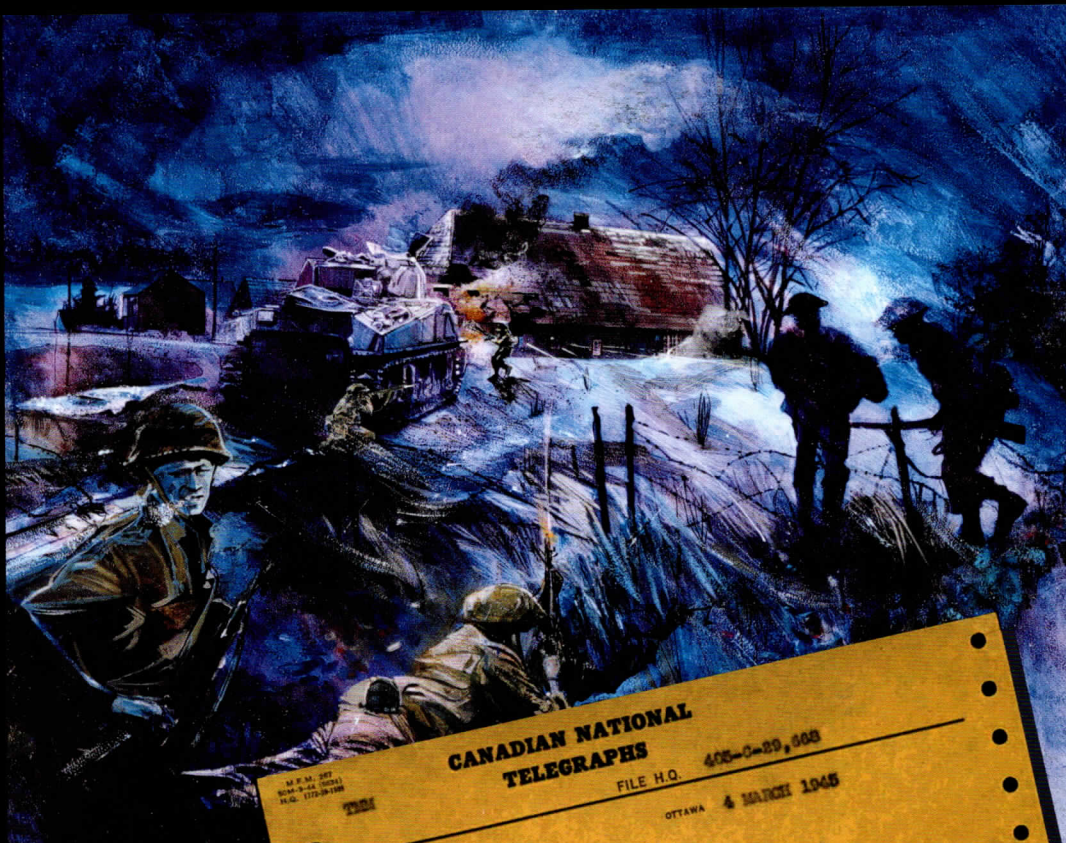




The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

2004-2005



CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS
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 FILE H.Q. OTTAWA 4 MARCH 1945

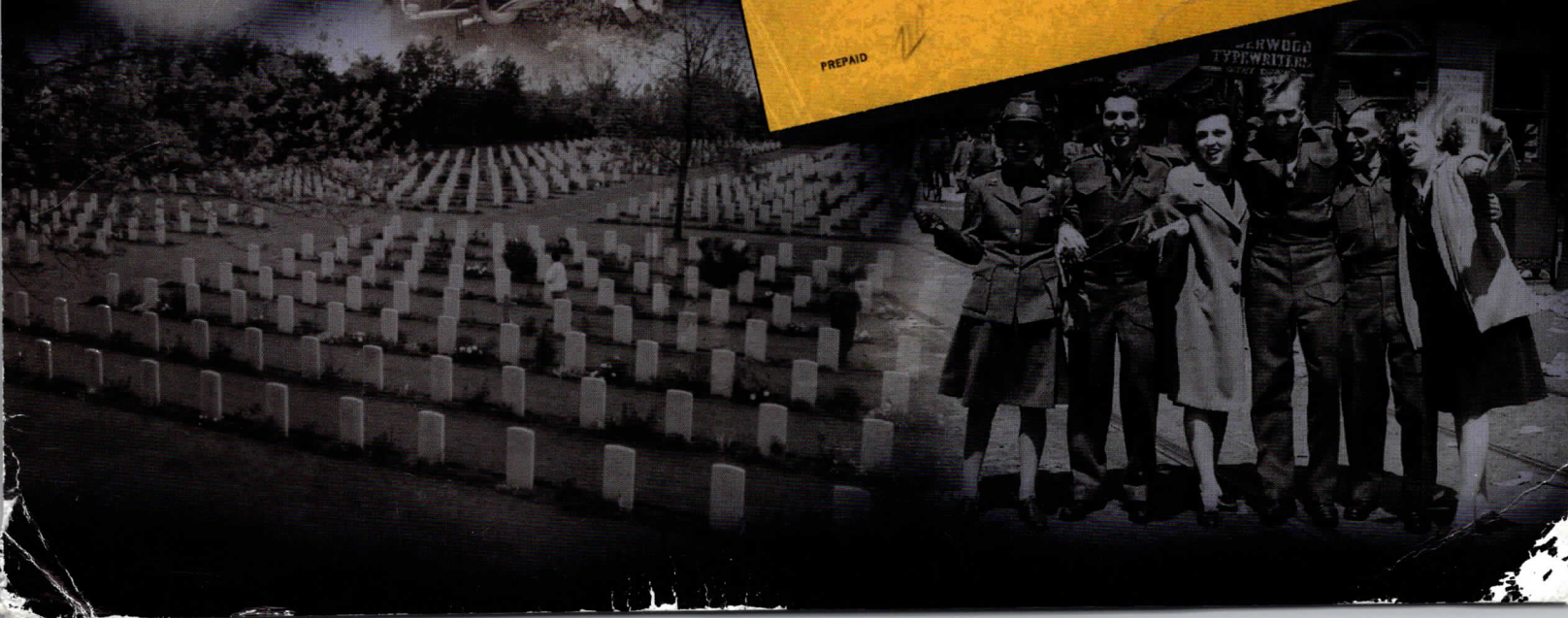
CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY)

TO: MR CHARLES EDWARD COGERS
 LATCHFORD ONT
 38859

REGRET DEEPLY 048406 SERGEANT AUBREY COGERS HAS
 BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION TWENTYSIXTH FEBRUARY 1945
 STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL DIRECT FROM THE
 UNIT IN THE THEATRE OF WAR STOP TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR
 ENEMIES DO NOT DISCLOSE DATE OF CASUALTY OR NAME OF UNIT

PREPAID

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS





PRESENTED TO

Brigadier General Donald A. Pryer, CD



Serving Brother
Order of St. John



Queen's Silver Jubilee
Medal



Queen's Golden Jubilee
Medal



Canadian Decoration
(With three clasps)



Commisnaire Long
Service Medal (With clasp)



The Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada recognizes the faithful and patriotic service of half a century to Monarch, Country and Regiment by Brigadier-General Donald Arthur Pryer, CD. You have served your Regiment as an Officer, the Commanding Officer, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel. During your military career you commanded both Toronto Militia District and Central Militia Area. The Regiment's noble traditions continue because devoted individuals such as you, passionate about serving, give to make it great. The Regimental family salutes your achievement of service with distinction and wishes you every success for many years to come.

In Pace Paratus

Given on the occasion of your Dining-Out
as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.
5 November 2005

Alexandra

HRH The Princess Alexandra, gvco, CD
Colonel-in-Chief





The Rifleman



Front Cover

Designer Howard Mann spent several hours composing the montage of material to produce an outstanding cover for this combined 2004-05 issue of *The Rifleman*. Featured is the artwork commissioned by Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, depicting Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, of 'D' Company, in the action in Mooshof, Germany on 26 February, 1945, which earned him his Victoria Cross. His Platoon Commander already killed and one company section wiped out, Sgt. Cosens led an attack on a threatening enemy position. Braving heavy mortar and shell fire he and the four surviving members of his Platoon, with their sole remaining tank, broke up an enemy counter attack. Determined to clear buildings held by enemy troops, Sgt Cosens ordered the tank to ram the first of the three buildings while he, in the face of intense machine-gun and rifle and small arms fire, single-handedly killed or captured every occupant. With his task completed and the objective secured however, he was shot and killed by a well-concealed sniper. His photo, and an image of the Victoria Cross are included on the cover, along with a copy of the telegram sent to his family announcing that "B46495 Sergeant Aubrey Cosens has been officially reported killed in action..." The artwork now holds a place of honour in the QOR Sergeant's Mess at Moss Park Armoury. Also on the cover is a photograph of the late QOR D-Day veteran John Missons at his comrade's gravesite at Groesbeck Canadian War Cemetery in Nijmegen, Holland, a view of the Canadian cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer in Normandy and a photo taken on V-E Day of celebrants on Bay St. in Toronto.

Inside Front Cover

A reproduction of the scroll presented to the former Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles, Brigadier General Donald A. Pryer, CD, in recognition of his long service to the Military. The scroll was produced by artist Capt Mihail Murgoci of the Royal Regiment of Canada.

Inside Back Cover

- 1 -- Hon Barney Danson PC OC takes the salute at the CNE on Warrior's Day 2004. Danson, who lost an eye when he was wounded with The Queen's Own in France in 1944, later became Minister of Defence in the Trudeau Cabinet and was Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment.
- 2 -- D-Day survivor WO Ted O'Halloran ('in his early 80's now', he says) was '2003 Rifleman of the Year.' Ted joined the QOR as a bugler in the 30's and still parades with the Regimental Band and Bugles.
- 3 - CSM/MWO John Cresswell (left) and then-Maj T.M.C. (Boomer) Marsaw, of the 1st Bn QOR stationed in Esquimalt, BC, finished side-by-side in a 1000 km run in celebration of Canada's Centennial in 1967. LCol Marsaw was CO of the Battalion when it was ordered to re-badge from QOR of C to PPCLI on 26 April 1970. (Photo from the June, 1967 edition of *The Sentinel*).
- 4 - D-Day+50. War Artist Capt Orville N. Fisher at Bernieres-sur-Mer with Capt Raziel Zisman and Capt Charles McGregor. Capt Fisher, who landed with the Canadian Third Division at Juno Beach on D-Day, died in 1999 aged 87.
- 5 -- D-Day survivors in the QOR Officer's Mess at Moss Park Armoury prior to D-Day+50 with Capt Orville Fisher's 'D-Day Landing' painting as a backdrop. (L to R) Rolph Jackson, Jack Martin, John Missons, Hank Elliot, Jim Leslie, Charles O. Dalton and Charlie Martin. Now, with the exception of Rolph Jackson and Jack Martin, all are gone.
- 6 -- Queen's Own D-Day veterans assembled for the annual service at The Queen's Own memorial at the beach in Bernieres-sur-Mer in Normandy on the morning of D-Day+50.

Outside Back Cover

- 7 -- Queen's Own veterans pause at the gravestone of one of their comrades in the Canadian War Cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer in Normandy.
- 8-- Watching. Waiting. On duty with the 1st Bn QOR of C in Cyprus, 1965.
- 9 -- Veterans in Holland in 2005 on VE+60 (L to R) Joe Smith, George Beardshaw, Phil Wilkinson, Bill Ross, (QOR Rifleman of The Year in 2005), Bill 'Boots' Bettridge.
- 10 -- A collection of brass! (Standing l to r) LCol Grahame Baskerville (3rd Bn CO 1984-87); Gen Steve Andrunyk (CO 2nd Bn 1964-66); Gen Herb Pitts MC (CO 1st Bn 1967-69); LCol John Power (3rd Bn CO 1975-78); BGen Don Pryer (3rd Bn CO 1972-75); LCol Bob Campbell (3rd Bn CO 1990-92); LCol John Strathy. (Seated) Col Hank Elliot (B Coy platoon commander on D-Day, later 1st Bn CO in Germany 1960-65; Commander Canadian Contingent and Deputy Chief of Staff of UN Forces in Cyprus 1966); LCol Percy Hampton ED (Royal Flying Corps veteran of WWI; Sr. Officer, British Commonwealth Air Training Plan WWII; QOR CO 1936-1939), Col H. 'Ellie' Dalton, DSO (3rd Bn CO 1951-52; A Coy Commander on D-Day); Col Charles O. Dalton, DSO (B Coy Commander on D-Day.)
- 11 -- RSM Harry Fox MBE CD chats with the Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at Juno Beach Centre in Normandy.
- 12 -- Bugler Doug Hester (left), a D-Day veteran and former QOR bandsman/bugler Herb Goldring played 'Last Post' and 'Rouse' at their home in Florida on November 11 for many years. Sadly, Hester died shortly before Remembrance Day in 2005.
- 13 -- Doves are released at the Queen's Own Rifles Memorial in Anisy, Normandy to mark D-Day celebrations.
- 14 -- The headstone of a fallen member of The Queen's Own, similar to several thousand of those marking the last resting place of Canadians who gave their lives to end the Nazi menace in Europe. Over 400 of these were members of Canada's oldest and finest infantry regiment.

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Brigadier Don Pryer steps down after a 60 year military career

Capt Charles McGregor

After almost 60 years in uniform, Brigadier General Donald A. Pryer CD has retired as Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Commanding Officer from 1972-1975, he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 1991, serving with Honorary Colonel Hank Elliot CD until 1994, at which time he was appointed Honorary Colonel, a role he held until his retirement in 2005. BGen Pryer was presented with a hand-painted scroll honouring his service to "Monarch, Country and Regiment", signed by The Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alexandra, which is reproduced on the inside front cover of this issue of The Rifleman. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada owes a huge debt of gratitude to BGen Pryer for his many years of dedication to this country and to Canada's "Oldest and Finest Infantry Regiment."

His term in these honorary roles was greatly beneficial to The Regiment and we wish him well as he continues in private life as President of Armatek Controls Limited, a company he founded in Toronto 1966.

Born in Brockville in 1933, BGen Pryer began his military involvement as an Army cadet, where he served for five years before joining 60 LAA Regt as a

Gunner, in 1950. Between then and 1958 he was promoted from Bombardier to 1st Lt, transferring to the Brockville Rifles in 1959. He was promoted Capt RCIC in 1960, transferring to the 3rd Bn QOR of C the same year.

In 1963 he earned his Majority and was named a Company Commander. He was appointed DCO of The Queen's Own in 1970 and promoted to LCol and appointed CO The Regiment in 1972, serving until 1975. That year, he took the Basic Para Course, and between 1976-1978 the DS, Militia Comd and Staff Courses; was appointed SSO Op and Trg HQ CMA, serving for two years until promoted Colonel and appointed Deputy Commander of TMD in 1982. He was promoted BGen and appointed Commander CMA, serving from 1984 to 1986, when he transferred to the SSR.

Awards, decorations and service medals:

Serving Brother, St. John's Ambulance; Canadian Forces Decoration with clasp (3); Queen's Jubilee Medal; Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; Canadian Corps of Commissionaires Long Service Medal (with bar). He was also awarded the Mobile Command Achievement (Formation Level) Award in 1974 for outstanding service to Mobile Command.

Clubs, hobbies and Associations: Past President of the Canadian Infantry Association; Past President of Conference of Defence Associations; Past President of Royal Canadian Military Institute's Centenary Committee; Co-Chairman and Co-Founder of Reserves 2000; Governor of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Great Lakes Region); Member Advisory Board the Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario); Member of Royal Canadian Legion, St. John's Ambulance, The Maple Leaf Rifle Club; Former Director and Life Member of the RCMI; Former Director, Juno Beach Centre, Courseulles-sur-mer, France; Life Member of the Instrument Society of America; Life Member of QOR Association; Life Member of the Empire Club of Canada.

Private life: BGen Pryer lives in Brockville with his wife, Susan, and has five children, Cathie, Sandra, Lynn, David and a step-daughter, Courtney.



Hon Col Don Pryer chats with Col Ian Purdie of the Lincoln and Welland Regt.



Honoraries have almost 100 years of combined military experience



**Honorary Colonel
Paul F. Hughes CD**

Colonel Paul Hughes was born in Toronto in 1940 and was educated there, graduating from T.L. Kennedy CI in Cooksville. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science at Queen's before doing postgrad work at Oxford University in England, where he completed a program of Personnel Studies.

Following graduation, Col. Hughes worked briefly at Bell Canada as a management trainee before joining Xerox Canada as a marketing representative. He remained at Xerox for 30 years, holding a variety of management positions in Toronto and Calgary, retiring in 1991.

Following short engagements in the RCAF (Auxiliary) and the RCN (R), in 1962 he joined the 3rd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a rifleman, being commissioned in 1963 and serving with the Regiment for 15 years, rising to the rank of major. He held various appointments, including that of Adjutant and was Deputy Commanding Officer from 1975-1977. Colonel Hughes also served in Central Militia Area HQ until transferred to Calgary by his civilian employer.

In Calgary, he served with the Southern Alberta Militia District and Central Militia Area, Prairie, until his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Calgary Highlanders (1979-1982).

Following this he was appointed in 1983 as Commander of Southern Alberta Militia District, serving until 1987.

Following his service in the Militia he became active in the Alberta Army Cadet League, holding a variety of positions including Secretary and Chairman of the Southern Zone. During his Chairmanship, the Southern Zone was successful in founding and opening Camp Howard, a cadet camp for the Corps in the Southern Zone.

He is Vice-President of Mark Personnel Services Inc., a company founded by his wife, Beverley in 1990 and now co-owned by the couple. Under their leadership Mark Personnel, one of the largest suppliers of staffing Calgary, has grown into a multi-million dollar company employing 20 people. In 1997, Mark Personnel was runner-up as Calgary's Entrepreneurial Company of the year.

Colonel Paul and Beverley Hughes live in Calgary.



**Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
Richard L. Cowling CD**

Colonel Dick Cowling was born in Pontiac, Michigan and educated in England, Canada and the U.S. In 1953 he joined the Lord Strathcona's Horse, was selected for officer training in 1956 and commissioned into The Queen's Own in 1958. He was, variously, Rifle, Mortar and Recce Platoon

Commander, Company 2IC and eventually Adjutant after a tour of regimental duty of over nine years with 1 QOR of C. In 1967 he graduated from Army Staff College and became the G3 (OPS) at HQ 4CMBG in Germany. While there he was promoted Major. Upon return to Canada in 1970 he was posted to CFHQ as desk officer for Internal Security-FLQ Crisis.

In 1971 Col. Cowling was posted to The Canadian Airborne Regiment as Regimental Major and by 1972 had taken command of 2 Commando. Following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1973, he took command of the 3rd Bn Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (formerly 1 QOR of C). A posting to Gagetown followed as CO of the Infantry School where, in 1976, he was promoted Colonel. He then spent two years as Deputy Chief of Staff (Training) at Mobile Command HQ before returning to Germany in 1978 as the first Chief of Staff of HQ Canadian Forces Europe. In 1980 he was appointed Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and spent 1981 on operational tour in Cyprus. In 1982 Col. Cowling attended The Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK, spent the next five years at the CF Liaison Staff as the Army Advisor, completing his distinguished career as Chief of Staff for Pacific Militia Area in 1989.

In retirement, Col Cowling has remained active with the military. In 1992 he was called upon to help review the National Defence Act regarding the Code of Service Discipline. In his 60th year he visited Bosnia and Croatia and performed his last parachute jump. He was called to testify to the Special Advisory Group on Military Justice conducted by Chief Justice Dickson and Lt. Gen Charles Belzile. Currently he is employed as a Defence Consultant and was also involved with the training of staff of the Multi-National Division South-West in Bosnia. Col, Cowling is National Past President of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association and the Airborne Regiment Association. He has two daughters and two sons, one of whom one is CO of 28 (Ottawa) Service Battalion. Col. Cowling lives in London, Ontario.

IN PACE PARATUS

Remarks delivered by Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD and Col. R.L. Cowling CD at the Change of Honorary Appointments Parade, Moss Park Armoury, Toronto, 5 November, 2005.

Honorary Col Paul F. Hughes CD

On 5 November I had the distinct privilege of being appointed your Honorary Colonel, succeeding the long and successful tour of Brigadier General Don Pryer; big shoes to fill indeed. On that occasion, I thought it important to consider our roots and offered the following few words to those on parade.

"I stand before you today honoured to be the newly appointed Honorary Colonel of Canada's oldest and finest Regiment, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. For forty seven years this Regiment has been a large part of my life, so let me take a moment to tell you how we got here today.

Two hundred and fifty years ago Major General Edward Braddock led his troops in their traditional red uniforms and formations through the forests near Pittsburgh in North America where he was ambushed by a seemingly invisible army of French led North American Indians. As he lay dying, he said, and I quote, "We shall have to learn to do it better the next time". What a great lesson for us all.

Thus, was born the Rifleman who combines marksmanship, adaptability, initiative, forward thinking and the other skills of the frontier scouts combined with the discipline of trained soldiers. The motto of the KRRC, our sister regiment, *Swift and Bold*, exemplifies this creed which I believe rests within the breasts of today's Queen's Own Riflemen, in every one of us.

The Queen's Own is not only an outstanding Regiment, but it is a way of life, indeed a family unto itself. When I joined in 1962 I soon realised there existed a unique bond between all ranks from the most junior Rifleman to the most senior Officer based on mutual respect, trust, loyalty, and concern for the individual leading to genuine friendship. Today, I can sense this bond in our Regiment and with those in attendance. Discipline is tempered intelligently with humanity, understanding and example in order to



strengthen the individual's own will. In our Regiment you are expected to use your initiative, get on and do what is needed in a Rifleman-like fashion, smartly, effectively, but without too much fuss, shouting and stamping of feet and it is always essential that you retain your sense of humour.

One of the great things is how our Regiment embraces a variety of characters and interests. Keen and ambitious, those more laid back, and even some who might be described as eccentric. The great thing is that we all enjoy one another's company, move easily and effectively together, because what binds us is being Rifleman at heart.

At this point I wish to pay tribute to General Pryer, a man who has been an icon of our Regiment, a great Rifleman, a great friend, a mentor and a leader to all of us. Although he is leaving his post he will never leave our hearts and I am sure he will continue to provide leadership to our Regiment.

I salute General Pryer, I salute the Queen's Own family, now as always. I thank all of you for being here today. And, I thank you for this appointment.

Once in The Queen's Own, Always in The Queen's Own. In Pace Paratus."

Honorary LCol Richard L. (Dick) Cowling CD.

"I will emulate the Honorary Colonel's example and base my submission on the address I gave upon my formal appointment as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding tour of duty. What a great honour it is to be invited back to serve our beloved Regiment.

It is my opinion that there can be no more noble undertaking than the defence of one's country and the safeguarding of our fellow citizens. It is a difficult undertaking that requires our regular force soldiers to have a high degree of commitment and dedication to duty. But I suggest that we in the reserves require an even higher dedication. Knowing as we do that we must put the defence of the realm ahead of our civilian occupations, and, indeed, our very livelihoods. I pledge to do my best to support you in these endeavours.

I am very fortunate that my successor, Colonel Paul Hughes, is remaining in harness as our new Honorary Colonel, so he will certainly be on hand to keep me on the right path. I am also keenly aware that my old friend Brigadier General Don Pryer, our Honorary Colonel for so many years, will be available to offer his trusted and valued advice. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in garrison, in the field, and, where appropriate, on operations. I will also value your advice and guidance as we face the uncertainties of today's dangers together.

Once again I thank you for inviting me to come home once more.

"In Pace Paratus"



Honorarys in the field at Exercises Stalwart Guardian '04 and '05

HCol Paul F. Hughes CD

In 2004 and 2005 General Don Pryer and I were guests of LFCA at the annual Militia Concentration at CFB Petawawa designated Exercise Stalwart Guardian.

Upon arrival we (along with all the other Honorarys of LFCA) received a number of briefings on the Exercise which was already well underway. On both occasions, as my memory serves me, The QOR had the largest number of troops on the ground from 32 Brigade and second only in the entire LFCA. Quite an accomplishment two years in a row.

Bear in mind that I had not been at a Militia Concentration with The QOR since the mid 70's. What struck me was the obvious keenness and fitness of the

Riflemen undergoing training. They looked healthy, fit and spirits were obviously high, based on the comments we received from our questions on the training. Also, the range of clothing and equipment supplied for the exercise was beyond the coveralls and 39 pattern webbing used in my day. The training was a 7X24 affair with no letup in the tempo night or day. In 2004 there was an airborne element worked into the exercise plan which featured a composite parachute company commanded by Major Rob Zeidler, while LCol John Fotheringham commanded the 32 Light Infantry Battalion, composed of over 400 soldiers from the six Toronto infantry units, along with their supporting arms.

