



THE RIFLEMAN

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

2019

The Year in Review



UNVEILING OF NEW PORTRAIT AT CASA LOMA

Colonel Paul Hughes, CD and his wife Bev have been strong and generous supporters of the Regiment for decades. At the Change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Parade at Casa Loma in September, they donated a portrait of Queen Mary, our first Colonel-in-Chief, to hang in the Officers' Mess beside portraits of her successors, HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent, and our current Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

Colonel and Mrs. Hughes also donated the portrait of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, unveiled by her during her visit to Toronto in 2012, and both painted by British artist Richard Stone. Mr. Stone has painted portraits of the Royal Family for more than four decades and has also completed commissioned portraits of Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, and Princes Philip, Charles and Andrew.

Earlier in the year, Colonel and Mrs. Hughes travelled to London to present the finished painting to Her Royal Highness at Clarence House, her official residence. From left to right, Colonel Paul Hughes, CD, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Mr. Richard Stone, Mrs. Bev Hughes, and another strong supporter of the Regiment.



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Front cover illustration: "The Liberators" is a commemorative painting that was created by artist Roger Chabot, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. It depicts soldiers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada overtaking German defences on the morning of 6 June 1944 at Bernières-sur-Mer, next to the house that is known today as Canada House. To order a print of "The Liberators" please visit www.chabotwarart.com under the ARTWORKS BOUTIQUE tab. Click on More Info and follow the ordering instructions.

Back cover photo: Taken during the Change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel ceremony at Casa Loma, courtesy of Anne Frazer Photography.

Image couverture avant: « The Liberators » est une toile commémorative, créer par l'artiste Roger Chabot à l'occasion du 75^e anniversaire du Jour J. La scène représente des soldats du régiment du Queen's Own Rifles of Canada qui percent les défenses allemandes le matin du 6 juin 1944, à Bernières-sur-Mer, près de la maison connue aujourd'hui sous le nom de « maison des canadiens. » Pour commander une lithographie de « The Liberators », SVP, visitez www.chabotwarart.com sous l'onglet ARTWORKS BOUTIQUE. Cliquer sur « More Info » et suivre les instructions de commandes.

Photo de couverture arrière: Prise lors de la cérémonie du changement de lieutenant colonel honoraire au château Casa Loma, avec l'aimable autorisation d'Anne Frazer Photography.

The Rifleman is published on behalf of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Submissions are welcome and may be sent as Word documents to the Regimental Secretary at qorregsec@gmail.com. The deadline for the 2020 issue is February 1, 2021. The Rifleman welcomes photos of all Regimental activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference for photos is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to qorregsec@gmail.com. Where possible, please also send images as separate attachments. Please include captions and photo credits. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.



HONORARY COLONEL

Major General (ret'd) Walter M. Holmes MSM, CD, MBE



As I sit down to compose this short article for *The Rifleman*, Canada is just beginning to experience the full effects of the COVID-19 virus. It is a challenging time for all Canadians as we struggle to understand the implications for ourselves and the world around us. While we know that we will get through this individually and collectively, life has the potential to be much altered as a result, but soldiers and their families have been there before, though at different times and circumstances.

My task in this article however, is not to dwell on the present or future; it is to recount, from my perspective, the incredibly busy and amazingly successful year the Regiment enjoyed in 2019. The events of 2019, whether they be operational, ceremonial or commemorative, allowed the Regiment opportunities at home and abroad to “strut our stuff.” No matter the area of regimental endeavour, the Regiment rose to the challenge and continued to demonstrate why we are recognized as one of the best, if not the best, reserve infantry regiment in the Canadian Army.

Those activities worthy of special note are the continuing awesome success of unit recruiting efforts driven by our world-class website, the unit’s operational success as brigade lead for most things field related, the solemn pilgrimage to Normandy for the D-Day 75 commemorations and the mag-

nificent change of appointment parade held at Casa Loma to say farewell to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Goffart and to welcome Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Vicky Sunohara.

These activities will be covered in detail in the pages of this magazine so I need not be repetitive. The type of success that the QOR enjoys does not happen without a lot of hard work on the part of many and we are blessed with a talented and professional team encompassing serving members, former serving members, and friends of the Regiment. Some of the latter individuals make valued contributions to us on a regular basis by volunteering their unique skills as combat multipliers that work in our favour. I will single out here the owners and staff of the Liberty Entertainment Group. They have grown to be great and generous friends of the Regiment, through our hosting of events in their facilities and through their strong and lasting support to our regimental museum.

Lastly, I continue to marvel at our serving members, particularly our NCOs, who continually raise the bar while executing their assigned missions domestically and internationally. They truly live up to our regimental motto, *In Pace Paratus, In Peace Prepared*. I look forward to having the pleasure and honour to continue to serve with you, and for the Regiment, in the months to come. **TR**

CHANGE OF HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL



On September 11, 2019, at Casa Loma, the QOR conducted its Change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel parade. HLCol Lionel Goffart, QC, CD, OSTJ, a strong and generous supporter of the Regiment, relinquished his appointment to HLCol Vicky Sunohara. HLCol Sunohara is a three-time Olympic medalist with the national women’s hockey team, including gold medals at Salt Lake City in 2002 and Turin in 2006. She is currently head coach of women’s hockey at the University of Toronto.

In a parade conducted on the grounds of the famous Toronto landmark, two-time Olympic gold medalist Vicky Sunohara became an honorary of the Regiment, following her recent appointment by the Minister of National Defence. The event also highlighted the generosity of outgoing Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Goffart, who accompanied then Ms. Sunohara to Juno Beach at the 75th anniversary of the Regiment’s D-Day landing in Normandy, France.

The memorable evening began with the Regiment’s Skirmishers and Pioneers, dressed in 1860s period uniforms, symbolically securing the gardens of Casa Loma and clearing the parade route. The Battalion, led by the Band and Bugles of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada, was then marched on by Chief Warrant Officer Donovan O’Halloran, CD, the Regimental Sergeant Major. After the Rifle-

men were formed into ranks, the parade was taken over by Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Frank Lamie, CD. As various dignitaries watched from the terrace, the battalion was inspected by the Reviewing Officer, Honorary Colonel Major General (ret’d) Walter Holmes, MSM, CD, MBE.

During the parade, special presentations were held to unveil the latest historic additions to the Officers’ Mess. Former HCol Paul Hughes and Mrs. Bev Hughes presented a portrait of Queen Mary, the Regiment’s first Colonel-in-Chief (see page 2 of this issue for more information). The Regiment then presented outgoing HLCol Goffart with a specially commissioned portrait. The presentations were followed by the official change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel ceremony, as the incoming and





COMMANDING OFFICER



Lieutenant Colonel Frank Lamie, CD



COURTESY OF HOCKEY CANADA

outgoing officers were saluted by the battalion. The evening concluded with a reception in the library of Casa Loma, attended by members of the regimental family.

Outgoing HLCol Goffart recalled, “My proudest moment was accompanying 80 Riflemen to France for the Vimy centennial. It was a well-done trip, and they loved it. I’m glad to have made three trips back to Europe, to see the battlefields and the military cemeteries. A number of Riflemen thanked me for the opportunity to visit Europe, and to follow in the footsteps of the Regiment during wartime.”

Incoming HLCol Sunohara described her admiration for those serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. “It is difficult to draw direct parallels between those who are willing to lay down their lives for their country and those who dedicate their lives to sport,” said HLCol Sunohara, “but I think there are some similarities: teamwork, trust, commitment, and discipline. I am truly honoured to serve

as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen’s Own Rifles.” **TR**

Photographs taken at Casa Loma on September 11, 2019 during the Change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Parade and Ceremony.

Our Regimental Vision: To be the strongest, most combat-capable, and best-known Regiment in the Canadian Army Reserve. The contribution of every Rifleman and Musician throughout 2019 and 2020 achieved this reality and will continue to do so into the future. As ever, and thanks to each and every one of you and the support of our Regular Force partners, your Regiment’s successes are legion and your Regiment’s future is bright. But we must always remember: all of us are entrusted to make it even brighter, each and every day. Throughout the many pages of this edition of *The Rifleman*, you will learn of the Regiment’s recent contributions and its posture for future success.

Thriving in one of Canada’s most vibrant, innovative, and diverse regions, the Regiment lead with initiative, creativity, aggression, respect, dignity, and the strength that arises in the embrace of our rich diversity of perspectives. Bottom line, value was added from all aspects of the Serving Regiment and Regimental Family. Working Groups inviting volunteers — regardless of Rank — brought forward exciting concepts, many of which we implemented. As ever, our culture of fitness, resilience, and deployability — both domestically and on international expeditionary operations — con-

tinued with vigour. Toward that end, the Regiment deployed 125+ Riflemen in the Spring and Summer of 2020 in support of Operation LASER, the Canadian Armed Forces’ domestic operation in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the largest domestic operation in Canada’s modern history. In addition, numerous individuals served with distinction on international operations.

Seismic growth enabled by our intrepid Recruiting Team, ongoing core and advanced capability demonstration, and a strong digital media platform set the conditions for future contributions and made the Regiment the place to be. This culminated in the Army Commander entrusting the Regiment with our Mission Task: a Light Infantry Platoon integrated in support of our Regular Force partner — the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. Coupled with the Regiment’s capability, ongoing growth, and standing airborne task in support of the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre, the newly-allocated Mission Task will further shepherd forward our Light Infantry Battalion and enable ongoing core and advanced light infantry skills training: complex terrain, reconnaissance, airborne, airmobile, and beyond, thus ensuring the Regiment will continue to be a home of diverse



On December 4, 2019 LCol Lamie and CWO O'Halloran promoted Sgt Steve Wolfe to Sergeant.

— a significant and rare accomplishment in the life of a Rifleman and CAF Soldier and a reminder that Army Reservists punch well above their weight regardless of who is on the trace. The growth of our next generation of leaders has been staggering. Thanks to the sustained recruiting leadership of Lt Anderson Leung and Capt Kyle Schamhart and the pre-PLQ program developed and driven by RSM CWO Donovan O'Halloran and QMSI MWO Jeff Johnston, I look forward to our newly-qualified Officers and Master Corporals being strong leaders in the Regiment and beyond. Our Messes are absolutely packed — at all levels — and the energy bodes well for the Regiment's current and future capability.

Co-led by our Honorary Colonel MGen (ret'd) Walter Holmes in consultation and collaboration with all Regimental stakeholders, a Regimental restructuring occurred which fully aligned and fully unified the great value brought by all components of our Regimental Family. This effort formally unified the Regimental Family, seeing the Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel as co-leads of all matters relating to the non-serving Regiment. Now enshrined in newly-issued Regimental Standing Orders (RSOs), each organization has a formal place at the table as full Senators of our Regimental Senate: The Trust Fund, Museum, Cadets, National Association and Toronto Association together with appointed Senators with set-term limits. This



capability and an exciting and challenging place to serve. Thanks to Sgt Adam Winnicki, this is well captured across our digital media platform.

Our capability was evident in the Regiment's leadership of our Tactical Training Group, which culminated in Exercise PEGASUS STRIKE III — an airborne, airmobile seize-and-hold exercise designed to facilitate integrated defensive live-fire training in collaboration with 436 Squadron, The Royal Regiment of Canada, the Lincoln & Welland Regiment, and 32 Signals Regiment. Maj Chris Boileau led the fighting Company on the trace. In addition, our Regiment's lead of the Territorial Battalion Group through a series of exercises culminated in successful headquarters validation, setting the conditions for all to rise to the emergent challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic response operations shortly thereafter. International training occurred with our international partners in the form of Exercise IBERIAN STAR in Spain and a paratrooper competition in Poland.

The unrelenting and creative work of Maj Sam Leibel, WO Rashad Mohammed, and MCpl Chris Hines in our Operations Cell ensured maximum Regimental outcomes at all levels. Notably, the incredibly capable and equally as humble MCpl Katherine Jessome was nominated for the Airborne Soldier of the Year Award in recognition of her becoming the first female parachute instructor in the CAF — an historic accomplishment. MCpl Mark Kusi-Appiah successfully achieved his Patrol Pathfinder qualification, which culminated in a Torch Ceremony at the historic La Citadelle de Québec

codified structure will ensure maximum creativity in support of the Regiment well into the future. Strong work throughout was observed by many, in particular Maj Sam Leibel and LCol (ret'd) John Fotheringham for the comprehensive update of the new RSOs.

On June 6, 2019, a Regimental Guard held a powerful commemoration on Juno Beach in Normandy, France in front of La Maison de The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (Canada House) to honour the 75th anniversary of our brave Regimental predecessors' WWII D-Day landing on June 6, 1944. The ceremony was conducted in the presence of the Governor General of Canada, LGen (ret'd) Richard Rohmer, Mayors and leaders from the Normandy region of France, and countless French and Canadian citizens. As ever, the Hoffer Family and Gauthier Hebbelynck supported the ceremony with grace and incredible generosity. During the ceremony, the Governor General unveiled *The Liberators*, an original painting commissioned by the Regiment in honour of the D-Day landing. Together with some sand from Juno Beach painted into the portrait by war artist and Canadian veteran Roger Chabot, the work rests in a place of honour in our Officers' Mess. On the evening of the 75th anniversary, a Mess Dinner was held overlooking the countless Canadian flags flying with pride across Juno Beach. Leading up to and following the commemoration, the Regiment held ceremonies, parades, and receptions in collaboration with the Mayors, citizens of France, and our Regimental Family in towns throughout the Normandy region,



including: Le Mesnil-Patry, Giberville, Anguerny, and Anisy. Movingly, the Regiment conducted a 13-kilometre march along the ground our Regimental predecessors fought through on June 6, 1944, culminating in their objective: the Town of Anisy. Sgt Graham Humphrey provided remarkable historic context throughout.

On September 11, 2019, an historic ceremony was conducted at the famous Toronto landmark of Casa Loma, home of our Regimental Museum. Our Regiment ushered in the appointment of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Vicky Sunohara, multiple Olympic gold medalist and former Assistant Captain of Canada's women's ice hockey team. The event also highlighted the exceptional leadership and generosity of outgoing Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Goffart, QC, CD, OstJ, who accompanied then Ms. Sunohara to Juno Beach at the 75th anniversary of the Regiment's D-Day landing in Normandy, France. During the parade, special presentations were held to unveil the latest historic additions to the Officers' Mess. Toward that end, former Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes and Mrs. Bev Hughes presented a portrait of Queen Mary, the Regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief. Thanks to the long-standing leadership and generosity of the Hughes Family, our Officers' Mess now houses original portraits of all three of the Regiment's Colonels-in-Chief. The Regiment then presented outgoing Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Goffart with a specially commissioned portrait. The presentations



were followed by the official Change of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, as the incoming and outgoing Officers were saluted by the serving Regiment. The evening concluded with a reception in the Library of Casa Loma, attended by members of the Serving Regiment and Regimental Family. The Liberty Entertainment Group — led by the gracious and generous Friend of the Regiment Pat Di Donato — provided an exquisite atmosphere for the evening and an historic surprise: throughout the ceremony, the Regimental Crest and Canadian flag lit up the castle amidst the darkness, creating an image that will be preserved in the Regiment forever and a memory our Regiment on parade will never forget.

A Soldier's Regiment and nation *never* forget. Attached to the duty to remember and commemorate is the sacred duty of a nation that is reserved *solely for our Riflemen and Soldiers*: the duty to locate our Fallen, notify their families, connect them with the location of their remains, and mark their final resting place. For almost 75 years, the location of Lieutenant John "Jack" Gordon Kavanagh's remains was unknown. For generations, his family was left to wonder which headstone of the countless WWII headstones, if any, with the marking "A Soldier Known Unto God," was in fact his final resting place. Following tireless and unrelenting work by historians, family, the Commonwealth Graves Commission, the Government of the Netherlands, and the Government of Canada, a sacred duty was fulfilled. The remains of Lt Kavanagh were positively identified and confirmed by a Casualty Iden-

tification Review Board. In the Winter of 2020, our RSM CWO Donovan O'Halloran, Lt Dave Merrithew and I were entrusted with the sacred duty of conducting an historic next-of-kin notification. Toward that end, we met with and advised Lt Kavanagh's next-of-kin, nephew John "Jack" Young, of this historic news. A ceremony unveiling and dedicating Lt Kavanagh's headstone took place in his final resting place at Steenderen General Cemetery in Steenderen, Netherlands, on the 75th anniversary of his ultimate sacrifice. We encourage you to read Lieutenant Kavanagh's history in this issue; it is an incredible Canadian story that begins in the Regiment's home — Toronto. We will remember him. Always. The year 2020 also saw the tragic loss of Honorary Rifleman Damian Thomas, the son of Sgt Stephen Thomas. Together with his father, Damian joined the Regiment's 2019 Remembrance Day Parade and laid the Regiment's wreath in honour of our Fallen at the Regiment's Cross of Sacrifice on Remembrance Day. His incredible fighting spirit, tenacity, and optimism will forever serve as an example and inspiration to all. We will remember him. Always.

On February 8, 2020, the Regiment hosted the 203rd edition of the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball at the historic Liberty Grand in Toronto. In collaboration with presenting sponsor MaxSys, led by CEO Honorary Colonel Bryan Brulotte, venue sponsor Pat Di Donato of the Liberty Entertainment Group, and many other sponsors including Rick and Lillian Ekstein of the Together We Stand Foundation, the high-profile event saw 850+ attendees enjoy an



evening of fine dining and history. The evening's theme, *The Road to Victory* in Europe in WWII, saw dignitaries read vignettes and war diary entries throughout the evening. The presenters included: Deputy Division Commander of 4th Canadian Division BGen John Valtonen; Sergeant Major of the Canadian Army CWO Stuart Hartnell, whose grand uncle served as the Regiment's RSM in WWII; and leading journalists Adrienne Batra and Mercedes Stephenson. The Commander of the Canadian Army, LGen Wayne Eyre, served as the keynote speaker. Our incredibly versatile and talented Regimental Band, led by Capt Megan Hodge, provided powerful ambiance throughout the evening and then pivoted to display their pop band prowess at the Post-Dinner Reception and After-Party. The evening culminated in formally announcing the discovery of Lt Kavanagh's final resting place and the introduction of his next-of-kin to the attendees, aligning with upcoming 75th anniversary activity of the Liberation of the Netherlands and the Victory in Europe. 2Lt Steven Ye adroitly coordinated and executed an exceptional and flawless program for the evening. Maj (ret'd) John Stephens, current Curator of our Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. As ever, his dedication ensures the Regiment's history is elegantly showcased and our formal events have a powerful historic tie, resulting in significant earned media and support from Canadians. Maj Stephens' exceptional commitment to our Regiment's history, development of engaging themes, and production of content has ensured a resonance and access to our Regiment and its history to countless Torontonians and Canadians. Maj John Stephens' work has brought great credit to the continuation of the Regiment's legacy and Canada's. I would strongly encourage each of you to volunteer your support to the Regimental Museum. You will come away a more appreciative Canadian for doing so.

As the Regiment looks toward the next bound, our RSM and I have been afforded the privilege to continue to serve in the Canadian Army. Toward that end, our RSM has been selected to serve as

the RSM of The Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) and I have been selected to serve as the Deputy Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Please join me in congratulating our RSM, CWO Donovan O'Halloran, and thanking him for his incredibly accomplished service to our Regiment and Canada. He has been an exceptional Command Team Partner.



CWO O'Halloran and I now approach the bittersweet moment of handing over the Regiment Command Team mandate in the Fall of 2020 to the imminently capable Maj Scott Moody and MWO Jeff Johnston. We look on with pride at each and every one of you, your service to Canada and the international community, and the Regimental legacy you perpetuate each and every day. Now do us — and our Regiment — one final and continuing favour:

Recognize that you are a custodian of the greatest Regimental legacy in Canada. Our roots are driven by the eternal sacrifice of the names embrozed on our Regimental Wall of Honour and the achievements emblazoned on our Battle Honours. This is your time. Make every moment count. Be bold. Keep driving forward. And exude Rifleman's initiative — forever!

In Pace Paratus. AIRBORNE! TR



75th Anniversary of D-Day Landings

by Major Scott Moody, CD



June 6, 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the start of the liberation of Western Europe. To commemorate this historic day, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada sent a 35-person contingent to Normandy from the 2nd to 9th of June. The trip was privately funded by HLCol Lionel Goffart. Attendees participated in several battlefield tours and commemorative ceremonies that are highlighted in this article.

The QOR contingent arrived in Paris, France on June 2 and immediately made their way to visit Pegasus Bridge and the Airborne Museum. This included a stop at the Le Mesnil crossroads to visit the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Monument and Jan de Vries's trench. After a quick check-in at the hotel in Caen, the contingent moved to the town of Anisy for dinner. Anisy was the limit of exploitation by the QOR on D-Day. Each soldier was paired up with a family in the town, who hosted them to dinner in their home. Many of the relationships were continued from previous visits. It was an incredible experience for all.

On June 3 the contingent conducted a battlefield tour of the Merville Battery and then visited the D-Day Academy. The day culminated with an incredible night at La Ferme de la Ranconnière. The following day began with a stop to pay our respects at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, and

then a visit to the Juno Beach Centre. The contingent then checked into Auberge La Luzerne, a century old estate that would be the exclusive home of the Regiment in Bernières-sur-Mer. That afternoon we held a ceremony at The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada monument on Juno Beach. To end the day, Nicole Hoffer and Gauthier Hebbelynck of Canada House held a reception for the contingent.

The 5th of June saw the contingent divide into two. The group consisting of HCol Walter Holmes, Maj Scott Moody, Maj Chris Boileau, and Joanne de Vries of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association returned to Le Mesnil crossroads to attend a commemorative ceremony held by the Parachute Regiment. During the ceremony, Majors Boileau and Moody mounted a vigil at the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Memorial. After the ceremony, Roger Chabot's painting "From the Clouds" was unveiled. There could not be a more fitting place to unveil this painting and a highly emotional experience. The painting is inspired by Dan Hartigan's account of his D-Day experience with 1 Can Para.

