



Veterans' Memorial Unveiling

Charles McGregor, Editor

On one of those fine, mid-September days which typically bless this country each year, almost 2000 members of the Canadian Forces, WWII and Korean War veterans, Canadian Legion members, military cadets and police units marched to Queen's Park to attend the unveiling of a Veterans' Memorial on the front lawn of the Provincial Parliament Buildings.

Unhappily, for organizational reasons too numerous to relate here, many veterans, including those of The Queen's Own, were unable to attend an event which was designed to honour them, and the many Canadians just like them who have worn the uniforms of army, navy and air force units in the service of this country. However, the Regiment was represented by RCL Branch 344 members, and its colour party, led by Association President Bob Dunk and Legion President Mary Keates.

The new \$2 million, 30 metre-long granite monument, the first to be erected on the grounds of Queen's Park in over 60 years, is a most interesting structure. Its cold grey surface contains 44 etched scenes from Canada's war history. Co-chair of the memorial advisory committee, Maj-Gen Richard Rohmer, described it as "recognition by the Government of Ontario of the service rendered since (before) Confederation of all citizens who have served in Canada's military."

Ontario Lt-Gov James Bartleman said that "Over the years you have kept faith with your lost comrades-in-arms. Their spirit stands shoulder to shoulder with you here today. In poignant words and imagination this monument tells your story and theirs. May it keep the flame of gratitude alive in our hearts for years to come."

While the veterans formed up at College St and University Ave., the Canadian Forces personnel began their march to the ceremony at Queen's Park, under the



Queen's Own Association Toronto Branch, led by its Colour Party, President Bob Dunk and RCL Branch 344 President Mary Keates in the Veterans' Memorial Parade.

direction of parade coordinator LCol John Fotheringham, former CO of The Queen's Own, now Assistant Chief of Staff, 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

Serving on the Veterans' Memorial Advisory committee were former Queen's Own Adjutant Capt Kevin Sheedy and CWO Scott Patterson, current RSM. Director of Music Capt Rita Arendz led the band composed of musicians from the Queen's Own, Royal Regiment of Canada and 7th RCA who performed prior to and during the ceremonies at Queen's Park.

One final, personal note. While it was a good parade, and well worth watching, it was billed as "the largest military parade in Toronto since the end of World War Two." Whoever wrote that obviously never saw the now long-gone Annual Garrison parade in this city which saw every Toronto unit -- including many which are now disbanded -- parade down University Avenue, past the old Armouries, accompanied by as many as 20 military bands, cheered on by thousands who lined the streets to honour the troops.





D-Day+62 Ceremonies in France

(The following is excerpted from a report prepared by Tjarko Pot, a member of a QOR re-enactment group based in Holland. His complete report will appear in the 2006 issue of The Rifleman.)

Tuesday 6th of June (D-Day), Bernieres-Sur-Mer, La Maison des Canadiens

We drove to Bernieres-Sur-Mer where we were welcomed by the Hoffer family and were joined by three other members of the QOR Reenactment group, Rob van Meel, Henk Minne and Jan van der Sande. By 8.00 am, when the mayor of Bernieres-sur-Mer gave her welcome speech, there were some 140 people in front of the Maison des Canadiens. with 10 VIPs, the Military Attache from the Canadian Embassy in Paris and 12 Canadian veterans from the Regiment de la Chaudiere. Rob van Meel read the message of the Regiment and then the VIPs laid flowers, Gerben van der Els played the Last Post followed by two minutes of silence. The ceremony at the Maison des Canadiens was a big success and much credit goes to the family Hoffer who provided coffee and cake for a reception that followed outside and inside the house, which is a very special opportunity.

Place du Canada, Bernieres-sur-Mer

At 11.00am at Place du Canada in Bernieres-sur-Mer there was the official ceremony for all the regiments who landed at Bernieres sur Mer on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944. Close to 150 people attended the ceremony and there were 20 Canadian and British veterans. After some welcome words by the Mayor, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment de la Chaudiere gave a speech, then some children laid flowers at their monument. After that, Gerben van der Els played the Last Post, followed by the British, Canadian and French anthems. After the ceremony there was a reception by the beach where they served champagne, wine and coffee. Gerben received many compliments about his performance playing the Last Post, especially from the veterans.



Dutch QOR re-enactor Tjarko Pot salutes as Bugler Gerben van der Els plays "Last Post" at the 2006 D-Day Ceremonies at Bernieres sur Mer.

The Juno Beach Centre, Courseulles-sur-Mer

At 15.00 there was a ceremony at the Juno Beach Centre. At least 300 people attended the ceremony. Nathalie Worthington started the ceremony by thanking all the VIPs who attended the ceremony, including "representatives of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada". After some more speeches from VIPs, flowers were laid down by the monument and the Last Post was played followed by two minutes of silence. After the Canadian and French national anthems all the visitors were invited to have a drink and a little aperitif inside the Centre.

