



The Rifleman

The Journal of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

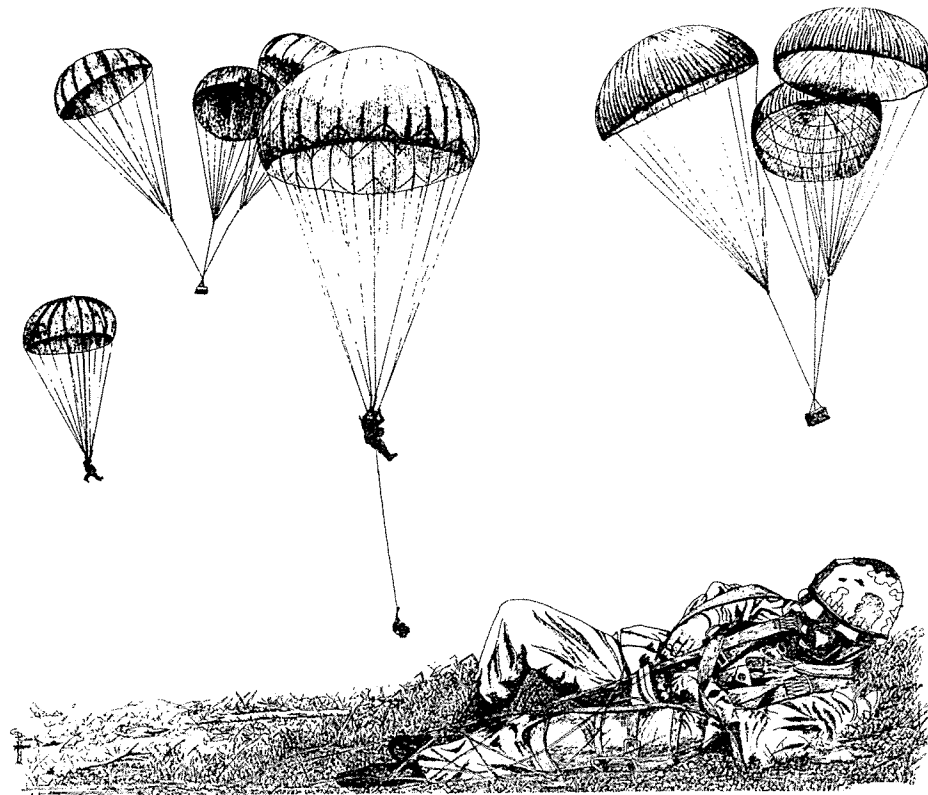
April 26, 1992



The Queen's Own Officers' Annual Christmas Luncheon in 1991 gave the Commanding Officer, LCOL Robert A. Campbell, CD, the opportunity to bring together a number of former Militia and Regular Force Regimental COs and Honoraries for a group portrait with the oldest surviving officer, LCOL Percy B. Hampton, ED, a veteran of both World Wars. (Left to right - Standing): LCOL B. Graeme Baskerville, CD — CO 1984-87; BGEN Steven F. Andrunyk, OMM, CD — CO 2nd BN 1964-66; MGEN Herb Pitts, MC, CD — CO 1st BN 1967-69; LCOL J.J.J. Power, CD — CO 1972-75; BGEN Don Pryer, CD — CO 1972-75/Present Hon LCOL; LCOL Robert A. Campbell, CD — Present CO; LCOL John Strathy, CD — CO 1969-72; (Seated) COL H.C.F. Elliot, CD — CO 1st Bn, 1961-65/Present Hon COL; LCOL Percy B. Hampton, ED — CO 1936-39; LCOL H.E. Dalton, DSO, CD — CO 1951-52; LCOL C.O. Dalton, DSO, ED, CD — Hon COL, 1970-75.



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"We Shall Remember Them"

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM T. BARNARD, ED, CD

LCOL William T. Barnard, ED, CD, a former Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and its official historian, died at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre in Toronto on 7 March, 1992, aged 94.

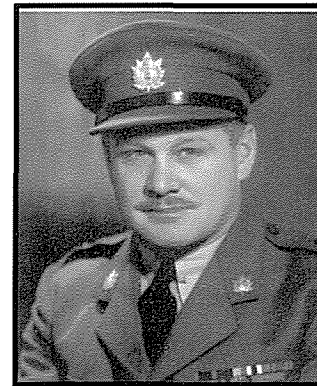
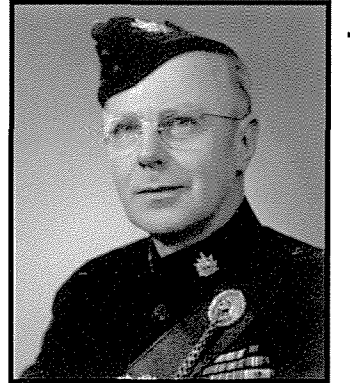
A veteran of both World Wars, LCOL Barnard commanded the Regiment from 1947-1951.

In 1939, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he formed the Regimental School of Instruction at Camp Borden, teaching young officers drill, tactics and elements of military law, as well as organizational and administrative skills. He sailed for Britain with The Queen's Own in 1941.

To mark the Regiment's 100th Birthday, in 1960, he undertook the research and writing of the official history of The Queen's Own, from its formation in 1860 to the years up to and including the Korean War, where members of the Regiment served. It is one of the finest, most detailed — and most readable — histories ever written on a Canadian regiment.

LCOL Barnard was also the former curator of the Regimental Museum in Casa Loma and is responsible for having sought out and procured many of the articles on display there today.

He received his BA from the University of Toronto in 1928 and taught physics at Riverdale Collegiate, both before and after the war, for a total of 35 years.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN LETT, DSO

LCOL Stephen Lett, DSO, who commanded The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada during the Second World War, died in Oakville, Ontario, in January, 1992, aged 82.

LCOL Lett, as a major and second in command of the battalion, landed with The Queen's Own on Juno Beach in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June, 1944 — among the first Canadians, and the only ones from Toronto, to be involved in the beach head that day.

As part of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, The Queen's Own made the deepest penetration into enemy territory of all Allied units engaged on D-Day, taking heavy losses along the way.

LCOL Lett was appointed commanding officer of the Regiment in September of 1944 and was still in command at war's end, having led The Queen's Own in battles in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

Following the war, because of his pre-war experience in the lumber and forestry industry, he formed a new company, Chainsaw Projects.

He retired 15 years ago and is survived by his wife, Audrey, two sons, Tristram and Patrick and five grandchildren.

SERGEANT W. DAVID KEENAN, CD

It was with deep regret that members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada learned of the death of Sergeant W. David Keenan on 9 January, 1991, aged 29.

David was born in Lisburn, Northern Ireland on 23 February, 1961 and was brought to Canada as a youngster when his family emigrated in 1967, settling in North York.

He first put on a military uniform as a cadet with the Governor General's Horse Guards, eventually becoming a cadet CO, with the rank of Major, and earning his jump wings during his service with the GGHG.

Sergeant Keenan joined the Militia on 22 November 1978 as a member of the newly-formed Central Militia Area Special Unit (CMA SU), and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 1 April, 1970.

During his service with our Regiment, he served in all positions, from Rifleman to Platoon Warrant Officer as well as putting in a stint as RQMS.

A member of the Regimental Rifle Team for the past ten years, he won numerous events, in both individual and team competitions. He was a member of the Maple Leaf Rifle Club, an honour which brought him great personal pride and satisfaction.

Apart from the Regiment, David had a career with the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services, where he was recently promoted to shift sergeant.

He leaves his wife Clare and one-year-old daughter Alison Rona, his parents William and Marget and sister Debora.

Sergeant Keenan was a living example of the Regimental mottos under which he served — NULLI SECUNDUS and IN PACE PARATUS.

His longtime battle buddy, Paddy (WO S.F. Patterson)



LETTERS

SIR:
I am a grandson of the late W.H. van der Smitsen, who was a rifleman in the Queen's Own in 1866 and was wounded in the Battle of Ridgeway. He continued with the regiment, was commissioned and rose to the rank of captain.

The family is still in possession of van der Smitsen's Fenian Raid medal and consideration has been given to presenting it to the regiment. This would be a very serious matter since there are several grandchildren who would treasure this piece of family history. However it is thought the medal might find an honourable and safe resting place with the Queen's Own.

I would suggest the medal should be presented at some formal regimental function and that we would be assured it would be well displayed, for members of the regiment to see.

Yours Sincerely,
MAJ G.M. Henderson,
RCA (Ret'd)

LCOL Campbell has advised MAJ Henderson the Queen's Own would be delighted to receive the medal for mounting and display in the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma. It was hoped the presentation could be made at the 132nd Birthday celebrations in April.)

SIR:
I am writing to enlist your help in tracing the activities of my unknown father, RFN Gordon Vincent Browne, while he was assigned to The Queen's Own, sometime between the dates of his enlistment and discharge in Toronto (6 Oct., 1941-20 Nov. 1944). His service number was B-64815 and he served in Canada, Britain and Northwest Europe. He passed away in 1959.

I am very proud of the fact my father served his country in time of war and am anxious to learn more

about this aspect of his life. I would be interested in knowing any details of his involvement with your regiment. It is possible someone who served with him is still alive and remembers him.

Sincerely,
Donald V. Savell,
6540 Falconer Dr., Unit 122,
Mississauga, ON. L5N 1M1

SIR
My name is Richard G.M. (Dick) Plunkett, #B-137233, stretcher-bearer in MAJ Dunkelmann's company, serving under John Hancock and SGT Jones. My CSM was Billy Ives. I went back to Holland to marry my girlfriend in 1948 and settled. I am writing to get help to get my medals fixed up so I can wear them on special occasions.

I haven't got the maple leaf clasp for the CVSM and I would be grateful to anyone who could help me.

I also want to thank Art Gay, whom I met in Utrecht in 1989, for putting me on the mailing list for "The Rifleman." I enjoy reading it and it's nice to know that you're living up to our slogan of "Once in the Queen's Own, Always in the Queen's Own."

Sincerely,
R. G. M Plunkett,
Bekhoornpad 6, 3817 WP
Amersfoort, Holland

(We have taken care of RFN Plunkett's request, with pleasure.)

SIR
I have received my copy of the 1991 *Rifleman*. May I compliment you upon its excellence. This is the best organized, best written and best edited issue that I can remember. Keep up the good work!

Yours Regimentally,
LCOL Roland A. Harris, OBE,
10 Westgate Walk, Kitchener,
ON, N2M 2T8.

(Thank you Sir. Glad you liked it!)

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Art Gay
Secretary, OOR Association

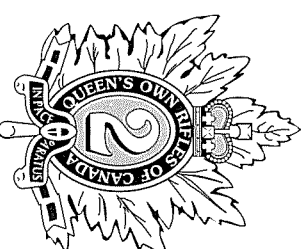
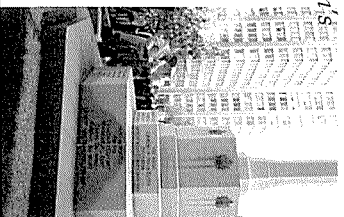
As the years go by the numbers of our comrades who pass away steadily increase. During the past year, the following members of the Queen's Own were among them:

Edward F. Adamson; John W. Almas; Robert G. Baird; Wm. T. Barnard; Wm. E. Blackie; Scottie Boyd; H.J. Boyer; Arthur Bryant; T.B. (Buck) Buchanan; James Henry Buckle; Robert W. Campbell; A. Chalkin; C.D. Chambers; Wm. James Charles; George R. Clarke; Gordon Comrie; Gordon Cummings; Leonard Dale; Rev. Alexander M. Deans; Clarence Dougherty; Lloyd Dugan.

D. G. Farquarson; Al Frost; C.S. Glew; Jack Harker; Jim Kaiser; David Keenan; W.E. (Bud) Kent; Albert Klein; John Lang; Eric George Langdon; R.A. LeBoeuf; J. Victor LeGuerrier; Frank Lemery; Donald J. LeQueune; Steve Lett; Jim LeSage; Wm. A. McGinnis; Elwood (Woody) Newhall; Rev. R. J. Newsham; William Orton; Pat Osler.

Lorne F. Pettit; James Porteous; Gordon R. Ray; John A. Richardson; Cyril Raymond Riddell; Lloyd Ruttle; Welby Schram; Brian Sedgemore; Michael J. Semnick; John T. Shaw; J.C. Shreppick; Ralph Thompson; Claude D. Tompkins; William Ward; John Ivan Warren; Victor L. Weham; Robert Archibald Wilson; J. W. Yascheslyn.

*The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
The brave and fallen few
WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM*



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HONORARY COLONEL'S REPORT

By LCOL H.F. Elliot, CD

1991 has been an eventful and productive year for the Regiment.

