



The Powder Horn

Volume 4

April 1994

Issue 1

People, Places and Pleasantries

Congratulations...
to Charlie Martin, a D-Day veteran who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and the Military Medal (MM) while serving with the Queen's Own, on his appointment by the Warriors' Day Parade Council as the Reviewing Officer and Guest of Honour at the Warriors' Day Parade to be held at the Canadian National exhibition on Saturday August 20, 1994.

Promotions...
Congratulations and best wishes to the following serving officers who were promoted recently.
Captain B.G. McEachern who was promoted to Major; 2 Lieutenant K. Haupt who was promoted to Lieutenant; Lieutenant R. Zisman who was promoted to Captain.

Congratulations...
to Captain (Retired) J.A. (Al) Mercury, a former officer with the Toronto Battalion, who was honored at the 12th Annual Harry Jerome Awards dinner for his involvement in community work... These awards are made in memory of Harry Jerome, an outstanding Canadian track athlete, who died suddenly in December 1982... Al, a self-employed Toronto businessman, has spent a lifetime in the service of his community. He is also active with the Lions Club and other-civic minded groups.

Casa Loma... The Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club of Casa Loma, at its January 1994 meeting, has unanimously passed a motion to allow

free admission to Queen's Own veterans and serving members who wish to view the Regimental Museum. Identification passes will be available through the Queen's Own Rifles orderly room at Moss Park Armoury. Special thanks go to Lieutenant Colonel The Honorable Barnett Danson who was instrumental in securing free admission for our Regiment.

What's In A Name...
General J.V. Allard, in his book *"The Memoirs of General Jean V. Allard"* published by the University of British Columbia Press in 1988 has this to say about the removal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada from the Regular component of the Canadian Forces in 1968... "A few words concerning the Queen's Own Rifles. Its

name played a certain (but not major) role in its disappearance in 1968. In 1956 when the time came to choose the Canadian units which, under the aegis of the United Nations, were to keep the Israelis and Egyptians apart, the latter refused our suggestion of sending the Queen's Own. The name and our uniforms of the time were far too similar to the reviled British for the Egyptians not to take offence. In 1967, faced with the task of having to reduce the number of infantry regiments and of seeing that our Army was Canadian in every detail (whenever possible), the names of infantry units to be eliminated that immediately sprang to mind were the Queen's Own Rifles and the Canadian Guards."

QOR Association (Toronto)

Members of the Queen's Own Association (Toronto) who have not paid their 1994 dues for membership in the Association are urged to do so now. A Handy proforma for this purpose is included with this newsletter.

QOR Of C Trust Fund

Your attention is directed to a letter to the Editor by Lieutenant Colonel J.G.B. Strathy, President of the Trust Fund, concerning the state of the Fund.

1994 donations may be made using the proforma including with this newsletter.

D-Day Coloured Prints

A limited number of signed and numbered prints of the D-Day assault landing painting which hangs in the Officers' Mess of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada are still available.

Only 100 of these coloured prints, which measure 18 inches by 21 inches, were signed by the artist of the painting, Captain Orville N. Fisher. Priced at \$150.00 they are certain to become a collector's item.

Unsigned prints of this painting are also available at \$45.00 each from the Regimental Kit Shop.

Stained Glass Window

Former members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment will be pleased to learn that the stained glass window, depicting our Regimental Badge, has been installed in the Calgary Museum of Regiments to mark our Regiment's service in that city.

The \$1500.00 cost of the window was borne by the Trust Fund through donations that were received from members of our Regimental family.

The appreciation of the Regiment has been extended to Mr. J. Svenicki, Director of Collections, Calgary Military Museums Society for overseeing this project to its successful conclusion.

Battle Diary - D-Day

"*Battle Diary - D-Day*" is a fast-paced and immediate battle account by five times wounded and twice decorated Charles C. Martin who was the company sergeant major with his beloved A Company of the Queen's Own Rifles from the day

he landed in Normandy to the end of the war.