During 2005 I was again impressed with the same qualities of the Riflemen, namely, fitness, spirit, aggressive attitude and keenness for what they were doing. Our visit was cut short due to the tactical situation (the blowing of a bridge) so we did not have as much time with the Riflemen as we would have liked. However, in the time available, I again formed a very favourable opinion of the spirit of our Riflemen on the exercise.

All in all, I was very impressed with both SG Exercises attended. The number, fitness and keenness of our Riflemen were exceptional. The scope and tempo of the exercise designed to test the mettle of all those involved. Leading me to say once again.....In Pace Paratus



Commanding Officer's Final Report to The Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel J.M. Fotheringham, CD, Comanding Officer 2003 - 2005



LCol John Fotheringham in the field

Training continued at a tempo not seen in my 20 years of service, and the leaders and troops continued to perform to the high standards expected of all riflemen. In addition to the normal mandated training activities, we continued with our highly successful para tasking in support of the Canadian Parachute Centre, and also continued to ramp up for our expansion into Scarborough with a second rifle company, as mandated under the Land Force Reserve Restructure (LFRR) initiative.

CWO Scott Patterson assumed the appointment of RSM from CWO John Wilmot on 8 February, on a parade well attended by the Regimental family and many veterans. CWO Wilmot has been commissioned in the rank of Captain, and left to serve his year away from the Regiment with 2 Field Engineer Regiment as OC of their training company. My thanks to him for his strong support during my command.

Also in February, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association President Jan de Vries and I met with the executor of the estate of the widow of Corporal Fred Topham, VC. Corporal Topham was awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic actions with 1 Can Para on 24 March 1945 during the Rhine Crossing jump into Germany. Mrs. Topham had left her husband's medals to her nieces and nephews, with the only wish that they remain in Canada. The executor had received an offer from a British collector for over \$300,000,

but wanted to give the 1 Can Para veterans a chance to match the offer to keep the medals in Canada.

We were confident that we could raise the required funds through a combination of private donations and public funding, and formed a small committee of four – Jan de Vries as Honorary Chairman, myself as Chairman, my fiancé – Kim Mathieson, as Treasurer, and Capt Chick McGregor with Public Relations, with incredible support from Joanne de Vries and Jan McGregor.

We were able to enlist the support of a who's who of Canadian military history, including Brigadier James Hill, who commanded the 3rd Parachute Brigade, of which 1 Can Para was part, LCol The Hon Barney Danson, LGen Charlie Belzile, MGen Lew MacKenzie, and Cliff Chadderton. Suffice it to say that we were successful in raising the \$300,000 required by the family to purchase the medals. They have been donated to the Canadian War Museum and are on display for the people of Canada for perpetuity. Thank you to Sgt Parris and her BOR staff for handling the thousands of envelopes containing donations, and also to Capt Arendz and Capt Wilmot for their support.

In March, the QOR conducted Exercise Pegasus Stalker at Fort Drum, New York. This exercise, involving 215 soldiers from 32 CBG, also included a sniper team from

1 RCR, an MP det from Petawawa, and air support from 8 Wing and 400 Squadron. As work-up training from the summer's Exercise Stalwart Guardian, the over-strength company conducted urban operations in the excellent Fort Drum facilities. Special thanks to Capt St. Denis and WO Joseph, who virtually planned and ran the exercise single-handedly.

Serving soldiers were saddened by the death of Captain Doug Silzer, former CO of our affiliated cadet corps, 2881 Scarborough Rifles (RCAC). Doug was a proud and strong supporter of the Regiment, and passed away suddenly on Easter weekend. His funeral was well attended by his fellow officers and former Cadets.

We were pleased to send Capt Al Champion and MCpl Dave Pampe to Normandy in June to participate in the D-Day + 60 ceremonies as part of the official Canadian Forces Guard. Capt Champion, the Guard Commander, and MCpl Pampe were selected for their strong performance over the past several years, and were able to link up with our Association's tour on several occasions to share some stories and beverages while in France.

32 Canadian Brigade Group exercised its right to Freedom of the City of Toronto on



Adjutant Capt Kevin Sheedy on parade with RSM Scott Patterson

(Cont'd from previous page)

6 June, marching 1,000 strong from Sunnybrook Hospital to Queen's Park in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. The march was also a fundraiser for the Hospital for Sick Children. Over 150 riflemen, including the Band, participated – by far the largest contingent in the Brigade.

At the summer exercise in August in Petawawa, I had the privilege of commanding 32 Light Infantry Battalion, a composite unit of the Brigade's infantry soldiers, numbering 415. The QOR was also the lead unit for 3 Parachute Company, a sub-unit comprised entirely of para-qualified Reservists, under the command of QOR Major Rob Zeidler, who flew in from Atlanta, where he was serving on a 3-year attached-posting to U.S. Army Reserve HQ.

On 26 September, I relinquished command of the Regiment to LCol Martin Delaney. If I may sum up by including my brief farewell speech: "I won't try to thank everyone for their support over the last 3 years – I will be sure to miss more than one of you, so I will limit it to three groups:

My family, especially Kim – when I took command three years ago, I asked Kim to support me for three years, and then I'd quit. Honey, I lied. Thank you for continuing to put up with me; To those who have gone before – our veterans – Queen's Own, 1 Can Para, and all those others in the broad Regimental Family who served and sacrificed in the past so that we can continue to serve today; And thank you to the serving soldiers, all ranks, of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. I joined this Regiment 20 years ago, and I could not have picked a finer, fitter, and more dedicated group of men and women to serve with.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to command Canada's oldest and finest – I won't say that every day was a peach, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world. After a one-day break, I'm off to 32 Canadian Brigade Group to assume command of the Brigade Battle School, and I will continue to support the Regiment to the best of my ability.

I was speaking to our Operations Warrant Officer last week, discussing the incredibly

high tempo of the last three years, and he said, "Sir, we ran hard". The Queen's Own Rifles has always run hard, leading the way, and I have no doubt that Lieutenant Colonel Delaney will continue to run hard.

Martin – have a good command – I know that you'll do well. You have a great group of strong officers, senior NCOs, and soldiers. I hope that, for your Change of Command in three years, the renovations to Moss Park Armoury will be complete.

Thank you again for your support – it has been an honour."



Following tradition, LCol Fotheringham doubles past The Regiment after relinquishing command. (Top) The outgoing CO stands by while 32 Canadian Brigade Group Commander Col Gary Stafford presents the CO's Sword to LCol Martin Delaney

D-DAY PLUS 60 PARADE



“The significance and scale of what has been achieved in the last two years is remarkable”

LCol Martin Delaney CD, Commanding Officer



It is challenging to capture the entirety of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's activities over the last 16 months. To say that the last two years have been busy for The Regiment would be the greatest understatement. The Op-tempo continues to increase with greater and greater demands being placed on The Regiment and its troops. The ongoing operations in Afghanistan, other taskings around the globe, our Para operations, Individual and Collective Training commitments in our own backyard continue to take a great deal of time and effort from everyone. The significance and scale of what has been achieved in the last two years is remarkable.

I will start my report with the change of command parade between LCol J.M. Fotheringham and myself. It was an outstanding parade with great support and representation from the active unit, the Veterans, Association members, family members and guests from 32 Canadian

Brigade Group. The Reviewing Officer was Col Gary Stafford CD, Commander 32 Bde, who was very pleased with the high standard at Drill and Leathers. What also made this Change of Command so unique was the fact that it was held at Fort York Armoury, due to continuing construction and refurbishments at our home Armoury.

As the Rifleman is our Unit Journal it also acts as our submission to DND as our Annual Historical Report. So it must be chronicled that the Unit and its members had endured two years of Armoury construction (at times destruction) at Moss Park. The Unit for most of 2003 and 2004 was working out of two classrooms at MPA, which, of necessity, we shared with the Guns. At the time of the Change of Command, Sunday, September 26, 2004 the parade Square at MPA was filled with storage containers and all our Messes were closed, making the idea of a parade there impossible. We must thank the Royal Regiment of Canada for allowing us to make use of their offices and Officers' Mess for our parade at Fort York.

The fall training regime of the Able Warrior Exercise weekends takes up most of our activities in the months of September and October. This is followed up with the first of a series of Section and Platoon confirmation exercise in October and November. Those exercises were both exciting and well attended.

The Direct Response Unit (DRU) exercise "Crimson Tide", Dec 3-5, 2004, was a major domestic exercise that continues to improve every year we participate in this training event. For the DRU EX in 2004 we supplied a QRF Platoon under command of the very capable Capt. Patrick Slack. With his experiences in Bosnia to call on he had many important lessons to pass on.

The New Year and Levee were ushered in at the RCMI as the Unit was still without a Mess to host a proper Levee; regardless it was a great success. The Officers must take this opportunity to thank the Buglers' Mess members for their support and courtesy

shown to the Officers' Mess in absence of a proper wet mess.

The New Year training in 2005 included a Winter Warfare Exercise and our para refresher training. Our support to 8 Wing and the Canadian Parachute Centre continues to be exceptional in every way. To reinforce that fact the Unit was asked to assist the Commander of the CPC as part of the Light Force Working Group, to provide a Staff Check to determine our level of commitment to those organizations. Up to that point our contribution had been acknowledged and appreciated, but it had not been documented nor quantified. Safe to say that the Unit passed the Staff Check with Flying Colours (despite the fact that we don't have Colours), we could confirm that we had supported 80% of the taskings requested for those organizations over the last three years. This is an outstanding achievement and has confirmed our terrific contribution to CPC and 8 Wing.

The workup training for Stalwart Guardian 05 was interesting and again well attended by the Unit. That insured that it was transforming itself for a Cold War Warrior to the reality of today, which is a Full Spectrum operation. There is no doubt that the Army was entering into a major transformation in how we train individually and collectively. Where this is truly felt is in the Junior Ranks' Mess where the new challenges are most keenly felt. It must be said that by any measure our rifleman have embraced this challenge and have succeeded. What is being asked of everyone is substantial and we continue to meet and beat the challenge by raising the bar and taking the lead in 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

The Summer Stand-Down was marked, with what I hope continues to be a tradition in the Unit, a Regimental Challenge Weekend. There was a patrolling competition, obstacle course, fist aid competition and range work. The weekend was capped off on Sunday with a C130 Jump, Helicopter Rappelling with all happening in front of family and friends of the Regiment. As the Regimental Band played

the Para Company decent was flawless. Weekend ended with a Bar-B-Q at the Rod and Gun Club. The RSM and I estimated that we had a least 200 guest in attendance with over 100 Riflemen attending the exercise. It was a great way to end the training year and start our summer activities.

In July of 2005, Mrs. Deborah Delaney, Col and Mrs. Bev Hughes, RSM CWO Patterson and I had the great honour and privilege of meeting with our Colonel-in-Chief HRH Princess Alexandra in Buckingham Palace. This was a great occasion to bring the Princess up to date on the activities of her Regiment and ask her to participate in the 150th Anniversary Activities of the Regiment in 2010. Needless to say it was a wonderful experience and one that Mrs. Delaney and I will cherish.

Once again the fall training regime of the Able Warrior Exercise weekends is our Unit focus in the months of September and October. The Aggressive Viper Section and Platoon exercises in October and November focused on the new Battle Task Standards for full Spectrum operations. We are "training how we fight". Those exercises were both exciting and well attended.

In December of 2005 the DRU Ex focused on supporting our "First Responders" (Police, EMS and the Fire Service). The Unit had the challenging role of supporting the exercise by providing the DRU Bn HQ, a Coy HQ, and a Quick Response Platoon.

I commanded the DRU, which was a demanding endeavour but proved to be a great learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to command a battalion size organization. The Ex was a great success with more than 500 soldiers from across the Bde participating, as well as members of the Metro Police, EMS and Fire Service. While the focus of the exercise took place on the Toronto Docklands, Moss Park Armoury acted as my HQ with the QRF responding to tasks as the situation evolved. These types of exercises bring a great deal of media attention to the Reserve Army troops. We were tested and we proved that we are capable and up to the task.

December is an active social time as well for the Regiment with the Christmas and Holiday season with the Men's Christmas Dinner and the Officers' Luncheon. Both were well attended and established an excellent start to the festive season. The Officers' Mess had been closed for almost two years due to major renovations and refits to Moss Park Armoury, but these were (finally) concluded so this year's Luncheon was hosted back in our Mess. It certainly was wonderful to be back in our refurbished and revitalized -- and now air-conditioned Officers' Mess. I would like to publicly thank the Honorary Colonel, Col Paul Hughes and the Regimental Trust for their support in the renovation of our Mess and the Sergeants' Mess.

Special recognition should go to the person who made the renovations happen for both

the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Mrs. Deborah A. Delaney should be thanked for her vision and energy in the redesign plan and the massive coordination effort that she made with all the suppliers that were engaged. Finally, I would like to take this



Mrs. Beverley Hughes, wife of the Honorary Colonel and Mrs. Deborah Delaney, wife of the Commanding Officer, en route to Buckingham Palace to meet the Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alexandra.

opportunity to pay tribute to wives, partners and families of the Regiment for their outstanding support. As more is expected from our Riflemen here in Canada and as they deploy to Afghanistan and other UN taskings all over the world, their unwavering support is crucial to the overall success of every mission. I would like to reassure all members of The Regimental family that The Queen's Own is in outstanding shape, our numbers are very strong and we continue to lead from the front in 32 Canadian Brigade Group, if not the entire Canadian Army Reserve.



Two familiar sights: Regimental Band and Bugles and Regimental Sergeant Major in charge



Led by Bugle Major Fred Haire and Director of Music Capt Rita Arendz, The Regimental Band and Bugles of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on parade.



RSM CWO Scott (Paddy) Patterson, pace stick in the traditional position, awaits marching orders with other members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

“Do not be daunted if chaos reigns. It undoubtedly will.”

Training Recruits and Junior Leaders

LCol John Fotheringham, Commanding Officer 32 CBG Battle School



LCol John Fotheringham in the field with CWO Ron Alkelma, RSM 48th Highlanders

After relinquishing command of the Regiment to LCol Delaney in September 2004, I was fortunate to be given the best post-command position available – command of the 32 Canadian Brigade Group Battle School.

While nothing will ever rival the experience and privilege of commanding Canada's oldest & finest, being given the opportunity to continue to train and serve with soldiers, as opposed to a staff position at a higher HQ, was outstanding. I thought that readers of the Rifleman would be interested to read an overview of how we train our recruits and junior leaders within the Brigade.

The unofficial Battle School motto is “**Do not be daunted if chaos reigns. It undoubtedly will.**” Brigadier James Hill of the British 6th Airborne Division said this to his paratroopers, which included our friends from the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, on the day before their jump into Normandy on D-Day. The motto serves us well, as instructors and staff are faced with and overcome unexpected challenges on a daily basis.

The Battle School is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel, who is responsible directly to the Brigade Commander for its

operations, personnel, budget, weapons and equipment.

Additional Class A (part-time) cadre includes a Chief Instructor/DCO (QOR Major Adam Saunders), and two OCs - Basic Skills Company (Capt Lindsay of the Toronto Scottish Regiment) and Advanced Skills Company (Capt Crngarov of the Governor General's Horse Guards), with accompanying CSMs (MWO McIntyre of the 48th Highlanders and MWO Duncan of the Queen's York Rangers), all Class A. Instructors are seconded by the Brigade units, usually on a course-by-course basis.

Class A personnel are currently supported by five full-time personnel – my outstanding Ops O (Capt Vic Goldman of the 48th Highlanders), Ops MWO (MWO McVety, also of the 48th Highlanders and soon to be their RSM), Ops WO (WO Bustard of the Queen's York Rangers), Storeman (MCpl Hefferan of the Toronto Scottish Regiment) and Clerk (MCpl Astley of 2 Intelligence Company).

As you can see, Battle School personnel come from all units of the Brigade, and we enjoy the outstanding support of every CO, RSM and unit within 32 CBG (although they certainly begrudge the

incredibly high instructor requirement that they must fill to train our soldiers).

For the training year ending June 2005, the Battle School staff (cadre and instructors) exceeded 115 all ranks. With course candidates included, the Battle School was technically the largest unit in 32 CBG.

The 32 CBG Battle School coordinates and conducts most local courses on behalf of all Brigade units. As of June 2005, the Battle School had conducted the following courses:

- BMQ X 2 (entry-level recruit training);
- BOTP (entry-level officer training);
- SQ (Soldier Qualification, level-2 recruit training);
- DP2A X 2 (Individual Personal Support Weapons, Corporal level);
- PLQ Mods 2 to 5 X 2 (MCpl training); and
- Pre BMQ and Pre SQ for summer candidates.

In Fall 2005, and in addition to the above courses, the Battle School conducted a Driver Wheeled course, an additional officer training course, and began an extensive training program to prepare a team for the 2006 Cambrian Patrol, a demanding multi-national section competition held in the unforgiving Brecon Beacons in Wales.

As the Battle School concept gathers support across Canada, it is highly likely that it will become a part of each Reserve Brigade. While the instructor bill and resource requirements are incredibly high, COs across the Brigade recognize the value of centralized training, and the Battle School enjoys the unqualified support of the Brigade Commander and Brigade Sergeant Major.

Do not be daunted if chaos reigns. It undoubtedly will.

Queen's Own Rifles Buglers take Normandy

Bugler Bob Frankling



Buglers Bob Frankling and Jonas Feldman

The Normandy and Battlefields Tour of 2005 went exceedingly well. Wherever the Queen's Own appeared in uniform, French and Belgians alike flocked to hear the bugle calls and bugle marches and see the remembrance ceremonies commemorating the heroic sacrifices made by members of our great Regiment in returning Europe to democracy and freedom.

On our first day, we delivered 40 kg of "bricks" to JBC at Courseulles, an emergency trip to allow workers to complete the installations of these commemorative plaques before June 6. New to bugling, Jonas Feldman quickly mastered a number of bugle marches and calls and we launched ourselves playing bugle calls, marches and national anthems at Caen at a secondary school where an inspiring teacher led the students in a series of artistic and theatrical presentations to remember the Westlake family whose three sons paid the supreme sacrifice liberating Normandy. One girl said, "Doing this proj-

ect, I had the feeling the Queen's Own gave their lives for me personally."

Tjarko Pot, a great friend of the Regiment, came dressed in authentic QOR D-Day battledress and with perfect deportment added greatly to our Regimental image on the various ceremonies that followed. This school visit was a last minute request (the teacher begged us to come) organized by Céline Garbay, a former Regina Rifle, who does an outstanding job representing and organizing Canadian events in and around Caen. All Canadians should feel proud of her.

The following day we were led by the Giberville town brass band (dressed in their blue jackets and playing everything by ear) to the dedication of a monument honouring Buck Hawkins, one of the most beloved soldiers of A Company. He

died at Giberville covering the retreat of his comrades during an overwhelming enemy counterattack. The monument designed and built by students consists of a maple leaf surrounding the bronze head of a Canadian soldier mounted on part of a destroyed wall. It is very evocative and tasteful. We played bugle calls and marches during the parade which were very well received. The Queen's Own uniform was abundantly photographed everywhere it went.

The Canadian cemetery at Cintheaux contains some 25 or 30 soldiers from our Regiment. Before a very moving ceremony of remembrance, we marked their graves with Queen's Own markers. The French custom at all these ceremonies is for all VIP's to review everyone on parade and shake hands with each one. Bugle marches at Queen's Own tempo and "Dismiss" (There's no parade today!) were very well received. The bugle marches were welcome, since there would otherwise have

been no band on parade in many cases. I met what appeared to be a captain from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles wearing complete officer's DEU with black buttons and crossbelt. I saluted and greeted him cheerfully in English. He responded, saluting in the open-handed French manner and revealed he didn't understand a word of English. Most curious! He reappeared at most of our events.

On D-Day plus 61, as on D-Day itself, it rained before 8:00 am and then stopped just as we commemorated this great event in front of the Hoffer family's "Maison des Canadiens" one of the first houses to be liberated in Normandy. Other ceremonies followed at the Queen's Own monument on the site of the pillbox. I stood beside the monument of the Chauds and read with interest that they landed at 7:00 am, one hour before everyone else! The Queen's Own bugles were invited by General Addy to play bugle marches as we marched on to a dedication of a fountain and monument honouring Canadians at the vast Mémorial de Caen, a museum and cultural centre on the north end of the city that overlooks a ravine where the Canadian monument is located.

This was a busy day in which we also appeared outside the Abbaye aux Hommes, where Guillaume le Conquérant-William the Conqueror is buried. We did our version of bugle "ramming speed" arriving on our location at the monument smartly to the delight of the French audience which expressed delight at seeing the rifle drill! General Addy requested we play O Canada and La Marseillaise...just not possible on the bugle, alas. So we led the singing a capella, Jonas doing better than me with his very powerful baritone voice! All in the life a military musician!

Later we played Last Post at the Abbaye d'Ardennes after prayers offered by the priest with great depth of feeling for the Canadian soldiers who perished there. Many people had tears in their eyes. The site of these events is now a lovely shady grove and garden. The victims' pictures adorn a wall against which many of them died. We were guided by the very kind Mary Bennett, a native of Manitoba who lives in Authie and is very knowledgeable about Canadian regiments in Normandy.

(Cont'd from previous page)

At Le Mesnil Patry we led the parade to the new (and enormous) monument the town erected in honour of the events often termed "a latter-day Charge of the Light Brigade" where so many QOR died to stop an enemy counterattack. After the reception, we played an evening serenade to the great appreciation of the villagers. We ended by sounding the Retreat as the sun went down. The excellent mayor of Le Mesnil Patry, Roger Alexandre, sent a very special greeting to the Band which will be presented in the Mess on Band Night. I hope somehow we can send a Queen's Own plaque which will hang in the new town library where all future generations will see it. We continued after Normandy to the region of Boulogne-sur-Mer a city where the QOR played a key role. All the surrounding hills are honey-combed with hundreds of concrete bunkers and fortifications, now frequented only by grazing cattle. Just north of this city lies the village of Wimereux where one of the most famous Canadians, Lt-Col John McCrae lies interred in a Commonwealth Cemetery on a steep hill. Someone had marked his grave with a Queen's Own marker before we arrived, so we were forced to play Last Post and Reveille! Interestingly, a French Canadian colonel did a superb French translation of In Flanders Fields which is now much memorised and recited by French school children. Many French people thus know the name McCrae. The village also boasts a rue John McCrae.

The battlefields study tour continued into Belgium where we were played the Post in honour of our countries fallen at many cemeteries. We also visited the site of Queen's Own battles in the Breskens Pocket area. A particular highlight is the Menen Gate at Ypres, where the Last Post is sounded every night of the year at 8:00 pm. The volunteer buglers (former or present-day Belgian military members) played the seldom heard "Long Reveille". I realised why it is seldom heard: it's very long!

Once again, the Canadian uniform was abundantly photographed and many expressed love for Canada and our soldiers' sacrifices on behalf of Belgium. We were very conscious of representing all members of Bugle and Military Bands and did our best to do you all proud, both Bands and our Regiment.

Canadian War Museum Opening VE+60, Ottawa

LCol John Fotheringham

May the 8th marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe, and the event was commemorated by Canadian citizens across the country and overseas. In Ottawa, the event was marked by a service of remembrance at the Canadian War Memorial, followed by a parade of veterans past the Parliament Buildings to the new Canadian War Museum, for its grand opening.

Claire Léger, the mother of PPCLI Para Company Sgt. Marc Léger, who died in Afghanistan in 2002, laid a wreath as this year's Silver Cross Mother. Wreaths were also laid by General Hillier, Prime Minister Martin, Minister of National Defence Graham, and many veteran and service groups, and diplomats.

The parade of veterans was marvelous - hundreds of proud soldiers, all in their 80s, marched well over a mile from the Memorial to the new War Museum at LeBreton Flats. Thousands of Canadians lined the route, and the cheering and clapping did not abate for a second.

Following the marching veterans was an impressive display of over 50 vintage military vehicles, all carrying more veterans. Those vehicles were followed by dozens of city buses, carrying more veterans. It was an impressive sight to see so many veterans on parade, and one that I regret we will most likely not see again.

