

MWO Bruce Bamlett, CD1
1955-1997



1996

The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada





From: Captain Neil Blair, Royal Navy

BUCKINGHAM PALACE,
LONDON SW1A 1AA

9th January 1997

Dear General Pryer

As you requested, I have passed your letter of 25th December to Princess Alexandra.

Her Royal Highness has asked me to tell you how much she appreciated your kindness in sending birthday greetings on behalf of All Ranks of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Your Colonel-in-Chief sends her thanks, and her warmest good wishes to you all.

*Yours sincerely
Neil Blair*

Private Secretary

Brigadier-General D.A. Pryer



Barbara Hall
Mayor

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February 26, 1996

Sgt. J. Thorn
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1R9

Dear Friend,

Your role in Operation Cold Snap was vital to our city's efforts to provide for some emergency needs for the homeless. This important initiative contributed greatly to the health of the city and it could not have happened without you.

Your work means a great deal to many people. To thank you for your commitment and your efforts on behalf of the homeless, Councillor David Hutcheon, Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski and I would like to invite you and your volunteers to a reception in the rotunda at City Hall on Tuesday, March 5th from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. I hope that you and your group will be able to attend so that we can thank you personally.

Please let us know how many will be attending by responding to Andrea DeShields at 392-7666.

Yours truly,

Met
Mayor

David Hutcheon

Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Chris Korwin-Kuczynski

DURING THE PAST MONTHS, THE FOLLOWING

MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES PASSED AWAY

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

- ADAMS, James V. (Jim)
- ALLAN, Duncan T
- AUBE, J.A.
- BAMLETT, Bruce Gordon
- BELL, Norman
- BOYD, Morly
- BROUGH, Ross Omand
- CAIRNS, W.H. (Pont)
- CALVIN, Carl J.
- CAMPBELL, Roy
- CARLTON, Stuart C.
- COLLINGWOOD, Joseph A.
- CHARPENTIER, Bazil (Bud)
- CHURCH, Arnold (Art)
- CREAGH, Hugh F.
- DOCHERTY, Alexander
- DRAPER, Frederick H.
- EAKIN, Frank
- ERSTLING, Albert
- EMMONS, Charles G.
- FOLKARD, William (Bill)
- GAMBRIEL, Willis R.
- GIBSON, Robert H.
- GOODWIN, William P.
- GORDON, William
- GRANGER, Anthony N. (Tony)
- GREEN, Ronald
- GRESHAM, George
- HARRIS, J.P. (Jack)
- HYSLOP, George J.
- IRVINE, Russell L.
- JESSON, Arthur E.
- KING, Stanley Raymond
- LAVOIE, Harvey, J.
- LEMIRE, Arthur P.
- LIGHTFOOT, Gilbert W.
- LUSTY, Robert Gerald
- MACDONALD, Wm. G. (Bill)
- MACDONELL, Reginald B.G.
- MCCULLOUGH, Dave
- MCDOWALL, James E.
- MCKEE, Thomas W.
- MCNAIR, Roy
- MELLAN, James (Jimmy)
- MITCHELL, A. James (Jim)
- MORTON, Murray
- MURDOCK, William R.
- ODDY, Leonard H.
- ORTON, Wellington
- OSBORNE, Roy Daniel
- PENFORD, Richard W.
- REID, Victor S.
- ROONEY, Harold A.
- SCRUTTON, S.T. (Sam)
- SEAGER, Charles (WWI)
- SOMERS, John
- SOUNDY, Gerald D. (Gerry)
- SOUTHAM, Michael Wm.
- THERRIAULT, Richard
- TIMS, Gordon Walker
- VANDENBUSSCHE, J. Jules
- WATSON, Harold L. (Slim)
- WATTS, Harold
- WEST, William J.
- WHITAKER, Dennis M.
- WHITE, Robert W. (Bob)
- WICE, Gordon Alexander
- WOLNO, Donald

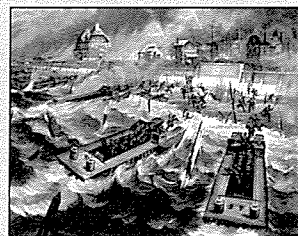
UPDATE ON MISSING PAINTING

As detailed in the last issue of The Rifleman, the Regiment is missing one of the three Orville Fisher paintings of The Queen's Own landing at Bernieres-sur-Mer on D-Day. Captain Fisher painted one for each battalion, and one hangs in the Officers' Mess, one in the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, and the third went missing in the early 70s while enroute from the museum to the Sergeants' Mess at Moss Park Armoury.