This is a rifleman's story of fighting a war, yard by yard and field by field, against a fierce and dedicated enemy who surrendered nothing easily.

Published by the Dundurn Group, the book will go on sale in April 1994. Cost of the paper edition will be \$16.99 and \$22.99 for the cloth edition.

Copies may be ordered from Regimental Headquarters for the prices quoted with an additional \$3.00 charge for mailing.

STOP PRESS !!!!!

Number 1

In a letter of March 22, 1994, Toronto District Headquarters announced that The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was designated as the best unit in the District. Judging was made on the basis of 16 criteria ranging from administrative matters to training results to financial management.

Well done, Queen's Own.

IN MEMORIAM

The Regiment is deeply saddened by the death of Colonel H. Elliot Dalton, DSO,EM,CD on January 13, 1994.

Colonel Dalton joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a rifleman in 1930. He rose through the ranks receiving his commission in 1938. A D-Day veteran who commanded A Company of the Queen's Own in the Normandy assault landing on June 6, 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in battle.

He commanded the 1st Battalion for the last four months of the Second World War and the Toronto Militia Battalion from May 1951 to October 1952. He then served as the unit's Honorary Colonel from 1975 to 1984.

Colonel Dalton is survived by his wife Marie, sons Mark and Brett, daughter Beverley, brother Charles who also served in the Queen's Own and commanded B Company on D-Day, sister Marjorie and Constance, and seven grandchildren.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him".

For Visitors To England

A giant screen showing dramatic film footage of some of the key events of the D-Day landings of 50 years ago, is one of the highlights of a new exhibition at London's Imperial War Museum. *"D-Day to Victory"* is the museum's contribution to the 50th anniversary, tracing the Allies' campaign from the earliest planning stages to final victory in May 1945. It includes secret planning documents, diaries and letters of those who took part, uniforms, and sabotage equipment used by those operating behind enemy lines.

PREPARATIONS FOR D-DAY PLUS 50 **CELEBRATIONS HEAT UP**

1994 has a special significance for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The year marks the 134th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment - a Regiment that has served Canada exceptionally well at war and in peace. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the 1st Battalion's assault landing in Normandy where it received its baptism of fire in the Second World War.

In celebration and remembrance of these two major milestones in the Regiment's long and glorious history and as part of the "Canada Remembers" national program, the Regiment is staging two exciting events in Toronto.

Open House - Moss Park Armoury
In celebration of its 134th birthday and to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day, the Battalion and the Queen's Own Association of Toronto have joined forces to stage an open house in Moss Park Armoury commencing at 1200 hours on Saturday April 23, 1994.

Veterans of the D-Day Landing and all wars, serving members of the Battalion and their families and friends, and the public

are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun, nostalgia and camaraderie. The highlight of the afternoon will be the launching of CSM Charlie Martin's book "*Battle Diary*". Yes, Charlie will be present to autograph copies of it.

Activities will include a brief remembrance service, period and contemporary music by the Regimental Band, and static displays of equipment and weaponry. Regimental souvenir items will be on display for sale. A buffet style lunch will be available at a reasonable cost.

D-Day Plus 50 Dinner
A D-Day Plus 50 Dinner will take place in the Toronto Hilton Hotel at 1900 for 2000 hours on Thursday May 12, 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day. It will honour those veterans of Canadian and allied units who took part in the assault landing and subsequent battles in North-West Europe.

The Dinner will feature music by the Regimental Band, a singsong of Second World War tunes, video vignettes of the war years, and static displays of Second World War equipment and weaponry.

Cost of the Dinner will be \$60.00 per person. Dress

for gentlemen will be Mess Kit, military uniform or dinner jacket with medals. Business suit or Regimental blazer may also be worn. Ladies should dress appropriately.

