



The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

2009-2010

1860-2010

**CELEBRATING OUR
150TH ANNIVERSARY**



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO

HRH Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO **Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada**

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO, who has been Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada since 1960, is one of the most popular members of the royal family and regularly represents her cousin, Queen Elizabeth II, in carrying out official engagements at home and abroad.

Born in London on 25 December, 1936, her father was Prince George, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George V and Queen Mary. Her mother was Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark. She was christened Alexandra Helen Elizabeth Olga Christabel. The name Christabel was added to commemorate the fact that she was born on Christmas Day. At the time of her birth she was sixth in the line of succession to the British throne.

Princess Alexandra was baptised in Buckingham Palace, on 9 February 1937. Her godparents were King George VI and The Queen Mother, Prince Nicholas of Greece and Denmark, Princess Olga of Yugoslavia, Count Karl Theodor of Törring-Jettenbach, Queen Maud of Norway, Alexander Cambridge, 1st Earl of Athlone and Princess Beatrice of the United Kingdom.

The princess spent much of her childhood at her family's country house, Coppins, in Buckinghamshire. During World War Two, which broke out when she was two years old, she lived with her grandmother, the Dowager Queen Mary, the widow of George V, at Badminton, in Gloucestershire. At that time, Queen Mary was the Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Princess Alexandra's father, the Duke of Kent, while serving in the Royal Air Force was killed in a military plane crash near Caithness, Scotland on 25 August, 1942.

Princess Alexandra served as a bridesmaid at the wedding of her cousin, the then-Princess Elizabeth, and The Duke of Edinburgh, on 20 November 1947. On 24 April 1963 at Westminster Abbey, the princess married the Hon. Angus James Bruce Ogilvy, second son of the 12th Earl of Airlie and Lady Alexandra Coke. The wedding ceremony was attended by all the members of the Royal family and was seen worldwide on television.



Angus Ogilvy, who died in 2004, had received a Knighthood in 1988 and was appointed to the Privy Council in 1997. Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus had two children, James and Marina, and four grandchildren.

In addition to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, HRH Princess Alexandra is also Colonel-in-Chief of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), which is based in Victoria, BC. She is also Royal Colonel, 3rd Battalion The Rifles, and holds similar military honours among a number of other British military units.



The Rifleman



HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1928-1953



the major political changes which arose in the aftermath of the Great War and the subsequent rise of socialism and nationalism, as well as during his later ill-health.

The announcement of the acceptance by Queen Mary to become the first Colonel-In-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was made on 27 July, 1928. The Regimental History noted that "As The Queen's Own was the only regiment in Canada so honoured, the distinction is doubly significant." She was to serve for the next 15 years.

After King George V's death in 1936, her eldest son Edward became King-Emperor, but in a widely criticized move, he abdicated the same year in order to marry twice-divorced

Since its founding in 1860 The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada has had but two Colonels-in-Chief – Her Majesty Queen Mary, from 1928 to 1953, and Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO, granddaughter of Queen Mary, from 1960 until the present time.

Born in 1867 at Kensington Palace, Her Serene Highness Princess Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes of Teck was the daughter of Francis, Duke of Teck, a great-granddaughter of King George III and a cousin of Queen Victoria.

Married to Prince George, the Duke of York, on 6 July, 1893 at St James's Palace, upon her husband's accession to the throne in 1910 she became Queen of the British Dominions, Empress of India and Queen Consort of George V, King-Emperor. She was a steadfast supporter of the king throughout World War One, during

American socialite Mrs. Wallis Simpson. Queen Mary's second son, Albert, then succeeded to the throne as George VI, serving with distinction – and with bravery during World War Two – until his death in 1952.

She died in London on 24 March, 1953, and was buried next to her husband in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. Queen Mary was regarded as the matriarch of the Royal Family and had been known for setting the tone of the British Royal Family and as a model of regal formality and propriety. Her funeral and lying-in-state created unprecedented scenes of public mourning.

Her death came at the beginning of the reign of her granddaughter, Elizabeth II. Prior to that time, there were three queens in the country: Mary, her daughter-in-law, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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“The way I see it ...”



“Mr Prime Minister, let me tell you what I think you should do...”

Bill Bettridge, who was a sniper with The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada and landed on D-Day, has made numerous trips back to France, Belgium and Holland over the years and in 2009, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the invasion, had the chance to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Normandy. While the weather was inclement the meeting and the conversation were warm and lively and Bettridge was delighted later to receive a letter from the Prime Minister, along with two autographed photographs. (See also inside back cover.)



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 21, 2009

Bill Bettridge

Dear Mr. Bettridge:

It was a personal pleasure for me to meet with you in Normandy during the D-Day Anniversary ceremonies. I enjoyed being able to attend the commemoration alongside all of the brave veterans who fought to free Europe from the tyranny of Nazism.

As you requested through Blake Heathcote, I have attached a copy of the photographs. Please accept them with my compliments. It is always an honour for me to take a moment with a veteran of Second World War.

Your sacrifice, and those of all the soldiers who gave their youth and their lives in defence of the freedom and democracy we enjoy, will not be forgotten. Through your service you have helped make Canada the great country that it is today, and for that you will always deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

/jtd

Memories of D-Day+65 in Normandy



LCol John Fotheringham CD, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association President Jan deVries, MCpl Adam de Bartok and Cpl Shawn Overholt.



French children laid wreaths at The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada memorials.



Local youngsters display The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada flag prior to a memorial service.



A contingent of serving members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and representatives of the Toronto Branch of the QOR of C Association veterans, friends and families gathered in Normandy to mark the D-Day+65 anniversary last year. They included D-Day vets Orville Cook, Bill Bettridge and Bill Ross (above).

Remembrance Day Ceremonies were well attended in November



1) (l to r) Korean War veteran Frank Sypulski, former CO LCol John Strathy CD, Isabel and LCol Barney Danson PC CC, Queen's Own Padre Capt Daniel Saugh and St. Paul's Anglican Church Pastor, Rev Barry Parker, attended the wreath laying ceremony at the Cross of Sacrifice.

2) Last Post and Reveille are sounded.

3) MCpl Darnel Leader stands vigil as QOR Association members salute. (l to r) Bob Dunk, Toronto, Bob Titus, Calgary, Tom Martin, Victoria, and Sgt Craig Hood CD.

4) Cpl Bob Frankling CD (left) played Last Post and Reveille at a Remembrance Day ceremony on 11 November, 2009, in Brookfield Place, Toronto, where former Queen's Own Rifles CO LCol Rob Zeidler CD is property manager. Present at the ceremony were D-Day veterans Jack Hadley (second left) and Jack Martin (right).

5) and 6) Nov 11th parade in Victoria, BC, "with 24 Riflemen on parade," MGen Herb Pitts, MC CD, reported. "I laid a wreath in the VIP section and accompanied the Lieutenant Governor and an Admiral on the Saluting Base for the Marchpast. Reference was made to 'Commemorating 150 years of Service to Canada' which was a good start to 'coming out'. Marching contingent looked great."

The Honorary Colonel hosts the QOR Afghanistan veterans at dinner



Colonel Paul Hughes CD, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, hosted more than two dozen returnees from Afghanistan at dinner at the RCMI in November. Col Hughes is seen here with the CO, LCol John Fotheringham CD, and MGen Herb Pitts MC CD, former CO, 1st Bn The Queen's Own Rifles and a former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment.



Cpl Calvin Lui, MCpl Marc Charlebois, Sgt Judy Willan CD.



MCpl Jason McGibbon, MCpl Mike McQuaid, MCpl Stephen Thomas MB, MCpl Shawn Overholt.



MWO Mark Shannon CD, WO Inasio Kim CD



Sgt Bryan Burns CD, Major Peter St. Denis, MSC CD.



Adjutant, Capt Shawn Stewart, Capt Mark Timms.



D-Day veteran CQMS Jack Martin and Sgt Craig Hood CD.

Dedication of markers for QOR casualties of 1866 Battle of Ridgeway

The regiment marches into Necropolis Cemetery in Toronto to take part in the dedication of new markers provided by Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes CD for three Queen's Own Rifles soldiers killed at the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866. There are six others located elsewhere which will be dedicated later this year as part of the celebrations for the regiment's 150th birthday.

Commanding Officer John Fotheringham CD and Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes CD salute after a wreath is placed at the marker for Rifleman William Tempest, while Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Skirmisher Cpl Michael Carrier stands vigil.



PPCLI member who was killed in Afghanistan is honoured



Message sent to Regimental Major Jeff Bird, PPCLI RHQ: "I was present when the tribute was paid at Cpl Ainsworth Dyer's grave in Toronto on 08 Nov 09 by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada after the Annual Church Parade. At the same time in the same cemetery, the Regiment honoured three of their Battle of Ridgeway (1866) casualties by placing new headstones on each grave as the old ones were now not readable. I knew of the three regimental casualties being honoured but it was a touching addition to see Dyer honoured with a wreath, placing party, sentry and Last Post and Rouse by a Drummer and four Buglers. The placing party members served with Dyer in Afghanistan." Best Wishes. Herb Pitts.

The wreath was placed by Capt Jeff Ross, now a member of The Queen's Own, who was one those who had served with Dyer in Afghanistan. MGen Pitts MC CD, served with 1st and 3rd Bns of PPCLI in Korea and is a former Commanding Officer of 1st Bn The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Excellent attendance at the Annual Christmas Dinner at Moss Park



Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada stand as a toast is proposed prior to sitting down to a full turkey and trimmings Christmas Dinner on the parade square at Moss Park Armoury in December. As has been the custom in British and Commonwealth Army regiments for many, many years the meals are served to the troops and guests by officers and senior NCOs. In addition to veterans and members of the Toronto Branch of the QOR Association, guests included families of members of The Queen's Own Rifles serving in Afghanistan.



(1) Among a number of presentations made at the dinner, MCpl Adam de Bartok receives a copy of the D-Day landing painting for the Junior Ranks Mess. It was presented by LCol John Fotheringham on behalf of the family of the late Capt Stan Biggs, a D-Day veteran.
(2) Airborne Rifleman of the Year award presented to MCpl Lee Harrison Cd by Lt Scott Moody.

Presentations



(1) RSM/CWO (Ret) Brian Budden CD, presents the "Rifleman of the Year" award to Capt Charles McGregor, author of the book "The Bands of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada - 1860-2010," and Editor of Rifleman and Powder Horn.

(2) Toronto Branch Association president WO (Ret) Bob Dunk CD receives the Public Service Award from Commanding Officer LCol John Fotheringham CD. The award was given for the Association's support of Queen's Own Rifles of Canada soldiers deployed on Task Force 3-08.

(3) Cpl Paolo Ortega receives his Certificate of Airborne Achievement from Capt Adam Harmes

(4) MCpl Darnel Leader receives his Certificate of Airborne Achievement from Capt Adam Harmes.



Presentations



Capt Adam Harmes presents Certificates of Airborne Achievement

(1) Cpl Graham Humphrey.

(2) Capt Mark Timms.

(3) MCpl Chris Abate.

(4) Cpl Calvin Lui receives the Dalton Cup from OC Buffs Coy Capt Jeff Ross as the company's outstanding member.

(5) RSM/CWO Shaun Kelly CD presents the CSM Charlie Martin Award to Sgt Jeff Johnston.

New Year's Day Levee, 2010 is the kick-off for the 150th Birthday Celebrations



*“Happy New
(Sesquicentennial)
Year”*



1) Early arrivals at Moss Park Armoury on New Year's Day were treated to breakfast.

2) New Year's Day Levee food is served by willing volunteers (l to r) Kathryn Emanuel (Mrs Shaun Kelly), Bugle Major Fred Haire, CD, CWO Scott Patterson CD, RSM/CWO Shaun Kelly CD, and MWO Mark Shannon CD.

3) CO LCol John Fotheringham CD, Officer's Mess PMC Capt Tom Foulds CD and Hon LCol, Col Dick Cowling CD.



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Chief Clerk, Sergeant June Parris CD, toasts CWO/RSM Scott Patterson CD in the Sergeant's Mess.



WO (Ret) Gerry Senetchko CD, receives his New Year's Day drink in the Sergeant's Mess from CWO/RSM Scott Patterson CD during the 2010 levee.



Capt Kevin Sheedy, former DCO Maj Erik Simundson, OMM CD, Capt Mark Kaipio CD.



Hon Col of the Toronto Scottish, LCol Gil Taylor CD and Pipe Major Doug Swann.

Rifleman Editor Capt Charles McGregor (left) joins LCol Howard Flood, former DCO of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and his guest Trelawny Howell in front of the portrait of her great-grand-uncle, Sir Henry Pellatt, former Commanding Officer of the Regiment.



