



## The Queen's Own Rifles are back!

QORof C VE Veterans, Association Members and Friends  
in front of the Castle (the "Kaiser's Palace") in Doorn,  
Holland, May 2 1995

**Pictured above we have:**

- 1st Step: Norm Mannard, Frank Sypulski, Charlie Martin, Jack Martin, Jim Wilkins, Dick Ayton, Merv O'Shell
- 2nd Step: (far right) Elmer Allard and Leslie Cox
- 3rd Step: George Pike, Gene Bell, Dave Kingston, Bill Ross, Bill Lewin
- 4th Step: Unknown, Syd Byatt, Bob Nicol, Art Gay, a British Vet (from the Polar Bear Div.)
- 5th Step: Frank Pearce, Brian Budden, John McKee, Jack Hadley, Paul Niedenzu, Doug Hester

(Photo courtesy of CWO Brian Budden, QOR of C Association)



December 1995

# The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada







At the end of the 50th year following the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the Pacific, we should remember with gratitude the sacrifices made by those members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who helped to secure the peace.

Those who are presently serving the Regiment and their country have inherited a fine tradition from their predecessors. Together, and in today's uncertain world, we must continue to live up to this tradition and be prepared for any eventuality which might threaten our hard-won peace:

"In Pace Paratus"

*Alexandra*



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to offer my warmest regards to all the Queen's Own Rifles on the occasion of their return to Anisy, France.

The Allied invasion of France on June 6, 1944 marked the beginning of the end of World War Two. From that point on, the liberation of France and the ultimate Allied triumph in Europe were certain. Accordingly, "D-Day" is one of the great historical watershed events of this century.

As their part of the epic struggle that took place along the beaches of Normandy that day, the Queen's Own Rifles was charged with taking and holding Anisy, which they did with great valour and at great cost.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to express the heartfelt thanks of a grateful nation for the courage of the gallant men who fell at Anisy. The plaque being erected here today by their surviving comrades renews the precious bond between the many Canadians who gave their all on "D-Day" in defence of freedom, and we who are alive today to enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice.

They will not be forgotten.

ANISY, FRANCE  
June 6, 1994

J'ai le plaisir de saluer chaleureusement les membres du régiment *Queen's Own Rifle* à l'occasion de leur retour à Anisy.

Le débarquement allié en France, le 6 juin 1944, a marqué le début de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Dès lors, la libération de la France et la victoire ultime des Alliés en Europe ne faisaient plus de doute. Le « Jour J » constitue donc l'un des points tournants de l'histoire du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Le régiment du *Queen's Own Rifles* avait été chargé, dans le cadre de la lutte épiquée qui s'est livrée cette journée-là sur les plages de Normandie, de s'emparer d'Anisy et de s'y maintenir, ce qu'il a fait au prix de lourdes pertes et en faisant preuve d'un courage indomptable.

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je tiens à souligner la bravoure de ces hommes qui sont tombés à Anisy et à leur exprimer toute la gratitude de notre pays. La plaque qui est dévoilée aujourd'hui par leurs camarades renoue le lien précieux qui existe entre les nombreux Canadiens qui, le « Jour J », ont donné leur vie au nom de la liberté et nous tous qui sommes encore là aujourd'hui pour goûter le fruit de leur sacrifice.

Nous garderons à jamais leur souvenir.

ANISY, FRANCE  
Le 6 juin 1994

*Jean Chrétien*



## The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

A proud tradition based on over 135 years of loyal service to Queen and Country  
In Pace Paratus



### The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Fifty years ago, Canada was a nation of less than twelve million people, emerging from the ravages of the Great Depression, and unprepared to go to war. But when the call came, more than one million men and women from every town and hamlet in Canada responded, with more than 47,000 giving their lives. These quiet heroes brought honour and respect to their country by defending the values that Canadians have always treasured — peace, freedom and democracy.

In this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the City of Toronto pays homage to the courage and sacrifices of a generation of Canadians who contributed to the cause of freedom during the Second World War. We must never forget these citizen-soldiers who, in defending their country, contributed so much to the development of Canada as a nation thereafter — a country that is free, at peace, and a major contributor on the world stage. For this, we will remain eternally grateful.

In 1945, the City of Toronto was represented by 21 different regiments that had fought in the war. Today, eleven of these regiments remain active in Toronto. In recognition of this historical association with the City of Toronto, on this 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II, we salute, and thank, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for its role in bringing about peace to Europe and Asia, and for ensuring that Canada remain a free country.



*Barbara Hall*

Mayor  
November 11th, 1995

DURING THE PAST MONTHS, THE FOLLOWING

MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES PASSED AWAY

## "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

ANGUS, Ronald William  
ARMSTRONG, William M.  
ATHERLEY, Harold  
BARTLETT, Wm. G. (Bill)  
BENSON, Chuck  
BRADSHAW, Charles, N.  
BROWN, Gordon, J.  
CAMPBELL, William J.  
CLERMONT, Felix  
CLUTE, Douglas A.  
CORSON, Rolph, R.  
CREAN, John J.  
DOUGHTY, Oliver  
DOUGLAS, Robert (Bob)  
ECCLES, William  
ENNEST, Jack R.  
EVANS, Kenneth R.  
FOX, Roy Herbert  
FRASER, John F.  
FREE, Gordon W.  
GIBSON, James W.  
GILEO, Charles M.  
GLOUSHER, William A.  
GORDON, James Neil  
HALES, Ron  
HARRIS, Ronald Allen  
HERON, David  
JACKSON, Donald H.  
KIPPAX, John W.  
KISSOCK, Arnold J.  
LAROUCHE, Rene A.  
LEICH, Harry K.  
LEVINE, Sol

LEWIS, Reginald F.(Reg)  
MARTIN, William L.  
MCDOWELL, J.P.  
MCLARDY, Joseph, B.  
MERRITT, Herbert, Roscoe  
MISSONS, John  
MORTON, Horace G.  
NEWBY, Jack  
NICOL, Robert, (Bob)  
O'NEILL, John P.  
OSWALD, Eldon  
PALMER, W. (Bill) Langton  
PESKETT, William  
PHILLIPS, Ross  
ROBINSON, Fred  
ROGERS, George A.T.  
SCHUSTER, Paul  
SELBY, Norman H.  
SHELL, Peter B.  
SIEVERT, Fred E.  
SMITH, Gordon R.  
SMITH, Gordon W.  
SMITH, William N.  
SNIDER, Orville  
TURNER, Gordon  
WALDRON, John  
WALLACE, Allan M.  
WELLS, Wilford G.  
WEMIGWANS, Isadore  
WESTHEAD, James F.  
WILLIAMS, Frederick Gordon  
WINDRUM, Albert

# In Memoriam

## Col H. Elliot Dalton, DSO, EM, CD

Colonel H. Elliot (Ellie) Dalton, DSO, EM, CD, 78 one of two brothers commanding companies of The Queen's Own Rifles on D-Day, died in January, 1994. As major, Ellie led "A" Coy and his brother, Maj Charles O. (Charlie) Dalton (later Col Dalton, DSO, ED, CD) led "B" Coy. Both were wounded and each was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for their actions under fire. By VE Day in May, 1945, Ellie was acting CO of the Regiment, became its commanding Officer in 1951-'52 and served as Honorary Colonel from 1975 to 1984. Born in Toronto, Ellie was a member of The Queen's Own since 1928 and Marie Dalton recalls that "my husband always said that he had a wonderful life. Having survived the assault on Normandy and other battles, he felt that everything else was a gift." Col Dalton is survived by his wife, sons Mark and Brett, daughter Beverly, brother Charlie, sisters Marjorie and Constance and seven grandchildren.



## Col John F. Lake, CD, QC

Colonel John F. (Jack) Lake, CD, QC 75, former Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles, died in November, 1993. A member of the Regiment since 1941, Col Lake went overseas as a lieutenant with the 1st BN QOR. On D-Day he landed in Normandy as Flank Liaison Officer to the British 50th DIV, eventually rejoined the QOR and was severely wounded in the fighting at Quesney Woods in August, 1944. After hospitalization he was appointed Staff Captain in the Adjutant General's Branch at Canadian Mil HQ in London, England, where he served from February to December, 1945. He was discharged in February, 1946 and spent the remainder of the year in further recuperation from his war wounds.



## LCol Percy R. Hampton, ED, CD

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy R. Hampton, ED, CD, who was Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own from 1937-1939 and was a veteran of two world wars, died in July, 1993, aged 96. Early in World War I he took flying lessons at an airdrome in Leaside, before going to Britain and enlisting in the Royal Flying Corps. He flew numerous missions in France and, shortly after his 21st birthday in May, 1918, was shot down in flames behind enemy lines. Despite a Toronto newspaper headline which identified him as "Missing--believed killed," he was pulled from the wreckage alive, hospitalized and then imprisoned for the remainder of the war. When war was declared in 1939, he immediately volunteered for the service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, eventually attaining the rank of Group Captain. He was posted to Regina and Calgary as a senior officer in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In 1944 he went to Fort McLeod, Alberta, as CO of the Service Flying Training School there, returning to Toronto just prior to the war's end. He is survived by his wife Lois.



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## Editor's Report

by Capt Raziel Zisman, IO

Three guys with strange haircuts. Canadians, eh! This photo was the first time I had come across Freddie Harris. The haircut and mischievous grin certainly caught my attention. That's Freddie on the left, with Gerry Rayner in the middle and George Gemel on the right. As I later interviewed several veterans, I discovered more about him and came to realize how he represents all the best there is in our Regiment. Small in stature but large in spirit, 'Guts' Harris joined the QOR of C as a Rifleman and in due course became a Sergeant. Clearly capable and a natural leader, he was offered a commission but turned it down. On D-Day, Sergeant Frederick B. Harris from Baker Coy, QOR of C, was first out of his LCA. He never made it to the shore, enemy machine gun fire hit him straight on. He was 23 years old. Lieutenant Gerald D. Rayner was KIA in Colombelles on July 18, 1944. George Gemel, fighting in another unit, lost a leg in Italy. Some haircuts, some guts!



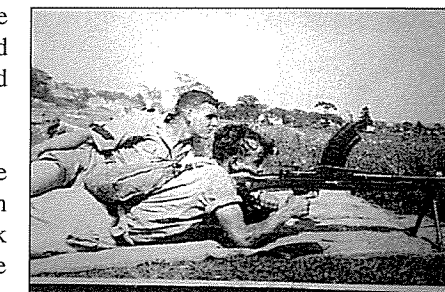
best of their abilities. In the lower photo, taken in the early 1940s, while Freddie Harris fires a Bren gun, his friend Sgt Danson observes. A few months after D-Day, Lt Barnett J. Danson would lose an eye, and almost his life, to shrapnel near Damblainville, France. He did make it back to Canada to be part of the generation that made Canada the prosperous and modern country it is today. And, in due course, among his many other accomplishments, LCol Barney Danson also became the Minister of National Defence. Freddie Harris would have smiled about that!

The point is that Canadians who serve their country in the Militia, also serve it well as civilians. Let the powers that be, who now contemplate what to do with us, reflect deeply about Freddie Harris and Barney Danson and the many thousands of others who have served and continue to serve Canada so well.

We know that they were the finest among Canadians and superb soldiers too. They were Militiamen; civilians who were there when the country needed them. We continue this loyal 136-year tradition of service to Canada. We know that being a member of the Militia can be fun but, at heart, it is serious business.

Today, we can say that in many regards, history is repeating itself. Our training resources are limited but we manage to make the most of it. Fifty six years ago, as WW2 started, training resources were very limited indeed. But train they did and in due course, and at great cost, it led to VE, Victory in Europe.

While Freddie stayed behind forever, he is buried at the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, those who made it back continued to serve their country to the



In this issue of The Rifleman we cover a lot of ground. BGen D.A.Pryer, CD, our Honorary Colonel, updates us about what is happening in Ottawa with regards to the future of the Militia. The CO, LCol A.R.Welsh, CD, outlines our priorities. Reports by Sub-unit Commanders are augmented by some excellent accounts of field exercises and we also have some feed-back on UN duty in Bosnia. The Associations and Affiliated Units have also submitted detailed reports as did the Regimental Padre.

The VE+50 celebrations in Europe are covered in detail by Cpl Orville Cook who was there then, and has returned to graciously report it all for us. And LCol Mulrooney has given us a very moving contribution on D-Day and its aftermath. The outline of the activities of the Band & Bugles over the past year provides once again ample evidence of the vital role they play (indeed!) in Regimental life. Sadly, we also carry far too many obituaries of loyal friends.

This VE+50 issue is dedicated to all our Veterans. I am grateful to the many who have given me their valuable comments and pictorial material. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the contributors to this issue as well as LCol S.D. Brand, CD, and Capt Chick McGregor and Capt John Fotheringham, the Associate Editors, for their invaluable assistance. I am also grateful to BGen S.F. Andrunyk, OMM,CD, LCol R.A. Campbell, CD, and Sgt Art Gay for their generous help. Further, I would like to thank LCol Brand for the opportunity to undertake QOR historical research prior to and during the D+50 trip (his brainchild, an ambitious and risky project successfully executed!) and for his unwavering support and encouragement during his tenure.

In Pace Paratus.

Photos courtesy of QOR museum, LCol B.J. Danson and the Editor respectively



## Honorary Colonel's Report

BGen D.A. Pryer, CD

In recent years the Regiment has not only overcome many difficult obstacles, but one can proudly say, thrived in accomplishing, with distinction, both regular training as well as a number of extracurricular activities, most particularly those relating to the D+50 and VE+50 celebrations. It was an exciting period and, on behalf of all members of the Regimental Family, I would like to thank LCol Brand for bringing us thus far during his tenure.

And we already see indications that our trust in our newly appointed Commanding Officer, LCol Welsh, in his abilities and experience, is well founded.

As you know, the future of the Reserves and even perhaps of our own Regiment, is in the balance. As you read these lines, the Federal Government is deliberating what to do with the Reserves. The Special Commission on the Restructuring of the Reserves (SCRR) which was appointed by the Minister of National Defence in April 1995 completed its report on October 30th. Its report has been submitted to the Minister and referred to SCONDVA (The Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs) comprising 12 MPs. It was to make recommendations to the Government by Dec 15th, 1995 and the Government would decide which route to take by Jan 15, 1996 with implementation to start by Apr 1, 1996.

The members of the SCRR worked hard and were exposed to a substantial amount of information. Many of their recommendations make sense: Reduction in the number of HQs; the use of reserves as the basis for Mobilization; the need for a Mobilization Plan; retaining the Reserves as a link to the community. However, we do not agree with the proposed number of reservists (only 14,500 Militia proposed vs. the 22,500

needed as a minimum); nor do we agree with the Commission's recommended 7 Militia Brigades with 9 to 11 units per Brigade, which would mean about 73 Militia Units would disappear through elimination or amalgamation (a 50% reduction). In fairness to the Commission, they were faced with the problems of "Partial Organizational Analysis" or in their words "at times we felt that we were studying only one slice of a much larger and costlier apple".



Canada is one of the few Western Countries whose Regular Force outnumbers its Reserve Force; The Militia extensively contributes to regular units serving in peacekeeping operations and has done so for many years. In the former Yugoslavia its contribution exceeds 20%. And not only as land forces (Naval and Air Reserves have served in Haiti, Cambodia, and the Adriatic). The Militia is cost effective. The total pay budget for the reserves was \$222 million or 5.6% of the total pay budget for the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Reserves play a much larger role in the community, a role that is vitally important for both the Armed Forces at large and for Canada's humanitarian foreign policy. By participating in the life of communities across Canada, the Reserves are a clear reminder to them that we have responsibilities beyond parochial self interest. The Reserves also provide a forum for the nurturing of citizenship. They teach our youth discipline and co-operation and a concept of service to their country.

What can you do about this debate? Make your voice heard, talk to your friends, participate in the community and write to your Member of Parliament, let him know what the Reserves mean to you! Let them know that you mean every word when you say:

In Pace Paratus

ready for the attack. The QORs were mounted on the back) All the men are mounted on the back of all the tanks. We'd never done this before. Oh, I guess we had ridden on a tank, but we'd never practised an attack on a tank. When we started to come under fire at that point everybody just naturally got off a tank.(It was) rifle fire and machine gun. And I got off and they had one of those gadgets where you were supposed to be able to speak to the tank commander, you know, through the back...And I was yelling at him to "fire" and to sweep the area and.... and cut down whatever was killing them, and he just kept going...we were just left there. (The QORs were left in the middle of a grain field, the grain being 2 to 3 feet high)... Hadn't the foggiest idea what was going on. I don't think anything was hitting tanks. Rifle fire maybe but I mean nothing, there was nothing. Well, then I was hit in the face and then my brother-in-law, yes, came along. He was a senior platoon commander so I told him, you know, never mind, and he was trying to stop the bleeding in my face.I felt like somebody had hit me over the head with a baseball bat. Never mind, you're in command, now get going, you know, and that was the ending... except, a few minutes later I tried getting up and my friend who I guess shot me through the face, got me through the knee too. And I fell right then, I know that. But I was obviously still conscious because I talked to Fleming, and tried to get him to get organized and find the bloody enemy which was — you know, we had no idea what was going on, really it was just impossible, and then I remember standing up and getting hit again and then I think maybe I blacked out then for a while because after a while a tank came along which was by this time going out, and fortunately stopped and picked me up.

Anyway, I was only there a day or two and — yes, I went... The Commander of the reinforcement unit, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division Reinforcement Unit, that's right, wanted me to stay as an instructor because, you know, I'd had a basic African..... and so on. So I phoned a fellow named Jimmy Kirkwood who

was an ex-Orderly Room sergeant and had been moved to London and he was in the manning depot or something — and told him my problems and I said, there's a draft going out tonight but I couldn't get on, and he said, Well, don't pay any attention to that, you just go on the draft and I'll fix the paperwork. So I'm on the draft, went out the next morning, I just went along with it, and the draft — the Commander of the group, of these people, couldn't figure it out because he had one extra person. And so anyway, by the time we got to France and the paperwork had got straightened away, I was on the draft.

### The Conquest of Boulogne: Fort de la Crèche

... their CO called me up one night and said, You know, I want you to take that Fort de la Crèche in the morning, and I looked at him because I knew that the North Shore had attacked it with our company — or three tanks — and they'd been driven off and one of the tanks was still sitting right outside the Fort. So I said, Well, okay Jock, and I went and just started out of this O Group and Ben Dunkelman and Hamilton — Doug Hamilton — Doug Hamilton was the Bren gun, Bren platoon commander, and Ben was the mortar commander — and

Hamilton said, I was up, had a good look at that..., we can give you absolutely perfect cover in your fire as you move in, and Ben can drop the mortars for you. So in the morning we attacked. We had one man wounded, and they gave us this covering fire and out came the Germans with their white flags. That was, you know, real cooperation. The Fort de la Crèche was an underground, mostly underground installation — I don't know what it was for really. Full of Germans. About one hundred and fifty or something came out....

And I remember when we were attacking — I think it was Boulogne — where I was just walking across a field and a German prisoner went by and he was walking further down the field from me and just as he got opposite Bob Sawyer who was commanding D Company, that's right, he stepped on a mine and blew himself and Sawyer to smithereens.

From interviews with BGen Gordon in February, 1994  
(© 1994 Captain R. Zisman)

Lt Neil Gordon leads his QOR troops on 25 Sep 42 past Canadian VIP visitor, the Hon. W.P. Mulock, Canada's Postmaster General. Man with baton is the real VIP: Lieut-Gen H.D.G. Crerar! Man marching behind N. Gordon is probably CQMS Graham  
(Photo courtesy DND Historical Branch)





## BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES NEIL GORDON, DSO, CD

*With the peaceful death on 26 October, 1995, of BGen J. Neil Gordon, DSO, CD the ranks of those of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada who landed on D Day and fought through Northwest Europe are further thinned. An outstanding officer and gentleman, he first attained combat experience in North Africa and Italy while on loan to the 1st Battalion North Lancashire Regiment who were badly in need of reinforcements. Following his return to the Regiment in late 1943, BGen Gordon led D Company at Bernières sur Mer on 6 June, 1944 and in the attack a few days later on Le Mesnil Patry, where he received multiple wounds. He returned to lead C Company in Operation Wellhit, the action which resulted in the capture of the heavily-defended fortress of Boulogne in mid-September. In October, 1944 he was named DCO of the North Shore Regiment and later became its CO. During his career he also commanded the Upper Canada College Cadets, the Regiment and the 3rd BN QOR of C (1952-54), the 4th Brigade (Militia) and the 15th Militia Group. He also served as The Queen's Own Honorary Colonel. He is survived by his wife, Jean, five children and nine grandchildren.*



I joined up on September the 4th, 1939 — day after war was declared....I had been in the Upper Canada Cadets, which were affiliated with The Queen's Own, so I knew some of the people in The Queen's Own. I joined up as a rifleman.

### D-Day:

I had messages to read from the Army Commander I guess — no, from Montgomery, that was it, the first was from Montgomery to read to the troops and I think there were three of them altogether. I don't remember them now. Had to read them over the public address system and tell them that we were ready and we're going at so and so hour, and as you know, there was about a half hour delay and I personally wasn't sick but most of them — I would think half the

people in my craft were sick, but we were very fortunate because the naval chap who took command, who led us, got lost, and we landed about, I would think about three-quarters of a mile west at Bernières, remember where all the fighting was, remember, and where we landed there were about five old, old German soldiers who had gone and hidden in their pillboxes when we arrived, so I climbed the ladder and looked right into a machine gun, there was nobody there. So I went over and dropped grenades down the stovepipe - and they came out. No problem at all. There were some snipers (near the beach-head) we had to get rid off and so I took the Bren and went and got them — fortunate. As I remember he was just hidden in the woods. No, wait a minute, it was a little sort of shack house, yes, because it was on the way into the town, but we had practically no problems at all.

We eventually ended up at the south side of the town where we were supposed to be. In the meantime, I was supposed to have been assisting the two lead companies but by that time it was too late so I just went straight to the CO and he went, ..... — where the hell have you been, you know. And at just about that point, the Germans opened up (with an 88) and blew up three tanks that were sitting right beside, that were waiting to come in with us. So the CO sent somebody out and they dealt with that

gun and the group of Germans that were there. And then we set off and my company was leading because we were the biggest and strongest company, and we went right through to Anguerny with no — well, we had one casualty from a long-range mortar or shell of some kind, and we got to Anguerny and there was no problem.

So we were sent off to Anisy which was about two miles south again from the battalion and to stay in the hold for the night, which we did. We were on a high ground overlooking the crossroads and these — and the company was located in that high ground area. During the night a German vehicle of some kind with men in, came and stopped. I was asleep. Anyway, the fellows on guard duty did nothing. They just kept quiet, and after a while this guy went away. So when I woke up I gave them hell because there was about a five foot ten.... drop onto the road. All they had to do is throw two grenades over and eliminated them. They were all pretty green, they were scared I guess, just keep quiet.

### Le Mesnil-Patry:

(Ed Note: On the morning of June 11th, D Company was told that they were going to go for showers and rest. Events changed all that. Orders came from up above: prepare for an attack.)

