

The Rifleman 2018



The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
"Standing on Guard Since 1860"

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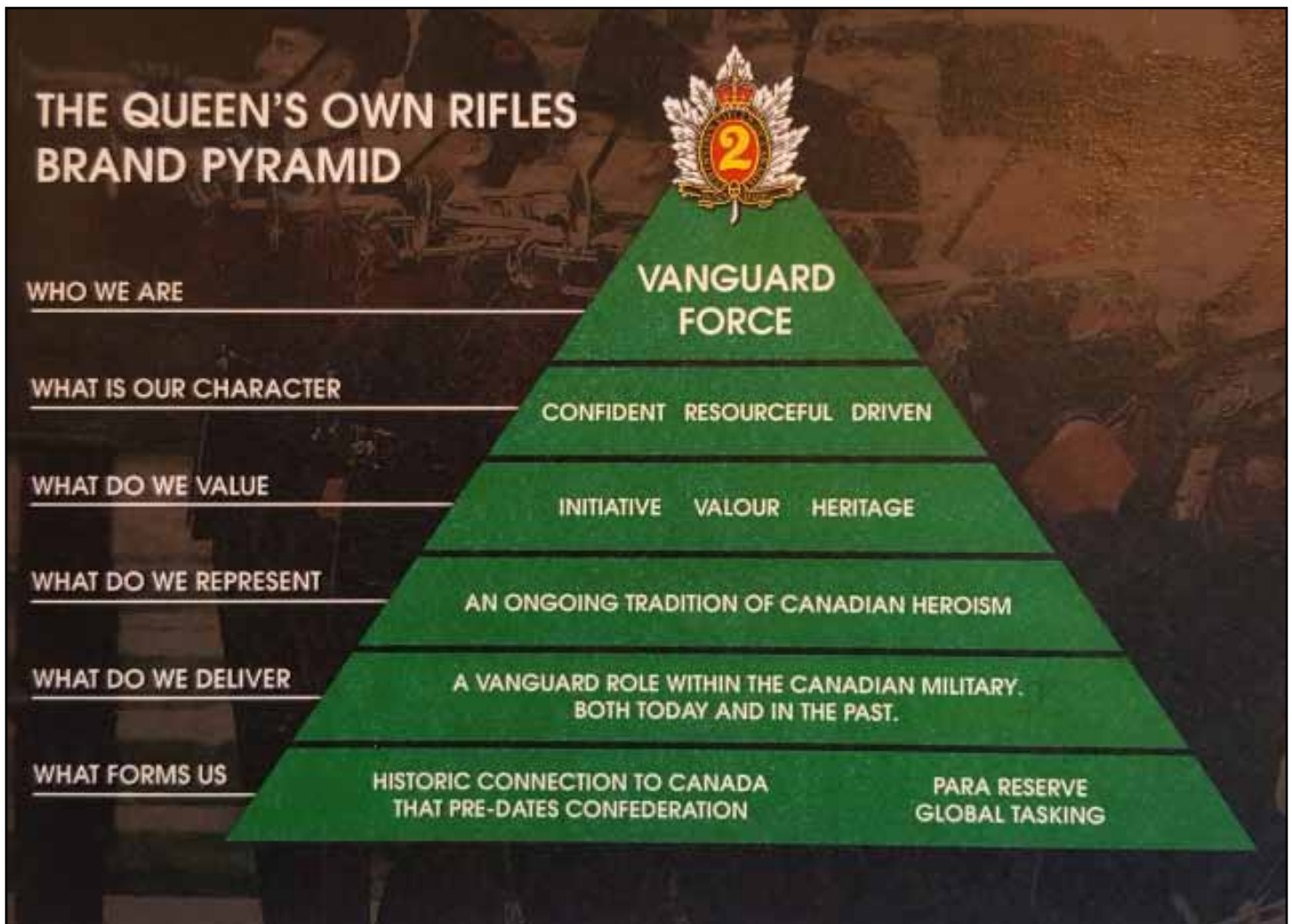
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Credit J Walter Thompson circa 2010



The Rifleman 2018
Official Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

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Editorial

A Short overview of a great year

The period from Aug 1 2017 until March 31, 2018, 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 period of accomplishment and reward at all levels. A new Commanding Officer was installed on Sept 23 2017. LCol Frank Lamie CD succeeded LCol Sandi Banerjee CD. Quite appropriately the drumming on of the New Commanding Officer is the feature of our cover of this year's Rifleman Magazine.

Our Hon Col Walt Holmes MSM,CD MBE who was installed on Oct 26 2016 is very much involved in the unit and has instituted many unique and interesting methods to resolve a myriad of problems which have grown over the years. He is an amazing officer dedicated, driven yet personable and compassionate. The unit that his father had served during WW2 has been well rewarded by the son.

On Hon LCol Lionel Goffart QC was installed on 24 Jun 2015. Since his installment HLCOL Goffart has been attending each event and generously supporting the Commanding Officer and Riflemen including ensuring some 100 Riflemen had the opportunity to visit Normandy and the dedication of a street in the town of Anisy after our own Rifleman Clark Lawson who died in front of the Church in Anisy and then to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge in the Spring of 2016.

LCOL Goffart received his CD on Parade in 2017. The Hon LCol is now financing another trip to Europe to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the landing at Berniere sur Mer on D-day 6 Jun 1944. It should be noted that the QOR was the only unit to clear the beaches and move inland by 0823 hours. This feat allowed D-Day to be the success that it was as all other units was held up by heavy German defensive actions. General Eisenhower had considered removing the US Forces on Omaha beach and moving them to the QOR Beach because of the tremendous success by the QOR. However by 1000hrs the US Forces had moved off of Omaha Beach and were successfully moving inland.



Courtesy of Ibohemian

The two landing companies were commanded by Major Charles Dalton - A coy and Maj Elliott Dalton - B Coy. B Coy had the misfortune of landing immediately in front of a German "Tobruk" MG 42 position. Charles seeing his brother and B Coy in extreme danger managed to take out the "Tobruk" from the rear. Tobruks were the concrete bunkers inside of which German gunmen stored their ammunition and took shelter from the Allied troops. On top of the Tobruk sat a turret, deep enough to provide shelter from gunfire while giving a 360-degree vantage point.

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. The QOR Soldiers Christmas dinner was a great success with many awards won and enjoyed.



Many have asked about Levee day which is no longer practised in the Toronto Garrison. Unfortunately operational stress has eliminated this popular event. On a sad note, my dear friends Jack Hadley, Major ERC Simundson and Captain Larry Hicks passed to their Creator early in 2018. All three of them will be missed by all of their QOR friends. There are featured articles on Capt Hicks and Maj Simundson in this issue of the Rifleman.



Capt Larry Hicks, CD



D-Day Veteran Jack Hadley & his daughter



Major Erik R.C. Simundson, OMM, CD

Special thanks to the important people who helped make this magazine. People such as Adrianna Misener who designed and assembled the magazine, LCol Chris Heyes, Capt Adam Hermant and George McNeillie. Photos on all pages courtesy of Capt Larry Hicks CD. German Tobruk courtesy of Ibohemian. Princess Alexandra Bursary courtesy of Buckingham Palace. Calgary Committe photos courtesy of Lynda Peterson. QOR on D-Day photos and illustrations courtesy of the QOR Museum. CA Advanced Warefare centre photos courtesy of Capt Ben Lee. Photo of MCpl Jessome courtesy of Maj Scott Moody. Sgt Bridge and group courtesy of Capt W.D. LeBlanc. Capt Adam Hermant was the original founder and creator of the Rifleman and Capt George McNeillie was the first editor.

Finally, we salute our advertisers, without whom the Journal would not be possible. Our advertising support was provided by: Tiny Hearts by Brendan Caldwell • Bank of Montreal • Bank of Montreal Nesbit Burns • CIBC • QOR Toronto Association.

Good reading, enjoy your magazine

Ed

Yours regimentally
LCol (Ret'd) C. Ed Rayment CD
Regimental Secretary and Editor





Report by The Commanding Officer

waiting

MAJOR GENERAL (RET'D) WALTER M. HOLMES, MBE, MSM, CD HONORARY COLONEL

2017 was another banner year for the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The Regiment acquitted itself superbly in everything that it undertook.

I had the privilege of watching the serving component of The Regiment operate in Garrison and in the field and I can say without hesitation that they performed exceptionally well operationally, ceremonially and socially. Their participation on commemorative events in Normandy and Vimy, on training events in Meaford and Trenton and ceremonial events such as the Change of Command parade and the annual Church Parade, was marked by a standard of discipline and professionalism that they and the regimental family writ large can all be proud of.

Regimental business has also been moving along at a significant pace through the volunteer effort of many. Thanks to the dedicated work of several individuals, mostly serving, The Regiment now has a first-class website with access to a number of social media platforms which will assist us with timely passage of information and the unit with their drive to recruit 150 Riflemen into The Regiment by the end of 2018. This latter chain of command, will allow at a quicker pace than at any CO and RSM are committed recruiting goals that have

The Normandy and Vimy the highlight of this past year. who otherwise may not have to these distant battlefields, the courage, suffering and gone before them. It also Association members who pay their respects to our gratitude of the people in liberated by The Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel



as it was he who made the journey financially possible.