The Honorary Colonel's report covers "an extraordinarily busy period"

Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD



Maj Peter St. Denis MSC CD presents Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes CD with a print designed by photographer/artist Sylvia Pecota signed by all the Afghanistan returnees in attendance at the dinner the Honorary Colonel hosted for them in November. (See pages 6 and 7)

As I look back on the year 2009 – and on '08 and '07 as well – the thought comes quickly to mind that it has been an extraordinarily busy period. Much of the efforts have centred upon the planning and organization of events surrounding the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. These will be highlighted, of course, by the visit of Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO, who is marking her 50th year as our Colonel-in-Chief in 2010. Members of the Regimental Associations of The Queen's Own Rifles in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario have worked tirelessly to ensure that her visits to Victoria, Calgary and Toronto will be memorable indeed.

The Colonel-in-Chief will be guest of honour at gala dinners in each location and will dedicate regimental cairns in Victoria and Calgary to commemorate the presence of the 1st and 2nd Battalions QOR in those locations. She will also unveil a cairn and a plaque commemorating the presence of the 2nd Battalion at Gordon Head Military Barracks upon return from Korea in 1955 and deployment to Germany in late 1957. In addition to attending the dinner in Toronto, Princess Alexandra will visit Casa Loma and the Regimental Museum, will attend church services in St Paul's, following which she will be photographed with the regiment and band at Moss Park Armoury

and will chat with members of The Queen's Own Rifles and their families at a parade square reception.

But these, and other activities marking the 150th anniversary, are still ahead of us. A look back is in order at this point. Unquestionably the pre-eminent matter involving the regiment has been the commitment of its members to the major effort the military is making in Afghanistan. As many as 100 of our troops have volunteered — or "self-nominated" in current military terminology — to take a year off to train strenuously for six months and then to deploy for another half-year to the battle zone and its dust, excessive heat, and endless workdays in that far-off country. Coupled with these, of course, is the ever-present threat of death or injury.

Although we have welcomed back each and every one of them, safely from Afghanistan, three of our soldiers have had close calls. MCpl Stephen Thomas was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery for his actions when the vehicle in which was riding was attacked by a suicide bomber and caught fire. He and his fellow crew members removed the ammunition they were carrying to prevent an explosion which could have harmed them and members of the local population. Also, MCpl Adam de Bartok and MCpl Rick Kurelo were awarded Medals of Sacrifice after being wounded in action. Twenty more of our troops are now deployed there and we wish them well as we await their safe return.

Two significant activities in connection with the Sesquicentennial have taken place. The first of three markers of Queen's Own members killed in the 1866 Fenian invasion have been refurbished and rededicated by the regiment. Also, Capt Charles McGregor's excellent book, "The Bands of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 1860-2010" is now on sale and I recommend it highly. It's available through the Regimental Kit Shop. Several activities are planned, including the hosting by the regiment of the Toronto Garrison Officers' Ball in March and a cel-

ebration of "The Queen Own Rifles of Canada Day" in Toronto on 26 April.

Looking further ahead than 2010 gives me cause for serious concern, however. In February, our soldiers training in the California desert prior to deployment to Afghanistan, had their prepared meals reduced in quantity and their bottled water was replaced by tanker trucks filling military issue canteens. To prepare them for life in Kandahar? No. To help save money. All reserve army Commanding Officers, including The Queen's Own Rifles CO, LCol John Fotheringham, have already felt the pinch, and have been instructed to save dollars in as many different ways as possible.

We appear to be coming to the end of the current "good times." For many years the military in Canada was grievously underfunded. That changed with the federal government's commitment to send troops to Afghanistan. Over the past five years or so the military has enjoyed a substantial increase in funding, but that appears to have peaked and, over the next few years, it's highly likely this benefit will be eroded as the government grapples with a \$56 billion deficit. Coupled with the coming budget cuts, I expect the amount of full time support allocated to reserve army units will also be reduced sharply.

The first quarter of 2010 has placed a heavy financial burden on the backs of the Canadian military. In addition to the continuing cost of keeping 2,500 troops in Afghanistan until late in 2011, 3,000 were assigned to various duties at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February. Before this deployment could even begin, following the massive and disastrous earthquake which devastated Haiti and thousands of residents lost their lives in January, almost 2,000 more troops were ordered into service there. These types of operations come at high cost. And the bills have to be paid.

One final thought. As we face whatever is ahead for us I think we can be assured that if we concentrate on our infantry skills and career progression we will continue to succeed. These attributes will never go out of favour.

Once in The Queen's Own, always in the Queen's Own. In Pace Paratus.

Commemorative coins produced to mark the regiment's 150th anniversary

LCol (Ret) C. Ed Rayment CD

The concept of providing commemorative coinage to the officers, soldiers and supporters of a unit on special occasions is an age-old British regimental tradition, which dates back to the Roman Legions. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada have maintained this tradition in each of its major birthdays and Royal Visits. Special 2010 Remembrance Coins will be presented by LCol John Fotheringham and CWO/RSM Shaun Kelly to all serving members of The Queen's Own to commemorate those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in service to our country and our regiment. This coin was also the centre of our public service announcement prepared by J Walter Thompson agency, which also focused on our "Standing on Guard since 1860" theme which has cast a unique light on our birthday celebrations.

Thus the coin was a natural choice to commemorate our 150th Birthday. Its image was

carefully honed to depict not only those coins of the past but also of the style so successfully used by present day DND to reward outstanding service. Opinions were



many but both my committee and myself would like to thank the following who provided valuable insight and direction to ensure the most unique and specific image possible:

MGen Herb Pitts, BGen Don Pryer, HCol Paul Hughes, HLCOL Dick Cowling, LCol

John Fotheringham, LCol Robert Zeidler, Capt Peter Simundson, WO Bob Dunk, and WO Phil ten Kortenaar. As well as special thanks to Capt A.B.T. Hermant for the inspiration, designer Tony Eid, who worked diligently on the final design and Rob McLeod of Stampede Graphic Services of Calgary Alberta who produced our coin.

These 2010 coins – 45 cm in diameter – will be available to serving members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, paid up members of the National Association and anyone who makes a minimum donation of \$25 to the

Regimental Trust Fund.

Coins will be provided by the regiment for serving members. Others who qualify will receive them from The National Association for its members or from the Regimental Trust Fund for its donors.

(See colour photo on outside back cover.)



Rifleman John Viau, of Agassiz, BC, a member of the 1st Bn The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada from 1950 until 1961, was photographed beside the 100th anniversary sign placed at the main gate of Currie Barracks in Calgary in 1960.

A Media Package of information and photographs has been delivered to major print media outlets and television networks to provide details of the visit to Canada of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra KG, GCVO. The biographies and photographs of Princess Alexandra and Queen Mary, the regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief, seen on the inside front cover and page one of this issue of *The Rifleman*, are included in the package.

The articles seen on the following pages (17-21) also will form part of the media package, which was distributed on CD for easy download by media recipients. Other articles include a regimental history and list of Battle Honours, short biographies and photos of the Commanding Officer, the RSM and the Honoraries, details on members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who have been awarded the Victoria Cross and a backgrounder on 32 Canadian Brigade Group.



1860-2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

The Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada Celebrates Its 150th Birthday In 2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada marched into its 150th year of continuous service to the nation with a New Year's Day levee for members of the regiment held on the parade square in Toronto's Moss Park. The Officers', Warrant Officers and Sergeants' and Junior Ranks' Messes were then opened to receive members from other area regiments and members of the public.

Similar New Year's Day activities were held by members of the Vancouver Island, Calgary and the Maritimes-Newfoundland-Labrador Regimental Association Branches.

The regiment was formed in Toronto on 26 April, 1860, as the 2nd Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada. The 1st Battalion, formed in Montreal the previous November, was later disbanded, while the 2nd Battalion, which later became the Queen's Own Rifles, has been in the service of Canada continuously ever since its founding.

Headquartered at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada established a satellite armoury on Mid-Dominion Drive in Scarborough in 2004 and members of the Regiment's "Bufs" Company parade and train there every Wednesday evening.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO, will join the regimental family of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at events to take place in Victoria, Calgary and Toronto during the birthday week, April 19-26, 2010. Additionally a number of public events are being staged to showcase a regiment which has fought battles at home and abroad since its first engagement at the Battle of Ridgeway, Ontario, in 1866.

The Colonel-in-Chief's visit will begin in Victoria, BC, where, on Monday, 19 April, she will be welcomed to British Columbia at Government House by the Lieutenant Governor and quarter guards from both of her regiments, The Queen's Own Rifles of

Canada and The Canadian Scottish. The following day she will dedicate a plaque commemorating the presence of the Regular Force 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, which was based there from the mid 1950s until rebadging as 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in 1970. Princess Alexandra will then attend an afternoon reception with all ranks of The Canadian Scottish, a second regiment of which she is Colonel-in-Chief.

Following a Reunion Dinner with the Vancouver Island Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles Association and their guests in the evening, The Colonel-in-Chief will spend Wednesday, 21 April in Victoria, travelling to Calgary on Wednesday, 22 April.

Her visit to Calgary will be preceded on Thursday, 23 April by an informal reception for all Calgary Branch Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association members at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 264.

On Thursday afternoon Calgary Branch Association members will welcome HRH Princess Alexandra to the Military Museum on Crowchild Trail SW. There she will dedicate a memorial at Currie Barracks, the Regimental Home Station, commemorating the service of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the Regimental Depot during the years 1954-1968. This will be followed by a reception at the Museums Atrium. On Thursday evening the Colonel-in-Chief will join Calgary Branch Association members and their guests as guest of honour at a formal dinner in the Naval Gallery of the Military Museums.

Princess Alexandra will arrive in Toronto on Friday evening and the following day, Saturday, 24 April, will attend a reception at Casa Loma, the ancestral home of Sir Henry Pellatt, a former commanding officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The castle is the site of the Regimental Museum, which the Colonel-in-Chief will visit. In the evening she will be guest of honour at a Reunion Dinner with the

Toronto Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association at the Westin Harbour Castle.

On Sunday, 25 April, following a Regimental Church Parade, The Colonel-in-Chief will attend the service at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto. The Royal Visit will come to a close following a get-together for members of the "Regimental Family" at Moss Park Armoury that afternoon. There, Princess Alexandra will have the opportunity to meet all ranks of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, along with members of their families, before returning to London the following day.

Public events during the Sesquicentennial Year will include "The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Toronto Day", on Monday 26 April, 2010 and planning is underway to stage a number of concerts-in-the-park during the course of the year, featuring the Regimental Band and Bugles. Plans also include the possibility of staging concerts at Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square and City Hall Square, with the Band and Bugles, the "Gentlemen Buglers and Drummers," a bugle band composed of former members of The Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band, as well as demonstrations by The Queen's Own Rifles Pioneers and Skirmishers company.

One event – the marking of the gravesites of nine members of the regiment who died in battle with Fenian invaders in 1866 – has already been set in motion. On Sunday, 8 November, 2009, following the annual Remembrance Day Church Parade and service at St. Paul's, the regiment marched to nearby Necropolis Cemetery where new markers had been placed to identify three of the nine who were killed or died of wounds in the battle on 2 June, 1866 at Ridgeway, Ontario.

The markers of the remaining six, who are buried elsewhere, will be similarly dedicated as part of the continuing 2010 celebrations.

STANDING ON GUARD SINCE 1860.

Visit the QOR webpage at www.qor.com



1860-2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

we remember...

Every member of
The Queen's Own Rifles
carries a medallion of
a member who lost their
life in the line of duty.
It's our way of paying
respect to those heroes,
each and every day.

This Remembrance Day,
The Queen's Own Rifles
is proud to commemorate
150 years of service.

The Queen's Own Rifles
Of Canada.
Standing On Guard
Since 1860.

we remember...

we remember...

we remember...

www.qor.com

This is a copy of the Public Service Advertisement which was made available to Canada print media for use in connection with the 150th anniversary of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. It was designed by advertising agency J. Walter Thompson, along with a radio clip Public Service Announcement telling the story of the Medallions of Remembrance in the words of members of the regiment.

For original image of this Public Service Announcement contact: doug.poad@jwt.com

STANDING ON GUARD SINCE 1860.

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1860-2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Airborne!

In 1983, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was selected to provide an operational airborne platoon to support 3 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. In September 1984, the tasking was upgraded to providing two platoons and a company headquarters.

The regiment's current parachute tasking is to provide a platoon of paratroopers to the Parachute Company of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment as well as to coordinate reserve parachute support for the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC) in Trenton, Ontario.

In 2010, The Queen's Own is the only Primary Reserve unit in Canada to maintain a parachute tasking and, in addition to the regiment's 60th, Buffs and Victoria Companies, has established a Para Company within its ranks. Competition to become part of the company is high.

Those riflemen who have completed the course, as well as other paratrooper qualification training, have also earned the right to

wear the coveted maroon beret with The Queen's Own Rifles cap badge on it. Paratrooper qualification also increases their chances to be selected to participate as a member of a Task Force deployed to Afghanistan.

In 2008, Master Corporal Stephen Thomas, MB, a member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Para Company, was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery for his coolness in the aftermath of a suicide bomber attack on the armoured vehicle in which he was riding while on patrol in Afghanistan. The actions of MCpl Thomas and his comrades in returning repeatedly to their burning vehicle to remove live ammunition undoubtedly saved the lives or prevented certain injury to nearby residents, as well as themselves.

