



In Pace Paratus

2013

The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

*Celebrating 30 Years
of
Airborne Tasking*





Flashback to 2011, when a D-Day+67 tour group composed of members of the regimental family paused for a photograph taken at Canada's Vimy Memorial in France. Seated at front are three D-Day veterans: Jack Hadley (Queen's Own Rifles), Jan de Vries (1st Canadian Parachute Battalion) and Bill "Boots" Bettridge (Queen's Own Rifles). Of these, Jack Hadley is now the only survivor, since Jan de Vries passed away in May, 2012 and Bill Bettridge in December, 2012.



The Rifleman

A message from the heart to members of The Queen's Own Rifles From Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD, for 50 years a Rifleman



Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, CD and Mrs. Bev Hughes present Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, GCVO, with a diamond regimental brooch to mark her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief.

When I retired last year as the Honorary Colonel of the regiment, I had been associated with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for a half century. They were a truly memorable 50 years, but I can now say, in all sincerity, that in all that time I can never remember our unit being stronger than I have observed in the past ten years.

The strength, knowledge and training of the riflemen is, in my personal experience, beyond compare of any of the militia regiments I have visited in my travels across the country. In addition, the officers'

and sergeants' messes are strong, have a wealth of knowledge gleaned from a wide variety of deployments and have created great bench strength within their membership. And a word to the members of the junior ranks' mess: In your midst today are those who will become the leaders of the future, rising through the ranks through dint of hard work and devotion to duty. It is not unheard of for a rifleman to rise to the rank of commanding officer. I am one of those and if you had told me 50 years ago that I might one day command Canada's oldest and finest infantry regiment, I likely would not have believed it. But believe me, it can happen.

I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know that, at a time when other militia regiments lack the surfeit of strengths that The Queen's Own has, that we can be justifiably proud of the hard work that is being done by all ranks, a situation which is evidenced by outstanding results in every phase of your activities.

In closing, I am happy and proud to commend all ranks on their obvious hard work and dedication to the regiment we all love and support. I am also certain that the support that LCol Larry Stevenson, our new Honorary Colonel, will make to commanding officer LCol Peter St. Denis,



Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, CD, salutes as the regiment marches past.

and to the RSM Mark Shannon, will aid immeasurably in the regiment's continuing quest to go from strength to strength.

To all members of the regiment, good luck and best wishes for the future, as well as "Good Shooting!"

**Respectfully, Colonel
Paul F. Hughes, CD**

In Pace Paratus.



Col Paul Hughes, CD and BGen Don Pryer, CD, doing what they both like best, meeting with the troops in the field.

Published by the QOR of Canada Regimental HQ; Design and Page Makeup, Howard Mann & Assoc; Computer Design and Layout, Mark Studholme, Colour Tech Marketing; Editor: Capt Charles McGregor, (e-mail qorpubs@sympatico.ca; tel 905 743 0259.)

A hearty welcome to Col Larry Stevenson and a fond farewell to Col Paul Hughes

The regiment paraded on 28 November to say farewell to Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes CD and to welcome his replacement in the role, Colonel Lawrence N. (Larry) Stevenson. Colonel Hughes, who joined The Queen's Own as a rifleman in 1962, retired after serving as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel from 2001 to 2005 and Honorary Colonel from 2005 to the present. His valuable presence is not lost to the regiment however, since he has been named chairman of the Regimental Trust.

New Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson graduated from The Royal Military College in 1978 as the Cadet Wing Commander and Sword of Honour Graduate. Commissioned into 3rd Battalion, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Victoria BC, he served as a Platoon Commander and Recce Platoon Commander from 1978-80. Until 1982 Col Stevenson served with the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Petawawa. During his service he also



served as an Instructor at both the Officer Candidate School in Chilliwack, BC and the Infantry School in Gagetown, NB. His regular force military career also includes two operational peacekeeping tours in Cyprus.

Managing Director of Callisto Capital since 2006, Col Stevenson's business career includes founding and serving as CEO of Chapters Inc. He led the buyout of Smith-Books and Coles in 1995 and created Chapters Inc., leading to dramatic changes in the Canadian book retailing business, and resulting in the company being named Innovative Retailer of the Year in 2000. After leading Chapters he was CEO of a multi-billion dollar U.S. publicly-traded company. Before Chapters he was the co-founder in 1989 of Bain & Company in Canada which he led from inception until 1993. Earning an MBA at Harvard, Col Stevenson was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate by RMC. Other accomplishments include being named one of Canada's "Top 40 under 40" in 1995 and Ontario's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1997.

A gathering of the "Regimental Brass"



Outgoing Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, CD, BGen Don Pryer, CD, LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, and incoming Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson gather following the ceremony.

Our new Honorary Colonel served previously with 3 PPCLI and The Canadian Airborne Regiment

By Colonel Larry Stevenson, Honorary Colonel

It is a great privilege to serve as the Honorary Colonel of this fine regiment. The storied record of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada since 1860 reminds me constantly of the sacrifices that young Canadians have made over many years to protect our freedom and to bring peace to disparate and distant parts of the world. Thirty one years ago I marched off the parade square in Petawawa as I bid farewell to the Canadian Airborne Regiment. My commanding officer at that time was Colonel Dick Cowling, your former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. Col Cowling was one of the finest COs I ever served under and his association with this regiment is one of the reasons that I serve today as your Honorary Colonel.

I met another famous rifleman years ago when LCol Barney Danson, then Minister of National Defence, gave me my Commission when I graduated from The Royal Military College. I also served under many former members of The Queen's Own on my first posting to 3 PPCLI in Victoria. Over the course of the past year I have met many more riflemen who follow in the footsteps of these formidable former members of the regiment.

As I watched the tremendous march past of the regiment in front of St Paul's Anglican Church on Remembrance Day Sunday last November, I knew that this generation of riflemen is every bit as well prepared as their predecessors had been. The proud look in everyone's eyes as I took the salute was proof positive that, under the superb leadership of the commanding officer, LCol Peter St Denis, the regiment is in great shape.

Last fall I spent a full day at CFB Petawawa firing weapons, while spending time with members of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Virtually every soldier I met was highly complimentary about the performance of members of The Queen's Own they had either trained with or served with overseas. During my Change of Command remarks I mentioned that I had served during a relatively peaceful time for the Canadian Forces. As I said then, for the past 30 years I have lived in the business world, which is defined by limited liability. Yours is a profession that is defined by unlimited liability. Our regiment has many veterans who served honourably and bravely in Afghanistan. Canada is fortunate to have such fine citizens who are willing to serve and put so much at stake. We will never forget the fact that many Queen's Own Riflemen have risked it all in war and that among us we still have D-Day veterans.

At the Christmas dinner I had the privilege of sitting next to D-Day veteran Jack Martin, who, with the rest of the regiment, landed on Juno Beach, surviving the gunfire and shelling that day, who shared some of his experiences with me. We owe a great deal to this "Greatest Generation" who gave so much, for so long. My father flew Mosquito fighter-bombers over Europe for four years and I always enjoyed meeting his comrades, men like him who served this country at that most difficult time. Today's serving members will be the next great generation.

This past year we lost D-Day veteran Jan deVries, a member of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, who had a long-standing association with our regiment. I had met Jan several times when we were preparing to hand over the Honorary Colonel post and I always felt inspired

to think that this slight, good-humoured man had been one of those who had jumped into the darkness over Normandy in 1944 as the battle to liberate North West Europe was about to begin. Wounded during that first stage of the invasion, he returned and fought on and in recent years had been awarded the Order of Canada and the French Légion d'honneur. And like Jack Martin and Jan deVries had done the 1940s, as many as 70 or more members of The Queen's Own Rifles were among the volunteers who put their lives in Canada on hold in recent years and faced a deadly enemy, this time in Afghanistan. All returned safely, and we are thankful and grateful for that. Others have served



Capt David Harmes does a uniform check for new Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson.

on missions for NATO or the UN in a variety of world hot-spots and it is this dedication to their country which makes this regiment the great one that it is.

I have been directly associated with The Queen's Own for only a few months, but in reading reports and in discussions with former Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, and LCol Peter St. Denis and others, in generally getting up to speed on activities, it has become very apparent that 2012 has been a busy year. Looking ahead, I think I can safely predict that the next few years will provide challenges, as military budgets are cut to deal with the country's fiscal situation. We must find ways to maintain the excellent operational readiness of the regiment. We have faced this problem before and survived. We can do it again.

I want to close by thanking my predecessor, Colonel Hughes, for his outstanding service. He has been an exceptional Honorary Colonel and has served The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in various increasingly important roles for an incredible 50 years. He was a great resource for me personally as I prepared to take over his role. Fortunately for all of us his association with the regiment will continue as he will be the Chairman of the Queen's Own Trust Fund. Colonel Hughes, thank you for your service.

It is an honour to serve with all of you and it is rewarding to once again be associated with a regiment, particularly one which includes paratroopers in its ranks. This makes us unique among primary reserve regiments in Canada and is one of which we all have a right to feel immensely proud.

Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel : The Sophomore Year

By Brendan Caldwell HonLCol



Hon LCol Brendan Caldwell receives his sword from Hon Col Paul Hughes, CD. Retiring Hon LCol Dick Cowling, CD stands by.

In my second year as our Regiment's Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, the most remarkable thing that I learned about riflemen is that their training is applicable far beyond a military context.

Last summer, our firm, Caldwell Investment Management Ltd., hired Lieutenant Roland Llewellyn-Thomas as a research associate and he did a marvellous job. In part, I think this is because, compared with the Cambrian Patrol, there is really no limit to the amount of office work that one can pile on a good rifles lieutenant and make it seem hard.

Our DCO, Major Sandi Banerjee, is another great example. Through a Post-Deployment Support Group ("PDSG") lunch hosted by the CO, Lt. Col. Peter St. Denis, and the PMC, Capt. Tom Foulds, Major Banerjee connected with Hidi Rae, a consulting engineering firm in Toronto. With no prior engineering experience, Major Banerjee has taken on the Chief Operating Officer's role at Hidi Rae. It is obvious to me that with applied imagination, our riflemen, trained as they are in communications, organization and especially leadership, can succeed in the civilian job market in roles that do not actually require a weapon.

My friend, former Cadet Leader Instructor and fellow member of the QOR Trust, Mr. Jim Lutz explained that, notwithstanding the success that many of our riflemen have found in the police forces of Ontario, soldiers are, by training and practice, more like firemen than policemen. Usually, policemen work alone or in pairs; soldiers and firemen almost always work as a team. Other than a squad car, policemen tend not to use much equipment, but equipment is key to fighting fires or accomplishing missions. Most of all, the police are trained to use the minimum force necessary to bring a situation under control; soldiers and firemen need to bring every resource they have to bear to contain a dangerous situation as quickly as possible.

This year, the True Patriot Love Foundation and several private donors have funded the PDSG. This money will enable us to provide additional outplacement services, entrepreneurial training, help with police application skills and other opportunities to set our riflemen up for success in civilian careers. Our riflemen should feel free to present ideas as to how the PDSG can best help them in this goal.

I am deeply grateful to our RSM, CWO Mark Shannon. RSM Shannon has been a constant support to me at more events this year than I can count. Most notable for me was his help in getting me put together for the puck drop with the Chief of Police at the recent police hockey tournament, which, of course, our QOR team won. Congratulations to Capt. Shawn "Hat Trick" Stewart and all of our players.

As my third year approaches, I am very much looking forward to again working with the Regiment's command team and with our new HonoraColonel, Larry Stevenson.



Inspecting The Queen's Own Rifles Cadet Corps No. 2118

LCol Peter St. Denis: “Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, Our new Colonel-in Chief, made us feel very special.”



LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, was official escort at Moss Park Armoury for the visit of the new Colonel-in-Chief, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, GCVO.

Unquestionably the most significant event in the life of the regiment in 2012 was the visit in May of our new Colonel-in-Chief, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. A lot of people put much time and energy into making sure it would be a success and it went off without a hitch. For those of us who were on parade, as well as all the guests present, it was very well worth the effort. One of my initial concerns was with mustering a 100-man guard on a week day, after a long weekend on a strenuous military exercise. As the largest primary reserve infantry regiment in Canada, we have a roster of almost 300 troops, but they are all part-time soldiers, with jobs or university students with classes to attend. I need not have worried. There was no shortage of volunteers.

I must admit I was slightly apprehensive awaiting the arrival of the royal party. The duchess is a member of the Royal Family, after all, but she put me right at ease. She was very personable and extremely generous with her time, speaking with many of those present, particularly while inspecting the troops and with the D-Day veterans present. This was her first official speaking engagement in Canada so it was even more memorable, from that standpoint. She made us feel very special, that The Queen's Own Rifles was really “her regiment.”

The unveiling of her portrait on the parade square was an ideal way for the visit to come to a close and I think that we were all agreed that the likeness in the portrait of her in rifle green was fantastic. I'm not sure everyone understands how much time and effort our former Honorary Colonel, Paul Hughes and Mrs. Bev Hughes, put into making this happen. They had commissioned the portrait many months before and the original plan was to have it unveiled in England. But when the announcement was made that Prince Charles and Camilla would be touring Canada as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth, it became her wish to come and visit her new regiment. And during the visit, she wished to unveil the portrait. So it was up to us to make sure the Duchess got her wish.

Everyone was pleased with what happened. I certainly feel the

Colonel-in-Chief was impressed and left with a really positive feeling, after stealing a little extra time from whatever official function came next. That evening, at a reception at Fort York Armoury she took Prince Charles, who has parachute wings, to meet those from The Queen's Own who were there. She was wearing the regimental brooch we had presented to her and later had removed it from her suit lapel and fastened to her green beret. At that multi unit function, she was a representative of our regiment.

In June I was in France to represent the regiment at a ceremony at la Maison Queen's Own Rifles in Bernieres-sur-Mer and was reminded how extremely busy a day the Sixth of June is in Normandy. One of my functions there was to represent our great friend Jan de Vries, of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, who had a long and mutually beneficial association with us. Jan was to participate in the opening of a museum at Pegasus Bridge, but he had passed away just a few days earlier. I accepted a medallion which was to be presented to him by the French government and was honoured to present that to Joanne de Vries during a celebration of his life

held later at Moss Park Armoury.

The spirit is still alive in Normandy. Wherever you go during the D-Day remembrances there each year there are numerous events scheduled. One memory has stayed with me and that is of a teenaged girl singing a song at a memorial and becoming very emotional while doing it. Even though she was never part of the war you could tell that they remember us and respect us for joining them in their remembrance ceremonies. I also joined the former CO, LCol John Fotheringham, in a ceremony of dedication for a plaque placed at Kitcheners' Woods in the Ypres Salient in Belgium, marking the first poison gas attack of World War I. The Canadian First Division was present, including our perpetuated regiment, Third Toronto.

At the unit level, we took over the responsibility to lead training group Bravo, which in addition to us, includes The 48th Highlanders, Royal Regt of Canada, 32 Signals Regt and 25 Medical Coy. I am honoured to have been given command. Here we exercise at battalion strength so we have three full companies, one from each of the units and we provide a battalion headquarters. This gives us the opportunity to lead multiple units in the field. Our exercises have been extremely successful throughout the training year and we have done numerous events which have inspired the soldiers. They've learned good soldierly skills, along with the mandated training we provide.

In addition to all of the foregoing events we also ran the first ever basic reserve army parachute training serial at the Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre in Trenton. There were 50 candidates, all reservists, who were trained as a group – and trained by reservists. It was more than Para Company. It was what we regard as The Queen's Own Rifles “para element.” I had to do a lot of politicking to make this happen and to get it running and OC Para Coy, Capt Scott Moody deserves many accolades for his part in that. The commander of the army was delighted that it was a success and to realize that there was a trained para capability within his area. We have conducted a number of para training activities throughout the

year and have been very well supported by RCAF's 8 Wing and 400 Tactical Helicopter squadron. We saw one of our soldiers, Cpl Jonathon Brisbane-Babin, go overseas to Afghanistan in a close protection role.