In April, COL Jack Lake, QC, CD, after many years of dedicated service to the Queen's Own completed his term as Honorary Colonel. It was a very great honour for me to be appointed his successor. I would also like to welcome my successor, our new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, BGEN Don Pryer. GEN Pryer is a former Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own and is also a past Area Commander.

I was fortunate to be able to see the battalion in action on several occasions, including a militia exercise where elements of the battalion were involved in guarding a vital point against a live enemy.

On all occasions I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the young soldiers and the quality of the NCOs and officers. The battalion, under the very capable leadership of your Commanding Officer, LCOL Robert (Bob) Campbell, CD, is in good shape.

Difficult times are ahead for the Canadian Forces prepare for the future. However, I am confident that The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will be ready

— IN PACE PARATUS.

One of the significant events of the year was the consolidation of our Regimental Headquarters under BGEN Steve Andrunyk, who kindly accepted the position of Regimental Secretary.

A major activity of RHQ was the initiation of the Powder Horn, a regular newsletter intended to complement our annual Regimental journal, the Rifleman, and to bring an immediacy to communications within our Regimental family, both with individuals and our numerous elements, including those in British Columbia, Alberta and Ottawa.

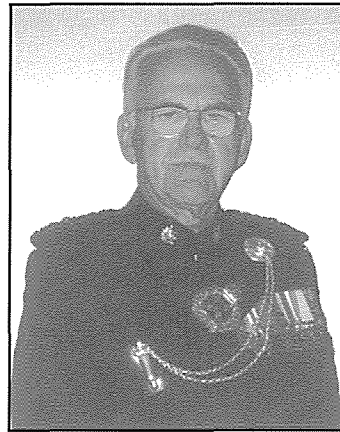
Thanks to the efforts of GEN Andrunyk, and judging from responses so far, it is a success.

The Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, under the director of its curator, LT Peter Simundson, CD, has had a facelift, is thriving and is well worth a visit. Tribute should also be paid to the museum's previous curator, the late LCOL William T. Barnard, whose death in his 94th year in March, 1992, saddened us all. Bill Barnard worked long and hard for many years for the museum and it is safe to say that, without his drive and impetus, it would not exist in the form it does today. It is something which should make us all very proud.



The Regimental Band and Bugles and the Pioneers and Skirmishers have performed on a number of occasions when I have been present to see and hear them and each time have been a great credit to this Regiment.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that this is your Regiment. It belongs to all ranks and I believe it is important to keep in touch. RHQ and our active Queen's Own Association are here to help you do just that. ♦



**HONORARY COLONEL
COL H.C.F. ELLIOT, CD**

In a 35-year military career which began in 1940, Colonel H.C.F. (Hank) Elliot, CD, rose from being a member of the Non Permanent Active Militia to become Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in Germany and ultimately serving in Israel and Cyprus, until his retirement from the Canadian Forces.

COL Elliot was commissioned a 2LT in The Queen's Own in 1942, landed with the Regiment on D-Day and served in Northwest Europe as a platoon and company commander, later being appointed ADC to the Commander, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division.

Following the war he joined Army HQ in Canada in the Directorate of Staff Duties and served in a variety of posts until 1952, when he was posted to 1 Rifle Battalion (later redesignated 1st BN Queen's Own Rifles) in Germany. In 1953 he was appointed GSO of the 2nd (British) Infantry Division, BAOR and in 1956 returned to Canada and the 1st Bn The Queen's Own. After a period as PRO, HQ, Central Command, COL Elliot was named LCOL in 1961 and given command of The Queen's Own in Germany.

He was promoted Colonel in 1966 and subsequently held various military positions, including Commander, Camp Borden; Commander Canadian Contingent and Deputy Chief of Staff, UN Forces in Cyprus; Director of International Plans at Canadian Forces HQ; Director of Infantry for the CF; and Canadian Forces Attache to Israel and Canadian Forces Adviser to Cyprus, holding these appointments until his retirement from the CF in December 1975. ♦

**HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL
BGEN D. A. PRYER, CD**

Brigadier-General Donald A. Pryer, who began his military career with the Brockville, Ont., Army Cadet Corps in the late 1940s, rose to become Commander of the Central Militia Area in 1984. He joined The Queen's Own in 1960 after serving with 60 LAA RCA (Brockville Rifles), where he qualified as a junior and senior NCO, joined the COTC and was commissioned in 1955. After service with 32 Locating Battery and the Brockville Rifles he moved to Toronto in 1960.

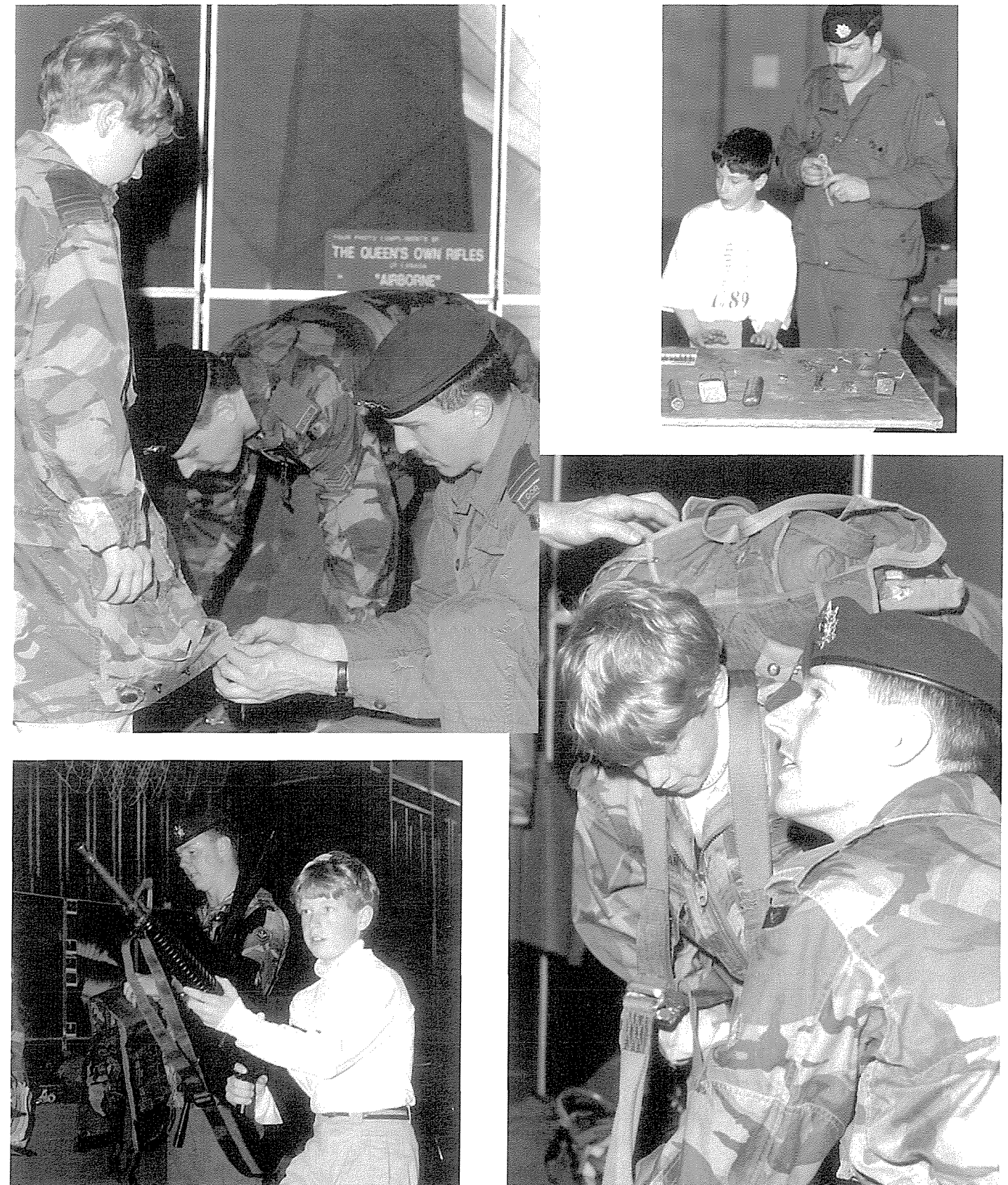
In 1964 he was promoted Major and in 1968, successfully completed the Militia Staff Course. Upon completion of the Senior Officers Staff Course he was promoted LCOL and appointed Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own, an appointment he held from 1972-'75, during which time he earned the Mobile Command Achievement Award and qualified as a Basic Parachutist.

BGEN Pryer then served on the Directing Staff of Central Militia Area (CMA) and as Senior Staff Officer, Operations and Training. He was promoted Colonel in 1980 and served as Commander, Toronto Militia District from 1980-'82. He eventually became Deputy Commander and then Commander, CMA.

President of Armatek Controls Limited, BGEN Pryer is past-President of the Canadian Infantry Association and the Conference of Defence Associations; Governor of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires; Chairman of the Royal Canadian Military Institute Centenary Committee and President of the Column of Freedom Monument Association. ♦



"GET 'EM YOUNG"



COVER PHOTO: The 1992 RIFLEMAN front cover illustration is a reproduction of a picture of The Band of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada when the Regiment was in England during the Second World War. It hangs in the Regimental Band Room at Moss Park Armoury.

Chilliwack (checking up on Wayne Dehnke, no doubt); Harry Williams-Freeman of Salt Spring Island; Joe Webb of Victoria, who is trying to reactivate the Victoria Branch of the Regimental Association; and Bob Ducharme of Nanaimo who was inviting Ev and I to a QOR barbecue up there on 19 Oct (unfortunately I had to decline as it conflicted with our 40th anniversary activities) and last, but not least, Wayne Dehnke, of CFB Chilliwack.

As can be seen from the foregoing, the Regimental spirit is very much alive and well out here on the West Coast (God's Country).

Changes in status during the year (not already reported in the 'Powder Horn') have included LGEN Kent Foster (Hon Rfn) to Asst DM (Pers) NDHQ; LCOL 'Curly' Gentles retired and replaced by LCOL Gord Manning at MarPac HQ; MAJ Frank Battershill is remarried to Diana and still lives in North Vancouver.

Had a brief encounter in May with Charlie and Jan Belzile at the Vancouver Airport. They were both looking great and have promised a return visit with at least enough time for a visit to the Shrine.

I regret having to report the loss of June Moad, John's wife. I extend sincere condolences to John and family, on behalf of the Regiment, with the thought that she will be missed by all who knew her.

Bob Burns suffered a heart attack in April and underwent heart surgery, which was a complete success, and he is now back to work fulltime with the Delta Police Force. He has assured me that he and Franca will be at the 'Birthday Bash' in April.

Ev joins me in extending our very warm regards to all Skirmishers and your families, and offering a reminder that you are always welcome to drop into the Shrine at 5523-6th ave., Delta BC, V4M 1L9, Tel 604-943-9866.

(Editor's Note: Bill kept his article short(er) this year, in hopes that there is room to publish the roll of 1st Bn Officers of 26 Apr 70, for

which there wasn't room in last year's Rifleman. Unfortunately space, again, doesn't permit us to publish anything other than the "Unknowns" on the list. However Bill could probably make a deal with BGEN Andrunyk to have the other names published, over the next few months, in the Powder Horn.)

1 QOR of C - 26 April, 1970
— 21 Years Later
Where Are They?

MAJ T.B. Winfield (PPCLI)
CAPT J.W. Brighton (RCAMC)
CAPT J.P.R. Gagne (RCChC-RC)
CAPT J. Watanabe (RCOC)
LT G.T. Bingham (RCEME)
LT J.M. Gendron (RC Sigs)
LT M.M. Johnson (RC Sigs)
If you have information write to Bill Mountain at the Regimental Shrine in Delta, BC ♦

REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND

By LCOL John Strathy, CD

As President of the Queen's Own Regimental Trust Fund I am appealing to all members of the Regiment and Association to make a donation. It is not only the money that counts but also the percentage of participation. To date, fewer than 25% of the members of the Regimental Family are donors and I would like to see a substantial rise in that percentage.

In 1991 the former President, BGEN Steve Andrunyk, CD and I sent out over 750 letters to Queen's Own members and friends of the Regiment. Response was good and donations from 191 individuals totalled \$14,716 — an average of \$77 per donor.

For 1992, I would ask those of you who have never donated before to do so this year — even if it's only \$10 — so we can get the participation rate up. It would be very gratifying to broaden our base of donors to the Trust Fund so that it becomes truly representative of

the entire Regimental Family.

The money is used for a variety of purposes. We have helped buy summer uniforms for the Regimental Band and uniforms and equipment for the Skirmishers and Pioneers. Both groups represent the Queen's Own in public appearances on many occasions, year-round, and they are a credit to this regiment as they continue to raise its profile in this community and to keep it in the eye of both the public and the media.

We also contribute to expenses for Regimental HQ since we believe it is vital for the Regimental Family to have a headquarters for coordination of its many activities. Official receipts for income tax purposes will be provided. To donate, make your cheque payable to: QOR of Canada Trust Fund, RHQ, 185 Frederick st., 4th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5A 4LA ♦

D-DAY MEMOIRS WANTED!

