



The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

2007-2008

SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN



“There are some unbelievable sacrifices involved in this.”



Photograph by Hugo Burnand



The Rifleman



“ON TO 2010”

The year 2010 will be most memorable for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, as this country's oldest and finest continuously-serving infantry regiment celebrates its 150th birthday. Sesquicentennial Committees have been formed and have been working for over two years now to ensure planning is done well enough in advance to be certain that the year, from start to finish, is exciting and interesting for the Regimental Family and members of the Canadian public.

Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD, the Honorary Colonel, is Chair of the Executive Committee overseeing all planning and Capt. Adam Hermant CD is Chair of the Steering Committee whose responsibility it is to present and obtain approval of the events and activities to be undertaken during the year in support of the Sesquicentennial. These are in the formative stages at present but full details will be provided once each is confirmed. An invitation has been extended to Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Colonel-in-Chief, in the hopes that she will be able to visit Canada during 2010 and help us celebrate this significant anniversary.

Two projects which are currently underway to mark the 150th birthday however, can be aided immeasurably by help and input from former serving members of The Queen's Own Rifles, now scattered from coast to coast in Canada. Two books are being produced and as editor and writer of the Powder Horn and Rifleman I have a major responsibility in these. One book is a Modern History of The Queen's Own Rifles, to cover the years 1960 to 2010 in the life of the Regiment, which I have undertaken to write. It will trace the Regiment's activities in print and photograph, picking up from the end of the marvellous book written by LCol William T. Barnard ED, CD to mark the 100th anniversary: *"The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1860-1960. One Hundred Years of Canada."* The second is a history of the bands of the Queen's Own Rifles, initially proposed by Ontario author Ian Pearson and for which he has already done exhaustive research., which I am now editing.

Particularly in the case of the modern history book, help is sought from the readers of the Rifleman. You are invited to provide anecdotal material about your experiences in The Queen's Own Rifles as well as the Regimental bands. Of major interest will be the memoirs of members – or family members – as well as any photos that you'd like to provide. We're looking to those of you who served with the 1st and 2nd Canadian Rifles and their successors, the 1st and 2nd Battalions which were posted to Korea, Cyprus and Germany. We also want to hear from those of you who served in Canada, in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Victoria and Valcartier, as well as with the Militia Battalion in Toronto. Additionally, we're looking for material from Queen's Own members who have participated in more recent activities on missions for the United Nations and NATO. We also welcome all WW Two veterans to provide us with stories of what they did following the war upon their return to peacetime living. A number of you stayed with the military and we would hope to hear from all of you.. For examples of the type of material we're looking for, check out the articles on pages 14, 15 and 35 of this issue of the Rifleman. Using your own words, and with accompanying photographs, you can help make these books outstanding successes.

The modern history will be published in early 2011 and will include full details of the Sesquicentennial celebrations. The band book will be published in time to mark the 150th birthday celebrations in April, 2010. Many of you have most interesting, and often humorous anecdotes that you could share with us in the pages of these books. The time to do this is NOW. Email to me at qorpubs@sympatico.ca or send it by regular mail to 1152 Ashcroft Court, Oshawa, ON, L1K 2N9, and help us produce two memorable accounts of life in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

Capt Charles D. McGregor, Editor, *Rifleman*



Bugles and Drums of the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, led by the Regimental Mascot, "Deuce Horn" in the late 1950s.

COVER PHOTOS

Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada have come forward strongly with self-nominations for service in Afghanistan. To date, 19 Queen's Own soldiers have been deployed on six month rotations in Kandahar Province and another 21 are in training now to prepare themselves for service there with TF3-08 in August, 2008. **Front Cover top photo** Four of those who are now back in Canada pose for their portraits in front of an RG31 armoured fighting vehicle. (L to R) Cpl Jason Walter, Cpl Nicco Harper, MCpl Jamieson Murray (now Sgt) and Cpl (now Sgt) Stephen Thomas. **Bottom photo** Sgt Chris Van Hamme receives his

Campaign Star for Afghanistan in a ceremony in Kandahar. (*Photos Department of National Defence*) **Inside front cover:** A new portrait of HRH Princess Alexandra, The Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. **Inside back cover:** Mountain rescue training helps to prepare members of the Queen's Own Rifles team which will attempt to scale Canada's highest mountain, Mt. Logan in the Yukon, in 2010 to mark the Regiment's 150th Birthday. **Outside back cover:** Members of The Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Band and Bugles play "Last Post" at the Cross of Sacrifice on Remembrance Day, 11 November, 2007.

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Visit the QOR webpage at www.qor.com

No shortage of Queen's Own volunteers for Afghanistan duty

LCol Martin Delaney, CD, Commanding Officer



Following the Remembrance Day Parade, 11 November, 2007, the CO, LCol Martin Delaney CD took the opportunity to bring guests up to date on Queen's Own activities for the previous months. His children, Seamus, 4 and Maeve, 18 months, were among those in attendance.

Over the past months a number of our soldiers have already served six month rotations in Afghanistan and, for Task Force 0308, to replace the Royal 22nd Regiment currently serving there, we will be furnishing the largest contribution from a single unit in 32 Canadian Brigade Group. A total of 45 of our soldiers self-nominated to participate in this rotation which goes to Kandahar in August, 2008 and of these, 21 were selected to be sent to take the necessary training to equip them to perform well in what is essentially a battle zone. The Queen's Own Rifles will be represented with personnel from field officer rank through rifleman.

The most senior officer is Major Peter St. Denis, a CIMIC team commander, along with Capt Shawn Stewart, the PSY OPS deputy leader, CSM Mark Shannon, WOs Inasio Kim and Scott Moody, all part of the CIMIC team and Sgt Bill Paton. The list cascades down from there through master corporals, corporals and a large group of riflemen. This is a major contribution to this Roto, I believe unmatched by any other Reserve Army Regiment in Canada. We are

extremely proud of these men and honoured that so many were selected. It is an outstanding testimonial to the quality of the training they have received in the Regiment and Brigade. There are some unbelievable sacrifices involved in this. These are Reserve Army soldiers, after all, with jobs, which provide their primary income. Some of the senior personnel are married with families, the others with girlfriends, most with other activities outside of their military lives. They have taken the major decision to put all of this on hold for several months while they're overseas in the service of their country, in full acceptance of the dangers inherent in being posted to a warzone. I'm very proud of them all.

In addition, beginning in December 2006, our DCO, Maj Sandi Banerjee, was in the Soudan on a six-month United Nations posting. Maj Banerjee, married to Chilpi, with their lovely young children, gave up a great deal to serve his country in this fashion and we applaud him for this. I know he returned to Canada with a new appreciation for what this country offers those who live here as well as a deep understanding of the privation and difficulties under which some of the world's more unfortunate citizens must exist. He represents many other Queen's Own personnel who have served in a wide variety of UN and NATO postings over the past years.

In another completely different but most important area, with respect to the battalion annual budget for 06/07, we were closest among all 32 Brigade units to zero variance. This is a very important consideration for any Commanding Officer. In its own way, this is a business we're running, using taxpayer dollars, and we must be fiscally responsible. I was extremely pleased with our results, since it was accomplished without the full assistance of a Deputy Commanding Officer or a Regular Force officer. (As I said earlier, the DCO, Maj Sandi Banerjee, was in the Soudan on a six-month United Nations posting and the services of the RegForce officer traditionally attached to each reserve unit were required elsewhere.) So great credit to Sgt June Parris and Sgt Claire Willan for all their invaluable help to me in that.

For Exercise Maple Defender in Wainright, Alberta in the summer of 2007 -- a very exhausting and demanding exercise involving Canadian reservists training with RegForce troops -- we filled our personnel quota to 110 per cent. Which meant we not only contributed soldiers to the land exercises we also provided observer controllers and duty personnel.

Including more than 200 from The Queen's Own, there were 1200 troops involved from Land Force Central Area using the same facilities and scenario as the regular work-up training for overseas deployments for Canadian military personnel. Activity included platoons in a combat team context engaging in full-spectrum operations. Soldiers were delegated to mount cordon and search ops, to maintain force protection, handle mass casualty incidents and deal with conventional force incursions.

The battlefield was populated with an experienced cadre of civilians and soldier actors portraying villagers, elders, aid workers, local police, government officials and reporters. Maple Defender raised the bar for Reserve collective training and provided an orientation to the unique training capabilities of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre at Wainright.

Earlier in 2007 I was privileged to be named 32 Brigade Battle Group Commander for Iron Talon 1 and 2, a field exercise held over two weekends at Meaford, Ontario, where we also supplied HQ and a company of troops. We were there in strong numbers for both 1 and 2, which was an exercise that stretched over two weekends in April and May and involved the entire brigade undergoing intensive training in full spectrum operations of the sort experienced in Afghanistan.

We are now the largest unit in the Brigade, by a stretch, notwithstanding the lowest recruiting quotas in the past two years. The cap badge is a strong magnet for attracting and retaining quality individuals. We had the highest number of candidates on Basic Military Qualifications this summer and we also sent seven instructors and two platoon commanders to Meaford for summer

training. All of the instructors had experience in operational tours, either in Afghanistan or Bosnia. Again, the highest in the Brigade. Also, with the troops back with the unit after being in Afghanistan on the last Roto, they contributed a great deal to the quality of training – it's very high.

Our Para Tasking, which no other Reserve Regiment has, is an important focus within The Queen's Own, attracting, as it does, individuals of high quality. We have fully trained para personnel and are able to provide valuable support to the RCAF's 8 Wing at Trenton which is responsible for search and rescue in central Canada and for delivering supplies to the high Arctic and airlifting troops and equipment worldwide. It's the heart of Canada's air mobility forces.

With Para Tasking, we're making what I regard as a very significant contribution to the Canadian Forces Land Advance Warfare Centre, whose mission is to support the generation and deployment of combat ready forces. When required, we have supplied fully para-qualified trained personnel to serve with Canada's RegForce para Regiments, The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, The Royal Canadian Regiment and the Van Doos, mentioned earlier, currently serving in Kandahar.

With regard to the Para Company, commanded by Maj Adam Harmes, in the past year we have added 20 new jumpers, a new Parachute Instructor, three new Jump Masters, four qualified Aerial Delivery personnel, four qualified DZ/LZ Controllers and four qualified Helicopter Ops personnel. We also ran the first Basic Mountain Operations course ever run by the Reserves east of the Rockies. We ran two courses and qualified 26 QOR in Basic Mountain Operations. This will help us in our goal of having a QOR team climb Mt Logan in the Yukon in 2010. At a bit under 20,000 feet, Mt Logan is Canada's highest mountain, second highest in North America after Mt. McKinley in Alaska. Sgt Bill Paton, our Sr. Mountain Operations Instructor, completed the Nepalese High Altitude Mountain Warfare.

I trust this give the readers of The Rifleman an interesting snapshot look at some – and only some -- of the things the Regiment does with its time.

“We lead the brigade, if not the country”

Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD, Honorary Colonel, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD and Sgt Jamieson Murray salute after placing a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice on Remembrance Day 11 November, 2007.

In brief, 2007 has been another outstanding year for the Queen's Own as I am sure these pages will attest. In every category of operations and training that you care to mention we lead the brigade if not the country. This is in no small measure to the efforts of the Commanding Officer and the stellar team of Officers and Junior and Senior NCOs he has assembled and directed during the year. However, there have been some challenges during 2007.

Recruiting: Imposed restrictions on recruiting has meant that we cannot adequately take advantage of Dalton Armoury's footprint in Scarborough and recruit to much more than a platoon at this location. The potential is much greater and I can't help but think this artificial restriction is limiting the numbers the Queen's Own can supply to Afghanistan and other critical missions.

In my view Brigade cannot expect us to take another hit against our recruiting quota this coming fiscal year 08-09. We have been a team player and participated in all aspects of a balanced Brigade (i.e., the lowest recruit quota two years running and giving up trained soldiers to other Units). Let's keep in mind that we have two mission elements -- we must also pro-

vide unit members such as PIs, JMs, Riggers and others to the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) and will contribute the largest contingent to 03-08 in the Brigade.

All this being said, in my view what needs to happen now is that all units need to be treated more fairly in the future.

Dalton Armoury. Another area of concern is the Dalton Armoury where the current lease is due to run out in April 2010 and the landlord does not want to renew. This will require a new building in a new location, hopefully this time owned by DND. To my knowledge the search to date has been slow to non existent. It is my intention to raise this matter at the next Honoraries' Conference.

Regimental Band: The rationalization of our "volunteer" band is another issue that I thought would be resolved in 2007. As I have reported in the past, the issue has been studied to death. I have tried, but cannot find anyone who disagrees with the proposal to balance paid positions but still no decision is taken. As this is a financial zero sum exercise one wonders what could be the possible delay.



Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD takes it easy with Sgt Jose Mendoza and Cpl Stephen Thomas during a break in the summer exercise action at Petawawa.

2007: Another very successful year for The Queen's Own Rifles

Col Richard L. Cowling, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel



Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cowling CD gets comfortable with a C7 standard issue rifle fitted with a laser projector during a summer training session.

The year 2007 saw the same high achievement levels, both collectively and individually, that we have come to expect of the magnificent men and women of the Regiment and its extended family. Individual accomplishments are too numerous to mention, and there is also the danger of missing an important achievement. However, collectively the extended Regiment continues to be active and successful.

Battalion: Participated in a number of important training activities and has excelled in all of them. Retention and participation in higher controlled individual training courses is the best in the Brigade. **Band and Bugles:** In my opinion the best in Toronto, continue to support our functions and ceremonies and also to put us front and centre in many public events.

QOR Association: Very active in support of the Regiment and in giving us a high profile in the community.

Regimental Museum: Is such an important part of the family and continues to professionally display our accomplishments to a multitude of visitors.

Regimental Headquarters: Becoming more and more effective in taking some of the burden from the unit and helping with the non-operational aspects. It presides over many activities and is strongly supported

and led through the generosity and industriousness of the Honorary Colonel.

As a quick overview of my activities let me attempt to chronicle the major events in which I have represented the Regiment (usually in uniform) or supported the Canadian Forces in general.

February: Attended the Conference of Defence Associations in Ottawa; The Garrison Ball in Toronto A Polish reception in Toronto; A very successful Sergeants' Mess Dinner at MPA. **March:** Attended the Change of Colonels in Chief of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Edmonton; The excellent Band and Bugles Dinner in Toronto; The French Legion of Honour presentations at MPA. **April:** Attended the 90th Vimy Veterans Memorial Parade and Dinner in Toronto; The Airborne Luncheon with a number of our jumpers in Toronto; Participated in the Cowling Trophy March and Shoot Competition in Gagetown; Attended the Airborne Luncheon with a number of our jumpers in Toronto.

May: Attended the Honoraries Conference in Wainwright and Edmonton; Exercise Iron Talon in Meaford; Inspected the Scarborough Rifles (Cadets) in Scarborough. **June:** Attended the Change of Command of Commander Land Force Central Area (LFCA) in Toronto; Regimental Family Day in Camp Borden;

The London Club to meet the recently returned CO of the RCR Battle Group in Afghanistan. **August:** Attended a demonstration by the newly formed Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) in Petawawa; LFCA Honoraries Conference in Toronto and Meaford; Participated in the Cowling Trophy March and Shoot Competition in Gagetown.

September: Attended a reception hosted by the Honorary Colonel in Toronto; **Brigade Mess Dinner** in Toronto **October:** Attended Exercise Maple Guardian for three weeks in Wainwright as a participant. **November:** Attended the Remembrance Day activities in Toronto; Officers' Mess Dinner and Church Parade; Dinner with the Commander LFCA; Attended the Vimy Awards Dinner in Ottawa. **December:** Attended The Maple Leaf Club shoot at MPA; The Men's Christmas Dinner at MPA; RCR Birthday Dinner in London; Regimental Officers Luncheon at MPA. Additionally, throughout the year there have also been a number of meetings of the Trust Fund, the Senate and the 2010 Executive .

I have enjoyed the activities of this great year and look forward to active participation in the coming year. The most important event of 2008 will be the high number of Regimental members who will be deploying to Afghanistan. I pledge my support to all, and if I can get there I will. As always, it is an honour to serve with you. I never cease to be impressed by your enthusiasm and devotion to duty.



Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cowling CD presents the "Most Dedicated Cadet" award to Corporal Brianna Sheppard at the annual inspection of the Scarborough Rifles.

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Awards Presentations



The 2007 Annual Men's Christmas Dinner was the occasion for presentation of a number of awards. These included: 1) Cpl Mark Palma received the Colonel Elliott Dalton Trophy from Mrs. Marie Dalton and son Mark; 2) The CSM Charles Martin DCM, MM Award was presented by the Commanding Officer, LCol Martin Delaney to Sgt Jamieson Murray as "Outstanding Rifleman"; 3) LCol Delaney and Maj Adam Harmes (right) present "Rifleman of the Year" award to co-winners Sgt Bryan Burns and MCpl Dmitri Frunze; 4) Capt Timothy Nelligan Award for Public Service was presented to Cpl Jansen Ng by LCol Delaney and Capt Larry Hicks; 5) QOR of C Fitness Award was presented to Cpl Darnel Leader by Maj Rob Zeidler.



Canadian troops may be deployed to Afghanistan well beyond 2009

Capt Charles McGregor



Sgt Chris Van Hamme receives his Campaign Star for Afghanistan prior to his return to Canada from Kandahar following six months service there.

Canada's mission in Afghanistan should not end in February of 2009 but the conditions for the continued presence of Canadian troops in the dangerous southern part of the country must be made very clear to NATO allies. This was the thrust of the report tabled by a panel chaired by former Liberal cabinet minister John Manley following a visit to the war-ravaged country in January.

Manley's report said the battle against the Taliban can – and should -- be won in Kandahar province, but at least 1,000 more soldiers from another NATO country or countries are needed to reinforce and support Canada's efforts. The report also urged DND to purchase medium-lift helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles as a condition for the mission's continuation. A total of 78 Canadian soldiers have been killed since the first troops were deployed there in early 2002, with the latest coming just two days after the report was tabled.

The mission, although it may be "in jeopardy" should not be abandoned prematurely, the report said. "We believe an immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan without making a further effort to achieve a better result for Afghans would squander our investment and dishonour our sacrifice to date," Mr. Manley said. However, he added that "There are simply not enough troops to make sure that the job can properly be done." Failure by NATO

to find the additional troops would "signal a failure of the mission overall," adding that it would be irresponsible for the Canadian government to leave troops in Afghanistan without adequate support.

Manley told the editorial board of the *The National Post* that "The obligation that any government has is to make sure it does not risk its troops in a cavalier fashion when there's no reasonable prospect of success." He said that "We are giving NATO until February, 2009 to provide the additional troops or we are pulling out." He added that pulling out would prove to be "messy."

"We do not expect that NATO will be able to replace us in 2009, nor will the Afghans be ready to take over," Mr. Manley said. "But we can insist that NATO find us a partner in Kandahar, enabling us to expand the scope of security and to shift increasingly from fighting to training the Afghan forces." Canada is the only country operating in southern Afghanistan that does not have such a partner, he said.

Coincidentally, but unrelated to the panel's activities, the U.S. announced it was planning to deploy more than 2,000 combat troops from the Marine Corps into the area for an indeterminate period. Whether they would be pressed into service in support of the Canadians already on the ground there was unknown at the time of the mid-January announcement.

Meanwhile, calling for more balanced communications to the public, the panel said that successive governments have failed to adequately explain why Canada is in Afghanistan -- or what the troops are doing there. (See "Why We Are There" next page)

Although the government would take time to review the report before responding and federal opposition parties immediately repeated their call for full withdrawal, national media, in general, were supportive of the reports recommendations. Manley recommended deferring a government vote on procedure until after April's NATO summit meeting in Bucharest, so Canada has an opportunity to present its views "at the highest level, and called upon Prime Minister Stephen Harper to "step up and make this mission a top priority with a cabinet committee to ensure co-ordination of Canada's efforts. Even more important, he must personally lead our diplomatic initiative, making our voice heard to a degree commensurate with our contribution."

The report also recommended a more "disciplined diplomatic position" regarding Afghanistan, including: the appointment of a UN representative; the adoption by NATO of a comprehensive military and political plan; forceful representations with Afghanistan's neighbours to improve security; and concerted efforts to tackle Afghan corruption.

A further suggestion from the panel was that Canada should consider establishing a "signature" project in Kandahar Province, such as a much-needed hospital. On the panel with Manley – dubbed "The Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan" -- were former Conservative cabinet minister Jake Epp, former Privy Council clerk Paul Tellier, former Canadian ambassador to the U.S. Derek Burney and Pamela Wallin, previously Canadian consul-general in New York.

The full 39-page report can be found at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/afghanistan.

“Our Regiment has once again stepped forward. It was ever thus.”

Col Paul F. Hughes CD, Honorary Colonel, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

In the light of the report by the Manley panel, as Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, I am proud to be able to report our Regiment has once again stepped forward and there are currently 21 of our riflemen now at CFB Petawawa taking part in pre-deployment training to Afghanistan for TF 3-08. We have soldiers that will join 3 RCR Battle Group, CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) and Psy Ops (Psychological Operations.) These troops will not only represent our Regiment to a high standard, but they will also proudly represent the Canadian Forces in our overseas commitment where, I feel it is important to note, that between 20 to 30 percent of past rotations have been made up of Militia soldiers.