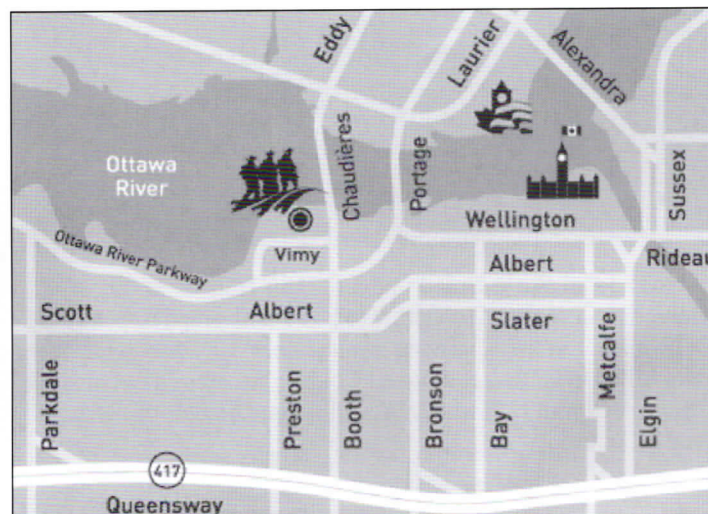
Upon arrival at the new War Museum, the veterans were allowed access to the displays and given an opportunity to rest and wait for the opening ceremonies.

Of particular interest to us was seeing the display for the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and Cpl Fred Topham, VC. (The fundrais-

ing campaign to purchase Corporal Topham's Victoria Cross was a great success and is described elsewhere in The Rifleman.) Following receipt of the medals from the estate of Topham's widow, they were donated to the Canadian War Museum for all Canadians to view in perpetuity.

The ceremony was well attended, featuring numerous speeches, including Barney Danson, a former Minister of National Defence and a Battle of Normandy Veteran, and former Chairman of the CWM Advisory Committee. Also speaking were the Governor General (taped from Holland), and the Prime Minister. A highlight of the event was a very low fly-past by the Mynarski Lancaster from the Hamilton Warplane Heritage Museum.

Complimentary admission to the Canadian War Museum is provided to Canadian veterans and up to three accompanying family members, as well as to members of the Canadian Forces with identification. Admission is also free every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and all day on 11 November, Remembrance Day. The Canadian War Museum is located at 1 Vimy Place, on LeBreton Flats, at the corner of Booth Street and the Ottawa River Parkway, west of Parliament Hill. The museum is easily accessible from downtown Ottawa, by foot, bus, or car. On-site parking is available.



Colonel Paul Hughes takes the "Brand Tour" of Europe

LCol. Steve Brand, QOR Memorial Coordinator

While in Europe to attend the Mooshof ceremony the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Col. Paul Hughes, was able to fit in a "high-speed tour" of Europe. Driver and guide LCol. Steve Brand organized a 5-day, 2500 km tour to show Col. Hughes the major WW2 QOR battlefield locations. With Regimental History in hand for guidance, stops were made in Normandy, Boulogne, Ghent, the Breskens Pocket, the Rhineland, Northern Holland and finally, the Ostersander crossroads in Northern Germany, where the last action by the QOR was fought.

Highlights of the trip with the Hon LCol included visits with many of our "Friends of the Regiment" including the Hoffer Family, Roger and Raymonde Alexandre and Mary Bennett. Col. Hughes also had the opportunity to tour the Juno Beach Centre and view the significant progress

achieved since the centre's opening in 2003. He presented a framed, limited edition print of the Sgt. Aubrey Cosens, VC, action to Museum Director, Nathalie Worthington.

Here is an excerpt from the Regimental History worthy of recalling on this, the occasion of the 60th anniversary of VE Day:

"The Final Victory"

"Then came the last action of the war for the Queen's Own: and perhaps the last action of The First Canadian Army. At 1200 hrs, 4 May 1945, C Company, under Captain J.L. Hancock, attacked a crossroads just east of Ostersander. The opposition was quite strong and it was 1500 hrs before C Company had taken its objective. At 1530 hrs the order came through not to fire on the enemy unless

attacked. The official Cease Fire came at 0800 hrs, 5 May 1945.

Rfn. G. A. Friday and Rfn. M. C. Smith were killed in this last attack; the final casualties suffered in action. It is of interest to know that as Lieutenant-Colonel S. M. Lett was on leave in England from 23 April to 6 May, Major H. E. Dalton was commanding during those last two weeks."

(Editor's note: The 1960 edition of the Regimental history, by LCol. Bill Barnard, is long since out of print but a soft cover reprint is available at the Kit Shop.)



(Above) LCol Steve Brand and Col Paul Hughes at the QOR Memorial in Wons, Holland. (Top R.) Col Hughes places a QOR marker at the headstone of a member of The Queen's Own killed in battle. (Bottom R) Col Hughes presents a copy of Cosens VC print to Nathalie Worthington, Director of the Juno Beach Centre.



Aubrey Cosens VC plaque unveiled at Mooshof

LCol. Steve Brand, QOR Memorial Coordinator

A very special event took place last May 6, 2005. Members of the QOR joined their European "Friends of the Regiment" to unveil a commemorative plaque for Sgt. Aubrey Cosens, VC. The unveiling took place at the Mooshof farmhouse on a sunny blustery day near Udem, Germany. This was the actual site of the famous action that took place in the early hours of February 26, 1945 during "OPERATION BLOCKBUSTER". The QOR had fought as part of the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division in this operation. As a result of action taken, Sgt. Aubrey Cosens won his Victoria Cross posthumously as a member of 17 Pl, D Coy.

Interestingly, members of the 1st Bn QOR, then commanded by LCol. Hank Elliot and stationed in Germany, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Mooshof farmhouse on August 28, 1963. Lt. John Sharpe commanded the 12-man guard and recalls installing the bronze plaque at the very place where Sgt Cosens had ordered the 1H Sherman tank to break into the building. Unfortunately, the plaque went missing sometime in the 1980's. During the commemorations of VE + 50 in 1995, members of the QOR returned to Europe and visited Mooshof once again. During this visit, contact was made with the occupants of Mooshof who turned out to be tenants of the farmhouse. LCol. Steve Brand, then CO QOR, decided that a replacement plaque was long overdue and

set out to make it happen. With the assistance of several of the QOR's friends, including the late Paul Niedenzu, Jacqui Wittkampf and Wim Felix; contact was made with the owner of Mooshof and local government officials. Permission to re-install a plaque was given to the Regiment in the year 2004.

In 2005 the Toronto branch of the QOR Association, led by John Miedema and past president Andy MacNaughton, organized a trip to Holland which afforded an excellent opportunity to unveil the new plaque in the presence of Veterans and some sixty other friends of the Regiment. Joining them was a well-turned out QOR re-enactor group lead by Dutchman Tjarko Pot. The ceremony featured an outstanding "Last Post" performed by the re-enactor's bugler, Gerben van der Els.

The Mooshof ceremony was conducted in the presence of the Honorary LCol, Col Paul Hughes. CBC TV's Paul Workman was able to break away from the official VE+60 schedule and cover the event which was broadcast later that day in Canada. On hand for the event were Herr Mott, owner of the house, as well as the local Bürgermeister, Herr Webber. Mr. Don Cosens was there representing Sgt Cosens' family. Col. Hughes concluded the ceremony by presenting several numbered copies of his recently commissioned Sgt. Aubrey Cosens print to vari-

ous dignitaries. It was interesting to note that the Veterans, and many of those in attendance, were quite surprised to be welcomed as liberators by the owner of the farm and the local mayor. Clearly this post-war German sentiment, although unexpected, was very reassuring to the Veterans

Amongst blooming lilacs at the Mooshof farmhouse, the group took time to walk about and reflect on Sgt. Cosens' heroic actions taken on that day 60 years ago. They then said their farewells and moved on to Emmerich, Germany for a fabulous lunch. The restaurant overlooked the Rhine River which gave Veterans time to reminisce about events that occurred as they made their way across this historic river back in 1945 by way of a pontoon bridge at nearby Rees. After lunch the group boarded the bus for a trip across the Rhine and travelled to the Dutch village of Rha for another moving ceremony at their impressive QOR memorial. Finally, exhausted but exhilarated; the group returned to their hotel in Zutphen and ended a very emotional day.

The following QOR veterans, several of whom had served with Sgt. Cosens, were on parade that day: George Beardshaw, Bill "Boots" Bettridge, John Jones, John Partridge, Bill Ross, Charles Smith, Joe Smith, Ernie Stallan and Philip Wilkinson.



D-Day veteran Bill "Boots" Bettridge is interviewed by CBC TV at Mooshof



In commemoration of Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who, on the night of 25/26 February, 1945, led the survivors of his platoon in the capture of these farm buildings which were vital to the success of future operations of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade. For his gallantry, initiative and determined leadership, Sgt Cosens was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

06 May 2005

In Pace Paratus



Tjarko Pot

Some of you may be surprised to learn that The Queen's Own Rifles has a re-enactment group in Holland. We started out as a group of five young Dutch men who were interested in the Second World War and the allied forces that liberated our country in 1945. For many of us our parents were directly affected by the war, and we grew up hearing stories about our liberators. We are proud to wear the uniform of one of Canada's best regiments.

Over the years we have been very lucky to meet many of the veterans who have come back to Europe to revisit their battlefields. On the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands in 2005 we knew that the veterans would come again. For us this was very special, and we wanted to do something special for them in return, and to celebrate our liberation in a unique way.

30 April 2005: We set up a British (30th Corps Signals) and Canadian Army (Queen's Own Rifles) camp, in Maarn, about 28 kilometres from Wageningen. Camp Maarn would be our home for the next 8 days. For the entire week our very special guest and friend Joe Smith, who is a QOR veteran and honorary member of our group, was visiting from Toronto and stayed with us at the camp. When Joe sees a motorcycle his memories as a MC instructor and Dispatch rider are tweaked and seeing all the restored motorcycles and military vehicles, Joe got a sparkle in his eye, wishing he could ride one again.

1 May 2005: We drove 150 kilometres to Sneek, where we were invited to be the honour guard for the Regiment. We met Bill Dyson and his wife Patti. Bill is the nephew of Richard Dyson, a QOR soldier who had carved his name on a brick in a wall in Normandy in June 1944, before being

Holland Remembers The Queen's Own

killed in action at Mooshof in February, 1945. We had found the brick and later presented it to Bill and Patti during the anniversary ceremonies in Holland. At Sneek, veterans of the Regiment greeted us warmly. After a service at the church in Sneek, a small ceremony

was held at the monument for The Queen's Own Rifles soldiers who gave their lives liberating the town. It was a touching ceremony and a very big honour for us to stand guard, a moment we will never forget. The WWII military vehicles group "Keep Them Rolling" was also there to lead the convoy to Wons. We stood as honour guard again, and our bugler played the Last Post and Bill Dyson laid a special wreath in honour of his uncle.

3 May 2005: It was raining when we arrived for the big anniversary ceremony at Groesbeek Cemetery but a huge warm party tent kept the veterans and guests sheltered. We met again with Bill and Patti Dyson, who had brought the stone on which Richard Dyson had scratched his name, and their goal was to reunite it with his grave before taking it back to Canada. For the members of our group who had found the brick in 2002 it was a very special moment to be part of this. We were asked by Sgt Andy Macnaughton if our group would place regimental markers on



all QOR graves, which we were very happy to do. We also formed a Queen's Own Rifles Honour Guard for Queen Beatrix of



WW Two Dispatch rider Sgt Joe Smith gets back in the saddle

the Netherlands and Adrienne Clarkson the Governor General of Canada. After the official ceremony, with Joe Smith, we took the opportunity to show the Dysons the nearby hamlet of Mooshof, where Richard Dyson had died.

4 May 2005: Joe Smith was asked if he wanted to take one of the motorcycles for a spin. He didn't need to be asked twice! At 83 years old Joe still looked and felt at ease on a motorbike and his smile was unforgettable. He rode a few lengths of the road near our camp just to get the feel back, and then drove away from us, down the road and around a corner! He was gone for about ten minutes, which for some of us was the longest ten minutes ever - but he came back with an even bigger smile on his face. It was really wonderful to see somebody living out a dream like that, and Joe's ride was a highlight of the day.

5 May 2005: We participated in the "Liberation Drive" with more than 70 military vehicles and motorcycles driving through Dutch towns. This was Joe Smith's first liberation tour and he enjoyed every minute of it. Hearing the people's applause brought Joe tears to his eyes.

6 May 2005: Another chance to meet up with the Regiment - this time at Mooshof, and again in Rha. Another rainy day! We were joined by the bus full of QOR veterans. We were delighted to see them again,

and also to meet up with LCol Steve Brand and Hon LCol Paul Hughes. Again we were invited to stand as honour guard for the unveiling of a new monument at the Mooshof farmhouse. The old one had been removed by the previous owner of the property, and the Regiment had decided to replace it. Later, at Rha we looked at the monument there and were very touched by the phrase "Dying for freedom isn't the worst that can happen, being forgotten is". This is one of the best texts on a WWII monument. Wim Felix, who organized this ceremony, told of what happened on the 6th of April 1945 when eight Riflemen were killed trying to defend the village of Rha. Again our bugler played the Last Post. Col Hughes complimented Bugler Gerben van der Elst on his performance and gave him a framed certificate on behalf of the Queen's Own Rifles Re-enactment group. Col Hughes and Col Brand also thanked us for our effort for the last few days and presented some special gifts, which we never expected.

7 May 2005: A big (rainy and cold) day with the Canadian liberation parade to take place at Nijverdal. We had hoped to meet up again with the Regiment, but roads were blocked and it was almost impossible to find a place to park. Still, we managed and because we had Joe with us, we were invited to watch the parade from inside a school where we were nice and warm and could watch through large windows. We felt sorry for the poor soldiers marching in the rain.

8 May 2005: Sunshine on the last day - how typical! Our tents dried quickly as we worked to break camp. We were all very happy with our week, and especially with the amount of time we got to spend with the veterans of The Queen's Own Rifles. We filled our time with activities and people that meant the most to us, and had a wonderful time commemorating and enjoying the week of celebrations. The re-enactors and guests who stayed at the army camp in Maarn came from six different nationalities. Some of us were Dutch, Canadian, British, American, Belgian and even German, all reunited to remember the sacrifice of the soldiers who came to free Europe. Special thanks to all the veterans who did what they did for us, and at such a high price. We will never forget.



(Top left) Sgt Joe Smith and Cpl Tjarko Pot. (Top right) Veterans Joe Smith, George Beardshaw, Phil Wilkinson, Bill Ross and Bill Bettridge. (Centre Top) Sgt Joe Smith and Celine Garbay (Centre) 'Photo Op' for veterans. (Bottom. Rfn Richard Dyson's headstone and the brick he carved his name in before he was KIA. Nephew Bill with the brick. (See story)



Sam Magee of “The Devil’s Brigade” returns to Italy

Gianni Blasi

My name is Gianni Blasi, I’m a Canadian living in Italy and I’m an English and History professor. Since I live right in the area liberated by the Canadian troops on the Cassino Front in 1944, this particular part of WW II history has become one of my main interests. I thought it might be of interest to you to know that a Canadian veteran who fought in the First Special Service Force, William ‘Sam’ Magee and three reenactors of the 1st SSF, John Dallimore and Kyle McNally (Canada) and Paul Dray (UK) have just completed their tour to the locations where the Force successfully attacked the tough German troops on the Gustav Line.

Sixty-one years later Magee led the party to Mount La Defensa where the Force accomplished its objective in what was its baptism of fire and has been defined as a suicide mission. Dallimore, McNally and Dray climbed the steep 960 meter mountain in uniforms of 1943, spent the cold and rainy night in what the vets call the ‘saucer’ on the top, set up a plaque remembering the battle and came back down the following day with a more precise idea of the heavy fighting that had taken place on a quite restricted area... and their pockets loaded with quite a few artifacts which had survived more than half a century. In the climb the three were accompanied by an Italian paratrooper who lives in the area by the name of Angelo Andreoli. The following day Dallimore, McNally and Magee

decided to take the other side of the valley, Mount Majo, where the Force again had managed to push the Germans out.

This time, though, the 83 year old vet was determined to go up as well and did. Among other things they found a live mortar bomb in the precise position it had hit during the fighting. It was really surprising to me how the re-enactors could assess the different aspects of the battles by observation of what was left of gun emplacements, trenches, casings and bits and pieces of ration cans.

From the Acropolis of Alatri, where the Germans had their strategic headquarters, two trips were taken to the Anzio Beachhead where the Force spent 99 days on the front line holding a quarter of the whole perimeter with very few men compared to the other allied units. Again the terrain was studied meter to meter with copies of the maps used in ’44 in order to evaluate all the difficulties and hardships the American/Canadian men of the Force encountered before the final breakthrough up the Lepini Mountains, down into the Sacco Valley and then into Rome on June 4th.

Each town, every hill or knoll the Forcemen had fought through or on was studied with utmost precision, every element of information was verified, analyzed and evaluated. I must say that I have rarely encountered such competence

and intellectual motivation.

Paul Dray has gone back to his work as an artist and will be returning to climb Mount La Defensa again on the historical date of December 4th; John Dallimore is now back to his profession as a veterinarian and Kyle McNally has resumed his work as a mechanic specializing in WW II jeeps; William ‘Sam’ Magee, who speaks annually to more than 5000 students and is founder of “The Student Historical Society”, is already planning something special and new for what he calls “his kids”.

On the surface they all seem to be the same people who left home a week ago; inside, deep inside, something has changed... I could see it in their eyes as they left. History, real history, is quite different from what we find on a written page.

P.S. You can reach ‘Sam’ at 905 576 1198 or campsharing@hotmail.com and get a photo of the plaque.



Sgt William (Sam) Magee with 1st SSF re-enactors in Italy following the mountain climb



(Left) Sgt William (Sam) Magee in 1942. (Right) In 2005. (Note that his medals include a US Silver Star and Bronze Star.)

They Called us "Potato-Sackers" in 1940. We Showed 'em!

B63510 Sgt Simon Goldenthal

On 15 December, 1945, when the Monarch of Bermuda sailed into Halifax Harbour carrying members of The Queen's Own Rifles on their way home, the 645 all ranks in the Battalion included 12 of the originals -- those who joined in 1940 and had survived the war still, relatively speaking, in one piece. Included in this dozen was B63510 Sgt. Simon Goldenthal of Toronto, the 11th man taken on when the regiment mobilized. He had joined The Queen's Own in October 1939 and went on active service in June 1940. He'll be the first one to tell you that, at the time, aged 20, he was a bit of a rascal -- he was stripped of his job as company clerk "for giving too many passes to the same men." He also had what he calls a few "brushes with the law" while The Queen's Own were bivouacked at Camp Sussex in New Brunswick. He was involved in a number of escapades, which pretty well all turned out poorly for him and after being sentenced to fairly severe military-style punishment on different occasions, "It finally sank into my brain that I could not beat the system. From then on I became a model soldier, got my job back as 'A' Coy clerk -- and found out that before all this happened I was marked as officer material. Of course this killed that." In the following, Sgt. Goldenthal explains how The Queen's Own got its early war nickname as "Potato Sackers." As in the case of the "D-Day Dodgers" they hated it at the time but later came to regard it as a matter of pride that, as a "Potato Sacker" they were among the first to volunteer to fight for their country in the early days of World War Two.

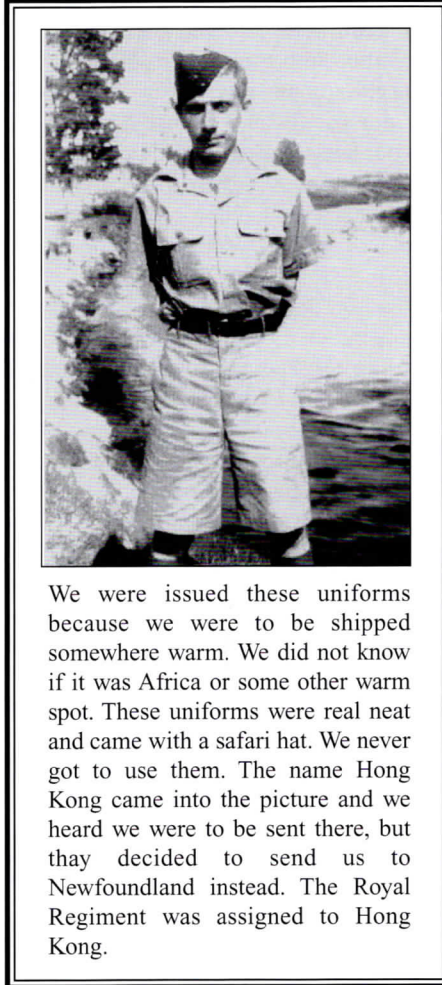
Things came to a head on September 3 1939 when Britain and France declared war and Canada followed on September 10. My older brother joined the Seaforth Highlanders in Vancouver. I felt I was being left out.

On October 6 1939 I hightailed it down to the University Ave. Armoury to enlist. I was determined the war could not go on without me. When I got to the armouries, I found there were two major regiments based there, the 48th highlanders and The Queen's Own Rifles. The 48th was already on active service and had a full complement so I turned to The Queen's Own, and could not have made a better choice.

I became what was called a Saturday night soldier although our parade nights were Wednesday. I would report every week for marching drilling and other military things.

Once in a while we would march out of the armouries with the bugle band leading and march around the block. I loved it.

Every Saturday we would be taken to the Long Branch Rifle Range for target practice.



We were issued these uniforms because we were to be shipped somewhere warm. We did not know if it was Africa or some other warm spot. These uniforms were real neat and came with a safari hat. We never got to use them. The name Hong Kong came into the picture and we heard we were to be sent there, but they decided to send us to Newfoundland instead. The Royal Regiment was assigned to Hong Kong.

We were taught to take apart and put back together the Lewis Gun, a first world war weapon. We had not been issued modern weapon yet, so we practiced on the Ross Rifle. We did not have uniforms but I put my heart and soul into it. One day my Company Commander, Capt Pangman called me to the office and commended me on having gotten all my shots from the Lewis gun on target. I said that was impossible as the Lewis gun sprayed its bullets. Someone else must have been firing at my target.

On June 4 1940 I received a call at work to report to the armouries the next morning. We were finally being called into action, and as I

was very proficient at typing I was assigned to typing attestation papers for the incoming recruits. One group of men were hard rock miners and they came down from Geraldton to join The Queen's Own. I was given a physical and told that although they detected a heart murmur, army life would soon fix that. We still had no uniforms and my uniform consisted of a green arm band that said QOR on it.

The end of June we prepared to leave Toronto, and said our final goodbyes at home and although we now had uniforms and rifles, we had no kit bags and were issued potato sacks. When we marched to the railroad station a headline in the Toronto Star read, "**Mackenzie King's Potato Sack Army Leaves for Camp Borden.**"

In 1943 I was company clerk of 'A' Company, and because of my expertise I was sent to London to upgrade my typing and shorthand skills. I did very well and after two weeks I returned to the regiment. London was quite an experience. I learned the men working in the subway, or tube as they called it, were paying high prices for wool socks, boots, any army clothing and I sold almost everything I had. When I got back to the regiment I had to buy back all the stuff I sold.

I returned to the Orderly Room and discovered my position had been taken over by George Dalzell who was a nice enough chap, but it was my job. I appealed to Lt. Neil Gordon who was Acting Second in Command. He said that I was no longer company clerk and that I should report to the parade ground. This did not seem right and I appealed to the regimental adjutant with whom I had good rapport. He said I should leave the matter with him and he would do something. He had me transferred to the Pay Office which I welcomed wholeheartedly.

June 1944 rolled around and with it D-Day. My job was to record casualties and I went in at the back of A Company's boat, ran like hell to the seawall and sat there shaking in my boots. When I started to tally the dead, one of the first names I came across was George Dalzell's, the man who replaced me as company clerk. I thought to myself, "There but for the grace of God -- and Neil Gordon -- go I."

Message to new Adj. "Good Luck. You'll need it."

Capt Kevin P. Sheedy, Adjutant

In the fall of 2002, I had been on the supplementary list for almost five years, looking after my family and business affairs. However, the events of September 11, 2001 forced me to ask whether or not I had a duty to try and pass on what I had learned as a younger man to a new generation of Riflemen.

Lunch with Lieutenant-Colonel John Fotheringham convinced me and then Adjutant Sandi Banerjee had me back on strength in five short days.

At the time, my discussion with the CO had centered around my coming back as the Adjutant, a job I thought suitable for an experienced Captain nearing 40 and with a family and business that lent itself more to administration and pushing paper than running around the woods with Riflemen half my age. In any event, it took three years of bush-bashing with the companies before I got my wish and LCol Fotheringham relented and finally made me Adjutant. It now seems like an eternity ago that Capt Adam Harmes handed me the Adjutant's keys with a wry smile on his face and a "Good luck -- you will need it!" Indeed, a million things have transpired since that spring day in 2004 and my first parade as adjutant of Canada's oldest and finest Regiment.

The annual cycle for the adjutant is somewhat different than that of the other officers in the unit, primarily because our Regiment has always prided itself on field training and operations versus ceremonial and Regimental duties, with which the Adjutant is primarily concerned.

