



The Powder Horn

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People, Places and Pleasantries

Change of Honorary Colonels...

Moss Park Armoury resounded with military words of command and martial music on 22 June 1994 when The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada honoured the outgoing and incoming Honorary Colonels of the Regiment.

COL. H.C.F. (Hank) Elliot, who was appointed Honorary Colonel in April 1991, handed over the duties of Honorary Colonel to BGEN D.A.(Don) Pryer before an appreciative group of spectators that included LCOL The Hon.B.J. Danson and former Commanding Officers of the Toronto Battalion, namely, LCOLS J.G.B.Strathy, J.J.Power, W.J. Barnard, C.E.Rayment and R.A. Campbell. Also in attendance were BGEN S.F.Andrunyk, Regimental Secretary and former Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion in Calgary, MAJ J.D. Dampier from Victoria, WO1 Harry Fox, WO2 C.C. Martin and COMS J. Martin.

After expressing the appreciation of the Regiment to COL Elliot for his devotion to and his efforts on behalf of the Regiment, LCOL Steve Brand, Commanding Officer, presented COL Elliot with a unique memento of the Normandy campaign. It is a piece of shrapnel dug out from the area of

Carpiquet and mounted on a wooden base.

CQMS Jack Martin presented COL Elliot with a Battle of Normandy medal which has been specially minted by France for presentation to D-Day veterans on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

COL Elliot thanked the Commanding Officer and all the members of the Regiment for their loyalty and support during his tenure as Honorary Colonel and requested the same level of dedication for his successor, BGEN Pryer.

On conclusion of the ceremony, receptions were held in the various institutes of the Regiment.

Meet Our New Honorary Colonel...

BGEN Donald Arthur Pryer was born and educated in Brockville, Ontario, where he had his first taste of military service with the Brockville Army Cadet Corps. In 1950, he joined the 60th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery as a gunner. After commissioning as a Lieutenant in 1958, he transferred to the Brockville Rifles. Following his promotion to Captain, he transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1960. BGEN Pryer was promoted to Major and served as a company commander from 1963 to 1970

when he was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer. He assumed command of the unit in 1972 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On leaving command of the unit in 1975, he served in several staff appointments at Central Militia Area Headquarters. He was promoted to Colonel in 1980 and appointed Commander of Toronto District until 1982 when he became Deputy Commander of the Central Militia Area.

In 1984, he was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Commander of Central Militia Area. On transfer to the Supplementary Ready Reserve in 1986, he directed his energies to the Canadian Infantry Association, the Conference of Defence Associations, the Royal Canadian Military Institute and the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires.

He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1991.

BGEN Pryer is President of Armatek Controls Limited. He lives in Mississauga with his wife Gail.

"A wise man knows everything; a shrewed one, everybody."

REGIMENT CELEBRATES 134TH BIRTHDAY

The 134th birthday of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was celebrated in Moss Park Armoury on Saturday 23 April 1994, in the presence of Colonel The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The Day's events began with a series of static displays at 1200 hours. A Buffet luncheon was provided shortly after arrival of the Lieutenant Governor at 1230 hours. An excellent program of music by the Regimental Band and Bugles was enjoyed during the luncheon.

Following lunch, the Regimental Band and the Skirmishers performed in their usually high standard. This was followed

by a short memorial service conducted by CAPT Craig Cameron, the Regimental Padre, to honour those who served and died in the Normandy campaign and other wars.

Remarks by the Lieutenant Governor followed the service after which he cut the birthday cake.

LCOL Steve Brand, Commanding Officer, presented the Lieutenant Governor with a numbered print of the D-Day Assault Landing painting signed by the artist, Captain Orville N. Fisher, as a token of the Regiment's appreciation of the Lieutenant Governor's visit to the Regiment.

D-DAY PLUS 50 DINNER

The Toronto Hilton Hotel provided the setting for a D-Day Plus 50 Dinner on 12 May 1994 hosted by the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of all Second World War veterans and to raise public awareness of the significance of the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

The Dinner was organized by a group of retired and serving members of the Regiment which included LCOL the Honorable Barnett J. Danson who served as the Honorary Chairman of the Dinner; BGEN Donald A. Prier who undertook the duties of Dinner chairman; LCOL John G.B. Strathy, President of the Trust Fund; BGEN Stephen F. Andrunyk, Regimental Secretary; MGEN Herbert C. Pitts, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Designate; LCOL Steve D. Brand, Commanding Officer; SGT Andy Macnaughton, President of the Queen's Own Association; and other members of the Regimental family.

