



The Rifleman

AUGUST, 1979 VOL. 2 NO. 2

A Journal of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA



REGIMENTAL SENATE

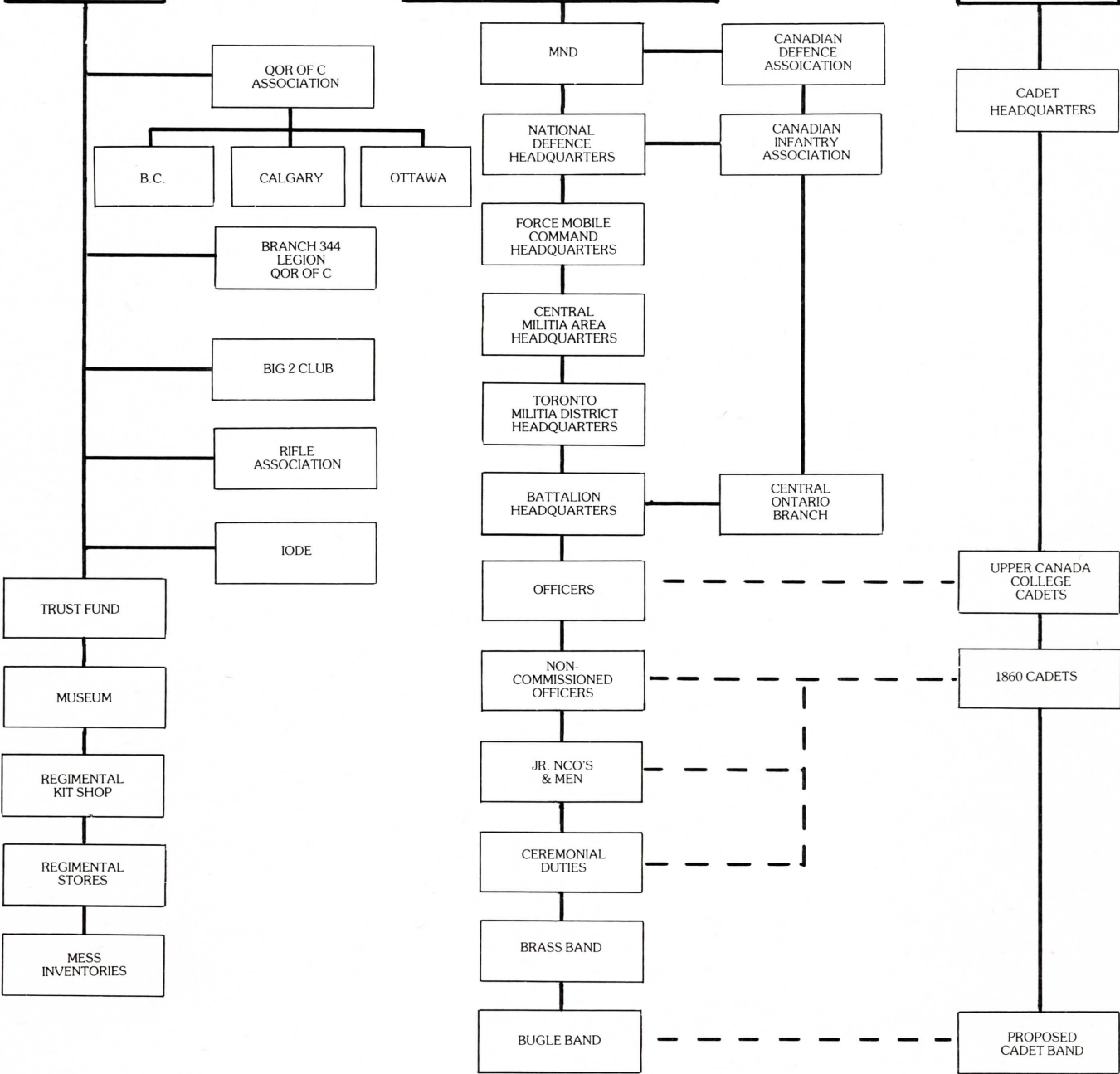
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The Rifleman



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Photo courtesy The Globe and Mail

Editor McNeillie

This photo depicts what you must feel like as a result of our incredible requests — but it's worth it!

EDITORIAL

The sub-title for this editorial could easily be "Ave atque vale", because this will be the last year of my personal involvement on the staff of The Rifleman. As with any volunteer effort, the Canadian Militia for example, the rewards have generally outweighed the exasperation.

Last year I drew the analogy between starting a family and starting a magazine. I think the metaphor can be extended, because members of a family must be nurtured, coaxed, encouraged, but finally, they must function on their own. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is no less a family than my metaphorical example. Like a family, the various branches of the regiment must communicate and support each other, even if they eventually end up working independently.

It has been very gratifying for me and the other staff members to have seen the manner in which The Rifleman has drawn together the disparate elements of the regimental family and given them a common forum for the exchange of information. This communication must continue.

To my knowledge, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is the only Canadian militia regiment to maintain and publish such a sophisticated annual journal. That is not merely a self-congratulatory statement, for like any endeavour, there is always room for improvement; but it is indicative of the importance that riflemen have traditionally placed upon communication. If The Rifleman is to provide members of the regimental family with news and a record of the year's activities and accomplishments, then it must be up to the readers to keep the information coming in.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your editor.

George McNeillie
Editor

OUR ERROR

In Vol. 1 No. 1 we failed to credit MCpl Josh Figa for his photographs of The Pioneers & Skirmishers. His contributions are a most welcome addition to our journal.

A Message From The Honorary Colonel



Honorary Colonel H.E. Dalton, DSO, EM

In my opinion, there has never been a greater need to have strong reserves in the three armed forces, but unfortunately the Canadian militia at the present time is probably numerically at the lowest ebb in the history of the country. If one deducts the bandsmen and those who could not physically pass the standard required for the army, we have a dismal situation indeed insofar as being able to call on the militia in case of an emergency in this country.

As far as The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is concerned, what bodies we have are enthusiastic but badly lack the training required to be of assistance to the permanent forces, due to a deplorable lack of weapons and training grounds.

Rather than state the condition of the unit, which is really the province of the Commanding Officer, I felt that this time it might be more beneficial to discuss two subjects: The Canadian militia, as it pertains to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and this journal, *The Rifleman*.

As I have discussed with the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, Barney Danson, the problem is not getting recruits, but in trying to hold them when we cannot give them proper challenges.

Two years ago, in an effort to get in some field training for The Queen's Own men who went to Germany to train with the Green Jackets, we were forced to borrow the farm of a major of The Royal Regiment, who was good enough to let the men dig and train on his property.

It seems to me that this is an extremely poor state of affairs, and unless rectified could do serious, if not irreparable harm to the Canadian militia.

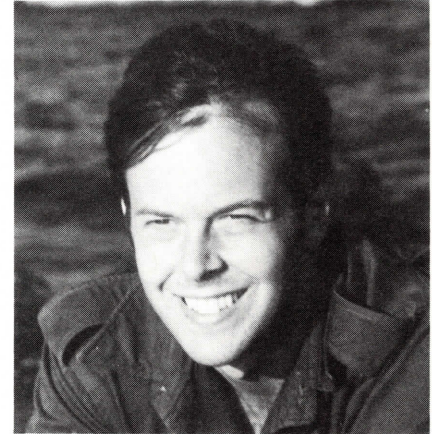
The paperwork to get a man in and out of the militia is absolutely enormous, and, to a large extent, we are spinning our wheels by bringing in recruits and losing them a year later for lack of interesting and challenging training.

Without wishing to sound like a harbinger of gloom, I would also like to comment upon this journal, *The Rifleman*, which, in its second appearance, has almost been put together in spite or itself. With our seasoned editorial staff retiring this year, we will have to strive even harder to continue putting out this fine instrument of regimental communications. Accordingly, I would like to urge all members of the regimental family to make an effort to contribute material to *The Rifleman* next year to ensure its continued success and quality.

We have many challenges in the year ahead, but I am confident that *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada* will perform up to their usual high standards.

Elliot Dalton
Honorary Colonel

FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGING EDITOR



Managing Editor Capt A. Hermant

There is certainly no doubt that our journal is gaining support. The financial situation this year has been greatly eased through generous contributions by so many. This does not mean, however, that we don't need more, we do, for we must continue to generate funds in order to keep up with inflation and also to provide you with our newsletter.

This is as good an opportunity, as any, to acknowledge special thanks for an outstanding effort and support of this year's product. Without the assistance of Joe Resnick and the Finance Committee, (LCol W. Wilson, LCol J.J.J. Power, LCol D.A. Pryer, LCol J. Strathy, Col H.E. Dalton, Bill Ives, Ken Evans, Jack Martin and Joe Resnick (again), there is no doubt that the burden would have been too great. Also I would be remiss if I did not thank personally Mrs. Joyce Reddin for her undying support and incredible energy as 'the Chief of Staff', We're The Type Inc. and last, but not least, our Editor, Mr. George McNeillie and his assistants, Capt Scott Ferguson, Lt Earl Gardner, Cdt Lt Phyllis Carlisle and MCpl Josh Figa.

Hopefully next year's journal will flourish and succeed and be as enjoyable in production as the past two. Those who take on this responsibility in the future will have a great guide to work from.

Again, thank you all for your interest, support and to any comments you may have concerning this production.

A. Hermant, Captain
Managing Editor



*Gurkha hero inspects Queen's Park Ceremonial Guard
Lt. Rambahadur Limbu, VC of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, inspects the
Legislature Guard of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at Queen's Park on Wednesday, 16
August, 1978. Lt Limbu is the only serving member of the British Forces to hold a Victoria
Cross. He won the award as a result of his gallant and daring action to rescue his comrades
during a furious assault in the Bau District of Sarawak on 21 November, 1965.*

From the Commanding Officer

The year has flown by very quickly and has been filled with many events, good and bad; enjoyable and sometimes not. However, it is a distinct pleasure to offer greetings to the second publication of 'The Rifleman' and to wish every good fortune to the magazine and its devoted staff, now and for the future.

The period began, of course, with the Regimental Birthday celebrations on the weekend of 22-23 April, 1978 and my assumption of command from LCol John Power on the Sunday. The event was fully described in an earlier edition of 'The Big 2' and, comprehensively portrayed in the last edition of 'The Rifleman'. It was a most auspicious event in my life and in that of my wife, Patricia and family.

Almost immediately we plunged into the preparations and training for an entirely new project, sponsored partly by the Government of Ontario, to be known as the 'Legislative Assembly Guard'. The concept originated with a guard mounted at Casa Loma during

the summer of 1977; an extension of the Pioneers and Skirmishers. The Legislative Assembly Guard was funded for wages under the Experience '78 Programme of the Ontario Secretariat for Youth. Uniforms and equipment were partially financed by a Winario grant and the balance by the Regimental Trust Fund. A driving force in obtaining the funds was Major (now LCol) The Honourable James Auld, then Minister of Industry and Tourism in the Ontario Government.