ABOVE: The QOR contingent travelled to the Bayeux War Cemetery to meet with the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. From left to right: HCol Holmes, CO LCol Lamie, HLCol designate Sunohara, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, HLCol Goffart, Joanne de Vries, Lt Obermoser, Maj Leibel.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The QOR contingent at the Bayeux War Cemetery with the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. The QOR contingent marching. Her Excellency Julie Payette and LGen Richard Rohmer walk down the beach during the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The QOR coin at low tide on the shores of Normandy. Her Excellency Julie Payette and D-Day veterans Russel Kaye and LGen Richard Rohmer hold Roger Chabot's painting "The Liberators" on 6 June 2019. Governor General Julie Payette reviewing troops at Bernières-sur-Mer.





The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
Honour Guard
75th Anniversary of D-Day



At Giberville, the contingent participated in several ceremonies to pay respects to the 28 members of the QOR that were killed during the Battle for Caen on July 18, 1944. This included a stop at Rue Harry Hawkins. The contingent was provided a wonderful lunch at the City Hall, Calvados was served. Later that day the unit moved to Le Mesnil-Patry to participate in a commemorative ceremony recognizing the battle that took place there on 11 June 1944, in which 55 members of the QOR were killed.

The 6th of June started with a sunrise commemorative ceremony at Canada House. The reviewing officer for this historic event was Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. The ceremony was also fortunate to have D-Day veterans Russel Kaye and LGen Richard Rohmer in attendance. During the ceremony LGen Rohmer, the Governor General and Commanding Officer LCol Frank Lamie spoke. They also unveiled war artist Roger Chabot's painting "The Liberators", which depicts the QOR landing on

Juno Beach and the clearing of Canada House. Prior to leaving, the Governor General walked Juno Beach with LGen Rohmer and CO LCol Lamie.

The contingent then travelled to the Bayeux Commonwealth War Cemetery to meet with the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. That evening the Regiment hosted a Mess Dinner at Community Hall beside Canada House. With over 100 attendees, the dinner recognized the sacrifice of the fallen during the Normandy Campaign. Time was also taken to acknowledge the support of HLCol Goffart who funded the trip; Gauthier Hebbelynck, president of Canada House, was made an Honorary Captain; Nicole and Nicho-

ABOVE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: The QOR contingent's Normandy trip to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the Normandy campaign included events at Canada House in Bernières-sur-Mer, a visit to Le Mesnil crossroads, Anisy, and Giberville as well as stops at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Juno Beach Centre, and the Bayeux War Cemetery.



las Hoffer and Denis Leportier, the mayor of Bernières-sur-Mer, were also recognized. The dinner was made extra-special by the lantern ceremony on the beach that evening and a visit from some D-Day veterans. The limited-edition Calvados, with “The Liberators” painting on its label, was also distributed that evening, with several of the bottles responsibly consumed.

The next day the contingent walked the trace that the Regiment advanced and fought along on D-Day. This was made possible by Christophe Collette and the Westlake Brothers Association. Sgt Graham Humphrey provided a historic account of the Regiment’s fight that day. Once the walk was complete the contingent joined the contingent from the Régiment de la Chaudière at the Anguerny Monument on Rue Bill Ross, named after the QOR D-Day veteran. After that ceremony the unit participated in a commemorative ceremony in Anisy. This was followed by a dinner reception in the Anisy Town Hall in which members of the Regiment joined their host families. This was a very special evening for everyone. The contingent then moved to Paris for a day of tourism and flew out the following day. **TR**

BELOW: Joanne de Vries, widow of Pte Jan de Vries, speaks to the QOR contingent during a visit to the Le Mesnil crossroads to visit the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Monument and Jan de Vries’s trench.

TOP RIGHT: At the QOR plaque in front of Canada House on June 6, 2019 — CWO O’Halloran, LCol Lamie, HCol Holmes, HLCol Goffart.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A tribute to Pte Joseph Aubin of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and another unidentified paratrooper was added to a memorial at Grangues, east of Ranville, on June 7. The tablet commemorates 52 British soldiers and airmen who lost their lives on D-Day, and the annual ceremony was attended this year by Mrs. de Vries, Lt Obermoser and several retired members of the Regiment.



Boots of Remembrance

On May 15, 2019 The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada had the honour of participating in the Boots of Remembrance ceremony at Union Station in Toronto. The event commemorated the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

Boots of Remembrance is a partnership between Veterans Affairs Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, Parks Canada and VIA Rail. This ceremonial event commemorates the thousands of Canadians who traded their civilian footwear for combat boots in the Second World War.

The combat boots were carried aboard a VIA Rail train in Vancouver on March 29, 2019 and followed the same route our soldiers took so many years before, with the final destination being Halifax. **TR**





60th (Para) Company

by Major Chris Boileau, CD
Officer Commanding



Throughout 2019, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada would be presented with incredible opportunities and confronted by daunting challenges. The outcome of the year would be a testament not only to the strength and adaptivity of both leadership and paratroopers within 60th (Para) Coy, but also the resiliency of the Regiment's parachute capability; indeed, 36 years of traditions and developing relationships within the airborne community by the QOR would prove to be invaluable in contributing to overall mission success.

Harsh conditions and winter storms would prove to be significant obstacles to incorporating tactical insertions during collective training exercises in both January and February. Fortunately, the unit was able to leverage the critical partnership with 8 Wing at CFB Trenton in order to alleviate concerns regarding currency in the early spring. Over the course of three weeks in March, 60th (Para) Coy provided both jumpmasters and personnel to four separate activities for both 426 and 436 Squadrons; the geographical proximity of the unit, flexibility in scheduling by jumpers and ongoing planning by QOR staff meant that short-notice requests could be supported and air force crews would meet their own training requirements.

Concurrently, the Company was investing in the future. One of the most important aspects of

maintaining requisite skills as the only parachute-capable infantry sub-unit in the Primary Reserve is the depth of knowledge in the air cell. MWO D. Leader and MCpl K. Jessome both graduated their serial of Parachute Instructor (PI) at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre in February. As if achieving this prestigious qualification was not noteworthy in itself, MCpl K. Jessome also became the first female PI in the history of the Canadian Army. While their course was concluding, MCpl P. Ortega was nearing completion of being certified as a Jumpmaster. High winds would cause his final jump to be stop-dropped, but the aforementioned descents onto DZ Hodgson less than one month later with the unit would see him dispatch a full-equipment night jump and formally earn his title.

As summer drew closer, 60th (Para) Coy would conduct a light-equipment jump, staging from CFB Trenton, in May. The Coy prepared to support two major upcoming activities, which were Exercise SWIFT RESPONSE and our own annual parachute refresher, Exercise GOLDEN BRIDLE.

The QOR has kept a close relationship with 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR); for many years, soldiers of 3 RCR, including M Coy, O Coy and Recce PI, have been integrated into unit exercises. This interoperability has led to our Regular Force counterparts working to provide oppor-



Bombardier Patrick Labrie, a member of the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery based at 4th Canadian Division Support Base Petawawa, died on June 15, 2019 as a result of his injuries after a parachute training accident in Bulgaria during SWIFT RESPONSE.

tunities for members of 60th (Para) Coy to participate in formation-level joint events, both in Canada and abroad. Several personnel deployed with 3 RCR to Bulgaria, cohesively working within the Para Coy Gp during the Joint Forcible Exercise with NATO partners and, ultimately, took part in the ill-fated drop near Cheshnegirovo where Bdr P. Labrie was tragically killed.

The moratorium placed on static-line parachute operations in the aftermath of that incident resulted in cancellation of the annual refresher, which had been scheduled for the following weekend. As the investigation moved forward, restrictions were eased to allow aft-end exits from aircraft and on August 11, 2019, 60th (Para) Coy conducted the first known jump in the country in the aftermath of the accident, with full equipment onto DZ Hodgson. Aside from re-establishing a level of normalcy, MWO D. Leader joined the exclusive Centurion Club



with 100 static-line descents in his career. 60th (Para) Coy command was formally transferred on the drop zone: outgoing Maj S. Moody and MWO J. Johnston handed over to Maj C. Boileau and MWO B. Burns.

With the resumption of unit activity in the fall, the QOR deployed a team of five paratroopers, managed by MWO J. Johnston, to Poland for the Zdrzalka Paratrooper Competition as representatives for the Canadian Army. This was the second time in three years that the 60th (Para) Coy had sent a contingent to the gruelling event, which challenges participants on weapons handling, orienteering, physical endurance and patrolling. The group also completed a descent with Polish equipment near Krakow and performed well throughout the final 11-kilometre Commando Race.

In October, 60th (Para) Coy participated in Exercise MAROON PHALANX 2, in CFB Petawawa. This was the second in a series of QOR-led collective training events, featuring two other 32 Canadian Brigade Group units and multiple enablers. A full-equipment tactical jump was conducted onto DZ Anzio, in concert with an airmobile insertion by other members of the unit, supported by 450 Squadron and CH-147 rotary-wing assets. Once the DZ RV had been secured, the Company moved out to conduct live-fire ranges, involving section attacks during daylight hours and support weapon siting and kill-zone management at night.

The culminating activity for the unit in November, Exercise MAROON PHALANX 3, saw 60th (Para) Coy conduct a tactical, full-equipment ramp jump onto DZ Anzio at first light, proceed to the DZ RV and link up with non-jumpers before moving out to occupy defensive positions and conduct company-

The Role of the Section Commander



level live-fire training over the ensuing day and into the following morning.

The QOR ended the year on a positive footing. As the unit prepared to formally stand down at the beginning of December, an important recognition was made of Cpl M. Kusi-Appiah. He received the Airborne Rifleman of the Year award, in no small part to the impressive distinction of his successful completion of the arduous Patrol Pathfinder Course in the autumn and earning the right to proudly wear the Pathfinder badge on his uniform after his graduation ceremony in Quebec City. He became only the second member of the Regiment to attain this qualification and he will bring significant knowledge both to 60th (Para) Coy and the unit's Recce Pl in the future.

Exercise PEGASUS KNIGHT on December 8, 2019 was the final parachute activity of the year. Taking place in CFB Trenton under clear skies, 60th (Para) Coy performed a full-equipment descent onto DZ Hodgson. This would carry currency for members of the Company through the Christmas holidays and closed out a complex period.

It is also worth noting that during the Regiment's commemorative trip to the Normandy region of France in June, a delegation comprising serving 60th

(Para) Coy leadership, led by HCol W. Holmes, attended the 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion monument during a British ceremony at Le Mesnil Bavent on June 5. The small group was accompanied by Mrs. J. de Vries, the wife of the late Pte J. de Vries, who had been wounded in action by German sniper fire during the advance to Caen, and war artist Mr. R. Chabot. An unveiling of his painting was conducted adjacent to the trench where Jan de Vries had spent his first night in Normandy 75 years prior.

Despite adversity, the QOR displayed initiative and adapted to circumstances beyond its control. Members of 60th (Para) Coy proudly bore the maroon beret in four international venues, increased depth in key positions and perpetuated the legacy as Canada's oldest and finest infantry regiment. **TR**



*by CWO Donovan O'Halloran, CD
Regimental Sergeant-Major*

The reserve section commander is the most challenging and rewarding leadership position in the Canadian Armed Forces. No other leader so directly influences the performance of the Canadian Army's most valuable resource, its people. This sergeant has the experience, training and authority to shape, guide and develop each member of his section. He has the direct responsibility for the fighting capability of his Riflemen. His section's ability to conduct offensive airborne operations is only possible through his engagement, enthusiasm and leadership.

This Regiment attracts fit, dedicated and loyal Canadians, and they deserve and expect the best training and preparation for battle that we can offer. Over the last decade, dozens of our Riflemen have served overseas on operations and many have fought in battle. Over the history of our Regiment, thousands of Riflemen have endured the hardships of war on behalf of our great country. Not one of them would tell you that less preparation than they had received would have been sufficient, none of them would indicate that the standard for marksmanship or fitness in any era should have been lowered.

Where we have had success, it is certainly in good part as a result of the training, dedication and leadership of our section commanders. Sergeants

lead by example and set the standard for the performance expected of their Riflemen. Where we have had failures, there is inevitably a sergeant who considers he could have contributed more to the effort, could have prepared himself or his Riflemen better.

The role of the section commander in the Reserve Army is particularly challenging. The quality of leadership required is very high. A Rifleman has work, family and education obligations, he or she must carve out time to prepare themselves and their equipment for training. A Rifleman must stay fit, keep identification, administration, and medicals up to date. The sergeant must do all of this while at the same time building meaningful relationships with every member of his section, and prepare quality instruction, and read and understand orders, policies and procedures. The challenge is great, but the role of the section commander is vital to the success of the Regiment and the CAF.

Canada's defence policy lays out the requirement for a defined operational output from the Reserve Army. This output is only possible with the continued dedication and hard work of our section commanders. I am privileged to work with so many of these dedicated hard-working individuals in our Regiment and I recognize and commend them for the vital importance of the work they do. **TR**

Ex IBERIAN STAR: Riflemen Excel in UK and Spain

by Lieutenant David Merrithew



In late September 2019, a group of Riflemen led by WO Mike Currie and Lt David Merrithew travelled across the Atlantic to participate in a combined arms exercise led by the British Army's 7th Battalion, The Rifles (7 Rifles) and Spain's 3rd Battalion, Regimiento de Infantería Príncipe Nº 3. The unit was further bolstered by troops from various U.S. National Guard units and officers from the North-West Mobile Force Regiment, Australian Army.

Flying into London, the group quickly got to work training for the upcoming exercise with instruction and drills on everything from the SA80 service rifle to British Army field craft and urban operation SOPs. The first few days proved hectic but left the Canadians with a fresh perspective on the variety of training techniques and practices employed by modern armies.

Following this initial training period, the group met up with the main body of the 7 Rifles and was integrated into their ranks, with each Canadian section embedded within a different platoon. As the new platoon mates got to know each other, the entire company flew to northern Spain to meet up with the Spanish and begin training.

Operating out of Base General Morillo in Pontevedra, Spain, the newly formed allied battalion trained together for what would prove to be a challenging eight-day exercise culminating in a live-fire

forward passage of lines between two companies speaking different languages. Rehearsals would have to be sharp. Working on small-unit skills in a specially designed urban operations facility and larger formation tactics in the forests and plains of northern Spain, the battalion came together and soon departed for the dense forests of the coastal region. Averaging over 2,000 millimetres of rainfall per year, the western slopes of the Galician mountains would be their new home.

The autumn fog constantly enveloped the troops as they made their way across a 120-kilometre trace throughout which they completed four deliberate attacks in as many days. With orders being issued in both English and Spanish, there were always a number of lessons learned in the after-action reviews following each attack. Each troop improved their individual soldier skills quickly based on a foundation of superb professionalism. To no surprise, the Canadians performed extraordinarily well and soon became stalwart examples throughout the battalion. After the fourth offensive operation — a dawn raid on a grand medieval estate astonishingly situated in the training area — the unit took a tactical pause and travelled east to the Reneldo Training Area where they would be working in the saddle of the Galician and Cantabrian mountains.



This deserted area was the stage for a wide-fronted battalion-level attack on an entrenched enemy position culminating with a live-fire forward passage of lines as the Spanish forces moved through the combined British-Canadian unit. The final attack was rehearsed over a period of two days to allow the soldiers to acclimate to the heat. At 2300 hrs on October 6, the force set off into the dark to position itself for its assault. Covering a distance of almost 16 kilometres across deserted hills, they were soon poised to strike. Live explosives, positioned ahead of the moving force, signalled the breach into fortified enemy territory and the troops were off, with each sub-unit bounding



with fire and movement across a nearly 600-metre front. The initial assault saw the combined British-Canadian company leading the way and seizing the forward-most enemy trenches. Once firm on that ground, the two Spanish companies moved in from the flanks to conduct a forward passage of lines onto a live-fire range and seized the trenches occupied by the enemy's main body.

Considered a great success, the attack was conducted with vital contributions from Riflemen of The Queen's Own Rifles who commanded sections, specialized detachments, heavy machine-gun crews and acted as translators to the company commanders in order to coordinate the action. To





highlight a few, Rifleman Thomas Divito fulfilled a position well above his rank level, showing extraordinary dedication and potential; Cpl. Edward Tsoi displayed the professionalism and character embodied by the ethos of The Queen's Own Rifles, displaying great tactical knowledge and physical fitness; and MCpl. Azeez Baruwa led a section of soldiers from the U.S., Britain and Canada, drawing on his experience and aptitude to develop profound unit cohesion which enabled the successful completion of the exercise.

The next few days were spent drilling specific skills and allowing time for the soldiers to get to know

each other in a socially relaxed atmosphere. After a final special meal of paella put on by the Spanish forces and a parade to acknowledge accomplishments of the exercise, the battalion disbanded; the Spanish returned to their home unit while the combined British-Canadian company travelled south to Salamanca. A battlefield study of the Napoleonic-era battles of Ciudad Rodrigo and Salamanca was administered by junior officers of the 7 Rifles.

These two 1812 battles turned the Peninsular War in the favour of the Duke of Wellington, enabling him to march on Madrid and force the occupying forces of Napoleon's French Army out of the



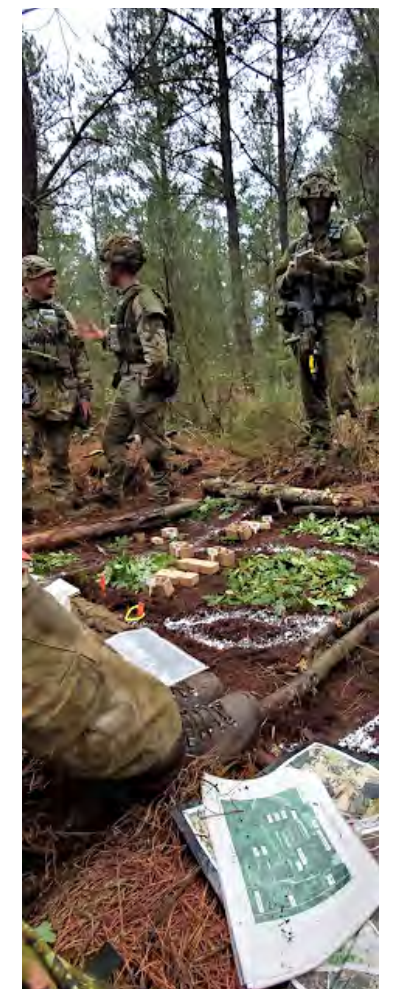
Iberian Peninsula. More importantly, it was one of the first battles in which British Riflemen played a decisive role and thus stands as a battle honour for the British Rifles Regiment today. As a colonial element of the Riflemen tradition, the modern-day Riflemen of The Queen's Own gained a rare insight into the historical tactics of their long-gone compatriots. The group toured the countryside and the main garrisons and explored the region's history during the day and the modern social culture throughout the evening. Salamanca today, as it was then in 1812, is home to one of the oldest universities in the world, dating back to 1134. With its cobblestone streets and vibrant atmosphere, it was the perfect place for the troops to decompress following a challenging exercise.

Three days later the group departed for London and was thus splintered again as the British Riflemen headed home and the Canadians indulged in the city of London for one more night. An early flight the next morning brought the Canadians back to Toronto and ended what had turned out to be a truly unique experience.

Never before had a combined arms exercise with so many nations been led by a Reserve Force. To their great credit, the 7 Rifles orchestrated an out-



standing exercise that The Queen's Own Rifles was honoured to be a part of. The skills — both tactical and social — learned by the soldiers of each nation will stick with them for years to come. To work in a combined arms context is difficult and the Riflemen of The Queen's Own led this group by example, serving as a phenomenal model for those around them and upholding the proud tradition of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on the world stage. **TR**



Exercise MAROON PHALANX

by Major Samuel Leibel, CD
Operations Officer

The fall training period (September–November 2019) was a very busy but rewarding period for the Regiment. The Battalion was tasked as the lead element for 32 Canadian Brigade Group's Tactical Training Group 2 (TTG 2) — three different infantry units (the QOR, Royal Regiment of Canada, and Lincoln and Welland Regiment), along with supporting elements, that have been merged into one training organization. Within this construct, while the lead unit fills most of the Bn HQ positions and assumes much of the exercise planning and preparation responsibilities, all units share in the execution of and support to the exercise. Each unit provides an infantry company and supplies various elements to facilitate a combat service support company. This economy of effort enabled the training group to field a larger force, thereby enhancing the value of the collective training.

The entirety of the MAROON PHALANX series was designed to provide progressive and collaborative training for TTG 2, while integrating live fire and a focus on defensive operations. Exercise MAROON PHALANX 1 was devoted to the development of live-fire training to reacquaint and maintain the minimum level of soldiering required by the Canadian Army. Soldiers were given physically challenging objectives, where they engaged in pairs live fire to practice, improved and demonstrated



their ability to shoot, move and communicate at a baseline standard in preparation for performing these skills at the group and section levels.

On Exercise MAROON PHALANX 2, soldiers participated in a dynamic and collaborative exercise designed to bolster their ability to lead and perform live-fire tactics at the group and section levels while improving defensive operations knowledge and capability at the platoon level. Airmobile and airborne insertion platforms (CH-147 Chinook and CC-130J Hercules) were utilized on the exercise, allowing soldiers to review and refresh their knowledge regarding the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that govern their utilization and integration within the light infantry framework.



Exercise MAROON PHALANX 3, the final exercise of the three-part series, was dedicated to the development of platoon leadership and battle drills that emphasize mission planning and analytical skills. Soldiers participated in walk-throughs and the practical conduct of key soldier skills and tasks for defensive routines, including the establishment of observation posts, the creation of range cards, position development and clearance patrols. Concurrently, a jointly-manned CP performed duties as higher headquarters providing command post reports, returns and battle tracking, battle rhythm events, coordination of resupply and casualty withdrawal. The tactical exercise included a daylight parachute insertion, leading into the conduct of occupation drills, defensive routine and live-fire activity, and ultimately a withdrawal from the area.

Though the act of bringing three different infantry units together to act as one tactical unit was at times difficult, through strong leadership and excellent staff planning and execution the unit was able to achieve all objectives set out by the brigade commander. **TR**



Poland's Zdrzalka Paratrooper Competition

by MWO Jeff Johnston, CD
Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor



September 2019 represented the second time the QOR were invited to participate in the Zdrzalka Paratrooper Competition, named for the patron of the Polish airborne forces Brigadier General Marian Zdrzalka.

