



2002-2003

# The Riflesman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada





## Editorial

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This edition of the Rifleman covers a very interesting and busy time for the Regiment and Regimental family. It covers the period when, 60 years ago, the World War II battalion was steeling itself in the UK, getting ready for what would eventually be D-Day. The current Battalion continues to train apace and provide trained personnel to lead the way as part of Canada's commitment to overseas missions, and support of training in Canada, for example, the Canadian Parachute Centre.

The nature of the primary reserve has changed and continues to change. The riflemen on parade sporting large medal racks are today young men with multiple tours overseas. The commitment sought by the CO of the Queen's Own Rifles from all serving members is significant, and that is just to meet operational requirements and taskings. As evidenced by the articles in this Journal, our riflemen are giving more and more of their personal time to serve. This added demand comes at a cost to our serving members and their families.

It is critically important that all of the Queen's Own Regimental activities and traditions be perpetuated and that they not be allowed to slip to the margins by the sheer force of other urgent, operational

requirements. The forestalled publication of this Journal is one example of how other priorities have taken precedence over secondary tasks. The days of having serving Junior Officers with spare time to take on important regimental tasks are sadly gone.

Members of the Regimental family can help. They can become active with the QORA and its branches. They can volunteer to help with RHQ, the Regimental Museum, and the messes. And they can support the Trust Fund whose work includes this Journal. Your editor has undertaken the 2002/2003 version of the Rifleman as a volunteer while extra-regimentally employed, and is glad that this outstanding edition has finally gone to press.

Above all, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental family must be vigilant to ensure that the traditions of the Regiment be maintained. And they must be prepared to contribute their time and the resources necessary to assist those who bear the mantle of this responsibility. It is all part of being prepared during peacetime.

IN PACE PARATUS

### **Honorary Colonel's Forward** **BGen D.A. Pryer, CD**

I am pleased to see this edition of The Rifleman finally hit the streets. Albeit quite late, it details two very important years in the history of the Regiment. There are articles and colour centrefolds covering the opening of the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, which the QOR strongly supported, and the burial of three riflemen killed in action at Passchendaele in November 1917, and whose remains were discovered in 2002.

As well, the Reserves have probably not been more relevant in decades. Land Force Reserve Restructure has designated The Queen's Own Rifles as one of the units to expand with an additional infantry company slated for Scarborough. A QOR

Sergeant reports first hand from Afghanistan, and the Regiment had eight riflemen in Bosnia with Roto 13, and all have returned safely. An excellent Briefing Note on the QOR Parachute Tasking details over twenty years of successful support to the Regular Force, with recommendations for the future.

And we also pay tribute to 'those who went before', with some stories from our veterans, and a tribute to some of those who passed away in 2002/2003, including several of our D-Day and Battle of Normandy veterans.

I hope that you will agree with me that this issue of The Rifleman was worth the wait.

IN PACE PARATUS

## Honorary Lieutenant Colonel's Report

Col P.F. Hughes, CD

My devotion to The QOR dates back to 1962. I joined the 3rd Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles as a Rifleman in that year. At that time we were quartered in University Armoury (across from the RCMI where the court house is located today). The Commanding Officer was LCol Glen McIver and, if I remember correctly, the RSM was WO1 T. Fred Burroughs, both veterans of the Second World War with The QOR. The field officers were Majors Strathy, Pryer, Mulrooney, Hoddinott, Vine, Houston, the Padre was Major Dick Newsham and the Director of Music was Captain Bill Atkins, a wonderful gentleman, not that the others weren't.

Having always been fascinated by the Infantry, I was walking around downtown Toronto on 6 June 1962. I saw The QOR Bugle Band marching up Bay Street to the (old) City Hall and Cenotaph. Without doubt, I felt they were the sharpest unit in town. It is a memory I shall never forget. I knew then that I wanted to be part of this unit. Thus, I joined The QOR soon after in 1962. The memories are forever in my mind. Allow me to share some of them with you.

In those days we had some Second World War and some Korean veterans. We went to summer camp in Camp Niagara, a totally inadequate training area. As I

recollect some of the Officers who were not directly involved in the training stayed at the Oban Inn. We also had a mess dinner each year in Old Fort Niagara. We were just coming off Civil Defence Training and were gradually, slowly moving back to Infantry training. The rifle we used was the C1 but the LMG was the good old Bren.

We marched out of University Armoury in 1963. The last man out was RSM (WO1) TF Burroughs (later Captain Burroughs, QM) who closed the doors of the armoury and thus ended a part of our memorable history with University Armoury.

We took up accommodation in the Richmond Street Armoury because Moss Park was not as yet ready for accommodation. This armoury was totally inadequate but we made it work (a real strength of the QOR). We shared a Mess with the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA and that was a happy association. The CO at that time was LCol M.I. (Moose) Jackson who every Wednesday would parade the unit through the streets of Toronto. We used the old St. Lawrence Market for a parade square for formal parades ? a very chilly place indeed, in the mid of winter.

Finally, we moved into our current home in Moss Park. The surroundings were not as impressive as University Armoury

where we had a very elegant mess and great unit lines. However, anything was better than the Richmond Street Armoury, and we finally had our "home" again.

As the proud Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of this fine unit, let me give you some heartfelt feelings. In all my experience with The Queen's Own I have never been more impressed with the quality of Officers, NCOs and Riflemen. The standards you set are high and the level of training is much superior to anything I ever experienced anywhere in the country, both presently and in the past. I shall be visiting the unit at summer camp in August and I know I shall see training that surpasses all my expectations.

To all Riflemen I say, "Set the bar high, aim high, do not accept mediocre performance, dare to think big, believe in the Regiment and the Regimental system". Together we will go on from strength to strength.

I am proud to be your Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. I am proud of all of you.

IN PACE PARATUS



## Commanding Officer's Report - 2002 & 2003

Lieutenant Colonel J.M. Fotheringham, CD

2002 started off with a bang, as the Regiment hosted the annual Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball at the Royal York. This event has been a tradition since the days of John Graves Simcoe, and we were determined to set the standard for years to come.

The theme was 'Celebrating Valour and Friends', and the participating units of 32 Canadian Brigade Group were invited to sponsor a veteran from their regiment to be guests of honour. In the presence of The Chief of the Air Staff, LGen L.C. Campbell, CMM CD, and Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable Barney Danson, PC OC, the veterans and their spouses were introduced at the start of the dinner, and marched to their tables, while the Master of Ceremonies, Major Erik Simundson, OMM CD, read a short biography of their military backgrounds. The theme was well received - The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were represented by Colonel and Mrs. Hank Elliot, the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment by WO1 Harry Fox, MBE, and Korean veterans by WO2 Bruce Richardson, CD.

The September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States continued to resonate down to our level, as the PPCLI deployed to Afghanistan and the CF continued its heightened level of domestic security. We implemented regular intelligence briefings for all troops, increased armoury security, and a heightened level of training, aiming to increase the professionalism of all riflemen.

Having successfully accomplished our goals for 2001, I made minor revisions for 2002, and confirmed our vision to be the best unit in 32 CBG, and amongst the best in the Canadian Forces, and our mission to be highly viable, with challenging and exciting training. Strategic goals addressed include: augmentees to UN missions, band tasks (including the Juno



QOR and R Regt C members of the Juno Beach Guard at Passchendaele, following the burial of three members of the 3rd Toronto Regiment killed in action on 6 November 1917.

Beach Centre opening in June 2003), improved communications, training and qualifications, financial viability, our parachute tasking, recruiting, retention, training of junior leaders, and liaison with our veterans, Association, and Legion.

A memorial to CSM Charlie Martin, DCM MM, was unveiled at St. Hillary's Anglican Church in Mississauga on June 6th. In a well-attended ceremony, with the QOR Band and guard present, a fitting memorial to one of the Regiment's outstanding riflemen was unveiled.

Charlie was CSM of A Company from D-Day to Holland, where he was severely wounded. His 1994 book, *Battle Diary*, and a CBC documentary, *A Day In The Life of Charlie Martin*, chronicled the QOR fight through NW Europe. The monument has been erected in his memory to "perpetuate the valour and selfless heroism that contributed so much to maintaining our freedom, liberty, prosperity and democracy".

The summer exercise in Petawawa, *Steadfast Warrior*, centred around a mounted combat team, commanded by QOR Major Adam Saunders. For most riflemen, it was the first time participating in mechanized operations. We started the

week long exercise by parading with our veterans and Association at the annual Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE, the sole unit to do so. Our jumpers then enplaned at Toronto Island Airport for a full-equipment jump into Petawawa, while our jumpers-to-be moved by road. It was a demanding and fulfilling exercise.

Lt Pat Slack had an excellent year, completing RESO Infantry Phase IV (mechanized training) and was successful in his second attempt at one of the most demanding courses in the Canadian army, the Patrol Pathfinder course. His article on the course is on page 17 of this edition. Pat was selected as the 32 CBG Platoon Commander as part of LFCA's Composite Reserve Infantry Company (CRIC) for Op Palladium Roto 13 in Bosnia, deploying in the summer of 2003.

Our Brigade allocation of vacancies for Roto 13 was disappointingly light, but based upon our strong showing for Roto 8 in 2001 and the Brigade's desire to share the wealth. In addition to the Platoon Commander, Lt Slack, the QOR provided the Company Administrative Officer, Capt Karl Haupt, Platoon 2 I/C WO Mark Shannon, MCpl Mick Bioletti, Cpl John Marmion, Cpl Tony Bahsous, and Cpl Richard Mitchell to rifle platoons of the LFCA composite reserve infantry

company (CRIC). Sgt Chris Van Hamme also deployed with the command element. The CRIC began pre-deployment training in Petawawa in the fall of 2002, and deployed to Bosnia in summer 2003. They had a safe deployment and return.

I was pleased to welcome our new Regular Force Warrant Officer, WO Ray Joseph, from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. WO Joseph came to us with a 'short return spring', as his prior accomplishments and performance indicated that he has a strong future in the CF. WO Joseph has his Advanced Recce and Pathfinder qualifications, amongst many others, and has served on several deployments including Somalia, and Bosnia with MGen Lew MacKenzie and the securing of the Sarajevo Airport, for which WO Joseph's unit received a Governor General's Commendation.

Our annual Mess Dinner on the Friday preceding Remembrance Day was well attended, and it was good to have the Brigade Commander, Col DesLauriers, the CO of 3 RCR, LCol Don Denne, the CO of CPC, LCol Mike Blanchette, the LFCA G3, LCol Bruce Pennington, and the President of the RCMI, Capt Charles Scot-Brown, amongst others, attend as guests.

The active members continued to enjoy the strong support of our Royal Canadian Legion Branch 344 under President Mary Keates, the Association under President Norm McCracken, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion under President Jan de Vries, as well as our Regimental Headquarters, with BGen Steve Andrunyk, Maj John Whyte, Sgt Art Gay, Sgt Andy Macnaughton, and Cpl Bill French. The attendance at the Remembrance Day parade was outstanding — over 200 Riflemen, serving and retired, rounded the corner of Church Street onto Bloor Street in front of the Regimental Church that Sunday.

Following the church service, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Bill Graham, presented some members of the Regiment with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. Among those honoured for



Lieutenant Colonel The Honorable Barney Danson, PC OC at the annual Remembrance Day Parade.

their long service to the Queen's Own were LCol John Strathy (Trust Fund), Sgt Art Gay (Kit Shop), Capt Peter Simundson (Museum), BGen Steve Andrunyk (Regimental Secretary) and Maj John Whyte (Regimental Major). My DCO, Maj Rob Zeidler, took the initiative to contact his Member of Parliament, Minister Graham, to request that part of the Minister's allocation go to the Queen's Own. The Minister complied, allotting almost his whole quota to the Regiment.

At the annual Christmas Dinner, I was

pleased to be able to preside over the presentation of the following awards - Fitness Award to Rfn Mitchell, Cpl Gillic and Cpl Coyle, all who had participated in the Nijmegen March; the British Airborne Forces Most Promising Rifleman Award to Cpl Koulik; the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Reg Walker Award to Lt Slack; Airborne Rifleman of the Year to Sgt Chin-Leung; the Charlie Martin/CO's Sword Award to Sgt Moody; the Jump Hog Award to MCpl Vergie; and the Humanitarian Award to Band Sgt Amodeo.

2003 saw the Land Force Reserve Restructure announcement that the QOR would be one of the units designated to expand, with an additional infantry company slated for Scarborough. The Regiment was selected based on current strength and performance, and longer-term potential. Two other units within the Brigade, the Toronto Scottish Regiment, and the Grey and Simcoe Forresters, were also selected for additional sub-units.

One of my CO's goals and objectives from the start was to send the Regimental Band and Bugles to the official opening of the Juno Beach Centre. As the Band had attended several previous Normandy



QOR CO LCol Fotheringham (centre) and R Regt C CO LCol Sharma carry the flags from the coffins of two of the three 3rd Toronto Regiment soldiers killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, and whose remains were only recently discovered. Behind them is LGen Couture.

commemorations at their own expense, I was determined that this trip would be largely funded from sources other than the bandmen's pockets. It was tough and go for a while, but with the support of the Regimental Trust Fund, several generous retired riflemen, some fundraising, and a top-up from the Band, we were successful in getting them to France.

The Juno Beach Centre also contributed a substantial amount to have the QOR as their primary band. (We would have done it for free, but they didn't need to know that). The QOR had raised over \$100,000 in support of the JBC, largely through the sale of remembrance bricks - so many that the QOR is the one unit to have their own 'kiosk' of bricks at Juno Beach.

We were honoured to accompany our veterans on the June trip to Normandy for the opening of the JBC ([www.junobeach.org](http://www.junobeach.org)) and later to Belgium for the burial of three 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn CEF soldiers (perpetuated as The Toronto Regiment) recently discovered on the Passchendaele battlefield ([www.wol.be/diggers](http://www.wol.be/diggers)). Since these soldiers were unable to be identified beyond their regimental affiliation, it was up to us to represent their families at the ceremony, and it was an honour to accept the flag from the coffin of one of the riflemen from LGen C. Couture.

I would never have thought that, 86 years after the battle, that we would be burying three of our own. A related story on the discovery of the remains, and attempts to identify them, begins on page 35.

The official DND 50-soldier guard was led by QOR Captain Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, along with Sergeant Jeff Johnston, CD and eleven other Riflemen selected for their dedication and performance - MCpl Charlebois, MCpl Kurelo, Cpl Atwell, Cpl Burns, Cpl Carvalho, Cpl Dickie, Cpl Frye, Cpl Gillie, Cpl Kaminski, Cpl Koulik and Rfn Huh. The Band and Bugles were the lead band at the opening of the JBC and provided support to all regimental functions throughout the tour. Major Norm McCracken's article on the trip is featured on page 27.



1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association President Jan de Vries is flanked by LCol Mike Blanchette (right) and CWO Jim Vienneau following their jump into Normandy on 5 June 2003. LCol Blanchette, CO of the Canadian Parachute Centre, and a great friend of the QOR, was killed in a parachuting accident three months later.

For the summer concentration, the Battalion was tasked to spearhead a 120-soldier parachute assault, with the force comprised entirely of Reserve soldiers from LFCA. Sixteen members of the German 26 Airborne Brigade also participated in the exercise as guests of the QOR.

The Regiment was saddened by the death of LCol Mike Blanchette, CO of the Canadian Parachute Centre, who died in a parachuting accident on 5 September 2003. LCol Blanchette was a strong supporter of the QOR and its para tasking, and thirty soldiers, led by the CO and RSM, attended his funeral in Trenton.

Several Riflemen also attended the memorial service in Petawawa for Sgt R. Short and Cpl R. Beerenfenger of 3 RCR, killed in Afghanistan on 2 October.

On the weekend of 26-28 September, Lt Stewart, MWO Patterson, and several Riflemen supported our QOR veterans at the Korea Veterans Tribute and Monument Dedication services in Ottawa, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of that conflict. Attendees included retired Riflemen LGen Charlie

Belzile and MGen Herb Pitts.

At the annual Church Parade, I was pleased to be able to present all soldiers on parade with a memorial coin, bearing the name, rank, serial number and date of death of one of the over 1,700 riflemen who have died in the service of the Regiment and Canada since 1866. Each soldier was presented with a different coin, drawn at random, as all riflemen who made the supreme sacrifice are equal, regardless of rank.

The idea was that of MWO Sean Kelly, a serving soldier, and funded by the Hon LCol and the Regimental Trust Fund. Following the service, we presented coins to all veterans and members of the Association on parade. Our long-term plan is to place the coin of each of our fallen comrades in the hands of members of the Regimental Family, so that every riflemen is remembered.

On 11 November, the City of Mississauga dedicated the Charlie Martin Trail, in memory of WO2 Martin, DCM MM. The trail is a 3.5 kilometre path in the Bloor/Dixie area where Charlie grew up, and connected to an extensive web of

trails through Mississauga parks. The opening ceremony included songs from the local Grade 4 class, and short speeches by Charles Martin, Charlie's grandson, and the Commanding Officer.

Our Roto 13 personnel - Capt Haupt, Lt Slack, WO Shannon, Sgt Van Hamme, MCpl Bioletti, Cpl Marmion, Cpl Bahsous and Cpl Mitchell - all returned safely from Bosnia, as did Capt Taylor and Sgt Harmes from Op Athena in Afghanistan.

Our former Honorary Colonel, Colonel H.C.F. (Hank) Elliot, passed away in November. Lt Elliot landed with B Company on D-Day. According to the Regimental History, "An initial mischance now turned out to be a determining factor in B Company's success. One L.C.A. had its rudder jammed and ran ashore off course. Here there was no enemy defence. Quickly, Lt H.C.F. Elliot, the platoon commander, seized the opportunity and worked his way inland along the shore. The unexpected flank attack convinced the enemy that they had had enough. It was as well, for by now, the rest of B Company had been practically wiped out."

Lt Elliot finished the war as a Major, and went on to rise to the rank of Colonel as a career soldier. We conducted a fitting remembrance service for this outstanding rifleman at the RCMI in December.

At the Christmas Dinner, the following awards were presented: MCpl Pampe - CSM Charles C. Martin (CO's Sword) Award; Cpl Chiu - British Airborne Forces/RSM Harry Fox MBE Award for Most Promising Rifleman of the Year; Sgt Johnston - Airborne Rifleman of the Year; Cpl Frye - Fitness Award; MCpl Charlebois - 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Reg Walker Award; Sgt Chin-Leung - Jump Hog Award; Humanitarian Award - the Gentlemen Buglers; and the Association Rifleman of the Year - WO Ted O'Halloran, a QOR stretcher bearer on D-Day, and still serving as a Bugler with the Band.

IN PACE PARATUS



QOR troops come ashore from Georgian Bay after disembarking from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Samuel Risley, during Ex Neptune Strike, June 2003.

Lt Slack, Pathfinder Grad and LCol Fotheringham at CPC, CFB Trenton.



A final note - I take sole responsibility for the delay in this edition of The Rifleman for 2002 and 2003, but without regret. The operational tempo of the serving unit is at the highest level that I've seen in twenty years of service, and the focus was, and continues to be, to produce combat capable soldiers to augment the Regular Force for deployments overseas.

'Add-ons' like The Rifleman will always take the back seat, and I am pleased that Hon LCol Hughes is conscripting retired Riflemen to assume the role of editors, and free up the CO and his soldiers to concentrate on their main tasks and mission. The Rifleman is an important chronicle of the Regiment's history - it must not be allowed to die.