Airborne soldiers are required to maintain high standards of physical and tactical fitness. Unlike civilian parachutists, airborne soldiers jump with a significant amount of equipment (including their weapon and rucksack), do jumps in daylight and darkness and jump from low altitudes.

Candidates must be qualified infantrymen and must pass a fitness test which includes a one-mile run in less than seven minutes, eight chin-ups, and 35 sit-ups. The Basic Parachute Course at CFLAWC consists of two weeks of ground training (including equipment rigging, aircraft drills, parachute flight and landings) and one week of jumping.

Once qualified, Airborne Riflemen who wish to expand their capabilities may seek higher level qualifications such as Jumpmaster, DZ/ LZ (Drop Zone/Landing Zone) Controller, Basic Helicopter Operations, Parachute Instructor and Advanced Mountain Operations Course.

It is hoped that a team from The Queen's Own who have qualified in Advanced Mountain Operations will be successful in their planned attempt to scale Mount Logan in the Yukon in 2010. At almost 6000 metres, it is the highest mountain in Canada and the second-highest peak in North America, after Mount McKinley (Denali).



STANDING ON GUARD SINCE 1860.

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1860-2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Names in Past and Present History

General William D. Otter KCB, CVO, VD: Commanding Officer The Queen's Own Rifles, 1875-1883; Commander Canadian Infantry School; Commander Battleford Column in North West Rebellion; Commander Royal Canadian Regiment, Boer War; Chief of General Staff, Ottawa.

Major General Sir Henry Pellatt CVO: Built Casa Loma in Toronto; Commanding Officer The Queen's Own Rifles, 1901-1920. Underwrote the cost of taking the 700-man regiment to England for a month in 1910 to mark the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Major General M.S. Mercer CB: Officer Commanding the 3rd Canadian Division France and Flanders in World War One, he was killed in action 1916. He was the most senior officer among the Allies to have lost his life in battle.

Major General Lewis MacKenzie CM CMM MSC and bar, O.Ont CD: Joined The Queen's Own Rifles in 1960 and served in both 1st and 2nd Battalions. Did nine

peacekeeping tours including the Gaza Strip, Cyprus, Vietnam, Egypt, Central America and Sarajevo. His book, *Peacekeeper, Road to Sarajevo*, a best-seller in 1993 was followed by *Soldiers Made Me Look Good* in 2009.

The Honourable Barnett (Barney) Danson: Minister of Defence in the Trudeau cabinet, was wounded in France following D-Day. His memoirs *Not Bad For a Sergeant*, were published in 2002.

Lieutenant-General Charles H. Belzile CM, CMM, CD: served in Korea as a young officer and rose through the ranks to become Commander in Chief of the Canadian Army.

Major General Herb Pitts MC CD: Served in Korea with The Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, later commanded the 1st Bn Queen's Own Rifles and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Awarded the Military Cross for bravery while serving with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Korea.

Alexander Muir: Schoolteacher and author who in 1867 wrote *The Maple Leaf Forever*. Fought against the Fenians in the Battle of Ridgeway, June 1866.

The Right Honourable Sir Vincent Massey: Enlisted in 1907, Named Canada's first Canadian Governor General in 1952, his term was extended twice.

The Right Honourable Sir John M. Gibson: Lieutenant Governor of Ontario 1908-1914.

Captain John McCrae: As a medical officer serving during World War One, wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*.

George S. Lyon The Toronto cricketer and golfer fought in the Battle of Cut Knife Hill in 1885. At the age of 46, he entered the 1904 Olympic Games as one of three Canadians in a field of over seventy Americans, including their national champion. Lyon won the gold medal by two shots after playing 12 rounds in six days.

Honour Roll in the Service of Canada

Battle of Ridgeway (Fenian Raid) 2 June 1866; Nine killed in action or died of wounds.

North-West Rebellion, Canada 1885

South African (Boer) War 1899-1902. Three killed in action or died of wounds.

World War One 1914-1918: More than 7,500 Canadians joined The Queen's Own as volunteers to fight for their King and country in the Great War and many became part of the Third (Toronto) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. A total of

1,254 were killed or died of wounds, many more wounded.

World War Two 1939-1945. Members of The Queen's Own Rifles were the first to land on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. They sustained the heaviest casualties and were the only assault force to reach their objective that day. A total of 63 were killed on the beach or died later of wounds. A total of 463 were killed or died of wounds and 873 were wounded during the campaign to liberate Northwest Europe.

Korean War 1951-1953 (Armistice signed)

2nd Bn served 1954-1955.

Peacekeeping: Queen's Own personnel have served in United Nations or North Atlantic Treaty Organization missions including those in Cyprus, Sarajevo, Bosnia, Somalia, the Sudan and Cambodia.

Afghanistan: More than 60 Queen's Own reservists have served in Afghanistan. One was awarded the Medal of Bravery for action in the field and two were slightly wounded. Two dozen more were scheduled to deploy in 2010.

STANDING ON GUARD SINCE 1860.

Visit the QOR webpage at www.qor.com



1860-2010

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Historical Facts

- The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is a Primary Reserve regiment within the Canadian Forces, based in Toronto, Ontario. The regiment is part of Land Force Central Area's 32 Canadian Brigade Group. It is the only Primary Reserve regiment in Canada to have airborne-trained personnel within its ranks.
- Canada's longest continuously-serving infantry regiment, formed in Toronto from six independent area rifle companies on 26 April, 1860.
- Named Second Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada. The First Battalion had been formed in Montreal in 1859 and is now long defunct.
- The cap badge was designed as a Maple Leaf with the number "2" in its centre, designating the regiment's position in the line of infantry. The motto "In Pace Paratus" Latin for "In Peace Prepared."
- The battalion was redesignated Second Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto on 16 March, 1863, in honour of Queen Victoria; 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 13 January, 1882; 2nd Regiment The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 8 May, 1900; The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 1 May, 1920.
- The regiment has served Canada on the field of battle since its first engagement, at Ridgeway, Ontario, on 2 June, 1866 as part

of a combined force of British regulars and Canadian militia against Fenian raiders from the United States.

- During the campaign in North West Canada in 1885, the regiment served under Colonel William D. Otter (a former Commanding Officer), participating in the Relief of Battleford, and the Battle against Chief Poundmaker at Cut Knife Hill, in Saskatchewan.
- In the South African (Boer) War, 1899-1900, The Queen's Own contributed volunteers to the Canadian contingents, principally 2nd Service Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.
- In World War One, 1914-1918, the regiment contributed volunteers, principally to the Third (Toronto) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Although they were not permitted to wear their regimental cap badges, members of The Queen's Own fought and died at such battle sites as St. Julien, the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele.
- The regiment also raised the 83rd, 95th, 166th, 198th and 255th Battalions, CEF, which provided reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field.
- The Victoria Cross was awarded to six members of the regiment during World War One.

- In World War Two, 1939-1945, The Queen's Own Rifles, mobilized for active service on 24 May, 1940 trained in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and England for four years before being in the van in the 8th Infantry Brigade, Third Canadian Division in the D-Day assault at Juno Beach in Normandy on 6 June, 1944.
- Sergeant Aubrey Cosens was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his bravery at Mooshof, Germany in 1945.
- The active unit of The Queen's Own was disbanded on 30 November, 1945. The Second (Reserve) Battalion and the Third (Active) Battalion served in Canada. The Fourth Battalion, formed for service in the Canadian Army Occupation Force, was disbanded on 14 May, 1946.
- Regimental Alliances: **The Buffs**, since 1914. Today, as a result of regimental amalgamations within the British Army, the regiment is now known as The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.
- The King's Royal Rifle Corps, since 1956. The KRRC was merged with other regiments and now serves as the Second Battalion The Rifles, created in 2007 and which is now the largest infantry regiment in the British Army.

Post World War Two history of the Regular Force Battalions

- 1951 - 1st Canadian Rifle Bn formed for NATO Duty in Germany.
- 1952 - 2nd Canadian Rifle Bn formed for service in Korea.
- 1953 - 1st Canadian Rifle Bn renamed 1st Bn The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.
- 1953 - 2nd Canadian Rifle Bn renamed 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.
- 1953 - Regimental Depot for training 1st and 2nd Bns established in Edmonton, then later moved to Calgary.
- 1954 - 2nd Bn deployed to Korea.
- 1955 - 2nd Bn returns to Gordon Head Barracks in Victoria.
- 1956 - 1st Bn selected for First UN Emergency Force (Suez). Reinforcements from 2nd Bn brought strength to 935. Moved from Calgary to Halifax. Mission changed and troops returned to barracks.
- 1957 - 2nd Bn moved from Victoria to Germany. Stayed 3 years. (first unit to do so).
- 1960 - 1st and 2nd Bns exchanged Barracks. (Currie Barracks in Calgary and Fort McLeod in Germany).
- 1963 - 1st Bn returned from Germany to Work Point Barracks in Victoria.
- 1965 - 1st Bn began a six month tour on UN Duty in Cyprus, returning to Victoria.
- 1968 - 2nd Bn started a six month tour on UN Duty in Cyprus, returning to Calgary.
- 1968 - 2nd Bn, on return from Cyprus was reduced to nil strength. Personnel dispersed to 1st Bn, PPCLI and Canadian Airborne Regiment.
- 1970 - 1st Bn redesignated 3rd Bn PPCLI at Work Point Barracks, Victoria.

Battle action medals awarded to three members of The Queen's Own Rifles



Queen's Own Rifles of Canada MCpl Adam de Bartok was awarded the Canadian Sacrifice Medal as a result of wounds he received serving in Afghanistan. He is seen here, his face badly scorched, as he gives aid to a comrade also wounded in the detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

Canadian Sacrifice Medal



The Sacrifice Medal was created to recognize any member of the Canadian Forces, soldier of an allied force, or a civilian working for the Canadian Forces, who after 7 October, 2001, was killed or wounded under honourable circumstances and as a result of hostile action.

Canadian Medal of Bravery

The Medal of Bravery is awarded only for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstance. The medal may be awarded posthumously. All Canadian citizens, civilians and members of the Canadian Forces, are eligible for the award. Persons who are not Canadian may receive the award as described for the Cross of Valour.



MCpl Stephen Thomas, MB, (right) was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery for his actions in removing live ammunition from his patrol vehicle when it caught fire following an attack by a suicide bomber. The actions of MCpl Thomas and his comrades were credited with preventing military and civilian casualties. MCpl Rick Kurelo was wounded in action while on patrol "outside the wire" in Kandahar.

Sorry about that, sir...

In the most recent edition of the Powder Horn, I managed to transfer Major (then Lieutenant) Peter C. Rea from service in the field prior to D-Day, to a desk job in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Battalion HQ. Not so. Major Rea, now in his 90s, writes to point out that he was actually in 9 Platoon in Major H. E. (Ellie) Dalton's A Company.

On D-Day, Lt Rea landed with his platoon "on the extreme right flank of the 8th Brigade attack," as the regimental history records it. "Their area of the beach was covered by an 88 mm gun position which was not shown on the air photos. Before it was silenced, this gun

caused heavy casualties to the platoon. Lt P.C. Rea was wounded twice, the FOO was wounded, L/Sgt J.M. Simpson killed and two-thirds of the platoon killed or wounded." Lt Rea was still on the beach having his initial wound treated when he was wounded again when a mortar shell exploded nearby.

Peter Rea recovered sufficiently from his wounds that he was able to return to his regiment where, now Major Rea, he was a company commander on 28 March, 1945, when The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada crossed the Rhine into Germany, the end of the war now only a little more than one month away.

Major Rea now lives quietly in Oakville, his eyesight and memory apparently still in reasonably good working order. He is just one of 23 Queen's Own Rifles D-Day veterans who, as far as we can establish, are still with us, among a total of 34 surviving World War Two QOR veterans. We owe a huge debt of thanks to each one of those for their wartime efforts.

(We welcome letters from readers. To reach us write to Capt Charles McGregor, 1152 Ashcroft Court, Oshawa, L1K 2N9 or by email to mcc@sympatico.ca. Telephone is 905 743 0259.)