The Guard trained busily under the direction of RSM Eric Simundson and Sergeants Chan, Dawson and Norman at Casa Loma and at Old Fort York. The first Guard Mount took place on Sunday, 21 May and was inspected by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Pauline McGibbon. To mark the occasion, Her Honour was presented with a regimental brooch by the Commanding Officer. Her Honour saw the Guard frequently throughout the summer and, in fact, one sentry was stationed outside of her apart-

ments in the Legislative Building during daylight. A significant event, subsequently acknowledged by the Lieutenant Governor, was the rescue from a thief of Her Honour's official flag by a sentry who chose to remain anonymous. The Lieutenant Governor very kindly recognized the Guard and referred to them as "my Guard" on numerous occasions. She demonstrated her appreciation of the Guard by holding a reception for the members in her apartment on 18 August. This was also attended by a group of Gurkha Pipe Majors and other distinguished Gurkhas visiting Toronto at the time.

The celebration of Canada or Dominion Day on 1 July is annually recognized by the Ontario Government with a big celebration and entertainment on the front lawn of Queen's Park. To assist in the celebration, the Legislative Guard fired a 'Feu de Joie', assisted by the Regimental Band under Capt George Gresham, and the guns of the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA. Following the celebration the Regiment participated in a march down University Avenue to Nathan Phillips Square in front of the City Hall to view the Change of Command of Toronto Militia District from Colonel John Murphy to Colonel Ted Taylor.

The annual summer training concentration for Toronto Militia District entitled 'TORCON '78' took place at Meaford, Ontario from 12-25 August. Training was largely based on infantry skills and emphasized basic infantry specialties such as patrolling, tactics, etc. Although the unit was small in numbers on the ground, it proved to be high in quality and won 1st and 2nd places in the Infantry Patrol Competition, thereby winning the Fairclough Trophy. The unit team also proved to be a winner in the sports competition held on the last day of TORCON. Another win might have been the forced march competition but unfortunately one man had to fall out. These successes were accomplished over much larger units, such as the 48th Highlanders and the Royal Regiment of Canada, and were therefore that much sweeter.

After a short break following TORCON, training resumed in September and the usual reorganization became necessary to compensate for departures of various individuals from the unit. The Fall passed very quickly and rela-

(CO con't on p. 4)

(CO con't from p. 3)

tively uneventfully with normal training and range weekends at Camp Borden for the keen ones. The usual Remembrance Day Parade was held at St. Paul's on Bloor Street — and suddenly it was Christmas!

The Christmas stand down was preceded by an excellent Men's Dinner organized by the Junior Ranks Mess Committee under the direction of Cpl Sarossey. Following Christmas, winter survival became all the rage and a number of excursions in cold weather gear were made to Borden and Meaford.

A major social event for the officers of the Toronto Garrison is the annual Garrison Ball. This year it fell to the Regiment to organize and conduct the Ball. A very able and composite Ball Committee, under the direction of BGen Neil Gordon, produced a first class show that was much admired and complimented by various and sundry visitors. Patron of the Ball and Guest of Honour, was Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, who was accompanied by her husband, Mr. Donald McGibbon. Venue for the Ball was the Convention Centre at the Harbour Castle Hilton Hotel and over 1400 guests enjoyed a magnificent dinner, dancing to the music provided by the Regimental Band under Capt Gresham, and also the Pipes and Drums of the Toronto Scottish Regiment. The Regimental Bugles demonstrated in their inimitable way the vigour and dash of the Rifles in a short display on the dance floor. It was a truly regimental show and all involved are to be congratulated.

Next major event on the unit calendar was the 119th Regimental Birthday weekend on 21-22 April at the Armoury. We were honoured by the presence of MGen Charles Belzile CMM, CD, Commander, Canadian Forces Europe, who was Queen's Own Rifles from commissioning in 1953 until rebadged to RR22eR in 1968.

And so the year has come full circle, and I have completed my first year of command. It has been a year of peaks and valleys as is the case with all units today. We suffered two major tragic losses during the year; the sudden passing on 1 July of BGen Jock Spragge, CO on D-Day, and a devoted rifleman through the years; and on 27 December the death of Col Jim Strathy, after a long battle with cancer.

Both gave generously of themselves in their own way to their beloved Regiment; their passing makes the light more dim.

We have seen many recruits come and go, and many of the older soldiers follow their example. Among others to retirement have gone RQMS (WOs) "Stormy" Storms and his erstwhile boss Lt. Peter Simundson; Major Bill Barnard (the younger) is temporarily at HQ Central Militia Area working for LCol Don Pryer; Lt Earl Gardner is doing PR for HQ Toronto Militia District. We have welcomed the CMA/TMD Recce Company, commanded by LCol Peter Fairclough with Capt Brian Colgate, Offr Cdt Howard Flood

and MWO Harry Finnis returning to the fold. The Recce Company, or Special Unit (SU) as it has been known, parades at 1107 Avenue Road, and is designated 60th Coy. an excellent acquisition has been Capt Tony Schultz, formerly GGFG and now commanding Buffs Coy. We look forward to another busy year and continue to rebuild the Officer, Warrant Officer and NCO ranks. Recruiting continues to be a problem but retention is a greater one. Hopefully we can overcome these and build for an ever stronger unit in the future.

LCol W.S. Wilson

Postings and Transfers

- Maj A.W. Schultz - to London Militia District HQ (Sept '79)
- Maj W.J. Barnard - returned to Unit from Area HQ (Oct '79)
- Maj T. Graham - to Supplementary List (Sept '79)
- Lt H. Flood - transferred from British Forces Reserve to QOR of C as Training Officer 60th Coy (Sept '79)
- Capt R. Descotes - from Supplementary List to Unit (Aug. '79)
- Capt E. Rayment - from Area HQ to Unit (Sept. '79)

Once in the Queen's Own . . .

By Hugo Saudino

Following our extremely successful Birthday Weekend of 1978, I was able to make contact with a number of Queen's Own on their home ground. The reception was always the same . . . TREMENDOUS! Beverly and I ventured to North Bay and spent a few days with Terry and Judy Cassidy. Terry is teaching high school in that city and Judy is a librarian. Terry invited me to his school for coffee where I found Norm McCracken also teaching.

During the latter part of September we found ourselves in Ottawa, and, almost as if by magic, John and Audrey Saunders, Ted and Faye Ball, Glen and Eileen Munro turned on a wine and cheese party and brought in Queen's Own from far and wide. MGen Charlie Belzile from Germany, Ron and Eve Werry from Winnipeg, Herb and Marianne Pitts from Perth

and a phalanx of Queen's Own and their ladies from the Ottawa area.

During the evening discussions of various subjects took place, the one of greatest importance being the change of command parade that was taking place the following day at Pembroke. Ivor MacLeod* was taking command of the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish. Hasty plans were formulated whereby breakfast was held at the Saunders household on Sunday morning and a convoy departed for Pembroke.

The venture proved highly successful, and Ivor was amazed to see the turnout of Queen's Own at his change of command. Our convoy met up with General Steve Andrunyk and Bill Millet, and I would hazard to say that the Queen's Own equalled, if not surpassed the Lanark and Renfrew in the Armoury.

(ONCE IN . . . con't on p. 5)

(ONCE IN . . . con't from p. 4)

This spring I dropped in on Herb Pitts at his farm in Perth. It was the maple syrup season and Herb was busily engaged in surgaring up. After a quick exchange of greetings, it was established that I would spend the night and learn about maple syrup from the roots to the table. I was given a crash course on collecting sap, reducing sap to syrup, bottling, and tasting.

As Marianne was in the U.K., Herb and the boys were lonely, so while we worked and dined I learned about Herb's small but growing thoroughbred cattle and I was shown the pride of the herd . . . The Newborn. It certainly was a great pleasure to spend the night at the 'Happy Farmer's' home. Naturally, we reminisced and memory took us back through the years to Calgary. We relived our curling, hockey jaunts and some soldiering.

Names from the past crept into our conversations . . . Vanier . . . Van Horne . . . McPherson . . . Westfall . . . Hunter . . . Stones . . . Primeau . . . Ferguson . . . Bar and many more.

And then the Birthday Weekend for 1979. It was my privilege to meet MGen Charlie Belzile, Commander Canadian Forces Europe and his aide Capt Pierre Gauthier, a gunner, when they arrived on Canadian soil.

After a quick greeting, and a confirmation of the itinerary for the evening, we made our way to LCol Bill Wilson's residence.

Bill and Pat launched the Birthday Weekend in grand style. Once again the Queen's Own gathered. Most were 2nd Battalion representatives with a sprinkling from 1st and Regimental Dept — Bob and Doris Firlotte, Jim and Floyd Hampson, Ray and Karen Bunner, Hank and Bessie Elliot, Anne and Gene Markel, Herb and Marianne Pitts, Boom and Irene Marsaw, Ralph and Lyn McDermid.

Missing were Ivor and Pat MacLeod. It seems that Ivor made a wrong turn but we were able to converse by phone. When the party was over we were greeted by Ivor and Pat at the Saudino household and brought them up to date on the festivities.

Then on Saturday evening we had a Birthday Party . . . Yes, one can truly say:

'ONCE IN THE QUEEN'S OWN . . . ALWAYS IN THE QUEEN'S OWN

**Editor's Note: Hugo learned recently that Ivor has been appointed aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.*



Photo courtesy of QOR of C Regimental Museum

Brigadier John Godfrey Spragge
OBE, DSO, ED
1907 - 1978

The history of The QOR of C in WWII was moulded by three outstanding Commanders, Harry MacKendrick, Jock Spragge and Steve Lett. Their military careers are well known. So, in my words of tribute to Jock I shall concentrate on what might be termed the lesser known aspects of military life.

Spragge and I had known each other for some fifty years. Following commissioning in 1929, I was assigned as supernumerary to Jock, then a platoon commander; in that I was very fortunate.

Volumes have been written about so-called 'man management'. I doubt if Jock ever read one of them; innately, he knew. I observed and learned.

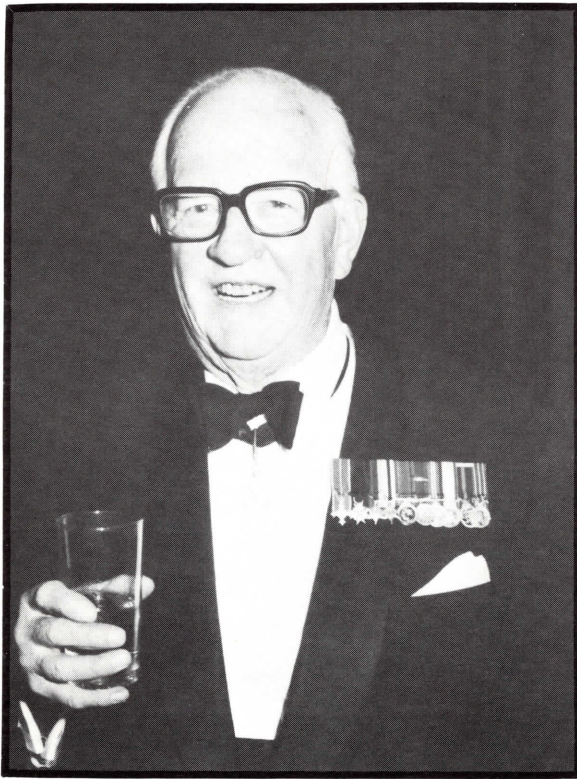
Keeping a platoon at reasonable strength in the thirties was difficult. Neither officer nor rifleman received any pay. The only fringe benefit was a sandwich and a cup of coffee after parade. Today that might sound ridiculous. It wasn't then. Jock always had a strong platoon; his straightforwardness and essential honesty kept the men together.