However, the fact that we had over 40 Queen's Own Rifles members who self-nominated for this mission is not too surprising as our Regiment has always contributed fully to any task identified by Canada. For almost 150 years we have contributed troops to such diverse locations as Ridgeway, North West Canada, South Africa, France and Flanders, NW

Europe (on several occasions), Korea, Bosnia and now Afghanistan. The battle honours etched on the drums of the Regimental Band and Bugles are testimony to the service given to Canada by our soldiers. And to those who were not selected for this mission let me urge you to re-double your efforts in an attempt to qualify for the next one. That there will be more missions to come, seems certain.

As the panel headed by the former Liberal cabinet minister has rightly concluded, NATO countries like Canada have an important role to play in protecting our values, standing for the rights of individuals, defending democracy and nation building. Mr. Manley said -- and I'm in total agreement with this -- “Countries like Canada have an important role to play – projecting our values, standing for the rights of individuals, of the human security of people whose own governments can't protect them. We're a rich country. We've got to do some of this stuff.”

On 28 January, Prime Minister Stephen Harper officially “gave the nod” to extending the mission, by endorsing the

two recommendations that the Manley panel proposed – 1,000 additional troops from NATO or an allied nation, plus more helicopters and surveillance aircraft. The next day the Prime Minister began a diplomatic push for help in a telephone call to U.S. President George Bush and, in Brussels, a NATO spokesman said the alliance “will play its role” in finding the backup for our Canadian troops. He then talked with British PM Gordon Brown on the same topic. I know that I speak for every member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada family when I say, without reservation that we heartily support these activities on behalf of our young men and women in uniform in Afghanistan.

Regardless of the outcome of this matter, however, as I said previously I am convinced that that there will be other trouble spots in the world where our troops will be required. And, as always, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will be among the quickest off the mark to offer their services.

It was ever thus.

In Pace Paratus

Joint Task Force Afghanistan has three distinct missions

The CF contribution to Afghanistan consists of approximately 2,500 personnel from units across Canada and is referred to as Joint Task Force Afghanistan (JTF AFG). The CF efforts in Afghanistan are subdivided into three distinct missions that work in concert with each other and have the goal of improving the security situation in Afghanistan, and assisting in rebuilding the country. The three missions currently underway are:

Op ATHENA - The Canadian contribu-

tion to the UN-sanctioned and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) currently has 2,500 CF personnel committed to Op ATHENA.

Op ARCHER – Consists of embedded CF staff officers at the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A) in Kabul and a few liaison officers at Bagram Airfield supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) as well as a small cadre of CF instructors involved in the training of the

Afghan National Army (ANA) at the Canadian Afghan National Training Centre Detachment (CANTC Det) in Kabul. The current Canadian contribution to Op ARCHER consists of about 30 CF personnel.

Op ARGUS - The Strategic Advisory Team to the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan currently has 15 Canadians working in Kabul in support of Op ARGUS. (forces.gc.ca)

Why are we there?

Canada is in Afghanistan at the request of the democratically elected government, along with 36 other nations, and as part of a UN-sanctioned mission to help build a stable, democratic, and self-sufficient society. About 2500 members of the

Canadian Forces (CF) are currently serving as part of Joint Task Force Afghanistan (JTF AFG). They play a key role in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission whose goal is to improve the security sit-

uation in Afghanistan and assist in rebuilding the country. (forces.gc.ca)

(See also Pg. 11)

“Devil’s Brigade” veteran makes history

Capt Charles McGregor, Editor

On Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11, 2007, William “Sam” Magee, a veteran of the famous 1st Special Service Force -- the “Devil’s Brigade” -- a joint Canadian-American assault force which served with great distinction during WW Two, was where he always is that day. He was at the war memorial in Oshawa in military uniform to salute fallen comrades, as well as Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan.



Sam Magee today

And along with the campaign, bravery and service medals the Oshawa resident wears, there was a new addition worn proudly on his left breast, just above his gold paratrooper's wings -- the U.S. Combat Infantryman Badge -- one of the most coveted pieces of military hardware that a foot soldier can ever receive.

The principal requirement for award of the CIB is that “The soldier must be an infantryman satisfactorily performing infantry duties, must be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat, and must actively participate in such ground combat.”

Former Quarter Master Sergeant Magee said in November that, “When the 35 Canadian and 45 American surviving members of 1st Special Service Force gathered in Helena,

Washington a few weeks ago, to lay up our colours, we were advised we had all been awarded the U.S. Bronze Star for bravery in action, as well as the CIB. I already had the Bronze for fighting in Southern France, and the Silver Star for fighting in Italy -- both pinned on me by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt -- but to be awarded the CIB is a very great honour for a Canadian soldier. We are the only people outside of the U.S. to receive it.”

He said that “We made history in Helena. I believe we're the only unit in the history of the world where every member was decorated for gallantry.” It's a richly-deserved award. In its short history, from 1942-44, the 1st SSF sustained over 200 percent casualties in battles where “we never yielded an inch of ground. The 1st SSF won everything it fought for,” he says. And it was in grudging admiration -- and a hefty measure of fear -- that their enemies dubbed them “The Devil's Brigade.”

Now in his 80s, Magee is among fewer than 200,000 Canadian war veterans alive today, many confined to wheelchairs, nursing homes or hospital beds. It is estimated about 500 die each week. At one time, including Magee, there were 18 members of the 1st SSF living in Durham Region, where Sam lives. “Three of those were killed in action”, Sam says, “but besides me, only Graham Clapp and Bill Harding are still alive here.” There are others scattered across Canada – a few.



A four part documentary “Devil's Brigade,” was broadcast on the History Channel TV network to mark Remembrance Day, but Sam wasn't watching. “They never get it right,” he said. And that includes the Hollywood movie of the same name, made in 1968, starring William Holden as the Brigade's legendary commander Major-General Robert T. Frederick.

Each year, in the days leading up to Remembrance Day, Magee is kept busy speaking to youngsters in Durham Region schools about the significance of the day and the poppies that people wear to mark it. “When I speak to our young people, I find out that most don't really know what any of us did in the war. I speak to thousands of young people in the two weeks before November 11th,” Magee said. “You'd be amazed at the questions they ask. I know I am.”

A born storyteller, he has almost total recall of his days of parachuting, marching or boating into heavily defended positions with his comrades. They fought in Kiska, in the



Sam Magee yesterday

Aleutian Islands off Alaska and at the Anzio Beachhead in Italy, where, with fewer than 1,500 men, they defended the beach for 99 days.

The soldier who, in December mourned the loss of his wife Elizabeth, a former RSM in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, is on a mission of a different sort these days. It's one he feels is just as important as anything he ever did before. “I'm helping young people to learn about our Canadian history. They don't really get much idea of what we experienced, because it's not taught in schools.” It's a new element of his “Kids for Kids” program he's been running for many years

(Cont'd from previous page)

"I have always had a great relationship with young people," he said.

To mark Canada's "Year of the Veteran - 2005" he created a "Student Historical Society", aimed at those in Grade 8 and up, with the goal of "providing history that they won't find in books or films."

His aim, with the help of similarly-minded volunteer veterans, is "to pioneer a Student Historical Society chapter in as many schools as possible," complementing the role of their teachers, "who tell me that they don't know these stories, so they can't tell them to their students." He began in Durham, with the hope and expectation that the program would snowball. It's an ambitious undertaking, which involves the students "through providing the opportunity for them to develop a sense of accomplishment by devising their own programs to tell different stories."

There are rules. "No smoking, drinking, chewing gum or carrying on conversations during program presentations," for instance. Magee said that, "Respect of the highest standard is required. And so is punctuality."

"We're all in our 80s now, even those like me who joined underage. I tried to join the Navy, then the air force as a pilot, but I'm colour-blind so they said I could be a tail-gunner. No thanks! I kept getting caught underage, so I had to go from one recruiting sergeant to another to another. I'd get kicked out in the morning and go back at night to try again. I was in the Ontario Regiment here in Oshawa, then the Ordnance Corps, then the Toronto Scottish and finally became a paratrooper in the 1st SSF."

Towards the end of the war, he was wounded, "not seriously, but many, many of my comrades were killed. The 1st SSF was in some tough fights. The Cassino breakthrough, the breakout from the Anzio beachhead, we were among the first to enter Rome, two days before the Normandy invasion, and ended our war in the south of France, just before Christmas, 1944."

"There's a lot to talk about," Magee said. And he and his comrades are the ones to do it. To find out more, email campsharing@hotmail.com.

D-Day Celebrations in France, June, 2007

Tjarko Pot, Queen's Own Rifles Re-enactor



Monday 5th of June, Cintheaux Cemetery

The ceremony at Cintheaux Cemetery, arranged by the mayor, included veterans belonged of the 14th Field Regiment (RCA) who also landed at Bernieres sur mer on the morning of the 6th of June 1944. The weather was excellent and there were about 140 people there, including 6 Canadian veterans and one Polish veteran. Flowers were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice and the Last Post was played by a young Lance-Corporal of the British 3rd British Division and a bagpiper played the Lament. Later, Bugler Gerben van der Els and his wife Dianne, Celine and I were invited to have supper with the Canadian Battlefields Foundation at de Moulin Morin outside of Bayeux.

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

We drove to Bernieres-Sur-Mer where we were welcomed by the Hoffer family and were joined by three other members of the QOR Reenactment group, Rob van Meel, Henk Minne and Jan van der Sande. By 8.00am, when the mayor of Bernieres-sur-mer gave her welcome speech, there were some 140 people in front of the Maison des Canadiens. with 10 VIPs, the Military Attache from the Canadian Embassy in Paris and 12 Canadian veterans from the Regiment de la Chaudiere. Rob van Meel read the message of the Regiment and then the VIPs laid flowers, Gerben van der Els

played the Last Post followed by two minutes of silence. The ceremony at the Maison des Canadiens was a big success and much credit goes to the family Hoffer who provided coffee and cake for a reception that followed outside and inside the house, which is a very special opportunity.

Place du Canada, Bernieres-sur-Mer

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

The Juno Beach Centre, Courseulles-sur-Mer

At 15.00 there was a ceremony at the Juno Beach Centre. At least 300 people attended the ceremony. Nathalie Worthington started the ceremony by thanking all the VIPs who

(Cont'd from previous page)

attended the ceremony, including "representatives of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada". After some more speeches from VIPs and the Centre's founder, veteran Garth Webb, flowers were laid down by the monument and the Last Post was played followed by two minutes of silence. After the Canadian and French national anthems all the visitors were invited to have a drink and a little aperitif inside the Centre.

Beny-sur-Mer /Reviere Cemetery

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

Wednesday 7th of June

Ceremony, Courseulles-sur-mer

The first ceremony on the 7th was at Courseulles-sur-mer in front of the BOLD tank. A few years ago a veteran of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders visited the BOLD tank and discovered that there was no plaque of his regiment on the tank. Back in Canada the veteran paid for a special plaque to be made, with the intention of having it put on the tank at a later date. He passed away before he could make the arrangements. His wife contacted another veteran of his regiment and she asked if he could help with the last wish of her husband to put the plaque on BOLD, and this veteran came in contact with The Canadian Battlefields Foundation. The Foundation arranged with the Mairie of Courseulles for the plaque to be installed, and the last wish of a veteran was fulfilled. Around 80 people attended the inauguration ceremony including 15 British and Belgium veterans. After the welcome speech from the mayor of Courseulles, a widow of another North Nova Scotia Highlander said some words and unveiled the plaque, which had been covered with a large Canadian flag. A wreath was laid by the Juno Beach Centre, followed by the reading of the act of remembrance in French and in English, then the Last Post (played by Gerben van der Els) and two minutes of silence. After the ceremony everyone walked to the 1914-1918 monument

about 100 metres away and we held a short ceremony for Courseulles' war dead, and again Gerben van der Els played the Last Post. After the ceremony we all were invited by the mayor of Courseulles to have a little reception in the town hall.

CBF Ceremony, Memorial de Caen

At 14.30 there was a Ceremony at the Canadian Garden at the Memorial museum in Caen. The ceremony is one of three ceremonies organized every year by the Canadian Battlefields Foundation on June 7th. Around 100 people attended the ceremony in the Canadian Memorial Garden in the valley behind the museum. The president of the Foundation, Major-General Addy, welcomed all the VIPs and gave a short speech. Many dignitaries laid flowers in front of the stone fountain and the act of remembrance was read, followed by Gerben's Last Post and two minutes of silence.

CBF Ceremony, Place de l'Ancienne Boucherie, Caen

A police escort led everyone from the Memorial to Place de l'Ancienne Boucherie for the second Foundation ceremony. At Place de l'Ancienne Boucherie there is a monument dedicated to all Canadian soldiers who liberated Caen in 1944. At 15.30 the ceremony started and General Addy welcomed all the VIPs and the mayor of Caen. After some speeches flowers were laid down at the monument and after the act of remembrance the Last Post was played by Gerben van der Els. About 80 people attended the ceremony.

CBF Ceremony, Abbaye d'Ardenne

The last CBF ceremony is always at the Abbaye d'Ardenne. It was here in the garden of the abbey on the 7th of June 1944, that Canadian soldiers who were taken POW were executed by the Germans. After the war in 1945 the Vico Family, who had lived on the grounds until they were forced to leave by the SS, discovered the graves of the murdered Canadian soldiers. The ceremony started at 16.30 when General Addy welcomed all VIPs and Mr Vico gave a moving speech followed by prayers. Wreaths were laid by local dignitaries and then the names of the Canadian soldiers were called out by General Addy and one by one the students of the Foundation study tour each laid a maple leaf on the monument in honour of each man who had lost his life there. The leaves had been collected from the Canadian garden at the Memorial in Caen.

Gerben van der Els played the Last Post, which was followed by two minutes of silence. Around 130 people attended the Ceremony at Abbaye d'Ardenne.

Ceremony at Bretteville l'Orgueilleuse

After the Abbaye d'Ardenne ceremony, around 18.00, the town of Bretteville l'Orgueilleuse always holds a ceremony at the monument of the Royal Regina Rifles. After some welcome words from the town mayor, and some other speeches from some VIPs, flowers were laid, Gerben van der Els played the Last Post followed by two minutes of silence. After the ceremony there was a small reception in the town hall About 100 people attended the ceremony.

Ceremony at Le Mesnil Patry

The last Ceremony for this day was at Le Mesnil Patry in front of The Queen's Own Rifles and First Hussars monument. The monument lists the names of more than 100 soldiers from both regiments who were killed in the town on the 11th of June 1944. Roger Alexandre, the mayor of Le Mesnil Patry, started the ceremony by welcoming everyone. After some speeches, flowers were laid and Gerben played the Last Post. Around 100 people attended the ceremony, and afterwards we were all invited to a little reception for some drinks. The town had also organized a supper, and we were invited to share the meal. All the staff of the Juno Beach Centre were also there, and it was a nice chance to meet the new Canadian guides working at the museum. It was a very nice meal and after the dessert some of our group members including Gerben van der Els had to drive back to Holland. Gerben and his wife Dianne arrived home at 5.00am the next morning, with just enough time for a few hours of sleep before starting the afternoon shift at the hospital.

Thursday 8th of June

Ceremony at Putot en Bessin

At 18.30 there was a ceremony in Putot en Bessin, to unveil a new plaque that explains the actions of the Canadian regiments that liberated the town. The mayor of the town started the ceremony with a speech, followed by a speech from General Clive Addy of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation. After the speeches the new plaque was unveiled by retired CWO Gerry Woodman, who is the president and director of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum. After reading the act of Remembrance and the two minutes of silence we were invited to the town hall for a reception. Around 100 people attended the ceremony.

More Queen's Own troops readying for deployment to Afghanistan

A total of 21 members of The Queen's Own Rifles are currently engaged in an intense training program at CFB Petawawa to prepare them for deployment to Afghanistan in August with Task Force 3-08 (TF 3-08). Included in their number are two Queen's Own soldiers who were part of the 19 who have already spent six months in this difficult, physically and mentally demanding engagement and are now back home in Canada.

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Commanding Officer, LCol Martin J. Delaney CD noted that there has been a steady increase in the number of "self-nominations" – or "self noms" as the soldiers say -- as time has passed. In all, 45 had put their names forward in hopes of being selected for this deployment, but only 21 of those were chosen. However,

"We will be furnishing the largest contribution for a single unit in 32 Canadian

Brigade Group," LCol Delaney said. "This is a major contribution, I believe unmatched by any other Reserve Army Regiment in Canada."

Since 2002, when the mission in Afghanistan was launched, almost 100 members of The Queen's Own have volunteered to serve in this mission. "We are very proud of these men," LCol Delaney said, "and are honoured that so many were selected. It is an excellent testimonial to the quality of the training they have received in the Regiment and Brigade."

Currently in pre-deployment training are: To 3RCR Batttle Group Cpl David Chrzan, Cpl Gavin Griffiths, Cpl Nader Hijazi, Cpl Christopher Hinds, Cpl Armin Khazai-Nejad, Cpl Joshua Low (w/2CER), Cpl Calvin Lui, Cpl Paolo Villa (w/2CER) Cpl Barry Windover (HQ driver) Cpl Adam Winnicki (w/RCD). To Psychological Operations (PSY OPS) Capt

Shawn Stewart, Cpl Paul Benincasa, MCpl Ricardo Chiu, MCpl Adam de Bartok (second tour), MCpl Rick Kurelo. To Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Maj Peter St. Denis (OC CIMIC, TF 3-08).

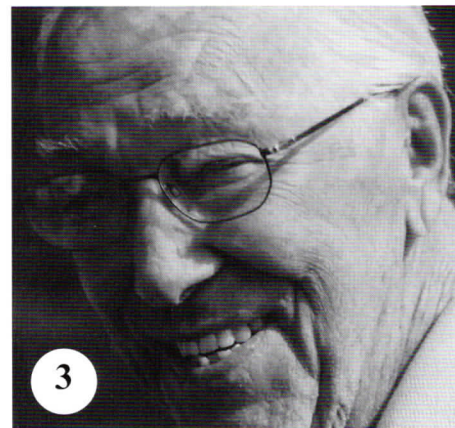
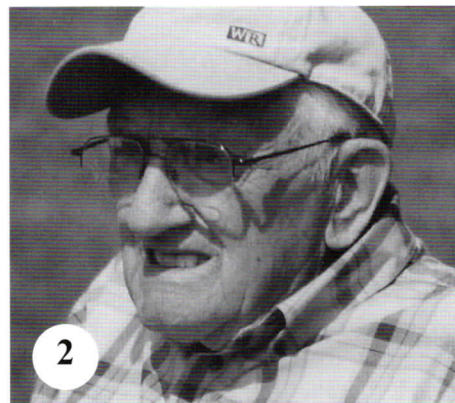
Formerly serving in Afghanistan were: Capt David Harmes (went as a Sgt with CIMIC) Capt Andrew Sarossy, Lt Adrian Burton, Sgt Bryan Burns, Sgt Edward Howard (CIMIC), Sgt Jamieson Murray, Sgt Chris Van Hamme, Sgt Judy Willan, MCpl Jason Bridge, MCpl Marc Charlebois, MCpl Adam DeBartok (now on pre-deployment for a second tour), MCpl Ivanka Koulik, MCpl Jason McGibbon (now on pre-deployment for a second tour), Cpl Chris Abate, Cpl Nicco Harper (now with RCR in Petawawa, transferred RegForce), Cpl Inkee Kim, Cpl Michael McQuaid, Cpl Stephen Thomas (Second tour; first tour was with 7 RCA), Cpl Jason Walter



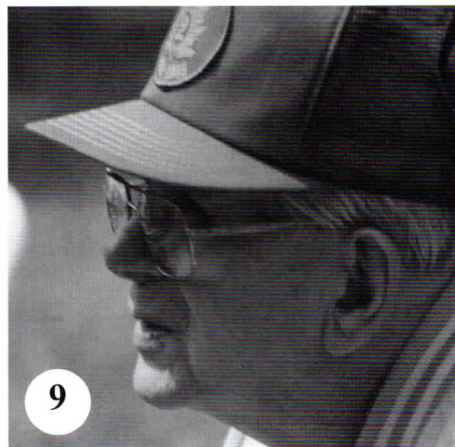
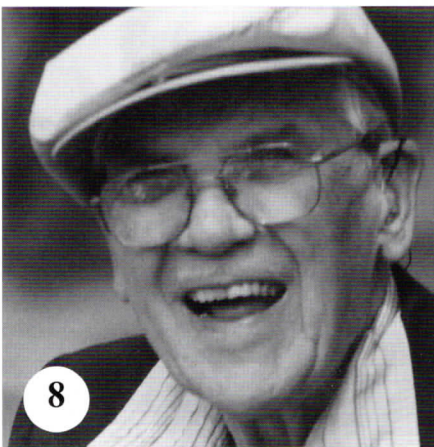
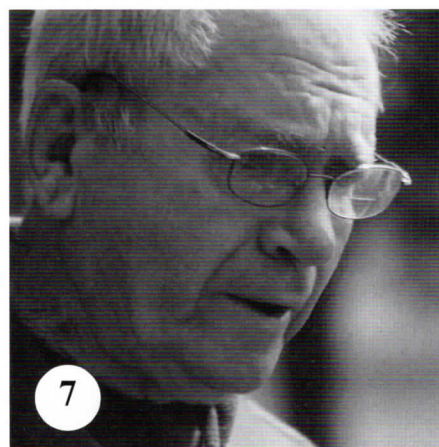
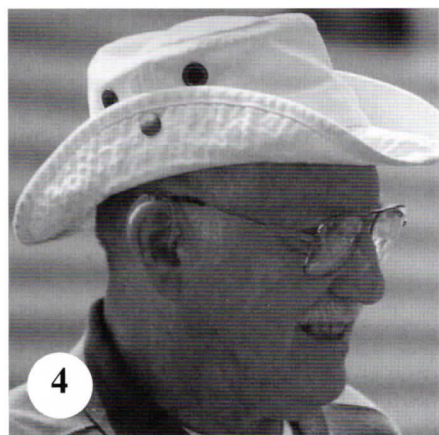
Social gatherings of visitors to Sydney, NS, for Reunion 2007 were both formal and informal, as the photos show. An account of the activities at the event organized by the Maritimes-Newfoundland-Labrador QOR Association can be found on page 22.