Worthy of note was the loss in 2017 of Lieutenant-General Charles (Charlie) Belzile and Mr. Hervé Hoffer. Each of these individuals will be remembered for their quite different contributions to regimental life and it was appropriate that The Regiment was represented at each of their funerals. "We will Remember" all who served The Regiment and are no longer with us.

This past May saw a change of RSMs with CWO Paul Martin handing over to CWO Donovan O'Halloran, while September saw a change of command between Lieutenant-Colonel Sandi Banerjee and Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Lamie. On behalf of the regimental family I thank the outgoing Command Team and their families for all that they did for The Regiment during their tenure and I know I speak for all of the regimental family when I say we are looking forward to supporting and working with the new Command Team over the next couple of years.

In Pace Paratus, Walter Holmes, Honorary Colonel

commemorative events stand as Riflemen, NCOs and Officers had the opportunity to journey were able to get a sense of successes of those who have offered them, and the many were there, an opportunity to fallen, and to experience the the communities that were The generosity of Honorary Goffart is again acknowledged



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES PRINCESS ALEXANDRA BURSARY FUND



2017 marked the inaugural year of the COL Paul & Mrs. Bev Hughes Scholarship within the HRH Princess Alexandra Bursary. The first recipient of the scholarship was Kaitlyn McVeigh who received \$2,500. Kaitlyn is studying Nursing at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. She is the granddaughter of MAJ (ret'd) Harry McCabe who was also a former RSM of the Regiment. Kaitlyn's maternal great-great-great-grandfather was RFN James Bedley, a QOR veteran of the Battle of Ridgeway.

Five additional \$1,000 bursaries were awarded this year to:

Shaelyn Diana Littlejohn who is studying Nursing at Camosun College in Victoria, BC. Shaelyn is the granddaughter of SGT (ret'd) Billy Willbond, formerly of 1QOR and the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Brian Buchan who is studying Medicine at the University of Toronto. Brian is currently serving as a Rifleman in the Regiment.

Ryan Hindson who is studying Computer Sciences at the University of Victoria. Ryan is the grandson of former QOR Ivan McPhee.

Remy June Brayshaw who is studying at Simon Fraser University. Remy's grandfather is Bill Brayshaw.

Bryanna Riane Doucette who is studying Communication and Media Design at the University of Calgary. Bryanna's grandfather served in the Queen's Own.

Every year the list of young Canadians receiving financial assistance from the Bursary for their post-secondary pursuits continues to grow. All have a close connection to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Please help us continue this worthwhile project by making an online donation today to HRH Princess Alexandra Bursary at: <https://donor.torontofoundation.ca/fund/queens-own-rifles-princess-alexandra-bursary-fund>

Bob Dunk

President, QOR Association

CHANGE OF COMMAND - SEPTEMBER 23, 2017





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MEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AWARDS - DECEMBER 2017



Linda and Jack Hadley



Cpl Chris Hinds
receiving the Commanding
Officers Commendation



Jack Hadley,
Sgt Graham Humphries



CWO Donovan O'Halloran,
LCol Frank Lamie, Sgt Adam
Winnicki, Cpl Cho Wong
(receiving their Canadian
Forces Decoration)



CWO Donovan O'Halloran, LCol
Frank Lamie, Cpl Cho Wong
(receiving his Canadian
Forces Decoration)



Cpl Alexander Fisico
receiving the Commanding
Officers Commendation



Brenda Butt receives The QOR
Association Rifleman of the
Year award



CWO Ret'd Brian Budden receiving
The Col Hughes Award of Excellence
on behalf of the recipient John
Stephens (not present)



Cpl's Richard Colmer, Julian Dias,
John Do, Lydia Radewych,
Anthony Skrinjar, Stephen Strack,
Azeez Baruwa, Cpl Godwin Lee,
Rfn D'Angelo Dunbar, receiving
their Airborne Creed



Cpl Richard Campbell receiving the Commanding Officers Commendation



Members of the Digital Media Working Group receiving the Commanding Officers Commendation



MWO Jeff Johnston being promoted to MWO



Cpl Denis Abazovic receiving The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Outstanding Airborne Rifleman of the Year Award



Our Nijmegen Team receiving the Physical Fitness Award



Cpl Steven Abra received the Silver Bugle Award



Sgt Steve Thomas received the CSM Charlie C. Martin Award for the Top WO or Sgt in the Regiment



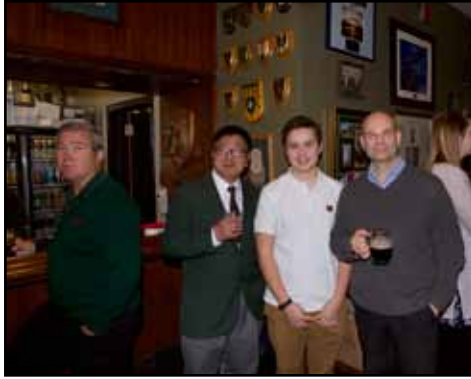
MCpl Paulo Ortega received the Reginald A. Walker Award for the Top MCpl in the Regiment



Cpl Chris Hinds receiving the British Airborne Forces Association RSM Harry Fox Award for the Most Promising Rifleman in



MUSEUM VOLUNTEER RECEPTION - FEBRUARY 2 2017



The Queen's Own Rifles of Calgary Committee

Tuesday January 2, 2018

Royal Canadian Legion #285 – Breakfast – 26 attended

2017 Christmas Luncheon

The Queen's Own Rifles Calgary Branch attended the 2017 Christmas Luncheon at the Carriage House on December 8, 2017. Unfortunately, some of our members were unable to attend due to the Influenza season. All members who attended enjoyed the event, especially the luncheon which is always delicious and the service excellent.

We would like to congratulate our Committee for a job well done for organizing and making all the arrangements for this year's luncheon. Thank you to Bob Titus, Louise Hodder, Arlene Albrecht, Gil Chenier and Lynda Peterson.



Gilles Pharand, Treasurer; Lynda Peterson, Scribe;
Bob Titus, President; Louise Hodder, VP/Secretary;
Gil Chenier, Entertainment;
Arlene Albrecht, Entertainment

Commemorating Canada's 150th Birthday!

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association (Calgary Branch) Commemorating Canada's 150th Birthday! The 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles of Calgary was stationed in Calgary Currie Barracks from 1960-1968. In 1967, we were deployed to Cypress on a Peacekeeping Mission; that is where the troops celebrated Canada's 100th Birthday. At that time, we were remembered by some Alberta companies as well as the City of Calgary, with some necessities that were really appreciated, steak and beer. After 50 years the Association in Calgary is still operating with a membership of 70 members.

May 2, 2017 The Queens Own Rifles of Calgary attended a Luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion #264 Kensington.

This will be the last time attending a luncheon in this building, as a new Legion has been completed and ready to move into. We had 31 members attending, excellent turn out. We are looking forward to our next Luncheon in the Fall at the new Kensington Legion.

157th Birthday Luncheon

On April 22, 2017, The Queens Own Rifles of Calgary attended the 157th Birthday Luncheon at the Carriage House. All the members attending enjoyed an excellent luncheon and had an enjoyable afternoon visiting with friends. After the luncheon, a Coffee Basket raffle, created by Louise Hodder, containing two Queen's Own Rifles coffee mugs, various flavoured coffee and cookies, was won by Dale Demeules. The 50/50 draw was won by Louise Hodder.

We would like to congratulate our Committee for a job well done for organizing and making all the arrangements for this year's luncheon. Thank you to Bob Titus, Louise Hodder, Gilles Pharand, Arlene Albrecht, Gil Chenier and Lynda Peterson.



Bob & Shirley Titus



Lisa & Kitch Mesher
& Ernie Barker



Carol & Barry Ashton



Don & Linda Ethel



REPORT ON THE HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL LIONEL GOFFART QC CD

Installed as the HLCOL on Jun 15 2015, Lionel Goffart has always been extremely busy especially in this year. He has kept up with the heavy training schedule as well as being very supportive of the troops both in the field and socially.

At the Annual Christmas Party HL-COL Goffart received a Commanding Officers Citation for his great generosity to all members of the unit. Not only did he send chosen members overseas at his expense in 2015 but he sent the unit over again for the 100 anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in numbers approaching 100 QOR members which included a QOR Guard of Honour and the QOR Band. This tour has only been equalled in the unit history by Col Pellatt in 1910 whereby the whole unit went to Enland by ship to train on the Salisbury plain with the British Army.



The HLCOL was active in all parades and was the investing officer in the Change of RSM's in May 2017.

His commitment to the QOR is beyond exemplary and he was truly a great motivator in development esprit de Corps in Canada's oldest and finest unit the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Not to be outdone in his generosity HLCOL Goffart has now committed to take an honour guard to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 2019.