The Officers' Baseball League flourished in the thirties. The season of 1935-36 saw the team win the Toronto Garrison Championship, the Area Championship and the Eastern District Championship. Much of our success could be attributed to the tireless efforts of one Spragge. He played right field and his endearing specialty was a 'basket catch' possible only, it was said by the better cricketers.

So, with parades, sports, and social life the years passed. Then the grimmer picture of war took over. Here, as is well known, Jock played an outstanding part. Afterwards, as a brigadier, he plunged into the herculean task of reorganizing the militia.

Now he is gone. We mourn his passing, but his name and example will linger on. That is why it is said, "Men die but the Regiment lives on".

William T. Barnard
Lieutenant Colonel



Colonel James G.K. Strathy
OBE, ED, CD
1905 - 1978

Born Toronto, Ontario, 6 June, 1905; Son of Gerard Brakenridge and Mabel Theodora (Kirkpatrick) Strathy. He was educated at preparatory schools and Charterhouse in England before returning to Canada in 1919 to complete his secondary education at Trinity College School, Port Hope. He was a cadet at Royal Military College, Kingston, 1922-1925 and completed his formal education at Trinity College in the University of Toronto.

On 30 August, 1929 he married Catherine Millard, daughter of J. Don Cockburn, North Bay, Ontario. Children: Robert A.C., John G.B., and Jane A. who is now the wife of Peter H. Warren.

Col Strathy's military career included service as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, in which he qualified for his pilot's wings in 1926. He then transferred to the Canadian Militia (Army) as an officer in The Queen's Own Rifles. He was appointed adjutant in 1929, received his staff qualification in 1934, and joined the Canadian Active Service Force in 1940. During the war, he served in Canada and overseas in the European Theatre. He was promoted to Colonel, on being

appointed Director of Military Training in January, 1943. He retired to civilian life in September 1945. In 1960, Col Strathy was appointed Colonel of the Regiment, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, until his retirement in May 1970.

Col Strathy spent his entire business career in the Securities Industry. He joined Dominion Securities Corporation Limited in 1927, retiring as a Senior Vice President in June 1970, when he was appointed as Securities Commissioner with the Ontario Government until that appointment expired in September 1974.

During his career, he was Chairman of the Toronto Stock Exchange, Vice Chairman and Director of Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Toronto Diocesan Committee Anglican Congress 1963, Chairman and Member of the Executive Committee Trinity College, Life Governor Trinity College School, Member of the Executive Committee Ontario Council St. John Ambulance. He was Honorary Chairman, Murphy Oil Company Ltd., President, Strathlochan Investments Ltd., Director of Maccabees Mutual Life Insurance Co., and Director of

Associates Acceptance Company Ltd. In May 1976, Trinity College conferred on him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters.

He was an Anglican; a member of the Toronto Club, Toronto Golf Club, York Club, Royal Canadian Military Institute, Cappa Alpha Society, Coral Beach & Tennis Club, Bermuda, and was a beef farmer at Strathlochan Farms, R.R. #2, King, Ontario, L0G 1K0, where he resided until his death on Wednesday, 27 December, 1978 at York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Funeral services were held at All Saints Anglican Church, King City, Ontario on Saturday, 30 December, at 11:00 A.M. A memorial service for Colonel Strathy was held in St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bloor Street East, Toronto on 17 January, 1979 at 1600 hrs., under the auspices of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The Regimental Buglers played the Last Post, Reveille and The Regimental March out of respect for their fallen comrade.

Colonel Strathy was cremated and his ashes were buried in King City Cemetery beside his wife Catherine, who died 11 February, 1978.

The following are excerpts from a speech delivered by Col Strathy at a testimonial dinner given by him by his friends in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on Friday, 4 November, 1977 at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto.

The Queen's Own Rifles, other than my family and my job, has been nearly my whole life — 52 years from 1925. Looking back, I see the Regiment in distinct periods approximating my lifespan — 1900 to the end of World War I — re-organization and pre World War II — World War II - post war and regular battalions.

This century started with Pellatt's private army which The Queen's Own really was. Sir Henry, who commanded from 1900 to 1910, was truly an Eastern Potentate who built up his great regiment and took it to England, 900 strong, in 1910, on the accession of King George V.

At Aldershot, the Regiment was brigaded with the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). The Queen's Own marched into camp behind its band playing its Regimental March. Finally, when the troops were billeted the Colonel of the Buffs called on Sir Henry and thanked him for the honour done his regiment by playing their Regimental March — The Buffs. Sir Henry is said to have replied "The hell it's yours — its ours". Later research proved that the Buffs had granted

(STRATHY con't on p. 7)

(STRATHY con't from p. 6)

permission in 1863 to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to use their Regimental March. This happy event brought about the alliance between our two Regiments which stays vital and exists today. The first official alliance between a British and Canadian Regiment has always meant a lot to me.

What I remember about the late 20's and dirty 30's of the depression were the parades of the two battalions, 600 on parade, which we then thought a disaster, summer camp at Niagara, the trips to Buffalo and nearly Canadian towns, and the great military funerals of General Sir William Otter, Sir Henry and General Rennie and, what was so important to a rifle regiment, the great rifle shots we had — the pot hunters who won every important shooting match at the ORA, DCRA and at Bisley. Men like Norman McLeod, Ernie Stock, Roy Harrison, Dick Storrar, Bert Lucas, Wilf Durrance, Jim Dempster and that great character — Foxy Ward Taylor — famed as a bugler and finally, much overage, as Paymaster to the 1st Battalion overseas in World War II.

One story which some of you from the thirties may remember was the goof I pulled as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. I remember it as "Pride goeth before a fall". I had been annoyed with the subalterns' sloppy drill on parade and suggested they might follow my example to smarten themselves. It was the Adjutant's job to take over the battalion just formed up on parade from the RSM — prove the battalion with some sharp commands and hand over to the CO — "move to the right in fours, form fours, right will advance, turn left, stand at ease, Queen's Own Rifles". I did a smart about turn, my spurs locked and I fell flat on my face and could not move. Col Tim Wood, with a look of astonished chagrin, went down on his knees, unlocked my feet. I sprang to my feet, reported "1st Battalion all correct Sir", and all he said was "Thank you Captain Strathy — I will see you later in the Orderly Room". I duly received the Dumbell Trophy in the mess for my outstanding performance on parade.

Coming to World War II period, a period when no regiment excelled The Queen's Own; which ultimately had four wartime battalions. The glorious 1st Battalion CASF of the 3rd Canadian Division — the only Canadian Regiment commanded by three of its own officers, Col Harry MacKendrick who took the Battalion to Newfoundland and overseas to the U.K.; Brig Jock Spragge who commanded the QOR as lead battalion in on D-Day followed by the hard fighting up the French coast — a gallant soldier later commanding 7 Brigade; and finally Steve Lett, who took over from Jock and commanded from crossing the Rhine, through Holland, including the clean up of the enemy at the end of the war.

There was also the 2nd Reserve Battalion in Toronto, formed and commanded by Col Bap Johnston, who enlisted a double strength battalion of 1600 men with 68 officers and kept it that way. Included among the first enlistments and in my B Company was a young red-headed rifleman Barney Danson, who was promoted corporal and later, on my recommendation, commissioned. He served gallantly with the 1st Battalion and is now our Hon. LCol and the recognized most ef-

fective Minister of National Defence in many years.

After the war, the reorganization under Col Jack McClain — a difficult choice, as, at that time, we had available 85 officers in rank of LCol and above. Early liaison was arranged between the Militia Battalion in Toronto and the two Regular Battalions, which were represented by their COs, LCol 'Wild' Bill Matthews and LCol Cliff MacPherson with Cols Reg Pellatt, Ian MacDonald, Harry Mackendrick and others. This liaison never faltered and was formalized by the creation of the Regimental Executive Committee representing all three battalions and the Regimental Depot.

We always had great Regimental COs — prewar — Colonels Arthur Kirkpatrick, Reg Pellatt, John Langmuir, Ralph Gibson, Percy Hampton, Ian MacDonell and Battalion COs Norman Alexander, Bill Rooney, Harold Parsons, Bap Johnston and many others — post war — Colonels Jack McClain, Bill Barnard, Neil Gordon, Elliot Dalton, Johnny Mills, Bob Bickford, Glen McIver, Moore Jackson, Charlie Jones of wartime fame, and the young crop who have carried on the fine traditions set by their gallant forebears, Frank Mulrooney, John Strathy, Don Pryer, John Power and now Bill Wilson.

I would like to mention our great Regimental Centennial in 1960. I was made Chairman in 1958. It was a great and widely attended success. Monty (Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein) was our guest of honour, a detachment of 60 all ranks from the 1st Battalion came from Calgary; the Buffs were represented by LCol Francis Morgan, son of Capt Morgan who commanded the Buffs detachment to QOR in 1926. The CGS, Gen Phin Clark, and many of the top brass attended the great church parade at St. Paul's with over 1000 on parade, 1st Battalion, 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own Legion Association Veterans and our affiliated Upper Canada College Cadet Battalion. A great dinner which was addressed by the Field Marshal was later held at the Royal York with 1400 in attendance.

Earlier in that year 1960, I was appointed Colonel of the Regiment — and no greater honour has come to me in my whole life. We had many fine officers, NCOs and riflemen in our two Regular Battalions which remained the regular army for 18 years. Great COs, Matthews, MacPherson, McKay, Lithgow, Wilkinson, Elliot, Osborne, Price,

Kirby (now a BGen), Pitts (now a MGen), Robinson and Marsaw. The Battalions rotated between Currie Barracks at Calgary and Work Point in Victoria to 4 Canadian Brigade in Germany and to the UN peace Keeping Force in Cyprus. I had many call outs to our Regular Battalions in Canada and to NATO in Germany and one glorious attachment to Cyprus with the 2nd Battalion.

I had the great honour of inducting our present Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Alexandra at Fort McLeod with the 2nd Battalion under Col Ron Wilkinson whose 2nd I/C was Major Steve Andrunyk (now BGen.).

On this great occasion, Princess Alexandra inspected the Battalion on parade at full strength. It was a prolonged affair, as she was very conscientious and talked individually to a great many riflemen as she passed down the ranks. Following the ceremonial parade, it was my pleasant duty to present her with a beautiful diamond studded Queen's Own brooch. Princess Alexandra's brooch presentation, planned in great detail and executed without grave mishap, could not be compared with an earlier similar presentation.