British author Robin Neillands is researching material for a book he plans to write to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day and is seeking first-hand accounts from those who were there. Since that includes many of the readers of *The Rifleman*, those who have stories to tell might like to get in touch with him.

He is looking for first-person accounts of action before, during and after the assault, as well as details on training in both Canada and the UK, pre D-Day stories as well as information on your pre-war and post-war activities.

If the book is to be completed and published by June, 1994, he'll need the information ASAP. This is our chance to get some recognition for the efforts of the Queen's Own in the Normandy Campaign so let's take advantage of it.

Writers should include full name, rank and serial number with their material and send it to: Robin Neillands, PO Box 345, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5NH, England. ♦

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

by LCOL Robert A. Campbell

The very first event that took place since last year's publication of *The Rifleman* was a Regimental Night to celebrate our 131st Birthday. It included a brief ceremony to transfer the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Regiment from COL Jack Lake to COL Hank Elliot.

The contribution that our honoraries make in support of the Regiment is significant and especially so in the case of Jack Lake. He has been dedicated to the Queen's Own Rifles for many years and in his capacity as both Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary Colonel he has been most active in ensuring the well-being of the Regimental family. I can tell you that Jack hasn't stopped and is still there for us when we need his counsel.

We are very fortunate now to have COL Hank Elliot as our Honorary Colonel and Chairman of the Regimental Executive Committee. His dedication and interest in the unit continues to be very evident at all of our training and ceremonial activities.

It is a great pleasure to announce that BGEN Don Pryer, former Commanding Officer of this Battalion as well as former District and Area Commander has accepted and been officially appointed as our Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. He is already actively serving on the Regimental Executive and we look forward to a continuing and long association.

The collective training exercises offered some new challenges this past year when the Queen's Own Rifles were tasked to provide Vital Point protection to a reservoir/dam complex in the north end of the city on Ex Thunderbolt. This Defence of Canada exercise offered our troops real insight on the type of task they might be called upon to carry out in

an emergency situation. The Coy size Vital Point force was commanded by Major Tony Welsh.

The Central Area Summer Concentration was well supported by the regular force and our personnel received professional training in patrolling, air assault and water crossing operations in the Petawawa training area. Also during the summer, CAPT Erik Simundson led a strong contingent of the pioneers and skirmishers and our Regimental Band for the Re-enactment of the Battle of Ridgeway, commemorating the 125th Anniversary.

In the Fall, our Deputy Commanding Officer, MAJ Steve Brand, who also commanded our Airborne Operationally Tasked organization, quickly marshalled 15 qualified personnel to augment the Canadian Airborne Regiment who were tasked to move to the Western Sahara on Peace Keeping Operations. Unfortunately the augmentation and the operation was cancelled. CAPT Peter Lomasney who was detached to Central Region Ops, did manage to get sent over and joined the Canadian Contingent Northern Sector as a Team Sit Commander and the only Queen's Own representative.

Another significant event this past fall was the change of RSMs Parade. CWO Brian Budden completed a long and distinguished career in the unit and has settled in nicely at District Headquarters where he continues to look after the interests of the Regiment. Meanwhile, RSM Josh Figa is working as hard as ever to improve the individual training and progression of the NCOs in the unit.

The loyal members of the Queen's Own Association came out in strength again for the Remembrance Day Church Parade



and for the Annual Christmas Dinner. Our guest speaker, Charlie Martin, DCM, MM was a hit with the young Riflemen in the unit for his stirring personal accounts of the Queen's Own Rifles in action.

The members of the Regimental Band can be very proud of their accomplishments this year under the guidance of CAPT Steve Irwin. In addition to their many performances in support of the unit, their public appearances have brought great recognition to the Regiment.

On behalf of the members of the unit I would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the volunteer members of the Regiment who devote their time and skills to making us stronger. People like Art Gay who runs our Kit Shop; BGEN Steve Andrunyk, our Regimental Secretary, who took it upon himself to produce and publish the "Powder Horn"; and to CAPT Chick McGregor who in addition to the many public relations tasks he has taken on, is also mainly responsible for putting this publication, *The Rifleman*, to press.

The year 1992 has already brought many changes to the Canadian Forces and the Reserves. The Regiments who remain strong and active will survive the changes. There is no doubt that the Queen's Own Rifles will continue its splendid history for many years to come because of the dedication of the men and women who serve and those who continue to provide their support. ♦

60TH COMPANY



Believing that a picture is worth at least a thousand words — and therefore two pictures are worth infinitely more than that — 60th Company shows its stuff on the parade square.

BUFFS COMPANY

By CAPT R.R. Reid, OC and WO J. Wilmot, CSM

The Buffs are back! From being reduced to nil strength in 1990 following unit reorganization, Buffs Company has been reformed and is now once again an effective and active company within the Queen's Own.

While experiencing the typical growing pains of a newly reformed company, Buffs has made numerous key appointments beginning with the 2/IC 2LT Cody Sherman, WO J. S. Wilmot as CSM and as CQMS, SGT C. R. Thomson, all of whom are performing their respective duties for the first time. Other NCOs in Buffs Coy include SGTs W. D. Paton, A. P. Quinn and P. Alexander, MCPL D. O'Halloran and CPL D. N. Smith.

Buffs were tasked with the conduct of a Regimental range practice at CFB Kingston and, while the administration and conduct of the range went well, the success of those who participated in personal weapons tests fell short of the

desired scores. One of the great problems over recent years has been the lack of ammunition and range time. We have to consider our basic role and good marksmanship must be given more time and resources. In the current climate of cutting resources we must not lose sight of basics and resources required to support the training.

The issue goes beyond our ranks — it is an issue which has, and is, affecting the Canadian Armed Forces. Rest assured Buffs, as the training company, will continue to train Queen's Own recruits in the art of marksmanship to the best of its ability.

The conduct of recruit training has changed from unit training to that conducted under the coordination of Toronto District HQ. The district tasks units to conduct training courses which have candidates from the entire district. Our recruits are currently being trained on their QL1 and 2

courses by members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the Toronto Scottish Regiment. In March, on behalf of the Queen's Own, Buffs Coy began conducting the QL3 course for the District Course Training Standards (CTS) for QL3, as well as the course training package, were designed by the UTA, WO M. McKinley and Buffs Coy staff, since changes in the trade qualification courses made existing CTSs inadequate. In effect the QL3 we are conducting could be described as a pilot course. It is conducted primarily in the field and provides craft training and experience which previously was lacking.

Our recruits have also been exposed to the rich history and traditions of the Queen's Own. The company took a field trip to the Regimental Museum as part of its regular unit training activities. Due to existing methods of training recruits collectively from various

teaching map use and other lectures. While the Rangers know the land like the backs of their hands, it is important that they know how to give and read grid references in order to be more specific when dealing with NRHQ on sighting reports, etc.

After four days in Aklavik, we left on a 70-mile trek by snowmobile to aof Ranger's hunting cabin on the Fish River. My snowmobile never gave me a problem with starting, but it rode like a tank and I felt every bump on the ride up the river. (I fell off three times, much to the delight of the Rangers). A long part of the trip was down a frozen river with steep cliffs on both sides and the scenery was spectacular.

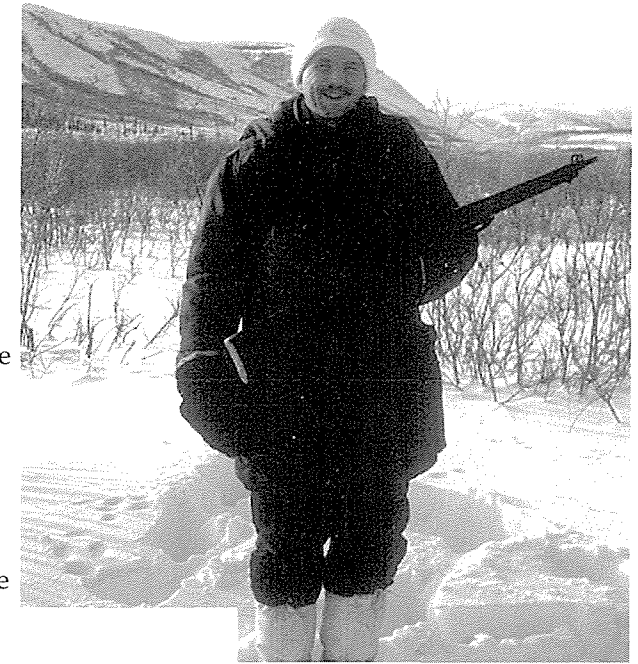
A shooting competition was held, using the issue Lee Enfield Mark IV .303 rifle. While one may question the use of a rifle of World War II vintage, the Rangers say it has proven itself to be most reliable, given the conditions and level of maintenance they perform on their weapons.

A search and rescue exercise was also undertaken, with the Rangers being given a grid reference to travel to and then search the area for two "lost" snowmobilers. Due either to my excellent lessons — or perhaps a desire to get back to the cabin and go hunting — the two lost men were quickly located.

While on the field exercise we ate IMPs, but these were supplemented by some interesting local game. This consisted of moose meat (good); moose fat (ugh); "muktuk" —

beluga whale meat and blubber (double ough); caribou, both raw (ugh) and cooked (great) and raw frozen fish — "fishsicles" (decision reserved).

Bad weather foiled most of the hunting planned by the Rangers, but all the objectives set by WO Laurensen for the field ex were met and after three days — and another bumpy snowmobile ride — we were back in Aklavik. A half-day of drill practice for the final parade in the



50th anniversary of the Rangers and Canada's 125th birthday. They will drop in on 19 of the Ranger patrols, carrying a baton and log book, and hope to set a world record for snowmobile distance travelled in 60 days. Aklavik was their starting point and, following a snowmobile parade through town with the Rangers, SGTs Aubin and Natseck began their journey.

We flew out the following day and I parted company with WO Laurensen and CPL McMullin in Norman Wells, where they went on with the Twin Otter to Whitehorse and I grabbed a civilian flight to Yellowknife so I would not

miss my flight home the next day.

The augmentation was a great exercise, allowing me to see more of Canada's north (and it really is beautiful), work with the residents of that region and the Regular Force personnel, and to operate in Arctic conditions. I would highly recommend this trip to any member of the Queen's Own who has a chance to take it — and I hope I might have the privilege of doing it again sometime. ♦

local recreation centre ended the Ranger training.

The next day the Rangers received their exercise certificates and the new Rangers were sworn in by BGEN Victor Pergat, NHRQ Commander. BGEN Pergat had flown in the day before to be on hand for the start of a 10,000 km, 2-month snowmobile trek across the north by Ranger Instructor SGT Mario Aubin and Ranger SGT Sinmeoni Natseck to mark both the

FOND MEMORIES

By CWO Brian W. Budden, CD
(Retired RSM, 1987-1991)

I enjoyed my four-and-a-half year term as Regimental Sergeant Major for Canada's oldest and finest Regiment — the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. It was surely an honour and a privilege to be able to serve in this way, and to help uphold the traditions of a Regiment which has such a long and storied history. I will always have fond memories of the experience I have gained.

The military has brought to me very challenging tasks during my career of almost 22 years, as well as comradeship and rivalry — but most of all it has brought friendship. I cannot begin to name them all, but would like to thank those who gave me such excellent — and sometimes fatherly — advice throughout my career.

I would also like to thank all the current and former serving members of the Regiment for the support and dedication that they have given to me and to this fine Regiment.

On the occasion of the Change of RSM to CWO Josh Figa, CD, there were a number of presentations and I would like to say that these were second to none. The silver engraved bugle from the Regimental Band and Bugles now sits in an honoured place in my home, in a specially-made glass case. I appreciated the framed Airborne print from the CO, LCOL Bob Campbell and my wife, Gloria was thrilled to receive flowers on this occasion. From the WO's and Sergeant's Mess members, the engraved silver tray and an Honourary Life Membership and from the Junior Ranks Mess members, the inscribed, framed "Old World Map" — my sincere thanks to all of you.

In any event I was not even retired as your RSM for a month before I was gainfully employed at the Staff School on Avenue Road in Toronto District G3 Standards Cell.

While this sometimes referred to as the "RSM's Retirement Home" I can report that my new role with the military can be a very busy and demanding position. I have had the opportunity to visit Toronto District courses as well as to be an instructor on the first District-run Senior Leader's Course (SLC) from January to mid-March, 1992.

This course, which requires five weekends at Base Toronto, is the first of a two-part course for Sergeants to be promoted Warrant Officers and covers a wide variety of topics, including leadership, drill, monitoring and military law.

Out of 29 candidates, SGT Ken Kominek of the QOR of C stood first. Three other QOR Sergeants — Adam Saunders, Rob Roper and Cec Parris — also successfully completed the course and all four at to be heartily congratulated. Now on to QL6B Infantry Part II!