I'd say we got two hours warning, so it would have been about 11:30, that we would go at 1:30 and there was just no way that was possible. It was still a bloody mess and we went at 3:30 with the resulting catastrophe. But before we started off Colonel Sprague came up to me and said "Now take it easy, don't rush into this thing, maybe we can get it postponed". Both COs were trying to get it postponed, but Jock was — it wasn't his baby, I mean, the tank commander was in command and we were just under his command and Jock couldn't do anything, but he knew bloody well the mess we could get into. (There were about 50 tanks spread out

## Commanding Officer's Report

LCol A.R. Welsh, CD

Have you ever got the feeling that you have missed an important meeting? Specifically, a meeting at which your future was discussed? I certainly had that feeling in July of this year when I found that I had been chosen as the next CO of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and that the change was to occur two months hence. I will never miss a meeting again!

Luckily, I was to take over from LCol Steve Brand. Over the past years LCol Brand had done a magnificent job keeping the Battalion focused, trained, motivated and administered. In short, I have taken over the best reserve unit in the country and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve for that. None the less, I have found the past three months ... "interesting", as you will see from the articles in the remainder of this magazine.

As you are all aware, 1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The unit was involved in several events to mark this occasion and I have had the pleasure of recently being involved in one such event. On November 11th of this year, the unit participated in a Toronto Garrison Remembrance Day parade held at the cenotaph located in front of Toronto's Old City Hall. Despite the atrocious weather, the ceremony was well attended and all of the parade participants were well received.

In the past year, the Battalion has done very well in all of the requisite inspections, competitions and mandatory training goals. In May of this year, we faced off with the other "Queen's" regiment in the Toronto garrison (The Queen's York Rangers (1st Americans)) in our annual sports competition, the Queen's Cup Challenge. The result, though not easy, was inevitable. This year's competition marked our 7th victory in 8 years. As usual, the competition evening was one of the best attended by the unit and was thoroughly enjoyed by both units. A

special mention should be made of the contribution made by Captain Kevin Sheedy in his organization and running of this event.



During our annual Combat Readiness Standard training, the unit achieved an overall 89% completion rate. This stood us tied for second in the District. Due to the high individual fitness level of our soldiers, we also achieved the highest number of Gold medals awarded in the garrison. Well done to all involved. It is assumed that we will achieve the same results in this year's instalment of the testing.

During our Annual Technical Inspection this year, the unit received its highest rating ever by placing second in the garrison. A special thank you is extended to all of the full-time staff for their efforts in this area and to the troops of Victoria Company. Many long hours were put into the preparation for this inspection and they did indeed pay off.

The final competition which deserves recognition from last year is the LFCA Infantry Competition. This year, under the leadership of Captain John Fotheringham, our unit was assessed at the platoon and company level in the advance and hasty attack. Although the unit finished in 6th place out of the 20 units in the Province, it should be kept in mind that 3 of the 5 units which placed in front of us were well augmented by Regular army personnel in several leadership positions. Mention must be made of the rating of two of our

leaders in this group. Both platoon commander Lieutenant Adam Harnes and platoon second in command WO Phil ten Kortenaar were rated as being "Very Effective" during the competition and they should be proud of this achievement.

A quick word now about some significant people in the Regiment. Last year one member of the Battalion, Corporal (General) Winston Hewlin, received the Toronto District Commander's Commendation. This award was given to recognise Cpl Hewlin's outstanding support for all unit activities in the preceding year. Recognition must also be given to Sergeant Frank Andrews, our last Unit Administrative Assistant and Chief Clerk. Sgt Andrews was finally posted out after 5 years. Although he has been ably replaced by Sergeant Nancy Boone, he will be missed for his enthusiastic support and effervescent sense of humour.

This past year will be noted in history for two very significant events. The first of these was the disbandment of the premier fighting force in the country, the Canadian Airborne Regiment. The loss of this unit has been felt by all members of this unit. From a personal point of view, I would like to extend my praise and support all past members of this most elite organization. Most of my most treasured experiences with the army have been gained while on attachment with the Airborne. All through my career, I have used the officers and men of this unit as my personal bench-mark of success in fitness, attitude and training excellence. It is a shame that Canadian Forces no longer has a unit like the Canadian Airborne Regiment to hold up as a statement of excellence.

The Airborne Regiment has now been broken into three independent parachute companies. We continue our affiliation with one such company, The Royal Canadian Regiment Parachute Company stationed at CFB Petawawa. This unit has been through a tremendous upheaval this past year but



has managed to provide The Queen's Own with some outstanding training support. I am looking forward to working with the Officer Commanding this company, Major Tony Balasevicius, over the next few years as we attempt to keep the Airborne feeling alive in Ontario.

The other significant event this year has been the formation and reporting of a special Federal commission which was tasked to investigate the state of the Reserve forces in Canada and to make recommendations as to the future of these organizations. This Commission released its report in November of this year and made some key recommendations that will have a significant impact in the near future. More information will be passed on about the future of The Queen's Own as it is available. Suffice it to say that we are in for some radical changes in 1996 and I am sure that we will weather this storm well.

Now, on to the immediate future. This year has become somewhat of a "Year of the Regiment". We have undertaken several projects which are designed to enhance the life of the soldiers in the unit and to strengthen some of our history and traditions.

First off the mark was the renovation of the Junior Ranks Mess. This mess has a particularly enthusiastic committee this year. It is ably commanded by the President of the Mess Committee, Corporal Ted Howard. Starting in October of this year, the committee approached the curator of the Regimental Museum, Captain Peter Simundson, and asked that they be lent several Regimental artifacts that would be used to add a Rifles touch to our shared accommodation mess facility. This support was enthusiastically provided and, with a lot of hard work and a good dose of the volunteer spirit, the mess is now starting to become a nice place to be. My congratulations to the entire committee. Keep it up.

The Officer's Mess has also started a modest upgrading program of its own. I

am happy to announce that, for the first time in several years, most of the serving officers now have most of the Regimental kit that they require to conduct business. Due to the donations of our past-serving officers, all officers are now sporting a cross belt and most are well on their way to completing all of their other uniforms. We have managed to raise about \$800.00 which has been placed in a Uniform fund. This fund will be used to purchase new uniforms for our junior officers which they will repay over time. I would like to thank all of you who have donated uniforms to the unit and I would like to remind all that charitable donation tax receipts are available from the Regimental Trust Fund for some of these items. I would like to thank the Mess PMC, Captain Chick McGregor, Major Erik Simundson and Captain Peter Simundson for their on-going efforts in making all of this happen. The mess will also be constructing a secure sword case in the near future. This case will be designed to allow for swords donated to the Regiment to remain in the mess when not in use and will ensure that these items are available to the officers of the unit for many years to come.

The Regiment has recently re-activated our stock of Ceremonial uniforms for the troops. These uniforms have been stored in the basement for some time but have recently been dusted off and prepared for issue by our newest Regimental Volunteer, Corporal French. The uniform made its first appearance in many years during our recent Garrison Church Parade and caused us to be (in my mind) the best dressed contingent on the street. A program is now underway to revamp the entire stock of uniforms with a view to having the entire Battalion properly dressed in time for the Regimental Birthday in 1996. This will be an event which should not be missed as it will showcase the Battalion demonstrating its drill prowess in the form of a double-past for the first time in some years.

Another direction the Regiment has travelled in this year has been the formation of three Regimental teams. In

particular, the unit has sponsored the raising of a Hockey team, a Running Team and a Climbing club. Each of these groups are made up of serving riflemen who have good attendance and who demonstrate an interest in these activities. Most of these teams are in a formation stage as this article is being written so there is not much to report at this point. Stay posted.

Not to be left out, the Regimental Band has undertaken the release of a compact disc of a variety of martial tunes this year and sales appear to be going well. At the same time, the Band has started a program that will see them both re-kit themselves and gradually increase in size over the next 3 years. As usual, the Band's leadership, Sergeant Rita Arendz and Warrant Officer Fred Haire, has risen to the challenges of a year ago. Although this organization has been relegated to "Volunteer" status, we are determined to maintain our position as a driving force in the military musical world of Toronto and as the country's best Rifle band.

The last event which we will be undertaking this year is that of an exchange with two of our official Allied Regiments, the 4th Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets and the 5th Battalion of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, and with our unofficial ally from the UK, the 10th Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. During Exercise Trillium Phoenix this summer, we have invited 10 soldiers from each of these organizations to work with us in Petawawa this summer. In exchange, we plan to send over a detachment to each of these units for their annual camps in Wales. We look forward to this opportunity to renew some old acquaintances and to forge some tremendous war stories. The Battalion will commence a fundraising program in February of next year to cover the travel costs for our soldiers. You will all be kept up to date on these activities.

In all, I look forward to the challenges of the next year. We have a good unit filled with solid individuals. I'm just glad that I can be a part of it.

In Pace Paratus

back by shooting coming from the house which was directly across from where they were. Then when the other people that were there saw what was happening they started shooting at her. But she backed away from the windows and she didn't get hit. So there was myself and four or five of us and we start in, I went into the kitchen and there was an old woman there and she was boiling something on the stove and she pointed upstairs. So two or three other guys they start up the stairs and they fired a few rounds to whoever was there, would know that we meant business. So they took this person prisoner and it turned out to be a woman and she was a wife of an officer that had been in charge around there. So we took her prisoner and I never saw her again after that. I think she was French and she had a rifle. She was a young girl and she didn't seem to be afraid of anything. She seemed to know enough that we wouldn't shoot her. Because being Canadians we were brought up a little differently than they were and she seemed to know that we wouldn't shoot at her unless she started to shoot again. But she'd dropped her weapon and the guys just took her prisoner and I never saw or heard what happened. We'd taken her prisoner and then I noticed that they were both dead and she had a grin across her face about a mile wide and she very nearly died right there. But they took her prisoner, put her in a jeep and drove her back to battalion headquarters. By this time the



From interviews with John Missons in March, 1994  
(© 1994 Captain R. Zisman)

rest of the Regiment was beginning to come in and we turned her over to the MPs...And then we moved off to go through in behind the house and we moved off into the area of just past the cemetery and up through the ground... Then we started moving inland and we were told, the guys that were with us were saying, well this guy got hit, that guy got hit, and somebody else was dead.

#### Carpiquet:

... we walked through Carpiquet and we weren't anywhere near the airport until we'd gone through the town and then come around to the top end and we dug in and there was a road behind us that the carrier platoon were going to use. And down below us was a deep low part of the ground where it was part of the river and the carrier platoon came over the top of the hill and there was an 88 down at the bottom and out of six carriers he knocked out the guys on five of them. They couldn't get turned around fast enough to get out of the way of this 88 which was only a quarter of a mile away.... And they had a house that was part of the administration building of the airport.... it was locked and we had a man from A Company that was hammering on the door, trying to force open the door and his sergeant was standing directly behind him, and the gun went off and killed his sergeant. He turned around and was going to speak to him but he was already dead. And of

course that broke him up. And I can understand it if you've got a half decent sergeant and he never knew what hit him. But he was waiting for the guy to open the door with the butt end of his rifle.

## In Memoriam

### LANCE CORPORAL BOB NICOL 1924-1995.

Bob was born in Scotland, moving with his parents to Verdun, Quebec, at the age of 3. He enlisted in 1943, arriving in B Coy on May 4th, 1944. He was the only survivor of "One" Section, on D Day. Bob was wounded on July 18th, 1944 and hospitalized for several months. His was married in 1948 to his first wife who died in 1976. They were parents of two boys, George, and Robert Jr. He married Marjorie, in 1979, she has a son Drew. There are four grandchildren. Bob Nicol died in Rotterdam on May 4th, 1995, exactly 51 years after joining the Queen's Own. He was on the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland. We, who knew Bob, join with his family in mourning a good Rifleman.

### Rfm A.L. (GUS) GOUTOUSKI

After being refused for military service on medical grounds, four times, Gus, in his determined way managed to wangle his way into the RCOC, thence transferring to the RCEME and the RCMAC, where he was injured and was about to be discharged but for meeting the Dalton brothers who persuaded him to transfer to the QOR of C with which he served as a stretcher bearer until the cessation of hostilities.

Always involved in his community, Gus went on to be the founding chairman of most keynote charities in the town of Milton, but the majority of his time and effort went to his comrades. Gus was president of QOR of C branch 344, The Royal Canadian Legion for a number of years during which he organized the 40th anniversary of D Day ceremonies in France, campaigned for Veterans rights and helped many veterans in their personal plight. Gus was also Poppy Chairman at Pte Joe Walters Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion in Milton. For those who knew Gus, knew of his love of Canada, pride of his Regiment and most of all his ability to get the impossible done, without much fuss.

Gus passed away on June 6th 1994 - the 50th Anniversary of D Day - a fitting tribute to a veteran who always cared for his fellow man and went out of his way to help others.



## SERGEANT JOHN M. MISSONS 1921-1995

Johnny joined the 12th Platoon of "B" Coy of the Queen's Own in Newfoundland in 1940, shortly after his August birthday. He served with distinction, landing with his Company on "D" Day, was wounded later in N.W. Europe. John died September 19th, this year. He is mourned by his wife of 46 years, Alice. His sons John, and Roy, and daughter Karen. He had seven Grandchildren. Johnny served Veterans causes well. He was Past President Branch 344, Past Zone Commander Zone "D" 3, and served as Deputy Poppy Chairman, District "D". John Missons was a Life Member of the Legion, Recipient of the Legion Meritorious Service Medal. At the time of his death, he was Branch Poppy Chairman, an office he had held for several years. His friends also mourn.

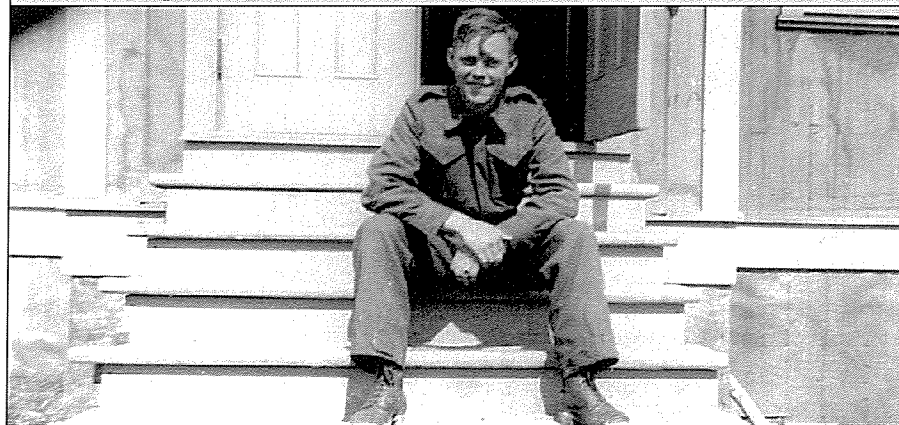
But at that time I was still not quite 18 and so I was with the Army Service Corps at that time and I was short and the Sergeant sent me to pick up a truck and I couldn't see over the hood of it. And he said to me, "well you'd better join another unit." So I walked right across the parade square and joined The Queen's Own...

### D-Day:

They awakened us and they told us it would pretty soon be time to start getting ourselves in order and we took only that stuff that we would be using in the fighting. Our personal clothes that we'd had for awhile they were set to one side.

But at that time I was still not quite 18 ... a young John Missons, below, probably in Newfoundland circa 1940, and right, as a young-at-heart, decorated veteran, here seen with Mrs. Alice Missons, enjoying the warmth of the Dutch people in Holten, May 1995, during the VE + 50 trip to Holland

(Photos courtesy: J. Missons & LCol S.D. Brand)



And as a matter of fact I think if I remember correctly they were left at the camp. And then we took our weapons and made sure that they were all in working order and the hand grenades that we were given. When we were in training they had a seven second fuse on them, so that you'd throw them and seven seconds it would go off. But when we got these grenades that they gave us on board the boat, they were three second fuses. We were making sure our weapons were loaded and the grenades were all all right and we got them... carried them... because we carried them on our buckles right here. And just prior to that, I guess we were just three or four miles out and the water was so rough that the breakfast I had eaten I fed to the fish. And I'm leaning over the side and I could see flashes and all this kind of stuff but nothing came anywhere near us. But I was sick, oh boy was I sick! ... then we boarded the LCAs and proceeded to the beaches ... Well we could see this pillbox that was there. Then they started shooting. Oh, we were maybe four or 500 yards. And then they started their shooting and there wasn't too much we could do at the time because of the door that came up at the front was quite long in comparison with the rest of the boat. And we stayed down behind that. I was on the left hand side and I was third man from the end, from the back of the boat I was the third man and Frank was about two men ahead of me, Frank Laronde, this is the guy that

got this lung knocked out. We had a young sergeant that was with us and he was in control of the boat... We struck this underground mine that was fixed to a pole or it had spread, pieces of it spread around so that you really didn't detect what it was until it was too late. And we struck this thing and it killed him, killed him instantly and he was very badly damaged, his body was. He just went over the end and the boat went over the top of him but it didn't... no parts of the moving boat were moving, like the motor or propellers, didn't hit him, they didn't touch. He started to drift away. The front of the boat was blown open and the ramp came down. And we were close enough that we... some of us were standing in water and others had already started heading for the wall. Because the wall was, oh I don't know now, it's maybe 100 yards away, it wasn't that far. When we started in guys began to get hit and A Company was on our right and they looked after a pill box that was on that side and they looked after the pill box that was right in front of us. Not in front of me but in front of our Company. He was about 75 feet over, away from the front of my boat was off to my right. The big house on the beach was right in front of me... we were in fighting quite a bit in the first few hours and then we started inland ... casualties were very, very heavy. I saw one man that had been, he had phosphorous bombs in his pouches and one of the bullets had hit this phosphorous bomb and of course it went off... one of the things that scared hell out of me, when I crossed the wall and got up and started moving forward, I hear this god awful noise behind me and somebody said, "Oh, it's just a tank." So I turned around to look at it and it was a tank with flails on it and it used to beat the ground and beat up the mines. I don't recall seeing one (before) and this thing was coming down and beating the ground and it was knocking out quite a few mines. ... We heard that a couple of our men that were in these pillboxes had been hit in the

## Regimental Sergeant Major's Report

by CWO A.L. Sarossy, CD

Captain William Bligh is a man who has been falsely and maliciously maligned. I am not endeavouring to use him as a role model and return to the days of press gangs and the cat'o'nine tails, though that may be an answer to recruiting and retention. I am using him as an example of what he truly was, namely, an outstanding and fiercely loyal soldier regardless of the element in which he served.

In the 1790s, Britain was battling the Dutch in the North Sea. Nelson, of Trafalgar fame, commanded a squadron of ships who were ordered to sail into a Dutch port to destroy the harbour defense. The engagement was going to involve some tricky sailing and a great deal of tenacity. As Nelson proceeded with his mission, the smoke from the cannon obscured the battle. The Admiralty, waiting off shore, feared for the worst and sent a signal telling him to disengage and return to the fleet. That signal never reached Nelson. One of the ships under Nelson was Captained by William Bligh of Bounty fame. Bligh had a better view of the battle and

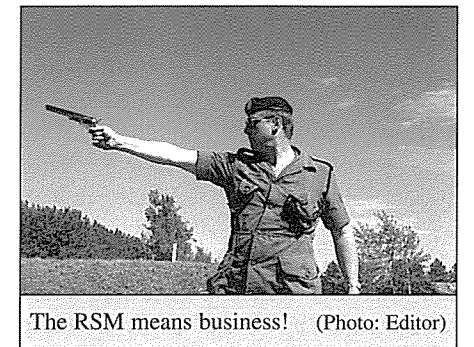
though it cannot be proven beyond the shadow of a doubt, it is widely believed that he deliberately ignored the signal and supported Nelson to press home the attack. It was a victory for Nelson, the beginning of many.

There are many points to be learned from this story. One, is that even if the ultimate objective is obscure or uncertain, we must still press on so long we have a mission to follow. Another is that William Bligh had an extremely unkind reputation given him by Hollywood. The truth may not be as obvious or as clear as others may present it. However, I feel the best message here is the use of initiative. Bligh used his skill and training to assess a situation and at great risk to himself supported the mission or objective to victory. I believe that this is the expectation from us in the realm of initiative. Not to simply disagree with the plan and pursue a separate path, but to use one's skill and training to make a plan work.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate those who attended summer concentration. For those who missed the heat, the rather unusual

tactical situations and the fighting patrol a-la-mass stumble in the dark, you will be all pleased to know that everyone is invited to CAC 96.

I have noted some apprehension of late regarding recent changes, press coverage, etc. Let us all remember that the Militia does not train for fun, we train for War. That does not mean we cannot expect training to be enjoyable and challenging. Part of the challenging aspect is maximum turnout. Sorry to toss in the attendance pitch as I realize the keenest of our Regiment parade for all or most of the scheduled parades. But these times call for all to attend all scheduled parades.



The RSM means business! (Photo: Editor)

## Gurkha Company

by Major E.R. Simundson, CD  
OC Gurkha Coy

This September a new sub-unit was created using the name of our newest allied formation. Previously, the honour of the title "Gurkha Coy" had been used proudly by the Pioneers and Skirmishers. Gurkha Coy is now tasked with the actual organisation of all courses run by the QOR, the posting of candidates and instructors to and from district run courses, the recruiting of all new Riflemen, the operations and training of the Pioneers and Skirmishers, the control of Ceremonial uniforms and, with any luck, many more facets of Unit life. While this sounds terribly complex and suggests a large organisation with a huge turnout, in fact the Coy is much like tourist spot with a lot of people passing through and only a few

permanent residents. Helping out, on permanent staff, are Capt Peter Lomasney as 2ic, MWO Bamlett as CSM and Sgt Thorn as Recruiting NCO. On any given parade you will only see two or three of even these stalwarts. Nevertheless that is exactly what is intended and at the time of the writing of this article the Coy is actually responsible for close to 120 candidates and instructors and the planning for 60 more.

The Coy is now monitoring a QL2 course with 19 recruits, recruiting 41 new Riflemen, organising and conducting a QL4 Communications course, monitoring a Drivers Course, posting candidates and instructors to JLC and QL4 Machine Gun course and trying to ensure the availability of ceremonial uniforms as required. This

role is fascinating in its variety and challenge, knowing there are that many soldiers training and being trained at many different locations and times, however it seems there is never anybody to answer the phone in the Coy lines.

The Pioneers and Skirmishers continue to do a remarkable job representing the Unit in public. Since 1996 represents the 130th anniversary of the Fenian Raids of 1866, many activities and displays are being planned to commemorate this important chapter in our history. Gurkha Coy is a diverse and interesting sub-unit to command, let alone work in. The opportunities to help build the Unit and affect its future are rewarding.

**Challenge:** No. 4 Coy has issued a challenge to all volunteers to participate in a military musketry competition 31 May - 2 June. Contact OC Gurkha Coy for details.



## 60th Company – Year in Review

by Capt J.M. Fotheringham  
OC 60th Company

Another full year of training and activities for 60th Company.

The Airborne Regiment conducted their first Airborne Indoctrination Course since 1989, and Capt Ferguson, MCpl Holmes and (then) MCpl Beardmore successfully completed this demanding course and earned their White Leaf. (Be sure and ask MCpl Holmes about jumping the Carl Gustav).