We continue to search for it, and the DCO has pledged that it will be returned to its rightful place on the wall of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess before he retires. The painting has now been recorded as stolen with the Metropolitan Toronto Police, which means that it can be seized when found or offered for auction, and its possessor charged with theft.

We would prefer, however, to have the painting quietly returned to the Regiment, and confidentiality is assured through our tight-lipped Regimental Padre, Captain Craig Cameron, who may be reached at the QOR BOR at (416) 973-3281 or at home at (416) 229-6706.

Please help us solve the mystery of the missing painting. Any help will be greatly appreciated.



From: Colonel J.G.K. Strathy, OBE, ED
Colonel of the Regiment



THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA
50 King Street West
Toronto 1, Ontario
25 November 1966

Major R.B. Firlotte, CD
79 Richardson Drive
Kingston, Ontario

Dear Bob,

I was delighted to learn that you had been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for your action in chasing a bank bandit last May, and I am sure that the award was richly deserved.

Not many people are willing to jump into action in situations like this. I am glad your man did not shoot you as has happened.

I know I speak for all members of the Regiment in extending congratulations. It goes to prove that the values of physical fitness and decisive mind are attributes of a Queen's Own Officer when instant action is required.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Strathy

JGKS:fm

...for full story, see page 23

EXERCISE RAMBLING RIFLEMAN 97

1996 saw our riflemen visit battalions of three of our Allied Regiments - 4 RGJ, 5PWRR, and 10 Para, and train with them on their annual exercises in England, Scotland and Wales. In turn, each batallion sent 10 of their soldiers to participate in Ex Trillium Phoenix in Petawawa this past August. The accounts of all these trips is included elsewhere in this issue of The Rifleman.

This year, LCol Welsh has decided that the Battalion will support our Veterans and our Association in their trip to Normandy for the re-dedication of our memorials. The Regimental Band, along with a 20-man Guard, will travel to England and France this June and be at not only the QOR ceremonies, but will also support our friends, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association, at two of their memorial dedications.

In these times of defence constraints and cut-backs, higher HQ takes a dim view of precious funds being spent for events such as this. We ask for your assistance in supporting the following fund-raising events:

Mess Auction - 02 May, QOR Officers' Mess. Last year's auction was very successful - some items

included a weekend for two at the Toronto Hilton, tea for six at The Old Mill, two first-jump parachute lessons from The Parachute School of Toronto, as well as the QOR Band's brass quintet at your private function. This year's auction promises to be even more exciting. Plan to attend - preview at 1900, auction starts at 2000. Item donations are welcome - please call Capt Fotheringham at (416) 973-3281 to arrange for pickup.

Raffle - 16 May. You will have noticed that your mailing of The Rifleman included a small pack of raffle tickets. A small effort on your part to sell these tickets will assist greatly in helping our riflemen go overseas to support our Veterans. You'll also become eligible for the Seller's Draw Prize, a numbered and signed print of the famous Orville Fisher painting, The Queen's Own Rifles Landing At Bernieres-sur-Mer (pictured on the inside-front cover of this issue). This will be awarded to the seller of the winning ticket. Capt McCabe and CWO Budden have worked hard to collect the outstanding raffle prizes, and the Grand Draw will be made on 16 May. For further information, or more tickets, please call Capt McCabe at (416) 973-3281.



(1 to r) MWO Bruce Bamlett, Cpl Wen Gin, and Sgt Frank Demaine at Anisy, June 94

The General Recommends...

Our Honorary Colonel, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD, highly recommends two Canadian military books recently published:

Canadians: A Battalion At War by Roy Whitsed. The sub-title of this excellent book is "Canadians in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1940 to 1945". Roy assisted CSM Charlie Martin with Battle Diary, and this book features interviews with Queen's Own riflemen - "the volunteers who fought, the survivors who returned, the veterans who remember." This book is available at most book stores, but may also be purchased at a lower cost through the Regimental Kit Shop (\$25 + \$5 P/H). A must read for all riflemen and their supporters.