Queen's Own Rifles Veterans at home and away



(1) D-Day veterans Bill Ross (left) and Bill (Boots) Bettridge at the marker in Rha, Holland, commemorating those Queen's Own soldiers who were killed there in April, 1945, one month before VE Day. (2) Bob Catlow (3) Bill Bettridge (4) Norm McCracken (5) Bill Ives (6) Frank Sypulski (7) Frank Pearce (8) Roy Shaw (9) Bill Martin.





Mrs. Marie Dalton, widow of Colonel H. E. (Ellie) Dalton DSO, ED, unveiled a plaque in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's new Dalton Armoury in Scarborough. The armoury was named in memory of her late husband and his brother, Colonel C. O. (Charlie) Dalton, DSO, ED, who were Queen's Own Rifles Company Commanders on D-Day. Both were Majors, Ellie leading A Company and Charlie leading B Company. Both were wounded and hospitalized in England but were eventually able to re-join the Regiment as it fought its way through Northwest Europe into Germany. Both survived the conflict. Present at the unveiling of the plaque were: (l. to r.) Colonel Jerry Mann, CD, Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group; Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Martin J. Delaney CD; Mrs Dalton and Major Allan Champion CD, former OC Buffs Company.



“I felt a strong need to be part of history”

Pte Kyle Anderson

(Kyle Anderson is a 17-year-old Scarborough high school student who was influenced to join The Queen's Own by the establishment of the new Dalton Armoury there.)

We all know that International Terrorism is among the biggest threats of our generation and because of this Canada requires a rapid increase in its troops. This is one of the reasons that the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Government decided to open its new Dalton Armoury in Scarborough.

Aside from this, I had always had an interest in joining the military as far back as I can remember. It was always a priority for me even, although Moss Park Armoury, the closest one to my home at the Scarborough/Pickering border seemed to be an impossibly long distance away. The friend who brought an article regarding the opening of the Dalton Armoury to my attention had no

idea that this would be responsible for a turning point in my life. As I read this article I was introduced for the first time to a little bit of the Queen's Own Rifles history.

It was somehow fitting that the day of the opening of this new Canadian Armoury should be christened with typical Canadian weather. It was raining, extremely windy and bone-chillingly cold for an April day. As the crowd stood quietly struggling to hear the commemoration given by Dalton family members over the wind and the rain slapping us in the face, I knew this was where I belonged.

After the impressive opening ceremony including the music of the Queen's Own Rifles military band, we all were led inside the armoury for demonstrations of the regiment's various capabilities. I spoke to a few of the Queen's Own representatives and asked many

questions including “How do I join?” I felt a strong need to be part of history by becoming one of the first “New Recruits” to join the Dalton Armoury.

The excitement pride and anticipation I feel for what lies ahead for me is hard to put in words. I realize that this is only the introduction to what has become a whole new outlook on life for me. My hopes are that in the future “The Queen's Own Rifles” is to become synonymous with “Who I am”.

(Pte Anderson is currently a BMQ student, training weekends and evenings at Moss Park. He takes the weekly shuttle from Dalton Armoury to attend Wed night training. His mother has also expressed an interest in auditioning for clarinet as a volunteer member of the band.)

A 40-plus memoir from an old soldier

Rfn (later Color.!) Don Ethell OC OMM MSC OstJAOE CD



In the Fall of 1956, as a new Rifleman in the ranks of A Coy 1 QOR of C, I and many others were drilling on the Currie Barracks parade square Calgary in preparation for the firing of a *Feu-de-Joie* (a six week process!) When suddenly -- during a rehearsal of the "Double-past en masse" - the RSM (Rusty Rowbottom, I think) called the companies to form a hollow square. He then turned the Battalion over to a young officer, Captain Herb Pitts, MC, CD, who in turn handed over to the CO, LCol C.P. McPherson.

As the Bn was slated for a tour in Germany 1957-60, all ranks were initially devastated to hear the CO state "The battalion move to Germany is cancelled." However, "Instead, the 1st Bn has been selected to represent Canada as part of a United Nations Force to be deployed in the vicinity of the Suez Canal, to 'stand between the lines' of the Israelis and the Egyptians" We were to leave within days. Great joy and excitement from the ranks!

As the Canadian Army was unprepared for sudden deployment overseas there then came the long lines of QM parades for equipment - and inoculations - three in one arm and four in the other! No mercy for those who fainted, just a medic hollering "pick them up and take them outside for fresh air" and a splash of water out of our metal canteens.

Finally we're on to Shearwater in the C119 (Flying Boxcar) Many of us teenage Rfn thought it was great when our aircraft had to land eight times between Calgary and Halifax, as we were indestructible! And we usually stayed overnight or for a meal. Upon arrival in Halifax, the 900-man

Battalion was divided between Windsor Park Armouries (the home of the Black Watch) and HMCS Stadacona, the very large Naval establishment. Alpha Coy was billeted in Stadacona, which was a blessing as we were closer to the downtown Halifax (and the 'other evils' of a famous Naval port).

While the politicians pondered our fate as to whether or not Canada would despatch a well-trained killer battalion on a Peace Support Operations or send logistic/sigs troops, those of us in A Coy did one or all of the following: Practiced QOR drill on the Stadacona parade square - which really impressed the slow moving sailors of Halifax! And lots of route-marches. Under the command of a naval boatswain (PO) tried to convince 15 Rfn to row a 20' whaler around the Halifax basin. Drew picquet duty on the aircraft carrier HMCS Magnificent as all our vehicles were 'tied-down' on her flight deck. During picquet duty onboard we slept in many of the seven-tired bunks arranged in the aircraft hangers of the Magnificent. There were no aircraft left on-board. We did have the pleasure of dining in the ship's galley - and picking out the cockroaches which dropped from the bulkhead. This was not the officers' Wardroom!

The local Halifax Olands' brewery mounted free tours of their establishment, followed by free beer in their canteen. The Bn Transport vehicles eventually would just take the companies to the canteen - and skip the tour! All of the movie theatres in Halifax were free for Queen's Own soldiers in uniform. Many local residents opened their homes to the soldiers for small parties and a home-cooked meal. They were gratefully received and appreciated.

During the late stages of our six-week stay, to thank the people of Halifax, the Bn marched in column-of-route through the streets for six miles. In addition to many remarks from the audience including "They look so young", a couple of memorable points: Three bands rotated in and out of the parade route (1st Bn, Black Watch and a Naval band) all playing at a different cadence therefore we were forev-

er 'changing step'. The six CSMs were kept very busy! As riflemen we carried our .303 rifle on the index finger of the right hand. Normally the 'change-arms' on the march is a swift and smart-looking movement, however when one's right arm is frozen in position it is difficult to get it moving again.

Unfortunately, our political masters decided that the "Queen's Own" (a name which President Nasser of Egypt objected to) would not be sent to the Middle East. So, we were to be returned to our Home Station in Calgary. Two troop trains transported the battalion across the country. The train on which Alpha Coy was assigned took seven days to reach Calgary, including a day and slow crawl past Toronto! Even the cattle trains had priority over our crowded troop trains. And, of course we were not permitted off of the train at any stop. The MPs were positioned to try and catch those who mounted a 'left-flanking' for the nearest liquor store;

Finally we arrived back in Calgary - on Christmas Eve! For single soldiers, we had quarters in Currie Barracks, however quite a number of the married lads had moved their families to an SPR; sold houses and cars - and now they had to move back to Calgary. What a bitter lesson for the Army. To rub salt into the wound we were not re-inserted back into the 1957-60 rotation to Germany. The 2nd Bn QOR of C had assumed the tasking, and wouldn't give it up.

Regardless, we eventually replaced the 2nd Battalion in 1960, and spent the next three years in Fort MacLeod (Deilinghofen) Germany, during a period when the Berlin Wall was going up, not down! And, during the Cuban crisis, living through the many hours, days deployed to our Primary and Alternate General Deployment positions. In October 1963 we rotated to Work Point Barracks, Victoria BC.

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

CSM (later RSM) Harry Fox MBE made a lasting impression on his troops

Rfn (later LCol) Moore Jackson, CD



I can recall many incidents about CSM (later RSM) Fox, but you have to bear in mind that I was a very young rifleman, just out of school. To us youngsters, he was like a "Viking god", this tall, imposing figure with the soldierly bearing.

CSM Fox saves the Mess Hall: One night I was on guard with Rfn Dave Kingston (later Pl Sgt of 15 Pl in Charlie Company on D-Day). It was a horrible night, raining, awfully cold; we had already stood guard for some two hours. Our guard sergeant said, "To hell with this" and sent Dave and I back to the guardhouse to get warm. We had only been there a short time when CQMS Al Newlands, came in and ordered us to arrest the night cook because he was chopping up the Company Mess Hall for firewood. The cook was drunk, and everyone seemed afraid to deal with him.

At first, the order caused us some consternation; we were 18 year-old rookie riflemen. But after a few moments of reflection, we had the answer; we would speak to our CSM, Harry Fox. We went down to his tent and woke him up. It was about 0200 hrs by this time. The Sergeant Major immediately got up, put on his QOR wedge cap. As we approached we

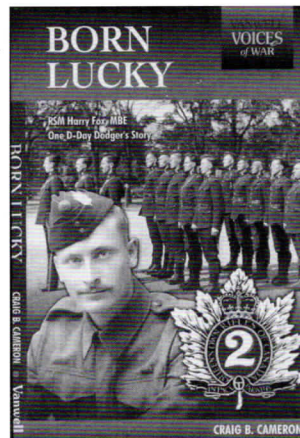
could hear the chopping in the Mess Hall. We asked Mr. Fox if we should load our rifles, and he replied: "Good God, Rifleman, we're not fighting the enemy." The CSM marched in and said to the cook, "Give me the axe", which he did. And so there was no further problem! What most impressed the two of us was the aura of authority that surrounded the CSM. After 65 years, this incident is as fresh in my memory as if it happened just yesterday.

Discipline - Harry "the Long Finger." Harry was very strict but also very fair. As CSM he never asked us to stand at attention while talking to him. He was known by the men as "the long finger" because he would point his finger at your nose but never actually touch you with it. It was rather difficult to complain or whatever to him with him quizzing you in this manner and saying to you, "Speak up, son."

Harry's sense of humour. Harry had a very humane side as well. In Newfoundland we lived by the bugle calls and got to know what

each call meant. The one for defaulters was well known, of course. One time in New Brunswick, defaulters' call was sounded out and they leisurely stirred in their bunks. Immediately the bugle sounded again, this time indicating "on the double", which caused a mild panic as they now had to hurry to get dressed to meet the CSM. When they finally were ready and formed up outside, Mr. Fox said to them: "Good day. I just wanted to see you hurry". He did have moments of the common touch, you see.

Promotion and Words of Advice. One day while in Sussex, N.B. I looked on the daily orders and saw I was promoted to Lance Corporal. As C Company was the duty company for the whole battalion that day, I looked to see what fatigue I had drawn. To my horror, I was duty corporal in charge of the wet canteen. To me this seemed a really hopeless task for a new junior NCO! What would I do if riflemen got drunk and into a fight? I went to CSM Fox and thanked him for the promotion. I said I felt this was a "doom and gloom" fatigue. He said I wasn't to worry as he would not have assigned me if he felt I could not handle it. This made me feel a lot better. As I was leaving him he called out to me: "Corporal Jackson. I wouldn't sew those stripes on too tight if I were you." I went from feeling good about myself back to despondency! Fortunately, the duty worked out alright; no one got into trouble or had to be arrested and I kept my rank.



When I was leaving the Regiment in 1943 in England, to attend Officer Candidate Training School, I went to say goodbye to RSM Fox. He said that his door was always open to me, after my return as a new lieutenant, if I ever felt I needed advice. I asked him if I had been struck off strength of the QOR yet and was wondering why I hadn't read orders posting me as an Officer Cadet as yet. RSM Fox said I was SOS already. I then asked him why he always seemed to be bugging me about this and that? He looked right at me and said, "Cpl Jackson, you are going up to become an officer." Then it all became clear.

Queen's Own Rifles at home and away



Capt Peter Simundson, Curator of The Queens's Own Rifles Museum, is also a regular at the annual Regimental shoot. A variety of weapons is available for members to test their shooting prowess, including vintage rifles. Capt Simundson is reminded that those old rifles weren't equipped with recoil suppressant technology.



Band Sgt Ted O'Halloran, who joined the Queen's Own's Bugle Band as a teen-ager before the Second War, still parades with the Regimental Band and Bugles, most recently on Remembrance Day, 2007. A member of the Regiment on D-Day, Ted landed at Juno Beach and served as a medical orderly during the thick of the fighting to liberate Northwest Europe. He has served with The Queen's Own for 70 years.

Former Queen's Own Rifles RSM Brian Budden (left) and Bill Dyson, whose father was killed in the NW Europe campaign, at the plaque at the farmhouse in Mooshof in Germany which recounts the exploits of Sgt Aubrey Cosens who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for bravery there.



Canadian Soldier "Newsmaker of the Year" in 2006

The Canadian Press and Broadcast News January, 2007

It's being waged half a world away, yet the war in Afghanistan was the overwhelming choice as Canadian news story of 2006. In the annual poll of newspaper editors and broadcasters conducted by The Canadian Press and Broadcast News, the war easily outranked the Conservatives' federal election victory with a margin of 91 to 44. The Canadian Soldier was also chosen Canadian Newsmaker of the Year.

For the first time since the Korean War, Canadian soldiers went into sustained, major combat and suffered hundreds of casualties, including 36 deaths this past year. Images of Maple Leaf-draped coffins returning home became crimson staples for



(DND Photos)

front pages and newscasts, and delivered the reality of war to millions of Canadians. As historian and author Serge Durflinger put it, "nothing can bring it home like the faces of the dead."

Jim Poling, managing editor of the Hamilton Spectator, said debate over the nation's role in war was "no longer theoretical. We are no longer debating U.S. foreign policy from afar. This year Canadians witnessed and wept as coffins bearing the remains of Canadian soldiers landed on tarmacs across the country. Life and death and war is again a reality for Canadians and the divisions emanating from the conflict are real," he said.

The total votes in the Canadian Press-Broadcast News poll to determine Canada's top News Story of the Year: War in Afghanistan -- 91 votes; Conservatives win election -- 44; Dawson College shooting in Montreal -- 18; Evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon -- 6; Government's motion to recognize Quebec as a nation -- 6; RCMP shooting deaths in Saskatchewan -- 4; Income trust overhaul -

- 2; Collapse of overpass in Laval, Que. -- 2; Sinking of B.C. ferry -- 1; Native stand-off at Caledonia, Ont. -- 1.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier was pleased when informed about the choice for Newsmaker of the Year. "The mere fact that anybody would even consider the Canadian soldier, and I use the soldier in the most generic term - air, land and sea - because they're all there in Afghanistan, reflects the fact that Canadians have really realized the importance of the Canadian Forces, the role that it plays in our society, how it helps protect Canadian interests, at home, around the continent and internationally. "I think it's an incredible compliment to our soldiers."

It's only the second time in the 60-year history of the CP-BN Newsmaker of the Year survey that the nation's newsrooms have made a symbolic selection over a specific person. In 1992, the voters chose the con-



stitutional referendum on the Meech Lake accord.

Many of those who picked this year's Newsmaker of the Year said they did so because of the changing image of the Canadian soldier as a result of the conflict in Afghanistan.

"For the first time in a generation Canadian soldiers are being recruited, trained and sent to a war zone," said Jim Poling, "This story is a new chapter in Canadian history and the implications are broad and dramatic. It is a cross-generational story."

Added Bill Scriven, managing editor of the Sentinel Review in Woodstock, Ont.: "Canadians have made it clear that while they do not support the war in Afghanistan, they proudly support the efforts of the Canadian troops."

Just a few years ago, supporters of Canada's military felt they were in an

uphill battle for public recognition. The fighting force that distinguished itself with bravery and tenacity in the Second World War and in Korea had in subsequent decades taken on the role of an international peacekeeper. But the Canadian Forces has had to struggle to remain effective in the face of multimillion-dollar budget cuts from a succession of governments.



That began to change on Sept. 11, 2001. The stunning attacks on the United States by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization prompted a military response. Within months, Canadian troops were in Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led coalition which toppled the Taliban government that had offered sanctuary to al-Qaida terror training camps.

But Taliban insurgents held areas where their influence is deep-rooted - such as Kandahar province, where most of Canada's 2,500 troops are deployed. Canada found itself taking on more of a leadership role, and its military slowly started building its new reputation.

Over the past year, Canadian troops have led the battle against the Taliban, spearheading Operation Medusa on the insurgents' home turf. The fighting resulted in the largest number of Canadian battlefield casualties since the Korean War, keeping Canadians riveted to developments in Afghanistan.

(Since 2002, by early February, 2008, 78 Canadian soldiers had died in Afghanistan, with 36 of those deaths in 2006 and 30 in 2007. With these unfortunate occurrences comes the realization that the role of Canadian troops in some foreign deployments has changed from that of a traditional peacekeeping military force to that of a fully-engaged combat army.)

Trumpeter Wilson's Last Call

Capt Charles McGregor, Editor

Percy Dwight Wilson may not have been one of a kind in the world, but he was certainly very close to it.

At 106 years of age, Dwight, ("don't call me Percy"), was one of only two Canadian veterans of the First World War who were still alive in early 2007, members of an exclusive club whose membership dwindled year by year. Now, with Pte Wilson's death in May, John Babcock, 105, is the sole remaining Canadian survivor of "The War to End All Wars," the 1914-1918 conflict which killed millions of men, including almost 70,000 Canadians, among them how many who were members of The Queen's Own.

More than 80 years since Armistice Day in 1918, their world total has been estimated at fewer than 150, with 19 of those in Great Britain, of the total nine million of her sons who went to war for King and Country, of whom a million died. Many of the more than 600,000 Canadians who volunteered to fight "Kaiser Bill" were underage and, like many a young buck of the time, Dwight was one of those, enlisting as a bugler in the 69th Battery of the Canadian Horse Artillery in 1916.

Shipped to England as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, "zigzagging and dodging torpedoes" en route, his real age – fifteen -- was quickly discovered and, despite the fact the British military hierarchy were lampooned in the popular press of the day as "Donkeys Leading Lions," they were quick to ensure that Trumpeter Wilson's wartime career was restricted to home service, digging latrine trenches, mostly.

Chuckling at the memory, in an interview he gave before his death in "K" Wing at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital, he said, "I did play my bugle a lot, though. I got the boys up in the morning and I put them to bed at night." Sent home a year later, he says, "I never got to France and I was a bit disappointed at the time," but it doubtless saved his life. Many of his Horse Artillery comrades, not much older than he,

died in the mud of the Somme and Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele battlefields, among the nearly 70,000 young Canadians who never got to make the return trip across the Atlantic.

Back home, the frustrated bugler embarked on a career in music, studying at the Royal Conservatory and performing as a concert baritone on both sides of the border. He joined Bell Telephone in the early 20's "because they started a vocal group and I wanted in. I was blessed with a good voice and I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to do what I love to do -- and still get a good job." While touring, he met his wife Eleanor, a singer and pianist, and they were happily married until her death, at 94, in 1993.



The Toronto-born old soldier, who was a militia captain in the Perth Regiment when Canada declared war in 1939, was deemed too old for overseas service, much to his dismay. Like many old soldiers, in his personal appearance he was always trim and well-turned out, with a very distinguished air. Before his death he lived quietly at Sunnybrook with the numerous World War II veterans there.

He had said that, "I used to sing all the time when I was overseas. In the mess hall, in the barracks, everywhere." He said his time in the army had been beneficial to his singing, because "Playing the bugle enhanced my breathing."