We were saddened by the disbanding of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Most QOR jumpers have served with the Regiment, from weekend exercises to call-outs and UN deployments, and it was like losing a friend. In April the QOR hosted a Tribute to the Airborne Regiment, which was attended by the CO and RSM of the Regiment, 1 Can Para veterans, most serving and several former QOR airborne riflemen, as well as some local area HQ soldiers with Airborne Regiment experience. As well, the Airborne's final parade and jump was attended by several QOR, including Capt Saunders, WO Wilmot and Sgt Paton.

The RCR Airborne Company is in full swing as one of the replacements for the Airborne, and welcomes our participation in their exercises. The OC, Major Balasevicius, and CSM, MWO Preeper, made a special trip to Toronto in September to meet the QOR and we are encouraged by their interest. 60th Coy personnel should make every effort to participate in as many jumps and exercises as time and funding allows.

Capt Cianfaglione returned to 2 Field Engineer Regiment following his two-year attachment as Company 2IC, and he has been succeeded by Capt Saunders. CSM Nelligan has left the QOR to become a Regular Force Padre, and we welcome WO Wilmot back to where he belongs as CSM 60th after his attachment to 25 Service Battalion.

Sgt O'Halloran, Cpl Gin and Cpl Smardenkas returned safely following their 6-month tour with the UN forces in the former Republic of Yugoslavia (Sgt O'Halloran with the RCD, Cpl Gin and Smardenkas with 1 RCR).

60th Company successfully passed the CRS Phase II test in Borden in May – advance to contact on the platoon and company level. A strong effort by all soldiers placed the QOR 5th of 17 LFCA reserve infantry units.



Exercise Maroon Runway in May was an exciting 24-hour airborne exercise featuring a raid and the first night jump in years. Special mention to Cpl Gin who managed to do a little cosmetic face surgery using some rusty barbed wire.

Exercise Trillium Guard, the annual summer training exercise, was a success, with a QOR company consisting of two platoons of QOR and one platoon from the R Regt C. We had an opportunity to practice defensive ops, advance to contact, an ambush and FIBUA.

September saw a Change of Command – we wish LCol Brand well in his future military endeavours and look forward to LCol Welsh's command. Ex Silent Knife in September set the stage for what promises to be an interesting three years.

60th Company personnel will notice our ranks depleted this year as some officers and a lot of NCOs have been posted to Gurkha Company to instruct on the

various courses being run. LCol Welsh's plan to train a larger than normal number of recruits this year means that 60th will be receiving a large number of trained soldiers next September, and we will be in a good position to train to win the Infantry Competition the following summer.

Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS), also known as CRS and ICS, continues. Unlike previous years, when all testing had to be complete by Christmas, we've been able to convince higher HQ that the more mundane testing can wait until the winter, and the run and shoot are the only "events" to be completed by end November. 60th Company continues to produce more gold medals as a company than any other Toronto District battalion. IBTS, despite its criticisms, has served to weed out those personnel who no longer are able to make the commitment required and keeps the skills of active riflemen at a sharpened level.

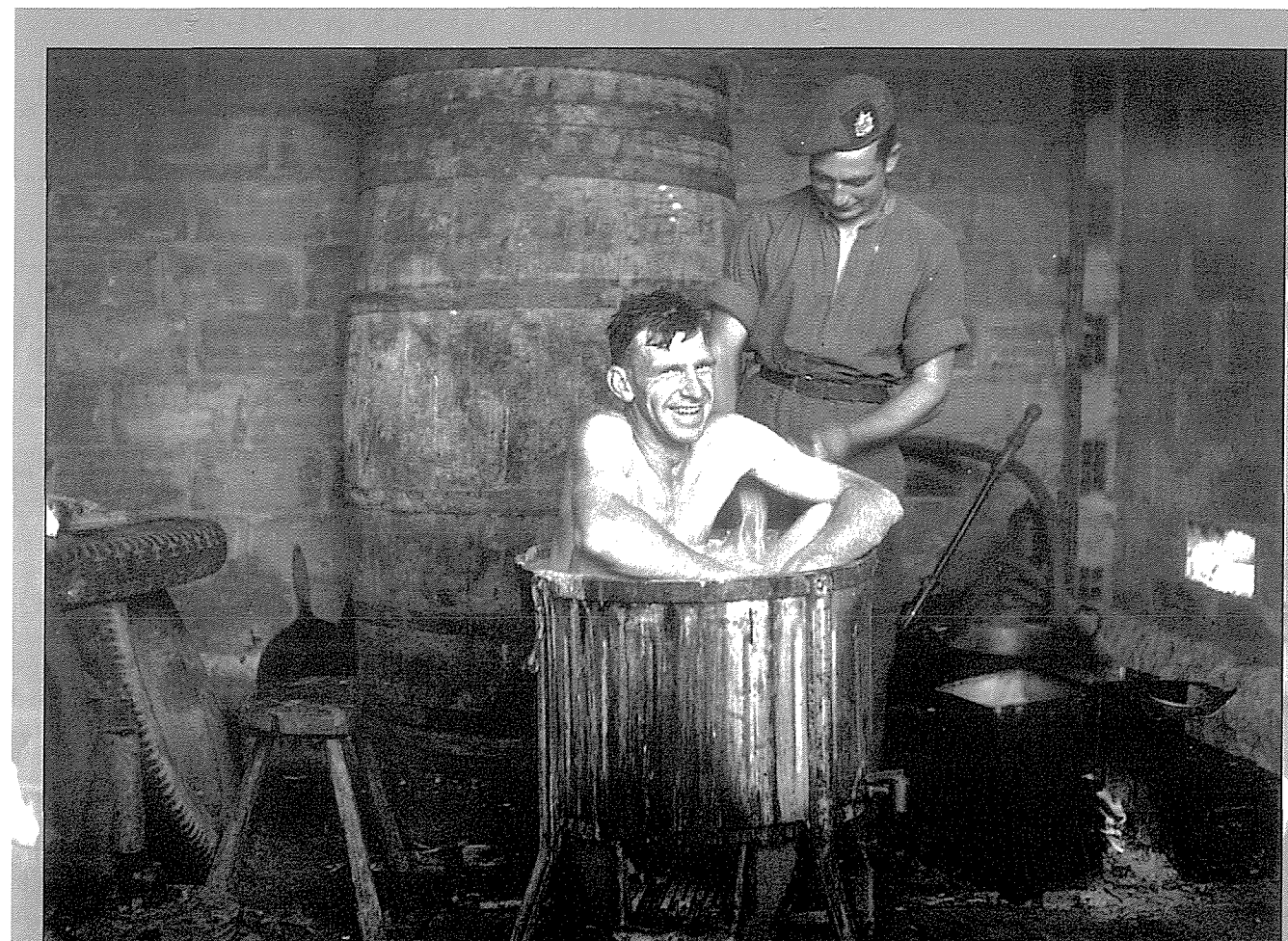
The New Year promises to be challenging, as we deal with the effects of The Reserve Commission while trying to maintain the momentum of training and completing IBTS. We look forward to some interesting months as we continue to train, jump and prepare for CRS Phase II testing and Exercise Trillium Phoenix next August.

Airborne!

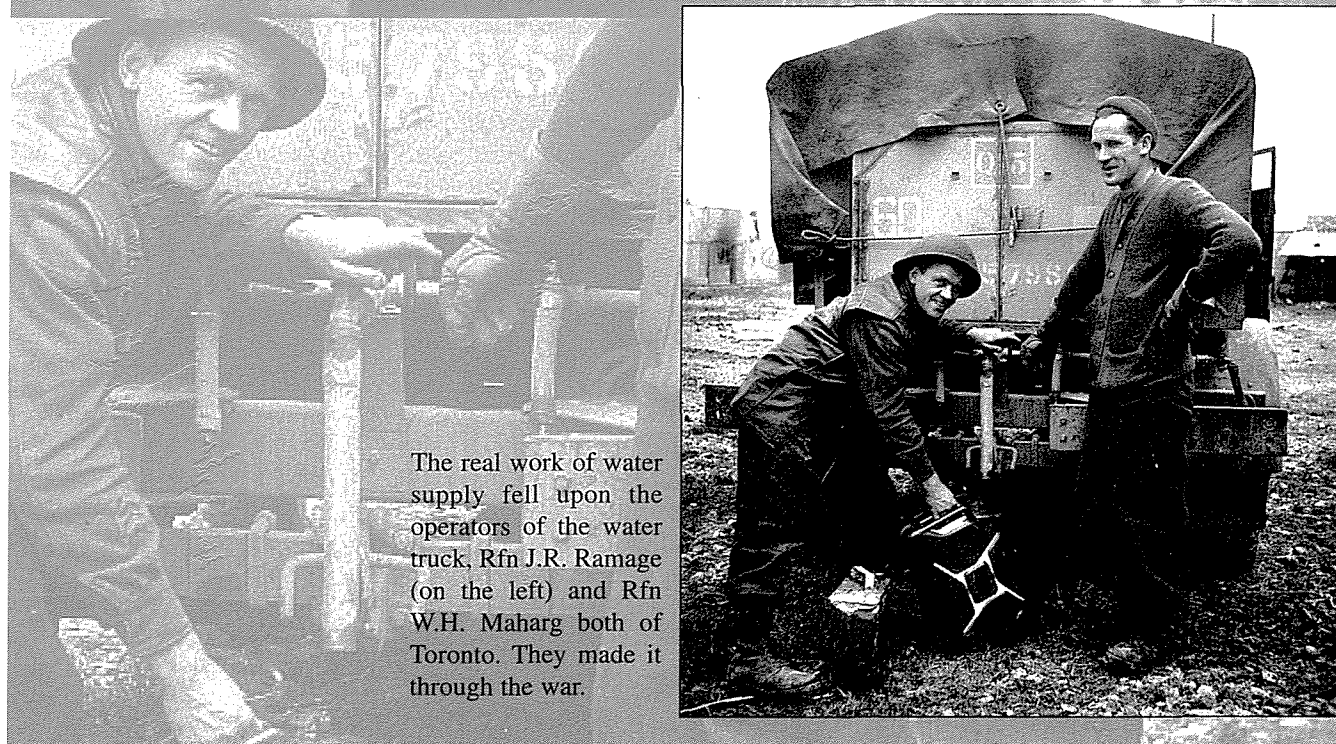
### Project "Memorials" needs your help!

The QOR of C Assoc urgently needs funds to complete the Memorials project in NW Europe. Please send your tax deductible donations to:  
"Memorial Fund"  
c/o QOR Trust Fund  
130 Queen Street East, Toronto,  
Ontario, M5A 1R9

**Thanks You for Your Support!**



"Taking a bath in the Front Lines. This task is not an easy one but members of The QOR of C invented a bathtub out of a discarded washing machine and it does the job very fine although the quarters are cramped". Rfn A. Barrett of Toronto in bath while Rfn R. Brough of Toronto soaps his back. Both came home.



The real work of water supply fell upon the operators of the water truck, Rfn J.R. Ramage (on the left) and Rfn W.H. Maharg both of Toronto. They made it through the war.



## The Regimental Band and Bugles

by WO Al Tweten, CD

To suggest that the Regimental Band and Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will die because of Government cutbacks was certainly disproved during this past year! The Band & Bugles have figured prominently in the life of the Toronto Garrison and indeed, have probably outplayed some of the authorized bands. It's been an extremely hectic year starting with sorrow as we joined with the Band of The Royal Regiment of Canada in eulogizing our former bandmaster, WO Chuck Benson CD who died in January.

Our most famous VC winner, Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC, was further honoured this year when a Drill Hall at Meaford was officially opened bearing his name. The band travelled to Meaford to be a part of this dedication and truly learned just how cold it can be adjacent to beautiful Georgian Bay.

The weekend of 3-5 March was to be a sad one in the history of the Canadian Military. The famous Canadian Airborne Regiment would be removed from active service and the Band & Bugles were to be a part of this ceremony. The Airborne made a specific request to have us present and present we were! The weekend began with a mess dinner for past and present serving officers which was followed the next day by the Disbandment Parade. We have played **cold** parades and we have played **long** parades, but the 4th of March 1995 will surely go down as our **longest and coldest** parade in the 135-year history of this regiment!

That evening, an all-ranks dinner was held where the entire Band & Bugles provided the music for those assembled. On Sunday, the colours of this renowned regiment were laid up after being paraded some five kilometres through Base Petawawa with the Band & Bugles of The Queen's Own leading the way. The RSM of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (RSM Stevens, a former Rifleman) did make one request for this parade - would we please march at

120/minute and not at Rifle pace. It seems they remembered us from a previous parade!

The remainder of March was involved with rehearsals and one engagement - the 112th Annual Mess Dinner of our own Sgts' Mess.

Even though the first part of the year had been busy with trips and engagements, the Band & Bugles were continuing to work hard in preparation for our first CD and annual concert. Two sessions at St. Paul's - our regimental church - saw the completion of an excellent repertoire of Queen's Own history being transferred to Compact Disc which was just ready in time for distribution at our concert held in the same venue on April 21st. More of this music was heard at the

to our own 2881 Army Cadet Corps during their Annual Inspection. The reviewing officer was our Honorary Colonel, BGen D. Pryer. Regrettably, the weather did not cooperate this year and the unit was forced indoors. The enthusiasm of this small band of youngsters was not deterred by a change of venue. They provided an excellent display of the skills they learned during the past year and some were rewarded with promotions to a higher rank.

Scarborough took time this year to remember the veterans of WWII. A large parade was held ending up at the Scarborough Town Centre on the 25th of June. It was also a portent of the type of weather that we would enjoy for Summer '95. A stirring memorial



"French well supplies Canadians with water. Pictured here is an old stone well in Normandy". Cpl D. Morland of Toronto is pulling on the rope while Rfn W.F. Hindle also from Toronto waits for the pail to reach the surface. Both Dennis Morland and Fred Hindle made it through the war.

"Goats are Fed Canadian Hardtack Biscuits" goes the caption. Pictured here are Rfn C.W. Chalmers from Toronto on the left standing and Rfn E.W. Shaw from Toronto on the right, kneeling. Both survived the war. Note the censor has painted over Wib Chalmers' cap badge. Shaw joined



The Regimental Band and Bugles of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada played a prominent role during the Change of Command ceremonies at MPA on September 17th, 1995 (Photo: Editor)

Regiment's 135th Anniversary Dinner the following day. What better way to further the pride that you feel in our Regiment than by purchasing this as a gift. The CD and tapes are available in each of the messes or from any band member for \$15 & \$10 respectively.

The beginning of May found us travelling to a small farm west of Toronto where the local Norwegian community was celebrating Constitution Day of Norway. We led a group of people dressed in their national costume around the farm and were asked to stay and enjoy their hospitality. Later in the month, we journeyed to Burlington to be a part of the Annual Inspection of 715 (Mohawk) Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. We ended May by providing musical (and moral) support

service was held followed by each of the units providing entertainment for the citizens gathered that day. The Band & Bugles enjoyed a brief respite from the heat as we enjoyed the hospitality of the community and then followed it with a brief concert.

The name of Anisy was, to many, an unknown prior to 6 June 1944. After our visit in 1994, many friendships were made and this was to continue during July of 1995. A troupe of 16 citizens, including the former mayor, flew to Toronto to visit their Regiment. Their very busy schedule included a visit to the bandroom where they were to enjoy the music of the Band & Bugles. Their visit culminated in a reception at the Hilton hosted by the Regiment. July may be remembered as one of the hottest



on record. On Bastille Day (14 July), the Consul-General of France hosted a garden party at the University of Toronto. Our guests from Anisy were guests of the Consul-General and, of course, the Band was present to provide music on what turned out to be the warmest day of the year! As August arrived, so did the annual Warriors' Day Parade. The Band & Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles were a part of this day as we have been since the parade's inception. While some of the members had to work later that day, the majority of the band assembled at the home of MCpl Gerry Griggs to beat the heat at our annual pool party. Thank you for your hospitality.

September meant gearing up for our musical season. This started as our volunteer band provided music for the new students at Canadian Forces Command & Staff College during their welcoming mess dinner. Many excellent remarks were heard by the senior officers which makes one wonder why we were reduced in authorized strength! Pratt & Whitney Jet Engines engaged this band to perform in the Annual Labour Day Parade and, indeed, have booked us for 1996. It is certainly a hike from University Avenue to the Dufferin Street Entrance of the CNE. September is also a month when members of Branch 58 of the Legion (Port Carling) have their annual memorial parade. Our Bugles made a grand showing at this ceremony with their impressive uniforms and stirringly-played Last Post & Reveille.

The season for infantry training had also started so the serving members of the band traded their instruments for C7's. On the 17th of September, the Regiment said good-bye to LCol Steve Brand and welcomed LCol Tony Welsh as the new Commanding Officer. One of our members, WO Al Tweten, also received the bar to his CD representing over 22 years of service. We were doubly pleased that day as Tara Lavoie was promoted to Cpl.

October started with a happy note as the quintet provided music for the wedding reception at Casa Loma of Sgt O'Halloran and his bride. May you both have many years of happiness together. More ICS training followed in October

but this time instruments didn't get laid down as the band was on site at Borden to provide music for the CFSEME Mess Dinner. It made for a long training day. Every year on the last Sunday in October, the bands of the Toronto Garrison mass for a spectacular concert held at Roy Thompson Hall. 1995 was no exception as the massed bands commemorated the end of hostilities in 1945. The concert was such a success from the producer's point of view that tickets are already on sale for the 1996 concert. We would like to suggest, however, that the organizers realize that military bands are quite capable of playing more challenging and interesting music than just marches.

November is a month of remembrance. This year, the Regiment as well as the Band & Bugles teamed up with The Royal Regiment of Canada, The Governor-General's Horse Guards and the Pipes & Drums of The 48th Highlanders of Canada to provide military participation in Toronto's annual Remembrance Day Service. It was an excellent and stirring service albeit, slightly wet. Many members of the band now have a busby that fits! This was followed on the twelfth by our own Regimental parade to and from St. Paul's Church for the annual service of remembrance. Not only did the quintet provide music for the Home Station Officer's Mess Dinner on the tenth but the band journeyed up to Orillia to be part of their Santa Claus Parade. A busy month to be sure.

As with all volunteer organizations, membership sometimes declines. The Band & Bugles are continually on the look-out for musicians to add to the excellence of the group. If you, or someone you know, would like to be a part of this famous band, rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening at 2000 hrs in the basement of Moss Park Armoury.

1995 has been a busy and productive year and, providing the Federal Cabinet does not decide to abandon The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the Regimental Band & Bugles will be there to provide support to this, our distinguished Regiment.

In Pace Paratus

## Victoria Company

by Capt CA Champion CD, OC Vics

1995 began with Victoria Company in the capable hands of Capt Reg Scotland. At that time we were very busy in garrison maintaining the Battalion's resources. Concurrently we worked on remustering infantrymen to Combat Service Support trades. After an excellent rating on the Annual Technical Inspection we had to say goodbye to our OC and also our Quarter Master, Capt Rob McMichael who returned to 25 Service Battalion. Congratulations to Reg on his promotion to Major and appointment as their DCO.

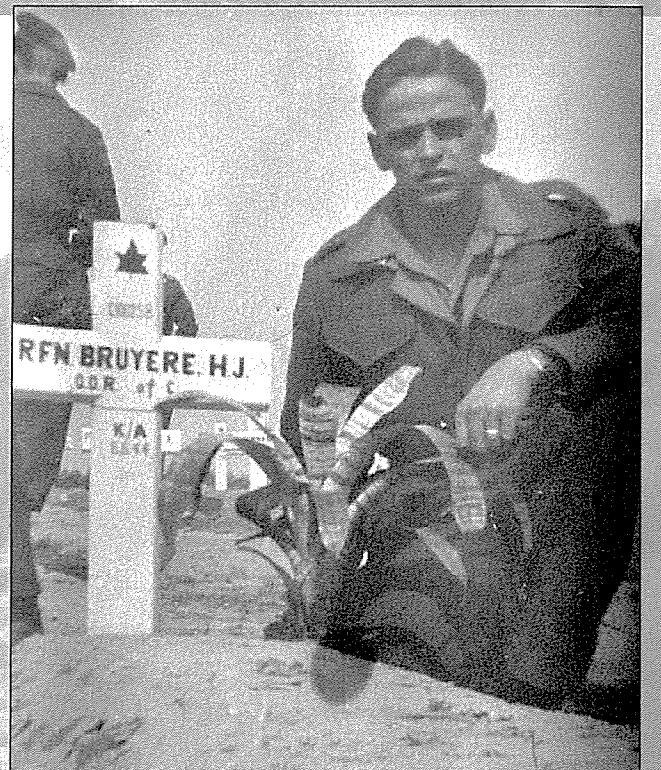
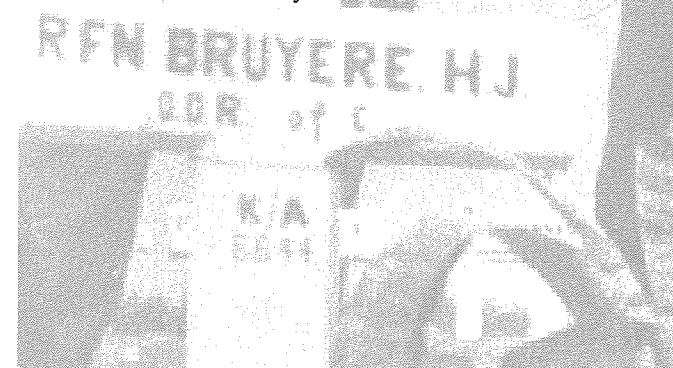
In the Spring we expanded our attention to training in field operations. With support from Capt Phil Bousquet of 25 Svc Bn and our own Regular Force Unit Cadre, Cpl Winston Hewlin, we engaged in three weekends of tactical training. The Officers and Senior NCOs of the Coy started slow with classroom lectures on the role of the Adm Coy in the field. Then we moved on to a Tactical Exercise without Troops at the Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC, Drop Zone where we boned up on our deployment and camouflage of vehicles. Finally we exercised all ranks with an adm road move to CFB Borden and a weekend of tactical training.

Our training was well timed to allow us to excel at the district TEWT, Ex Brash Beaver. The exercise was to be a Command Post Ex and the position of the QOR was so well set up that District HQ soon began to elevate the state of protection and camouflage for all CP areas.

We started Fall training with a range weekend. We qualified on the range, trained and tested on required Individual Battle Task Standards and ran our Personal Fitness Test. The weekend was well attended and we accomplished a lot considering we also squeezed in an evening of drill and a Change of Command parade. Believe it or not most of us also got to our respective messes. We suffered a set back internally as we lost our cook, weapon techs and vehicle techs. Cpl Melissa Pearce and MCpl Maurice Yang have been transferred to



Fresh milk in the front lines, l to r: B. Bruyère, Cornwall; Rfn D.J. Briere (sic) of Albertville, Sask, milking cow; and Rfn W.J. Simpson of Toronto, behind cow; and Rfn H.G. Payne of Toronto, holding cow's head. Bernie Bruyère, who would survive the war without physical wounds, had seen his younger brother, Hector, fall on the beach on D Day. He kept on going, as he had to. He would later visit his brother's grave in the temporary Cemetery near the beach. The official records indicate that Gerard Briere survived the war unscathed as did Red Simpson and Howard Payne.