Family day was a complete success. It was the second one we have done and in both cases the children who came out were excited at the activities we had planned and that were available to them. We'll be doing it again. It's going to get bigger each time, I'm sure, with more participants. The kinds of events which involve families bring the whole regiment together, and that includes the members of the regimental association. We get much support and unstinting help from them. In this day and age, when everyone is so busy on social media, we want to prove that we are interested in them and their families. How many times do the youngsters and wives, or the mothers and fathers really get a chance to see their dads and husbands or sons in a military environment? We do it at Moss Park Armoury so they also get to see where they work, at least some of the time. It also gives the soldiers and association members a chance to get to know each other.

We were one of the biggest primary reserve contingents involved in the Afghanistan mission and have a record of extremely distinguished service there. However, now that it has ended we have not let down in the tempo of what we do in training, for example. In the old days we might have seen a huge bump in recruiting, but the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre controls that now, so it's a matter of being sent by them to a unit that needs soldiers rather than walking into the armoury and being recruited directly by us. Going forward, with cutbacks in defence spending looming, we'll have to conform to a cap to the number of personnel we'll have but, as reservists, we have always been able to make do with what we have and we do very well in that, so we'll just get on with it.

We welcomed a new Honorary Colonel in 2012, Larry Stevenson, who served with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Canadian Airborne Regiment and did two tours in Cyprus on United Nations duty. We had an excellent parade to introduce him in what I thought was an excellent send-off for the former Honorary Colonel, Paul Hughes, who, with his wife Bev, were wonderful to the regiment. It was a sad day in that regard, especially for me, having known them for a long time. But Colonel Stevenson has made an excellent start and, along with Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Brendan Caldwell, we have two honoraries who are extremely supportive of what we do. We enjoy working with them.

One unusual thing we did was to make an appeal to have the Battle of Ridgeway recognized as a Queen's Own Rifles Battle Honour and we're waiting to see the results of that from the Directorate of History and Heritage. It was the regiment's first taste of combat, in 1866, against Fenian raiders and it cost us nine dead and many wounded. We also feel the names of those nine should be recognized in the Book of Remembrance in Ottawa.

We are busy revising the Regimental Standing Orders which has not been done since 1965, when we had three battalions – two regular force and one militia – and there were many differences. These included WWII style battledress uniforms worn with black waistbelts and puttees, the officers carried swagger sticks and all ranks wore peaked caps instead of berets.

We are a very active unit. We do para training, we do exercises in



The new Colonel-in-Chief, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, GCMG, with her portrait, unveiled during her visit.



LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, pins the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on the regimental blazer of Maj (Ret) Harry Rollo, CD.

the field, we do specialty training, that's our modus operandi. These are not done for the sake of doing things. They're done for a purpose, to make better soldiers. We didn't have to do the para training serial. We don't have to run basic mountain ops courses. But we do it because we have the skill set and we want to maintain that. Our trained parachutists can – and do – go directly to RCR or PPCLI when needed and fit right in. That was proven in Afghanistan.

CWO/RSM Mark Shannon, CD: "The new Colonel-in-Chief's visit was her first official function in Canada."



CWO Mark Shannon is kitted out and ready to board the aircraft prior to making a parachute jump.

By CWO/RSM Mark Shannon, CD

In reviewing the very busy year of the regiment in 2012, without a doubt the visit of the new Colonel-in-Chief was a landmark occasion in the life of The Regiment. This was her first official function in Canada as Her Royal Highness, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, our new Colonel-in-Chief, rather than as the wife of Prince Charles. This was her time and it will be remembered and talked about by people who were there that day for many years to come. I was fortunate to be the guard commander when Princess Alexandra visited us for our 150th Anniversary and as Regimental Sergeant Major I had a significant role to play when the Duchess of Cornwall visited. Interestingly, while I had several opportunities to chat with Princess Alexandra on her visit, for the Duchess I was within three or four feet of her for the whole time and probably spoke to her less than just about anybody else. My girlfriend spoke with her more than I did. However when we did talk, she was wonderful, obviously genuinely thrilled to be here and very generous with her time and would doubtless have liked to stay longer. Several members of The Queen's Own Rifles also attended an event at Fort York that evening and she made a point of introducing Prince Charles to them. All in all the visit of our new Colonel-in-Chief was a major success and we are delighted to be thought of as "her regiment in Canada."

Turning to the 30th anniversary of The Regiment's para-tasking in 2013, I have to say that I have been an "active jumper" since 1990, and I am just one of what must be hundreds of Queen's Own who have taken the training over the last 30 years. Until you've actually done the basic para course you don't truly appreciate what the brotherhood of being an airborne soldier is. It can be truly a life-altering experience. No single thing I have done in my military career has impacted me as much as my jump course. It has opened doors. It is hard to describe but wearing the maroon beret means you are treated differently, but also that more is expected of you. There's a bond. It also means that the bar is set higher for people who wish to join and stay with the regiment, and that's a good thing.

Another element I'd like to address is the introduction of Family Day a couple of years ago. As soldiers we belong to one of those few careers where our job is not what we do but who we are! We want our families to have a glimpse into who we are and what we do. We truly love what we do but sometimes, I have to say, it means we spend considerable time away from our families. We feel proud of what we

do and we want our families to share that pride. We have tried to make it possible for families to be present when we make parachute jumps, but the stars have to truly align for this to happen. Aircraft availability, weather, cost, all factor into it. However, both the CO and I believe that if our families can see that what we do has value, that it's not just for fun, and we try and include them in it somehow, then they will feel a part of it and the support will be there. This is a commitment that the commanding officer and I both have – to give the families and the children a clear idea of who we are and what we are and to offer a better understanding of why we aren't always home for Sunday dinner, Mother's Day, birthdays or to attend the kids' hockey game.

When I became RSM one of the things I wanted to try and increase was the connection between the whole regimental family, because the stronger the family ties are the better it is for everybody. We are working on strengthening our relationship with our cadets and currently we have some of our NCOs working with them. We've always had a good relationship with the band, one that I feel was strengthened during the D-Day+50 trip back in 1994. There's also the QOR Association and I believe that our connection with their members has dramatically increased since the 150th anniversary. So when we have a Family Day, it's for all of them and I think there have been some big inroads made with that.

I have great respect for our regimental association. When I was deployed overseas, no unit, reserve or regular force, got the support from their regimental family like what we got from ours. Wherever I was, wherever our soldiers were, it was the same thing. When I was in Bosnia, we were taken care of by our association. And when we got to Afghanistan, and there were a lot of us from The Queen's Own there over time, they took it to the next level. It was just phenomenal the support that we got. It was just outstanding. Those who were deployed there came home with a much better appreciation of what the association does. I'd like to think that the association felt more a part of their regiment, as well. Bob Dunk, Brian Budden and Dave Lavery were the ones mainly responsible for getting it organized, and they deserve much credit for that.

It's all about morale. I deployed three times, once to Cambodia and in Afghanistan in 2008. But none of us felt alone. We always knew we had a connection with the regiment, home and family.

It seems like only yesterday, but two years have already passed. It has been much more work than I anticipated but the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment has also been much more than I expected. I am both proud and humbled to be the Regimental Sergeant Major and I look forward to the challenges to come.

Our regiment has much to be proud of: 153 years of stalwart service to our country (the oldest continuously-serving infantry regiment in Canada); 30 years with our para tasking (the only reserve unit); the most members in the regiment since we had a regular force component with three battalions, and a para and mountain skill set beyond compare within the Canadian primary reserve ranks. Although opportunities to deploy currently are rare, as a regiment we stand ready. We are strong, fit, well trained, and highly motivated. We stand, as all of our fellow rifleman before us have: In Pace Paratus, In Peace Prepared.

The Regimental Band ended the year on a high note with a Christmas Concert



Laura Savage was featured in a xylophone solo during the annual Christmas Concert at St. Paul's Anglican Church.



New Bandmaster Sgt Jonas Feldman (left) set the tempo and Sara Faber provided the notes on the flute.





The brass and woodwinds got a good workout in a program of music which mixed show tunes, popular music, military marches and Christmas favourites.



Drummer Sgt John Missons kept the beat (above) while Laura Savage put the mallets to the metal on her xylophone.

The Year 2013 Marks the 30th Anniversary of The Queen's Own as a Para-Tasked Regiment

In 2013 The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada celebrated 30 years of its designation as a "para-tasked" regiment. The initiative to award a parachute tasking can be traced back to the formation of the Central Militia Area Special Unit (CMASU), whose role was to be a reserve army unit that would have the potential to become an airborne one. This was an idea developed and vigorously encouraged by LCol Peter Fairclough CD, a Queen's Own Rifles officer who had previously served in the British Army's Special Air Service (SAS) in Malaysia. LCol Fairclough's proposal was derived from British and American Airborne and Special Operations Forces reserve units which had proven to be capable of supporting full-time counterparts. What followed is described by Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Captain Scott Moody, who has worn paratrooper's "jump wings" since 1992. A veteran of more than 100 parachute descents, he is also a fully-qualified jumpmaster and commands the regiment's Para Company.

The CMASU paraded at the Staff College in Toronto. Because it was a new unit it had several problems, a principal one being that it drew the best soldiers from many regiments, which often resulted in support from higher levels being provided only reluctantly, if at all. The solution was to have the CMASU reduced to company strength and have it bolster one of the Toronto-based units, with The Queen's Own eventually getting the nod over The Toronto Scottish. Since a number of the original CMASU cadre had come from The Queen's Own, then Commanding Officer LCol Bill Wilson, CD, warmly greeted the return of his riflemen. He was delighted with the addition of this significant element to his regiment and showed his strong support by providing the unit with the flexibility to maintain its training schedule and customs. The CMASU was designated as The Queen's Own's 60th Company and LCol Fairclough decided to become Major Fairclough to enable him to stay with his troops.

That the CMASU was stood down did not stop the desire to have reservists involved in supporting parachute operations in Canada. The idea of such a unit was significantly enhanced when The Canadian Airborne Regiment (Cdn AB Regt) offered to augment its numbers by inviting The Queen's Own to provide a fully-formed section. The invitation was eagerly accepted, resulting in an eight-man rifle section serving with a com-



pany of 2 (Airborne) Commando, under the command of Major Ike Kennedy. During this time they took part in Exercise Georgian Strike 2 at CFB Borden, Meaford and Petawawa, and were later commended for their capabilities. These eight riflemen were former CMASU soldiers and their accomplishment served to forward the concept of reserve support to the Canadian Airborne Regiment. At the conclusion of the exercise they were present at the ceremony held to mark the formation of 3 (Airborne) Commando, which would be commanded by the same Maj Kennedy, who had become a staunch supporter of The Queen's Own receiving a parachute tasking.

Within the higher HQ Major General Reginald Lewis championed the tasking and vision became reality in 1982, when nine Queen's Own soldiers were sent on the Basic Parachutist Course at the Canadian Airborne Centre (CABC) in Edmonton, Alberta, an unprecedented event. Prior to this, reservists had been given the chance to take the course only rarely, and as a "reward" for one accomplishment or another. All nine were successful graduates, among them

being three future Regimental Sergeant Majors for The Queen's Own Rifles in CWO (now Captain) John Wilmot, CWO Scott Patterson and CWO Shaun Kelly. Another graduate was LCol Robert Zeidler, who later became the regiment's commanding officer. Additionally, BGen Don Pryer and LCol Bob Campbell, Steve Brand, Tony Welsh, John Fotheringham, Martin Delaney and the commanding officer in 2013, LCol Peter St. Denis, were qualified as parachutists before taking command.

On 23 January, 1983, the concept became official with the issuance of Operations Order 2/83 which gave The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada the mission to provide a 27-man platoon to augment the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR). The regiment was given 18 months to form the platoon by qualifying paratroopers and providing them with the opportunity to gain experience with the CAR. In August 1983, 24 members of The Queen's Own, led by Lt Tony Welsh, attended the Airborne Indoctrination Course (AIC) where they earned the right to wear a maroon beret, bearing the cap badge of The Queen's Own Rifles.

In September, 1984, parachute tasking within the Canadian Forces burgeoned when Quebec-based Le Régiment du Saguenay and The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in Alberta were each also tasked to provide a platoon to support the CAR.

The relationship between the regiments and CAR developed quickly and positively and by 1985 an operational assessment done by the CAR established the fact the reserve force jump platoons were now considered to be fully manned and trained. Due to the successes, British Columbia-based The Royal Westminster Regiment was awarded a 27-man jump platoon and The Queen's Own and the Saguenays each were granted a second one, bringing the total to six Reserve Airborne Platoons and a company HQ, which had been established by The Queen's Own. The reserves could now form the fourth platoon in each commando, with the remaining three platoons and company HQ forming the basis of a fourth commando contingent.

That The Queen's Own took great pride in their tasking was evidenced by the enthusiasm exhibited in their participation on CAR courses, exercises and operational deployments. Future Queen's Own Rifles commanding officer, 2/Lt John Fotheringham did a six-month posting with 3 Commando and in 1992, when the Airborne Regiment deployed to Somalia, it took with it six members of The Queen's Own, thus forming the largest contribution from a reserve unit on the operation.

Riflemen were not only qualifying as paratroopers they also started acquiring more experience in parachuting and other skill sets related to airborne operations. They had the opportunity to take courses through CABC or with the CAR such as DZ/LZ controller (Drop Zone/Landing Zone), packer/rigger, basic mountain operations, and aerial delivery. They also were presented with the chance to participate in foreign exchanges and TALEXs (Tactical Airlift Exercises). These opportunities allowed some of them to gain enough experience to start taking more advanced courses. In 1989, Sgt Chris Thompson became the first Queen's Own NCO to qualify as a jumpmaster and in 1993, WO Donovan O'Halloran became the first to qualify as a parachute instructor. These individual accomplishments helped solidify the formation of The Queen's Own Rifles as an

airborne qualified and ready unit.

In 1994, with budget pressures being the order of the day at National Defence Headquarters, a little more than ten years after its introduction it was announced that, with the exception of The Queen's Own Rifles, all militia units would forfeit their parachute taskings. While this was a crushing blow to those regiments, and justifiable cause for future concern at battalion HQ at Moss Park Armoury, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, once again, was the only reserve unit in Canada whose members had the chance to continue to train to become paratroopers and to become part of the regiment's airborne cadre.

Within the year, however, the Canadian airborne community became the focus of much public attention and unrelenting harsh criticism, largely misdirected, following the death of a Somali youth at the hands of two members of The Canadian Airborne Regiment. A government enquiry into the matter ensued, military trials were held and the CAR was ordered disbanded. The outrage

within the military at this Draconian decision was unbridled but "orders is orders" and at CFB Petawawa, on 5 March, 1995 -- a cold and windy day -- The Canadian Airborne Regiment paraded for the last time. The Queen's Own Rifles maintained its relationship with the Airborne Regiment to the end, with its paratroopers participating in a final jump and attending its last parade, where The Queen's Own's Regimental Band and Bugles would play. The sombre event included a church parade, a ceremony of Laying up of Colours in the Canadian Airborne Forces Museum, followed by final dismissal on Nicklin Parade Square. It was a bitter irony that the parade square had been named in honour of LCol Jeff Nicklin, a former commanding officer of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, which had been in the D-Day assault and with whom LCol Nicklin had been killed in action in Germany in 1945. Meanwhile in Ottawa the Chief of the Defence Staff ordered that the regiment be struck from the order of battle of the Canadian Forces with effect that date, in accordance with Ministerial Order 95003.