Autumn is the busiest time of the year both administratively and Regimentally. My tour has been doubly so as LCol Fotheringham asked that I not only become Adjt, but also PMC in the officer's mess, taking over from that role model of a Rifles officer, Maj ERC Simundson. September starts with a flourish with the whole Regiment returning from summer camp and courses for stand-to. All ranks immediately commence warrior training, but at the same time preparation for Remembrance Day, Church Parade and the Regimental Dinner com-

mence.

To add interest it was decided that Moss Park Armoury needed air conditioning and my beautiful hard wood office furniture had to be replaced by something from IKEA that looked like it would belong in the space shuttle. Thus, our long suffering BOR staff were deprived of all our files and shifted into a makeshift BOR in one of the classrooms, row on row, and shared with our friends at 7 Guns. At the same time our messes were turned upside down, first to be rewired, then to be air conditioned and remodeled, a process that was to take a total of 3 years. Good time to be PMC!

In September, 2004, in my first year as Adjt, The Regiment mounted a change of command from LCol Fotheringham to our current Commanding Officer, LCol Martin J. Delaney. Because our parade square was under construction, the parade was held at Fort York.

RSM Scott Patterson, is the man of the hour for the public duties side of things, but administrative orders, coordination with the police, our Regimental Church St. Paul's Anglican, caterers and a host of details and personalities inevitably have to be attended to by the BOR and Chief Clerk, Sergeant June Parris, without whom the Adjutant, indeed the unit, would perish.

No sooner are November's Remembrance Day ceremonies concluded than preparations for the Men's Christmas Dinner, Officers' Luncheon, Children's Christmas Party and New Year's Day Levee were under way. By the time January 2nd rolls around, the Adjutant of QOR is ready for a long winter's nap. But such is not to be with summer training beckoning and Brigade already having requested our forecast for officer courses in November. New officers are identified, recruited and selected during this time, thus ensuring the future leadership of The Regiment.

Perhaps one of LCol Fotheringham's greatest successes was to secure an additional rifle company -- our Buffs Coy -- and new satellite armoury in Scarborough. Capt Allan Champion has

taken the reins of this project which is sure to be the best change to have taken place at QOR since we were given our jump tasking.



Our new CO has mandated that our Honorary Colonels would occupy a higher profile and be more visible to all members of The Regiment. Both Brigadier-General Don Pryer and Colonel Hughes, our Honorary Colonel and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel respectively, have proven eminently suited to doing just that. BGen Pryer is well known outside The Regiment and amongst the officers for his excellent work with Reserve 2000. Now QOR's expansion into Scarborough will give our Riflemen a chance to see his work manifested in a larger Regiment with more Riflemen to carry on the work of the QOR.

Colonel Hughes' generous and active participation in the life of the unit will also become more visible to each and every rifleman. Colonel Hughes' active involvement in the renovations of both the Sergeants' and Officers' messes, as well as the acquisition of Rifles accoutrements for all ranks of The Regiment and Band have all given the unit a keener appreciation of our Honoraries and wider Regimental family.

Although it took longer than I thought to get a job that most young, keen paratrooper Rifles' officers seem to want to defer, it has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as Adjutant in The Regiment that I love. The Army, and for that matter The Queen's Own Rifles, have changed since 1997 when I last took leave of my military avocation. However, some things about the Rifles tradition remain timeless. The spirit, fitness, dedication and hard work of our soldiers, the good humour of our Sergeants, and the excellent support of the whole Regimental family continue to stand The Queen's Own in excellent stead.

In Pace Paratus, Ex Coelis!

The Queen's Own's Padre looks back -- and likes what he sees

Capt Craig Cameron



Capt Craig Cameron in the field.

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. . . a time to plant and a time to uproot." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3

As I reflect on the conclusion of my time of service as padre for the Queen's Own Rifles after twelve years (1992-2004), it is with a mixture of satisfaction and sadness that I view this period. During the first half of 2004 I worked as padre to Area Support Unit (Toronto) prior to the coming of a Regular Force padre to fill the position. This experience gave me valuable insight into how the Army works from a support standpoint. After a period at Meaford during the ARC summer training program, my time concluded with Ex Stalwart Guardian where I was double-hatted as padre for the 3 Service Battalion and 3 Field Ambulance. Despite the sadness in departing the regiment, there is satisfaction nevertheless, in many positive experiences, solid accomplishments, and meaningful relationships

over this time. In my letter of resignation to the Commanding Officer, I mentioned several things that stand out.

First, Op Normandie Return in June 1994 was a special highlight. I will never forget walking the beach and the streets of Bernieres-sur-mer on the 50th anniversary of D-Day with the late Charlie Martin, former A Company CSM. I will never forget walking along those serried rows of graves at Beny-sur-mer Cemetery for the very first time and seeing the names of those Canadians who died for our freedom. In my mind's eye, I saw young men and some not so young, like thirty-nine year old father of two, Buck Hawkins, standing in front of their graves, exhorting us to be faithful and not to forget the cost of victory. I will never forget the wind-swept beach scene that evening of June 6th, where I read the names of the sixty-one QOR men who died that day in front of many veterans like John Missons, Charlie Martin, Jack Martin, who were there with them.

Despite many difficulties and adversities (who will ever forget the French box lunches, the missed June 6th parade at Bernieres, and the lost van keys), the trip stands out as a stellar achievement largely due to the leadership of LCol Steve Brand. After that time in Normandy, a small group of us toured the remainder of the QOR's progress during the NorthWest Europe campaign. I came to realize just what a sacrifice our forebears who wore the uniform and Big 2 badge, made in WW II. Second, I am pleased to have had a hand in creating the WW II Book of Remembrance. It was dedicated and placed in the towns of Bernieres-sur-mer, Anisy, Anguerny, Le Mesnil Patry and Giberville in June 1997 during Ex Rambling Rifleman.

Third, and certainly not least, was the creation of the QOR memorial kiosk # 5, at the Juno Beach Centre, Coursuelles-sur-mer, dedicated June 6, 2003 and which has names

of hundreds of former QOR riflemen on titanium 'bricks'. This was a very meaningful achievement and one I am pleased to have helped bring to fruition.

Fourth, the funeral that I conducted on June 9, 2003, in Belgium for three 3rd Battalion (Toronto Regiment) soldiers who died at Passchendaele on 6 November 1917 was quite memorable. The service was one of the most poignant experiences of my military service and a professional highlight as a padre.

Fifth and finally, the people I came to know. The riflemen and officers, many of whom are no longer serving with the regiment; veterans, many of whom, like Colonels Charles Dalton and "Hank" Elliot, I knew personally and deeply respected, are also no longer with us on this earth; their widows, as well as members of the Regimental Association. Of course, I cannot omit special veteran friends, such as former RSM Harry Fox, with whom I collaborated to produce his wartime memoirs, entitled, Born Lucky, RSM Harry Fox, MBE, One D-Day Dodger's Story (published December, 2005 by Vanwell Publishing).

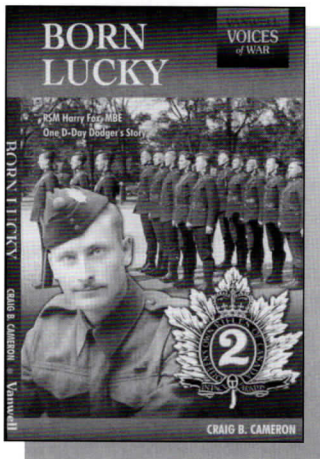
God has made everything beautiful in his time. He has set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning." Eccles. 3: 11 (NIV) "How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?" Hebrews 2:3 (NIV)



Capt Craig Cameron on the job.

RSM Harry Fox MBE— More than just “Born Lucky”

Capt Charles McGregor



In the book “Born Lucky” -- a collection of stories about the life of Queen's Own Rifles RSM Harry Fox MBE -- former QOR Padre Capt. Craig Cameron and The Regiment's legendary RSM have combined to produce a lively account of the soldier who enlisted in 1932, served throughout WW 2, and celebrated his 90th birthday in the Sergeant's Mess at Toronto's Moss Park Armoury in 2004.

British-born Warrant Officer First Class Harry Fox MBE (Regimental No. B63612) was 18 when, following a family tradition of military service, he joined the Queen's Own in 1932, “at the height of the depression,” he recalls. A Company Sergeant Major when The Regiment mobilized for war in 1940, shortly after the fall of France, he was in the lead when the troops marched out of University Avenue Armoury behind their Bugle Band, en route to make war.

Harry sailed for the UK with The Queen's Own in June, 1941, after training periods in Camp Borden, Newfoundland and New Brunswick. By now RSM of the 1st Battalion QOR, in October, 1943, he was among a small group of Queen's Own members selected to gain combat experience and was “rebadged” in Italy with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment as RSM, remaining with the Hasty-P's -- or the “Plough-Jockeys” as they are often called -- until war's end.

In his book RSM Fox, who narrowly missed being killed more than once, tells of his experiences in such battle theatres as Ortona, the Hitler Line, the Liri Valley and the Gothic Line, where he says he spent “the most interesting day of my war.”

The war stories are leavened with personal memoirs of this grand old soldier and the book's 216 pages about life at the “sharp end” as well those few precious days where they were out of the line of fire make a very good read. Harry, of course, was one of those who were labeled the “D-Day Dodgers” and he devotes part of his book to this controversial matter. (See below)

“D-Day Dodgers”

The term “D-Day Dodgers” comes from a term used by Lady Astor (an American who had married an English lord) in a speech to the British Parliament. She suggested that those of us fighting in Italy were deliberately avoiding the “real” war in Normandy. Her biographer argues that it was an entirely innocent reference and that the actual term came from an Eighth Army veteran's letter to her. He maintains that the term was along the lines of the “Desert Rats” and not a criticism at all. Anyway, someone composed a song to mock her sentiments and to honour those in Italy. It was sung to one of

the war's most popular and evocative tunes, “Lilli Marlene,” that both armies knew well.

*We are the D-Day Dodgers out in Italy
Always on the vino, always on the spree
Eighth Army skivers and their tanks
We go to war in ties and slacks
We are the D-Day Dodgers in sunny Italy*

*The Moro and Ortona were taken in our stride
We didn't really fight there, we went there for the ride
Sleeping until noon and playing games,
We live in Rome with lots of dames
We are the D-Day Dodgers in sunny Italy*

*We hear the boys in France are going home on leave
After six months' service, such a shame they're not relieved
We were told to carry on a few more years
Because our wives don't shed no tears*

*We are the D-Day Dodgers in sunny Italy
We are the D-Day Dodgers way out in Italy
We're always tight, we cannot fight
What bloody use are we?*

You sense an undercurrent of bitterness in the song, and I guess many soldiers felt that way. They also took a kind of perverse pride in the term “D-Day Dodgers.” For those of us who had come from Third Division units like The Queen's Own Rifles, there was a strange feeling that perhaps the term hit too close to home. By the end of 1944 we wondered why we weren't fighting with the rest of the Canadians.

While we were at Angani, the mail caught up with us with the usual letters from home and Care packages. My mother used to send me parcels with socks and toiletry items but mostly cigarettes, even though I didn't smoke. I gave them all to others who did and kept the boys in the Regimental Aid Post supplied. The Aid Post had to be manned twenty-four hours a day and it seemed that most of the medics always had a cigarette hanging out of the mouths. Cigarettes were like money and were very inexpensive for the folks at home. On the black market however, a thousand cigarettes sold for twenty-seven dollars, almost a month's pay for a private. We read of the booming war economy where everyone had a good paying job and our peers were going dancing, skating and to the movies. Rationing was a slight hardship for the folks at home and one of the reasons I sent money home regularly. But those sacrifices were nothing compared to the sacrifices our soldiers were making. I think especially of the men who died, buried in the dark Italian soil, never to return to Canada.

(“Born Lucky” is one of several other titles in the “Voices of War” series produced by Vanwell Publishing, St. Catharines, Ontario. Copies of the book are available at The Queen's Own Rifles Kit Shop.)

He "Came From Away" and he's glad he did

Tom Midgley

Every member of the extended Queen's Own Rifles family should take advantage of the Regimental Website at qor.com. Tom Midgley found it useful when he discovered the newly-formed Newfoundland and Maritimes Association was planning a reunion for 2004. Here's his account of the trip he took, which he posted on the website but which you might have missed.

I "came from away" to attend the first reunion of the Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association in St. John's, Newfoundland. It took place on September 11, 2004 at the #1 Legion on Blackmarsh Road in St. John's. It was a privilege to be able to attend.

The motto "Once in the Queen's Own, Always in the Queen's Own" is ever so true. The years spent with buddies during the late 50's in Calgary with the 1st Battalion was truly a family-building experience. It was time to resurface "The Family Tree" and here was my opportunity. I was perusing the Queen's Own website in late spring and noticed an advertisement regarding this pending reunion.

Recognizing John Metcalfe's name (he is now the first president of the Newfoundland/Labrador Branch) from my Q.O.R.'s past in the 50's I contacted him. Over the past 40 some years, memories of my life and friends I had made in the 1st Battalion, in Calgary have often surfaced. Always wondering where these

men were and what they had done with their lives haunted me. The internet had allowed me to find some but many still remained a mystery.

Delaying our summer travel plans until late August, we headed east in our motor home. Leisurely making our way to North Sydney and then taking the ferry on the long route to Argentia, we landed on Newfoundland. John had given us a contact name once we reached St. John's. What a kind gesture because we did contact Bill Hayes for some much appreciated assistance.

On September 11 we arrived at #1 Legion eager to meet some old faces. John and his organizing crew had everything beautifully arranged. He was at the entrance ready to greet everyone. Name tags had been prepared and those CFA's were given Newfoundland pins. An area with Queen's Own memorabilia had been laid out. A large Q.O.R. flag was displayed in front of the head table. For a period of time some Q.O.R. military band music resounded throughout the hall setting the tone for the evening. Some of the men proudly wore the Association's Green Jacket and tie ensemble.

As people started to arrive I was amazed how many I could still recognize without having to look at their name tag and I was impressed to learn they had lived fruitful and interesting lives, choosing many different vocations, after leaving the service.

The surprise entrance of Major-General Lewis MacKenzie was a real treat. He mingled so easily among the men and gave a speech recalling his years in the Queen's Own and also congratulating the efforts put forth to establish this very new branch of the association and wished them nothing but success. He happened to be on the island attending a car racing event - one of his passions.

The Legion Auxiliary graciously served a delicious meal and after a brief business meeting the evening turned into a real toe tapping experience. My wife and I loved to hear the Newfoundland music and joined in some of the dances. But, just try and out-dance a Newfoundlander. They are amazing dancers.

Because of this reunion I learned the whereabouts of several and sadly the passing of guys who had died young. One of my dear friends could not make it to the reunion so arrangements were made for us to visit him up on the north shore of Newfoundland. We spent several days in a fishing village allowing us to experience the terrain and a way of life foreign to us. It was a one-of-a-kind experience. Before leaving the island I was also able to locate another army friend who lives towards St. Anthony - but that will be another trip.

I know many people put a tremendous amount of time and effort into establishing this branch of the association and the successful first reunion. Congratulations!



Visit the QOR webpage at www.qor.com

A busy couple of years for the Calgary Branch members

Ralph Ridley

It has been an exciting and very busy two years for the Calgary Branch of the QOR of C Association!

In the summer of 2004, at the request of the then-HLCol Paul and his wife Bev Hughes, many of the Branch members came together as a team to mount the QOR2005 Reunion. What a wonderful success!

Following over a year of planning and preparation on Friday the 3rd of June, over 525 Riflemen and Rifewomen gathered at the University of Calgary MacEwan Hall to register and participate in the 'Meet and Greet'. Met by either Ken Moynahan or Bob Titus, transportation was provided for those arriving at the Calgary airport, and accommodation was provided at the University of Calgary student accommodation, where either Gary Jackson or Al Polowick met them.

During the Registration participants were issued a regimental 'tote bag' containing letters of welcome from the Co-Chair/HLCol, the Mayor and the Premier of Alberta. Also included was a Reunion souvenir crested letter-opener; nametags; poems by renowned poet Billy Willbond; various pins; the story of the 'Ridley' tube; Calgary & Alberta travel brochures; a CD of 'pictures from the past'; and many other items of interest. Under the leadership of Ken Barrett the Reunion Kitshop did a booming business! As did the Draw-table manned by John Friedt. Many a tearful but joyful reunion took place, particularly for those soldiers and wives who hadn't seen each other for 30 or 40 years - including two soldiers who served with the 2nd Battalion in Korea and hadn't seen each other for 50 years!

The President of the Calgary Branch John Cresswell acted as the Reunion Sgt-at-Arms, whilst the ever-efficient Branch Secretary and Treasurer Louise & Clay Hodder ran the Registration.

We were honoured to have Herb Pitts as our featured speaker during the Meet and Greet on the 3rd of June, and Charlie Belzile during the dinner on the 4th. Both spoke eloquently of our Regiment. The Master of Ceremonies Don Ethell introduced Herb and

Lew MacKenzie introduced Charlie. Following the Co-Chair Paul Hughes' welcoming remarks and those of the HCol Don Pryer, the President of the Regimental Trust Fund Adam Hermant gave attendees an update on the Regimental Trust Fund. Then, the Commanding Officer of the Reserve unit in Toronto, LCol Martin Delaney - accompanied by his RSM Scott Patterson - presented a brief report of the many dynamic activities of the QOR of C unit in Toronto.

One met many members of the various Association Branches from across Canada (ie Vancouver Island (Pres Ira MacDonald), Newfound/Maritimes (Pres John Metcalfe), Toronto (Pres Bob Dunk) and Calgary (Pres John Cresswell). And many individual Riflemen and Rifewomen from across Canada, the UK, USA and Australia!

With the exception of a few who wished to travel to Banff, the next morning (ie Saturday the 4th) all ranks gathered in MacEwan Hall for the traditional substantial Stampede breakfast - with Western music. In the afternoon, bus tours were arranged for participants to visit Spruce Meadows; the Museum of the Regiments and the local Legion Branch #264. All bus transportation was arranged to return to the University residential areas by 1630 hrs, in order to prepare for the reception and Regimental Reunion dinner.

At 1800 hrs on Saturday the 4th, the doors to MacEwan Hall opened for the arrival of our guests for the QOR2005 Reunion dinner. The ladies were in their finery, and the gentlemen were dressed appropriately with medals dangling for all to see. World War II veterans, Korea veterans, 27th Brigade veterans, Cold War veterans, Peace Support Operations veterans and soldiers from the QOR of C unit in Toronto, and their ladies. And our beloved widows and widowers. What a grand gathering!

At the commencement of the dinner the Reunion Sgt-at-Arms John Cresswell marched in 'The Rifle party'. The Rifle was carried by Ken Barrett and escorted by John Hearn and Clay Hodder. The Drumline and the two Regimental buglers from Toronto,

Sgts Gus Amodeo and George Walford greeted their arrival.

Padre Boom Marsaw (past CO 1 QOR of C) gave the blessing, and John Sharpe toasted the ladies. And of course we toasted HM, HRH and the Regiment. During the dinner, the many pictures (ie 334) collected prior to the Reunion were silently video'd on two large screens over the stage. A trip down memory lane!! Each table was decorated with Regimental and Canadian flags, and supplied with souvenir Regimental place-mats and program.

During the latter part of the dinner, the 'Drumline' (under command of Sgt (ret) Bob Zubkowski, PPCLI) performed a stirring 'black-light' stick drill. What great memories from days gone by! Bob and his lads received a standing ovation - and were subsequently toasted by Ray Crabbe, Paul Hughes and John Cresswell. The Sgt-at-Arms also 'marched-in' the University of Calgary catering staffs to receive our thanks.

Following dinner and at the conclusion of the farewell remarks by the HCol Don Pryer and the HLCol Paul Hughes, the attendees danced to the music of the "Big Band" of Springbank Alberta.

Throughout the Reunion many pictures were taken, including those snapped by the official photographer who subsequently provided a 669 picture CD for all attendees, compliments of Mrs Bev Hughes, President of Mark Staffing Solutions Inc.

It was the consensus of all that our beloved Regiment, serving and retired is 'alive and well'. We have proven that many members of the Regiment and their families are keenly interested in the history and activities of the Regiment - and wish to maintain ties with the Queen's Own.

All that to say that - without interfering with the official celebrations of our 150th anniversary in April 2010 "We are going to do it again in June of 2010!!!"

"Once in the Queen's Own, always in the Queen's Own!"

Calgary Reunion 2005



LCol Martin Delaney, current CO 3rd Bn and RSM Scott Patterson



Herb Pitts and Charlie Belzile are "White Hatted" by the City of Calgary



MGen Herb Pitts MC



Hon Col BGen Don Pryde



Mary Campbell, Jean and Glenn McIvor



LCol Martin Delaney, Joan and Bernie Aaron, Don Pryde

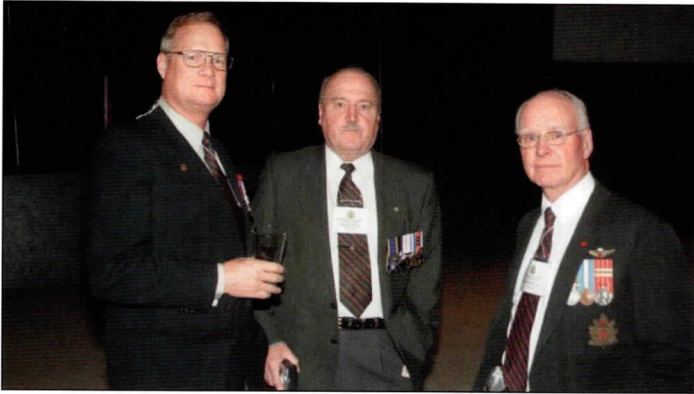


The Bugles and the Rifle. "Thank You, Calgary Branch"



Marie Dalton, Linda Ethell, Bev Hughes share a joke

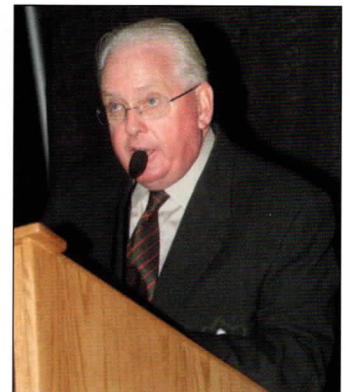
Calgary Reunion 2005



LCol Steve Brand, Maj Harry McCabe, former 3rd Bn CO Grahame Baskerville



Sgt at Arms John Cresswell



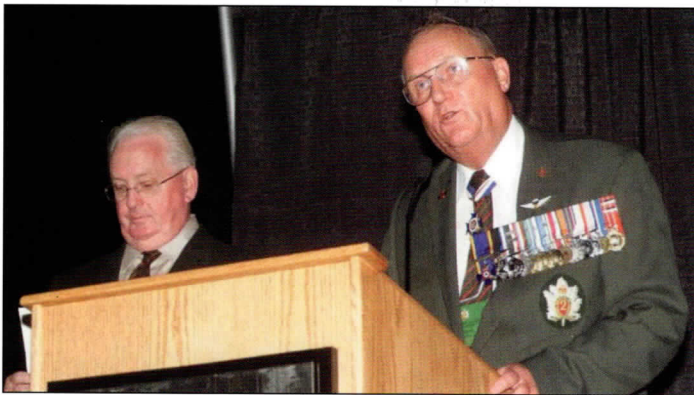
Hon LCol Paul Hughes, Co-Chair



QOR of C Regimental Buglers Sgt Gus Amodeo and George Walford



Rifle Party: QMSI Ken Barrett w/escorts John Hearn, Clay Hodder



Paul Hughes and Reunion Coordinator/MC Don Ethell



Vancouver Branch: Paulette Harnois, Pres. Ira MacDonald, Nina and Hank Harrington



Veronica Higgins, Dick Cowling, Brenda Crabbe, Charlie Belzile



Queen's Own Rifles Korean War Veterans of the 1st and 2nd Battalions

Calgary Reunion 2005



Margene Brown, Arlene Albrecht, Dr. Rosanne Way, Jeannie Pendlebury



Jean McIvor, LGen Charlie Belzile, Brenda Crabbe, Col Dick Cowling applaud the Drum Line



Sgt-at-Arms John Cresswell, LGen Ray Crabbe, Co-Chair Col Paul Hughes



LGen Charlie Belzile, Col Don Ethell, MGen Lew MacKenzie



LGen Charlie Belzile, Reunion 2005
Featured Dinner Speaker



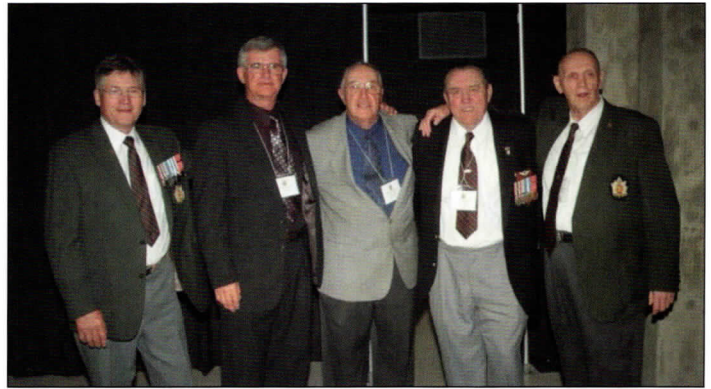
Marie Dalton with her daughter and granddaughter, Beverly and Danielle Dalton-Bucholz