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

CHANGE OF RSM PARADE - MAY 6 2017





THE CANADIAN ARMY ADVANCED WARFARE CENTRE

by Capt Ben-Jaemin Lee CD

The Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) is located at Canadian Armed Forces Base (CFB) Trenton. The Unit's previous names have included the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre, Canadian Parachute Centre, and the Canadian Airborne Centre. The current command team consists of the Commanding Officer LCol L. Darras CD (PPCLI) and Regimental Sergeant Major CWO K.T.J. Pichie CD (RCD). A couple of years ago, CAAWC moved from Hangar 8 along the flight line of CFB Trenton to its new location on the south side of base. The new building, named after the CO of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion LCol J.A. Nicklin OBE who died during the Rhine Crossing, is a state of the art facility designed for CAAWC to run most of its courses in location. The new building is much bigger than the hangar as it possesses additional training facilities to include an indoor rappel tower, an indoor rock climbing wall, and a four-story indoor building façade that allows for urban complex terrain training. This is in addition to the infield for aerial delivery courses and parachute training aides moved from the Hangar to the LCol Nicklin Building. Many serving members of the Regiment have likely seen the LCol Nicklin Building during the Annual Parachute Refresher. Although CAAWC is responsible for parachute courses and serving as the Canadian Army's subject matter experts for parachuting, the unit is also responsible for other programs and courses. These courses are primarily for Canadian Army (CA) combat arms personnel but some are open to all Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) trades. In addition to performing functional centre of excellence duties and running courses, CAAWC provides the CAF with Parachute Depot maintenance services and has a standing task to support Major Aid Disaster (MAJAID) with an Airborne Support Group.

The Arctic Operations Advisor course (AOA) is the successor course formerly known as Advanced Winter Warfare and is open to all trades. The purpose of the seven-week course is to qualify personnel on how to advise commanders on the planning, organization, coordination, and conduct of training and operating in the Arctic Region during the cold weather months of the year. The course consists of two parts, a sub-Arctic phase and a high Arctic phase. The former is where training on Northern cultural awareness, establishing an austere runway, ice breaking drills, and northern survival training including navigation takes place. The Arctic phase sees the candidates deploying up to the Arctic Training Centre in Resolute Bay, NU. Once there, students receive training on snow shelter construction such as igloos and snow caves. They receive a familiarization on the Lee-Enfield .303 rifle, austere range construction, and Qamutiik (a towed sled used to move across ice and snow) construction and use. During their final exercise, they deploy out to several isolated communities in the North with the assistance of Rangers from 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group to solidify their skills. The course operates regularly in sub-zero weather with temperatures getting as low as -55oC with wind chill.

The Patrol Pathfinder (PPF) course continues to be run by CAAWC on an annual basis. The PPF torch still holds an aura of mystique and prestige, a well-earned badge for the extremely small percentage of combat arms soldiers who have passed the course. The 12 week course is run out of several locations with training areas varying from year to year. The course is only open to combat arms although Medics and Signallers may take the course if they are assigned in direct support to a combat arms unit. Students arrive on course expected to be qualified Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman, Primary Leadership Qualification (or qualified Developmental Period [DP] 1 for officers), Drop Zone Controller, and any parachute course whether it be static line, round or any square canopy course. Upon arrival on course, the candidates undergo a physical fitness test specific to PPF which includes the Basic Parachutist Test (1.6 km in less than 7 minutes 30 seconds, 7 chin-ups, and 31 sit-ups), a fitness test for Fast Rope training (minimum standard is 5 pull-ups and holding a static position from a fast rope for 30 seconds using hands and feet to lock while carrying 20 lbs), and a combat fitness march of 20 km with marching order of 80 lbs to be completed in less than 4 hours 30 minutes. Once successful, the candidates undergo weeks of training designed to qualify a specialist capable of planning and coordinating PPF operations to include the tactical control of Drop Zones, Landing Zones, Beach Zones, and Tactical Airstrips for follow-on forces. The course is run primarily in the field where they receive both fixed-wing and rotary airlift to conduct various tacti-



cal insertion and extraction methods as well as a naval vessel to conduct amphibious insertions. Their final field training exercise is more than a week long in duration where they operate out of a new patrol base every day and forward deploy on continuous operations carrying all required equipment. The last course, in 2017, saw a high success rate with 12 out of 23 passing. This was mostly due to 5e Groupe-brigade mécanisé du Canada's pre-PPF course as more than half the graduates were from Valcartier.

Mountain Operations is an ever evolving program for CAAWC. Replacing what used to be the Mountain Operations Instructor course was Advanced Mountain Operations, which itself was later subdivided into two different courses. What exists now for soldiers looking to pursue Mountain Operations qualifications after completing the Basic Mountain Operations course is the Complex Terrain Operations (CTO) course and Advanced Mountain Operations (AMO) course. CTO is a seven week course designed to qualify personnel in instructing, supervising, and operating in complex terrain absent of snow and ice. CTO qualified personnel are assessed on conducting navigation in complex terrain, lead rock climbing, various rappelling techniques, deliberate and improvised mountain rescue, and urban complex terrain operations. CTO's unique inclusion of urban complex terrain has interested militaries from allied nations eager to observe systems and techniques used by CA personnel. Much of this training is run out of CAAWC lines as well as the Adirondacks, NY, USA. AMO was recently redesigned to qualify personnel to instruct and supervise mountain training, advise commanders, and ultimately act as a leader during mountain operations in high alpine environments to include snow and ice hazards. AMO qualified personnel under the new program will have received training on maneuvering and operating within mountainous terrain, operating in avalanche prone terrain, lead alpine rescue, and advising commanders on mountain operations. There have been ongoing updates with AMO and the course is scheduled to be run as a new program. AMO has been run out of various locations in the past; but most recently, training has been conducted along the Alberta side of the Rocky Mountains. These courses, just like PPF, are designed for combat arms personnel but are open to medics and signallers.

Helicopter Insertion Master (HIM) is the new program that replaced what was previously the Rappel Master course. HIM covers rappel techniques from a tower and a helicopter; in addition helocasting and low-hover insertion are part of the qualification thereby expanding the skillset. The course is less than three weeks long and is divided into three separate modules. The equipment used for this training differs greatly compared to rappel equipment used years ago as kernmantle rope has replaced the Hauser laid rope in training with soldiers being issued various Petzl carabiners and a rappel harness. Swiss seats are still taught as an improvised harness but purposely built harnesses are preferred during training. Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction (FRIE) Master are available for HIM qualified personnel as a separate course. HIMs with FRIE Master are able to run training and dispatch personnel using rotary aircraft.

Round canopy parachute courses are still primarily run out of CAAWC. The three-week Basic Parachutist (B Para) course along with Jumpmaster (JM) and Parachute Instructor (PI) are still run within CAAWC lines. For almost ten years, the B Para course has also been run by the Regular Force brigades in order to meet their increasing demands in qualifying personnel. CAAWC runs anywhere from four to six B Para courses a year including the Cadet Course; as a result, permitting the courses to be run out of CFB Edmonton, CFB Petawawa, and CFB Valcartier with CAAWC oversight has permitted the CA to continue qualifying personnel without impacting other parachute courses. The JM and PI courses are still run concurrent to the B Para although PI starts earlier as it is a five-week course. Every B Para course conducted at CAAWC is typically paired up with a JM course although one is set aside to be paired up with the annual PI course. J-Stage for these courses have seen good support from the CC-130J Hercules squadrons. Occasionally, a few lifts will be made available using CC-177 Globemaster (C-17), CH-146 Griffon, and CH-147 Chinooks.

Square Canopy courses are run out of both CAAWC and an external location. Military Freefall Parachutist, Military Square Parachute Jumpmaster, and Military Square Parachute Instructor (MSPI) have their ground stages starting at CAAWC. The jump stages for those courses move the course to a civilian drop zone (most recently

Skydive Perris Valley, CA, USA) to complete the required jumps. This training, although costly, has trained soldiers in freefall skills with minimal adverse weather conditions affecting jumps. As well, a Vertical Wind Tunnel is close-by for additional skills training should the course be stop drop due to weather. The MSPI course run by CAAWC has evolved over the years to become an advanced course developing skilled instructors. Due to how well the program has evolved, the Canadian Special Operations Forces and the Australian Army regularly sends students on this course. In addition to freefall, Static Line Square Canopy courses are also run by CAAWC primarily to qualify personnel to respond in support to Search and Rescue during a MAJAID operation. The 3rd Battalions of each of the Regular Force Infantry Regiments continue to obtain the majority of spots on these courses in order to qualify personnel in their PPF, Reconnaissance, and/or Sniper. The remainder of course spots are filled by CAAWC personnel including instructors and those occupying Parachute Rigger positions.

Parachute Packer and Rigger courses are still run by CAAWC. The Parachute Rigger course is strictly for Supply Technicians within the Rigger sub-specialty but the Parachute Packer courses have been relaxed to allow for other trades. This has allowed specifically Infantryman within the Parachute Companies to be qualified in packing parachutes thereby permitting spent chutes to be packed on site without being sent back to CFB Trenton. The Regiment has sent a few individuals over the years to qualify as Parachute Packers and also be employed as full-time incremental staff to aid in CAAWC's parachute packing output. These include MCpl Katherine Jessome, Cpl Denis Abazovic, Cpl Daniel Kim, Cpl Mark Kusi-Appiah, Cpl Sebastian Roy, Cpl Paolo Villa, and Cpl Ryan Williamson.