The Guns of Victory by George Blackburn, MC, who served as a FOO with the Royal Canadian Artillery from Normandy to Germany, and offers a "soldier's eye view, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, 1944-45." While the author served with 2nd Infantry Division, there is mention of the Queen's Own, and this book, and his earlier Guns of Normandy, really show the hour-to-hour struggle to survive which our veterans endured. This book is available in book stores.

WWII QOR VETERANS

Thanks to our friends in Normandy, a supply of the Normandy Medal (1944 - 1994) 50th Year Commemoration Medals are available to those who served in Normandy in 1944 anytime between June 6 and August 31.

If you would like a Medal, please forward your name, address and Service Number to Art Gay at QOR Regimental Headquarters, 130 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R9.

FROM THE EDITOR

Capt J.M. Fotheringham

This issue of The Rifleman marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. To commemorate this event, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be taking the few WWI Vimy vets still well enough to travel, plus one WWII vet from each Canadian regiment that displays the Vimy Ridge battle honour. We're pleased to announce that the DVA has chosen QOR veteran Art Gay, who currently runs the Regimental Kit Shop and assists the Regimental Secretary at RHQ.

Art joined the Queen's Own as a replacement following Le-Mesnil-Patry, participated in the vicious fighting at Carpiquet and beyond, and was severely wounded on 24 July. He has continued to serve the Regiment to this day, and deserves the honour of representing the Regiment at Vimy in April. We look forward to his article in the next issue.

On a sadder note, we mourn the passing of MWO Bruce Bamlett, who passed away 20 March 1997. Bruce joined the Regiment in 1972, became one of our first airborne riflemen, and was CSM Gurkha Company when he became ill. He had to be one of the few Canadian soldiers to ever receive two set of foreign parachute wings on one jump. After jumping into Arnhem on the 50th anniversary of that battle in 1994, he was presented with his British para wings, then met on the drop zone by Queen Wilhemena of the Netherlands, and given his Dutch wings as well.

I often tell the story of how Bruce Bamlett was the reason that I joined the Queen's Own. Having decided to join the Reserves, I hate to admit that the first regiment I visited was the Toronto Scottish. I had visions of an immediate commission, and the recruiting officer there told me to come back the following week, in jacket and tie, and he would show me the Officers' Mess and discuss the possibility of becoming a Tor Scot officer. The next week, I showed up, and he didn't. Needless to say, I was not too impressed, and didn't particularly like the conduct of training that the Royal Regiment was doing on the square that night.

I visited the Queen's Own the following

week. 1985 was the Regiment's 125th anniversary, and the troops were preparing for the birthday celebrations with a Feu de joies practice. (Then) WO Bamlett was on the parade square, standing ram-rod straight in front of 50 or so riflemen, barking like the good sergeant major that he was to be become. I remember being impressed (and a little scared) by the sight, and thinking, "If I'm going to do it, I might as well do it right". I joined the Queen's Own as a Rifleman, and have never regretted it.

Bruce was a good soldier and a good guy, and we will miss him.

You'll notice that the actual issue dates for The Rifleman over the past few years have been erratic, to say the least. We often find it difficult, as serving members, to perform our primary duties, and also meet deadlines for secondary duties. Obviously, battalion duties must come first, and it is easy to delay tasks such as collecting articles and editing The Rifleman, when the alternative is taking the time to properly prepare for an exercise or the endless reports and returns, inspections, and briefings to/from higher HQ. The next issue of The Rifleman will be ready for the 1998 Regimental Birthday. Articles and pictures are very welcome from all, and due no later than 15 January 1998.

There will be typos and mistakes in this issue, as there invariably are in all publications. I apologize in advance, but also quote my father, who says, "Don't criticize unless you're willing to be part of the solution". I look forward to your assistance on the next issue.

In Pace Paratus



MWO Bruce Bamlett (2nd from l) at Le Mesnil Patry, France, 1994

Published by	
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Headquarters Moss Park Armoury 130 Queen Street East Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R9	
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HONORARY COLONEL'S REPORT

BGen D.A. Pryer, CD

Minister of Defence Douglas Young's announcement to the Standing Committee on National and Veterans Affairs (SCONDVA) Thursday, November 21st, has major positive implications for the entire Reserve Army. The preservation of Militia units is guaranteed for at least three years. The number of militia personnel permitted has risen from 14,000 to 18,500 with the flexibility to expand even further to about 20,500, together with the funding required to maintain them. And a process for dealing with matters affecting Militia units has been established and put into place.