Individual seating or tables of ten may be booked through The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada orderly room at Moss Park Armoury. Cheques should be made payable to "QOR Regimental Headquarters". Order forms may be procured by calling (416) 973-3281.

Return To Normandy
A contingent of 120 all ranks comprising the Regimental Band and a Guard of Honour will be departing Toronto for the United Kingdom and France on June 1, 1994 to participate in the D-Day Plus 50 ceremonies in Beny-sur-Mer, Anisy, Le Mesnil-Patry and other battle locations of particular significance to the Regiment. The contingent will support a bus load of Queen's Own D-Day veterans whose return visit to Normandy and the battlefields of France will undoubtedly bring back a kaleidoscope of memories.

The participation in this historic venture by serving members of the Battalion

has received the blessing of the Commander of Land Forces Central area who has authorized funds to cover a portion of the travel costs. Fund raising activities will help to defray a portion of the costs with the balance being shared by the participants. Any contributions from members of our Regimental family will be appreciated.

Three members of our Regimental family have pledged \$1,000.00 each in support of the riflemen. These members have issued a challenge to others to match this generous gesture or to make a donation within their financial means.

One of the fund raising activities being run by the Battalion is a raffle which offers two return airline tickets to the United Kingdom or France plus \$2,000.00 in cash to the holder of the winning ticket. Only 1,000 tickets are being offered for sale at \$20.00 each with the draw to be made at the D-Day Plus 50 Dinner on May 12, 1994. Tickets may be ordered by using the proforma included with this newsletter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The Queen's Own Rifles objective on D-Day, June 6, 1944, was to seize and hold the town of ANISY. Not only did the Queen's Own make the deepest penetration inland reaching their objective, but more importantly they held it. This, in spite of the fact that the Regiment suffered the heaviest casualties of any Canadian unit that day.

Now, 50 years later, the Regiment has been approached by the Mayor of Anisy, asking for financial support to erect a monument to commemorate the remarkable achievement of the Queen's Own.

The Queen's Own Association of Toronto Executive has voted unanimously in favour for this writer to solicit donations from our general membership to provide two plaques, one in English and one in French, for this monument. The town of Anisy will provide the masonry work and the installation of everything required to erect the monument.

All donors will be acknowledged through the medium of this newsletter.

I am seeking your support and generosity in this endeavour and I am confident that you will respond generously in true Rifles spirit.

Please make your cheque payable to "QOR of C D+50 Years" and mail it to me at this address:

Jack Martin
D+50 Tour Chairman
54 Portsdown Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1P 1V1

You will realize that time is of the essence as plaques will have to be shipped to the Mayor of Anisy as soon as possible so that they can be mounted in time for the unveiling on June 6th of this year.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Regimentally yours,

Jack Martin

Dear Editor:

I wish to use the medium of "*The Powder Horn*" to express my personal thanks and the thanks of the Trustees to those members of our Regimental family who gave so generously to the Trust Fund in 1993.

A total of \$15,770.00 was donated to the Trust Fund by 167 members. An additional \$1,540.00 was donated in memory of Colonel J.F. Lake, a former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, who died on November 19, 1993.

This support by members of our Regimental family is commendable indeed, however, it is hoped that the other 900 names on our mailing list who have made no contribution will respond in 1994. Without the financial support of every member, it is difficult to meet the Trust Fund's obligations to those Regimental activities that fall outside the responsibilities of the Department of National Defence. The operation of the Regimental Museum in Casa Loma, the publication of the "*The Rifleman*" and this newsletter, and supplying the serving Battalion with Regimental dress and accoutrements is only possible through your financial help. People should also remember that all the work that is done to operate Regimental Headquarters, the Regimental Museum, and the Trust Fund is done voluntarily by dedicated former members of the Regiment who receive no remuneration whatever.

I urge all members of the Regimental family and recipients of the "*The Rifleman*" and the "*The Powder Horn*" to make a contribution to the Trust Fund in 1994.

J.G.B. Strathy
President
QOR of C Trust Fund