Other air logistics courses are run out of CAAWC include Aerial Delivery, Helicopter Underslung Operations (previously known as Helicopter Operations), and Drop Zone/Landing Zone Controller. These three courses are open to all trades and are conducted year round.

The Regiment continues to support CAAWC with personnel serving as cadre staff and of course contributing candidates on courses. As of March 2018, three members of the Regiment are serving as full-time staff to CAAWC: Capt Ben Lee as the CAAWC Standards Officer, Sgt Jason Bridge as the Advanced Mobility Standards WO, and Sgt Dmitri Frounze as a Parachute Instructor within the Parachute Training Company. In addition to these three, two additional members of the Regiment have been actively supporting incremental tasks within the last year at CAAWC with MCpl Katherine Jessome as a Jumpmaster tasked to assist Basic Parachutist courses and Cpl Justin Dreimanis as support staff to the Complex Terrain Operator course and the Arctic Operations Advisor course.

Sgt Frounze has been busy as an instructor at Parachute Training Company. Along with performing instructor duties on B Para and JM serials, most recently Sgt Frounze has been assigned as a Course WO for a B Para. In addition to the added responsibility, Sgt Frounze has also been tasked by CAAWC to help develop an Aide Memoire for JMs to be used across the CA. Sgt Frounze still supports Regimental activity especially when QOR of C Parachute Company comes to CFB Trenton to train. For upcoming training, Sgt Frounze has been nominated as a candidate for an upcoming MSPI course.

WO Bridge is likely the busiest of the three members of the Regiment at CAAWC. In addition to deploying across the country to provide Standards support to CAAWC courses with CTO in the US and AOA in NT, WO Bridge spent several weeks in CFB Edmonton supporting a 3 PPCLI JM course. Along with his Standards duties, WO Bridge actively supports Regimental activity on numerous fronts. WO Bridge took part in the Op ANISY/Vimy 100 trip in 2017 where he received his promotion to WO. He has supported Mountain Operations training run by the Regiment as well as parachute training whether it's at CFB Trenton or elsewhere. When WO Bridge isn't tasked around the country, he has reliably supported Regimental parades and social functions as well as field training exercises on occasion. On another note, WO Bridge was the Top Candidate on his Infantry Platoon 2IC course in 2017.



Capt Lee, as the CAAWC Standards Officer, has primarily focused efforts in ensuring course conduct and material adheres to CA policy and requirements. When Standards WOs were otherwise tasked due to the unit tempo, Capt Lee has provided direct Standards coverage to several CAAWC courses including B Para and PPF. Along with this, Capt Lee has been involved with updating several programs run by CAAWC and providing input to new policies while also performing information management duties. Like WO Bridge, Capt Lee has supported Regimental parades but mostly social functions.

Co-located in CFB Trenton are some former Riflemen including: MCpl Joe Stalteri, a Search and Rescue Technician at 424 Squadron; MCpl Rob Vulakovich, a Parachute Rigger at CAAWC; Cpl Craig Buckle, a Traffic Technician at 2 Air Moves Squadron; Cpl Adam Goskey, a Firefighter within 8 Wing; and Cpl Mark Palma, an Aviation Technician at 429 Squadron.



Capt Lee and Sgt Bridge supporting AOA in Yellowknife, NT.



Sgt Bridge with a group of AOA candidates in Yellowknife, NT.



Courtesy of Cpl Dreimanis
Walking back to the admin area after completing ice training



Sgt Frounze assessing an equipment performance check on a Basic Parachutist course



A set of 48 Basic Parachutist wings for a course



MCpl Jessome performing JM duties.

NIJMEGEN

July 18-21, 2017

Every year, thousands of proud Dutch patriots, along with many thousands more from across the world, challenge themselves against the heat, terrain, and distance to complete the 165+km march in and around the Dutch town of Nijmegen. The event - which features teams from militaries across the globe - is a test of endurance, mental and physical conditioning, and more importantly, an effort to uphold the Esprit de corps that encapsulates the entire event. Though the march itself isn't a competition, participants like to push themselves to finish as quickly as possible.



This past summer, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada sent a team to the Netherlands to embark on a century's old challenge; the International Four Day Marches in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Training began months ago; I joined the team of about 20 or so participants in late March who would meet on Wednesday nights and weekends. We would start off the week in a light 10-14 km hike around the Lakeshore or in the Lower town area, and progress the pace and distance on the weekends (ranging between 30 to 40 km). As the training progressed in the months leading up to Nijmegen, some of the guys began to drop out for various reasons such as injury or scheduling. Our group was led by Major Moody and Warrant Officer Johnston, both of whom having previously taken part in Nijmegen. Both Maj Moody and WO Johnston provided very valuable insight on the march, explaining their experience and what problems they had encountered on the way. They also gave tips on boots, socks, and the different types of ointments we should expect to bring to aid us in the journey.

The schedule, and the expectations were clear from the beginning; put in the work, train on your own time, and everything would fall into place. Shortly thereafter, a diverse group of junior NCO's and an officer from across all civilian backgrounds made up the team. We added a couple more guys in the final weeks and by the end of training, we had tallied up over 500 km each.

It was an incredible experience to have your body condition itself to march 40 km at one time. The first few times are painful as the body begins to slow down due to aches and pains, and eventually, the time and distance begins to discourage your mind from finishing the race. The greatest challenge is to get passed the idea that you're tired, or that the pain in your knees and feet is too unbearable. The real mental challenge, is how much pain are you willing to take in order to finish?





On July 13, we left from CFB Trenton and arrived in Lille, France in the morning. The Canadian contingent was made up of members from trades all across the Canadian Forces. The tour began with a stay in Northern France on the border with Belgium, where we would pay homage to those who fought and sacrificed their lives in the Great War. Amongst our stops would be the Tyne Cot Cemetery, the village of Passchendaele, the Menin Gate Memorial, and the Vimy Ridge Canadian War Memorial.

The whole experience was rather moving, especially at the Menin Gate and Vimy Ridge, where we took part in two parades, and stood at attention while the bugler played last post - a humbling experience to say the least.

When our contingent arrived at Camp Huemendoord in Nijmegen, our team was ready to march. We had enjoyed the past few days in some incredible

corners of the countryside, but it was time to see what all of our training would lead up to. As our team leaders broke down what the route for the day would be like, our medic insured our feet were wrapped up and ready for a long haul.

The first day was perhaps one of the biggest crowds I had ever seen anywhere - thousands of civilians and soldiers from all ages were out there marching proudly, putting one foot in front of the other. Overall, the day was hot, long, and exhausting - a sneak peek of what was to come. With the first day out of the way, a number of us from the Canadian Contingent took part in a short-day trip, along the routes of famous battles during World War Two. One of these routes would stand out in particular. Farm house 1 in the country-side of the German/Dutch border is a famous site in which Sargeant Aubrey Cosens dramatically overtook German held positions, one after another, before being shot by a sniper. He remains one of Canada's last recipients of The Victoria Cross.

This experience was quite poignant, as his actions are still remembered and revered in this part of the country despite it happening over 70 years ago. The Dutch have never forgotten the enormous sacrifices and contributions Canadians made in liberating their nation, and that fact was evident everywhere we marched. The entire march at times did feel like a welcoming celebration of their freedom and gratitude. I suppose that over the years the 4 days march has taken on new meanings.

As I look back, and take into account the total distance and experiences we had in a few short days, I'm mostly thankful for completing the work-up training. The entire event could've easily gone the other way as the pain is no doubt ubiquitous. What made our time there different was our preparation, it enabled us to enjoy our down time, tour some incredible sights, and truly appreciate a once in a lifetime trip.

CPL Reyes,
Queen's Own Rifles



THE BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY

By Jane Davies Manager Ridgeway Museum

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 has 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 participating in 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, near 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. The battlefield in Ridgeway was purchased in 1916 by veterans of the Battle of Ridgeway and designated as a National Historic Site in 1921. Located at 3388 Highway #3, it features a series of outdoor interpretive panels. There is also a large interactive map depicting the stages of this campaign.



A memorial statue to the Ridgeway Nine was unveiled in 2016 and stands next to the heritage Ironwood Tree – a tree that witnessed the 1866 battle. Near the front of the park is a federal memorial cairn. A plaque honouring all the soldiers who died as a result of being deployed to this battle was unveiled beside this cairn in 2016. This honours the 15 soldiers of both The Queen's Own Rifles and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. In downtown Ridgeway, on Ridge Road, a provincial plaque commemorating this battle stands in market square and a marble tablet to the Ridgeway Nine can be found inside the Memorial United Church. Original watercolour paintings done around the time of the battle are on display at the Fort Erie Historical Museum, located at 402 Ridge Road. This display also includes a Fenian sword found on the battlefield, original uniforms and commemorative medals. If you are flying over Ridgeway, you will notice a new drop zone next to the battlefield. DZ Ridgeway Nine was dedicated during the anniversary event with a Queen's Own paratrooper unfurling a 40' Canadian flag. For those who can't make the trip to Ridgeway you can read about this battle in Dr. Vronsky's book *Ridgeway: The Battle that made Canada* or the Fort Erie Museum's book *First Hand Accounts of the 1866 Fenian Raid and Battle of Ridgeway*. The latter book features all 23 of the original water colour paintings and quotes from the soldiers who fought in that battle.