"He had a close call. Rifleman R.A. Marshall of Bradford, Ontario points out a hole in his steel helmet which a Jerry snipers' bullet made when he was landing on the beach on "D" Day. Said Marshall: "That is the closest call I've ever want"" Rfn Marshall joined the unit in May 1944 and survived the war without wounds.

Cpl J. W. Bennett of Copper Cliffe, Ontario seeks his kitbag from a pile of recently arrived personal equipment. Cpl John W. Bennett survived the war but is recorded as having been wounded twice, on Sept 17th, 1944 and March 31, 1945.

the Svc Bn where they will be better career managed. Cpl Wing-Ling Tsang and Pte Laszlo Szabo have been left in the QOR but they will work on our vehicles under supervision of Base Maintenance, at the armoury but on weekends instead of Bn Pde nights. MCpl Paul Alexander will concentrate more on weapons training and Cpl Rocco Polsinelli will relocate to the Transport Section to strengthen us in our weakest area of administration. By the way, congratulations to Cpl Winston Hewlin who was recognized for all the areas in which he picked up the slack, with a District Commander's Commendation.

For all that we have lost, we have gained an increase in workload and financial responsibility in QM. The RQMS, WO Sean Kelly and Cpl Ted Howard are very busy in their full-time appointments. With Cpl Mario Carvalho and Pte Mandy Behbahani to assist on a part-time basis, the QM staff must now also administer laundry, tailoring, pens, paper and stationary. They will also begin measuring recruits for initial issue and already have taken on exchanges of all kit. They were quick to welcome back Cpl French who has taken over Regimental kit on a volunteer basis. It was very good to see him on parade on Remembrance Day.

In October, we attended two exercises. The first was the challenging Ex Silent Knife. It was great fun for those of Vics who fell in as Riflemen in this 60th Coy exercise. The second exercise was a range exercise and again we progressed through the IBTS tests. It has been a very busy time, but the approach we are taking with the compulsory tests is to integrate them with realistic field training instead of parade square lectures and tests. We seem to be getting a good response from those who participate as there is far less time spent in slow test lines.

This year Vics will again excel in the ATI, we will expand our knowledge of our CSS roles in garrison and in the field, and we will work hard to have personnel employed in their Military Occupations during Ex Trillium Phoenix next summer.

In Pace Paratus.

## The Scarborough Rifles (2881 Cadet Corps)

by Lt. M. Rainforth

A contingent of the Cadet Corps was fortunate enough to participate in a winter operations training exercise with the Regiment at MTSC Meaford in February of this year. The highlight, of course, was the dedication of the Aubrey Cosens VC Building in honour of Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC. This proved to be a good reminder to the cadets of the proud history of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Our field training program carried on this year under the direction of OCdt Shaun Bridge and Civilian Instructor James Lutz. The training year culminated with the Scarborough Rifles Annual Inspection Parade reviewed by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Honorary Colonel, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD. Due to inclement weather, we were forced to hold our parade indoors for the first time in thirteen years. "Maximum flexibility" were the key words as we proceeded with the indoor contingency plan that we have never before had to use. All adapted quite readily, including the Regimental Band and Bugles, who, as always, impressed the crowd with their fine regimental music.

This summer, seven of our cadets participated in various training courses at training centres across the country. MWO Patrick Mesina earned his CF parachutist wings on the Basic Parachutist course, only the second cadet in our corps to do so. WO Jason Bridge excelled in the Cadet Leader Instructor Marksman course, achieving a final standing that may very well enable him to compete with our national rifle team next summer at Bisley (he is on standby, position #1). Rfn Chrys Karpinski and Kevin Sibbles earned their Cadet Leader Marksman and Basic Cadet Marksman respectively while Rfn Katie Stoddart, Amanada Dayton, and Holly Purdon all successfully completed the Basic Cadet Band course. Capt Kim O'Leary was employed as OC Support Company at Army Cadet National Training Centre Connaught. Congratulations to all for a job well done!

Working together with our sponsor this past summer, the cadet corps negotiated a change of parade location from Cardinal Newman Secondary School to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 in Highland Creek. This move is an important one in that it has consolidated our parade ground with our HQ. This move has also strengthened our relationship with our sponsor and provided a better recruiting base. We have already realized a steady intake of new recruits. We now parade Monday evenings 1845-2130 hrs at the Legion.

In the coming year, the cadet corps is hoping to visit our allied regiment, The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) in Canterbury, where we hope to participate once again in the turning of the page of the Book of Remembrance in Canterbury Cathedral. This trip is still in the planning stages, but Capt Derm Wilson, CD, the Commanding Officer, hopes to repeat the success of his accomplishments in 1990 and 1992 when a contingent of the corps visited the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Regiment at Moolton Barracks in Tidworth, England and Clifton Barracks in Minden, Germany respectively.

We would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Regiment in all our endeavours.

In Pace Paratus

### Production Information

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Capt R. Zisman, QOR of C  
Mark Studholme, Colour Tech

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#### Cover Photo

LSgt Leonard H. Taylor from Toronto, lying in the snow, and Rfn A.R. MacDonald from Elora, Ontario, crouching in rear, demonstrate their new snow parkas near Nijmegen on 22 Jan 45. In reality, these were soon discarded as the scant amount of snow did not provide sufficient cover. Sgt L.H. Taylor died of wounds incurred in battle on 20 April 1945, just days before the end of the war. Sgt A.R.K. MacDonald made it back home.

(Photo by B.J. Gloster, DND 45411)



# Regimental Padre's Report for 1995

by Captain C.B. Cameron

1995 has been another year full of challenges. My thanks to outgoing CO LCol Steve Brand for his hard work and vision for the Regiment in the past three years. I look forward to working closely with our new CO LCol Tony Welsh during his term of office.

In addition to activities such as attending training weekends (i.e. Ex Blockbuster II in February at MTSC Meaford), holding church services and padre's hours, I conducted funerals in 1995 for QOR veterans: Cpl. Norm Selby (a member of Sgt. Aubrey Cosen's platoon at Mooshoof Germany), Rfn. Bill Martin (brother to Sgt. Jack Martin) and performed the graveside ceremony for Sgt. John Missons (a D-Day vet and staunch member of RCL Br. 344 QOR). Each one of these men will be dearly missed by those who knew them and served with them.

I had the opportunity to give brief services of remembrance on two occasions this year: 26 February, the Queen's Own dedicated the new Drill Hall at MTSC Meaford in memory of Aubrey Cosens, VC; on 22 April we dedicated a plaque at Moss Park Armoury with the names of those QOR soldiers who died in WW II.

Outside the unit, I was employed for 10 weeks in the summer with the Reserve Training Plan at CFB Petawawa. For much of the time I was the sole padre for the nearly 700 reservists and this kept me constantly on the go. For the final

two weeks of August I was employed as an augmentee to the Base Chapel at Petawawa and gained valuable experience in that capacity.

As we enter our third year of Individual Combat Skills testing, we appreciate more fully the importance of high results for our regiment's survival. Canada is regrettably "reinventing the wheel" once again in our military history. The Liberal government Commission on the Reserve has just been released (7 November) and we anticipate significant reductions in the militia parallel to that of the late 1960s. Like the ancient Roman emperor Tiberius, who believed he saw paradise when he walked upon coals of fire, the regiment's leadership has adopted a similar attitude in these "days of trouble". Under LCol Welsh we are taking an aggressive approach in the confidence that we will be one of those infantry battalions in Toronto that will emerge intact, though perhaps augmented, from restructuring. My role as chaplain continues to be a challenging one as the Queen's Own and the Reserve face an uncertain future. I would exhort all serving riflemen and members of the regimental "family" first, to look to God who is a "very present help in trouble" and then to implement The King's Royal Rifle Corps motto in all our actions, "Celer et audax" (swift and bold).

## Queen's Cup 1995

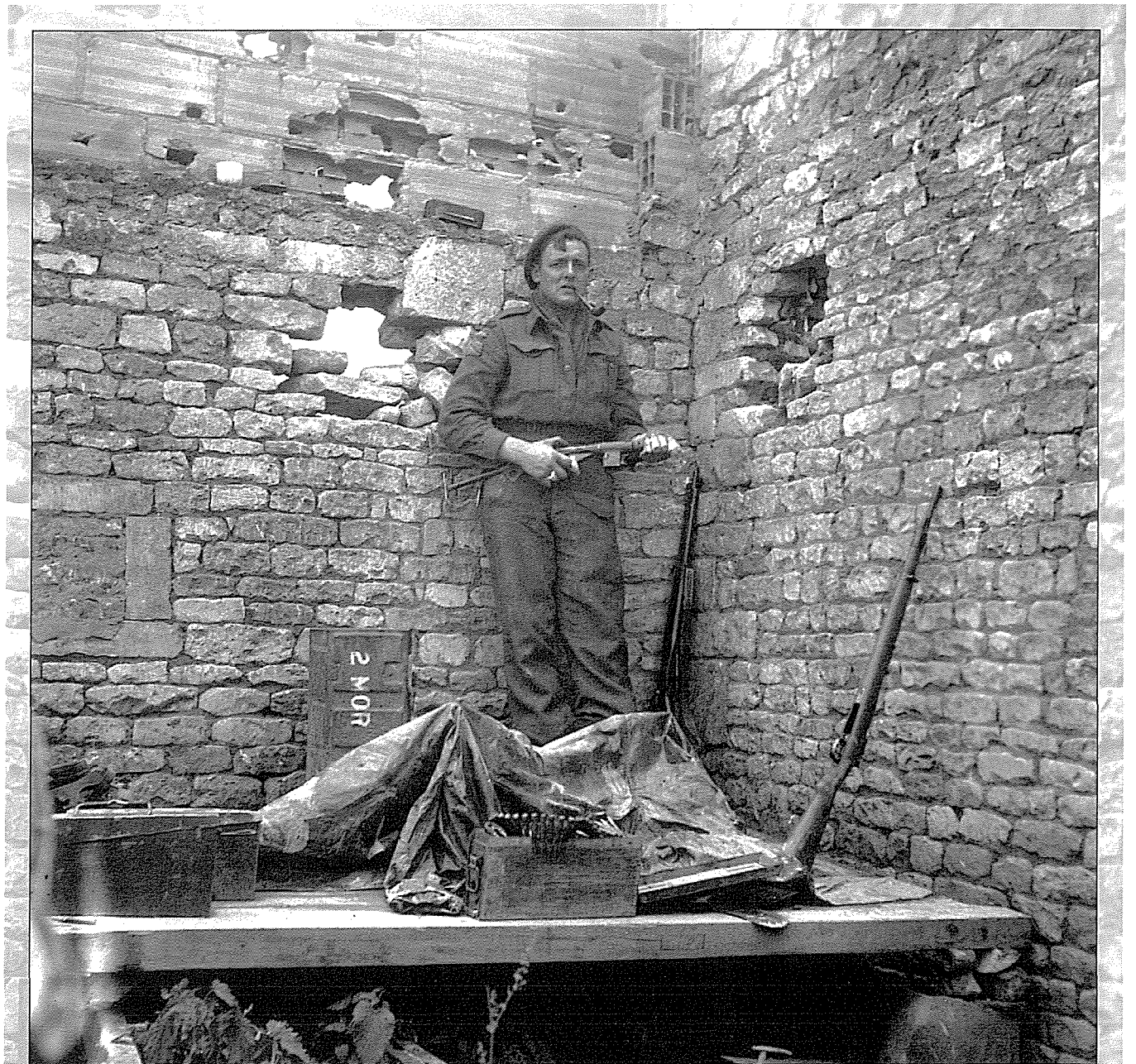
On 31 May 1995, the ninth annual Queen's Cup competition between The Queen's Own Rifles and The Queen's York Rangers was held at Moss Park Armoury. Despite a small QOR turnout (40 all ranks) and outnumbered almost 2 to 1 by the QYRs, the unit gave battle. The five events run this year were: soccer, arm wrestling, rugby, physical fitness and floor hockey. Soccer and rugby were won by The Queen's Own; despite a stellar performance by MCpl Holmes we lost badly to the beefy Rangers in arm wrestling. In the physical fitness department, the Queen's Own gave it their best with outstanding personal performances by Cpl. W. Gin (21 chin ups and 165 pushups!), Cpl. Urbaniak, Rfns Howard and Scotta (100 or more sit-ups). Despite these achievements sheer numbers (35 to 20 all told) and the Rangers won this stand. The competition was decided by the final event, floor hockey. Led by our departing UAA Sgt. Frank Andrews, the Queen's Own played a good game and after a tie in regulation time, won on a fine shot by Rfn T. Scotta in overtime to bring the Queen's Cup back to Moss Park Armoury.

In Pace Paratus

### Unveiling of QOR Memorial:

Flanked by the Honorary Col, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD, right, and the Honorary LCol, MGen H.C. Pitts, MC, CD, on the left, CQMS Jack Martin unveils The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's WW2 memorial plaque at Moss Park Armouries on April 22, 1995, as CWO Brian Budden, CD, QOR Association President looks on (far left)

(Photo credit: Ted Hilton)



rifles and a pair of wire clippers belonging to our D Coy engaged in attack in this area some time ago. This party believes, with an allowance of eight hours, they can provide detailed information of this general area. Can permission be obtained to do this 21 June 44 from 0800 hrs to 1900 hrs?." Indeed, permission was granted, and CSM Martin went out again leading a patrol and located the bodies of 14 QORs and 2 1st Hussars. Although the report, signed by LCol Spragge, "does not presume that enemy shot our wounded" the burial party sent out the next day established that at least five of the casualties had been murdered. LCol Spragge wrote on that sad June 22, 1944 that "all had bandaged wounds with British field dressings. Each man had a bullet hole in his head. Shots had been fired at very close distance as damaged (sic) to heads severe. Near the bodies was an empty German revolver clip and empty German cases were near each body. Refer you to earlier reports suspecting perfidious steps taken by the enemy after the attack by D Coy Q.O.R. of C. on Le Mesnil Patry, Sun, June 11, 1944." The Regiment already knew by then that the road ahead would be tough indeed. Rfn Lindenias made it to the end of the war unscathed. CSM Martin would be seriously wounded in Holland on April 16, 1945.

Rfn R.G. Bodie, from Calgary, is seen above on guard with a Sten SMG "beside a lookout position in a strong wall watching for any advancing Nazi patrols". Note the bandaged fingers, a souvenir of the recent fighting. He survived the war without further wounds.



## The QOR Association - 1995 Report

by CWO Brian Budden, CD,  
Association President

The Regiment celebrated its 135th Regimental Birthday on April 22nd with a VE+50 celebration at Moss Park Armouries, the ceremonies including the unveiling of the WW2 Regimental memorial plaque by Charlie Martin and Jack Martin and concluded with a dinner and dance in the evening. This was a very successful day and enjoyed by all who attended.

The VE Day celebrations in Holland enjoyed great attendance by QOR veterans and Association members. The Dutch people welcomed us with open arms and their hospitality and friendship was exceptional everywhere we went in Holland. They were marvellous to us in the City of Deventer, the town of Doorn and in Friesland, and of course in Wons where we unveiled the memorial plaque in honour of all the QORs who made the supreme sacrifice from D-Day to the end of the war. The reception in Wons was memorable, with a parade including period military vehicles and a special reception. We thank Bugler Doug Hester who played the "Last Post" and serving members LCol Steve Brand and Sgt Bill Paton who helped out on the parade. A parade that I know we shall always remember was the VE+50 parade in Appeldoorn where there were over

300,000 Dutch people in attendance.

On September 30th at RCL #344 we had a great get together for all the members and families that were on the trip. A special thanks to Jack Hadley for hosting Paul Niedenzu from Doorn who left us with a picture and memories from Holland.

The annual Warrior's Day parade on August 19th at the CNE was well attended as we had serving and past serving members carry colours on parade. I would like to thank the Regimental Band and Bugles for their superb performance and to LCol Brand, WO Scott Patterson and Steve Budden for getting involved in the Colour Party with the other colour bearer Art Gay.

It is my personal feeling that this year's Association Shoot, held in CFB Borden on September 16th, was one of the best ever. The weather was excellent and we had approximately 35 Association members in attendance. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from the unit and from Rob Grieve and his crew, Bob Dunk, Carlos Cosdlo and Gord Engerer. We had the opportunity to fire black powder, the Lewis gun, the Bren gun and the Sten SMG along with the current issue C-7 rifle with optical sight. The top shooter for the day was Bob Dunk and 2nd place went to Andy

McNaughton. Well done!! To conclude the day of shooting we enjoyed stories over a few beers at the Rod & Gun Club. A very good day!

On September 17th we attended the Change of Command ceremony at Moss Park Armoury. LCol Tony Welsh took over from LCol Steve Brand. The Association is grateful to LCol Brand for all his support during his tenure and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. We also welcome and congratulate LCol Welsh on his assumption of command.

### Memorials

We are still contemplating placing memorial plaques at the Bernières-sur-Mer bunker and at the D-Day House (soon to be known as the QOR House). However, we still do not have the needed funds. Donations to cover the cost of these memorials would be most welcome. A committee has been formed and we are looking at at 1997 timeframe.

### 136th Regimental Weekend - April 27/28 1996

The Association in conjunction with the Regiment are in the process of completing the plans for this event and we are told that it will be a special one. More details will follow in The Powder Horn and in The Big 2 Bugle.

The QOR of C Association is always looking for former members of the Regiment (Regular or Militia) to join the Association. So, if you run into anyone that was associated with the Regiment let them know that we are active and also pass their name on to the Secretary of the Association.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Association for all the support and confidence that they have given me. And for those who have fallen this past year, they will not be forgotten - "We will remember them"

### New Venue for D-Day Commemorations

Since just after WW2, members of the 1st Battalion have met at the Old City Hall Cenotaph, to remember the D-Day Landings.

After 50 years, as time has taken it's toll we are considering a more accessible location.

After discussion with all three Branches of the Regiment, it has been put forward that if this important annual event is to continue, it will have to be the

Association, and the Regiment, that will be responsible for the Ceremony.

As we now have our own memorial at Moss Park Armoury it has been decided that in 1996, we will meet, and have our Ceremony, at this location.

The time will not change (7 a.m.). The covered access and easy access makes us optimistic that the Veterans with physical problems will be able to join us on June 6, 1996.



Cpl W. Lennox of Toronto, part of 8 Platoon, Able Coy is seen above left with a captured German MG 42 being put to good use. The man standing on the right is not identified. (If you recognize him please contact the Editor.) The caption states: "Nazi weapons put to use by Canadians. Captured German machine guns along with hundreds of rounds of ammunition are used by Canadian troops in forward positions". William A. Lennox later moved to a sniper unit. He was promoted to Sergeant in Sept 1944. He became the 8 Platoon Sgt with Lieutenant Jack Boos as Pl Cdr. He was wounded in Germany in February 26, 1945.



The caption states "Planning a Mine Field". On the photo left we have, from l to r : Lt E.M. Peto of Montreal with the 16th Fld Coy RCE; CSM C.C. Martin of Curries Corners, Ontario (Near Woodstock) and Rfn N.E. Linden as of Ridgeway, Ontario, both of A Coy, QOR of C. CSM Martin was doing more than "Planning a Mine Field". In reality, documents attached to the Regimental War Diary indicate that he must have been getting ready for a patrol he conducted that very evening between 1900 and 2200 hours. The patrol report indicates having observed three enemy personnel and that "This party was also able to recover three



## The QOR of C Association-Calgary Branch

by John Cresswell, President

Home notes often turn out to be notes of faraway places and not really "At Home" at all. Such is the case, as I report to you that Donnie and I have just returned (Oct) from a most enjoyable and rewarding trip to the UK, Cyprus and Israel. As one might imagine, much has changed in Cyprus from the time(s) that many of us served there. The country enjoys a stable government and close ties to the UK. The economy flourishes and there is virtually no unemployment, not to mention, almost no crime. Visits included, Mount Olympus, Troodos Mountains, Nicosia and Paphos. Our home base was Limassol which now has a population of 175,000. Maybe the time will come when Cyprus will be reunited, but to be realistic, that is sometime in the distant future. A boat trip to Israel was great, as were the visits to Tel-Aviv, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and as expected many changes have taken effect since I served there. Visits to Mount of Olives, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Wailing Wall, to mention a few places, I did have the opportunity to practice my Arabic and Hebrew.

The Passing of two Comrades took place during the latter part of Oct. **Rockey Merritt** in N.S. and **Ross Phillips** in

Calgary. Both may be remembered from Ipperwash Days. The Associations deep sympathy and condolences are offered to Millie Merritt, Georgina Phillips and the families.

### Upcoming Events

A luncheon 01 Dec 95 at the Sgt's Mess, Calgary. The Regimental Birthday 20 April 96. Same location. For further information with your intention to attend these functions, kindly contact - Clay/Louise Hodder at (403) 249-4434. A further important function - The Korean Veteran's Association will be holding the 1996 Convention in Calgary, 23 - 25 Aug. 1996. For further information contact - Ross Myers (403) 285-8048 Fax (403) 293-2612.

### QOR Association Calgary Branch Committee

President - **John Cresswell**; Treasurer - **Clay Hodder**; Security - **Louise Hodder**; Quartermaster - **Ken Barrett**; Entertainment - **Ken Uperville**.

That appears all for this bulletin except to wish one and all "Seasons Greetings" and all the very best for the year ahead.

In Pace Paratus

## The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association - Victoria Branch

by Joe Webb, President

We are now in our 4th year and membership continues to grow. This past year has been a productive one for the Executive Committee with added help from **Sandy Rozon** and **Ron Caven**.

This year we have been more involved with Regimental Headquarters in Toronto. **Don Barnes**, our Executive Committee representative attended the first meeting in Toronto for all of the associations Canada wide. Don will be reporting on his visit at the AGM. This is an exciting move for us because it is crucial for the associations to work together if we want to continue to grow.

News from members - **Ken Bisson** served as Chief cook for the Canadian contingent in Bosnia from October 1994 - June 1995. He was very busy and faced new challenges and experiences each day.

We recently lost a comrade - **John Waldron**. A donation was sent in his honour to The Open Door. The association extends its sympathy to his family.

Our annual Birthday Celebration was held on April 22, 1995 at Lt. General Ashton Armouries. We had a turnout of 83 members and wives and a good time was held by all. It's great to see so many people from all over British Columbia attend this event and we hope they will continue to do so.

A big thanks to the Executive Committee this year who has worked so hard to organize the functions and keep the membership growing: Vice-President - **Jack Paul**; Treasurer - **Gord Hryhorshen**; Secretary - **Don Barnes**; Membership - **Chuck Perry**; Entertainment - **Harold Drinwalter**; Kit Shop - **Ron Caven**; Newsletter & Photography - **Sandy and Joe Rozon**



Lance Corporal Bob Nicol on the grounds of the City Hall in Doorn. A Queen's Own plaque and a Maple tree were dedicated to all the members of the Regiment, May 2, 1995. A D-Day veteran, Bob Nicol died in Rotterdam on May 4th, 1995, exactly 51 years after joining the Queen's Own (see Obituary p. 41)

## A Day in the Life of the Regiment June 20, 1944



On June 20, 1944 the Regiment enjoyed the first organized bath parade held in French soil. Great success in cleanliness and humour. At about 1420 hrs Cdn Press and Photo Unit reps paid a visit to "A" Company in their forward positions. Lieutenant Frank L. Duberville, from the Canadian Film and Photo Unit took photographs of a 'famous Canadian Regiment somewhere in Normandy, France' as the security conscious media would have described it. A Church service was held by the padre in the Company position. Halfway through the service 8 MEs110s flew over. No one moved.