Beny-sur-Mer/Reviere Cemetery

The last ceremony of the 6th of June was at Beny-sur-Mer/ Reviere Cemetery with 250 people in attendance. The mayor of Beny-sur-Mer welcomed all the VIPs and after some speeches from local mayors and the Military Attache from the Canadian embassy, flowers were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice followed by the Last Post played by Gerben van der Els and two minutes of silence. Both Canadian and French anthems were played by the local music band.

At 140 to the minute, the British Army's newest Regiment, "The Rifles", will march in next year



In February, 2007 The Rifles will be formed from The Royal Green Jackets, The Light Infantry, The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry and The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry. Former Queen's Own 3rd Bn Sgt Ralph Schoenig advises that, to provide details on this momentous event in the long, storied history of Britain's military, an excellent website has been established.

To reach it go to: http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regts/the_rifles/regiment_today/index.htm. If you have difficulty getting on to it by "Googling" just e-mail me at mcc@sympatico.ca and I'll forward Ralph's message and you can go directly to it from that. Or you can e-mail Ralph at schoenig@rogers.com. Capt. Charles McGregor, Editor.



CO's Report: "The Only Constant Is Change"

LCol M.J. Delaney, CD, Commanding Officer

The only constant within the Regiment, the Reserve and the Regular Force today is change. Whether it is at the basic Platoon or Company establishment or how the entire Army Reserve may operate or possibly look like in the near future seems to be under review. At the present time we have the ARE (Army Reserve Establishment review) ongoing as well as the imminent establishment of TDBGs (Territorial Defence Battle Groups) are all initiatives to be considered.

This statement is not meant to cause alarm however, the only sure way to remain viable as a Reserve Unit today is to remain tactically sound, well trained, and prepared. The Regiment is in very good shape and that can be measured in a number of different ways:

- A total Parade of Strength of 207 in September
- Nine of our own Rifleman now serving with distinction in Afghanistan
- A 97 percent Unit Score in IBTS (Individual Battle Tasks Standards) for the 2005-06 (the highest score in 32 CBG)
- The highest participating numbers for an Infantry Unit in 32 Bde for last summers annual camp, VG 06
- An "excellent" rating for the Bde Staff Assistance Visit in 2006
- The Highest Recruiting numbers in 32 Bde in both 2005 and 2006

So while there may be change ongoing throughout the CF we will strive to maintain these high standards, which I believe, will prove this Regiment's only real constant.



Plaque commemorating the Daltons.



Above: Bob Firlotte, of the 1st Cdn Parachute Battalion and MWO Shaun Kelly CD in a moment of silence at the Cross of Sacrifice on the occasion of the Annual Remembrance Day Church parade, 5 November 2006.

Left: Mrs. Marie Dalton, widow of Col H. E. Dalton, DSO, ED, unveiled a plaque in the QOR's new Dalton Armoury in memory of her late husband and his brother Col C.O. (Charlie) Dalton DSO, ED, who were Queen's Own Company Commanders on D-Day. Also present were (l to r): Col Jerry Mann, CD, Commander of 32 CBG; Lt-Col Martin J. Delaney, CD, Queen's Own CO and Maj Allan Champion, CD, OC Buffs Coy.



"A Banner Year For The Queen's Own"

Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD



Well, so far, 2006 has been a banner year for The Queen's Own Rifles.

I start by reporting that the Commanding Officer has just informed the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and me that the current unit strength stands over 200. This is a credit to the CO, his officers, NCO's and the BOR staff. In my memory, this is the highest strength ever attained by the Militia battalion. Having undergone the personal frustrations of attempting to source recruits and get them through the maze at CFRC I can tell you this is no mean accomplishment. I also would also expect that this strength is the highest in 32 Brigade (this brigade covers Toronto and environs).

Added to the above is the good news I recently received about the Regimental Band and Bugles. For the past ten years the authorized strength of the band has been capped at six Bandsmen with the balance being made up of volunteers. Finally, after some intense lobbying at various levels, the 'system' has come to its senses and redistributed the paid positions within 32 Brigade. The result is we now have, or shortly will have, 24 paid positions. Not perfect, but a good start. I am sure these additional positions will make the job of the Director of Music easier in keeping up the Militia and QOR profile in the Toronto area.

One project I have been working on during much of 2006 is attempting to establish a cadet bugle band in the 2881 Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps. This project is progressing well with the assistance of a number of dedicated helpers, both past and present, including: George Walford, Phil ten Kortenaar, Major Champion, Capt Fasey, Dr John Fielder, Robert Frankling to name but a few. Although the project is moving ahead more slowly than I had hoped it is gathering momentum and interest as we move forward.

The Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and I had occasion to briefly attend the annual summer concentration of the Area in CFB Petawawa in August 2006. Vigilant Guardian 06 was based on operations being conducted by Canadian troops in Afghanistan complete with Afghan civilians, local Afghan police and wily Taliban fighters. (As a sidebar, the CO informs me that currently we have nine soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.) I should comment we found the morale and fitness among the QOR superb, their equipment beyond anything I have ever seen in my experience, and our strength one of the highest, if not the highest, in the Area.

Reverting to Toronto, the opening of the Dalton Armoury had to be a highlight of the year. The facility, for those of you who have not seen it, is superb and a welcome addition to our presence in the Scarborough area. It was great to see Marie Dalton (wife of Elliot Dalton DSO) and the whole Dalton clan in attendance for the opening. The weather was awful but did not deter a good turnout from the Regiment and the Band. It was rewarding to see the band sporting their new busbies and rain wear.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great work being done by Lieutenant Colonel Bob Campbell and his team in Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) who are working hard to upgrade the kit shop, the QOR web page and on many other issues. All this to take some of the burden off our over-tasked Officers and NCOs.

Finally, I must thank all those other volunteers within the Regimental family who work tirelessly, and without remuneration, to help make the QOR what it is and what we have come to expect, namely, one of the best, if not the best, Militia unit in Canada.

Once in The Queen's Own, always in The Queen's Own.



Lots Happening With The Toronto Branch

Bob Dunk, President

A Wine and Cheese Party was co-hosted with the Sergeant's Mess on Saturday, December 17th. There was an excellent turnout from both Mess members and Association members and their families. Many thanks to the Senior NCOs for their wonderful selection of wines and cheeses. It was a great afternoon and we look forward to a similar event this year.

On Saturday, April 22, following the opening of the new Dalton Armoury, in celebration of the Regiment's 146th Birthday, we hosted a Mystery Dinner Theatre at the Legion. Busy day! Tickets were limited to 100 guests and went quickly. Attendees had their choice of a roast beef or chicken dinner and were entertained by a troupe of professional actors who enlisted the interactive help of the guests to solve the mystery. It was great fun! We must take this opportunity to thank two major corporate sponsors who stepped forward to support this event, namely Crown Rust Control and Toronto Hydro. Clay Downes and his committee did a first rate job of organizing this event.

As many of you may know, the Association was started in 1916 by Sir Henry Pellatt to relieve the suffering of QOR soldiers being held as POW's in Germany. This October is the 90th anniversary of the Association and in keeping with our original mission statement, all proceeds from this event will be used to support our soldiers serving overseas on UN and NATO postings. These funds, now known as the Queen's Own Riflemen's Fund, will be administered by a three man committee -- Padre Craig Cameron, Buzz Currie and Clay Downes. The primary goal is to provide supplies and equipment to assist our soldiers in humanitarian efforts while on UN or NATO duty. A major fund raising event will be held each year in support of this fund.

To accommodate the opening of the Dalton Armouries, the date for our AGM was moved to Saturday, May 13th. The results of the election were as follows: President, Bob Dunk; First Vice-President, Norm McCracken; Second Vice-President, Brian Budden; Treasurer, Doug MacNeil; Secretary, Rob Grieve; Sick & Welfare, Brian Budden; Membership, Dave Lavery; Directors elected for the year are Neil Arseneault, Buzz Currie, Craig Cameron, Clay Downes, Andy Macnaughton, Frank Pearce, Rocco Polsinelli, Ralph Schoenig, Gerry Senetchko, Frank Sypulski, Ed Teatro, Jaan Tuju and David Vine.

On Saturday, June 3rd, Association members from Toronto attended the dedication of a Province of Ontario historical marker commemorating the Battle of Ridgeway. The unveiling took place at Old Fort Erie and the marker will be permanently installed at the corners of Ridge Road and Bertie Road right on the original battlefield just outside the town or Ridgeway.

In August, the Association, led by Brian Budden and augmented by the colour party and members of our

own RCL Branch 344, did us all proud at the Warrior's Day Parade held at the Canadian National Exhibition. They were awarded the Goodyear Remembrance Trophy as 2nd prize for marching groups of 21 or more!

Wednesday, August 30th saw our first annual golf tournament held at Heather Glen just east of Toronto. Fifty golfers had a shotgun start at 1000 hrs followed by a delicious steak BBQ on the deck overlooking the 9th green. Major prizes were donated by Paul Hughes and Phil ten Kortenaar and everyone went away with at least one prize. Thanks again to Dave Lavery and Toronto Hydro for their support of this event. By popular demand, look for news of our next golf event to be held in late June next year.

Our annual Association Shoot was once again held at Langemark Range, CFB Borden on Saturday, September 9th. An early morning rain and cool temperatures did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of more than 90 shooters. George Galea took the honours for best shot with a score of 49 out of 50. Many thanks to Rob Grieve and his staff for once again running a very safe and enjoyable event.