In June 1996, The Queen's Own was tasked by Land Force Command (LFC) to provide 66 parachutists in support of the new Canadian Parachute Centre (CPC) that was relocated to CFB Trenton in Ontario. The Queen's Own quickly developed a strong and important relationship with CPC, now the Canadian Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC), one which has evolved over the years. Initially the regiment provided jumpers for CPC's task of supporting Tactical Airlift Training Exercises (TATEX) for RCAF 8 Wing Trenton. These allowed CC-130 helicopter crews to be qualified and maintain efficiency in personnel and equipment drops. The exercises would take place several times a year for ten days and, as time progressed Queen's Own jumpers played increasingly larger roles by providing DZ control teams, jumpmasters and aerial delivery-qualified personnel to rig equipment for airdrops.

A further evolution of the relationship with CPC was the regiment providing instructors and support staff for courses. These responsibilities gradually increased in scope and frequency with Queen's Own Rifles airborne riflemen teaching on aerial delivery, helicopter operation, DZ/LZ and advanced mountain operations. Proving their ability as instructors, Queen's Own Rifles NCOs were soon being offered permanent instructor positions at CFLAWC.

Following disbandment of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, three parachute companies were formed in the 3rd Battalion of the three regular force infantry regiments – Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Royal Canadian Regiment and Royal 22nd Regiment. The Queen's Own quickly established and maintained a close relationship with 3 RCR Para Coy. Riflemen quickly began participating on exercises with the company on a regular basis and as the relationship developed Queen's Own Rifles jumpmasters would support 3 RCR Para Coy parachute operations. In the past, Queen's Own airborne-qualified personnel augmented 3 RCR in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina on a joint operation exercise with U.S. troops as well as at the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Course in Yuma, Arizona.

The relationship to 3 RCR has also transferred well to support on expeditionary operations. During OP PALLADIUM ROTO 3 and 8 to Bosnia-Herzegovina many members of the The Queen's Own augmented 3

RCR Para Coy. When deployed to Afghanistan other personnel augmented 3 RCR during OP ATHENA in Kabul. An excellent example of the strength of this relationship occurred in 2008 when 25 members of The Queen's Own's airborne company deployed on OP ATHENA, Roto 6, in support of the 3 RCR Battle Group, which was the largest Queen's Own Rifles contingent to deploy to a battle theatre since the days of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Canadian Army's regular force.



Moving on following disbandment of The Canadian Airborne Regiment, The Queen's Own found itself more and more involved in planning and executing its own exercises. This was a challenging task. The training model for the reserves changed frequently over the past 30 years, moving from individual unit training to collective training on weekends. Due to this most, exercises take place independent of regular unit training, increasing the level of commitment required from the airborne riflemen. During special events, such as summer concentrations, the regiment was often given the chance to jump into the Ex but the force employment was limited. This changed dramatically when The Queen's Own was given the opportunity to lead a composite airborne reconnaissance platoon during the two-week-long summer concentration in 2003. The platoon was composed of 20 Queen's Own riflemen and 20 pathfinders from the German Army in an exercise that was highlighted by tactical parachute and rappel inserts. At the following summer's concentration, the regiment

led an airborne company made of 60 paratroopers from The Queen's Own and 30 jump-qualified from other Land Force Central Area LFCA reserve units in a variety of para-oriented tasks.

In 2013, its 30th anniversary year, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's parachute company exists as a shadow company within the unit, drawing its jumpers from the two rifle companies, 60th and Buffs, as well as Victoria company, which provides combat service support. The jumpers participate in annual parachute refresher training and physical training testing. New parachutists are also provided with internally-run indoctrination training to help them transition from parachutist to paratrooper. Training continues on weekends and jumpers have, on average, six opportunities to jump a year, weather and equipment availability always permitting. However, there is a renewed interest in having the Queen's Own jumpers employed to support collective exercises, with a prime example of this being the platoon jumping, in well below zero weather, into a DZ on a frozen river to secure the airfield in Moosonee during area-level Exercise Trillium Response early in 2013.

The capability of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to provide a self-sustaining parachute company is well established after 30 years. In its ranks as the 30th anniversary year began the regiment has six parachute instructors, eight jumpmasters and a large pool of DZ controllers and aerial delivery specialists. Because of this capability, the regiment was able to take on a basic parachute course for primary reservists from LFCA during the summer of 2012. This resulted in members of The Queen's Own Rifles planning and executing the first ever basic parachutist course staffed only by reservists and for reservists. The end result was 40 reservists becoming jump-qualified and the secondary effect of improved retention and motivation for these members.

Over the past 30 years of its parachute tasking The Queen's Own Rifles has continued to evolve. Changes have taken place in the areas of structure and function of airborne forces and reserve employment in Canada during this time. However, the inherent resilience of the Riflemen has permitted them to adapt to these changes and build capacity.

AIRBORNE!



During its 30 years as a “para-tasked” regiment hundreds of members of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada have graduated from the rigorous training program which has qualified them to wear their Queen’s Own cap badge on a maroon beret, as well as to wear “jump wings” on their uniforms.

Capt Scott Moody, who has worn the beret and wings since 1992, and is a veteran of more than 100 descents, now commands the regiment’s Parachute Company and is seen in the two photos at the top. At left, he is on patrol in Afghanistan.

At right, in his role as jumpmaster, he adjusts the equipment off Sgt Matt Kohler prior to a training session. The centre photo shows parachutists leaving an RCAF transport aircraft.

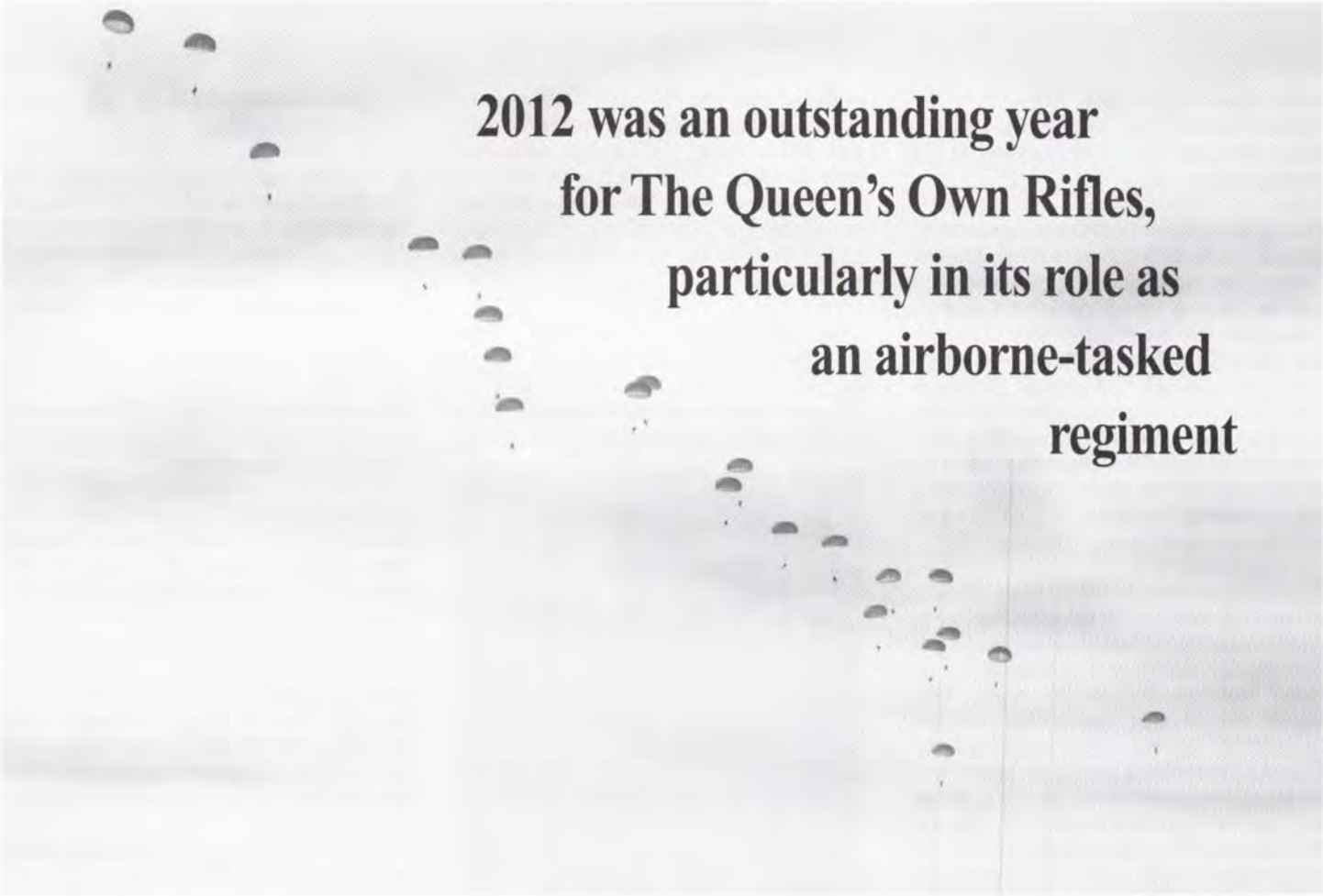
At bottom, troops await pickup by RCAF helicopter.



Well below zero temperatures greeted members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Para Company when they took part in a winter exercise at Moosonee, Ontario, not far from the shores of James Bay, earlier this year.

(Airborne photos taken by Maj Sandi Bannerjee, Capt Chris Potter, MCpl Dan Pop and Paul Lantz.)





2012 was an outstanding year for The Queen's Own Rifles, particularly in its role as an airborne-tasked regiment

By Capt Scott Moody

2012 was an important and extremely busy year for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Through the hard work and dedication of its members, the regiment further defined itself as one of the leading reserve light infantry units in Canada. The Queen's Own also demonstrated the ability to maintain its parachuting capability and use its strengths to build the capacity within the reserves.

The beginning of the year started with the annual winter warfare skills refresher and Basic Winter Warfare Course. These events took place during a series of field training exercises (FTXs) called Cold Start 1 and 2. In mid-February, the regiment provided a platoon to support 32 CBG's week long domestic response exercise (Exercise Trillium Response) in Cochrane, Ontario. On this exercise, 32 CBG personnel worked with soldiers from the 56 Stryker Brigade from the Pennsylvania National Guard.

To kick off para activity in the beginning of 2012, The Queen's Own held its annual para refresher with the aim of not only to

refresh those within the Para Coy but to also indoctrinate our new jumpers in the skills required to be a paratrooper. This entailed a complete refresher as well as lessons on airborne history, operations, DZ drills, and non-standard loads. This was followed a few weeks later by an exercise in Trenton, Ontario that consisted of a static-line jump from a CC-130J helicopter and then fast-rope training.

In mid-March a platoon was sent on a 10 day exercise with other contingents of 32 CBG to Ft Pickett, Virginia for Exercise Southern Drive. Our personnel used this opportunity to take advantage of the training facilities and take-part in a live-fire defensive operation.

To prepare for Steadfast Warrior, the week-long summer concentration exercise in Petawawa, a series of preparation exercises named Iron Talon 1 and 2 were held in the spring at Meaford. They focused on defensive operations at the company and battle group levels. In between these two exercises, select members of Para Coy were able to participate in a CC-117 jump in

Trenton at Canadian Forces Land Advanced Warfare Centre (CFLAWC.)

The Queen's Own also provided a section to deploy to Yuma, Arizona with our affiliated battle group, 3 RCR, for six weeks in March and April. The riflemen had the opportunity to work with Oscar Company while they supported the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics course. A great deal of experience was gained conducting airmobile and fast-rope operations.

On the 22nd of May, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Toronto. As part of the visit, several parades were held in Toronto in which the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were involved. While Prince Charles was visiting a few locations as part of his itinerary, HRH Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, visited the regiment in her role as the new Colonel-in-Chief. Despite the visit being mid-week, the unit was able to have a 100-man guard on parade to welcome her at Moss Park Armoury. Later on, several soldiers were on parade for an additional 100-man guard at Fort York Armoury along

with other units within LFCA and the Greater Toronto Area while at the parade's reception, a few of our officers and NCOs were present.

During the summer months new ground was broken when airborne personnel demonstrated their capacity as a parachute-tasked unit by running a basic parachutist course. The course was the vision of the commanding officer LCol Peter St Denis, who recognized that the unit had enough parachute instructors and experience within the ranks to run a course. He felt this would serve a variety of purposes in supporting reserve retention while at the same time showcasing the regiment's evolution as a para-tasked unit for almost 30 years.

Several Basic Parachutist Courses catering to reserves were run in the mid-2000's. In addition, reserve parachute instructors from The Queen's Own have been instructing on Basic Parachute Courses for years. This started with WO Donovan O'Halloran in the mid-1990's and now continues with three Queen's Own Rifles parachute instructors on permanent contract at CFLAWC. What was unique about this course was it would be "exported" to a reserve unit to run using an all reserve staff to provide a course exclusively for reservists.

The designation "exported" meant that funding, administration and execution would be different than a regular CFLAWC Basic Parachutist Course. In this case, the QOR of C were tasked to administer and execute the course with funding coming from Land Forces Central Area (LFCA). As this was a first for the regiment, CFLAWC provided incredible guidance and support to enable this.

As a result of the funding source, each of the three reserve brigades in LFCA would receive between 12 to 15 spots with six in total being allocated to Honorary Colonels. To maximize economy of effort, the course ran concurrent to the cadet course and shared important resources such as aircraft, riggers, DZ crew and medics.

Thanks to the course staff (Capt Scott Moody, WO Sean Willard, Sgt Brian Burns, Sgt Jason Chin-Leung, Sgt Dmitri Frounze, Sgt Brian Ragos, Sgt Jason Bridge, MCpl Chris Abate, MCpl Jesse Behan and MCpl Darnel Leader), 40 new jumpers received their wings. It is our hope that this can become an annual event for the reserves. Exercise Steadfast Warrior, a 32 CBG FTX, was the next major summer event. The two-

week exercise took place in CFB Petawawa and focused on battlegroup level defensive operations. During the exercise, personnel from the QOR of C worked again with the US 56 Strike Brigade. The company led and manned by The Queen's Own performed exceptionally well and was recognized for its performance.

After the summer concentration The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada took over as the lead for Training Group Bravo (TG-B). This appointment meant that the unit would be responsible for planning and executing



the exercises that will train and refresh soldiers on their individual and collective battle task standards. The training group is currently led by The Queen's Own and includes four other 32 CBG units, totalling roughly 1,000 soldiers.

To initiate the training cycle, several exercises were held in September and October. These exercises focused on refreshing individual soldiers' skills by conducting ranges for a variety of weapons systems and stand training. To ensure we "train to excite" and reward the soldiers who completed their training, helicopter rappelling was facilitated by Recce Platoon during the last exercise.

The culmination of the QOR of C shooting teams efforts took place in September when MCpl Sam Kim, Cpls Enoch Wong, Dustin Chang, Adam Gee, Graham Humphrey and Phil Hordo were nominated by LFCA to represent the reserve team at the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition (CFSAC) in September. The riflemen yielded strong results with Cpl Phil Hordo winning top "Tyro". Team captain, Sgt Tom Fabry into competition in six Ontario Rifle Association (ORA) competitions during the summer and as a result of their outstanding performance

in these competitions they were recommended for CFSAC.