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 150th Anniversary Memorabilia now available

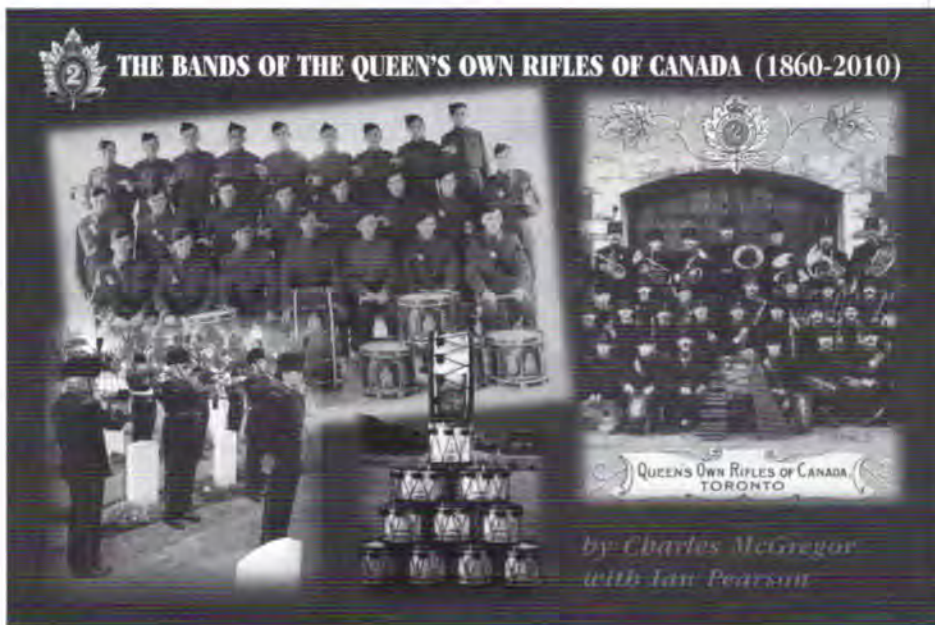
The approved list of 2010 items of 150th anniversary memorabilia is now available by contacting Joe Drouin Enterprises at joe@drouin.com, by telephone at 819-568-6669 or by fax at 819-568-1074. Payment can be made by money order, personal cheque or by Visa or MasterCard.

Anyone wishing to see these items can do this at the Regimental Kit Shop in Moss

Park Armoury on Wednesday between 7-10 p.m. Please contact Manager Andy Macnaughton at qorkitshop@bellnet.ca or at 416-362-3946 to ensure that whatever you wish to see is in stock at the time.

- Ball Caps – Green with logo..... \$15.00
- Golf shirts– Green with embroidered logo..... \$33.95
- Sweat shirts– Green with embroidered logo..... \$24.50

- T shirts– Green with silk screen logo..... \$9.95 to 13.95
- Beer mugs with logo..... \$7.95
- Beer glasses with laser QOR Crest \$7.95
- Bumper decal (18" x 4") \$3.95
- Decals (3" x 3")..... \$1.95
- QOR 2010 Wall calendars..... \$10.00
- Key chains with QOR fob..... TBA



The new book "The Bands of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada 1860-2010" written by Capt Charles McGregor is receiving wide acclaim from purchasers. Copies are available in the Regimental Kit Shop for \$55.00 plus postage. Contact Andy Macnaughton at qorkitshop@bellnet.ca or by telephone at 416-362-3946 to order your copy.

Devils' Brigade Veteran Sam Magee in the sunny French Riviera

Friend of the regiment, Sergeant William (Sam) Magee CD OMC, was invited to represent his WW2 unit, 1st Special Service Force (1SSF) – the Devil's Brigade -- at celebrations marking the 65th anniversary of a land, sea and para-drop invasion by British, French and U.S. forces near Saint Tropez and Cannes in the French Riviera, on 15 August 1944. The celebrations were held in the Village of Muy, in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. It became the first community liberated in the little-remembered but highly strategic Operation Dragoon, planned to divert enemy forces from the north, where they were fighting Allied troops who had landed on D-Day. Two offshore islands were taken by 1SSF to protect the beachhead, a further deception carried out to shield the main invasion.



- (1) The parade makes its way through the streets of Muy.
- (2) Sgt Magee, Maire du Muy (Mayor) Liliane Boyer and U.S. 1st Airborne Division representative and French Legion d' Honneur recipient Colonel Leo Dean listen to the playing of La Marseillaise, the French National Anthem.
- (3) A visitor sporting a Canadian flag joins Sgt Magee and a reenactor in a photo op.
- (4) Just relaxing in a Jeep and exchanging some scuttlebutt.

1 CanPara D-Day Veteran Jan de Vries goes for a winter's day run



(1) D-Day veteran Jan de Vries, president of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association, lights his Olympic Torch flame from that of Dyane Jean-Francois in Pickering in December. The Olympic flame is being carried on a 45,000-kilometre trek from Vancouver Island across northern Canada to the Atlantic provinces and back through more populated areas in the south in the longest relay in a single country in Olympic history. The 106-day relay concluded on 12 February at B.C. Place in Vancouver. (2) Large crowds have been customary at each of the many Olympic Torch Run sites across Canada as the "Light Brigade" makes its way towards Vancouver with runners from every walk of life carrying the flame for 300 metres in the relay leading to the 2010 Winter Olympics. (3) Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, including the Commanding Officer, LCol John Fotheringham CD, were on hand to lend enthusiastic support to their comrade as de Vries made his way through the throng.

The Colonel-in-Chief makes her first visit to her regiments in Canada



In 1967, HRH Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada made a Centennial Year visit to her regiments. The photos on this page were taken on the occasion of her visit to the Home Station of the 2nd Battalion in Calgary. (1) 2nd Bn Guard awaits the arrival of Princess Alexandra at Calgary City Hall. (2) The Royal Salute. (3) HRH inspects the troops. (4) The Colonel-in-Chief chats with Maj Larry McCulloch (left) and Col J.G.K. Strathy OBE ED, Colonel of the Regiment. (5) Princess Alexandra received a bouquet of roses from Mrs. E.A. Pearson, whose husband, Lt Pearson, was the regiment's junior subaltern. It should be noted that more than 600 members of the 2nd Battalion missed the visit due to their United Nations duty in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Colonel-in-Chief also participated in ceremonies staged by 1st Bn members in Victoria and those of the 3rd Bn in Toronto.

Calgary Association members get together at AGM and Christmas lunch



(1) President Bob Titus addresses 2009 AGM
(2) Teresa Leach, Jim Taylor, Ken Moynihan with Frank Mascaro holding the Anniversary cake provided by his wife Marion, seated right.
(3) Lou Point, Erica Anderson and Kelly Grant.
(4) Former Cold Warriors from B Coy, 2Bn QOR of C, Germany, 1957-60 Jack Glenn, the

late "Jungle Jim" Taylor, Ken Moynihan, Ken Barrett, Bob Titus, Bill Major.
(5) Gerry Bowes, the late Vic Ramsbottom, Ray Demeulles
(6) Some members of the 2009 Calgary Branch executive: (l to r) Bob Titus, Ken Barrett, Jack Glenn, Clay Hodder, Don Ethell,

Louise Hodder, John Cresswell.
(7) Photos taken at Christmas luncheon. Linda and Don Ethell, Jeannie Pendelbury, Vic Ramsbottom
(8) Evelyn Grant & John Cresswell
(9) Louise and Clay Hodder
(10) John & Lyda Friedt

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Vancouver Island Branch 2010 Branch Report

Bob Drinkwater, Vancouver Island Branch Secretary



Gordon Healy (right) receives his raffle prize from Art Saretsky, the designer and Ruth MacKendrick.

2009 was a very good year for the Vancouver Island Branch due to the continued strong support of our 294 members. There were 213 VI Branch Members who were also members of the new National Association in 2009.

Our two major social evenings held during 2009, the Regimental Birthday Celebration held April 18th and the Oktoberfest Dinner and Dance on October 17th were well attended as usual. These annual events give us all a chance to reconnect with former comrades as we gather together in celebration of the Regiment and to renew friendships that have existed for many years. We continue to have a strong turnout by many of our members at our monthly luncheons on the last Wednesday of each month at the Pro Patria Legion on Gorge Road in Victoria and our monthly coffee breaks held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the RCL Branch #10 Legion on Harewood Road in Nanaimo.

For those Members that were not able to attend our celebrations in 2009 we hope to see you at the 150th Regimental Birthday Banquet scheduled to be held at the Saanich Commonwealth Recreation Centre on April 20th. This follows a full day of events attended by our Colonel-in-Chief HRH Princess Alexandra who is scheduled to arrive in Victoria on April 19th to be welcomed at Government House at 1515 hrs by the Lieutenant Governor and then review Quarter Guards mounted by our Association and the Canadian Scottish. The day of her arrival the Branch will be holding an informal Meet & Greet at the Gorge Legion at 1700hrs. The morning following

the Regimental Banquet there will be a farewell brunch, again at the Gorge Legion from 0900 to 1200 hrs.

The 150th Regimental Birthday Committee headed by Herb Pitts and Tom Martin has worked hard to ensure that our celebration of this significant event in Canadian Military History will be a very special occasion. In honor of the event there will be two memorial plaques unveiled on April 20th, one by the Colonel-in-Chief, to commemorate the Regiments' time based at Work Point Barracks. The other will be unveiled by the Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes at the old gate

entrance to Gordon Head at the University of Victoria. In addition Joe Webb has arranged for Shaw Cable of Victoria to air 3 or 4 professionally produced one-half hour programs recounting the stories of the members that should be of considerable interest to the public.

The first event to publicly link the Association with the Regiment's 150th Birthday was at the November 2009 Remembrance Day parade to the Legislature. A 25 man marching contingent took a prominent place with the marchers from other organizations. Ours was the largest (other than the Flag Parties and serving personnel) and stood out dramatically. Herb Pitts placed a Regimental wreath at the Cenotaph to the accompaniment of words by the MC "To mark the Regiment's 150th year of Service to Canada". Herb later took a place on the Reviewing stand with Rear-Admiral Tyrone Pile and Lieutenant Governor Steven Point to review the March Past, an honour accepted on behalf of all riflemen.

Our 2009 Annual General Meeting held January 16th, 2010 at the Langford Legion was attended by 102 Members and Guests. The PMC advised that there were a few changes in the Executive Committee for 2010, the Branch Secretary, Bob Drinkwater, was stepping down and that Madeline Andrews has volunteered to serve in that position. Tom Martin had joined the Committee as Vice PMC during 2009, as provided for in the Branch By-Laws, when Ed Titus had assumed the role of Membership/Treasurer following the death of Jim Carroll. Gord Kitsch was



Branch President Bill Brayshaw offers moral support as Madaline Adrews cuts the birthday cake.

resigning as Branch Custodian and Kevin Walsh had offered to assume that responsibility and to step down as Entertainment Member. Joe Webb volunteered to replace Kevin Walsh. The PMC then asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any other position on the Executive Committee, there being none and as all other members of the Executive had expressed a desire to continue in their roles, the Executive Committee was declared elected by acclamation.

Our Branch would like to extend an open invitation to all members of our Association and their families to join us at any of our celebrations, luncheons or meetings in 2010 and that while here on Vancouver Island to ensure that you visit The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada exhibit at the Base Museum located in Esquimalt at CFB Naden. The exhibit contains many pictures and a large display of Regimental memorabilia that truly reflect the time the Regiment was such an important part of Victoria's history.

For a complete schedule of the 2010 events please go to www.QOR2010.com and for Vancouver Island Branch news please take a moment to have a look at The Rifleman Online at:

www.qor.com/association/vancouverisland

In Pace Paratus

**The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's
150th Anniversary
Regimental Reunion, April 23-25, 2010
Ticket(s) Order Form**

Send this form and a cheque, money order or VISA information to

**"QOR Association 2010" at:
QOR Association, 364 Old Kingston Rd.
PO Box 97518, Toronto, ON M1C 1B0**

Please indicate payment option: Cheque _____ Money Order _____ VISA _____

VISA Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

These charges will be shown on your credit card statement as "ViFloor"

All-inclusive weekend tickets at \$175.00 per person: _____ Total: \$ _____

Dinner/dance only tickets at \$100.00 per person: _____ Total: \$ _____

DO YOU REQUIRE WHEEL-TRANS SERVICE?

Details: _____

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Details: _____

Mail the tickets to: (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ PC: _____ Tel: _____

Names of individual ticket holders (Required for the dinner seating plan):

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

To organize a table for 8 or 10, please provide guest names as soon as possible.

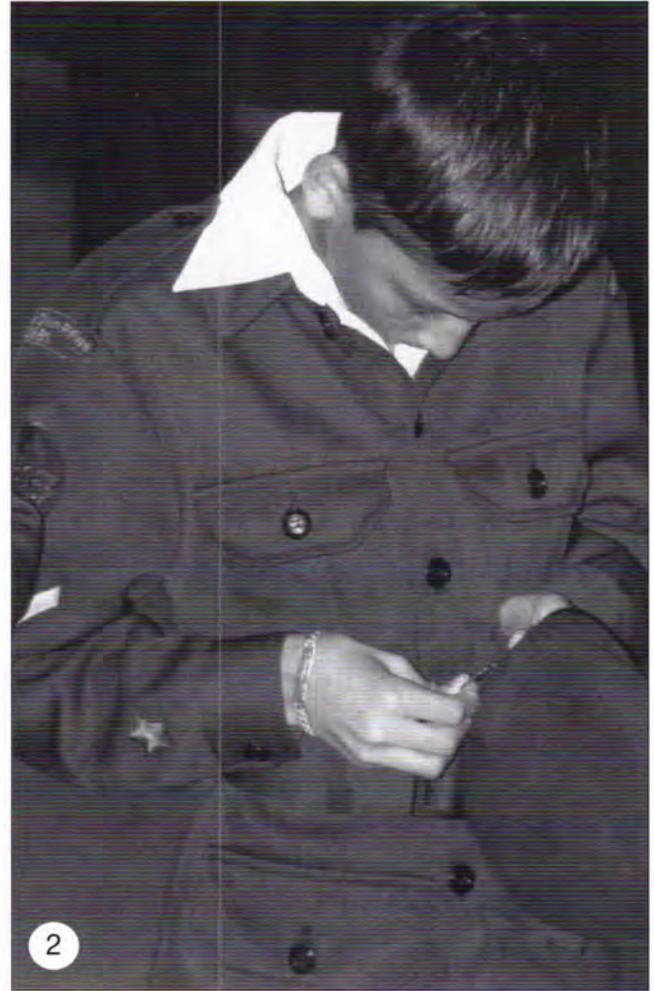
Your Dinner/Dance tickets will be mailed to you promptly. Your all-inclusive weekend pass credentials will be issued to you when you register in Toronto for the 150th Birthday Reunion weekend.