For further information contact the Fort Erie Historical Museum, 402 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, ON, L0S 1N0, 904-894-5322, museum@forterie.ca



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA 2017

2017 had a cold start with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada participating in Exercise Maroon Frost 1 in CFB Borden. During this exercise our annual Basic Winter Warfare course started and refresher training for qualified Riflemen took place. The weekend concluded with a static-line jump onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton. A few weeks later Exercise Maroon Frost 2 during which the Basic Winter Warfare Course concluded, and the remainder of the unit participated in a section and platoon level patrolling exercise.

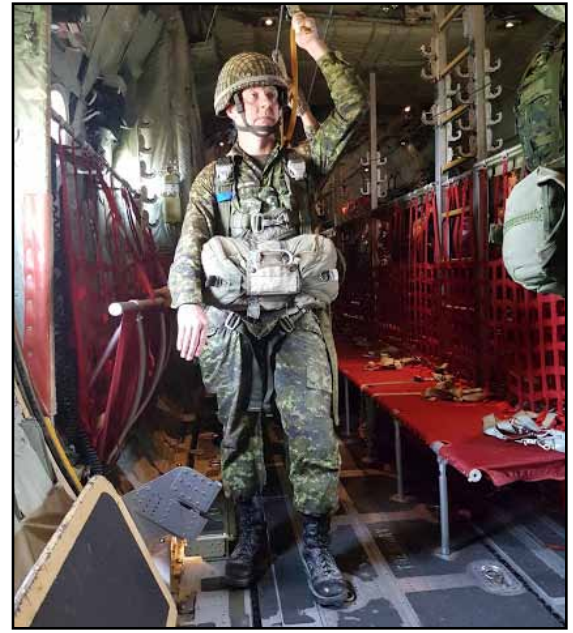
In March, as part of Exercise Maroon Sword 4, Buffs Coy participated in a night-time complex terrain insertion to conduct a raid on the Urban Ops Village. This exercise culminated with a static-line parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson. Thanks to the support from 436 Sqn, 5 new jumpers from the unit completed their required descents. These Riflemen had bad weather on their B Para a few weeks prior and required 3 more full-equipment jumps to get qualified. After a very busy day of training, the unit welcomed Corporals Baruwa, Colmer, Lee, Maloney and Radewych into the Airborne Brotherhood. Cpl Abazovic also qualified as a new Jumpmaster.

To recognize the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, the QOR deployed an Honour Guard over 80 Riflemen to France. During the trip the unit visited the site of several of the Regiments World War I and II achievements which culminated with the Vimy Ridge ceremony. This visit was funded by our Honorary LCol, Lionel Goffart, who also attended the trip.

The trip started at the units June 6th, 1944 landing site in Berniers-Sur-Mer. During this visit in Bernier, the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the City and then attended a reception at Canada House. This was then followed by an incredible dinner with the people of the town overlooking Juno beach. The following day the unit held a ceremony at another QOR battle site, Le Mensil Patry, and once again were the benefactors of French hospitality as they treated us to lunch. To top it off, that evening each Rifleman enjoyed a dinner in the homes of a sponsoring family from the town of Anisy our final D-Day objective.

The Normandy portion of the trip culminated with the unit being granted the Freedom of the City for Anisy. This was followed by the dedication of a street in Anisy to Riflemen Lawson, the last Rifleman killed on June 6th, 1944. The unit had several of Rfn Lawson's family members attend.

The QOR Honour Guard moved to Arras, France. From there they visited Beaumont Hamel and then participated in the sunset Menin Gate ceremony at Ypres, Belgium. On April 9th, 2017, the Honour



RSM Donovan O'Halloran hooked-up and ready to jump CWO Scott "Paddy" Patterson's ashes during the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17th, 2017



QOR Paratroopers move off the DZ after the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17th, 2017



QOR Paratroopers exit a CC-130j Hercules from 436 Sqn move during the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17th, 2017

Guard attended the ceremony at Vimy Ridge. This was an incredible experience for our Riflemen who made up the largest single unit contingent to attend the event.

Annual Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) training started in April and continued through May and June. This training had Riflemen completing their Personal Weapons Test (PWT3) on the C7 and refreshing their skills on other weapons, tactics and procedures.

To ensure currency and proficiency of the members of our Parachute Company Group the annual parachute refresher was held in June. It was well attended by our Airborne Riflemen and Paratroopers from 32 CBG. It consisted of PT testing, refresher training and two parachute descents. The month concluded with 30 members of the unit returning to CFB Trenton to meet Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall our Colonel and Chief who was touring Canada with her husband the Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.

After 3 months of training and marching over 700km of training, The QOR Nijmegen March Team deployed to the Netherlands as part of the 200 strong JTF Nijmegen in July. The team consisted of 11 Riflemen and a medic from 25 Fd Amb. Prior to the march, the team had the opportunity to visit Passchendaele, Ypres and Vimy Ridge.

The 101st Nijmegen Marches started on July 18th, the first day consisted of marching 45km. Day 2 was extremely hot and was the shortest of all the days with a total mileage of 40km. On Day 3 of the march the contingent stopped at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery which is roughly located 32km into the marching route. This is a special place for the QOR as it was where the unit spent the winter of 1944/45. The cemetery is home to 60 Riflemen and includes our Victoria Cross recipient Sgt Aubrey Cousens. The contingent held a commemorative ceremony at the cemetery and then completed the remaining 10k to end Day 3 after 42km. To finish the march, the QOR team completed the required 42km on day 4 far ahead of all other Canadian teams. The entire contingent then marched the last 5km together in what is known as the Gladiola march, a ceremony which demonstrates the enthusiasm for the event the Dutch people have.

The annual summer concentration for reservists from 32 CBG, Exercise Stalwart Guardian, was held at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford. It provided Riflemen the opportunity to conduct section, platoon and company level offensive operations.

September started off with a team of six Airborne Riflemen deploying to Krakow, Poland to participate in the Polish 6th Airborne Divisions international skills competition. The team was led by WO Jeff



CWO Scott 'Paddy' Patterson's ashes were jumped during the inaugural jump onto DZ Patterson in CFB Borden on September 17th, 2017



Members of the QOR Honour Guard and Band in Bernier-Sur-Mer during the Vimy 100 visit April 1st -9th, 2017



Members of the QOR meet with the Colonel and Chief of the Regiment, Camilla, the Dutchess of Cornwall, on June 30th, 2017



MCpl Steve Wolfe gets LCol Frank Lamie dressed for a full-equipment parachute descent onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton during Exercise Pegasus Knight 2 that was held on December 6th, 2017



Johnston and did very well in the event. Concurrently, in Canada the unit held Exercise Maroon Sword 1 which focused on section level patrolling. The exercise concluded with an inaugural static-line jump onto Drop Zone Patterson in CFB Borden. During the jump RSM O'Halloran had the honour of jumping in with CWO Scott (Paddy) Patterson's ashes, giving "Paddy" a last jump. Many members of the RSM Patterson's family and the QOR Association attended.



QOR Paratroopers board a CC-130J Hercules in CFB Trenton for a double door, full equipment parachute descent on to DZ Hodgson during Exercise Pegasus Knight in June 2017

September finished with a change of command from LCol Sandi Banerjee to LCol Frank Lamie. During the parade the unit conducted the traditional double past something we had not done in years. The change was well attended and was followed by an equally popular mess dinner that served as the dining out for LCol Banerjee.

Exercise Mountain Leader, our annual complex terrain refresher weekend held at Rattlesnake Point Conservation area kicked off the month of October. This was followed by several Riflemen deploying to CFB Trenton to support 436 Sqn during their Tactical Airdrop Training (TAT) exercise. The unit also deployed to CFB Petawawa at the end of October for Exercise Maroon Sword 2. This exercise focused on developing individual, pairs and group live fire skills.



Members of the QOR Honour Guard and Band in Mesil Patry, Fance during the Vimy 100 visit April 1st -9th, 2017

November started with two ceremonial events, the first was our annual Remembrance Day "Church Parade", in which we march from Moss Park Armouries to the regimental church, St Paul's, on Bloor Street. The second event took place a week later and was a ceremony to unveil the Afghanistan theatre honour on the Cross of Sacrifice at St Paul's. The following weekend we were back in CFB Petawawa to conduct an Company sized Airborne Raid during Exercise Maroon Sword 3. This exercise had the unit working with 3 RCR Recce Platoon and was supported by a CC-130J from 436 Sqn and CH-147 from 450 Sqn. Unfortunately, weather kept the aircraft grounded but the mission continued. To end the month several Airborne Riflemen returned to Petawawa to participate in CH-147 jumps with 3 RCR.