An observer, looking at the photographs, would not likely guess what the Regiment had just been through. From D-Day on June 6th until that day, the Regiment had suffered about 250 casualties of which 108 were killed in action. Over 125 QORs were wounded in action and eight had died of wounds. A number of QORs became POWs and some of these were murdered in cold blood by SS troops starting as early as June 8th with more killed after the debacle at Le Mesnil-Patry on June 11th and subsequently near Mouton on the 17th.

In the photo above we can see (l to r) Capt R.D. Medland, Major S.M. Lett and Maj J.M. Berry of Ottawa, a member of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and an old friend of the Regiment who, according to the caption, 'visited the front lines to liaise supplies to the unit'. The caption further states that the "... Officers (are) beside an Observation Point in the front lines". Capt Dick Medland, who 9 days previously had become "A" Coy Commander after his OC, Maj H.E. Dalton, had been wounded by mortar shrapnel, and Major Steve Lett, who was at the time Regimental 2ic, were busy reorganizing their respective domains. Those were difficult days for all QORs, from the CO, LCol J.G. Spragge, down. Most of the casualties incurred in the first few weeks of fighting had been their friends, with whom they had trained with for several years, first in Canada and later, in England. All QORs featured here, with the exception of Rfn A. Barrett who arrived with a reinforcement draft from 10 Bn CBRG on June 9th, landed on D-Day as part of either "A" or HQ Coy. The previous evening, June 19th, a further 62 reinforcements had arrived at B Ech.

With this in mind, let us look at The QOR of C through the lens of Lt Duberville on June 20, 1944...

*(The Editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Dr. W.J. McAndrew, CD, Dr. Owen Cook and Dr. Steve Harris all at the DND History Directorate, with regards to research conducted; to Maj M.R. McNorgan, CD, for his study on Le Mesnil-Patry, and last but not least, Capt P. Simundson, CD, from The QOR of C Museum). Special thanks to the efficient staff at the National Archives of Canada for the photos and access to the War Diaries; the CFPU; the RCMI, the York University Library Special Collections Dept and The Imperial War Museum Photo Library, London. All photos in this section by Lt Duberville. (PA 115532, 190896, 190898, 190899, 190906, 190902, 190901, 190904, 190905, 190895) (lower photo on p.37 courtesy of Mrs. B. Bruyère)*



## The Royal Green Jackets

Here follows an edited version of the RGJ Newsletter kindly forwarded to us by LCol I.G. Elliott (Retd), Assistant Regimental Secretary & Editor, Regimental Chronicle:

### 1st Battalion, RGJ LCol J.T. Jackson

The highlight of 1 RGJs programme for 1995 has been the number of OTXs that the Battalion has mounted from Cyprus and the deployment of the Falkland Island reinforced infantry company group. The Bn FTX for this year was a four week deployment to Quatrana in Jordan. The desert offered excellent dry and live firing opportunities for the Battalion and some joint training with the Jordanian Army enhanced Anglo/Jordanian relations. The Falkland Island group under Nick Haddock deployed from July to November. The Company suffered the worst winter in the South Atlantic since 1904, however this didn't detract from a highly successful Operational Tour. In February A Company deployed to Italy for two weeks training with the Alpini. Based near the Italian-Austrian border the Company participated in a series of mountain marches and learnt survival techniques. In September B (Sp) Coy had an excellent two weeks field firing in Morocco and in October D Coy returned to Jordan.

### 2nd Battalion, RGJ LCol J.H. Gordon, MBE

The year has been dominated by our final Winter deployment with the AMF (L) and deployment to Palace Barracks, Belfast. We finished our time with the AMF (L) at the end of Ex STRONG RESOLVE, a large NATO exercise in the Trondheim region of Norway. It was a challenge for the Battalion who in a period of 8 days acted as a screen, brigade reserve, occupied blocking positions, carried out 2 Battalion counter attacks and finally conducted a passage of lines with a US Marine Expeditionary Force. Our training for Northern Ireland began in April. Deployment to Palace Barracks was completed by mid August and the settling in period should be completed by early November.

### 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, RGJ LCol T.R. Hamilton-Baillie

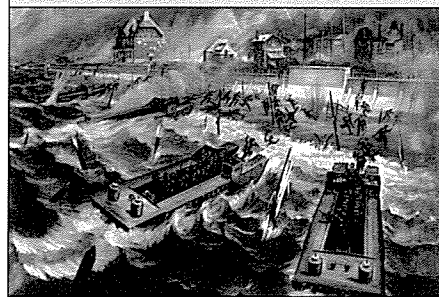
4 RGJ have had a good training year. Recruiting, on the other hand, has been

poor. The TA underwent an extensive reorganisation in April 1995. 4 RGJ lost the Milan and Mortar Platoons. The TA recruits now form part (about one third) of the rifle company establishment. These changes were carried out without fuss and the loss of very few Support Coy volunteers. The Recce and Assault Pioneer Pls have replaced the Anti Tank and Mortar Platoons at Mile End TA Centre. 4 RGJ were the first TA Bn to take part in Training Engagement Simulation Exercise (TESEX 6) on Salisbury Plain. During the 2 week period the Bn converted to the laser equipment fitted to all Bn weapons. All observers commented favourably on the ability of the TA to adapt from the usual rear-areas security role to high-intensity all-arms manoeuvre warfare. 1995 has been a bad year for TA recruiting in London. Much smaller numbers of less good recruits are coming forward.

### 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, RGJ LCol R.C.J. Martin, OBE

Having won the battle for survival late last year, 1995 has been a year of great change for the Battalion due to the need to re-train every man in our new role as a Fire Support Battalion. In brief the Battalion regrouped on Tue 15 Aug into a three company structure. HQ company and two support companies. Each Support Company consists of a 14 strong HQ, an 81mm mortar platoon, a Milan anti-tank guided missile platoon, and a sustained fire machine gun platoon; a company strength of 144 all ranks. Recruiting is buoyant, with the Battalion and the band both fully recruited to 102% of establishment. Officers and Riflemen have been overseas training in 1995 in Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco and Norway. Six individuals have also volunteered for service in Bosnia and others for Medicine Man exercises in Canada. The Bn competed in Reserve Forces Association patrol competitions in Switzerland and France, and in the Cambrian Patrol. The Waterloo Band became officially established on 1 Oct 95, the highlight of a busy year which has included annual camp in Cyprus to play for the Queen's Birthday celebrations; a week in Germany for the Neuss Schutzenfest, and many events supporting the regimental family including the annual reunion.

## Missing in Action



The Queen's Own are proud of the famous Orville Fisher painting depicting the QOR of C's D Day landing which hangs in the Officers' Mess and has been frequently reproduced, most recently on the cover of CSM Charlie Martin's "War Diary" and also as a limited edition poster to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D Day.

How many people know that there are actually three copies of the historic event painted by Captain Orville Fisher - one for each Queen's Own Battalion? One painting is in the Officers' Mess (3rd Bn). The other two copies were shipped to Toronto when the Regular Battalions were reduced to nil strength, with the understanding that one copy would remain at the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma (where it hangs), and the third copy would go to the Warrant Officer and Sergeants' Mess.

Unfortunately, the Sergeants' Mess painting went Missing In Action after it arrived in Toronto, and their Mess has had to make do with a black and white copy of the famous painting for many years.

With the 50th Anniversary of the end of the War upon us, it would be nice to have this painting in the Sergeants' Mess, where it belongs. Can you help us solve the mystery of the missing painting? We'd love to hear from anyone who might know what happened to this piece of art, and total confidentiality is assured through our tight-lipped Regimental Padre, Captain Craig Cameron, who can be reached at the QOR BOR at (416) 973-3281 or at home at (416) 229-6706.

## Ottawa Area Black Net 1995 Update

by LCol B.G. Baskerville, CD (Retd.)

Dr. K.C. (Ken) Eyre has left the Ottawa area and returned to Nova Scotia where he has assumed duties as Director of Studies, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Cornwallis, N.S.

In early 1995, the Canada Gazette listed the award to Colonel Donald D. Dalziel of The Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) by The President of The United States of America. The citation for this award for meritorious performance of duty states:

"Colonel Dalziel distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the outstanding performance of duties as Military Attache, Embassy of Canada, to the United States of America, from September 1989 to June 1991. During this period he exhibited the highest standards of professional competence. His untiring efforts to promote understanding and cooperation between the Canadian Army and the United States Army have served to strengthen the bonds of friendship and further the mutual objectives of both nations. His leadership, sound judgement and diplomacy gained the confidence and admiration of those officers in the Department of the Army with whom he was in contact. Colonel Dalziel's exemplary manner of performance in these duties reflected great credit upon himself, the Canadian Army and his country."

The Legion of Merit was established in 1942 and ranks after the Silver Star Medal. It was the first USA decoration established for award to citizens of other countries.

Dr. W.J. (Bill) McAndrew has decided to take his retirement, effective March 1996, from the Directorate of History at NDHQ. Bill has been exceptionally busy over the last few years as a co-author of several histories written by DND and published in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. In 1994 the first book "Normandy: June - August 1944" was published and followed in 1995 by "Liberation: August 1944 - May 1945". He is presently working on the history of the Canadians in Italy that is to be published next year. Bill continues to support the Land Forces Staff College in their Battlefield Studies and Tours.

It is with sadness and regret that we have to report the passing of W.G. (Glenn) Munroe this past summer. Memorial services were held in Tichborne, as well as in Maxville, Ontario his original home town. Many military and regimental colleagues attended to pay their respects. Glenn will be remembered as a dedicated and professional military officer who was respected by all ranks of the Regiment. His long and continuous support of the Ottawa Black Net was much appreciated and will be missed. We extend our sympathies to Eileen and family.



**Special Guests:** This past July, the Regiment had the honour of hosting a delegation from Anisy who came to check out the small village we live in! The QOR of C held several events including a dinner in the RCM's Library. Pictured here at the table with the delegation we have the then CO of the Regiment, LCol S.D. Brand, CD (far side), the Honorary Colonel, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD (closest to camera) and to his right, the Mayor of Anisy, M. Leparquier. (Photo courtesy LCol S.D. Brand)

## REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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

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

**Every member of our Regimental family is encouraged to make a special effort to support the Trust Fund with a healthy donation in 1996 to meet the financial obligations of the Trust Fund. Tax receipts are available.**



## The First Canadian Parachute Battalion Association

by Jan de Vries, President,  
1st Can Para Bn Assoc.

For our Association this has been a year of extreme lows and highs with much activity throughout.

About 25 of our members and wives attended the stand down ceremonies of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Petawawa in early March. Much has been said and written of this disgraceful government over-reaction to the Airborne that is a detrimental reflection of government attitude towards the armed services.

Fortunately the rest of the year was more positive. About 20 of our Association members attended the Liberation Ceremonies in Holland, and, to a man, were overwhelmed by the sincere feelings of the Dutch population. I had the good fortune to represent our Association with the Official Canadian Government party.

The services at all the cemeteries were well organized and well attended. Sad to say, I had little time to pay respect to my own Battalion members who were buried there. To see so many stones of grey and to think of the Canadian soldiers they represent, left me with a deep hollow sense of loss.

A side trip on May 9th brought me to the village of Buggenum, in the south of Holland. Here, I met 6 of our members and we dedicated a bronze plaque in memory of our fallen. The local historian, Hugo Levels, the Mayor and people of the area treated us to delicious lunch afterwards.

The Association next attended a CAFA General Meeting in London Ontario on June 10 & 11. There we joined the RCR Association in a

service and wreath laying at their Cenotaph. On June 22 to 25, we held a reunion in Barrie, Ontario, attended by over 100 of our members coming from all across Canada. This was well done with bus tours, boat cruises, a dance and Parade - a great chance to see old comrades.

August 19th saw our Association field at least 50 members in the Warriors' Day Parade where we picked up a third in our category for marching. We know why it wasn't first!

Sunday, Sept. 17, at St. George's-on-the-Hill, we joined BAFA for a Remembrance of Arnhem Service. September 22, a number of us enjoyed a golf day and dinner at Camp Borden. It was promoted by MGen Herb Pitts in conjunction with the KVA members.

This was also the day that Reg Walker, our QM, passed away. Reg was well known by a good number of the QOR. On Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, our Association participated with the Allied Air Force Association reunion as we did the previous year. This event at the Royal York and a service at the Toronto City Hall Cenotaph, gave us an opportunity to trade stories with the Airforce types, some of whom flew the C47's at Arnhem and the Rhine drop.

For those who could not make it to the Ontario events, our members in BC and the Maritimes held Mini-Reunions to which a few from the central area travelled.

With the November 11th Parades and services behind us we hope to catch our breath and start planning our 1996 activities.

"Airborne!"

## Official Opening of Cosens Hall

A special ceremony at the Meaford Training Centre on 26 February 1995 saw the official opening of a modern drill hall named after Sergeant Aubrey Cosens VC, a member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who won the Victoria Cross for his part in the attack on the hamlet of Mooshof in Germany. The Sergeant's actions resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operations of the Brigade.

Prior to the opening of the Hall, there was a live fire demonstration of small arms by members of the Militia Battalion. A parade followed in the drill hall attended by members of the Cosens family, veterans of the Regiment including Major Ben Dunkelman, the Company Commander at the time of the battle (seen at the microphone in photo below), and CSM Charles C. Martin who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal while serving with the Regiment in the Northwest European campaign.

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



Major Ben Dunkelman, DSO, the Company Commander at the time of the battle, addresses the distinguished audience at the inauguration ceremonies (Photo: LCol B. Danson)

## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

*The presentation of new colours to the Second Battalion of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, took place in Howe Barracks, Canterbury on 20 May 1995. Representing The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at this historic ceremony was Lieutenant Colonel M.G. McIver who was accompanied by his wife Jean. An account of this ceremony by Lieutenant Colonel McIver follows.*

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

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

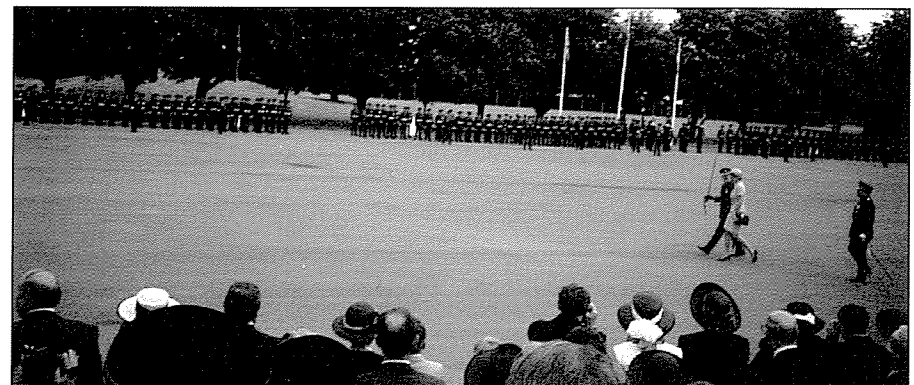
My wife and I were honoured and very pleased to represent The Queen's Own Rifles at this special parade. The weather was quite cool but the threat of rain held off during the ceremonies. It was obvious from the moment that the four guards first appeared on parade that we were watching regular soldiers and that they had trained hard and long for this occasion. At the completion of each drill movement you could hear only one sound as the feet and weapons were moved. The very difficult "Advance in Review Order" was done to perfection. I have written to LCol Newton, the Commanding Officer, to congratulate him for a superior parade. After the ceremony the officers of the

Battalion had lunch with Her Royal Highness in the Officers' Mess while the guests had a reception in several large marquees where there was a bountiful supply of delicious food and beverage.

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

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

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



Her Royal Highness, The Princess of Wales, reviews Her Regiment in the company of LCol Newton, the Commanding Officer (Photo: LCol M.G. McIver)

### Historical Notes on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)

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

The Queen's Regiment traced its history back to 1572 when Queen Elizabeth I reviewed the Trained Bands of London from which 3rd Foot descended. Its precedence in the British Army dated from the raising of 2nd Foot in 1661 for the Defence of Tangier, acquired by King Charles II on his marriage to Princess Catherine of Braganza. The Regiment was formed in 196 from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment.

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



## The Brigade of Gurkhas

### Colonel Commandant:

Lieutenant General S Cowan CBE

### Colonel:

Colonel D R d'A Willis

### Regimental Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel G C J L Pearson

During 1995 the Brigade has seen its members deployed on operations in support of UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia and on overseas exercises from Canada through Kenya to Hawaii and New Zealand. Captain (QGO)



28 Sqn QO GTR on UNPROFOR duty

Dhamendra Gurung, RGR, won the coveted Queen's medal at Bisley for a unique third time with some 17 Gurkha shotists in the top 50.

Brigade Headquarters (HQBG) has now settled alongside the Infantry battalion (3RGR) at Church Crookham in Hampshire. It joins the Gurkha Centre which comprises the Gurkha Training Wing (GTW) which is training 153 recruits in UK for the first time, the Brigade Band and an Education Centre. RGR battalions remain stationed in UK, Hong Kong and Brunei. The Governments of Great Britain and Brunei have recently signed an agreement to extend our tenure in Brunei until 2003.

1 RGR (Hong Kong) have sent all their Rifle companies away on overseas training where as 3 RGR (UK) spent 6 weeks training in Kenya. 67 Independent Field Squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers remain in Hong Kong, 69 squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers spent several months training in Western Canada. They will now work up for a deployment with UNPROFOR. RHQ Queen's Gurkha Signals and one squadron are in Prince of Wales

Barracks Hong Kong, 250 Squadron form part of 30 signal Regiment in UK and have deployed troops as far a field as Bosnia, Saudia Arabia, Turkey, Rwanda and Angola. 28 squadron Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment completed a 6 month tour of duty with UNPROFOR in October.

Our Lines of Communication in Nepal continue to administer our activities there including recruitment, transitees, resettlement training, pension paying and welfare. The Canadian Gurkha Welfare Appeal continues to support our welfare activities. Sadly we are still reducing towards our eventual end strength in 1998 of some 2,500, we are currently some 4,250 strong. This means continuing redundancies for our soldiers for whom a reasonable retraining and recruitment package in addition to a pension and compensation package for loss of service is being provided.

The Brigade past and present was well represented during the commemorative events to mark VJ Day with 5 victoria Cross Holders and one decorated Gurkha veteran per Regiment from World War 2 back in the UK. 3 RGR provided a guard and the Pipes and Drums to march on the final parade and beat retreat. The Pipes and Drums from 2 RGR (Brunei) took part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and a small party from our Demonstration Company in Wales took part in the Royal Tournament.

The Colonel Commandant and All Ranks of the Brigade wish all past and present members of The Queen's Own a Merry Christmas and Happy 1996.

^Jai Gurkha^.



Milan detachment - 3 RGR

## Saharan Adventure

by Capt P.W. Lomasney, CD

The author returned last year from an extended UN tour. His account is proof of the variety of opportunities available to QORs:

Four years ago I departed for the Western Sahara as a United Nations military observer (UNMO) with MINURSO (United Nations International Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara) which was to have a rather large Canadian participation, namely the Canadian Airborne Regiment. However, plans were changed and instead of a deployment of 1695 military personnel, the mission never exceeded about 340 UN observers and HQ staff.

We left for Casablanca each with 4 barrack boxes, 2 duffle bags, rucksack, cot and personal gear. We had been told that we must bring food and water to last a month (2 barrack boxes) until a resupply system kicked in. Very briefly, the conflict in the former Spanish Sahara has been going on since 1912, which escalated in 1974 before the Spanish ceded the territory to Morocco and Mauritania. Moroccan troops moved in to confront a guerilla force, the Polisario Front, who were leading a national liberation movement. The mission area covered part of the Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and the Atlantic to the west. On certain patrols, one could pass through 3 countries in a day. The ground varied from sand to rock desert, flat runway-type wadi's to small rock mountains and nearly no vegetation. Daily monitoring patrols which consisted of two jeeps and four observers were arduous, and problems with terrain, heat, sandstorms, navigation and mines were constant. There were very few spots which were considered clear of mines. As sand shifts constantly, mines were found everywhere and at least 3 teamsites found they were unwittingly located smack in heavily mined areas. There were some serious casualties, but no fatalities.

The years I spent in the Sahara gave me a fascinating and rewarding experience, with memories I shall never forget.

by Capt A.R. Saunders, Bn TrgO

Operation Blockbuster I was conducted 25/26 February 1945. This Op included an attack on the village of Mooshof, Germany by the QOR. During the conduct of this attack Sgt Aubrey Cosens, with four Riflemen and 1st Hussars tank support, attacked and cleared three buildings. Sgt Cosens consolidated the position under difficult conditions and while on his way back to Coy HQ was killed by a sniper. For his actions that day he was awarded the Victoria Cross. In memory of his heroic action, the QOR of today conducted a training exercise and drill hall dedication ceremony at CFTA Meaford on the 24/26th of February 1995, exactly 50 years after the original action and in the presence of our Veterans, some of whom were with Sgt Cosens on that fateful day.

This training Ex was to commence with a night para drop onto DZ Birdseye, from Buttonville airport, out of a C130 Herc. A plane load of jumpers rigged with full equipment in winter whites were ready to go. The para doors of the Herc opened and out went the door bundles. The jumpers were in the Standby position with the number one on either side of the plane standing in the open doors. At 0230 a raging blizzard obscures the Drop Zone and the red light remains on. The plane racetracks,... and racetracks again..., the waiting jumpers strain under their heavy load as they struggle to maintain their balance. The conditions worsen and after yet another pass the Jump Master signals a Stop Drop, unhook, sit down and seat belts back on for the return flight to Toronto. The Jumpers then board a Herc-a-bus back to Meaford to carry on with the exercise.

Meanwhile the non jumpers from 60th Coy have prepared to RV with the jumpers at a remote location in Meaford to carry on with the Ex. They had heard the plane fly over in the midst of the blizzard, but carry on with the task anyway. Such is life in Airborne Operations.

## Operation Blockbuster II

At MPA, Victoria company was engaged in detailed preparations to conduct their own Adm Coy trg in order to more effectively support 60th Coy, as is their task within the Bn.

The entire Bn finally RV'd in Meaford mid morning Saturday. 60th Coy began rehearsals for a final attack which would culminate with a live fire Ex early on Sunday morning. Engineers had set up no less than 100 charges to simulate an arty bombardment. It was most effective. 60th Coy then moved into position and began firing at targets prepared earlier under the close supervision of the RSO, Capt Mike Attrux. Several guests had arrived to watch the live fire. The same nicknames and report lines from Blockbuster I were once again employed, 50 years later, as were the exact timings. One of the only things missing was the rum ration.

The weather in Meaford was extremely cold. Balaclavas were down and all faces were covered. This was some introduction to our recruits to winter warfare.