The following is a portion of the Minister's address to SCONDVA that I feel members of The Queen's Own Rifles would like to review. It clearly stated the Government's position of strong support for the Reserves generally and the Militia in particular, and it is determined to see us play an ever increasing role in the country's defence and security.

"My purpose today is to provide a further update on our efforts to improve the operational effectiveness of the Reserves.

- This is indeed a "good news" story. My main message is that we are making solid progress towards our goal of creating a more effective Reserve Force, and one that uses resources more efficiently.

- Let me first remind everyone of the importance this Government attaches to the Reserves.

- The Reserves have a distinguished history dating back centuries, and they continue to play an essential role in today's "Total Force" as set out in the 1994 Defence White Paper. They also remain a vital link between the military and society at large.

- Reservists serve with distinction both at home and abroad.

- The critical role played by the Reserves in peace operations deserves special mention. There are currently about 250 Reservists serving in peacekeeping missions. Their skill, courage and commitment are on constant display - whether in war ravaged Bosnia or the impoverished slums of Haiti.

- Much of our attention these days is focused, of course, on the Militia -- the army component of the Reserves.

- Lieutenant-General Baril, Commander, Land Force Command, has developed the process for restructuring the Militia and I have approved this new process.

- I want to stress that we will continue to consult the Reserve Community to the greatest extent possible. Their input to date has been greatly appreciated.

- Lieutenant-General Baril has established Consultative Working Groups at the command and area levels which include Honorary Colonels and other representatives from the broader Reserve community.

- These groups will assist the Commander in developing a Militia structure that is more operationally effective and that meets the expectations of the Reserve community.

- Our goal is to have a new, reinvigorated Militia structure in place by November 1999, three years from now.

- We are well on our way to establish

a Reserve Force that is both more operationally effective and efficient.

- The progress we are making reflects the Government's strong commitment to the Reserves. They are an integral part of our defence organization, and we want to ensure that they can meet the challenges of the future.

- But we must remember that much work still lies ahead, and we can't let up our efforts.

- The ultimate key will be for all members of the Canadian Forces, Reserves and Regulars, to work together as part of the Total Force. We must focus on our common goal; to create a strong defence team capable of carrying out the essential mission of defending Canada and Canadian interests at home and abroad."

Compare this situation with the scenario arbitrarily presented to reservists not quite two years ago. Had this original scenario been played out, the Militia would have lost 50% of existing units. Others would have been down-sized to Company / Squadron / Battery size led by Majors and a few junior officers and senior NCOs. The tasking for this drastically down-sized Militia was envisaged to be the provision of augmentees to Regular Force units assigned to peace-keeping or other duties, a worthy endeavour but not its fundamental purpose. The entire mobilization base - the historical raison d'etre for Canada's Militia - would have been fractured beyond repair and within a few years would have disappeared altogether. And the Militia's equally vital role in providing the military link with the communities of Canada would have been lost forever. This turnaround is largely attributable to Reserves 2000, an organization created to represent the Reserve point of-view.

Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril, Commander of the Army, will have released his Reserves Action Directive which has the full support of Minister Young and Reserves 2000. This directive covers, among other things, the following:

MASTER WARRANT OFFICER BRUCE BAMLETT, CD1 1955 - 1997



MWO Bamlett joined The Queen's Own Rifles in 1972, and served his country for 25 years before losing his battle to cancer on 21 March 1997, at 41 years of age.

Bruce was one of the original Queen's Own airborne soldiers, completing his Basic Parachutist Course in 1973, and earning four sets of parachutist wings - Canadian, American, British and Dutch. His US wings were earned by a daring display of Rifleman's initiative, whereby he and a few cronies drove to Fort Bragg and arrived, unannounced, to manifest for some jumps. At the Arnhem + 50 jump into Holland in 1994, Bruce was presented with his British wings,

and later with his Dutch wings by Queen Wilhemena of the Netherlands. He would often joke with his peers about the difficulty in selecting which set of foreign wings to wear with his patrols.