When prompted he often broke into song, his favourite being a very slightly quavery, but on-key rendition of one of the love songs from the popular musical "Carousel" -- "If I Loved You." He would sing it from start to finish, all the words, always to applause from other residents gathered nearby.

Another veteran there in Warrior's Hall spoke up, saying "he also sings "Danny Boy," and it's beautiful." Trumpeter Wilson just smiled. Born in 1901, he'd heard it all before.

Passchendaele: One of the bloodiest battles of World War One

2007 was the 90th anniversary of the third battle of Ypres -- Passchendaele -- one of the World War One Battle Honours ascribed to The Queen's Own Rifles. Just before dawn on Nov. 6, 1917, the final battle began for the tiny Belgian village. By its conclusion, thousands of Canadian soldiers died in what is called one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War.

Alberta-born TV and movie performer Paul Gross directed and stars in a film about the recapture of this embattled town which will receive its premiere on Remembrance Day, 2008. Shot in Calgary, Alberta, CFB Suffield, and on location in Belgium, it focuses on the experiences of Gross' grandfather, Sgt Michael Dunne, a soldier who served in the 10th Battalion, CEF in WWI.

Victory at Passchendaele was largely due to the efforts of the Canadian soldiers who were among the thousands from the Dominion -- including members of The Queen's Own serving in the 3rd Bn CEF -- who successfully took the beleaguered prize following a 16-day offensive, after almost three months of earlier Allied fighting had failed to make any progress.

Queen's Own Rifles Remembrance Day Church Parade, 11 November, 2007



Members of the Queen's Own's Pioneers stand guard, rifles reversed, heads bowed, at the Cross of Sacrifice.



Queen's Own Rifles WW Two veteran and former Honorary LCol Barney Danson PC, OC and his wife Isobel chat with MGen Herb Pitts, MC, CD.



Led by the Skirmishers, Pioneers and the Regimental Band and Bugles The Queen's Own Rifles return to Moss Park Armoury following the Annual Remembrance Day Church Parade.



President WO Bob Dunk, CD, leads members of the Toronto Branch, Queen's Own Rifles Association.

“We were ordinary men ... in an extraordinary place”

Sgt Ted Howard, Op Athena Roto 2

Kandahar, Afghanistan, January 2007. In 1996 I stood on the beaches of Normandy with Sgt Inasio Kim, talking to Queen's Own Rifles D-Day veteran CSM Charlie Martin. I recall his story of that day and my reaction to it. I stood there a young man in awe of a real life hero. When he was done with his tale, I recall Inasio saying, "You guys are heroes." And his response, as only a Rifleman would give, was that "We weren't heroes, we were ordinary men, like yourselves, in an extraordinary place."

For years I thought he was just an overly modest man until I came to Kandahar. We have been called heroes, but what Charlie said holds true for us as well. Granted, recognition should be paid to the bravery

and courage that MCpl Murray, Cpls Thomas, Harper and Walter show daily, as they trudge along Hwy 1, delivering essential supplies to the front line troops. Equally Cpl Abate should be commended for turning a chaotic IED blast, against our brothers, into a manageable scene and was responsible for saving many lives. Cpl Kim traveled through what many consider the most dangerous place on earth, to ensure that civil military action could take place during key moments of Op Falcon, and for this he deserves acknowledgement.

But are we heroes? I don't think so. The real heroes are our parents, families, girlfriends, wives and children. They sacrificed the most for the people of Afghanistan

and Canada. They had the most to lose out of this war, yet still have stood behind us. Through the thick and the thin, the pride our families have for us kept us going, as we fought very hard to ensure that Canada remains free of tyranny, just as RSM Harry Fox MBE and Charlie Martin DCM. MM did 60 years ago.

We have seen war up close, just as Harry and Charlie did. I can only assume that they, like us, joined the war because they could. We had a choice to come to Afghanistan, and did so for various personal reasons. Our families did not have choice, but supported us nonetheless. If a hero is defined as sacrificing for the greater good, then they are the ones we should call heroes.

Sgt. Ted Howard, of Toronto's Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, a Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) operator with the Provincial Reconstruction Team commands the vigil at the cenotaph at Camp Nathan Smith during the PRT's Kandahar Remembrance Day parade. The sentries holding vigil included two Canadian Army soldiers, an airman from the Canadian Air Force and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Staff Sgt. In addition to Canadian troops on parade, there were mem-

bers of the British Army, united States Army and the Afghan National Police in attendance. The PRT consists of Canadian Forces members, a civilian police contingent led by the RCMP, representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency. The PRT conducts coordinated interdepartmental operations to promote good governance and assist the Government of Afghanistan to extend its authority in the province of

Kandahar, to facilitate the development of a stable, secure and self-sustaining environment for the Afghan people.



Sgt Ted Howard

Lt. W. Zachary Mantle

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

Vigilant Guardian 2006 not only tested its training audience to the max, it exercised me as the platoon commander to the utmost level. Coming straight from

Gagetown, fresh off of D.P. 1.1 and taking command of a platoon with many members having more time in than years in my life was intimidating to say the least. Drawing on the Sr NCOs was a skill not taught in Gagetown. As 1 Pl within D Coy, one of three Infantry Companies within Task Force 32, I could see how each specialty within the army works together.

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

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

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

Soldier shares his Afghan adventure with Elementary School students

Former Owen Sound resident says his tour of duty there changed his life

Jim Algie

Jason Walter flew into Trenton after six months of duty at Kandahar airfield in Afghanistan last Saturday, his 31st birthday, but he didn't tell anyone he was coming. His family knew his tour had ended but his mother, Brenda Walter, didn't know exactly when she would see him again until he walked in her front door on Sunday.



(DND Photos)

Everybody does these things differently, Walter said in an interview about his return home. He likes to surprise people and he's happy to be back.

"I'm doing the speed limit everywhere I go 'cause I'm just not in a hurry to do anything. I'm just taking it all in," he said in an interview Friday at Hillcrest Elementary School.

Walter and his mother were at the school to meet with students who had written to him in Afghanistan. Walter's aunt, Nancy Bishop, is an educational assistant at Hillcrest where he also attended Grade 7 and 8.

During Friday's school visit, Walter wore the sand-coloured combat camouflage Canadians wear in Afghanistan. As he answered questions from the 11- and 12-year-olds, he dug into his pack for props: some Afghan currency, his freshly issued Afghanistan star medal, snapshots of his platoon and an Afghan boy he met on patrol, his floppy hat and combat helmet. The students asked about his weapons, his use of walkie talkies and whether he had killed anyone. The rifle is a C7A2 automatic. Soldiers on patrol remain in constant communication with one another on the air. "When you talk on the walkie talkie, that's what they call the air," he said. "If you're talking, you're safe, you're good, you're not having any problems."

No, he didn't kill anyone, although he did see plenty of combat and its aftermath during his regular duty of providing security for supply and personnel convoys throughout the Kandahar region. And, yes, he had friends who were injured and killed.

"Did it change you?" one student asked. "It changed me. I'm very, very thankful for the country that I'm in," he replied.

The reservist for the past four years with the Queen's Own Rifles in Toronto, Walter took a year-long leave from his regular job in corporate security with the Toronto social services department. There was six months of intensive training and six months of active duty.

Walter's Canadian Forces contract has another month and a half to run, time soldiers use typically for post-combat leave. However, he expects to return to his regular job next week.

Another Owen Sounder, Cpl. Robert Thomas James Mitchell, 32, who died in combat in early October, was the 38th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan.



Walter knows Mitchell's father, Bob, and knew Mitchell growing up. He often saw him during his six-month training at Petawawa, but never introduced himself. Now he wishes he had. When there's a casualty, it makes a difference to everyone in camp, he said.

"Everybody gets quiet right away. Nobody wants to be the guy that's made a cheap comment or something like that. Everybody wants to hear who it is. You want to hear whether it's a father of three or a reservist or a regular forces. It's the not knowing that's the most frustrating thing."

It was that way for Walter's mother too. She came along to Hillcrest just to hear more from her son. He has lost weight, she said. She brought muffins in her purse.



She praised the support for military families from Canadian Forces officials at the training centre near Meaford but she also spoke of her anguish on his departure and her own ambivalence about his decision four years ago to join the military in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in New York. "We didn't say much," she said of her reaction and that of Jason's father, Ed.

Asked whether he expects to return for another tour, Walter said he's not sure he could put his family through it again. "It was like we had a death in the family," Brenda said of the day she saw Jason off from Trenton last summer. "We were all there and we watched him fly out and it was like he was saying goodbye and maybe not coming back.

"You just stay positive but then when you heard the news there was a suicide bomber, then your heart just sank because then you just wait for a phone call."

For Walter, that's the hardest part, the impact of his active duty on those closest to him. For himself, he feels pretty good about it all. "It's some type of healthy addiction," he said of military life. "Getting yelled at and the amount of bureaucratic stuff you go through in the military, but it's the best time I've ever had.

"What a year. I've done it all. You can't ask for anything more."

(Courtesy Owen Sound Sun-Times)

QOR of Canada Reunion 2007 in Sydney was an outstanding success

Ben Turpin, Secretary Treasurer, Maritimes-Newfoundland-Labrador Branch



John Shapter, President of the Maritimes-Newfoundland-Labrador QOR Association makes a presentation to Bob Firlotte of the QOR and 1 Can Para at the Reunion.

Many thanks to all of those who attended the Third Reunion of the Maritimes - Newfoundland Labrador branch of The Queen's Own Rifles Association of Canada. You have made this a success story, one that would not have been possible without the generosity of spirit and commitment of support from two of our finest members, Tom Martin and Ivan MacPhee. This was a very large undertaking and our thanks to both of you for all you've done for us.

To attend the reunion, some of us from the Big Rock drove some 900 km across the island to get to Port-Aux-Basques for the 23:45h crossing. From there, it was a - 6 ? hour ferry ride to North Sydney aboard the MV Joseph and Clara Smallwood. We arrived early in the morning in North Sydney. All of us from the Rock were invited to a meeting and brunch at Tom and Irmgard Martin's place, just a short drive from Marian Bridge. A couple of us took a longer route and when we arrived the spread that Irmgard and Tom put on was both second to none and very welcomed.

There were, as you can imagine, many stories told. There were groups of people leaning over each other viewing loose black and white pictures and some people had full photo albums. Many pictures were exchanged or shared. We had people there from as far away as one can get in Canada. There were people surprisingly older than anyone else yet able to travel to attend this reunion. Robert Firlotte, some-

where in his 90's came along, from Toronto, bringing with him three ladies as guests. This is a person with a wonderful outlook on life. We were also honored by the attendance of Major General Herb Pitts from BC and by the attendance of close to twenty other attendees who flew all the way from British Columbia to be here with us. Each of them came sporting their magnetic name tags which didn't go unnoticed. Ontario was well represented with about twenty five in attendance.

The next morning we had our general meeting and election for a new executive was held. Many of the same executive was kept on and a few new faces added. Both John Shapter and John Metcalfe exchanged places as president and past president. Wayne Thomas was elected in absentia to the position of vice president. The other new face to the executive was Jim Sheppard who took over the Kit Shop. The meeting went on for some two hours with discussions ranging from electronic kit shops to the future of the Association.

That night we were piped into the dining hall. You should have been there to see Robert Firlotte dance-march in to the dining hall to the tune of the piper. The dinner began with a minute of silence led by Ed Jackman. John Metcalfe made a toast to the Queen's Own Rifles and also said the pre-dinner grace. An excellent meal followed, concluding down with Black Forest Cake and any drink of your choice. There were ample bottles of both red and white wines labeled with the Queen's Own Rifles marquee that followed the theme of the program. As Wayne Thomas was here in heart and not in body; Tom Martin, graciously accepted the task to Emcee the evening's events for Wayne.

A short and very interesting speech was given by MGen Pitts. He brought greetings from Jim Carroll, Bill Brayshaw, Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes and Honorary Lt Colonel Dick Cowling. He also recognized the group from Toronto, Bob Firlotte and the cooperation from Col. Ken Butterworth in assisting in this event. He gave a short overview of the 150th celebrations to be held in 2010 in Toronto Calgary and Victoria with her Royal Highness Princess Alexander in attendance. After his speech he was

thanked by John Shapter who presented him with a gift donated by Tom Martin. John stayed at the mic and gave thanks to each of his executive in turn and presented a little token of appreciation to the planning committee. He presented our founding president, John Metcalfe, with a granite plaque, Two Honorary Membership Cards, one to D-Day veteran Orville Cook (in absentia) and the other to Robert Firlotte who took to the Mic and gave a short tale about how he became a soldier.

Before the dance began Clayton Downes from the Ontario Assoc. auctioned a Jacket, similar to the one awarded to wounded soldiers returning home from Afghanistan. This coveted jacket was won by Ken Marshall. The funds raised were donated to this branch. Clayton also gave a second jacket to this branch. Our thanks go to Clayton, his organization and to the Ontario Branch for their generosity.

Our thanks go out to the ladies behind the team of workers of this branch. I have a huge problem with mentioning names for fear of forgetting someone. There is no way to thank Irmgard for all she had done. It must have been hell dealing with Tom and the burden we placed on him. To Dianne for the time we took Ivan away from you. To the partners behind the executive from the Rock I must say, in case your partner hasn't told you, we could not have done this without you. Thank you! We love you!

The tables were cleared and the music began. You had to look the second time to see if it was Tom Martin on the Keyboard or his twin brother. The music lasted for about six hours and still some were NOT ready to retire. All who registered, with the exception of two couples and one single made it to the reunion. We were fifteen short of the 100 mark.

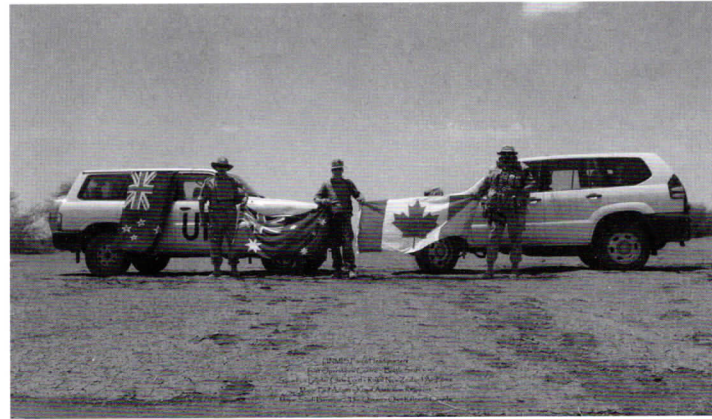
All words I heard the next day were nothing short of praise for the weekend. Along with others, Art Muise sent me this email - "Thanks for the great weekend in Sydney. My wife and I enjoyed every minute. It has been a long 43 years since I've seen old friends. Your committee did an excellent job". Thanks Art! What more can one say?

UN posting gives the Queen's Own's DCO a close up look at life in the Soudan

Photo Story by Maj Sandi Banerjee CD

(Maj Sandi Banerjee was detached from The Queen's Own, where he was serving as DCO, to join OP SAFARI, where he was the Deputy Commander of the Canadian Task Force supporting the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). His duties took him from Cairo, southwards through Khartoum to the Ugandan and Congolese borders, as well as westward through the Libyan and Sahara deserts to the Darfur region. On the next two pages are photographs taken from a series of dispatches he sent home from Nov 06 to June 07, 2007. Space prevents us from doing full justice to Maj Banerjee's enterprising photo-journalism.)

(Photo below) S/Ldr Chris Ford (RNZAF) the J5 Plans 1, Maj Paul Adams (6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment) J3 Ops 1 and myself as the acting J9, flying our respective national colours in the Libyan Desert. That flag now hangs at The Dalton Armoury, home of Buffs Coy, QOR of C. My Toyota Land Cruiser, on the right, had the braking and turning characteristics of a small aircraft carrier but with two fuel tanks holding 190L of diesel, could go the distance. The Nissan Patrol on the left was more powerful and somewhat safer but left you with less range and bruised kidneys. UNMIS is the UN's unified mission in



Sudan, with military staff and contingents from some 43 nations integrated with numerous civilian agencies. Originally designed to enforce the ceasefire agreement between north and south Sudan, UNMIS added the Darfur region (with its accompanying troubles) during my roto. Since inception, the scope, areas of responsibility and tasks have caused the troops strength to grown from 10,000 to a current authorized strength of 27,500. I mention this because it is not too often that members of the CF get

to operate in an operational Corps level headquarters. The modern day complexities of Peace Support Operations in the contemporary operating environment added challenges that few envisioned. For a reservist to do so, especially with the complete freedom of action I had as the mission's Deputy J9, was unprecedented and certainly a career highlight.

The photos on pp 24-25 are taken from a series of small but colourful episodes during the mission, which spanned some 100,000 Km over seven months.

Unlike the staff officers, who were gen-

erally confined to the Force HQ in Khartoum, or the UN Observers, who were deployed at one location for months on end, a few key people had a unique opportunity that saw the best, and arguably the worst, of the mission. My multiple roles required diverse duties, including training and advisory roles for the African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur, liaison with various Embassies and Military Attachés as well as speaking to countless NGOs and relief organizations.

One of the "perks" was to fly in my Lear Jet (Ok, technically not "my" Lear Jet; it belongs to the Force Commander, but he loaned it to me for the day). In any event, I could look out and enjoy the scenery as we crossed over the Nile confluence, where the



Maj Banerjee is muffled up in his *shamagh* to combat local "freezing conditions" (about +6C) as he waits at the top of a ridgeline overlooking the Nile Valley in the Sudan for the day's events to unfold. He notes that "Aside from winning points with the local population, the *shamagh* also keeps the sun, wind and dirt out. Or at least better than the beret does." He adds that "The locals have figured out how to identify Canadians. We drive with our windows down, we stop to talk to people, we smile and wave at the kids, we don't wear sunglasses when we are around them and we don't wear gloves when shaking hands. In Khartoum many locals know enough English to pass basic messages but out here we actually know more Arabic than they do English, so a friendly start to a meeting is essential. Hence the *shamagh*."

"Blue Nile" and "White Nile" meet, forming the "Great Nile" which continues on into Egypt. We flew over Khartoum (where General Gordon died) and Omdurman, where Winston Churchill rode in possibly the last full cavalry charge of the British Army. (Photo p.24) shows a live Rocket Propelled Grenade round, (RPG) the aftermath of a "mine clearing" operation in central Sudan. Villagers had started building their huts in a massive abandoned minefield in order to avoid paying property taxes. The local administrator ordered the SPLA to "clear" the minefield, so they marched through it at shoulder dressing, stabbing the ground with steel rods and dumping any surface laid mines in these large pits. For good measure, they threw a variety of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), like a live RPG round, into the mix. Unfortunately two children had been killed in this very same area in the rainy season, but this time the summer heat had baked the clay into concrete, thus limiting casualties. The UN estimates it will take 18 years to clear the mines in Sudan.



Maj Sandi Banerjee at the Commander's scope of a operational BMP III, courtesy of the Sector's Quick Reaction Force (QRF).



UNMIS J9 (CIMIC) launched a program to influence families unsure about UN intentions. It included opening a medical clinic, support to an orphanage, teaching about mine awareness and reporting unexploded ordnance. (Below) A live RPG round.



"The scope of misery and squalor in the numerous refugee camps was truly difficult to comprehend, One camp had 60,000 inhabitants," Maj Banerjee reported

A "Haboob" – a dust storm –crossing the White Nile on its way to the Cnd TF HQ in Khartoum in the Sudan.



QOR of C Association, Toronto Branch provided soccer balls to 80 clubs, schools, orphanages and villages.



Right:

PO1 Heidi Sorrel, the Chief Clerk for our National Command Element (NCE) at a new day care for IDP kids. We took all of the toys sent to us over the last month, plus soccer balls donated by the Toronto Branch of The QOR of C Association and candies sent by friends to the kids.

Below:

The school kids at assembly. The blue uniforms are sewn by local women at the school to improve their vocational skills using donated material. Despite the "winter" weather, most kids don't have shoes to wear.



Below:

Meet "Frank", age & real name unknown. Frank and his mother escaped from Darfur where his father remains to tend to their crops. Frank suffers from malaria but like most kids, seemed to get better at the appearance of candy.

Left: Prized possessions; Day Care kids were given new soccer balls, courtesy of the Toronto Branch of The QOR of C Association.



Vimy Memorial re-dedication ceremonies will be long remembered

Capt Craig Cameron (Former Padre, QOR of C)



LCol Steve Brand, Hon Col Paul F. Hughes (in his brand new bowler hat), RSM Harry Fox MBE and Padre Craig Cameron in London en route to the Vimy Memorial ceremonies in France.

Imagine if you will, the hush from 10,000 spectators as the official vehicle of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II pulls up to the Vimy Ridge Memorial. She came as Queen of Canada to officiate at the reopening of the Memorial after seven years of massive restoration work. Her uncle, King Edward VIII, in his only official act as monarch, dedicated the Vimy Ridge Memorial on July 29, 1936.