The culmination of the weekend was a live fire Ex early on Sunday morning. The Engineers set up no less than 100 charges to simulate an arty bombardment. (Photo: Editor)



## Ex Silent Knife: Setting the New Standard of Soldiering in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

by Cpl. S. Wood, 60th Coy

On 29 September- 01 October, the soldiers of the Queen's Own participated in yet another Ex Silent Knife in CFB Borden, as we do each year, and though it be of the same name, this year's activities required a marked difference in drive, as you will soon hear.

Our new CO, LCol Welsh, has refocused the standard of field exercise to truly infantry-tasked operations, which will surely separate the men from the boys! Now, for those of you who missed the ex, hopefully for justified reasons of civil employment responsibilities that could not be altered, let me bring you up to speed.

Nineteen hundred hours, 29 September, usual arrival at armory for weapons and equipment draw. We were then split into four-man teams and issued maps, compasses and two grid references, one at the southeast base boundary and the other close to the northwest boundary of the base. This was our biv site, at which we were to arrive no later than 0600 the next morning. Next, we prepared route cards with at least one leg per team member.

Right then! On the bus and up we go. At approximately 2300, we arrived at base. Off the bus and over the fence and into the woods so dark and deep and to our timing we must keep!

Now, any ruck hump over 10K through the bush is always a good go, but navigating at night to boot is always a learning experience.

Our group arrived at the biv site about 0400 around the middle of the pack. Break out the biv bag and go to ground. After a couple of hours in a coma state, 0630 reveille. Up we get, work out the kinks and get ready to start a new day's training. Usual delightful breakfast of eggs and beans and off we go. Saturday was spent rotating through stands; covering comms; digging shell scrape and preparing range cards; searching ground and estimating distance; challenge procedure and duties of a sentry; fieldcraft covering target

indications; field formation; types of movement (e.g. leopard crawl); stalking techniques; probing for trip wires; use of ground; a couple of trench assaults and then .... DINNER!

After dusk we had three more stands to complete night noises (identification and distance estimation); night shoot from slit trenches dug earlier in the day (and filled in after shoot); practicing GRIT and section communication and my personal favourite, the stalking stand. This is where you traverse bush filled with trip flares and booby traps and open ground trying to elude the watchful eyes of stand supervisors trying to spot you. I felt like John C. Sniper, belly crawling across the open field with foliage sticking out from every piece of kit and clothing.

After a full day, I crawled into my biv bag at about 0030, to the simple pleasures of sleep and dreams of other times and places — of carelessly whistling a tune. Whistling. WHISTLING! Artillery simulators are exploding everywhere! Machine gun fire! Shouting! Thirty minutes to pack up and be on the ML. Fifteen minutes later, 0315, we're on the ML, flap down to restrict viewing, and we're bouncing down the road and, I suspect, off-road. The truck comes to a stop to rifle fire. Some foul and nasty individuals order us off the truck and we're laying face down on ground in our teams. Team leaders are given a grid of where we are and where we're to be at 0900. And so begins approximately 5-1/2 hours of an escape and evasion exercise. Off into the night we run and drive ourselves through another tiring night of slogging through the bush.

0900 We're at the rendezvous point, tired and wet but pleased to have accomplished our mission without getting bumped (not all teams were so fortunate).

Time to kick off the boots, dry our feet and chow down an IMP. Feeling good about a hard weekend's training done. Wait-out .. something's up. The C.O. calls team leaders into an O group. Back

they come with news that the C.O. has one more small task to be done: a SK run, team competition, consisting of four legs. At the end of leg one, rifles field stripped and assembled; leg two, assemble and disassemble PRC25 radio set; leg three, pick up rucksack and run to the finish, traversing distance with rucksack anywhere but on your back. That was a nut-cracker! Congratulations to event winners — the Officers of 60th Coy.

### Now for some comments, quotes and statistics:

RFN Kirk, a new member to the ranks, who completed his QL3 Infantry course this summer, had this to say: "This was my first real exercise with the Queen's Own. I think I can speak for all new Riflemen who participated in this exercise that it was challenging from beginning to end, especially the escape and evasion portion of the ex. It came unexpectedly and was a real eye-opener for me and kept me on my toes. To end it all, we had to complete a 5K run that left me feeling drained but with a real sense of accomplishment and a pride for the Queen's Own."

### Tales from the Stalking Stand:

M.Cpl Wolfe was the quickest man through in thirty-five minutes and also gave the supervisors a heart-starter by creeping up behind them and grabbing them by the necks. \*\*\* One troop liked the stand so much he stayed an extra 15 minutes after the whistle, sleeping cozily. \*\*\* M.Cpl Hutcheon was the only man to meet Sgt. Paton's challenge of finding and marking a trip flare. \*\*\* 2Lt Beardmore's idea of the boundaries differed from that which Sgt. Paton had defined.

**Statistics:** \*\*\* Approximately 21 K covered during the weekend, over half with rucksack and about 80% navigating at night. \*\*\* Twelve stitches administered: three for RFN Karakas demonstrating how not to open the butt of a rifle for a cleaning kit with a knife and nine for the Padre when someone

## Operation Market Garden +50

Capt A. Saunders, MWO B. Bamlett, and Sgt S Collins of the Canadian Airborne Regiment were all participants in the 50th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden. Our trip included a 1 week stay in Browning Barracks Aldershot, a jump into Holland, and an evening in Arnhem.

Courtesy of 10 Para, 3 seats were allocated to The Queen's Own Rifles to allow us the privilege of parachuting with the Brits and with members of Allied Armies onto DZ Ginkel Heath, Holland, 10 miles outside of Arnhem. This drop zone is the actual DZ used 50 years earlier on 17 Sept 1944.

As we fly towards our objective, much of my sense of history and excitement become lost in a "Barf Bag", but once I am out the door of the C-130 Aircraft I am instantly better and become caught up in the nostalgia and significance of this historic event. 150,000 spectators are on hand to witness 800 jumpers from 13 Hercs descend onto Holland after a 2 1/2 hour contour flight from Lyneham

Airforce Base in the United Kingdom.

Prince Charles, the Colonel in Chief of the Paras is on hand, on the DZ, and personally welcomes me to Holland. He also takes the time to have explained to him the relationship of The Queen's Own Rifles to the Airborne family.

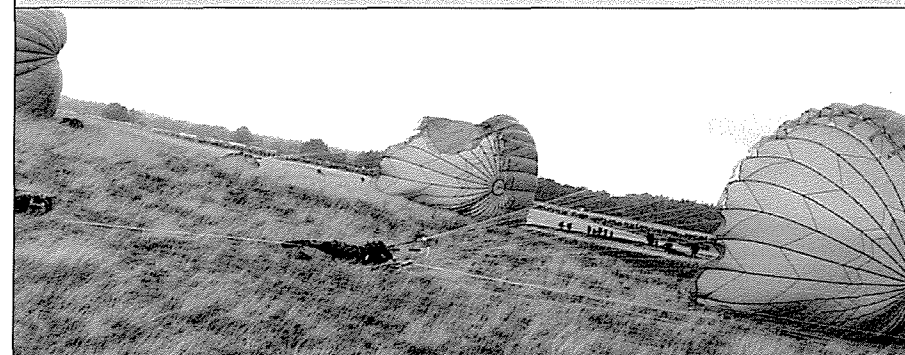
After a ten mile walking tour/march/tab into Arnhem from the DZ, we finally arrive at the bridge. This was the Bridge Too Far. We are reminded that on this particular operation, approximately 2,000 of the 10,000 jumpers and glider troops escaped across the Lower Rhine from the German firepower. The rest were either captured, wounded or killed.

This entire trip was an incredible opportunity for all concerned. We left Holland and the UK with a renewed sense of comradeship and history within the Airborne Brotherhood.

AIRBORNE !



By Jove, jolly windy here, what! Lt A. Saunders, MWO B. Bamlett and Sgt S. Collins pose, above, in front of a wartime Dakota and later on, below, in the DZ. (Photos Lt A. Saunders)



## The QOR Kit Shop

### Stock & Price List Dec 1, 95

Duty and taxes are included in the prices. Please send all orders to address using the enclosed ORDER FORM with an enclosed cheque or money order payable to "QOR Kit Shop" and add \$5.00 to cover postage and handling.

#### TIES

Regimental Ties	\$12.
Green - QOR Insignia	20.
Regimental Bow Tie	8.

#### T-SHIRTS & SWEAT SHIRTS

QOR T-Shirts	12.
QOR Sweat Shirts	23.
<b>QOR Airborne/Rifleman</b>	
T-Shirt - Maroon	12.
T-Shirt - Green	12.
Sweat Shirts - Maroon	23.

#### CRESTS & BADGES

Blazer Crests - QOR	20.
Windbreaker Crests QOR	8.

#### JEWELLERY

QOR Hat Badges (All Silver)	25.
QOR Tie Tack	6.
QOR Lapel Pins	Silver Colour 4.
	QOR Colours 6.
	Bugle Band 6.

#### D-DAY + 50 ITEMS (QOR INSIGNIA)

D-Day Landing Print	25.
Same, signed Orville Fisher	150.
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Rugger Sweaters	32.
Army Bags	10.
Baseball Caps - Summer	12.
(Green, Green & Red, Maroon & Blue)	
Cloth Badges	5.

#### VE DAY + 50 ITEMS(QOR)

Glass Beer Mugs (4 for 35.)	9.
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#### MISC. ITEMS

Regt'l Ice Buckets (Drum)	48.
Regt'l Band - CD's	15.
Regt'l Band - Cassette	10.
Coffee Mugs	5.
Regt'l Decals - Stickers	2.
Note Cards - per Doz.	8.
Xmas Cards - per Doz.	8.
Small Rifles - Black Metal	4.
Baseball Caps - QOR	10.
(Regular & Summer)	
Belts - QOR Insignia	18.
Whistle Cords	
- Officers & Senior NCO's	15.
- Whistle Cords - OR's	10.

#### BOOKS (Soft Cover)

Battle Diary (CSM C.C. Martin)	15.
Fifty Years After (J. Gardam)	15.
Ordinary Heroes (J. Gardam)	15.
Cdn. Peacekeeper (J. Gardam)	15.
Valour on Juno Beach (T.R.Fowler)	15.



## Trillium Guard 95

gave his head a rub with a rifle while disembarking ML during E & E ex.\*\*\* Largest blister award going to Rfn Demedeiros (approximately 1-1/4 inches in diameter).\*\*\* Average amount of sleep for 60 coy, 4-5 hours for the weekend.

**Quotes** \*\*\* From an Officer: It was 5 a.m. when I was awakened by the voice of Santa Claus bellowing through the darkness, "We four will sleep together; Ian, you go over there and we'll be with you in a minute" \*\*\* During night nav to the biv site Friday night, Cpl. Shaidle came upon a sign stating: ORCHARD - DO NOT ENTER. The Coy Sgt Major questions, "Now what are you going to do?" Cpl. Shaidle replies, "Well, if you weren't here, I'd go right through it" CSM: "But I am here". Cpl Shaidle: "Yea, that's my problem"

\*\*\* MCpl Wolfe explaining why he took off before receiving orders for the escape and evasion exercise: "As the ML stopped under fire and I was ordered to lie down on the ground, I felt it was my duty as an Infanteer to avoid capture and evade the enemy" \*\*\* After Friday night's ruck hump the CO states on Saturday morning that there would be "no walking on Saturday night". Keyword: walking.

### Summary

This was, without doubt, the most realistic infantry training weekend in which I've participated and LCol. Welsh assured us at End Ex that more of the same is to come. So, sound the advance! The day of a new warrior is upon us and the hearts of the meek shall tremble!

In Pace Paratus  
Airborne!

by Capt J.M. Fotheringham, OC, A Coy  
The infantry portion of Ex Trillium Guard was held at CFB Petawawa from 13-20 August, with the QOR as A Company of the Toronto District Infantry Battalion. The QOR Company was comprised of two platoons of QOR and one platoon of R Regt C, under command of the QOR, with 88 all ranks.

After our arrival on Sunday, battle procedure commenced immediately, with our company laying out and establishing a company defensive position. On the next evening, we were relieved in place by the 48th, and moved to a hide to prepare for a company-level ambush.

An important lesson was learned as the ambush was about to be sprung. As the enemy approached the cut-off group, a soldier's watch alarm went off, the enemy opened fire and ran, and the ambush was a failure. A trivial detail, but one that caused the failure of an entire mission.

Withdrawing from the ambush site, the company immediately moved to place a deliberate attack on a communications site. We then moved back to the hide and prepared for the advance to contact phase. The advance to contact phase went very well, with three strong platoon attacks and two company attacks. A Company was judged to be the best company in the Battalion on this phase.

Our last task was a deliberate attack on the FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) site. It was during the approach to this attack that I realized that, as company commander, I have the best job in The Queen's Own Rifles. We were moving to the ORV prior to the attack, and I looked back in the dark to see almost 80 soldiers snaking along behind me - hard to describe how exciting that sight was.

We were fortunate to have, on occasion over the different phases, a section of Pioneers from the RHLI (defensive), a recce detachment from the Linc & Welland R (ambush), an MFC from SD&G Highlanders (advance and deliberate attack), and TOW detachment from R Regt C (advance and deliberate attack), and a MedA from Ottawa Med Pl (all phases). All acted very professionally and it was refreshing to have actual attachments rather than notional support, and each group got a chance to practice their trade as well. The R Regt C platoon fit in with the QOR perfectly, and it was a pleasure to work with them. Thanks to the Royals for a job well done.

Overall, Trillium Guard was the best concentration since On Guard 90. Once on the ground, the exercise was well-organized and run. We look forward to an even better exercise next August with Trillium Phoenix, when LCol Welsh will command the TD Battalion, and all QOR personnel will be able to attend.

Regimental participants at Ex Trillium Guard held at CFB Petawawa from 13th to the 20th August, 1995

(Photo Sgt. M.T. Shannon)



Trained on our ships and landing craft; we must  
Destroy it and the crew within; this was  
Our task. Right at my feet there landed a  
Grenade; I crouched remembering: if you  
Were close you'd feel the blast but shrapnel would  
Not get you bad as if you ran. I hoped  
Them right, as for a hundred years (it seemed),  
I waited for the blast. It came; it nicked  
My tendon; that was all.

I rose and threw  
My own grenade; it fell inside and they  
Came bursting out, the three of them. I raised  
My rifle while his luger levelled at  
My heart. Shots fired and he was dead, not I.  
We cleared the pill-box and went on and then  
Some time much later in a lull I could  
Return. There wasn't much to see: he was  
About my age; pictures of his parents  
And his girl were in his wallet. Oh God,  
He could be me! Two others there as well  
And I'd not noticed when they died; they too  
Were young like me, like all of us. But they,  
The corporal and Gibbie never would  
Grow old. Our sergeant's holler brought me back  
Again to war.

My wounded ankle sent  
Me from the front. Not home, only as far  
As England. There was time; there was much time:  
I fell to thinking, wondering about  
This war and all the wars before. They died;  
I hadn't noticed when they died. They died;  
I hadn't noticed. I'm not unfeeling,  
Not a callous man; yet when they died I  
Hadn't noticed. Noticed! Inadequate  
That word describing deed horrific. It  
Then dawned on me what happened, what took place:  
Death all around and you could die but hoped,  
Believed, you wouldn't. But they'd also believed.

A quiet summer's day some five years more  
I came across that wallet once again.  
Impulsively I wrote a note; I sent  
It with the wallet to the parents; they  
Replied with thanks and questions and I wrote  
To say their son died bravely for his cause;  
I knew it to be true just as I knew  
My friends and comrades sacrificed for ours.

But life goes on and mem'ries melt away  
Or buried lie, which isn't quite the same  
But still it serves. Our children born; they grew  
And flourished, then they left our home to make  
Their own. We had some time ourselves. I joined  
The local Legion group wherein I found  
A fellow bugler of my Regiment;  
We'd play Last Post upon Remembrance Day.

We practiced every day; we progressed well;  
By May the sounds were good, the notes were true.  
I thought that for the sixth of June last year  
We'd play informally to mark the day  
We'd landed on those beaches and begun  
The fight that ended one more tyrant's dream.

But it proved more: we played as we had planned  
And then I spoke: of guts and humour, then  
Of death. I read the letter I'd received  
When long ago I'd sent the enemy's  
Small, scant possessions to his parents' home.  
I choked and felt my eyes fill up with long,  
Deep-buried tears. Forgiveness freely giv'n  
To those who fought against us in those days  
Could equally be rendered to ourselves  
At last I saw. And when again I raised  
My bugle to my lips to sound the Rouse,  
I felt the burden lifted from my heart.

Each time now that I sound my bugle's note;  
I sound for all of us who joined in war,  
Who did what was required at the time  
Of our young manhood: those on either side.

The Bugle-Major signals (he is young,  
As young as most my colleagues here today)  
We'll mark and dedicate anew this place  
Of Honour, place of death these fifty years  
Now past. My bugle proudly to my lips:  
For all of us once here, now gone, I play.

### "No Price too High"

Congratulations to LCol Barney Danson for his instrumental role in the production of the book, TV series and, soon, a CD-ROM, titled "No Price too High" (the book was authored by Prof. Terry Copp, a leading historian on the subject).

This is an extensive and well balanced account of Canada's contribution to Allied victory in WW2. Following so many biased and/or disparaging accounts on this subject produced in Canada in the recent past, it is refreshing to see initiatives such as "No Price too High" come to life. It deserves a wide audience.

The Editor



## Canadian Airborne Regiment Closing Out Ceremonies

by Capt A.R. Saunders  
Op Tasked PI Comd

The Commanding Officer and all Ranks of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were invited to attend the closing out Ceremonies of The Canadian Airborne Regiment on the weekend of 3-5 March 1995. It was considered quite an honour for the QOR to be not only invited to attend the Ceremonies, but to participate in them as well.

Our Band and Bugles was asked, and accepted to play the various marches required for the numerous parades and functions held on throughout the weekend. The Band actually led the final march of the Airborne Regiment, with LCol Kenward leading the Regiment, to the final Laying Up of Colours at the Airborne Museum at CFB Petawawa on Sunday 5 March 1995. It was a cold weekend and yet the Band members persevered in exemplary fashion. Fingers nearly froze, and mouth pieces had to be kept in pockets to ensure they maintain their warmth. Regardless of all of

(Photo courtesy Sgt M.T. Shannon)



these obstacles our Band, as usual, was in fine form and proudly played "The Longest Day" more than a few times that weekend.

A number of Op Tasked pers, Capt Saunders, WO Wilmot, Sgt Halcro, Sgt Paton, Sgt Shannon, 2Lt Beardmore, and MCpl Wolfe, were given the distinct honour of being able to participate in the final Regimental Mass Para Drop with the Canadian Airborne Regiment onto DZ Anzio at 041000 Mar 95. We were manifested aboard an American Starlifter, one of two that were there to support the CAR in their last few days. A number of Canadian C130s were also on hand to assist with the final jump. A total of approx 675 jumpers made that final descent into history.

A Jumpmaster from one of the Starlifters, tasked to ensure that all jumpers were safely out the door on what was to be the very last pass, ran out of drop-zone and had the Starlifter race track for another pass to discharge his sole remaining jumper. This lone final jumper could now claim to be the very last one to land onto DZ Anzio as

a member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. All people on the DZ cheered as this solo jumper exited for a very memorable experience.

The entire weekend consisted of a number of ceremonies including the Regimental Mass Para Drop, the Regimental Trooping of the Colours, a Jr Ranks Mixed Function, the Regimental Church Parade, Laying Up of the Regimental Colours, and the final dismissal on Nicklin Square.

The entire weekend was filled with emotion and gratitude as all members of the QOR were well taken care of by our Airborne brothers. It was an unfortunate, but memorable experience to be a part of. We met our present Regimental Hon LCol and past Commander and Colonel of the Airborne Regiment, MGen HC Pitts. He had been on the final parade for the QOR Regular (1st Battalion) Ceremony in 1968, and now after commanding the CAR was in attendance for a last farewell to another old friend.

AIRBORNE !

to finish we were showered with love and affection by the people of Holland. I will never forget.

Another one of the many things the people of Holland have done; they have planted 33,000 Maple trees to create a forest as a living memorial to the Canadian soldiers. Our group was present at a tree planting ceremony. Along with us a Colour Party and the Guard of Honour were also present and did an excellent job again. Never enough credit to the boys.



Rfn Stafford O. Simpson, middle, was the The QOR of C representative in the Canadian Guard which appeared at all official VE+50 ceremonies (Photo: Capt McGregor)

Our last ceremony was to visit the cemeteries at Rheinberg and Reichwald Forest which is the Air Force Memorial. We laid wreaths at both cemeteries.

There was a dinner and reception hosted by the Secretary of State aboard H.M.C.S. Toronto, anchored in Amsterdam. We were piped aboard and received a warm welcome from everyone.

Although this trip was extremely busy, I would not have missed it for anything. Our bus travelled 3,600 miles in total. We were sure kept on the move.

Upon arriving back in England we were taken to our hotel outside Windsor. The next day we were guests of the Royal British Legion in Chittingham, where we had lunch and visited their cenotaph. We were treated royally. Then we went into Windsor for our one and only shopping trip.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their kindness and consideration shown to us during the entire trip.

## D-Day Plus Fifty Years

by LCol F.P.J. Mulrooney, CD

Respectfully dedicated to Mr. Doug Hester, then a Rifleman with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and to his colleagues who also fought on that "St Crispin's Day."

And so we're back; but proudly in dress greens  
To mark that day now fifty years ago;  
That day of glory; day of dreadful wrath,  
Of stormy seas and pitching landing-craft.  
How very diff'rent now it looks, no noise;  
Cacophony of war all stilled; the cry  
Of circling gulls, and distant, spired bells  
All that disturbs the silence. Here's where I  
Landed, that's the very spot where; no, not:  
'Twas further up the beach . . . . Old men forget;  
A blessing sometimes dearer than remembrance.

The Bugles shrilled, the drummers kept the time;  
We marched to war and glory; going to free  
Old Europe from the Hun; the latest Scourge  
Of decency and freedom in this world.  
We saw it as a crusade; we didn't know  
How bitter was the price we'd have to pay  
Ere it was over.

Shoreline getting close,  
Our time is now; we're still too far.  
Move close! Move closer! roared the corporal once more  
But all in vain. The platform dropped, the sea  
Was at our feet. First out was he, and dead.  
Then as the wave from green to crimson grew  
I jumped into his rising blood; I sloshed  
Ashore; they'd zeroed in on us from that  
Hotel (a famous painting now, it hangs  
In place of honour in the Off'cers Mess;  
The landing craft approaching as it was  
That sixth of June, but there the guns are stilled.)

They hit my knapsack, Gibbie said. We'll share  
My rations, I replied. There was no need  
The next burst killed him and I couldn't, just couldn't  
Remove his watch and silver bracelet sent  
From home that very month, for they had ranged  
On me. I ran; we had to scale that wall  
And had to get to them to make them pay;  
Some yards away I saw a group had closed  
Hard on a pill-box that had naval guns



## QOR Veterans Return to NW Europe

by Cpl Orville M. Cook

*Corporal Orville M. Cook was invited by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be a member of a 180-man "Canada Remembers" party to travel to Holland during the "VE+50" ceremonies. This is his report:*

After a brief stopover in England, we proceeded to France and Holland. Following our arrival in Apeldoorn we heard that the delegation had received a request to call on 470 Dutch towns. A selection had to be made as we would be unable to visit them all. The outpouring of gratitude and affection from the Dutch people was overwhelming. Even after fifty years they have not forgotten.