In closing, may I say that my loyalty will always remain with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

"ONCE IN THE QUEEN'S OWN,
ALWAYS IN THE QUEEN'S OWN"
...IN PACE PARATUS...

TOP O' THE WORLD (WELL, ALMOST)

By LT John Fotheringham



In the fall of 1991, each unit in Land Forces Central Area was asked to nominate one member to fill militia augmentee vacancies for Canadian Ranger exercises. Whether by virtue of my previous experience in the Arctic (or the

possibility that no one else applied), I was chosen to participate in a two-week visit to Aklavik, NWT in February of 1992.

The Canadian Rangers, a part of the Primary Reserve, establish a military presence in the Arctic and allow Canada a relatively inexpensive and practical method of demonstrating our sovereignty of the sparsely-settled northern, coastal and isolated areas of our country. There are 54 Ranger patrols across the north and each patrol consists of up to 25 men and women from the local community, led by a Ranger Sergeant and Master Corporal, elected by the patrol.

Their main tasks are search and rescue and surveillance. Surveillance involves the Rangers watching for, and reporting, strange aircraft, boats and persons to the local RCMP and NRHQ in Yellowknife. While the Aklavik patrol has not had occasion to report any incidents, NRHQ receives calls from other Ranger patrols and the Aklavik patrol is always vigilant.

Once every two years a small team of Ranger Instructors from NRHQ will visit each patrol, engaging in a ten-day exercise involving several days of in-town training, with instruction in map using, weapons maintenance, first aid, search and rescue, surveillance and military drill. This is followed by a field exercise, away from the town, where the Rangers practice what they have been taught.

After a couple of days in Yellowknife I left by Twin Otter for Aklavik, about 50 miles from the Arctic Ocean and right next to the Yukon border in the Mackenzie Delta. The Ranger Instructor was Reg Laurenson, a PPCLI Warrant Officer who joined the QOR in Calgary in 1962. We were also accompanied by Signals CPL Bob McMullin, also stationed in Yellowknife.

In-town training went as planned and I was tasked with

units, Regimental drill, history and the like must be taught outside of their formal course material. It is a credit to the recruits that they can master their common lessons and regimental training relatively quickly.

On behalf of Buffs Coy we would like to extend an invitation to former serving members of the regiment to come down to Moss Park Armoury on a Wednesday evening to observe training and converse with the new members of the Regiment. Your experience and continued interest in the Regiment would be of significant value to us all. The Buffs look forward to your visit. ♦

VICTORIA COMPANY

Victoria Company provides the Battalion with Combat Service Support (CSS), or the provision of transport, re-supply, communications, food services, finance and maintenance. The skilled soldiers of the company wear a variety of cap badges and perform a variety of tasks.

"Vics" Coy has a well-earned reputation for a job well done. To help Victoria become even better, CAPT Reg Scotland, a Logistics Officer from 25 (Service) Bn has been attached for a one-year tour to assist with CSS expertise.

Small in numbers but big in enthusiasm many of Victoria's soldiers are among the most solid paraders. Some have nearly a decade of experience in their tasks, which often involve working long hours, unseen and somewhat forgotten. But their efforts certainly bring results.

Victoria Coy works in real time, all of the time. Every training exercise requires real support, from issuing of supplies and weapons, to re-supply during the exercise, to ensuring the trucks and equipment are ready to go. This constant real-world experience hones Victoria's skills to a high level.

In addition, Victoria supports the

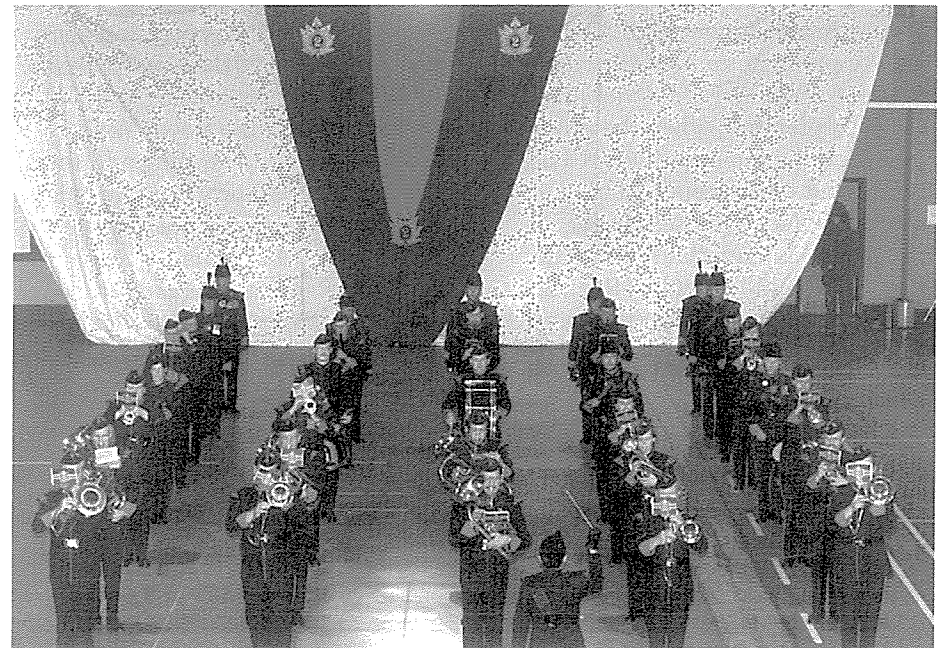
District by providing instructors for FMC Driver Wheeled and other CSS courses.

The current staffing slate is: OC, CAPT R. Scotland; Finance Officer, LT R. Zisman; Transport, Maintenance and Signals Officer, LT S. Banerjee; CSM, WO A. Sarossy, CD; RQMS, WO S. Patterson, CD; Finance NCO, WO Fisher; Recruiting NCO, SGT. S. Kelly; Transport NCO, SGT Parris.

Company sectional structure is: Transport (Provides required transport from unit internal and external resources; driver training

and re-testing; driver and records); Maintenance (Maintenance of unit vehicles and weapons; preventative maintenance on all tech stores); Finance (Unit pay records; claims administration; unit budget monitoring); QM Stores (Safekeeping, issue and return of unit stores; ordering and returning of external stores as required; maintaining stores records).

The high level of support provided by Victoria Company allows the Rifle Companies to focus their efforts on realistic and effective training. ♦



THE MILITARY BAND & BUGLES

The Military Band and Bugles enjoyed another successful performance season this year, being called upon to perform numerous concerts in the Toronto area, including Kew Beach Park, Branch 422 Royal Canadian Legion and on the Bandshell at the Canadian National Exhibition. In addition, the Band's close association with the Queen's Own Branch (366) of the Royal Canadian Legion was celebrated by numerous concerts in their Lakeshore Boulevard quarters.

The Band and Bugles

participated again in the concert sponsored at Roy Thomson Hall by the Royal Canadian Military Institute. This was the second annual event featuring the combined Military and Pipe Bands of the Toronto Garrison and was a complete sellout. (Get your tickets early for the 1992 performance!)

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada have a role to play in support of the Regular Force and the Band is very much part of this. CFB Toronto requested that the Band perform for the Base

Commander's and Base Warrant Officer's Change of Command Parade and Bugle Major WO Fred Haire pulled out all the stops to help make this show one of the highlights of our season. We continue to support the Canadian Forces Staff School and College through performances at numerous Mess Dinners.

Of course, we are called upon to perform at all Regimental functions, which included, in the past twelve months, the "Mini-Tattoo" held on the occasion of the Regimental Birthday in 1991; the Change of Regimental Sergeant Majors and the "Second Battle of Ridgeway" re-enactment last summer.

Our Brass Quintet had the occasion to perform for the Commander of LFCA, MGEN N.M. (Nick) Hall, CD in September, when the group provided the music at MGEN Hall's retirement party from GM of Canada, which was held in the Royal York's Imperial Room. The former CO of the Ontario Regiment



ballroom dancing, music was supplied by our "One Performance Only" Queen's Own Dance Band, fronted by a longstanding band member, Neil Flow.

The Garrison Ball performance was the final concert for our Director of Music, CAPT Steve Irwin, CD, who will now assume duties again as an Infantry Officer. His presence will be missed. He was replaced by WO Chuck Benson, who took up the baton on 22 April, 1992. ♦

was very complimentary about the performance, particularly the quintet's rendition of "John Peel," the ONTR's Regimental March!

The most significant event of the year was the conduct of the Summer Recruit Band Course. Area students were given the opportunity to train and perform in the Summer Band Programme and, upon successful completion of the course, were then assigned to various Garrison bands. All those recruits who were assigned to The Queen's Own Rifles Military Band are still with us. The course was most fortunate to have the services of a superb instructional staff composed of Queen's Own officers and NCOs. Its success was a direct result of the professionalism and dedication of these individuals.

The 1992 Toronto Garrison Officer's Ball at the Royal York Hotel was an outstanding and total success. The Military Band provided music during dinner and for the traditional "Marchpast" of each Garrison Regiment. Then, for

OFFICER'S MESS REPORT

By CAPT C.D. McGregor

Readers of the *Rifleman* who noted — and commented upon — the lack of a Report from the Officer's Mess in the 1991 issue will no doubt be pleased and relieved to learn that this had everything to do with space constrictions within the publication and nothing more sinister than that.