As we, among the many thousands there on this bright, sunny day, drew up to the memorial on Easter Monday, April 9th, exactly 90 years from the day of the famous battle of World War I, the white Croatian marble glistened in the afternoon sunshine. We saw upwards of 5,000 young people from all across Canada, eagerly anticipating this momentous occasion. As part of the commemorative program, each student had been given the name of a Canadian soldier who died in France, but who has no known grave, and whom they were required to research before making this trip. Each student's "soldier" was one of 11,285 whose names are etched on the wall of the memorial. Following the conclusion of the ceremony, a flood of students rushed up the steps to find their soldier's name on the walls. Many touched the stone with respect while others took a rubbing of the name with pencil and paper.

A hundred soldier composite Guard from all the regiments of the Army that fought at Vimy Ridge was represented. In addition, there were two Canadian military bands and a French Guard of Honour. The impressive ceremony included haunting, melancholy tunes from a Canadian piper,

a young fiddler from Winnipeg and songs by a youth choir accompanying recording artist Susan Agulark. The Queen, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and French Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, all spoke and were well-received by the immense throng present..

The Queen's Own Rifles were represented at the ceremony by Colonel Paul Hughes, Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Brand, a past commanding officer (1992-1995), former Regimental Sergeant-Major Harry Fox, MBE (1942-43 and 1947-48) and myself, the Regimental Padre from 1992-2004. RSM Fox, who joined the Queen's Own in 1932, was one of a group of veterans who attended the ceremony and was doubtless the only veteran present who visited the site prior to its official opening in 1936. He did so as a young corporal and member of a 14-man QOR guard, commanded by then Capt JGB Strathy, that had travelled to Europe to visit our allied regiment, The Buffs.

As part of the day's activities, the Regiment hosted our friends Celine Garbay and Tjarko Pot, along with several Dutch re-enactors and the current President of the Canadian Battlefield Foundation, MGen Clive Addy, at a dinner in the town of Bruay-la-Buissiere.

Prior to the ceremony at Vimy, a visit was made to Normandy. One of the highlights of the time there was a candlelight ceremony held at Beny-sur-mer Canadian War Cemetery. Inspiration for the service was provided by Dutch people who hold a similar ceremony at Holten Cemetery every Christmas Eve. Celine Garbay and Tjarko Pot took this idea to Normandy and worked incredibly hard to make it happen. I was honoured to give an address in which I challenged every one present to remember the dead and continue the fight against tyranny and evil. As darkness fell, the ceremony concluded with Last Post, as 2,048 candles (one on each grave) shone distinctly in the darkness. It was a stunning and memorable moment.

A brief ceremony was held at the new Regimental memorial at Le Mesnil Patry, earlier on April 5th, followed by a recep-

tion in the town hall hosted by the QOR for all of the local mayors and dignitaries. Our long-time friends, area residents Roger and Raymond Alexandre, along with Mary Bennett, whose late husband Bill had been with the Fort Garry Horse on D-Day and landed on Juno Beach alongside the QOR, arranged this special event. The towns of Bernieres-sur-mer and Anisy were presented the 1997 Book of Remembrance, as was the Hoffer family, who own the Queen's Own Rifles house on the beach at Bernieres-sur-mer.

Another highlight of the Normandy excursion, was a book signing with RSM Fox, at the Juno Beach Centre, on Saturday, April 7th. Within two hours, thirty-seven copies of Born Lucky were sold and signed by Harry Fox. In addition, a number of young people had their photos taken with him. A solemn moment occurred when one group of students from a Whitby high school asked Mr. Fox to lay a wreath at the memorial in front of the Centre.

On the day following the Vimy ceremony, the regimental group did a tour of selected World War I battlefields, beginning with a visit to the small, intimate Toronto Cemetery created during the opening day of the Battle of Amiens (8 August 1918). The first burials in this isolated cemetery were of 3rd Battalion soldiers killed in the early hours of the advance. The 3rd Toronto Regiment's progress in subsequent 1918 battles was also traced: the Hindenberg Line fighting and the Canal du Nord. Thirty-one officers and men of the 3rd Battalion were killed in vicious fighting for the Orix Trench on 30 August 1918. They are buried in the beautiful Valley Cemetery, very close to where they died.

The touring day concluded with a visit to Belgium. We visited the area around Sanctuary Wood, south of Leper, where the 3rd Battalion distinguished itself in the capture of Mount Sorrel on 13 June 1916. Major General Malcolm Mercer, a former Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own, and the highest ranking Canadian to die in WWI, was killed in nearby Armagh Wood on 2 June 1916.

Vancouver Island Branch welcomes visitors to the west coast

Members of the Vancouver Island Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association gather regularly throughout the year and were pleased to provide these photos of their members and to invite anyone coming west to get in touch to experience some western hospitality. Contact Jim Carroll at tigerlily.sask@shaw.ca or at 250 727 2064.



VIB Executive: (L to R). Sec, Bob Drinkwater; VP/MC Ed Titus; Kit Shop, Ron Kinnersley; PMC Bill Brayshaw; Kit Shop, Pete Kolbe; Museum, Jim Schultz and Dave Stones; Appoint. Member, Herb Pitts; Photographer, Russ Kierstead; Treas./Membership Jim Carroll. Missing from photo, Entertainment, Kevin Walsh, Tim Towers; Custodian Gord Kitsch; Up-island and Museum, Art Saretsky; Flag Bearer, Lloyd Bond. Webmaster Mike Cuvelier

Members Vancouver Island Branch: (L to R) Harry Lloy, John McDonnell, Harold Drinkwater, Mike Walby, Fred Mercer, Jack White, Wayne Thomas, Bill Sears, Robbie Robertson, John Tolley, Vic Tweedy.



Members Vancouver Island Branch, Nanaimo coffee break: (L to R) Front row, kneeling, Ross Millward, Ken Cotton, Tim Towers, Ken Bock. Standing: Ray Honing, Ernie Berrow, Ed Sheriff, Bill Maitland, Don Chamberland, Fred Purchase, Keith Coughlin,



(L to R) Joe Webb, Joe Rozon, Ira MacDonald, Rennie Cromwell, Bob Bluett, Pat Bryson, Jim Hunter, Doug Johnson.

(L to R) Joe Webb, Joe Rozon, Ira MacDonald, Rennie Cromwell, Bob Bluett, Pat Bryson, Jim Hunter, Doug Johnson.



Two promotions (but one of them is temporary)



(Left) In a longstanding tradition, the youngest soldier on parade at the annual Men's Christmas Dinner exchanges tunics with the CO. Cpl Daniil Saiko got to wear LCol Martin Delaney's for the occasion. (Right) MCpl Emily Kenny earned the right to join the Sergeant's Mess following her promotion. She received her "hooks" from LCol Martin Delaney CD as Mrs. Marie (Ellie) Dalton, D-Day veteran Jack Martin and "CO for a few hours" Daniil Saiko looked on.

Toronto Branch is a major supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project

A new social event was added to our calendar in 2007 when Toronto Branch held its first Texas Hold'em Poker Night at RCL Branch 344 on March 23rd. Over 100 card players vied for top honours with prizes being awarded to the top four finishers. The profits from the evening went to our newly formed Queen's Own Rifleman's Fund (QORF), started in 2006 to assist our soldiers serving on overseas duty, primarily those of the Queen's Own.

The managing committee of the QORF -- Clay Downes, Buzz Currie and Craig Cameron -- contacted Capt. Wayne Johnson of the Wounded Warrior project to see how we could be of assistance. Capt. Johnson said one of his goals is to provide every wounded Canadian soldier arriving at the US military hospital in Landsruhl, Germany, with a kit bag consisting of toiletry articles, books, basic clothing items such as slippers, under-

wear, track pants, etc, to keep them going until their personal kit catches up them.

The QORF volunteered to supply a top quality jacket with the Wounded Warrior crest embroidered on the left breast and the words "Queen's Own Rifles Association" on the upper right arm. The jackets have proven to be very popular and we are now contacting soldiers previously in Landsruhl who are recovering in Canada, to provide them with a jackets It is very surprising and disappointing to learn the Queen's Own is the only regimental association in Canada that is supporting the Wounded Warrior project.

Our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament was run in June at Heather Glen just north of Ajax. With almost a full slate of golfers, it was a very successful and enjoyable day. Again, the profits for this event were directed into the QORF as well.

It is sad to report that one of our most popular functions, the Association Shoot, was held for the very last time on September 22nd at CFB Borden. Due to the onerous gun legislation now in place, it has become increasingly difficult to hold the shoot. On behalf of all who have ever attended this wonderful event, I'd like to thank Rob Grieve for a job well done. Fittingly, Rob was named our 2007 Rifleman of the Year at the Men's Christmas Dinner in December.

Dates to remember for early 2008 are as follows: March 7th, Texas Hold'em at Dalton Armouries; April 26th, Regimental Birthday and Toronto Branch AGM, location TBD; June 17th, 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Heather Glen; June 6th, D-Day Ceremony at Moss Park. Keep watching the website for more updates and news of our 2010 Toronto celebrations.

Sandy Cove Veterans Club honours longtime Queen's Own Bandsman

LCol Ivor MacLeod MM CD

More than 200 were in attendance at the funeral of QOR of C Bandsman Bob Charman in October. They included members of the Regimental Band and Bugles under the direction of Capt Rita Arendz, which played an exceptional selection of music. Queen's Own Buglers played "Last Post" and "Reveille" and a lone piper played the "Lament." Bob had been an executive member of the Sandycove Veterans Social Club and those veterans who were present each pinned a Remembrance Poppy to one of the floral

tributes. The Club president, Andy LaPlante (an ex-ranker with the Lord Strathcona's Horse) and Past President QOR Band Sgt Cliff Ashdown were among the pall bearers. A very moving ceremony.

The Huronia Branch of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association conducted an enjoyable choral performance at the Army, Navy and Air Force Club in Barrie. Featuring the OPP Chorus and the Sandycove "Covettes", this very well-

attended event, which featured many old and favourite songs -- was MC'd by Pat MacLeod. Those in attendance brought a variety of foodstuffs which were donated to the Barrie food bank.

The Barrie Concert Band presented an "Armed Forces Musical Tribute" at the ANAF Club -- another sold-out event. Huronia Branch CAFA President Ken Luttrell was the MC and the Welcoming Address was given by B-Gen John Hayter KStJ, CD.

Canadian Atomic Veterans' Association: A Queen's Own initiative

Jack Glenn, Calgary Branch, QOR Association

The documentary Time Bomb, shown on the Global TV network on 10 November, reported on the experience of 40 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, QOR of C, during the summer of 1957 and in the years that followed. The members of the platoon, who had volunteered to undergo special and highly secret but unspecified training with the U. S. Army, were sent to the U.S. Atomic Testing facility in the Nevada desert. There they learned they were to participate in exercises, code named Plumbbob, involving the explosion of atomic bombs.

Over the next two months, the men, with no protective clothing or shelter other than slit trenches, were exposed to six atomic detonations, at ranges of from 10 miles down to 1000 yards. After each detonation, they carried out manoeuvres in and around ground zero. They were, nevertheless, assured that they had not been exposed to harmful levels of radiation during the operation and they accepted these assurances in good faith. At the conclusion of the tests the men returned to Canada and rejoined either the 1st Bn in Calgary or the 2nd Bn in Germany. All were warned not to tell anyone about the tests in which they had taken part and, until only recently, none appear to have done so.

Over the years, due to postings and retirements, not all of those who participated in the tests remained in touch. By the mid-nineties, however, Ken Umpherville, living in Calgary, and Jim Huntley, living near Balzac, north of Calgary, both of whom had retired in the early 1980s, came to the realization that an alarming number of their fellow veterans of the 1957 tests had either died from or were suffering from cancer. Though Huntley had not had

any health problems beyond an unexplained gall bladder failure, Umpherville had been diagnosed with lung cancer and has since had parts of both lungs removed.

They began to wonder if the radiation they were exposed to during the 1957 tests was causing the deaths and health problems of so many of the participants. Their suspicions were confirmed when the U.S. government acknowledged that American soldiers who took part in the tests had significantly elevated levels of radiation and in 1992 announced those soldiers would each receive \$75,000 in compensation.

In 1995, hoping to obtain recognition and compensation like their American counterparts, Huntley, Umpherville and Lloyd Muise founded the Canadian Atomic Veterans Association (CAVA) to lobby the government on behalf of the Canadian soldiers who had so far survived the tests and the widows of those who had not. They began with a letter writing campaign which elicited no response. Huntley did obtain a list of those who took part in the tests from an anonymous source, and began contacting them to determine the state of their health. Though he was unable to trace everyone on the list, he discovered that the health of the veterans was even worse than he had imagined -- over 20 of them had died from, or been diagnosed with cancer.

On the advice of a British Army veteran who had successfully sued the U.K. government and won compensation for illness attributed to his participation in tests similar to the 1957 tests in Nevada, the CAVA began a search for records that would help them establish their case. Every department of government they approached claimed to have no information whatever

about the 1957 tests or those involved in them. Even a formal Access to Information request brought only a list of names with no other information.

Finally, after a decade of stonewalling by the federal government, the CAVA decided to go public with their quest and scheduled a press conference in Ottawa in late February of 2007. DND got word of the pending press conference and in mid-February invited Huntley to a meeting with the Minister in his Ottawa office. At that meeting, with the CDS, General Rick Hillier, and other senior officers and DND officials in attendance, the Minister promised to study and respond to the CAVA's claims. Nine months went by with no word from Ottawa so the CAVA set up another Ottawa press conference, which took place on 06 November 2007. A few days later, on the eve of Remembrance Day, the documentary Time Bomb was shown across the country on Global TV. Both of these events got a lot of media attention. DND has since floated the suggestion that it is considering a one-time payment of \$24,000 to individuals involved in the 1957 tests and in other mishaps for which the government is feeling heat, such as the Agent Orange affair at Camp Gagetown.

In a recent telephone conversation with Defence Minister Peter McKay, Huntley made it clear that a one-time payment of \$24,000 will not fill the bill. In addition to a formal apology from the government, the CAVA are looking for a \$150,000 compensation payment to each surviving veteran or widow and pensions for those who need them. They have since engaged a law firm to sue the government on their behalf. Stay tuned.

Scholarships made available for children of military personnel who lose a parent

Retroactive to Jan 1, 2002, Children of Canadian military personnel killed while serving are eligible for a scholarship to help with their post-secondary education. The \$1.6-million Canada Company scholarship fund will provide up to \$4,000 per year for up to four years for those who have lost a parent either at home or abroad. "This is one of those situations where you have a fund which ideally you'd like nobody to ever use and draw from," said Blake Goldring, Canada

Company chairman.

"We want to see they've got the opportunity and not worry about this extra financial burden as they complete their studies." Fifty young people are currently eligible for the scholarship, which will be overseen by an independent committee as well as members of the Canadian Forces. CIBC has donated \$1 million and financial support has also been provided by other Canadian businesses.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier said the recognition by Canadians and corporations of those who serve will go a long way to boosting morale. "I don't decry any lack of government support," said Gen. Hillier. "I think the government support to our men and women in uniform and their families has been very good and very strong. There is always a grey area, always room to do even better and this is what this does."

“As you can see we (in the Airborne Company) are a busy unit”

Sgt Scott Moody

June is the month when most reserve units slow down and prepare for the onslaught of summer courses and tasks. This is not the case for us. At the end of June we were busy supporting a BTAT (Basic Tactical Airlift Trainer) course in Trenton with jumpers and jumpmasters. The BTAT was then followed by two major para activities in July: Exercise Carpiquet and Exercise River Warrior. Participating in these exercises is a tough task for the QOR because we have our main core of jumpers tasked to teach on courses in Meaford and Petawawa, but somehow we make it work.

Exercise Carpiquet, which took place in the first weekend of July in Trenton, was a LTAT support exercise in which all participating QOR jumpers conducted three double door full equipment jumps from a beautiful C-130 Hercules in support of 8 Wing.

Two weeks later we had Exercise River Warrior in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. This exercise had three reasons for occurring. The first was to allow the USAF to conduct JAT (Joint Airforce Training), which is flying paratroopers into the United States and para dropping them into an exercise. The second was to participate in a major one month long US Army exercise that happens every two years in Ft Chaffee that focuses on a tactical crossing of the Osark River. The last objective was to participate in Wings Exchange with our Airborne brothers in the US. This was a full plate for a two day exercise.

The exercise started with a USAF Hercules from 62nd Airlift Squadron out of Little Rock, Arkansas flying up to Trenton and meeting our jumpers on the Friday night. After a night of preparation and loading we were ready to go. At 0800 on Saturday July 22 a very crowded Herc took off. It had our 25 jumpers and their kit, two complete aircrews, 4 extra loadmasters, 2 mechanics and their kit and 40 extra chutes for the wings exchange. This made the full equipment in-flight dressing a bit of challenge. After our four hour flight we had to get our rigger on the DZ so we could jump. The solution was landing the Herc on the austere (dirt) airstrip

that ran down the middle of Drop Zone Arrowhead. This was done with ease by the aircrew and the rigger, Cpl Dodds, was on the DZ for the drop in no time. This was something none of us had done previously. It did give us a quick taste of the heat and dust that we would have to contend with once on the ground. Twenty minutes later we were conducting a double door full equipment drop.

Once the drop was complete we moved to the Air Base at Fort Smith and linked up with members of the 5th Special Forces group and the US JM's. A familiarization and refresher was conducted on each others' chutes and then we were good to jump. That evening we had the pleasure of jumping the new MC1-ID steerable chute with a 14ft per second rate of descent. We were kind enough to provide them with CT-1's -- a fair trade. After all the jumps were complete we did a quick DZ RV and linked up with the main body as part of the exercise. We then moved to one of their FOBs (Forward Operating Bases) for dinner and introductions to a lot of US brass that wanted to see us. The next day we had a wings parade and were flown back courtesy of the USAF.

On top of all these exercises in the summer we had eight instructors teaching the Infantry course in Meaford. LT Ben Lee, Sgt Mario Morin, MCpls Bryan Burns, Dimitri Frounze, Mark Charlebois, Dave Henry, Cpls Adam Debartok and Jay McGibbon did a fantastic job this summer qualifying almost 40 infantry soldiers for the QOR.

At the end of August the QOR participated in the annual concentration exercise in Petawawa, called Exercise Vigilant Guardian. This ten day exercise was set up similar to a present day peace support deployment and had each Brigade creating a task force that operated out of a Forward Operating Base. A composite QOR and 48h Highlanders Company (Delta Company) was created with the QOR providing the bulk of the company which included the HQ elements and almost two complete platoons under the leadership of OC Major Peter St.Denis, 2

i/c Capt Karl Haupt and CSM Mark Shannon. We also filled numerous TF support roles.

The exercise had us run through three 48 hour phases of camp security and QRF, cordon and search, urban patrolling and VCPs (Vehicle Check Points). We were at an advantage as a company because a large percentage of our NCOs had been on operations in either Bosnia or Afghanistan. Therefore we spent a great deal of time fine tuning and setting the standard for the way camp security and patrolling was conducted for the task force. Of special note, Delta Company was the only company to conduct a company-level cordon and search with a helicopter insertion. This operation was put into action with Lieutenant-General Leslie as a patrol participant and CFLC council watching. It was quite the dog and pony show and even more important -- a big success.

September started with an LTAT in Trenton on the second weekend in which we had six members of the 3rd Battalion R22R participate. This was a fantastic experience for us to work with these professional soldiers from a unit that we often do not get to work with. The jump gods were with us and we got three jumps off. The following weekend had us heading up to Borden for our annual qualification ranges and soldier skills refresher commonly referred to as ELOC (actually a short way of saying that we are refreshing on all army skills such as weapons, radios, first aid, navigation, mine awareness and fieldcraft.)

On the Sunday of that weekend the regiment headed back to Toronto to participate in the opening of the Veterans Memorial at Queen's Park with about 4000 other soldiers from LFCA.

During the last week of September and the beginning of October we had six jumpers and three jumpmasters supporting a BTAT in Trenton with 3 RCR. It is always a great experience to work with our friends from Petawawa. BTAT support in January, June and September has become a tradition for us and is a great opportunity for our



Bob Firlotte of the QOR and 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, acknowledges the standing ovation he was given by guests at the annual Queen's Own's Men's Christmas Dinner on the announcement he had celebrated his 90th birthday.

jumpers to gain lots experience under canopy.

After a well-deserved break of several weekends in October we were back at it during the last weekend with Exercise Aggressive Viper in Edgar, Ontario. This exercise concentrated on urban operations and allowed the soldiers to practice their

they conducted DZ drills and small raids under the command of OC Para Capt Adam Harmes and Platoon 2 i/c Sgt Jeff Johnston. On the Sunday of that weekend we had our Remembrance Day parade to St. Paul's Church. Concurrently, we left our two Jumpmasters MCpl Burns, the QOR UEO, and Sgt Moody to support a drop on the Sunday that consisted of

skills in a real urban setting. The following weekend, the first weekend of November, we were back in Trenton again for LTAT (Local Tactical Airlift Trainer) support. This time we had worked an exercise scenario into the LTAT so once our jumpers completed their double-door, full equipment night jump onto DZ Hodgson

jumpers from 32 Brigade that were not from the Queen's Own. This was a great opportunity for them to get under canopy.