Attended by an enthusiastic group of 500 which included special guests of the Regiment, namely, the Premier of Ontario, the Honorable Bob Rae; Metro Toronto Chairman, Mr. Alan Tonks; Toronto Mayor, Mrs. June Rowlands; Commander of Land Forces Central Area, MGEN B. Vernon; and Commander of Toronto District, COL D. Halikowski. The evening's program was highlighted by an emotional address by CSM C.C. Martin, author of *"Battle Diary"*, who recalled some of his more vivid experiences with the Regiment on the day of the assault landing at Bernieres-sur-Mer and battles that followed. He was superbly introduced to the audience by COL Charles O. Dalton who commanded "B" Company of the Regiment on D-Day.

Music for the Dinner was provided by The Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Band and Bugles directed by MCPL R.P. Arendz. The sing-song featuring popular World War II songs was led by WO Nelligan and RFN

Anstey.

The Dinner received high praise from those in attendance as exemplified in a letter from Premier Bob Rae to BGEN D.A. Prier in which he writes, "It was a wonderful event, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many of your fellow veterans. I particularly enjoyed Charles Martin's speech."

"A man who habitually watches the clock generally remains one of the hands."

"Recession is when your neighbour loses his job. Depression is when you lose yours."

The Queen's Own Rifles Branch #344 The Royal Canadian Legion

Helen Bidlofsky, acting President of the Queen's Own Branch, reports that a great amount of activity has taken place during the past few months.

Long hours of hard work has got the Branch back on the "road to recovery". Special thanks are due to Ann and Paul Trenchard for getting the books of account in order, to Bill Haire for his administrative expertise, to Mary Keates for carrying out a myriad of tasks and to many others who devote their time and energies to the Branch.

The steak barbecue in June was a resounding success. Phil Anderton, Kathy and Harry Devine, Weldon Clark and Jim Campbell deserve the gratitude of Branch members for their contribution to the success of the barbecue.

The Annual CNE Warriors' Day Parade will take place on Saturday 20 August 1994, at which the Queen's Own veterans of the Normandy campaign and Normandy veterans from other units and services will be honoured by leading the parade. CSM Charles C. Martin will take the salute. It is requested that all members of the Queen's Own Branch and Association gather in the area in front of Fort York Armoury no later than 1000 hours (10 o'clock in the morning) for the march-off at 1030 hours. If the weather is hot, the Legion Colour Party and the veterans will wear white shirts with tie without blazers.

All are invited to the Legion Branch after the Parade for refreshments.

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA GUILD

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Guild has had a successful year with an increase in membership attendance. This may be largely attributed to the fact that the luncheon meetings are held in the homes of members where the cuisine has been superb.

The Regiment's Padre, CAPT Craig Cameron, was a guest of the Guild at its March meeting. He outlined the various needs of serving riflemen and expressed his desire to assist some of them financially to permit them to attend the D-Day ceremonies in France. The Guild was pleased to be able to present him with a cheque for that purpose. The Guild continues to support several special projects. These include CARD (Riding for the Disabled), two Austrian girls who have been the Guild's care for over twenty years and the Breakfast Club of Toronto.

The Guild was saddened by the passing of Miss Barbara Barrow, a loyal member of the Guild, who will be greatly missed.

Many members attended the Regimental Band concert at St. Paul's Church which was enjoyed by all. Many have expressed the hope that it will become an annual event.

The D-Day Plus 50 Dinner on 12 May 1994 was well attended by Guild members who are proud to be a branch of the Regimental family.

*Submitted by Dorothy M. Jones
Secretary*

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

Special Service Medal (SSM)

The Special Service Medal was created in 1984 to recognize serving as well as former Canadian Forces members who performed a service "under exceptional circumstances, in a clearly defined locality for specific duration, not necessarily in a theatre of active operation."

The first bar was created to recognize those who spent a minimum of 90 days with the United Nations Mine Awareness and Clearance Training Program in Pakistan, which ran from March 1989 to July 1990.

The Government of Canada officially announced the addition of three new bars on 23 March 1993.

The Peacekeeping Bar, inscribed "Peace-Paix", is awarded to CF serving or retired members with an aggregate of 180 days honourable service in peacekeeping operations since 1948, for which they are not in receipt of another medal.

The Alert Bar requires an aggregate of 180 days of honourable service on posted strength of Canadian Forces Station Alert or with a force deployed to Alert since it began operations on 1 September 1958.

The NATO Bar, inscribed "NATO-OTAN", will be awarded to those members with an aggregate of 180 days honourable service with NATO since 1 January 1951.