Members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team at Vimy Ridge in July 2017

The year ended with Exercise Pegasus Knight 2 in which the QOR conducted a full-equipment, double-door parachute jump onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton. The jump also had many participants from the CAAWC participate including a Jumpmaster Course that had the opportunity to complete their final checks to obtain their qualification.



Members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team at Camp Humensoord, Netherlands in July 2017

2017 is a great exemplar of the exceptional dedication and work ethic that our Riflemen have. We look forward to an equally busy 2018.



WO de Bartok prepares to lay a wreath at the Afghanistan Memorial CFB Trenton with Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall during her visit with Charles, Prince of Wales, June 30, 2017



Members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team on the march in July 2017



QOR Paratroopers board a CC-130J Hercules for a jump onto DZ Hodgson, CFB Trenton during Exercise Pegasus Knight 2 that was held on December 6th, 2017



Riflemen advance during Ex Steadfast Warrior in August 2017. Photo by: Cpl Dremanis



Cpl Abra and members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team playing Last Post in Paeshendale July 2017



Members of the 2017 Nijmegen March Team at Sgt Aubrey Cousens grave in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery July 2017





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Capt Larry Hicks, CD joined the Queen's Own in 1971 as a rifleman and progressed through the ranks quickly attaining the rank of Sergeant within a few years. During this time he was part of the Regiment's historical and ceremonial guard the Skirmishers including portraying a Queen's Own soldier of 1885 for the CBC documentary *The National Dream*.



Larry was commissioned to Lieutenant in the mid 1970's. During this time he was course Officer for the Toronto Militia District's first combined Driver (Wheeled) Course.

Capt Hicks re-mustered trades to Logistics Officer and was promoted to Captain as the Unit's Finance Officer. It was as Finance Officer that he traveled to England and Normandy in 1994 with the Queen's Own contingent to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Larry spent the last few years of his 40 year military career at the 32 Canadian Brigade Group Battle School where he was Course Commander for numerous courses including the Basic Military Qualification for new recruits.

In his day job, Larry was a police officer with the Toronto Police Services, he spent 15 of those 37 years as a crime scene Detective retiring with the rank of Sergeant.

Larry began volunteering at the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma in 2013 shortly after retiring from both the police and army. Along with other duties, he photographed, scanned and processed thousands of photographs and objects and was the prime curator of the Museum's Flickr site which has over 11,000 photos uploaded mostly by Larry.

Capt Hicks passed away on 23 March 2018.



Major Erik R.C. Simundson, OMM, CD, was born in 1945 and was a member of the Jarvis Collegiate Cadet Corps #2216. In 1963-64 he was appointed the Cadet Commanding Officer with the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

He joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a rifleman at the age of 16, rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, and served as the Regimental Sergeant Major from 1977 to 1980.

After his term as RSM was completed he was commissioned as a captain, eventually being promoted to major and appointed as the regiment's Deputy Commanding Officer.

He was awarded the Order of Military Merit on 29 September 2000, and was also awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002.

During his military career Major Simundson took a continuing keen interest in the activities of the pioneers and skirmishers and did much to encourage extraordinarily high levels of deportment and drill competency which attracted much attention when they paraded with the regiment.

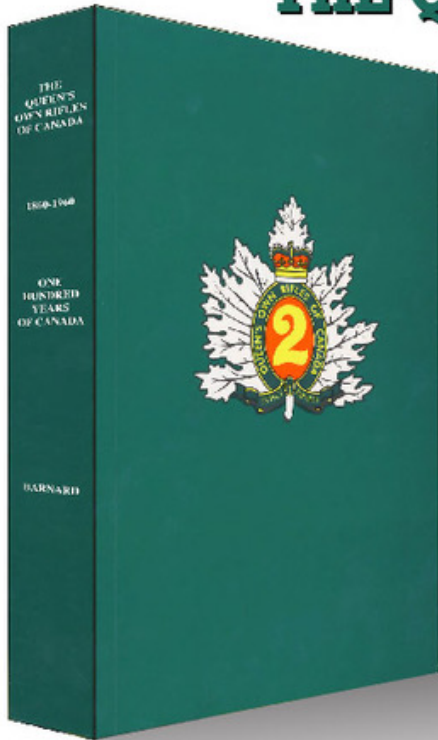
Erik was also known for his series of watercolours featuring the uniforms of riflemen over the history of the regiment.

Erik died 25 February 2018.

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

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VIMY REMEMBERED

100th Anniversary

In March of 2017, I was honoured to receive an invitation from Veterans Affairs to travel to France as part of the Canadian delegation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. At these celebrations I would be representing The Queens Own Rifles of Canada.

I was rather humbled to share this journey with so many Canadians from Coast to Coast to Coast but at the same time I welcomed the invitation. It would give me a first hand insight to the related stories and History of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and to learn first hand the achievements and sacrifices of so many Canadians.

To be in the company of so many participating dignitaries, the 21 Gun Salute, the Flypast by replica biplanes, the Placement of Boots by Their Royal Highnesses, various Guest Speakers, the Act of Remembrance, the Last Post, the Laying of Wreaths, the singing of, Dedicated to You, by Johnny Reid is all beyond words and only with a presence can you appreciate it all.

With the numerous presentations by musical performers, related guest speakers and the overall ceremony itself added immensely to making this event one to forever remember. Participating gives you time to reflect on the sacrifices these men and women in uniform encountered in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Vimy Ridge was captured by the Germans in October of 1914 and held for 2 ½ years with unsuccessful attacks from the French and British troops. On April 9th, 1917 the Canadians launched the Battle of Vimy and after 3 days of fierce combat and over 10,000 casualties the Canadian Corps seized the previously held Vimy Ridge on April 12th, 1917 with 3598 Canadian loss of lives and 7000 wounded.

Only after being a part of these celebrations did I realize just how important it is to continually remind this generation and future generations the importance of the need to remember the heroic sacrifices of those long gone. There aren't any soldiers left from the 1st World War, so really it is up to us, as Canadians, to make sure their stories are never lost or forgotten.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent all Members of The Queens Own Rifles of Canada.



Respectfully submitted.
Tom Martin

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA TRUST FUND

Overall 2017 was a successful year for your Trust Fund as it continued its mandate of providing support to the CO and Regiment, the Museum, Monuments and Memorials, RHQ and the Regimental Family.

At the end of 2017, 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 E. A. Rayment, CD, , Former HLCOL. 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,

During the year the Regiment's trip to France was very generously supported completely by donations from Hon LCol Lionel Goffart to the Trust Fund. In addition the Cross of Sacrifice was repaired and refurbished with the addition of the Afghanistan Theatre Honor at a cost of \$42,000 offset by a grant from Veteran's Affairs of \$21,000. Funding in support of the Regimental Museum was approximately \$15,000. Fund raising in cooperation with the Museum raised approximately \$3,000 to replace the grave marker for Bugle Major Swift in 2018. Regimental activities were supported in the amount of approximately \$11,000 including the Regimental children's Christmas party. The Rifleman magazine was published and mailed to members of the Regimental Association at a cost of \$11,000 paid by the Trust Fund offset by advertising revenues of \$4,700.

Having said all of the above, fundraising continues to be our highest priority as our donor base continues to decline.

As in past years the focus of support will be on the CO and the Regiment, The Regimental Museum and Archives, Memorials and Monuments and support of RHQ including the Rifleman.