# RSM Report 2002-2003

CWO John Wilmot, CD



I have enjoyed being the Regimental Sergeant Major for the last three years. I did not spend my career striving for this position and when it was first offered to me I resisted taking it.

But when I became the RSM I found that it is not as bad a job as I had imagined.

There have been parts of this job that I have greatly enjoyed and I will tell you about them shortly but first I will tell you about the part of the job I did not enjoy.

## Discipline

As RSM it was my responsibility to ensure discipline within the Regiment. Over the three years, I have been involved in more investigations and summary trials than I ever expected. Years ago I was told that only a small percentage of soldiers would ever give you trouble and of that small percentage, they will generally fall into two categories. If you imagine soldiers to be like horses there will be some that you have to beat with a whip to get any work out of them and there will be some that you have to always pull back on the reins to keep from running away from you. Of the two types, it is better to have to use the reins than the whip. Fortunately, that is the case in most of the disciplinary action I have been involved in.

My concern is that for some soldiers there seems to be the misunderstanding that because we give them training and equipment which the general public would never be allowed to have, they are then free to act in ways the general public are not allowed to act. This is exactly the opposite of the truth. It is precisely because we give them this training and equipment that they are bound by more rules, and not less. Most soldiers understand this very well, but I have had to deal with a few that do not seem to fully appreciate it.

That is what I did not like about the job.

## Regimental Pride

What I did like was being allowed to represent this outstanding regiment to the rest of the Army and to the public. Traveling to France for the opening of the Juno Beach Centre was a highlight of my time in office. The Sergeants' Mess Dinner at Casa Loma was another. But, what was best about being RSM was being able to make any boast I wanted about my unit and knowing that the soldiers here could back it up. We are not a perfect unit because we do not try to be perfect. We are an excellent unit because we strive for excellence. As RSM I was able to rely on that excellence whenever I spoke to people outside the Regiment.

I spoke to each class of recruits before they began their training. I told them that every unit says that they are the best, but that only when the Queen's Own say it, is it the truth. Our soldiers prove it time and again. That was the best part of being RSM.

## Change

Many people will say that things in the Army are always the same and that nothing ever changes. One of the things I noticed most as RSM was the constant changes that are happening all the time. Everything from little changes in the nominal roll to new CadPat uniforms and a new Company in Scarborough has come down. The Regiment really is a living body that way and as soon as you think you have a snapshot of it, it will change. At times it was all I could do to keep on top of all the changes that were going on. As the RSM I think that was one of my greatest responsibilities - to help the Commanding Officer in managing this change.

## Taking Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the RSM to lead change, especially within the Sergeants' Mess. That is why you often hear people

making comments on what the RSM should do. It seems everyone has an idea on how the RSM should lead change.

A habit that many of us have is to shift the responsibility for change up the chain of command. We can easily point out what someone higher needs to do to solve a problem. Statements like "The Army should do this" or "The Commander should do that" are nothing more than an expression of frustration at our own perceived lack of power. What they really do is distract us from our own jobs and mislead us into thinking we are unable to lead change.

As RSM I found that, by ignoring all of my brilliant ideas about what I would do if I were the Chief of Defence Staff, I could concentrate on what I should do as the RSM. The lesson in this is that we all have a certain amount of power. If we direct our energies towards making a difference in our own job and not worry about someone else's, then we are both more productive and more satisfied.

This was the message I tried to bring to the Sergeants' Mess when we conducted our post exercise assessments. I would hear many statements about what the training office or the Commanding Officer or the supply system should do to make our exercises better but I always tried to turn it around and get the Sergeants to talk about what they could do to make things go better. Once they started thinking along those lines some excellent ideas were generated. Again it shows the quality of our soldiers.

## Gratitude

My time as the Regimental Sergeant Major of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was overall an enjoyable experience. I am proud to have held such a prestigious position in such an outstanding unit. I am grateful that I was selected for the position and I am even more grateful to all of the people who supported me in the position. It is the soldiers of the Regiment that make the job worthwhile.

## 60th Company Report 2002

Maj A.R. Saunders, CD

What an honour it is to serve as a member of The Queen's Own Rifles and what a bonus to be entrusted to serve as an Officer Commanding (OC). The commitment, sacrifices and strength of character of those who have gone before are most humbling.

January 2002 started off with the usual demanding training schedule. This year the Company was made of a Coy HQ, 1 Pl (Para) and 2 Platoon. Our training schedule was simple. Each Wednesday the NCO's would conduct "ELOC" training and, at least one weekend per month, an exercise with a planned para descent. This annual Army-wide "ELOC" refresher training ensures all personnel are current in the handling and firing of a variety of weapons and in basic fieldcraft, including mine-awareness and first aid. This became a unit priority, so training for it was superimposed over all other training to ensure a high completion rate.

The new year started with winter warfare training at the section level at ATC Meaford, encompassing section recce patrols, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and basic survival skills. We were to have a para drop of equipment and supplies from 8 Wing Trenton but, in typical Meaford fashion, the weather closed in on the DZ and we called a STOP DROP.

On January 26 we participated in Ex Polar Warrior 2, the 2nd annual winter skills competition among 32 CBG units. We were strong competitors, but lacked the "heavy weights" to win the tug-of-war and finished 2nd.

Through February we continued with para refresher training. We parachuted into the February Ex held at CFB Borden - a continuation of winter warfare training and a graduation to platoon battle drills. We moved on to ATC Meaford to witness a firepower demo organized by our Brigade. A LAV was the highlight, demonstrating the accuracy and firepower of a 25 mm chain-gun.

March brought the Brigade training event, Ex Bold Venture at Fort Knox, Kentucky. We sent a platoon to the Ex, and had the unique opportunity of having our jumpers mount a full-equipment para drop from CFB Trenton onto the Drop Zone in Fort Knox. The weather was marginal, but thanks to the

capability of the C-130 pilot, he found a hole in the low ceiling and gave us the green light. It was a first class drop onto a soggy DZ. Most of the troops were quite satisfied with their landings, although most were soaked.

Many of our troops have completed 100 jumps to date (it was my 101st). Later in the month we conducted an M72 stalking Ex. On March 24 we met with an Honour Guard from CPC who were in Toronto to dedicate Topham Park to Cpl Fred Topham, VC, a park close to where he lived in Toronto's east end.

In April we participated in the first of four Brigade imposed evaluations. The Combat Readiness Evaluation (CRE) process was put in place to assess our ability "to field general purpose, combat capable soldiers." By CRE 4, we will be required to deploy a full coy. CRE 1 was for section commanders who participated in this TEWT at ATC Meaford, April 19-22. As a follow-up, a one day Ex was conducted by QOR for 60th Coy at CFB Borden with a para descent on April 27. Yes, we are busy !!

In May we competed against the Queen's York Rangers for the coveted Queen's Cup. We won (as usual) but they keep us on our toes. May ended with the Brigade CRE 2 Ex, and a para drop onto DZ Gorvad in Borden. We also made our annual trek to our Museum in Casa Loma on a Wednesday evening.

On June 6th, a memorial was dedicated to CSM Charlie Martin, DCM MM. It was unveiled at St. Hillary's Anglican Church in Mississauga, and the company provided a 30-man guard to properly commemorate an outstanding rifleman's contribution to our country.

Ex Neptune Strike is a QOR-driven Ex that saw our Company para insert a recce element, assault boat insert onto the North Shore of ATC Meaford prior to first light after embarking from a Canadian Coast Guard Cutter, conduct a link-up with elements of the GGHG, and then move into an advance-to-contact ... what an exercise!

Mid June the company's para-qualified personnel jumped onto Petawawa's DZ Anzio with live ammo in order to move into

a live fire exercise on a improvised field firing range. We were then to emplane at CFB Petawawa and jump onto DZ Hodgson near CFB Trenton the next day.

Our next adventure took us to our annual training concentration at CFB Petawawa for Steadfast Warrior August 17-25. This year, we marched in the Warriors Day parade at the Canadian National Exhibition, and then moved directly to the Toronto Island Airport where we emplaned for our drop into Steadfast Warrior (SW). SW was an outstanding opportunity for the troops to develop our skills in a mechanized role. I commanded the Mechanized Infantry Company, and then later in the training commanded a Combat Team with the GGHG's. The troops also managed to get a jump with the 3 RCR Para Company.

In addition to the collective training, we were also required to provide instructors for individual training courses run by the Brigade Battle School or "host "units." A number of our troops were offered opportunities to go on their Basic Para Course, Jump Master course, Para Instructor Crse, Patrol Pathfinder and more. In continued efforts to provide support to The Canadian Parachute Centre, we inevitably end up supporting 8 Wing by providing DZ controllers, jumpers and Aerial Delivery qualified personnel who rig the various loads which end up being dropped from C130s. Our participation in BTATs, (Basic Tactical Air Training) and TATEXs (Tactical Air Training Exercises) were completed at an unprecedented level. We had jumpers going to CFB Trenton 2 or 3 times per month. Out of 71 active jumpers we had 65 of them current for a good portion of the training year. We maintain a valuable relationship with CPC and must continue to work even harder in order to prove ourselves worthy of the maroon beret we wear.

QOR para personnel maintain close relations with the local Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA). The Annual Airborne Luncheon was held in April at The Royal Canadian Military Institute, hosted by LCol Blanchette, CO of CPC, and was well attended by the QOR.

IN PACE PARATUS, AIRBORNE!

## 60th Company Report 2003

Maj S.B. Banerjee, CD

2003 has been a year of change for 60th Coy, with a new mission and leadership in place to carry on with the new Area Comd directives. Major (then Capt) Sandi Banerjee assumed command of the Rifle Coy after successfully completing the Advanced Classification Training Course at CFB Gagetown. Capt Kevin Sheedy assumed the duties of Coy 2IC, after Capt Adam Harmes was dispatched to his new role as Adjutant (God speed Adam...) and MWO Ken Kominek became CSM 60th, taking over from MWO Sean Kelly. Sgt Cecil Paris remained as the lone holdover from last year, continuing his role as CQMS.

The build-up towards Combat Readiness Evaluation V was short lived, with new orders from LFCA focusing our efforts towards Defensive and Urban Operations. In addition, the Regiment was tasked to provide the core of a 120-person Airborne assault to open EX STEADFAST WARRIOR 03 at CFB Petawawa, as well as form a Recce Pl, to be mission tasked at the summer concentration. Thus the respite from CRE V was short lived, with a busy schedule to complete MLOC training, form and train a Recce Pl, and switch from Offensive Ops to Defensive Ops & FIBUA.

Fortunately, we were well prepared, with a cadre of Pathfinder, Ranger and Advanced Reconnaissance Patrolman qualified leaders to tackle the training issues. Capt Peter St. Denis (Pl Comd) and Sgt Jeff Johnston (Pl 2IC) have been busy this year preparing both their platoons, as well as candidates from across the Brigade, for Recce Ops, under the watchful eyes and able assistance of Capt Ray Taylor, our FTUC Capt from the RCR (CI), WO Ray Joseph, Ops & Trg WO/UEWO from 3RCR (Crse WO) and Maj Robert Zeidler (OC Para Coy & DCO).

Lt Tia West and Lt Andrew Olsen, returning from successful summer and winter Infantry Phase Three serials



(respectively), were promoted and assumed their roles as 1 and 2 Pl Comds, supported by Sgt Doug Halcro and Sgt Bill Paton as 1 & 2 Pl WOs. Joining WO Joseph as one of two Pathfinders in the Battalion was Lt Pat Slack, who also completed his Infantry Phase Four (Mech) Course on the new LAV 25. Lt Slack will be putting his training to the test later this year when he deploys with other riflemen on ROTO 13, the NATO SFOR mission to Bosnia.

Throughout the fall and into the winter months, 60th Coy practiced defensive and patrol ops, including para and heliborne insertions, platoon level live fire and FIBUA training, all focused towards Coy level live fire training in the summer of 2003.

The New Year promises to be an exciting period, with our newly qualified soldiers carrying on for those soldiers who are undergoing their build-up training prior to deployment for OP ATHENA (Afghanistan) and OP PALLADIUM (Bosnia).

The following members of 60th Coy were recognized at the 2002 Annual Christmas Dinner:

The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association's Reginald A. Walker Award was awarded to **Lt P Slack**, who also received The Queens' Jubilee Medal that night.

The British Airborne Forces Association Trophy was awarded to **Cpl Ivanka Koulik**.

The Sgt Dave Keenan Memorial Jump Hog Award was given to **MCpl Vergie**, subsequently promoted Sgt.

The QOR of C Fitness Award was jointly presented to **Cpl B Coyle, Cpl F Gilic and Rfn R Mitchell**.

The Airborne Rifleman of The Year Award went to **MCpl J Chin Leung**, who was promoted Sgt and awarded The Queen's Jubilee Medal.

The CSM Charlie Martin (CO's Sword) Award went to **Sgt S Moody**.

Having completed the CF JNCO course in the summer, MCpl Keone, MCpl Murray, MCpl Traynor, MCpl Bruyca and MCpl Charlebois received their appointments from the CO. Rfn A Kiss, Rfn Bahsous, Rfn Rahman and Rfn Behan were promoted to Cpl.

Members of 60<sup>th</sup> Coy continue to excel on National and Area level Courses:

- Sgt Justin Thorn - Commanding Officer's Commendation & SLC Top Candidate
- Pte Chrzan - BMQ A COY Top Candidate & SQ 0207 Top Candidate
- Pte Abate - SQ 0224 Top Candidate
- Pte Lynch - BIQ 0204 Top Candidate

The following members of 60th Coy were presented with The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Bill Graham, during the Regimental Church Parade on Remembrance Sunday:

- Major Sandi Banerjee, CD
- Capt Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD
- MWO Sean Kelly, CD
- Sgt Donovan O'Halloran
- Sgt William Paton, CD



QOR riflemen at ATC Meaford during Ex Quick Chill, February 2003



## Para Company Report

### Sgt J. Johnston and Sgt S. Moody

Another exciting and busy year has passed for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Para Coy. During the fall of 2002, the company members completed the annual MLOC qualification with the para descents planned during the qualification weekends to keep our jumpers current. Concurrently, during the week, many of our jumpers also find the time to support BTATs or TALEXs at CPC Trenton.

The QOR also was privileged to provide a section as well as to act as followers for the Patrol Pathfinder Course staged out of CPC. This opportunity always provides our soldiers with a valuable learning opportunity. This course also graduated a QOR officer as one of the first Reservists to pass this demanding course. Congratulations, and good luck in Bosnia on Roto 13 to Lt Pat Slack.

At the end of 2002, we were informed of the tasks that were coming out related to the new reserve restructuring. QOR was told that they would probably be tasked to provide a Recce platoon within the 32 Brigade orbat. To meet this new demand most members of the QOR Para Coy were employed to run, instruct or attend the Brigade level QL4 Recce Patrolman course February to June 2003. The course followed the Regular Force CTP and ran several weekends back to back.

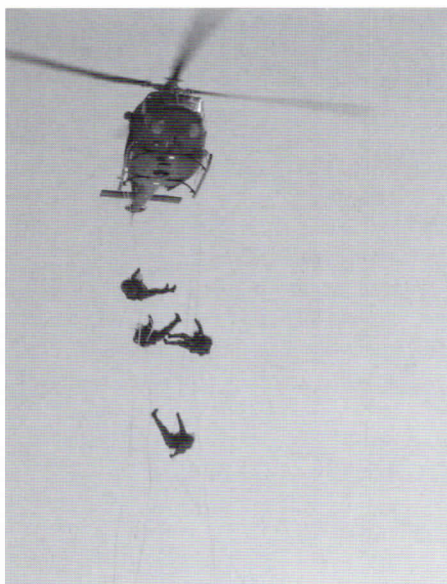
The final exercise for the course was an exciting amphibious exercise in Meaford that was staged from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Samuel Risley in Georgian Bay. Thanks to the Course Officer, Capt St.Denis, 2IC WO Joseph, and the course staff, Sgt Johnston, Sgt Hodgson, and MCpl Traynor, the course was seamless. All the soldiers graduated as better soldiers and as valuable deployable assets to their respective units.

### Rappel Master Course

During the March break, QOR Para Coy was tasked to run a Rappel Master Course by 32 CBG, as part of the Brigade's plan to forgo the annual

Southern Drive exercise and spend the money on qualifications for its soldiers.

The course provided NCOs from all trades within the Brigade the opportunity to obtain the tower-only Rappel Master qualification. In addition, many RMs who were qualified on the CH-135 received conversion training for the new CH-146, Griffon Helicopter. Thanks to 438 Squadron from St. Hubert for providing the valuable aircraft.



*32 CBG Rappel Master Course, March 2003*

### Juno Beach and Passchendale

On June 3rd, 13 members of the QOR, largely drawn from Para Coy, departed for France to take part in the June 6<sup>th</sup> opening of the Juno Beach Center. The trip was a whirlwind tour with only six days in Europe. Every day was essentially spoken for as riflemen rehearsed as part of a composite CF guard for the opening of the Center and prepared to bury three of our own in Passchendale, Belgium (see page 35).

After departing from Trenton and picking up the remainder of the CF party in Ottawa, as organized by the Directorate

of Heritage and History, the group flew to Normandy and moved into quarters at a French Base just outside of Caen. Immediately after dropping off our kit and drawing weapons, we started rehearsals in order to integrate the Navy, Air Force and Army personnel into a cohesive unit for the ceremonial tasks. The riflemen, as always, stood out for their conduct and professionalism.

The morning began early with a solemn and moving ceremony at Bernieres-sur-Mer, the site of the same beach where the QOR landed at 08:12hrs on the 6th of June 1944. It was an honour to be there with our veterans who had covered the same ground exactly 59 years earlier. After the parade, it was off to Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery for another ceremony.

We were joined by other airborne riflemen who jumped in with CPC into a farmer's field beside the cemetery. By mid-afternoon, we moved to Courselles-sur-Mer for some final rehearsals and then formed up with the rest of the guard for the opening ceremonies.

The ceremony went off with out a hitch and after a long day and staring into the sun for four hours, the troops were ready to take in part of the festivities in Caen.

The following day, the group tried to make use of the short period of free time and take in some of the sites visiting Pegasus Bridge and returning to Bernieres-sur-Mer. Here they walked the ground and visit the "Maison des Canadiens", recognized by many from newsreel footage of Canadian troops on D-Day.

Unexpectedly we were invited in by the Hoffer family, who have in successive generations since 1944 dedicated their home to The Queen's Own in gratitude to the Regiment for liberating them from four years of German occupation.



*QOR JBC Guard and the Hoffer Family, Bernieres-sur-Mer, France, June 2003*

As became routine, our visit there was too brief and we were back on the bus and into DEUs for a ceremony at le Mesnil-Patry where the QOR, in concert with the tanks of the 1st Hussars, staged a bloody spoiling attack against a much larger dug in force of the 12th SS. While the attack convinced the Germans not to press their advantage, which could have destabilized the entire beachhead, D-Coy QOR and B-Sqn 1st Hussars suffered tremendous losses. To this day the small village of le Mesnil-Patry marks the occasion and their liberation. Again, we were overwhelmed with their hospitality.