The competition is run annually by Poland's 6th Airborne Brigade in the Krakow area. While it is ostensibly designed to evaluate airborne soldiers' "parachuting, orienteering and shooting skills," implicit in all of these skills is a high level of fitness. All the tasks in the competition were completed before, during or after a run and/or obstacle course, with the exception of when the run/obstacle course was the task itself. Each team consisted of six members — five paratroopers and a team manager, who dealt with administration, logistic issues, etc.

In addition to the QOR team, this year's competition, saw teams from Italy, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands join the host teams from the 6th Airborne Brigade and across Poland.

While the content of the competition varies year to year, the 2019 iteration was held over three days with three unique challenges. Day 1 was parachuting and orienteering. For the parachuting competition, each team of five jumpers was timed from when the last jumper hit the ground to when all five had gathered together to

simulate moving to a DZRV. After landing, members were off on the orienteering exercise, which consisted of a 15-kilometre run from nav point to nav point.

Day 2 kicked off with a trip to the rifle and pistol range, located at a state-of-the-art indoor facility. Rifle shooting was followed by a team obstacle course and the day ended with a timed pistol shoot. The obstacle course, dubbed "Escape from Alcatraz," had each of the individuals in the team tied together as if on a chain gang. In addition, one team member was blindfolded, another had their hands tied together and each team had to carry a rifle and a spare tire. In order to complete the circuit, teams had to crawl through tunnels, jump hurdles and scale walls, while tied together and making sure the blindfolded member didn't fall, hit his head, etc. Teams were judged on their total times as well as their scores in firing the rifle (Beryl) and 9mm pistol (PW 94-Wist).

On Day 3, the teams moved to the "Commando Race," which represented the final test of the competition. Military teams ran the 11-kilometre course while navigating 30 natural and artificial obstacles including walls, ropes and other tests of agility and strength. Failure to complete an obstacle was rewarded by on-the-spot judges with additional burpees or squats.

While there was definitely a "home field advantage" in terms of subject knowledge and language, it was also a great reminder as to where our game needs to be in terms of fitness and skill at arms.

The team of MCpls Jessome and Baruwa, Cpls Somerville and Tanaka, and Rfn Kalogerakis showed great fitness and heart throughout the competition, not to mention flexibility in leaving their civilian lives on very short notice.

Our Polish hosts were exceptional and treated all the contingents like honoured guests. Beyond the competition itself, the visit was an excellent opportunity to work with other NATO contingents and demonstrate support for allies.

We look forward to having another opportunity to attend the Zdrzalka competition.

Rifles, stay fit and train hard.
In Pace Paratus, Airborne! TR



Change of Command Team

On August 9, 2019 the command team positions of Officer Commanding and Sergeant Major of the 60th (Para) Company changed from Maj Scott Moody and MWO Jeff

Johnston to Maj Chris Boileau and MWO Bryan Burns. The informal change was held on Drop Zone Hodgson, CFB Trenton after a jump from a CC-130J. TR



Operation LENTUS: Service at Home

by Captain Roland Llwellyn-Thomas, CD



In addition to its storied history supporting CAF expeditionary operations abroad, the QOR has a proud tradition of service at home, and this past year was no exception. In 2019, the QOR was called upon to support Operation LENTUS, the CAF annual response to forest fires, floods and other natural disasters.

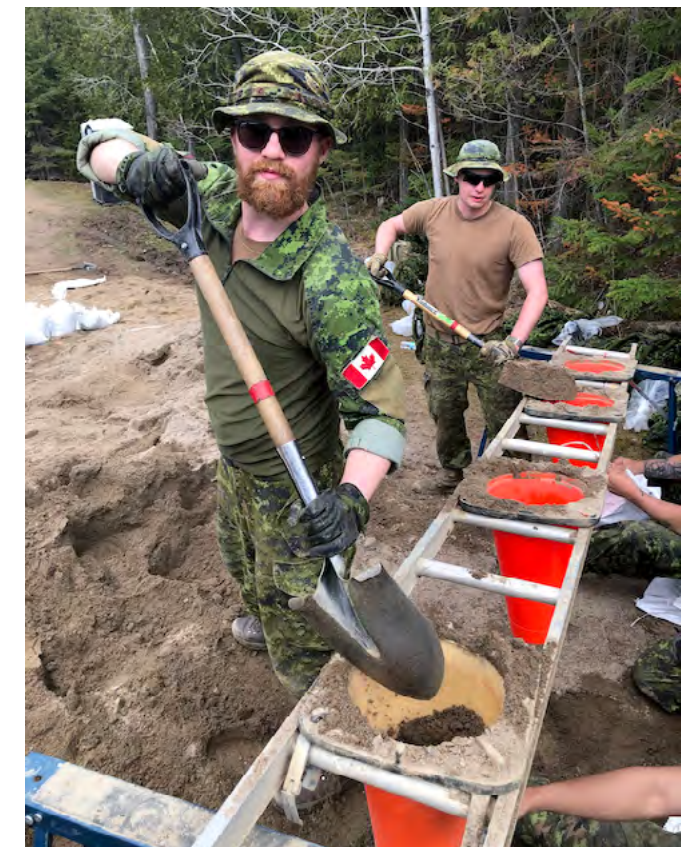
From April 19 to June 5, 2019, 32 Brigade rapidly responded to requests from the Ontario government and force-generated hundreds of reservists to assist with flood relief. In support of these efforts, 16 members of the QOR rearranged their civilian work, education and familial obligations on short notice to fulfill critical leadership, manpower and logistical functions during the challenging six-week operation.

Initially operating in the Bracebridge and Huntsville area, the QOR members ultimately deployed as far east as Renfrew county, where they lived in the Westmeath arena in order to assist fellow Canadians in crises. Working hand in hand with fire, police, paramedic and other local volunteers, the QOR members helped to evacuate residents, conducted wellness checks, distributed emergency supplies, cleared vital transportation routes, and placed thousands of sandbags required to protect critical infrastructure and property.

During Op LENTUS, QOR Riflemen leveraged their citizen-soldier mindset to develop a strong rapport with members of the Bracebridge and Renfrew communities as well as the Regular Force soldiers they were working with. The Rifleman's initiative, inculcated in all QOR members, makes them particularly successful at leading small party tasks and overcoming problems outside the scope of traditional light infantry doctrine; several members were recognized with TBG CO (Territorial Battalion Group, Commanding Officer) coins.

Upon completion of Op LENTUS, the QOR assumed responsibility for the TBG HQ and ran several exercises in the fall of 2019 to analyse, codify and disseminate the critical corporate knowledge developed during this domestic operation. These lessons will no doubt serve the QOR well as it adapts to and overcomes the unique domestic challenges facing Canada and The Queen's Own Rifles in 2020. **TR**

ABOVE & OPPOSITE PAGE: Members of the QOR were deployed to the Bracebridge, Huntsville and later the Renfrew areas of Ontario to help with flood relief efforts. During the challenging six-week operation, Riflemen conducted wellness checks on residents, distributed emergency supplies, and filled and placed thousands of sandbags.



Notes From The Band

by Captain Megan Hodge, CD
Director of Music



It was truly a year of outreach and refinement for the Regimental Band and Bugles throughout 2019 and into 2020. The band supported its highest number of engagements in recent history, all around the Greater Toronto Area.

The training year started off with an elegant Change of HLCol Ceremony at Casa Loma, where the band used their ingenuity to come up with modified drill movements to fit into the garden area and a bugler sounded the calls from up high in the castle's turret.

Other notable highlights from the past year include a return to the Toronto Santa Clause Parade, where the musicians paraded for 8 kilometres in the downtown core, while Riflemen shook hands with the community all along the parade route. The Band also returned to Nathan Phillips Square in support of Epilepsy Toronto and Celebrate Toronto, and were also featured on television with the unit recruiting team.

The biggest event by far, however, was the Toronto Garrison Officers Ball, where the band was proud to musically support the unit at the Liberty Grand. The band rose to the occasion, modularizing into four different musical ensembles, concurrently supporting the cocktail reception with a jazz quintet, a solo pianist at the VIP reception, the dinner band for the main event, and the pop band that brought down the house for the dance after dinner.

The band's on-strength number soared to 30 members — the highest in over 20 years. Including the civilian volunteer musicians, the band rounds out at a very robust 40 musicians, ready to represent and support the unit when needed. **TR**

ABOVE & OPPOSITE PAGE: Members of the QOR's Regimental Band and Bugles were kept busy this past year, with a number of engagements in and around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Whether at official QOR and Canadian Army events or civilian events and fundraisers, the Band and Bugles ensemble is always ready to perform.



Basic Mountain Operations Course 2019

by 2Lt Anderson Leung

The QOR facilitated a Basic Mountain Operations (BMO) course between February and March of 2019, qualifying many Riflemen and members across 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

The course included a combination of training nights, weekends, and 10 consecutive training days in various locations including Moss Park Armoury, LCol Samuel G. Beckett Armoury, Rattlesnake Point, Guelph Grotto Climbing Gym, and Elora Gorge. The course was led by Course Officer Maj Scott Moody and Course 2IC MWO Bryan Burns.

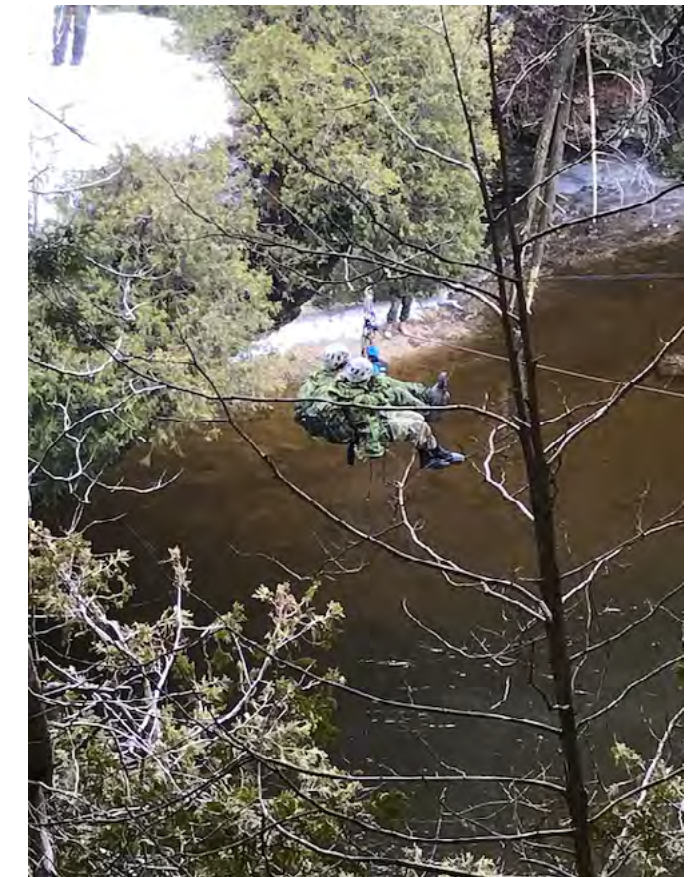
Staffing the course were Advanced Mountain Operators (AMOs) Sgt Dmitri Frounze, Sgt Chris Abate, and long-time QOR member WO Bill Paton with support from MCpls Lydia Radewych, Jack Rowell, and Mark Kusi-Appiah.

Candidates learned a wide variety of climbing and rescue skills including various knots, hitches, lashing, anchoring, belaying, climbing, casualty evacuation, rope systems, highline rigging, improvised harnesses, rope ascension and much more. The course ended with a tactical exercise at Rattlesnake Conservation Area, where candidates had to rappel at night and set up a haul line to simulate the rescue of a downed pilot. The AMOs of the course coordinated while the BMO candidates assisted by creating a rescue/haul system.

In October, Exercise Mountain Leader took place. This is an annual mountain operations refresher



course that spans a weekend. This year, it was held at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC) in Trenton and run by AMOs MWO Bryan Burns and Sgt Jay Bridge. Qualified BMOs new and old were invited to attend and refresh their skills, with the goal of progressing to the next mountain courses. **TR**



The QOR's Air Cell Capabilities Augmented

by MWO Darnel Leader, CD



In 2019 I had the opportunity to complete the Parachute Instructor (PI) course with fellow Rifleman MCpl Katherine Jessome. This course serial marked the first time the QOR had two candidates on PI at the same time. PI is a five-week course conducted at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC), typically once per year. The course is designed to “enable students to instruct and perform the quality control functions for parachutist and jump master training” for static line round parachutes.

The course begins with all candidates completing the Basic Parachutist PT test: one mile run under 7:30, seven chin-ups and 31 sit-ups. The remainder of week one consists of refresher training on Basic Parachutist (BPara) and Jumpmaster (JM) skills culminating in PO checks, including mock tower exits. Weeks two through four consist of assessments for instruction of Basic Parachutist (landings, equipment, aircraft drill and flight) and Jumpmaster (duties on the ground and in the air). During these assessments we would act as demonstrators and trainees for fellow candidates’ lessons, allowing us to further perfect our BPara and JM skills. Our days and evenings were filled with terminology, rehearsals and rigging to make sure everything was to the course standard.

Once all instruction was complete, we moved on to the last phase of the course which consisted of PI

duties during parachute operations. Similar to previous weeks, we acted as JMs for each other during check rides. The staff assessed us in both roles, once again confirming our abilities. Though we did not get a graduation jump, our course did get a unique experience. We were exposed to a potential new equipment lowering system, the T-PELS, which was in the trial phase with Airborne Trials and Evaluations Section (ATES). Working with our staff, we rigged the T-PELS to the CTS rucksack in various orientations and configurations. We then discussed pros and cons, potential rigging standards and equipment checks prior to making our recommendation.

I am glad that after 10 years of Jumpmaster duties the stars aligned and I was able to take this course. Not only has this been a goal for me personally, but it allows the QOR to maintain the capability and adds additional capacity to our air cell for future operations. MCpl Jessome, who became the first female PI in the history of the CAF, has since instructed on four Basic Parachutist courses. For her efforts and accomplishments, she received a coin from Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer Alain Guimond during his tour of the CAAWC facility on August 16, 2019. **TR**

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Course Instructor Sgt Frounze, WO Leader, MCpl Jessome, Parachute Training Company Sergeant Major WO Black. (SGT PHILLIPS, CAAWC)

A Reservist Defies the Odds

by MCpl Mark Kusi-Appiah



The Patrol Pathfinder (PPF) is a legendary course run out of the Canadian Advance Army Warfare Centre, where mythical bush creatures crawl out from underground and attend as candidates. Those who pass would be reclaimed as commando gods at their home units. This was the mindset I had when I first heard about the Patrol Pathfinder Course. I did my research and found a *Truth Duty Valour* episode on YouTube, and instantly I was hooked on the pathfinder’s history and the challenges of the course; needless to say, I also admired the badge: a winged torch.

As I scrolled through different articles, I discovered many that said that it would be impossible for a reservist to attend and actually pass PPF. The two most prominent reasons being obtaining the prerequisites required for PPF as well as accruing the required time in the Canadian Forces. However, years later I found myself rapidly ticking off those prerequisites and collecting relevant experience by going on my Basic Reconnaissance Course and patrol competitions such as the Canadian patrol concentration in CFB Wainwright.

At last in 2018 I was given my first opportunity to attend the course; unfortunately, I didn’t make it far due to a condition I suffered during a ruck march called rhabdomyolysis, a condition whereby your body is overworked to the point where your

muscle starts to eat itself for energy which can cause kidney damage. This also put me in the hospital for a couple of days and eventually I was ‘return to unit’ with a ‘breathe only’ chit.

Fortunately, I had made a great impression on the staff before exiting the course, and all remembered me as that guy who “thundered in just 200 metres from the end.” I was given the okay to come back on the next course, which also gave me a year to train and focus on when that rhabdomyolysis comes back around.

During my year of prep, I accumulated over 150 kilometres of rucking and, thanks to the patronage of WO Mohammed, I was able to attend pre-pathfinder training with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR). From there I arrived back on course in mid-August 2019.

The PPF course is about three months long. You practice every insertion and extraction technique available to the Canadian Forces, from the Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES) all the way to floating on and off a submarine. You are also required to deliver immersive, clear, and concise orders while coordinating with multiple assets

ABOVE: MCpl Kusi-Appiah proudly holds the winged torch flag. He persevered and overcame a few obstacles and successfully completed the Patrol Pathfinder Course.



in real jumps and beachheads that week. However, two more candidates unfortunately got injured, and were medically returned to unit (RTU), leaving only 11 candidates.

Before going on the course, I began working on strengthening my mental resilience and attaining a different mindset after reading the book *Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds* by David Goggins, an ultra-marathon runner and former U.S. Navy Seal. In the book he mentioned that during his hell week he would set small goals and keep his optimism up. Thinking like this helped me get through the increasingly tough times, and also had the side effect of raising the morale of those around me. It seemed like whatever obstacles or challenges came our way, we would simply say "Roger that," and continue on. As a result, we created a solid team that helped each other through hard times, which is essential for a course of this nature.

However, there were many times where you had to push through on your own. The ability to understand that the pain and exhaustion were amplified in my mind and that my body can overcome is what kept me going. Finding ways to claim a bit of your normal lifestyle notably helped too. I found my norm with a bag of gummy worms that my girlfriend gave me. The bag of gummy worms reminded me of the times when I crave them during long road trips and that I could never leave a gas station without purchasing a bag, humanizing my mental state.

Training continued with a very well-orchestrated SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) course. We then had a full weekend to recover before we were off to Vancouver Island for 10 days to conduct the water phase of the course. From there we worked with Fleet Diving Unit (FDU), Naval Tactical Operations Group (NTOG), 406 Squadron (and their new CH-148 Cyclones), and a Royal Canadian Navy unit at CFB Esquimalt. We also got a tour of a frigate ship and a submarine. During our time there we boarded an Orca-class patrol ship and based our missions in the Pacific Ocean, returning to the ship once finished.

and commanders under stress. One of the perks about this course is that it takes you all over Canada, from Ontario to British Columbia and Quebec.

Our course of 20 candidates started with a physical fitness evaluation by PSP (Personnel Support Programs) and the drawing of multiple blood samples by DRDC (Defence Research and Development Canada) scientists as part of the research they were conducting on the candidates. Throughout the three-month-long course, the candidates' blood was periodically drawn for data collection.

The first week included a 20-kilometre ruck march with about 80 pounds of gear (before water and rations) and it must be completed in under 4 hours and 30 minutes. Then candidates undergo multiple days of navigation practice, water drills, and skills assessments. Only seven passed the navigation test on the first go. Unfortunately, those who didn't pass had to retry again, with some having to do the test multiple times consecutively. Due to the environment and injury rate, by the end of that gruelling week only 13 were left on the course.

Candidates then commenced a week of theory classes and orders before returning to the field to conduct standard operating procedure (SOP) training, watermanship, and PPF operations. This is where we learned the majority of how to operate as a pathfinder. To my surprise, we actually called



After we got back to Ontario, we had a couple of days off before moving to Quebec for the last three weeks of the course. On our drive to Quebec we stopped in Petawawa to train with 427 Squadron to conduct FRIES training.

At CFB Valcartier in Quebec, we had a Helicopter Insertion Master package with 430 Squadron and also practiced building a rope bridge using candidates who were either Advanced Mountain Operations or Basic Mountain Operations qualified. From there, the last two weeks were spent in and around the Quebec City area, conducting missions both in wooded areas and urban settings, which greatly challenged our thinking dynamics.

Unfortunately, it wasn't a clean finish towards the end of my course. I was sent to a progress review board (PRB) after failing my last assessment and I was force-rested for 24 hours — of which I probably slept 22 of them. I was given one last chance to pass as a result of the PRB. Thankfully, a



day later after completing my final mission on the Le Massif ski hill in Charlevoix, I was debriefed and sustained an effective score on the aforementioned assessment thus successfully completing PPF. This brought a wave of different emotions through me — after all, I was one of less than five reservists to have ever passed this course.

In the end, nine candidates passed PPF with a victory mission and torch ceremony conducted at the Citadel in Quebec City.

This success made it clear that the old stigma of reservists not being good enough is false, and that I have opened the possibility of challenging PPF in the thoughts of potential candidates back at my home unit. One of my ultimate goals from this experience is to hopefully have left the sentiment in the minds of others that "If Cpl Kusi — the guy who forgot his T-shirt on his first parade night — can do it, so can I."

Nothing is gained without great labour. **TR**



Busy Year for the Regimental Museum and Archives

by Major (ret'd) John Stephens, CD
Museum Curator



It was another busy year for the Museum on many fronts — from events to accessions to new exhibits — and of course for our amazing volunteer team.

In February, the Curator was pleased to join world-renowned historians at the Canadian War Museum to explore different aspects of the First World War and its many legacies: the return of Indigenous veterans, the conflict's impact on French Canada, the contributions of nurses, the challenges of forging peace from the ashes of war, and much more.

Although it had been delivered and set up at the end of 2018, we were excited to hold a special reception in April 2019 to officially unveil a new exhibit case for the collection's most important object: Ensign Malcolm McEachren's tunic. The high security, frameless, humidity-controlled case with UV-filtering glass was purchased primarily with funds from the estate of the late CWO Scott Patterson and topped up with the help of a number of other donors. The well-attended reception included musicians from the Regimental Band and Bugles, displays of objects not normally on exhibit, and of course the official unveiling by members and friends of the Patterson family.

In May we provided both speakers and exhibits for the Royal Canadian Military Institute's D-Day symposium, which also provided a great opportu-

ity to network with other historians and curators.

In September, new signs were installed across the bottom of the large Casa Loma sign at Spadina and St Clair. This is the only external signage that lets people know where we are located and we are very thankful to Casa Loma for their support.

The following week saw the Regiment hold its Change of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel parade on the terrace of Casa Loma which our museum team helped to support in a number of ways. We were also pleased to set up a display of QOR sports-related objects in recognition of our incoming Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Vicky Sunohara.