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

Yours Regimentally,

Major (ret'd) Anthony (Tony) Schultz, CD





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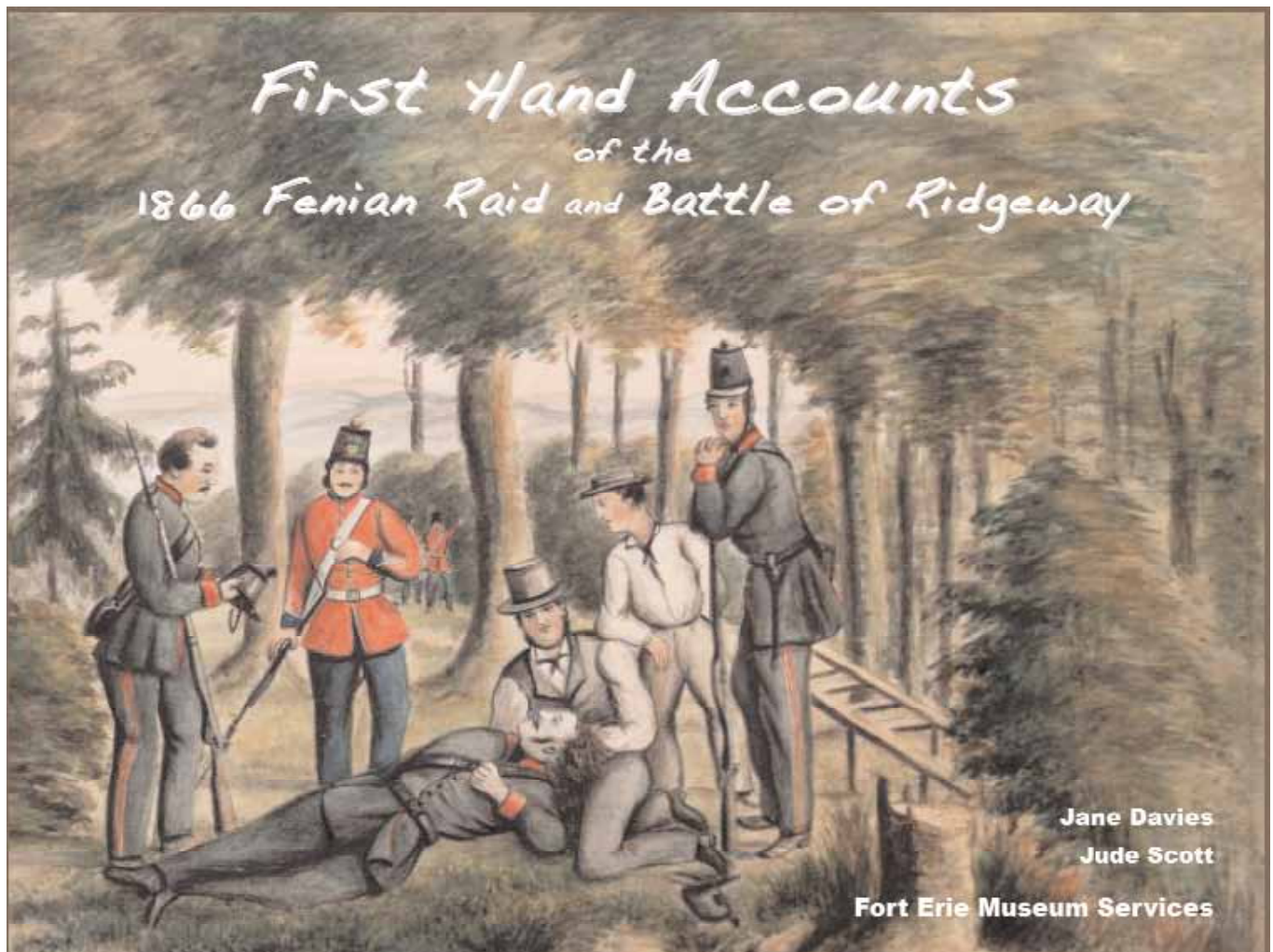
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This full-colour, 77-page, hardcover book features quotes from people who were involved with the 1866 Battle of Ridgeway, including: soldiers on the front lines; doctors caring for the wounded; and citizens fleeing from the enemy.

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**



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association

TORONTO BRANCH

1235 Trafalgar Road

P.O. Box 84024

Oakville, ON L6H 3J0

Greeting's and welcome to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association (Toronto Branch) that covers all the Ontario & Quebec Area. We held the Toronto Association Annual Meeting this past April. This is where I was nominated and elected President for the second time. If you remember I was President back in 1995 till 1999. After that I still continued to serve on the Executive over the years. I would like to thank my predecessor Ron Craig for his dedication and service as President over the last 3 years.

Association Activities

As in previous years, we participated in a number of activities and events, including:

D-Day Ceremonies at Moss Park Armory & Toronto City Hall • Korean Veterans Association Memorial in Brampton • Warriors Day Parade - CNE • March to the Cross of Sacrifice at St. Paul's Church for the annual QOR Remembrance Church Parade • Remembrance Day Ceremony at St. Paul's Church • QOR Soldier's XMAS Dinner Quarterly Pub Nights • Stand too BBQ with Regiment at MPA • Family Day with Regiment • QOR Regimental Exercises – Supplying coffee, drinks and donuts for troops • Other events of interest that support and benefit the Association and Regiment.

One of our biggest events is our Annual Golf Tournament. This year on Friday July 7th, the 12th Annual QOR Association Golf Tournament at Station Creek Club Link Course was a great success with 124 golfers.

As usual, Dave Lavery did a fantastic job of organizing the golf tournament and securing prizes. Members of the Association worked hard on various events and ensure the golf tournament was a great experience for the golfers who show up each year to support the Toronto Association. Also thank you for the support from the serving members of the Regiment.

Veteran's

In addition, throughout the year we look after our Veterans.

Health & Welfare

Visit and send appropriate items such as flowers (planter) or fruit basket and "Get Well Card" to members this also goes the same for members that pass away they receive a "Sympathy Card".

Presentations

Rifleman of the Year

Rifleman of the Year was presented to an Association member who has gone above and beyond in service to the Association and support of the Regiment and Regimental Family. This year's recipient was Brenda Butt, Treasurer for the Toronto Association. Brenda, has displayed outstanding commitment and dedication to the Association and Regimental Family, and is a most worthy recipient of Rifleman of the Year.

Beverly Hughes Award for Excellence

The recipient of the Colonel Paul and Beverly Hughes Award for Excellence is John Stephens, Curator QOR Museum. His commitment to excellence as Curator can be seen by the daily operation of The Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Museum at Casa Loma. His support of the Association and promotion of the Association within the Regimental Family has been outstanding. This award recognizes his accomplishments and his commitment to excellence that continues to define the history of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

D-Day 75th Anniversary Tour – (First 2 weeks of June 2019)

The Association is looking at putting together a Tour to Normandy, France, Belgium and possibly Holland. There will be more information available at a later date. Those interested please contact me.

Membership

In recent years, our membership has decreased. In order to continue to carry out the important work we do in support of our Veterans and current serving members of The QOR, we need your support by renewing your membership. We also welcome back any members who want to volunteer in some capacity.

It is our goal to make sure our Association remains one of the most active military Associations in Canada. By renewing your membership, you help us carry out our role in the Regimental Family. If you have let your membership lapse, please use this opportunity to rejoin the QOR Toronto Association, and become part of the QOR Regimental family – continuing a 102 years tradition of service to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association.

In closing if you happen to meet up with a former member of the Regiment tell him about the QOR Association and bring back the ties he had when he served.

CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden, CD, President

QOR Association (Toronto Branch) • brianbudden@rogers.com • qorassociationtoronto@gmail.com



QORA Golf Tournament
Station Creek Golf Course - July 6, 2017
Brian Budden, Frank Lamie Sr. (CO Father),
Allan Blackborow, Carl Ruttan



Ben Dunkleman's Plaque Unveiling - August 2017
Rob Chan, LCol Sandi Banerjee, HCol Walter Holmes,
Norm Gardner, Brian Budden, Jerry Senetchko,
Earl Gardner, Andy MacNaughton, RSM Donovan
O'Halloran, WWII Female Veteran



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QOR ON D-DAY by Sgt G Humphrey

The Third Canadian Infantry Division was chosen after the disaster at Dieppe to be the Division that would spearhead the Canadian invasion of mainland Europe. The invasion area that high command chose was Normandy, which is a landscape known for its picturesque beaches. Starting with the capitulation of France in 1940, the Germany Military would begin to reinforce this area and build defensive positions with help from the locals. The defensive positions started along the border with Spain and stretched to the northern tip of Norway.

The beach that was chosen for the Third Canadian Infantry Division would be code named, 'Juno Beach'. The landings would be at Coursuelles-sur-mer to the right, Bernieres-sur-mer in the centre, and Saint-Aubin-sur-mer to the left. The assault was carried out in four phases; Phase I – Assault and capture of the beachhead, Phase II – Capture of Divisional Intermediate objective, Phase III – Capture of Divisional final objective, and Phase IV – Re-organization of the final objective (Probably D plus 1).² The sector on Juno beach the Queen's Own was to assault was code named 'Nan White sector' which incorporated the town of Bernieres-sur-mer.

During phase I, the two Assaulting Companies Able and Baker would capture all of the beach defences and would also be involved with the landing of the Reserve Companies. Able Company and Baker Company were commanded by brothers Elliot and Charles Dalton, both were prewar members of the Regiment. Phase II consisted of the capture of Bernieres-sur-mer and the control of the main roads leading into the town from the south. Phase III would be the capture of the brigade objective of the contour line 80 which was south of Anisy and Anguerny.

On the morning of June 6th the Regiment boarded the HMS Monoway which was an ex merchant navy ship from New Zealand. Reveille sounded at 0315 and the Riflemen prepared for battle. At 0400 they started the transfer to the landing craft assault also known as LCA. At 0600 seven miles off the French coast the LCA's started their approach. At 0725, Bernieres-sur-mer was finally in view and the final barrage of the beach commenced. "With Bernieres-sur-mer just in sight, the air was filled with screaming shells, later, the rockets joined in; a veritable inferno that numbed the senses and shattered coherent thought." Supporting fire for the assaulting companies on Nan White beachhead included one cruiser, fleet and hunt destroyers, one Landing Craft Gun, and Landing Craft Tank with artillery inside. Due to rough seas the Duplex drive Sherman tanks could not launch thus the assaulting companies did not have tank support.

The landing craft the Canadians utilized would differ from the classic Higgins boats. Instead the British variant was used, which was called the Landing Craft Assault also known as LCA. Each landing craft contained 36 personnel. Inside the LCA there would be three separate lines of 12 personnel. The difference between the British LCA's and the American Higgins boats was a ramp that had two armour plated doors where one Rifleman would exit at a time.

