impress the Minister of

Militia. He had even accompanied Sir Sam on a pre-war military reconnaissance tour of Europe, resulting in both men concluding that war with Germany was inevitable.

When Mercer left Toronto on 22 August 1914 for Camp Valcartier, then under construction near Quebec City, he was in charge of the soldiers from the Queen's Own Rifles. At Valcartier, he was given command of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions recruited in Ontario.

The 1st Contingent of the CEF left Quebec City on 25 September 1914 on a fleet of passenger liners destined for England. Delays in the Gulf of St. Lawrence while waiting to rendezvous with its Royal Navy escort, followed by embarkation of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, compounded with the slow speed of the convoy, resulted in a 20-day journey to Plymouth. One man fell overboard and another was operated on unnecessarily for appendicitis; otherwise, the voyage was undoubtedly as dull as the weather was fine.

The Canadian Contingent was under the command of Colonel V.A.S. Williams, one of the few Permanent Force officers on board. This Permanent Force officer shortage was due to the fact that the Royal Canadian Regiment had been sent to Bermuda on 6 September to release a British Regular unit, the 2nd Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment, for deployment in Flanders. Williams, a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, and the Adjutant-General of the Canadian Militia, would ultimately play a role on Mercer's last day.

Winter in the Mud and Rain

Upon arrival at Plymouth, a British Regular, Lieutenant-General E.A.H. Alderson, who had been appointed after previous Canadian government consultation, took over command before the troops disembarked. Mercer was placed in command of Bustard Camp on Salisbury Plain under Stonehenge. The troops resumed the routine commenced in Canada that would continue their transformation from civilians into professional soldiers; route marching and physical exercises for fitness, and entrenching, bayonet drill, musketry and other instruction to improve their military skills. The conditions were appalling. The rapid expansion of the British forces meant that there was no extra barrack accommodation. Consequently, the Canadians were housed in tents. Contractors were building huts, and hundreds of carpenters and bricklayers were seconded from the Canadian Contingent to speed up construction. Slowly, the troops were moved into the huts or were billeted in private homes in the small villages nearby. There was never enough space, however, and Mercer's brigade was the only one that spent the entire winter under canvas. Several severe storms blew down most of the tents and marquees. It rained 89 out of the 123 days that they were so quartered.

Surprisingly, the health of the troops remained good, and those in huts and billets suffered more illness than those in tents,

The 1st Canadian Contingent was renamed the 1st Canadian Division, and British staff officers were added to this largely amateur army. Inspections were frequent, and Mercer must have felt satisfaction when, after a Royal Inspection on 4 November 1914 by King George V and Queen Mary, accompanied by Field Marshal Lord Roberts (who was Honorary Colonel of the Queen's Own Rifles at the time) and Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, he recorded their comments in his diary: "No finer physique in the British Army. A fine brigade. Spendid"

Mercer Takes Command and Learns on the Job

All three brigade commanders of the 1st Division had spent many years in the Canadian Non-Permanent Active Militia, but only Brigadier-General R.E.W. Turner, VC, DSO, had combat experience. He had won his decorations as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Dragoons during the South African (Boer) War. Turner was the GOC of the 3rd Brigade, and, for a brief time, was also GOC of the 2nd Division. Controversy over his eventual handling of the Battle of St. Eloi Craters (June 1916) would result in his transfer to a staff position in England. Brigadier-General Arthur W. Currie, a Vancouver real estate broker and speculator, commanded the 2nd Brigade. He would later become commander of the Canadian Corps, earning a reputation as one of the war's outstanding allied generals. Mercer had been in the Queen's Own Rifles (QOR) for more than 30 years, but had never led troops in battle. The brigadier-generals and their soldiers would just have to learn on the job.