On the weekend of October 22/23, the Association and RCL Branch 344 organized a bus trip to Ottawa to visit the War Museum. Forty five members took advantage of the offer and had a great time touring the museum on Saturday and again Sunday morning. Saturday night the group was kindly hosted by a local Legion for a few drinks and some fellowship.

As you can see, it's been a very eventful year in Toronto Branch. The executive has worked very hard organizing and running these events. All executive members are to be congratulated on their dedication and hard work this past year. The best way to thank them is to get out and support these events and get involved. If you've not been out for a few years, you'll be amazed at how many people have been asking about you!

Finally, we have lost many members this year as you can see by the In Memoriam section. All will be missed, but particularly Gus Amodeo who served as our Sick and Welfare chairman for many years in Toronto. Gus selfishly gave of his time to contact and comfort members even while fighting his own battle with cancer. Many of you have received a call or a card from Gus over the years and his genuine concern for the well being of others will be greatly missed.

Keep checking the website for upcoming events. We are planning to co-host the Wine & Cheese Party with the Sergeant's Mess in December; another Mystery Dinner Theatre in February or March; a dinner/dance for the Regimental Birthday in April; a dinner/dance boat cruise of the Toronto islands in the early summer as well as our next golf tournament in late June. Don't miss out on the fun!



Plans for 2007 Reunion Well Underway

Ben Turpin, Secretary

As you were! For various reasons it's been necessary to change our original plans to have the 2007 Reunion in Halifax so we're heading to Cape Breton Island and Sydney instead. Tom Martin and his team have booked the Officers' Mess at the Armoury in the "Steel City" for the weekend of 15 September 2007. This is a new facility and is a lovely place. Regarding accommodation, our team in the Maritimes is looking for the best deal and reduced rates at the hotels.

This reunion is a full weekend deal. The meet and greet will be held on Friday the 14th, with a sit down dinner on the 15th in the Officers' Mess, with the executive "Piped In". Big bonus! We don't have to pay for the service or catering, just the food. Cocktails will be served on the night of the event. There will be an open bar. Sunday there is a parade in the drill hall. This should bring back some old memories. (Tallest on the right, shortest on the left, fall in. Queen's Own RIFLES!)

As I understand it the military will provide the transportation for those who need it. We'll confirm this as soon as we can. Anyone flying in will be picked up at the airport as well as anyone "boating" over can arrange transportation from the Terminal at North Sydney. Now get this - All for free.

There's lots to do in Sydney and of course the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site is located on the southeast coast and is easily accessible by road from there. This is an exciting and entertaining lesson in history

which takes visitors back to the 1700s and if you haven't yet visited, this is your chance!

Check the Association website at <http://www.personainternet.com/rifleman/> to get updates on what we are doing as well as to check the names of those on a list of the people who will try to make it to Reunion Sept 2007. We have already had two reunions, both held in St. John's, Newfoundland. Tom Midgley, as well as others, wrote about the great time they had. Tom said how amazed he was at "how many I could still recognize without having to look at their name tag and I was impressed to learn they had lived fruitful and interesting lives, choosing many different vocations, after leaving the service. After a brief business meeting the evening turned into a real toe tapping experience. My wife and I loved to hear the Newfoundland music and joined in some of the dances. But, just try and out-dance a Newfoundlander. They are amazing dancers."

Now it's Nova Scotia's turn. I'd like to thank Bill Minnis for his large and valuable input. I would like to say a special thank you to Tom Martin and Ivan MacPhee for the extensive travel, emails, and planning they have already undertaken on our behalf. Please contact Ben Turpin ASAP if you plan to go. Email bturpin@personainternet.com or phone at (709) 466-3627, if I'm not available; please leave a message with your name and phone number, I'll get back to you. Hope to see y'all in Sydney!



Vancouver Island Members Extend an Invitation

Bob Drinkwater

"The Branch decided to forego its regular October Happy Hour in favour of a Dinner/Dance which was held October 21st at the Langford Legion. We had a fairly good turnout for the first time event with a total attendance of 103 Members & Guests including some guests from the PPCLI and Black Watch Associations who all remarked how nice it was to attend an Association event that was so well supported by its Members. We didn't have the heart to tell them that we usually have to turn people away from the Regimental Birthday Dinner/Dance for lack of space. This event was a success solely because of the work done by Jim Carroll who did all the organizing and ticket sales.

Thanks also to Bill Brayshaw for obtaining a number of excellent the door prizes.

The regular monthly lunches at the Pro-Patria Legion and coffee breaks at the MGM Cafe in Nanaimo continue to be well attended by the Branch Members with the occasional drop-in from former comrades visiting our fair city. If any former Queen's Own are planning to be in Victoria during the Last Wednesday of any month and want to join us for lunch please let Jim Carroll know at (250) 727-2064 and he will advise the members you are coming. Our next scheduled event is the Branch Annual General Meeting scheduled at the Langford Legion January 20, 2007 at 1330 hrs.