The Allies knew the German defenders of the 716 Infantry Division were a low category division. Personnel consisted mainly of young soldiers, older classes unfit for services on Eastern Front and wounded but only slightly disabled veterans. Divisions of this type originally had two infantry regiments but this division received at least 3000 reinforcements during January, which indicated that a third regiment was being formed. New personnel comprised of Polish, Russian, and German juveniles. In comparison with a first class field regiment its fighting value had been assessed as 40% in a static role and 15% in a counter attack."

The coastal defences along the beach had been reinforced with rows of anti-craft obstacles approximately 170 yards from the rear of the beach. Timber and stakes were erected in a single row in front of the town. The seawall was 10 feet high with a concaved, sloping stone wall with buttresses for support at about 20 foot intervals. There was also a rail and wire system that was placed along the top of the wall. This seawall stretched for approximately 1900 yards in front of the town. Along the beach there was also a row of mines for about 1800 yards. The road just behind the seawall contained four rows of mines between the beach and road for about 700 yards. Wire was placed



directly in front of the town along the seawall for 400 yards and turned inland around the defences. There were small gaps in the wire running at right angles to the coast, then a belt of wire stretching through an inundated area for 1700 yards to the coast, the wire continued along the coast for a distance of 1500 yards. Just on the eastern side of the town a 15 foot wide anti-tank ditch was constructed.

On the approach to the beach, the two leading assaulting companies were distributed into 10 LCA's. As the sea was too choppy, the DD Sherman tanks from the Fort Garry Horse were not launched. They were intended to support the assaulting companies which ultimately forced them go into it alone. Over a frontage of 2500 yards there was approximately a football field between landing crafts. The demolition teams landed consisting of 129 men of A Company, 129 men of B Company along with six men attached

from the 14th Cdn Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery – Forward Observation officers, and 12 men from 16th



Cdn Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers.

The serials of the ten landing craft assaults were serials 1428 to 1437. Baker Company landed in front of the strong point of the defence of the town. The strong point included roughly eight machine guns in concrete emplacements, two 50mm guns on the seawall and two 80mm mortar posts inland. The company suffered heavy casualties including three officers, the CSM, and two sergeants.

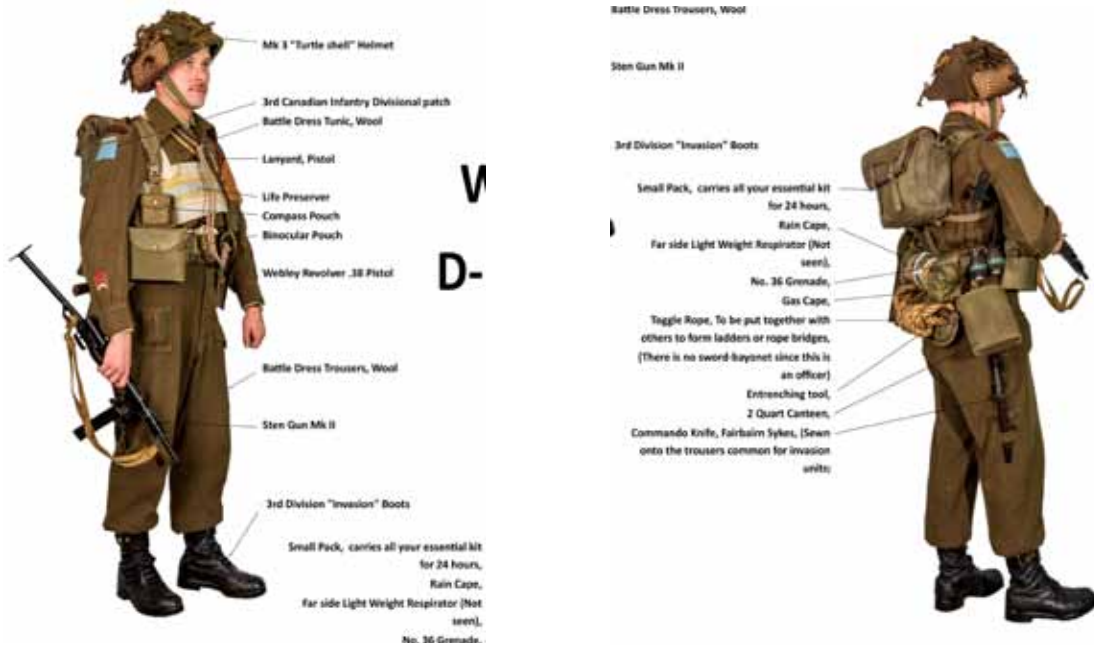
One boat of Baker Company which was commanded by Lieutenant Hank Elliot sustained damage to its rudder. This caused the vessel to veer off to the east flank of the town, which landed them in a break in the seawall. This allowed the Riflemen easy access into the town and allowed them to flank the gun positions. Meanwhile Able Company made easy work on the beach defences and made their way inland stopping at the south end of the town where they started to dig in.

At H plus 20 minutes the rest of the battalion would land in 12 landing craft assaults from HMS Duke of Wellington, SS Isle of Guernsey, and from HMCS Prince David. On Landing Craft Assaults serials 1451 – 1462 which had the battalion Chaplain H/Capt JC Clough, C.C.S., three men from the Divisional Signals, 13 men from the 16th Canadian Field Company, RCE, 14 men from 14th Canadian Field Regiment, RCA, 19 men from 22nd Cdn Field Ambulance, RCAMC, four men from La Regiment de la Chaudiere – Unit Landing Officer party, one man from North Nova Scotia Regiment, 18 men from 184 Field Company, RE, four men from 19 Beach Signals Section, two men from 10th Canadian Armoured Regiment (The Fort Garry Horse) – Liaison Officer, two men from 244 Provost Company, seven men from 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment – Beach Group, three men from RN Beach Signals Section, and two men from RN Beach Commando – Assistant Beach Master Party totaling 93 individuals. LCA Serial 1482 had eight men from Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada – Battalion Command Group, three men from Contact Detachment, four men from 14th Field Regiment, RCA, four men from Detachment “A” Troop, 3 Bombardment Unit J, one man from “K” Section (8CIB), 3rd Cdn Inf Div Signals, seven men from 19 Beach Signals, 12 men from RN Beach Commando, and 10 men from RN Beach Signals totalling 52 men.



Before the invasion of Juno Beach the Riflemen of the regiment were untested. But by the end of the day they accomplished not only their objective, but held it which made the Regiment one of only a few units through out the entire allied invasion to do so. The sacrifices of these fine Rifleman was heavy: 61 other ranks were killed or died from wounds, six officers and 91 other ranks had been wounded, and five others had suffered battle injuries.

With the objective secured and their reputation kept the battalion would dig in and lick it’s wounds. The battalion would then serve with distinction to the end of the war.





In 2017, the Memorials Program concentrated its efforts on the refurbishment of the Cross of Sacrifice at the Regimental Church, including the addition of the battle honour 'Afghanistan'. The new markers installed in 2016 commemorating the 3rd Battalion battle honour of Mount Sorrel were removed and placed in storage in Ypres, due to a now-resolved conflict with the local town council regarding placement of the memorial. They will be re-installed at a new location in 2018.

For 2018, the Memorials Program is planning to:

- Re-install the Mount Sorrel markers, adding a base, Ypres Salient;
- Install a base for the St. Julien marker, Ypres Salient;
- Add an additional marker in the Ypres Salient (battle honour to be determined); and
- Update the Book of Remembrance at St. Paul's to reflect newly discovered riflemen whose deaths are acknowledged as attributable to service.

There was also a 'crowd-funding' effort by the Regimental Museum to raise funds for a memorial marker for the deteriorating grave of Bugle Major Charles Swift, who served the Regiment from 1866 to 1922. Of the approximate \$4,000 cost for the marker and base at St. James Cemetery, the Museum effort raised \$3,150, and the Trust Fund will cover the difference. The stone will be unveiled at St. James Cemetery in May/June 2018. We will remember them!



In Memoriam 2017-2018

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

Sybil Lavigne • BGen (ret'd) Louise (Lou) Bourgeois • RSM (ret'd) Bill Carlton
Alfred (Bud) John Warwick • Helen Evelyn Carsted, wife of Georger Carsted • Ed Sheriff
Bob Telford • Mike Welby • Ronald McIsaac • Capt Larry Hicks CD
Barry Russell • WO (ret'd) Al Tweten • Kenneth A. Barrett • Stan Gutherie
Nick Pope • Ken Charles Eyre • Todd Barnes • Maj. (ret'd) Maurice Whiting
Major (ret'd) John Whyte • Bob Forbes • Michael Kutka • Rollie Brown
John Avon Gibson - Korean Veteran • Leslie (Les) Szabo • Bon Aucoin • Len Cross • Ron Dillon
Major (ret'd) E.R.C. Simundson, OMM, CD • Bob Telford • Jack Hadley • Howard Ota
Mrs. Dora Rosealie MacKenzie (Wife of MGen (ret'd) Lewis MacKenzie)

"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.*

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