In October, eight riflemen completed the Cambrian Patrol in the United Kingdom. This followed 6 months of dedicated and challenging training. The team was intended to be a brigade team that was facilitated by the Royal Regiment of Canada. However, in the end it consisted of eight riflemen, seven being competitors, with one as a spare. This team is an excellent example of the commitment and key role The Queen's Own plays within 32 CBG and the overall motivation of our riflemen.

In the fall, two major parachute events took place. In October, several members from the Para Coy deployed to CFB Trenton to support 8 Wing in training eight of its CC-117 pilots in parachute drops. In November, an annual parachute refresher and airborne indoctrination was held. As always, several parachute-qualified members from 32 CBG attended. The refresher culminated with static-line parachute descents from a 400 Sqn CH-146. All 80 participants made one jump and several more managed to get two.

At the end of November, Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes stepped down after 50 years of service to unit. Taking over from him was Col Larry Stevenson. Col Hughes' guidance and dedication has aided immeasurably in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada becoming the outstanding unit it is today. We look forward to this continuing with our new Honorary Colonel, who previously served in the PPCLI and Canadian Airborne Regiment.

To finish the year, the QOR of C led TG-B in a defensive exercise in LFCA TC Meaford. This exercise employed the skills of our Recce Platoon's complex terrain detachment that facilitated a rappel descent for two of the rifle companies to infiltrate into their battle positions.

The events of 2012 made it an extremely important year for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The achievements and dedication of our riflemen over the year have helped the unit further establish itself as one of the leading reserve light infantry units in Canada. The Queen's Own has also displayed that it can effectively manage the responsibility of its unique parachute task and develop the task to further benefit the reserves and the Canadian Forces.

Article courtesy of The Maroon Beret, the journal of The Canadian Airborne Brotherhood.

Members of the Regimental Family may qualify for The Queen's Own Rifles-Princess Alexandra Bursary




National Association President Bob Dunk presents a Princess Alexandra bursary to Cpl Dominique Arseneau-Bruneau.

By Capt Charles McGregor, Editor, The Rifleman


For many years, Beverly Hughes, wife of former Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes, CD, has been a generous donor to the regiment in a variety of ways, as has been Colonel Hughes. Their kindness in this respect has far exceeded our ability to properly thank them and, on behalf of all members of the regiment, let me once again say that we appreciate everything they have done in our support and are very grateful indeed that they are members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's regimental family.

The latest beneficiary of the generosity of Bev Hughes is The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada-Princess Alexandra Bursary, which will be the recipient of a substantial infusion of funds. "I would like to see more young people have an opportunity to receive support from the bursary program," Mrs. Hughes said, "and I think for that to happen it needs to receive more in the way of donations and I'd like to start that ball rolling by making a donation of my own. I encourage anyone reading this to think about making a contribution since, by doing so, in addition to supporting Canada's oldest and finest infantry regiment, they are also contributing to the future of the country through providing support to its young people."

The bursary program was established in 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the regiment in 1860, and in honour of the 50th anniversary of the service of HRH Princess Alexandra, LG, GCVO, as Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. Administered principally through The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's National Association, its function is to offer financial support for the post-secondary school education of serving regimental or cadet corps personnel, as well as the children, grandchildren or other relatives of members of serving personnel and/or members of the National Association.



**The Queen's Own Rifles
of Canada
Princess Alexandra
Bursary**



Here's Your Opportunity...

Bev Hughes said that, "I am very proud of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, a feeling which was heightened immeasurably during the situation in Afghanistan when so many members of the regiment volunteered to serve in that dangerous battle zone.

So far we have provided bursary funds to four young people – Geoff Costeloe, Cpl Rui Savara, Cpl Dominique Arseneau-Bruneau and Cpl Christopher Hinds, all of whom are now continuing their education with help from the bursary fund. I am committed to ensuring that the program embraces more and more young people, which is why I am supporting it financially and am urging others to do the same, as well as to consider nominating a deserving young member of our regimental family to receive a Queen's Own Rifles of Canada-Princess Alexandra Bursary."

The brochure included with this edition of *Rifleman* provides additional details on The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada-Princess Alexandra Bursary and anyone who needs further information should write to: Secretary, The QOR of C National Association, Regimental Headquarters, Moss Park Armoury, 130 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON. M5A 1R9.

In Pace Paratus

National Association members unveil a memorial cairn at Fort MacLeod in Germany

By Bob Dunk, President, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada National Association

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada National Association has been a member in good standing of the National Council of Veterans Associations (NCVA) for many years. Until recently led by Cliff Chatterton, of The War Amps of Canada, NCVA has been in the forefront of veterans issues across Canada. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the NCVA for their efforts in helping us recognize the contributions of many of our association members by successfully nominating them to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Nominations were solicited from the four branches and I am very happy to report that multiple medals were awarded in each branch.

The highlight for many of us in 2012 was the trip to Holland and Germany in the fall. 50 members of the Association and friends and family made the trip which, in spite of the wet, cool weather rekindled many memories of our previous time in Europe and created many new memories. Particular thanks must be given to Herb Pitts and Tom Martin who did so much to make this happen.

Many important regimental sites were visited, including the farm at Mooshof where Sgt. Aubrey Cosens performed the brave actions which resulted in his being awarded the Victoria Cross; Zutphen, Rha with its beautiful windmill near the crossroad; Groesbeek Canadian Cemetery and Doorn in Holland, where we attended the rededication of the memorial there and where we had a chance to meet and thank some members of the 'A' Team, youngsters in the town who take care of the memorial. This was followed by an excellent reception at the local Veterans' Institute.

But the highlight for many was the return to the brigade area in Germany. The first visit was a quick drive through Fort MacLeod where it very quickly became obvious that after 50 years, things were not the same. As Tom Martin said "My first impression was.....where did the Fort go? No guard house, no church." But once inside, Tom started to see the Fort as it was years ago, remembering his times there with his fellow riflemen. "My heart started to pound and tears came to my eyes," he said. A visit was made to Soest and Fort York, which was sur-

prisingly very well preserved with very few changes to the buildings and layout of the fort. We were hosted to an impromptu reception in the former Officer's Mess by Bos Trainingszentrum, who now own the property and conduct safety training of various types in what is now known as Graf Yorck.

On the final day in Germany, a ceremony was held at the Canadian Cemetery in Werl to remember the members of the regiment and their family members who died while there. With the help of the Royal Canadian Legion, European Command, Canadian and Regimental flags were placed on each grave by members of the association. Following lunch the group assembled at Fort MacLeod for the dedication of a marker commemorating the 1st and 2nd Battalions garrisoned there from 1957 to 1963. The Burgomeister was in attendance as well as many of the local townspeople. Clay Downes was able to get in touch with a friend that he last spoke with on the day he left Germany to return to Canada. Clay was disappointed at not

being able to get into the barracks, which now house Syrian refugees, but understood that they were at least being put to good use.

The tour was a wonderful trip down memory lane. The food and accommodations, particularly in Hemer, were exceptional. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships were made. For many it was the trip of a lifetime.

Finally, there is a brochure included with this issue of the Rifleman reminding you of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada-Princess Alexandra Bursary. This is a very noble project, assisting young members of the regimental family to achieve their educational goals. Four bursaries have already been awarded and, as the fund grows, we will be able to award more. Why not help us to help more young people reach their goals? Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada-Princess Alexandra Bursary.



Queen's Own Rifles National Association members MGen Herb Pitts, MC, CD (left) and Tom Martin, new president of the Vancouver Island Branch, have their photos taken at the new cairn unveiled at Fort MacLeod in Germany. The cairn was placed there to commemorate the 1st and 2nd Bns of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who garrisoned there from 1957 to 1963.

Ex Cambrian Patrol: Members of The Queen's Own are tested in the rugged mountain ranges of Wales



Photograph taken of members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who participated in Exercise Cambrian Patrol, a NATO training exercise held in the Brecon Beacons mountain range in South Wales. Back Row (L to R): MCpl Simon Farrell, MCpl Christopher Stoyles, Cpl Peter Thommee, Cpl Zach Dodds. Front Row (L to R): Cpl William Vant Erve, Cpl Nicholas Hahne, Lt. Roland Llewellyn-Thomas, Cpl Val Costache.

By Lieutenant Roland Llewellyn-Thomas

Soldiers from around the world, including members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in a team from 32 Canadian Brigade Group, tested themselves in an extensive NATO training exercise against the harsh terrain of a Welsh mountain range in October. The team departed Canada for Wales confident of winning a medal and eager to put their months of training to the test. It was to become a learning experience, in more ways than one.

In Exercise Cambrian Patrol, with troops from around the UK and numerous other countries, they were among 80 teams taking part in truly demanding military exercise in the Brecon Beacons in the Cambrian Mountains in Wales. The annual exercise is considered to be among the world's toughest.

The members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada chosen for the team, selected from

among 32 Bde personnel after a two-day training and preparation period, were Lt Roland Llewellyn-Thomas, MCpl Simon Farrell, Cpls Chris Stoyles, Piotr Thommee, Valentin Costache and Zachary Dodds, Rfn. William Vant Erve and Rfn. Matthew Duncan. They joined personnel from The Toronto Scottish, The Royal Regiment of Canada and 32 Combat Engineers in filling out the team complement.

After selection was complete, an intense four-month training program saw the team build upon basic recon patrol skills before progressing to counter-ambush and improvised explosive device (IED) drills, mine-field extraction and mass casualty scene management. The adverse terrain of the Welsh Brecon Beacons was expected to make the exercise exceptionally physically demanding and training necessitated hundreds of kilometres of ruck marching and hours of hill climbing at Blue Mountain ski resort.

In Ex Cambrian Patrol, teams of male and/or female soldiers were required to march along the challenging mountainous route set in the rugged mountain ranges and swamp lands of south Wales. Carrying full kit and equipment weighing some 60lbs (27kg) and navigating and travelling by day and night, the patrols faced many testing and specialist challenges, including observation, cold river crossings in full kit without boats, first-aid and defensive shooting under attack. It was a test of leadership, self discipline, courage, physical endurance and determination.

The exercise generally started with teams arriving at a rendezvous before having their equipment checked to make sure they had everything required. Missing equipment was replaced by dead weight, which means points were deducted before the team had stepped off. From there the team leaders went to an orders group while the rest of the team set up a quick hide, started their battle prep and prepared to receive orders, such as to prepare a model of the ground which would be covered during the patrol.

The exercise began for the 32 Bde Patrol with orders to conduct a long range recon patrol and after conducting battle procedure to establish an observation post. As night and fog descended on the Brecon Beacons the patrol began its exfil to a designated friendly patrol base. They would eventually learn however, to their intense dismay and disappointment, that navigational difficulties resulting in their late arrival at a checkpoint had caused them to be disqualified from the event, therefore eliminating any chance at receiving one of the coveted medals awarded for proficiency in the tests. They had been warned during early training that not all teams finish the event.

Now disqualified, the team would be excused and permitted to withdraw to its quar-

ters to devote its time to other activities. This was not acceptable to the 32 Bde Cambrian Patrol team, whose members unanimously agreed that since they'd come this far, and trained as hard as they had, they wanted to finish what they had started. This came as something of a surprise to the exercise staff, who had previously seen other international teams quit the exercise because of the difficult terrain and, on occasion, simply because of the adverse weather.

However the 32 Bde team determined to soldier on, encountering a series of scenarios, including a water crossing, ammunition carry, section attacks, all-arms call for fire and friendly-force link ups, culminating in a claustrophobic crawl through the FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Areas) site's sewers. They finished to congratulations and morale-boosting plaudits from those in charge of the exercise as well as those against whom they had been in competition.

“a profound sense of accomplishment”

Their spirits were further lifted considerably when they were advised by members of the British Army's Exercise Staff that they had now officially been recognized as having completed the 2012 Cambrian Patrol. Relief gave way to a profound sense of accomplishment at having successfully survived one of NATO's most arduous patrolling exercises, despite injuries and navigational difficulties.

Now back in their quarters, the question, “who are your two best swimmers?” was heard. This is one of the last things a soldier wants to hear after a sleep-deprived debrief following 30 plus kilometres of climbing hills, crossing rivers and crawling through tunnels. Nevertheless MCpl Simon Farrell and Cpl Chris Stoyles of The Queen's Own Rifles immediately stepped forward and headed off for another challenge. Meanwhile, the rest of the 32 Bde Cambrian Patrol team regarded it as the ideal opportunity to wash the sewer sludge off their kit.

The hardest part of the competition for the team came during the presentation ceremony for teams which had successfully completed the exercise. The top three teams received a medal and others who completed

it successfully received “pass” certificates. Regrettably, although the 32 Bde team finished, its only reward was the satisfaction of not having given up, despite the fact they had lost their eligibility to be awarded a medal by arriving late at a checkpoint.

The Exercise commander's recognition of the Canadian team's perseverance could not remove the collective sense of competitive disappointment at not bringing home a medal. However, a well-deserved 48 hour period of R&R in London eased the pain somewhat, and the team's experiences in Cardiff and London will be remembered fondly alongside its military accomplishments.

Looking at it in retrospective, the months of training in preparation for the Cambrian patrol proved to be a unique opportunity for the soldiers to hone the most fundamental of infantry skills in an extremely tight-knit and cohesive unit. The level of fitness, individual initiative and responsibility demanded of the members of the patrol was far greater than that of a traditional rifle platoon and every member of the patrol rose to the occasion and grew professionally. The lessons learned will remain with members of the patrol for the rest of their careers and the eight members of The Queen's Own who were on the team will no doubt share their experiences to the benefit of the regiment.

Team members were given special recognition at the annual Christmas Dinner at Moss Park Armoury in December, when LCol Peter St. Denis singled them out for commendation for refusing to quit even though they had been disqualified. In introducing them to the assembled dinner guests, Capt Scott Moody said that, “During Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2012 the soldiers in the patrol exemplified the light infantry skills and airborne ethos embodied in The Queen's Own Rifles and demonstrated the importance of the unit's emphasis on physical fitness and individual rifleman initiative.” Capt Moody added that, Every member of the regiment should take pride from the manner in which its soldiers represented the unit, brigade and Canadian Forces Reserve in NATO's most arduous patrolling exercise.”

Reserve and Regular Force troops trained in Arizona's heat

By Master Corporal Adam R. Winnicki

Whenever I am offered an opportunity to do training in the United States, I jump at the chance. When it's conducted by 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment with The United States Marine Corps it's an opportunity that I cannot miss. This year's realization was with 3 RCR's Oscar Company, where I and seven other members of the Queen's Own Rifles were able to train in Yuma, Arizona.

Our preparations started late March, where we left the cold climates of Petawawa for the hot deserts of Yuma. Members of 3RCR and RCD (Royal Canadian Dragoons) were sent down to assist in training for The Weapons and Tactics Instructors (WTI) Course. Our home for the next five weeks was FOB Laguna, a makeshift Forward Operating Base located in U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. Conditions were identical to those of Afghanistan, and with Yuma's terrain and heat it reminded me of my deployment overseas in 2008.

Oscar Company's intent was to complete company level live-fire ranges, so we began with PWTs (Personal Wireless Telecommunications) and section level training. Our gun camps allowed us to handle many different weapon systems from pistol, shotguns and M203s to 84mm, 50 cal and 60mm mortar. Following that, we spent four days of close quarters battle training in an excellent but difficult urban compound called West LA. On the fourth day of Urban Ops we traded our notional rounds for paintballs. Facing off with a challenging enemy force, which included Masjor Hill, OC of Oscar Coy. We put our skills to the test and I can say we kept them on their toes by giving them a good fight.