Four days before the brigade embarked for France on 9 February 1915. Mercer was promoted to full colonel. The training routine intensified in France and Belgium, where units of Canadians were placed in the front line at Armentieres, along with experienced troops of the British 4th and 6th Divisions. Then the Canadians moved into the trenches at Fleurbaix, where their role was to hold the trenches defensively while the British 1st Army attacked at Neuve Chapelle. Mercer received another promotion on 2 March, this time to temporary brigadier-general. The brigade was at the Fleurbaix front from 1 to 24 March. Rotations of four days each in the trenches interspersed with four days in reserve billets resulted in the troops enduring 16 days and nights in the

trenches. As it materialized, neither side attacked. However, Mercer demonstrated that he was not a "chateau general" – to understand fully the conditions his soldiers endured, he visited the trenches on 16 occasions and the billets on five. After 1 April, the 1st Canadian Division took over four kilometres of trenches north of Ypres, where the British were assuming more of the line from the French. Training and inspections continued. On 12 April, Mercer records that General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, commander of the 2nd British Army, under whose orders the 1st Canadian Division operated, complimented him and the troops, saying that, "for steadiness and precision this Brigade was the finest Salute he had ever seen."

Although fatal casualties at Fleurbaix totaled only one officer and 29 or's, the Ypres Salient was to be a much more lethal introduction to war. On 22 April 1915, for the first time in warfare, an enemy attacked using clouds of poison gas. The French colonial troops on the left flank of the Canadians were hardest hit by the gas and fled in panic, but the untested 2nd and 3rd Canadian Brigades filled in the gap and held despite the lack of any better protection from the gas than urine-soaked cloths. Mercer's 1st Brigade was in Divisional Reserve



in Vlamertinghe. It's 2nd and 3rd Battalions were transferred to the 3rd Canadian Brigade at 2130 hours on 22 April. Early on the morning of 23 April, Mercer was ordered to march the 1st and 4th Battalions across the Yser Canal, and attack in the direction of Mauser Ridge west of Kitcheners Wood. The attack failed for several reasons: there was little time for planning and coordinating the British, French and Canadian forces involved, and the Canadian troops had never attacked before. French troops failed to advance along the canal on the Canadians left flank and, in the same area, Geddes, commanding officer of The Buffs, 2nd East Kent Regiment, was attached to the Canadian Division, but was not under Mercer's command. Mercer, with only two battalions at this time, had a complete brigade headquarters staff. Geddes had four to seven bat-

talions, but almost no staff. Of note, Colonel A.F. Duguid, in his official history of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, infers reluctance by the British to put a Regular colonel under orders of a Canadian militia brigadier-general.

(Mercer)...could have handled several attached battalions with ease. On the other hand Colonel Geddes was a regular officer, a graduate of the Staff



College, and tried in the 1914 campaign. It may be noted that no regular British battalion was in the line under a Canadian brigadier during the battle.

There were casualties of over 400 in each battalion, and the remnants of the 1st and 4th Battalions withdrew to Wieltje on the afternoon of the 24th. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions continued to fight under General Turner's command on 24 April when another gas attack was launched. During the evening of the 25th, the 1st and 4th Battalions marched west across the canal, and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions rejoined the brigade at night. The 3rd Battalion, partly composed of men from the QOR, reported more than 400 men captured. On 28 April, the entire 1st Brigade was again under Mercer's command, guarding the canal bridges and in billets for reorganization. For their conduct under fire, he and the three other Canadian brigadier-generals were named Companions of the Order of the Bath (CB) by King George V in his Birthday Honours List of June 1915. The award is given for military service of the highest caliber and only 144 military CB's have ever been awarded to Canadians.