Visiting the war cemeteries and seeing the care taken by the Dutch and also the participation by their children and grandchildren, you know that these very special places will continue to be cared for. At every cemetery, wherever it was, there were always large crowds in attendance and fresh flowers at every grave.

Just to mention the Village of Mill where the Second Canadian Armoured Personnel Carriers Regiment was formed. This was only the second regiment to be formed outside Canada. A plaque was unveiled to commemorate this occasion. We formed up and marched into town to the Town Hall, where the townspeople had arranged a reception for us. After the reception we went to the barracks where the Colour Party and Honour Guard were billeted. A reception and dinner was given in our honour.

It was at this time that I met Stafford Simpson of The Queen's Own Rifles. I spent the afternoon, dinner and early evening with him and it was a thoroughly enjoyable time for me. This young man is a credit to our Regiment.

We must not forget our Colour Party and Honour Guard, who were with us

throughout. They are all a credit to their regiments and to Canada. Their duties were performed with excellence.

Visiting the Arnhem Cemetery I had the good fortune to meet up with Jack Hadley and Doug Hester of our Regiment. We were going to Wons for the presentation and unveiling of the plaques. I had requested to be present at this ceremony and it had been granted by the Canada Remembers Group. Hadley and Hester were staying in Doorn and they would pick me up at my hotel on Saturday at 7:00 a.m..

When they arrived the driver, who lived in Doorn, had offered to pick me up and drive us to Deventer where we were to meet the rest of The Queen's Own party and proceed to Wons by bus. The driver had expressed a wish to go with us to Wons and when asked why he told us he had been our interpreter in Doorn when he was 16 years old and we were waiting to go home. He was welcomed aboard and spent the entire day with us.

The townspeople of Wons had arranged for us to enter the town in old army trucks. The town and surrounding area had turned out to welcome us as we drove down the main street, showering us with flowers, cheers and handshakes. We were able to spend a little time meeting with them personally and they were overcome with joy at us being there at this special time.

We then formed up and marched to the Cairn which they had erected on the main street of town. After speeches by

the Burgomaster and several town officials, CSM Charlie Martin thanked the people of Wons for their dedication to the memory of the 463 Queen's Own Rifles who paid the supreme sacrifice in the conflict for freedom. The children of Holland are continuing to honour their memory. The unveiling of the plaque was done by Jack Martin. Wreaths were laid and the children placed flowers on the Cairn.

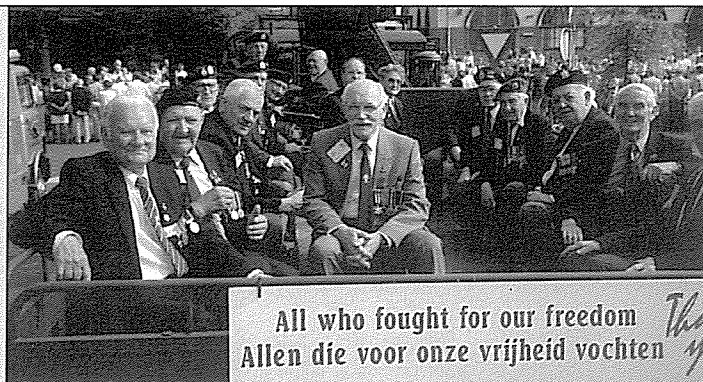
After the ceremonies, we returned to the small hotel for lunch. I was approached by one of the local men who had been told to speak to me about what he had seen as an 8 year old boy. It was when our carriers had been hit on the dyke on April 16th, 1945. He had seen the smoke and heard the noise and he watched a soldier pull two others out of the carrier. After attending to them he lit cigarettes and placed them in their mouths. This was the same time that the five carrier men were killed. He remembers this 50 years later as vividly as I do. I had lost five of my best friends who I had spent years with. They now rest in Holten Cemetery. I was that soldier he had seen.

The man I roomed with, Capt Jack Dent of the Perth Regiment, had been in charge of the burial detail that buried my five friends. This was just another coincidence on this trip. Although a sad time, I enjoyed my day at Wons with old friends and meeting the people and the children.

The next day was the Apeldoorn parade. What can anyone say that could adequately describe this day? From start

How Sweet it is! QOR of C Veterans get a well deserved Thank You from the citizens of Wons, Holland.

(Photo: LCol S.D. Brand)



## QOR Soldiers on UN duty in former Yugoslavia

*Over the past 24 months several QOR of C soldiers have completed tours of duty in the former Yugoslavia. Below we have an account on soldiering in Bosnia by Sgt. Donovan O'Halloran, plus photos from two other QOR soldiers who have completed tours in the former Yugoslavia:*



Sgt D.D. O'Halloran returning from a patrol on a Grizzly AFB. He has recently returned from a tour of duty in Bosnia with The Royal Canadian Dragoons. (Photo courtesy Sgt. O'Halloran)

by Sgt D.D. O'Halloran

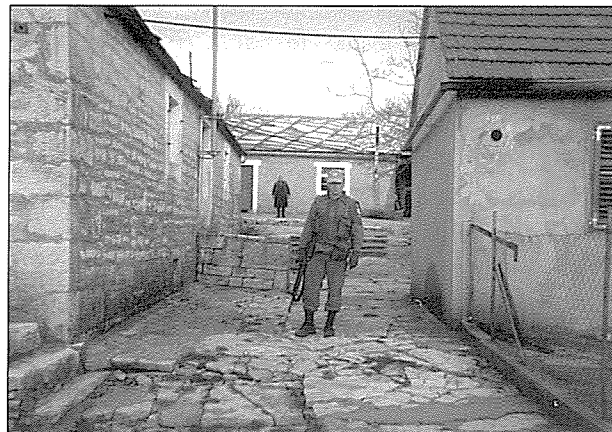
tasks.

The opportunity to go to Bosnia was something I could not imagine passing up. My enthusiasm however was tempered by the knowledge that there were many members of the Regiment who had also applied but for UN service but, for no apparent reason, had not been given the opportunity to participate in what turned out to be a fantastic experience.

My six months were split between Visoko and Kiseljak, both in central

Our time in both towns was divided between tasks such as camp security, observation posts, vehicle check points, platoon admin (re-supply runs), foot and vehicle patrols, sandbagging (the camp, a school, our OPs, etc) chopping firewood, filling jerry cans, and doing radio watch in the Sqn CP. None of which sounds too interesting when printed on a page, but many of which were occasionally very interesting.

Driving an Iltis around the edge of a



Cpl P. Smardenkas, left, leaving the UN protected village of Bruska where Serbian refugees had been relocated. In the background, a refugee observes. Cpl W. Gin, right, on a Recce Ptl in Bankovac, Croatia with 1 RCR (Photos courtesy: Cpl Smardenkas & Cpl Gin)

snow covered mountain on a track which would certainly not be considered passable in Canada. Telling someone in a foreign language, who has a loaded weapon to open his trunk. Watching kids walk to school, in socks, through the snow while they are sharing a bottle of home made brandy. Camping out beside Croatian Artillery pieces. Running with boots undone and equipment in your arms; heading for the bunker while the whole building shakes from the impact of a rocket. Peering through binoculars to find the source of the last 100 rds. Counting ammunition in the carrier for the tenth time. Receiving orders for a possible cbt team attack. Yelling at someone to take a knife from one hand so that the twelve kids fighting for the quartered orange in your other don't get cut. Having to look for a fat person for weeks before actually seeing one. Realizing that your guide who is gesturing and yelling at the other vehicle in your patrol is doing so because it is moving towards a minefield. Wondering why the prices in the kit shop keep going up.

These experiences as well as dozens more are what make the menial tasks memorable. My time there was well spent and certainly worth waiting for.

In Pace Paratus





## Officers' Mess Report - 1995

by Capt J.M. Fotheringham

Col Hank Elliot passed on the reins of Honorary Colonel to BGen Don Pryer former battalion, district and area commander. MGen Herb Pitts has assumed the role of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel.

The Regimental Change of Command in September saw LCol Tony Welsh succeeding LCol Steve Brand. We wish LCol Brand well in his future military and civilian endeavours, and look forward to LCol Welsh's strong leadership over the next few years.

Our Regular Force support officer Capt Gerhard Hildebrandt, his lovely wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Savannah, headed to a new posting in Chilliwack, B.C. We thank Gerhard for his positive attitude and assistance to the QOR during his tour, and also Sylvia for her participation in our Mess activities. We welcome our new USO, Capt Mike Attrux and his wife Nathalie to the QOR and the Mess.

We also welcome 2Lt Will Beardmore to the Mess. In the tradition of the Queen's Own, Will came from the ranks as a MCpl, and his high level of physical fitness will inspire us all. As det commander on Ex Silent Knife in September, Will led his team of Capt Kevin Sheedy, Capt John Fotheringham and Capt Adam Saunders to a first-place finish in an all ranks forced-march/skill-at-arms end-of-ex race.

Capt Peter Cianfaglione (2 FER), Capt Reg Scotland (25 Svc Bn) and Capt Robert McMichael (25 Svc Bn) returned to their parent units following successful two-year attachments to the QOR. Their enthusiasm and contribution to the QOR and the Mess were appreciated. We hope to see them back in the Mess soon.

Our Medical Officer, Capt Andy Kirkpatrick was married at St. Paul's Church in July and several officers were on hand to form the sword arch as he

and Marie left the Church. Our Int Officer, Capt Raziel Zisman also got married this July, and we wish Jeanne and him all the best. Capt Kevin Sheedy and his wife Matthuschka are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Daniel, and we are happy that Lt Karl Haupt and his fiancée have chosen next 6 June as their wedding date.

The Regiment was saddened by the passing of BGen Neil Gordon in October. A former Hon Col and a D-Day company commander, BGen Gordon was badly wounded while leading D Company into Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944. BGen Gordon had been a regular attendee at both the Annual Mess Dinner and the Christmas Luncheon and was always one of the Regiment's stalwarts.

LCol Welsh decreed that there would be no guest speaker at our Annual Mess Dinner in November, and his wisdom was well received. A well-attended dinner saw the Albatross awarded to Lt Adam Harnes, who declared that he had only doubted himself once and that was as to his own perfection.

Other Mess occasions during the past year included an "Airborne Tribute" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of OP Varsity, the crossing of the Rhine in 1945, hosted by the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, MGen H.C. Pitts, MC, CD. Guests included LCol Kenward and RSM Stevens of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, members of the CF who served with QOR Abn Coy and 1 Can Para, among others. We were also honoured when Jan de Vries, new president of 1 Can Para Association, presented the Mess with the Association plaque as a memento of the long-standing relationship between our two units. A welcome visitor was Major Jim MacKendrick, passing through on his way from BC to Italy, who reminisced for the young officers present about his days as a member of The Queen's Own and reminded them that his father, Col H.C. MacKendrick,

OBE, had served as CO from 1940-1942.

On the occasion of the release of the recent report on the future of the militia in Canada, LCol Welsh took the opportunity to invite the WOs, sergeants and senior NCOs into the Mess to give them and the officers his understanding of what the document actually said and meant. It was a well-presented, concise and clear presentation which did a great deal to clear some of the confusion away and to give the group solid information to carry back to the troops, who are understandably curious—and concerned—about the Regiment's future.

Associate Officers who attended the Christmas Luncheon will have noticed the secure sword case recently constructed in the cloak room. With a scarcity of swords available to QOR subalterns, it is LCol Welsh's hope that the construction of this cabinet will encourage former officers to loan, or even donate, their swords to the Regiment, knowing they they will be properly cared for and guarded.

Members cannot fail but notice a notable addition to the Mess. Nicknamed the Normandy Pulpit, it commemorates the QOR of C's D+50 trip and, already quite popular with officers of all ages, will doubtlessly provide a suitable venue for countless war stories. We thank LCol Steve Brand for this generous and original gift.

Our thanks to Sgt Larry Blom, Mess Steward. For a Mess which operates sporadically, as a Militia Unit Mess must today, we are fortunate indeed to have Larry as Steward. His restaurant and catering experience guarantees quality meals and bartending for our Mess dinners and other functions, and Associate Officers are encouraged to contact Sgt Blom to book the Mess for their corporate/private functions.

## Sergeants' Mess Report - 1995

by WO J.S. Wilmot

Let me start by correcting an error from the 1994 report. Credit for that report belongs to WO Al Tweten not myself. Al served diligently as our President during some of our most challenging times and he deserves to be recognised for what he did.

Since the last report many changes have taken place in the mess. The Mess Committee has turned over twice the first time by appointment and then again by election. Some familiar faces have returned to the committee for the 95/96 training year. WO Scott Patterson is once again our President with WO Shaun Kelly as the Vice. WO Phil TenKortenaar is the Treasurer and I, WO John Wilmot, am again the Secretary. Sgt Bill Paton has become the chairman of the House Committee. WO Gerry Senetchko is, of course, the Chairman of the Rifle Committee, and WO Fred Haire reports to us on the Band.

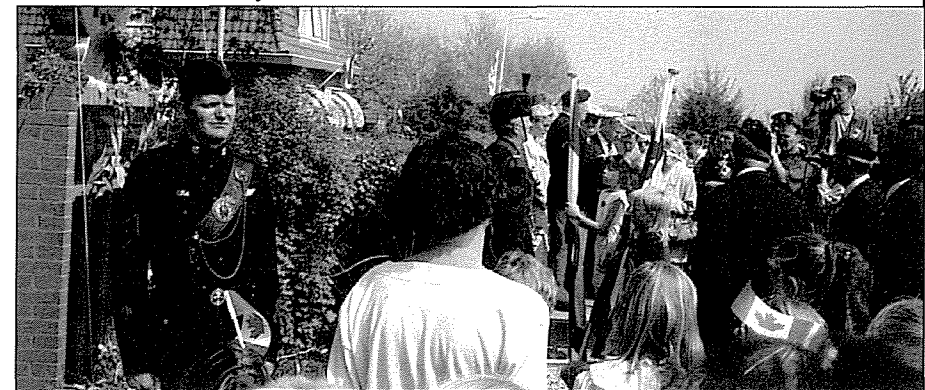
Our Mess calendar was full throughout 1994 and 1995. The two events that stand out most were the Fiftieth Anniversary Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC, Dinner and the 112th Annual Dinner. On Cosens Night we invited the senior Cpls to join us in remembering Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC. Many of our Associate Members attended and it became a most enjoyable evening. The 112th Annual Dinner was hosted by RSM Sarossy with LCol Brand in attendance with Mr Paul Schellekens, the Consul General of the Netherlands, who spoke to us about the Dutch community in Canada and

how Holland was affected by the Canadians in World War II. We took the opportunity to bestow the rank of Honourary Sergeant on Mr Art Gay and Mr Rolph Jackson.

Within the mess parlour we have made a few changes. The PMC managed to turn a small quantity of beer into a work party that cleaned and painted the back room areas. A bit of serendipity (if you use big words you can be the RSM some day) came when WO Ken Kominek started an apprenticeship in cabinet making. He has been contracted to build us some new pieces of furniture.

We said good-bye to Sgt Frank Andrews after six years. On his departure he presented the mess with a "Jumper" statue. It is very much appreciated because they are so hard to get. His presence is missed in the mess. Our new UAA is Sgt Nancy Boone. She was introduced to the mess at the September 95 meeting by the RSM. Although she is still getting to know us, she has already become involved in the mess. We look forward to big things from her. We welcomed four new Sergeants to the mess: Sgt Mark Shannon, Sgt Justin Thorn and Sgt Rita Arendz were promoted in June 94 and Sgt Frank Demaine was introduced at the June 95 meeting. The "Backbone of the Regiment" has been strengthened by some hardy milk drinkers.

I will close by asking if you know of anyone who should be on our mailing list, but isn't, please let me know.



## Update from the Jr. Ranks' Mess

By Cpl Ted Howard, PMC

The 95/96 training year has been quite eventful for the Junior Ranks. On the 6th of October the Mess elections were held with the following results:

**PMC** - Cpl Howard; **VPMC** - MCpl D.I. Hutcheon; **Treasurer/Secretary** - MCpl Suurd; **Sergeant at Arms** - MCpl T.E. Holmes

The Committee went straight forward and continued on with the refurbishment of the QOR section in the Jr Ranks Mess, a project started last year. We now feel that the QOR section is both a testimonial to our past members and a great place for present members to unwind and socialize.

Among recent extra-curricular activities by members of the Mess we can mention that the QOR Running Team ventured to Washington to participate in the Marine Corps marathon. Cpl W. Gin, Cpl Howard, Rfn L.M. Harrison and a former QOR member, now with the PPCLI, Cpl Myers, all finished their first marathon (42 Kms) in under 4 hours.

And this year, once again, members of the Mess completed the CN Tower climb, for the benefit of the United Way, with flying colours. Each QOR participant completed all 1760 stairs to the top, racing up wearing combat boots. While rucksacks were not allowed this year they compensated this by clocking some of the fastest times ever. Thanks for coming out and giving your best, Riflemen: Cpl Gin, Rfn Hillier, Rfn Kapp, Cpl Howard, Rfn Vacek, Rfn Fletcher and Rfn Harrison participated together with 2Lt Beardmore and Sgt Shannon. See you again next year!

The Committee put a lot of effort into the Men's Christmas Dinner. It was a grand event and a suitable conclusion for the year.

IN PACE PARATUS

AIRBORNE

Sgt W.D. Paton and Bugler Douglas Hester, a D-Day Veteran, guard the recently unveiled Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Memorial in Wons, Holland

(Photo LCol S.D. Brand)





First Published in the field in Normandie, June 1944.

# THE BIG 2 BUGLE

Sound the advance!

All Rifleman will be Physically Fit, Regimentally Sound and Tactically Competent

September 1995 Commanding Officer LCol S.D. Brand, CD Vol. III, No. 1



## The QOR in Europe

### In grateful remembrance

Citizens of the Dutch villages of Wons and Doorn put on very warm and emotional ceremonies for the Queen's Own on VE Day. A very large bronze plaque, whose cousin was recently unveiled in the armouries, now resides in Wons. It has been joined by a young maple tree planted in Doorn's town centre and surrounded by a decorative iron fence with a Queen's Own plaque. There were some 60 Queen's Own veterans and family members in attendance as well as LCol Brand, Capt McGregor and Sgt Paton who travelled over to participate in the ceremonies.

While in Europe, LCol Brand was able to make an excursion to Normandy and say hello to some of our friends such as the Mayors of Anisy and Bernieres sur Mer, friends of the Regiment from Le Mesnil

## From the Honourary Colonel

### Change of Command, Changing Times

These have been and are special times for the Regiment, times of change and uncertainty, times when leadership is appreciated more than ever. On behalf of all members of the Regimental Family I would like to thank LCol Brand for steering us to this point and to congratulate LCol Welsh on his appointment at this challenging period in our Regimental history.

These are also tough times for Reserves. As a result of Regular Force interpretation of the 1994 Defence White Paper and the most recent budget, severe cuts in Reserve funding have been implemented and more are planned. Militia staff training positions have been cut, funding and recruiting have been reduced and even summer camp training was cut to less than one week. The elimination of 50% of Reserve Bands in Canada has affected us directly as the QOR's Band and Bugles were one of those to be cut despite an unambiguous promise that it would be spared. Since Rifle Regiments do not carry Colours but have their Battle Honours emblazoned on their drums this move appeared to be an attempt at cutting out the heart and soul of the Regiment. Despite this setback, the Band continues to support the Regiment and the Regular Force on a voluntary basis and has vigorously undertaken fund-raising efforts such as launching their new CD (available through the Regimental Kit Shop).

Concern about the impact of additional cuts prompted a number of pro-Reserve organizations from across the country to successfully petition the Minister of National Defence to appoint a Special Commission to study the structuring of the Army Reserves. No further action is to be taken until the Government reviews the report to be produced by the Special Commission. At this time it has received over 700 briefs or submissions, many of which emphasize the vital importance of the Reserves as a component of Canadian defence, a component that if lost would be virtually impossible to rebuild and without which our defence policy would be seriously flawed. The Commission is scheduled to submit its report by the end of October. Let us hope that the Commission will reach a conclusion supporting the perpetuation of the Reserves as a vital and viable component of Canada's Armed Forces.

In spite of the "black clouds" LCol Brand has faithfully responded to all training and taskings and has continued to direct the Battalion in a positive and dynamic manner. Regimentally, he has re-established contact with our allied units and with mayors and city councils in France and Holland. During his tenure the Regiment supported the publication of CSM Charlie Martin's book "Battle Diary" and received national exposure through the book and subsequent TV special. Thanks to LCol Brand's positive attitude and vision, the Regiment was able to send 100+ serving members, including the QOR Band and cadets, to Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D Day. I believe that the presence at the ceremonies of the Band & Bugles together with the guard of serving men and women enhanced the significance of the many ceremonies in which our Veterans and those of other units participated. Those of us fortunate to have attended some of the many ceremonies and activities in Normandy and Holland during the 50th anniversary of D Day and VE Day have come back strengthened and resolved to fight for the very survival of our Regiments. It is important that we do not sit idly by and watch 136 years of Regimental history go down the tube because of those who just don't understand. As Farley Mowat has pointed out (see p. 2) the challenges we face are not new. The spirit of the Militia has not changed. We will prevail.

BGen D.A. Pryer, CD



Within sight of the CN Tower, the 'Aubrey Cosens, VC'DZ was officially inaugurated by members of the Regiment on Oct 31, 1994. We are grateful to Allan A. Rubin from Markham Airport and the crew from 427 Sqn. (Photo: Norm Betts, Toronto Sun)

## From C/S 19

I have the best job in The Queen's Own Rifles. As OC 60th, I realized what a great job I had while on Trillium Guard last month commanding the QOR/R Regt C company. We were moving to an ORV prior to a deliberate attack, and I looked back in the dark to see almost 80 soldiers snaking along behind me. It is hard to describe how exciting that sight was. After 10 years with the QOR, I've attained the position that any officer most desires, in command of a company, combining levels of responsibility and fun that I haven't experienced prior, and probably will not again. I am sure that WO Wilnot feels the same way as CSM 60th.

The CSM and I plan to bring that enthusiasm to ensuring that the upcoming training year is as rewarding as possible for 60th Company. We wish LCol Brand well in his future military endeavours and welcome LCol Welsh as our new CO. With the very busy VE+50 period behind us, I think that we can look forward to refocusing on field activities, beginning with EX Silent Knife on 29 Sep - 1 Oct. This will be a challenging regimental exercise at the 2-4 man team level, including a live-fire night shoot.

The DND name department has given CRS/ICS another new moniker (remember M72 - is that SRAAW, SRAAW(Light), LAW, PAW?) ICS is now called Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) and we'll only have to worry about the shoot and 3.2km run before Christmas. The remaining TKTs can be done easily during our quiet months in Jan-Mar.

Following Silent Knife, our one and only

range weekend will be 13-15 Oct at CFB Borden. Don't count on any other time to complete your IBTS shoot - plan to attend. Remember that you must pass the run and the shoot portion no later than 1 Nov 95.

The RCR Airborne Company is in full swing as one of the replacements for the Airborne Regiment, and welcomes our participation in their exercises. This includes their interest in specifying QOR pers for their UN tour next spring (which we should approach with cautious optimism). 20-21 Oct well be a 24-hour QOR airborne ex including a jump into Borden with a subsequent woods clearing.