While the opening of the JBC drew the most media attention, the QOR members had a more solemn and arguably more important task - that of burying three Canadian soldiers who had been killed at Passchendale in 1917. Three sets of remains had been discovered during construction and it was determined that they had been soldiers from the 3rd (Toronto) Battalion CEF - now perpetuated by The Queen's Own Rifles and The Royal Regiment of Canada.

While the soldiers remain unknown, the three caskets were laid to rest by successive bearer parties of the QOR and R Regt C with both Regiment's COs representing the soldiers' next of kin. Although their proper burial was delayed by 86 years, we hope that our efforts have given them the honour and the final resting place that they so deeply deserve



## QOR Parachute Tasking

### Briefing Note for Comd 32 CBG

*The following Briefing Note was prepared by the QOR for the 32 CBG Commander to recommend the continuation of the very successful QOR para tasking, in place since 1982.*

**08 Apr 02**  
**Prepared by: CO QOR**

### INTRODUCTION

1. **Background.** The Chief of Staff requested historical information on the QOR parachute tasking, as well as an up-to-date nominal roll of the personnel occupying the 66 positions operationally-tasked by LFC in support of the Canadian Parachute Centre. The nominal roll is attached as Annex A. Additionally, as at Reference B, it was explained that this information is required by LFCA for upcoming discussions regarding Reserve taskings and LFRR.

2. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada first received a parachute tasking in 1982 along with 3 other reserve units across the country. The initial QOR tasking was to provide one platoon, on seven days notice, to augment 3 (Airborne) Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (Cdn AB Regt). This tasking was increased the following year to a total troop commitment of 64

paratroopers formed into two platoons and a small company headquarters. This tasking was successfully met until the disbandment of the AB Regt in 1995. Throughout its involvement with the Special Service Force and Cdn AB Regt, the QOR routinely augmented the Regiment with up to formed section strength, and filled various command roles up to platoon commander.

3. Following the disbandment of the AB Regt, the Reserve parachute policy was reviewed by LFC and it was decided that both LFWA and SQFT would eliminate their respective taskings - The Royal Westminster Regiment, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and le Régiment du Saguenay. There can be no doubt the QOR's task survival was a direct result of its proven track record of support to the SSF/Cdn AB Regt. This was due in large part to its ability to maintain a motivated, fit group of Reservists capable of augmenting the Regular Force on short notice. The QOR tasking was maintained and directed to support the newly formed Airborne Holding Unit/3 RCR orbat. The QOR continued to actively maintain its parachute capability through affiliation with the Airborne Holding Unit and the Parachute Company of 3 RCR.

4. In June 1996, the QOR was tasked by LFC to provide 66 parachutists in support of the Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton. QOR continues to strongly support this tasking with 68 personnel qualified Basic Parachutist on effective strength, fulfilling an unparalleled 149 taskings to CPC (and 8 Wing) over the past year, ranging in length from one day to two weeks.

5. Aim. My intention with this service paper is to provide valid current and historical facts that offer a sound argument for The Queen's Own Rifles retaining the parachute tasking. This will greatly assist us in continuing to strongly meet our commitments to 32 CBG, CPC, and the Canadian Forces, in keeping with LFRR guidelines.

## **DISCUSSION**

6. Taskings and Support to the Regular Force. The QOR have arguably the largest amount of consistent Area taskings outside of the summer training period. Last year, the QOR were tasked and filled 149 individual tasks in support of CPC. This year we have already been tasked and have filled 69 individual tasks. We were also able to fill operational tasks to Op APOLLO with our Aerial Delivery qualified personnel.

7. The CO of the Parachute Centre, LCol Blanchette, has stated that it would be next to impossible to complete his assigned tasks without the support of Reserve Force parachutists. It is his opinion that the 66 parachutist positions allocated to the QOR provide the minimum critical mass required to support CPC. He believes that it would be extremely difficult to manage parachute training support if the Reserve Force parachutists would have to be assembled from disparate units across the breadth of LFCA. He also asserts that it is highly desirable that those parachutists arrive as a formed body with a command structure in place. He does not have the resources to provide "supervisors" for individual parachutists tasked to support aerial delivery training tasks.

8. The QOR has augmented the Regular Force, both on exercises and operational tours, on many occasions and

often at QOR expense. The QOR was quick to respond when called upon to augment the Cdn AB Regt as the operational tempo of peacekeeping duties increased in the early 1990's. For example, in 1993 with very little notice-to-move, the QOR provided several soldiers to augment the deployment to Somalia. I suspect that these were the only reserve soldiers accepted at the rifle company level due in large part to the QOR's ability to provide fit and motivated para-qualified soldiers capable of immediate integration. Historically, we have consistently provided up to section size strength of soldiers to operations as well as junior officers. The recent Op Palladium Roto 8 to Bosnia had seven QOR riflemen augment the 3 RCR Battle Group, six of them with Para Company. Two of the seven were recognized as being the top Reservists on the tour.

9. Para Coy 3 RCR has trained on a regular basis with members of the QOR since the disbandment of the Cdn AB Regt. During the last three years, joint exercises have been conducted which have enhanced the effectiveness on both 3 RCR and the QOR with respect to parachute operations. Maj Haisell, former OC Para Coy (Mar 99 - Nov 01) has stated that from his experience most individual parachutists who join Para Coy for exercises do not have the same level of experience, training, or fitness as those who come from the QOR. He believes that this is largely due to the fact that the QOR can insist that standards be adhered to and collective para ops training is effectively conducted.

10. It is estimated that at least 35-50 QOR para-qualified riflemen have joined the Regular Force and most of these have served in a parachute role. The current OC of Aerial Trials and Evaluation at CPC, for example, was a QOR airborne platoon commander in the late 80's, and several former members have served, or are currently serving, with JTF2. A former QOR NCO and Jumpmaster is now serving as a Regular Force platoon commander with 3 RCR Para Company, and a former QOR NCO is a Master Sniper with the PPCLI.

11. Skills and Qualifications. Since the inception of the tasking, the QOR has qualified in excess of 300 individuals on the Basic Parachutist Course. Several years ago, the Regular Force opened up the key para courses, Jumpmaster (JM) and the Parachute Instructor (PI), to the QOR. These are unquestionably the most demanding of technical courses within the para community. The QOR were the first and only Reserve unit to successfully graduate individuals. These qualifications are fundamental to parachute operations and the QOR JMs and PI routinely assist CPC and 3 RCR in the conduct of their exercises.

12. As previously mentioned, the QOR currently has 68 individuals serving with the unit who are qualified Basic Parachutist. This number includes one Parachute Instructor, three Jumpmasters, five DZ Controllers, 12 qualified Basic Aerial Delivery, and two Mountain Operations Instructors. Of these, only seven have not parachuted in the past year, and 34 participated in the jump into Fort Knox during Exercise Bold Venture on 16 March 2002.

13. Infrastructure. Training equipment support is vital to any parachute organization. Since the inception of the parachute tasking, the QOR have either received through the system or independently developed a substantial amount of parachute related equipment. The unit has all training equipment required to conduct parachute refresher training in Moss Park Armoury prior to each jump. This equipment, largely acquired over time with QOR private funding at no expense to the Crown, includes two landing swing/flight simulator towers and one CC 130 aircraft mock up. This equipment, combined with a large number of DND-issued training harnesses, Personal Equipment Lowering Systems, door bundle and Drop Zone kits combine with our personnel qualifications to form a relatively self-contained parachute organization. The only outside support generally required by the QOR to conduct parachute operations is the parachutes, the aircraft and one or two Riggers.

## CONCLUSION

14. The parachute tasking for the QOR is an unprecedented example of Regular/Reserve cooperation and indeed is one of the longest running "Total Force" taskings. MGen Fitch's recent Draft Statement - Army Reserve Roles, Missions and Tasks (Reference D) details several 'tests' for a statement of roles, missions and tasks - among them; must stand the test of time; must be memorable and mean something to the soldier; must be achievable; must be real and relevant; and must be linked to resources (personnel, equipment and funds). The QOR has demonstrated that the reserve parachute tasking, given to specific units, provides a viable means to train keen, fit, para-qualified combat capable troops to augment the Regular Force, individually or in up to platoon strength, including officers and NCOs in command positions, in order to execute Army missions and tasks.

15. The Reserve parachuting role only works in a centralized form i.e. unit(s) tasked to provide parachutists in sufficient numbers to support the Regular Force in a safety conscious environment. To "penny-packet" parachutist positions throughout a Brigade or Area is not administratively feasible if the aim is to continue to support a tasking such as the LFC-directed support of CPC. It takes a strong, centralized, hands-on management of a unit to lead, supervise and manage parachutists so that they retain their skills and professionalism, and minimize injury. The QOR has successfully met this tasking for 20 years, providing a critical mass of jumpers to meet the requirement. It takes this 'concentration of force' and 'economy of effort' to be able to train soldiers beyond the Basic Parachutist level, qualifying Jumpmasters, Parachute Instructors, DZ Controllers, etc. in order to successfully meet the tasking.

16. The achievements of the QOR have largely gone unnoticed by many within 32 CBG and LFCA as the QOR has been authorized direct liaison for many of the aforementioned activities. Nonetheless, it would be a mistake to assume that any attempt to decentralize the Reserve parachute capability would maintain or improve upon the current QOR efforts.



These skills and expertise have been acquired progressively over time and at great effort and expense in terms of time, training dollars, commitment and dedication. We should not allow changes that would erode these accomplishments. One only needs to study the operationally-tasked, 10/90 efforts of the past decade to see examples of a loss of capability when a task was allowed to slip. (e.g. anti-armour, mortars, pioneers, and reconnaissance). I believe a quick study of history would show the QOR are the only ones still maintaining those skills, previously acquired at great expense.

17. I want the QOR to maintain a parachute role regardless of the unit or organization it would be tasked to support. Parachuting has become very much a part of the fabric of this entire unit. It can be seen from the information above that we have worked long and hard to meet the requirements set out for us. Equally, after many years of development, the unit has established a training infrastructure and qualification base that would be difficult to replicate in the future should the need arise. In my opinion, the loss of this role would hurt this unit badly, in terms of morale, recruiting and retention.

18. You and I have discussed offering some vacancies on the Basic Parachutist Course to other units in the Brigade, on a limited basis, and I am prepared to continue to do this. It should be noted that this has been done for the past several years, and we have had very

limited success with having other 32 CBG para-qualified personnel participate in para activities on a regular basis. We should aim to qualify soldiers who would be available to support the tasking to CPC. By continuing to have the QOR as the lead agency for the parachute tasking, and having other Brigade units participate with the QOR in support of CPC, we can meet the LFC tasking and allow other 32 CBG soldiers to qualify as parachutists.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

19. I recommend that The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada continue to be the lead agency to fulfil the LFC tasking for 66 parachutists in support of the Canadian Parachute Centre.

20. The LFRR assessment of Army Reserve Roles, Missions and Tasks gives us a unique opportunity to build on the QOR's success in developing combat capable soldiers over the past twenty years. LFRR should be encouraged to ensconce the parachute tasking in its new model, and use our unique success story as a blueprint for other Reserve specialist taskings in support of the Regular Force.

21. QOR will continue to be a strong and viable unit with its parachute tasking, and I appreciate your continued support.

JM Fotheringham  
LCol  
CO



## Victoria Platoon Report

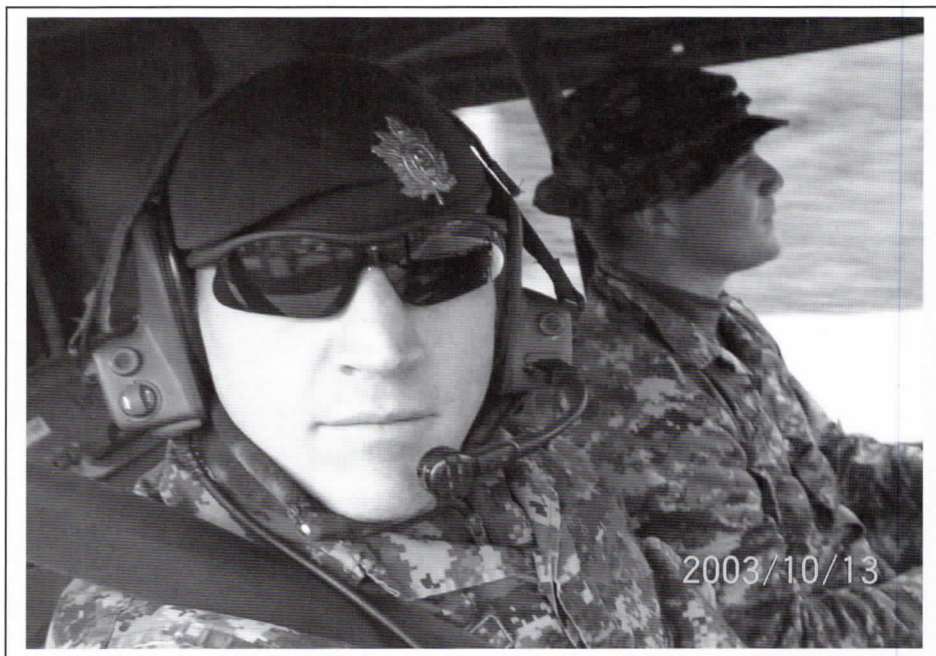
Capt C.A. Champion, CD

Vics has continued to perform well with minimum manning through the end of the 2001/02 training year, and has done much better since September when the platoon was strengthened. MWO Sean Kelly returned to Vics as CSM to help ensure that the platoon took shape. This included learning their roles, MLOC training, support of the administration in Garrison and combat service support in the field.

The platoon is well staffed and includes many enthusiastic airborne riflemen who wondered how they ended up in administration. However, they quickly learned that providing Combat Service Support in the field didn't take them away from para tasks. Indeed, Vics troops have never been told they cannot jump, except individuals on a rotating basis where the Drop Zone controller has been selected from the three qualified NCOs in Vics. Providing the DZ Controllers gives more opportunity for the non-jump qualified persons in Vics to take part in direct support of the jumps and aerial deliveries, something that is always interesting to support.

The Signals detachment was expanded to a section by the transfer of the signalers from 60<sup>th</sup> into Vics. With MCpl Jay Green continuing as section 2IC and Tech specialist/storesman and Cpl Ivanka Koulik as driver/signaler, this year we welcomed the following into Vics Sigs: Sgt Tom Fabry as section commander; Cpl Joseph Amodeo giving us a bugler; and Cpls Tony Ciccittini, Desmond Morgan and Tiziano Scotta.

The Transport section was also expanded upon return of Lt Larry Hicks and he was given Sgt Mike Currie as his section commander. Cpl Marina Varahidis was welcomed back from maternity leave. Cpl Wing-Ling Tsang continues to provide our in house vehicle maintenance services. The following personnel have been added upon successful completion of the LFC Driver Wheel course:



QOR Rifleman on patrol in Bosnia, October 2003.

MCpl Mick Bioletti who topped his course was promoted at the Christmas Dinner and is the section 2IC; Cpl Bryan Burns; Cpl Tanvir Rahman; Cpl In-Kee Kim; Cpl Gabriela Ufnal; Rfn Scott Harper; and Rfn Rostislov Polski have transferred in as drivers.

The QM section also had significant change. Sgt Justin Thorn left full time service as QM Sgt to attend Police College where he graduated near the top of his class. He now looks forward to a more mainstream role in 60<sup>th</sup> Company. He was replaced by MCpl Ted Howard who rejoined us after leaving the PPCLI. It is great to see Vics trained personnel component transfer to the regular force, but it's even better to see them return after some additional professional development.

CWO Andy Sarossy has also returned from the Supplementary Purgatory List to become the Quarter Master. We anxiously await his promotion to Captain, but he has attended training and exercises and is a welcome member of the Officers' Mess, providing that much

needed contact from QM to the CO's O Gp.

MWO Scott Patterson has continued on as RQMS, providing the continuity during the turn over of stores.

Cpls Dave Sherbanowski; Bob Gandhu, Roger Yeo, Mario Carvalho and the recently promoted Cpl Sean Kennedy round out the QM section, picking up new responsibilities and carrying everything the Bn might need including the kitchen sink into the field.

In the New Year we expect that a few of the Vics pers will be engaged on Roto 13 in Bosnia. It is the individual training, and the collective work experience on exercises that initially prepare our troops for selection for the pre-deployment training. The broadening of experience through a tour in Vics helps ensure that NCOs who find themselves in CSS on an operation don't get reduced in rank and are employed in positions of greater responsibility.

# Gurkha Platoon Report

Capt R. Tremblay, CD

## Implementation of new development training qualification process

Gurkha continues to assume the responsibility for the recruitment and training of Queen's Own Rifles soldiers. For the past 3 years Gurkha has pursued an aggressive recruiting strategy while running and coordinating the deployment of candidates and instructors on various courses.

## New blood in Gurkha

In the past year, Capt. Marc Kaipio joined The Queen's Own Rifles from 4 RCR in London Ontario. He was appointed Recruiting Officer and assumed his duties with dedication and determination. Following the end of class B funding for the recruiting NCO position, this function has been assumed by MCpl Ragos, a dedicated soldier on a class "A" basis. The Platoon Warrant position is still filled by Warrant Officer Shannon for 2002-03. However, he will relinquish it when he is deployed to Petawawa for his work-up training for ROTO 13 in Bosnia, which is scheduled to leave Canada in October 03.

## Encouraging recruiting results

Recruiting continues to be strong and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will continue to have a steady flow of new recruits. This will ensure the unit continues as the third strongest unit in 32 Brigade with an effective attendance of 205 in the month of February 03. We expect to be able to provide 60<sup>th</sup> Company with another 20 newly qualified Riflemen for the fall of 2002.

## New training process

The army has changed its training streams. The system formerly known as Trade Qualification (TQ) is now a thing of the past and a new developmental stream has been developed and is being implemented. It's now called the Developmental Period or DP. The philosophy behind this is that training is categorized as "essential", "supplemental" or "residual". The "essential" constitutes all the training you

need to perform effectively in the basic function (riflemen as part of a light infantry section); "supplemental" would be performing the same function as part of a mechanized unit, for example, this training could be provided at the unit level if the unit mission requires this knowledge. In The Queen's Own Rifle's case, para training falls in this category. This training can be provided either as part of regular unit training, or as a part of pre-deployment training for a mission specific task. "Residual" training is the responsibility of the unit, depending on the mission that needs to be performed.

## Development Training

To better understand it is helpful to follow the development training of a new recruit. When a new aspiring Rifleman joins the unit, he/she will start the DP1.

**DP1** is divided in three - the Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) is common to all components of the Canadian Forces; they move to Soldier Qualification in which they learn army specific skills such as field craft, basic communications as well as grenades, C7, C9 and C6 in the light role. Once they graduate from SQ they are then going to the Basic Infantry Qualification where they learn infantry skills in all phases of war as well as training in the basic handling of anti-armour weapons. Once they graduate from the BIQ, their DP1 training is over and they now can be integrated in an infantry unit as a fully trained soldier.

**The DP 2** stream is divided in two, DP2A and DP2B.

**DP2A** can be taught at the local level and involves the training of the soldier in the use of the platoon support weapons - C6 in the sustained fire role, 84 and 60 mm mortar as well as small arms coaching qualification. This course is called platoon support weapon qualification (PSWQ) and is mandatory in order to receive promotion to the rank of Corporal.

**DP2B** level of training qualifies Corporal to the rank of Master Corporal and consists of 2 courses, the 1) Primary Leadership Qualification-Land and 2) the infantry section 2I/C. Once a soldier has completed both courses, he/she is eligible to be promoted to the rank of M/Cpl.