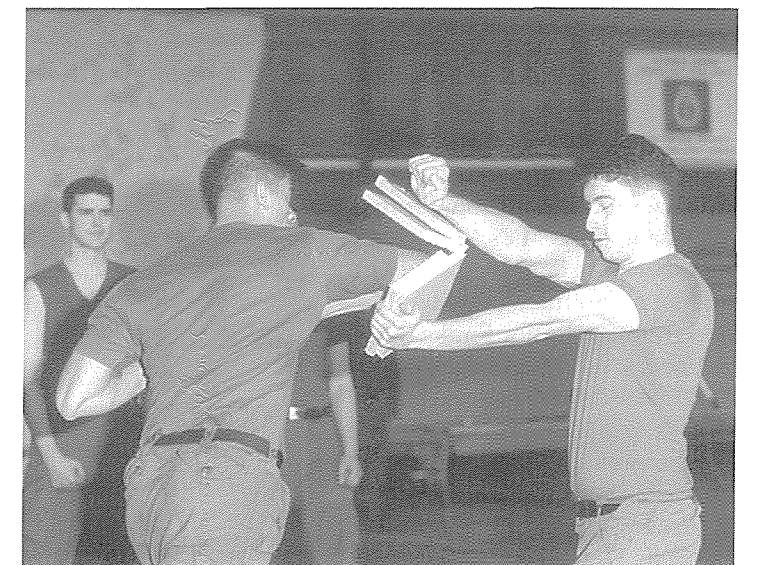
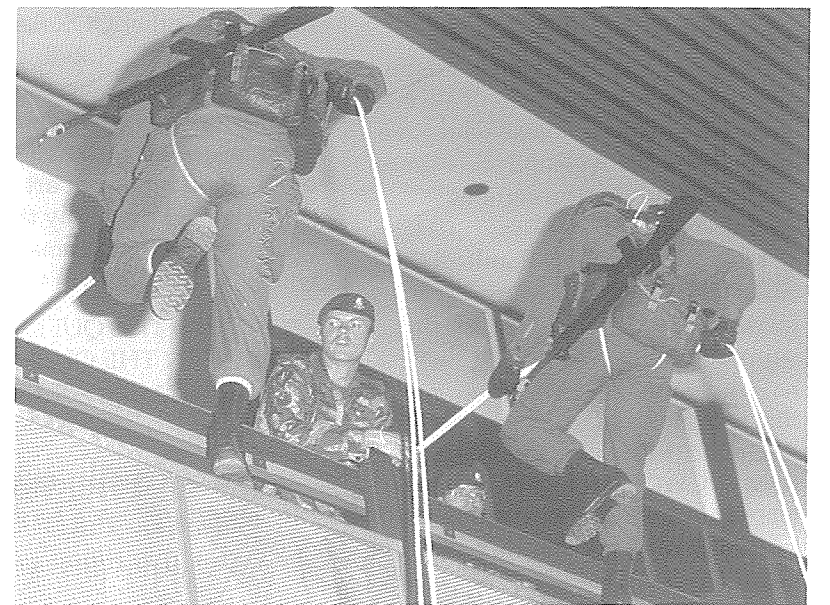
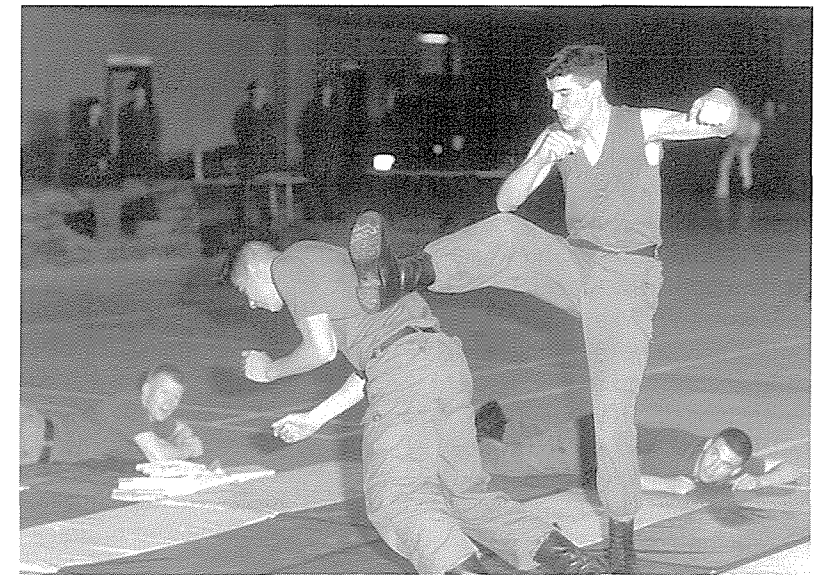
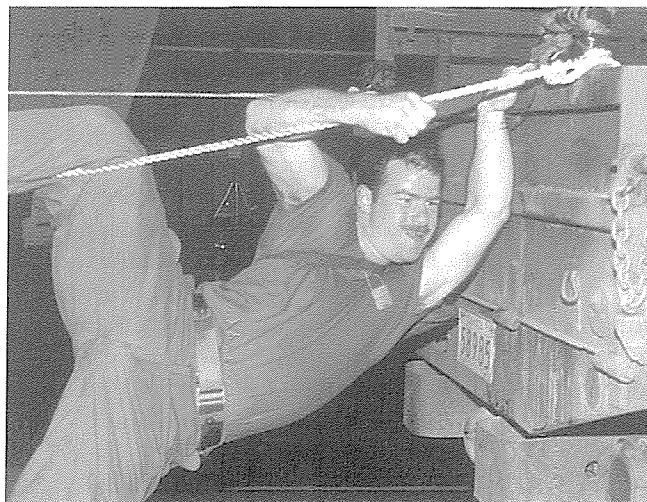
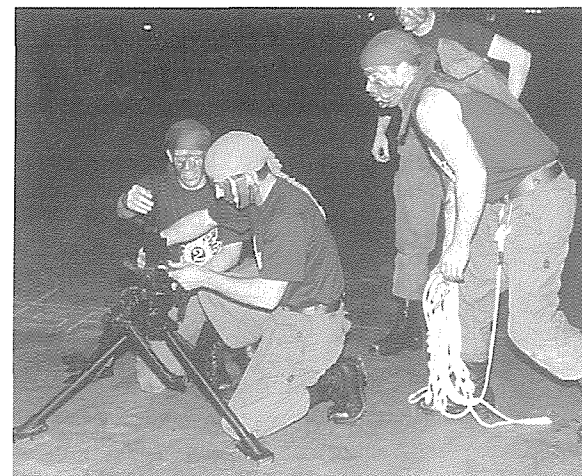
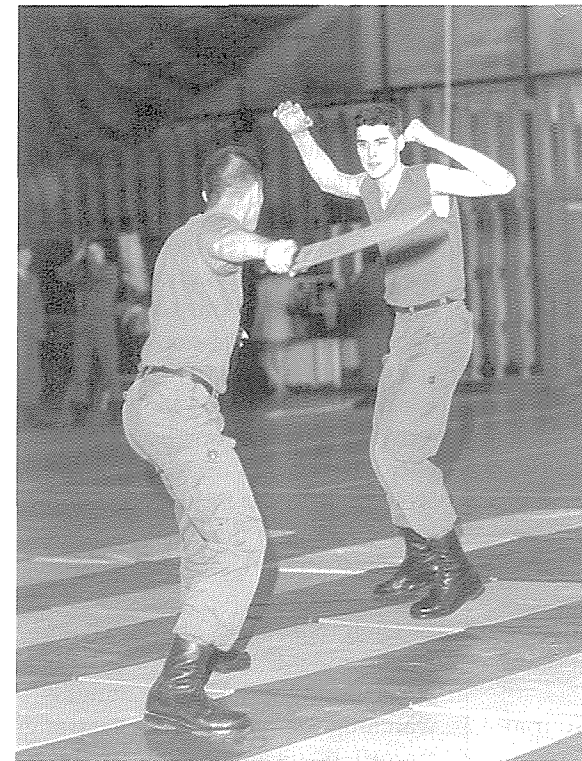
It has been a busy and fulfilling twelve months for Queen's Own officers, particularly in the exercises and training programs which have been carried out since last spring. Details of these and supporting photographs are included elsewhere in this issue.

Typically of any military unit, there have been comings and goings within the officer complement in the past 12 months, as well changes of responsibility within the Regiment and the appointment of COL H.C.F. (Hank) Elliot, CD, as the new Honorary Colonel. The appointment of BGEN D.A. (Don) Pryer, CD as our new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel was also announced and his induction ceremonies are to be held as part of the celebration to be held in Moss Park Armoury on the occasion of the Regimental Birthday, 26 April, 1992.

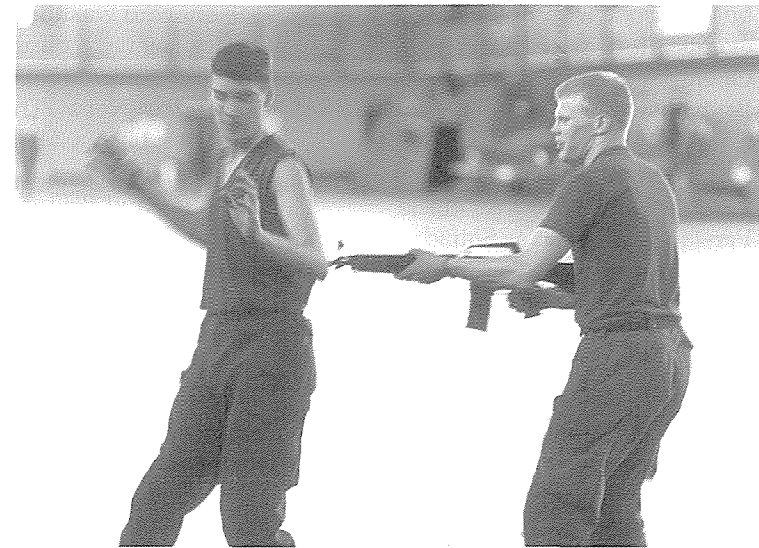
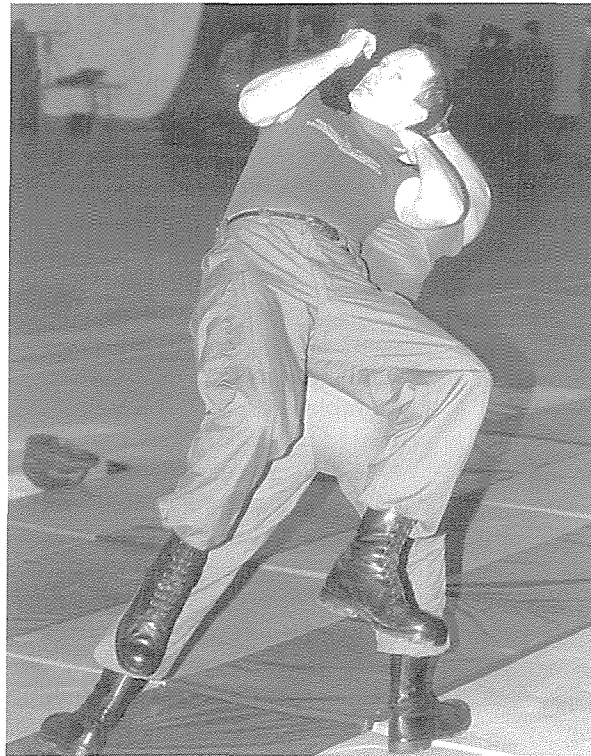
LT John Fotheringham has assumed the duties of Regimental Adjutant, relieving CAPT Bruce McEachern, CD, of this demanding and vital role.

Various members are detached, including CAPT Peter Lomasney, CD, to the Western Sahara, where he is serving as one of the first Militia members to be named as one of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs), monitoring the ceasefire between Moroccan and Polisario rebel troops; CAPT Leigh McEachern, CD, to 25 Med Coy; MAJ A.R. (Tony) Welsh, CD, CAPT Mike Park and LT Larry Hicks to TDHQ.

New members of our Officer's



REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY



An inspection by the outgoing Honorary COL Jack Lake, a marchpast by the QOR Association led by RSM Harry Fox, troops performing unarmed combat, rappelling from the balconies, staging machine gun races, climbing (or clinging to) ropes and exciting karate exhibitions — they were all part of the 131st Regimental Birthday celebrations in April, 1991.

PHOTOS BY LT SANDY BANERJEE, QOR OF C.

Mess this year include the Unit Support Officer, CAPT Gerhard Hildebrandt, from the 2 BN PPCLI, Winnipeg; CAPT Reg Scotland, attached from 25 Service Bn; CAPT Marc Charlebois, 2/IC of the Op-Tasked Company; LT John Shone, attached from the Royal Montreal Regiment, Montreal; LT Doug Ferguson, attached from 4 RCR, London; LT James Dunlop, transferred from RHR, Montreal; 2LT Karl Haupt; 2LT Phil Osanic, Musketry Officer; 2LT Scott Mackintosh, Assistant Adjutant and our new padre, CAPT Craig Cameron.

A presentation was made in the Officer's Mess to CAPT Eileen Vaughan, who served with the Queen's Own prior to being appointed PA to BGEN N.M. Hall, CD, LFCA Commander. CAPT Vaughan has moved to Halifax where she and her husband are expecting their first child. On behalf of her fellow officers, LCOL R. A. Campbell presented her with a miniature version of the traditional pewter beer mug, with the Queen's Own badge on it, along with a framed message carrying the Regiment's best wishes for the future. CAPT Vaughan, who has made over 4,000 parachute jumps and was named 1990 CF Female Athlete of the Year, has brought considerable credit to — and publicity for — the Regiment.

Since it was the turn of the Queen's Own to host the 1992 Toronto Garrison Officer's Ball, a committee was formed which met regularly in the Mess to plan the program. Chaired by COL Elliot, members were: LCOL Campbell; BGEN Pryer; BGEN S.F. Andrunyk, OMM CD; (Reg Sec) MAJ J.J. Whyte (LO); CAPT S.J. Irwin, CD (Dir of Mus); CAPT E.R.C. Simundson, CD (PMC) and CAPT C.D. McGregor (Vice PMC).

Some outstanding social events took place in the Officer's Mess in the past year, with the Annual Mess Dinner being one of these. Guest

speaker was BGEN Lew MacKenzie, a former Queen's Own member who, at the time, was Deputy Commander of LFCA. He now, of course, is Chief of Staff of the Division-sized United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia.

Ex-Mess, the officers once again served up the turkey and dressing and mashed potatoes and gravy for the Regiment at the Annual Men's Christmas Dinner on the floor of the

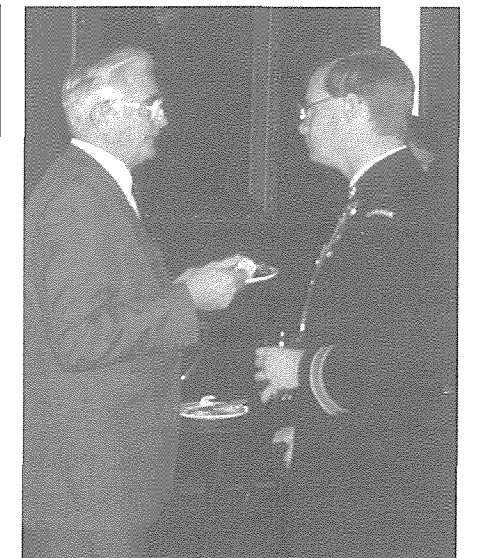
Armory. It was a pleasure and privilege to be present to hear the after-dinner remarks of CSM Charles Martin, DCM, MM and to be able to understand, a little better, what it must have been like to be among those members of the Queen's Own who were in the D-Day invasion and the actions which followed.

The Officers' Christmas Luncheon was also a notable event, with several former Commanding Officers being present, both of the Regular Force Battalions and the Reserve Battalion. We were most pleased and happy to welcome, once again, LCOL Percy B. Hampton, ED, whose presence at these luncheons each year serves to make them "Official." Now well into his 90s, LCOL Hampton, CO from 1936-'39, is the sole surviving officer we see regularly who served in both World Wars.

The Children's Christmas Party, organized by the ladies of the Officer's Mess, was another great success, with Santa making his appearance with a well stocked bag of goodies to excite the children. A vote of appreciation should be offered to the ladies of the Queen's Own IODE who made a financial contribution to this event as their



LT Cody Sherman puts a shine on the Officer's Mess Regimental Silver.