Following our Remembrance Day parade on 12 Nov, Airborne Ex Maroon Beret (17-19 Nov) will include a full refresher, BFT and jump, and will include something for all 60th Coy pers. The easier IBTS cycle will now allow us to return to the fitness standards we used to expect and demand from all airborne soldiers and hopefuls - i.e. EPL, BFT, etc. The QOR is known for their above-average fitness levels; we do not plan to let that slip, especially with our increased probability of working with the RCR Abn Coy and UN deployment.

Between these interesting exercises will be Wednesday nights geared to "work-up" training for all these weekends. (Watch for 60th Coy Training Schedule for specific dates and details). I look forward to interesting year for 60th Coy, and I know that I can count on your support for the coming year. But remember - the only chance to pass your IBTS shoot will be at the Range Ex 13-15 Oct.

Capt J.M. Fotheringham

### Hurry up and wait!

Now that D+50 and VE+50 are behind us the Army itself is poised for significant change. Budgets are cut, training cancelled. Re-organization is in the air. Some may blame budget cuts, or the peace dividend or the fallout from the Somalia affair and some may not even care.

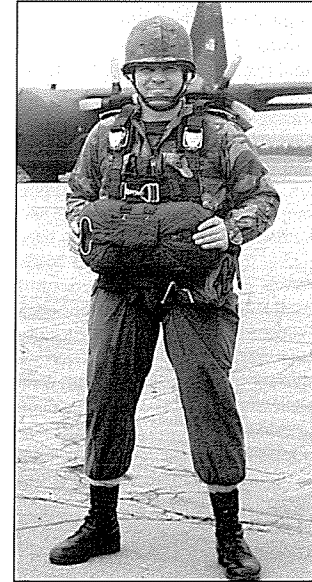
But we in the QOR do care. In the last few years, despite the uncertainty, the QOR has reached some proud milestones, above and beyond the fact that we have served our country well for over 135 years:

- In-house Abn refresher facilities.
- First Reserve JM's (4) & PI's (1).
- Top TD unit 1993/1994
- First reservists participating in the tough SSF Ironman competition.
- Top physical conditioning reflected by highest Gold Medal count each ICS year.
- Executing Operation Normandie Return with 100+ serving QORs participating in support of our veterans and D+50 events.
- A Regimental Band and Bugles with guts and talent who continue to support the Army and the Regiment ignoring a funding about face (PS: buy their great CD!)

The message for these times when many may be tempted to lower the guard is that, reflecting our motto, in peace we prepare, following the Roman belief that if you want to keep your country at peace, be trained to defend it. The QOR is and will be there whenever needed.

The Editor

### Why is this man smiling?

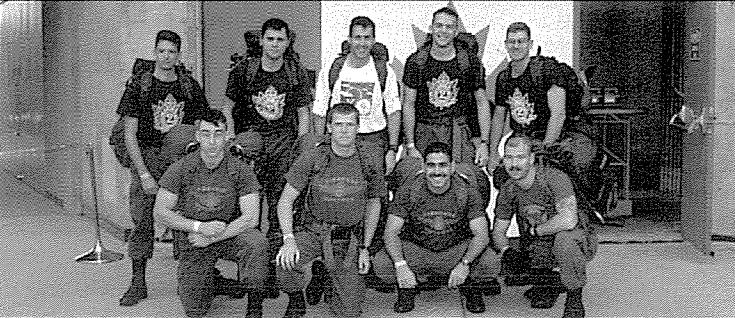


If you really, really want to know, just ask the CO next week

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- ROLL OF THE KEY APPOINTMENTS -  
-THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA-  
HRH Princess Alexandra, Colonel in Chief  
Allied with:  
-The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)-  
-The Royal Green Jackets (Light Division)-  
-The Brigade of Gurkhas-

HCol	BGen Pryer	HCol	MGen Pitts
<b>BHQ</b>		<b>VICS COY</b>	
CO	LCol Brand	OC	Capt Champion
CO Designate	LCol Welsh	2IC	Lt Adams
DCO Designate	Maj McEachern	TN O	2Lt Perreault
ADJT	Capt Attrux	TN WO	Sgt Shering
AADJT	2Lt Beardmore	MAINT O	2Lt Townshend-Carter
OPS O	Capt Sheedy	MAINT WO	WO Senetchko
TRG O	Lt Saunders	FIN O	Lt Hicks
PADRE	Capt Cameron	FIN WO	WO Fisher
IO	Capt Zisman	UMO	Capt Kirkpatrick
RSM	CWO SarossyCSM		
PMC	Capt McGregor	WO Campbell	
UTA	WO Owen	RQMS	WO Kelly
RE WO	WO TenKortenaar	CQMS	Sgt Halcro
CHIEF CLERK	Sgt Boone	SIGS WO	Cpl Hewlin
TRG WO	WO Kominek		
		<b>GURKHA COY</b>	
		OC	Maj Simundson
<b>60TH COY</b>		2IC	Lt Morrison
OC	Capt Fotheringham	TRG O	Lt Haupt
2IC	Capt Ferguson	CSM	MWO Barnlett
PL COMD	Lt Sword	REC SGT	Sgt Thomson
	Lt Harmes	ASST REC SGT	Sgt Thorn
	Lt Saunders		
CSM	WO Wilnot	<b>2881 SCARBOROUGH RIFLES (RCACC)</b>	
CQMS	Sgt Roper	CO	Capt Wilson
PL WO	Sgt Shannon	DCO	Lt Rainforth
	Sgt O'Halloran	ADM O	Capt O'Leary
	Sgt Demaine	SUP O	2Lt Bridge
	Sgt Paton	CI	J.J. Lee
<b>BAND</b>			J.H. Lutz
DIR OF MUS	Sgt Arendz		R.A. Newhook
BUGLE MAJOR	WO Haire	Cadet CSM	WO Bridge
CL A paid mmbrs	MCpl Griggs		
	Pte Lavioie	<b>DETACHED</b>	
	Pte Mendoza	LFC A	
	Pte White		
		TDHQ	Capt Ferguson
		CFRC	Sgt Nobrega
		25 MED	MCpl Lockhart
		25 SVC	Sgt Roper
		RCR BSL	Lt Banerjee
			WO Patterson
			Sgt Parris
			Sgt Syer



And who said that a 2X10 couldn't be vertical! Relaxing after their stroll up the CN Tower (back l to r): Rfn R. Kimball, Cpl. E. Howard, Rfn K. Lacz, Rfn I. Howard and Rfn L. Harrison; (front l to r): MCpl D.I Hutcheon, Sgt M.T. Shannon, MCpl A.J. Hanna and MCpl G.I Myers. And we are authorized to state that they did not rapell down.

### Look this way!

Sep 15/17	CFB Borden - Ranges; MPA - Change of Command
Sep 27	Bn Trg
Sep 29/1 Oct	Ex SILENT KNIFE,, CFB Borden
Oct 4	Bn Trg
Oct 14/15	CFB Borden - Ranges -IBTS testing
Oct 18	Bn Trg
Oct 21	CFB Borden - Parachute Jump
Nov 1	Bn Trg
Nov 12	Remembrance Day
Nov 15	Bn Trg
Nov 17/19	Ex MAROON BERET,, CFB Borden
Nov 29	Bn Trg
Dec 13	Christmas Dinner
Dec 16	All ranks kids Christmas Party

Note: Due to budgetary reasons parading will be minimized until 1 Apr 96. Monday nights and some Wednesday nights will be totally stood down and these will be staffed by full time pers who will maintain telephone watch until 2100 Hrs. No pay sheets will be auth for drop ins. The money we save now will allow us to extend training when we really need it! And remember, if you can't attend a training date or have a new address or phone number it is your responsibility to let the unit know, through the chain of command or the BOR as applicable.



## From C/S 9

When I took command in 1992, I laid out a simple guideline to govern the conduct of all serving members of the Regiment and demand more personal accountability. All Riflemen were to be Regimentally sound, tactically competent and physically fit! To achieve these goals, training and attitudes had to be adjusted and refocused in order to involve all ranks in the process. To this end, I laid on an officer/srnc training weekend at CFB Borden in the spring of 1993 which demonstrated many of the standards I would soon expect the rest of the unit to be engaged in and to meet. It was a rather interesting weekend that awakened many dormant brain cells and a new awareness of the physical standards required to complete the SSF Battle Fitness Test. The results were impressive with a 95% participation rate and improved attitudes toward field operations across the board. Little did we know at the time that MGen Vernon was preparing to implement a similar program, area wide. The QOR were therefore well prepared to launch into his Combat Readiness Standards (now ICS) later that Fall, unlike many units who are still struggling with it to this day.

I am very proud of the way all members of the unit have responded to the ever-increasing challenges. The disruption in pay and resources we have had to accept would not be tolerated in the Regular army but are an unfortunate fact of life in the Reserve world. The Rifleman's ability to adapt

and overcome has been frequently called upon, as we learn how to do more with less. Stubborn Regimental pride continues to drive most of us onward, meeting and overcoming the obstacles placed in our path.



All members of the Regimental family are to be congratulated for their individual efforts which have made my tour of duty very challenging and fulfilling. Together, we have faced many problems which were turned into opportunities and success. Certainly, Operation Normandy Return has made us all more Regimentally sound and aware of our history and the sacrifices of our Veterans, many of whom are still with us today.

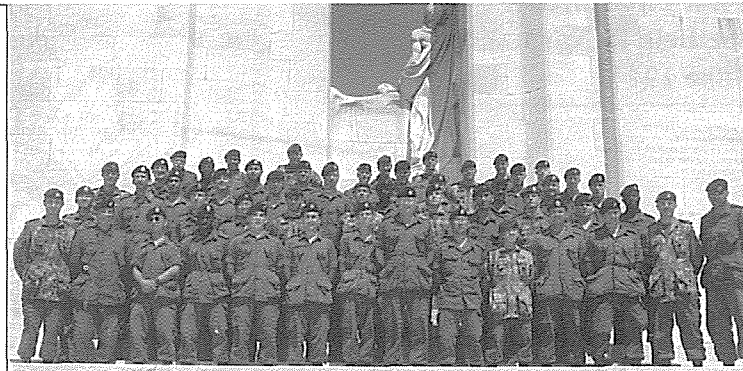
There is no doubt that we are the most physically fit Reserve battalion in Ontario and our abilities continue to improve. Our time in the field has been restricted by the ICS implementation cycle as well as budget and time constraints. The few exercises we were able to conduct involved more of the Battalion level command and control cells than has been the case in recent years. Live fire has been incorporated into all major exercises as have rucksacks and tactical scenarios in our airborne operations. As the memories and emotion of the VE+50 activities begin to fade and as ICS familiarity improves, we

will be able to spend more time in the field improving our operational capabilities.

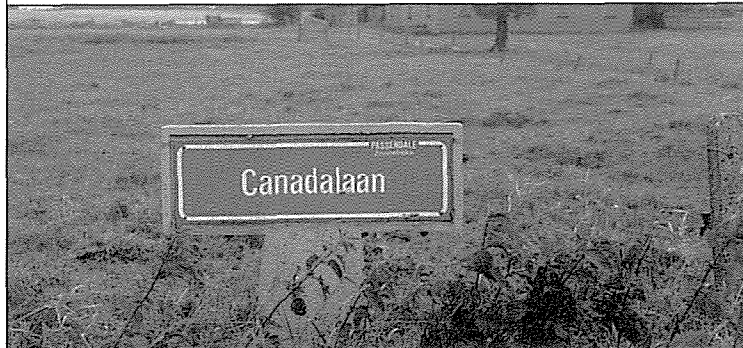
As I look back with pride on your personal efforts which have resulted in much success for the unit I am confident that the team in place will carry on with the tasks at hand. I thank CWO Figa and CWO Sarossy who served me well as Regimental Sergeant-Majors. Capt Fotheringham and Capt Attrux served faithfully as my Adjutants and shared the burden of command throughout. I congratulate LCol Welsh on his promotion and am confident in his ability to lead the Battalion through the challenges ahead. His tour will be successful and he no doubt will be surprised, as was I, at just how fast time can go when one is busy and engaged with Regimental duty. I know he can count on the same support extended to me throughout my tour by the Regimental HQ led by BGen Pryer and MGen Pitts who will continue to provide close support to the Regimental cause.

Certainly, the experiences and lessons learned as your Commanding Officer will make my new posting as SSO Infantry at LFCA headquarters more productive and I look forward to serving the Regiment from a new perspective. I was very fortunate to be your Commanding Officer and have the privilege of supporting our Veterans during the 50th anniversary commemorations. I extend my personal thanks to all those members of my personal family and the Regimental family who made it happen!

In Pace Paratus! Airborne!  
LCol S.D. Brand, CD



**From Normandy to Vimy Ridge:** The QOR D-Day contingent paid homage to our fellow countrymen who fought with great heroism and sacrifice in WW1. They are seen above in a group photo at the base of the Canadian commemorative memorial on Vimy Ridge. Least we forget: Memorials, large and small, are pointed reminders of Canada's contribution to the peace that Western Europe enjoys today. A quiet country lane honours the sacrifice of fellow Canadians in what was, in 1917, a field of mud and shell craters: Passchendaele (Photos: Editor)



## And the more things change ...

"The year was 1933; the place, a sandy strip of wasteland on the southwestern shores of Prince Edward County in the province of Ontario. The Outlet, it was called, and here in the sweltering days of July the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment was holding summer camp. One hundred and thirteen private soldiers, NCOs and officers were there - they were the Regiment. Two weeks earlier they had taken off their civilian clothes, put on motley remnants of uniforms from the war of 1914 and, aboard a collection of hired trucks, they had gone off to play at war.

That, at least, was what the country of Canada at large thought at the time. And the civilians spoke of soldier games in scornful tones as if to imply that the whole matter of the Militia was a disgrace to a God-fearing and hard-working democracy. The people in the little towns of the two counties said it - some of them, but they were only echoing the words of the politicians at Ottawa who had long since taken their stubborn stand. They knew there would be no more wars. There would be no further need for soldiers; no further need to perpetuate the mechanism for a nation's self-defence. It was the time when Canada stood slack-bellied and would not look across an ocean at the apocalyptic birth. The mechanism rusted. The army dwindled away until it became hardly more than a pile of dusty papers - dusty names. In the whole of a country that bordered on three oceans, there were three infantry battalions under arms. For a nation five thousand miles across, there were a few dozen antiquated aircraft that

the few serving pilots hardly dared to taxi on the ground. And for those three oceans, there was a pitiful handful of little ships - a navy that the Swiss could very nearly have outmatched. This was the sum total of the visible arsenal of defence. Yet there was one hidden weapon; one ignored by most of those who calculated military strength, ignored by the very government itself - and yet a weapon infinitely more powerful, and more ready than any in the official armoury. It was called the Militia.

Now there are not many men who love war. Few welcome it unless they have their early youth to shield them from a knowledge of its nature. Peace is the good thing; and yet it is a bitter truth that peace does not live long in our times. During the decades after the Armistice of 1918 there were a few men in Canada who recognized this truth. Hating war with a depth of understanding born of a bloody experience, these men alone were not deluded into the soft complacency that filled the country in the years between. Knowing war for what it was, these men - the few - foresaw the day when they, their sons and grandsons too perhaps, must needs go out again to battle that the unborn generations might survive. These were the men of the Militia; to which the 'playtime soldiers' of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment belonged."

Farley Mowat, *The Regiment*, McClelland and Stewart, 1995

## PROGRAMME

- Regimental Band Performance
- Skirmishers secure parade square
- Pioneers clear parade square
- Markers call
- Battalion marches on (please stand)
- Officers fall in
- Arrival of Honourary Colonel, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD (please stand)
- General Salute
- Arrival of Reviewing Officer
- Colonel D.E. Rive, CD, Commander Toronto District (please stand)
- General Salute
- Inspection by Reviewing Officer
- March Past in Quick Time (LCol Brand, CD) (please stand)

## CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

- Drum On New Commanding Officer
- Address by Col Rive, CD
- Exchange of CO's Sword
- Farewell Address by LCol Brand, CD
- March Past in Quick Time (LCol Welsh, CD) (please stand)
- Departure of Outgoing Commanding Officer
- Departure of Reviewing Officer (please stand)
- Departure of Honourary Colonel (please stand)
- General Salute
- Regimental March/God Save the Queen/National Anthem (please stand)
- Officers Fall Out
- Battalion Marches Off Parade (please stand)
- Regimental Band Performance

## The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada - A Brief History

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is Canada's oldest, continuously serving infantry Regiment, and one of its most honoured. Founded on 26 April 1860 by the fusion of six existing rifle companies - Barrie Vol. Militia Rifle Coy; 1st and 3rd Toronto Vol. Militia Rifle Coys; Toronto Highland Vol. Rifle Coy; Toronto Vol. Militia Foot Artillery Coy and the Whitby Vol. Highland Rifle Coy - it was formed as the "2nd Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada", a designation which has been perpetuated by the "2" in the regimental cap badge. (The 1st Battalion was formed in Montreal and no longer exists.) It should be noted that despite the fact that they were volunteers, there was no shortage of military expertise. The Regiment's first Commanding Officer, LCol W.S. Durie, was a Sandhurst graduate and British Army veteran, while Capt H. Goodwin, the adjutant, fought in the Battle of Waterloo as a member of the Royal Horse Artillery. Since its formation the Queen's Own has taken part in every Canadian military campaign, sustaining its first casualties - seven killed in action, two dead of wounds and 21 wounded - fighting the Fenians in the Battle of Ridgeway, 2 Jun 1866. Since then, in the Red River Expedition, Northwest Rebellion, the South African War, two World Wars and the Korean War, the Regiment has served and fought with great distinction, losing almost 2,000 men in battle and many thousands wounded. Seven of its soldiers have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Reading the list of Regimental battle honours from the two World Wars is to re-visit valorous history - St. Julien, Somme, Vimy, Passchendaele, Normandy Landing, Le Mesnil Patry, Caen, Falaise, The Scheldt, The Rhineland, The Hochwald, The Rhine. The Regiment sent six battalions overseas as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I, losing 1,254 officers and men. The Queen's Own was the only Toronto Regiment in the D-Day landings, 6 June 1944, landing at Bernieres-sur-Mer as the right assault battalion of the 3rd Canadian Division, sustaining heavy losses in the process. The Queen's Own fought through Northwest Europe until May 1945, losing 449 dead. In October 1953, the Regiment was made part of the Regular Canadian Army with two full-strength battalions. In 1954 the 2nd Bn went to Korea and in 1955, as part of Canada's contribution to NATO, to Germany. From 1960-63 it was relieved by the 1st Bn. From 1963-68 both battalions were stationed in western Canada, members serving periodically with UN forces in Cyprus. Until 1968 the Regiment consisted of two battalions of regulars and one battalion of militia, plus the Regimental Depot in Calgary. Unification resulted in the regular units being reduced to nil strength, the Depot closing and the militia battalion in Toronto remaining to carry on the traditions of the Queen's Own. Since 1982 the Regiment has been operationally tasked to provide an airborne company(-) to support The Canadian Airborne Regiment.

In this, its 136th year the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, with its home station at Moss Park Armoury, Toronto Garrison, remains true to its Regimental Motto: "IN PACE PARATUS" - "PREPARED IN PEACE"



**Black net, maroon berets:** The QOR hosted an Airborne tribute at MPA earlier this year and the turnout was memorable with many friends attending. Among those present we had WW2 and Korea veterans as well as participants in UN missions. The Ridgeway and Vimy parachute training towers, flanking the VE+50 logo, further attest to the continuity of Regimental tradition and distinguished national service.

### Lieutenant-Colonel S. D. Brand, CD

LCol S.D. Brand was born and raised and educated in Dundas, Ontario. He joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (WR) as a Private soldier in 1970, the Regiment his father, LCol D.E. Brand, had commanded twice. He rose to the rank of Warrant Officer in 1975 and that same year completed his Basic Parachutist Course and was attached to the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment while attending college. LCol Brand returned to the RHLI and was commissioned from the ranks in 1979 and appointed Regimental Training Officer. He commanded the first AVGP Platoon when that vehicle was introduced to the Reserves in 1980. In 1984 he completed the Airborne Indoctrination Course and was attached to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as an Airborne Platoon Commander. He was promoted to Captain that same year and appointed 2i/c of the Airborne Company (-) and Regimental Training Officer in 1986. LCol Brand transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1988 and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major and appointed OC of the Airborne Company(-). In 1990 he was appointed DCO and re-appointed OC of the Airborne Company(-) in 1991.

LCol Brand graduated from Sir Sandford Fleming College with a Business Degree specializing in the Recreational Vehicle industry. He is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College and has conducted several training exchanges in the UK and the USA. In civilian life, he is self-employed in property management and development. LCol Brand will be posted to LFCA HQ as a Senior Staff Officer-Infantry. In his new role he will be an advisor to the area commander on reserve infantry matters. LCol Brand, his wife Nancy and two sons, Jeffery and Kevin, reside on Canning Lake near Minden, Ontario. He is an avid boater, motorcyclist and snowmobiler and has participated for many years as a competitor, organizer and racing team manager in international events.

### Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Welsh, CD

LCol Welsh was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. In 1972 he joined the Governor General's Horse Guards Cadet Corps and went on to command this organization in 1977 in the rank of Cadet Major. During his service with the cadets, he placed first at the Banff National Army Cadet Camp. As well, he attended the Basic Parachutist Course. In 1978, he joined the Toronto Scottish Regiment summer training program later transferring to the Central Militia Area Special Unit (CMASU). In April 1979, along with the other members of this unit, he joined the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a Corporal.

LCol Welsh was commissioned in May of 1981. Upon completion of RESO Phase 3 in 1982 he was given command of the first operationally-tasked airborne platoon in the unit. He served a three year tour as the unit Operations Officer. In 1990, LCol Welsh was appointed as the Officer Commanding 60th (Airborne) Company and in November 1994 he was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer.

LCol Welsh has also served on Full-time service with three different Headquarters. In 1986, he served as the S02 Operations at Central Militia Area Headquarters. In 1989, he was appointed first as the Operations Officer and later as the Commanding Officer of the Toronto District Battle School. In 1991 he was appointed as the first (and to date only) militia G3 at Toronto District Headquarters. Finally, in 1992, he was employed as the G3 Ops-2 at Land Force Central Area Headquarters. LCol Welsh attended Victoria College at the University of Toronto for History and Political Science. He has recently graduated with a Diploma in Adult Education and Development from OISE. In civilian life, he holds the position of Manager, Training Operations at the Toronto Advisory Committee on Employment Training. LCol Welsh accepts his appointment with the support of his wife Andrea and daughter Alexandra. When not involved with the army, he is a rabid computer war gamer, wine maker, backpacker and military historian.



**If it is June 6 1994, it must be Normandy:** Five serving members of the QOR of C, and one on loan to another unit, jumped with the Allied contingent during the commemorative jump on the original WW2 DZ at Amfreville, France (Clockwise from 1): Capt J. Fotheringham, LCol S.D. Brand, Maj H. Flood, RSM A. Sarossy, Sgt M.T. Shannon and Cpl W. Gin.