**DP3** level of qualification is needed to be eligible to be promoted to the rank of Sgt. It also consists of 2 courses. The intermediate leadership qualification land (ILQ-L) deals with the conduct of all standard army weapons ranges. The second component is the infantry section commander qualification (ISCQ)

**The DP4** will allow sergeants to be eligible for further promotion.

The reserve qualifications will focus on all essential components and will be approximately half the time of the qualification required for regular force component qualifications.

We hope that this information will inform the reader on what is new in the army world and perhaps provide the reader an understanding of the jargon used when attending our regimental functions.

The regimental efforts in recruiting and development of our soldiers play a significant role in ensuring the perenity of our regiment. All Gurkha personnel take pride in the responsibility that is imparted upon them and are thriving to make their mission a success.

IN PACE PARATUS



# Patrol Pathfinder Course 2002 Report

## Lieutenant Pat Slack, QOR

Lieutenant Slack recently completed one of the Army's most demanding courses, the Patrol Pathfinder, conducted by the Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton. Of the 26 original candidates, six completed the course. Lieutenant Slack is now training with the CRIC as the Platoon Commander for the 32 CBG Platoon for Roto 13.



The following article provides a cursory introduction to the Patrol Pathfinder, highlighting who they are, their working conditions, mission types and patrol organization, as well as a description of the course. This is important in order to understand the role they hold within the Canadian Armed Forces.

Even before personnel can attempt the Patrol Pathfinder (PPF) course they must first meet a set of requirements allowing the individual to be selected for this specialty. All must be a volunteer, medically fit, Canadian Basic Para qualified, and DZ/LZ controller qualified as well, and above the rank of corporal or lieutenant to be considered.

The working conditions and occupational specifications are stated by human resources and the pre-course study guide. Personnel must be in top physical condition in order to withstand the rigors of long range patrolling, long periods in uncomfortable circumstances and working long hours with no rest while carrying heavy loads.



The stress endured presents the individual with the challenge of remaining operationally effective during long periods of mental stress and pressures associated with long-range patrolling and pathfinder duties in isolated situations. Operational hazards and consequence of error may cause serious injury or death to oneself or others, which may jeopardize the mission. These consequences may be closely associated with the full range of insertion and extraction methods used by the Pathfinders across the full spectrum of terrain and meteorological conditions.

Patrol Pathfinders are considered to be a highly specialized group of soldiers trained to insert anywhere on the battlefield via a variety of methods to prepare for follow-on operations by a main force. A Pathfinder patrol is conducted when the commander requires a DZ, LZ, Austere airstrip or Beachhead to be reconnoitred, secured, established and marked prior to the insertion of the main body. This allows the Pathfinder group enough time to provide vital intelligence of the objective area to the commander, properly recce routes to and from the follow-on force objective and guide the incoming tactical element from the point of insertion. Pathfinder tasks

may also include partisan link-ups, actions in support of operational level objectives, or independent missions.

Types of Pathfinder patrols and missions vary. The group will be inserted via a variety of means depending on the enemy situation to possibly conduct one of the following patrols – airborne patrols involving the establishment of a Drop Zone (DZ) for the parachute insertion of the follow-on force/airborne troops (FOF) – this was the exact mission carried out during the invasion of Europe and D-Day; airmobile patrols, involving the establishment of Landing zones (LZ) for helicopter or Austere airstrip (AA), for the landing of aircraft. Amphibious patrols call for the establishment of Beachheads (BH) for the amphibious insertion of the FOF. Rugged terrain encompasses the movement of the follow on force through/over difficult and rugged terrain and crossing points that have been established. Missions to conduct a DZ, LZ, BH, or AA have the Pathfinder group recce the objective and determine its suitability, then establish the objective while providing security around the objective area.

The ability of the Pathfinder group to establish Austere airstrips provides the



commander with the capability to land aircraft and offload IFV's, APC's, heavy equipment and troops anywhere on the battle field. Additional missions may have the Pathfinders sending back situation reports while they perform reconnaissance. The faster the change in the battlefield conditions, the more important reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and damage assessment operations become.

A Pathfinder group is capable of providing the commander with current on-site intelligence and objective security, while providing the ability to guide tactical elements into their assault positions. Intelligence gathered by Pathfinder groups provides commanders with a complete and accurate picture of the current situation. American forces employed this capability in Afghanistan.

Combat missions might insert Pathfinder group into enemy territory with specialists attached such as Forward Observing Officers (FOO) Fast Air Controller (FAC), medics, engineers to carry out raids, ambushes and harassment operations. Other combat missions such as rear area interdiction operations have Pathfinders infiltrating into the rear echelon of the enemy to attack and cripple enemy units' logistic support.

The size of the Pathfinder group varies in order to complete the mission. The organization, however, is based on a fighting patrol with key elements remaining the same. These include head quarters, security, support, and assault. The size may range from a detachment, to a section or group, to a platoon plus, depending on the task. A typical patrol includes: headquarters, the platoon commander, signaller, navigator, FOO/FAC, rear link communicator, engineers, medic, the platoon second in command and all other attachment to the patrol. Security (sec) elements A sec, B sec, C sec, D sec have the same responsibilities as they would in a fighting patrol and in addition, security elements are charged with establishing observation posts on a Pathfinder objective.

Support elements have the same responsibilities within the patrol in addition for establishing RV's at the Pathfinder objective. The PPF secures routes from the FOF RV at the Pathfinder objective to FOF objective(s) at the same time as providing a guide for the FOF commander to his objective. Assault element similar to support has the same responsibilities as per a fighting patrol. The patrol, however, is tasked with providing the DZ, LZ, BH, AA controller party during a Pathfinder mission.

Deciding who will go and how to insert into enemy territory develops during battle procedure and preparation- the next step of Pathfinder operations.

Training to become a Pathfinder tests every individual to their limits. The course staff guarantee that every available training tool and technique is used to ensure that all potential Pathfinders see, hear, touch, tastes and smell the training, a point that more often than not is a painful learning experience.

From the first day of the course until the candidate is torched out, the challenge remains the same, think outside the box, work as a team, drive the body, and accomplish the mission. When all is said and done, those who remain and wear the torch are among the best in the world at their job - a group of men who when called upon to do their duty; will "Lead the Way"!

*Lt Slack is awarded his Patrol Pathfinder Torch by LCol Blanchette, CO CPC. Capt Wil Beardmore, former QOR officer currently with the PPCLI, awaits his turn on the far right.*



## In Peace Prepared: A True Motto for the Afghan Security Mission

Sgt David Harmes

As the first month of the first tour comes to an end, the members of **Task Force Kabul** are starting to get a good sense of how things will be – A routine security mission with a significant terrorist threat. Not once, but twice in the past week have I been woken from my Mefloquine induced dream-state to dawn protective gear and report to our stand -to position.

The first was the now well-reported rocket attacks of September 11th. Two 107mm rockets were fired from an improvised launcher toward the camps. One landed in Camp Warehouse hitting a sea container and the other missed Camp Julian by almost a kilometer. These are not terribly accurate weapons but like lightning, destructive when it hits.

The second was amid rumors of a coup. When rogue elements of the Transitional Authority had a falling-out with others in the government, they seemed to take their divisions and go home. ISAF forces went on high alert and deployed in a show of force unparalleled since the war. It was not your average day in Kabul, but indicative of the instability here.

Since getting here mid-August, we have spent the better part of our time surveying the Canadian Area of Operations (AOO). In addition to “eyes-on” reconnaissance, this has consisted of meeting with the various police chiefs, community leaders, and local residents – all who detail the concerns of their assorted communities. Within our area, it’s quite simple. Everyone needs



*(Top) Sgt Harmes in Qal Eh-Ye Qedezi.  
(Bottom) Inside Camp Julian. View of King's Palace from the tent lines.*

everything - power, water, sanitation, and security. The southern part of the city (Canadian AOO) is without question the worst off. It was a poor area before the war, and has

since been devastated by the fighting. When the Taliban left, they pretty much trashed the place on their way out.

Depending on your particular job here, most people are out between three and six times per week. Within the CIMIC (Civil - Military Cooperation) Det, security is our own responsibility, so most patrols are conducted like hide occupation drills. Secure the area; conduct our business, and leave – all without attracting too much attention to us.

A typical mission will begin with a village assessment. We recon the area, interview the relevant community leaders, survey the specific areas of concern, and discuss solutions based on the priorities set out by the Commander. Basic needs (food, water, sanitation) always take priority.

Once a solution is identified, money is generally sourced from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) or from the Bn Gp itself. Depending upon the nature of the project, local contractors are used as much as possible. This a departure from most CIMIC work done in the past, in that Bn resources are not tapped in the process.

Of course, our objective in all this is to win friends and influence people – what the military now calls “Force Protection”. The idea is that people who see concrete steps being taken to improve their plight are infinitely more likely to cooperate with Canadian soldiers operating within their communities.

So far, so good, at the end of the first month, we have completed the installation of two water pumps, repaired an electric generator, begun the construction of a deep-well-fed water reservoir, and supplied the new Kabul Police Force with 600 flashlights.

Only time will tell what effect all of this will have. In the meantime, we try to stay sharp, keep fit, and hope for the best. Nothing stays the same for long in Afghanistan.

*QOR Sgt Harmes is a CIMIC Team Advisor with the 3 RCR Bn Gp in Afghanistan.*

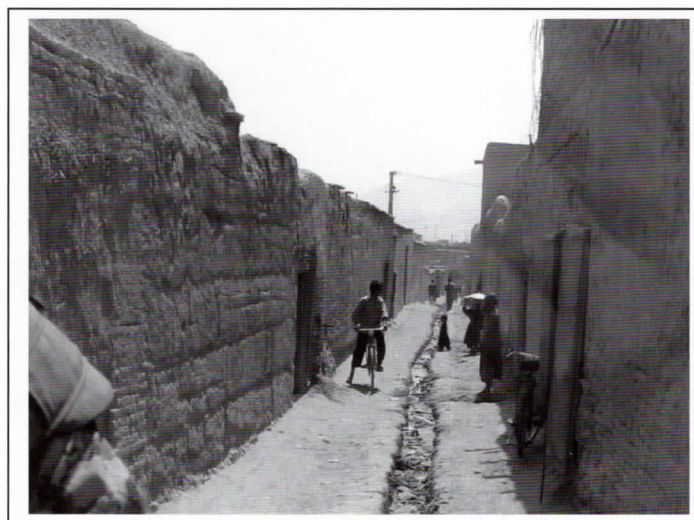


*BTR 60s*



*(Above) Newly opened girls school in western district of the AOR*

*(Below) Open sewer*



## Transport Section Report

MCpl Mick Bioletti

What a year for transport! Transport section has had a great year with plenty of mileage.

Congratulations to those who completed the Driver Wheeled course on the Mattawa River this summer; Rahman, Polsky, Harper, and Bioletti. Adjusting to four new drivers meant that the rest of the section had an opportunity to teach unit SOPs, and in Tsang's case, teach mechanical tidbits not taught on the course.

From the beginning of the year our section has been well motivated and attendance has been great. Ninety percent have completed the shoot and scheduled ELOC by the October exercise, and still found time to support 60th Coy and the Para Coy. All Tn jumpers have made every chalk assembly, even if high winds have stopped the drops.

With guidance from above, our Company Officers and junior leaders have had the opportunity to plan and conduct road moves involving ten drivers. These moves have given us all more experience in communicating between vehicles en route, administering POL parades, changing lanes as a convoy, and made us all better drivers.

Transport has been a great place in which to be involved in the Regiment and we have all learned skills that will carry over our military careers.

## Regimental Padre Report

Capt Craig Cameron

Padre Cameron on board the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Samuel Risley during Ex Neptune Strike IV, Meaford, June



Perhaps the most significant personal highlight of the past year was the completion of the memoirs of former Regimental Sergeant-Major Harry Fox. Entitled *Born Lucky; One D-Day Dodger's Story*, the book was completed in time for the 70th anniversary of his joining the QOR in April 1932.

Harry was a Rifleman and Corporal in an era when the militia was not funded or appreciated by the bulk of the Canadian population. He served with the Guard that went to England for the 75th birthday of the Regiment. He was a CSM in Charlie Company of the 1st Bn from 1940 until May 1942 when he was made RSM.

Harry Fox was 1st Bn RSM until October 1943 when he went on a Pooch draft to Italy. He served as RSM of the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment of the 1st Division from January 1944 until September 1945. He returned as RSM of the QOR from 1947-48.

Unfortunately the Regiment has lost more than 50 former riflemen in 2002. I attended and also participated in the funerals of a number of veterans, including Maj Norman Manchester, a WWII veteran and peacetime militia officer.

### Ex Steadfast Warrior

One highlight of the training year occurred at EX STEADFAST WARRIOR in August at CFB, Petawawa. The infantry combat team practiced during the week on the older APC, the Grizzly, and I was able to gain an initial exposure to mechanized operations. Despite a "bite" from one of the Grizzlies while traversing DZ Anzio, it was nevertheless an interesting experience.

Other highlights included preaching at the Regimental Church Parade at St. Paul's Church on Remembrance Day and enabling former RSM Fox to speak to students at Sgt Scott Moody's school in Brampton on November 11th. As always, the D-Day memorial parade was held at Moss Park Armoury on June 6th. One notable experience was holding a communion service aboard the Coast Guard ship Samuel Risley, at the completion of EX NEPTUNE STRIKE IV in June.

I have been involved in two significant Regimental projects in 2002: the Brick program for our memorial Kiosk at Juno Beach Centre (JBC) and a new electronic news bulletin called the Big 2 e-Bugle that was launched on 13 December.

### **Polar Warrior 2002**

The second Polar Warrior Brigade winter skills competition was held January 26, 2002 at Downsview Park, near new Denison Armoury in northwest Toronto. Unlike the inaugural event, which the QOR won at Meaford the previous year, there was NO SNOW at all!!

There were six events in this year's competition: the tent relay, the winter kit relay, casualty evacuation, Chain of command race, Highland games and the tug-of-war. The Tent relay featured a team of five participants who had to go 200 meters with a toboggan and then set up an arctic tent. There were points for time and set-up. The Tor Scots won this event. The QOR led by WO Mark Shannon came in second place, with 2 FER finishing third.

The winter relay involved assembling a stove, lantern, C-7 and C-9. The Royal Regiment won this event. The Lorne Scots came second followed by the G & SF.

The third event was the casualty evacuation. The QOR team under CSM Shaun Kelly won. The 25 Svc Bn came second and 25 Med Coy, third. The Chain of Command race under Sgt David Harmes started well but they eventually finished fourth. The Tor Scots won this event.

One addition to the Polar Warrior venue was the Highland Games, featuring the Caber toss and sand bag throw - events/ that called for brute strength. This was won by The Lorne Scots, with R Regt C placing third.

In comparison with 2001, the Lorne Scots took the trophy with 8 points compared to the QOR's 9 points. This year the QOR tied for second with the

Tor Scots and 2 FER. One notable omission in this year's Polar Warrior was the cross-country ski race. In 2001, Rfn Kris Van Wissen won this event allowing the Regiment to claim the inaugural Polar Warrior trophy. Rfn Van Wissen has subsequently joined The Royal Marines.

the chin-up event, the umpire allowed a fresh soldier to compete in the push-up competition. Despite this disadvantage, the QOR won the PT event.



### **Annual Queen's Cup**

On 8 May 2002, the annual Queen's Cup was held at Moss Park Armoury, hosted by the QOR. This year's venue featured five events: volleyball, floor hockey, relay race, PT test, and the perennial tug-of-war.

Led by Captain Adam Harmes, the QYR volleyball team won two straight sets to capture the first event for the unit. Floor hockey was the next event and contrary to previous performance, the QYR put on an impressive display of teamwork with several very skilful goal scorers. Despite some over-exuberance physically on both sides, the long match was won handily by the QYR by a score of 8-0.

As in the past, our version of the Cup features a PT test matching the fit Riflemen vs. the fittest QYR troopers. Cpl Liam Quinn and Rfn Tanios Bahsous were chosen to represent The Queen's Own. In sit-ups, they won easily by a total of 145-96; the chin-ups were also won easily by a score of 59-47; only in the push-up category were the QYR able to edge our two Riflemen by a score of 134-129. As a concession to the QYR due to fatigue in the second competitor in

The relay race featured four Riflemen competing in a race where they carried a jerry can of water 30 meters and then assemble the C6, C9, C7 and 9 mm pistol respectively. A good lead was established and maintained by Cpls Illsley, Gilic and Coyle. Victory in this event ensured that The Queen's Cup would return to the QOR and MPA next year.

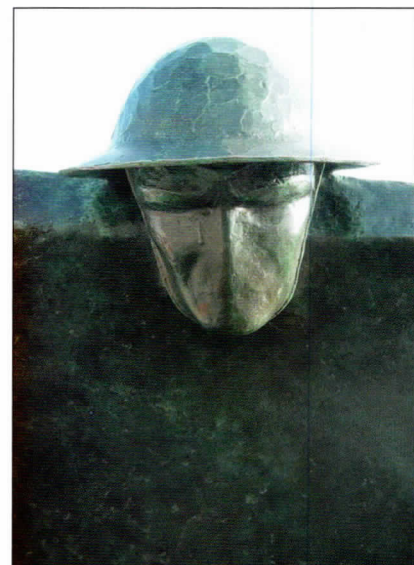
The final event of the competition, the tug-of-war, featured a hefty QOR team with Rfn Ezrick Bernard on one end and MCpl David Pampe as anchor. The team drew on their experience at Ex Polar Warrior (in January) and were coached by Captain Peter St Denis. The Queen's Own team won both pulls to win the event and provided icing on the cake of victory for the Regiment.