In between all the great weapons training we were getting ready for Helicopter Operations. For the past few years mechanized training was the name of the game for the Canadian Infantry. For this exercise our LAVs and Coyotes were swapped for Hueys, Sea Stallions and Ospreys. In preparation before riding these U.S. Marine Corps aircraft, we practiced on and off drills and fast roping (a method of insertion using 60ft rope suspended from a helicopter). The 3RCR HIIs (Helicopter Insertion Instructors) built a one of a kind fast roping rig on top of two sea containers. This made for a tremendous tool for dry training before the real thing.



From Left to Right: TOP: Cpl Dan Falco, Cpl Denis Abazovic, Cpl Alex Zimin BOTTOM: Cpl Max Olszewski, Cpl Matt Langille, MCpl Adam Winnicki, Cpl Jeff Brooks.

Some soldiers have never been in a Griffin let alone in an actual helicopter, so it was a real pleasure to ride in the monstrous Sea Stallions and the astonishing Osprey, which is an engineering marvel by its ability to take off and land like a helicopter but has the speed and maneuverability of an airplane. An insertion onto an objective is just a single phase on the infantry's big picture, the real job begin when our boots are on the ground. This is where I found the true value of coming down to the States... the live fire ranges. When it comes to live fire, whether it's section, platoon or even company-size, all ranks have something to learn. Commanding troops in a live scenario adds a degree of control, responsibility and trust in individual skills. It brings you as close to fighting a real enemy as it comes, something we do not do often enough in both regular and reserve forces.

Every soldier on this exercise has seen the importance and effectiveness of Air Mobile Operations. Being able to insert at, on or near your objective adds speed, surprise and maximum firepower to any mission. This can only enhance Canada's excellent reputation as a world class fighting force.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentations in Victoria



Former Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Dick Cowling, CD, received his Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal from British Columbia Premier, Christy Clark.



- (1) Leonard Krog, MLA, Bill Brayshaw, Jean Crowder, MP
- (2) MGen Herb Pitts, Peter Kolbe
- (3) MGen Pitts, Gord Hryhoryshen
- (4) Randall Garrison, MP, Tom Martin, Linda Hundleby, MLA
- (5) MGen Pitts, Ed Titus.



Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentations in Calgary



Former Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Honorary Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD received his medal from fellow Queen's Own Rifleman, The Honourable Donald Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.



Jerry Smith.



John Hearn.



Alberta Lt Governor Don Ethell, with Clay and Louise Hodder.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentations in Toronto



Toronto Association members were present to see D-Day veteran Jack Hadley and long-serving Queen's Own Rifleman Gerry Senetchko receive their Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals. (l to r) Cpl Graham Humphrey; 2/Lt Scott Newlands; Harry Rollo, Andy Macnaughton, Jack Hadley, Rathka Sitsabaiesan, MP; Gerry Senetchko, CD; Norm McCracken, Brian Budden and President Dave Lavery.



D-Day veteran Jack Hadley (left) has his medal attached by Rathka Sitsabaiesan, MP and Gerry Senetchko shows off his certificate.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentations in Toronto



CWO/RSM (ret.) Brian Budden, CD, is flanked by the CO, LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD, and CWO/RSM Mark Shannon, CD.



Sgt Jeff Johnston (left) and Sgt Adam de Bartok received their Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals from the CO, LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD.

Canadian Forces recruiters score a victory on the basketball court

By Captain Shawn M. Stewart, CD



Major Ali Chaudhry of the CF Recruiting Detachment in Oshawa presents a cheque to Oshawa YMCA senior director Sherry Perez.

As part of military life, the importance of fitness is an integral part of the weekly schedule at the Canadian Forces (CF) Recruiting Detachment in Oshawa, where I am employed. Physical training (PT) is carried out twice weekly at the local YMCA as a group activity, with the option to add individual sessions.

Since September, 2011 our fall and winter PT activity has included full court basketball, with civilian members joining in when our personnel are on military training or otherwise occupied. As army recruiters, we feel that regular interaction with civilians creates opportunities to build a positive relationship between the CF and the public. In our games we now have a number of non-military participants, including shift workers, off duty police officers, a full time basketball coach and members of a program focusing on troubled youth. The young people are part of our target audience and basketball presents us with a chance to tell them about the CF and the opportunities provided there.

Recently our detachment challenged recruiters from CF's southern Ontario HQ and the Toronto detachment to a basketball tournament to raise funds for one of the YMCA's programs. Oshawa "Y" senior director Sherry Perez suggested we could support their current campaign to encour-

age young people to become more physically active.

Commanding Officer Major Ali Chaudhry "greenlighted" the project, Captain Nick Barber, in Toronto, said they could enter two teams and the project came to life. I sought referees and time and scorekeepers and a score board and found them among those who played with us during the week. I also arranged for reservations for 30 in the nearby GM Centre's restaurant to sit together for lunch.

Four games were played on 15 February, with the host team prevailing in a fast-paced series of round-robin games. We raised \$400 for the charity and Major Chaudhry presented a cheque to Sherry Perez, who said that "We are thrilled that the Canadian Forces have teamed up with us to host an event that benefits our community directly in this way." We also thanked our volunteers with gifts including our popular FORCES.CA ball caps.

It is our hope that the event can become a yearly one, engaging members of the community, as well as being a means of highlighting the contribution to the area that the CF

can make. Sherry Perez said the YMCA staff could be interested in entering a team, as well as Durham police and the civilians who play regularly with us. So it looks like a simple challenge to a basketball game has taken on a life of its own and now this could grow to be a successful annual event!



Regimental Family Days at Moss Park Armoury were fun for everyone



Action in the Small Arms Training area drew an attentive crowd



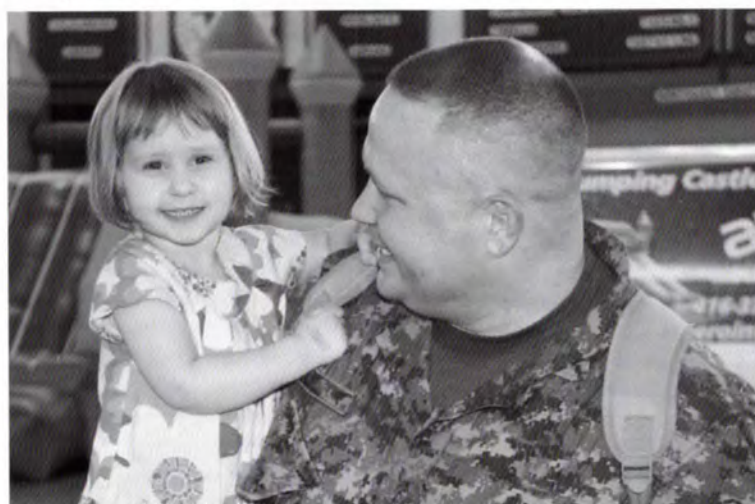
Rfn Ian Holness gave son Dandre some weapons training.



D-Day veteran Jack Martin was "Hot doggin" it.



Arieauna Blackburn found herself almost at the armoury top.



Two-year-old Georgia and daddy MCpl David Pampe were having fun.

2012 was a full year for the Vancouver Island Branch

Bill Brayshaw, President



L to R: Jorg Schauhoff The leader of the Deilinghofen Group, Tom Martin Vice President QOR National Association, Mayor Michael Esken and Don McDonald (right foreground).

Since this will be my last report to the branch after six years as your President, I think it is appropriate at this time, on behalf of Lynn and myself, to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their hard work in making Vancouver Island Branch such a successful operation. A lot of great things have happened, and many members have contributed much time and effort to those, but I think the 2012 Birthday Dinner was definitely a highlight and a huge success. It certainly got a lot of old timers onto the dance floor. It was great to see everyone having such a wonderful time. Ed and Ruth Titus did a wonderful job organizing the party. It took a lot of their time and much hard work to make this party a special and first class event. This Birthday Party gets five ***** Ed & Ruth are our stars***** Heartfelt thanks to both.

Some VIB members visited and toured Holland and Germany in October of 2012, where we met a lot of wonderful people who showed us how much they liked Canadians and were very hospitable to us. In Holland, where we were made aware of how much they appreciated all we have done for them, the tour group paid a visit to Doorn, which was one of the many communities in Holland which The Queens Own Rifles of Canada helped to liberate in 1945. There is

a Queen's Own Rifles memorial there which is being taken care of by a local group of young boys and girls. We had the opportunity to meet with them and to thank them for caring for the memorial which was placed in their town in memory of the members of our regiment who lost their lives in the liberation of their country. We participated in a very respectful ceremony there and later we were hosted at lunch at the Veterans Institute. On another occasion during our tour of Holland we visited a Queen's Own monument at Rha.

In addition to a visit to the scene of the action at Mooshof, Germany, where Sgt Aubrey Cosens carried out the actions which earned him a Victoria Cross but also cost him his life in 1945, we also attended a remembrance ceremony at the Military Cemetery at Werl, Germany. Six Riflemen and 16 dependents who died during the deployment of Queen's Own Rifles regular force battalions on NATO service there, are interred at the site, which is seldom visited by Canadians. All graves were decorated with small regimental and Canadian flags and poppies. We were assisted by the European Zone of the Royal Canadian Legion who provided a colour party and a piper. Reg Bonner, the Zone Commander and I laid wreaths together. Later on, we participated in the unveiling of a Queen's Own Ri-

fles cairn at Deilinghofen, Germany, the site of Fort MacLeod where the 1st and 2nd battalions of the regiments were garrisoned in the 1950s and 1960s. Meanwhile, we had been planning a reception for HRH Princess Alexandra, whom we shared as Colonel in Chief with the Canadian Scottish Regiment. While she is no longer our Colonel-in-Chief we were looking forward to seeing her and having her meet with us, since she was unable to be present for the 150th anniversary celebrations here in 2010. However, foiled again! Herb Pitts was notified a luncheon with the princess planned for the Government House, would have to be cancelled, due to her health. This was a disappointment to us, and Herb was asked by HRH to convey her regrets and all her best wishes to all concerned, which was done at our annual Oktoberfest dinner.

Regardless, as in 2010, we carried on with the plans for the weekend.

A large group showed up for the Meet and Greet at the Propats, and the next night at the Oktoberfest dinner. It was a great success a lot of dancing and gabbing and lots of good food. At the dinner Herb Pitts presented Ed Titus with his Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was among a dozen who received the medal, and at time of writing it was possible there would be others. Those who have already received the medal are: Herb Pitts, Bill Brayshaw, Tom Martin, Ed Titus, Ed Widenmaier, William (Billy) Willbond, Bob Scrafton, Murray Edwards, John Tolley, Frank Chevrier, Art Lefever and Gord Hryhoryshen.

Those we lost in 2012:

Members: Wally Budgell, Charles Dunlop, Ernie Grant, Darrell Hensrud; Ron Kinner-sley. Non Members: Roy Aylesworth, Harry Williams Freeman, Neil "Mac" McQuarrie, George Lauzon, Larry Henderson, Charlie Park. Honorary members: Roberta (Bobbie) Carroll. Members Spouses - Partners Barbara McDonald (Moose), Betty Purchase (Fred-Pop), Rose Porter (Joe Webb)

We will remember them

Pearson Medal Awarded to the Honourable Donald S. Ethell

Colonel Don Ethell, a former Queen's Own rifleman who is now Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, was awarded the 27th Pearson Peace Medal in Ottawa, in March. The presentation was made by the Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, at Rideau Hall.

Col Ethell was awarded the prestigious medal in recognition of his "Distinguished service as a decorated Canadian veteran of multiple United Nations peacekeeping tours, and for his passionate advocacy for veterans and their families." It was noted that "The development of the Canadian Association of Veterans of UN Peacekeeping and the creation of the Wall of Honour for Peacekeepers and Peacemakers in Calgary owe much to his leadership. In retirement, he tirelessly supported veterans and their families to better the lives of individuals who suffer from



The Honourable Donald S. Ethell receives the Pearson Peace Medal from Canada's Chief Justice, the Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin.

mental disorders and to assist families who have lost a loved one to military service."

The Pearson Peace Medal is awarded to a Canadian who has personally contributed, through his or her working life and voluntary commitments, to those causes to which Lester B. Pearson devoted his distinguished career: aid to the developing world; mediation between those confronting one another with arms; succour to refugees and others in need; equal rights and justice for all humanity and peaceful change through world law and world organization.

The medal is awarded by the United Nations Association in Canada, founded in 1946, with a mandate to educate and engage Canadians in support of the United Nations and its critical issues which have a global impact.

Several members of Calgary Branch were awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals

By Shirley and Bill Major

Let's open with the names of the recipients from Calgary Branch of the QOR of C who were awarded and presented with Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals during recent months. They were: Lt Governor Don Ethell, Linda Ethell, Bob Titus, Jerry Smith, John Hearn, Clay Hodder, Gary Jackson, Al Polowick, John Cresswell, John Friedt, Ken Barrett, Russ Piche and Louise Hodder. Congratulations to each one of you!

Looking back at the year, the Calgary Branch celebrated the regiment's 152nd birthday on April 20th, 2012 with a luncheon at the Carriage House Inn and the well attended party, as always, was most enjoyable. Following tradition, under the command of Clay Hodder, "The Rifle" was marched on by Sergeant-of-Arms John Cresswell.

President Bob Titus welcomed everyone in attendance, making special mention of the following out of town members and guests: Lt. Governor of Alberta Don Ethell and Linda Ethell, Edmonton; Jill King, Langley, BC. Joe Morin, Moose Jaw, SK, Jerry and Deanna Smith, High River, Frances Vermette,

Dauphin, MB, Norm and Cathy Walker, Cowley AB. Toasts were made to The Queen, by John Hearn, The Regiment, by Jerry Smith, Colonel-in-Chief, by Joe Morin, absent friends and loved ones, by John Cresswell.

A QOR of C Plaque was presented to George Carsted with grateful thanks for his many years of service, particularly reminding the membership of luncheon dates and encouraging our attendance at those.

The monthly luncheons resumed at RCL 264 on September 5th and will continue as usual on the first Wednesday of every month, although the May, 2013 luncheon will be on 8 May. We gather at 11:00 to 11:30 in the games room or dance floor area. Again a reminder for any members of the regimental family who are in town and who would like to join us are welcome to do so. Please notify Arlene Albrecht at 403-253-8808 or Jean Pendlebury at 403-259-0092.

In October the opening of the Poppy Fund campaign was held at the Colonel Belcher

Care Centre with Lt Governor Donald Ethell in attendance. In November, John Cresswell attended the Memorial Day services held at the Colonel Belcher Watergrove Park and on November 11 John Cresswell laid a wreath at the Colonel Belcher Care Centre and Clay Hodder laid a wreath at the Jubilee Auditorium on behalf of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Calgary Branch. Clay also carried the QOR of C flag at the Peacekeepers ceremonies held in August, 2012.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at the Carriage House with 58 members and guests attending. As usual the meal featured all of the time-honoured Christmas favourites (and then some!). We were again honoured to have Lt Governor Donald Ethell and his wife Linda join us.

Looking Ahead: The Regimental Birthday Party will be held on Friday April 26th, 2013 at the Carriage House. Just a reminder that the monthly luncheon for May has been changed to May 8th, 2013. Back to the first Wednesday of the month for the June get together.

Toronto Branch was well represented at the Remembrance Day Church Parade

By David Lavery, President, Toronto Branch



Led by President Dave Lavery, Toronto Queen's Own Association members march past the saluting base and Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson and HonLCol Brendan Caldwell.

It always amazes me how quickly the years pass, especially when I sit down to write a "year in review" report. Let me just say that Toronto Branch had an exciting 2012, with a number of outstanding events, beginning with our annual general meeting April where we were fortunate to have all executive officers and directors stand for another year. This was very reassuring, as it confirmed how committed the members of the executive are in following through on the goals we set out for the year.