In 1941, Queen Mary was our Colonel-in-Chief. The 1st Battalion was stationed at Mandora Barracks in Aldershot, where the CO, Col Harry MacKendrick, received a message that our Colonel-in-Chief would be visiting her Battalion on the following day — what to do about a present to recognize this great event. Ian Matheson, then a captain, volunteered that he had bought a rather inexpensive rhinestone Queen's Own brooch costing about \$2.00, and, if nobody had any better ideas, he would willingly hand it over for an official presentation to Her Majesty The Queen. Our then beloved Colonel-in-Chief thanked the commanding officer and all ranks most sincerely for the Regiment's most generous and beautiful gift.

I will not go into the story of the wind up of our two great Regular Battalions. It was a sad ending to a glorious era. I retired at two great ceremonial parades at Work Point with the 1st Battalion and here in Toronto with the 3rd Battalion in May 1970. That was it. Anno Domini had caught up, and now this great dinner. I have loved every minute of my long and most interesting military career. So I step down with our well remembers 'Once with the Queen's Own, Always with the Queen's Own.'

This Journal comes to you through the effort of a few volunteers
— WE NEED YOU! —

If you have anything to contribute, please send it along! Let's continue to "communicate".

The Editor

Association Report



Past President - Bill Ives

As your president for the past year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the association members who gave their time and energy to help make our activities a success.

Our Secretary, Hugo Saudino, has been able to increase our membership and through his effort our mailing list has been kept up to date and membership dues have been coming in better than ever. We still have to improve our collection of dues and I'm sure Hugo has plans formulated to accomplish this. Of course, your cooperation will be the answer to this problem.

We held a stag for all members last October at Oktoberfest time at the QOR Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. It was a very casual evening of meeting old friends, enjoying a few drinks and reminiscing about past experiences. The association provided a few good films through the generosity of Molson Breweries, and a buffet dinner at the close of the evening. Those of us who were able to attend had a very enjoyable evening. We wish to repeat this event in October and I hope to see you there.

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony 11 November at The Cross of Sacrifice, St. Paul's Anglican Church was well attended this year. This is an annual event and there is no better time than this to pay our respects to our fallen comrades. We meet at 10:45 a.m. at St. Paul's. Wreaths are placed by all branches of the Regimental family. The service is given by Bishop Wilkinson. It is a morning when you will

meet comrades you haven't seen for many years and, even though it is a very brief service, you will find it to be the most sincere and moving moment of the year.

The association annual meeting was held on the afternoon of 28 Apr 79. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Reports from the secretary and treasurer were also presented. A slate of officers for the coming year was submitted by Charlie Jones. There were no further nominations from the floor. The slate of officers, moved by Bill Wilson and seconded by Bill Barnard, was adopted as presented.

Officers for 1979-80 are:

Past Pres: Bill Ives
Pres: Ken Evans
VP: Jim Kenn
VP: John Power
Sec: Hugo Saudino
Treas: Harry Rollo
Auditors: Stan Tebbutt and
Jim Kirkwood

Our Regimental Birthday Dinner and Dance was a great success and although we had hoped for a better attendance we were really pleased to see so many association members from out of town. There were members and their wives from as far away as Lethbridge, Alberta. The committee, under the direction of John Whyte, is to be commended for the work and time they put in, to make the evening a success.

Major General Belzile, Commander of Canadian Forces Europe, was our guest speaker. We were most fortunate that he was able to take time from his busy schedule to fly from Europe to be with us for the Regimental Birthday. He was an excellent speaker and presented a most interesting and enlightening speech. We enjoyed his company and I'm sure he enjoyed ours because he stayed with us for the entire evening.

A most memorable part of the evening was a presentation of several books on western Canada to Col Bill Wilson by Victor Thornhill, our member from Lethbridge, Alberta. Victor and his wife stayed for the weekend and we enjoyed meeting them again Sunday in the sergeants' mess.

One of the many occasions of meeting old comrades occurred when Frank Tascona and Charlie Jones were reunited. Their last meeting was in

1944 in Holland, when stretcher bearer Frank Tascona gave medical assistance to a wounded Lt Charlie Jones. I would also like to mention that the same Frank Tascona was presented with the Military Medal for bravery under fire while serving as a stretcher bearer for "D" Company.

Arrangements are being made now for our 1980 Regimental Birthday Dinner and Dance. I'm sure it will be a great evening for all of us, we hope you can make it.

I have enjoyed three years as secretary and one year as president of your association and I would like to congratulate our new president Ken Evans and offer him my assistance in all association activities.

Best wishes to all.

Bill Ives



President Elect - Ken Evans

When my service with the 3rd Bn. Queen's Own Rifles of Canada ended in 1965, I continued my friendship with the unit and my membership in the Association and the Legion.

The comradeship in both of these organizations has been a very rewarding experience. To be nominated and accepted as president is, indeed, a privilege.

One or two of our directors, unfortunately, are not able to continue in the coming year, however we do not anticipate not filling the vacancies and look forward to again having a full slate in the very near future.

We are looking forward to a very successful year made possible by the communication and participation from all of you.

K. Evans

The Black Net (BC)

West Coast Skirmishers

Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday that I wrote my first report for The Rifleman.

First I must congratulate all those who had a hand in the publication of the first edition which was a first class production. Well done to all of you!

We were all saddened at the news of Colonel Jim Strathy's passing in late December. He was a fine officer and gentleman to whom we all owe a great deal. He will be sorely missed by the Regiment and his Country. Our sincere condolences to the Strathy family.

The West Coast Black Net is still alive and well, and active as ever. In fact the old No. 1 dress uniform is being revitalized out here by a couple of us! I wore it last summer during our MILCON 78 at Fort Lewis, where I was parade commander for our annual massed band display; and LCol Neville Robinson has started wearing his No. 1 dress (with my sword) for his annual district inspections.

The Annual FMC Training Conference this year was held during first week of April instead of last week, which always used to conflict with the Regimental Birthday activities. While at FMC I saw such notables as Ron Bragdon, Paul Hunter and Pierre Lalonde, who are all on staff at the HQ; Don Pryer attending from CMA and Col Ken Foster visiting from Cdn Airborne Regt, Petawawa (Kent is an Honorary Rifleman and has a certificate to prove it!).

I also saw an old Patricia friend of many of you my the name of Willie Schuler, who was up from Lake Placid, N.Y. where he is Director of Medical Services for XIII Winter Olympic Games.

The West Coast Skirmishers had two separate birthday celebrations this year. The Chilliwack area crowd rented a hall in Chilliwack and held their gathering on Friday, 27 April, while the annual gathering at The Shrine was held on Saturday, 28 April. Both were extremely well attended and following are names of some of the participants at each location:

CHILLIWACK: Foster, Reid, Stolzenberg, Bogan, Arkininstall, Kendall,

McCarthy, Rickman, MacDonald, Wiseman, Viau, Phillips, Cresswell, McGraw, Holmburg and Warrilow. THE SHRINE: Carlton, Ligget, Gaudry, Nixon, Robinson, Doerkson, Vanderford, Duberry, Lawless, Cornett, MacDonald, Whelan, Halpin, Creighton, Naylor and Viau.

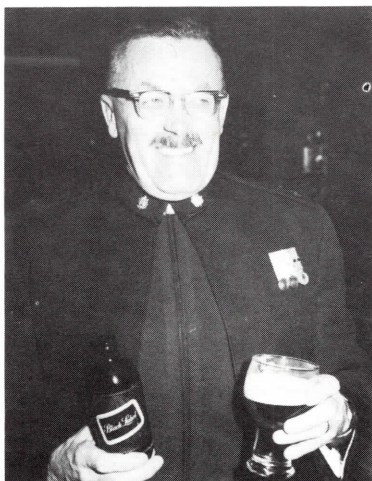
Congratulations are extended to John and Mikki Viau and Jim and Kathy MacDonld who were the only survivors of the Friday night bash to surface and appear at the Saturday night bash!

In addition to celebrating our 119th Birthday at The Shrine on Saturday, we also took the opportunity to say good luck to Gord and Jo Naylor, on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years service. Joe was presented with a corsage and Gord received a new rod and reel to try out on Shuswap Lake, and a regimental drum ice bucket for use when the fish are not biting. Also, congratulatory messages were read out to the gathering and presented to Gord in a suitably adorned folder.

Visitors to The Shrine during the past year have been few (not including family and non regimental friends). Among the notable Skirmisher visitors were the Munros, Teslas, Cowlings, Fowlers, Bamfords, Kip Kirby, 'Salty' Saunders, Ted Ball and last but certainly not least, Rob Howard our only visitor from the Toronto Battalion. (Glad to hear you found your way back to Vernon, Rob).

In closing I wish to reiterate my invitation to all Skirmishers who find themselves in Vancouver area to drop in to The Shrine for a cool one. If you can't remember the address, give us a call (we're in the phone book!).

Bill Mountain



Bill Mountain, November 77

The Black Net (Ottawa)

Skirmishers of Ottawa area celebrated the Regimental Birthday 26 April, 1979 with a social evening at the Army Ottawa Officers' Mess. Not a record parade, but quite sufficient for a "lot of lies".

The Ottawa Branch does not have a formal organization; but it tries to maintain an up to date telephone and mailing list. We would welcome members from nearby areas to be added to the list. (We're not even sure we've got all skirmishers in the Ottawa area on our list). If you are close by the contact will now be Major T.C. (Ted) Ball, 72 Malvern Drive, Ottawa, who replaces LCol Glenn Munro who will be retiring this summer. Glenn's address, effective early September will be R.R. #1, Tichbourne, Ontario.

As promised in the first issue of 'The Rifleman' here are our extra regimentally employed skirmishers and what they are doing:

BGen S.F. Anárnyk, OMM, CD
Commander CMA, Toronto

BGen C.L. Kirby, CD
Commandant, Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College Kingston

LCol W.G. Munro, CD
Directorate of Cadets (Army) NDHQ Ottawa

LCol N.A. Robinson, CD
Commander, Vncr. Militia District Vancouver

Maj T.E. Ball, CD
Directorate of Personnel Career Administration Officers NDHQ Ottawa

Maj E.J.E. Bamford, CD
RSS Victoria

Maj R.M. Barker, CD
Directorate of Reserves NDHQ Ottawa

Maj B.G. Baskerville, CD
Now in England, returning soon to NDHQ Ottawa to bring the Regular Force detachment to full strength of five. Directorate of Land Plans NDHQ Ottawa

Maj L. Curchin, CD
Ottawa Militia District Headquarters

Maj R.G. Graham, CD
Directorate of Land Plans NDHQ Ottawa

(OTTAWA con't on p. 10)

(OTTAWA con't from p. 9)

Maj J. Millet, CD
Ottawa Militia District Headquarters
Maj W.G. Mountain, CD
RSS Vancouver
Maj J.P.O. Saunders, CD
Ottawa Militia District Headquarters
Capt C. Heyes
QOR of C at heart but now with the
CH of O

Recent Retirements

Major R.E. (Awful) Werry who went to the trouble of duly reporting his official release from the Regular Force (and the Regiment) by bragging about a 121 pound Marlin he caught in the Bahamas (apparently witnessed by Maj W.A.C. Drew — what better witness). Word has it that Ron will be rebadged back from whence he came and command the RWR — well done Ron!