Reunion Co-Chair Bev Hughes with Hon Col Don Pryer



Maj John Doerksen, former CO QOR of C Regimental Depot and LGen Charlie Belzile, former Canadian Army Commander

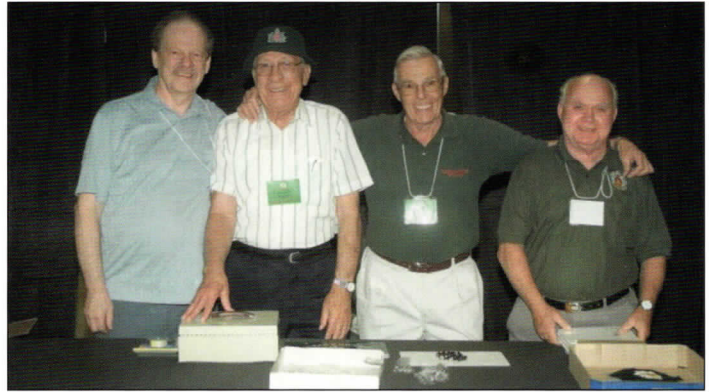


Les Drover, Pat Blanchard, Len Belanger, Len Quinlan, Bill Noseworthy

Calgary Reunion 2005



Shirley Titus and Louise Hodder at the Registration Desk



Kitshop Team: Bill Galloway, John Hearn, Branch QM/Team leader Ken Barrett, Lou Point



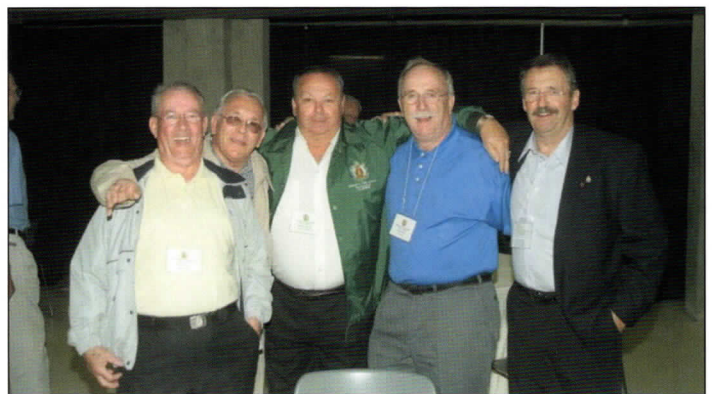
Registration Team: Shirley Titus, Louise Hodder, Clay Hodder



Irene White and Shirley Tucker exchange memories about Germany with the 1st Bn '60-'63



RSM Jim Carroll tells Maj Ed Pearson why he should have joined the 2nd Bn



"Down Homers" Ed Jackman, John Metcalfe, Wayne Thomas, Tom Martin, Bill Collins



LCol Steve Brand, former 3rd Bn CO and Trust Fund President Capt Adam Hermant



Gord Hryhoryshen, Bill Mountain, Gen Lew MacKenzie, Ev Mountain

QOR2005 Reunion Calgary 04 June 2005

Toast to "the Ladies" by Rifleman John Sharpe

*All Riflemen present will agree that our accomplishments
were only made possible by the support of our ladies.
Regrettably, not all our ladies are present this evening.
But, be they here in person or spirit, I offer the following:*

This tribute to our ladies is sincere & fun, we Riflemen happily honour you, for what you've done.
It was a life like no other in many ways, and we enjoy thinking back to those days.
As soldiers we worked hard but were too often away, as you made ends meet, with what was left of our pay.
You took on a job, larger than most others, you were dedicated, resourceful, wonderful mothers.
You looked after our children when we were away, giving love, guidance & stability every day.
Concern for your family came shining through, no time to play, too much to do.
Like driving the kids to activities and sports, Brownies, cubs, hockey and crisis of all sorts.
Moving vans were common every year or so, you worked very hard getting ready to go.
And then it was off to an exciting new place, knowing you would be happy on any Base.
We talked about marching like it was a chore, but you ladies 'marched in and out, of many a door'.
Remember 'weepers' on those Friday nights, you waited up and finally turned out the lights.
But on Saturday morning our sleep was cut short, you said get up, the kids need you – be a sport!
Although tired some evenings you put on your smile, and accompanied us to the mess, in your usual great style.
Many babies were born while we were away, and you helped each other, every step of the way.
Many memories, many wonderful people you met, being a lady of a soldier you'll never forget.
Always taking care of us, we are truly blessed, we couldn't do without you – you are the very Best!
So it's time gentlemen time to stand up for our ladies, and toast them for their partnership, support & our babies.

"THE LADIES!"

Regimental Headquarters

Donald S. Ethell Regimental Adjutant

Following the assumption of their respective duties in November 2005, the HCol Col Paul Hughes and HLCol Col Dick Cowling, the HCol established a set of Priorities, and announced the structure and Terms of Reference for the newly-formed Regimental Headquarters. His intent is to remove the large "Regimental" burden from the Operational Unit in Toronto.

In order to meet HCol's direction, LCol Bob Campbell has been appointed the Regimental Secretary; Maj David Vine has been appointed as the Regimental Major; and I am honoured to be appointed the QOR of C Regimental Adjutant. Capt Charles McGregor is the Regimental Communications Officer including duties as the editor for both the Powder Horn and The Rifleman.

Included in Regimental Headquarters is Capt Adam Hermant, the President of the Regimental Trust Fund; Bob Dunk as the President of the QOR of C Association; and Andrew McNaughton as the manager of the Regimental Kit Shop.

To date, a series of mailing lists (ie 15 in total) have been created. These comprehensive rolls include nominal rolls of the Unit, RHQ, Senate, Trust Fund, each of the Association Branches, 'International List, 'Friends of the Regiment', etc – all of which are included in the Master Mailing List. This effort is to ensure that ALL members of the Regimental family receive timely information regarding our fine Regiment.

As you're probably aware the QOR2005 Reunion held in Calgary during June 2005 was an outstanding success. Along with other initiatives, be assured that the planning has commenced for the celebration of our 150th anniversary in April of 2010, including another Regimental Reunion. The outline plan includes a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent, hopefully including her participation in the QOR of C's Ceremonial Guard performance in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, and then visits to many Queen's Own members and their families in Toronto, Calgary and Victoria.

(403) 243-0029 - dsethell@allstream.net

Remembering HRH Princess Alexandra's 1985 Visit

In November 1985, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, The Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, made her last visit to The Regiment, so it was thought appropriate to mark the 20th anniversary of that visit in the issue of The Rifleman devoted to activities during 2005.

It was LCol J.G.B Strathy's tasking in 1985 to chair a committee to develop and carry out a program honouring The Queen's Own Rifles on The Regiment's 125th Anniversary and to arrange for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief. Post-event he was given much deserved credit for its success and as a further tribute to him we are printing a slightly abridged version of his account of the visit, as it appeared in the 1985 issue of The Rifleman. It will not only bring back fond memories of the visit for many Queen's Own personnel, it will also serve to provide those who have joined in the past 20 years how much this much-loved member of the British Royal Family means to her Regiment and its soldiers.

“THE VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HONOURABLE ANGUS OGILVY, NOVEMBER 6 TO 10, 1985.



Placing a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice

The Colonel-in-Chief and Mr. Angus Ogilvy arrived in Ottawa on Wednesday, November 6. From that moment, until Sunday November 10 at the Hilton Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, the royal visit to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was an overwhelming success.

Our first glimpse of the Royal Couple was at the Toronto International Airport where Her Royal Highness was presented

with a bouquet of flowers by Alisa Louise Budden (6) a regimental daughter. The Royal Couple were then introduced to regimental dignitaries and Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Mrs. Alexander. We next saw them at a luncheon in the Sutton Place Hotel given by the Premier of Ontario, David Peterson and Mrs Shelley Peterson. Before the luncheon Princess Alexandra held one of her famous “walkabouts” with the guests. This familiar custom was started by her many years ago and has since become an established and successful part of royal visits.

The following day, Her Royal Highness and Angus Ogilvy were guests for dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Craig Eaton. After dinner they were honoured at the CNE Coliseum to receive the traditional guard of honour from The Regiment. Before opening the Royal Winter Fair, Her Royal Highness and Mr. Ogilvy rode around the ring in an open landau to the applause of the red and black-coated opening night audience. The following day, Saturday, turned out to be the coldest day of this November month and The Regiment had to scramble to adjust to the inclement weather for a parachute drop at CFB Borden. The Princess arrived back the hotel by 1600hrs for free time and shopping at Eaton Centre.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 125th anniversary dinner was held on Saturday night for all ranks. The highlight was RSM Duncan toasting The Queen on behalf of The Regiment. Head table guests included Capt Bernie Aaron, President of The Queen's Own Rifles Association, LCol Bill Barnard, curator of The Regimental Museum, Hon. Colonel Brig. Neil J. Gordon, Hon Col. Jack Lake, and their ladies. The head table was completed when LCol Grahame Baskerville, Connie Baskerville and Her Royal Highness and Angus Ogilvy proceeded to the Metropolitan Room to officially welcome 600 all ranks to the magnificent dinner.

New Honorary Colonel's Message to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Colonel Paul Hughes CD

(Cont'd from previous page)

Grace was said by Col Lake, the Loyal Toast was proposed by WO Duncan Green and HRH replied with a toast to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Many cuttings of birthday cake and presentation of gifts to Her Royal Highness officially ended the dinner. The Royal Couple then mingled with the guests for a half hour and retired to the royal suite to chat about the highlights of their visit.

On Sunday, Her Royal Highness, dressed in bright red, arrived at St. Paul's Church where Princess Alexandra and Mr. Ogilvy were met by the commanding officers. The Regiment was formed up in front of the Cross of Sacrifice. After the laying of the wreaths (see photo) presentations were made by the Venerable Canon Dann, Rev. Dr. Leonard Griffith, the wardens and church administrator. The Regimental Church Service finished with the bugles playing Last Post and God Save The Queen.

The Mayor Toronto, His Worship Arthur Eggleton and Mrs. Eggleton presented the City of Toronto aldermen and their spouses at a reception prior to a luncheon hosted by the City. The luncheon in honour of The Regiment was for 500 guests. Her Royal Highness met practically everyone who was associated with The Regiment as all the guests were from all ranks, past and present. Her Royal Highness presented the Rifleman of the Year awards to the Royal Canadian Legion President, Gus Goutouski and Joyce Reddin, General manager of RHQ.

Farewells, as all wonderful things have to come to an end. The Commanding Officer, Hon Colonel and Hon Lt Colonel, with their wives and Miss Joyce Brocklehurst, were presented with a framed photograph of Her Royal Highness and Angus Ogilvy in honour of the visit.

There wasn't a great deal of free time for the Princess during her visit, as almost every minute of her time was spoken for. Those of us who came in contact with her throughout the weekend can realize how charming and popular she is. Princess Alexandra has been our Colonel-in-Chief for 25 years and her enthusiasm for The QOR is as ardent today as it was in 1960.

It was my distinct honour to assume the position of Honorary Colonel from my predecessor, Brigadier General Don Pryer, on 5 November 2005. As I mentioned on parade, his will be very big shoes to fill as he has, for a number of years, devoted his considerable energy and resources to the Regiment he loves.

Since assuming my new appointment I have been busy with some projects near and dear to my heart. The first was the re-establishment of the concept of a Regimental Headquarters as distinct from the BOR. The concept is that the Commanding Officer, his Officers and Senior NCO's have more than their hands full with the increased tempo of Operations and Training. In order to allow the CO to concentrate on his primary responsibility a RHQ organization has been established to run all the many Regimental affairs that don't come under the heading of "Ops and Trg". I am pleased to report that Colonel Don Ethell has agreed to take over the Regimental Adjutant's position. I am sure we will be hearing more from him over time and his many organizational talents will be called upon in spades as we ramp up for QOR 2010.

Another project that came to fruition lately was the purchase of busbies for the Regimental Band and Bugles. I have been working on this project for what seems like years and I am happy to report they were recently received and issued to all

band members. In addition I am also looking for a supplier of capes for the band that can be worn in inclement weather but will not interfere with the playing of their instruments. I hope to have these in place by the opening of the Dalton Armoury and the Regimental weekend on 22 April 2005.

By 22 April I hope to have an oil painting completed of Major C.O. Dalton, DSO, assaulting a German pillbox on D Day with his pistol, of all weapons, ready for presentation to the OC Buffs Company at the opening of the Dalton Armoury. As an aside, the painting was completed by Katherine Taylor, the same artist who completed the Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, VC, painting which now resides in the Sergeants' Mess in Moss Park Armoury.

Mrs Beverley Hughes and I were in the UK this summer and had occasion to attend the 250th Anniversary Reunion and Parade of the KRRC, a most well run and humbling affair. In company with LCol and Mrs Delaney and the RSM CWO Scott Patterson we also visited our Colonel-in-Chief at Buckingham Palace. We expressed our condolences at her loss of her husband, Sir Angus Ogilvy, and brought her the good wishes of all her Riflemen in Canada.

All the best from Mrs Hughes and myself to all the Riflemen and their families and I am looking forward to a very successful 2006.



RSM Scott Patterson, Mrs. Beverley Hughes, Col. P.F. Hughes, HRH Princess Alexandra, LCol Martin Delaney and Mrs. Deborah Delaney.



RSM Scott Patterson, HRH Princess Alexandra and LCol Martin Delaney

The Cowling Trophy Competition puts "Infanteers" through their paces

Lt Shawn M. Stewart, 2005 Cowling Competition OPI

The Cowling Trophy Competition, held on the last training day of every Common Army Phase (CAP) serial held at the Infantry School at CTC Gagetown, is named after Colonel Richard L. Cowling (Ret), CO of the Infantry School in 1975 and currently the Honorary LCol of The Queen's Own.

During the 2005 training year the serial was run three times, with two platoons in the fall and winter and in the summer with eight platoons. As the culminating point of each CAP, this platoon competition gives the candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have gained while on course. The compe-

tition includes an obstacle course, a 13km battle efficiency test with fireman's carry, a gun match using C7, C9 and pistol, a C9 LMG strip and assemble stand, a communication stand, an observation stand, kit inspection and a military knowledge written test.

The observation stand is a 50m long by 8m wide lane through a tree line. Ten items are placed along this lane, along with two randomly-placed trip flares. Platoons enter teams of two, who have five minutes to manoeuvre through the lane, making mental note of the objects throughout the lane while not setting off any trip flares. Teams lose one member for

every flare tripped. At the finish teams write down what they observed, for score.

The CO of the Infantry School extends an invitation to Col Cowling to fly from his home in London to Gagetown each year so he can march with the candidates and be there to present his trophy to the winning platoon. Col Cowling has been to every competition and always gives an inspiring speech to our future leaders followed by spending some time with the candidates and sharing stories of his many great days as a leader in the Canadian Armed Forces, an excellent tradition indeed.



Montage photo by Cpl Simard of the Infantry School in Gagetown.



Col Dick Cowling, Lt. Shawn Stewart

2881 Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps

Kevin McLean, Cadet Liaison Officer

Thirty-five years ago the Scarborough Army Cadet Corps was formed at Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate in West Hill by the high school principal and other interested people in the area. They approached my Legion -- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 Highland Creek -- which became the sponsor for this fine Corps. The Queen's Own Rifles adopted the Corps a few years later and we became part of an excellent regimental family.

Our cadets perform various duties throughout the year as well as taking part in parades with The Regiment and

the Legion. The Queen's Own has also adopted the Legion through its association with the cadets and we are proud of this as well.

We have two officers with the Corps who started as privates and have gone through the ranks to where they are today -- Captain Jon Lee and Lieutenant Sean Bridge. Others have moved on to The Queen's Own as new recruits, so the Corps has become a part of the recruitment for The Regiment.

We have had many Commanding Officers over the years and among these

are some I remember particularly well -- the late Capt. Doug Silzer, Capt. Jon Lee and the current Commanding Officer, Capt. Calvin Facey. I'd also like to mention the late Capt. Captain Gord Roach, who came from a military background and was the person that we all knew as "The Colonel." His wife Dorothy is still a big part of the Corps and still attends functions and parades to see as she says "Her Cadets." Mrs. Silzer is also still involved with the Corps, working diligently with the support committee for this group of young men and women.

A busy and rewarding year for Victoria Company in 2005

Capt Allan Champion CD

Vics Coy is the Combat Service Support Company within the battalion. This year it was organized with regimental stores, transport and signals sections in one platoon and recruit training in Gurkha platoon.

The company operated well with experienced people in many key positions. Sgt Cecil Parris and Capt Robert Tremblay worked with instructors and the battle school to ensure that new riflemen were qualified to carry on our traditions of service to the country. Capt Tremblay also acted as my company 2IC until leaving for the RHLI when his wife began her career on the other side of Lake Ontario. Sgt Tom Fabry, Sgt Mario Morin and Sgt Hodgson rounded out the leadership in Gurkha company training.

Signals continued to operate well under MCpl Jay Green, Cpl Morgan Illsley and Cpl Desmond Morgan. In addition to keeping us the most organized unit in the Garrison when it came to setting up a CP, they pitched in as instructors for our new infantrymen. Most infantry units in the garrison recognize that when you have to set up a working CP, the QOR is second only to 709 Communications Squadron for providing signalers and working equipment. We are thankful to 709 Comms and Brigade G6 for the provision of support that we earned through the competence of these NCOs. Cpl Mawbey-Puglia is just the latest of personnel that 709 Comms have pro-

vided us in exchange for an opportunity to occasionally work in a parachute environment. Toward the end of the year we were sad to see Cpl Morgan move off to 2 Field Engineers and switch a QOR Big 2 for the CF cornflake badge as he became an untrained Sapper wanna-be. We know he will do well and will not forget he was first in pace paratus with us.

Transport also prospered well under Lt Tia West and Sgt Mike Currie. Lt West had been a trucker in a former life with 25 Svc Bn, so it wasn't too difficult for her to deal with a Sgt with no army drivers license. We did eventually get Sgt Currie off to a summer in training in Meaford where the instructors weren't quite sure how to handle a Sgt in the troops tent lines. However, they didn't drive everywhere on a marching base and he soon found a secondary role transporting his course to meals by French APC. (which roughly translates into by foot). Thanks to a good influx of driver training graduates, the Tn section was large and we were able to enjoy a smooth ride with Cpl "Moose" McCance (2 RCR) later replaced by Cpl Roger Shaver (3 RCR), Cpl Faser Cook and MCpl Dave Pampe. Often forgotten until needed, we also had a maintenance section of one with Cpl Wing Tsang, who continued to provide assistance as a driver when the engines did not need his attention.

The largest of our sections was the

Regimental Quarter-Master Stores. Under Capt John Wilmot, the stores section was our link to the supply chain. It's often difficult but the pains of keeping up the administrative tail were offset by the continued improvement in kitting with the Clothe the Soldier Program and the One-man-one-kit initiative. In this year we not only got tactical vests but we had much of our field kit moved from regimental issue and control to Area Support Unit. This was a difficult transfer of paperwork but now we don't share much of anything anymore. Of course our spouses might not like snowshoes in our closets but it's nice to have the kit we need to deploy. Sgt Ted Howard and his crew were well worked and he's now moved on to the Area CIMIC team. Aply supported by Cpl Rob Gandhu, Cpl Mario Carvalho, Cpl Stafford Simpson. Sgt Howard kept us in bullets and hard tack throughout our training.

There is no way to keep such a fine group of bandits working toward the support of the troops without the administrative support of Cpl Gabriela Stefanenko and the firm grip of WO Mark Shannon. The past year was busy and rewarding. Victoria Company started the year with direct support to both a composite light infantry battalion and a reserve parachute company at Stalwart Guardian 2004 and ended with command and responsibility for the Administration Company at Stalwart Guardian 2005. We stood the tests and exceeded all expectations.

32 Canadian Brigade Group one of ten in Canada

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is one of a dozen units based in Toronto, Aurora, Barrie, Brampton, Georgetown, Oakville and Owen Sound in 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Commanded by Colonel Gary Stafford, CD, 32 CBG was created on April 1, 1997, as one of ten Reserve brigade groups organized across Canada. Its annual operating budget is \$24 Million.

Headquartered in Toronto, 32 CBG's strength is over 2000 soldiers (5 percent Reg Force, 95 per cent Reserves). The Brigade is very diverse -- almost every ethnic group is represented among its soldiers.

Its main role is to produce well-trained Reserve soldiers to enhance Canada's combat capability for operations. As with all Reserve brigades and units, it trains part-time soldiers to serve as the basis of national mobilization; to augment the Regular Force for deployment on both international and domestic operations and to act as the military's link to the community.

Infantry-heavy, among its Regular and Reserve Force soldiers it has two armour reconnaissance regiments (Queen's York Rangers and Governor General's Horse Guards) a field artillery regiment (7th RCA), a field engineer regiment (2 Fd Engr), six infantry battalions (Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 48th Highlanders, Toronto Scottish, Grey & Simcoe Foresters, Royal Regiment of Canada and the Lorne Scots) and a service battalion. As a result of Land Force Reserve Restructure, the brigade has expanded into two new communities with the Queen's Own establishing Buff's infantry company in Scarborough and the Toronto Scottish Regiment setting up a company in Mississauga. 2 Intelligence Company left the brigade and became Area Troops on April 1, 2003. 25 Field Ambulance was transferred to the Canadian Forces Medical Group on September 1, 2003 but maintains a close working relationship with the brigade for training and operations.

Hundreds of 32 CBG soldiers have served on peacekeeping operations around the world and over 100 are now undergoing intensive training prior to deployment to Afghanistan this summer as part of the Canadian task force. The brigade has also played a major role with disaster relief at home, helping Canadians during the 1997 Manitoba flood, January 1998 Ontario/Quebec ice storm and 1999 Toronto snowstorm.

2006 Support to CFO includes: -- OP BOREALIS Bosnia-Herzegovina; Afghanistan ISAF -- 20 soldiers, and UNDOF OP DANACA Golan Heights. Past Support To Canadian Forces Operations: NATO SFOR OPs PALLADIUM and BOREALIS (Bosnia-Herzegovina), NATO KFOR OP KINETIC (Kosovo), UNDOF OP DANACA (Golan Heights). OP ECHO Aviano, Italy, UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) OP REPTILE Sierra Leone. Somalia, Cambodia, Namibia, OP CROCODILE Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“C” Company goes to Bosnia on its six-month “Roto”

Capt Karl Haupt

Muslim refugees run into the woods, crowd into trucks, some are shot dead while trying to escape a Serb onslaught. Serb refugees form endless convoys of tractors, fleeing a Croatian advance. Blackened skeletons of the buildings shape Sarajevo's skyline. Mediators and politicians wring their hands, wondering how to stop the wars in former Yugoslavia, whose waves of wrenching violence have provoked such public outrage.

(Excerpted from "Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation" by Laura Silber and Allan Little, which one reviewer described as drawing on "hundreds of interviews with politicians, soldiers, and citizens to bring readers behind the scenes of Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.")

Canada entered the Former Republic of Yugoslavia as part of the International Community in 1992 when it joined in UNPROFOR, the United Nations Protection Force (which later became IFOR, the Implementation Force, with the signing of the Dayton Accords, and finally became SFOR, the Stabilization Force, when NATO took over the lead of this mission from the U.N.) In October of 2003 the first Complete Reserve Company rotated into BiH as part of the Royal Canadian Dragoon Battle Group.

C Company began its training as a formed sub-unit in March of 2003. EX COLD FUSION brought together troops from every Reserve Infantry regiment in Ontario. Representing the Queen's Own Rifles were Rfn Vince Marmion, Cpl Tony Bahsous, Cpl Mick Bioletti, Cpl Rich Mitchell, Sgt Chris Van Hamme, WO Mark Shannon, Lt Patrick Slack and Capt Karl Haupt. Also present were MCpl Kevin Colwill and MCpl Krister Pohjolainen, and Cpl Robin Walker of the Brockville Rifles.