And once again we held our annual "QOR Day at Casa Loma" on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Day. This day brings together our regimental band and other serving members as well as historical interpreters to help bring alive both the history of our regiment and demonstrate the capabilities of our current soldiers.

On the collections front we continue to complete detailed cataloging of our current and newly acquired objects, with descriptions and photographs of over 3,000 items entered into our database which is available online at: <http://qormuseum.pastperfectonline.com/>. We accessioned 53 donations or purchases which included over 600 individual objects. A select few of these include:



- Uniforms and photographs from Brigadier General Don Pryer, CD
- More than 300 historic documents believed to have been collected by George T. Denison
- A bugle from Captain Sherwood's Company, believed to have been used at the Battle of Ridgeway
- A wooden QOR "silent butler" from the early 20th century
- A variety of items that had belonged to D-Day veteran Rolph Jackson
- An 1890s sergeant's mess jacket
- A WWI Victory Bond Fund flag
- A metal marker from Fort de La Crèche, Normandy
- An 1885 North-West Rebellion medal belonging to Thomas J. Cauldwell
- A 1917 Mauser Gewehr 98 rifle
- An issue of *The Illustrated London News* – 26 July 1919 Victory Edition
- An early 20th century officer's busby and box belonging to James George
- An 1890s era QOR Bayonet Exercise Booklet
- A large collection of post-war uniforms and equipment from the Victoria Branch of the QOR Association.

During 2019 we continued to upgrade our exhibits, both on site and for outreach. We upgraded all our interpretive panels to a more durable material and a consistent look and feel, as well as created two new pop-up banners for the North-West Re-

OPPOSITE PAGE: Family and friends of the late CWO Scott Patterson unveil a new exhibit case for the Ensign McEachren tunic. **THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT:** New Uniform Exhibit. **TOP RIGHT:** Bugle from the Fenian Raids. **RIGHT:** New museum signage at St Clair Ave and Spadina Rd.



bellion. Toward the end of the year we were able to launch a new exhibit of uniforms in a new space under the stairs to the towers.

We also continue to share regimental history and other museum information through our social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. The year 2019 included a series of daily posts taken from the WWII War Diaries starting with D-Day through until VE-Day in 1945.

All of this work is accomplished by an amazing team of museum volunteers who put in over 1,500 hours in 2019. In February 2019 we held our annual volunteer recognition night at the Officers' Mess to recognize our most regular team members.

Thanks also to our Museum Board members for their assistance and support throughout the year: Jim Lutz (Chair), Major (ret'd) Tony Schultz, Captain (ret'd) Adam Hermant, Jenna Misener, Lisa Holmes, Michele McCarthy, and CWO (ret'd) Shaun Kelly.

The Museum Management Team includes: Curator Major (ret'd) John Stephens, CD; Deputy Curator CWO (ret'd) Shaun Kelly, CD; Assistant Curator Sergeant Graham Humphrey; Collections Officer Cheryl Copson, MMSt. **TR**



by WO (ret'd) Bob Dunk, CD
Immediate Past President
QOR National Association



The Queen's Own Rifles Princess Alexandra Bursary Fund was established in 2010 in honour and recognition of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra's serving as our Colonel-in-Chief for 50 years. The bursary is available to all serving members of the Regiment, relatives of serving and former members, and serving members of our affiliated Cadet Corps who are pursuing a post-secondary education.

There were five applications received for 2019. All were awarded bursaries in the total amount of \$10,500. The 2019 recipients were:

- **Kurtis Butt** is enrolled in Nursing at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Kurtis is the nephew of Brenda Butt, the treasurer of the Toronto Branch of the Association. \$1,500.
- **Gillian Cameron**, granddaughter of Albert Maxwell Pitcher, 1QOR, is studying Microbiology at the University of Alberta. \$1,500.
- **Teagan Cameron**, twin sister of Gillian, is enrolled in Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Alberta. \$1,500.

- **Rifleman Devan Diamond**, currently a serving member of the Regiment, is studying Public Relations at Humber College in Toronto. \$1,500.
- **Grace Martin**, granddaughter of Tom Martin, president of the Vancouver Island Branch of the Association, is enrolled in Sociology at Queen's University. Grace was awarded the Colonel Paul and Mrs. Bev Hughes Award in addition to a regular bursary. \$4,500.

It is disappointing that every year, we receive so few applications from serving members of the Regiment. An additional award is available only to them, the Sgt Aubrey Cosens Award. Applications are available in hard copy from the Orderly Room or feel free to email me at rjdunk051@gmail.com. The deadline for submitting applications is June 30th each year. Bursary funds are deposited directly into your student account no later than September.

Please consider donating to support this worthy cause. You can make your donation online at https://torontofoundation.ca/listings/the_queens_own_rifles_princess_alexandra_bursary_fund/. TR

by 2Lt Anderson Leung

Between 2018-2019, the QOR increased its numbers by 134 new personnel through the efforts of the recruiting team, causing the need for two new training platoons, Normandy and Ridgeway. This has solidified our position as one of Canada's largest Reserve Force infantry regiments.

Key members of the recruiting team included Sgt Adam Winnicki, MCpl Josh Munnings, Mike Catenacci, Jack Rowell, Adam Gunn, Cpls Justin Low, Thomas Lee, Rfn Chris Gondos and Adonis Toth.

The recruiting team visited various educational institutions and attended local events, while maintaining close connections with prospects to create a strong recruitment pipeline. The team has also strengthened their expertise by sending Lt Richardson and 2Lt Leung on the Reserve Unit Recruiter Course, and Cpl Gunn on the Recruiting File Manager Course run out of 4CDTC Meaford, staffed by the 32 CBG Recruiting Team.

At the time of this article's publication, you can email qor.recruiting@forces.gc.ca and 32cbgrecruiting@forces.gc.ca if you or someone you know are interested in joining the Regiment. TR

Due in large part to the efforts of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's recruiting team, the Regiment's ranks were increased by 134 new personnel during the 2018-2019 period, solidifying the QOR as one of the Canadian Army's largest Reserve Force infantry regiments.



by Joanne de Vries



All 50 young cadets who began the Cadet Basic Para Course were successful and received their wings at the Graduation Parade last August 2019 at CFB Trenton. Among them, three Royal Canadian Army Cadets were recognized and presented with special awards for their achievements:

- Cadet Matthieu Larin, with RCACC 2920 (Gatineau, Quebec), earned the Top Overall Cadet Award.
- Cadet Lam Morris Patenaude, with RCACC 2250 (Bracebridge, Ontario), earned the Top Jumper Award.
- Cadet Brendan Chong, with RCACC 2277 (Langley, British Columbia), received the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Bursary. Cadet Chong has been accepted into the Engineering programme at the University of British Columbia. We wish him much success.

The recipient of the 2019 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Award was presented to MCpl Mike Catenacci, a deserving Queen's Own Rifles of Canada soldier. This yearly award is presented in memory of Battalion member Reg Walker and was presented at the Soldiers' Dinner on December 4, 2019. MCpl Catenacci also received a copy of the Battalion's pictorial history *Tip of the Spear: An Intimate Account of 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion,*

1942-1945. Reg Walker's widow Doreen and his two daughters, Dawn and Wendy, were in attendance for this presentation. Dawn read his citation to refresh everyone's memory of his accomplishments and to introduce Reg to the newer members of the QOR.

In June 2019, I personally had the privilege to travel with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to Normandy to attend the 75th anniversary of D-Day ceremonies. With the regiment, I attended many of the ceremonies and receptions at their battle sites. As part of the itinerary we also visited the Juno Beach Centre, the Pegasus Memorial, the Merville Gun Battery, and Le Mesnil Crossroads and Bois de Bavent Ridge, where the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Memorial stands.

The QOR were most accommodating and on June 5th Maj Scott Moody, Maj Chris Boileau and MGen Walter Holmes accompanied me to attend the ceremony at the 1 Can Para Battalion Memorial at the Crossroads where MGen Holmes and I laid a wreath in memory of the Battalion. This ceremony continues to be organized by Yves LeCuziat, who

ABOVE: The visit to Normandy also included a ceremony at the 1 Can Para Memorial with (from left to right): Maj Scott Moody, Joanne de Vries, HCol Walter Holmes, war artist Sgt (ret'd) Roger Chabot and Maj Chris Boileau.



has been a dedicated supporter of the Battalion for many, many years. Following the ceremony, we walked the short distance south to the location where Jan de Vries dug his trench on D-Day and where many of the C Company men were dug in. Bernard and Catherine Petitjean, a French couple who have supported the Battalion Association over many years, and Canadian war artist Roger Chabot met us there for some photos and the dedication of his D-Day painting in memory of the Battalion. Roger presented me with a copy of his painting (*photo above*); it was a truly emotional experience standing there at Jan's trench. Roger, I thank you for your kindness.

A couple of days later, QOR Lt Chris Obermoser accompanied me to a ceremony at Grangues. This ceremony honours the many British soldiers who died on D-Day when their planes and gliders crashed. This year the community also honoured two 1 Can Para Bn soldiers who dropped in the area on D-Day and were killed. Lt Obermoser and I laid a wreath in their memory. Many QOR Association members as well as BGen (ret'd) Ernie Beno attended the ceremony. On route back to the unit, we stopped and paid our respects at the Gatehouse where there is a memorial plaque dedicated to the six Battalion members who were killed there on D-Day.

This trip to Normandy was unique in many ways and I thank Commanding Officer LCol Frank Lamie and all those involved for their kindness. Jan and I made numerous trips to Normandy over the years. I am so grateful to have been able to visit Normandy one last time and during such a significant year. I sincerely thank all the QOR for a wonderfully memorable time. **TR**

A Look Back in Time: 1980 Anniversary of the Netherlands' Liberation



2019 Annual Holiday Dinner



On December 4, 2019 the Regiment held its annual holiday dinner on the parade square at Moss Park Armoury. As per tradition, the officers and non-commissioned officers served the members of the Regiment. The command team was joined at the head table by the youngest and oldest Riflemen: Rfn Bronfman and Cpl Cardinal,

respectively. Following the dinner, awards and promotions were given out. A tribute to Cpl William Vant Erve, who had recently passed away, was read by MCpl Jessome and MCpl Thiers-Gomez. In addition, the annual photo of the Regiment was taken during the evening.

In Pace Paratus TR

AWARDS

- **RSM Harry Fox / British Airborne Forces Association Award for Top Corporal:** Cpl Do
- **Airborne Rifleman of the Year:** MCpl Kusi-Appiah
- **Reg Walker 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Award for Top Master Corporal:** MCpl Catenacci
- **CSM Charlie Martin Award for Top Sergeant or Warrant Officer:** Sgt Hood
- **Colonel Elliot Dalton Award for Top Junior Officer:** Lt Beaupré
- **Silver Bugle Award for Top Musician:** Rfn Savage
- **Sgt Dave Kennan Jump Hog Award:** MCpl Jessome

- **Humanitarian Award:** Ms. Mairead Currie
- **Fitness Award:** Cpl Dunbar
- **CO's Commendation:** Rfn Chang
- **U.S. Army Achievement Medal:** Cpl Sonatin

Promotions

- **Master Corporal:** MCpl Patoine
- **Sergeant:** Sgt Wolfe, Sgt Johnston
- **Warrant Officer:** WO Currie
- **Master Warrant Officer:** MWO Leader
- **Second Lieutenant:** 2Lt Filatow, 2Lt Kerr, 2Lt Bunch
- **Lieutenant:** Lt Langille, Lt Merrithew
- **Captain:** Capt Beaupré



CPL DO IS PRESENTED WITH THE RSM HARRY FOX / BRITISH AIRBORNE FORCES ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR TOP CORPORAL BY MAJOR MOODY



RFN LAURA SAVAGE ACCEPTS THE SILVER BUGLE AWARD FOR TOP MUSICIAN FROM CAPTAIN MEGAN HODGE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



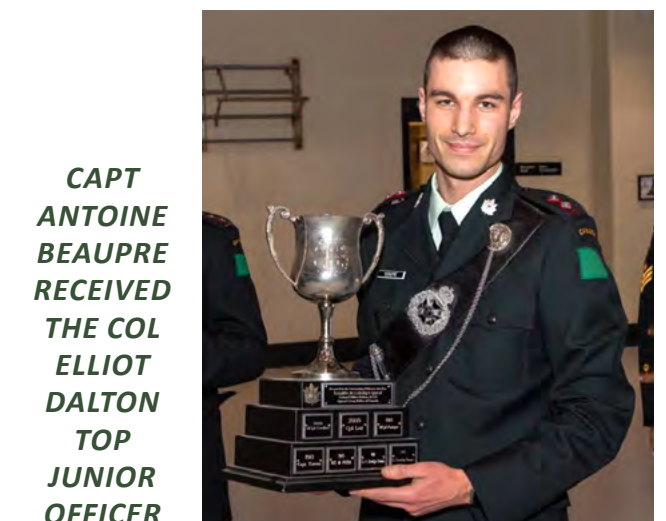
SGT CRAIG HOOD ACCEPTS THE CSM CHARLIE MARTIN AWARD FOR TOP SENIOR NCO FROM CWO O'HALLORAN



CPL ALEX SONATIN RECEIVES THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FROM THE U.S. ARMY FOR HIS ACTIONS IN IRAQ



MCPL JESSOME ACCEPTS THE SGT DAVE KEENAN JUMP HOG AWARD



CAPT ANTOINE BEAUPRE RECEIVED THE COL ELLIOT DALTON TOP JUNIOR OFFICER



WO MIKE CURRIE ACCEPTS THE HUMANITARIAN AWARD FOR HIS WIFE MAIREAD CURRIE FOR DONATING TOYS TO THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY



MCPL JESSOME AND CPL TOM EVESON PAY TRIBUTE TO CPL VANT ERVE, A FORMER AIRBORNE RIFLEMAN WHO PASSED AWAY IN NOVEMBER 2019



MWO DARNEL LEADER PROMOTED TO MASTER WARRANT OFFICER BY LCOL LAMIE AND CWO O'HALLORAN



WO MIKE CURRIE PROMOTED TO WARRANT OFFICER BY LCOL LAMIE AND CWO O'HALLORAN



SGT GORD JOHNSTON PROMOTED TO SERGEANT BY LCOL LAMIE AND CWO O'HALLORAN



MCPL ASHLEY PATOINE PROMOTED TO MASTER CORPORAL BY LCOL LAMIE

WHAT IS THE REGIMENTAL TRUST?

The Regimental Trust was established in 1959 to support the Regiment, the Riflemen, the Regimental Museum, the maintenance of Regimental Monuments and Memorials, and Regimental Headquarters. The Regimental Trust accomplishes this by raising funds from donors to support the activities as requested by the Commanding Officer, the Museum, RHQ and, from time to time, the Regimental Association and Cadet Corps.

The Trust provides funds for multiple activities that include:

- The Annual Children's Christmas Party
- Regimental sports teams
- Running club
- Hockey team

Fundraising and support for Regimental trips to commemorate special anniversaries including:

- 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge in 2017
- 75th anniversary of D-Day and Normandy

Fundraising and support for the World War I Memorial Wall and Battle Honours in Moss Park in 2018 and the refurbishing and repair of the Cross of Sacrifice at St Paul's Church Bloor Street with the addition of the Afghanistan Battle Honour to the Cross.

Annual support is also provided to the Regimental Museum and Archives and its many dedicated volunteers.

DONATE NOW

Credit card or PayPal is accepted at www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14353

If you'd like to send a cheque, please mail to:

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund
 Box 250, Suite 12A
 4981 Highway 7 East
 Markham, Ontario, L3R1N1



Looking Back in History

by Major (ret'd) John Stephens, CD
Museum Curator



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) landing at Bernières-sur-Mer on Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.
(FROM THE QOR REMIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES)

25 YEARS AGO

• **June 1994** – Five riflemen, led by Lieutenant Colonel Steve Brand, parachute into Ranville before joining the 113 strong QOR guard and band, and dozens of QOR D-Day veterans and families — a contingent of almost 200 in total — for ceremonies in Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Rifleman Ted O'Halloran, who landed on D-Day with the dual role of bugler and stretcher bearer, led the Last Post at Bény-sur-Mer Cemetery where many of his comrades were buried.

50 YEARS AGO

• **17 April 1969** – At an impressive ceremony at city hall, Mayor William Dennison presents the Freedom of the City of Toronto to the 3rd Battalion.

• **24 September 1969** – 1st Battalion Rifleman Harold Wayne George (*at right*), aged 19, drowns in the Sooke River while on a training exercise, when the assault boat he was in overturned. Four others are injured in the incident.



75 YEARS AGO

• **6 June 1944** – The 1st Battalion lands on Juno Beach at Bernières-sur-Mer as part of the first wave of D-Day landings, and fights through 12 kilometres to reach the village of Anisy by the end

of the day. Sixty-three members of the Regiment are killed in action or die of wounds that day.

100 YEARS AGO

• **23 April 1919** – Thirty-one officers and 694 other ranks of the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force arrive in Toronto to crowds of welcoming family, friends and neighbours to be officially demobilized. Returnees include only two original officers, six officers who had been in the ranks at the start of the war, and 32 original other ranks.

125 YEARS AGO

• **13 May 1894** – The Regiment parades with the other local corps for divine service in the Pavilion, with 738 all ranks on parade. It was the largest muster in the history of the Regiment to that time.

150 YEARS AGO

• **2 October 1869** – His Royal Highness Prince Arthur (later the Duke of Connaught), who was quartered in Montreal with his regiment the First Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, visits Toronto. On the day of His Royal Highness' arrival, The Queen's Own Rifles furnishes a guard of honor at city hall, one field officer (Major Brown) and two companions; the remainder of the Regiment is detailed with keeping sufficient ground clear in front of city hall for the arrival of Governor-General Lord Lisgar and Prince Arthur. **TR**

Closure for One Family, 74 Years Later



by Lieutenant David Merrithew

On the evening of April 5, 1945, on the outskirts of a small town in southwestern Holland, the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada began assembling to continue their push into enemy territory. The mission of the day was to liberate the town of Rha, taking another step towards routing the brutal invaders of that land, the Nazis.

Among the brave men tasked to initiate the attack was Platoon Commander John "Jack" Gordon Kavanagh, a 23-year-old clerk from Toronto who had volunteered to be a Rifleman in June of 1940. After showing great promise and quickly being promoted to the rank of corporal, Jack was selected for officer training and he would soon be a leader on the front lines of the largest combined arms advance in human history.

On the night of April 5, as Lt Kavanagh led his platoon to clear the nearby village of Pipelure in preparation for the main attack on Rha, his call sign came under heavy fire and was forced to retreat. Mortars and small arms fire enveloped the Riflemen of 11 and 12 Platoons wounding many, killing some and, in the end, Lt Kavanagh suffered a direct hit from a German anti-tank weapon while leading his men on the battlefield. His remains were never recovered.

The family would soon be informed of his death by the Ministry of War and, more poignantly, by a simple stamp on a letter returned to his sister read-

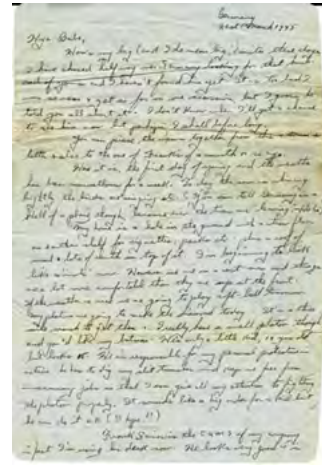
ing "REPORTED DECEASED." Jack, like 463 other Riflemen of the Regiment, never came home.

Over 70 years later, on a Saturday morning in January, three currently serving Riflemen drove to Belleville, Ontario through a blizzard to a deliver a next of kin notification to Jack Young, the nephew and namesake of Lt Jack Kavanagh. Commanding Officer LCol Frank Lamie, Regimental Sergeant Major CWO Donovan O'Halloran, and Lt David Merrithew carried with them news of a conclusive discovery made by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

This truly unique encounter was three years in the making. Starting in 2017, a group of researchers from the Directorate of History and Heritage received a report outlining the possible identification of the grave of an unknown soldier at the Steenderen General Cemetery in the Netherlands. According to archival records, in November 1947, remains were recovered from a farmer's field outside of Steenderen and were buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of the Steenderen General Cemetery. As the identity of the remains was unknown, the grave was commemorated and cared for by the town's people as simply another heroic soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in the liberation of that country.

Initially, not enough evidence was available to reach a positive identification and it would take an-

A Final Resting Place For Toronto's 'Unknown Soldier'



by Julian Sher,
Special to the Toronto Star,
with files from Ton Vanderplas and Bart Nijpels

other two years of independent research to positively identify the remains as those of Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. This was confirmed by the Casualty Identification Review Board in November 2019 following an exhaustive review of archival sources including war diaries, circumstances of casualty register cards, and concentration and exhumation reports.

On that snowy January morning, the regimental command team with an assisting officer were honoured to sit down with Mr. Young and inform him of the positive and definitive identification of his uncle's remains. In the weeks to come more information would arise, pictures found, and stories shared about the young man who gave his life so that others may live in peace. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a headstone rededication ceremony was planned to take place in May 2020 to coincide with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. Unfortunately, this

ceremony was postponed, and though this year we were unable to commemorate the memory and remains of Lt Kavanagh, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada are proud to welcome into the Regimental family Jack Young, his wife Debbie Howes and their children Michele and Jacqueline.

Lt Kavanagh's sacrifice will forever be in our thoughts and his remaining relatives will forever be welcome wherever The Queen's Own stands. **TR**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Photo of Lt Jack Kavanagh. The card and rear of envelope that Jack's sister Mabel sent at Easter to cheer up her brother, and was returned. A letter Jack wrote to his sister. Jack's Attestation Paper, dated 1941. The envelope that was returned to Mabel marked "Reported Deceased." Nephew Jack Young and family raise a glass to the memory of Lt John Gordon Kavanagh.



It stands like a beacon, a solemn tower of grey stone in the pristine green farmlands of the Dutch countryside. On the monument, beneath the Canadian flag fluttering in the wind, are etched the names of the eight soldiers who gave their lives to free a small village from the Nazis in the dying days of the Second World War.