Questions? Contact 416 621 7231, association.toronto@qor.com or www.qor2010.com

**"Once in The Queen's Own, Always in The Queen's Own"
Thanks for your support and we'll see you in Toronto in April!**

IN PACE PARATUS

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cadets receive their new cap badges



(1) Accompanied by RSM/CWO Shaun Kelly CD, LCol Fotheringham CD presents badges to Rfn Justyn Rennicks and Rfn Bryan Chen.

(2) Rfn Vanshil Shah has removed his Royal Canadian Cadet Corps cap badge and is busily engaged in replacing it with his new Queen's Own Rifles badge.

(3) Successful graduates (l to r) Rfn Pallavi Pathek, Rfn Elizabeth Chow and Rfn Vanshil Shah proudly display their cadet berets bearing their new cap badges.



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cadet Corps Bugle Band is shaping up



1

Practice is held weekly at Dalton Armoury in Scarborough for members of the fledgling Bugle Band formed by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cadet Corps.

(1) Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Cpl Raj Rajkumar is teaching the buglers while (2) civilian Gary Gomez is the drum instructor. (3) The band and its instructors pose for a group photograph.



2



3

The Memory Project Connects with Canada's Young People

Created in 2001, The Memory Project is designed to connect veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau includes 1,500 veteran volunteers from across Canada visiting classrooms and community groups to share their stories with youth. The veterans in The Memory Project represent a wide range of conflicts, including World War I, World War II, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations and Canadian Forces experiences.

The Memory Project Digital Archive, an online database that houses the oral histories and artifacts of more than 1,000 Canadian veterans, complements the Speakers' Bureau. To date, these veterans have reached well over 300,000 young people.

One of those featured is Barney Danson, a member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who was wounded in France in 1944, and who eventually became Minister of Defence in the Trudeau Cabinet. Here's his story presented by the Memory Project, available online and as an audio transcript.

My name is Barney Danson. I served in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada from the time they mobilized in 1940. Actually, I was in there before '40, in the militia even before the war.

I sort of went up through the ranks, became a corporal and a sergeant, ultimately a lieutenant – and even a captain at one time, but I had to give that rank up to get back to my regiment. I was away from the regiment instructing at a battle school in British Columbia and I wanted to get back so I wouldn't miss D-Day. Unfortunately, I did miss D-Day -- or maybe fortunately. I was still on my way back to the regiment, in Canada, when D-Day occurred and I learned that my best friend, Freddy Harris, had been killed at the landing.

They did pretty intensive training until July of 1941 and we were shipped overseas to Aldershot, the old garrison town that played such an important part for Canadians in World War One. Didn't stay there too long. They moved us out into the countryside and we moved around from camp to camp. We lived in mud and in Nissen huts, which are cold and drafty. Then had our first introduction to the new concept of battle training. Before that we were using all First World War tactics and



Lieutenant Colonel Barney Danson PC CC, presented a copy of his book "Not Bad For A Sergeant" to Governor General Michaëlle Jean following her presentation to him of the insignia of the Companion of the Order of Canada. Danson was wounded in France in 1944.

things that were so far out of date. This changed the operation for infantry, particularly and fortunately so. We started to come into the 20th century.

Then I was sent back on a course to Canada to become qualified as an officer. Just before then I managed to marry an absolutely fantastic English girl, (Isobel) which was really something. That's a little story in itself.

Anyway, I went back in June of '44 and got back to England and quickly joined the regiment. And, all too quickly, got myself wounded. I was hit by a piece of shrapnel and I went blind in my left eye, but I survived. When I got back to my regiment, it was rather interesting because I was given my old platoon back and that was very unusual, but I was happy because, although most of the fellows had been killed or wounded by then, there were still enough that I was feeling at home. And the next platoon to me was commanded by Earl Stoll, one of my three closest friends.

We were gonna win the war all by ourselves because Freddy Harris had been killed on D-Day and our other friend, Gerry Rayner, had been killed near Caen and we were pretty sad guys about this because we were terribly close, as you tend to become in the army. Closer than brothers, in many ways. We were just kids. I was twenty-two at the time. And I was wounded and evacu-

ated to England, eventually, after going through several British hospitals around Bayeux, and in hospital in England for some months, and then home to Canada.

Unfortunately, Earl Stowell, who was the last of my friends still alive, took over. We got together when I was wounded and we... I guess we cried a bit. But he was going to go on and finish the war, but a month later he was dead too. So that has an impact on you which is pretty profound. And, frankly, as you get older you think of those people a lot more.

We had a friend, Charlie Martin, a sergeant-major and most decorated man in the regiment and a wonderful fellow. He always referred to our old friends who were killed as "Forever Young". Because you always thought of them as young. You thought of them as you knew them. And when we go back to the cemeteries in France, Belgium and Holland, we think of them and tell stories about them just as they were. The beautiful, young Canadians that, you know... we don't know what their potential would have been, but lost their lives all too young.

There's another tragedy and these ones weren't so young. The men -- and it was all men in those days -- who had young families and they had wives who they had left at home. For them it was a much greater tragedy, in my view.

Dutch youngsters A-Team keep the Liberation Monument clean

Reporter Paul Nolens, De Kaap newspaper, Doorn, Holland



October 8-2009. Dressed in the T shirts and caps received from the Legion of the Q.O.R. the A Team (Joshua 10- Ruben -11 and Kim -12) went to work for the second time to clean the Monument plaza.

In the beginning of the summer Joshua Kamp read an article about a former Doorn citizen, Adrian Hovestad, in the local paper De Kaap. Adrian had left Doorn more than 50 years ago and was upset at his return (from Canada) to see the liberation Monument in a less than required maintained condition.

Joshua decided to respond to the article and has since taken action to keep the plaza clean. In July of 2009 Joshua and Ruben promised the 75 year old Hovestad that they would maintain the Monument. The two young boys in Doorn compared themselves with an A Team where people who need help get help from members of the team.

Adrian Hovestad was so impressed with the reaction of the boys that when he got back he contacted Bill Brayshaw, the President of the QOR of C's Vancouver Island Branch who then ordered six pairs of T Shirts and Caps with the logo of the Q.O.R and "Thanks A Team" in Dutch on the T Shirts.

The A Team is now proudly wearing the

shirts and caps while cleaning the Monument. The town of Doorn has supplied the A Team with brooms and other cleanup supplies in order to show support for them.

The proud Father of Joshua informed the reporter of the local paper that from now on the Team will clean the Plaza every last Wednesday of the month which is tremendous since the A Team members are quite young .

The A Team informed the municipality in July that the benches needed new wood. They indeed replaced the wood, but it was shortly after that someone has carved the letters SS in the new wood.

The Team knows that it hurts those who suffered so much during the war and having been Liberated by the Queen's Own Rifles to see later generation young

people deface the benches. It is a clear act of disorder, according to the A Team, who think that the vandal does not realize the importance of the Monument.

The Team has contacted the Municipality and have requested police surveillance of the Monument and maybe installation of lighting.

Joshua has been thinking of having a board installed with an explanation of the Monument and the Q.O.R. Liberators for those who do not understand the cost of having received freedom from those who paid with their lives.

Adrian Hovestad informed the Team that to fight and die for freedom is an honour, but to forget those that paid the ultimate price is a disgrace. That should not happen at the liberation Monument in Doorn.

The A Team is not discouraged and continuous with their monthly cleanup even though Joshua's father thinks its like "adding water to the ocean." According to Joshua's Dad "We have submitted a cleanup plan to the Municipality, but have not received a reply yet."

In order to increase the importance of the cleanup efforts, the ten year old Joshua has done a video interview with a TV youth journal that was aired on Dutch television. Joshua and the others of the A Team were dressed in the T Shirts and Caps. Joshua also interviewed the Mayor of Doorn, Frits Naaf, who promised to have works department of the town to assist the Team.

It all seems very promising.



Just like new.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada National Association 2009 Report

This will be a summary of major events and accomplishments of the Association for its National Members and should be of interest to others of the regimental family.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in Toronto on 25 April, 2009 at the Queen's Own Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Lakeshore Boulevard. It was attended by about 30 members, including representatives of all branches. Main points of interest were discussed and considered with the following results:

1. A new set of By-Laws (First Printing dated 20 Feb 2008) was approved.
2. Approval was given to the slate of Directors that was proposed. They were directed to fill the positions on the

Association Executive with the following results:

President	Herb Pitts
1st Vice President	Bob Dunk
2nd Vice President	Tom Martin
Secretary	Bob Campbell
Treasurer	Doug McNeil
Membership	Dave Lavery
Past President	Brian Budden

3. Accomplishments arising from the meeting are as follows, with bracketed acknowledgements to the members mainly responsible.

- a. National Membership List / Member Cards (Dave Lavery - Bob Campbell - Branch Reps)
- b. National Members' discount on Kit Shop items (Bob Campbell - Peter Simundson)

- c. National Members' Lapel Pin (Bob Dunk)
- d. Entitlement to "Rifleman" Journal as a member benefit (Dave Lavery - Chick McGregor)
- e. Entitlement for descendants to apply for Educational Bursary (Bob Dunk - Tom Martin)
- f. Association Website is in further development (Ben Turpin).

4. The way ahead looks promising as membership grows and links with people and Branches are strengthened.

I extend to all Best Wishes as we gather to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of our Regiment and remember its achievements and sacrifices.
"Have a Good One!"
In Pace Paratus Herb Pitts

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO INCLUDE THEIR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WHEN ORDERING ITEMS FROM DROUIN ENTERPRISES. THIS ENTITLES YOU TO A DISCOUNT.

We're not dead yet, so let's enjoy the 150th celebrations!

Jim Sheppard, Recontre East, Newfoundland

Are we (Maritimes-Newfoundland-Labrador) a dying Association? Without a doubt we are ...

The last graduating platoon of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada -- Number 162 in 1968 -- marked the end of an era. There are NO WW1 vets left; WW2 and Korean vets are heading to the great battalion on a daily basis with old age and medical conditions being the largest contributing factors. The 1st and 2nd battalion veterans since Korea are soon to follow.

That leaves only the 3rd battalion to continue to carry the torch, with continued recruitment of young riflemen to keep the Regiment going and maintaining a long tradition.

Some of our former QOR soldiers just don't want anything to do with the association, for whatever reason, and are not interested in any connection whatsoever. That's their choice. Not everyone was meant to be a social soldier. There still may be some that just don't know we exist.

Many members of today were around for the 100th anniversary. Many are still around for the 150th, so let's all join the festivities and have a fun-filled weekend, meeting old friends, including the Colonel-in-Chief before she officially steps down and before we join our comrades who have gone before us.

Once in The Queen's Own always in The Queen's Own
This holds true as no finer Regiment was ever disbanded.

Tour to visit Holland to celebrate the 65th anniversary of its liberation

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association is organizing a Netherlands Liberation Anniversary Tour from 1-10 May, 2010, to mark the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. Host Town is to be Zutphen.

Information: Brian Budden 905-567-4975; Cell: 416-417-4975; email: brianbudden@rogers.com.

Organizer RSM/CWO (Ret) Brian Budden says that "The trip will include ceremonies

at Groesbeek War Cemetery, a service at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, a parade in Apeldoorn, visits to the town of Sneek to visit the plaque of the six members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who were killed there, visits to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada monuments in Wons and in Rha, commemorating The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada members who made the supreme sacrifice. I look forward to having veterans on this trip and for them to be there to enjoy the welcome and hospitality they receive. The Dutch never forget."

The program includes round trip airfare, Toronto International to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

- To book go to Verstraete Travel Online at www.verstraetetravel.com
- Go to Holland Liberation 2010
- Scroll down to The Queen's Own Rifles Booking Form - MAIN PROGRAM BOOKING FORM
- Or Tel: 416-969-8100; Long Distance: 1-800-565-9267.