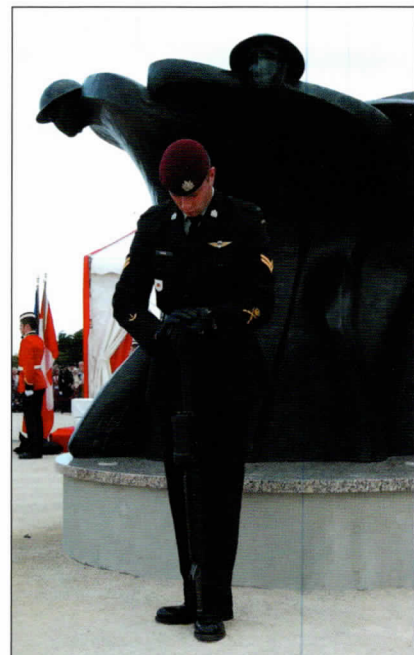
# Juno Beach Centre Opening, 6 June 2003



See photo captions and credits on page 47



Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1945 W Europe	Queen's Own Rifles Canada June 10, 1940 - Oct. 3, 1945 Canada/NFLD/UK/Cont. Europe	Queen's Own Rifles Canada B114707 WIA 1st Wave.
Col. H.C.F. Elliot CD Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1941-1975 D-Day, NW Europe ZB2162	Rfn. Norman Eyre Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1943-1946 Holland Liberation	
WO1 (RSM) Harry Fox MBE 70 Years With The QOR of C B63614 and "Born Lucky" From His Friends-2002	Sgt. Frank Gaines Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1940-1945 D-Day Normandy B64091	
Maj./Lt.Col. Neil Gordon DSO QOR of C./N. Shore NB Regt. 1939-1946 WIA D-Day, Holland	Cpl. H. F. Goss Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1940-1945 D-Day Veteran	
Sgt. Fred Harris Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1939-1944 KIA Killed - D-Day Age 23	Sgt. Freddy B. Harris Queen's Own Rifles Canada 1939-June 6, 1944 His Spirit Lives With Us	

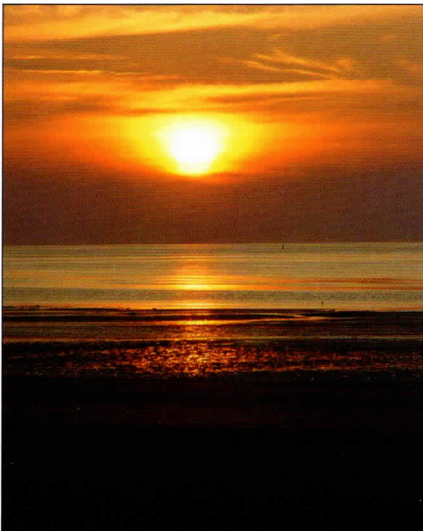
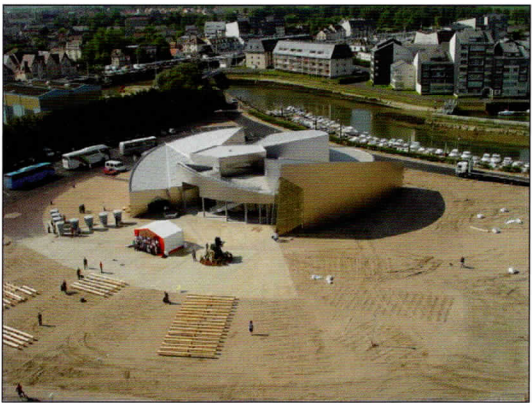
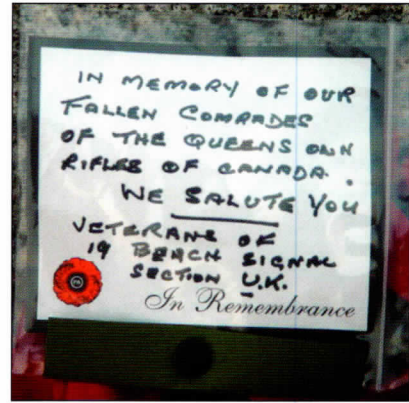


# QOR Normandy Tour 2003



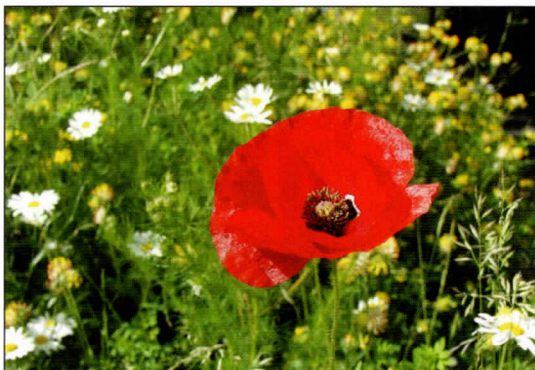
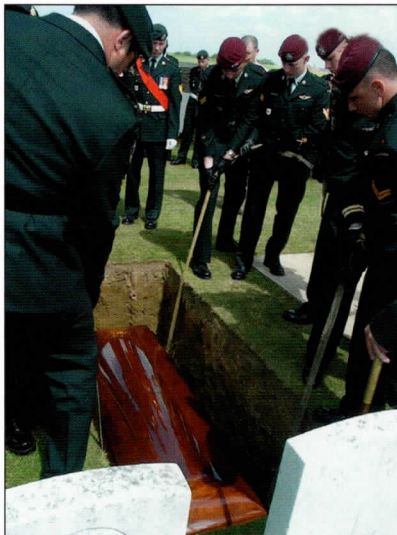
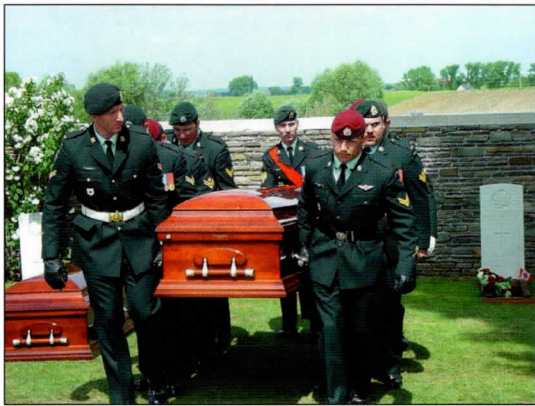
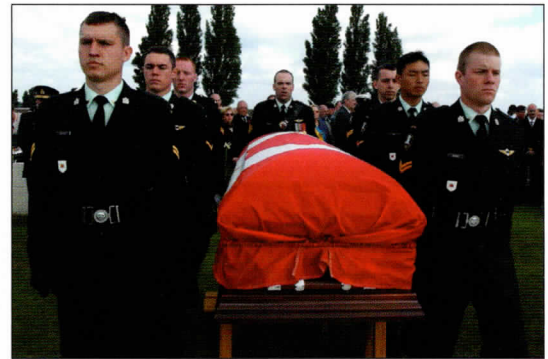
See photo captions and credits on page 47

# QOR Normandy Tour 2003



See photo captions and credits on page 47

# Burial of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn CEF (The Toronto Regiment) soldiers at Passchendaele, 9 June 2003



*See photo captions and credits on page 47*

## QOR Tour to Normandy and Holland and the Juno Beach Centre Opening

Maj (retd) Norm McCracken, CD

There was excitement in the air at Pearson Terminal 3 on June 2, 2003 as veterans, including Orville Cook, Charlie McNabb, Gene Bell and Charlie Cadieux, welcomed each other with great enthusiasm. Capt Arendz, with media in tow, sought out those vets for interviews. We met up with John Jones of Vancouver and some Cold War vets were there as well, including Ivan Hill and Norm McCracken.

LCol Steve Brand met us at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam. By late afternoon, we were checked in and enjoying dinner in France. At each point of lodging, our bus driver, Robert (a truly veritable CQMS), gave us our instructions, wake up calls, baggage info, breakfast times, etc. There were many highlights on this trip, which involved a total of more than 120 people, including the CO, LCol John Fotheringham and his lady, Kim Mathieson, the Hon LCol Paul Hughes and his wife, Bev, plus the Regimental Band and Bugles.

On June 5, the QOR tour group had a special preview tour of the Juno Beach Centre and the Association made a presentation of a framed ink sketch of the Maison de Queen's Own Rifles (on the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer) to the Centre's director. This sketch was done by WO Gerry Senetchko's son, and given to the Association for this presentation. A similar drawing was presented to the Hoffer family who own the well-known house. The Hoffers hosted an excellent reception there in the evening following a concert conducted by the QOR Band and Bugles in the square at Bernières that afternoon.

At sunrise, on D-Day, June 6, the special 50-man Guard, which included several QOR members, the Band and Bugles of the Regiment, and the vets, paraded to the pillbox at Bernières-sur-Mer, where a Remembrance Service was conducted. As



Association President Norm McCracken leads QOR veterans past the memorial at le Mesnil Patry on 7 June 2003.

the Guard, Band, and vets marched, a significant number of local residents warmly applauded them.

A reception was held afterwards where a gentleman from Wons, Holland, presented a framed collage of pictures along with coloured pictures proudly done by the children of Wons. (There is a Queen's Own Memorial Plaque at Wons commemorating those members of the Regiment who were killed there during the liberation).

By afternoon, the day was blistering hot when a Remembrance Service at Beny-Reviers Cemetery was held. It was exciting as 36 Canadian paratroopers, including several QOR, landed across from the cemetery.

For future such events, I would make the very strong suggestion that more consideration be taken for the veterans on trips like these. The ceremonies at Beny-Reviers were too long and conducted on a hot day. The same applied at the Juno Beach Centre opening later that long day, with too many speakers and no mention

made of the regiments involved in the landings, or credit given to the QOR. The Band and Bugles performed for at least 30 minutes prior to the official opening and then stood for two hours during the ceremonies while politicians talked and talked and veterans baked in the sun.

On June 8th, we saw Passchendaele and attended the funeral of three WW I soldiers identified to be QOR. Our Padre, Capt Craig Cameron, led the service and procession to the burial site. In the procession, pallbearers marched slowly, bearing the caskets containing the remains of those riflemen of WW1. The Guard fired the salute, flowers were laid and we quietly left.

Afterwards, the CO and I, and others, attended a reception in the town hall where the recovered artifacts of the soldiers were displayed. These were turned over to the CO for the Regimental Museum. While the CO and myself waited for the bus, we took the opportunity of quaffing a beer at the local pub where we met the men who recovered the remains of the soldiers and had a most interesting conversation.

We visited several cemeteries where we conducted remembrance services. At the grave of Lt John McCrae, the recitation of "In Flanders Fields" by veterans Margaret Ackroyd and Bill Ross added much emotion to the service. McCrae was a Rifleman in the QOR while attending medical school at the University of Toronto before WWI. At St. Martins, the lone grave of Rfn "Dusty" Rose was remembered and Charlie McNabb recalled memories and final days of his friend.

We stopped at Holten in Holland. The vets honoured several of their buddies who were buried here. It was here I realized that I had just completed an immersion course in Remembrance. Each member of the tour laid a rose at the Cross of Sacrifice as each remembered the sacrifice of these young men. Vets placed flags and roses on the graves of friends who died that day.

In Rha, Holland, again the people of Holland awed us with their commitment NOT to forget the sacrifice made by their liberators. Here a fierce battle was fought by 16 platoon of the QOR. One of the farm houses was the centre of the action. In the basement was the family. We met a lady who was a little girl in the basement at that time. This little community erected a large stone on which are the names of those riflemen who died that day.

We were also able to cross into Germany to visit the farmhouses of Mooshof. It was awesome to hear the vets talk about the day Aubrey Cosens, VC, died and see the fields where it happened.

Bus travel seemed eternal but while some of us visited the war museum in Bayeux, others went to see the Bayeux Tapestry. As well, we saw the cemetery where the Americans have remembered their fallen, including the 1500 plus whose remains were never found. We saw Vimy, Dieppe, Dunkirk, Pegasus Bridge, le Mesnil Patry, Oostburg and the Switchback Museum, and many other sights that would make this article even longer.

Great credit must be given to the Band



The famous QOR house on Juno Beach, 6 June 2003

and Bugles who represented Canada and the Regiment extremely well despite the unenviable situations with which they had to cope, to those serving members, all ranks, who participated as members of the Guard and the Para Jump. Thanks also to Padre Cameron and the camaraderie of the tour group members who kept watchful eyes out for one another. We enjoyed the trip and we would go again.



## QOR Brick Program

Capt The Reverend C. Cameron, Coordinator

The Juno Beach Centre was completed and opened June 6, 2003. This commemorative WWII museum is located in Normandy. The Queen's Own has been involved since its inception and has been a major promoter of the cause among military circles.

As part of the effort to honour all those who served and especially those who died in WWII, a memorial wall of remembrance, similar to the Vietnam Wall of Honour at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia was planned. The memorial wall with actual bricks eventually gave way to the idea of a series of memorial Kiosks with titanium plates.

The Kiosks are seven-foot high pillars of granite to which the "bricks" are affixed. One of major consideration in this decision was the concern about the ability of commemorative bricks to withstand the elements in a seaside location. As most of the exterior of the Centre is made of highly durable titanium, a decision was made to sell small titanium plaques as memorials.

Even though there is nothing brick-like about the plaques, the original name "brick" stuck. The smallest titanium "bricks" sell for \$250 each and honour veterans and donors alike. Most of the revenue from Brick sales goes to the construction of the Centre.

As permanent mementos of the Bricks purchased, donors are also able to purchase a replica of their brick for an additional \$25. Originally the replicas were six inch pieces of Tyndall (Manitoba) limestone. After the first year of sales, it was decided to replace the limestone with a varnished wood version of the Brick purchased. The JBC logo is found on the left and the particulars inscribed on the Brick are located on the right hand side of the replica.

The Regiment launched its own Brick program in the spring of 2002 to honour



those who served in the Regiment during WW II and also to assist in meeting the \$100,000 pledge made to JBC. I was asked by the Honorary Colonel to act as Coordinator of the Brick program in September 2002 and I agreed.

Many serving members as well as veterans have contributed bricks to the QOR Kiosk. There is provision on the QOR Kiosk for more than 400 individual Bricks as well as a limited number of Group Bricks (the size of two individual Bricks).

Both the Officers' Mess and Junior Ranks' Mess have donated individual Bricks in honour of two riflemen who were killed in action, Lt (formerly Cpl) Ken MacLeod KIA on July 18, 1944 at Giberville and Rfn Edward "Ted" Westerby, killed on D-Day. Substantial support has been given by the Vancouver Island branch of the QOR Association under the leadership of MGen (Ret'd) Herb Pitts, a former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment.

I would encourage everyone who considers it important to honour our veterans, to support this permanent memorial to our former QOR riflemen.

### *Opening of the Centre, June 2003.*

#### **Brick Program Update**

Veterans' bricks include the person's rank, name, decorations, unit, dates of service, as well as a comment regarding the veteran's service, such as "D-Day Veteran". Donors' bricks include the donor's name, other descriptive information, town and province of residence. The donation for the brick, engraving and installation is \$250. Also available for an additional \$25 is an authentic replica wooden brick with the Juno Beach logo sent to the donor recognizing the purchase of a Veteran or Donor Brick to show that a "brick" will be installed in the Centre in his/her name. Replica bricks are only available to those purchasing a brick.

At time of publication, there were 450 bricks on all kiosks: 23 QOR Bricks (inc. Donor Bricks) and 427 bricks on Kiosk 5, 90 for Polish WW II veterans. The Honour Roll takes up one entire side (Panel 4) and there is an estimated space remaining for another 167 Bricks. If all these Bricks are counted as our contribution, we have raised over \$150,000 for the JBC.

## *The Queen's Own Rifles Association 2002*

**Maj (retd) N. McCracken, CD**

This has certainly been a year of surprises. But first, I must extend an apology to those Association members who received our letter regarding membership and our veiled threat to cancel mailings of the *Rifleman* and the *PowderHorn*.

I now know that these publications are under the direction of RHQ and the QOR trust fund. As an Association we share the same address list as RHQ and as a result, your Executive Committee was concerned because when we mailed out membership renewals, we received, as usual, no more than a third. It was decided, therefore, to use a more aggressive approach for the Association to carry on its support of serving and retired members. Our serving members, by the way, have excelled at continuing the excellent traditions of our fine Regiment.

The less than 50% return was unacceptable to your committee, which is continuing the tradition of keeping ex-QOR members together: a tradition that was established by Sir Henry Pellat in 1919: the year of the first constitution. Again, on behalf of the executive committee, I apologize for any misunderstandings that the letter caused. It is our hope that members outside of Ontario continue to support your committee in support of the Regiment.

The other surprise was learning that the QOR Association held a 20 year lease for the RCL Branch 344, the QORC Chapter, at 1945 Lakeshore Boulevard, with the City of Toronto, and this lease was up for renewal. The City of Toronto owns this building. The branch was having difficulty meeting their financial commitments, the accumulated debt became the responsibility of QORA. John Power, past CO and past president QORA, has been negotiating with the City of Toronto.

This shocking news necessitated many meetings of the Executive during the



summer months. To salvage the building, it was proposed that an investigation into the creation of an all ranks Garrison Club be explored. This would also serve as a centre for other regimental associations – for their meetings and social functions. Letters were sent and a presentation was given to all Commanding Officers, courtesy of 32 Brigade Commander. The response was very lukewarm because of many reasons, including location. At the time of writing this article it does not look very promising that the QORA will renew the lease for the QOR legion.

Some 30 plus vets and members were on parade at 0730 hrs for their annual D-Day Service of Remembrance and afterwards in the Officers' Mess.

Later that day, the dedication of the memorial to CSM Charlie Martin at St. Hillary's Anglican Church in Mississauga honoured a true hero, not only in war but in peace as well. Initiated by members of the parish and his community, a committee was formed and led by Mr. Doug Kennedy. This group obtained funds from all sources to ensure a man like Charlie would never be forgotten as a soldier and a man. The

whole ceremony was an emotional experience. The kit shop has videotapes of this incredibly moving ceremony.

The Warriors' Day Parade was held on 18 Aug 02. A strong Queen's Own contingent represented the Regiment in fine style. It was the day that the serving members were to leave for summer camp training. Since their ETD was 1500 hours, they volunteered to parade with the QORA and Br 344 RCL. It was impressive.

In August, I traveled to Tillsonburg for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual V.C. Tattoo. The Tattoo was held in the arena. Smokey Smith was the guest of Honour. All of the bands were highland with their rattling drums and their wailing pipes. Just when you think you should be doing something else, the Band and Bugles of the QOR burst onto the scene with an impressive showing of drill and music. You are mesmerized and even more so when you realize that this band consists of volunteers who give of their time and talents, despite the bureaucratic challenges to the Regiment. In Markham in November they paraded impressively in the riding of the defence minister, John



McCallum. We have an excellent Band that is a real credit to our Regiment and it needs our support morally and financially.

Our annual shoot in September was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Here's some good news for Ontario Riflemen. Bob Dunk has worked extremely hard in negotiating with the Ministry of Transportation to obtain license plates with the Regimental crest on them. All permission has been obtained and it is just a matter of signing people up. Bob will be ready at the AGM to sign up those who are interested. If you miss the AGM, write the QORA, attention to Bob Dunk.

The Remembrance Day Parade at St. Paul's Church saw over 30 QORA members on parade along with our affiliated airborne group. In my memory, it was the first parade that RSM Harry Fox was AWOL. It was decided that no charges would be laid.

The men's Christmas dinner was another spectacular success. Morale was high; spirit was strong; and tradition was being carried on splendidly - real credit to the Officers and NCOs.

The Executive Committee has recently worked to review and amend the QOR Constitution and by now you will have received your draft copy for approval. Hopefully it will be passed at the AGM.

Roy's Rangers, named by Roy Whitsed, the author of *Canadians At War*, who based his book on the anecdotes of Riflemen who landed on D-Day with the Regiment, formed this Huronia area group. Since the publication of his book, they have been meeting in the Huronia area about two to three times a year.

We continue to lose our veterans. Since 2000 we have lost many fine men such as Tom McKenzie, Bob Comber, and Wally Brewer.

I was able to attend all of these memorial services, usually accompanied by Col Hank Elliot. This year we also lost Norm Manchester and others. At all of these services, I was impressed at the strong

value systems that each of these men possessed. Is it any wonder why the Regiment was so successful in WW II.

Huronia Group, "Roy's Rangers", September 2002. (Left to right) Bob Catlow, Orville Cook, Norm McCracken, J.P. Moore, Hank Elliot, Walter Brewer.



Capt R. Arendz, Director of Music, accepts a plaque of appreciation during one of the Band's many community events, while Association President N. McCracken looks on.

## Garrison Ball

LCol John Fotheringham, CD



Lt Pat Slack, Karen Saunders, WO2 Bruce Richardson, Liz McGuire, Suzanne Hughes and Maj Adam Saunders at the 2002 Garrison Ball

The QOR officers received a little surprise this past June when the Brigade announced that the hosting rotation for the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball would advance by one year, meaning that The QOR were on deck for the February Ball.