Capt Bob Whelan, CD now on retirement leave in British Columbia after a successful 37 year career. Gook luck Bob.

Although the ranks of other Regular Force Regiments, particularly the PPCLI, are swollen with former skirmishers, we understand that the last of the badged QOR other ranks has recently retired. CWO 'Gordie' Naylor's last Regular Force appointment was RSS Pacific. Good luck Gordie.

All in all not a long list, but certainly impressive from the point of view of positions of influence which are held by members of the Regiment.

A great deal could be said about each member on the ERE list. (See The Big 2, Vol No. 3 Nov. 78 for a short biographical sketch of BGen Andrunyk). But perhaps the spirit of the Regiment is most visibly exemplified in the career of BGen 'Kipper' Kirby who will also retire this year. General Kirby excels at capturing the imagination of all the relatively young officers who pass through the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College and by example, is able to impart those

qualities of leadership that have become so much a part of the character of our Regiment. We will miss Gen Kirby on our ERE list and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Not directly pertinent to the ERE list of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, but very significant to the leadership which the QOR of C has provided to the Canadian Forces as a whole, are those distinguished officers and men who are now serving (or have recently served) either in or as EREa of other regiments, but who have had service with the QOR of C. Perhaps the most obvious are: MGen (Retired) H.C. (Herb) Pitts, MC, CD who was 'dined out' on retirement from the Regular Forces, by the PPCLI and who is now a 'happy farmer' living at R.R. No. 1, Perth, Ontario; and MGen C.H. (Charlie) Belzile, currently Commander Canadian Forces Europe and soon to be Chief of Land Doctrine and Operations at NDHQ Ottawa. There are many many more throughout the forces all of whom have taken with them valuable attributes borrowed from the Queen's Own.



Photo courtesy Calgary Association

Cutting The Cake
Tim Timmins, Paul Hughes, Bob Hewlett, John Hearn

The Black Net (Calgary)

The Calgary Association held its Election of Officers in mid March for the next year and the following were elected:

Pres. J. Hearn

1st VP R. Hewlett
2nd VP K. Moynahan
Treas. M. Andrews
Sec. P.F. Hughes
PRO T. Timmins

Special thanks to the following past officers for a job well done in our first year of operation:

Tres. Ralph Ridley
2nd VP Jim Stoley
PRO Al Tate

On the 28th April, 1979, The Calgary Association celebrated the Regiment's 119th Birthday in the Junior Ranks Club at Currie Barracks. We had approximately 200 people turn out and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. A lot of new faces were present for the annual event but some of the old faces were absent due to other commitments. Once again thanks are due to the 'chefs' for their usual well prepared meal and to Bill Major and his group who supplied the music — just excellent. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves, as I know I did. I am not too sure what time it finally broke up as when I left in the wee small hours of the morning, it was still going strong. Our thanks also to Vern Pipus and Marie who volunteer for just about everything that comes along.

Bob Gaudett was there in full picture taking paraphernalia and a few shots

(CALGARY con't on p. 11)

(CALGARY con't from p. 10)

even made it out of the other end of the camera.

The Association held its annual Sports Day and Barbecue on the afternoon and evening of the 23 June, 1979. Approximately 60 couples did a fine job with the children in the afternoon and the adults did a fair job in the evening. How this guy ever won the horseshoe pitch I will never know, but congratulations to Bill Cox on winning the trophy. John Hearn's Ball team could not defend their title they held for the past year as Len Lafont's group won that trophy. It's a good thing there was no trophy awarded for drinking in the evening as it would

have been one hell of a job to try and pick a winner. Also, some of those steaks that were put on the barbecue looked like the better part of a steer. Once again our appreciation to all the people that turned out to help with the games for the kids and for making the evening such as success. Special thanks to Rick Bourgon's son who played very fine music all evening and to Jim Irvine who took some excellent photographs which, hopefully, we will see printed at a future date. Someone said they even saw George Gofenko dancing, now that has got to be a first. All in all a good time was had by everyone.

Tim Timmins, PRO

Rebadged!

On Saturday, 16 June, 1979, Drumheller was the scene once again, of traditional military pageantry, unusual sporting events and a community dance. The Calgary Highlanders exercising their freedom of the city once more!

The Calgary Highlanders, who number many people from Drumheller in their ranks, marched 'with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying and to beat of drum' through the City exercising their privilege of the Freedom of Drumheller. This, a very rare honour, was bestowed upon the Calgary Highlanders in the early 1960's; a few years thereafter the company stationed in Drumheller was closed down during the reorganizations of the militia of that era.

The parade route was from the grounds of Central School South, on 3rd St. W. to 3rd Ave., east to Centre Street and then north to John Anderson Park. His Worship Mayor B. Doucet, Mayor of Drumheller took the salute at City Hall.

Following lunch, and a chance to change from parade uniforms to sports dress, the 'mini Highland Games' were held, with traditional feats of hammer and caber throwing, tug'o war, 100 yard sprint and one mile relay race and putting the shot. The 'laird' for the games was Calgary's MGen W. A. Howard, CMM, CD, QC. He was abetted by Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Col Sam C. Nickle and the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, LCol Mark Tennant ED.

The renewed association between the Regiment and the City of Drum-



Lieutenant Colonel P.F. Hughes

heller is one of which the Regiment takes great pride; the symbolism of granting a militia unit the freedom of a city originates in the middle ages, when much of Europe was subject to uncertainties of ill disciplined and often hostile armies . . . and only those most totally trusted could possibly be asked to march through the streets under arms and ready to fight!

The Calgary Highlanders were led by their new Commanding Officer, LCol Paul Hughes, CD who assumed command early in March. LCol Hughes, from Toronto, was transferred to Calgary about 18 months ago. Now an Albertan! His service, which extends back some 19 years, includes a brief spell in the RCAF Reserve and several years in the Royal Canadian navy Reserve, after which he came ashore and joined the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, in which he served till moving to Calgary.

The Northern Black Net

Editor's Note: Joe Resnick received the following letter from Major J.H. MacKendrick, CD (SL), Yellowknife, N.W.T.

'Dear Joe,

"Enclosed is a donation for The Rifleman. Best of luck and every wish for success from the Northern Branch of the Black Net.

The picture (bottom) was taken in Loe La Mortre, a Dogrib settlement 150 miles northwest of Yellowknife. It's a "fly-in" settlement, unless you use a dog team or a canoe. The cadets are from Yellowknife. They were camped out at 35 degrees below in January and we combined some citizenship training with it.

That's me in the Big 2 beret. I am on the reserve staff at Northern Region Headquarters and was in charge.

The cadets are watching the traditional Dogrib hand game. It's a gambling game that often goes on **all night**. It's a team game and by quickly moving their hands about the team with the 'token' tries to fool their opponents as to where the token is hidden. The opponents have to guess when the hands stop moving. The drummer plays a faster and faster tempo and when he finally stops, the hands stop and they guess. The score is kept by sticks used much like poker chips. It's not usual to let strangers see the game. We worked on the settlement from a cadet angle and from our positions in the Gov't of N.W.T. sort of made our friends and acquaintances figure it was a good idea."

Regimentally yours,
Jim MacKendrick'





2nd King Edward VII's Own
Goorkhas (The Simoor Rifles)



6th Queen Elizabeth's Own
Gurkha Rifles



7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own
Gurkha Rifles



10th Princess Mary's Own
Gurkha Rifles



The Sydney University Regiment



1st Battalion



6th Battalion (Hauraki)

Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



The Royal Green Jackets



The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)



The Regina Rifle Regiment



The Royal Winnipeg Rifles



The Brockville Rifles

The Rifle Family

Through the course of human conflict, there has evolved a rare breed of soldier, The Rifleman, respected for his ability to act quickly and effectively, displaying uncommon initiative and ingenuity.

In every corner of the globe, The Rifle Regiments of the Commonwealth proudly uphold these high ideals and traditions. This kindred spirit is best found in the warm welcome always extended to a fellow Rifleman.



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Dedicated in memory of Col. J. G. K. Strathy, OBE, COSIJ, ED, CD.
Colonel of The Regiment 1960 - 1970

The Queen's Own Rifles Branch 344 Royal Canadian Legion

The year opened with the branch hosting members of the Quebec Royal Canadian Legion in their caucus meetings dealing with national unity. It was great to see how our English speaking members got along with our French speaking comrades. Surely there's a lesson here the rest of the country could learn from.

Membership in the branch is in the neighbourhood of 340 and has been magnificently served by its president, Duncan Green. Dunc, as many of you know, is a young chap from the first world war and served as RSM of the unit in the early 1950's.

The branch is fortunate in having its own concert band under the leadership of Mr. Martin Zweng. Band concerts are laid on for the first Tuesday of each month through until May. Concert time is 2030 hours and all are invited to attend. You are always sure of a fine time.

The Annual Honours and Awards Night was held at the branch on 11 February. At the dinner, Comrade Clay Bell was presented with a Life Membership in recognition of his services, and Comrades Goutouski, Moore and Resnick were presented with Certificates of Merit. This was the first time J.P. Moore has ever been speechless.

In March, the branch hosted residents from Metro Legion Village. The old timers had a ball. Our own band provided the music and the ladies provided a sandwich buffet. There was enough food left over to supply the mission for a week. I'm sure it was the quantity — not the quality.

April highlights included the double congratulations due to Comrade Frank Ball. One was the occasion of his 58th wedding anniversary. The other was the presentation to him of the Legion Service Medal by Zone Commander Dorothy Ryan. It's the feeling of the branch that Frank's wife, Margaret, should have had the medal for putting up with him for 58 years.

The annual 'D-Day Dinner' was held on Tuesday, 6 June in conjunction with a dance. The speaker on that occasion was Charlie Dalton.

The morning of 6 June saw the

branch stalwarts fall in at 0730 for the Annual D-Day Parade in front of the Old City Hall in Toronto. For the first time we had TV coverage which saw some of the members taking the day off in order to see re-runs on the news.

Alex 'Stumphy' Gordon was overheard telling a reporter how J.P. Moore saved his life in a wheatfield in France. After telling all the gory details, he closed off by saying, "And the son of a gun hasn't done a damn thing for me since".

A big disappointment was the cancellation of the 'D Plus 35 Years Tour'. It was decided that hotel and travel costs in Europe made the trip prohibitive.

The Annual Warriors Day Parade saw the branch participate in the march past led by First Vice Gus Goutouski; let it be said we were magnificent! — especially so, when you consider Frank Ball at 81 years of age marching like a 21 year old with five Martin brothers (all Queen's Own) setting the pace. (Incidentally, the colour party won third prize).