We are looking for all QOR WW2 Veterans

With the deaths last year of D-Day veterans Gordon Pike and Jasper Martin, the known number of surviving Queen's Own Rifles of Canada members who landed on Juno Beach on 6 June, 1944 is now down to just 26. Also, as far as can be established, the total number of members of the regiment who served in battle during World War Two, including D-Day veterans, who are still with us is 37 whom we know about.

There must be others in both categories who should be added to this list and, in this, the year of the 150th anniversary of the founding of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, we are anxious to ensure that we haven't missed anyone.

Check the list below and if you see a name missing please let us know his whereabouts, with a mailing address (and an email address, if possible) where he can be reached.

Send any information you have to **WO Bob Dunk CD** by email at rjdunk@rogers.com or by Canada Post to **1 Sandrift Square, Scarborough, M1E 4N5,**

or to **RSM/CWO (Ret) Brian Budden CD,**

by e-mail at brianbudden@rogers.com. His mailing address is **3234 Equestrian Crescent, Mississauga, ON, L5M-6S8.**

- * Alex Adair, Cobourg,
- * Fred Barnard, Uxbridge,
- * "Duke" Bellis, Sunnybrook
- * George Beardshaw, London,
- * Bill "Boots" Bettridge, Innisfil,
- * Edward Butler, Scarborough,
- * Ray Collins, Burlington
- * Orville Cook, Holland Centre
- * Louis Curran, Sunnybrook
- * Barney Danson, Toronto,
- * Robert Firlotte, Scarborough
- * Harry Fox, Stouffville
- * Frank Goddard, Kincardine
- * Simon Goldenthal, North York
- * Harold Goss, Toronto
- * Alec Greer, Port Carling
- * Jack Hadley, East York
- * Bill Ives, Waubaushene
- * Ernie Kells, Gibbons, BC
- * Ken Jameson, Iroquois Falls
- * Hank Kilham, Sunnybrook
- * Jack Leggett, Sunnybrook
- * Nils Lindenas, Beamsville
- * Ken McLarty, Lanark
- * Jack Martin, Toronto,
- * Ted O'Halloran, Guelph,
- * Joe Oggy, Toronto
- * John O'Neill, Fredericton
- * David Peat, Kindersley, SK
- * Gord Peterson, Sunnybrook
- * Peter C. Rea, Oakville
- * Bill Ross, Montreal
- * Roy Shaw, Barrie
- * Joe Smith, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- * Sydney Stocks, Niagara Falls
- * James Tran, Collingwood
- * Joseph Wagar, Red Deer
- * Jim Wilkins, Toronto
- * D-Day Veteran

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada "Infanteer" is Airborne in Afghanistan

Captain Paul Kim, Royal Canadian Air Force

In the skies over Afghanistan, Army Reserve soldiers selected from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group have revived an old Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) aircrew trade: the air gunner. Flying as helicopter door gunners, these soldiers are the first Canadian air gunners to go in harm's way since 1945.

Gunners have flown as aircrew since the First World War, and rose to their greatest prominence during the Second World War with the Halifax and Lancaster heavy bombers. A Lancaster crew included two gunners, one on top of the fuselage and one at the tail, and the Halifax carried three, with a nose turret as well as the tail and mid-upper positions.

In recent times, technology has replaced the air gunner in fixed-wing aircraft. Rotary aircraft are another matter, however, and the deployment of the CH-146 Griffons and CH-147 Chinooks to Kandahar has brought gunners back as integral members of helicopter crews. Helicopters flying missions in the outback of Afghanistan need gunners to protect the aircraft and their crews and cargoes. The gunner aboard a Griffon tactical helicopter also defends the transport helicopters and road convoys the Griffon escorts.

"Normally, in Canada, we operate CH-146 Griffons with a three-person crew: the aircraft captain, the first officer and the flight engineer," explained Captain Joe Rehberg, the deputy operations officer of the Canadian Helicopter Force Afghanistan. "It is the job of the flight engineer to control and operate the machine-gun on the Griffon back in Canada. Now, we are using an actual Army gunner on the machine-



Helicopter door-gunner MCpl Chris Hinds of the QOR is ready to go to work.

gun, giving us more flexibility and the maximum protection that is required for the aircraft, crew and passengers."

The term "door-gunner" comes from the placement of two machine-guns in the doors of the Griffon, and three in the doors of the Chinook. In both types of helicopters, flight engineers handle the guns not operated by the door-gunner.

All the door-gunners in the Canadian Helicopter Force Afghanistan are combat arms soldiers. "I volunteered to serve with 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group during Task-Force 3-08," said Corporal Christopher Hinds of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in Toronto. "I was training in Fort Bliss, Texas, when my section commander told me that I had been selected to serve as a door-gunner. At first I didn't really understand what being a door-gunner involved; now I consider myself one of the luckiest soldiers in the Army."

Upon selection, the new door-gunners commenced a rigorous and extensive Air Force training

plan to prepare them for operations.

"We had to learn aircraft operations and safety procedures as members of the flight crew," said Corporal Hinds. "We quickly learned that the Air Force has a different language from the Army."

Cpl Hinds admits that his civilian experience in auto parts sales helped him make the transition from infantry soldier to flight crew. "The door-gunner has to understand all the working parts of the aircraft in order to effectively monitor the aircraft, as well as watching for threats coming from the ground," he said. "The gunner continues to check the overall condition of the aircraft and reports any potential hazards or problems to the pilots."

Capt Rehberg has nothing but praise for the soldiers. "The door-gunner project has been an outstanding success," he said. "The door-gunners are an integral part of the flight crews, and we wouldn't want to fly missions without them. They are eager to learn and happy to be a part of a mission that protects Canadians and their coalition partners."



Many roles filled by Queen's Own Rifles soldiers in Afghanistan

Lt Scott Moody

The years 2008 and 2009 were historic for the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. During this time we made the largest contribution to an overseas mission in over 40 years, with 22 members serving in various elements of Task Force 3-08 (TF308.)

The largest team contribution was to the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT) located in Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Eight Queen's Own members were employed in the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Company, commanded by Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Major Peter St. Denis CD.

During the 8 month pre-training for TF 3-08, the CIMIC Company grew, and preparing to deploy to Afghanistan brought with it a great deal of travelling. The company staged out of Petawawa, however long periods of collective training were conducted in Ft. Bliss, Texas, Gagetown, NB and Wainwright AB. We also had members participate in professional development training in Germany, Toronto and Ottawa.

CIMIC company members also participated in the Theatre Mission Specific Training (TMST), Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), RG-31 driver/gunner, negotiation, contracting, language and cultural awareness training.

CIMIC Coy deployed in August, 2008, and it soon became the most dispersed company in the Task Force, representing KPRT in every major Canadian Forward Operating Base (FOB) and beyond. From the QOR we had MWO Mark Shannon, WO Inasio Kim, WO Scott Moody and Sgt Bill Paton, NCOs deployed as CIMIC Operators. with MCpl Rick Chiu, MCpl Jay McGibbon and Cpl Lee Harrison forming the backbone of the Company as CIMIC technicians/drivers. Queen's Own Rifles Cpl Paolo Villa also became a member of Golf Coy, 2 RCR, the force protection company for the KPRT.

The role of CIMIC is to represent the CF with the civilian and military forces of the host nation. Members of the CIMIC teams



Lt Scott Moody on patrol "outside the wire" in Kandahar

worked in 4-10 man detachments at the key FOBs in Kandahar. Most of these teams worked out of Joint District Coordination Centres (JDCC). JDCCs serve as walk-in/call-in centres for local nationals to share information, turn in weapons and explosives, conduct land claims due to manoeuvre or battle damage, or to lodge a complaint.

CIMIC team always had long and busy days. A typical day began with patrols to conduct liaison within villages to collect information on civilian activities or to identify and follow up on projects within their respective AO's. On a daily basis the CIMIC teams would also conduct impromptu meetings with key local nationals such as the district leaders and members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) in different villages, police sub-stations, district centres and in the FOBs.

They also attended weekly Shuras (meetings) with key local nationals and ANSF members at the District Centres. Many of our members were also tasked permanently or on specific operations to provide CIMIC support for the TF 3-08 Battle Group, Observer Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLT), 42 CDO Royal Marines and to the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd

Brigade of the US 1st Infantry Division. Once the daily activity was complete CIMIC operators were then responsible for completing their daily situation and meeting reports and project paper work on top of FOB duties such as tower shifts and cooking.

TF-308 was a long tour with most of our CIMIC team completing an eight month tour. All of our members were tested by the insurgents and performed very well. Many rifleman received commendation recommendations for their actions for their actions during TF-308.

The QOR also had members serve in other capacities. In Mike Company, 3 RCR, we had Cpl Calvin Liu, Cpl Nader Hajazi and Cpl Armin Khazai-Najad, with Cpl Chris Griffiths as the lone representative in November Company. The National Support Element deployed with Cpl Adam Winnicki and Cpl Josh Low. In the Air Wing the QOR had Cpl Chris Hinds serving as a door gunner on a CH-146. Within TFA HQ we had Cpl Barry Windover and LCol Steve Brand. Cpl Darcy Wood also deployed as a close protection for Brigadier General Vance, the Task Force Commander.

“Queen’s Own Rifles, All Over the Map”

MCpl Adam de Bartok



The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada (QOR of C) constantly strives to continue its fine tradition of support to the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. In 2008/09 the Regiment sent a record number of its soldiers on deployment to Kandahar, four of whom served with the Psychological Operations (PsyOps) element of Task Force 3-08 (TF 3-08).

Captain Shawn Stewart served as the PsyOps Platoon Commander; Master Corporal Rick Kurelo was employed as a Radio Broadcast specialist while Master Corporal Adam de Bartok and Corporal Benincasa served as Operators in the Tactical PsyOps Team ‘Alpha’ (TPT A).

The goal of the PsyOps element in Afghanistan was to gain the support of the uncommitted Afghans, maintain the support of the committed and to destroy the will of the insurgents. This is achieved through a variety of methods, including print and radio messaging, as well as through the TPT, who go out and meet the key local leaders face-to-face in order to build working relationships between Coalition Forces, the Afghan Government and the Afghan people.

Capt Stewart was based in the Task Force Kandahar Headquarters (TFK HQ) at Kandahar AirField (KAF), co-ordinating Psychological Operations, while MCpls Kurelo, de Bartok and Cpl Benincasa were fortunate enough to travel extensively

throughout Kandahar Province, working with several elements of TF 3-08.

MCpl Kurelo arrived in theatre first. A former signals operator with the Canadian Airborne Regiment and long time paratrooper with the QOR, he conducted a superb reconnaissance of the area, set the conditions for success upon the arrival of his fellow Riflemen.

He was wounded after surviving an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strike on his vehicle before the rest of the group even touched down. He rolled and recovered, in true Paratrooper form, and soldiered on through the remaining seven months of his tour.

This tour of duty, the second in Kandahar province for MCpl de Bartok and first for his TPT A comrade Cpl Benincasa, was anything but boring for the Airborne Riflemen. Their first month in theatre was spent conducting extended dismounted patrolling, living out of trenches in laager, being resupplied by helicopter, eating British rations and occasionally being afforded the luxury of rinsing the sweat out of their clothes in an empty ammo can.

Tasked to support the British 42 Royal Marine Commando in Panjwayi district, TPT A spent their first four weeks patrolling with the Commandos, communicating with the local Afghan population and making several contacts with the enemy, all the while acclimatising to conditions and the heat, which rose to well above 50 degrees Celsius. A slight change of pace from the comparatively “chilly” Canadian September they left behind only a week before.

Coupled with the rigours of patrolling in fighting kit that weighed, on average, about 50kg, on patrols that lasted as long as 21 hours, it was a great reminder why airborne soldiers continue to place so much emphasis on physical fitness! Their performance was easily matched by the RM Commandos however, who carried immense loads on patrol, including Javelin missiles and assault ladders strapped to packs. Originally designed to breach compound walls, the ladders ended up employed to assist scrambling soldiers climbing in and out of muddy walled riverbeds that were up to 10 feet deep. Not an easy feat when carrying twice the equivalent weight of a BFT rucksack. On one particularly interesting day, the TPT A

convoy was rocked by three IED strikes and two small arms engagements within the span of a single afternoon.

The considerable rivalry in the British Armed Forces between the Royal Marines and the Parachute Regiment provided a point of great humour in the lines when the Commandos discovered that there were Canadian Paratroopers in their midst. The QOR operators endured a great deal of friendly ribbing as a result of their jump wing tattoos and maroon berets. Aside from providing ammunition for friendly jokes and pranks, the resulting camaraderie and bonding that occurred between the Riflemen and Commandos in what can only be described as austere conditions and a hostile environment, created some great friendships between allied soldiers that will be maintained for a long time into the future.

Month two in theatre saw the QOR in TPT A moving northward, to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Frontenac, in the Arghandab/Shah Wali Kot districts. There they worked in unison with Recce Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD). The hospitality of the RCD was second-to-none and TPT A was pleased to discover they were also supported by a platoon of Airborne Recce Patrolmen from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3 RCR), most of whom were friendly and familiar faces the Riflemen had worked or jumped with in the past.