MAJ Steve Branch, CD, the DCO, chats with General Herb Pitts, MC, CD.

way of saying Merry Christmas to the Regiment and the youngsters.

The 1992 New Year's Day Levee was well-attended, both by officers of the Regiment and members of the Sergeant's Mess, who, by tradition, are always invited to breakfast with us. Mess Steward, CPL Andy Blom and his trusty sidekick, Lisa Simundson, performed miracles in the Mess kitchen, producing a steady flow of plates of steaming Eggs Benedict and gallons of hot coffee for a

group of sergeants who, it would appear, hadn't eaten since the Men's Christmas Dinner.

In the next short period a large number of officers attended the funerals or memorial services for three individuals whose loss was felt keenly by the Regiment — SGT David Keenan, a serving and valuable member, who died suddenly in early January, leaving his wife and a young daughter; LCOL Stephen Lett, DSO, who was 2/IC when he landed with the Queen's Own on D-Day and took over command of the Regiment from Brigadier Jock Spragge in 1944 in Europe; and LCOL W.T. (Bill) Barnard, ED, CD, who commanded the Regiment from 1947-'51 and became its historian. It is always gratifying to see how many officers make the effort to attend on these occasions, to show the members of the families involved that the Queen's Own cares about its own and respects their memories.

Prior to the Garrison Ball it had been determined that the Queen's Own would not miss a dance all evening — and that would include the various Scottish dances which are always a feature of this event. To this end MAJ David Vine and his wife, Lucia, were recruited (dragooned might be a better word) to teach this historic form of dancing to the Queen's Own officers. Remarkable success was achieved in a few short hours, as the officers and their wives and ladies took a crash (sometimes literally!) course in "Strip the Willow" and the "Dashing White Sergeant", among others, to pipe music provided by Pipe Major CWO "Sandy" Dewar, CD, of the 48th.

The next major social event will be a Militaria Auction to be held in the Mess on Saturday evening, 16 May. Auctioneer will be CAPT Edward Denby of the RCMi and there will be a variety of military-related items available. For information — or to donate something for the auction — contact any member of the Officer's Mess. ♦

THE SERGEANT'S MESS REPORT

By WO John Wilmot



Although the Sergeant's Mess is known as the bastion of tradition and custom, even we experienced a year of upset and change. Many of the differences from last year to this are subtle ones and can only be appreciated by our members, while others are more dramatic.

To start the year the Annual Dinner was again a success, marked by an unexpected — and appreciated — presentation made by the 48th Highlanders' Sergeant's Mess. We now proudly display a print of uniforms worn by the 60th Royal American Regiment (60th Rifles).

The timing was fortunate, as the spring inspired several members to begin a house cleaning and Mess renovation project. Also, the Sergeant's Club (a separate entity) was formed to raise money to purchase items of Regimental significance for the Mess. Our method has been through the sale of such items as pewter regimental cap badge wall plaques and uniform prints of the Queen's Own. (For information on how to purchase these excellent items, contact any members of the Sergeant's Mess.)

As summer stand-down approached we welcomed WO Desi Fisher, CD, WO Al Tweeton, CD and SGT Martin Rosene to the Mess. Each of these new members has enlivened Mess evenings in their

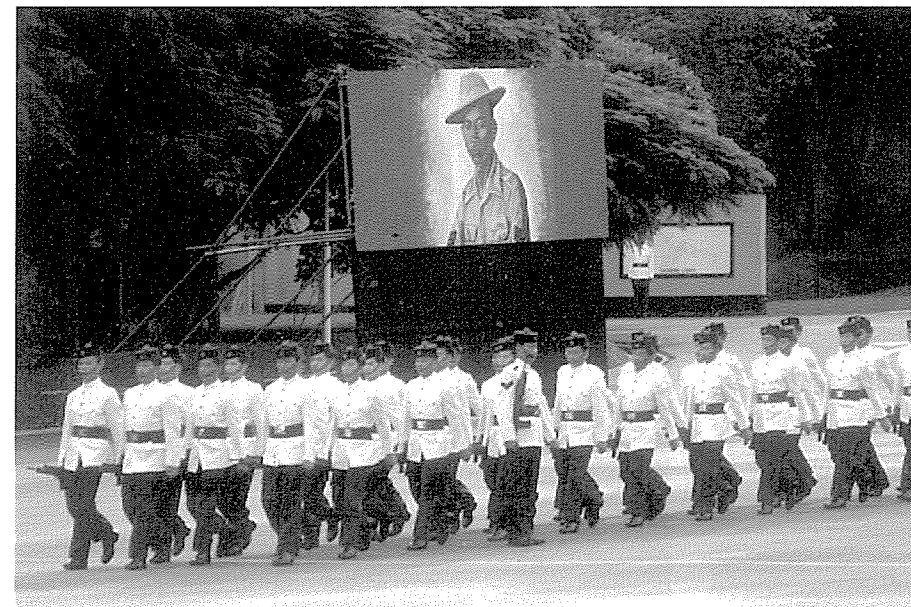
own way. This period also brought out the fighting (and creative) spirit of some members as we repainted and redecorated the mess parlour. Most were pleased with the results, if not with the work required to achieve them.

As the breezes get warmer and the days grow longer so, too, does the list of taskings. WO John O'Connor, CD, with assistance from WO Scott Patterson, CD, SGT Shaun Kelly, CD and SGT Adam

Saunders, taught military skills to bandmen on a Garrison-run General Military Training Course. Bugle Major Fred Haire worked both the musical and military sides of that course.

WO John Wilmot and SGT Bill Paton attended the Airborne Regiment's Jump Bivouac, where SGT Paton truly earned the title of "Jump Hog" with seven parachute descents, including four in one day — of which two were on a sprained ankle! Central Area Concentration '91 was held in August, attended by WO Andy Sarossy, CD, SGT Chris Thomson, SGT Kelly and SGT Rosene.

A new training cycle started in fall, bringing with it a new list of NCO positions, the most noteworthy, of course, being the change of RSMs. CWO Brian Budden, CD, not only served the Regiment well but he also found time for the Mess. Many of our members came into the Mess during his tour as RSM and he always ensured they learned the Mess customs as well as their duties as senior NCOs. The reception after the Change of Command parade was a tribute to his service in the unit and to him as a friend, leader and advisor. His gift of a bell continues to draw comment and ringing it is a sure sign to get the attention of the members.



Looking back over the past 12 months, it has proved to be a busy period, with two major events affecting our lives — Operation Desert Storm and the British Army's "Options For Change."

Two of our officers joined 14/20th King's Hussars in the Persian Gulf to act as Squadron 2/ICs and it is now certain that any doubts about the ability of Gurkhas to drive tanks is now fully dispelled! We were disappointed that HQ BAOR rejected our offer of a Defence Platoon of Gurkhas for 14/20H.

The Options For Change will dramatically affect the size and shape of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Between now and 1997 our overall strength will reduce from 8,500 to 2,500 men and we are due to amalgamate, in late 1994 or early 1995, with 2nd Gurkhas in what will become a large Regiment of two Battalions.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Victoria Cross Presentation Parade at Cassino Lines in July. The Allmand family generously presented the VC awarded posthumously to their brother, the late CAPT Michael Allmand, 3/6th Gurkha Rifles, who was killed at the Battle of Mogaung

in Burma in 1944. Besides the presence of the Governor, Sir David Wilson, who was the Inspecting Officer, we were pleased to welcome a number of veterans from the UK and Nepal. These included Honorary LT (QGO) Tulbahadur Pun, VC, the other VC recipient at the battle, and Brigadier Michael Calvert, DSO.

On the business front in Hong Kong we completed our two 6-week border tours in the first half of the year. Besides the job of ensuring the territorial integrity of Hong Kong's border, and apprehending illegal immigrants, there is a new role of assisting the Royal Hong Kong Police in anti-smuggling operations. The profit margins on smuggled TV sets, computers and videos is enormous in China, so the Army is now being tasked to help plug illegal trading practices. Two of our riflemen were awarded CBF's Commendations for apprehending and disarming an armed illegal immigrant who tried to shoot his way to freedom.

In March we saw a change of COs, when COL Duncan Briggs and family departed for a sunshine posting on Loan Service in Zimbabwe and COL Nigel Collett, from Brigade HQ, assumed command.

On the sporting side it has been a very successful year and we are now the British Forces Hong Kong champions for Cross Country, Tae-Kwon-do, Football League, Swimming and Basketball. In the British Forces Hong Kong SAAM March and Shoot competition we took the first five platoon places.

In 1993, we celebrate the Regiment's 175th Anniversary. We hope to see some of our Green Jackets and Queen's Own Rifles colleagues at the celebrations in either the UK or Brunei. ♦

D+50 YEARS

By Jack Martin

Before we realize it, 1994 will be upon us. It's not too early to plan for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day — probably the last of the "every-five-years" commemorations in Europe.

The QOR of Canada Association "D+50 Years" Committee is in its primary stages and much work and planning has to be done to present a favourable programme which will appeal to the majority.

Our biggest concern is accommodation for 130 people in 65 double rooms in — or as close as possible to — the City of Caen. We are hopeful of locating in two brand new hotels/motels in the heart of the city and have enlisted the help of a Canadian professor teaching English at the University of Caen who has shown a willingness to help us as much as he can.

If you intend to participate in this trip, please advise us as soon as possible — **IN WRITING** — because it will be on a "first come — first served" basis. Our maximum number will be 130 persons!

Write to:
"D+50 Years", c/o RHQ,
185 Frederick st., 4th Floor,
Toronto, Ont., M5A 4L4 ♦

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



Since the end of the Gulf War life has been dominated by the MOD "Options for Change" study. The announcement we were to be reduced by one battalion and to amalgamate with the Royal Hampshire Regt, despite a vigorous campaign calling for "Justice For The Queen's Regiment" was met with astonishment and disappointment.

The campaign was fought with every means possible, led by the Colonel of the Regiment, MGEN Mike Reynolds, supported by the Associations of our four founding regiments who, with the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and the High Sheriffs of Kent and East Sussex, marched from Horse Guards to 10 Downing Street with a petition. Despite this, planning is now proceeding to ensure that by March, 1993, a new regiment is formed which will be a worthy successor in every respect to both the Queen's and the Royal Hampshires.

THE BATTALIONS

The 1st moved from Tidworth to Minden, in Germany, marking their arrival by winning the BAOR Novices Boxing and going on to become Army Champions. Two companies trained in Canada in August and September.

The 2nd returned "home" to Canterbury. A large company group was deployed to the Falklands from March to July and in August the whole battalion trained at Wainright, Alberta. The 3rd, stationed at Episkopi, Cyprus, provided valuable support for the Gulf War and had a large company posted to the Falklands from July to November.

Gold, silver and bronze medals at the National Free Fall Championships and gold and bronze at the Army Parachuting Championships got the "Flying Dragons" an invitation to compete as part of the British Army Team at the 1992 World Championships.

Finally, all Queensmen send warmest greetings and best wishes to readers of *The Rifleman*. ♦

BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

Our last newsletter detailed the ministerial announcements made in 1989 and that the Brigade of Gurkhas was facing reductions to a strength of 4,000 after 1997. As a result of unforeseen and widespread changes to our defence commitment in Europe, large scale reductions to the Army have

become necessary.

The Gulf War put the "Options for Change" package on hold, but soon after peace in the Middle East the announcement was made that the British Army would be reduced by 40,000.

The Major General Brigade of Gurkhas MGEN P.R. Duffell, CBE, MC, promulgated details of the reductions and how they would affect the Brigade — current strength of five military battalions to be reduced to two by 1998. The Corps Regiments would be reduced to three independent squadrons over the same period. Planned overall strength of the Brigade in 1998 would be about 2,500. The first step in this rundown will be the amalgamation of the two battalions of the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles between April and September 1992.

Clearly, it will not be possible to reduce the Brigade to 2,500 over a six-year period by attrition and there will be some redundancy. Much work has gone into the terms of compensation to ensure that they are as fair and equitable as possible and help will be provided to soldiers looking for outside employment.

Meanwhile, the Brigade continues its military mandate by participating in exercises throughout the world, including Malaysia, Thailand, Belize, Korea and New Zealand.

To all members of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada a very successful 1992 from the Brigade of Gurkhas.

CAPT Caroline A. Airey, WRAC, HQBG, Hong Kong. ♦

6TH QUEEN ELIZABETH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES

By MAJ G.L. Davies, 2/1C

The Battalion is now ending its tour in Hong Kong and by the time this is read will likely have moved to Brunei for a two-year tour.