After two weeks of refitting and adding reinforcements, Mercer's brigade marched southeast to Festubert, where it relieved the 3rd Brigade in the front line on 22-23 May. A company of the 3rd Battalion assaulted from the Orchard on the night of the 24th. A shortage of troops caused by casualties sustained at Ypres made it necessary to use the dismounted Canadian Cavalry Brigade under Brigadier-General J.E.B. Seely as additional infantry in this attack. In spite of further heavy casualties, no real progress was made. By the end of the month, Mercer's brigade was back in billets in Bethune. On 10 June at Givenchy, a short distance from Festubert, the 1st Brigade relieved the 3rd Brigade in the trenches and was to be the main Canadian formation in the attack that began on 15 June. For the first time in battle, they would use the Lee-Enfield rifle in place of the Canadian-made Ross rifle that had caused problems in previous engagements. The Ross was an excellent target rifle, but could not stand up to rapid fire with British-made ammunition in muddy conditions. While more time was available for planning the assault, a shortage of shells and strong German resistance doomed the action. On the following day, an attack by the 3rd Battalion ran into heavy machine gun fire and was forced back into its own trenches. On the 17th, the 1st Brigade was relieved, moving back into billets. Mercer had protested to General Alderson that orders for Canadian troops to man the front trenches while a mine was exploded under the German lines were both dangerous and unnecessary. He was overruled, and subsequently, there were many casualties. By this time, Mercer was developing a reputation as a general who frequently visited the situation for himself, and as one who was concerned about his soldiers' welfare.

At the end of June, the Canadian Division was sent to a 'quiet' section of the line near Ploegsteert; quiet only in comparison to the active areas they were leaving. The brigade received reinforcements and continued to integrate the new men through marching and training. Mercer notes that Field Marshal Sir John French, the commander-in-chief of the British forces, inspected the brigade on 14 July and was "very eulogistic on the quality of the Canadian troops at Ypres, Festubert, and Givenchy."

Back in Canada, enlistment continued vigorously, More troops had arrived in Britain; a second division had been formed and sent to France at the end of September 1915. This resulted in the creation of the Canadian Corps, with Lieutenant-General Alderson as General Officer Commanding (GOC). Major-General Currie became GOC of the 1st Division, and Major-General Turner took over as GOC of the 2nd Division. A third division was planned, and Mercer notes in his diary that on 23 September, "Gen A called – said he had a new position for me." On 19 October, Alderson told him that he was being recommended for the position of GOC of the Corps troops from which the 3rd Canadian Division was to be formed. The official notice of the appointment was issued on 22 November. Mercer subsequently was struck off strength of the 1st Canadian infantry Brigade on 4 December and appointed GOC 3rd Division with the temporary rank of major-general. Thus, the GOCs of the three Canadian divisions had risen from lieutenant-colonels in the Non-Permanent Active Militia to major-generals in the Canadian Corps within 14 months. They had earned quick promotions, not only because of their achievements, but also because the Canadian government insisted that Canadians be promoted to command positions in their own army.

A Last Reconnaissance in the Trenches

When the 3rd Division was formed in December 1915, "... the six regiments of Mounted Rifles (CMR) were converted into four battalions of infantry, making the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Battalions of the 8th Brigade under Brigadier-General Victor A.S. Williams." They were holding the line at Mount Sorrel on 1 June 1916. The 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR) held Trenches 47-53 on the brigade right, and the 1st CMR held Trenches 54-60 in the left sector up to Sanctuary Wood; while the 2nd and 5th CMR were being held in brigade reserve at Maple Copse. On 1 June, the Germans dug a trench joining the heads of the saps they had made opposite Trenches 51 and 52. As an aside, Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng had been appointed GOC of the Canadian Corps a few days before on 28 May to replace Alderson. Under Byng's command, the CEF was to develop into a formidable fighting force.

On the 1st June, he (Byng) visited Major-General Mercer, who explained the situation at Mount Sorrel and Tor Top (Hill 62). General Byng then told Major-General Mercer that he wanted him to carry out a reconnaissance with a view to a local operation to improve it. Later he went round all the headquarters in front of Ypres. Whilst he was at 8th Brigade headquarters, Major-General Mercer came to make arrangements with B Gen. Williams for this reconnaissance, and asked General Byng if he would come. After a considerable pause, General Byng said, "No. You had better go yourselves tomorrow and make your own proposal. I will come around and see them on Saturday."