Major Erik Simundson, OMM CD, recently retired but still serving as Officers' Mess PMC, was pressed into service as the Ball Committee Chairman. Major Simundson, along with a strong committee, were responsible for what the Brigade Commander said was the most organized Ball that he'd seen.

It was decided from the beginning to set the standard for the other Brigade units, and the theme of 'Valour and Friends' was developed. Each participating unit was invited to sponsor a veteran and his/her companion, to be seated at the front of the dining room and recognized during the program. The seventeen veterans included:

- Colonel Hank Elliot, CD, QOR D-Day platoon commander and former Honorary Colonel, representing The Queen's Own
- RSM Harry Fox, MBE, representing his other regiment, the Hasty P's
- Sergeant Andy Anderson from 1 Can Para
- WO2 Sam Magee from the FSSF
- WO2 Bruce Richardson, representing Korean War veterans,

in addition to 12 others.

All were marched on at the start of the Ball while Maj Simundson, acting as MC, read a short biography of each.

The Guest of Honour was Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable Barney Danson, PC, OC, QOR platoon commander in Normandy and later Minister of National Defence, who attended with Mrs. Danson and addressed the dinner about Valour and Friends.

The Patron of the Ball was the Chief of the Air Staff, Lieutenant General Lloyd Campbell, CMM CD, and the head table also included Brigadier General Don Pryer, CD, our Honorary Colonel, the Area Commander, Brigadier General Mike Gauthier, MSC CD, and the Brigade Commander, Colonel Des DesLauriers, OMM CD, along with their respective companions.

It will be another ten years before The QOR hosts another Ball, but we think that the standard was set for other Brigade units to attempt to match such a successful event.

## Trip to The National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, Virginia

CWO (ret'd) B Budden, CD

It was on June 13, 2002 that RSM Harry Fox (87 years young) Rifleman Dave Lavery and I had the opportunity to make our way to the much talked about National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, U.S.A.

The year previous in June 2001, at the official opening of the memorial, QOR veterans Bill Ross, his wife Dorothy, Jack Hadley and Navy Veteran Jack Burns attended this memorable occasion. US President George W. Bush officiated at this memorable event.

It was after that that I received a letter from the Director of Research and Archives, Ms. Carol Tuckwiller. I also corresponded with the President of the National D-Day Memorial, Mr. William McIntosh. Both were very interested in the history of the Regiment because of the QOR participation in the landing of D-Day on Juno Beach in 1944.

After our initial contact I inquired about obtaining a current date list with Regimental Number, Rank, Surname, First Name for members who were reinforced with The QOR before D-Day. After researching, there was 61 QOR Comrades who made the supreme sacrifice on Juno Beach at the beaches of Bernières-Sur-Mer, June 6, 1944. "We will remember them."

As we left Toronto on Day 1, the taskings were as follows: *Van Driver* Dave, *Navigator (Ambassador)* my Nickname yours truly and the *Observer and Commentator* Harry. (Great stories)

We made our way across the border, and pulled over for picnic (those wonderful sandwiches Shelia had prepared for Harry and the delicious muffins Lori made and, of course, the refreshments that Dave brought along). After relaxing, we set out for this long journey to Bedford VA, about a 24-hour drive.

We missed the Pennsylvania Turnpike - oops - we regrouped and made our way



to Breezewood, PA where we stayed the night at the Wiltshire Motel.

On Day 2 we traveled through the beautiful sites exploring the Shenandoah (National Park Virginia) and looked at wild deer feeding from lookout points. Finally, after a lengthy drive, we made it to the town of Bedford.

We then found the National D-Day Memorial, a gorgeous site on top of a mountain. We did a recce and made our way to The Super 8 Hotel, which had a room complete with Jacuzzi, Harry's first view of a Jacuzzi and cafeteria-style restaurant, which had great food. The hotel was in total view of the Memorial.

On Friday night we relaxed and went out to the Local Moose Lodge that we entertained with Karaoke, Harry dancing and Brian and Dave singing. As non-members of the Lodge we asked to leave, but as ambassadors, plus identifying we were Canadians and what we were going to do, there was no hesitation and we had a wonderful night.

Saturday, Day 3, was the day our official visit to the Memorial was to take place. With Regimental Blazers, berets and medals we made our way to the Memorial. They knew that we were coming because parking and a tour was

set up for us. We met Carol Tuckwiller and Shannon Brooks (Tour Coordinator) who gave us a very excellent site.

After the tour we carried out a short introduction as to who we were and did our taskings following the ceremony - including a wreath laying ceremony and presentation at the Memorial. The ceremony went off with no glitches and on behalf of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association we made a presentation of our Regimental Plaque with Battle Honours and a \$200 cheque.

Following the ceremony we took pictures and chatted with visitors and staff of the Memorial. The hospitality that was shown to us was second to none. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We will cherish the memories that we received from the D-Day Memorial Staff, but also the people of the United States.

After a good night's sleep we left Bedford for home. This day happened to be Father's Day and we phoned our respective families and were wished a Happy Father's Day. We decided we would go as far as we could before the sun went down and we come upon a small town called Slippery Rock, PA. Unknown to us it was a dry town, but thanks to Harry's smart thinking (case of beer) we managed to survive the night.

The last day (Day 5) we planned on making it home in the afternoon. We had no problem. I would like to thank Jack Hadley for the trip information as well as Bill Ross who sent photos and information regarding the Memorial.

All in all, it was a very successful venture and with the knowledge and experience that we gained on this trip I can see in the near future the Regiment, members of the Regimental Family and the Regimental Band & Bugles participating some day in the parade in Bedford, VA at Memorial.

In Pace Paratus

The Web Site for The National D-Day Memorial is [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org)

*The Memorial Wall lists the names of American and Allied forces killed on D-Day, 6 June 1944. Once complete, the Memorial Wall will be the only wall in the world to list American and Allied D-Day fatalities. Their names, engraved on tablets encircling the middle plaza, will remind visitors of the individual sacrifices troops made on that fateful day in Normandy.*



90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated in December 2002 at the Maple Leaf Rifle Club. (Left to Right) Neil Arsenault, Dave Newton, Fred Haire, Steve Budden, Phil ten Kortenaar

## Maple Leaf Rifle Club

**CWO (ret'd) B. Budden, CD  
President**

2002 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Maple Leaf Rifle Club, and we carried out our annual tradition with our Meeting, Dinner and Shoot. For the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary all active and honorary members and the invited guests received a memorable lapel pin marking the Anniversary.

It was decided by the members of the club we would purchase a brick and a wood replica for the Juno Beach Centre in Bernières-Sur-Mer, France, stating "The Maple Leaf Rifle Club We Remember Those Who Made The Supreme Sacrifice 2003".

This past year we lost one Active Member, Dick Ayton, who would have been 91 years old this year and was a member for many years. We also lost two Honorary Members, Fred Burroughs and Les Smith.

*"We will Remember Them"*

**It was a very eventful moment for those family members that went to Rha, Holland on May 4th, 2001 for the unveiling of the monument in loving memory of the six members of The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada who made the supreme sacrifice.**

**Rfn. J.E. Aiken  
Rfn. T.E.C. Crawford  
Lt. J. C. Kavanagh  
Rfn. M.J McKenna  
Rfn. D.N. Patience  
Rfn. G.C Woodruff**

**"DYING FOR FREEDOM ISN'T THE WORSE THAT  
COULD HAPPEN - BEING FORGOTTEN IS"**

This is the inscription on the monument with a QOR cap badge and the 6 QOR of Canada names. This was made possible by the hard work of the council of Rha, under the guidance of Mr. Jan Horstink. Thanks to the people of Rha, and to Rev. Henk Dykman of Guelph for tracking down family members in Canada who were related to the QOR Of C members.

I would like to thank all those members of the family that attended this very memorable event for their stories and what it meant to them. And a special thank you to Jacqueline Christiaans of Zuthpen for communicating and laying a wreath on behalf of The Regimental family.

## And so “Remains 140” will be buried as an unknown Canadian soldier...

Jacky Platteeuw and Aurel Sercu, Ypres, Belgium



*Exhumation of a Canadian soldier near Passendale.*

***On June 9, 2003, members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Regiment of Canada, whose Regiments perpetuate the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF, laid to rest the remains of three unidentified members of that Battalion, killed in action at Passendale on 6 November 1917. This is the story of the discovery and attempts to identify these Riflemen.***

On 2 February 2002 our team exhumed remains of 3 Canadian soldiers found near Passendale (northeast of Ypres). As no identification discs were found, it looked as if these three soldiers (#139, 140 and 141 in our list of remains found so far) would remain unidentified. All we knew was that soldier 140 apparently belonged to the 3rd Battalion Canadian Infantry (a collar badge having been found with the remains), and that he must have been one of the many dozens of Canadian soldiers fallen on 6 November 1917. However,

as his skull showed three gold teeth, such a distinctive mark that just could not be ignored and which was too inviting, we soon started the search for his identity, hoping that this striking physical feature eventually would lead to a name.

Mr. Ron Cushman contacted us at the beginning of March 2002, that is, one month after the exhumation of the remains of the three Canadian soldiers at Passendale. He introduced himself as "having a background in genealogy and some experience in heir tracing". In the following six to seven months, we discovered that Mr. Cushman has a lot more. He had the ability to coordinate the efforts of other people who gradually joined as volunteers and – just like him – offered their assistance. They were also motivated with never-ending enthusiasm and admirable resolution to reach that one ultimate goal: the identification of one of the three soldiers. This included finding

relatives and descendants in order that eventually we could inform them that their father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and great uncle, 85 years after his death in the Battle of Passendale, had been found.

The striking physical feature –three gold teeth – prompted us to start the search for identification. This was so motivating that we thought it was bound to lead to finding the identification of Soldier 140. (This was the number we gave him, because so far he was the 140th soldier we had found in the past four years.)

We thought that this characteristic must have been mentioned on an enlistment or other document. Therefore, a few days after the exhumation (2 Feb 2002), co-Digger Marc Dejonckheere contacted some people abroad, asking if they could help us in this search.

Soon we obtained the information that Soldier 140 had fallen on 6 November 1917 in the capture of a German strong point (Vine Cottage), one mile northwest of the village centre of Passendale. This was the last phase of the Third Battle of Ypres. We also knew Soldier 140 belonged to the 3rd Battalion Toronto Regiment because a C3 collar badge having been found with the remains.

Here we would like to mention an admirable facility on the internet: the availability on-line of many thousands of attestation (enlistment) papers of Canadians who served in the Great War. (Not less than 380,000 attestation papers are indeed on line (out of 620,000 or more than 60 %). This certainly deserves a lot of praise, and is an initiative that has to be completed. It would be wonderful if other countries did the same, this being a great help to genealogical and historical researchers.

(You can search this link at:  
[http://www.archives.ca/02/020106\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/020106_e.html)).

At this point, Padre Craig Cameron (Canada) joined the search. As Regimental Chaplain of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Padre Cameron is keenly interested in the Regiment's history and memorials.

The Queen's Own Rifles were one of the major Canadian militia units that supplied riflemen to form the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (subsequently called the "3rd Toronto Regiment") in September 1914. The historical research of Padre Cameron helped corroborate our idea that these three soldiers were buried in an area that the 3rd Battalion occupied after the unit's attack of 6 November 1917 on the Vine Cottage pillboxes.

Padre Cameron then crosschecked various lists of 3rd Bn fatalities at Passendale, and came up with 56 names of riflemen with no known grave. Most of these men were in Charlie Company, which made the major attack on the Vine Cottage position. By this point in WW I, most of those killed were not originals, but replacements from a variety of other battalions, mostly raised in Toronto and southern Ontario.

In the attestation papers, it was found that there was indeed a soldier whose papers mentioned: 3 Gold teeth, one crown and one open space, upper jaw. (Later it would be found that the Medical History Sheet of the soldier (whom in the rest of this article we will call 'William Devonport', a fictitious name) mentioned: 3 Gold teeth and one open face upper front, thus clearly indicating the location of the gold teeth. A dental history sheet was not found (as this was normally done for soldiers upon demobilization). In our judgment this was very near to a confirmed identity, as the chance of another soldier of his group having three gold teeth in the upper jaw seemed exceedingly slight.

In order to remove any doubt, the attestation papers of the other approximately 30 soldiers, not accessible on-line, were checked in the



*3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF Collar Badge.*

Archives in Ottawa by Padre Cameron. As there was no mention of the same distinguishing feature (3 gold teeth) in these remaining papers, we were even more optimistic. We believed that we had found the name of Soldier 140 and continued over the next four to five months. William Devonport (the fictitious name) appeared to have been born in South-England, emigrated to Canada (Toronto), married, and had two children, the youngest being born after he had already left for Europe. He was a police officer immediately prior to enlisting with a battalion in Peel County, Ontario. This information was found in an obituary in a Toronto newspaper, which included a photo of the soldier in question.

More information was needed if descendants were to be found after 85 years. His marriage registration in Ontario was obtained in order to fully identify his wife and both sets of parents. It was discovered that he met his wife in Toronto, while both worked at a local asylum. His full military file was obtained, and from pay and pension records, the residences of his widow were traced. She apparently moved around Toronto for a while, then to her native home in (what was then) Antrim, Ireland. After that, she moved to her husband's parents, in England.

Internet searches located family members who were doing genealogical

research, and they assisted by contributing their knowledge of the 'Devonport' family tree. The above identified the need for research in England.

Meanwhile Mr. Brian Churchward (England) joined our team. He offered us his help, having knowledge of genealogical research in the UK. His contribution (finding names and location of possible descendants and relatives) was extremely significant.

On May 8, 2002, Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Reid, a Canadian Forces (CF) dentist with forensic training, came to Ypres, to make an on site examination and photographic record of the remains of soldier 140. He was assisted by Captain Nathalie Adams, another CF dentist currently stationed at SHAPE Headquarters in Mons (Bergen). When we spoke to him that same day he was inclined to be optimistic about a positive ID, emphasizing however that at that time it was too early to come to conclusions. (With regard to this it is important to mention that in the absence of an ante mortem dental record (or a good quality photograph clearly showing the front teeth), it was indeed not possible for the dental remains to provide a "positive" ID in this phase of the search.

At that moment we felt that we could even contact the descendants, who

thanks to Brian Churchward's efforts had already been found. However, 99 per cent certain was simply not enough. If descendants and relatives were to be informed that their (great)(grand) father had been found, a lot more was required. DNA testing was identified as a theoretical solution, if resources could be located that fell within the group's non-existent budget.

During that same period, we received a kind, invaluable offer. Dr. Carney Matheson, Assistant Professor, Paleo-DNA Laboratory, Lakehead University, Ontario expressed willingness to work with us, donating genetic profiling effort for the soldier's remains and doing the lab work for a living donor sample. Sooner or later, a DNA test might be advised or required. So forensic samples of the soldiers' remains were taken by LCol Reid and left with the Canadian War Graves Commission to be transferred to Canada later for analysis.

Ron Cushman contacted a nephew of William Devonport and he was willing to donate a DNA sample for a

mitochondrial DNA test (mitochondrial DNA is passed only through female lines, but exists in both sexes).

On 18 July 2002, to everybody's surprise, the news came that the test was negative. "The DNA sample from the nephew of soldier William Devonport does not match the skeleton of soldier number 140."

This news brought us down to earth with a bump – a loud and painful one! We naturally and gladly accepted Dr Matheson's offer of two additional DNA tests, with samples from two other relatives of soldier William Devonport. Would these additional tests prove that Soldier 140 was the soldier we had in mind after all? We were torn between fear and hope – hope that "something" had gone wrong in the previous test, fear that the additional tests would lead to another disappointment. But for of us, hope prevailed.

And then, on September 17, 2002, we received the email from Ron Cushman:

"I regret to inform all involved that

confirmation has been received that skeletal remains found in Passendale, Belgium, with the three gold teeth is NOT of the soldier we had thought. Following are the statements that I obtained from the laboratory:

- All three living DNA donor samples have consistent mitochondrial DNA.
- The sample taken from soldier number 140 was not consistent with any of the three.
- Several measures were taken to preclude any unintentional contamination by casual handling of the remains, or contamination by lab members involved.
- The remains in question will probably be buried as an unknown Canadian soldier of the Toronto Regiment.

"I would like to thank all involved, for all of their hard work, interest and cooperation. This has been a most interesting quest, that unfortunately, did not turn out as hoped or expected."

Describing this disappointment would



**Burial of the three 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF unknown soldiers found at Passendale.**

be hard. But it is even harder to try to find an explanation. Do we have to accept that in that same battalion, on that same day, on that same spot, among the approximately 60 soldiers who died and were reported missing, there was a second soldier with three gold teeth in the upper jaw? It looks as if the unbelievable did happen in this case.

Our quest did have some tangible result. Ron Cushman wrote,

"I think we should all be proud of the cooperative effort that has been contributed by all, with no expectation of personal gain, and by a collection of people who, quite honestly, don't know each other from Adam. Through generosity of time, and some financial resources, often personal, we came close to accomplishing the near impossible. It may be the end of this search, but it does not have to be the end of friendships formed."

This is so well expressed, that I wish these words were mine. Some of the results of this endeavour will be retained. The genetic profiles of the

three Canadian soldiers will be kept, and if other reasonable candidates are identified in the future, comparisons will be made.

6 November 1917 was the day the Canadians took Passendale. 88 Riflemen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF unknown were killed in action or would later die of wounds in the attack on Vine Cottage and Goudberg. About 20 of them would later have a grave and a headstone with their name and 56 would either have a nameless headstone, or would remain on the battlefield: Alexander Armstrong, Joseph Baronet, Frank Bexton, Leslie Blackford, Elmer Boles, Lionel Cartwright, Robert Cather, Norman Chadwick, Ernest Clarke, James Clement and so many more.

One of these 56 must be that Soldier 140, found on that winter day, whose three gold teeth made us start the quest for his identity and relatives. Who was he? We will never know. But as we cast our eye over that list, we know - we have just read his name.

**The Diggers:** Jacky Platteeuw (Ypres) and myself, Aurel Sercu (Boezinge-Ypres), were at the time both members of **The Diggers**, a team of so-called amateur battlefield archaeologists. They are active in the Ypres Salient (Flanders, Belgium), where so much still reminds visitors of the Great War. **The Diggers** do not claim academic or professional archaeological credentials, but they have an intense interest in the tangible presence of WW1 just below the surface.

Formed in the 1980s the group first came into prominence in 1992, with the find of a 1917 British deep dugout in Boezinge (north of Ypres). Over the past years they have been working in the vicinity of this dugout, an area which was becoming part of an industrial estate complex, and which turned out to be an almost intact WW1 battlefield.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion

## D-Day Recollections

Jan De Vries, Association President

**June 5, 1944:** Afternoon; windy; raining.

My Battalion Company "C" arrived at Harwell airfield in the UK. "C" Company was the assault company to lead the Battalion and Division into France by one half hour. We marched to the lined up aircraft and found our parachutes that were fitted the day before. Most of the men in each of the ten-men sticks (a stick is a group of Paratroops in a plane who are to jump) relieved themselves on the field. Then we loaded up our equipment, weapons, ammunition, and rations.