Two weeks after that frigid exercise many of us began our pre-deployment training. The first week of April WO Alex McKelvey (Lorne Scot/ 32 CBG HQ) and his CQ staff were in Pet setting up the QM and receiving stores from all three reserve brigades. In addition to that the Company ran Driver Wheel and Basic Comms (TCCCS) courses to ensure that we had enough drivers and communicators overseas. It was great running the courses in Pet: we had our own hangar, our own vehicles and radios, and our own offices. The drawback was that we were in Pet in April. Winter still had a firm

grip on Pet and 2CMBG was in Wainwright for its Annual BTE, leaving Pet a frozen ghost town. The courses went as well as could be reasonably expected but the level of instruction and dedication of the instructors and candidates was better than on many other courses. Everyone knew that at the end of the course we wouldn't just be signing a course report and returning to our respective units. Instead, we would be forming up together as part of C Company and heading overseas together.

The training was comprehensive, covering everything from platoon attacks and patrolling to cultural awareness and language training. The Coy 2IC Capt Doug Reid (LFCA HQ) kept a detailed timetable to ensure that we covered off all the training and that the platoon commanders, Lt Pavel Dudek (RFHC), Lt Slack, and Capt Jim Mills (SD&G Highers) didn't stray too far from the Battle Task Standards. At the same time the Pl 2IC's, WO Dave Mann (RHLI), WO Shannon, and WO Pat Woods (Hast&PER) worked to correct the administrative shortfalls of their troops.

All this training culminated with EX STORMING BEAR and EX BALKAN DRAGOON. These were the final tactical exercises of pre-deployment training. If we were successful on these exercises, the CO, Col D.J. Milner (RCD) could declare the Battle Group OPRED (operationally ready). The goal of these exercises was to simulate the time and space conditions in BiH, so BG HQ, A Sqn, 23 Field Sqn and 2 Pl of C Coy were stationed in Kingston. 1 Pl (now under command of Lt Mike Perrault (Hast&PER)), 3 Pl and C Coy HQ were stationed in Brockville and B Coy 1 RCR were in Trenton. That put us at least two hours away from any friendly reinforcements in the event that we got into trouble. After five months of training C Coy functioned as a single unit during high tempo operations. C Coy completed its assigned missions (OP's SMOKEY, TAILGATE, SQUIRREL, FIRESTONE, and POS-SUM) with few problems, and was declared OPRED. As we turned in our kit and went for

pre-deployment leave we knew that the next time we would be together would be in Bosnia.

For C Coy rotation into Bosnia took seven flights spaced over 14 days. Right from the word "Go" C Coy was active. During the handover of the camp a local individual (a mid-level player in the local organized criminal organization known as the 502 Gang) was seen taking pictures of our camp and had even prodded the HESCO bastion with a knife. Hearing this, Maj Hobbs planned OP OGRE. As soon as all of C Coy was on the ground the OC called up reinforcements from in the form of a LAV section from B Coy and a Sapper det from 23 Field Sqn, and early one morning C Coy paid said individual a visit. Shortly thereafter, said individual left the country for an extended vacation at his dacha in Albania. After that C Coy settled into a routine in the camp. Through the OP VG's C Coy searched over a thousand homes gathering valuable information and seizing several hundred illegal firearms (including heavy machineguns), grenades and explosives. On OP WINCHESTER we verified weapons stored in V Corps cantonment sites. We investigated possible paramilitary training camps in Zeljava on OP MERCEDES, and looked into reports of illegal logging in Canton 10 on OP TANNENBAUM.

During all this we also had other duties that needed to be covered off to keep us safe, secure and sane while we were in camp. Cpl Mitchell joined the camp fire-fighting squad. The squad's primary responsibility was to respond to any fires or other emergencies. Fortunately, the squad received a lot of training but did not have to respond to a real emergency. Cpl Shriner (CFMS) ran



Back from Bosnia: Cpl Vince Marmion, WO Mark Shannon, Col Tony Bahsous, Capt Karl Haupt, Lt Pt Slack and Sgt Chris Van Hamme.

(Cont'd from previous page) a First

a First Responder course in camp. With the help of Pte Proulx and WO Bond he taught everything from checking a casualty's pulse and blood pressure to extracting a casualty with a spinal injury from a vehicle. Even though he taught only one serial Cpl Shriner had to teach each lesson twice because there was no way to get all eight course candidates in the camp at the same time. Several members of 1 Pl became guest DJ's on Radio Oxygen, the CF's main propaganda vehicle in BiH. Some, like MCpl Small became big hits with the local kids. On his hip hop radio show DJ Smalley told kids not to play with landmines and to turn in any firearms they had at home.

We also had to practice "Blue Light" scenarios, mass casualty events involving NATO personnel. The Task Force medic that ran the training would set up an accident scene and then call one of the camps for assistance. On five occasions we dispatched the QRF to the scene. Once there, the QRF commander set up a cordon to protect the casualties and to allow the medics and maintainers to work in a safe area. During slow periods these exercises kept the sections busy. During high-tempo periods we had to strip everyone out of the camp except for the gate guard, the cooks, the clerk and the CQ.

Three months into our tour we began the tear down of Camp Courcelette. C Coy moved to Camp Black Bear in VK. As part of the force reduction, we also changed from a combat-oriented Company to a MOST organization (Most is Serbo-Croat for "bridge"). The goal was to test the new organization to see if it could maintain the same situational awareness as a Battle Group and if so, the model would be adopted by the incoming European Union Police Mission when the Battle Group handed over the AO.

After six months we were ready to head home. We'd spent half a year patrolling the country keeping the peace and waving the flag. It was a lot of hard work, day in and day out 6 - 7 days a week but we built on the achievements of the 12 Roto's before us and we definitely left the country a little better than we found it.

We repatriated in early 2004 with no major injuries or charges. The end of the tour also marked the end of C Coy. Being formed specifically for this tour we were stood down on repatriation, with everyone dispersing back to his or her parent regiment. Even though C Coy is no more we will always have the memories of our time in Bosnia.



Capt Karl Haupt and Capt Pat Slack take a short time-out in their busy schedule in Bosnia.

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund Capt Adam Hermant, President

The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Trust Fund was originally conceived and nurtured by certain Officers of the Regiment, most notably Sir Henry Pellat in the mid to late 1920's. Over the years a few dedicated officers continued to manage the affairs of the 'informal trust'. On the first day of September, 1959 (and subsequently amended the third day of May 2004) a trust was formalized by Agreement and Declaration as The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund. The original trustees were: LCol His Honour Judge Ian M. MacDonell, MBE, VD., Col J.G.K. Strathy, OBE, ED, LCol Charles O. Dalton, DSO, LCol John O. Crean, LCol N. Charles Bradshaw, LCol Roland A. Harris, OBE., and Maj Edward A. Dunlop OB., GM.

The trustees who preside over the affairs of the trust today are: Chairman, LCol John G. Strathy, CD, President, Capt Adam B. Hermant, CD, Ost.J., Secretary-Treasurer, Maj Tony I.W. Schultz, CD., Capt Bernie Aaron, CD., LCol Robert A. Campbell, CD., Mrs. Dorrie E.A. Dunlop, Lt Lionel Goffart, Ost.J, QC., Lt Sam G.S. Hughes, Lt His Honour Judge John Jennings, Maj Norman J.T. McCracken CD., LCol Bruce McEachern, CD, Capt Peter Simundson, CD. (Peter is the curator of the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma), Maj Harry McCabe, MMM, SBSt.J., CD. Trustees are not appointed but rather are nominated from time to time for election as Trustees. The Honorary Colonel, the Commanding Officer

and the President of The Queen's Own Rifles Association are invited to meetings of the Trust Fund as ex-officio members.

The Trustees are charged with the responsibility to raise and receive by way of legacy, bequest, gift or otherwise transfers or contributions in trust for the efficiency, welfare and well-being of the Regiment and its members. In respect of this 'charge' the Trust Fund supports annually: The Cross of Sacrifice and the Book of Remembrance at our Regimental Church, St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street in Toronto; the plaques and other memorials located not only in Canada but in France and the Netherlands where the regiment has served with distinction; our regimental museum at Casa Loma in Toronto and from time to time in Calgary and Victoria; uniforms and uniform accoutrements that are un-funded by DND; kit shop operations; RHQ operations; certain special and significant regimental anniversaries and or functions and most importantly, regimental communications (the Rifleman Journal, the Powder Horn and Website).

As we look at the regimental family nominal roll circa 1959 there were many. Now there are few. Each donation, today, really counts. Tax receipts are provided for each donation of \$10 or more. The Trust Fund encourages you to include the Trust Fund in Wills and Bequests to ensure continuous funding. All of us must get into the habit of giving.

One Can Para Continues to Make Its Presence Felt At Home and Abroad

Jan de Vries President, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association



Canadian War Museum President Joe Guerts accepts medals awarded to Cpl Fred Topham VC from Jan de Vries, President of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association.

It was interesting to read a report written by parachute instructors at the parachute training school in Ringway England in 1943.

"Canadians: A talkative wisecracking but very cheerful crowd of pupils who were keen to do well and achieved their purpose. Despite fast and heavy landings, their enthusiasm never waned and the competitive spirit between the sections was most pronounced."

The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association has been very involved since its inception in the early 1970's but increasingly so in the last few years even with the decline in active membership due to advancing age and ill health of many members. Pilgrimage tours to the Battalion battle areas in Europe began in 1969 and continued every five years. Some years, three bus loads in number. The last tour in 2004 that covered the Battalion battle route from England to Wismar, Germany, where the Battalion met the Russians, consisted of only one bus with 12 battalion members; the rest were family, friends, and a couple of British Paras. Although, the tour in 2004 was considered the last association organized tour to Europe, six of our members traveled individually to Holland in May of

2005 and met at Groesbeek cemetery to pay respects to our fallen. The last self organized Association National reunion took place in Victoria BC in 2002. About 40 members gathered in Edmonton as part of the successful all Airborne gathering in 2003 where a service was held at the Battalion monument at Ex Coelis mountain. About 35 members made it to the Airborne rendezvous held in Petawawa in July of 2005 which was organized by CAFA and the Base as part of the 100th anniversary of CFB Petawawa.

The Association has left many markers behind to remind all of their existence. Some of the footprints left behind in Canada are permanent exhibits at the Citadel in Halifax, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum near Hamilton Airport, the Airborne Museum at CFB Petawawa; plaques and shields in Legions and other Unit Messes; and our Cairn and Ex Coelis Mountain in Alberta. In Europe, there are exhibits in the Airborne Museum in Aldershot, England; in the Memorial Pegasus and the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, and small exhibits in various other museums as well as plaques in our training and Battle areas in the UK, France, Belgium and Holland. For the last 10 years our Battalion has had an exhibit at

the RCMI-sponsored Royal Military Band Concert held at Thomson Hall. Many temporary displays are set up at various venues on request. Also, to help ensure that the Battalion is not forgotten, bursaries are being set up for qualified Para Cadets, and a special category of RMC graduate students. CAFA will present the '1st Can Para Bn Airborne Soldier of the Year Award' annually. The trophy and personal shields were provided by 1st Can Para Bn Association.

There are a number of books written about the Battalion. The first printing of the official battalion history *Out of the Clouds* was in 1981 with a revised edition printed in 1995. *Tip of the Spear* a pictorial history of the Battalion was printed in 2002 and information about the Battalion also appears in numerous other books such as *Airborne*, and *In search of Pegasus*. Out just recently containing stories of upwards of 200 Battalion members is *Boys of the Clouds* by Gary Boegel. Soon to be available is another book by ultimate researcher Ken Joyce who has dug up more details on how the unit was developed, what uniforms and insignia were worn, and how and where the unit fought in relation to what other actions were taking place around them. This book will, no doubt, close the last gap in information about the WWII 'new arm of battle.'

Over the last few years with the renewed interest in veterans our Association has become even more involved and when the "Band of Brothers" was televised on Global TV in the Fall of 2002 their producers included interviews from our Battalion veterans. As a result of those interviews the documentary "Victory from Above" was produced by Lance Goddard of Global TV and has been aired nationally a number of times and probably will be again.

When LCol. John Fotheringham, Capt Chick McGregor, and I formed the fundraising committee to undertake to keep the Cpl. Fred Topham VC and medals in Canada, little did we realize how successful the campaign would be. We are indebted to Kim Mathieson who did a superb job of keeping the books. Not to be forgotten are members of the QOR BOR for their invaluable assistance. Both the QOR and 1st Can Para gained considerable exposure during this campaign.

(Cont'd from previous page)

It was thought there would be a gradual fade away of the Battalion Association but it finds itself still very active despite the advancing age and declining health of its members. Many requests come in from grandchildren and nieces and nephews of Battalion members wanting to know more of their wartime history. Another trend is that a number of our members are sending in information that has been buried since the war. This is important historical information that on which only the persons who actually were involved can shed light. Members are always encouraged to send in what they remember.

Since our members reside in all parts of the country it is becoming increasingly more difficult for a number of them to travel any distance. Even though it is hoped that small local gatherings will continue as much as possible, in the planning stages now is our final national reunion to be held at CFB Trenton in September 2006. LCol. Bruce Ewing and the Paras at the Canadian Parachute Centre have offered assistance.

The designation by VAC of 2005 as 'Year of the Veteran' raised considerable interest by the general public in their military and so far it appears that new Government is re-acting to that interest with more support. It must be said it was the last Liberal government that put in place the recruiting for a new Canadian Forces Special Ops unit to supplement the existing JFT2 unit. Specifications for the new unit resemble the requirements for the WWII 1st Can Para Bn and the late Airborne Regiment. Although senior general officers do not like 'elite' formations, they still want a unit that is better trained, more motivated, and can carry out difficult assignments. But do not call them 'special' or 'elite.'

Certainly in Europe the interest in veterans is very much alive. Holland is promoting tours in May to observe the Liberation of that country although not on the scale of the 50th and 60th anniversaries. Normandy is also sending out notice of D-Day ceremonies. Many children and grandchildren of veterans are now showing an interest in traveling to the Canadian battlefields in Europe. In Canada, it is hoped that the interest generated in veterans over the last few years continues and does not decline in subsequent years.

Recollections of a Regiment

In 1960 Ross Munro, was asked by the Regiment to write a article on his World War II experiences and thoughts on The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Mr. Munro is the well known former war correspondent for the Canadian Press. He landed with The Queen's Own Rifles on D-Day and saw them often throughout the campaign in NorthWest Europe.

"When I think of The Queen's Own Rifles on this proud 100th anniversary, I think of two French and One German town with small arms clattering and the artillery fire drumming and the men of this ancient regiment deep in the heart of battle.

I saw a good deal of the QOR as a war correspondent and these actions were to me highlights of the exploits of the unit as part of the 8th Brigade of the 3rd Division in Northwest Europe.

Of all the QOR battle honours piled up in the century of the Regiment's existence, I would think that the assault landing at Bernieres Sur Mer at H-Hour on that D-Day morning in Normandy is one of the greatest.

Even over the years we can reconstruct it.....the assault landing craft whacking against the waves.....the rifleman crouched behind the ramp, soaking wet and probably seasick....the beach ahead in the gray morning mist....the buildings of Bernieres with the dominant church steeple. Closer, closer to the beach...an eerie silence...then the cannonade from the sea and the ALCs leaping and bounding

around the death-dealing obstacles set to destroy them.

The crafts hit the beach and out pour the QOR.....smack into the face of German machine guns and mortar fire sweeping the sand.....The Canadian tank support hasn't arrived on this beach...yet....the riflemen race for the sea wall...casualties are heavy...decimated platoons work around to the casements and machine gun nests in the dunes and in a wild fury of battle they breach the first lines of coastal defense.

Into shattered Bernieres they pour, driving the enemy out of the houses and shops....they advance into the orchards and wheatfields and the first objectives are reached.

Back on the beach lie the wounded and the dead....QOR and German side by side...the first action of The Queen's Own had been won in spectacular fashion.

I have a vivid recollection of visiting the QOR in a position in the ruins of the little town on the airport.....the unit was dug into cellars and a maze of trenches and Lieutenant-Colonel "Jock" Spragge, the CO, had a dugout that was right out of the first-war play "Journey's End".

This is a personal capsule of one man's memory of the actions of a great and gallant regiment.

LCol JGB Strathy

Memorial to Canadian Volunteers

On the west side of University Avenue in Toronto stands a significant memorial to the men who volunteered to fight for Canada in the Fenian Raids at Limeridge, near Fort Erie, in June, 1866. The memorial on the University of Toronto grounds -- the oldest freestanding monument in existence in the city -- is maintained by Heritage Canada.

Emblazoned on its sides are the names of the men who died during their defence of the frontier. Their names are: Ensign Malcolm McEachern, LCpl Mark Defries, Pvts Chris Anderson, William Smith and

Malcolm Mackenzie. This Canadian Volunteer Monument, stands 15m high and 6m wide and is constructed entirely of brown sandstone. It is four-cornered with life size figurines on each corner -- two angels and two men in period military dress. The top carries a male figurine also in military attire. All are carved in white marble.

Ensign McEachern's uniform is one of the many interesting artifacts in The Queen's Own Rifles Museum at Casa Loma.

LCol JGB Strathy

Saving Corporal Fred Topham's Victoria Cross

Capt Charles McGregor



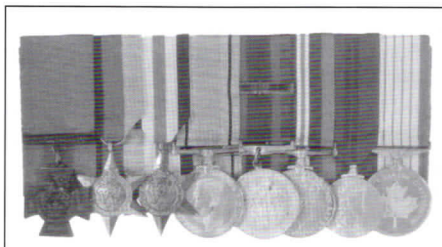
Like a lot of things involving the military, it got its start in the Mess. It was the annual gathering in the Home Station Officer's Mess at Moss Park Armoury at

Christmas of 2002, when members of The Queen's Own joined with their fellow officers from previous years, along with special guests, to enjoy a convivial holiday-time luncheon.

We were in the crush at the bar when I received a tap on the shoulder and heard someone behind me say, "I have a question for you." I turned to see Jan de Vries, President of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association, a marvellous friend of The Queen's Own who had jumped into Normandy on D-Day as well as at the Rhine Crossing. I raised a quizzical eyebrow and he said that, "It looks like Fred Topham's Victoria Cross is going up for sale. Do you think we could raise enough money to buy it?" I said that I thought we could (obviously without thinking about how much work that might entail.) He smiled widely and said, "I'll get back to you to talk about it then."

And that, it appeared, was that. I knew who Cpl Topham was -- a Toronto-born member of 1 CanPara who had survived the wounds he sustained saving several comrades at the Rhine crossing in '45. "Topy", as the former hard-rock miner was known to all, was a 27-year-old medical orderly when he parachuted into battle on March 24, 1945, as one of the last major engagements of WW Two got underway. In the ensuing fierce fight, 23 members of 1 CanPara were killed and 40 more, including Topham, wounded.

For several hours, under constant attack from small arms, rifle fire and heavy machine gun bullets, Topham attended to wounded men. When two other orderlies were killed trying to save a wounded soldier, Topham took over, carrying the



injured paratrooper to shelter, despite being hit in the face by enemy fire. Ignoring his wound the gallant corporal continued for several more hours bringing in more wounded. Before retiring to have his own wound dressed he rescued three soldiers from a burning Bren Gun Carrier as its live ammunition was exploding around them all.

That said, I had forgotten the exchange Jan de Vries and I had that day. Forgot it until the telephone rang about a year later, with LCol John Fotheringham on the line. Fotheringham, at that time Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own, asked me, "Did you tell Jan de Vries that you thought we could raise the money to buy a Victoria Cross?" I said I vaguely remembered saying that and the CO replied with the news that he was Chairman, de Vries was Honorary Chairman and I was going to be responsible for getting the publicity that would be needed to raise the funds to buy Topy's VC from the family. Fotheringham said that a British collector had already offered over \$300,000 for the medal, but the family would like to keep it in Canada, if possible, and had agreed among them to accept \$275,000 -- if it could be found. If not, it was going to Britain, never to be seen again. "Jan and I don't want that to happen," Fotheringham said. And so was launched the Corporal Fred Topham VC, Fundraising Project.

Now, in early April 2005, about a year later, some of those who served with Cpl Fred Topham, VC, posed for what could be their final group photograph in front of a Douglas DC3 (Dakota) at Hamilton's Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. At least 80 years of age, proudly wearing their medals, maroon berets and blazers, some in wheel chairs or on crutches, many

with canes, they were there to pay tribute to their comrade as his VC and war service medals were presented to the Canadian War Museum.

The campaign had raised over \$300,000, largely though the personal efforts of Jan de Vries who, almost always accompanied by his wife Joanne, was never too busy or too tired to visit a school or a Legion or a community where he thought funds could be raised. LCol Fotheringham, who, with his fiancée Kim Mathieson, kept track of the incoming funds, said that "It was absolutely amazing where the money came from. We had donations from absolutely every part of Canada, from Newfoundland to Nunavut, from public school children, to veterans at Sunnybrook, from widows of veterans, from people who just wanted to see the medal stay in Canada -- which was what it was all about."

The Toronto Sun's columnist Peter Worthington, a former platoon commander with the PPCLI during the Korean War, pledged help through his newspaper. Eventually Sun readers from Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Winnipeg and Edmonton, among many other places where the Sun is sold, contributed over \$100,000 towards the eventual total.

De Vries said that, "We cannot begin to thank enough all those who showed their patriotism in this way. Topham's is one of only 95 VCs awarded to Canadians since it was instituted in the 1850s. It's part of our heritage and it belongs here so everyone can have a chance to see it and learn more about our history and the kind of people who volunteered to fight for this country 60 plus years ago."

The Victoria Cross which Cpl Fred Topham earned on a World War Two battlefield now occupies a place of honour with his service medals in the new Canadian War Museum which opened on VE-Day plus 60, 8 May, 2005, at 1 Vimy Place, on LeBreton Flats, in Ottawa. Well worth a visit.

“Queen's Own Riflemen help the poorest of the poor in Africa!”

Rfn Billy Willbond National President International Community for the Relief of Starvation & Suffering (ICROSS)

There are many many Riflemen working behind the scenes for those suffering in Africa.

From across Canada, donated medical supplies have been arriving in the



ICROSS austere warehouse in Victoria for the next container to Malawi, the second poorest country in Africa. ICROSS CANADA is supporting LIFELINE MALAWI in helping to set up a new dispensary where

130,000 people will have access to medical treatment. The 12-bed mini-hospital will also have an attached laboratory.

During the QOR2005 Reunion in Calgary Rfn John-Ward Leighton and Rfn Billy Willbond raised almost \$400 in loonies and toonies, whilst handing out info about the work being done by The Queen's Own. Additionally they hauled back (to Victoria) a truck loaded with five barrack boxes filled with Izzy comfort dolls, prosthetic legs and feet for the mine victims on the Mozambique Malawi Border, all courtesy of the Black Puttee supporters of ICROSS Alberta.

The ICROSS National Patron is MGen (ret) Lew MacKenzie, a true humanitarian. In late 2005, Lew accompanied the ICROSS National President Rfn Billy Willbond to Africa for ICROSS CANADA to personally distribute a container of goods to the 'poorest of the poor'. Further a CTV W5 film crew accompanied Lew and Billy, filming a documentary which was subsequently shown in the Spring of 2005.

There are plans for a fundraiser in the Toronto area. Hopefully Riflemen in the Toronto area will follow the lead of the QOR of C Unit Commanding Officer LCol Martin Delaney who, during the QOR2005 Reunion, promised his support.

Our Alberta Director of ICROSS CANADA, Rfn Don Ethell has gathered and

shipped hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of medical and surgical stores to the poor in the 3rd world. We use the Izzy dolls to pack the medicines with and then when unloaded, have them distributed to the HIV and AIDs Orphans and the children of the poorest of the poor.

ICROSS CANADA re-directed several millions of dollars worth of hard, hands on items, like hospital equipment and wheel chairs and hospital beds etc to the tsunami victims and to other NGOs who are shipping medical supplies to the 3rd world.

ICROSS CANADA volunteers do NOT receive any remuneration, as all our resources go towards gathering and shipping life-saving and ease-suffering medical supplies to the Third world. This is a guarantee to our donors! The last container held \$480,000.00 worth of modern

meds helped ease suffering amongst the poor HIV and AIDS victims in East Africa. The Charity Division of Revenue Canada insists that ICROSS remains accountable and transparent - we are an 'open book' charity. As the investigative reporters who worked on W5's CTV Program said, whilst filming the Heart of Darkness, "ICROSS CANADA is squeaky clean!"