November was a busy month. The Over 65 Club, in co-operation with the branch, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Armistice. This was a ladies night and a good time was had by young and old alike. It was such a great evening it was difficult to tell who were the old ones.

Poppy Day, under the Chairmanship of 'Stumpy' Gordon, was the most successful ever. (Maybe it was because Stumpy was in the hospital!); but hospital or not — he was on the phone 37 times during the day to make sure it was done right. Special thanks are due to the '1860 Cadets' who did a fine job.

The branch ended the year with a gala evening in the 'Bernieres Room' to celebrate the New Year. For most it closed in time to make breakfast at 0600 in the Sergeants' Mess.

The branch extends a cordial welcome to all readers to make use of our facilities when they are in the neighbourhood. We are at 49 Elm Street, Toronto.

Joe Resnick

The BIG TWO Club "WE DO REMEMBER"

On March 5, 1979, I arrived in Arnhem for a scheduled meeting with the Ministry of Tourism of the Netherlands. The office building in which the Ministry was located was undergoing renovations and it was necessary for our group to enter the building from the rear, through a small travel agency office. While we were waiting to be received, a lady entered the office. John Oliver entered into conversation with her and then turned to me and said; "This lady looks after a Canadian soldier's grave in Groesbeek". "Yes", she said, "We have looked after Captain Bean's grave since the end of WW II". Having identified myself as an ex-QOR, I hurriedly obtained her name and then left for the meeting. Later, after making inquiries, I received the following in a letter:

"In early 1945, a soldier of Canada's Armed Forces rang our doorbell in Ubbergen, which is a small place in Eastern Holland. Answering the door, the soldier introduced himself as Capt Bean of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and he requested accommodation for four of his men. My husband and myself were delighted to be of help and to have them in our home.

Captain Bean visited us many times in the days thereafter and because my husband was an artist, and Capt Bean liked to discuss fine arts, they had many interesting meetings.

One day, it was arranged that my husband would do a pencil-portrait of Capt Bean and the date was set for February 12 at 1000 hours. That very same day, Capt Bean passed our home at about 0900 hours and, seeing me standing at the window, shouted out "I will be back in an hour". He was on his way to the battalion. However, Capt Bean never returned to our house, he was killed by German shell-fire.

We felt terrible about the news and were shocked. I cried when we learned about his death. It was then that we decided to adopt his grave after the war was over. This was made possible in 1947. We hadn't known that Capt Bean had been decorated for bravery

(Big 2 con't on p. 15)

(BIG 2 con't from p. 14)

by General Montgomery for his actions in the battles of Normandy.

Through the London office of the War Graves Commission, we were able to get in touch with Capt Bean's relatives and we have met his parents and, to date, we still correspond with them. From time to time, we also see his younger brother and family.

I am a senior citizen now, but **"We do remember"** and we also want to say, **"We thank you Canada"** for your brave soldiers who liberated us almost 35 years ago.

I now live in Beek (near Nijmegen) and I do hope that we will see many many of your veterans here in Holland, next year, for the great anniversary of V-E Day."

It is signed — Hens Baas.

Jack Martin



Photo courtesy Big 2 Club

A number of former Dutch citizens, now residing in Toronto, have long felt that The Netherlands have not done enough over the years in expressing their gratitude to Canada's Armed Forces, for the liberation of their country during World War II. Consequently they have formed a committee appropriately named — "WE DO REMEMBER".

- To commemorate and celebrate the 35th anniversary of VE-Day.

- To invite all Canadian veterans to participate with them by visiting Holland next year.

- To have all veterans and their spouses billeted in private homes in an effort to keep costs to a minimum.

- To show, and keep reminding their children of their debt of gratitude to Canada.

This project is on a national scale and is non-profitable. Participants may select the town or city of their choice to be billeted in.

For those how do not have connections in Holland, or were out of action before the campaign began, don't let it deter you. We might point out that most ex-QOR who have already signed, have selected the Town of Deventer (or Zutphen) to be billeted in. Deventer, incidentally, is among the Battle Honours of the Regiment.

Planned for the festivities are one large parade for Canadians only, one large commemoration ceremony at a Canadian Military Cemetery, commemorating The Netherlands Memorial Day with your Dutch host (May 4) and that nostalgic tour we spoke of 'MAPLE LEAF UP' which will appeal to all Canadians.

The main thing right now, of course, is to get your name into the committee for application forms as the deadline is September 30, 1979.

Invited to assist on the 'WE DO REMEMBER' committee, are three staunch ex-QOR's, Gus Goutouski, Jack Martin and Joe Resnick.

If you are interested in this great cultural venture, please send your name and address to:

"WE DO REMEMBER"
c/o 335 Bay Street, Suite 1105
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2R3

The Water Rats March Back

Following are excerpts from a front page article reprinted with permission of The Globe and Mail.

It was the Canadian army, 175,000 men, which poured in and wrestled for control of the German strongholds: Uden, Nijmegen, Amersfoort, Zutphen, Zwolle, Leeuwarden, Groningen and Arnhem, where British paratroopers had drifted helplessly into a city teeming with German reinforcements, and which was eventually secured by the 1st Canadian Corps.

That was almost 35 years ago. How many Canadians remember?

The Dutch certainly do. They cheered ecstatically when the Canadians entered Amsterdam on May 5, 1945, after the German capitulation, and they'll cheer almost as loudly when the Canadians come marching back again next May 5 to mark the 35th anniversary of V-E Day.

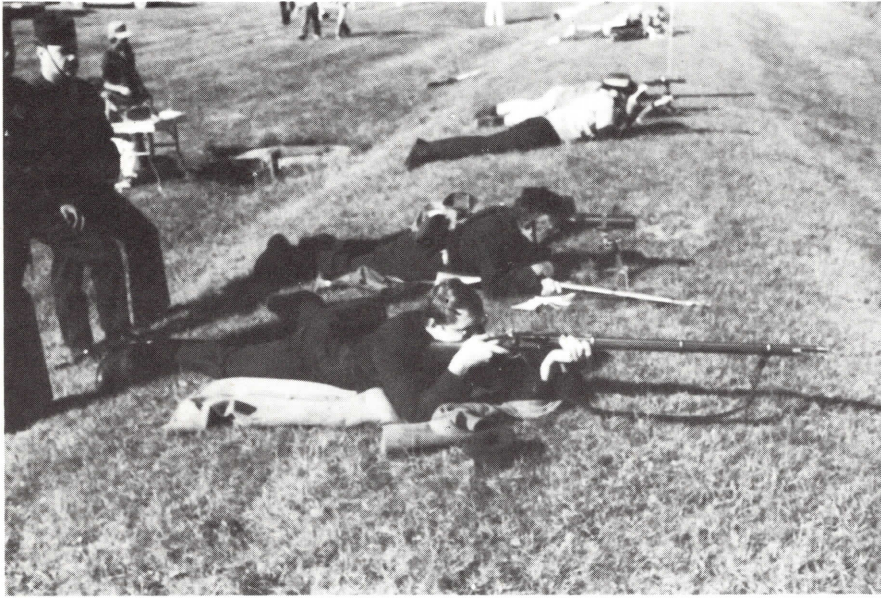
The 'WE DO REMEMBER' Committee, organized by members of the Queen's Own Rifles, is hoping to bring together up to 2,500 veterans of the Netherlands campaign and their wives for an 8 to 10 day celebration.

Organizer Jack Martin, who was 20 years old when he served as a rifleman in Holland, remembers fighting in the soggy polders of the low country. Members of the 3rd Canadian Division became known as the Water Rats, as opposed to the Desert Rats in North Africa. "It was wet, wet, wet".

The visiting Canadians will be treated to an expanded version of the annual festivities which will feature a general reunion party, visits to the Canadian grave sites, and a trip along the Maple Leaf Up, the old Canadian supply route which was marked by maple leaf signs. The city of Nijmegen, which was occupied by the Canadians and which served as their headquarters, has been asked to act as host city.

The Rifleman notes with sadness the death of LCol Frank C. Brennan, C.S.C. on 2 June, 1979; former master at Upper Canada College who was closely associated with the Upper Canada College Cadet Corps.

Rifle Association



At home on the range.

Photo courtesy of Ken Gregory

The Annual Meeting of the QOR Rifle Association was held in the Sergeants' Mess on the evening of 10 April, 1979.

The officers elected were:

Pres.	Ken Gregory
VP	Wilf Durance
Sec. Treas.	Ernie Stock
Committee	Gerry Senetchko
	Les Smith
	Carl Lewis

Ernie Stock presented a sound financial statement, but it was jokingly suggested from the floor that the books be examined carefully in August, as

the Secretary Treasurer is going to Kenya this year and the President and Vice President are going to Bisley.

There was some discussion on the CMA Shoot at Base Borden in May, and Gerry Senetchko indicated the Queen's Own had a strong team to enter these matches and hoped to bring home some of the loot.

Four continuing members of the Sgts Mess — Ernie Stock, Wilf Durance, Les Smith and Ken Gregory will be responsible for the administration of the matches on Vimy Ridge, and it was decided that the Rifle Association

would provide a suitable trophy for the top competitor from the Queen's Own amongst the junior ranks.

Joe Resnick made an impassioned speech for support for this year's issue of 'The Rifleman', which did not fall on deaf ears. (Joe has missed his calling — he should have been in politics!).

Carl Lewis suggested a small rifle team be formed from amongst the members of the Sergeants' Mess to compete with other organizations within the Queen's Own family, so — we hereby challenge any other organization attached to the Regiment to a rifle match — terms to be discussed amicably between competitors — and the loser pays for the liquid refreshments **after** the firearms have been safely stored away. Anyone interested should contact Wilf Durance in the Mess.

Three of the members of the Bugle Band who had expressed an interest in service calibre shooting attended the meeting, and extend to them an invitation to visit Winona Rifle Range and try out some shooting under the Ontario Rifle Association conditions. We will provide rifles and equipment for this purpose and we make this same offer to any member of the QOR, regardless of rank or affiliation. If interested discuss it with Wilf Durance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2245 hrs in order to refresh ourselves a little before Wilf closed the bar and ordered us all out!

Ken Gregory

Sasquatch Sniper

The Sergeants' Mess commonly refers to WO Senetchko as "Sasquatch". The photo shows why? Dressed as a sniper should be?

Looking on are LCol P. Lloyd-Craig, CD and LCol H.T. Tye, CD, President of The Royal Canadian Military Institute.



Photo courtesy Capt S. Ferguson

Bisley The Challenge of Shooting

Where is it? If you tell the average person it is 30 miles west of London, it will probably mean nothing, but tell a serviceman it is not far from Salisbury Plain, and even closer to Aldershot there is no doubt he will be able to relate to it.

What is it? It is to shooting what St. Andrews is to golf — it is the mecca of the shooters world.

Certainly, there are the Connaught Ranges at Ottawa and the Americans have Camp Perry, but there is only one Bisley.

