



The Powder Horn

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Congratulations and Best Wishes...to Major-General

Barry W. Ashton on his promotion to that rank and appointment as Commander Canadian Contingent of the United Nations Peace Forces in Croatia. He also serves as the Deputy Force Commander of UN Forces.

The Annual Meeting of Trustees of the Regimental Trust Fund was held in Toronto on 24 May 1995 at which the following Trustees were elected to serve as officers of the Trust Fund.

President
- LCOL J.G.B. Strathy

Vice-President
- MGEN H.C. Pitts

Treasurer
- LCOL M.I. Jackson

Secretary
- BGEN S.F. Andrunyk

Members
- WOII C.C. Martin
Sgt. A.M. Gay

Congratulations...to the following members of The Queen's Own Rifles Branch (Ont 344) of The Royal Canadian Legion who were

elected to the Executive of the Branch.

President
- W. Clark

Past President
- H. Bidlofsky

1st Vice President
- J. Kenn

2nd Vice President
- A. Macnaughton

Secretary
- M. Keates

Poppy
- J. Missons

50/50 Chairman
- H. Ware

Sgt-At-Arms
- P. TenKortenaar

Congratulations...to WOI

(RSM) B.W. Budden who has been elected President of the Queen's Own Association in Toronto replacing Sgt. A. Macnaughton.

LCOL S.D. Brand, Commanding Officer, has announced a new slate of officers with effect from 6 June 1995. MAJ A.R. Welsh has been named the Deputy Commanding Officer. Company Commanders will be CAPT J.M.

Fotheringham (60th Company), CAPT A. Champion (Victoria Company) and MAJ E.R.C. Simundson (Gurkha Company).

A Reception, hosted by Lieutenant Colonel S.D. Brand, Commanding Officer, was held in the Governor General's Suite of the Toronto Hilton Hotel on 13 July 1995 to honor the Major of Anisy, France and a small group of his citizens. The Major, Mr. Leparquier, organized a great deal of administrative support for members of the Regiment during their visit to Anisy to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day and this reception was intended to repay him and the citizens of Anisy for their warm hospitality in 1994.

CHANGE OF COMMAND...

LCOL S.D. Brand, CD, will be handing over command of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to LCOL A.R. Welsh, CD, at 1500 hrs. on Sunday 17 Sept 1995, at Moss Park Armoury, in the presence of the Honorary Colonel, BGEN D.A. Pryer, CD. The reviewing officer will be COL D.E. Rive, CD, Commander Toronto District.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF COSENS HALL

A special ceremony at the Meaford Training Centre on 26 February 1995 saw the official opening of a modern drill hall named after Sergeant Aubrey Cossens, a member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who won the Victoria Cross for his outstanding courage and leadership in an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof in Holland in February 1945. After the reduction of all the enemy strongpoints, Sergeant Cossens was killed by an enemy sniper. His actions resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operations of the Brigade.

The ceremonies for the opening of the Cossens Hall began with a live-fire demonstration of small arms by members

of the Militia Battalion. A parade followed in the drill hall attended by members of the Cossens family, veterans of the Regiment including LCOL Ben Dunkelman, the Company Commander at the time of the battle, and CSM Charles C. Martin who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal while serving with the Regiment in the Northwest European campaign.

Cossens Hall has a parade square big enough for a company plus group. It also has classrooms, a work-out room with weights and fitness equipment, showers and space for storing sports equipment and classroom training resources. The main item is the Phoenix Indirect Fire Simulator.

REFLECTIONS ON AN ERA - PART II REGULAR COMPONENT - 2ND BATTALION

2nd Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was formed from the 2nd Canadian Rifles Battalion, a "Panda" battalion, composed of companies from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, The Regina Rifles, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Rileys). The Battalion served in NATO in Germany and Norway, the United Nations in Korea and Cyprus and in Canada in Ipperwash, Victoria and Calgary.

In 1967 the battalion was serving in Cyprus as the Kyrenia District Force with a squadron of the RCDs, a Finnish motorcycle platoon and a Danish police company when the Honorable Leo Cadieux, Minister of Defence, visited the battalion and during a visit to the Tjiklos Observation Post hinted to me that reorganization was on the way and we might be affected.

We returned to Calgary in October 1967 and on December 22nd I was summoned to the office of the Chief of Defence Staff in Ottawa where I found Lieutenant Colonel Arthur M. Potts of 1 PPCLI also awaiting an audience.

General Victor Allard, the Chief of Defence Staff, told us that the Army was going to be reduced by three battalions and that there was a chance for an

amalgamation between my battalion and the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Potts. He asked us to pursue this option through our Regimental Colonels, the alternative being the "Reduction to Nil Strength" of the 2nd Battalion with retention on the Order of Battle. We were not to discuss this outside of the Regimental Colonels until advised.