MWO Bamlett served in the Golan Heights in 1981-82 with the UN peacekeeping force, and participated in numerous exercises with the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He was the Queen's Own's rappelling instructor, and was also a long-serving member of the Pioneers and Skirmishers.

In 1986, he became a Firefighter with the Vaughan Fire Department, qualified as an Acting Captain, and

was active in the Training Division as a First Aid Instructor Trainer, and as a rope rescue instructor.

One of Bruce's hobbies, besides civilian skydiving, related to a different aspect of being airborne; he was always interested in flying and acquired his license to fly ultralight aircraft. He was also an instructor with St. John's Ambulance.

Bruce married Beverlee Bertalan in 1987. He and Bev have two daughters, Brittany (5) and Brooklin (2). He will be sorely missed by his wife and children, family and friends.

CAPTAIN J.P. HARRIS, CD - 1914-1996

Captain J.P. (Jack) Harris, CD, one of the Regiment's D-Day platoon commanders, died in Ottawa on 25 October 1996. A memorial service was held in Burlington on 22 November, and attended by LCol Glen McIver, Maj Norm Manchester, Capt John Fotheringham, Art Gay, and Legion President Jim Kenn.

The following points were given to the Padre conducting the service by Jack's son, Steve Harris, who played with the Regimental Band:

"My Dad was born in Toronto on 25 July 1914. His Dad and mom had come from England-the town of Earl's Barton, outside Northampton-where his Dad had apprenticed as a bricklayer. My Dad went to school in Toronto, began work for Kamm Garland, a stockbroker firm, and then when the Second World War broke out, joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a volunteer for overseas service. He chose the Queen's Own because, in the spring of 1940, it was more or less common knowledge in Toronto that they would form part of 3rd Division, and so would be sure of taking their place in the overseas Order of Battle. He had no desire to be in uniform in Canada - he wanted to serve overseas.

Dad began his "career" as a Rifleman, and served in the ranks when the Regiment was posted to the East Coast and then to Newfoundland, guarding the seaplane base near Botwood. He was promoted to Sergeant at this time, and announced that fact to my mother (they were not yet married) by sending back an American Lucky Strikes cigarette ad which featured 3 stripes. Then it was off to England.

He was chosen as an Officer Candidate in 1942. He returned to Canada to undergo his officer training at the OCTU in Brockville, passed, and received his commission in December 1942. The next day he and my mother were married in Toronto.

(They had met at a dance at Balmy Beach Canoe club - my mother would not dance with RCAF types, not liking their "Brylcream Boys" image.) After a very short honeymoon, it was off to Borden, for further training.



My Dad left Canada for overseas again in March 1943, and rejoined the Queen's Own as a Lieutenant that fall, and eventually commanded a platoon of C Company on D-Day. For some reason (he never knew why), he did not suffer from sea-sickness on the passage over. He counted himself fortunate because of that, and he never remembered feeling that he was personally under fire during the assault phase. Certainly, he told me that he did not fire his Sten gun in anger on 6 June. However, he was caught by a mortar round later in the day, in the orchards just outside of Bernieres-sur Mer, and seriously enough that he had to return to England. He lost his only souvenir - a wonderful pair of German field glasses - to a British officer while he was on the beach.

After recovering from his wounds, he returned to the Battalion in August, just in time to be wounded, on his second day back, in the fighting

around Quesnay Wood. He was leading his platoon through the wheatfields toward the woods, he recalled, when the German shelling and machine-gunning became intense. Everyone went to ground, but then he decided that it was his job to stand up, blow his whistle, and try to get the advance going again. In his words, "I blew my whistle, and then stood much too close to a mortar bomb."

This time his wounds were serious enough that he never did get back to the Battalion, but spent the rest of the war either recovering from his wounds or, from the fall of 1944, employed in a training capacity in the Canadian Army reinforcement system in England.

After the war my Dad returned to Toronto. He worked for the Public Trustee, the Veteran's Land Act Administration, and Brazilian Traction (now Brascan) before moving to Canadian Pittsburgh Piping (later Crane Piping, later Stanton Pipes) in Hamilton. I was born in 1948, my brother in 1954, and we moved to Burlington in 1955. My Dad stayed in the Militia with the Queen's Own until that move.