"Those men stand for what happened here: the horror of war," says Wim Felix, a 93-year-old from the hamlet of Rha, tucked away in the eastern corner of the Netherlands not far from the German border. "They gave their lives to liberate Rha and the Netherlands."

All the Canadian fighters named on the tall monument have been laid to rest with full honours in a nearby military cemetery. Except one: John Gordon Kavanagh, the 23-year-old Toronto man who led the charge to liberate the village.

His remains were never fully identified, though the villagers have long suspected he lay in a grave marked for an "unknown soldier." He was one of the last Allied officers killed in the battle for Europe.

Back in Ontario, Kavanagh's relatives grew up for years with his picture prominently displayed in the family home, a handful of letters and war medals buried in shoeboxes — and distant memories.

"How it hurt, all those years of not knowing where he was, where he was buried," says Jack

Young of Belleville, Kavanagh's nephew. "We never knew."

On two continents, separated by an ocean of water and time, the Dutch villagers and the Canadian family had only half of a wartime mystery. The grateful residents of Rha knew how Kavanagh had died heroically, but not who he was or how he had lived. His descendants in Ontario knew of his courage and zest for life, but little about how or even where he was killed.

Now thanks to some cross-continental years of research and some luck, Kavanagh's body has been identified, his remains will be properly buried, his story told, his sacrifice honoured.

This Tuesday, May 5, marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian troops. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, plans for Canadian veterans to fly to Europe for commemorative ceremonies — and a headstone rededication ceremony for Kavanagh — have been put off indefinitely.

But at least now, the full story of a Canadian war hero can be told, seven decades later.

By 1945, after six years of brutal war, the Nazis were finally on the run, but the fighting was fero-

ABOVE: The discovery of remains of war casualties in Europe is surprisingly common, with approximately 30 bodies discovered every year. (YOUNG FAMILY PHOTO)



*John Gordon Kavanagh penned what would be his final letter to his sister Mabel on March 21, 1945. Mabel had posted a letter to him the same day, but it never made it to him and was returned to her, stamped simply: "Reported Deceased."
(YOUNG FAMILY PHOTO)*

his body blown apart, his bones scattered and unrecoverable in the battlefield.

The surviving Canadian soldiers retreated. Heavy Allied artillery was called in and after a steady barrage, the last Nazis finally fled Rha on April 16. The war would officially end three weeks later with Germany's surrender but peace came too late for John Gordon Kavanagh.

"Killed in Action" was the only information given to Kavanagh's family in Toronto at the time. Somewhere in the "Western European theatre of war" the military file said, along with three words no grieving family ever wants to hear:

"Body not recovered."

"He was a hero to me, even though we have never met," says Jack Young. "I heard enough to feel close to the man. Because of the stories."

Young was born soon after the war to Mabel, John Kavanagh's sister. Kavanagh went by the nickname "Jack" and Mabel named her son after the beloved brother she had lost in the war.

Young remembers his mother always talking fondly of his "Uncle Jack" as he was known. "It was always with a smile, until the story came to an end," he said. "And it would bring a tear to her eye."

The lore of Kavanagh, the fallen hero, lived on through the generations.

Jack Young's daughters, Michele and Jacqueline, recall visiting "Nana Mabel's" home in Toronto where pictures of Kavanagh were always on display.

"As you walked into the house, there was this portrait, his smiling, handsome face," said Michele. "It was always around."

"They just became part of the home. The photos were always there, and they just never came down," says Jacqueline. "We would ask questions. The fact that he died in the war made him that more special."

cious across Europe. On March 28, 1945, the Allies launched Operation PLUNDER, the decisive advance towards Berlin.

The Queen's Own Rifles, the oldest continuously serving infantry regiment in Canada, had been in the thick of it. They had suffered 143 dead and wounded when they landed on Juno Beach on D-Day in June of the previous year.

Now they were battling their way across the Netherlands, where there were still pockets of Nazi strongholds. There was an acute shortage of seasoned officers, equipment was lacking and the troops were exhausted.

Into the fray stepped John Gordon Kavanagh, a bold if inexperienced officer. As a 23-year-old lieutenant, Kavanagh took charge of the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Own. In the early days of April, other companies in the Regiment had captured the nearby hamlets of Eekhorn, Zwarte Schaar, Rodenburg, Hoefken, and Emmer.

Kavanagh and his men were given the orders to flush out the sizeable number of German soldiers entrenched in the village of Rha.

The attack began in the evening of April 5. Kavanagh led the charge, running into a farmer's field on the outskirts of the village.

There was a German ambush and his men took heavy losses. Kavanagh was struck by a direct hit from a Panzerfaust, the German equivalent of a bazooka anti-tank weapon. He was killed instantly,



Born in 1921 and raised in east end Toronto, Kavanagh became a star high school athlete at Riverdale Collegiate Institute. When war broke out in 1939, he was not even 18, working as a clerk in the sports department at Eaton's. By June 1940, he had enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles.

He was soon shipped to England, where his strength was obvious: he became the heavyweight boxing champion of the battalion in 1942.

So was his brashness.

His personnel file reveals that he left his base in the UK several times without permission, earning him more than a few reprimands and even the withholding of some wages.

It is possible he went missing in order to visit his childhood friend Emily Jean Haddleton, a member of the Canadian Red Cross Corps who was stationed in London. The young couple married in June 1943 and — ever hopeful the war would soon end and they would survive — they began to put away some small savings to buy a home back in Toronto.

Though eager to see some real fighting, Kavanagh was sent back to Canada for more officer training. He arrived back in England only at the end of 1944, no doubt even more frustrated that he had missed the momentous D-Day landing.

There was more bad luck when in early 1945, he came down with pneumonia and was confined to

Jack Young (far right) and his family gather with local Rha villagers in front of the memorial monument. Next to Young is war survivor Wim Felix. (ARIE HAMMER PHOTO)

a hospital bed in England while his comrades were pushing back the Nazis in the Netherlands.

So, Kavanagh discharged himself from the Canadian Service Hospital, and without official army permission made his way to the battlefields in mainland Europe.

Soon after rejoining his battalion, Kavanagh penned what would become his final letter to his sister Mabel. It was March 21, 1945, three weeks before his death.

"Here it is, the first day of spring and the weather has been marvellous for a week. The sun is shining brightly, the birds are singing," he wrote. "Drop me a line sometime."

As it happened, Mabel had already posted a letter to her brother the same day he was writing from the front lines. But it never got to him. Her unopened envelope was returned, stamped simply: "Reported Deceased."

Raised on stories of his brave uncle, Jack Young says he would often think of John Gordon Kavanagh and his fallen comrades at Remembrance Day ceremonies. "I had silent prayers. I would speak them," he said, recalling his message to his hero:



A photo of Jack and his new bride Emily Jean Haddleton, undated from the early 1940s.

elled to Rha to meet the villagers. They wondered if they could find a direct descendant of Kavanagh in Canada, perhaps a DNA test would prove the remains of the “unknown soldier” were indeed the bones of John Gordon Kavanagh.

They hunted through the war archives, tracked down newspaper clippings and scoured old phone books. They pieced together some of Kavanagh’s early life and found an obituary for his sister Mabel that revealed she had left behind a son named John and two grand-daughters, Michele and Jacqueline.

But beyond that, the trail went cold.

Mabel’s married name was Young, so finding her son with as common a name as “John Young” who could be anywhere in Ontario or elsewhere in Canada was daunting.

A breakthrough came when a search of real estate databases turned up three homes in Keswick, Ontario listing the owners as John, Michele and Jacqueline Young – all within a few blocks of each other. Michele and Jacqueline still lived in the area; their father had moved to Belleville.

All of them were moved to tears when they were told of how the Rha villagers still cherished Kavanagh’s memory.

“It is overwhelming. This is unbelievable news,” said Jack Young. “There is definitely closure. I feel almost spiritual.”

“I feel like he wasn’t forgotten,” said Michele. “There are people back in the Netherlands honouring him and keeping his name alive.”

Her daughter Jenna gave a presentation at her school about her great-great uncle and wrote a special “postcard” to Kavanagh for Remembrance Day. “Thank you for fighting for our freedom,” she wrote to him. “The world wouldn’t be the same without you.”

To help identify Kavanagh’s bones, Jack Young readily agreed to give his DNA for testing.

The discovery of remains of war casualties in Europe is surprisingly common, with approximately 30 bodies discovered every year. The Commonwealth

The names of the Canadian soldiers on a memorial monument to the soldiers who died fighting to free the village of Rha. John Gordon Kavanagh’s name is third on the list. From the documentary “A Grave for Kavanagh.”

War Graves Commission has strict standards, using artifacts found with the remains, anthropological data and DNA to certify the identity of an “unknown” soldier.

But in the end, Young’s DNA was not needed. The Dutch filmmakers, along with several amateur historians and military researchers, filed their extensive new evidence with the authorities. In February, the Canadian Armed Forces Casualty Identification Program announced that “years of extensive research ... culminated in the identification of Lieutenant Kavanagh.”

“The legacy of those brave Canadians who battled tremendous odds to liberate the Netherlands lives on as we honour Lieutenant Kavanagh for his service to Canada,” said Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre, the Commander of the Canadian Army. “We will forever remember his ultimate sacrifice.”

A new headstone naming Kavanagh was carved, to be laid at Grave 3, Row B, Plot 3 in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s section of the Steenderen General Cemetery.

But the Young family didn’t wait for any formal ruling to make a pilgrimage to the Netherlands.

Last spring, three generations of the family — Jack Young, his wife and daughters along with his two granddaughters — travelled to Rha.

They hugged Wim Felix, the aging villager now bent over on his cane, who over the years had so carefully taken care of the monument. The granddaughters laid a basket of flowers with two small Canadian flags by the stone slab.

Jack Young slowly ran his fingers along the letters carving out the name of John Gordon Kavanagh.

“Thank you for taking care of my uncle,” Young said, with tears in his eyes.

The family trekked across what had once been a bloody battlefield with the farmer whose father had discovered Kavanagh’s bones soon after the war.

“It is like somebody has handed us a little piece of a puzzle and we have to thank them. To walk



on the land, to know this is where he was,” said Jacqueline Young-O’Neill. “This is where he probably fell — a kind of sacred land.”

The Youngs of course are thrilled that Kavanagh will finally have a marked grave, but in many ways the monument the villagers built to Kavanagh and his fallen comrades has become his spiritual resting place. His bones may not there, but his name and his legacy are.

“It is as if he belongs there,” says Jacqueline. “These people have cared about him and have sort of kept his memory alive and honoured him every year. It is like a shrine.”

“It is not just a monument,” said Jack. “It’s a bit of his soul.”

That sentiment is echoed in the words carved at the foot of the monument in Rha, underneath the names of John Gordon Kavanagh and the other Canadian soldiers.

“Dying for freedom isn’t the worst that could happen,” it reads. “Being forgotten is.” **TR**

~ Reprinted with permission from the **Toronto Star**.

For more on Lt John Kavanagh, watch the 50-minute documentary "A Grave For Kavanagh" (\$4.99 pay-for-view fee) at <https://tinyurl.com/ycfhejyz>

More information and a movie trailer are available on the Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/A-GRAVE-FOR-KAVANAGH-104480714597523/

Northern Exposure

by Captain Kevin Sheedy, CD



After a varied career on and off the Supplementary List, I find myself fortunate to be still wearing The Queen's Own cap badge and even more fortunate to be doing so in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories serving at Joint Task Force (North) Headquarters or JTF(N).

JTF(N) is a Level 2 headquarters which puts us on an equal footing with Joint Task Force Central in Ontario. Unlike any other Joint Task Force, JTF(N) has no equivalent Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy or Royal Canadian Air Force formation close by and no subordinate troops or equipment to speak of. We report to Canadian Joint Operations Command in Ottawa, two time zones or a 4,800-kilometre drive away. Our area of responsibility encompasses all of Canada's Arctic from 60 degrees latitude north to the North Pole, and from our border with Alaska to the Davis Strait in the east. For perspective, this is equivalent to all of Western Europe, or the lower 48 states of the United States. Even more challenging, there are just 140,000 Canadian inhabitants spread across three territories, namely the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. I am often asked what life is like in Yukon, but given that it is located a 1,400-kilometre drive west and in another time zone, I have yet to get there!

Since 1970 when we stood up, JTF(N) has been the eyes and ears of the Canadian federal gov-

ernment in the North. Together with NORAD and Maritime Coastal Command Atlantic, JTF(N) works to provide all domain awareness and operational control of what takes place up here. Given scant resources and growing global interest in Canada's North, this is no small task.

Of particular interest is ship traffic in and around Canada's Arctic Archipelago. Ships are the only way to transport food, fuel or any other commodity to or from our northern communities, mines and oil wells. Our trading partners and maritime nations of the world know this and, historically, have been assertive in pursuing their own national interest. JTF(N) has only recently been forced to address this subject in a meaningful way since our internal Arctic waters had previously remained frozen solid 12 months of the year. While navigation in the North remains a hazardous business, it is now possible to attempt to sail ships specially built to travel in the High Arctic, but only in years when there is both sufficient open water and not too much floating ice.

This is now a reality for Canadians living in the North, with an average of 500 ships per year transiting Eclipse Sound at the north end of Baffin Is-

ABOVE: Capt Sheedy on Baffin Island during Operation NANOOK-NUNAKPUT.

When at Joint Task Force (North) Headquarters, a common mode of transportation is the skidoo. **RIGHT:** Capt Sheedy on patrol. **BELOW:** The skidoo depot at JTF(N).

land. This traffic includes bulk ore carriers, Arctic adventurers sailing everything from billionaire mega-yachts to kayaks, and until this year anyway, cruise ships carrying passengers from around the world. Efforts to maintain customs and immigration services, law enforcement, pollution control, fisheries patrols and monitoring the environmental impacts of this traffic are all daunting tasks.

Operation NANOOK-NUNAKPUT is one of the varied ways Canada ensures our presence and surveillance of the North is effective and is what I have been lucky enough to work on here as a member of the planning staff. The operation is relatively new and has evolved from a focus on navigation on the Mackenzie River, to presence and surveillance of Canada's internal Arctic waters using Canadian Army troops and units from the south. Again, given the distances involved and changing geography, NUNAKPUT is a challenging and interesting operation.

Key participants in NUNAKPUT are 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (1 CRPG) with whom many Riflemen have a long familiarity. My first encounter with 1 CRPG was in 1990, when WO Bill Paton, Sgt Doug Halcro, Lt Raziel Zisman and a handful of others deployed with 3 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment to Rankin Inlet, NWT (now Nunavut!).



Previously, 1 CRPG had sole responsibility for the conduct of NUNAKPUT. Given increased shipping traffic, JTF(N) has assumed responsibility to plan and execute the operation with not just 1 CRPG, but the rest of the Canadian Army supported by the RCN and RCAF.

Like all of Canada, we have been shut down by the Covid-19 pandemic. Thankfully, at time of writing and unlike the rest of the world, NWT has just one confirmed case and no deaths. Nevertheless, we anticipate that restrictions on travel and a reset of priorities across the Armed Forces will mean 1 CRPG will once again carry the burden of surveillance and presence during the 2020 shipping season. Hopefully, with improved coordination, 1 CRPG's effort will include other Canadian federal agencies like the Coast Guard to name just one northern partner.

Aside from work and duty, Yellowknife offers a fantastic outdoor lifestyle with no commuting whatsoever! While I believe I am just one of two Riflemen serving west of the Manitoba border (Major Wes Clarke is at 41 CBG HQ in Calgary), there is a historic tie in the local Yellowknife Legion and the Tom Eagle Community Centre.

I have yet to meet Sgt Eagle but have served with a Ranger sergeant who knows him. His QOR battledress is proudly displayed at the Yellowknife Legion, which is named after QOR Lt Vincent Massey, Canada's first native-born governor general. Maj (ret'd) Al Champion and I enjoyed a cold beer under the watchful eyes of Lt Massey, whose photo



hangs from the wall over an inscription by our former CO LCol McKendrick. So far neither Al nor I have figured out how these former officers came to be associated with Yellowknife. Hopefully, I get a chance to meet Sgt Eagle and he can explain.

During the summer there are direct flights from Ottawa to Yellowknife or Iqaluit, Nunavut, thereby avoiding Lester Pearson. Flights from Toronto to Yellowknife can typically be found for \$550 return when there is no Covid-19 with which to contend. For those still in uniform, there are plenty of opportunities to serve either on courses, taskings

ABOVE LEFT: JTF(N) HQ in Yellowknife, where it all happens. **ABOVE:** On the shores of Guys Bight, Baffin Island in August during Operation NANOOK-NUNAKPUT 19.

or through the Reserve Employment Opportunities website (<http://armyapp.forces.gc.ca/reo-oer/en/index.aspx>).

In summary, I invite all Riflemen past and present to seize any chance they can to check out our beautiful Arctic scenery in person. If anyone manages to get to Whitehorse or Dawson, please let me know what those towns are like! **TR**



QOR East Coaster



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Rifleman,

2020 is going to be a year to remember with the most memorable part being Covid-19 and the overall effects it has on all of us. Without a doubt, we have seen the world in turmoil. By the time you read this message we will be in the back half of the year. Everywhere we go there are social distancing rules posted and enforced, your friends are going around with masks, and you don't recognize any of them. Never before were we afraid to go outdoors, shake hands, hug neighbors, or kiss our own family. Now it is, "stay away," "don't touch me," and a lot of people — including me — are going up the wall.

I thought I should let you know how we are doing. Although things are getting bad, I am very happy to report that we are fine and there is no need to worry. However, please be careful because people are going crazy from being in lockdown! Actually, I've just been talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end, the iron calmed me down as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing, it will iron itself out. The Hoover was very unsympathetic ... told me to just "suck it up," but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the doorknob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to pull myself together. I don't intend to let Covid-19 get to me, get to me, get to me.

Covid-19 has become part of our everyday lingo and has affected everyone, everywhere around the world. We can't even have luncheons, gatherings, meetings, or celebrations. There are work-at-home-offices everywhere, and even when

this is over, these work-at-home-offices will likely continue. My flying days will be over when I go to the airport and they announce that today you are flying on a pilotless flight. I'm done. Time will tell.

We are now making a concerted effort to having *The Rifleman* by e-format and only time will tell whether this is the way to go. It will give each Branch an opportunity to put their own spin on things happening in their own region and it will give each of you the opportunity to give your input. Executive members are putting it all into this issue and it is up to each of you to contribute your articles, your stories, your memories, your input, and it goes without saying that "united we stand and divided we fall." With this issue some Branches are publishing the Active Member names with the hope of informing other members of just who is around the Association. We hope that by doing this we will give the opportunity to allow for a reconnection of former buddies that you probably have lost contact with over the years. We also hope that it will encourage you as a member to reach out to a buddy not on the list and encourage him to come on board with us. We are not getting any younger and members are what give us the desire to continue on as an Association. Your support in this area would be appreciated and if your dues are owed, they would be appreciated.

Fellow Rifleman, I hope that you have an enjoyable summer in your 6-foot bubble reading through your copy, and that in your spare, idle time, you reach out and contact a fellow Rifleman that you haven't spoken to for a while.

It has been a pleasure communicating with each of you. *Once a Queen's Own, Always a Queen's Own.*

Take care. Stay safe.

Wayne Thomas,
President, QOR-MN

32 CBG'S SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Sgt Craig Hood of the QOR for being named 32 CBG's Snr NCO for 2019. During his service, he deployed to Bosnia and Afghanistan with an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT). He has been instrumental in spearheading recruit training by teaching on countless courses and mentoring new leaders.



SGT CRAIG HOOD
The Queen's Own Rifles @queensownrifles · 19h
Congratulations to Sgt Craig Hood of the QOR for being named 32 CBG's Snr NCO for 2019. During his service he deployed to Bosnia and Afghanistan with the OMLT. He has been instrumental in spearheading recruit training by teaching on countless courses and mentoring new leaders.

Coming Soon to our Regiment

The 1860 Club

A new way to support all parts of our Regiment

Watch for an announcement in Fall 2020



PETER J. PETIPAS: HONOURARY LIFE MEMBER

MCpl (ret'd) Peter J. Petipas of Whitbourne, Newfoundland, at 89, still reflects on his military career as if it was yesterday. His first stint in the Canadian Armed Forces was

as a member of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. After a short stint back in civilian life, rejoined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada with part of his three-year stint and ended up in the Korean War for nearly two years.

Peter, like so many, speaks very little about the Korean War, often referred to as the "Forgotten War," with reflections on wondering how he did get through it. The Korean War, which began June 25, 1950 and continued through July 27, 1953, was the result of an attempted takeover of South Korea by the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea, supported by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. South Korea was supported by a United Nations force led by the U.S. and including Canada and other Commonwealth countries.

According to Veterans Affairs Canada more than 26,000 Canadians served in Korea and, of those, 516 lost their lives and 1,558 were wounded. Canada entered the war in February 1951, and during the next two years saw heavy action in conflicts such as Kayong, Hill 355, and Battle of the Hook, named for a crescent-shaped ridge of tactical importance to the Commonwealth because it dominated the approaches to two vital Imjin River crossings.

In a 2013 interview Major General (ret'd) Herb Pitts said without the help of the Canadians he had no doubt the Korean city of Seoul would have been occupied by the invaders. Pitts served in Korea as an infantry platoon commander and mortar platoon officer where he gained significant combat experience while supporting the Royal Canadian

Regiment. Pitts said, "Even after all these years the Korean people are grateful to Canada for its role in protecting their country. It's like the Dutch and their gratitude towards the soldiers who liberated Holland during the Second World War." The fact the Canadian government waited 60 years to declare "The Year of the Korean War Veteran" means there are few veterans left to celebrate. Korea was long dubbed the "Forgotten War" because it fell between the Second World War and Vietnam War and, in Canada at least, there was little acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by returning soldiers about those who were killed.

It is indeed an honour for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, MN-NL Association, to have such a distinguished veteran, Peter J. Petipas, as an Honourary Life Member.