In March 1968 Brigadier General Stan Waters, Commander 1CIBG, called me in to tell me that my battalion was to be reduced to Nil strength by July and that the reduction was to be conducted with as little publicity as possible and without any administrative order from Mobile Command other than one telegram ordering me to conduct the reduction by a certain date. I raised several questions as there had been no mention of the Home Station, the barracks and the Regimental Museum.

I left his office facing a certain number of problems not covered by the Staff College. I decided that the men and families must be looked after first after which we would worry about vehicles, weapons and regimental property. In that regard I received great co-operation from National Defence Headquarters Personnel Branch, no help at all from Mobile Command Headquarters and understanding and support

**REFLECTIONS ON AN ERA - PART II
REGULAR COMPONENT - 2ND BATTALION
Cont'd...**

from Brigadier General Stan Waters and HQ 1 CIBG.

This was a different task from the 1st Battalion of our regiment who simply changed cap badges and stayed put in Workpoint Barracks. A single example of the difficulties may suffice. We had agreed regimentally that all the best furniture, silver, oil paintings, etc. would be moved to the 1st Battalion in Esquimalt, B.C.. Preparations were well under way when Calgary Base Headquarters "ordered" me to leave everything in Currie Barracks for the new base messes. I considered the order illegal and ill-advised and called in a moving company who quietly shipped the brand-new Sergeants' Mess furniture to the 1st Battalion in Esquimalt. The next task was to move the Officers' Mess silver, the invaluable Silverine Drums, the oil paintings and other furnishings that Lieutenant Colonel H.C. Pitts, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, had indicated he wanted. By this time Calgary Base Headquarters had been alerted and told me that it would block any further removals from Currie Barracks. I then asked Brigadier-General Stan Waters for authority to move a convoy from Calgary to Esquimalt with our treasured regimental effects. He authorized the convoy and an armed guard to accompany it. Due to the difficulties we were having, I advised Base Headquarters of the departure time and that the convoy would leave Currie Barracks headed up by an M113A1 APC in case anyone was foolish enough to try to stop it. The convoy left on time and in peace.

Through all of this, Major Phil Roy, and CSMs Olmstead and Murray of "The Red Group" had control of all the details concerning buildings, vehicles, band uniforms, instruments, pioneer shop tools, sports stores, flags, pictures, weapons, ammunition, drapes, trophies, wall plaques, silverware, and oil paintings until the final act - an auction of "What the hell do we do with this" which put smiles on the faces of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cadet Corps lads and lassies. "The Red Group" did an incredible job.

Just to keep up our soldiers' skills we won every Brigade competition that spring

including the 106 RCL competition when the Anti-Tank platoon strength was down to three riflemen.

Of the subalterns who lived through that reduction, Ray Crabbe and Pierre Lalonde are now Major-Generals and Barry Ashton has recently been promoted to Major-General to command the Canadian Contingent in Croatia. Phil Roy, Bill Minnis and Jack English became Colonels and others achieved equal greatness in their careers, so difficulties we experienced did provide good training after all.

Our final parade was a "Sunset Ceremony" parade of 1 CIBG with the units of 1 CIBG forming a hollow square in which the 2nd Battalion of our Regiment paraded for the last time and lowered its flag to the "Evening Hymn" played by the Band of the Lord Strathcona's Horse and the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cadet Bugles. After that the 2nd Battalion flag was presented to Colonel J.G.K. Strathy to be retained in trust by each succeeding Colonel of the Regiment until the day of recall of the 2nd Battalion.

The 2nd Battalion then marched into the dusk to the sounds of "Auld Lang Syne".

The above recollection of the 2nd Battalion's reduction to Nil strength was submitted by Colonel N.A. Robinson who was the Commanding Officer of the Battalion at that time

**WORLD WAR II HUMOUR
FROM THE "BIG 2" BUGLE**

A rifleman in an army chapel was seen to bow slightly whenever the name of Satan was mentioned.

One day the chaplain met him and asked him to explain. "Well", replied the rifleman, "politeness costs nothing and you never know."

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS SECOND BATTALION, THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)

The presentation of new colours to the Second Battalion of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, took place in Howe Barracks, Canterbury of 20 May 1995.

Representing The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at this historic ceremony was Lieutenant Colonel M.G. McIver who was accompanied by his wife Jean. An account of this ceremony by Lieutenant Colonel McIver follows.

"The presentation of new colours to the PWRR was a necessity because the old colours that the Regiment was carrying were colours that were presented to The Queen's Regiment in May 1974 by the Allied Colonel-In-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) was formed in September 1992 by the amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment. This is of significance to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada because for many years our Regiment was affiliated with the Queen's Own Buffs who at one time were known as the Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs). The Buffs was one of the regiments that formed The Queen's Regiment in 1966.