Bisley consists of several hundred acres of rolling Surrey countryside, with three major rifle ranges:

SIBERIA: a short range — not much used these days:

CENTURY: one hundred targets in a single row capable of handling 300 competitors on a single relay, with firing points from 100 to 600 yards;

STICKLEDOWN (over the hill): with ranges of 800, 900 and 1000 yards with additional 1100 and 1200 yard firing points for Match Rifle Competitions — that funny game where one lies flat on the back with a specially equipped rifle and shoots between the toes!

There are also pistol, running deer and running boar ranges and a trap and skeet set up.

Bisley is the home of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain, housing its office and the NRA Pavilion for social functions, and on Club Row there are the buildings and club houses of approximately a dozen rifle clubs.

Bisley is also the location of the Canadian Pavilion, a magnificent building, constructed entirely from Canadian materials sent over from here prior to 1900.

It is the home away from home for Canadian Rifle Teams whilst competing in the matches. Although the ranges are in use most of the year, the real activity is the annual meeting in July each year.

This consists of two weeks of shooting — starting with a week of Service Matches, Rifle, Pistol, SMG, LMG, etc. and then a second week of Target and Match Rifle Shooting culminating in the final of H.M. The Queen's Prize on the last Saturday after which

the fortunate (or unfortunate) winner is carried, in a chair, to each club on the camp to be congratulated and offered suitable liquid refreshment, usually until the small hours of the following morning!

During these two weeks, between 1200 and 1400 competitors will be housed and fed on the camp, and each will shoot in upward of 15 matches and barring a major disaster, or weather so bad that targets cannot be seen, matches will start on time. Every competitor will know from his squadding cards the time, target number, squad and range, and nothing short of a second flood will stop the shooting.

Bisley is a total experience and anyone interested in shooting should consider it.

Contrary to general opinion, one does not need to be an expert to enter the matches. There are classes for expert, average and novice shooters. On the firing point everyone is equal; a brigadier's outer scores two, the same as the private's!

Bisley Camp is within easy reach of the K.R.R.C. Museum at Winchester, Stonehenge, or London and the South Coast, and there are always plenty of social activities after the shooting day ends.

The Queen's Own has always been well represented at Bisley — Ernie Stock's name is still scratched on the panelling in the Canadian Pavilion.

Four of the continuing members of the Sergeants' Mess shot the meeting in 1977 and some of us will be there again in 1979.

On a slightly sadder note, some of The Queen's Own will never leave the area — they are at rest in Bisley Churchyard and in the Canadian Cemetery at Brookwood.

If any of the younger end have any desire to pay a visit to Bisley Camp, talk to Wilf Durance, Ernie Stock or me: we will gladly give the the general information.

Ken Gregory

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Regimental Cuff Links Crested (Chrome) per pair	\$8.00
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Zippo Engraved Table Lighter	\$13.00
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Heraldic Shield Dark Oak (4 colour hand painted) each	\$15.00
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Desk Flag with Base Crested 10" x 6" (16" high) each	\$3.00
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Maple Leaf Pattern Tie	\$7.00
Cummbund Scarlet	\$15.00
Cummbund Regimental Pattern, each	\$15.00
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Recording QOR of C (Band and Bugles)	\$5.00
Regimental History (LCol W.T. Barnard)	\$5.00

Regimental Accoutrements are available upon request for wear with QOR of C Mess Dress and No. 1 Dress.

Prices as shown are firm on present stock but subject to change on future orders from suppliers.

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The Rifleman wishes to express its appreciation to Captain T.F. Burroughs for his tireless efforts in operating the Kit Shop.

Strong regimental support is urged for the continuation of the Kit Shop.

Officers' Mess

Following the Garrison Levee on 1 Jan '79, the Mess seems to have had an unending social work load. We started off with weekly committee meetings planning the Garrison Ball. The 'Ball Game' gang, under John Glaysher, hosted the Toronto Scottish on Saturday, 6 January. On Wednesday, 17 January, we toasted our 'farewells' to Col Jim Strathy with a memorial church service and mess reception. The 31st saw TMD's administration inspection team, including Col Ted Taylor, join us in the mess after 'working us over' downstairs.

119TH BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

It's all over now but the shouting and although not quite as well attended as last year's dinner, it was certainly a great success.

We were fortunate in having as our guest, Major General Charlie H. Belzile, CMM, CD., Commander of Canadian Forces Europe. After a very inspiring address, General Belzile was presented with a Regimental plaque by LCol B. Danson, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and then Minister of National Defence, to commemorate the occasion.

A presentation was also made to the Regiment of a Spitfire (wingspan 6") from #424 Squadron who were the RCAF Support Squadron to No. 4 Brigade in Germany.

Our birthday cake, adorned with flaming candles, was marched in on the shoulders of four Skirmishers and was officially cut by Mrs. Danson and LCol W.S. Wilson.

Greetings and gifts were received from the West and were presented to the Regiment by Alberta's Goodwill Ambassador, Victor W. Thornhill who travelled from Lethbridge, Alberta for the occasion. A wartime story was presented to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on the occasion of the 119th Birthday, 21 April, 1979 by the Cities of Alberta. This beautiful collection will eventually reside in the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma.

February gave us a 'Ladies Dining In' on the 16th, as close to Valentines Day as the CO could arrange it. Col and Mrs. C. Dalton were our chief guests and Col Wilson gave a very big thanks to all our ladies for the lonely hours they put in.

March hit us with the Garrison Ball on Saturday the tenth. On the 21st we had the pleasure of having over 60 members of the Fort York Legion to cocktails followed by a tour and demonstration by our Pioneers and Skirmishers, also a show of battalion weapons and a section of riflemen.

A Reserve Forces Dinner was held at the RCMI on 22 March attended by the CO and officers, and on 28 March, the Mess hosted the TMD Commanders Conference. Running weekly as well, of course, was the Regimental Birthday Committee gearing up for the birthday party on 21 April.

On 22 April there was a Church Parade and the mess hosted over 70 QOR past and present.

**Major John Whyte
PMC**

The Officers' Mess congratulates Capt Adam Hermant and his wife, Jill, on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Jane, 28 May 1979.



Photo courtesy MCpl Josh Figa

The Cake Marched In.

Victor served with the 1st Battalion in Continental Europe.

A presentation was also made to the 'Rifleman Of The Year'; Ernie Stock, who received the President's Award.

Dinner music was provided by the Regimental Band and after dinner the Bugle Band put on a display of marching and counter marching, before joining the Regimental Band for several combination marches.

Dancing got under way around 9:30 p.m. and the dance floor was packed until 1:00 a.m.

The following morning, Sunday, 22 April, 1979, the Regiment paraded to St. Paul's Anglican Church. Before entering the church, wreaths from the Regiment and its Associations were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice. Following the service, the Regiment marched past, the salute being taken by Major General Belzile. Upon returning to Moss Park Armoury the messes were opened and refreshments served.

Clay Bell



Coi Wilson introduces Her Honour, Pauline McGibbon. Sgt Boyd shares in the humour of the occasion.

Photos courtesy
Lt E.S. Gardner



Pioneers & Skirmishers provide guard for head table as they enter for dinner.

“WHAT A BALL WE HAD!”



The Bugle Major joins Colonel Wilson and Brigadier N. Gordon for traditional drink.



Brig N. Gordon, Hon LCol Barney Danson and Lcol J. Mills share a “story”.

This year The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada had the pleasure of hosting the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball. The ball was held at the Toronto Harbour Castle Hilton on Saturday, 10 March, 1979, and was attended by a total of 1000 couples, including 100 couples from the Queen's Own family. Her Honour, Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Patron of the ball, was in attendance and officially opened the ball at the request of Brigadier J. Neil Gordon, President of the Ball Committee. A distinct rifles flavour was imparted by the decorations and the presence of the Pioneers and Skirmishers, the Bugle

Band, the Regimental Military Band and the Regimental Dance Band. Perhaps the only non-rifles flavour was imparted by the Pipes and Drums of the Toronto Scottish who provided the music for some Scottish dancing. In addition to the main activities, the officers also had a hospitality suite which was well attended by those at the ball — much to the distress of the mess committee and the stewards who did not get to bed until the wee hours of the morning.

Great credit is due to all those who worked so hard to make the ball a true rifles success, particularly LCol D.A. Pryer who organized the seating and

coped with all the last minute problems that arose, and the RSM who coordinated the activities of the necessary work parties as well as the Pioneers and Skirmishers.

In conclusion it must be said that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the Regiment was the recipient of a great many compliments both from other units and from individuals.

A.I.W. Schultz
VPMC Officers' Mess
and Secretary 1979 Garrison
Ball Committee



Photographer: MCpl. Josh Figa

Front Row: L - R WO R. Chan, WO E. Farkas, MWO H. McCabe, CWO E. Simunson, WO B. Budden, WO N. Arsenaault, WO G. Senetchko
Back Row: L - R Sgt B. Bamlett, WO C. Cunningham, Sgt J. Bennett, Sgt R. Dunk, Sgt G. Norman

Sergeants' Mess

Mess Committee

RSM: CWO E.R.C. Simundson, CD
 PMC: MWO H. McCabe, MMM, CD
 VPMC: WO G.N. Senetchko, CD
 Treas: Sgt S.B. Dawson
 Sec: WO E. Farkas
 Stewards:
 WOII W. Durance
 MWO S. Storms, CD

Promotions

- Sgt R. Chan to WO — 1 Apr 79
- MCPL B. Bamlett to Sgt — 1 Mar 79

Re-enlistments

- Sgt R.J. Dunk — 12 Jan 79
- Sgt J. Bennett — 14 Mar 79

Transfers

- Sgt R. Williams from TMD SU to Vics Coy
 - Sgt S. Crawford from TMD SU to 60th Coy
 - Sgt M. Hoare from TMD SU to 60th Coy
- (All of the above effective 1 Apr 79)
- Sgt DeLong from 25 SVC Bn to Buffs Coy — effective Jun 79

Postings

•Sgt Stan Dawson was posted to the CCUNEFME as of 21 May 79. We are expecting a full report on his experiences on his return in six months' time. Good luck Stan.

Cosen's Dinner

On the night of 24 Feb 79, the Sergeants' Mess held a dinner commemorating the 35th anniversary of the winning of the VC by Sgt Aubrey Cosens. This dinner was combined with our annual corporals night and enjoyed the company of 35 active and associate members and guests.

Cpl Norm Selby, a member of Sgt Cosens platoon, gave a first person account of the action to a very fine audience.

Mess Activities

Annual Dinner — March 79

Due to an excellent turn out of nearly 70 members and guests, the dinner itself had to be held in the south lecture rooms. Appropriately decorated, the rooms provided good surroundings for a delicious five course meal.

After the final toast, the guest speaker, Col E. Dalton, entertained us all once again with some fine tales and then changed pace giving us some very thought provoking insights into the U.S. military situation.

At the close of the formal portion of the dinner we adjourned to the mess to renew old friendships and begin new ones.

We look forward to an even bigger event in March, 1980.