After a month of successful missions with Recce Squadron, TPT A met with some challenges. Four operators of the five man team were wounded in three separate contacts with the enemy over an intense five day period (the 5th Operator was unscathed only because he was away on his HLTA). TPT A lost both their team commander and C9 machine gunner, who had to be repatriated to Canada due to the severity of their wounds. The team was fortunate enough to be able to carry on, following a little down time and the unsurpassed medical treatment provided by the Role III medical staff at KAF.

Following their recovery, the paratroopers of TPT A then moved into the Zhari/Panjwayi districts, where they spent a month operating with the Observer Mentor Liaison Teams (OMLT), focussing on qualifying specially selected Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers in Tactical Psychological Operations.



(Top) MCpl Adam de Bartok on patrol "outside the wire." In the other photos, MCpl de Bartok is making the acquaintance of some new friends during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. MCpl de Bartok was wounded later during his tour in an IED blast and has been awarded the Canadian Sacrifice Medal.



After the culmination of each course, the Team joined the OMLT and their ANA students on foot patrols, observing them applying their new-found skills when interacting with the local population.

Following a few weeks spent augmenting TPT B and N Coy, 3 RCR at FOB Wilson, TPT A then moved downtown, spending the following month in the heart of Kandahar City. Their task was to support G Coy, 2 RCR, in an operation that focussed on disrupting Insurgents in the city districts.

The luxurious food and living conditions

at Camp Nathan Smith were certainly a welcome improvement compared to what the team had become accustomed to at the FOB's and Strong Points, but there was little time to put their desert boots up and relax, as the patrol tempo remained high. As a credit to their professionalism and dedication, G Coy was able to integrate the TPT effortlessly and the two elements jelled well, wasting no time getting the team out into the streets, ground-pounding and contributing to the strong presence already provided by the G Coy soldiers.

The last month in an eventful tour found TPT A reorganised and operating back in

Zhari/Panjwayi, sharing lines with rotating platoons of paratroopers from M Coy, 3 RCR, at FOB Ma'Sum Ghar. The team spent its last month conducting foot patrols in the Bazaar-E-Panjwayi, accompanying the Police OMLT teams and Afghan National Police as they worked to provide security to the shopkeepers and inhabitants of that troubled region. This was where the team experienced the highlight of their tour.

TPT A was able to build rapport and gain the support of local Afghans to the point where they were able to gather information that led to the recovery of a massive cache of insurgent IEDs and weapons, striking a significant blow to insurgent activities in the area.

After an extensive handover to the incoming Tactical PsyOps Teams from Land Forces Quebec Area, which included area briefs, lessons learned and language training, the Airborne Riflemen of TF 3-08 Psychological Operations Platoon were able to return home with a well-deserved feeling of accomplishment after a long and exciting tour of duty.





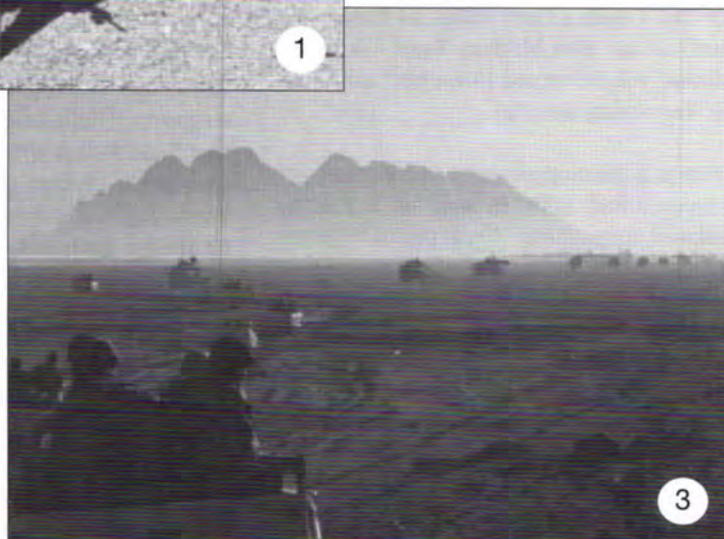
(1) Maj St. Denis MSC CD, commander of the Civil Military Cooperation Company (CIMIC) during his recent tour in Afghanistan, sits with members of the Afghan National Police in at a Shura (meeting) in one of the villages. (2) Major St. Denis on patrol. (3) The troops made the biggest impact on the children, who gathered around them whenever they came through their villages. (4) Lt Scott Moody gets the "Big Picture" from the map of Afghanistan on the wall of a school in Panjwayi District, west of Kandahar. The district is regarded as the birthplace of the Taliban. (5) On operations in Panjwayi.



1



2



3

(1) (l. to r.) Sgt Bill Paton, MCpl Jay McGibbon and MCpl Rick Kurelo ready for patrol. MCpl Kurelo was later wounded in an IED blast and has been awarded the Canadian Sacrifice Medal. (2) Cpl Lee Harrison. (3) On operations in Panjwayi (4) Cpl Lee Harrison leads a patrol.



4

The weekend of Friday to Sunday, 23-25 April, will be long remembered

Events taking place in Toronto during our 150th Anniversary Reunion the weekend of 23-25 April, 2010.

Friday, April 23rd

1800hrs-2400hrs, Moss Park Armoury: A "Meet & Greet" will be held on the parade square at Moss Park Armoury for those that have purchased the all-inclusive weekend package. Displays of military equipment, vehicles and weapons representing our entire 150 years of service to Canada will be on display. Re-enactors in period uniforms will be present to answer any of your questions. Musical entertainment provided by the Gentlemen Buglers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as well as our own Military Band. A buffet dinner will be served (roast beef on-a-bun or Vegetarian lasagna).

This is a great opportunity to meet and get reacquainted with friends in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. Great photo opportunities. Dress is casual. Entire venue is wheelchair accessible with washrooms on the parade square level. Parking will be very limited, so why not take the shuttle bus to and from the Westin Harbour Castle? Buses will start running at 1745hrs from the Westin and will run continuously until the close of the event at 2400hrs.

Saturday, April 24th

0700hrs-1000hrs, Westin Harbour Castle, Frontenac Ballroom: Buffet breakfast will be served to those who have purchased the all-inclusive weekend package. Bus tours will leave from and return to the foyer located outside the Frontenac Ballroom. Dress is casual. All venues in the Westin Harbour Castle are wheelchair accessible.

1000hrs-1600hrs: For those that purchase the all-inclusive weekend package, bus tours will commence at 1000hrs from the foyer located just outside the Frontenac Ballroom.

The buses will run continuously throughout the day with stops at Casa Loma to tour the castle and visit our Regimental Museum. Casa Loma has wheelchair

access to all floors including the third floor, the location of our Regimental Museum. Next stop will be Moss Park Armoury for a guided tour of all four of the Queen's Own Messes (Officers', WO and Sergeants', Jr. Ranks' and Buglers' Mess).

There is wheelchair access to the parade square and second floor only where the three main messes are situated. The Bugler's Mess, located in the basement, may be more difficult for some to access. Dress for the day is casual and remember to bring your camera!

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Sesquicentennial Ball

1800hrs-1930hrs, Westin Harbour Castle, Frontenac Ballroom: Pre-dinner cocktail reception. The quarter call for dinner will sound at 1915hrs with the dinner call being sounded at 1930hrs. Dinner will be in the Metro Ballroom located directly above the Frontenac Ballroom and is accessible by stairs, escalator and elevator. Make sure you visit the photographer located just off the foyer to have your portrait taken with your dinner companion. (The pictures will be available for pick-up at no charge after dinner). Also, make sure you check the seating plan posted in a number of locations around the Frontenac Ballroom. Make note of your table number to speed up the seating process. Dress is Regimental blazer with tie and miniature medals (if available) or business suit for men. Cocktail dress or equivalent for women.

1930hrs-2230hrs, Westin Harbour Castle, Metro Ballroom: The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Sesquicentennial Dinner. HRH Princess Alexandra will be in attendance and the guest speaker for the evening is MGen Lewis Mackenzie. Dinner music will be provided by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Dinner Band.

2230hrs-0100hrs, Westin Harbour Castle: To cater to all musical tastes, dance to the music of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Dance Band in the Metro Ballroom or music provided by the band "Electric Blue Classic Rock" and a DJ in the Frontenac Ballroom.

Sunday, April 25th

0900hrs-1000hrs, Westin Harbour Castle, Frontenac Ballroom foyer: For those that purchased the all-inclusive weekend package, shuttle buses will start running at 0900hrs to take you up to St. Paul's Church for Church Parade. Dress for Church Parade is Regimental blazer, tie, beret and full size medals or business suit for men. If you need a beret, it's wise to pick a new one up at your local surplus store before coming to the Birthday weekend. QOR cap badges and other memorabilia will be available for sale during the weekend from the Kit Shop.

1015hrs-1100hrs, St. Paul's Church: Fall-in for Church Parade is 1015hrs around the corner from St. Paul's on Church Street at Hayden. We wait for the Regiment to arrive after marching up from Moss Park Armoury. We then fall-in with the Regiment and march around the corner (about 200 metres) to the Cross of Sacrifice where a memorial service will be conducted. The entire event and venue is wheelchair accessible.

1100hrs-1200hrs, St. Paul's Church: Church Service
1200hrs-1220hrs, St. Paul's Church: March past by The Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Association followed by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

1220hrs-1300hrs, St. Paul's Church: Shuttle buses will take you from St. Paul's Church to Moss Park Armoury where a reception will be held for the Regimental Family. The buses will continue on to the Westin Harbour Castle for those wishing to return to the hotel.

1300hrs-1500hrs, Moss Park Armoury: A Family Reception will be held on the parade square of Moss Park Armoury where HRH Princess Alexandra will visit the Regimental Family. Refreshments and sandwiches will be served free of charge.

1400hrs-1600hrs, Moss Park Armoury: Shuttle buses will be returning to the Westin Harbour Castle.

You can purchase an all-inclusive weekend ticket which entitles you to participate in all of the above for only \$175 per person. Tickets for the Sesquicentennial Dinner and Ball only are available for \$100 per person.

Tickets may be purchased by cheque, money order or Visa.

To purchase tickets, please use the form on page 29 or download the order form from the Toronto page of www.qor2010.com and follow the instructions.

If you are planning on staying at the Westin Harbour Castle for the Birthday weekend, you are strongly encouraged to book your room now!

There is at least one other major convention in Toronto that weekend and our allotted rooms at the Westin are going quickly. Rooms rates have been renegotiated to \$189 per room per night so book now on-line and don't be disappointed!

Birthday Weekend planning has kept Toronto Branch busy

Bob Dunk, Toronto Branch President

If there has been a busier year for a president and the executive and committee members of the Toronto Branch of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association, I can't imagine what it was. We have been spending countless hours getting ready for the 150th birthday weekend and I think I can say that the time spent has been worth it. We have a terrific weekend program lined up which you can read about elsewhere in this issue of The Rifleman. (see pages 27, 43 and 44). You won't want to miss this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We are hoping that you are planning to join us at the Meet and Greet at Moss Park Armoury on Friday, 23 April and that you'll also be with us at the 150th Anniversary Dinner and Dance at the Westin Harbour Castle on Saturday, 24 April, where the guest of honour

will be our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alexandra and the guest speaker will be MGen Lewis MacKenzie. Don't forget the Church Parade on Sunday and the reception at Moss Park Armoury which will follow and where Princess Alexandra will mingle with the guests.

A great deal of effort has gone into making certain that the events of the birthday weekend will be ones to remember and we hope that you will be there to share them with us.

I'm glad to say that we did take time to do other things last year, including staging our annual golf tournament in June -- a great success with the Toronto Hydro team led by Dave Lavery being the winners. A number of Association members participated in the trip to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the liber-

ation of Holland and we also participated in the Canada Day parade at RCL Branch 258 in Highland Creek.

We continue to add names to our WW II veterans roll, and these include vets we have not previously been in touch with, such as Edward Butler of Toronto, Frank Goddard of Kincardine and David Peat of Kindersley, SK

Mailings have been sent to all known WW II vets detailing information on the Memory Project. Veterans are encouraged to get their stories on file. More information on the Memory Project can be found at <http://www.thememoryproject.com>. (See LCol Barney Danson's Memory Project contribution on page 32.)

We'll see you in Toronto in April!

Huronion Branch enjoys fun in the sun



Left to right standing: Andy MacNaughton, Sarah Cook, Kim Mathieson, Frank Pearce, Roy Shaw, Verna Ives, Bill Ives, Brian Budden, Gordon Martin, Garry Muir, Orville Cook, Bob Dunk, John Fotheringham, Deb Dunk, Jaan Tuju, Carole Tuju, Ernie Martin, Frank Sypulski, George Walford. Kneeling / Seated: Brenda Butt, Harry Fox, Roy Whitsed, Norm McCracken, Eleanor Walford, Jack Martin. Front and Centre: Bill "Boots" Bettridge, Trish McCracken.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

LCol James William Taylor CD



Lieutenant Colonel James William Taylor CD, died in Calgary on 5 January, 2010 at the age of 89. Born in Nottinghamshire, England, "Jungle Jim" as he later came to be known, came to Canada and Nanton, Alberta, with his parents and brother in March 1925. He was to have a most interesting career in the military.