In my case, as a bombardier in a section of ten men, I carried a Sten gun, seven spare magazines, four spare magazines for the Bren gunner, a two-inch mortar and six bombs, grenades of every type, rations for two days, wire cutters, trenching tool, gas mask, and water bottle. I think I went in with about 80 pounds of equipment. All this was covered over with a disposable sleeveless cloth smock to avoid the parachute lines snagging on the equipment. We put on our parachutes and were helped into the aircraft.

The last man to exit the aircraft on the jump entered first. The aircraft moved into position for flight. The Albemarle bomber that was converted to troop carrier, had a limit of 10 men; low head room. A bomber was chosen to make the Germans think it was just another bombing raid.

I sat facing the tail of the plane, knees to the back of the man in front. It was a noisy flight due to the aircraft motors. There was very little talking as we approached the French coast. What everyone was thinking, I have no idea. All I recall of my own thoughts was that I would be able to carry out my orders and not let my comrades down.

We could see flashes of exploding anti-aircraft fire as we crossed the coast. We



1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association President Jan de Vries at the Le Mesnil Crossroads ceremony, 5 June 2003. Photo by WO J. Blouin.

were bounced side to side as the pilot tried to avoid the anti-aircraft fire.

Someone called out, "Red light" and a rush of activity took place. The first two men opened the two halves of the cover of the bath tub sized hole and hooked them to the sides of the aircraft. The first two men to jump, straddled the hole, feet placed one foot at each side; the third and fourth sat at each end with legs in the hole. The rest of the stick squirmed as close as possible and waited for the green light.

It seemed forever, but, the green light came on; about 0010 on June 6. Number 1 closed his legs and was gone closely followed by number 2; Number 3 dove after them, followed by Number 4. Number 5 got caught up some how and was slow to get out; others followed slowly. I believe I was Number 8 or 9. I dove out the hole worried about being at a distance from the other men in the stick.

It was very dark as I was dropping and I was looking for the ground when I landed with a thump. Quickly I got out of my chute and made my way out of the field in

which I landed. I lay beside a hedge and listened hoping to hear men from my stick; nothing. I looked through the hedge and saw nothing that I was supposed to see. I had no idea where I was.

Quietly I moved along a cart track wondering which direction to go. I could hear aircraft above so I headed in the direction from which they were coming assuming they were coming from the coast. I came to gravel roads and paved roads; moved quietly into a field, ditch, or hedge when I would hear the sound of footsteps or talking. I knew they were German patrols, since our men would have been quiet. As I made my way I tried to figure out what went wrong; why I was alone in a place where I could not recognize any features we had studied in the transit camp.

Just before daylight I met three men from my platoon moving along a hedgerow. We continued together and came to a large open area where gliders were landing. We now knew roughly where we were and headed east.

We came under fire a couple of times forcing us to jump into a ditch or drop flat to the ground. We never saw where the firing was coming from. Keeping low, we crossed a little stream and saw our first dead body. We finally arrived late in the day at our high ground defence position, Le Mesnil crossroads, and reported to Company headquarters. The first thing I noticed on arrival at the cross roads was quite large brickworks with a high chimney and kilns. Across the road from the brickworks was an orchard. A parachute was suspended from the hydro wires above the trees.

Out of 120 men in "C" Company who were to carry out the objectives only thirty five landed on the drop zone. The rest were scattered, like myself, or captured or killed. Some straggled in for days if they

had managed to evade the Germans.

The 35 men, led by officers and NCO's blew the two bridges, captured a German bunker and strong point, blew up a signal terminal and engaged a German headquarters while the rest of the Battalion and Division arrived. In the actions that took place about half of those that took part were killed or wounded. The four of us cursed the pilot who had dropped us so far away when we were told of the battles that had taken place.

My first order on arrival at our defence position was to locate where the Germans were. This I proceeded to do walking on the field side of the hedge leading south from where I was going to dig my trench. About halfway down the field I saw one of our snipers laying at the edge of the field, his rifle pointing to a bush at the far side of the field. He did not answer my call as I approached. I went to step over him when I saw he was dead; a bullet hole in his forehead.

I bent low and moved faster. Further along, looking through a hedgerow, I saw what appeared to be some kind of headquarters with many Germans milling around. This was what I was supposed to find. I quickly returned to our lines and reported the location of the Germans and where I had found our dead sniper.

The information must have quickly been sent to the Navy in the Channel, which was our initial artillery. It wasn't much later that we could hear the big navy shells whistling overhead. On a subsequent patrol I found that the house that the Germans had used as a headquarters was destroyed and no sign of German troops.

My D-Day was completed digging my slit trench in the dark in preparation for German counter attacks and shelling that took place the next day.

## How wet can one be? Fox to the rescue

Rfn Bill Lewin

I was originally in Able Company but after training on the vehicles, I was posted back to Baker Coy as a driver - with specialist pay, incidentally.

In early 1943 we were out on one of our many battalion route marches. We had been walking for hours and were pretty beat. They had us wade through a small pond that was almost five feet deep. For most of men that were less than six foot, the water came up to our mouths.

Sgt Rollie Guiton stood on one bank to help the non-swimmers and the padre, Jack Clough, was stationed on the other side. Normally we didn't do this sort of thing, unlike the British Army, which was always taking their men through sewers and the like, ostensibly "to toughen them up".

RSM Harry Fox had advised the CO (LCol Jock Spragge) that the men should leave their weapons behind on this one, as we had just been issued the new # 4 Lee-Enfield rifle. It was this weapon that we would use throughout the northwest Europe campaign. Mud in the barrel would have compromised their effectiveness before getting into combat.

Padre Jack Clough came alongside me as I struggled along, the mud sucking on my boots with each step, and told him to tilt my head back as water was up to my nose. So we staggered out of the pond totally soaked, water running off our clothes and our boots full of mud.

It was pretty difficult to stay in any kind of formation after that "dip". We dragged ourselves along in loose groups of four or five. The OC of the company (the men



RSM Fox and QOR NCOs in England, 1942

called him "Granny") came along in a jeep - compared to us, he was all spic and span. We noticed that he hadn't gone through the water with the rest of the company. The major told the CSM to charge this group of stragglers with conduct unbecoming and a group of us were confined to barracks.

When it was my turn, I came before OC and told him plainly that it was not fair to charge us. The others heard this line and said basically the same thing. RSM Harry Fox happened to be walking by as I came out of the OC's office. He called me over and asked me what was happening. Then he gave me some helpful advise. Normally the RSM would only get involved when a charge went from the company to the battalion level. Well, the upshot was that I got off without any consequences and I was pleased that Harry's advise made the difference.

The men respected Harry as RSM - he was tough but fair. We all knew he was for the men and didn't lick the CO's boots.



Members of The Queen's Own Rifles taken at Wykehurst Park, Bolney Crossroads, Sussex, Christmas 1942.

The Queen's Own Rifles on parade, circa. 1956 on 6th Avenue, Calgary, Alberta. Commanding Officer LCol CP MacPherson, Adjt Capt Lloyd Cornett, RSM WO I Rusty Rowbottom, Coy Commander Major John Doerksen, Platoon Commanders Lt Dave Luxford and 2Lt Hugo Grout.



## Ed “Tiger” Dunlop

**Former RSM (WO 1) Harry Fox, MBE**

About 1933, a new 2nd Lieutenant named Edward A. Dunlop was posted to my company (Baker Coy of 2nd Bn). Dunlop has been in the Cadet Corps at Upper Canada College, and he knew what he was talking about. He was an easy man to talk to and more important, he listened to his NCOs.

Ed Dunlop was as keen as mustard (to use an old expression) on marksmanship and got a group of us together to shoot in a match at the Connaught ranges in 1938. We did so well that we each won a Freysen shield for our efforts. I have it still - it's on my living room wall.

Like most of us, Ed Dunlop joined up in June 1940 when a battalion was mobilized for overseas service. After we were in England for while, Ed Dunlop went off on an advanced infantry course in the wilds of the Scottish Highlands, near Loch Aillort. He came back very gung ho and was soon sent off to join the British 1st Army in North Africa to gain combat experience.

After returning to the QOR from Africa, he was promoted to Major and given command of D Company. The company had been taken off the Orbat in a reorganization of the battalion in early 1943 into three companies. The men were scattered among the other companies. The fourth rifle company was brought back some months later, however, on Montgomery's instructions and Ed Dunlop was given charge of the company.

Many of the Riflemen were brand new soldiers, green-kids, 18 or 19 years of age. Dunlop had a challenging job to try to get his new company up to speed with the other three companies. By the summer of

1943 the training focus had finally shifted to preparing for an amphibious landing on the coast of France.

In September the battalion deployed to the West Highlands of Scotland, near Inverary, for assault craft landing practice. Near the beach that we used was a hill with an old stone watchtower on the top. One favourite drill was to land a company of men and then see how long it would take them with full pack to climb to the top of that hill. But no matter how soon they made it, it was never fast enough for the “highers-up”. I don't believe many senior officers made that climb. I know Ed Dunlop went up it with his men.

One day the whole unit was doing grenade training and I decided to take Headquarters staff out to do the same. I demonstrated the correct technique - pull the pin, stand, throw and then duck behind a boulder to dodge the splinters. Sgt Watson, the Orderly Room sergeant (Chief Clerk in today's Army), threw his grenade but just couldn't resist seeing it explode. As a result he caught a fragment in his chest. I told the rest of the group to stay put, and I escorted him to the Regimental Aid Post. After a couple of hundred yards he said he was OK and didn't need me.

So I turned back and on the way I noticed a group of men that were hurrying along and they were carrying something. I could have interfered as RSM but decided that they had things under control so I'd just mind my own business.

Later that day I found out that it was Major Ed Dunlop they were carrying and he had been badly wounded by a grenade. One of his men had dropped a grenade and Dunlop scooped it up and threw it but it exploded just as he released it. He lost two fingers and sight in both his eyes.

The old adage has it that you can't keep a good man down. Well, in Ed Dunlop's case, that was certainly the truth. After the War, he was active in the Regimental Association. He was also elected an MPP to the Ontario Legislature and I understand, a very good one.

Ed Dunlop also got involved in the organization of the Toronto Sun following the demise of The Evening Telegram. The paper prospered and though it has changed considerably over the years, it is still in circulation. On the 25th anniversary of the paper's establishment, no one mentioned Ed Dunlop's name. This is a shame, as I knew him to be a fine officer and a responsible politician. He was a far better man than 97 per cent of the men who have been elected to public office in this province. I stand on this assertion. Ed Dunlop deserves to be remembered.

### **Note:**

*Ed Dunlop served the riding of York-Forest Hill from 1963 to 1971 in the Ontario Legislature. When Premier Bill Davis took office, Mr. Dunlop was promoted to cabinet, where he remained until he retired.*

*According the Association of Former Parliamentarians, he was highly thought of, and referred to affectionately referred to as “Tiger Eddie”.*

## Singed Boots and a Brush Fire

**Former RSM (WO 1) Harry Fox, MBE**

Another memorable incident occurred while we were stationed at Pippingford Park, which is located in the Ashdown Forest, part of the original Sussex Weald. It had been logged off in the 16th century and all that was left was mostly low scrub, gorse and whin bushes. It was known locally as the "Isle of Thorns".

Even though it was December and the middle of winter, the south of England is generally quite mild, and we were still able to train. The Army brought out a new Battle Drill that was intended to cut down on casualties and to save time. At the platoon level it consisted of the platoon commander waving his arms and saying, "There is our objective. We will do a left flanking. Move. Go."

Well, this tactic may have been better than a frontal bayonet charge against an entrenched position (WW I), but I never observed it in use in Italy. There were many things like that about the Army. The battle drill for house clearing, as an example, proved totally ineffective. At Ortona several Canadian infantry units developed a tactic called "mouse-holing" which involved blowing holes in the walls of adjacent buildings from the inside.

In any event, we spent several hours galloping here and there in Pippingford Park until we were huffing and puffing like bull elephants. We eventually stopped for a rest and I joined Sgt Jack Forbes of 15 Platoon. We took a break in a little hollow. In the south of England there is an old adage, "Shine before seven, rain before eleven". This proved true on this winter day and the little hollow where we sat, soon had three or four inches of water in it. We were soaked but neither Jack nor I complained. The rain felt so good on our hot, sweaty bodies!

During this exercise, the mortar platoon created some trouble for us. Several of their bombs had set fire to the peat moss.

The fire spread quickly and the CO had to call out the whole battalion to fight the fire.

We soon found out that the 18 picks and 24 shovels issued to each company weren't much use in fighting fires. Believe it or not, the most effective treatment was to stamp on the brush with our feet. We stomped and tramped the ground in the Ashdown Forest for the better part of two days. The men enjoyed themselves, after a fashion - it certainly beat a route march.

One negative side effect however, was that it played havoc with the men's boots. Many had singed and cracked boots as a result of the heat. One of our Charlie Company riflemen had size 14 boots. Back in Canada, this size wasn't a big problem, as the supply system simply had larger boots ordered for him. In England, it wasn't so simple. The Quartermaster declared that no one in the Army should have such large feet - translation - the Army doesn't have them and was not going to bear the extra cost of getting them made.

As a result of this kit issue, this Rifleman was removed from the company and sent to Headquarters Company as a pot whallop (cook's helper). About a month later he was posted to the Holding Unit and I never saw him again. We were on six hours notice to move at this time, as the "highers-up" still believed that a German invasion was possible. This soldier was deemed to be a hindrance - no boots - hence no soldier. So simply because this man had feet larger than the Army could provide, he was removed from the Regiment.

*Edited by Padre Craig Cameron from "Born Lucky" RSM Fox's memoirs*

## To Commit and Know

*Excerpt from "It is there - for those who want It", Padre Jack C. Clough, Charters Publishing Company, 1977, Brampton, Ontario. Padre Clough served with the QOR of C from 1941 to 1944.*

On Sunday morning, in Normandy, about two weeks after D-Day, I was with certain companies of our Regiment, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and we were holding a group of farm buildings. The Germans were on three sides of us, though there was nothing to indicate their presence. The report was that they were building up for an attack. But as far as the eye could see there was nothing but lovely rolling farmland, lying peacefully in the sun.

It being Sunday, I arranged for a communion service for those who were free to attend. The only place available was a cowshed and anything but a clean one at that. Though I didn't not think of it at the time, I have often thought since how appropriate it was.

When it came time to prepare for the service, there was not room for me to get in. The cow shed was packed with men, many of them carrying their arms. And I gave Communion to Protestants, Catholics, Jews, agnostics, and every kind of believe and non believer.

When it was over, an officer asked me, "Padre, isn't it cowardice to turn to God only when you are in danger?" I could only think to reply.

"Yes, it is if it is cowardice to reach for a life belt if you are drowning or call the fire department if your house is burning. Many of these men are realizing for the first time in their lives that their hold on life is very slender. At the end of the day they may not be here with their fellows. . . Then where will they be?"

So they reach out - some knowing what they are doing, some not knowing.... In circumstances like this, all we can do is to channel whatever means we have of the Grace of God to men. How they respond is up to them."

## Update on Missing Painting

As detailed in recent issues of *The Rifleman*, our search continues for the third Orville Fisher painting of the Queen's Own landing at Bernières-Sur-Mer on D-Day. Captain Fisher, who passed away in 1999, witnessed the landings from offshore, and painted one for each QOR battalion. One now hangs in the Officers' Mess at Moss Park Armoury, one in the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, and the third went missing in the early 70s.

Please do not confuse our stolen painting with the various prints made over the years, both in black-and-white and colour. The missing piece of art is identical in size to the other two (i.e. approximately 6' wide by 4' high), and is a full-colour oil painting. It should be signed by the artist, probably in the lower right corner, and should also have the year (late 1940s or early 1950s).

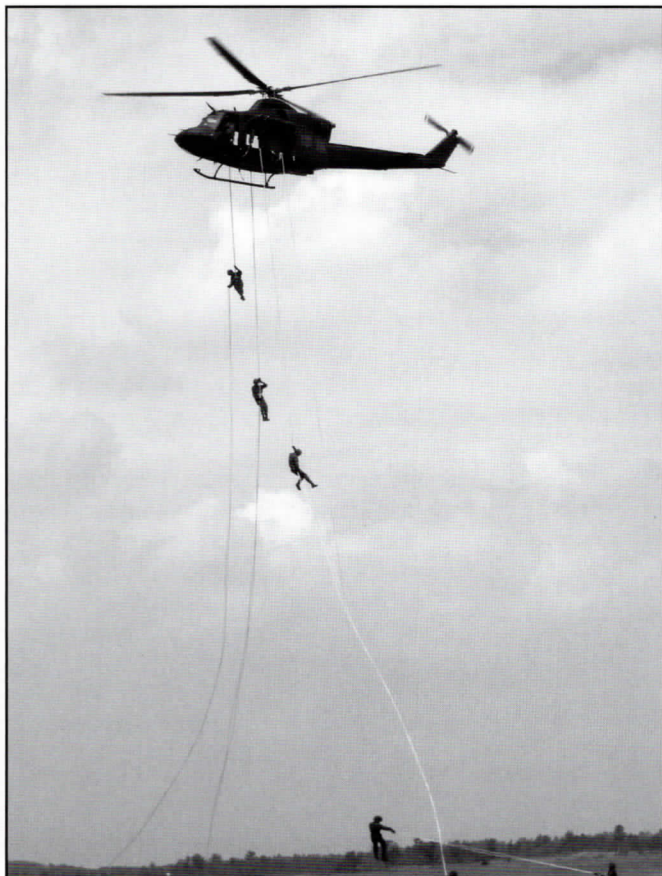
This painting has been recorded as stolen with the Toronto Police Service, which means that it can be seized when found or



offered for auction, and its possessor charged with theft.

We would prefer, however, to have the painting quietly returned to the Regiment, and confidentiality is assured through our

tight-lipped Director of Music, Capt Rita Arendz who may be reached at the QOR BOR at (416) 635-2761.



## Remembering

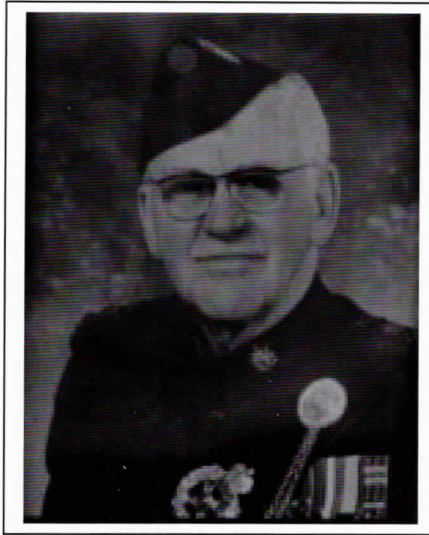
### Col H. F. "Hank" Elliot

Col Hank Elliot was born in Toronto, Ontario on 12 April 1921, and educated at Upper Canada College. Colonel Elliot enlisted in the Non Permanent Active Militia in 1940 and transferred to the Canadian Army (Active) in October 1941. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in January 1942. He served with his Regiment in Great Britain and Northwest Europe as a platoon and company Commander and later was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division. At the end of August 1945, he returned to Great Britain to attend Camberley Staff College. He was promoted Captain in July 1944 and Major in July 1945.