The month of November ended with the unit holding an exercise at the new Building 58 Urban Warfare Training centre that is located on Base Downsview. This is a facility has a set up similar to a town that would be found in Afghanistan and allows soldiers to plan operations in a specially designated area and use "simmunition" to add realism to the training.

With the beginning of December comes our annual Domestic Response Unit deployment. This is a brigade-size exercise that helps the soldiers practice skills for situations similar to the ice storm or events of civil unrest. This year the exercise was held in Shelburne, Ontario. December's training was ended with a treat for our jumpers in the form of one day of jumping from the Griffin in Borden. As you can see we are a busy unit.

“Museum visit should be repeated every year”

Peter Simundson, Curator, Regimental Museum, Casa Loma

In January 2006, the Museum welcomed a visit from the Queen's Own Cadet Corps, some 40 strong including officers, along with 20 Association members. It was very satisfying day for me as Curator, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Cadet formal visit was from 1000 to 1100 hrs, although they were still in high spirits and engaged in an individual tour after 1200. Members of the Association had a personal tour of the back rooms and artifacts from 11 to noon.

Lt. Col John Strathy presented 4 QOR badges to qualified members of the Cadet Corps. The Museum presented an original chrome 50's badge to the sole member of the Regiment in attendance, Hon LCol Dick Cowling, with Veronica and daughter also were there and toured the Museum. Following the Association tour we went over to Katz's Deli for lunch and one of the most vigorous Association meetings I've seen in years.

It was a great day, very worthwhile. This should be repeated every year with the Cadet Corps.



Scarboro Rifles Cadets at Casa Loma (above). They were given a tour of the Regimental Museum and details on what it represents to The Queen's Own by Maj Allan Champion CD (below)



Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps 2881 are keeping busy

Lt Shaun W. Bridge

The Cadets and Officers of 2881 Scarborough Rifles went on their annual citizenship trip to the nation's capitol on the weekend of 23-25 March 2007. We were billeted at Connaught ACNSTC, eating our meals at the new mess facilities and sleeping in the Webley and Bisley barracks. Saturday morning we travelled by coach to the National War Museum, eating lunch in the cafeteria there and then

travelling to the National Aviation Museum and then finally shopping around the Byward Marketplace downtown. We spent the evening bowling near Connaught and then retired to barracks. Sunday morning we marched out of quarters and then travelled to CFB Trenton and visited Canada's National Air Force Museum. We were able to get a close look and briefing on the newly restored Halifax

bomber there but no time to say hello to fellow Riflemen taking their annual Para refresher nearby. The weekend was a great success and timings were met with uncanny precision (a first time for everything!) thanks to the planning of Mr. Rick Humphrey the Chairperson of our Support Group.



Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cowling CD was inspecting officer for the Scarborough Rifles Cadets. The cadets' new bugle band was on parade for the occasion.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund looking to 2010



DID YOU KNOW?

**THAT IF EVERYONE ON OUR 1,700 MAILING LIST
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**The Queens Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund
Suite 250, Unit 12A, 4981 Highway 7, Markham, ON L3R 1N1**

In Pace Paratus, Adam Hermant, President

Of significance and high on the Regimental agenda is our 2010 sesquicentennial birthday celebration. It is our hope that our Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alexandra, will be in Canada to help us celebrate this milestone in our Regiment's history. A committee has been struck and is now reviewing options and developing plans. The Trust Fund will support this celebration which, as would be expected, will involve considerable expense.

So then, the Trust Fund continues to ask for your financial support not only with regular expenses in 2008 but also to fund the events and activities that will take place in 2010. We encourage your participation in that support. Tax receipts are provided for each donation of \$10 or more. We also urge you to consider a bequest in your Will.

The Trustees are charged with the responsibility to raise and receive by way of legacy, bequest, gift or otherwise transfers or contributions for the efficiency, welfare and well-being of the Regiment and its members. As you know, 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; soldiers on duty outside of Canada; our regimental museum at Casa Loma in Toronto (and from time to time in Scarborough Ontario, Calgary, Alberta and Victoria British Columbia); uniforms and uniform accoutrements that are not funded by DND; RHQ administration and operations; certain special and significant regimental anniversaries and or functions and regimental communications (the Rifleman Journal, the Powder Horn and the Regimental Website).

The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Trust Fund held its first meeting in September 1959. The original trustees were: LCol His Honour Judge Ian M. MacDonell, M.B.E., V.D., Col J.G.K. Strathy, O.B.E., E.D., LCol Charles O. Dalton, D.S.O., LCol John O. Crean, LCol N. Charles

Bradshaw, LCol Roland A. Harris, O.B.E., and Maj Edward A. Dunlop O.B.E., G.M.

The trustees who preside over the affairs of the trust today are: Non Executive Chairman, L/COL Johh G. Strathy, CD, President, CAPT Adam B. Hermant, Ost.J, CD, Secretary-Treasurer, MAJ Tony I.W. Schultz, CD, CAPT Bernie Aaron, L/COL Steve Brand CD, L/COL Robert A. Campbell, CD, Mr. Brenden Caldwell, Mrs. Dorrie E.A. Dunlop, LT Lionel Goffart, SBStJ, QC, LT His Honour Judge John Jennings, L/COL Bruce McEachern, CD, CAPT Peter Simundson, CD, (Peter is the curator of the Regimental Museum within Casa Loma), MAJ Harry, McCabe, MMM, SBSt.J., CD.

Trustees are appointed, for a term of three years and are eligible for re-appointment. The Honorary Colonel, the Commanding Officer and the President of the Queens Own Rifles of Canada Association are invited to meetings of the Trust Fund as ex-officio members.

'In the habit of giving.'

Malawi charity's "crate" expectations

Container packed with medical supplies will itself be used as a clinic in Malawi

Dale Anne Freed, Toronto Star

They made a list, and checked it twice – blood vials, knitted comfort dolls, soccer equipment, basketballs, stethoscopes, wheelchairs. All accounted for.

Retired sergeant Billy Willbond is keeper of the list, and founder of a band of former Canadian peacekeepers who spent weeks before Christmas playing Santa to orphans in Malawi.

The donated supplies destined for a clinic run by a Canadian doctor are to be shipped this week in a giant steel crate. "Every penny they raise goes to Africa and to projects there. Nobody's paid. Everybody's a volunteer," said retired major-general Lewis Mackenzie, patron for ICROSS Canada (International Community for the Relief of Suffering and Starvation), the Canadian chapter of an international charity.

The sea crate is more than a container. Empty, it will become half a clinic, joined to a crate the goodwill troops sent last year that's now a dispensary.

"We're very grateful for what they've done," transplanted Calgarian Dr. Chris Brooks said of the peacekeepers, via telephone from Lilongwe, Malawi.

The crate sent to the Lifeline Malawi clinic last year was stuffed with 10 hospital beds, an X-ray machine, an oxygen tent for newborns and thousands of "comfort dolls," originally created by the mother of a peacekeeper who died in Croatia, said Brooks.

Mackenzie and Willbond first connected when they served in Cyprus 41 years ago, when Mackenzie was a young lieutenant and Willbond a corporal in the Queen's Own Rifles.

Eight years ago, Willbond had an epiphany when he went to lay wreaths on the Kenyan graves of Canadian peacekeepers killed in the Congo in the early 1960s. Seeking someone to pray over the graves, he met Michael Meegan, founder of ICROSS and a former Jesuit brother helping children with AIDS in Kenya.

Willbond came back a changed man. He gave up his retirement dreams of hunting and used the proceeds from his massive gun collection to start his charity. He began writing poetry about Africa's children, and asked Mackenzie to be the charity's national patron. They asked other former peace-makers to join them in donating supplies.

But growing frustration with the "graft and obstructionism" their hard goods encountered en route to their Kenyan destination convinced them to find another place in desperate need.

Malawi, rated the fourth-poorest nation on Earth, fit the bill. And they found Brooks, "a real Dr. Schweitzer type," according to Willbond.

Brooks had opened his own clinic near Ngodzi, in the Salima district. "A lot of doctors go to well-established clinics. I wanted to do something really pioneering,

and Malawi had very little medical infrastructure."

To found Lifeline Malawi, he sold his worldly goods, including his golf clubs and prized 1964 white Mustang – "That was tough" – and packed up with his wife and daughter.

Brooks became one of just 94 doctors serving 12 million people, of whom 1 million are orphans. For two years, he treated 400 orphans at the same Malawi orphanage where Madonna adopted a boy, he said.

"What Madonna has done is come into the country, find a baby and take it out," he said. "What we are doing is coming into the country, finding one million orphans and doing our best to help them ... in the country they live in."

In Ngodzi, Brooks bought a goat pasture and built a clinic. "We see about 250 patients a day at the clinic," said Brooks. He and a couple of Malawian nurses, a clinical officer, clerk and assistant sometimes pile into a truck with equipment and drive into the countryside.

"Children die quite often" of AIDS transmitted from their mothers. "They ... start manifesting the disease once they start growing up, at 2, 3 or 5 years old. They will suddenly get sick and die," said Brooks. Life expectancy in these places is "about 29."

(Courtesy The Toronto Star)

Destitute children comforted by 'a little knitted doll'

Dale Anne Freed, Toronto Star



Maj Sandi Banerjee distributes "Izzy" Dolls to African children during his tour of duty in the Sudan.

A photo of a broken doll left behind in bombed-out rubble inspired Carol Isfeld to start making thousands to replace it. Her son, Mark, who had taken the picture while serving as a peacekeeper in Croatia as a combat engineer, was haunted by the image.

The B.C. mother began crocheting dolls out of bright yarn, each wearing a peacekeeper's beret, so her son could hand them out as gifts to kids

in the war-torn country. "Have doll, will travel," her son would write. And the Izzy comfort doll was born.

Carol kept them small so he could stuff as many as possible into his kit and pockets.

"They're a hit, Mom," Mark told her in a phone call from Croatia a week before he was due home – and just days before his death. Mark "Izzy" Isfeld was killed while clearing land mines in Kakma, Croatia, on June 21, 1994, the 100th Canadian peacekeeper to die in UN service. He was 32.

But by then the Izzy doll had captured the

Recollections by the late WO1 "Bushy" McCracken CD

Major Norm McCracken CD

(Cont'd from previous page)

imagination of Mark's troop mates, who wanted to share in the good feeling he'd got from handing them out. They caught on quickly.

So Carol Isfeld, coping with her own grief, went to work making dozens more for peacekeepers to pass on to children suffering from war.

She and husband, Brian, joined the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. The dolls they took to Geneva and elsewhere gained fame among anti-mine campaigners.

At some point, the demand "just got bigger than even my mind could envision," she said.

Enter retired sergeant Billy Willbond, founder of the peacekeepers charity ICROSS Canada. His daughter, an HIV expert working in Africa, asked if it would be all right to have other people make dolls from Isfeld's design for kids there.

"Go for it," Isfeld said, with one condition: "Nobody can make a profit from the dolls." Willbond got women's groups across Canada involved in creating the dolls from Isfeld's pattern, available on Mark's memorial website (www.isfeldbc.com).

Today, the Izzy dolls are being made for destitute kids and AIDS orphans. Often, they're shipped as a replacement for bubble wrap, cushioning other supplies sent overseas.

"They're given to terminally ill children who, in many cases, are buried with the dolls," said retired major-general Lewis Mackenzie, patron for ICROSS Canada. "When a little knitted doll is all they have ... that doesn't leave you."

Carol Isfeld remains committed to producing hundreds more, her son's last words to her ringing in her thoughts: "Mom, please don't stop making them."

(Courtesy The Toronto Star)



(This document was uncovered 13 Feb 06, 15-plus years after my father passed away. Apparently he sat down and penned his thoughts of a friendship that began in 1942 ... a form of closure over the loss of a true friend. After a trying time deciphering father's penmanship, I give you "Recollections, by WO1 "Bushy" McCracken, CD, on Col. C.L. Jones, CD., who died in 1981.)

The 2nd Bn QOR of C was mobilized 21 May 42 and the call was enthusiastically answered and during May and June we got down to organization and some training. Our uniforms were not the best, but we did try to look smart with the old fatigues from World War 1 which they handed us.

In the last week of June I received my Sgt's stripes and made A/CQMS of "C" Coy and with the advance party headed for Niagara-on-the-Lake to set up canvas and get ready for the Bn to arrive 1st of July. I suddenly found myself wearing two hats, Company CQ and CSM. Capt Butch Morgan, OC of the Coy, called me in with instructions to find a Coy Clerk.

So of I go to get the Nominal Roll and started checking for a clerk and first one I spotted was Rfn C.F. (Charles) Jones. That is as far as I went. I found the Rfn and informed him he was now the Coy Clerk. His answer -- "Why me?" I was lost for a reply for a moment and then, like a good senior NCO, I came back with, "Because I

said so," and he promptly replied, "Yes Sergeant."

As the Bn was newly formed and behind in training, admin work took place after supper. I was a weapons and drill instructor but to do admin work, either in the Q stores or set up a filing system for the Coy was way over my head. In the weeks following, Cpl Jones became the instructor and I the student on the "whys and wherefores" of keeping track of the Coy's training, medical reports on each man, plus all the kit and gear issued.

We became very acquainted with each others shortcomings during the months that followed.

Late in July, when I was supervising bayonet instruction, Charlie came riding out on the Coy bicycle and with an impish grin said, "CQ, you're in deep trouble and Col Sankey (LCol R.H. Sankey) wants you now." I tried to find out what it was all about and all he would do is grin and remark "Butch will tell you." Well, at that time I was wearing two hats and I was trying to figure out which one had made the mistake. I found out OK. I had overlooked a civilian trade on my enlistment papers and there was a little h--- raised over it and in the after effects I found I was wearing 3 hats as I suddenly became Messing NCO in charge of kitchens. Boy did that Cpl Jones give me a rough time for that slip up on my papers. I mentioned one day that I needed a butcher and he replied "Get him the same way you got your Coy clerk."

We renewed our friendship after WWII when, as the A & T WO2 instructor with the Bn under Col W.T. Bernard, Charlie rejoined the Rgmt and later took under his wing my son, Norman, who acted as Adjutant with LCol Jones. The highlight of my retirement was when he gave me the honour of pinning my son's CD on, in the Bn Parade.

Yes Charlie, they were great memories of those early days of 42. You were a 1st Class Rfn, a fine Cpl, in action you were tops and as Col of the Regiment you did a grand job. I shall miss your smiling face next 11 Nov Parade. Cheers for now, Cpl Jones, and may you rest in peace.

From your old Sgt. Major.

Three QOR veterans honoured by presentation of France's Légion d'Honneur

Capt Charles McGregor



Sun Media Photo

Daniel Jouanneau, French Ambassador to Canada, congratulates Fred Barnard, a member of Maj. Charlie Dalton's "B" Company in the D-Day landing, for being awarded the French Legion of Honour in a ceremony at Moss Park Armoury in March. Looking on is Barney Danson, Toronto, who was wounded in France and was similarly honoured, along with a third member of The Queen's Own, Jim McCullough, a member of Maj. Neil Gordon's "D" Company on D-Day.

When Fred Barnard opened the letter notifying him that he would be recognized by the Government of France by being awarded the prestigious Légion d'Honneur, he had one immediate question. "What's the Légion d'Honneur?"

The Uxbridge resident is one of three members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who served and were wounded in the Battle of Normandy in 1944, who, along with three other WW Two veterans were presented with this prestigious award in Toronto in March.

When he learned that The French Legion of Honour is a civilian and military decoration, instituted in 1802 by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte that's conferred upon men and women, either French citizens or foreigners, for outstanding achievements in military or civil life, he had a further question -- "Why me?"

French Ambassador to Canada Daniel Jouanneau had the answer to that. In notifying the veterans of the honour, he wrote that "I have the pleasure to inform you that the President of the French Republic,

M. Jacques Chirac, awarded you the Légion d'Honneur and, on his behalf, I would like to express my heartiest congratulations upon having received such an honour.

"This medal is a reward you greatly deserve for the exemplary and outstanding behaviour you demonstrated during the fierce battles of the liberation of France and Europe. By awarding you such a high distinction, France wants to honour a great Canadian soldier who fought for freedom. This is an achievement you can be proud of."

Fred wasn't completely convinced. "There were all kinds of guys who did what I did," he said. "We just did it because we wanted to fight for our country, because we thought it was the right thing to do. I don't think I was any braver than anyone else. I was wounded twice and sent home before it was over, but a lot of my friends were killed and never came home. They're buried over there."

The rifleman was in one of the two assault companies of The Queen's Own Rifles

who stormed Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and he says that "I was pretty well the first one on the beach. Heaven only knows why I wasn't shot. Lucky, I guess." Unfortunately, his younger brother Donald wasn't as lucky. He was shot through the chest and, Fred figures, died right then.

"They told us over and over that when we landed we couldn't stop for anything, otherwise we'd get hit," Fred says. "They told us there'd be lots of wounded guys but we were ordered to keep going and not stop to help them up, or try to drag them to cover or even to give them aid. But this was my brother..."

Uxbridge author, Ted Barris, in his gripping book "Juno", quotes Fred as saying, "As we were going down the ramp, I yelled to my brother 'give 'em hell', and the next thing I know I'm in four feet of water. Then I saw my brother Don...lying on his back as if he was asleep. There was just a black hole in his uniform, right in the middle of his chest. No blood. He must have died instantly."

In the presentation of the awards to the six soldiers, which took place on the parade square at Moss Park Armoury in front of the soldiers of The Queen's Own dressed in combat uniforms, as well as family members and friends, Ambassador Jouanneau read out the citations of each veteran, before pinning the medal on their jackets. Of Corporal Fred Barnard, he said that:

"Frederick Barnard was a corporal in The Queen's Own Rifles of the 3rd Canadian Division. He enlisted at the end of 1941 and after two and a half years of intensive training landed in the early hours of 6 June 1944, accompanied by his brother, who was mortally wounded on the beach that same day. During the landing Cpl Barnard went to the aid of many soldiers in his unit who were wounded. He went on to fight in the battle to take Carpiquet Airport and was involved in the liberation of Caen. In the Quesnay Woods, following an order to travel across a clearing the leader of his platoon was wounded by artillery fire. Cpl Barnard immediately took charge of the detachment. He, himself, was wounded by shrapnel in the neck

and foot. The Barnard family, through the participation of his father in the first world war, and the sacrifice of his brother on the beaches in Normandy, as well as his own bravery, contributed greatly to the liberation of France."

Fred never forgot his brother, naming his daughter Donna and son Donald in their memory. Both were with him at the presentation, along with Donald's wife, Judy, his brother Edward and wife Barbara, and their son, David.

Standing next to Fred in the medals presentation ceremony was Barney Danson, a former Queen's Own Rifles officer who lost any eye in Normandy but survived the war and returned to Canada and later became Defence Minister in the Trudeau Government. Others who were honoured were D-Day survivors Jim McCullough, Loretto, Queen's Own; Arthur Boon, Stratford, 19th Royal Canadian Artillery; William Hale, Sarnia, Fort Garry Horse tank regiment and Jack Bennett, Perkinsfield, 2nd Division Signals, who was captured at Dieppe in 1942 and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner.

The citations to McCullough and Danson said that:

"James McCullough joined the Canadian Army in 1942 and was attached to "D" Company in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. With his company, an integral part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade (3rd Canadian Infantry Division) in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, he landed on June 6 1944 on Juno Beach, near the community of Courseulles-sur-Mer. An observer and expert sniper, Corporal McCullough took part in fierce battles in which the regiment was involved. Notably, he fought in the liberation of Carpiquet, Caen and Boulogne, receiving a head wound in the last conflict. His skill as an expert rifleman and the quality of the information dispatches which were transmitted to his commander contributed greatly to the success of his unit."

Barnett J. (Barney) Danson, of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, landed in Normandy in 1944 and took part in the Arromanches and Falaise conflicts, where he was wounded and lost his left eye. Following the war, he was an MP for several decades as well being the Minister of

Defence. His work included being a member of Commonwealth observers in Uganda in 1980 and involvement in the new Canadian War Museum. He was named an Officer in France's Order of National Merit in 1994, was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1996 and received the Vimy Award in 2000."

(Barney Danson enlisted as a Rifleman in the Queen's Own aged 18. He was promoted Sergeant and later commissioned as Lieutenant. He was wounded in action in Normandy in August of 1944. He later served as the Regiment's Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. Elected as York North MP in 1968, he was appointed to the Cabinet in 1974 as Minister of State for urban affairs and in 1976 became Minister of National Defence. He served in that position until the defeat of the Liberal government in 1979. From 1984 to 1986, Mr. Danson was Canada's Consul General in Boston. He takes special pride in his role as the founder of Katimivik, the national youth program considered to be the most successful ever undertaken in Canada. In 2002, his autobiography, *Not Bad for a Sergeant: The Memoirs of Barney Danson*, was published.)

Just prior to the conclusion of the evening's events, the CO, LCol Martin Delaney and the RSM, WO1 Scott Patterson, had a quick "O" Group meeting on the parade square, signalled to the MC that they'd like the veterans to take a position in front of the dais to allow them to be honoured by a regimental march past.