My wife and I were honoured and very pleased to represent The Queen's Own Rifles at this special parade. Since we were in

Holland to participate in the 50th anniversary of VE Day, we flew from Amsterdam to London on the Friday, attended the parade on Saturday, flew back to Amsterdam on Sunday to make our flight connections to Toronto on Monday.

The parade was by invitation only and there appeared to be reasonable security. The weather was quite cool but the threat of rain held off during the ceremonies. It was obvious from the moment that the four guards first appeared on parade that we were watching regular soldiers and that they had trained hard and long for this occasion. At the completion of each drill movement you could hear only one sound as the feet and weapons were moved. The very difficult "Advance in Review Order" was done to perfection. I have written to LCOL Newton, the Commanding Officer, to congratulate him for a superior parade.

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales arrived looking very beautiful in a pink suit with a matching pill-box style hat. The suit had short sleeves and she must have been quite cool. In fact when we were talking to her later, she said that she was cold. Then she said, "It was my own fault, it was just plain vanity."

After the ceremony the officers of the Battalion had lunch with Her Royal Highness in the Officers' Mess while the guests had a reception in several large marquees where there

was a bountiful supply of delicious food and beverage.

While Jean and I were in Canterbury we were guests at the lovely home of Mrs. Christine Grace. Her late husband, Colonel Raymond Grace, was the last Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Buffs. Although her husband passed away thirteen years ago, she has kept in close contact with the various regiments as they evolved through the several amalgamations. She is a delightful and gracious lady who is full of knowledge and stories about the military life in Canterbury. Her home in the country near Canterbury is a treasure in a most enjoyable setting. Jean and I thank her for our wonderful visit to "The Old Rectory".

Mrs. Grace squired us around at the reception and introduced us to many of her friends including the Lord Lieutenant of Kent who later presented us to Her Royal Highness. I was able to talk about our long affiliation with "The Buffs" and Jean said that she would have liked to have offered her cape to her when she was on the parade square. The Princess replied that at that time she would have accepted it.

All in all it was an unforgettable experience and although the air travel was a bit exhausting we would not have missed it for the world."

HISTORICAL NOTES **THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S** **ROYAL REGIMENT** **(QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)**

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

The Queen's Regiment traced its history back to 1572 when Queen Elizabeth I reviewed the Trained Bands of London from which 3rd Foot descended. Its precedence in the British Army dated from the raising of 2nd Foot in 1661 for the Defence of Tangier, acquired by King Charles II on his marriage to Princess Catherine of Braganza. The Regiment was formed in 1966 from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment stems from an amalgamation in 1881 of the 37th (North Hampshire) Regiment and the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment. The 37th descended from "Meredith's Regiment", raised in Ireland in 1702. The 67th was formed in England in 1758 and its first Colonel was James Wolfe, later to be General Wolfe of Quebec fame. The distinction "Royal" was granted to The Hampshire Regiment in 1946 in recognition of past services.

REGIMENTAL KIT SHOP

Readers of "*The Powder Horn*" should be aware that the regimental Kit Shop, under the efficient supervision of Art Gay, has a wide variety of Regimental wearing apparel and items commemorating D-Day and VE Day. Also available are Regimental ice buckets in the form of a drum on which are inscribed our battle honours, Regimental note paper, Regimental Band tapes, and a mix of decals.

A limited number of signed and numbered prints of the D-Day assault landing painting are still available. They measure 18 inches by 21 inches signed by the artist, Captain Orville N. Fisher.

The Kit Shop also holds autographed copies of "*Battle Diary - D-Day*" a fast-paced and immediate battle account by CSM Charles C. Martin, DCM, MM, CM, who was the

company sergeant major of A Company from the day he landed in Normandy to the end of the Second World War.

What better gifts for members of the Regimental family than items with which they can associate!!!!

Write to the Regimental Kit Shop at Moss Park Armoury for a price list.

REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND

The Annual Meeting of Trustees of the Regimental Trust Fund convened on 24 May 1995 at which matters pertaining to the Trust Fund were discussed and acted upon.

It was noted with gratitude that a total of \$66,000.00 was raised in 1994 of which \$62,000.00 was expended leaving a balance of \$4,000.00.

The major portion of donations came from a special fund-raising drive by LCOL J.G.B. Strathy to enable serving members of the Regiment to participate in the D-Day Plus 50 ceremonies in Normandy. In addition, bequests and "in memorium" donations reached \$13,000.00 and donations earmarked for "Project Memorials" totalled \$3,000.00.