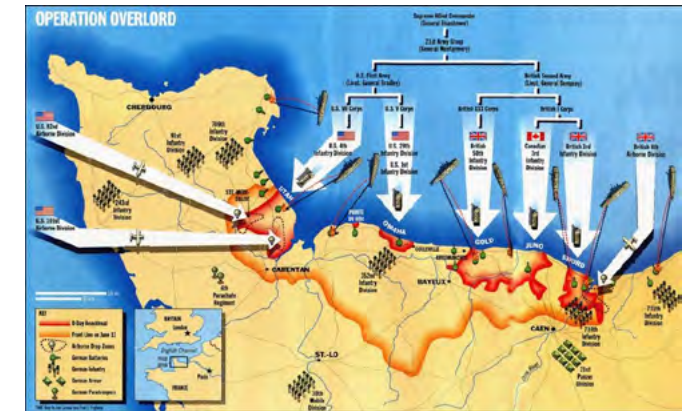
ALLIED LANDINGS IN NORMANDY (D-DAY)

Canada was a full partner in the success of the Allied landings in Normandy (D-Day). Of the nearly 150,000 Allied troops who landed or parachuted into the invasion area, 14,000 were Canadians. On June 6, 1944 they assaulted a beachfront code-named "Juno," while Canadian paratroopers landed just east of the assault beaches.

D-DAY QUICK FACTS

- Until the very last minute, the place of invasion — Normandy — was the most heavily guarded secret on the planet.
- Even the units conducting the initial assaults did not know the locations of their landings.
- Surprise was crucial since Germany had 55 divisions in France; the Allies could transport no more than 8 divisions on D-Day morning.
- It is estimated that nearly 2 million soldiers, sailors, and airmen were involved in Operation OVERLORD, including U.S., British, and Canadians who were scheduled to fight after men on the ground secured a Normandy bridgehead.
- 195,000 naval personnel manned 6,939 naval vessels (including 1,200 warships and 15 hospital ships).
- About 17 million maps supported the mission.
- Training maps used fake names.
- The United States shipped 7 million tons of supplies (that translates into 14 billion pounds of material).

Canadian troops landing at Bernières-sur-Mer on June 6, 1944. (NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA, PA-137013)



Map of the Normandy invasion with allied forces. Of the nearly 150,000 Allied troops who landed or parachuted into the invasion area, 14,000 were Canadians. Image: Originally published in Time Magazine.

- Of those supplies, ammunition accounted for 448,000 tons.
- Air-support operations — often overlooked in the success of D-Day — sustained significant losses: Between the 1st of April and the 5th of June 1944, the Allies flew 14,000 missions losing 12,000 airmen and 2,000 aircraft.
- 127 more planes were lost on D-Day.
- By the end of the Normandy campaign, 28,000 airmen were dead.
- Instead of two days, it took Germany's 2nd Waffen SS Division two weeks to reach the front. Allied air power, Eisenhower's spies and French Resistance contacts all contributed to that result.
- There are 9,386 graves in the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Each grave faces west, towards America.
- 307 of those graves contain the remains of "unknown" soldiers.
- 1,557 names are listed on The Walls of the Missing in the American War Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten for those who were never found.
- 4,868 British dead are buried in the Bayeux Cemetery.
- 1,837 British names are listed at Bayeux for those who were never found.
- There were 946 Canadian casualties in the Normandy campaign.
- 21,500 German dead are buried at La Cambe.

QUICK FACTS ON THE ARMISTICE & REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Armistice was an agreement signed by representatives of France, Great Britain, and Germany. It was an agreement to end fighting as a prelude to peace negotiations. The Treaty of Versailles signed six months later would act as the peace treaty between the nations. Although “armistice” is used as a term to describe any agreement to end fighting in wars, Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth, including Canada. It was originally called “Armistice Day” to commemorate the Armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. — on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The Armistice began on November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m. (Central European Time). The Armistice itself was agreed 6 hours earlier at 5 a.m., with the first term of it being that fighting would end at 11 a.m. The signing of the Armistice took place in Ferdinand Foch’s railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne, about 37 miles (60 kilometres) north of Paris. This location was chosen as it was remote and discreet. Ferdinand Foch, a French military commander, was one of the people who signed the Armistice agreement.

From 1921 to 1930, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. In 1931, Alan Neill, Member of Parliament for Comox-Alberni, introduced a bill to observe Armistice Day only on November 11. Passed by the House of Commons, the bill also changed the name to “Remem-



brance Day.” The first Remembrance Day was observed on November 11, 1931. Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a moment of silence to honour and remember the men and women who have served and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace. We remember the more than 2,300,000 Canadians who have served throughout our nation’s history and the more than 118,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1940, another armistice was signed in the same railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne. This time it was Germany forcing France to sign an agreement to end fighting against them in the Second World War; this was essentially a French surrender. To add to the deliberate humiliation further, Adolf Hitler sat in the same seat that Ferdinand Foch sat in back in 1918. The carriage was taken and exhibited in Germany but was destroyed in 1945.

The poppy is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Replica poppies are sold by the Royal Canadian Legion to provide assistance to veterans.

The Armistice was designed to end the fighting of the Great War, and the terms of it would make it impossible for Germany to restart the war — at least in the short term. They were ordered to give up 2,500 heavy guns, 2,500 field guns, 25,000 machine guns, 1,700 aeroplanes, and all submarines they possessed (they were originally asked to give up more submarines than they had!). They were

Armistice, November 1918. Senior German and Allied commanders and politicians sign the Armistice ending the war in a railway car near Compiègne, France, early on the morning of 11 November 1918. Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Allied supreme commander (centre), stands to accept the German surrender. In 1940, during the Second World War, Adolf Hitler demanded France's surrender in the same railway car. ("THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE" BY MAURICE PILLARD VERNEUIL, BEAVERBROOK COLLECTION OF WAR ART, CWM 19830483-001)



also asked to give up several warships and disarm all the ones that they were allowed to keep. If Germany broke any of the terms of the Armistice, such as not evacuating areas they were ordered to evacuate, not handing over weapons or prisoners of war in the timescales given or causing damage to any individual or their property, fighting would begin again with 48 hours’ notice.

Germany was ordered to provide information about the location of mines or traps they had placed and reveal what other things they had deliberately destroyed or caused damage to (such as polluting or poisoning springs or wells).

By signing the Armistice and the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was made to accept the blame for the First World War and would have to pay reparations for the damage caused; estimated to total about £22 billion (\$35 billion, €27 billion) in current money. It was only in 2010 that Germany paid off its war debt, with a final payment of £59 million (\$95 million, €71 million).

Whereas Germany viewed the terms of the Armistice and the Treaty of Versailles signed the following year as too harsh, the French saw it as too lenient.

Remembrance Day is a federal statutory holiday in Canada. It is also a statutory holiday in three territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut), and in six provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador). The national ceremony is held at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. The governor general of Canada presides

over the ceremony. It is also attended by the prime minister, government officials, representatives of veterans’ organizations, diplomatic representatives, dignitaries, veterans as well as the general public.

In advance of the ceremony, long columns of veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members, RCMP officers, and cadets march to the memorial led by a pipe band and a color guard. At the end, they march away to officially close the ceremony.

Some of the 54 Commonwealth member states, such as Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, observe the tradition of Remembrance Day on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Other nations observe a solemn day but at different dates. For example, ANZAC Day is observed in New Zealand on April 25. In South Africa, Poppy Day is marked on the Sunday that falls closest to November 11. Many nations that are not members of the Commonwealth also observe Remembrance Day on November 11, including France, Belgium, and Poland.

Armistice Day, Remembrance Day or Veterans Day is commemorated in many countries involved in the First World War on November 11 every year or on the Sunday nearest to it (or, as is becoming more common, on both days). Several countries remember the people lost during the First World War and other wars by holding a two-minute silence at 11 a.m. on that day. In the United Kingdom, Remembrance Day ceremonies have been televised every year since 1946, although the first live broadcast was in 1937.

The United States used to commemorate Armistice Day. However, in 1954 they changed the name to Veterans Day.

Front page of the Ottawa Citizen on November 11, 1918.



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Jacques (Jack) De Winter, a QORA MN member, tells us of his contribution to the cause:

Five years ago, for Remembrance Day, I made up 158 crosses with the names of the Afghanistan fallen on them, plus one each for WWI, WWII, Korean War, peacekeepers, and Vietnam veterans, for a total of 163 crosses. This was actually a labor of love, and I enjoyed the whole process.

Since I made these crosses five years ago, they needed some sprucing up. So at one of our “veterans coffee hour” (VCH), after last Remembrance Day at Branch 234 in Guelph, Ontario, I approached a regular at our VCH, a trustee at Guelph’s Catholic school board, and asked him if any of the high schools in Guelph might be interested in ‘refurbishing’ these crosses.

I received an almost instant reply from three folks, the school board director, the trustee who is a regular at our VCH, and the “shop teacher” from St. James Catholic High School in Guelph. They were all thrilled to be able to do something to give back to veterans, at no cost to the Branch.

I delivered them to the school in late 2018, and on January 18, 2019, they were all returned to our Branch with a fresh coat of paint, new labels with the rank, name, and date of KIA on them, and a better system to plant them in the ground on pre-Remembrance Day.

This was an event planned well ahead, complete with a cake, refreshments, and many one-on-ones with veterans and students, plus a tour of our Branch, all this during our veterans coffee hour. In attendance was the school board’s Director Tamara Nugent, St. James High School’s Vice Principal Sandra Cummings, Trustee Joe Tersigni, and shop teacher Frank Huarte. I’m certain that we have established a bond with these students that will not soon be forgotten.

The crosses bear the names of all the Afghanistan fallen, plus five others. These crosses are placed in front of our Legion hall, beside the sidewalk to the front door, and in front of the garden, which is also in front of our Branch. They are easily viewed from the roadway by the public, and make quite a statement, which is our intent.

Jacques (Jack) De Winter



Students from St. James Catholic High School in Guelph hold some of the 168 crosses they refurbished. Seated, from left to right: Frank Huarte, teacher; Jacques De Winter, who made the crosses; Roy Fagel, Branch President.

THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS

I am Canadian and my father served in the Korean War as a special forces gunny. He left six children at home and my mom because the army paid well. He survived the Canoe River train wreck and saved the lives of fellow would-be soldiers before even attending boot camp. He returned from his tour and went on to have five more children of which I am the youngest. He rarely spoke about his time overseas because I think that he preferred to forget than reminisce. I respected him for that, however now that I am an adult, and my father has passed away, I am interested to know more about his time overseas. I am hoping that there is some type of a portal that I can access to find my father, his regiment and any other information that I can. Can anyone assist me in this search?

Any information will be greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

NOTE: We owe it to all to ensure our past is protected for future generations to get first-hand knowledge of just what took place during the battles fought. If you see a request like the one above and if you can assist, please do so. Likewise, if you have a story to tell, pass it on and share your own first-hand experiences with us.



LANIER W. PHILLIPS

Lanier Phillips, a black U.S. Navy serviceman who has credited his 1942 rescue off Newfoundland as transforming his life and igniting a passion for civil rights, died in March 2012 at the age of 88. Phillips passed away at a military retirement home in Gulfport, Mississippi in March 2012.

Phillips was just 18 when the U.S. Navy warships *Pollux* and *Truxtun* went aground at a cove on Newfoundland’s Burin Peninsula, between the towns of St. Lawrence and Lawn.

“They changed my way of thinking and it erased all of the hatred within me,” Phillips told CBC News, when he came to Newfoundland to take part in a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the *Pollux*–*Truxtun* disaster in February 2012.

“Because of that tragedy, I joined up with Dr. [Martin Luther] King. I just had to join up with Dr. King and that’s because of the change they did for me in St. Lawrence.” To view a video on Lanier Phillips, go to https://youtu.be/V_fveYf8AWQ. You can also listen to his audio recordings and/or read about him at <https://www.mun.ca/mha/polluxtruxtun/lanier-phillips/>.

VIOLA DESMOND: COURAGE AND DIGNITY

Viola Desmond was a successful black businesswoman who was jailed, convicted and fined for defiantly refusing to leave a whites-only area of a movie theatre in 1946. Her court case was an inspiration for the pursuit of **racial equality across Canada**. Viola’s story is part of the permanent collection at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Ms. Desmond has often been compared to Rosa Parks, the American civil rights heroine who refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955.

To view a video on Viola Desmond, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie0xWYRSX7Y>.

Learn more at https://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/vertical10/?page_moved=2.



“FEU DE JOIE”

During earlier times in France, huge bonfires were lit to celebrate joyous occasions. These were called “fire of joy” or, in French, *feu de joie*. After gunpowder was introduced, random volleys were fired from cannons or muskets during these celebrations. These proceedings have been modified over the years into the present ceremonial synchronized ripple of fire from rifles resting on the right shoulder pointing into the air, with each soldier firing in succession along the ranks to make a continuous sound.

For circa 1957–1964 images, view **Jack Glenn’s Collection** online at <https://www.photos.qor-east.com/JackGlenn%27sCollectionI.htm>.

PHOTO COLLECTION – NEW ADDITIONS

If you haven’t visited our collection of photos lately, you’ll be pleased to know we have **Herb Pitt’s celebration of Life**, we also have **Jack Glenn’s Collection** and **John Metcalfe** added his collection.

You can pick and choose from the site’s index <https://www.photos.qor-east.com/>. You can also review past copies of the **East Coaster**. You can also get there by clicking the **Photo Gallery**.

Our site is as secure as your banking site. We have an “S” added to the http due to the fact we have a security certificate installed. If you see no “S” the site is considered unsafe. So, you can be sure our site is safe and secure. Be careful on other sites that don’t have https.

MN-NL ACTIVE MEMBERS — OUR ASSOCIATION'S STRENGTH

An Association is only as strong as its membership, and although we are not afforded the benefit of having social gatherings once or twice a year, we do have the opportunity to communicate with one another via the internet regularly.

We are attempting to do just that with this issue of the *e-Rifleman* and each Branch contributing varying pieces of information. Outside of that, we would like to see inter-branch exchange of newsletters or interesting articles go out to all on a regular basis.

One of the things that we are doing in this publication, against some people's views, is to publish a list of our active members, by name only, with the view that some Rifleman out there would want to contact one of our Rifleman and we would be

Ross Allen	Leonard Hart
Graham Badcock	Ronald Harvey
Donald Baker	Kevin Hollahan
George F. Chaisson	Hugh Irwin
Eddie Chase	Arthur E. Jackman
Jacque DeWinter	Graham Jones
Raymond Freake	Gerald Kelly
Joe Hanlon	John T. Lacasse

the in-between contact connection. If the other Branches would follow this same format it would afford all of us the benefit of possibly finding a lost contact.

Equally, you may know someone that is not on either Branch list and could possibly persuade them to get on board and join the Association. We do not feel that this is any breach of information any more than it is to publish the names of Riflemen that are in the Last Post section and this could again be communicated to all very easily.

Hopefully you will give it a try and keep the Regimental spirit alive and stronger in all areas.

For information, contact **Wayne Thomas**.

There is no rank in the Association and whether you're retired or released, *Once a Queen's Own, Always a Queen's Own*.

Kenneth Marshall	Irving M. Sulzle
Tom Martin	Wayne Thomas
John Metcalfe	Bush Thornhill
Kenneth R. Moore	Ben Turpin
Ed Perry	Walter Wells
Wayne Reid	Reginald Woodland
John Shapter	Joe Yvonne
Jim Sheppard	

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR LOST OR DESERVING MEDALS?

Veterans who retired or were honourably discharged are encouraged to wear their medals on formal civilian clothes for special events. <https://www.gg.ca/sites/default/files/wearingguide.pdf>

Often veterans have not bothered to seek out their rightful medals that they so admirably earned during their service to Canada.

Over the years I have assisted a number of veterans in applying for service medals that have not been presented to them for one reason or another.

Some of the stories I heard have inspired me to seek out veterans that need assistance and to work with them in following through the system.

If you feel there are medals or commendations which were not presented to you, or that you have lost, had stolen or were destroyed, please contact

me and I will do the follow up for you.

My enjoyment from this project is to see that you get everything you are entitled to with the final say coming through the Directorate of Honors & Recognition (DH & R).

It would be a pleasure to assist you and I look forward to hearing from you. Contact Wayne Thomas (waynethomas@qor-east.com).

FREE EMAIL WITH QOR-EAST

In place of Hotmail, Gmail and such. This is exclusive to QOR registered members only. As a member you are entitled to a free email account. All you need do is insert the name you wish to use in front of @qor-east.com. E-mail the webmaster Ben Turpin (ben@qor-east.com) and include the name you wish to use in front of _____@qor-east.com. **TR**

QOR Association Salutes Kathleen & Ben Turpin

**THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA,
MN-NL BRANCH
THANKS KATHLEEN & BEN.
OUR ASSOCIATION SALUTES
YOU WITH PRIDE.**

If there are two people who eat, drink and sleep The Queen's Own Rifles Association, they are Ben & Kathleen Turpin.

When there is a job to be done, it gets done, with pride and perfection, and our association is the benefactor.

On behalf of all our members, we sincerely appreciate your time and effort. Thanks.

And others think so too!

Ben & Kathleen,

Without a doubt you are one of a kind. When Brenda & I were in Newfoundland in 2008 you welcomed us with open arms and the reception we received was second to none!! Your contribution to the MN-NL Association along with the whole QOR Association has been exceptional. You are true friends and your excellent contribution hasn't gone unnoticed. You would assist in QOR matters whenever asked too. Thanks to Ben & Kathleen for your never-ending support. Great Friends!!!

**Brian Budden,
President, Toronto Branch, QORA**

TOP RIGHT: If there are two people who eat, drink and sleep The Queen's Own Rifles Association, they are Ben & Kathleen Turpin. **RIGHT:** Kathleen and Ben Turpin doing work for the Branch.





TOP: "The Three Amigos." From left to right: John Metcalfe – Membership; Wayne Thomas – President; Ben Turpin – Vice President, Webmaster, Treasurer and all other assignments.

MIDDLE: Ben, Amanda and Kathleen.

BOTTOM: Ben at the Gander Heritage Memorial Park.

Ben Turpin,

For years now, the National Association has enjoyed an accurate and up-to-date membership list. This has helped National and the four Branches communicate more effectively with their members. This would not have happened without the support and guidance of Ben Turpin.

Ben took the idea of having a centrally controlled membership list and made it happen. Each branch maintains its own Branch list on a central platform which Ben then put on iCloud. Ben took the time to instruct and educate all involved on how to access iCloud and to update and maintain the spreadsheets. This was no small task when dealing with computer illiterates like myself.

Accurate membership lists, including email addresses, will be even more important in the future. Electronic communication, starting with the e-Rifleman later this year, will become more frequent. This would not have been possible without Ben Turpin taking the time to lay the foundation.

Thanks, Ben, for all your help and support. It is very much appreciated and will be even more so in the future.

**Bob Dunk,
Immediate Past President,
National QOR Association**

Ben & Kathleen,

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to personally say a great big "Thank You" to both of you. With your busy schedule and rigorous to do list, it never interferes in giving immediate attention to any and all things pertaining to The Queen's Own.

Thanks for your time and commitment to doing the things that you do. Our Association, at the local and national levels, are the benefactors of your driving force for perfection.



TOP: Ben Turpin at the mic during an event in Gander.

SECOND FROM TOP: Ben and Kathleen are seated at the far end of the head table.

THIRD: General (ret'd) Rick Hillier with Branch members.

BOTTOM: Members of the QOR Association marching.

On behalf of all Riflemen, Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Tom Martin,
President, Vancouver Island Branch, QORA**

Ben & Kathleen,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Words alone cannot express the sincere gratitude that I and our membership owe to the both of you. Working with you for the benefit of our Association is a pleasure.

I know full well you take great pride in the professional way you do and present things and more often than not with uncertainty as to whether the effort is all worth it in the end.

Ben your philosophy of "it matters not who gets the credit for the things that have to be done as long as the things that have to be done get done," hold true to the end and best describes the true Ben Turpin.

Forever going above and beyond for the long-term benefit of the QOR Association and its members. Thanks again to both you and Kathleen.

**Wayne Thomas,
President, MN-NL QORA**

Ben Turpin,

It is without any doubt, I can say on behalf of the QOR Calgary Branch, that Ben is truly one of a kind.

He has contributed many hours to the QOR MN-NL Branch as well as to the National Association of the QOR.

Ben's many suggestions to me / us to make things easier for the cause and all of us, is very much appreciated.

Thank you Ben for being that person and also Thank You to your beautiful wife Kathleen.

On behalf of the Calgary Branch!

Take care

**Louise Hodder,
Secretary, QOR Calgary Branch**



This page features a collection of photos, many of which were taken during the unveiling of new QOR memorials in 2015. The matching memorials marked the Regiment's 75th anniversary of being garrisoned in Newfoundland, at Botwood and Gander, in 1940. Riflemen wearing uniforms from the QOR's past were at the unveiling, along with veterans and members of the QOR Association's Newfoundland & Maritimes Branch. **TR**



*by WO (ret'd) Bob Dunk, CD
Immediate Past President*

For many years, the Association has organized group tours of Northwest Europe, visiting Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries and battlefields important to The Queen's Own Rifles from both the First and Second World Wars.

This year, we changed things up and went to Italy to visit some of the battlefields and cemeteries to commemorate the actions of the First Canadian Division. Many historical sites were also visited, which made for a splendid two-week tour.

We flew to Venice for a short stay then on to Florence, which included a side trip to Pisa. We headed back to the Adriatic coast on our way to Ortona and stopped at Coriano Ridge, Gradara and Montecchio Commonwealth War Cemeteries. Small services were held at each cemetery as some of our travellers had family and friends buried there.

We stayed just south of Ortona in Lanciano; this gave us a few days to retrace the steps of the First Canadian Division, which culminated in a guided tour of Ortona and a visit to the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery. One of the highlights of our stay in Lanciano was a magnificent lunch served in a restaurant/cave in the medieval village of Pretoro where our group picture was taken.

From Ortona, we travelled across Italy to Naples with stops at Pontecorvo, Liri Valley, Melfa River and the Monte Cassino cemetery.



Our first day in Naples included a tour of the Amalfi coast by bus and boat followed by a visit to Pompeii. We then spent the next day leisurely on the Island of Capri.