Major-General Mercer and Brigadier-General Williams met the Commanding Officer of the 4th CMR, Lieutenant-Colonel J.F.H. Ussher, in his battalion headquarters. "...in a dug-out in the immediate support trench, about twenty-five yards back of the front line" to evaluate the situation. Just as the generals had completed their inspection of the 4th CMR trenches, German artillery smashed the 3rd Division's front from 0830 hours to 1300 hours with the most intense bombardment witnessed up to that time. A shell explosion deafened Mercer and seriously wounded Williams in the face and head. Mercer's Aide de Camp, Captain Lyman Gooderham, was knocked unconscious briefly but was not wounded. Williams was taken to the dressing station in a long, narrow tunnel that had two entrances; one a shaft dug from the communication trench known as O'Grady Walk and the other in a shelter trench called the Tube, Mercer, Ussher and Gooderham remained in the 4th CMR headquarters. Ussher went to the tunnel to check on the condition of General Williams and was trapped when enemy shelling blocked both exits. The German infantry occupied Mount Sorrel above after detonating four mines. Gooderham attempted to move Mercer from the headquarters dugout to safety across the open stretch, since all trenches had been flattened. In the process, a random bullet broke Mercer's leg. Gooderham bandaged the wound and the two men sheltered in a ditch. That night, British artillery fired shrapnel shells to prevent the Germans from bringing up reinforcements. Gooderham, who had stayed with the general throughout this ordeal, recorded that between 0100 hours and 0200 hours on 3 June, shrapnel from these British guns pierced the general's heart and caused his instantaneous death. He was three-and-a-half months short of his 60th birthday.

Major-General Currie had learned from earlier battles that saturation artillery bombardment was essential to infantry success. Employing this technique with some innovations, his 1st Division recaptured the lost ground within one hour on 13 June 1916. "The first Canadian deliberately planned attack in any force" states the British Official History, "had resulted in an unqualified success." Several German counter-

attacks were defeated, and the fighting ended in a stalemate typical of trench warfare.

Recovering the Body

Corporal John Reid of the 4th Battalion was one of a group of men assigned to explore No Man's Land at night, tasked to locate and bury soldiers who had been killed in the German attack of 2-3 June. On the night of 21 June, his party found and buried approximately 30 corpses. Corporal Reid's letter describing the finding and recovery of General Mercer's body was published subsequently in a Toronto newspaper.

"...I was examining bags of stuff that had been taken off the dead the night before when I came across a pass with "General Mercer" signed on it. Just think of the excitement then, as we believed he was in the hands of the Hun. I called Pioneer Range, as we were together out searching the night before and he said that must be the spot where they opened the machine gun on us... The real excitement then started for we were spotted as soon as we left the dugout and (it is) thanks to some shells holes that we ever got there. They were not contented putting the machine guns on us. They even sent



coal boxes (heavy shells) over, and some near ones too. Anyway, by six o'clock, we got the body dragged to a shell-hole about five yards from where we dug it out, where it had been buried except one boot and about four inches of a leather legging sticking out of the mud. That disinterring was really the worst part of the lot, as we had to lie face down and scratch until we got the General's body uncovered, and then we searched the body again and saw the epaulets with crossed swords and star. I then cut off the General's service coat and placed the body in a shell-hole till after dark.

Williams, Ussher, and Gooderham had all been captured by the Germans and became prisoners of



war. Sir Max Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook) wrote at the time of Mercer's death: "It is tragic to think that such a brilliant soldier, who had risen to the command of a division by sheer force of ability, should have died just as his new command was going into its first big action and needed his services so greatly."

Equally tragic, perhaps, was the fact that the fatal injuries Mercer suffered in the opening bombardment in the first major battle fought by his 3rd Division makes it impossible to evaluate his tactical competence. Organizational ability

and hard work were his contributions to the development of the formidable Canadian Corps. He organized the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade out of partly trained amateur soldiers, and then trained it so that it was able to withstand the first shock of battle at Second Ypres. He took 12 battalions of partly trained troops, of whom only the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry had much front line experience, and from them created the 3rd Canadian Division, which, under his successor, was to become one of the best combat divisions in the British forces.