We got right to work with our first task of supporting our commanding officer, LCol. Peter St Denis and his team for the exciting Royal Visit of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, on 22 May 22. What a fantastic day it was, with so many members there to greet the Duchess and welcome her to her new regiment. She responded in true Colonel-in-Chief style and took more time than expected to speak with her troops. Everyone involved went away proud to have been part of an historic and memorable day in the life of The Queen's Own Rifle of Canada.

We quickly moved into June, the busiest month of the year, which began with a group trip to Ridgeway for the unveiling of a mural in the town centre commemorating the Fenian Raids of 1866, in which nine members of The Queen's Own either were either killed in action or mortally wounded. We toured the battlefield with Peter Vronsky, the author of the excellent book *Ridgeway, The History of Canada*, and were captivated with battle stories and visiting actual locations, such as the place where the regiment's first rifleman fell, Ensign Malcolm McEachren. We plan to revisit Ridgeway again in 2013. As well we participated in the D-Day cere-

monies at Moss Park Armoury which was well attended and captured by a moving prayer for our fallen provided by Padre Daniel Saugh. We then took part in supporting the annual Family Day hosted by LCol. Peter St Denis at MPA and RSM Mark Shannon. An excellent day and I would encourage everyone in the area to come out for the next one to enjoy the fun and to meet your association executive and other members, as well as the riflemen and their families.

We hardly had time to take a breath when we were fully engaged in our 7th Annual Association Golf Tournament. It was our best year yet, with a sold out crowd which included the CO, DCO, and Adjutant and RSM taking home the most honest golfer award (we will keep their score a secret). LCol. Peter St Denis spoke to the players and guests and conveyed the appreciation of the soldiers and veterans of the regiment who benefit from the funds raised at this tournament.

July saw Canada Day celebrations followed by Warriors Day in August where the Association paraded into the CNE to a wonderful crowd. September gave us time to just catch our breath once more when we moved into October with the most wonderful trip to The Netherlands and Germany. We travelled with 50 fellow members from across Canada including Major General Herb Pitts, his side kick Tom Martin and other members from out west. Our friends from the East Coast were unable to make this one but I know they will be ready for 2014, the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. (Details coming soon) Many thanks to Bob Dunk, MGen Pitts and Tom Martin for their

hard work and a trip down memory lane on the Canadian Bases in Germany.

November saw a beautiful day with sunshine for Remembrance Day and an excellent turnout of riflemen, cadets and association members on parade. This was capped off by the commanding officer presenting Major (Ret'd) Harry Rollo with The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal after 51 years of service to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the Regimental Association.

A parade with at least 200 troops on the parade square, plus band, was held to mark the change of Honorary Colonel Paul Hughes to the new Honorary Colonel Larry Stevenson at MPA. The Colonel and Mrs. Hughes were honoured by the association and in conjunction with the Regimental Honours and Awards Committee by creating "The Colonel P.F. Hughes and B. Hughes Award of Excellence." This award will be presented annually at the regimental Christmas dinner and all members of the regiment, association and regimental family will be eligible to receive the award. We extend our sincere thanks to both Colonel and Beverly Hughes for their unending and generous support of the regiment, association and regimental family. We also welcome Larry Stevenson to the regiment and family and wish him success in his new and exciting role as Honorary Colonel.

The Christmas dinner was, as usual, a great success with many members attending and a special "Rifleman of the Year Award" presented to the Regimental Padre, Captain, Dr. John Niles. This was a very deserving award for a man who does so much for the regiment and regimental family and friends. Padre Niles provides such comfort and peace for so many in times when all seems too overwhelming. Padre Niles routinely does this unselfishly and we are very fortunate to have him in The Queen's Own.

So as you can tell we have been very active in 2012 and expect nothing different for 2013. By the time you read this we will have held our annual meeting and a report on that will be published on the regimental website at qor.com as well as on our new web page www.qortorontoassociation.com. Please visit both of these sites and we hope to see you at any of the scheduled events. These will include the annual golf tournament, a return to Ridgeway for a ceremony on the weekend of June, the Canada Day parade in Highland Creek on Monday, 1 July and the Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE on Saturday, 17 Aug. Check the Warriors' Day website to get information on free family tickets for the grounds that day.



It was short-sleeves order for Queen's Own Toronto Branch Association members on Warrior's Day at the CNE. (l to r) Earl Gardner, Andy MacNaughton, Peter Szepes, Don Pryer, Ron Dillon, Ralph Schoenig Garry Muir, Doug Macneil, Harry Rollo, Peter Von Zuben.



Members of the Queen's Own Rifles Association Toronto Branch attended the unveiling in Ridgeway of a mural depicting the Battle fought there in 1866 in which nine Queen's Own riflemen lost their lives and numerous others were wounded.

Maritimes Newfoundland Branch members invite you to visit

By Ben Turpin

Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Maritimes Newfoundland Association Branch were delighted that seven of their comrades were awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals. Those honoured were Graham Jones, Tom Martin, John Metcalfe, John Shapter, Jim Sheppard, Wayne Thomas and Ben Turpin. All medals have now been received and presented.

After the declaration of war in 1939 and the subsequent mobilization of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the regiment arrived in Newfoundland on 10 August, 1940. They sailed through the Straits of Belle Isle, arriving at Botwood aboard the Canadian Pacific ship RMS Duchess of Richmond, dropping anchor at 0800 hours. A and B companies and a detachment from HQ Company remained at Botwood under Major W.L. Bryan while C and D Companies and the remainder of HQ Company, under Lieutenant-Colonel H.C. MacKendrick, proceeded by rail to the airport at Gander, arriving there the same day at 1350 hours.

Tentative plans are being made to erect

plaques at both Gander and Botwood in August, 2015, in commemoration of these events. In this regard the members of the executive will be looking for volunteers to assist with the 2015 celebrations of the Queen's Own Rifles arrival in Newfoundland. Keep an eye on <http://www.qor-east.com> for information. Feel free to add comments to the guest book.

There were some great celebrations planned and well executed by the Queen's Own associations in Victoria, Calgary and Toronto in 2010 marking the regiment's 150th anniversary. We, here in the East are hoping to see the written plans that were used. We are hoping to learn from them and make a party with a Newfoundland flavor. More on this as the plans are firmed up.

If you haven't made holidays plans for 2013, it's not too late to plan a visit to Newfoundland. One suggestion would be to make arrangements to rent a car or even a motor home for a week or so and explore the island. From Port aux Basques to St. John's is 900 kms (550 miles). You'll need more than

a week to see a quarter of the island itself. Along with the capital, St. John's, the oldest city in North America, there are many must-sees including the historical Bonavista Bay and the bird colonies of Cape St. Mary's. You could take a boat ride to Rencontre - approximately 1 hour 45 minutes to visit Jim Sheppard's Museum. It's well worth the time. While down there you may want to take another ferry ride and visit Saint-Pierre & Miquelon. (passports required). It is France's oldest remaining overseas territory. Or go west in Newfoundland and visit the spectacular fjords and ancient mountains of the island's west coast. Those who want to see moose and are really ambitious might want to visit L'Anse aux Meadows. Learn more about our place here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NewfoundlandLabrador>

We look forward to seeing any members of the regimental family who would like to come and visit. Let us know you are coming and we'll make arrangements to meet somewhere along the way. So come and stay a spell.



Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals were awarded to several Maritimes-Newfoundland Association branch members, including (1) Wayne Thomas, by MGen Herb Pitts in BC. (2) Graham Jones, flanked by PEI Premier Robert Ghiz (left) and PEI Lt. Gov. H. Frank Lewis. (3) John Shapter, Jim Sheppard, Paradise, Nfld Mayor Ralph Wiseman and John Metcalfe.



Former Queen's Own officer, LCol Jack English is now Honorary Colonel of the "Brockies"



LCol Richard Talbot (left) with LCol Dr. Jack English.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Talbot, now Honorary Colonel of the Vancouver-based Canadian Scottish Regiment, and a good friend of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, reports that he spent a couple of nights last year reminiscing about old times with a former Queen's Own officer, LCol-Dr. Jack English, CD, BA, MA, Ph.D, now Honorary Colonel of The Brockville Rifles.

The occasion was a national conference in Toronto staged by the Canadian Army for all Honorary Colonels. Commissioned in 1962 into 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles, in the mid-1960s LCol English was an exchange officer with a Queen's Own Rifles allied regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, in Colchester, England. Upon his return to Canada he went to Cyprus with 2nd Bn.

Following reduction of 2nd Bn to nil

strength in 1968, English re-badged with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry with whom he served until 1981 when he was named War Plans Officer in NATO Central Army Group in Heidelberg, Germany. Later responsibilities included command of the Tactics Combat Training Centre, as well as service at the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College. Later appointments included as assistant professor at Queen's University, Kingston; War Studies professor at Royal Military College, Professor, U.S. Naval War College and director of research, Defence Minister's monitoring committee.

Named Honorary Colonel of the Brockville Rifles in 2004, he has written a number of books since 1981, including *The Canadian Army and the Normandy Campaign* and *Surrender Invites Death*:

Fighting the Waffen SS in Normandy.

As a young captain in the Buffs, LCol Talbot was posted as a British Army Exchange Officer to 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada while they were stationed at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt, BC, and has been a staunch friend of the regiment ever since.

When he emigrated to Canada in 1969 he joined The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) as a major, graduated from the Militia Staff Course in Kingston and was appointed Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the then Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Colonel The Honourable Jack Nicholson. He commanded The Canadian Scottish from 1972-1976 and in his last year of command the regiment won the Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy for the most efficient militia infantry regiment in Canada.

The Queen's Own Rifles and The Canadian Scottish shared HRH Princess Alexandra LG, GCVO as Colonel-on-Chief for many years and LCol Talbot, who was an usher at her wedding to the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, Earl of Airlie at Westminster Abbey in 1963, renewed acquaintances during his association with The Queen's Own when the princess visited both regiments in 1967. He was able to repeat that in 2010 when the princess visited The Queen's Own during its 150th anniversary celebrations.

In 1961 The Buffs, (Royal East Kent Regiment) amalgamated with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment to form The Queen's Own Buffs (Royal Kent Regiment.) In 1966 The Queen's Own Buffs amalgamated with three other regiments to form The Queen's Regiment. In 1992 the Queen's Regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



An alto horn made by custom order in the 1880s for a member of the Queen's Own Rifles band was presented to the regimental museum by Owen Sound resident Dave Elliott. Bought at a garage sale for \$100 a number of years ago and refurbished by Elliott's friend Doug Farmer, they discovered it was made by a French company "Expressly for T. Claxton, Toronto" a band member in 1863. Seen here (l to r) are museum representative RSM (ret) Scott Patterson, Bugle Major Fred Haire, Dave Elliott, Bandmaster Sgt Jonas Feldman and Doug Farmer.



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund To all Riflemen and Friends of the Regiment

The Regimental Trust Fund needs your financial support more than ever before and we have made it convenient and easy for you to donate to it by establishing a "Donate Now" button on the website at qor.com. This can be used to forward funds to us for use in defraying the many expenses we undertake for the Regiment each year, all of which are supported through your Trust Fund and not through public funding. These include:

We can appreciate that many of you are on fixed incomes and others may be facing financial challenges. We ask only that you give whatever you can afford. As a suggestion, you could leave a lasting gift to your Regiment, by establishing a legacy gift as a bequest in your will.

**Please make out your cheque made payable to:
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund.**

**Mail to: The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund
4981 Highway 7 East, Unit 12A Markham, ON, L3R 1N1**

Thank you again for your support. It is genuinely appreciated.
Adam Hermant, President

In Pace Paratus

147th Anniversary of The Battle of Ridgeway

By Ralph Schoenig

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association's Toronto Branch will be commemorating the 147th Anniversary of The Battle of Ridgeway on 1 and 2 June and organizers are inviting anyone interested to join them for the event.

At the battle site, beginning at noon, there will be a demonstration of equipment, weapons, and uniforms of the 1866 era, presented by re-enactors representing The Queen's Own Rifles, the 13th Battalion (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry), and the invading Fenians. Also, a historical and tactical overview of the battleground will be presented by Queen's Own Rifles Major

(Ret'd.) Erik Simundson, OMM, CD. This will be followed by an on-site barbeque and the opportunity to tour The Ridgeway Museum.

A "sunset dinner" at the Royal Canadian Legion, will conclude the day.

On Sunday, 2 June, a wreath-laying ceremony will begin at the battle site, beginning at 11am, followed by a salute fired by Skirmishers from the Queen's Own Rifles and a Ceremonial Guard from the RHLI.

A tour of the battle ground will be conducted by Peter Vronski, author of the recent

book on the battle entitled "RIDGEWAY, The American Fenian Invasion and the 1866 Battle That Made Canada " Town of Ridgeway residents have been invited to lay flowers at the actual locations of the fallen as the tour progresses.

Dress will be casual on Saturday, blazers and medals on Sunday. Organizers have made arrangements with an area hotel to provide a Canadian Forces discount but it is imperative that anyone wishing to take advantage of this should contact Gerry Senetchko as soon as possible at gsetchko@gmail.com or by telephone at 416 282 6273.

Queen's Own Rifles D-Day + 70 Tour to France and Belgium

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1: Saturday May 31:
Depart Toronto for Paris

Day 2: Sunday June 1: Arrive Paris. Beaumont Hamel and Arras. Check in hotel.

Day 3: Monday June 2:
Arras; Monchy-Le Preux and Vimy

Day 4: Tuesday June 3:
Ypres, Belgium, Menin Gate. St. Julien, Tyne Cot Cemetery

Day 5: Wednesday June 4:
Dieppe, Pourville, Hautot-sur-Mer Cemetery

Day 6: Thursday June 5:
Dieppe & Caen

Day 7: Friday June 6: 70th Anniversary of D-Day. Bernieres-sur-Mer; Maison des Queen's Own Rifles; Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery; Juno Beach Centre

Day 8: Saturday June 7:
Caen, Abbe d'Ardennes

Day 9: Sunday June 8:
March of Remembrance, Bernieres-sur-Mer to Anisy; Carpiquet

Day 10: Monday June 9: Giberville, Buck Hawkins Street; Bretteville-sur-Laize Cemetery

Day 11: Tuesday June 10: Arromanches, Mulberry Harbour, D-Day Museum

Day 12: Wednesday June 11: Caen to Paris via Versailles

Day 13: Thursday June 12: Tour of Paris

Day 14: Friday June 13: Paris, Louvre visit, Seine cruise

Day 15: Saturday June 14: Return Toronto.