When he left the Regiment, the CO, LCol John Mills, wrote my Dad a letter which said, among other things, that there was one thing that he took for granted: "On Regimental occasions, Harris would be there." My Dad kept that letter in his small collection of "private papers." I think it was important to him that his dedication to the Regiment had been recognized by an officer he very much respected. Once in the Queen's Own, Always in the Queen's own.

He was a good father; and an honest man."

Editor's Note:
The Rifleman welcomes all submissions, especially tributes to Queen's Own personnel. This tribute was submitted by Steve Harris, son of Capt. Jack Harris

1) 10 Brigade groups will be stood up across Canada by 1 April 97 replacing the existing 14 District HQ. The breakdown is as follows:

- LFAA-2 Brigades (reducing to 1 Bde at end state Nov.1999)
- LFQA-2 Brigades
- LFCA-3 Brigades
- LFWA-3 Brigades

2) With a very few previously agreed exceptions every existing militia unit will be assigned to one of these Brigade Groups as is (i.e. no change in organization, command structure, establishment or authorized strength).

3) Over the next three years each unit will be expected to meet a series of criteria which Reserves 2000 developed in cooperation with senior Regular Force Commanders, including the Commander of the Army. The assessment criteria include:

- the unit's contribution to Land Force Command's operational requirements and activities;
- the unit's capacity to train;
- its ability to recruit and retain the number of individuals needed to maintain an effective unit strength; cost-effectiveness - in other words, the unit's ability to effectively manage its personnel, operations and maintenance

budgets;

- the unit's historical performance and battle honours; and
- the unit's links to its community.

At the end of the 3 year period units meeting these criteria will be continued. Those not meeting the criteria will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine what future role they might perform (these could include smaller unit tasking, amalgamation, a new role, or in the extreme, transfer to the Supplementary Order of Battle).

4) All matters pertaining to the Militia will be reviewed by two levels of Working Groups at Area Level and Command Level.

Area Level Working Groups will be chaired by the Area Commander and include between 3-5 members of Reserves 2000 as well as other designated senior Militia officers-none of whom will be in the chain of-command.

The Command Level Working Group will be chaired by the Commander of the Army. It will include the Commander's Deputy and his Reserves Advisor as well as two member of Reserves 2000.

Reserves 2000 has had a dramatic and positive impact on earlier plans for restructuring the Militia. It has worked to preserve every one of our proud

Regiments and it has succeeded.

Now, the destiny of each unit is very much in its own hands. The rules of the game which have been established are fair and equitable and the same for all units across the country. Each unit must determine what actions are necessary to ensure its future and, we suggest, all serving members of the unit plus Honoraries, Senates and other supporters must be encouraged to work with the Commanding Officer to achieve essential objectives.

Much has been accomplished to assure the future of the Militia. But much remains to be done. The LFC and Area Working Groups must conscientiously fulfill their planning, implementation and monitoring roles throughout the process, and strongly represent the militia in all deliberations and negotiations and be prepared to argue forcefully for such positions. Units must develop their individual plans and courses of action and then carry them out with commitment and determination. Finally, all supporters of the Reserves and their essential role in the defence and security of Canada must constantly carry that message to government and public alike, including the media.

RETROSPECTIVE - THE SUEZ CRISIS 1956

MGen H.C. Pitts, MC, CD
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel

This year marks the 40th anniversary of one of the most dangerous times during the "Cold War" era. The months of October and November 1956 saw the Soviet Union use the might of its army to crush a revolution against communism in Hungary. Closely following on the heels of that event was the British - French intervention, initially by airborne forces, in the Suez canal zone in response to Egyptian plans to nationalize the waterway.

Our Minister of External Affairs, Lester Pearson, was advocating in the United Nations that the world body should create an Emergency Force to intervene and separate the protagonists before other nations became involved. His idea was accepted and UNEF was formed and Pearson subsequently received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Coincidentally, "OPERATION RAPID STEP" was launched.

Having sponsored the concept of an international force to operate under the UN's mandate. Canada immediately provided a Commander, General E.L.M.Burns, and 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada stationed at Calgary, Alberta. The Battalion had moved from Germany in the fall/winter of 1953-54, shedding its original name of "The First Canadian Rifles" and reformed in Currie Barracks as the 1st Bn, QOR of C. After arrival in Calgary, the unit

was built up to its peacetime strength of about 800 and by the fall of 1956 had about two years under the same Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major so that it was a good sound battalion with a lot of stability and progressive training to its credit.