The Trustees approved expenditures of \$52,600.00 in 1995 to cover the costs of production and installation of memorial plaques in Wons, Holland and Moss Park Armoury; restoration of the Cross of Sacrifice located on the grounds of St. Paul's Church in Toronto; publication of "*The Rifleman*" and "*The Powder Horn*"; operation of the Regimental Museum in Casa Loma; operation of Regimental Headquarters; payment of premiums on property insurance; and support of the Battalion.

The Trustees would like members of the Regimental family to note particularly that the costs involved in the manufacture and installation of the memorials amounted to nearly \$22,000.00 while donations earmarked for these memorials reached only \$14,000.00. Moreover, an additional amount of \$6,000.00 must be found to restore the Cross of Sacrifice.

Every member of our Regimental family is encouraged to make a special effort to support the Trust Fund with a healthy donation in 1995 to meet the financial obligations of the Trust Fund.

A proforma to attach with your donation is enclosed with this newsletter.

QOR ASSOCIATION (TORONTO) REPORT *By CWO B.W. Budden, President*

This being my first report as your newly elected President of the QOR Association in Toronto, let me say what an honour and privilege it is to serve as President of a long and distinguished Association that goes back to the early part of World War I. Unlike many other patriotic organizations, the Association has continued its work and remains today an important factor in the life of the Regiment. Having been associated with the Regiment for over 25 years and having been the Regimental Sergeant Major from 1987 to 1991, I will do my utmost to continue the traditions of the past.

One of the biggest tasks that has been ongoing for the past two years has been the construction of Regimental memorials. The memorial at Wons, Holland and the plaque at Moss Park Armoury have been completed. Donations to cover the cost of these memorials would be welcome. We still have to make improvements of monuments at Bernieres-sur-Mer and place a plaque on the D-Day House at the same location, however, that cannot be done until we have the necessary funds to undertake these projects.

One of the biggest events of the year was the 50th anniversary of VE Day which was well represented by the Regiment. As one of the younger members who attended, I was most impressed by the hospitality and friendship of the Dutch people which was second to none.

Association upcoming events are: 19 August - Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE - Form-up at 1030 hours in front of Fort York Armoury. 16 September - Annual Association Rifle Shoot at CFB Borden. Depart Moss Park Armoury at 0900 hours.

QOR ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) NEWS....

Joe Webb reports that this year's Regimental Birthday celebrations were a great success with 85 members in attendance. It is regretted that Don (Moose) McDonald and Dave Parkin were unable to attend. The Branch supported Bob Foster's trip to Holland who took part in the VE Day celebrations. A warm welcome home is extended to Ken Bisson from his UN duty in Bosnia.

The Annual Happy Hour will be held by the General Ashton Armouries in Victoria on Saturday, 7 October from 1400 to 1600 hours. This is a mixed event to which all are invited.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Branch, Major Jamie MacKendrick entertained us all with tales from World War II.

Joe and Sandy Rozon's daughter was married this summer. For information about the activities of Victoria Branch please contact Joe Webb at (604) 656-9929 or Gord Hryhoryshen at (604) 652-4379.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION NEWS.....

John Cresswell reports that the Regimental Birthday celebrations took place in the Sergeants' Mess of Currie Barracks on 22 April 1995. The special guest was Colonel D.S. Ethell, OMM, MSC, CD, who was accompanied by his wife Linda. The commencement of the dinner was highlighted by the ceremonial marching in of "The Rifle" with the escort consisting of Ken Barrett, Harold Houghton and John Hearn.

Out of town guests included Pat and Laurie Devlin from Courtney, B.C.; Ron and Betty Wilson from Brandon, Man.; David and Barbara McCulloch from Agassiz, B.C.; Joe Morin and his wife from Moose Jaw, Sask.; Ed and Bridget Bogan from Sardis, B.C.; Jim and Bobby Carrell from Victoria, B.C.; and Barry Fraser, Adrien Cyr, Russ Moore and Frances Vermette from various part of Manitoba.

Colonel Ethell made special presentations to past committee members, namely, Al Crump, Roy Dunford, John and Vera Hearn, Bert Pendlebury, Ralph Ridley, Jim Stoley and his wife Alberta, and to Ann and Kim, daughters of Al Tate.

FRASER VALLEY GROUP NEWS....

Marc Gagne reports that the QOR group in BC's Fraser Valley celebrated the Regimental Birthday in the M/CPLs lounge at CFB Chilliwack on 30 April 1995. The Regimental birthday cake was beautifully inscribed highlighting the QOR insignia and the 135th birthday with Helen Schulz doing the decorating.

Bob Foster represented Canada at the VE Day celebrations in Holland. He enjoyed his trip but was surprised by the number of veterans who became red-faced when confronted by Dutch citizens in their fifties who were looking for their natural fathers.

Former members of the Regiment who wish to joint the Fraser Valley group are asked to contact Ken Moiny or Marc Gagne in Chilliwack.