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association 70th Anniversary D-Day Tour to France & Belgium

May 31 - June 14, 2014

\$3699.00 + \$510 departure taxes

Canadian funds per person based on double occupancy minimum of 40 person travelling

HIGHLIGHTS

The Queen's Own Rifles, celebrating the 70th anniversary of D-Day, is planning a commemorative tour. The tour will visit all the sites of greatest importance to the Regiment during the First and Second World War, along with other significant battlefields in Northern France and Belgium, and will be participating in specially organized events, with local residents, in the places most important to its participation in the D-Day invasion. Among the World War I battlefields critical to the Regiment visited will be Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and the Ypres Salient. World War II sites will include Bernieres sur Mer at Juno Beach, Carpiquet, Le Mesnil Patry and Dieppe.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare, via Air Transat, charter service from Toronto to Paris
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 12 nights hotel accommodation in France (Arras, Dieppe, Caen & Paris)
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Belgium (Leper)
- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch in leper and 8 dinners (including farewell dinner cruise)
- Participate in commemorative ceremonies at The Menin Gate (leper) Hautot sur Mer (Dieppe) Bernières sur Mer (Juno Beach) Giberville & Bretteville sur Laize
- Guided tours at Beaumont-Hamel, Vimy Ridge, The Ypres Salient, Dieppe Beaches, Juno Beach Centre in Caen, The Châteaux de Versailles and Paris
- Visit to Monchy-Le Preux, The American War Cemetery at Omaha Beach
- Admission to The Juno Beach Centre, The Caen Memorial Museum, The D-Day Museum-Arromanches, The Chateau de Versailles, Musee de Louvre & the Arc de Triomphe
- Taxes & service charges (departure taxes separately above)
- Ellison Tours baggage lanyard and laminated tags
- Escorted by Dennis "Mak" Makowetsky

Tour is limited & subject to availability & change.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Meals & beverages other than mentioned
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities: guides/drivers/porters/hotel staff
- Additional taxes & fuel surcharges
- Charges by the airline for baggage

OPTIONAL:

- RBC Insurance
- Single Supplement (upon request)

PAYMENTS:

- Deposit of \$500.00 p.p. (plus insurance due at time of booking)
- Second payment of \$1000.00 (due January 30, 2014)
- Balance due April 4, 2014

Tour planning by

ELLISON

TRAVEL & TOURS LTD.

Contact Linda Klooster ext. 239 email: lindak@etravel.com
EXETER - 311 Main Street, P.O. Box 1990 Exeter, Ontario N0M 1S7
Tel: 519-235-2000 or 1-800-265-7022 Fax: 519-235-2004
www.etravel.com

This is a chapter from the new book from the completion now nearing entitled "The Modern History of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada." Publication is targeted for later this year.



C H A P T E R



Skirmishers Rattled Windows At Winchester Court House in 1984



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada skirmishers were featured in a layout in "Soldier" – "The Magazine of the British Army" – during "Green Jackets Week" at Winchester in 1984.

It was 'Sneaky Pete' that attracted his attention. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Chamberlain, commander of the depot of the British Army's Light Division at Winchester, Hampshire, was in such admiration of the drills performed by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's skirmishers that he invited them to England to perform during Royal Green Jackets Week in 1984. LCol Chamberlain, a guest at the centenary celebrations for the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in Manitoba in 1983, saw The Queen's Own's skirmishers present their unique display to a greatly appreciative audience there. He buttonholed skirmisher Captain Erik Simundson to raise the possibility that the group might be present at their Peninsula Barracks the following year, "to demonstrate their 'Sneaky Pete' skills." Simundson immediately and enthusiastically agreed, "in full knowledge" he said later, "that, while we had the kit, training and knowledge, unfortunately we lacked the means to get there." It soon became apparent that no help in providing financing or transportation would be forthcoming from the Department of National Defence. However, through the efforts of Honorary Colonel H.E. (Ellie) Dalton, DSO, and other members of the Regimental Trust, funds were provided for the trip, as well as for new uniforms for the group. And so the planning began. All those involved felt that this promised to be an outstanding opportunity for representatives of Canada's oldest continuously-serving infantry regiment to prove themselves by performing in the city where Sir John Moore's troops had paraded in rifle green before leaving to fight and win glory in the Peninsular War.

Capt Simundson, who was to command the mission, preceded the main body to Winchester by a week, and with the assistance of the depot's quartermaster, LCol John Lane, acquired the necessary black powder and caps, which, "for safety's sake" were not permitted to be shipped from Canada by

HISTORY OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA 1950-21st CENTURY

CHAPTER

air. Once the troops were on the ground with their muskets, drill training was commenced – in the barracks prisoners' exercise yard, as it happened – under Skirmisher Colour Sergeant John O'Connor. Practice volleys rattled the windows of the nearby courthouse where judges were sitting during the Winchester Assizes, apparently without creating serious panic amongst the jurists or accused. Mike McGarrigle, the former Regimental Sergeant Major of The Queen's Own, now The Light Infantry's RSM, took particular interest in the drills and musketry practice of his old regiment and warned Capt Simundson that he fully expected to see an outstanding performance. "This had better be good," the RSM said drily, "because I still have to live here when you go home." Happily, the three shows proved to be resounding successes. Major Simundson's 2012 account follows.

"The company headquarters entered the square through the arches of Long Block to a bugle fanfare. Bugler Phil ten Kortenaar sounded 'Advance' and the skirmisher company marched on in fours, rifles at the trail, and performed a series of manoeuvres in accordance with Militia General Orders as well as the Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry, dated 1862 – all at a rifles pace. Following a demonstration of sword bayonet drills the company reformed and halted at the left edge of the parade square in preparation for a display on modes of firing. After the company advanced, extended, and commenced firing, all on bugle calls, it was halted and ordered to form a square where a volley was delivered and then the skirmish line was reformed.

"The bugle calls 'Retire' and 'Fire' were sounded, and the company withdrew to its original position and then delivered a fire by files rapidly down its front. Three rounds were fired by each rifleman, in such rapid order that the first files were firing before the last files had fired, producing a machinegun-like effect. The last manoeuvre was the fire of a final volley. Interestingly, an anomaly in the weather caused the normally thick pall of smoke, which normally drifts away in the wind, to rapidly descend to the ground – something I had never seen before and I was truly amazed by this," Maj Simundson said. "Perhaps the audience thought it was part of our show. In any event, they immediately broke into wild applause. With mission accomplished, the company then marched off to the music of 'The Buffs' and 'The Maple Leaf Forever,' our Regimental Marches, played with spirit by the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets band. Everything, including the selection of music, had worked extraordinarily well." In addition to BBC television and radio and local media coverage, "Soldier" – "The Magazine of the British Army" – published a well-illustrated article, including photographs taken during one of the performances which were featured prominently in the magazine.

Maj Simundson added that, "In celebration of their success, the owner of the India Arms, the pub the riflemen had adopted during their stay in Winchester, threw an impromptu and belated Canada Day celebration on 4 July to which our bugler responded with a rousing performance, one which was doubtless enhanced by the libations provided that night. A final show was given the next day at Winchester's Saint Cross cricket ground, on grass rather than pavement, although the cricket field was as flat and as smooth as the parade square.

"It had been a most interesting and rewarding trip for everyone," Maj Simundson said, "most particularly for young soldiers from Canada who, for the most part, were quite unaware of the history of rifle regiments other than their own, and of the fact that they were being hosted by regiments which could trace their beginnings to the 1700s and which had fought under General Wolfe at Quebec."

Finally it was time to leave, and 30 barrack boxes, 30 secure containers of rifles and 90 pieces of luggage, along with 30 rifleman were headed for the airport. "As our transport moved out, as a final gesture of respect, Light Division and Royal Green Jackets soldiers across the street at the Westgate pub spilled out onto the road, raising their glasses in toast to the skirmishers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. It was an emotional moment for all," Maj Simundson said.

HISTORY OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA 1950-21st CENTURY

The Men's Christmas Dinner at Moss Park Armoury was a time ...



(1) Another excellent turnout for the regiment and members of the regimental family.

(2) Following tradition, the youngest member in attendance Rfn Dominic Ferguson traded tunics with Commanding Officer, LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD.

(3) Bandmaster Sgt Jonas Feldman was on "Pour Patrol."

(4) 2/Lt Michael Foderick delivered turkey dinners.

(5) Cpl Graham Humphrey received the Public Service Award from the CO.

for good food, good fellowship and the presentation of awards



(1) Airborne Rifleman of the Year, Capt Scott Moody receives the award from Hon Col Larry Stevenson, LCol St Denis and RSM Mark Shannon.

(2) RSM Mark Shannon and LCol Peter St. Denis flank Sgt Bryan Burns, recipient of the Charlie Martin Award.

(3) MCpl Adam Winnicki received the ICanPara History award from Joanne de Vries.

(4) Reg Walker family presented the award given his name to MCpl Adam Winnicki.

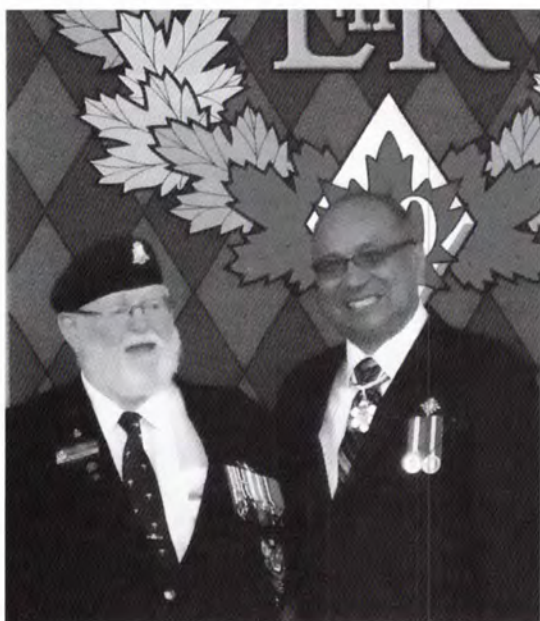
(5) Sam Magee of ISSF presents the Harry Fox MBE Award to Cpl William Vant Erve.

(6) Capt Adam West received the "Jump Hog" Award from LCol St. Denis.

“SNAP” SHOTS



Photographed in front of Orville Fisher's painting of the D-Day assault are, (l to r): Don Cooper, Vice-President, Juno Beach Centre Association, Canada; Nathalie Worthington, Director, Juno Beach Centre, Normandy; Lise Cooper, Treasurer, Juno Beach Centre Association, Canada (widow of D-Day veteran, Garth Webb, JBC founder); Lily Milovanovic, JBC supporter; and former Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, LCol John Fotheringham, CD, Director, Juno Beach Centre Association, Canada.



Soldier Poet, Sgt Billy Willbond, MSC, CD, former Queen's Own, Cdn Airborne Regt and ISSF member received his Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal from BC Lt. Gov. Steven Point.



D-Day veteran Jack Hadley was honoured when the City of Toronto declared "Jack Hadley Day" and held a parade at City Hall Square. Here he addresses the multitude.

“SNAP” SHOTS



Former Commanding Officer John Fotheringham, CD and Commanding Officer LCol Peter St. Denis, MSC, CD at the dedication of the first marker for the battle honours of the perpetuated 3rd (Toronto Regiment) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, at the site of the first gas attack of WW1 at St. Julien, Belgium, 4 June 2012. A second marker at Passchendale will be dedicated on 8 June 2013. Represented on the memorial are: The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the Governor General's Horse Guards and the Royal Regiment of Canada, which are the 3rd Battalion's perpetuating regiments.



For a couple of D-Day veterans it was time to get together with friends and family on the occasion of their 90th birthdays. At left, Norm McCracken offered Jim McCullough happy returns and at right Teddy O'Halloran is wondering whether birthday cake is a good dietary supplement for someone who has just reached his nineties.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Bill "Boots" Bettridge, hunter turned sniper, "was always a pretty good shot"



Bill "Boots" Bettridge with PM Stephen Harper in France in 2009.

Being a Brampton boy, when he joined the army to fight the Germans, D-Day veteran Bill "Boots" Bettridge, who died in November, aged 91, went to the recruiters at the local regiment, The Lorne Scots. It was with the highland regiment that he swore his oath of allegiance to the King, but when it was designated as one to "provide personnel and reinforcements" to the Canadian Army, Private Bettridge was among those transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles, which suited him fine. As a boy, he had spent many a happy day hunting with his father, knew how to handle a rifle and, he recalled much later, "I was always a pretty good shot." He remembered an incident at the rifle butts during training with The Queen's Own in England, where the 2/ic of his company, Captain Dick Medland, issued a challenge to his troops.

"He taped a shilling to the bullseye of a target and asked if anyone thought they could hit it. A shilling was a coin about the size of a Canadian 25 cent piece," Bettridge remembered, "but a few of us who thought we were pretty good marksmen said we'd give it a try. Well, guess what? To everyone's surprise, including mine, I put a bullet right through it. Capt Medland gave it to me as a souvenir. I didn't think it was worth anything any more, because it was pretty well mashed up with a hole from a .303 bullet in the middle. Anyway I took it to the local pub to show the locals and the landlord asked me if I'd swap it for a couple of pints of bitter, which I did. Then he got a hammer and pinned it to the wall with what he called a "tuppenny" (twopenny) nail right through the hole I'd made in it."

His skills with a rifle got Bettridge appointed to be one of the company's two snipers and when he got to France on D-Day and reached the Queen's Own's first day objective of the village of Anisy, a dozen

kilometres from the beach, he was told he would be allowed to work alone and find his own targets. "So I did that. And all the lessons my dad taught me about stalking animals in the bush came back to me. I knew how to move quietly through woods and how to stay hidden. I found quite a few targets," he said quietly.



Following retirement from the family business Boots Bettridge made numerous trips back to France, Belgium, Holland and Germany for D-Day and VE-Day celebrations, and has been featured on Canadian television more than once giving accounts of what it was like on Juno Beach that summer day many years before. Some years ago he was honoured by his hometown of Brampton by being used as the model for a wooden carving known as the Veterans' Memorial in Brampton's Gage Park.

More than 100 were in attendance in Brampton at his funeral on Saturday, 1 December. The service was led by Capt John Niles, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's padre and following the service Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15 members held a brief ceremony at the city cenotaph, where a volley was fired. During the ceremony a letter to the Bettridge Family from Prime Minister Stephen Harper was read. Bill had met and chatted with the prime minister at a D-Day celebration in France. He was born May 6, 1921 to William and Elsie Bettridge, married for 60 years to Amy, who died in 2008. Proud father of Skip (Bev), Keith (Karen) and Albert (Jackie). Loving Poppa to Bill, Bonnie, Krista, Justin, Jessica, Danielle and Albert. Loving great-grandpa to Rachel, Julia, Abegaile, Tessa, Isaac, Ronan and Hugo. Loving brother of Florence, Bettie, Marilyn, Bob and Barry. Predeceased by brother Albert and sister Margaret.



Rfn Bill Bettridge (L) with Queen's Own snipers in England. Rfn Ernest Cranfield (4) was taken prisoner and shot.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

LCol Frank Mulrooney was a singer and pianist as well as a sailor and runner

Died peacefully at Trent Valley Lodge shortly after his 81st birthday on December 20th, 2012. Lieutenant-Colonel Frank PJ Mulrooney, CD, Ph.D, was the 31st commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. As commanding officer, he accepted the Freedom of the City of Toronto on behalf of the regiment from then Mayor William Dennison, in April, 1969.

He was for many years a member and director of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto. His professional career with the Ontario public service spanned three decades. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Ministry of Social Services Board of Review, the first of its kind in Canada. He was its first executive secretary, a position he held for well over a decade, retiring from the provincial civil service in 1988.

A graduate of St. Michael's Choir School, Frank loved music and played piano daily into his 80s. He proudly attended St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, earning his BA, and after retiring, an MA in English literature. Frank later completed his Ph.D in English literature at the University of Florida in Tampa, where he maintained a retirement home for many years. He then returned to Belleville to be near his sister, Joyce. Frank was a lifelong runner, a sailor, a strong supporter of many charities and enjoyed having a beer with friends.

He will be sadly missed by his sister, Joyce Schwartz, brother-in-law

John Hayes (Karen), sister-in-law Vera Mulrooney, nieces and nephews Sandra, Marianne (David), Julianne, John (Heather), Carolyn (Todd), Michael (Karen), Sean, Siobhan and Joe (Caroline), great nephews and nieces including Andrew, Matthew, Braden and Catriona, and many friends in Ontario and Florida. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara Hayes, brother Ray Mulrooney, parents P.J. and Beatrice Mulrooney, brother-in-law Frank Schwartz, and nephew Chuck Karklins.