A Memorable Trip to the Canadian War Museum

Brian Budden

A total of 45 people, 13 of them veterans, enjoyed a bus coach trip to Ottawa recently to visit the new Canadian War Museum. The weekend included accommodation at the Embassy Hotel & Suites Hotel, a Friday night dinner at Tucker's Marketplace, a Saturday evening reception at RCL Branch 480 and a tour of CWM on Sunday lasting almost four hours.

The group was joined by QOR D-Day Veteran Bill Ross, his son Mark from Montreal and Rob Cullen from Keswick. We were also delighted to have the pleasure of Wim Felix and Emmy Stegeman from Rha, Holland to join

us for our tour. Very great friends of The Queen's Own, they were instrumental in establishing the memorial monument in Rha honouring Queen's Own members killed there.

A special "Thank You" to Ottawa Legion Branch President Jack Mclellan and members, RCL Branch 344 President Mary Keates, my 2 I/C Dave Lavery -- and our driver, Gerald Bolton, for getting us there and back safe and sound and helping out along the way. Finally, the state-of-the-art CWM is a MUST SEE for anyone interested in Canada's military history, A very memorable trip!!!



Come For Lunch With The Calgary Branch

Jack Glenn

At least 15 Calgary Branch members, many accompanied by their spouses, attended the 09 August memorial service for members of the Canadian Forces who have lost their lives in peace support operations. This year's ceremony, held at Buffalo Park in Garrison Green, featured the laying of a wreath in honour of the nine Canadian peacekeepers who were killed on 09 Aug 1974, when the Canadian Forces Buffalo aircraft ferrying them from Beirut to Damascus was shot down by Syrian forces. Al Polowick carried the QOR of C flag in the Colour party.

John Freidt's annual end of July garden party again stood out as the gala social event of the summer in post-Stampede Calgary. John's eclectic, award winning garden and his generous hospitality always attracts a good crowd, including many Association members from near and far.

Our president, John Cresswell, has been busy making presentations on behalf of the Calgary Branch. In October, he presented to No. 264 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Calgary, a framed print of the painting that hangs in the Sergeant's Mess at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto depicting the action for which Sgt. Aubrey Cosens was awarded the V.C. This framed print was donated by Hon. Col. Paul Hughes and his wife Bev on behalf of the Calgary Branch of the Association. In August John presented a plaque to the Colonel Belcher Care Centre, a veteran's hospital and senior's residence in Calgary, commemorating the 1966 unveiling of stained glass windows presented to the chapel at Currie Barracks in memory of members of the QOR of C who had given their lives in service to Canada. Those windows now brighten the auditorium of the Colonel

Belcher Care Centre. There is a bigger story here that I hope to pass on in a future edition.

Those readers who know Jim Taylor will want to be on the look-out for a new book that recounts some of Jim's military exploits. Written by Fred Bagley, a Calgary author, *They Answered The Call: Nine Canadians Go To War*, will be published by Detselig early in the new year. After training as a "Canloan" officer, Jim joined the 7th Bn King's Own Scottish Borderers as a platoon commander. In September of 1944, the 7KSOB was airlifted by glider with 1st British Airlanding Bde to an area north of Arnhem as part of Operation Market Garden. In the ensuing action, Jim was taken prisoner by the Germans. In the 1950s and 1960s, Jim served as adjutant and as a company commander with 2QOR of C.

The Branch's monthly luncheons continue to be held on the first Friday of each month at No. 264 (Kensington) Legion. Attendance averages around 20 to 30 and seems to be on the rise; we're hoping more people will show up next year. All Branch members and their guests are welcome at these get-togethers, which begin at 11:30 with drinks and lies. Lunch, for those who wish to partake and have given advance notice so enough tables can be reserved, begins at about 12:30. You don't have to be a Legion member to attend and you don't have to stay for lunch.

Our annual Branch Christmas Luncheon – not to be confused with the monthly luncheon – will be at No. 264 (Kensington) Legion on Sat. 16 December.

"I Stand Corrected..."

"I received the Spring 2006 edition of Powder Horn today and started reading it with great delight. All the articles are splendid, particularly, for me, those relating to our troops in Afghanistan. During my 21 years of service, Cyprus was the only overseas deployment for formed battalions. I was fortunate to get two tours there, one with the first battalion in 1965 under Lt Col CL (Kip) Kirby.