The Mess Board of Management includes: President WO Scott Patterson, CD; Vice President WO Sarossy, CD; Treasurer SGT Phil Ten Kortenaar; Secretary WO John Wilmot; Mess Committee Members SGT Shaun Kelly, CD and SGT Bill Paton. Several of them are returning for a second term to carry on work started last year. The new members have learned their duties quickly and are providing a fresh look at old problems.

The annual Wine and Cheese Party was held again in December and although there was a blizzard our members and guests were warmed by the fruits of sunnier climes. As is our custom, we enjoyed breakfast in the Officer's Mess early New Year's Day. The food was in great abundance as, apparently, not all of us were early risers that day! The Levee soon got into full swing, however, and we invited the officers back to our mess for refreshments and a few small gifts. CAPT Erik Simundson, CD, looked splendid in his "Mexican Mufti."

Sadly, our first gathering of the new year was for the funeral of SGT. David Keenan, CD. David was always a strong supporter of the Mess and he would have been proud of the way we marked his passing. We shall remember him.

February 26 fell on a Wednesday in 1992 so the annual Aubrey Cosens, VC Dinner was held in the Mess as a Dining-In, with only the active members present. It was an enjoyable evening.

We have very few chances to publicly acknowledge the invaluable assistance given to the Mess by all of the members' families. They are the ones whom we ask to support and understand us in what must sometimes seem to be a strange and trying part-time occupation. A few of those supporters should be mentioned by name, as they have made special contributions to the quality of our mess life. They include Maureen

Patterson, Darlene Senetchko, Holly White, Christine Roper and Leslie Love. To these ladies we give our heartfelt thanks.

IN PACE PARATUS

JUNIOR RANKS MESS

By CPL Douglas Halcro

In true Rifleman spirit, members of the junior ranks — a solid cadre of troops — did a great deal for the Regiment in 1991 and will continue to do so in 1992 and beyond.

In the Queen's Cup competition against the Queen's York Rangers our members contributed to the Regiment's close win, which gave us our 8th straight victory and in the 1991 Infantry Competitions, the Queen's Own topped the Toronto District.

M/CPLs Donovan O'Halloran, Peter Czulinski, CPLs Steven Wolfe, Mark Shannon and Anthony Nolan and RFN Craig Hood have begun a strenuous training program which will prepare them to be the first Queen's Own team (in fact the first-ever militia team) to enter the SSF Ironman Competition this summer. This is a prestigious — and tough event — so the team deserves the Regiment's support and good wishes.

The QOR Run Club participated in 12 race events for various charities last year, not to beat a world record or win a trophy, but simply to contribute to some worthy causes, to help the fitness level, to challenge ourselves — and to show the Queen's Own colours to the public at large. To this end Peter Czulinski, Mark Shannon, David Strachan and others met about twice a month and did a damned fine job from April to July. This experiment has worked for two straight years now, without official funding or recognition, which proves the heart and drive of this small group. Anyone wishing to join the crew of all-ranks, whenever they can,

should contact CPL Douglas Halcro.

Some of our other activities included initiating a refurbishment of the mess (including creating a photo display); welcoming the CO and the RSM to join us at our own 131st Birthday celebration in the Mess; holding a few "brew-fest" and Oktoberfest nights; supporting the "Daily Jab" Newsletter; and staging one of the best-attended and most rewarding Beach Parties ever!

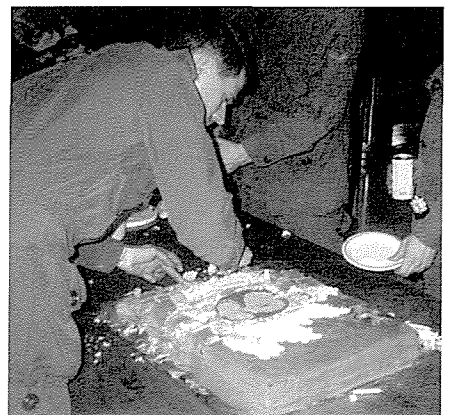
For 1992 we are preparing for some not-so-traditional celebrations of Canada's 125th birthday as well as to acknowledge our 1917 Battle Honours. VIMY RIDGE, HILL 70, YPRES, SCARPE, ARRAS, PASSCHENDAELE are honours won by the members of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in France and Flanders in World War I — something to remember and be proud of (1917-1992).

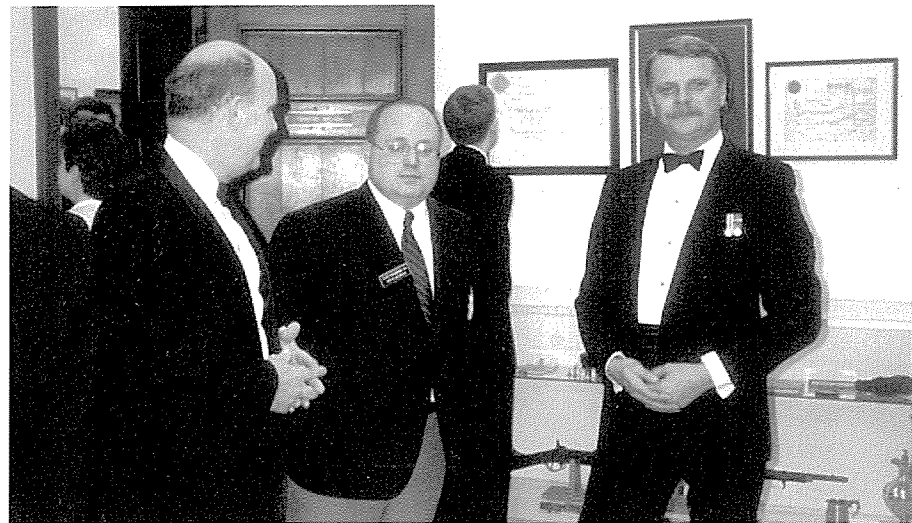
Also for 1992 we plan to financially support the QOR of C Ironmen, the QOR Run Club and the SGT Keenan Trust Fund, among other activities.

Thanks to some of the key members who made the 1991-1992 Junior Ranks Mess year a success: M/CPLs David Strachan, Peter Czulinski and Don O'Halloran; CPLs Joe Laloggia, Mark Shannon, Justin Thorn and Geoff Myers and all the other cool ones who stayed in the Mess 'way past their bedtimes.

Remember — your input is always welcome and our elections are in June.

Happy 125th Canada!
AIRBORNE!!





Queen's Own Regimental Museum Curator LT Peter Simundson, CD, (centre) with LCOL Robert A. Campbell, CD and CAPT Erik Simundson, CD, at the Casa Loma prior to the official re-opening in 1991.

1944, was acquired at auction and presented to the Regiment by LCOL Barney Danson, for which we thank him greatly. We are now looking for photographs of SGT Smith when he was in uniform which can be used in a framed display of this very desirable addition to our Museum.

SGT Smith's MM citation tells it all:

"A Coy was an assault coy during the landing at Bernieres sur Mer on 6 Jun 44. No 9 Pl was detailed to knock out a supposed MG post on the right of the coy landing. Shortly after the Pl was committed to this action, Sgt Smith's

Pl Comd became a casualty and was knocked out of the fight and the Pl itself suffered severe casualties, being pinned down by heavy mortar and MG fire. Sgt Smith, although himself wounded, showed great leadership and ability by laying down return fire and rendering what turned out to be a strongly held posn ineffective against the landing of other troops on the beach. He organized his Pl until its fire neutralized effectively the fire of the enemy posn. Had he not done so, it would have been impossible to land the next coy on the beach at this point. When his Pl was finally relieved he led it back to the coy

SERGEANT SMITH'S MILITARY MEDAL

In a truly admirable gesture, LCOL Barnett (Barney) Danson, recently gave the Regiment a magnificent 132nd birthday present in the form of the Military Medal awarded to Queen's Own member SGT Charles William Smith on D-Day, 6 June, 1944. The medal had been offered at auction and if it had been bought by a private collector it might have been lost to the Regiment forever.

SGT Smith's No. 9 Platoon in LCOL H.E. Dalton's "A" Company, was on the extreme right flank of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade's attack on the Normandy beaches and came under heavy fire early on the morning of D-Day from an enemy "88". Platoon Commander LT P.C. Rea was wounded twice and two-thirds of the platoon members were killed or wounded before the gun was silenced. SGT Smith, himself wounded, rallied the few remaining men and, together, they reached one of their objectives.

The official citation notes that:

"SGT Smith, although himself wounded, showed great leadership and ability by laying down return fire and rendering what turned out to be a strongly-held position ineffective against the landing of other troops on the beach. Had he not done so it would have been impossible to land the next company on the beach at this point. His actions throughout were an inspiration to all ranks."

LCOL Danson, himself a veteran of the Battle of Normandy and the campaign in Northwest Europe said he feels the medal belongs with The Queen's Own, in its Regimental Museum at Casa Loma. There it can be displayed and viewed properly, as befits a medal which bears the inscription "For Bravery In The Field" and which was an "Immediate Award" to a member of The Queen's Own during one of the most famous battles in modern history.

RV and stayed in action until ordered to report for medical treatment by his coy comd. His actions throughout were an inspiration to all ranks."

The Regiment has also been offered the Fenian Raid Medal awarded to Rfn W.H. van der Smissen, who was wounded in the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866. Van der Smissen, who became a University professor, was later promoted Captain in the Queen's Own and commanded No. 9 Coy., the University Company — later the famous K Company. He is mentioned several times in the late LCOL Barnard's history of the Queen's Own — "One Hundred Years of Canada."

NOTE: Queen's Own-related donations of any kind are of interest to the Museum. If you have items in the attic or the steamer trunk or in storage somewhere — medals, uniforms, maps, documents, equipment, souvenirs you or your father picked up in North West Europe or elsewhere — and you'd like to see whether they can be displayed in the museum, write to: LT Peter Simundson, CD, Curator, QOR Regimental Museum, Casa Loma, 1 Austin Terrace, Toronto, M5R 1X8. ♦

Armouries (RSS) Tim Ogilvie.

Still improving their pension plan through second careers: Roy Aylesworth, Bob Aspinwall, Phil Baumgarten, Gord Grange, Harry Groom, Harry Lloy, Jim Hickey, John Ronayne, John Shovchuk, John McDonnell, Tom Kovacs, John Vasseur, Doug Hendrie, Peter Kolbe, Dave Stone, Gerry Venn, R.L. Clark, Gord Hryhoryshen, Jim Carroll, Ed Titus, Roy Waterfield, Morley Andrews.

Realizing the benefits of retirement in this beautiful locale are: Roy Charron, John Carson, Bill Perrier, Doug Burns, Stan Chernish, Roy McLeod, Jack Debruyne and Vic Chapman.

Some noted visitors: Herb Pitts, John Cresswell, Fred Mueller, Ted Sevinski (Thailand.)

Congratulations to Barry Ashton on his promotion and posting to Calgary as Bde Comd.

From Comox Valley, Fred (Pop) Purchase reports that some ex-QOR of C he has met there are Adrien Breault, Don Chamberlin, Dave Parkin and Doug Nixon. Fred would like to hear from his old buddies at #17-2030 Robb Ave, Comox, BC, V9N 4S6.

A reunion is planned for former band members of 1 BN QOR of C from the 50s, 60s and 70s, to be held in Victoria on the long weekend in August, 1992. The organizing committee needs names, addresses and telephone numbers of those interested in attending as well those of any ex-members you know. Write to Fred Mercer, 485 Obed ave, Victoria, BC, V9A 1K6, (604) 382-8497. Also Harold Drinkwater (604) 727-2560 or Jim Hicke (604) 382-0347.

We apologize for any names we may have missed in this report. Anyone from this area wishing to put something in next year's Rifleman please contact Gord Hryhoryshen, 7246 Early Place, Brentwood Bay, BC, V0S 1A0 or phone (604) 652-4379.

In Memoriam: John Lang (Ex

RSM 1 BN), Scotty Boyd (Ex QMS), Don Randall. ♦

CALGARY BRANCH

By John E. Cresswell

Since my last report to the Rifleman my wife and I attempted to turn the clock back with a sentimental visit to Fort McLeod. The surrounding area has changed somewhat, but very little has taken place to Fort McLeod since the Regiment was stationed there from 1957-60. The Wiltshire Regiment was stationed there at the time of our visit and extended us the royal treatment.

The Regimental Birthday, celebrated 27 April, 1991, proved most rewarding with 175 members and guests in attendance, including 26 members from out of town. The Association held a candlelight dinner on 5 October, 1991, with the guest of honour being BGEN B. Ashton, accompanied by his wife, Carol. Also as guests were RSM W. Spring and his wife, Jenny. The event was so successful we will do it again on 17 October, 1992.

On Remembrance Day I was privileged to represent the Association at a Memorial Service at Jubilee Auditorium.

For those of you with good memories — and even better eyesight — I've enclosed a photograph taken at a Sergeant's

Mess hockey game in Germany in 1959. Such talent! Put names to the faces — if you can!