In keeping with his lifetime of learning and public service, Frank donated his body to the University of Toronto Medical School. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, or the charity of your choice in Frank's memory, would be appreciated.



LCol Frank Mulrooney, CD, with Mayor Bil Dennison at City Hall Square in 1969 on the occasion of the awarding of "The Freedom of the City" to the regiment. At LCol Mulrooney's right shoulder is Colonel of the Regiment J.G.K. Strathy, OBE, ED.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Fred Mercer was in “The best band and the best antitank platoon”



Drum Major Fred Mercer, 3 PPCLI Corps of Drums.

Fred Mercer was born in the city of St. John's in the country of Newfoundland in 1940. In 1957 at the age of 17, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces to serve his country. He then spent the next 21 years, primarily with the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, until it was placed on the Canadian Army's Supplementary Order of Battle in 1970 and renamed 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Most of his career was spent as a member of the 1st Battalion's bugle band, travelling extensively and entertaining audiences with their performances. The highlight was being invited to be among bands from around the world performing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo of 1962. When he wasn't performing he served in the Armoured Defence Platoon (Anti-Tank) along with other members of the bugle band. Mercer said that, "We were very proud of being the best band in the west, as well as the best anti-tank platoon."

Ultimately, Fred achieved his career goal of becoming drum major for the band of 3rd Bn PPCLI. After leaving the army he spent 15 years with Loomis Armored Car, in Victoria, BC and upon retirement, took up golf.

Although serving his country was very important to him, what Fred held dearest to his heart was his family. Together with his wife Janice, they devoted their lives to raising four very responsible and loving children. The family bond instilled in the children will be his ultimate legacy. When Fred was first diagnosed with cancer he chose to fight it on his own terms, with dignity and honour. This courageous decision allowed him and his family to live with this illness and support him every step of the way. Fred definitely set the bar very high on how to leave this world. A celebration of his life was held in April in Victoria.

Predeceased by his sister Lorraine, Fred is survived by Janice, children Kirk (Sherri), Craig (Kana), Tony (Nicole) and Janet; his grandchildren Karsen, Rielyn, Grace, Wyatt, Kaila and Jordan; siblings Rita (Robert), Paul (Jenny), Ken (Diane), Deb (Michael); cousin Jeanette and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of his life was held in April in Victoria. Donations in his memory would be welcomed at Saanich Peninsula Hospital's Palliative Care Unit at <http://sphf.ca/donate>.



Queen's Own Rifles Buglers Fred Mercer (l) and Fred Timms.



Drummer Fred Mercer, Germany, 1960.



OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Sgt Fred Mercer was there when The Queen's Own Rifles opened The 1962 Edinburgh Festival

Following 1st Battalion's posting to Germany in 1959, its bugle band, led by its popular Bugle Major, Sgt Roy Bruce, filled a busy schedule of appearances at a wide variety of events in Europe. The highlight, unquestionably, was an invitation to appear in the 1962 Military Tattoo held during the annual Edinburgh Festival. Sergeant Fred Mercer, was a member of the band which travelled to Edinburgh to participate in the tattoo. The invitation, he said, "was hard to believe. As far as we knew no Canadian band had ever been invited to take part so this was an outstanding honour. We were determined to put on a terrific show."

In Edinburgh the band practiced every morning for their tattoo performance, had afternoons off and then went to the castle for the show, which traditionally is held in the forecourt of Edinburgh Castle, in front of packed grandstands, under floodlights. Mercer said that "It was quite an experience to parade in that historic old castle. There's a thousand years of history there and it was an unbelievable thrill to be the first band on parade very night, to open the show with our fanfare, which was written specifically for the event. That excitement never wore off for any of us. Every night we seemed to get an extra level of applause and we thought that was as much because we were Canadians as it was for the 140 paces to the minute that we marched when we did our performances."

Mercer said that, "We were introduced each evening by the master of ceremonies saying: 'The Edinburgh Military Tattoo of 1962 opens with the drums and bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.' We did the fanfare and later in the program did our four-and-a-half-minute show. We were really very fortunate with our position in the show, where we followed the Sikh Regiment's Pipe Band. They finished by marching off playing a typically slow selection, which was really beautiful music but played at a slow, very slow pace, 110 paces to the minute. So then, after we were introduced, we marched in at the rifles' pace of 140 and it was like a cavalry charge, heavy on the drums, bugles blasting, moving like horses out of the starting gate at the Kentucky Derby. We must have made a great impression on the crowd because the applause started right away. We did our whole show at 140 and then quick-marched off to wait to appear with the massed bands at the close. There was no 'Canadian music' in our drums and bugles presentation but 'The Maple Leaf Forever' was included in the grand finale, as a tribute to 'our Canadian friends,' as the announcer said."

Major Scott Kerr Bricker, CStJ, CD, BPHE (1926-2012)

On April 29, 2012, Scott Bricker of St. Albert, Alberta passed away in his 87th year. He had served as a tail-gunner on a Lancaster bomber with the RCAF in WWII. After the war he entered the University of Toronto where he earned a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education degree. He re-enlisted, joining the Canadian Army in 1948. He served with the United Nations in Pakistan and India in 1967-68 and retired as a Major in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1975. He worked for Alberta Disaster Services until his retirement in 1994. Scott had a passion for reading, travel, bird watching and his family, all of which brought him great happiness throughout his life.

Major Stephen Petzing (1938-2012)

Major Stephen Petzing was born in Bristol, England on 10th March 1938, and died in Victoria, B.C. on 23rd July 2012. After nearly 20 years' service in the British Army (Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment), during which time, in 1969, he served as a regimental exchange officer with 1st Bn Queen's Own Rifles, Stephen, Rusty and their young family moved in 1975 to Victoria, where Stephen worked in an eclectic range of jobs. A keen, all-round sportsman, Stephen was active and well-respected in B.C.'s amateur sports community. He is survived by his wife, Rusty; their three children, Jeremy (Dragana), Thomas (Kelly) and Rachel (Neil); his three much-loved grandchildren, Ava, Hazel and Oscar and his sister, Jane.

Charles Mitchell Dunlop (1922-2012)

Charles Mitchell Dunlop died in Abbotsford, BC, on 7 Oct, 2012 at the age of 89. Charlie was a proud soldier, with a strong sense of honour who served his country for 30 years in both war and peace. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders cadets at the age of 15 and enlisted in the military in 1940 at the age of 17½. In 1942 he joined the FSSF (First Special Service Force), the joint Canadian/US task force and went to Helena, Montana for training, England, Italy, Sicily and North Africa where areas he "visited" in WW2 with the "Devil's Brigade." The majority of his peace time service was with The Queen's Own Rifles. Predeceased by Gladys, his wife of 52 years, he leaves two daughters, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

George Ede

Those who really knew him, saw that his life was about people and giving. Despite all of his accomplishments during his military career in The Queen's Own Rifles and PPCLI, from moving through the ranks, to being on the first Canadian Olympic Biathlon Team in Grenoble, to playing International Hockey in Europe-nothing was as important to him as how he had raised his children Nichola and Scott to be good, kind and respectful people. They, and his grandchildren, Noah, Grayson and Katie, were his most cherished love. Being focus of accolades for doing a good deed was something he appreciated seeing with others but he never wanted that kind of attention brought to him. George was one special husband, father, papa, and friend. He lived his life to the fullest.

OBITUARIES OF QOR of C MEMBERS

Lt Arthur Whealy was a volunteer in the 1st Canadian Rifles



It has been over 60 years since the 1st Canadian Rifle Battalion sailed for foreign shores and NATO service in Germany and The Honourable Arthur C. Whealy, who died in 2012, was the last of eight officers from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's 1st (Reserve) Battalion who had volunteered to join the new battalion when it was formed. Of those eight, all but three were posted into 1CRB: Maj W.R. (Bill) Weir and Lts Healy, P.B.L. (Pete) MacKinnon,

The commanding officers of 1CRB were LCol E.W. Cutbill, DSO, ED and LCol J.M. Delamere, MBE, CD. Acting commanding officer Maj C.P. MacPherson brought the battalion back to Canada in November, 1953 and it was on the voyage aboard SS Columbia that members of 1st Canadian Rifles learned their unit had been redesignated as 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Upon its arrival, the battalion's members went on furlough, reassembling at Calgary's Currie Barracks, the 1st Canadian Rifle Battalion now being part of their history.

Lt Whealy, who served as a judge in Ontario's Superior Court of Justice, was the son of Canadian World War One air ace Arthur Treloar Whealy, DSC & Bar, DFC, who was credited with 27 victories while serving in WWI with the Royal Naval Air Service and, later, with the Royal Air Force.

Mike O'Grady and M.B. (Mike) Symons. Deployed to Germany with the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade, they were quartered in a former German artillery housing now renamed Edinburgh Barracks and attached to British 11th Armoured Division, part of the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR).

The 27th Brigade commander was Brig Geoffrey Walsh, DSO, who had served in Sicily and Italy in WW2. The battalion was soon regarded as operational and conducted live firing exercises at Putlos on the Baltic seacoast and other training at the British Army's facility at Sennelager, for as many as four weeks at a time. Lt Whealy's responsibilities varied and included periods as anti-tank officer, battalion intelligence officer and as 2/IC of the mortar platoon.



Lt Arthur Whealy, 2/iC of the 1st Canadian Rifles Mortar Platoon, on the gunnery range in Germany in 1953.

The Honourable Arthur C. Whealy, QC (1929-2012.)

At St. Michael's Hospital, peacefully, surrounded by family. Retired judge of the Superior Court of Justice. Predeceased by his wife Anna Bokor (1987). Son of the late Arthur Treloar Whealy, DSO and bar, DFC, and Margaret Carrick. Survived by daughters Lise and Victoria, grandson Alan (Caitlin) and former wife Elizabeth Richardson-Whealy. Also survived by his siblings Peggy (Erskine Duncan), Rosemary, and Michael (Wendy), plus 11 nieces and nephews and their families. Educated at Upper Canada College, RMC (#2953), and Dalhousie Law School (LL.B. '58). Commissioned as a regular army officer in the First Canadian Rifle Battalion in 1951 and continued in the military when 1CRB was designated as 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1953. Former

President of the Criminal Lawyers Assoc.; former director of the Advocates Society; and former counsel with the Dept of Justice (Ottawa). After a decade in private practice, he was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (1980), where he served for 25 years. Jurist, photographer, birder and soldier; member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and Royal Canadian Legion (Fort York Branch.) He will be fondly remembered for his fairness, optimism, humour, and generosity of spirit. He will be deeply missed. Donations made to the Queen's Own Rifles Trust fund, c/o QOR OR, 145 Queen St. E, Toronto (or at www.QOR.com/association/association.html) would be appreciated.

Jan de Vries became a paratrooper because he “liked their uniforms”



HRH Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, meets Joanne and Jan de Vries in 2012.

The regiment lost a staunch ally in the person of Jan de Vries, who died in Ajax, Ontario last May at the age of 88. Jan was a teenager when he joined the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion (1CanPara) in 1943 and was only 20 when he parachuted into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day, 6 June 1944. By then 1CanPara were part of the British 3rd Brigade's, 6th Airborne Division. Although he found himself well off the planned drop zone, he avoided the attention of enemy defenders, rejoined his fellow parachutists and joined the battle. Sent back to England in September, 1CanPara rejoined the battle in late December, participating in the Battle of Bulge in the Belgian Ardennes. The decision to send them was hurried and they were initially ill-equipped to combat the cold weather they experienced. By late January they were

in Holland and for the next month fought battles along the Maas River, clearing the area sufficiently well that they were returned to their base in England. After a month's rest they returned to action in "Operation Varsity", parachuting over the Rhine River into Germany and fighting their way through stubborn resistance for the next six weeks, covering 300 miles and arriving in Wismar, on the Baltic coast on 2 May 1945. A week later, their war was over. Following retirement he served as

President of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association and was instrumental in the creation of the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy and as leader of a group who raised enough money to purchase the Victoria Cross awarded to Cpl Fred Topham of 1CanPara in 1945 and to ensure it remained in Canada. He was a tireless volunteer for a broad range of community, educational, and memorial activities. A Member of the Order of Canada and Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur (France), he and his wife Joanne shared a love of the outdoors, particularly hiking, and they made numerous trips to such places as the English Lake District and the Scottish Highlands, well into his 80s. He was an indomitable individual and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Jan de Vries received the Order of Canada from Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

On-D-Day, Jan de Vries was in C Company, which was tasked to lead the airborne forces into battle, heading out a half-hour prior to the rest of the division to secure drop zone "V" and place Eureka beacons to mark the DZ. After completing that task they were to head into the nearby town of Varville where they were to destroy communications, headquarters and defensive positions in the town, as well as to guard engineer elements who were tasked to blow the main bridge. Upon successful completion of their tasks they were to then defend the town against enemy movement until relieved by the 1st Special Service Brigade who were landing later that morning and would quickly make their way inland. After being relieved they were to fall back to the unit's positions at the Le Mesnil cross roads and set up defensive positions.

The battalion vigorously defended the crossroads at Le Mesnil until 17 June. They were involved in some very severe action, the most notable being the attack on the Chateau St-Come at Breville. A German garrison was centred on this position giving stiff resistance to the British troops looking to clear the area. It was apparent by the afternoon of 12 June that help was badly needed and elements of C and HQ Companies moved to relieve the beleaguered British at the Chateau.

The fighting was savage, raging for several hours. The Germans had self-propelled guns backing their attack and in several locations penetrated the paratroopers' perimeter, resulting in several instances of hand-to-hand combat. The ferocity of the Canadians' fighting, combined with assistance from naval and artillery batteries, forced the enemy to fall back and abandon their position at the Chateau.

By the next day it was agreed that the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion had a very successful first 24 hours, having successfully reached all its objectives. This did not come without a price, with 116 all ranks, of the 541 that jumped, killed, wounded or taken prisoner, and many missing. Jan de Vries was one of those who was wounded, shot by a sniper, but after recuperation in England was ready and fit to continue in the campaign to liberate North West Europe.

In Memoriam

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

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

David Arksey	Raymond Little
Roy Aylesworth	Neil (Mac) MacQuarrie
Bill (Boots) Bettridge	Fred Masson
Scott Kerr Bricker	Leo McGrath
Wally Budgell	LCol Ivor McLeod, MM
Stan Chernish	Fred Mercer
Peter Czulinski	Murray Milburn
Donald R. Dale	LCol Frank Mulrooney
Len Desjarlais	Charlie Park
Charles Mitchell Dunlop	Paul Peevers
George Ede	Gord Peterson
Harry Williams Freeman	Steven Petzing
Adolph P.J. Gagne	Ronnie Rollman
Larry Henderson	Wolf Schmutzer
Darrell Hensrud	Art Steele
Stanton Bardsley Hogg	Clayton Stones
Bryan Goutouski	Jim Tran
Ernie Grant	Arthur Whealy
Ron Kinnersley	
Leonard Laird	
George Lauzon	





Head Table guests at the ceremony in which the Hon. Don Ehell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, received the Pearson Peace Medal. (left to right): Frank McArdle, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Loreena McKennitt, Kathryn White, The Hon. Peter MacKay, Col. (Ret'd) Don Ehell, Linda Ehell, Suzanne Monaghan, Gen. Tom Lawson, Kieran Dwyer, Philip Ponting (Chair, UNA-Canada)



The members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's Parachute Company pose for a group photograph after the annual "refresher course" at CFB Trenton. During this event all participants were refreshed in their advanced skills as paratroopers in a series of exercises which culminated with static-line parachute descents from a CH-146 Griffon multi-use helicopter.