"I would like to suggest a couple of corrections for your column "40 Years ago in the Powder Horn." It is probably very pedantic but Hank Elliot's initials are "H.C.F", not "H.F.C.". Also, you list Elliot, Andryuk and Pitts as having commanded the 3rd battalion. Both Col Elliot and Col Pitts commanded the 1st battalion in Victoria. Col Elliot brought the battalion back from Germany and turned it over to Kip Kirby in 1965. Herb Pitts replaced Col Kirby in 1967. I served for all three COs.

"Col Steve Andrunyk replaced Col Robinson as CO of the 2nd battalion in Calgary. Up until the reduction of the 2nd battalion to nil strength in 1968, the 3rd battalion was the militia battalion in Toronto. Also, there were two R22eR battalions in Quebec and Charlie Belzile commanded the battalion in the Citadel, not the one in Valcartier. I have listened many times Charlie speak about his tour in command.

"Please keep producing this excellent publication. I have been supporting the Regiment through a donation to the trust fund for quite a few years and I will do so again this year."

Ray Bunner, 1st Battalion, 1964 to 1969

(Contact the editor: Capt Charles McGregor, 22 Calder Cres., Whitby, ON, L1N, 6M3; 905-430-1680; mcc@sympatico.ca)

To all Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Extended Family

As most of you are aware Eastbourne, on the south coast of England, was 'home' to thousands of Canadian soldiers during the war. Among the units and regiments in the town was the QOR: its men were present in force. There are many references to the regiment's stay given in the book *Canucks by the Sea - The Canadian Army in Eastbourne during the Second World War*.

Published by Eastbourne Local History Society, the book is dedicated: "With grateful thanks to the men of the Canadian Army who served in Eastbourne during the Second World War."

It would be greatly appreciated if you could draw the attention of your members -- be they WW2 veterans or not -- to our book. It has been researched

over many years, and presents a slice of social and wartime history.

Kind regards

Michael Ockenden, Eastbourne Local History Society

'*Canucks by the Sea*' by Michael Ockenden: 187 pp with 75 illustrations, some in colour. UK orders (£7.99 + £1.10 UK postage) by cheque payable to Eastbourne Local History Society, Gote House, PO Box 169, Polegate, BN26 6AA, East Sussex. Payment in Canadian dollars with credit cards (£7.99 + £4.25 airmail) via Harpers Bookshop, 64 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UH, UK.

On line at www.harpersbookshop.co.uk



"Regiment is held in high regard"

Col Dick Cowling

(Honorary Lt-Col R.L. (Dick) Cowling, accompanied by Veronica Higgins, took the opportunity to visit the Allied Regiments of The Queen's Own Rifles during a trip to England in October. This is his report.)



25 September 2006. Canterbury. Met with Col Mike Ball, Regimental Secretary of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. He is a former Exchange Officer at FMC (HQ). The Regiment is formed into three regular battalions and one Territorial Army battalion. It is my intention to get con-

tact information from the TA (Reserves) battalion as a source for possible small unit exchanges between our two Regiments. The PWRR not only had the honour to have one of its members awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery under fire in Iraq (Private Johnson Beharry), it also chalked up two CGMs and numerous MCs.

9 October 2006. Winchester. Met with the Regimental Secretary of the Royal Green Jackets, Col Peter Chamberlin, also a former Exchange Officer (1 PPCLI.) The RGJ are being reorganised with the addition of Light Infantry and Line Infantry units to become an entirely new Regiment in the British Army -- "The Rifles". There will be five regular battalions and two TA battalions with a possibility of a third TA battalion. They are very much in the throes of closing out units and reforming the new battalions. They should be able to give us more information in the New Year, so look for news on this in the next issue of The Rifleman. I am of the opinion that there certainly should be a number of training possibilities with the TA battalions.

11 October 2006. Sandhurst. Veronica and I attended Mass at the Royal Military College Chapel and I found our Regimental plaque prominently displayed on a pew in the choir loft. Captain Grant Ashton, the Chaplain, was delighted to have a visitor from the Regiment.

End note. All of the contacts were positive, and I was made to feel very welcome. It is very apparent that our Regiment is held in high regard.

In Pace Paratus



Change of Command Ceremony

(On 15 June 2006 Hon. LCol Richard Cowling and LCol John Strathy attended The Chief of the Land Staff Change of Command parade at The Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.)

LCol Strathy reports that, "Lieutenant-General J.H.P.M. Caron passed over his Command of the Army to Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie.

"In attendance were The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Pioneers and Skirmishers who Fired the Volley and cleared the route for the safe passage to The War Museum. When Dick and I arrived The QOR of C Pioneers and Skirmishers were on parade in The

Lebreton Gallery. They also were part of the Procession leading the VIP Group to seating in a ceremonial manner.

"The Chief of the Defence Staff General R.J. Hillier took the General Salute and inspected the R22eR and 2 RCHA Honour Guard.

"After the ceremony of Change of Command a contingent of 20 persons RCR in Combat uniforms were paraded and the guests were informed that they were the next contingent to be called to Kandahar this summer. Very moving ceremony. Our Regiment was well represented by The Pioneers and Skirmishers."