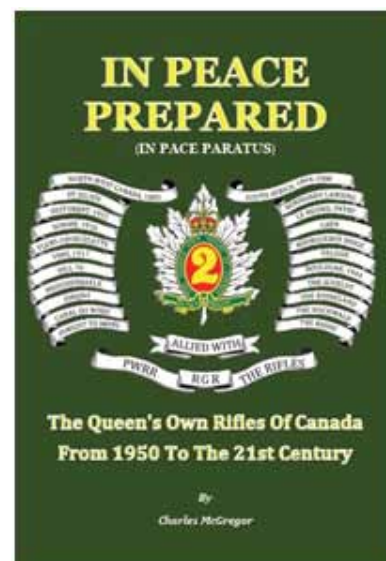
Our publication "In Peace Prepared" written by Chick McGregor and funded by the QOR Trust Fund is now available through Joe Drouin Enterprises for \$7.95 plus HST of 5% and postage.

Joe Drouin Enterprises is the only authorised seller of this unique QOR Book

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A TREMENDOUS SUPPORTER OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

The photo above was featured in the New York Times, shows our Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, Lionel Goffart surveying his proud regiment at the the Vimy 100 ceremony. Lionel was the sole sponsor of the tour with over 100 members of the QOR attending the event of the century. The size of this tour was only surpassed by MGen Sir Henry Pellatt in 1910 who took the Regiment to England by ship. Lionel has also been steadfast in supporting the Commanding Officer, Officers, and members of the QOR in achieving all of their financial aims as they pertain to the Regiment.

HLCol Goffart attended all of the events on the tour and asked nothing of his regiment. He has been a member of the QOR in several different positions including the QOR Trust Fund since 1956. He is a retired lawyer by profession and has discharged his duty as an Honorary well beyond what is to be expected.

On behalf of all members of the QOR both past and present we thank him for his outstanding and tremendous support.

C.E.Rayment LCol (ret)
Regimental Secretary
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada - Vimy Tour with the Mayor of Anisy

Volunteer Appreciation Night at the QOR Museum Casa Loma



Maj (retd) John Stephens, CD
Curator

On February 2nd, we were pleased to hold our 2017 volunteer recognition ceremony at The Queen's Own Rifles Sergeants' Mess to thank many of the 86 volunteers who provided 1,731 hours during 2016.

Volunteers do a very wide range of tasks: painting, construction, cataloging, database entry, creating exhibits, cleaning, photography, social media, taking the museum on the road, planning, renovations, creating labels and background panels, research, transcription, digitization, re-enacting, and events.

Some volunteers put in a few hours each year, and several a lot more, but all are appreciated for the skills, expertise and commitment they bring to the museum.

Fourteen of our volunteers have put in more than 25 hours each, and our top five were thanked with some gifts provided by Museum Board member Adam Hermant:

235 hours - Capt (retd) Larry Hicks (the most hours again in 2016 and our indispensable photography technician)

Over 150 hours - MCpl Graham Humphrey and CWO (retd) Shaun Kelly

Over 100 hours - Cheryl Copson

Over 75 hours - Laura Colangelo and Alex Meyers

Over 50 hours - Elizabeth Taugher and Nicole Lines (nee Simpson)

Over 25 hours - WO Emily Kenney, Cpl Justin Dremanis, Cpl Dave Strachan, Coleman Weir, Rob Grieve and Jim Lutz





We also want to thank the Commanding Officer LCol Sandi Banerjee and RSM CWO Paul Martin for their outstanding support and for joining us at our reception. Thanks also to the Sergeants' Mess for hosting us and to our generous supporter for offsetting the costs of the reception!

If you are interested in volunteering at the Regimental Museum – whether you're a serving or former member of the Regiment or just someone who thinks this might be a cool way to spend their Thursday evenings, you can find out more information on our Volunteer page on the Museum website – qormuseum.org





The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association Toronto Branch

We welcome former QOR, family and friends to join the Association.