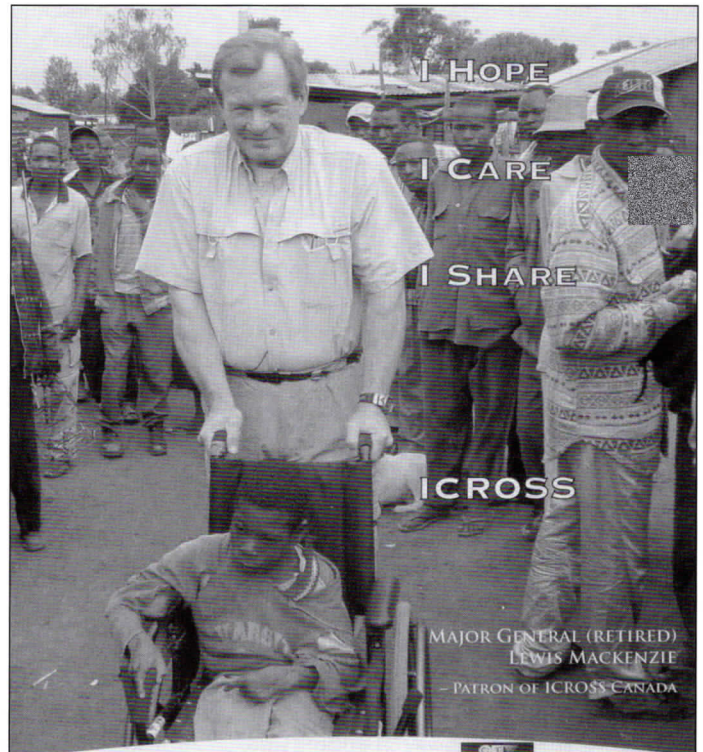
As we approach the day that the "Malawi Container" is ready for final packing in Victoria BC, our Vancouver Island Riflemen will once again come to the fore. Rfn Chink Widenmaier, Rfn George Dobson, Rfn Dave Chalk, Rfn Bill Wilcox, Rfn John

Wilcox, Rfn Merv Sneddon, Rfn Murray Edwards, Rfn Lloyd Bond, Rfn Peter Busby, Rfn Jim Carroll, Rfn Harold Miller and Rfn Ron Chowen and Rfn John Leighton. And many members of their families! God bless them.

They will load the CQ's truck (a donated 19 ton 40 foot sea container) with a fridge for the lab, an X-ray machine, and thousands of dollars worth of modern meds for treatment of the suffering poor in Africa. And once the container is full, similar to the shipment of the last container in 2004, ICROSS Canada shall find donated space on a freighter bound for Africa

Up the Buffs and In Pace Paratus!

<http://icross-canada.com>
www.icross.ca



The overwhelming success of the recent documentary "Heart of Darkness", has led to the donation of over \$3 million worth of medical equipment to assist the world's poor. We at ICROSS Canada thank you for hoping, thank you for caring and thank you for sharing.

ICROSS CANADA IS A BURGEONING, YOUNG, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY. RUN SOLELY BY VOLUNTEERS.

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The Requirement for a Viable Military Parachute Capability in the Canadian Forces Structure

Colonel Richard L. (Dick) Cowling CD

Even before the military imperatives established by the September 11 terrorist attack, the end of the Cold War had exposed us to the uncertainties of rising nationalism, international terrorism, economic and social disparities, population explosion, and loss of control over weapons of mass destruction.

Canada must be involved in discharging its international responsibilities, especially in the war against terrorism and in support of humanitarian operations. Thus the need for flexible combat-capable armed forces, able to be deployed rapidly.

United Nations and NATO multinational forces have responded swiftly to media coverage of humanitarian disasters in Asia, Africa, South America, Central America and Europe. Most if not all deployments have been into areas with the most primitive of infrastructure, or infrastructure made useless by war damage. The difficulty in sustaining task forces assigned to these areas argues strongly for light, fit forces able to operate under very austere conditions and in the most challenging terrain conditions. The requirement to deploy rapidly on a global basis also offers a strong argument for light formations and units. In fact, in many of the world's hotspots, it is the light infantry who are proving to be the most operationally effective (and cost effective) contribution. As has been amply demonstrated, the most effective of the light infantry are the paratroopers.

Since the paratrooper is expected to fight on very light scales, with a minimum of combat and service support, training is aimed at producing a very high standard of light infantryman; one that is readily adaptable to any spectrum of combat, or near combat. While delivery by parachute may appear to be a dated form of deployment, it is still the only way of getting into the hinterlands of many areas of the world including (especially) Canada. Long-range all-weather helicopters, or suitable VSTOL aircraft, may be the way of the future, but they do not yet exist. When they do arrive on the scene there will still be a need for lightly equipped, well-trained, very fit, and highly motivated soldiers to be deployed. Existing, effective parachute forces could easily be adapted

to emerging technology.

Our allies have not ignored this reality. French rapid reaction forces have carried out successful operations in Rwanda, Chad, the Central African Republic and Guinea. The American, Belgian, British and even some of the smaller nations' (e.g. Australia) airborne capabilities are examples of useful, rapidly deployable, forces. It seems that Canada is seriously out of step with the rest of the world when it comes to the ability to react quickly and effectively.

Recent actions in Afghanistan have highlighted the enduring value of paratroopers and Special Forces.

The maintenance of the CF parachute capability is cost-effective and relatively inexpensive. The annual recurring operations and maintenance costs of a parachute battalion, with its light scales, are considerably less than the comparable costs of a mechanised infantry battalion. For sovereignty operations a parachute battalion maintained at high readiness, and capable of being projected rapidly wherever required, is the obvious solution. The great distances and lack of land and airfield communications infrastructure in Canada's remote areas, particularly in the north, dictate that most deployments will have to be conducted by air. The distances often preclude the use of CF helicopters mainly because they generally lack the payload, range, and technical support needed to undertake this mission. Even though a network of airfields exists across Canada and the north, vast expanses of barren area remain undeveloped. In any event, the importance of many of these regional airfields could make them prime targets for occupation or destruction by hostile forces. Thus, it is essential that the CF retain the capability to deploy military forces by parachute, including the supporting capabilities to reinforce and resupply deployed forces by air.

The often-used argument of "no real threat" is a red herring. Either a nation has the capability of ensuring its sovereignty or it hasn't. If there is no capability to rapidly deploy to all corners of the nation's territory then sovereignty is in question.

The CF has been tasked to maintain military forces that are ready to conduct

armed and unarmed assistance in domestic operations. These missions require forces that are ready to conduct aid to the civil power operations to counter public order emergencies. In addition, forces are required to provide assistance to civil authorities deriving from public welfare emergencies such as search and rescue emergencies, natural disasters, major air disasters, projects or activities requiring military assistance, and assistance to other government departments. Given the vastness of Canada and lack of infrastructure in unpopulated areas deploying units will be faced with serious limitations to mobility. In these circumstances a superimposed parachute capability is essential

The collapse of the soviet empire dramatically altered the threat to NATO. This revision in security requirements has encouraged the planned organisation of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). A substantial component within the ARRC is comprised of airborne forces that are light, operationally effective, and relatively cheap compared to its more expensive mechanised forces.

Canada's commitment of a parachute deliverable unit to NATO would compare favourably in effort to our allies' commitments. But more importantly, the unit's light scales and high mobility would greatly simplify the problems related to its intercontinental deployment and sustainment from Canada to the ACE area. This is a relatively inexpensive premium for Canada to pay to reap the dividends of alliance security, and the political and economic benefits that flow from active participation in NATO.

The CF is required to maintain a light, battalion size unit on high readinessstandby to deploy on UN duty. A parachute battalion would be ideally suited for this type of high readiness UN standby mission since its parachute capability confers the flexibility to undertake all contingencies, which implicitly include the possibility of parachute operations.

Contingency operations involve securing Canada's overseas interests. These

(Cont'd from previous page)

include: the conduct of armed conflict in low to mid intensity operations, the provision of armed assistance to a nation engaged in conflict, and unarmed humanitarian operations. A parachute capability confers vital strategic mobility, planning flexibility, freedom of action and strategic depth, especially in response to these intercontinental missions.

The present situation of a Canadian Parachute Centre for the training of parachutists, and three separate, uncoordinated, parachute companies is barely adequate to carry out the functions outlined above. Even this basic structure has been questioned.

Far from downgrading our military parachuting, the CF requires an expanded parachute capability to respond effectively to the broad range of missions that have been assigned to the CF in general and the land force in particular. The force should become the national strategic reserve. It should be maintained at high readiness notice to move - ready to undertake sovereignty, domestic, NATO, UN and contingency operations, including the deployment into the mission areas by parachute drop. This capability would provide the CF with a cost-effective, powerful, flexible and highly mobile general-purpose combat unit, ready to deploy quickly to conduct a broad range of operations in any condition of climate or terrain.

All of the major nations and many smaller countries maintain effective parachute delivered forces. The military virtues of speed, ease of deployment and independent action are self-evident, and obviously recognised by many intelligent politicians and their senior military advisors. Why is Canada unique in ignoring this capability?

The Canadian Government decided to quash a continuing Public Relations problem by eliminating the media's target, The Canadian Airborne Regiment. Nothing has been done to restore the cancelled capability, despite repeated examples of its utility, especially in Canada's geographic circumstances. It is time now to repair a deficient capability in a meaningful fashion, one that is both credible and operationally sound. As a minimum a self-contained infantry parachute battalion is required.

THE RIFLES "Swift and Bold"

The British Army Board has directed battalions to group into larger regiments to meet the operational and organisational demands of the future. In light of this, Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved the formation of a new regiment. In this regard, "The Rifles" will form in February 2007 from The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, The Light Infantry, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets. "The Rifles" will offer a unique and glorious history, a strong sense of belonging and the widest possible choice of career opportunities, locations and roles in the modern Infantry. The new Regiment will share three defining characteristics:

Be recognisable and distinct from the rest of the Infantry in philosophy, approach, appearance and custom.

Be an integrated and national Regiment that embraces Regular and Territorial soldiers, Cadets and Associations, and the communities from which they are drawn.

Be operationally distinctive and innovative in delivering success on the battlefield.

The Rifles Charter

The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, The Light Infantry, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets recognise the profound impact of the Army Board's decision. They elect to join together to form a wholly new regiment called The Rifles comprising seven Battalions, five Regular and two Territorial, as well as other Territorial, Cadet and Association elements.

The four Founding Regiments will combine to form The Rifles from The Light Division. The Rifles will take their inspiration from the Founding Regiments' Light Division ancestry, including their Line Regiment History. The Rifles will hold to the qualities advanced by General Sir John Moore and displayed by the finest of infantry regiments. They will demonstrate the values of independent thought and action, leadership, self-discipline, fortitude and steadfastness.

The Rifles will strive for excellence and be known for their fighting spirit and strong sense of decency. They will be forward looking, at the forefront of military thought and determined to set the highest professional standards. The Regiment will give a place to all and anyone prepared to soldier loyally and effectively. The Rifles will cherish and foster their links to the counties, cities and towns from which they come; and which underpin their strong sense of national identity.

The new Regiment will be organised, operated and commanded so as to bring unity, professionalism and a sense of pride to all those who step forward with The Rifles.

QOR Para Coy keeps its "soldier skills" up to date

Sgt Scott Moody

After a few days off from the summer concentration, the QOR Parachute Company embarked on its 21st training year. During the month of September, we directed all our resources, with the rest of 32 CBG, towards the completion of MLOC training to ensure that our soldier skills were up to date.

The month of October had many of our members supporting a BTAT for 8 Wing, Trenton, while mid-way through the month we had an exercise jump in which we had an equipment drop to support the troops on the ground. The equipment drop also helped the Air Force complete its check rides for Combi drops (equipment and pers) in support of the BTAT that was running that month. On the same plane, we had Recce Platoon, led by Lt Clark and Sgt Jeff Johnston inserted to conduct a reconnaissance task.

November was a busy for QOR Para Coy. Exercises had us conduct an equipment drop, once again to keep the Air Force and our aerial delivery personnel current. On the same plane, Para Coy jumped into DZ Warton Willy to conduct a raid on Warton Airport. The following week about 20 of our members made their way to Trenton to support an LTAT and conduct several combi jumps onto DZ Thumper Head. This also was an opportunity for CWO John Wilmot to get his 100th jump in before he left in February to allow MWO Scott Patterson to take the reigns as RSM.

Para Coy received its first stop drop of the year in January in which were to jump into a winter warfare skills competition with other regiments from our brigade. As usual, the team from Recce Platoon blew the competition away, beating some teams by 3 hours.



During February we conducted Exercise Glacial Run, a preparation exercise for Exercise Pegasus Stalker - a Battle Group level exercise that was held in Fort Drum. Wednesday nights primarily consisted of para refresher training and FIBUA training which employed the use of Air Soft rifles in Moss Park Armoury. This included the creation of our own multi-room kill house inside the armoury. Unfortunately, we received a Stop Drop due to high winds during the Exercise Glacial Run. On March 5-7 we deployed to Ft. Drum, New York for Exercise Pegasus Stalker. The exercise, which fielded 250 reserve soldiers, was a big success. The troops were mostly from the QOR, however some augmentation and support came from various units across 32 Brigade. The soldiers comprised a full infantry company, a support element and a HQ element which had the QOR Recce Platoon at its disposal.

The soldiers arrived early Saturday morning and were immediately given the appropriate briefings, issued their MILES gear, weapons and rations. The infantry company was then allowed all of Saturday for battle procedure for the impending mission. The mission was to clear several large houses of the enemy in an AOR inhabited by civilians, who were actually paid actors, and proved to be an excellence dose of realism to the training.

The method of insertion to the mission would be 400 Squadrons helicopters for the infantry company and airborne for the recce platoon 12 hours prior to the mission. Unfortunately, the jump gods were not on our side, winds 18, and we were once again stop dropped due to bad weather. Recce Platoon went to the DZ RV and continued on with the mission.

The mission was a success. Recce Platoon had eyes on the objective 4 hours prior, set up the helicopter LZ and guided the company to its staging area. The attack went on as planned and by 0730 Sunday it was all over. After some post exercise drills and a trip to the PX the buses were heading to Toronto by 1300.

The exercise was a big hit with the troops and the training value was enormous, thanks to the efforts of the Ops Cell Capt Peter St. Denis, WO Ray Joseph and Sgt Chin-Leung, and RQ Sgt Ted Howard and Cpl Rob Gandhu.

QOR Parachute Company would like to welcome 10 new jumpers: Rfn MacKinnon, Rfn Bacani, Rfn Holloway, Cpl Chrzan, Cpl Lee, Cpl Middleton, Cpl Scorza, Cpl Kim, Cpl Locke and MCpl Keonne. We also have 2 new and severely needed Jumpmasters - Cpl Brian Burns and MCpl Brian Ragos.

Airborne!

QOR Training Queen's Own Aircell Members Put in a Couple of Busy Years

Sgt Scott Moody

After the completion of Exercise Stalwart Guardian the QOR started a new training cycle with an extremely eventful month. It started with a massive effort to get all our soldiers re-qualified on weapons and basic skills during the second weekend in September. The weekend after that we had a small did a LTAT support exercise in Trenton. The following weekend was the regimental change of command from LCol John Fotheringham C.D to LCol Martin Delaney C.D. And of course with the new training year and commanding officer comes a new ORBAT.

For 60th Company the OC is now Capt. Peter St. Denis (President of CAFA Toronto), 2 i/c is Capt. Adam Harmes, CSM is MWO Shaun Kelly and Platoon WO's are WO Donovan O'Halloran, Sgt Doug Halcro and Sgt. Inasio Kim. In company OP's we have Capt.'s Pat Slack and Rick Moyer and Sgt.'s Jeff Johnston and Scott Moody. In our training company we have CSM WO Mark Shannon and instructors Sgt's Tom Fabry, Dave Hodgson and Cecil Parris. In Battalion HQ we have RSM Scott Patterson, Adjutant Capt. Kevin Sheedy, Ops O Capt. Troy Neufeld and Para Ops NCO MCpl Brian Ragos.

In October was a normal month for us up until the weekend of the 24th where we supported 3 events. We provided a 30 man honour guard for the military band tattoo. We also provided a platoon for a brigade exercise and also sent a dz controller, jumpmasters and several jumpers to Petawawa in support of a BTAT.

During November we had our Remembrance Day parade and platoon support of a brigade exercise. At the end of the month we had our BTAT support. The jumps ended up as a stop drop both days due to the weather. However, a few of us stayed back to support 3RCR and the remainder of the BTAT and got a few jumps in.

December is the month that we conduct our annual refresher for all our members that jump during the year. This started with a massive and badly needed equipment refresher followed by aircraft drill, landings and flight. At the same time our DZ con-

trollers were calling in an HE drop in support of a LTAT. After lunch we held chalk assembly and boarded a CC-130 for a full equipment drop onto DZ Hodgson. We got up in the air but were stop dropped due to high winds. The following day we were to do another jump. However, this time it would be into Quebec City. The idea was to have us jump into a DZ in Quebec City and then share our plane with the 3 R22R Para Coy. Unfortunately, the bad weather followed us.

January was a much better month for us. Once again we were double tasked on the same weekend. On January the 15th and 16th we had Exercise Guiding Light a brigade led leadership conference. Concurrently we had BTAT support going on that weekend. Because all our leadership was on exercise the jumps were only open to junior NCO's, so the entire exercise ran smoothly. The jumps were a success and



our stop drop streak was broken. On the Saturday we conducted two double door drops and on the following day we conducted another double door drop as well as an HE combi - drop onto DZ Mountainview. The weekend was a complete success everyone one participating got at least two jumps and the Airforce got all their boxes checked. At the end of January our aircell was tasked to assist 3 RCR with a BTAT.

The jump gods were with us again in February. We sent Cpl's Stalteri and Hall on winter Ex with 3 RCR. Later on that month had two different events occurring on the same weekend again. One event was a platoon from the QOR supporting the 32

Brigade Domestic Response Unit or DRU. The exercise was conducted to practice the brigade in domestic operations in support of EMS in case of a local emergency in which the reserves get called out, as they did during the ice storm of 1998. At the same time all of our available personnel that were not on the DRU supported a LTAT drop on the Saturday that was a full equipment double door. On the Sunday we supported the concluding drops for the BTAT course. All jumps were a success and the course was able to finish thanks to our presence.

In March several of our members participated in Exercise Burnt Tracer a gun camp that was run by the 48th Highlanders. The following weekend we held Exercise Pegasus Stalker this exercise consisted of two full equipment parachute descents onto DZ Gorvad in Borden. The drops were staged out of the Downsview airfield,

where we set up our make shift airhead. The objective of the exercise was for the paratroopers to conduct reces of a bridge once they hit the ground on the Saturday. Later that day they would be extracted back to the airhead. Once back in Toronto they would formulate a plan to blow the bridge, rehearse and put the plan into action after they jump in on the Sunday. The drop on Saturday was a success; unfortunately, an alternative plan was required on the Sunday due to bad weather.

During the March break time period a platoon of the QOR led by Capt. Pat Slack and WO

Mark Shannon moved to Fort Knox for Exercise Southern Drive. This was a 32 Brigade concentration exercise that made heavy use of the bases range facilities. In March we also grew in the area of parachuting with Rfn. Carrier, Cpl. Griffiths, Rfn. Leader, Cpl. Wood and Cpl Walter completing their basic para. Most importantly we gained a new parachute instructor MCpl Brian Ragos. His qualification will help the unit but most important it will help give WO Donovan O'Halloran some well deserved relief because he has been our only PI and has held us together for the past 12 years.

Airborne!

QOR Paras host the 361 Fallschirmjager Bn from Germany

Sgt Scott Moody

The Queen's Own Rifles is the only reserve unit in Canada that fulfills a para role. Specifically, we provide support to 8 Wing, Trenton in the form of jumpmasters, jumpers, aerial delivery personnel and DZ controllers. Typically, we will move to Trenton and support Tactical Airlift Training. By supporting this training, the aircrews maintain or achieve currency that in turn allows them to be operationally deployed.

The QOR also has several members that are employed at CPC as instructors and support personnel on both a temporary and regular basis. We also often provide JM support to 3 RCR when requested. What makes the QOR a truly unique reserve unit is the fact that we accomplish these tasks and also meet our obligations as an infantry reserve unit within 32 Brigade.

Due to our tasking and the volume of jumping, we also provide casual parachute opportunities to other units from our Brigade and the other two reserve brigades in LFCA. This has helped foster an excellent relationship between the QOR and other 32 Brigade units and also serves an excellent tool for retention for all reservists within LFCA.

As usual, we have been busy since our last report. During the month of April 2005, the QOR participated in Exercise Iron Talon I, a Brigade level exercise focusing on offensive operations held at CFB Borden. The weekend after that the QOR celebrated its

145th birthday. We also conducted our para indoctrination training for our new jumpers which consists of advanced first aid, concept of airborne ops, DZ drills, non-standard loads and unarmed combat. The final weekend of the month we moved to Trenton to support a LTAT. We had jumpers from both the QOR and the Brigade and we filled the plane for a very wet CDS drop followed by a ramp jump. The next day a small contingent moved to Petawawa to participate in a jump with 3 RCR.

On May 7 and 8, the Regiment again participated in a LTAT that consisted of several jumps. The following weekend brought Iron Talon 2 - the follow up Brigade exercise that would refine the offensive ops skills practiced the previous month. We also sent Cpl. Stalteri and MCpl Shikman to Holland for the 60th anniversary of VE Day.

The beginning of June had us supporting an 8 Wing LTAT again which was then followed by our regimental exercise Fast Mover. The exercise was a 24 hr challenge exercise followed by our family day. The 24 Hr challenge started at 11 pm on the Friday night with a 13 km navigation exercise. After an hour forced rest and a hot breakfast, pairs fire and movement and rappel tower training began. Once that was complete the unit moved to the obstacle course and then the night ended with a pairs night navigation competition.

Early the following day, the jumpers moved to the old Downsview airfield in Toronto to

board a Herc to jump into the family day in Borden. Once the jump was complete the Griffin Helicopters arrived for a rappel demonstration. The 250 family members then moved to the Rod and Gun Club for a BBQ. Thanks to the hard work of WO Ken Currie and Capt. Troy Neufeld the exercise was a complete success. After the exercise we had our summer stand down.

Summer stand down is never what it sounds like. July had a large contingent of instructors from the Regiment move to Meaford to teach on BMQ, SQ, BIQ, and DP2A. At the end of July we supported another LTAT and all the participants were lucky enough to get 3 jumps in.

During August, the QOR had the opportunity to host 31 members of the 261 Fallschirmjager Battalion from Germany, including the 26 Fallschirmjager Brigade Commander. This visit was part of an ongoing relationship that had them travel here first in 2003, and a small QOR contingent to Germany in 2004. (Photo below.)

The Germans arrived a week prior to the annual reserve concentration exercise Stalwart Guardian. During this first week they participated in weapons training and two parachute descents that allowed them to earn their Canadian wings. The Germans then moved to Petawawa to act as the recce platoon within a composite light infantry battalion. This year the QOR had an extremely large contingent and performed exceptionally well as usual.



For the Queen's Own's Para Company, any time is Jump Time

Sgt Scott Moody

The QOR currently has a rifle company -- 60th Company -- and a training and support company -- Victoria Company. At the same time, we also have a 'shadow' Para Company that is made up of 66 jumpers from our two companies and HQ and support our jump tasking to CPC / 8 Wing Trenton. This amalgamated organization comes together only for para activities, and is what we refer to as QOR Para Company.

This summer and fall (2004) was extremely busy for all the members of our regiment. It started with a beautiful full equipment ramp jump into DZ Gorvad at the end of June in support of an 8 Wing LTAT. The enplaning for the drop was done at the old base Downsview airfield, which is still an active airfield due to the need to fly newly manufactured aircraft from the factory located there.

We also received exciting news of our expansion into Scarborough with a new company under Land Force Reserve Restructure. The unit had to step up its recruiting and all available NCOs were sent to Meaford in July to teach the Soldier Qualification course, basic infantry course and the Platoon Support Weapons course. The return on the investment was good and

we received 13 new infantry qualified soldiers and another 15 with the soldier qualification.

On the para side, we sent two DZ controllers, Sgt Ted Howard and MCpl Jay Green, to Alaska in July to support an international airborne event. Their task was in support of several heavy equipment drops. With the wrapping up of the course season in August, came the area concentration Exercise Stalwart Guardian 2004. This year was going to be a first for reserve airborne operations in Canada. However, before it could be started we had to send our Aircell, 4 JMs and a DZ Controller, to Trenton for a couple of days to support 3 RCR with 8 Wing's BTAT. The QOR Aircell supported several drops during this time period and got several jumps in. This also served as an excellent rehearsal for the next week's events.

Stalwart Guardian 2004: For the first time in the 22 years of the QOR para task, we fielded a complete Para Company. During the past summer concentrations, the QOR had jumped into the camp and participated in jumps that had very little to do with the exercise and the QOR would just fit in to the Infantry Battalion orbat for the remain-

der of the exercise.