From Naples we travelled north to Rome with a stop to tour the Anzio beachhead and the Anzio Commonwealth War Cemetery. Rome included visits to the Vatican, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Venezia and, of course, the Colosseum. An interesting stop was the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Rome, which is tucked along the old Roman wall near the Pyramid of Cestius.

And the trip would not have been complete without a bomb scare as we were checking into Leonardo da Vinci International Airport for our flight home.

Our next Association tour is scheduled for late September 2021. Stops will include Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Munich (just in time for Oktoberfest), Zurich and more. Details will be made available in the fall of 2020.

Back to business, a new slate of officers was elected at the National AGM in Toronto in November. The new executive is as follows:

President: Ron Craig
Immediate Past President: Bob Dunk

ABOVE: Group picture taken in Pretoro, Italy.

First Vice President: Dave Lavery
Second Vice President: Tom Martin
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Garry Muir
Directors:

- Wayne Thomas (Newfoundland & Maritimes)
- Brian Budden (Toronto)
- Gil Chenier (Calgary)
- Tom Martin (Vancouver Island)

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support and encouragement I have received in the years I spent as Association President. It was very much appreciated. **TR**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: A 400-year-old olive tree near a German HQ, damaged by shrapnel and nursed back to health. Moro River where the 48th crossed. The bridge in the distance is where the Hasty P's crossed the Moro River. Bob Dunk, Dave Lavery & Brian Budden at Fontana del Pantheon. Monte Cassino Commonwealth War Cemetery.



QOR Association's Toronto Branch Report

by CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden, President

Greetings and welcome to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association (Toronto Branch) that covers all the Ontario & Quebec area.

We held the Toronto Association Annual Meeting this past April. This is where I was nominated and elected President for the third term. If you remember I was President back in 1995 till 1999. After that I still continued to serve on the Executive over the years. I would like to thank my predecessor Ron Craig for his dedication and service as President over the last three years. He was nominated and is currently the new National President.

I would also like to thank our past National President Bob Dunk for all his leadership and dedication to the Association over the years.

The strength of the Association is the result of a dedicated Board of Management and Directors. This year, as in previous years, the majority of the Directors and Executive members stayed on in their positions and accepted the nomination. I want to thank the Directors and Executive members who have supported me this year in office with their hard work and dedication.

LIST OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President: Brian Budden
First Vice President: Harry Rollo
Second Vice President: Dave Lavery
Secretary: June Parris



Treasurer: Brenda Butt
Membership: Ann Ward
Health & Welfare: Brian Budden/Harry Rollo
Directors:

- Neil Arsenault
- Peter Berkhout
- Bob Dunk
- Clay Downs
- Andy MacNaughton
- Norm McCracken
- Mike Holland
- James Atcheson
- Rob Chan
- Josie Mulvihill
- Jerry Senetchko
- Earl Gardner
- Tim Richardson
- Linda DiFelice – Band
- MCpl Josh Chavarie – Junior Ranks

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

As in previous years, we participated in a number of activities and events, including:

- D-Day ceremonies at Moss Park Armoury & Toronto City Hall
- 14th Annual Golf Tournament

ABOVE: Jerry Senetchko and City of Toronto Mayor John Tory with a D-Day landing print.



LEFT: Jerry Senetchko with D-Day Landing Print and the D-Day proclamation from the City of Toronto.

BELOW: Westlake Brothers Souvenir – QORA (Toronto Branch) Honorary Members.

- Korean Veterans Association Memorial in Brampton
- Westlake Brothers Souvenir visit to Toronto
- 98th Warriors Day Parade at CNE (Canadian National Exhibition)
- March to the Cross of Sacrifice at St. Paul's Church for the annual QOR Remembrance Church Parade
- Remembrance Day ceremony at St. Paul's Church
- QOR Soldiers Christmas Dinner
- Quarterly pub nights
- Stand down BBQ with Regiment at MPA
- Stand to pizza with Regiment at MPA
- QOR regimental exercises — supplying coffee, drinks and donuts for troops
- Other events of interest that support and benefit the Association and Regiment.

every member of the Junior Ranks join the Toronto Association. You will have already received e-mails from the Association informing you of Association events, and you will continue to receive updates about Association events and activities.

With the assistance of Executive member Peter Berkhout there is a new QORA (Toronto Branch) website www.qoroa.ca and we have a [Facebook page](#) as well.

This year will mark the first time that *The Rifleman* journal will be electronic.

To access our social media, go to www.facebook.com/qortorontoassociation

Another initiative that the Association is assisting the Regiment with is the recruiting drive. You may have family or friends that are seeking who have what it takes.

Go to www.queensownrifles.com

14TH ANNUAL QOR ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, July 12, 2019 we held our annual golf tournament at the Cardinal Golf Course, in Newmarket, Ontario, just north of Toronto. This is a superb 18-hole golf course, and it was the first time we held our tournament at this course!



RIGHT: QOR Association march in the 2019 Warriors Day Parade, Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

BELOW: Brian Budden, Jerry Senetchko and Rob Chan receiving The Goodyear Remembrance Trophy.

We had 130 golfers show up; it was a great event as this year we had sponsorships for the holes. It was one of the most successful tournaments of all times.

We thank all the companies that sponsored the holes.

A special thank you goes to Association member Mark Ross on the donation of the 55" Samsung TV as one of the main prizes.

Commanding Officer LCol Frank Lamie along with RSM CWO Donovan O'Halloran presented the audience with a breakdown of the Regimental taskings, recruitment and major events for the upcoming year.

As usual, David Lavery did a fantastic job of organizing the golf tournament and securing prizes. Members of the Association worked hard on various events and ensured the golf tournament was one of the greatest so far. And we thank all the golfers who show up each year to support the Toronto Association.

98TH ANNUAL WARRIORS DAY PARADE

At this year's parade the QOR Association placed second in The Goodyear Remembrance Trophy (marching formation with 16 or more). Remember we were first in military association marching units.



I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Executive member Jerry Senetchko for his hard work in putting the marching unit together. Well done to those that participated on the marching unit. Number one next year.

VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND REGIMENT

In addition, throughout the year we look after our Veterans and members of the Association and Regiment. For example, when a QOR Veteran or member of the Association or Regiment is hospitalized or needs assistance, we make every effort to help out and visit them in the hospital or long-term care facility or home.

Health & Welfare: We visit and send appropriate items such as flowers (planter) or fruit basket and a get well card to members; this also goes the same for members that pass away we send flowers (planter) or donation and sympathy card.

Members of the Regiment that serve overseas or taskings: We assist and send over packages or have a gift card when returning home from Our Rifleman Fund.

Support to QOR Regimental Band & 2881 QOR Army Cadets: Assist and support the QOR Regimental Band at concerts/functions. This also goes for our 2881 QOR Army Cadets at their Annual Review and fundraiser events.

OTHER NEWS

We also have some great news to share with you. The efforts of members of our Executive who have reached out to the Junior Ranks Mess have been very successful as the goal was to get every member of the Regiment and former members to join the Association. We started by asking members of the Junior Ranks to become directors in the Association. I am pleased to report that because of the work of Association Members and guidance from these new Directors, we are on the path to have



LEFT: Dave Lavery presenting the Colonel Paul & Beverly Hughes Award for Excellence to Brian Budden.

BELOW: Andy MacNaughton receiving the QORA Rifleman of the Year Award on behalf of James Atcheson.

by renewing your membership. We also welcome back any members who want to volunteer in some capacity.

It is our goal to make sure our Association remains one of the most active military associations in Canada. By renewing your membership, you help us carry out our role in the Regimental Family. If you have let your membership lapse, please use this opportunity to rejoin the QOR Toronto Association, and become part of the QOR Regimental Family — continuing a 104-year tradition of service to The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada Association.

Greetings to Members of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada Association (Toronto Branch). I want to provide some information about our Association membership.

Your membership for 2020 will be renewed when we receive \$25.00, which is due on January 31, 2020. We appreciate your support, and by renewing your membership, you help us carry out our role in the Regimental Family.

If you are receiving this newsletter, it means you are a member and have renewed your membership or you have let your membership lapse.

Why not take this opportunity to renew!!

Our Membership Chairperson is Ann Ward — qora.membership@gmail.com



PRESENTATIONS OF THE RIFLEMAN OF THE YEAR AND PAUL AND BEVERLY HUGHES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

At this year’s Soldiers Christmas Dinner, on December 4, 2019 we presented two important awards.

Rifleman of the Year is presented to an Association member who has shown that he or she has gone above and beyond in service to the Association and support of the Regiment and Regimental Family.

This year’s recipient was James Atcheson, Toronto Association Executive Member. James has displayed outstanding commitment and dedication to the Association and Regimental Family, and is a most worthy recipient of Rifleman of the Year!

The recipient of this year’s Colonel Paul and Beverly Hughes Award for Excellence was Brian Budden. He was committed to excellence as President of our Toronto Branch. His support of the Association and promotion of the Association within the Regimental Family has been outstanding. This award recognizes his accomplishments and his commitment to excellence that continues to the history of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada. He was very instrumental in the success of the Toronto Branch.

MEMBERSHIP

In recent years, our membership has decreased. In order to continue to carry out the important work we do in support of our Veterans and current serving members of the QOR, we need your support

RIGHT: Brian Budden presenting Museum Curator John Stephens with a plaque from L’Association Fort de La Crèche, Wimereux, France.



Please, take the time to fill out the membership form and send us your dues for 2020 to help us maintain our important role in the Regimental Family.

To pay by cheque or money order:

The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada Association
(Toronto Branch)
1235 Trafalgar Road
P.O. Box 84024
Oakville, Ontario.
L6H 3J0

To pay by e-mail: You can do an e-transfer. The address is qora-tor-treasurer@rogers.com and password would be *rifles*.

Again, thank you for renewing your membership. It is our goal to make sure our Association remains one of the most active military associations in Canada.

By sending your dues, you are part of a 104-year tradition of service to The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada Association.

Also, if you know of a former member or anyone that would be interested in becoming a member, please don’t hesitate and contact us.

And, if you have let your membership lapse, please use this opportunity to rejoin the QOR Toronto Association, and become part of the QOR Regimental Family!

Need another reason to belong to one of the most active military associations in Canada?

Remember, **“Once in The Queen’s Own, always in The Queen’s Own.”** By renewing or re-joining the QOR Association, you are a part of this extraordinary record of service. Over 100 Years of Service since 1916. This year marks the **160th anniversary** of this fine Regiment.

In closing, if you happen to meet up with a former member of the Regiment tell them about the QOR Association and bring back the ties they had when they served.

Remember, **“ONCE IN THE QUEEN’S OWN ALWAYS IN THE QUEEN’S OWN.”**

In Pace Paratus — In Peace Prepared

HOW TO CONTACT OR JOIN US

If you’d like to contact the Toronto Branch, send an email to President **Brian Budden** at brianbudden@rogers.com or email the **QOR Association (Toronto Branch)** at qorassociationtoronto@gmail.com. **TR**

ONTARIO ACTIVE MEMBERS LIST

Aaron, Bernard	Barnard, Willian	Buchan, Brian J	Chambers, John
Anglin, John	Bandura, Nicholas	Budden, Brian	Champion, C Allan
Arsenault, Neil	Berkhout, Peter	Buligan, Serge R	Chan, Robert
Ashdown, Clifford	Berkhout, Lammy	Burton, Gregory	Chang, Martin
Atcheson, James	Bleeker, Francis	Butt, Brenda	Charity, Richard
August, James	Blom, Larry	Campbell, Robert	Chisholm, Michael
Bakshi, Tazin	Boone, Tyler	Celerio, Julian	Clarkson, Dave

Cosolo, Carlo
 Crozier, Douglas
 Dalziel, Don
 Diamond, Devon
 Diebel, Larry
 DiFelice, Linda
 Donald, John C
 Donaldson, James
 Downes, Clay
 Dunk, Robert J
 Duval, Marcel
 Feltis, Victor
 Ferguson, Scott
 Fisher, Desiree
 Fletcher, Murray
 Fotheringham, John
 Foulds, Tom
 Galea, George
 Gardner, Earl S.
 Genua, Mario
 Goldring, Blake
 Gomes, Giuseppe
 Grieve, Rob
 Gross, Ronald
 Grout, H.E.S.
 Hadley, Linda
 Haire, Fred
 Hannan, Timothy
 Harewood, Justin
 Harris, Don
 Harrison, Lee
 Hartery, Aiden
 Hermant, Adam
 Heyes, T. Christopher
 High, Joshua
 Hill, Ronald
 Hinds, Christopher
 Hinds, Norman
 Holland, Michael
 Howie, John B
 Hughes, Edward
 Hurst, Chase
 Jauernig, Michael
 Jewell, Ron
 Jiang, Brian

Kaplun, Kirill
 Karaakas, Arwa
 Karapostolakis, George
 Karogerakis, Alex
 Kelly, Shaun C.
 Kim, Inasio
 Kindersley, Rupert
 Kirsh, Andrew
 Kiss, Allan
 Kubik, Terri
 Kurelo, Rick
 Kurish, Michael
 Kusi-Appiah, Mark
 Lamb, Bill
 Lau, Steven
 Lavery, Leeann
 Leader, Darnel
 Leduc, Bruce
 Lee, Sean
 Leibel, Samuel
 Lepan, Nicholas
 Leung, Anderson
 Llewellyn-Thomas, Roland
 Loggia, Joe
 Lutz, James
 Luu, Jonathan
 MacKenzie, MGen Lewis
 Macnaughton, Andrew
 Magee, Jennifer
 Markell, Eugene
 Marsala, Joseph
 Marsaw, Thorold
 Marsh, David
 Martin, Donald
 McClements, Clayton
 McCabe, Harry
 McCracken, Bob
 McCracken, Norm
 McEachern, Bruce
 Miazga-Grzybek, Jeremy
 Midgley, Thomas
 Muir, William
 Mikula, Monica A
 Motala, Mohammed
 Mulvihill, Josie

Mulvihill, Ed
 Munnings, JP
 Near, Michael
 Norman, Glenn
 Nortos, Pedro
 Ogle, Ernest
 Owen, David
 Parris, Cecil
 Parris, June
 Parson, Charles
 Peers, Donald
 Pelz, Curtis J.
 Pember, Sandra
 Perera, Keith
 Persaud, Seerat
 Power, John
 Pryer, Donald
 Reed, Alan
 Reid, Fergus S.
 Richardson, Tim
 Robinson, Justin
 Rollo, Harry
 Rooney, Ivor
 Ross, Mark
 Roy, Alan
 Roy, Phillip
 Runowski, Glen
 Ruzin, Svetlana
 Schneider, Eric
 Schoenig, Ralph
 Schultz, Anthony
 Scotland, Alexander
 Scott, Helen

Senetchko, Jerry
 Sharpe, John
 Shen, William Qin
 Shuter, Robert J
 Simudson, Peter
 Singh, Randy
 Steinhauser, A.
 Stephens, John
 Strethem, Jonathan
 Styles, Garry R.
 Sweeney, Gloria
 Szepes, Peter
 Tachauer, Phil
 Tanaka, Thomas
 Tang, Robert
 Taylor, Nathaniel
 Taylor, Neal
 Thiers-Gomez, Chistopher
 Thommee, Piotr
 Thomson, Garry
 Thorn, Justin
 Trachuk, James
 Tremblay, Paul
 Tuju, Max
 Vant Erve, William
 Vulkov, Nikolai
 Wagman, Joel
 Wakefield, Richard
 Wanke, Spencer D.
 Ward, Ann
 Waters, Ryan
 Zhou, Altman



The Calgary Branch of the QOR Association welcomed a new Executive for 2020:

- Gilles Pharand, Treasurer
- Donna Piche, Vice-President
- Joan Daoust, Planning Committee
- Arlene Albrecht, Planning Committee
- Louise Hodder, Secretary
- Gil Chenier, President
- Lynda Peterson, Scribe (absent)

The Branch held its Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2019 at the Carriage House in Calgary.

We had a food drive as well as cash donations for the Veterans Association Food Bank of Calgary. We invited Marie Blackburn, founder of the food bank, along with her assistant, Mike Nelson, to our luncheon!

IN MEMORIAM: Gene Tiefenbach.

TOP: A photograph of the Calgary Branch's new Executive. Absent from the photo was Lynda Peterson.

RIGHT: Marie Blackburn, founder of the Veterans Association Food Bank of Calgary, receives a cheque from Gil Chenier, President of the Calgary QORA.



This page features a collection of photos that were taken during the Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2019. The event took place at the Carriage House in Calgary and was well attended by members of the Calgary Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles Association. **TR**



CALGARY BRANCH ACTIVE MEMBERS LIST

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aucoin Lucy Mrs | Eckenswiler Pat & Jeannine | Peterson Lynda Mrs |
| Albrecht Arlene Mrs | Ethell Don & Linda | Pharand Gilles |
| Armstrong Jack | Forrestall Edmond & Patricia | Pharand Marilyn |
| Ashton Barry & Carol | Fraser Barry & Elizabeth | Piche Donna Mrs |
| Barker Ernie | Glenn Jack & Pat | Pickering Elwood & Lisa |
| Batram Arnie & Peggy | Histead Ross | Pitcher Max & Helen |
| Bedford Doug | Hodder Louise | Point Lou & Sharon |
| Bowes Jerry | Hughes Paul & Bev | Polowick Al & Valerie |
| Brown Winston | Hurst Gary & Norma | Purfield Eric |
| Carrigan George & Terry | Jackson Gary & Donna | Rowe Frank & Deena |
| Carsted George & Helen | Jackman Ed & Susan | Sawatske John & Audrey |
| Cassidy Terry & Judy | Kolbe Pete | Shock Robert & Connie |
| Catellier John | Kozlik Stefan | Smith Deanna Mrs |
| Chenier Gil | Kelloway Chester | Szabo Lois Mrs |
| Collins Joe | Kumick Doug & Marlaina | Titus Bob & Shirley |
| Dancy John & Mary | Long (Major) Shirley (Dan Long) | Turner Bill |
| Daoust Joan Mrs | MacCarl Tom & Mary | Viau John & Georgina |
| Demeules Ray & Dale | Mascaro Marion Mrs | Walker Mac & Donna |
| Drummond Harry | Mesher Kitch & Lisa | Walker Norm & Kathy |
| Elsdon William | Moynahan Ken & Erica | Weinberger Frank & Sheryn |



QUEENS OWN RIFLES VICTORIA

the
West-Coaster

**THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF
CANADA VANCOUVER ISLAND
BRANCH
SERVING VANCOUVER ISLAND -
LOWER MAINLAND – INTERIOR BC.
AND POINTS BEYOND**



PRESIDENTS REPORT:

By now you are all aware of the cancellation of the 160th birthday celebrations. With the coronavirus epidemic still front and center, it is very unlikely that we will be rescheduling this event. We can only hope that all members follow the instructions given and you all take care, stay safe, stay home and wash your hands.

The same thing holds true for our monthly luncheon meetings and, until the all clear whistle is blown, this cancellation will apply.

I would also like to point out the importance of communicating with each other and bringing forward any and everything that might be of concern or interest to fellow Riflemen. You are encouraged to pass on things of interest to an Executive member who, in turn, will ensure it gets in the pipeline.

VP Joe [no not Biden] Rozon and his 2IC Sandy are doing an excellent job with the membership and the payment of dues as well as keeping your Executive up to date on the financial well-being of

our Association. My suggestion to those that have not paid their dues for this year, you should contact Sandy before she contacts you.

We also have Ron Cullen on board as 2nd VP. He will begin to take an active part on the Executive, and this will become evident as we move forward. We are hoping it will be in the field of seeking out Riflemen that are not presently members of the Association.

Likewise, if you know of any ex Riflemen that are not part of the Association, you should pass their name on to the Executive so that we are able to contact them. We have to encourage new members to come on board with us.

Secretary Janice Mercer (qorbsecretary@gmail.com) continues to inform members of items of importance and passes on to the available ad-

ABOVE: A photo of the Vancouver Island Executive (from left to right): Dale Ratzlaff, Wayne Thomas, Bill Brayshaw, Janice Marshall, Tom Martin, Sandy Rozon, Joe Rozon.

dresses we have recorded. It is important that any changes you make to your information on file, that you notify her to adjust the records. Your cooperation in this area would be greatly appreciated.

There has not been a lot of activity in the area of the Kit Shop or the Museum and we intend to work towards addressing this when things get back to normal, if there is such a thing.

Mike continues to look at upgrades to our web page and to bring about improvements that we trust membership will enjoy. You are invited to visit the page and, if you have suggestions or ideas that you feel will benefit the Association, please pass them on for consideration.

We also intend to pass along items of interest and with everyone staying at home now, why not get that box of military memorabilia of old pictures or whatever stories or news articles you have and pass them on so we can pass them on.

Your Directors – Hryhoryshen, Ratzlaff, Brayshaw, Thomas — the behind the scenes crew, along with Bisson in the Kit Shop and Cromwell & Scafton in the Museum.

Thanking you for your continued support.
Take care, Stay Safe & Stay home.

IPP Tom Martin, President

EXECUTIVE

President: Tom Martin

VP: Joe Rozon

2nd VP: Ron Cullen

Secretary: Janice Mercer

Treasurer/Membership: Sandy Rozon

Directors:

- Gord Hryhoryshen
- Dale Ratzlaff
- Wayne Thomas

Kit Shop: Ken Bisson

Museum: Rene Cromwell & Bob Scafton

Nanaimo Rep: Bill Brayshaw

QOR 159TH BIRTHDAY DINNER & DANCE

On the evening of Saturday, April 27, 2019, 101 members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada As-

BELOW: Photos taken during the QOR's 159th birthday dinner and dance, which took place on April 27, 2019 in Langford. Cutting of the birthday cake was done by Hazel Widenmaier and Tom Martin.





THIS PAGE: Photos taken during the QOR's 159th birthday dinner and dance. When not dancing, partygoers took some fun pictures with the different costume props provided.

sociation Vancouver Island Branch along with their wives met at the Royal Canadian Legion #91 Prince Edward Branch to celebrate the 159th birthday of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails and reminiscing with friends and comrades, lots of laughter and many stories were told. A Welcome to all by President Tom Martin was followed by words of remembrance by Vice President Joe Rozon, and grace by Shannon Hryhoryshen. All were then invited to go to the buffet dinner as their table numbers were called.