Looking back, it seems a good choice of Regiment to become the forerunner of decades in the peacekeeping business. There were no precedents to go by, no air moves of an infantry unit across the continent had yet been done, no ship loading had been tried using an aircraft carrier as a troop, vehicle and supply ship and there were no Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would apply. I can still vividly recall the excitement we all felt when the CO, LCol C.P. (Cliff) McPherson, had the unit formed up on the parade square and told us we were going on "OPERATION RAPID STEP"!

In outline, the plan was for the Battalion to come up to a strength of about 935 (including police, maintenance and medical increments), dispatch advance parties by air to Halifax and to Naples, Italy, move by RCAF transport aircraft (C-119s) to Halifax, board the aircraft carrier (HMCS Magnificent) and move to duty in the Suez theatre. All of this happened over a period of eight days - except the trip to the Suez!! The "Maggie" eventually sailed off to the Middle East, but not with the Rifles on board.

Having been tasked for the deployment on 8 November, the unit was screened to determine what personnel were needed to bring it to its operational establishment. Besides needing its specialist increment, about 225 men from the Second Battalion, then in Victoria, B.C., were moved by rail from there to Calgary to be fitted into the First Battalion and then to join into the air deployment to the east coast. The air move was completed (some 25 chawks of roughly 50 men, or stores, on each) on 16 November with the expectation we would sail two or three days later. The ship had been

loaded by work parties from the Black Watch, then stationed in Aldershot, N.S.

Most of the stores put into the shop for our use came from Depots in the east or, in some cases, from units in the east. While never referred to directly, there was some resentment felt that a western unit was chosen to go to the theatre and the east provided the wherewithal for them to do it! Of course, it is a well known fact now that the infantry unit chosen and moved into position to deploy did not go.

The popular reason for the Queen's Own being replaced in the operations was because President Nassar of Egypt objected to our British sounding name. I have never bought this explanation and as recently as end October, 1996 had occasion to again refuse it. To the Egyptians, the British were most certainly the "enemy" again but they had little to say in who or what would constitute the UN Emergency Force. I believe that in our rush to support Lester Pearson's initiative in New York, we prematurely committed a Battalion and soon after realized that the real need, which could not be met by other contributors, was logistics and communications support. No Canadian battalion ever served in UNEF but for the many years that the mandate lasted (1967) we provided combat support troops.

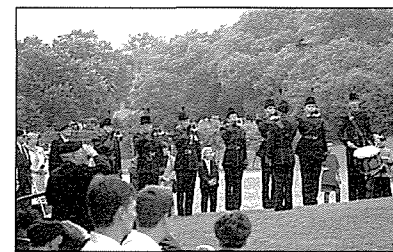
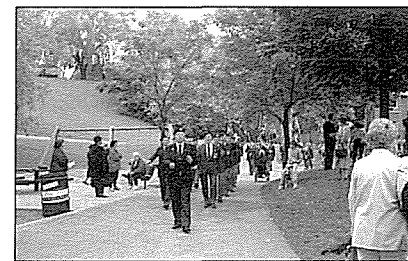
Having accomplished the major task of moving to Halifax and being ready to board the "Magnificent", the unit's notice to move started to lengthen. This was not a good sign but there was no shortage of training and entertainment events to keep everyone occupied. We were granted the privilege of marching through Halifax and did so to the "challenging musical accompaniment" of the Black Watch Military band, alternating with the Rifles marching pace but were successful for only the first few bars as the frequent reliefs took place along the parade route. Each would accompany us for a few blocks, be

replaced by the other band, move by bus to the next relief point and wait for its "played out" predecessor to arrive with an "out of step" Battalion in tow. Not one of our better parades - and we regretted having stowed our Bugles so far down in the bowels of the "Maggie" in our haste to "shove off".

Having rushed out of Calgary to answer the call of duty and after about five weeks in Halifax it was now directed that we move out of barracks. We were given 48 hours to "clear out of town" so the "real" contingent could move in and get ready for dispatch! Two troops trains were brought into Halifax and we boarded either the one for Toronto or the one that would run right through to Calgary and Vancouver. All of us were given two weeks special leave and that meant Christmas with families all across the country.