On his return to Canada he reverted to the rank of Captain and was appointed General Staff Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Directorate of Staff Duties, Army Headquarters. In November 1947 he was appointed General Staff Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Directorate of Army Budget and in February 1951 was promoted Major and continued in his same employment. He was posted to 1 Rifle Battalion (later designated 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada) in Germany in October 1952. He was appointed General Staff Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Headquarters 2 (British) Infantry Division, British Army on the Rhine in November 1953 and in February 1956 was selected to attend the Senior Officers' School in Great Britain. In April 1956 on completion of the course he returned to Canada and was posted to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was appointed Public Relations Officer, Headquarters, Central Command in April 1959 and served in this capacity until August 1961 when he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and assumed command of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The QOR in Germany.

Colonel Elliot was appointed Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, Headquarters Eastern Ontario Area in January 1965. The following October he was appointed Commander, Camp Borden and Commander Target Area Headquarters, Toronto and promoted to the Colonel in January 1966. He was appointed Commander Canadian Contingent and Deputy Chief of Staff United Nations Forces in Cyprus, July 1967.

After his return to Canada, he was appointed Director of International Plans at Canadian Forces Headquarters until July 1970, when he



was made Director of Equipment Requirements Land and Director of Infantry for the Canadian Forces. In August 1971 he was appointed Canadian Forces Attaché to Israel and Canadian Forces Adviser to Cyprus. Colonel Elliot held these appointments until his return to Canada in 1975. Having reached compulsory retirement age, he retired from the Canadian Forces in December to that year.

On 14 March 1988 Colonel Elliot was appointed the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Upon completion of his tenure on 28 April 1991, he continued his support of the Regiment and the Militia with his acceptance as appointed Honorary Colonel. He remained active in this position until 28 April 1994.

Col Elliot leaves his wife, Bessie, sons Timothy and Malcolm and their families to mourn his passing. On 13 December 2003, friends and family gathered at the Royal Canadian Military Institute to celebrate the life of a great rifleman.

### John "Art" Alexander 1924-2002

John "Art" Alexander B 107208, enlisted in the Army in 1942. After basic training he was sent to England and joined the 1st Bn QOR in 1943.

He served with Charlie Martin in Able Company and landed on D-Day. He served throughout the fighting in Normandy and was wounded during the attack on Boulogne on September 17, 1944. Alexander returned to the Regiment in time for the Rhineland campaign. He was promoted corporal and wounded a second time during the ferocious

fighting at Mooshof and Steeg, Germany. Art Alexander returned to his hometown of Chatham following the War. He died on October 21, 2002, in Chatham, Ontario.

### Sgt Richard Henry Cowperthwaite, CD 1926-2002

Richard "Dick" Cowperthwaite was born 12 September 1926 and enlisted twice in the Army at the age of 16, once in Ontario and then in Regina where he "ran away" from home to sign up. He was released when his true age was discovered and Dick eventually found his way to the Navy. However, he soon found his way back to the Army and following WWII, joined The Queen's Own Rifles, eventually reaching the rank of sergeant by 1952.

After serving in the infantry company for several years, he transferred to the Bugle Band in the 1960s where he served the Regiment for a number of years. A genial man with a winning smile, he was well-thought of by his fellows in the Band. He died on 4 September 2002, just eight days before his 76th birthday. He leaves his widow, Rachel, a daughter Marion and son-in-law Ivan, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### Sgt Walter Brewer 1920-2002



Walter Brewer was born in Wales and emigrated to Canada with his family in 1928. He enlisted in The Queen's Own in June 1940 as Rifleman Brewer, B64391.

Walter served with the Regiment in Newfoundland, Sussex, N. B. and in England. He was a dispatch rider in Support Company and landed on D-Day. He served throughout Normandy and was wounded on 17 August 1944 in the fighting north of Falaise. After recuperation in England, he returned to the battalion for the Scheldt fighting and was eventually promoted corporal.

Walter served in the Rhineland campaign (Mooshof) and in Holland, where he was promoted sergeant just prior to the War's end. After the War he married, Dinah, the sister of his QOR buddy, Cpl Jim Tannahill. Walter and Dinah were on the D Plus 50th anniversary trip to Normandy. Most recently, Walter was an honoured guest as the QOR

hosted the 2002 Officers' Garrison Ball. Walter died on December 21, 2002, at his home in Wasaga Beach, Ontario.



**Maj John Lawrence Dampier 1914-2002**

Larry Dampier joined The Queen's Own Rifles (NPAM) in 1936 while attending university. He was

commissioned in 1938 and was one of the June 1940 "potato sackers" that enlisted for active service in the 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant Dampier served in Newfoundland and Sussex and embarked with the battalion for England in 1941. He was promoted Captain in 1942 and attached to the Canadian Officer Cadet Training Unit as a company commander. In 1943 he was transferred to staff duties and appointed Ops O at 3rd Canadian Infantry Division HQ. Major Dampier was involved in planning for the D-Day invasion. He attended the British Army Staff College in Camberley, England in early 1944 and was subsequently promoted major.

He returned to his position as Ops O (GSO II) with the 3rd Division and served in that capacity for the remainder of the War in France, Belgium & Holland and was appointed Brigade-Major of the 7th Infantry Brigade in May 1945. He was awarded the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Netherlands' government and decorated with the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his fine staff work.

He married Hilda Ingram of London, Ontario, and spent his career in Vancouver, where he died January 26.

**Sgt Les Smith 1913-2002**

Les Smith joined The Queen's Own Rifles (NPAM) officially in 1931 though he had been associated with the Regiment since 1928.

In 1935 Sgt Smith was part of the Guard that went to England for the Regiment's 75th birthday to The Buffs. He and Cpl (later RSM) Harry Fox were cabin mates on the voyage to England. Sgt Smith was on the Regiment Rifle team and shot in competitions at Connaught and at Bisley in England. He was a machinist by trade and also had some health concerns and so was not allowed to "go active" in the Army during WW II, despite volunteering, and considered an essential occupation in the war economy.

Sgt Smith continued to serve in 2nd (reserve) Battalion throughout the War years and into the early 1950s. He died November 24, 2002 in Midland, Ontario.

**Major Norman Allan Manchester, MID, CD 1919 - 2002**

Norman Manchester enlisted with the Governor General Horse Guards at the age of 17 in 1936. In 1938 he was persuaded by John Strathy, Sr. to leave the GGHG and joined The Queen's Own Rifles. During WW II he trained in Borden and Newmarket, and was a corporal before taking his commissioning course in BC. He again served at Camp Borden in 1943 prior to being shipped to England.

Lieutenant Norm Manchester landed in France on D + 3 as a replacement officer and became a platoon commander in D Company of the QOR in July 1944. He served through the remainder of the Normandy campaign and was wounded, first near La Capelle, and later, near Fort de la Creche, on 21 September 1944. He was hospitalized in England in a bed next to Lieutenant Jack Lake (wounded at Quesnay Wood) and the two men became life-long friends.

After recuperation, Lieutenant Manchester rejoined the Regiment at Nijmegen at the end of 1944 and served with the QOR for the remainder of the war. He was promoted captain in 1945 and awarded the Erasmus Medal (for Freedom) by the Dutch government. After his return to Canada in December 1945, Captain Manchester continued to serve with the Regiment. He gained his majority in 1949 and was OC of one of the training companies. He retired from military service in 1950. He was always proud of his association with the QOR and in February 2002 attended the Garrison Ball. He is predeceased by his wife and leaves three children and nine grandchildren.

**Capt Gordon Robertson 1917-2000**



Gordon Robertson enlisted in June 1941 with the 2nd Reserve Bn QOR of C. He was born in England, trained in Canada and was promoted to acting corporal prior to his commissioning

course in Vernon, B.C., in 1942. He met the late Major Norm Manchester while both were infantry recruits at the Horse Palace, Exhibition Grounds, Toronto. Gordon Robertson was promoted Lieutenant in

December, 1942 and posted to Camp Borden as an instructor. In July 1943 he went overseas and was stationed at Aldershot. He was taken off the D-Day invasion list in 1944, and posted to the infantry officer training school at Worthing, England.

He was promoted Captain in November 1944 and served the remainder of the War in that capacity.

Gordon Robertson married Glenora in 1946. They have five children. Capt Robertson died November 23, 2002 at the age of 85 in St. Thomas, Ontario.

**CQMS Norman Tims 1919-2002**



Norman Tims enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles in June 1940 as one of the original "potato sackers" (B 636566). He served in Newfoundland, Sussex, NB and England. Sgt. Tims

landed with Headquarters Company of the 1st Bn on D-Day and served throughout the Normandy and Channel ports without a wound. He was made Company Quarter Master Sergeant prior to the end of WW II. CQMS Tims served in the Rhineland Campaign and in Holland before returning to Canada in late 1945.

CQMS Tims also served in the militia post-war, 1946-47. He married Evelyn in 1950. He died November 2, 2002 in Scarborough, Ontario.



## Photo Credits

**Front Cover** – Guard Commander Capt P. St. Denis, MSC CD, MCpl R. Kurelo, MCpl M. Charlebois, and Cpl C. Dickie at the opening of the Juno Beach Centre, Normandy, 6 June 2003. Photo by WO J. Blouin.

**Inside Front Cover** – QOR veterans at Rha, Holland, during the 2003 tour. Photo by Maj S. Banerjee.

**Inside Back Cover** – Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Regiment of Canada lead a 3rd Toronto Battalion soldier, one of three killed in action at in 1917, and only discovered in 2002, to his final resting place at Passchendaele New British Cemetery, June 2003. Photo by WO J. Blouin.

**Back Cover** – Members of the QOR, supported by the Governor General's Horse Guards, attack buildings at Area Training Centre Meaford during Exercise Neptune Strike, June 2003.

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All full colour photos in the centrefolds are by Maj S. Banerjee, WO J. Blouin, or Ms. S. Turcotte.

**Page 23 – Juno Beach Centre Opening. From bottom left, moving clockwise to the centre:**

- Helicopter-dropped poppies, one for each Canadian who died in WW 2, drop on the QOR Band at the Juno Beach Centre (JBC).
- QOR Capt P. St. Denis leads the CF Guard into the opening of the JBC.
- Close-up of the QOR kiosk at JBC, showing some of the memorial bricks purchased in support of the Centre, and in memory of QOR riflemen.
- Maj S. Banerjee with friends at the reception following the opening.
- A member of the Canadian Forces Parachute Team Skyhawks lands with the Canadian flag to begin the opening ceremonies.
- Close-up of one of the figures on the main JBC statue.
- Cpl B. Burns
- QOR D-Day veteran WO Ted O'Halloran with QOR Cadet MCpl M. Champion
- An example of the private facilities offered for the opening. (The women had a little more privacy!)
- A WW2 Spitfire flies over JBC during the opening ceremonies.

**Page 24 – QOR Normandy Tour 2003. From bottom left, moving clockwise to the centre:**

- QOR Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC. Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Holland.
- QOR D-Day veteran John Jones and friend
- QOR D-Day veteran Jim Wilkins
- Cpl Carvalho (front), MCpl Charlebois and Cpl Dickie, QOR members of the CF Guard, at Bernieres-sur-Mer on the morning of 6 June.
- QOR D-Day veteran Charles McNabb
- French children at Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery in the afternoon of 6 June.

- The QOR tour at Fort de la Crèche, Boulogne, Belgium. The QOR and the Régiment de la Chaudière seized the Fort on 22 September 1944, at a cost to the Regiment of 20 dead and over 60 wounded.
- QOR D-Day veteran Bill Ross with Normandy friend Rogér Alexandre.
- In each cemetery visited by the QOR tour, Bill Ross would give the group a short account of the QOR battles in the area.
- An aerial view of Beny-sur-Mar Cemetery.
- QOR Buglers on Juno Beach, 6 June.

**Page 25 – QOR Normandy Tour 2003. From bottom left, moving clockwise to the centre:**

- Juno Beach sunset, 6 June.
- Aerial view of the Juno Beach Centre.
- Cpl J. Frye, a QOR member of the CF Guard, with QOR D-Day veteran Bill Bettridge.
- QOR D-Day veteran John Jones (left) and Association President Norm McCracken lay a wreath at the QOR memorial at le Mesnil-Patry.
- QOR D-Day veteran Charles Cadieux with MCpl R. Kurelo, a QOR member of the CF Guard, at le Mesnil-Patry.
- A note which accompanied a wreath laid at the QOR memorial at Bernieres-sur-Mer on 6 June.
- A young resident of le Mesnil-Patry.
- LCol S. Brand and QOR D-Day veteran Orville Cook.
- QOR Band and tour.
- A Commonwealth war cemetery near Vimy Ridge.
- Local children lay flowers during a memorial service for QOR riflemen killed at Rha, Holland in April 1945.
- Local children escorted a veterans to the memorial service at Rha.

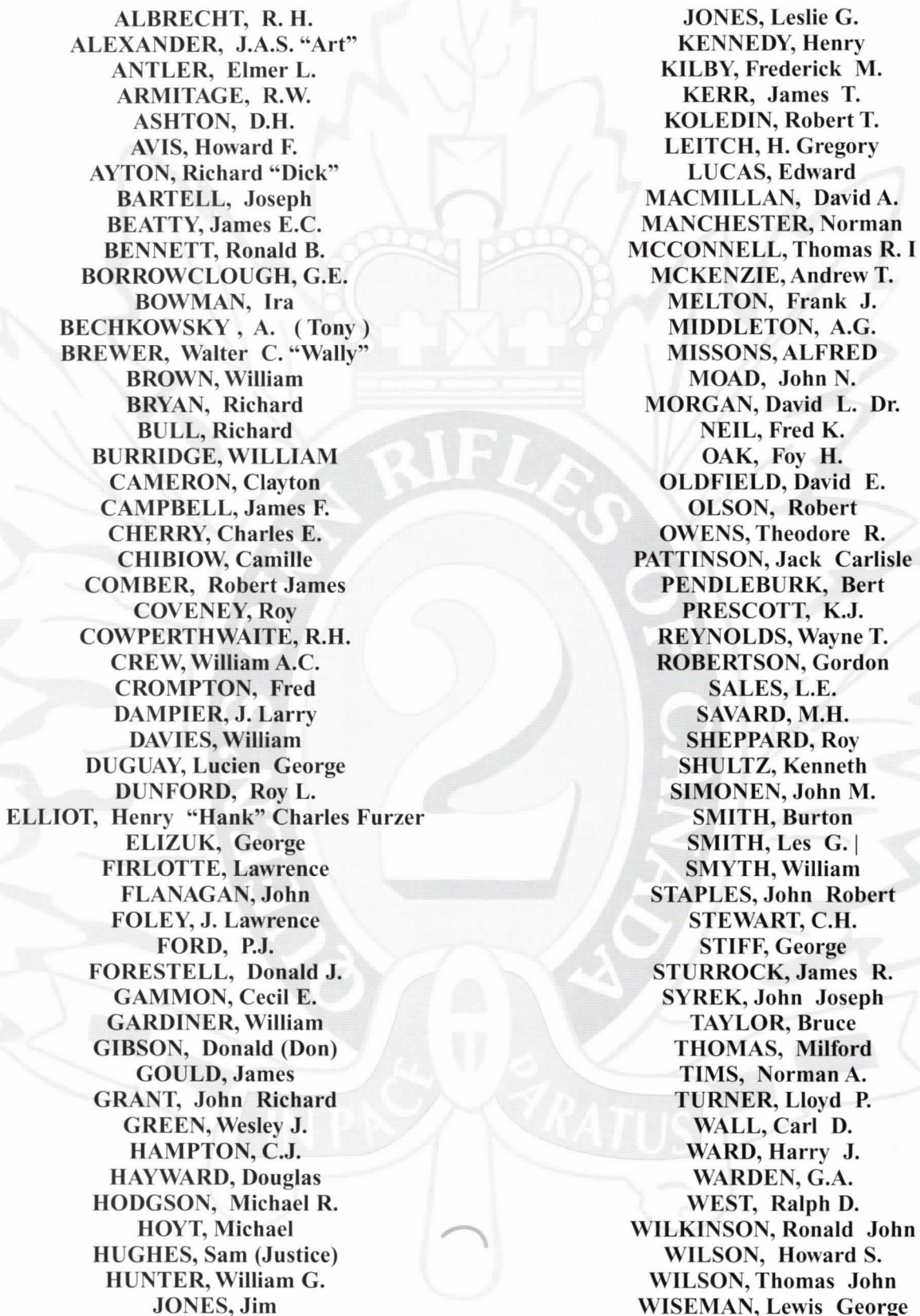
**Page 26 – Burial of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF soldiers at Passchendaele, 9 June 2003. From bottom left, moving clockwise to the centre:**

- Poppies at Passchendaele.
- LCol J. Fotheringham (centre) receives the flag from the casket of one of the three riflemen from LGen C. Couture.
- Members of the QOR and Royal Regiment of Canada lead one of the caskets of the unknown riflemen to their final resting place at Passchendaele New British Cemetery.
- The three caskets prior to the service.
- Bugler G. Walford and Bugle Major F. Haire.
- Members of the QOR and Royal Regiment of Canada with a fellow rifleman.
- QOR Padre Capt C. Cameron conducts the Act of Committal.
- Cpl J. Frye and LGen Couture examine some of the regimental accoutrements discovered with the three soldiers. These items were shared between the QOR and R Regt C, and are now displayed in their respective museums.
- Gravestones at at Passchendaele New British Cemetery.
- The gravestone of one of the three 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toronto) Battalion CEF soldiers – "A Soldier Of The Great War. 3rd Bn Canadian Inf. Known Unto God."
- QOR riflemen lower the casket.

## In Memoriam - 2002-2003

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES PASSED AWAY

### “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”



ALBRECHT, R. H.  
ALEXANDER, J.A.S. "Art"  
ANTLER, Elmer L.  
ARMITAGE, R.W.  
ASHTON, D.H.  
AVIS, Howard F.  
AYTON, Richard "Dick"  
BARTELL, Joseph  
BEATTY, James E.C.  
BENNETT, Ronald B.  
BORROWCLOUGH, G.E.  
BOWMAN, Ira  
BECHKOWSKY, A. (Tony)  
BREWER, Walter C. "Wally"  
BROWN, William  
BRYAN, Richard  
BULL, Richard  
BURRIDGE, WILLIAM  
CAMERON, Clayton  
CAMPBELL, James F.  
CHERRY, Charles E.  
CHIBIOW, Camille  
COMBER, Robert James  
COVENEY, Roy  
COWPERTHWAITTE, R.H.  
CREW, William A.C.  
CROMPTON, Fred  
DAMPIER, J. Larry  
DAVIES, William  
DUGUAY, Lucien George  
DUNFORD, Roy L.  
ELLIOT, Henry "Hank" Charles Furzer  
ELIZUK, George  
FIRLOTTE, Lawrence  
FLANAGAN, John  
FOLEY, J. Lawrence  
FORD, P.J.  
FORESTELL, Donald J.  
GAMMON, Cecil E.  
GARDINER, William  
GIBSON, Donald (Don)  
GOULD, James  
GRANT, John Richard  
GREEN, Wesley J.  
HAMPTON, C.J.  
HAYWARD, Douglas  
HODGSON, Michael R.  
HOYT, Michael  
HUGHES, Sam (Justice)  
HUNTER, William G.  
JONES, Jim  
JONES, Leslie G.  
KENNEDY, Henry  
KILBY, Frederick M.  
KERR, James T.  
KOLEDIN, Robert T.  
LEITCH, H. Gregory  
LUCAS, Edward  
MACMILLAN, David A.  
MANCHESTER, Norman  
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PATTINSON, Jack Carlisle  
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