A delicious meal, catered by the Langford Legion, consisted of roast beef, chicken, salads, potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetable, buns, butter, tea and coffee. Dessert was birthday cake.

Festivities included a 50/50 draw, Kit Shop, archived book sale from the General Herb Pitts Collection. Many fun pictures were taken different costume choices, of funny hats, glasses, boas and more.

Many danced to the music supplied by the versatile DJ service Touch of Class. All present appeared to enjoy themselves and what a wonderful way to celebrate the 159th anniversary of the Regiment.

OKTOBERFEST DINNER

A good time was had by all when the Vancouver Island Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association held its yearly Oktoberfest celebration at Legion Branch #91 in Langford on Saturday evening November 8, 2019. Cocktails were from 5:30 p.m. and dinner was served at 6:00 p.m.

President Tom Martin and VP Joe Rozon welcomed all members and guests.

In all, 96 members, spouses, and friends attended. All seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The event was catered by the Legion volunteers who prepared a marvellous meal of bratwurst, wiener schnitzel, red cabbage sauerkraut, potatoes



and gravy, salads, buns and butter. Dessert was Apple Strudel, tea and coffee.

Dinner was followed by door prize draws, a 50/50 draw and dancing to the great music from the 60s and 70s by Classic Rock/Demographix.

VETERAN WALKS TO RAISE FUNDS DURING COVID

John Hillman of Carlton House Seniors Home in Oak Bay, now a part of Greater Victoria, was inspired by his comrade-in-arms, **Captain Tom Moore of England**, both bearers of the Burma Star. The proud wearer of four World War II Campaign medals including the Burma Star, John felt a special kinship with Moore when he spotted that medal on him!

John, at **101 years old** decided that he would walk 101 laps around Carlton House courtyard to raise funds for the Save the Children Canada's Emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Coincidentally, Save the Children is celebrating its 101st anniversary this year as well! Donations will help children and their families be able to afford food, health care, and the basic necessities of life in Canada.

Enter The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Vancouver Island Branch and the urge to support this very worthwhile cause was felt. A hasty meeting



ABOVE: President Tom Martin and VP Joe Rozon welcomed all Members and Guests to the Oktoberfest Dinner.

LEFT: The 2019 Oktoberfest dinner had a wonderful turnout.

BELOW: The 101-year-old veteran John Hillman was inspired by a fellow Burma Star recipient to walk 101 laps.

BOTTOM: Representing the QOR Association President Tom Martin, VP Joe Rozon, Directors Wayne Thomas and Dale Ratzlaff.





ABOVE: President Tom Martin presents a cheque for \$1001 to John Hillman, who collected a total of \$166,551 for the Save the Children Canada's Emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund.

TOP RIGHT: Joan, on Joe's right, created this quilt. It is absolutely beautiful.

RIGHT: Joe is presented with the Quilt of Valor.

of the Executive yielded support and the call went out to Membership for financial contributions and with **19** positive responses we raised our goal of **\$1001.00** in donations.

John completed his 101st lap on the 16th of May and his fundraising goal was surpassed with a total of **\$166,551** in funds raised.

Although John's fundraiser page is closed, you can still visit it to learn more about this incredible veteran at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/john-hillman-101-laps-for-101000/>.

JOSEPH ROZON HONOURED WITH A QUILT OF VALOR

While our Vice President Joe Rozon and his wife Sandy were in Arizona in February and March 2020, Joe was honoured to be a recipient of a Quilt of Valor from the American Quilt of Valor Association that was sewn by the Apache Junction Countryside Quilters.



He was nominated to receive it by two American friends he had made when he and Sandy were visiting Arizona three years before.

These two friends had been quite devious in getting information about Joe's service in the military, they asked him questions and he never had a clue what they were up to. They were veterans themselves. Gary Moline was a helicopter pilot in the United States Army. He flew American Huey 369s, which were used for troop extractions and were commonly known as "dust off" and used for medical extractions in the Vietnam War. Bob Montgomery was in the American Navy, and had been on some exercises with the Canadian Navy. The questions they asked were presented as curiosity questions comparing notes on the differences between the Canadian military and the American military.

RIGHT: Joe thanking everyone for the honour they've bestowed on him. He will treasure this beautiful quilt forever.

At the quilt presentation event on 1 March 2020, Joe was taken by surprise at the presentation as they had managed to get Sandy on board to get him to the event by telling him they were going to support his friend Gary (one of the fellows who nominated him) who would be receiving the Quilt of Valor, not so, Gary had been presented with one five years before.

What an honour to be given this beautiful quilt. There is quite a ceremony involved with receiving one of these lovely quilts. The goal is to wrap every

veteran with the comfort and healing of a quilt. The quilt makers believe that as they sew, their love, caring and gratitude flows from their hearts through their hands and into the developing quilt, thus the recipient of their quilt is forever in their hearts. So, on behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the Apache Junction Countryside Quilters, we thank you for your sacrifice and service, and serving your Country when called upon. **TR**



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH — ACTIVE MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Brian Agar | Ron Cullen | Russell Kierstead | Dale Ratzlaff |
| Cyril Barnes | Mike Cuvelier | James (Jim) King | Don Rollman |
| Harry Barnes | Douglas Dicy | Ralph King | John Jr. Ronayne |
| Gary Bear | Joe Dumas | Melvyn Kube | Joe Rozon |
| Larry Beaton | Bob Drinkwater | Lorne Lamont | Bob Scrafton |
| Jim Bell | Bob Ducharme | George Lavallee | Bill Sears |
| Ernie Berrow | David (Moe) Dulmage | Jim Lloyd | Jim Sharpe |
| Ken Bisson | Don Ethell | Dennis Lyon | John Shavchook |
| Ken Bock | Wes Everitt | Henry MacKeigan | Bill Sherman |
| Bill Brayshaw | Cyril Fotheringham | Stan MacMillan | Willard Simmons |
| Pat Bryson | Denis Froment | Bill Maitland | Don Smith |
| John Brunelle | Marc Gagne | James Martin | Garnet States |
| Ray Bunner | Leuan Gilmore | Tom Martin | Rene Taillefer |
| Peter Busby | Grant Guillet | Bob McCutcheon | Richard Talbot |
| Paul Cassidy | Howie Hambleton | Pat McEachern | Wayne Thomas |
| Ron Craven | Gordon Hardy | Ivan McPhee | Al Thompson |
| Ray Chenier | John Hart | Harold Miller | George Tesla |
| Bill Churchill | Gordon Healey | Jim Miller | Kevin Walsh |
| Bill Collins | John Healey | Ken Nutt | Morris Wasyluk |
| Wade Cornick | Wally Hein | Dave O'Brien | Joe Webb |
| Ken Cotton | Jim Hicke | Peter Okopski | Charlie Wendt |
| Keith Coughlin | Ray Honig | Gilles Pharand | Ed Widenmaier |
| Chuck Cowell | Adrian Hovestad | Brian Preston | Malcolm (Willy) Wilson |
| Dick Cowling | James Hunter | Clem Poff | Terry Woodworth |
| Rennie Cromwell | Gord Hyhoryshen | Peter Radostits | Micky Zwack |
| Don Cruikshank | Lawrence Johnson | Hedley (Don) Randal | |

**THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA
VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH — ACTIVE MEMBERS**

Madeline Andrews	Sandra Dehnke	Viann McDonald	Lori Stones
Faye Ball	Ursula Fowler	Janice Mercer	Ruth Titus
Betty Barbon	Carol Hendrie	Crista Pinkerton	Linda Vasseur
Shannon Barry	Shirley Hensrud	Annette Pope	Cassy Veysey
Rachel Butler	Winnifred Koal	Myrna Ratz	Theresa Whelan
Pauline Campbell	Rita Kowalchuk	Brenda Robinson	Angie Wooley
Eleanor Cornet	Marlene Lefever	Yvonne Saretsky	
Betty Davis	Sandra Ligget	Hilary Shanta	

LAST POST

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Members, Non-Members, Honourary, and Members' Spouses – Partners who have passed away.

MEMBERS

Ball Ted	Dehnke Wayne	MacKenzie Keith Douglas	Schultz Jim
Bamford Derek	Denslow Don	McCorkell Frank	Schultz Larry
Barton Harold	Ducheneau Jim	McDonell John	Scott Ed
Barry Byron	Dunlop Charles	McDonald Bruce	Smith George
Bastin Norman	Fisher Bill	McDonald Don	Spurr Winston
Bell Jerry	Ford J. Patrick	"Moose"	Stang Rene
Bernickey Don	Fortin Amy	McIver Robert	Steel Art
Bray Orval	Francis Ken	McMillan Al	Stones Dave
Bright Ross	French Emery	Mercer Fred	Stever Al
Brimblcombe Ernie	Gailbraith Jack	Mitchell Peter	Stewart Edward
Bruce Roy	Gofenko George	Nixon Doug	Taylor Howie
Budgell Bob	Granger Gord	Mulligan W. John	Tassell Van Norm
Budgell Wally	Grant Ernie	Noseworthy Bill	Thompson Morley
Burns Doug	Hendrie Doug	O'Brien Mike	Titus Ed
Campbell Ron	Hensrud Darrell	Pinkerton John	Vasseur John
Campbell Bernie	Hudson Jim	Pitts Herbert "Herb"	Waldron John
Carleton Bill	Johnson Ken	Purchase Fred "Pop"	Welby Mike
Carroll Jim	Keleman Max	Quaiffe Jim	Werry "Awful" Ron
Carson John	Kinnersley Ron	Randle Don	Westfall "Punch" William
Carter Lyle	Koal Paul	Ratz Wally	White Jack
Charron Ray	Lale Terry	Rhodes "Dusty" Neil	Whitfield Bob
Church Art	Ling Edward B	Robinson "Robbie"	Widenmaier Don
Clark L. Robert	Lloy Harry	Neville	Willbond Billy
Connelly B. John	Lovett Gerry	Saretsky Art	Woolley Vernon "Jim"
Cracknell Bob	Luxford David	Shantz Ian	
Daniels Bob	LeFever Art		

NON-MEMBERS

Allen Lyle "Wop"	Faulkner Stan	Norris Robert "Bob"	Sperling Bob
Boser Merv	Graham Hugh	O'Conner Ken	Thomas Johnny "JJ"
Arkininstall Cy	Hearn John	Orton Dave	Stamp Butch
Aylesworth Roy	Henderson Larry	Paquette Joe	Vardy Ernest "Ernie"
Barnes Todd	Hurst George	Perry Chuck	Venn Gerald "Jerry"
Connelly Dennis	Jack James	Pope Nick	Wagler Vern
"Duke"	Johnston Bob	Lauzon George	Williams – Freeman
Creighton D.M (Don)	Miller Mike	O'Brien Thomas "Tom"	Harry
deBruijne Jac	Mole Rod	O'Brien Pat	Waller Herbert Roger
Dicy Wayne	McLean Bob	Park Charlie	"Butch"
Ede George	McQuarrie "Mac"	Pilon Jules "Rick"	
Euteneier H.H.	Morin Joe	Smith Gerald Roy	

MEMBERS' SPOUSES – PARTNERS

Faye Ball (Ted Ball)	Hillary Everitt (Wes Everitt)	Rose Porter (Joe Webb)
Sylvia Bunt (Alan Bunt)	Lynne Hart (John Hart)	Betty Purchase (Fred-Pop)
Lynda Churchill (Bill Churchill)	Blanche Hie (Gordie Hie)	Lynn Schultz (Jim Schultz)
Myrna Drinkwater (Harold Drinkwater)	Loretta Jean Kolbe (Peter Kolbe)	Jennie Spurr (Winston Spurr)
	Barbara McDonald (Moose)	

HONOURARY MEMBERS & SPECIAL MENTIONS

Roberta (Bobbie) Carroll	Anne Marshall	Sarah Scott
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Special mention to Mia Larsen - tailor





Last Post



In addition to those Riflemen noted elsewhere in this issue, the following members of the Regiment passed away since the last issue of *The Rifleman*:

Barnard, Fred – D-Day
Bracey, Albert – WW2
Callaghan, Gord
Cresswell, John
Derrington, Don – WW2
Descotes, Ray
Dunphy, Murray James – WW2
French, Robert
Hurst, Gary

Jenkyn, Gord
Larsen, Willy
LeDoux, Philip
McEachern, Leigh
Midgley, Tom
O'Brien, Clifford
Payne, Irwin – WW2
Pryer, Don
Rooney, Ivor – D-Day

Roy, Phillip
Stanfield, William Lambert – WW2
Sypulski, Frank – Korea
Thomas, Damian
Vant Erve, Will
Vasseur, John
Weber, Ignatz Kenneth



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In Memoriam: BGen (ret'd) Donald Pryer



Donald A. Pryer of Brockville, Ontario passed away on Friday April 24, 2020 after reaching the age of 86 years. After months of failing health, he died peacefully with his devoted wife Susan at his side.

Don was a dear husband, father and grandfather who dedicated many years of his life to the Canadian military. His military career started in 1950 with the Royal Canadian Artillery and the Brockville Rifles.

In 1960 he and his family moved to Toronto where he transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He moved up through the officer ranks and achieved the rank of Brigadier General, commanding Central Militia Area which encompassed all the Canadian Army reserve regiments in the province of Ontario. He retired from the military in 1986 but continued to serve the QOR in the capacity of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and then Honorary Colonel.

He represented the Regiment, in 2004, at D-Day ceremonies in France. He was one of the driving forces behind the fundraising campaign for the Juno Beach Centre. In his lifetime, he chaired many civilian and military organizations. He was Past President of the Canadian Infantry Association, Past Director of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Governor of the Canadian Corps of Com-

missionaires (Great Lakes Division), former Chairman of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, and was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 45 years. In 2007, he was a recipient of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation. In 2016, the Brockville Rifles celebrated its 150th anniversary and was honoured when General Pryer graciously accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel — the Regiment where Don's military career started many years before.

Don retired from his professional, successful, business life in 2011. He was President of Armatek Controls, an industrial instrumentation distribution company that he and long-time business partner, the late Bob Sage, started in 1966.

Fondly known by his military associates as "The Nocturnal Colonel," Don was a strong, self-assured man who would never quit. He did not give up even until his last breath. A man that would always try to make you laugh and never said an ill word about anybody. In his final retirement life, he and Susan lived in Brockville on the St Lawrence River. From his back deck, 60 feet high above the water, he loved to watch the large lake freighter ships quietly cruise up and down on the river he loved to fish in as a child.

Donald Arthur was born in Brockville, Ontario in August of 1933 to George and Geraldine Pryer. He



is preceded in death by his parents, brother Clifford, sister Shirley and his first wife Gail Pryer (Tenant).

Don is survived by his beloved wife of 15 years Susan Pryer (Ouellette), his children Cathie of Toronto, Sandy and her spouse Craig Hunter of Waterloo, Lynn of Canberra, Australia, Dave and his spouse Andrea of Mississauga and stepdaughter Courtney and her spouse Wendell of Montreal, loving grandchildren Jennifer, Adam, Jayme, Parker and Myles.

It is with heartfelt gratitude and love that our family wishes to thank Dr. Janet Lui, Don's hematologist whose excellent care made it possible for us to have those special extra years together; also nurse Tracey Froess and Jamie Bowman at Kingston General Hospital. Our special thanks to Shannon, Carol Ann, Francine, Debbie, Julie and Penny dedicated and compassionate nurses at ACU at the Brockville Hospital. Our gratitude to Dr. G. Ashe for his compassion and care. Our thanks to the nurses and staff at the Wedgewood Retirement Home for their kindness.

In compliance with current health and public safety directives, there will not be a public Celebration of Donald's Life at this time. There will be a Celebration of Life service for family and friends to be held in Brockville in weeks or months ahead.

In lieu of flowers donations will be graciously accepted to the following charitable organizations: The Brockville District Hospital Foundation, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada, the UHKF for Kingston Health Sciences Centre, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund or The Brockville Rifles Regimental Society. **TR**



In Memoriam: Corporal William Vant Erve



Former Rifleman and current CAF Firefighter Corporal William Vant Erve on November 27, 2019. This was due to an accident while hiking on Vancouver Island.

Will is survived by his parents, Silvana Pasceri and Leo Vant Erve; his spouse Alyssa Bird; his sisters Catherine (Vineet Kauden) and Emma Vant Erve; his grandmother, Caterina Pasceri; godparents Peter Pasceri and Connie Bettencourt Costa; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

William was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces and a firefighter both professionally at 19 Wing Comox and as a volunteer with the Courtenay Fire Department. The firefighters of 19 Wing Green Crew remember him as a kind and humble man who would drop whatever he was doing to help another person. Will was always willing to cook for the crew, and never shied away from a harmless practical joke or an impersonation of his peers. In addition to mountaineering, Will was a



mountain biker and motorcycle enthusiast, a parachutist, fisherman, and amateur chef.

Clearly a man with a zest for adventure and remembered by Alyssa as a man who seized every opportunity, Will lived every day to its fullest and for whatever he was doing — more epic was always better. He was a caring man both to those he knew and to others in the community. He possessed the gift of humour and a soft spot for those who were more vulnerable.

Prior to transferring to the firefighter trade, Will was an Airborne Rifleman in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was very fit and highly regarded by everyone in the Regiment. He had a great passion for being a paratrooper. During his time in the QOR he completed the challenging Cambrian Patrol and qualified as a Reconnaissance Patrolman.

His loss leaves a hole in his family, the community of Comox Valley firefighters, 19 Wing, The Queen's Own Rifles and the Canadian Armed Forces. **TR**



In Memoriam: D-Day Veteran Fred Barnard



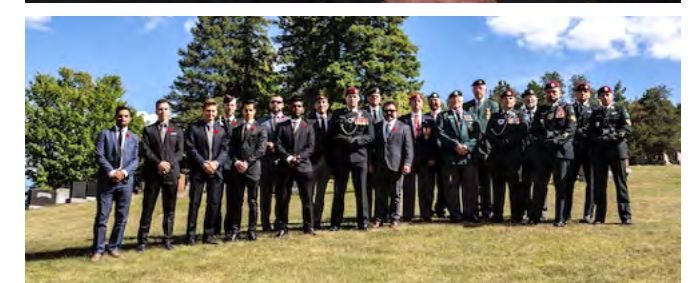
Fred Barnard passed away on August 29, 2019 at 98. Fred had proudly served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada during the Second World War.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Fred and his brother Don landed in the first wave of assault on Juno Beach. Don was killed on the beach that morning and lies buried in the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France.

Fred went on to fight in the fierce battle to take Carpiquet Airport, and shortly after participated in the Liberation of Caen. In the Quesnay Woods, he was seriously wounded by shrapnel in the neck, shoulder and foot; and after five months of convalescence he returned to Canada.

Fred married, raised a family, and today is remembered by his daughter Donna and other family members, special friends Tish, Mike, Rebecca, Ben, Emily and Mikaela MacDonald, members and veterans of the Uxbridge Legion, members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regiment and Association, and the community of Uxbridge.

A parade and ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day was held on June 6, 2019 at his home in Uxbridge to honour Fred and his legacy of service to his community and his country. **TR**



In Memoriam: D-Day Veteran Lester Brown



Lester Brown was born in 1921 in Raleigh Township, Kent County, and married Phyllis (née Hooper) of Toronto, in September 1946. He is the father of Heather, Lamont and Vernon.

At the age of 23, Lester joined the military in July 1943 and was assigned to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for overseas service.

A veteran of D-Day, he landed with The Queen's Own Rifles at Juno Beach on June 6, 1944 and waded ashore without getting so much as a scratch. He would soon find himself facing the British objective, the city of Caen. A few days after landing in France, he and his platoon were ordered to take Bretteville-sur-Laize. Seeing an Allied tank on the road, Brown and another soldier hurried toward it but came under fire from a German ambush. He managed to save himself but took a bullet to the chin, which looked terrible at first but left only a facial scar.

While crawling across a French wheat field on June 20, 1944, he had reached a point that they thought the coast must be clear and everyone stood up, right into the German line of fire. This

time Lester was not so lucky; he was hit in the knee by a piece of shrapnel.

Everyone was scattering and running for their lives. Lester said he was "confused I didn't know what to do or where to run." Seeing a Canadian tank, he and another soldier raced towards it. The other soldier got there first, so Lester had to run around the tank to jump on. Once on he looked for the other man; looking over the side he saw a helmet covered in blood and the soldier dead, shot through the head. Had Lester won the race, he would have lost his life. A sniper's bullet once again grazed his chin.

Lester was sent back to England to have his injuries attended to in hospital. The war was over for him, although even when interviewed in 2011 he said, "Anybody who made it through, it was just plain luck." When Lester returned home, he married and had three children. He worked as a railway porter and later graduated and became a conductor for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Lester passed away Wednesday, September 18, 2013 and was interred at Memorial Cemetery, North Buxton, Ontario in his 92nd year. **TR**

In Memoriam: Honorary Rifleman Damian Thomas



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Honorary Rifleman Damian Thomas on June 12, 2020. Damian bravely fought cancer for the past three years, demonstrating his fighting spirit and tenacity. He was eight years old.

Sgt Steve Thomas MB, CD of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is Damian's father. Sgt Thomas served two tours in Afghanistan and was awarded the Medal of Bravery for his actions on his second tour.

On March 6, 2019, Damian was made a Honorary Rifleman. Damian demonstrated bravery, tenacity and the warrior spirit in his battle with cancer over three years. Damian helped lay a wreath during the 2019 Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Damian touched so many people in his short life and he will be deeply missed by his mother and father, Cindy and Steve, his sister Keira, both extended families, St Benedict Catholic School and his Regiment.

If you would like to make a donation, it is preferred you use the link below. We have the goal of covering the funeral costs and expenses the family has incurred with this lengthy illness. A custom donation page has been set up on the CanadaHelps website to accept donations to support the Thomas Family: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/50106>

The Regimental Family continues to support Damian's family and if you would like to donate please make a directed donation to the QOR Trust Fund. Thank you. **TR**



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