With the Regimental Band leading, the more than 100 troops on parade then marched smartly past the six men, eyes right and officers saluting in a gesture of respect that none of the veterans will ever forget.

Following the ceremony, honourees and their families and guests were feted at a reception in The Queens' Own's officers' mess, hosted by the French Ambassador, catered by his chef and featuring fine French wines and Calvados, an apple brandy produced in Normandy which was offered by the French to their liberators as they made their way towards Germany and eventual victory.

"Good stuff that," Fred says. "But you have to be careful how much you drink. It packs quite a punch!" Much like the

Canadians as they fought their way through France and to whom their government paid tribute more than 60 years later.

As the evening wound down, the wife of the Ambassador approached former Corporal Barnard and said to him that, "I was not born when you and your fellow Canadians came to France to liberate my country. But I know all about you and what you did for us, and I will always be grateful. What you did and the sacrifices you made have permitted me, and all French people, to live in freedom and happiness. Thank you very much."

Colonel Paul F. Hughes, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles said that "We are extremely proud of the record forged by soldiers of our Regiment in the battle to liberate North West Europe, from the D-Day landings in June 1944 to the ultimate victory reached in May 1945. It was not accomplished without loss of life and many wounded among the Queen's Own ranks. They are represented by our three veterans, each of whom was wounded in battle in France.

"For the President of France to honour these men in this fashion is a gesture which will further solidify the bond between our two countries established so many years ago. It is also important to note that in the long history of The Queen's Own Rifles, although numerous foreign awards and decorations have been presented, this is the first time any of our soldiers have been honoured with this famous and historic award."



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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MEDAL PRESENTATION PARADE

of the

"Legion of Honour"

by:

His Excellency

Daniel Jouanneau

French Ambassador to Canada

Moss Park Armoury, Toronto

28 March 2007

“Changes, challenges and a great many accomplishments”

WO1/RSM Scott Patterson, CD



RSM Scott Patterson CD, presents the RSM Harry Fox Award to Rfn Bruno Maiolo as “The Most Promising Rifleman of the Year.”

(In the report that follows, Regimental Sergeant Major Scott Patterson CD, reflects on his first two years in the post, 2004-05)

The years were full of change, challenges, as well as a great many accomplishments, both in The Queen’s Own, and the Canadian Forces itself. This has been fascinating and fulfilling time to serve in the Canadian Forces and a remarkable time to serve as the Regimental Sergeant Major during the celebrations for the Year of the Veteran, as well as the lead-up to The Queen’s Own Rifles sesquicentennial celebrations in 2010. This had even greater meaning to me personally as the son of a Second World War Veteran. From an Operational aspect, we are moving forward with great improvements in our equipment and the way we train and deploy our soldiers.

CHANGE IN AND TO THE REGIMENT

Change is good. Within a Rifle Regiment, there is a fine balance between tradition and progress and reaching that balance is critical to survival and prosperity in our ever-changing world and military landscape.

We have had some key personnel change and move on with new and challenging roles within the Unit. The change of RSM parade on February 8, 2004 from RSM J. Wilmot CD to myself and his immediate promotion to Capt J. Wilmot CD, moving onward and upward into the position of OC Victoria Company was a first-hand experience of this change. It exemplifies the closeness between the Officers and Senior NCOs of this

regiment. On this day, I addressed the Regiment, telling them to take as many opportunities as they can from their time in the CF, and that the more opportunities they take the better the Regiment will be served by them. I’m very pleased to witness the many opportunities that people are taking, as this will benefit The Queen’s Own for years to come.

In September 2004, our new Commanding Officer, LCol M Delaney CD took over from the retiring CO LCol J. Fotheringham CD. LCol Fotheringham moved as the CO of 32 CBG Battle School where he can continue to improve the quality of the Brigade’s troops. It was both an honour and a pleasure to serve with LCol Fotheringham as our military careers have been intertwined from his joining as a recruit in both platoon and company positions and finally as the Command team for The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada. I know that 32 CBG will be served well by him.

In November 2005, the Regiment said goodbye but not farewell to BGen D. Pryer CD as Honorary Colonel after 14

years service to the regiment in this role. He was particularly involved in Reserves 2000 which is essential to the survival of the Regimental system. BGen Pryer has over 50 years of dedicated service to Canada, the majority as a staunch member of the Black Net. He was succeeded by Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes CD, our previous Honorary LCol and Honorary LCol Richard Cowling CD, who had served with distinguished service in the Queen’s Own Rifles as well as the Canadian Airborne Regiment and the PPCLI.

In 2005 and ongoing to 2006 saw the Regiment expand in Company size to a new armouries in Scarborough, named the Dalton Armouries, after Hank and Elliott Dalton, both awarded the Distinguished Service Order for their World War Two service. Remarkably, they were both Company Commanders on the First Wave at D-Day, June 6, 1944. This expansion is the first new home of the Regiment since 1965 when we marched into Moss Park Armouries.

CHANGES IN THE CANADIAN FORCES

The world and especially the Military has evolved in the Post 9/11 World. This has been exemplified in the CF Transformation as outlined under the CDS General Hillier. These are exciting times to be in the CF.

WE HAVE TO TRAIN AS WE FIGHT

Starting in the fall of 2004, all operational training is required to encompass the following: Task Force combined arms training with the inclusion of CIMIC, Role-players, local Police Agencies, International Aid Workers, and embedded real media (CBC, CFTO, Radio Canada, Army News, Toronto Star, local newspapers). Making our Riflemen act and react the same as a soldier on deployment.

The CF has changed its focus from larger units to section and half-section and the idea of the “Strategic Corporal”. This ties in well with our philosophy of our century old “Self-thinking Rifleman.”

In keeping with the CF transformation, we will have members in all phases of Pre-Deployment, Deployment, and Post-Deployment rotation. It should be noted that we have a number of members who have completed tours and are looking forward to the commitment of further deployments. Reservists are now filling up to 20% of most Overseas deployments. As well, new specialties such as CIMIC, PAFFO, HUMINT, and D & S are as high as 80% Reservists.

Effective 01 April 2006, everyone training in Canada has come under Canada Command, this encompasses all Regular Forces and Reservists as well as the new "Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR)."

CHALLENGES WE MET AS A REGIMENT

The commitment required of a current serving member has never been higher. A typical member is required to complete MLOC training, Brigade training, Domestic Response Training, Professional Development (Leadership) Training, and attend Ex Vigilant Guardian as a minimum. As well, our troops are involved in our Para Role as well as the support to CPC in Trenton. As a minimum, our troops are required to attend a minimum of 12-14 weekends per year.

This is without taking any trade or leadership courses, and not including Regimental events such as Family Day and Remembrance Day. I am very pleased to report that we had over 90% completion of MLOC training, one of the highest within the Brigade.

UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2004

To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Invasion of Fortress Europe in June 1944, 32 CBG held a parade starting at Sunnybrook Hospital and winding through the main streets of Toronto with the QOR of C contributing 123 Soldiers on parade under the command of LCol John Fotheringham, and in addition 45 members of the Regimental Band and Bugles. This was even more significant as we are the only Toronto Infantry

Regiment to land on D-Day. This was the first of many opportunities to honour our own Veterans as well as other CF members who valiantly served during the Second World War.

August 2004 saw the Regiment in CFB Petawawa. LCol Fotheringham commanded the combined Infantry Battalion consisting of all 6 Infantry Regiments in the brigade. This was also the first time that a complete Reservist Airborne Company was deployed as a fighting formation during Ex Stalwart Guardian. This company's leadership was completely drawn from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

2005-THE YEAR OF THE VETERAN

In May 2005, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of VE-Day, we conducted a Parade from Moss Park Armouries, past the War Memorials on Queen Street and University Avenue, ending with a triumphal arrival at Ricoh Coliseum at the CNE grounds where we paid tribute to the throngs of Veterans in the stands. It was a moment that made you proud to be a member of the Canadian Forces.

LCol Delaney CD was given the command of 32 CBG Domestic Response Unit (DRU), whose main role is to aid and support any local community in the GTA for any natural or man-made disasters. We have used in the past in the Ice Storm in Eastern Ontario and other deployments.

This involved a number of build up exercise, culminating in a very successful deployment of the entire Brigade DRU to the Docklands of Toronto. The exercise involved the army, Toronto Police, EMS, and Fire Department. This was a high profile exercise, involving local and national news coverage. With the creation of Canada Command, this training will likely be the norm for the future.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Regiment is without question stronger than the sum of its parts. As CSM Charlie Martin DCM MM used to state, "Brave men are surrounded by brave men." There are, however, certain soldiers who have gone above and beyond the call which are

worth mentioning.

The QOR commitment to SFOR Op Palladium Roto 13 to Bosnia included Lt. Slack, WO Shannon, Sgt Van Hamme, MCpl Bioletti, Cpls Bahsous, Marmion, and Mitchell.

To Afghanistan Op Archer Roto 0, Sgt Harmes, Roto 3, Capt Sarossy, Sgt Willan, MCpl Charlebois, Cpls Bridge and Burns. Roto 4, Lt. Clark, Cpls De Bartok, Koulik, and McGibbon, and WO R. Joseph.

Many thanks must go out to the members contributing to the Annual Food drive. Our regiment is part of our community and this helps to confirm this connection. Well done, MCpl Pampe and MCpl Shaver.

RSM's COMMENTS

My role as RSM has been more intriguing and exciting than I had even imagined. My respect for my predecessors has increased many-fold. I did not foresee how busy the job of RSM is outside the Regiment. Seldom does a day go by when I am not involved in some military or unit matter; however I would have it no other way.

It is reassuring that no matter what change or job is given to the Regiment, we manage to surpass the expectations of all concerned, from the manning of the Airborne Company at camp to the Domestic Response Unit, and the soldiers on parade to honour our Veterans, we have always been the highest in the Brigade. I take great pride in knowing that the Regiment will always live up to our motto "In Pace Paratus".

One of the highlights will always be as a member of the Regimental contingent granted an audience with Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra at Buckingham Palace in July 2005, where I had the honour to present to Her Royal Highness a Regimental Memorial coin on behalf of the Regiment. She thanked me for the kind gesture and mentioned she looks forward to our celebration in 2010.

In Pace Paratus.

Calgary Branch hears details of QOR National Association

Jack Glenn, Calgary Branch, QOR Association

Fifty people sat down to Christmas lunch in December, including Charlie and Mary Park, who braved the winter roads to drive from Kimberley, BC, for the occasion. Branch members had been shocked and saddened to learn of the death of RSM Al McMillan on 05 Dec and, before lunch, Don Ethell made a presentation to Geraldine McMillan, on behalf of the Corps of Commissionaires, recognizing her late husband's many years of service with the Corps. We're certain our dismay at Al's death is a sentiment which was shared throughout the Association and by all who knew and served with this fine soldier.

After lunch, Branch President John Cresswell woke the assembly up with the announcement that, after more than 22 years of service to the branch, he and the other members of the Executive Committee, Clay and Louise Hodder and Ken Barrett, would be retiring effective the end of January 2008. Speaking for all present, John Hearn thanked John and the Committee members for their many years of dedicated service. It is understood that there will be a Branch meeting in February to elect a new president and executive so they can be in place before the annual birthday celebration in April.

John Cresswell had represented Calgary Branch at the Association's Executive and Steering Committee Meeting in Toronto on 19 May and the same day, he represented the branch at a meeting of the newly formed Queen's Own Rifles' National Association, convened by the chairman, Herb Pitts. Discussion centred

on the need to review the Association By-Laws, the annual levy for National Association membership and the benefits that might be extended to the members.

It was agreed that the annual levy for the National Association would be set at \$7.50. John explained that the annual dues membership in the Calgary Branch will remain at \$5.00. This means a total annual levy of \$12.50 for those branch members who also choose to become members of the National Association and to receive the Rifleman, the Regimental journal.

Calgary Branch celebrated the Regiment's 147th birthday with a Dinner & Dance at the Kensington Legion on 21 April. We had a good turn out for this year's event, with 83 persons in attendance. Many of this year's guests were from out of town. Out of province guests included Joe Morin from Moose Jaw, SK, Francis Vermette from Dauphin, MB and Bob and Greta Foster from Chilliwack, BC. There was no guest speaker at the dinner this year but guests were adequately entertained by opening remarks by Branch President John Cresswell. John thanked the executive committee for organizing the event, and noted in passing that he and Clay and Louise Hodder had served on the executive since the inception of the Calgary Branch 21 years ago. The toasts to the Colonel in Chief, the Regiment and the Queen were proposed by Ken Barrett, Al Macmillan and Clay Hodder respectively.

A beautifully decorated birthday cake was donated by Dorothy Taylor in celebra-

tion of both the Regiment's 147th birthday and her husband Jim's 87th birthday, on 18 April.

Several Calgary branch members attended the various events organized by local CAVUNP members to mark the Peacekeepers' Weekend in Calgary on 10-12 August. This year's events included a Friday night tribute concert at #264 Legion, featuring local musical groups, a pancake breakfast on Saturday at the Military Museum, a CAVUNP Calgary Branch reception on Saturday evening and the Peacekeepers' Day ceremony and reception at Currie Barracks on Sunday.

John & Lyda Friedt hosted their annual garden party in July, which is a can't-miss event for many branch members and other former military people in the Calgary area and beyond. As always, it was an outstanding success. Their gardens are a beautiful sight to behold.

After a trial run at the RAUSI mess at Mewata Armouries in September, the Branch's monthly luncheon has returned to #264 (Kensington) Legion. The luncheon is now held on the first Wednesday of the month. We were pleased to have Al and Rosann Way from the Kingston area as guests at our September gathering.

Calgary Branch's 2008 Regimental Birthday Celebration, in the usual form of a dinner dance, will be held at #264 Kensington Legion on 26 Apr 2008. Watch for announcements from the Branch executive.

"Rifleman Online" is a valuable source of information about The Queen Own Rifles

Readers of the Rifleman are reminded that while Regimental publications are produced periodically, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada website at www.qor.com is up and running 24 hours a day.

Leading up to the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2010 it will be a valuable source of information on this exciting year in the

life of the Regiment which was founded on 26 April in 1860, and has continued in the service of Canada without interruption since that date.

Recent additions to the "Rifleman Online" website include a most interesting video presentation now being made available to all new recruits (click on Recruiting Flash

Demo), as well as an expanded history of the Regiment.

Click on "Site Map" to take a tour of the website and its guide to the various elements which combine to make The Queen Own Rifles of Canada truly "Canada's Oldest and Finest."

This 150th Birthday celebration requires “dedication and fortitude”

Capt Charles McGregor

It has been agreed by our 150th Regimental Birthday planning team that The Queen's Own Rifles will enter a 15 member team in the annual Nijmegen March to be held in July, 2010.

The team, which will be required to march for four days over Dutch roads, covering a minimum 40 kms a day while carrying a 10 kg pack and wearing their service-issue boots, will be led and trained by the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, Col Richard L. Cowling and former Queen's Own Rifles CO, LCol Steve Brand.

“Details of selection and training will be forthcoming,” said LCol Cowling. “It will be necessary to select and train more members than will actually participate. Unfortunately some will be disappointed at the final selection, but it is obvious that there must be some consideration given to the possibility of injuries and other exigencies.” He added that “The training will begin early in 2008 and will require dedication and fortitude.”

The International Four Day “Marches Nijmegen” is the largest such event in the world. It has been organized for over 60 years in Nijmegen in the Netherlands in mid-July as a means of promoting sport and exercise. Participants walk 30, 40 or 50 kilometers daily and on completion

receive a royally-approved medal. Originally a military march with only a few civilians as participants, it now is a mainly civilian event with about 10,000 military personnel among the 40,000 total participants.

Occupied by the Germans in 1940, Nijmegen was liberated by the First Canadian Army in November of 1944 and in 1945 would be used as a springboard for Operation Veritable, the invasion across the Rhine River by Allied Troops. In 1944, it saw heavy fighting during Operation Market Garden as the British Army's XXX Corps attempted to reach allied airborne troops trapped in Arnhem. The city, which celebrated its 2000th birthday in 2005 and is the oldest in the Netherlands, was first populated by Romans in the first century, who built a military camp on the place where Nijmegen was eventually to appear.

Apart from the war years 1939-1945, the annual march has taken place every July since 1909, being based at Nijmegen since 1916. Depending on age group and category, participants have to cover 30, 40 or 50 kilometers each day on foot for four consecutive days. The event was cancelled after the first day in 2006 – the first time in 90 years – due to extreme heat. After the first day's march there were thousands

of drop-outs and two deaths.

Armed Forces from all over the world send contingents to take part in the marches. Military teams can contain from a dozen up to as many as 30 members, typically marching as a unit, carrying national flags and often singing marching songs, and as a result are very popular with the crowds. (Col Cowling has promised the team will learn all the words to “The Maple Leaf Forever”, written by former Queen's Own Rifleman Alexander Muir.) On the final day each year, thousands of people line the last few kilometers of the route to cheer on the marchers. The Canadian flag and marchers, in particular, are given emotional welcomes by the Dutch, who remember -- or are taught by their grandparents or school teachers -- that it was young men from Canada who liberated their country in World War Two and saved many of them from starvation.

That street, the St. Annastraat, is dubbed “Via Gladiola” for the day (the gladiola is the official flower of the marches, and it is tradition to give them to the participants.) As far as a week ahead people will reserve spaces along the Via Gladiola by placing chairs and even couches in place. The finish is also shown on Dutch TV.

Sapper Mike McTeague Wounded Warriors Fund

Capt Charles McGregor

For those of you who have not been made aware of it, the Sapper Mike McTeague Wounded Warriors Fund supports Canadian service personnel wounded on military operations. The fund aims to improve the general morale and welfare of the soldiers and their families by working through first-line caregivers, medical staff, chaplains and assisting officers.

To provide the background, on September 18, 2006 a suicide bomb was detonated in Panjwayi District, Kandahar Province Afghanistan, killing four Canadian soldiers and severely injuring several others. One of those was a 20-year-old member of the Canadian Combat Engineer Regiment, Sapper Mike McTeague of Orillia, Ontario, a former reserve army soldier.

Shrapnel tore through his neck and his bowel, his legs and feet were fractured in eight places. Rushed to Landstuhl, Germany where he received urgent medical care. At first, it was thought they'd have to amputate McTeague's legs. Then they thought he'd be paralyzed. Wrong on both counts. Eventually returned to Canada, he was treated at Sunnybrook where doctors performed skin grafts and operated on his legs. His left leg, so shattered that a metal bar holds the bones together, can't yet fully bear his weight and he's currently undergoing treatment at St John's Rehab Hospital in North York.

Mike's father, Sean McTeague, an Orillia OPP officer and former member of the reserves, and Captain Wayne Johnston, a 33-year career army officer, joined forces

to launch the Wounded Warriors Fund in Mike's name and the response from Canadians for donations to the fund has been outstanding.

The fund is designed to deliver quality of life, financial and benevolent assistance through direct support and donations, family assistance, advocacy and awareness and through endowments to Fisher House, in Germany. (The Fisher House supports the families of those under serious medical care by providing free accommodation. Formed to provide assistance to the families of wounded US service people it welcomes the families of Canadian military personnel.)

For more information go to the website at www.woundedwarriors.ca

Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Band & Bugles have a full "Dance Card"

Captain Rita Arendz, Director of Music, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada



There is the old adage of "no rest for the wicked" – that's not to say that the band & bugles are wicked – just to say that there was no rest – over 80 functions that the band and it's members supported.

February saw the stand-up of the new Joint Task Force Central (JTF-C) command structure in Ontario with it's headquarters in the Denison Armoury, followed shortly by a Review in Toronto by our new Governor General Michaëlle Jean. Later in the spring, the time for dining had arrived at JTF-C and a garden party for the US Consulate General in July for their Independence Day. August brought back the ceremonial aspect with the service in support of Canadian Association of Veterans and United Nations Peacekeepers (CAVUNP) followed quickly in September by the Province of Ontario's unveiling of the Ontario Veterans' Memorial.

November was unusually busy with the Province of Ontario's new initiatives, one being the Ontario's Tribute to the Fallen where the Premier on Friday 10 November, commemorated the bravery, heroism and sacrifice of Ontario's members of the Canadian Forces by presenting tribute plaques to their families at a special ceremony at Queen's Park, and secondly, on Saturday, by the Province's Inaugural Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial. This was on top of providing musicians to 6 other Remembrance Services that weekend.

But this was only the tip of the iceberg. The band and bugles continued to support our military families not only at the unit but also at Canadian Forces College

(Toronto), four graduation parades for 32 Canadian Brigade Group (32CBG) Battle School's Basic Military Qualification courses (their recruit training getting them ready for more fun during the summer), the large graduation parade at Area Training Centre (ATC) Meaford at the end of the summer (over 500 new soldiers for central Ontario); and our own Queen's Own Cadet Corps Annual Inspection parade. We cannot leave out our friends in the Toronto Police Services at their Tattoo in July.