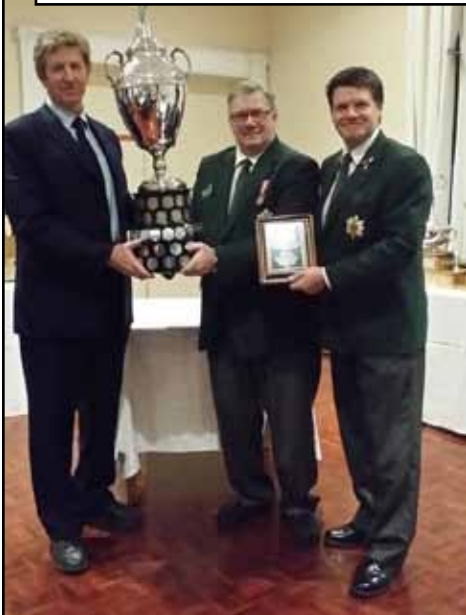
More than 100 years old, the QOR Association assists veterans, soldiers of the Regiment and cadets.

OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Golf Tournament Family Days, various BBQ's, Regimental Band Concerts, coffee and doughnuts with soldiers returning from training or deployment as well as visiting veteran's in Sunnybrook

In Pace Paratus- Once in The Queen's Own aways in The Queen's Own

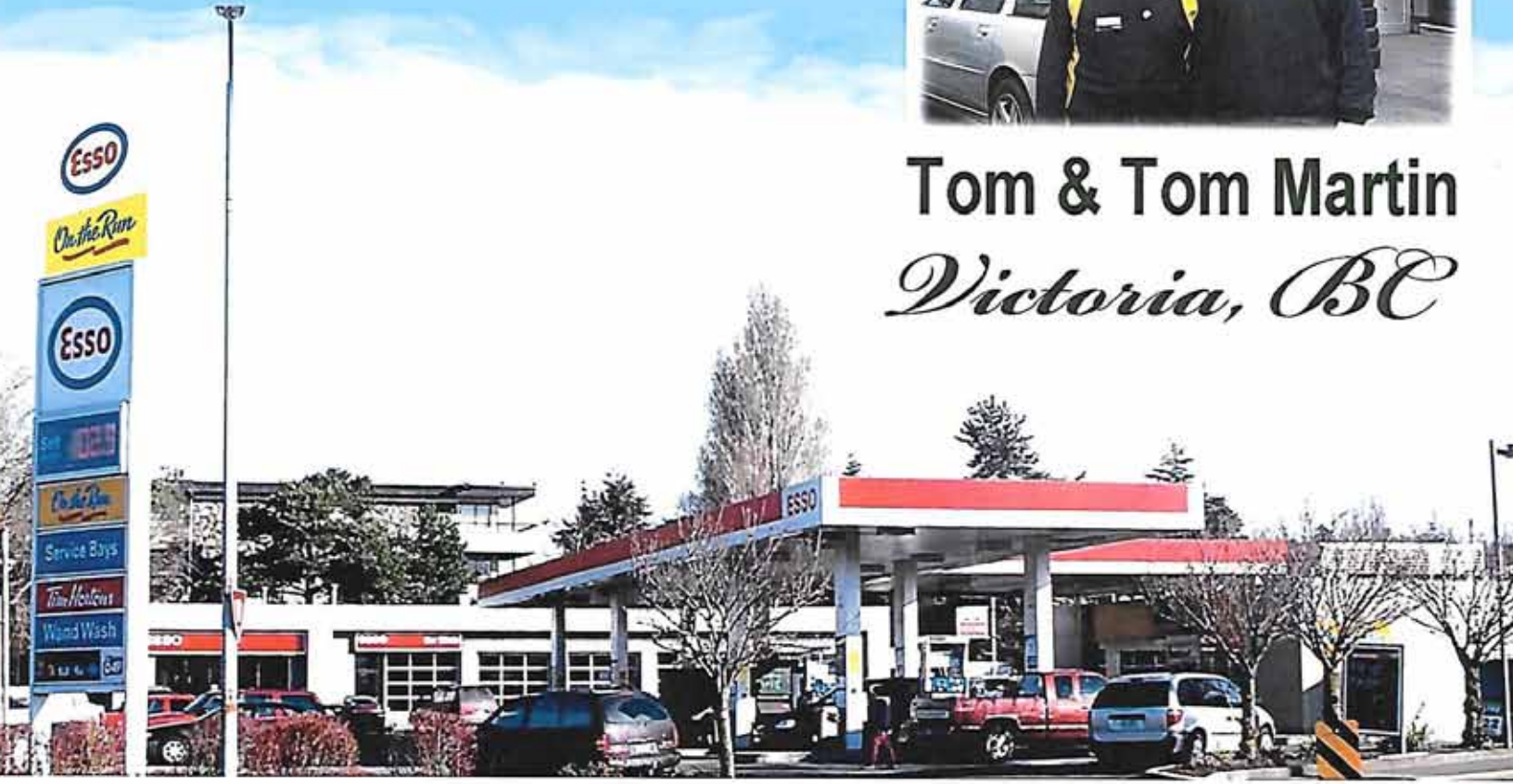
For further info contact Brian Budden at (416) 417-4975 • qorassociationtoronto@gmail.com