"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas ..."

The Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Band and Bugles will be presenting Christmas Concerts in two locations again this year. At 1 pm on Sunday, 26 November, the band will take part in the Rotary Club of Orillia's Festival of Trees at OPP HQ in Orillia, 777 Memorial Ave. The proceeds from the concert go to the Rotary Club for its support to the community. On Saturday, 2 December at 2 pm there will be a concert at RCL Branch 344, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd, Toronto. All welcome.



VG06: “Taking command ... was intimidating, to say the least.”

Lt. W. Zachary Mantle, 1 Pl Comd, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Looking behind me crouched in the small trench that we had been following for the past hundred metres, I could see the OC making his final checks. “GO!” The C6 and its team scramble out of the trench and take a hard right. From the bushes I can see the locals take shock. Anxiously waiting I am holding back one sec.. Waiting for the ok, that the inner cordon around building 11, a multi-storey, multi-windowed building that has been identified as the town hall. I follow 1 section with my signaller and the rest of the platoon behind him. We made our media imbed stay at the ORV. Within twenty seconds the building is surrounded, no one in or out. The clearing, screening teams follow suit, and racing behind them I can see the engineers.

Vigilant Guardian 2006, staged at CFB Petawawa, not only tested its training audience to the max, it exercised me as the platoon commander to the utmost level. Coming straight from Gagetown fresh off of D.P. 1.1 and taking command of a platoon with many members having more time in than years in my life, was intimidating to say the least. Drawing on the Sr NCOs was a skill not taught in Gagetown. As 1 Pl within D Coy, one of three Infantry Companies within Task Force 32, I could see how each specialty within the army works together.

Much of the training that was conducted that week greatly paralleled that which had been taught at the Battle

School in Gagetown. The cordon and search, QRF and Urban patrolling principles been drilled into me this summer came back quite quickly when put into practice. All three of those operations were conducted this week with observer controllers watching at every moment. Each scenario gave ample chance for the section to take control and actually become the strategic corporal.

The week not only exercised the skills taught at the section and platoon level, but gave a good insight of a Task Force Head Quarters. Representatives from all arms of the task force would meet each morning for the Battle Update Brief (BUB). As the QRF representative for one of these meetings, the knowledge and experience of the senior leadership was seamlessly demonstrated.

The week was long and hard but absolutely worth the time invested. It tested each soldier at their level and beyond. The week was not without other benefits however. It gave each soldier the opportunity to work together and form that bond that every soldier has with the person standing beside him. It gave me the opportunity to see the friendships and esprit de corps develop. It showed who the Canadian army is.

In Pace Paratus



“Our focus on VG06 was to develop the tools we will all require ... To Survive”

Lt Christopher Potter, 4 Pl Comd, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

The cliché “an ounce of sweat saves a pint of blood” has regained new meaning within the Canadian Forces. Training now, more than ever, must be realistic and taken seriously. Given the pace of CF operations, we cannot afford to make mistakes, or fail to take our jobs seriously. The Canadian Forces Platoon is the most heavily armed of its kind in the world, but it is not effective without committed, trained soldiers. Our focus on VG06 was to develop the tools we will all require to be effective, and survive, in the contemporary operating environment.

VG06, as with previous Battle Group exercises was broken down into three major modules. Each company was given a different set of tasks that were to be completed during each module. This year, our Queen's Own Rifles contingent was allied with the contingent provided by the 48th Highlanders. We formed a composite company under the command of Major St. Denis, consisting of a Queen's Own Rifles platoon, 48th platoon, and a compos-

ite platoon under QOR command.

Throughout the exercise, the soldiers conducted gate security, tower security, quick reaction and urban patrolling tasks, however some of the best training was had during the second module. It involved a company of infantry, plus military police (to include US Army militia fresh from Iraq), engineer, artillery and armoured recce assets. Movement to the objective involved several lifts from Canadian Griffin helicopters. The objective secured, the high-priority targets in custody, a quick reaction force from the camp moved in. The company and its attachments moved to a nearby LZ where we were extracted by helicopter back to the FOB. The vehicle assets as well as the QRF were redeployed in a convoy after securing our exit. This operation demonstrated to all involved the necessity of being able to inter-operate effectively (to include the QOR and 48th Highlander infantrymen). Without this cooperation, the mission would not have gone off so well. This is a testament to the methods that we use to train our soldiers and leaders.

The Regimental Adjutant wants YOU!

Regimental Adjutant Col Don Ethell has done an outstanding job of developing a master mailing list of members of the QOR of C family from coast to coast. However there are many on the list whose email addresses are missing. Since RHQ is exploring the possibility of delivering Powder Horn and/or The Rifleman online to those who would like to receive news of The Queens' Own this way, we would ask you to forward your email address to Col Ethell at dsethell@allstream.net.