In 1943, a young officer in the Calgary Highlanders, he volunteered to join CANLOAN* and served in the British Army with the Galloway Battalion of

the King's Own Scottish Borderers (7KOSB). He was wounded and taken prisoner at a "Bridge Too Far" at Arnhem in 1944 during Op Market Garden. In 1945, en route to England after his prison camp was liberated, he survived when the Stirling bomber which was to take him to rejoin his wife Dorothy and young daughter Patricia, crashed on take-off. Postwar he served with 3PPCLI, the Royal Canadian School of Infantry (RCS of I), 2nd Bn The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and commanded the British Columbia Dragoons.

He returned to Canada in early June, 1945 and upon his release from the Canadian Army accepted a job with United Grain Growers. He subsequently joined the Calgary Highlanders (M)

in Vulcan, which was the beginning of a lengthy career with the military.

In July, 1947 Jim re-enlisted in the CA (R) with PPCLI in Calgary, transferred to Selection Service in September 1950, was re-commissioned in March, 1951, returned to 3PPCLI where he was appointed battalion intelligence officer. He was transferred to RCS of I in June 1952 as an instructor. Posted to Vietnam in September 1954 for a year-long stint with the International Commission for Supervision and Control, in September, 1955, he returned to the RCS of I.

Jim rebadged to the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own in September 1956. He was posted with the battalion to Europe in November 1957 as Adjutant and later served as a company second in command and later, as a company commander.

Upon return to Canada in November 1960 he was posted to HQ Western Command, Edmonton, as GSO 3 (Operations). He was promoted major in the summer of 1961 and returned to 2 QOR of C as a company commander. He rejoined RCS of I in May, 1963 to command the Officer Cadet and Senior NCO Division and shortly after, in November, 1964, was posted back to Calgary to take over as Staff Officer, Logistics and Administration, Militia.

Major Jim Taylor retired from the CA(R) in April 1969 and went to Vernon, BC where he became a social worker and joined the militia CA(M) in May, 1969, as Officer Commanding "A" Squadron of the British Columbia Dragoons (BCD). In May, 1972, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel to command the BCD.

He completed his tenure as a social worker in the fall of 1982 and became an administrator in a long-term care facility in Vernon. Jim returned to Calgary in November 1984 and enjoyed the monthly luncheons with the retirees of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

*"The gallant young officers loaned to the British forces did their country credit"

In 1943 a scheme was introduced which offered Canadian junior infantry officers the opportunity to volunteer to serve with the British Army. A total of 673 officers – principally subalterns – took up the challenge. The first draft arrived in April, 1944 and some were posted to British regiments with which their units were allied. Many of these were in the D-Day landings short weeks later, including some who landed with the airborne forces on D-Day minus 1. CANLOAN total casualties were 465, of which 128 were fatal. In a peaceful park on the banks of the Rideau River in Ottawa, stands a simple memorial on which are recorded the names, Canadian numbers and British regiments of those 128 fatal casualties.

POSTSCRIPT

John Babcock, the last known Canadian veteran of World War One, born in 1900, died at 109 in February, 2010. Assigned to the 146th Overseas Bn CEF, just before he was to be shipped overseas the 15-year-old was instead assigned to work on the Halifax docks. He later volunteered with The Royal Canadian Regiment and made his way to Sussex and training to fight in France and Flanders. However, he was declared still too young for battle and was spared the mud and horrors of the Western Front. He was long regarded as the final link to an era that, in many ways, marked Canada's emergence as a nation. From a country with fewer than eight million population, 67,000 Canadians died and 173,000 were wounded in the 1914-1918 war.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

RSM/CWO Syd Byatt CD

RSM/CWO John Sydney (Syd) Byatt CD, who died peacefully in his 83rd year on Monday January 4, 2010, was associated with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for 60 years. Although his military life began as a cadet with the 48th Highlanders of Canada, when he was old enough he joined the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps during World War Two. Still a teenager, the war ended before he became old enough to be sent overseas. His active service at an end, Byatt joined The Queen's Own Rifles, where he was to rise through the ranks from Rifleman to become Drill Sergeant Major and, from 1969-1971 was Regimental Sergeant Major.

As RSM he was a fierce proponent of the "Three D's" – "Dress, Drill and Deportment." In 1972 he was appointed Bugle Major, serving until 1985, shortly after the Bugle Band and the Military Band were merged, much to Byatt's dismay and dissatisfaction.

RSM Byatt was a crack shot with a rifle and was perennially among the top scorers in The Queen's Own's Maple Leaf Club's annual shoots. He was Team Sergeant when The Queen's Own Rifles won the Toronto Garrison's now long-abandoned annual Bren-gun shooting competition. A life member of the Sergeant's Mess he was

also instrumental in the formation of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Pioneers and Skirmishers Platoon.

An employee of Toronto Hydro for 38 years, RSM Byatt retired as Response Crew Supervisor.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, sister Shirley, brother Joseph, and nephews, RSM/CWO (Ret) Brian Budden and Steve Budden, former bass drummer in The Queen's Own Rifles Bugle Band. He was predeceased by brother George, sister Irene and his first wife Jeannette (Savoie.)

A Celebration of RSM Byatt's life is to be held on 12 June, 2010 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Lakefield, Ontario.



(1) RSM Byatt steps out during the 1967 Centennial Parade. (2) The Bugle Band at Canterbury Cathedral in 1974. RSM Byatt is front and centre, nephew Brian Budden is at left front with the Pioneer's sword and nephew Steve is at right with the Skirmisher's long rifle. (3) "Look To Your Front!"

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Sgt Tom Eagle CD

Sergeant Norbert Thomas (Tom) Eagle, CD, died aged 76 on 25 September, 2009 in Yellowknife. He had enlisted in the Canadian Forces at the age of 19, serving with 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He served from 1951 until 1975, when he retired in Yellowknife after a 25-year career that included tours in Germany and Cyprus.

Eagle was an all-round athlete and while with the 1st Bn in Germany in the early 1960s was coach of the battalion's cross country runners' team. Under his guidance the team won the Brigade Championships three years in a row, 1960-1963. In 1962, competing against British regiments, Sgt. Eagle's team placed second in the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) Championships and in 1963 were the winners.

Elwood Pickering, of Whitecourt, AB, said "We were the only Canadians ever to win the BAOR Championships. It was a very exciting for us." He said "Tom was a good coach and a great organizer. We were based at Fort McLeod in Germany and through his efforts we were entered into meets in many different places." Pickering, who had set cross country records in high school in Alberta, was the best runner on The Queen's Own team and placed among the top runners in the British Army Championships, held in England.

Pickering said "We kept in touch after we left The Queen's Own

and whenever Tom and his wife Muriel were on their way to Calgary -- it's a nine-hour drive from Yellowknife to our place, north of Edmonton -- they'd drop in to see us here and we reminisced a bit."

After his retirement, Sgt Eagle spent his time as an active participant in Veterans' Affairs and other community endeavours. He served as the Chair of both the NWT/Nunavut Aboriginal Veterans Association and the First Nations Veterans Association of Canada as well as President of the NWT/Nunavut branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada. He is survived by his wife Muriel, three daughters and two sons.



Sgt Tom Eagle with the trophy won by 1st Bn Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada's cross-country team as Brigade Champions in Germany in 1961.

Captain Jasper Martin



Frederick Laidlaw "Jasper" Martin, who was born in Rosedale, Toronto, died in Cobourg, Ontario on 14 December, 2009, in his 96th year.

Captain Martin was a D-Day veteran who had served in Northwest Europe until wounded in the battle in Quesnay Wood, on the road to Falaise, France in August 1944. The battle, involving troops of The Queen's Own Rifles and the

North Shore Regiment, "produced nothing but casualties," the Regimental History noted, with 22 killed in battle or died later, and a total of 72 sustaining wounds.

Described by friends as a "charming, gracious person, a sportsman and a true gentleman," Capt Martin had worked for Proctor and Gamble for many years. He had also travelled extensively in the Canadian North. "It was just Jasper, his truck, his dog and his shotgun, sleeping in a tent," remem-

bered his friend and fellow Queen's Own D-Day veteran Alex Adair, who had also been at Quesnay Woods but didn't meet Martin until the 1990s.

Martin, who was predeceased by his wife Mary, was credited with being instrumental in the refinement of rapeseed oil which could be used for both human consumption and as livestock feed.



Jasper Martin, standing at extreme left of the photograph, joins members of B Company for a group shot during training in England prior to D-Day.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

MWO Victor J. Ramsbottom MMM CD



MGen Herb Pitts MC CD and MWO Vic Ramsbottom MMM CD.

Vic Ramsbottom of Calgary passed away peacefully on 17 February, 2010 at the age of 84. He was pre-deceased by wife Florence and sister, Ella Hobman. He leaves his sons Darryl (Donna), Douglas (Sylvia), and Dale (Rose) and his daughters Darlene (Calvin) and Donna (Paul), eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Vic was born 22 December, 1925 in Elk Point, Alberta. He served

in the CA(A) during WW2 (1943-1946). He joined the regular force in 1947 and during the next 35 years served in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and Airborne units, closing out his military career as DCO of the Banff National Army Cadet Camp in 1983. Vic was passionate about his 50-plus years in the Masonic fraternity and the Shrine, taking on many key roles as well as being the official photographer of the Circus and everything Masonic. Vic and Florence enjoyed 30 years of retirement as part of Calgary's volunteer community, as well as golfing, curling and travelling.

Major-General Herb Pitts, MC CD, has known Vic since 1954, and remembers him well.

He was a sergeant in the 1st Battalion in Calgary when I first arrived. Can't say either of us knew much about each other but over time our paths crossed on many occasions in the unit and continued



The Colonel-in-Chief chats with Vic Ramsbottom while visiting and inspecting the 1st Battalion in Calgary on 24 May, 1967.

later in the 2nd Battalion. By that time he was MWO and I was a major, company commander. During 1963 Vic was PMC of the Sergeants' Mess and I was PMC of the Officers' Mess. The fun we had in organizing our respective "friendly at homes" was a memory I'll carry always.

My next recall of our encounters was in Germany when he served with 3 Mech Commando of the Airborne Regiment. As Regimental Commander I visited the unit and Vic was there as the welcoming Sergeant's Mess Member and it was great to see him again. He had an infectious, always-present smile, a courteous, thoughtful, forthright manner which made his company fun and memorable.



I was fortunate enough to be invited in the mid-eighties to the Banff Cadet Camp to present Certificates of Qualification to graduates of the course. and was greeted on arrival by Vic. He had been commissioned as a major on the Cadet Instructor List and was running the Camp. What a pleasant surprise to find him there. That camp was in good hands!

He had been stationed at Rivers, Manitoba as an instructor at the end of the Second War when he was a member of 1st Can Para Bn. That was an association that he maintained throughout the years and attended many of that Unit's reunions over time. The other cherished connection was his regular attendance at the Para Bn Memorial, Ex Coelis Range, in the Rockies at Siffleur Falls, Alberta Provincial Park. His photos of the events and being among his comrades nearly every year from 2000 when it was dedicated, are a valued possession and memory of mine

His last major event with The Queen's Own, so far as I know, was at the 2005 regimental reunion in Calgary. There was Vic, smiling, generous and himself, always fun to be around and that time was no different.

The last time I saw Vic was at Siffleur Falls in June 2009, his camera at the ready and his friendly disposition showing. We spoke a couple of times about events and times we shared, never realizing it would be the last time. Standing out for me is the realization of what a good father he was, what an effective, experienced soldier he was, and above all what a genuine asset he was to his family, friends, Regiments and Canada. We'll miss Vic. He's left fond memories for many different groups, friends and comrades.

"Stand Easy" old soldier. "Fair Winds and Soft Landings".

In Memoriam

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

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

Elmer Blanchard

Jasper Martin

Syd Byatt

Arthur McLean

Bernie Campbell

George Miller

Jim Carroll

Peter Morris

Ross Clark

Bill Noseworthy

Geoff Costeloe

Pat O'Brien

C.D. Dakin

Abe Offert

John Doeg

William Pankhurst

Tom Eagle

Leonard George Pike

Art Gay

Garfield Pinkerton

Bernard (Butch) Gladney

Vic Ramsbottom

Jim Harper

Wilfred John Rollman

Robert (Bob) Johnston

Howard Stanley Rolston

Alex Kemp

Ken Scott

Philip LeBreton

Joseph Roy Smole

John Lindsay

Gabriela Stefanenko

Norm Marsden

Jim Taylor



Mr. [unclear]



**The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's
150th Anniversary Commemorative Coin**