Members of the Regiment who served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Germany are entitled to the Special Service Medal with the NATO Bar if they meet the basic criteria. Applications may be procured from NDHQ, MGEN George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K2. Letters should be addressed attention to D Pers A-3-4-4 (SSM).

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM PARTICIPATES IN CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM TRIBUTE TO D-DAY IN OTTAWA

CAPT Peter Simundson, Curator of the Queen's Own Museum at Casa Loma, travelled to Ottawa during the period 3 to 6 June 1994 to participate in the Canadian War Museums tribute to D-Day and the Normandy campaign.

A special Queen's Own display was put together by CAPT Simundson and transported to Ottawa where it was viewed by a large group of visitors including such Queen's own stalwarts as Grahame Baskerville, Joel Murphy and Rob Quinn.

Hundreds of decals commemorating the Regiment's role on D-Day and stickers of the Regiment's 100th anniversary were distributed to the delight of veterans and children.

QOR D-DAY PLUS 50 LOTTERY

Congratulations to Mr. J. Pacione of Thornhill, Ontario, who won the QOR D-Day Plus 50 Lottery. He will receive two Air Canada return flight tickets to Europe plus \$2,000.00 expense money.

The Regiment is grateful to the Toronto Hilton Hotel for donating the two Air Canada tickets.

BAND TAPES

Cassette tapes of the Spring Concert given by the Regimental Band and Bugles are now available from the Regimental Band at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Tapes may be ordered from SGT R.P. Arendz at the following address:

QOR Band
Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 1R9

Please include \$2.00 for mailing and handling.

Operation Normandie

During the period 1-12 June 1994, 113 serving members of the Regiment which included a 50-man guard and the Regimental and Bugles, visited England and Normandy to take part in the D-Day Plus 50 ceremonies. Commanded by LCOL S.D. Brand, the contingent provided support for the Queen's Own veterans who took part in the assault landing on 6 June 1944. The trip was financed largely by the serving members themselves, however, financial assistance from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals helped to offset part of the travel costs.

Arriving at Hounslow, England on 2 June the soldiers were hosted by the 1st Battalion of The King's Regiment for two nights. The days were spent on parade practices and touring London.

Five riflemen, led by the Commanding Officer, left for South Cierney to participate in the mass parachute drop onto the Pegasus Bridge DZ on 5 June. 1200 British soldiers and 150 other Canadians took part in this jump.

The planned hovercraft landing on the beach at Bernieres-sur-Mer was cancelled due to a Channel storm said to be worse than that of 50 years ago. This meant that the remainder of the Queen's Own contingent moved to Portsmouth for a long, rough ferry ride to Ouistreham, followed by a move to Anisy, one of the villages liberated by the Queen's Own on D-Day.

Anisy rolled out the red carpet and their recreation centre was to be the home for the next week. the 50-man guard and the Regimental Band participated in several parades with our veterans, including Anguerny (also liberated by the Queen's Own on D-Day), Bernieres-sur-Mer, Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery, Anisy, Carpiquet and Le Mesnil Patry.

Highlights of the trip for the serving members included the many moving ceremonies and the opportunities to meet with our veterans and tour the beaches and battlefields where these veterans, then our age, fought 50 years ago.

LCOL Brand led the serving riflemen in a 13-kilometre rucksack march from Anisy to Bernieres-sur-Mer, covering the Queen's Own first day trace in reverse. The Regimental Band marched us onto the beach where the Queen's Own then hosted the local citizens at a thank-you barbecue and concert.

The contingent departed Anisy on 11 June stopping at Vimy Ridge for a marchpast and brief service, then crossed from Calais to Dover and on to 1 Kings for one more night.

The main body departed Heathrow on 12 June, arriving back in Toronto exhausted, but with a much greater appreciation of our Regimental heritage and the sacrifice made by our veterans.

All ranks who made the trip wish to thank everyone who helped financially and otherwise in making this visit to Europe a reality.

*CAPT J.M. Fotheringham
Adjutant*

TRUST FUND

The President and Trustees of the Queen's Own Trust Fund are grateful to the following foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals for their generous financial support of "Operation Normandie".

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Kinnear Foundation | Mr. R.J. Keay |
| Bickell Foundation | Mr. W. McCulloch |
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| LCOL S.D. Brand | |
| MAJ C.G. Cowan | |
| Mr. D.H. Ashton | |
| Mr. R.D. Horner | |

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The following letter was received by CQMS Jack Martin, Chairman of the Queen's Own D-Day Plus 50 pilgrimage to Normandy by veterans of the Regiment.