Wine and Cheese Party, Meaford

While once again living under canvas during the March exercise in Meaford, our good art'y friends, the senior NCO's of the 7th Toronto Regiment, hosted a wine and cheese party in warm, dry M106.

Along with the 7th Tor Reg't and the 11FD Snr. NCO's, we enjoyed some good wine and cheese (including MWO John Mahon's potent offering) and some unusual entertainment.

At midnight, we pulled up stakes and headed back to our tent-city in fine shape to fight the sleet and snow.

Only Sasquatch and Sweet-Cheeks stayed behind to 'clean up'. Why were they so warm and dry at 0600 the next morning? Thanks again, art'y.

Bugler's Reception

One Wednesday evening in May, the Mess hosted the Regimental Bugle Band in appreciation of a job well done throughout the years. A cold buffet and colder draft beer were enjoyed throughout the evening.

Future Events

- Ladies night — Oct/Nov 79
- New Year's Eve — Mon. 31 Dec 79
- New Year's Levee — Tues. 1 Jan 80



Photo courtesy Toronto Star

The following written by Donald Jones reprinted with permission - The Toronto Star.

Casa Loma Museum Fulfils Sir Henry Pellatt's Wishes

Torontonians driving past Casa Loma during the summer, have begun to notice that the entrance is now guarded by men in historic 1860s uniforms and only a few people are aware of what has been happening inside the once-empty rooms below the towers in Toronto's castle on the hill.

The rooms are gradually being filled with the treasures of one of the famous regiments in Canada and a part of the castle has now become a major military museum. A surprising aspect of the story is that this is exactly what the man who built Casa Loma hoped would happen after his death.

Most of Toronto's millionaires have been reticent about their wealth. This was never true of Sir Henry Pellatt. No one ever had a grander time with his money. When he built Casa Loma in 1911, he must have been enormously pleased when it was called Toronto's most glamorous building and "the most romantic thing that ever happened to this city".

But Pellatt never planned it as simply a palatial home for a family that included only his wife and son. It was eventually to become an almost unique setting on this continent for a military museum.

LOST FORTUNE

When he lost his fortune in the 1920s and was forced to sell, not only the castle, but most of its furnishings, his plans for a museum were forgotten. In 1937, the building was acquired by the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto and today most of its rooms have been restored and filled with the kind of furnishings that recall the original splendor of the place.

In more recent years, it has also become a setting for a museum of the very regiment that Sir Henry Pellatt once commanded.

The guards that now daily parade on the grounds are dressed in the style of the regiment's original uniforms of the 1860s and the rooms above the grand staircase are now the official museum of the Toronto regiment that Queen Victoria gave royal permission to be called the Queen's Own Rifles.

The idea of a rifle regiment is a comparatively new idea in the history of warfare. In his story of the Queen's Own Rifles, LCol W.T. Barnard wrote that the first light infantry battalion was not formed until the middle of the 18th

century and came into being during the war between the French and English troops that was being fought in the forests of North America.

NEW BREED

British commanders soon realized that what they needed most were men who could shoot accurately and move quickly and inconspicuously through the woods.

These new troops were dressed in dark green uniforms rather than in the usual bright red coats that would make them easy targets in the forests. Their buttons were made of black horn and not of the regulation brass that would glitter in the sunlight and moonlight and reveal their position.

This new breed of fighting men, often working independently of each other, became an increasingly important striking force and was readily adopted by General James Wolfe during his campaigns in the 1750s. The man who is generally believed to be the founder of the first official rifle corps was Col Coote Manningham, whose story is remembered in the words of one of the oldest of the rifle-men's songs:

"He dressed them all in jackets of green

And placed them where they could not be seen

And sent them in front, an invisible screen

To fight for England's glory."

On April 26, 1860, when there were threats of an invasion of Canada by American troops — an invasion that did, in fact, take place six years later — six volunteer rifle companies in Toronto banded together to form the Second Battalion Volunteer Rifles in Canada. That is why the Number 2 appears at the centre of the regimental badge. The first battalion was formed in Montreal but was soon disbanded.

In 1863, Queen Victoria granted royal approval for the new regiment to be called the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto and later the name was changed to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The regiment has served Canada with distinction in every war since that date and is now renowned as the oldest continuing regiment in Canadian history.

(PELLATT con't on p. 22)

(PELLATT con't from p. 21)

The regiment's traditional emphasis on the initiative of each of its members has always attracted men of adventure.

In 1876, a young lad from Kingston, Henry Pellatt, joined the regiment as a private, serving during the evenings and working by day at his father's brokerage firm. By the time he was 35, through a series of shrewd investments, particularly in land in the Canadian west, he had made himself a multimillionaire and in 1902 received a knighthood from King Edward VII for his services to Canada.

But of all the careers in his life, and there were many, the one that was Sir Henry's greatest source of pride was his association with the Queen's Own Rifles. He served as its commanding officer from 1902 to 1912 and on the eve of World War I he took hundreds of his men to parade in London in an extravagant but nonetheless magnificent gesture to prove that the Empire could depend on Canada in the event of war.

FUNERAL SERVICE

In 1911, when he built Casa Loma, it was to be a monument to the fortress architecture of the medieval ages and he had it built with floors of solid concrete 18 inches thick in the hope that the entire castle might one day become a great military museum. When he died on March 8, 1939, he was 80 and had lived the last years of his life almost entirely alone but he had not been forgotten. Crowds filled St. James Cathedral for his funeral service.

His body was borne through the streets of Toronto on a gun carriage and, at the last, soldiers of the Queen's Own Rifles fired volley after volley until the air was filled not with the scent of flowers, but with the smell of gunpowder. It was said, by one who witnessed it, "a funeral fit for a prince".

WE'RE THE TYPE INC.

(John and Irene Power)

Extend congratulations to the staff and contributors of The Rifleman.

Continued best wishes for all regimental publications.

QOR and The Fenians

Editor's Note: The following excerpt from the diary of Susan Sibbald first appeared in the journal of the Ontario Historical Society, Volume LXVI, Number 1, March 1974, under the title: "Portrait of Susan Sibbald, Writer and Pioneer." It was kindly brought to the attention of the editor by the Curator of the QOR Regimental Museum, LCol W.T. Barnard. Col. Barnard added the footnote that Mrs. Sibbald (1783 - 1866), and her husband settled at what is now Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe.

"Susan was also appalled at the attack of the Fenian Brotherhood in the spring of 1866. On the night of May 31, 1866, a force of almost one thousand Fenians crossed the Niagara River near Buffalo and invaded Canadian territory. On June 1 the Canadian government declared that "the soil of Canada has been invaded . . . by a lawless and piratical band". In response 20,000 men volunteered their services for their country and forced the Fenians to retreat back to the United States on the night of June 2nd, after engaging them in battle near Ridgeway. Among those who volunteered to fight the Fenians were two of Mrs. Sibbald's grandsons. A letter to her son Tom at 'Eildon Hall' conveys the consternation in Toronto:

"You can have no idea of the distress in every family in Toronto, everyone having some relative amongst the volunteers. . . . Much fear was felt by the townspeople for the immense number of horrid-looking fellows that were seen about the streets here. A home guard was formed and hundreds of special constables sworn in. The respectable householders in every ward walked in fours from nine till daylight, relieving each other every two hours, I believe, however, it made one feel safe'.

In another letter to Tom, written a week later, Mrs. Sibbald reports:

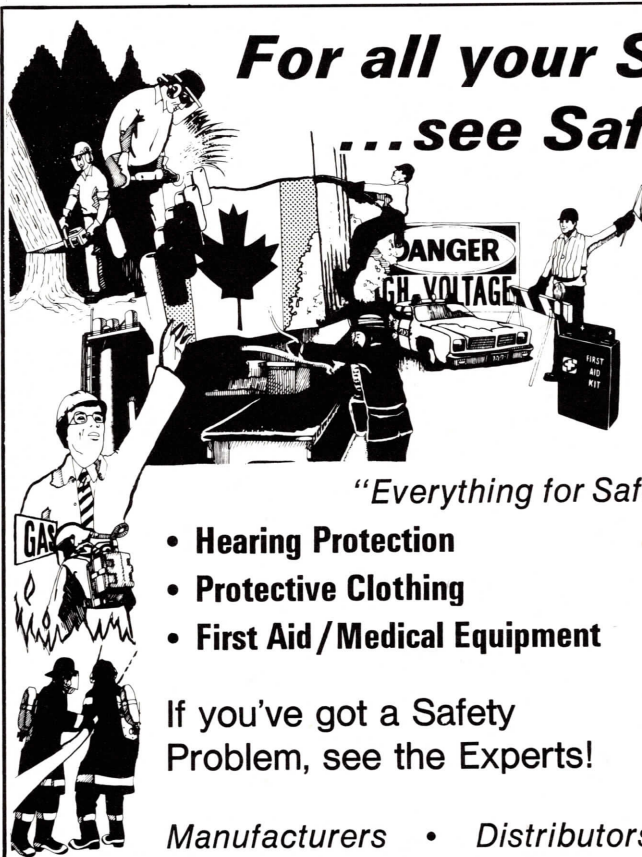
'No fear of Fenians, now, I hope, particularly in this quarter. The commander-in-chief is at a loss what to do with the number of volunteers still offering their services and — great joy

— the suspension of the Habeus Corpus act has performed wonders here already. The streets have been cleared of the most wretched-looking men that congregated in the corners of the streets and greatly alarmed people who had to go off the sidewalk in passing, fearing being assaulted. We have heard from Charlie (Charlie Sibbald, a grandson) twice. In his first he said he was at Ridgeway. He shot a Fenian and got his rifle with some etceteras and cut off a lock of his hair — I should have let his dirty hair alone but several did the same. Charlie is in The Queen's Own; Tom Ritchie (another grandson) is in the Tenth Royals. His company was at Blackrock; he does not know whether he killed any Fenians but he cracked away at them at a great rate.'

Susan then goes on to tell the amusing story of young Haggerty, surely one of the unsung heroes of the Fenian invasion. Haggerty was in The Queen's Own and his parents Judge and Mrs. Haggerty, had gone to Stratford to see the regiment arrive:

'The regiment had arrived about a quarter of an hour before and were drawn up in front of some hotel, I think, and such figures! So dirty-looking with their long march. Mrs. Haggerty's youngest son (18) without shoes or stockings and his feet and ankles in a sad state. Poor boy, he had gone to some water at Ridgeway to bathe his feet having laid down his boots, stockings the latter being filled with brushes, etc. When he came to look for them they were all gone. A search was made through the camp for them but they could not be found, nor could he get for purchase or loan another pair of boots or shoes, so that he had to march bare-footed the whole way except for two short drives in a cart. The youth would not come home so his mother remained with him till last Saturday when he was able to put on a large pair of Indian rubbers. They then expected to be sent to Goderich to have another brush with the Fenians which was the reason he would not come home.'

LCol W.T. Barnard



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The Battalion was the right forward battalion of the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and landed at Bernieres-sur-Mer at 0812 hrs on D Day, 6 June 1944, as part of the leading wave of the invasion.