These activities did not preclude us from remembering our veterans. The D-Day ceremony at Moss Park Armoury saw our Bugles in attendance playing a rousing Last Post and Reveille. The band's support to the Juno Beach Committee fundraising events, the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care fundraising events, and the Sunnybrook (K-Wing) "Piece of Cake" Christmas program were well appreciated. Speaking of veterans, it is always difficult to lose one, let alone several. Rolph Jackson, amongst others, have passed on and we were privileged to play at their services. But the band and bugles also lost members this year – Bugle Sergeant Augustus (Gus) Amodeo (1 July 2006) and Sgt (Drummer) Robert (Bob) Charman (12 October 2006). Gus and Bob – you are missed!

As is with nature, there is always renewal ... new members Private Megan Hodge (trombone) and Private Daniel Grains (oboe) ... as well as departures as Master Corporal Annette Gronlund (saxophone) had to depart the band.

But there is another renewal a foot – the 12 year "battle" over the number of positions the band currently has allocated is under review through Land Force Reserve Restructure with an indication of implementation in the near future. The band would be increased from it's current establishment of six to 25. Although not optimum (an establishment of 35 would be optimum and actually return us to 1994 pre-cut establishment), it is definitely a step in the right direction.

But back to "banding". The summer proved to be the opposite of many of the past – busy! due to Gen Hillier's initiative Op Connection and as a result, JTF-C/LFCA's implementation of a CF display at the CNE - something that has not been seen in many years. And along with the display is music. Every day of the CNE (18 of them), members of the 32CBG bands (including QOR), along with HMCS York, created a massed band and partook in the Mardi-Gras Parade as well as played a concert at the CF Stage inside the display. The responses from the public were wonderful.

Other public events supporting our communities included performing a concert in Orillia in support of the Couchiching Jubilee House, a parade on Canada Day at Highland Creek (Scarborough), a concert in Belleville as part of the Belleville Lion's Club Music in the Park series, a parade in Moss Park's vicinity of Cabbagetown for their annual community festival, the VC Tattoo in Tillsonburg honouring Alexander Robert Dunn, the annual RCMC Massed Band Spectacular at Roy Thompson Hall, a Christmas Concert back in Orillia for the Rotary Club's Festival of Trees, and another Christmas Concert at our own Legion Branch 344.

To top this all off, members of the band found time (juggling is a better word) to go on unit exercises, including Guiding Light, and Able Warrior.

As in the Olympic tradition we always strive higher, and will always be faster! (remember 140?) while maintaining our mottoin peace prepared!

An eventful, exciting first year for Buffs Company at Dalton Armoury

Maj Allan Champion CD, former OC Buffs Company and OIC Dalton Armoury, Scarborough



Legion Br. 238 members Dave Morrison, Nancy Clark and Jim Gyselink make a presentation to Buffs Coy OC Maj Allan Champion CD.

Buffs Company's first full year in the Col CO Dalton DSO and Col HE Dalton DSO Armoury has been eventful and it gives me great pleasure to report on our progress. We occupied the completed armoury in December 2005 and proceeded to make it a second regimental home.

The first sign of regimental esprit de corps was the hanging of a regimental cap badge and a Buffs cap badge painted by Rfn Henry Biggs in his parents' apartment. Given that each is four foot square, it shows quite an acceptance of their new extended family (the regiment). Soon followed the painting of a wall of honour by my day staff. My first order was to balance it with a regimental wall of green with red stripes and above it an eight foot cap badge. Keeping up, the eight foot Buffs Welsh dragon was painted to look down and the troops moved on to cover all the white walls of the halls, the mess, classroom and leadership rooms with Buff with tasteful green and red pinstripes. If you haven't been to the Dalton Armoury, drop in some Wednesday night and you will be welcomed in the all ranks mess after training.

The weekend before our regimental birthday, we celebrated with an official grand opening parade. It was a rainy day in Scarborough but it didn't stop the outdoor battalion parade when we marched from a local legion to our new home with rifles in hand and band leading in their new rain capes. With the Brigade Commander reviewing and the Dalton family in good attendance, the Regiment, the Senate and the Association hosted a large crowd of Scarborough citizens to a ribbon cutting

and open house. We were very pleased by the six Scarborough Legions marching on their combined colour parties and placing them to the side to secure the parade square prior to our arrival.

During the open house the CO and I received gifts to Buffs Company, including a flag from our local MP Mr Derek Lee, a greetings certificate from the mayor presented by our local councillor Mr Raymond Cho, and an original commissioned painting from the Hon Col Paul Hughes. These added to the wonderful old photographs of the regiment on loan from the regimental museum at Casa

Loma. Buffs Company is still platoon sized as our second platoon is in training in Victoria Company at Moss Park Armoury. Nevertheless, this platoon of young soldiers is a solid group that attends all regimental training and will continue to grow as the location in Scarborough becomes known.

Other ways that we've connected with the community is with the hosting of the Ontario Historic Military Vehicle Association in the summer, hosting a fund raising dinner for the Tony Stacey Centre with a local MP, Mr Dan McTeague and through support of our Scarborough Rifles Cadet Corps and a local Sea Cadet Squadron while its building was under renovation. Most recently, through the kind generosity of Col Hughes and WO (retd) Phil ten Kortenaar, we've been able to start a bugle band in the cadet corps which practices under Capt Rita Arendz on Thursday nights at Dalton Armoury. We've also been fortunate to have the QOR Association Toronto Branch visit the mess on a few occasions and use it in rotation with the QOR Legion and our Moss Park Sgts' Mess for their meeting. On one occasion Association President Bob Dunk gave a history lecture and presented a print of a Buffs soldier to the mess. On another he brought in a fantastic collection of QOR cap badges and collar dogs. Who would have known that the QOR would have so many subtle changes to a badge that has looked much the same since the 1860's.

Our connection with Zone D5 of the Royal Canadian Legion continues to grow. This past October, I was pleased to speak at their

annual dinner and the CO, LCol Martin Delaney reviewed their annual pilgrimage to the Pine Hills Cemetery. This year Buffs posted the sentries on their cenotaph and again at the Kingston Rd. cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

Training within Buffs has been very progressive, with each subject area well capped by an event to prove its success. First we met the 90% requirement of our annual Individual Battle Task Standards, then we moved on to rappelling and urban ops, which we completed with a visit to Georgetown to use the rappel tower and Downsview to use the new 32 Brigade Indoor Urban Ops Training Centre. Then we moved onto the 9mm Browning Highpower Pistol knowing that this old weapon has had an increased use as everyone in theatre now carries one in addition to his rifle. This series of lectures was capped by a visit to the local CO Bick Police College where Constable Dave Newton hosted us on their pistol range.

It's been a good year for receiving new people into the regiment and some transfers into Buffs Coy. We're very fortunate to have received Sgt Andre Campos who works at LFCA HQ but was looking for a unit to serve with on parade nights. We've benefited from receiving people back from tour in Afghanistan with MCpl Bryan Burns and Cpl Adam Debartok coming to serve with Buffs and we've sent others on tour with Cpls Chris Abate and Nicco Harper, Rfn Calvin Lui and Sgt Chris Van Hamme. Rfn Lui is the first home-grown Buffs Coy recruit to progress to take a tour.

We've also begun formally building our first generation of Buffs leadership, with the recently promoted Cpls Biggs and Cpl Shyn Huh taking PLQ, the promotion of MCpl Ricardo Chui and Lt Chris Potter progressing through phase 2 and 3 to become a fully qualified platoon comd. Watch for Buffs to continue to grow both in numbers and leadership as we fill this armoury and search for a Scarborough site to purpose build the permanent Col CO Dalton DSO and Col HE Dalton DSO Armoury where the Queen's Own will continue to be In Pace Paratus.



Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Kit Shop



The Queen's of Rifles of Canada Kit Shop Price List		
Category & Description	Code	Price
Books		
Charlie Martin's Battle Diary: book	001	15.00
Regimental History, 1860-1960: book	002	25.00
The Canadians: book	003	25.00
Third Battalion CEF: book	004	10.00
Born Lucky, Harry Fox: book	012	20.00
The QOR 140 for 140: video	010	20.00
CDs & Cassettes		
Cassette Traditions	015	12.00
Cassette Silver Bugles	017	12.00
CD Traditions	018	12.00
CD Silver Bugles	019	12.00
Prints		
D-Day Landing, signed	021	125.00
D-Day Landing, unsigned	022	25.00
Mooshof, signed, numbered	023	25.00
Jewellery		
Lapel pin silver with red	131	6.00
Lapel pin full colour	132	6.00
Lapel pin antique gun metal	133	6.00
Brooch ladies crested	134	25.00
Cuff links & tie pin set	135	30.00
Cuff links full colour	136	30.00
Tie bar, full colour crest	137	12.00
Lapel pin bugle band	138	6.00

Novelties		
Beer Mug	201	12.00
High ball, crested	202	10.00
Shot glass, crested	203	8.00
Coffee mug, tall, white crested	204	6.00
Coffee mug short white crested	205	6.00
Coffee mug green short, crested	206	6.00
Thermos mug, stainless steel, crested	210	26.00
Battle honours plaque	219	30.00
Playing cards, green crested, deck	220	12.00
Sergeant statue on base 9"	221	40.00
Ontario licence plate crested	230	52.10
Ontario licence plate sample	231	25.00
Regimental second plate	232	7.00
Stationery		
Note card bugles w env 10 pack	302	7.50
Note card period uniforms 10 pack	303	5.00
Note card regimental crest 25 pack	304	12.00
Postcard pioneers skirmishers 10 pack	306	2.50
QOR decal stickers 2x2 in.	307	2.00
Clothing		
Ties		
Cravat, Velcro collar	401	12.00
Ascot, easy to wear	402	20.00
Bow, formed, strap on	403	10.00
Bow, silk weave, hand tied	404	40.00
Tie, Silk weave	405	50.00
Tie, silk	406	38.00
Tie, polyester	407	12.00
Tie, Drinking	408	20.00
Cummerbund, silk weave	409	60.00



Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Kit Shop



Scarf silk weave	410	50.00
Caps		
Baseball cap, green embroidered	420	16.00
Cap, bucket, tan, crested	421	16.00
Cap, bucket, green, crested	422	16.00
Golf Shirts		
Golf shirt crested, XL	431	48.00
Golf shirt regimental name Small	432	25.00
Golf shirt regimental name Medium	433	25.00
Golf shirt regimental name Large	434	25.00
Golf shirt regimental name XL	435	25.00
Golf shirt regimental name XXL	436	25.00
T shirts		
T shirt white crest Medium	441	15.00
T shirt white crest Large	442	15.00
T shirt white crest XL	443	15.00
T shirt white crest	444	15.00
T shirt white crest XXXL	445	15.00
T shirt colour crest Junior	450	15.00
T shirt colour crest Small	451	15.00
T shirt colour crest Medium	452	15.00
T shirt colour crest Large	453	15.00
T shirt colour crest XXXL	455	15.00
Sweat shirt white crest large	459	15.00
Sweat shirt white crest XL	460	23.00
Sweat shirt white crest Medium	461	23.00
Sweat shirt white crest XXL	462	23.00
Sweat pants white crest Small	463	23.00
Sweat pants white crest Medium	464	23.00
Sweat pants white crest Large	465	23.00
Sweat pants white crest XL	466	23.00
Sweat pants white crest XXL	467	23.00

Sweater knit regimental name small	468	55.00
Sweater knit regimental name medium	469	25.00
Sweater knit regimental name large	470	25.00
Regalia		
Belt & buckle, crested	500	20.00
Pennants, Flag 3x6 ft	501	TBD
Desk Flag 5x10 in. & stand	502	12.00
Buttons, blazer set	503	5.00
Blazer crest wire	507	21.00
Crest, windbreaker, buglers, wire	508	15.00
Crest, windbreaker, leaf, green, silver	509	15.00
Lanyard, black, 4 knots	511	20.00
Lanyard, black, 1 knot	512	10.00
Epaulet slip on Association	513	12.00

Kit Shop

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Kit Shop has been re-stocked and is now open for business to its local as well as out-of-town customers. We recognize that each association has its own Kit Shop but there are likely items of interest here that aren't available elsewhere and we invite you to peruse the accompanying list to see if there's anything there you'd like to order.

If so, send your order by mail to us at RHQ and we'll be happy to send it back to you by return mail. Don't forget to include "Category and Description" in your order, along with the Code Number and Price for the items you'd like to receive. There is no tax on these items, but we do have to charge for shipping. Since there a wide variety of items are available we can't estimate shipping costs until the order is placed.

To order, send a letter detailing what it is you wish to buy, (and how many, if more than one) to: Regimental Kit Shop, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada RHQ, Moss Park Armoury, 130 Queen St. East, Toronto, ON, M5A 1R9. If you have any suggestions on items you'd like to see us add to the Kit Shop inventory, please let us know.

Toronto area customers can visit the Kit Shop on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. or by previous arrangement with Sgt Andy McNaughton, Kit Shop Manager, 416 362 3946.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS



Brigadier General Sir Vivian Dunn is accompanied by Band Sergeant Roy Bruce while inspecting the troops during a parade held when the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles were in Germany in 1960.

RSM Roy Bruce MMM CD

RSM Roy Bruce, who died on 25 January, 2007, was a member of the 1st Bn QOR of C. He served three years in Germany as well as in Cyprus, Egypt, Calgary, Victoria and Winnipeg. He had a long military career, beginning with the Militia (Victoria Rifles). In 1951, he joined the First Canadian Rifles and served with NATO in Germany. Rebadged to QOR of C in 1954 and the PPCLI in 1970. He retired in 1986 as the Patricias' RSM. Inducted as a Member in the Order of Military Merit in 1985, he received his decoration from Governor General Jean Sauve. His wife, Joyce, who met the Montreal-born soldier "on a blind date in Calgary," where they were married in 1955, said when he was Bugle Major of the Regimental Bugle Band, "In 1962 The Queen's Own was the first Canadian band ever invited to the Military Tattoo at the Edinburgh Festival and he considered that a great honour."



Band Sgt Bob Charman CD

A member of the Regimental Band and Bugles for many years, as well as the Sandycove Acres Branch Queen's Own Rifles Association (Sandycove Acres Branch), Band Sgt Bob Charman, 80, died on 12 October, 2006. A veteran of WW Two and a member of The Queen's Own for over 50 years, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, six children and nine grandchildren. At at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery in Normandy Bob was asked to lead a group of British veterans who wished to "march in rather than wander in" to the memorial ceremony marking D-Day+50, and he did so with pride.

Major Frederick J Swan CD



Fred Swan passed away on Christmas Day, 2007 in Calgary. Born in Strasbourg, SK in 1919, he and his twin brother Ted lived on the family homestead until November, 1940 when they joined the South Saskatchewan Regiment. Commissioned lieutenant,

while stationed at Fort Garry in Manitoba he met his future wife, Hazel, before being shipped overseas. He served outside of Canada until war's end and on his return he and Hazel married in 1946 and raised a son and three daughters. Post-war Fred joined The Queen's Own Rifles and served with the 1st Bn in the NATO posting in Germany and then with United Nations forces in the Middle East before retirement from the military in 1968 with the rank of Major. He then worked in the printing industry until retiring for good, aged 75. An amiable raconteur he was known for "never letting the truth get in the way of a good story." A keen woodworker he also was greatly interested in world and military affairs.

RSM Alfred (Al) McMillan MMM CD

Died Dec 4, 2007. "An Irishman he was and he shall return to the old country in Belfast for his final resting," as his obituary reported. RSM McMillan served in The Queen's Own Rifles 2nd Battalion from 1951 until the Regiment was reduced to nil strength and he rebadged with the PPCLI, retiring in 1987. His family -- wife of 57 years Geraldine, children Andrew, Aleita and Roy, their spouses and children -- remember him as one who "Lived his life with 'No Fear.' celebrating love and life with each passing day. Our brave, fearless leader he was, leading us soaring through the heights of our fears and was always there when we looked back. With Alfred McMillan in your life, you were never alone. He simply would not allow it."



OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo CD

A longtime member of the Regimental Band and Bugles and a very active member of the Queen's Own Rifles Association (Toronto Branch) Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo, 73, died on 1 July, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Joan, five children, eight grandchildren and one great grand-child. His son, Josef, is also a member of The Queen's Own buglers. Gus was one of two buglers who travelled to Calgary to play Last Post and Rouse at the Reunion held there in 2005.

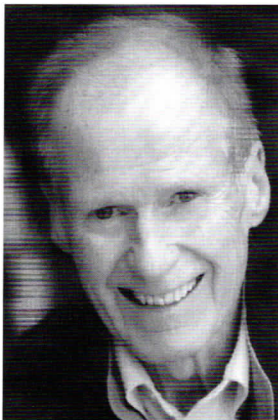


D-Day Veteran Rolph Jackson

Rolph Jackson, 85, who died in Sunnybrook on 9 June, 2006, joined The Queen's Own as a reservist in 1939 and "went active" on 5 June, 1940, aged 19. On D-Day B Coy, led by Maj Charlie Dalton, was hit hard and Rolph was one of only three in his section who survived (Doug Hester and Bob Nicol were the others) Most of his comrades in the landing craft "died in the water," Rolph recalled. Wounded on the beach, he was invalided back to England and never rejoined the Regiment in Europe. Post-war he married Olive, who predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter, Chrystal.



Lt Robert P. Little



Died on October 6, 2006. He joined the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a 2nd Lt (immediately outranking his father, CSM John Little, a veteran of WWII.) In his business career he received many awards for advertising campaigns for the mentally handicapped, worked on the Special Olympics for the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, at the Olympics in Munich, Montreal, and

Calgary, with Team Canada, the Pontiac Cup for 13 years, and 21 Toronto Molson Indy events. He lived life with passion and infectious comedic relief. He is survived by his wife Sue, children Nicole (Michael and Kainan) and Rob (Sarah) and sisters Pat and Marlene.

D-Day Veteran John B. Connelly

D-Day veteran John Connelly, 85, of Parksville, BC died in hospital on Jan 4, 2008. Just 19 when, rifle in hand, he splashed ashore at Juno Beach on 6 June, 1944, Connelly was wounded twice as he and his Queen's Own Rifles comrades fought their way through France, Belgium and Holland into Germany. During training in Britain before D-Day he met 18-year-old Julia in Scotland and, his war ended, he brought her to Canada as a war bride in 1945. During a 52-year marriage they raised five children in Ontario. With one of those children, his daughter Catherine, on the 60th anniversary of the landing in 2004, John returned for the first time in 60 years to the French beaches. It was only then, Catherine, his oldest daughter said, that they heard any of the stories about his time as a Rifleman fighting to liberate Northwest Europe. He told Catherine that a traditional saying in their family – "Give me a God bless" – which his children well remembered, was one he had learned from a Dutch family with whom he had been billeted during World War Two. "I did it when he got out of the ambulance," said another daughter, Mary, on their father's final day. Working as a long-haul trucker in the post war years gave him the opportunity to see much of Canada his family said, and upon his retirement he became noted for his hospitality to new residents of their neighbourhood – as well as for his two pet Chihuahuas Pinocchio and BJ.

Staff Sgt James M. Stoley MID CD



1921 - 2007 (The old Sled Dog) James Stoley, beloved husband of fifty-nine years of Alberta Stoley, passed away March 2, 2007 at the age of 85 years. Staff Stoley spent 30 years in military service: four years overseas with the Toronto Scottish and then as a parachutist with the 1st PPCLI and finally with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The last twenty-three years of his life, he had Multiple Sclerosis and was cared for at home by many wonderful caregivers. His final months were spent at

Colonel Belcher Carewest where he passed away. Besides his loving wife Alberta, James leaves to mourn his daughter Sharon (John); sons, Evan (Shirley) and Edward (Larie); grandchildren, Lisa (Elio), Jennifer, Trevor, and great-grandson Michael; sisters, Dorothy (Hank) and Alice; brother Ron (Marjorie); and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother Annie and father Henry, brothers, Allen and Randy, and granddaughter Theresa.

In Memoriam

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

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo

Morley Andrews

Tom Andrews

Bugle Sgt Gus Amodeo

Don Bernickey

LCol R. L. Bickford

George Bolton

Len Bradford

Orval Bray

Ross Bright

CWO (RSM) Roy W. Bruce

Bugle Sgt. Bob Charman

John Connelly

Lloyd Cornett

Lou Decker

Donald George Denslow

Frank Douglas

W. George Edmonds

Bill Fischer

MCpl Kenneth Frances

Nick Fritz

Jack Galbraith

Sgt Tom Houghton

Lt Sam Hughes

Rolph W. Jackson

Max Keleman

Helmut Paul Koal

Hugh Lamb

Lt Bob Little

Bruce Long

Anthony Patrick (Pat) McCarthy

Frank McCorkell

CWO/RSM Al McMillan

Maj Jim MacKendrick

Col. Clifford P. (Cliff) McPherson

Maj Robert C. Newman

Capt Doug Oatway

Thomas F. Ogley

Capt Ralph Ridley

John Roberts

Sam Sanregret

Roy Shettell

Rene Stang

Ernie Stein

Charles (Chuck) St. Louis

Staff Sgt Jim M. Stoley

Major F.J. Swan

Sgt John Taylor

Norm Van Tassel

W. A. Welsh

James Woodward

Maj Derm Wilson

Ronald Wilson