In 2004, 3 (Independent) Para Coy was created for Stalwart Guardian 04. Thanks to the hard work in planning and organizing the exercise by our Regular Force Operations Warrant Officer Ray Joseph, all the pieces were in place for an excellent exercise. This company was led by the QOR's OC Maj Rob Zeidler, Coy 2IC Capt Richard Moyer (attached from GGHG), and CSM MWO Shaun Kelly. The remainder of the headquarters element, recce det and a complete platoon, led by Lt Wes Clark and his 2IC, Sgt Jeff Johnston, would come from the QOR. This was all in addition to providing a platoon plus to a normal rifle company. As well, a composite platoon was created with para qualified members from the three Reserve Brigades in Ontario.

The exercise started on the 21st of August 2004 with a massive AAG and was followed by the movement of all personnel to Camp Pegasus near the abandoned airfield in Petawawa. Once at the camp, the orbat was confirmed and a concept of airborne operations lesson was conducted for the newly formed company by MWO Wayne Bartlett, the former CSM of 3 RCR Para Company.

The following day, the entire company was moved to S-113. For those who required it, PT testing and para refresher was conducted, including mock tower, thanks to the help of Sgt Sean Willard, WO Rob Young, MCpls Trevor Lavallee and Steve Jarvis, all from 3 RCR. The current members of the company went back to the camp to do rehearsals.

On the 23rd of August, the ball really started rolling for the company. Kit was issued, orders were given and rehearsals were conducted. The concept of this drop was to have a double door mass night drop in two planes onto DZ Dives Crossing. This mission was to serve as a practice for the main mission on the 25th of August. The jump took place and served as an excellent learning experience for all involved that would ensure the main mission would have no glitches.

(Continued on next page.)



MCpl Brian Ragos and Sgt Scott Moody do Stick Commander/Jumpmaster duties, in June '05.

(Cont'd from previous page)

After some good lessons-learned sessions, another day of rehearsals, and a confirmatory practice mission, the company was ready to move on to its main mission. On the 25th of August, the operation went into full gear. The orders were issued, more rehearsals took place and the manifests were called. The Recce Det, led by Sgt Matt Kohler, was inserted early on in the day. Unfortunately, due to aircraft they were unable to jump in. However, they got to the DZ and established the DZ RV, the route in and eyes on the objective. Meanwhile, the main body moved to Brown's Field. PELs were put on and CSWV were filled. This was to be the culmination of all the efforts. A full equipment, double door mass tactical jump. The pilot for the first lift had some difficulty lining up with the DZ so it meant three painful passes for the C6 gunners. However, the jumps went off and the mission was successful.

After a helicopter insertion and blocking action the following day, end-ex was called. However, as a bonus for the company and wings exchange opportunity for the Long Range Surveillance Unit from the Georgia National Guard, who were employed as the enemy force on the exercise, one more jump was scheduled the 27th of August. Due to aircraft problems, the drop was changed to a Griffin jump the following day thanks to 427 Squadron and the UEO shop at 3 RCR. All the US participants earned their Canadian wings and many of the members of 3 Para Coy got an extra jump in.

In September, we continued with our ELOC training and participated in a LTAT in Trenton. It was also our month of change in which LCol John Fotheringham handed the regiment over to LCol Martin Delaney. We also had Capt Peter St Denis take over as OC 60th Company, and Capt Troy Neufeld arrived from CPC as our regular force operations officer. As part of our expansion to Scarborough, we also had the first Scarborough platoon stand to.

During October we had an extremely busy time in which the QOR provided an honour guard for the RCMC military band concert, while at the same time supporting an exercise in Meaford and a BTAT in Petawawa. November brought the Church Parade for Remembrance Day, the continuation of our BTAT support and Exercise Argon Drive.

QOR's Airborne Riflemen in Afghanistan had their hands full

Cpl Ivanka Koulik

As the tempo of Op Athena in Afghanistan increased towards the final months of Roto IV, airborne riflemen of 60th Company, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, are doing their part to contribute to the Canadian effort in theatre. Lt. Wesley Clark, Cpl Ivanka Koulik, Cpl Adam de Bartok and Cpl Jason McGibbon have deployed to the region to carry on the proud rifleman tradition of operational service overseas.

For the first two months of their tour, de Bartok and McGibbon followed in the footsteps of Roto III airborne riflemen MCpl Charlebois, Cpl Bridge and Cpl Burns, enjoying the opportunity to serve as members of the Theatre Support Element Defense and Security Platoon at Camp Mirage under Lt. Clark. As D&S Platoon Commander, Lt Clark has capitalized on the characteristics of the environment and location of Camp Mirage to provide both valuable operational experience and a fast-paced training program for his soldiers posted there. While Lt Clark will remain at

Mirage, Cpl de Bartok and Cpl McGibbon have now been reassigned to join the regimental comrade, Cpl Koulik at Camp Julien Afghanistan.

Cpl Koulik is currently working with the TFK CIMIC program, while Cpl de Bartok and Cpl McGibbon have been integrated into G Coy, RCR and tasked as members of the Force Protection Company for the Canadian AOR in Kabul. With the dramatic increase in activity around the Afghan National Elections staged in Kabul and the transitional move to Kandahar for Operation Archer, each rifleman has had his hands full doing his part in the increasing level of operational tempo. Following the elections in September, the airborne rifleman detachment in Afghanistan will continue as members of Op Archer for the duration of their tour, planning to be back home in time for the kick off of the Regiment's training program in the New Year and eager to share in their experiences.



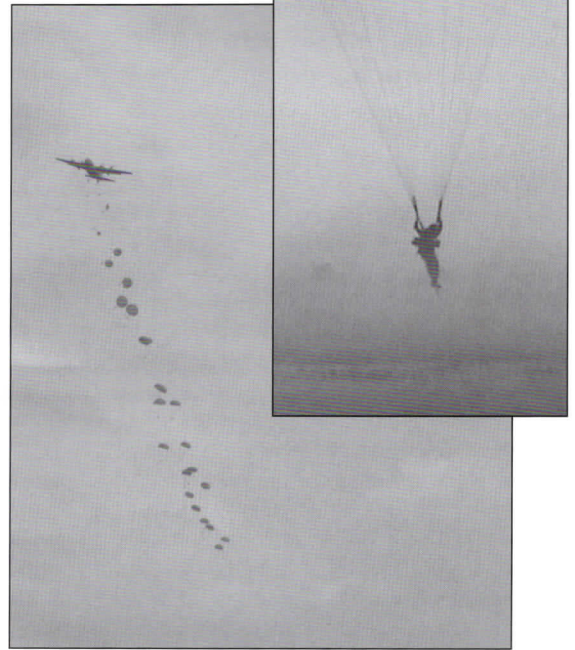
Cpl Adam de Bartok and Cpl Jason McGibbon share a laugh with their Afghani translator

Queen's Own personnel excel in Military Exercises

Photos by Maj Sandi Banerjee



Lt Dave Harmes watches his entry team negotiate with homeowners during a Cordon and Search operation as Sgt Justin Thorn prepares to lead the Platoon's search team into the home during Ex AGGRESSIVE VIPER II.



Sgt. Donovan O'Halloran preparing to land during EX SILENT KNIFE in 2004.



Cpl Jason Bridge, seen through a newly created "window", as he guards a mouse hole inside a house with an illegal weapons cache during Ex AGGRESSIVE VIPER II.



Troops in CADPAT make their way through a snow-covered field during Ex AGGRESSIVE VIPER II in 2005.



A contribution to Sierra Leone's peace and stability

LCol Steve Brand

One of Canada's smaller military missions is OP SCULPTURE operating in the small West African country of Sierra Leone. LCol Steve Brand deployed as Task Force Commander for ROTO 6. His tour of duty was December 2003 to June 2004. He is a past CO of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (92/95) and former OC of the Para Coy

Sierra Leone, with a population of less than six million, was once the 2nd richest country in Africa. It was consumed by a brutal 11-year civil war that finally ended in 2002. This conflict was vicious even by African standards, marked by rebels who used drugged troops - many of them child soldiers - to spread fear throughout the West African country by hacking off civilians' limbs or conducting mass rapes. The conflict was fuelled by the curse of Sierra Leone, its fabulous diamond wealth. The quest for what are now referred to as "Blood Diamonds" was fomented by well-known despots; Charles Taylor of Liberia and Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi of Libya. Despite the eventual presence of 11,000 UN troops, peace only took hold in the fall of 2000 when a decisive hostage rescue, involving a company of 1 Para supporting the SAS and SBS, took place. OP BARRAS was a textbook perfect Special Forces raid that went according to plan, an event that would have been turned into a Hollywood feature had it been a US operation.

The Canadian contingent in Sierra Leone is part of the British-led IMATT (International Military Advisory and Training Team). IMATT is commanded by a British Brigadier and currently includes 115 military personnel from the United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana and Bermuda. The team includes officers and senior non-commissioned officers from the infantry, marines, navy, air force, reconnaissance, engineers, artillery, signals, logistics, medical and administrative disciplines. IMATT teams work alongside their Sierra Leonean colleagues in the MOD and RSLAF headquarters and sub-units in the capital city of Freetown and provide advice on all military issues. In addition, Brigade Advisory and Support Teams (BASTs) are deployed to three RSLAF Infantry Brigades positioned up country as well as to the Freetown Brigade.

The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) was restructured in 2000 following the Military Reintegration Programme, which reconciled the former national army (SLA) with ex-combatants from the CDF, AFRC and RUF. The new RSLAF, 12,000 strong, is a professional armed force dedicated to supporting the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and ensuring the territorial integrity of the

country. The RSLAF works closely with the Sierra Leone Police and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to promote continued peace and stability. The RSLAF includes a Maritime Wing, an Air Wing and a land element of eleven battalions of light infantry. Over the years the British Army has deployed advisory and training teams (BMATTs) to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique and Ghana to work alongside national armed forces. IMATT deployed to Sierra Leone in late 2000, in response to an invitation by the GoSL to assist in the reconstruction and training of the new RSLAF. Canada has supported this mission since inception and currently deploys 7 soldiers on six-month rotations.

During his 6-month tour of duty as the Canadian Task Force Commander, LCol Steve Brand was the Staff Officer 1 (SO1) Freetown Garrison and senior IMATT infantry brigade advisor. The Freetown Garrison is a 2,000-man organization which included 2 light infantry battalions and various national level units and headquarters. His area of responsibility included the capital city of Freetown and all areas within the Western Sector. His duties included the coordination and execution of all light infantry battalion training, liaison with UNAMSIL(UN) forces, police (SLP) forces and local government officials. He was also tasked to assist in the coordination of national contingency plans concerning the key point security in the capital region including; the Special Court for war crimes, Presidential and VP Lodges, State House, Parliament and other key government installations. Due to the absence of a Canadian Embassy he acted as the senior Canadian representative to the Canadian Embassy in Guinea. LCol Brand also coordinated several Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) programs, including 3 schools, charity events and clean water supply initiatives.

The IMATT mission has contributed greatly to the peace and stability of Sierra Leone. A revitalized professional army will be the cornerstone of the government's efforts to turn the country into an African success story. Canada has recently extended its IMATT commitment until 2010 and increased CF personnel to 11 members.



LCol Brand in the driver's seat of a Soviet-era ZPU-2 anti-aircraft system

The Queens' Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Kit Shop / Current Price List

Badges, Crests: Wire blazer crest \$12; Windbreaker badges (red, black & gold OR red, black & green) \$10 (leaf green & silver) \$15; Bugler's wire windbreaker badge \$15

Books: QOR Regimental History 1860-1960 (LCol W.T. Barnard-reprinted in soft cover) \$25; Canadians (Roy Whitsted-hard cover) \$25; Battle Diary (CSM Charlie Martin, MM DCM-soft cover) \$15; Born Lucky (RSM Harry Fox MBE w/Capt Craig Cameron-soft cover) \$20

Buttons: Jacket and sleeve ea \$1.

Cards: Ten Notecards w/env \$12; Singles \$1; Card/env silver bugles ea \$1; Cards, six different vintage uniforms ea \$2

Cufflinks etc: Silver on black enamel, set \$30; Full colour crest on silver \$20; Ladies' Sweetheart Pin \$25; Crested belt buckle \$20; Crested key fob \$7

Figurine: Rifleman 9" tall, \$50

Glassware: Crested beer mug, \$12; Crested highball glass, \$10; Crested shot glass \$8

Headwear: Wedge cap, officers \$45; Green embroidered ball cap \$16; Tan OR green bucket hat \$16

Lanyards: Black, 4 knots \$20; 1 knot \$10

Lapel pins: Silver w/red ea \$5; Full colour \$6; Antique gun metal \$5

Mugs: Green ceramic w/crest \$6; White ceramic w/crest \$6; Crested stainless steel thermos \$21.

Tapes, CDs: "Silver Bugles" - cassette \$10, CD \$15; "Traditions" - cassette \$10, CD \$15.

Flags: Desk flag 5"x10" w/stand \$12.

Plaques: Battle Honours \$30

License Plates: (Ontario only) 01 & 03 series, crested \$52.10; Vanity, crested \$25; Regimental 2nd plate \$7

Playing cards: Green, crested \$12

Prints: Orville Fisher's D-Day Landing (signed) \$125 (unsigned) \$25; Aubrey Cosens VC at Mooshof (signed by artist) \$25

Shirts: Crested golf shirt embroidered XL \$48; Script XL \$25; T-Shirts Full colour crest L, XL, XXL \$18; White crested X, XL, XXL \$15

Stickers: Crest \$2

Sweaters: QOR script XL \$25

Sweat suits: Pants XL \$23; Tops XL \$23

Ties etc: Cravat, velcro fastener \$12; Ascot \$20; Bow tie silk weave \$40; Bow-tie (strap-on) \$10; Four-in-hand tie silk weave \$50; blend \$38; polyester \$12; Association "Drinking Tie" \$20; silk weave scarf \$50; Cummerbund, silk weave \$60

Videos: Charles Cromwell Martin MM DCM Memorial \$8; QOR of C \$20

For information about items for sale or to place orders, contact the Regimental Kit Shop by e-mail to: andrewmacnaughton@sympatico.ca or by writing to: The QOR of Canada Regimental Kit Shop, 130 Queen St. E, Toronto, ON, M5A 1R9. Telephone messages can be left at 416 362 3946.



Our Allied Regiments in Britain King's Royal Rifle Corps



The King's Royal Rifle Corps amalgamated from the 62nd (Royal American) Regiment of Foot (raised in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland from German settlers as a colonial corps for American service only), the East Kent Mounted Rifles and the 60th Regiment of Foot (The Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps and Light Infantry).

In 1830 they became the 60th (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) Regiment of Foot, becoming the KRRC in 1881. In 1958 the Regiment was designated as 2nd Green Jackets, The King's Royal Rifle Corps and in 1966 the three Regiments of the Green Jackets Brigade -- 1st Green Jackets, 2nd (KRRC) and 3rd (The Rifle Brigade) -- merged to form The Royal Green Jackets.

The KRRC earned Battle Honours in the Indian Mutiny, Zulu War, Boer War, Sudan War and both World Wars.

By the end of 2007, the two Regiments which now form the British Army's Light Division -- the RGJ and the The Light Infantry -- will be united, along with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments to form a new large regiment to be called The Rifles.

250th Anniversary

The Major event so far in the 21st Century

for the KRRC was the celebration of its 250th anniversary in July 2005. The following account is gleaned from the website "Royal Insight."

The Queen celebrates the anniversary of the King's Royal Rifle Corps in Hampshire:

The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief, attended celebrations in Winchester on 12 July, 2005 commemorating the 250th anniversary of the raising of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Following a private service in Winchester Cathedral in the morning, The Queen arrived at St. Cross Cricket Ground where she was received with a Royal Salute.

Her Majesty then reviewed a parade of veterans from the Corps. Two hundred veterans from the defence of Calais, the Western Desert, Italy and North-West Europe during World War II were on parade, along with 500 Regulars, National Servicemen and Territorials from the post-war years. The Queen passed through an avenue of riflemen in uniforms which reflected the different periods of the Regiment's history. She then planted a tree to mark the occasion before meeting members of the corps and their families at a garden party.

The oldest former member of the corps

present was 96-year-old El Alamein veteran Brother (formerly Sergeant) Edward Lister, who travelled to the event in his cap and gown and wearing his service medals. The Queen also met representatives from allied Goorkha, Canadian, Australia, Kenyan and Rhodesian regiments.

The King's Royal Rifle Corps, famous for its scarlet and rifle green uniforms, is the only British regiment to have been raised in the American colonies. It was formed in 1755 largely from American colonists and fought with distinction along the Ohio river in the French and Indian Wars. After the War of Independence, the regiment moved to the West Indies and Canada, but retained the Royal American title until 1824.

Not surprisingly, the regiment retains close connections with the United States, particularly Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Before the American entry into the World War II, 18 American citizens volunteered to return to the old colours and were commissioned as officers. One of these surviving American officers paid for the bells of the Cathedral to be rung during the celebrations.

The regiment was the first to be equipped with the rifle, hence its name, and Victoria Crosses have been presented to 24 of its members during its history.



Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment



The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is the senior English Infantry Regiment of The Line. It was formed on 9 September 1992 by the amalgamation of the Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment. It is the Infantry County Regiment of London, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Middlesex, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, and forms part of the Queens Division.

The PWRR has two Regular Battalions (1st Bn and the 2nd Bn), ready for deployment worldwide at a moment's notice, and a Territorial Bn, (3rd Bn), with its headquarters in Canterbury. The Regiment also has

a further two Companies of Territorial Soldiers, which make up The London Regiment and the Royal Rifle Volunteers (RRV) respectively (B&C Coy's). There are also many Army Cadets and Combined Cadet Forces badged to the Regiment in units and schools across the South of England. The 1st Battalion is part of 20 Armoured Brigade in Paderborn, Germany as of March 2005 and will remain in the Armoured Infantry role for the foreseeable future. The 1st Battalion proved its war fighting ability in Iraq last year. Read about what happened over a 2 month period

MAY/JUNE 04 SUMMARY On the 8th

May The Battle Group embarked upon its largest Operation of the tour so far, Operation Waterloo one of the biggest that any British unit has conducted in over a year. The Operation required 2 Armoured Infantry Companies (A and C Companies PWRR), 6 Tanks and 2 light role companies, A Company Royal Welch Fusiliers and Y Company (PWRR). Supporting the operation from the air was Phoenix UAV and Nimrod MR2. The operation began with a resupply of CIMIC House followed by domination of key points in the Town in order to allow the Iraqi police to operate effectively within the City. Once the 2 armoured infantry, supported by tanks and

air cover, established themselves they began a link up to squeeze out the enemy between them and to encircle key areas in the centre of the City. The OMS Office and 2 other key locations were then searched. In the OMS Office alone 16 Tonnes of arms, and ammunition and explosives were recovered, including 120, 82 and 60mm mortars, an automatic grenade launcher, anti tank weapons, antitank mines, rockets and numerous rifles and RPGs; A find so large that it was mentioned by the Secretary Of State For Defence in Parliament the following day. The Operation was completed by re-establishing Iraqi Police presence in the City, newly equipped with police cars and other equipment. As the Police took over, our forces were withdrawn in a planned de-escalation to bring back a normal pattern of life back to the City. The Operation was a huge success to the OF and the City. A COMPANY (Brigade Operations Company - Basra Palace)

A Company finally met up with their comfort boxes (a box packed in barracks that contains a soldier's luxury items, for example extras socks, underwear and toothpaste) on the 21 April. 40 minutes later we deployed in support of the Operations following the Basra Bombings. This was a difficult time for all concerned as emotions ran high. After 5 days of operations in Basra City the Company deployed to up to Al Amarah to join the rest of the Battalion and as I write we are mainly engaged in nocturnal operations with our fellow Tigers.

B COMPANY (Attached to the Cheshire Battle Group - Basra Palace) B Company deployed on Op Telic 4 as part of 1 Cheshire Battle Group into Basra City. Originally we were to take over Ar Rabbat district as a ground holding company but this changed during the handover. As soon as we took over command we then had to hand the patch over to Support Company 1 Cheshire and re-role as Battle Group Operations Company. With the only Warriors in Basra, the Company has been kept very busy, both on its own operations and in helping other Companies who need more muscle! Basra is an interesting place with a great variety of attitudes to the Coalition Forces. Most of the people are very pleased to see us and are happy that

our vehicles are out protecting them. Inevitably there are also those that do not support the Coalition and they have kept life interesting. The men and the vehicles are working very hard and our REME fitter Section have worked wonders in keeping the WARRIOR fleet in tip top condition. However B Companies Recovery Mechanic does win the award for best quote of the tour so far: While standing next to the remains of a water tanker hit by a radio controlled bomb he asks the patrol commander "so where's this vehicle that needs recovering then?"

C COMPANY (Camp Abu Naji - Al Amarah) Life for C Company in Abu Naji is unlike any where we have been stationed before. We have an extremely busy pace of life and are always on standby to help any one in trouble, but morale remains high. The accommodation makes Tidworth look luxurious and water is a precious commodity, so we feel we are earning our pay.

Y COMPANY (CIMIC House, Camp Abu Naji - Al Amarah) Y Company are as ever a busy Company, with the HQ, the Anti-Tank Platoon, snipers and the LOWLANDS multiples at CIMIC House with the Operations Support Group (Ops Sp Gp). Recce Platoon are in Abu Naji with the search team which doubles as the Mortar line when required. With the wide range of skills that Y Company has they inevitably get involved in most operations, whether its the REcce Platoon providing the eyes and ears; the snipers providing protection and the Mortars providing illumination at night if required. Currently the Mortars are dug into the Abu Naji football pitch which has made it pretty difficult to play a smooth passing game of football

without falling into a hole. They are busy at night manning the mortars in order to provide illumination to the night sky to assist troops on the ground operating outside of the camp. Morale remains high in the Company.

The 2nd Battalion is established in Tern Hill, Shropshire and is now the backbone of the newly formed 'Operational' 2nd Infantry Brigade. The Battalion is due to move to BallyKelly late 2005 for a 2 year residential tour. The Battalion's role is that of an Expeditionary Light Battalion, which means they have to be able to deploy worldwide to operate in any of the following climates: Desert, Mountain, Arctic, Temperate and Jungle

The 3rd Battalion is the Territorial Army battalion of the Regiment. The part-time infantry soldiers are based in Surrey (Farnham and Camberley - A Coy), Kent (Canterbury and Dover - C and HQ Coy), Sussex (Brighton and Worthing - B Coy) and two other cap-badged companies in Portsmouth (Royal Rifle Volunteers) and Edgware (The London Regiment).

As you can now see, we recruit right across the South of England and have a strong presence amongst the local communities. We meet up for 2 hrs a week and on one or two weekends a month. It is at this time that we have some fun and are able to release some tension of our everyday lives! Our Role is that of a light infantry battalion that can deploy anywhere in the world, at company level strengths. We are very proud of our abilities as part time Infantry Soldiers and are highly motivated individuals, who would instantly answer to the 'CALL'. Indeed, we have had '68' soldiers serve with the regular army this year..

Private Johnson Beharry VC

In 2005, Pte Johnson Beharry of the 1st Battalion, PWRR was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during his unit's deployment to Al-Amarah, near Basrah. This was the first award of the VC since 1982. Beharry received the VC for two individual acts of great heroism that saved the lives of his comrades while under direct enemy fire in the early hours of 1 May 2004..

In Memoriam 2004-2005

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

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Rfn Harold Barton	Bandsman/Bugler Doug Hester
Gene Bell	John Jones
Cpl Jerry Bell	Capt Dave Kingston
Rfn Ira Bowman	Rfn Bill Lewin
Stanley Brown	Capt Dave Luxford
Robert Alexander 'Bucky' Buchanan	Edward J. McDade
Maj L.J. Bush	Tom McFarlen
Robert Cadeau	Sgt Charles McNabb
Cpl Lyle Carter	Maj Richard D. (Dick) Medland DSO
Lt G.D. Chambers	Sgt Charles Messenger
Robert L. Clarke	Maj T.F. (Frank) Moad
F.E. Dawe	Robert Montgomery
RSM/WO1 Demmy, DCM, MMM	RSM J. P. Moore
Frank Douglas	Robert V. Orr
Rfn Warren Dove	Tom Otto
Charlie Edhouse	Lt J.D. Palmer
Maj J.L. (Larry) Foley	Niels Forrester Petersen
WO Patrick Ford	Capt Douglas James Silzer
A.A. Fougere	Sgt Les Smith
George Golenko	Cpl George Stiff
Sgt Gord Granger	S/Sgt Edward Stuart
MCpl Robert Gregson	Rfn Stefan Surette
Gordon Gofjko	Howie Trainor
Sgt William Lorne Hampton	Leo Patrick Walsh
Ross Hawthorne	Sgt Henry (Harry) James Ward
William (Bill) Hayes	Sgt Donald Widenmaier
Sgt Vince Henthorne	Sgt Nicholas (Nick) Zamaria MM

2005 – The Year Of The Veteran



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