Dear Jack:

Jan and I would like to express, through you, our most sincere thanks and appreciation to those members of QOR of C who made the trip to France for D-Day Plus 50 for making us feel so welcome and "one of the gang" so to speak.

For my own part, letting me participate in your very special remembrance ceremonies was a great honour for me. It is something I will remember for a long time and the pictures we have will forever remind us of what a great trip we had with a great group of people.

It would be very much appreciated if you could pass this on to your Queen's Own Association and to all those who were there from the Regiment for their great hospitality.

*Yours most sincerely,
George W. Ackerman
(That Navy Guy)*

REFLECTIONS ON D-DAY PLUS 50 CEREMONIES IN FRANCE

by LCOL *The Hon Barnett J. Danson, P.C.*

It is now a week since we commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day and the subsequent events which marked the liberation of Normandy. The French were warm, grateful and sometimes as emotional as we were. They welcomed us as liberators, and occasionally, as heroes. They waved flags, applauded and cheered as we marched into the area of a special ceremony. But we know that we were fighting for ourselves every bit as much, as it turned out, we were fighting for them. We know that our freedom could not be secure if they, and other occupied nations, were not made free.

The very special moments for most of us were when we walked the rows of headstones and spotted those of friends. Comrades in the fullest sense. Tears were shed, perhaps embarrassingly if someone was watching, but never ashamedly. Although this is always an emotional experience, there was something particularly poignant about this time. We are getting old and the graves of those young friends reminded us of happy young faces and our own youth during a most, if not the most, important experience in our lives. And we know too that this might be the last time many of us will be able to say our quiet prayers for them and with them. To actually feel we are communicating directly with them, whispering words of friendship, even love assuring them that we will never forget them, and believing that they could hear us and smiled in understanding.

And then we wondered what will happen when we have gone and there is no one left to remember. Remembering not only them and us, but at least our children and grandchildren and their children will remember us for a generation or two or three. Few of them know parenthood and when their brothers and sisters die they will be like the lonely souls lying in the battlefields of World War I and those of ancient wars. Hopefully, future generations will

remember or be told just why we fought that war and the consequences had we lost it, as we came perilously close to doing. This commemoration went some way to passing this message on. The French school children, unlike their young parents, were curious and involved. They touched us deeply.

Somehow we must perpetuate the message that we do not live in isolation and being our brother's keeper is ultimately the most self-serving act that we can perform. That those who died may have died needlessly because of the utter chaos of war, but after fifty years of relative peace and freedom we know that they did not die in vain.

For those of us who were and always will be "Queen's Own" it was a special occasion not only because of the very proud role we played, but because we were there in great numbers. And people noticed, as they always seem to notice the Queen's Own. Our superb Band was there impressing everyone who heard them. Our fifty-man guard was as good as we were (well almost) and certainly as good as any we saw over there.

The one inexcusable note was the ceremony at Bernieres-sur-Mer, the beach where the Queen's Own landed, where our contingent of veterans (the guys who actually landed there) were left at the back of the crowd to stand virtually unnoticed and unable to see or hear what was going on.

The best Queen's Own event was at Anisy, the D-Day objective. It was the only one reached and held of all allied D-Day objectives. It was truly a family affair. The veterans, supported by the Band and the guard, were warmly received by the Mayor and the people of Anisy and surrounding communities. It was a moving scene as the Band and the guard marched into this small

Norman town which hosted and billeted the Queen's Own contingent and cheered the bemedalled veterans. Not many dry eyes as the quite beautiful memorial was unveiled as a permanent reminder of one of the outstanding D-Day accomplishments and its cost in riflemen we shall never forget.

The Commanding Officer, LCOL Steve Brand, kept everyone at top levels of performance partly by example, partly by good planning and to a very large extent by his imagination and enthusiasm which he transmitted to his officers and men. He even participated in the mass parachute jump with five of his soldiers, including the Guard Commander, CAPT John Fotheringham. They were really great as they carried on the very special traditions of the Regiment. We old sweats were proud indeed and know that our precious Regiment is in good hands. And it will continue to be as long as the Regimental family in its many manifestations continues to function and pull together as they did in the past when they were needed. The result in Normandy proves how valuable this family can be.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Research has shown that neither the Regimental Secretary nor his assistants are clairvoyant, therefore, if our readers wish to remain on the Regimental mailing list it is essential for them to notify us of changes of address.

Doing so will not only save us mailing costs but it will also put a smile on our faces.