On behalf of the Calgary Association of the QOR of Canada may we wish all of you of the Black Net good health in 1992. ♦

CHILLIWACK BRANCH

By Bob Foster

The past year in Chilliwack has been very quiet, with just a small gathering in Branch 280, Canadian Legion, Vedder Crossing. By the time you read this we will have held our 1992 reunion in the same branch.

Greta and I went to Calgary to a very fine reunion organized by John Cresswell, who did a splendid job.

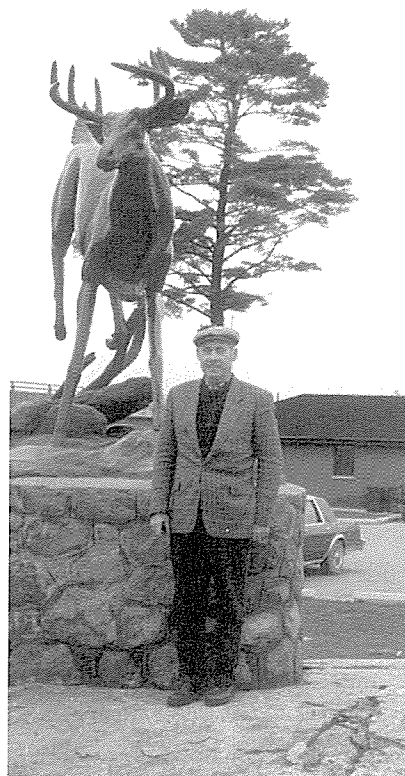
During the year we saw Don (Moose) MacDonald here with a Legion convention and GEN Herb Pitts and Don Warrilow were here for an Airborne reunion. Others seen were Wally Ratz, Arnie Middleton and Roy Collor. "Pop" Purchase dropped in and we got in a round of golf. We also added a new member I met on the golf course — Grant Shaffer, the Paymaster for 2 BN in Calgary in the early 60s, who has been living in Chilliwack for six years.

All the very best to all Riflemen for 1992. ♦



REPORTS FROM THE QOR ASSOCIATION

Toronto - Jack Martin, COMS



Things were pretty quiet for the Association following the Regimental Christmas Dinner and preparations were underway for our 131st Anniversary.

We were visited by M. Pierre LePrevost of Le Mesnil Patry last year Pierre had been a Committee Chairman for the visit in 1989 and was visiting Toronto for the first time and, from what I understand, he had a very enjoyable visit. He was shown around by LCOL Ed Rayment, had lunch at the Royal Canadian Military Institute with GEN Neil Gordon and I took him up north to see dear old Buckhorn and also arranged a visit to meet Toronto Mayor Art Eggleton, who presented some souvenirs of the city.

To coincide with our 131st Anniversary we were present at the opening of the newly-renovated Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, where Hon COL Hank Elliot had the honour of cutting the ribbon



Anniversary of D-Day Trip to be held in June, 1994. As chairman I am pleased to announce the addition of WO Paul Trenchard to join the other members — CSM Charlie Martin, DCM, MM, Art Gay and LT John Fotheringham, the current Adjutant of the Regiment. WO Trenchard, a trombonist in the

Queen's Own Military Band, is also the President of the Queen's Own Rifles Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. ♦

VICTORIA BRANCH

By Jack Debruyne and Gord Hyrhorshen

Seen whilst dispensing the *Rifleman* or observed by the writers in the Greater Victoria area:

With the "Battalion" (3 PPCLI), Barry Cleveland, just posted in as the RSM, Tony Palamar, John Tolly (retiring in October after 35 years), Jim Scott, Happy Harry Miller and Chuck Perry. At Royal Roads, Jim Wooley (DSM) and at the

to mark its official opening. For his dedication and hard work as the new curator of the Museum, LT Peter Simundson was presented with our plaque as "*RIFLEMAN OF THE YEAR, 1990*" — a well-earned and truly-deserved recognition. Peter and those helping him had put in many long hours (and loving it!) and the finished product is marvellous. If you have not been to the Castle to see the Museum, make a point of doing so — it's well worth it.

Our Annual Meeting was short, however I was pleased to turn over the Presidency to Jim Green, and, I can assure you, he's doing a super job.

By now you are aware we have already started on the plans for 50th

OTTAWA BLACK NET

By LCOL (Retd) B. Graeme Baskerville

Members of the Regiment and others who have served with the Queen's Own, residing in the Ottawa area, celebrated the 131st Birthday with a reception held in the Army Ottawa Officers' Mess. LGEN C.H. (Charlie) Belzille, the senior ranking officer in attendance, proposed a toast to the prosperity of the Regiment and to all those who have served with it. On this occasion we were delighted to see some people we have not seen for some time — CWO (RSM) Roy Bruce and his wife Joyce; Ron and Betty Roe (Ron was Signals Officer with 1 BN); Paul Hunter and his wife Lenore and MGEN V.A. (Vic) McPherson (former MO) and his wife.

In the field of military history, LCOL J. A. (Jack) English continues his fine efforts. A member of the Directing Staff at the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, he has recently written "*The Canadian Army and the Normandy Campaign: A Study of Failure in High Command.*" The book is published by Praeger/V&L Resources.

CWO D.F. Reiben (now wearing PPCLI badges) has been appointed RSM of the Ceremonial Guard that conducts the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill every day during the summer months. Based on the observed performance, he has certainly obtained excellent standards of drill and deportment with the Militia Guardsmen.

CHANGES WITHIN NDHQ

MAJ M.S.T.A. (Mike) McMurtrie has ceased his Class "A" Callout and has retired to fulltime management of his motel at Prescott. MAJ R.F. (Ray) Honig has moved from the position of Career

Manager for Infantry Officers to that of Project Officer in the Directorate of Individual Training. MAJ (Retd) L.M. Larry Diebel has filled the "J3 Ops Task 6" position in the Military Operation and Plans Division (in layman's language, he is a tasking coordinator). MAJ C. P. (Pat) Dillon has moved to the Directorate of Force Structure. LCOL K.J. (Ken) Radley has assumed new duties with Director General, Intelligence and continues with his part-time studies towards his PhD in Military History at Carleton University. This pursuit has evolved from the successful publication of his book, "*The Rebel Watchdog: The Confederate States Army Provost Corps.*"

UNITED NATIONS DUTY

COL D.S. (Don) Ethell returned from duty with the Multinational Force and Observer Group in the Sinai in late 1991. He had moved to Calgary to commence his retirement leave when he was called back for duty with the UN Force being formed for Yugoslavia. At time of writing he was waiting to be deployed as commander of the Canadian contingent. LCOL M.G. (Mike) McKeown has returned from a tour of duty as a staff officer with the Headquarters of the UN Force in Iran/Kuwait, where he was one of the first on the ground when the force was established. He has assumed a staff position at NDHQ as a Defence Program analyst with the Directorate of Resource Analysis.

COL Bill Minnis and his wife, Brenda, passed through Ottawa in the summer while on a leave to Canada from Bill's position as Canadian Defence Attache in Israel. His tour in Israel has been extended.

COL D.D. (Don) Dalziel with his wife, Cheryl, passed through Ottawa en route to Moscow. Don has completed his tour as Canadian Forces Military Attache at the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in

Washington, DC, and had been appointed Canadian Defence Attache to the USSR and was there for all the political changes that occurred in late 1991. ♦

QOR OF CANADA CHAPTER IODE

If you examine the cap badge of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regiment, the veins of the leaf can be clearly seen, indicating the lifelines that give the Regiment its various strengths.

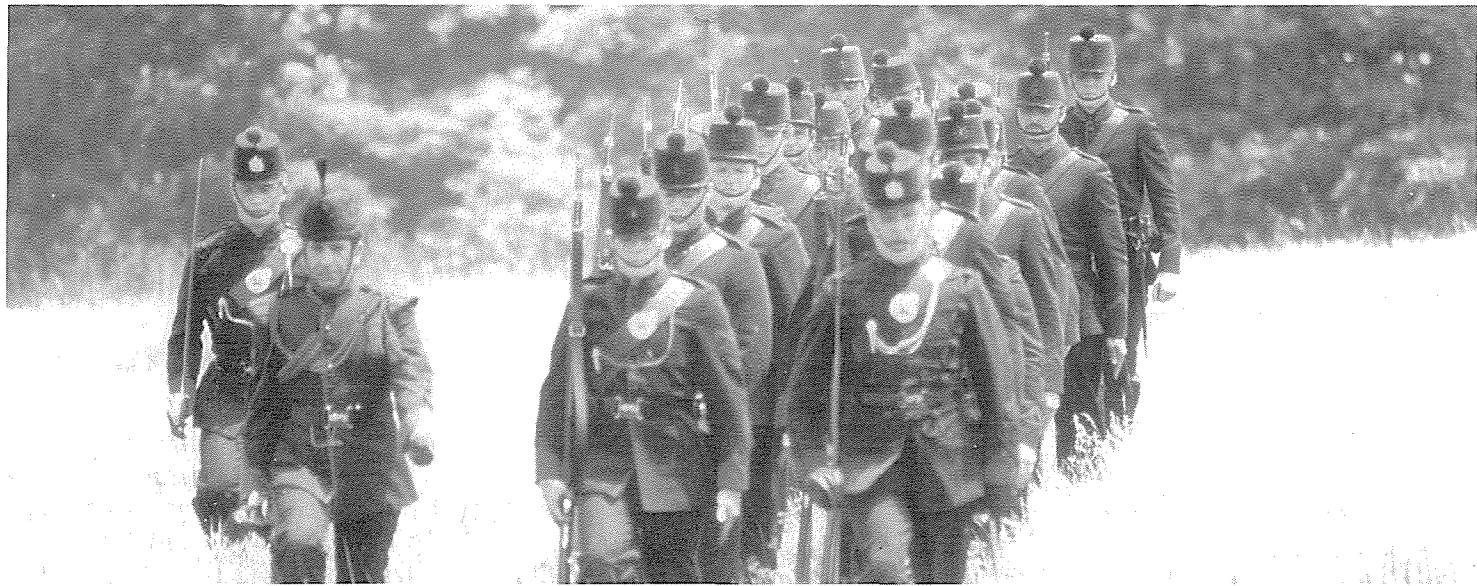
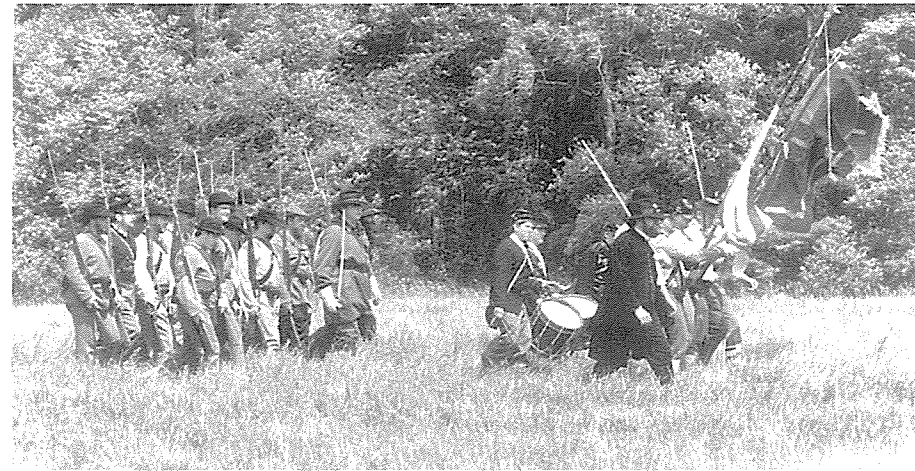
For 83 years one of these lifelines has been the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Chapter, IODE, known for many years as the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. The IODE Chapter, down through the years, has provided comforts and support for the Regiment, in peace and war, through parties, teas, bazaars, games nights and operating a "used articles" outlet for 14 years. The Regiment has always been the focal point of the Chapter's endeavours.

Alas, a time comes when an organization such as the chapter must "call it a day" and so, it is with sincere regret that we announce the disbanding of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Chapter, IODE.

However, our service with the Regiment will continue with the Queen's Own Rifles Guild, another QOR tradition.

(Editor's Note: We would like to express appreciation, on behalf of the current members as well as all those who have gone before and who have benefitted from the Chapter's help and care, for a job well done. We hope to carry a report from the ladies of the Queen's Own Rifles Guild in next year's Rifleman. Once In The Queen's Own — Always In The Queen's Own!)

THE BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY



The Second Battle of Ridgeway was fought in June, 1991, on the 125th anniversary of the Fenian Invasion of 1866. Members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Pioneers and Skirmishers bivouacked under canvas for two nights, eating 19th-century style military meals, before joining forces with other units to re-enact the first battle in which the Regiment suffered dead and wounded. It was very realistically done and extremely well-received by large crowds of spectators. At the conclusion, the Queen's Own participants offered three cheers to their "enemies."

PHOTOS BY LT. SANDY BANERJEE, QOR OF C.