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**With Honour and Appreciation we
thank Our Veterans and serving
personnel for their sacrifices, courage &
dedication to a strong and free Canada.
Thanks for keeping us FREE.**



QOR OF CANADA, VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH

Birthday Dinner Celebration April 23, 2016



Birthday Dinner was a huge success, 106 members and partners attended.

Octoberfest was a huge success 114 members and partners attended.

Special guest National President Bob & Debra Dunk.

Monthly Luncheons held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292.

Was a great success average attendance 30-70, members and guest's.

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

THE BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY 150th ANNIVERSARY AND LEGACY PIECES

Over 150 years ago, citizens in Ridgeway felt safe when the Queen's Own Rifles arrived to protect them against the invading Fenian Army. The year was 1866 and the engagement became known as the Battle of Ridgeway.

Last year, citizens in Ridgeway and adjoining towns came out to show their support for the troops during the 150th anniversary of that battle. Much as been written about this battle being the catalyst to Confederation and the 150th anniversary of this significant event in Canadian history was recognized with a parade, ceremony and festival.



The event was organized by the Fort Erie Historical Museum, the Town of Fort Erie, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

About 5,000 people were present, either lining the parade route, or attending the Freedom of the City presentation, or witnessing the ceremony on the battlefield, or enjoying the family-focused festival.

There are many legacy pieces that exist to honour the role played by The Queen's Own during this battle. If you are travelling to Ridgeway or Toronto you may wish to check them out.

A memorial to the Battle of Ridgeway stands on the University of Toronto campus, new Queen's Park. Built in 1870 it honours the nine soldiers who died from the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto.



At Moss Park Armoury there is a plaque honouring the Ridgeway Nine—the nine soldiers who died on the battlefield or shortly thereafter. Also on display is the Freedom of the City, presented to The Queen's Own Rifles from the Town of Fort Erie in 2016 in recognition of duty bravely done during the 1866 Fenian Raid.

Top photo LCol Sandi Banerjee during the parade, June 4 2016. Bottom photo The QOR Pioneers lead the parade. Photo courtesy of Dave Shultz



The Pioneers provide close protection for the Regimental Band & Bugles as The Queen's Own lead the parade off the battlefield at Ridgeway. Sgt Steven Thomas MB, CD leads the Pioneers ahead of the Bugle Major, WO Emily Kenny CD and Lt Megan Hodge, Director of Music, as the Band steps off to "The Maple Leaf Forever". In the background, the Commanding Officer, LCol Sandi Banerjee CD (with sword drawn) prepares to step off leading a combined parade of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and 2881 QOR Cadet Corps.



In Memoriam 2015-2016

The following Members of The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada who have passed away

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Jack Martin - D-Day Veteran

Roy Shaw - D-Day Veteran

Tom Wilson - D-Day Veteran

William (Bill) Ross - D-Day Veteran

Sam Glass - WWII Veteran

Alf Beeston - WWII Veteran

Jaan Tuju

Morris Eckenswiler

Alan C. Houston

Charles Cowan

LGen Charles Belzile

Bill Cruickshank

Carl (Kitty) Grohs

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

Contact Information : CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden,
CD Former RSM – QOR of C
1st Vice President & Health & Welfare Chairman
QOR of C Association (Toronto Branch)

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