“In The Picture”



Hon Col Paul Hughes (back row) and Hon Lt-Col Dick Cowling, (front row) with members of the QOR of C at Vigilant Guardian 06 at CFB Petawawa in August.



Nine QOR D-Day veterans were among those who attended a summer picnic at the home of Bill and Verna Ives in Waubashene. Attendees were Bill Bettridge, Jack Martin, Don Martin, Bob Catlow, Harry Fox, Bill Ross, Orville Cook, Frank Sypulski, Frank Pearce, Ernie Martin and Brian Budden.



RSM Harry Fox MBE rides in style as a Guest of Honour at the 2006 Canada Day parade in Highland Creek, Ontario. The parade was led by the QOR Band and Bugles and included a contingent of 2881 Scarborough Rifles Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. The salute was taken and various presentations were made at the Highland Creek Legion Branch HQ.



Queen's Own Rifles of Canada D-Day veteran Joe Oggy is flanked by Mayor David Miller and Mrs. Oggy as Last Post is played at the D-Day Remembrance Ceremonies at Toronto City Hall on 6 June, 2006.



Form Riflemen! Form!

**The Pioneers and Skirmishers of the Regiment
are seeking members to fill up the Company.**

**Applicants should be ex members of the Pioneers or Skirmishers
or interested ex members of the Canadian Forces with
an historical background.**

Be of good character.

Physically fit to carry out their duties.

Willing to make a modest commitment of time for drill and training.

**Committed to supporting the corps and such limited taskings
which the corps takes on.**

~

**Remember the skill at arms and the excellent drill displayed by this
body when you served. Recapture the pleasure of a job well done.**

**Give us your experience and skill gathered over so many years
to place this corps at the top.**

Interested applicants should email:

Major (ret'd) Erik Simundson at

esimunds@gbrownc.on.ca

**When sufficient names are gathered, a meeting time and place will be
published to discuss the new role of this corps.**



BGen Stephen Andrunyk OMM CStJ CD



It was with profound regret that members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada learned of the death on 29 May, 2006, of Brigadier-General Stephen F. Andrunyk OMM, CStJ, CD. "Steve", as he was usually known when off-duty, passed away in his 83rd year at Barrie's Royal Victoria Hospital. A World War II veteran with service in Italy and north-west Europe with the Loyal Edmonton regiment, he remained in the Canadian Armed Forces on return to Canada in 1945 and served in various training, staff, and command appointments until retirement from the Regular Forces in December 1975 after 34 years of continuous service.

His major military appointments included command of the 2nd Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles 1964-1966, senior Training Advisor to the Commander of the Tanzanian Peoples Defence Forces 1966-1967, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of Ontario Region 1969-1971, and Canadian Forces Attache in Warsaw, Poland 1972-1974. On transfer to Supplementary Reserve in 1976, he served as Deputy Commander and then Commander of the Central Militia Area 1976-1980. On retirement from the Regular Forces, he was appointed President and General Manager of the Ontario Safety League, serving in that post until reaching retirement age in 1988.

For a number of years he was editor of The Powder Horn and was a regular visitor to Moss Park Armoury to attend Regimental events in Toronto, including Birthday ceremonies and Change of Command parades, as well as to meet former comrades and old friends at the annual Officer's Mess Dinner and the Christmas Luncheon. He was a valuable member of committees formed to plan the roles The Queen's Own would take

in the celebrations of D-Day+50 as well the organization of the Annual Toronto Garrison Ball which the Regiment hosted under his chairmanship in 1992.

BGen Andrunyk's service to his country was matched by his service to the Church, serving various Protestant Chapels during his time in the military. He was a dedicated and active member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (King St.) Toronto and Essa Road Presbyterian Church, Barrie. Many boards of management benefited from his wisdom and many children grew up under the caring leadership in Sunday School of a military man who loved the Lord and served him faithfully..

Dearly loved husband of Muriel (nee Pearsall), daughter of the late George and Harriet Pearsall, BGen Andrunyk is also survived by his sisters Olga and her husband Joseph Turchenek of Regina, Myrtle Kowalchuk of Regina, Sue and her husband Al Mosher of Saskatoon, and brother Bob and his wife Elsie of Saskatoon. Brother-in-law of Lloyd Pearsall and his wife Kay of Calgary, Joyce Smith and her husband Dean of Santa Ana, California, and Thelma Cockburn of Barrie.



IN MEMORIAM

Gen Steve Andrunyk
Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo
George Bolton
Bdsmn Bob Charman
Lou Decker
Frank Douglas
Lt Bob Little
Anthony Patrick (Pat) McCarthy
Rolph W. Jackson
Bruce Long
Maj Robert C. Newman
Roy Shettell
James Woodward