There was widespread disappointment among members of the First Battalion that our mission was cancelled. We were ready for the challenge first into the kind of duty that would engage many of us in future. Memories of "weepers", "top naval button" on battledress tunics and the lines of "The Maggie Will Not Sail Tonight" stay with those who took part in "OPERATION RAPID STEP".



WESTLAKE MEMORIAL PARK

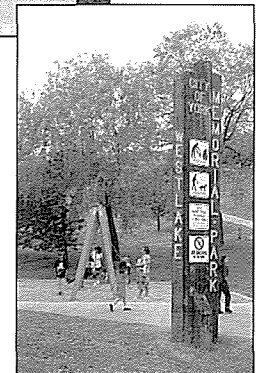
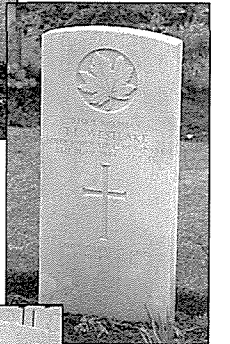
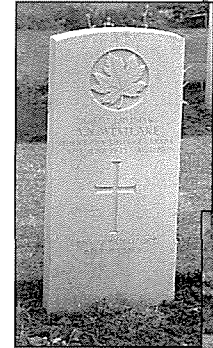
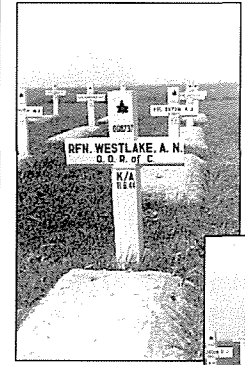
Dedicated on June 9, 1996 by Mayor Frances Nunziata and Members of City of York Council to the memory of the Westlake brothers: Thomas 29; Albert 25; and George 23; who grew up in this area and gave their lives during the allied invasion of France in June, 1944.

Thomas and Albert were members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and were killed together in the battle of Le Mesnil Patry on June 11, 1944. George was a member of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and was killed on June 7, 1944 near Authie.

The three brothers are buried in the Canadian War Cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer near the French coast.

Westlake Memorial Park will serve to remind us of the accomplishments, dedication and sacrifice of all those who went overseas during World War II and for their contribution to the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

This park is dedicated to Thomas, Albert and George Westlake. We are forever in their debt.



The Creation of the 1997 QOR "Book of Remembrance"

Capt C. Cameron, Regimental Padre

The Regiment is in the process of producing and make public a document to be called the "Book of Remembrance" for WW II. This document will be placed in several locations in France and Holland this spring. For a number of years, many in the Regimental Family have felt that aspects of our history need updating. This inchoate feeling started to take on more definite form with the D + 50 trip to France in June of 1994. Capt Raziel Zisman, the IO of the battalion, led a small group of 8 QOR members on a tour of Northwest Europe, following the Regiment's campaign from the Channel Ports (Calais and Boulogne) through Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Prior to leaving Normandy, Padre Cameron began to record the grave markers of QOR fatalities at Beny-sur-mer and Bretteville-sur-Laize Cemeteries. As the group discussed their itinerary, it was suggested that each cemetery containing Canadian war dead be visited and any Queen's Own graves be recorded and a memorial flag be placed. In addition to a written record, on which all 8 members of the team assisted (Capt Zisman, Capt Cameron, MCpl Shannon, Cpl Beardmore, Cpl Hutcheon, Rfn Scotta, Rfn Wallace and Rfn Wong), a visual record was made on camcorder beginning at the Calais Cemetery and concluding with Groesbeek in Holland. During the tour, they visited the following cemeteries: Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, Calais War Cemetery, Adegem (southern Belgium), Schoonselhof (Antwerp), Passchendale (Belgium), Udem (Holland), Bergen-op-Zoom (Holland), Groesbeek (Nijmegen, Holland), Arnhem-Oosterbeek (Holland), Reichswald Forest (Germany), Rheinburg (Germany) and finally, Holten Canadian War Cemetery (Holland).

Following the D + 50 trip, Padre Cameron took up the challenge of corroborating the list compiled by the late LCol W.T. Barnard in the late 1950s that appears in the Regimental history. When the Association announced in 1996 that it wanted to place several Books of Remembrance in France, the Padre had already done much of the spadework in verifying LCol Barnard's excellent work. Padre Cameron's correspondence with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission resulted in a QOR "Honour Roll" being

forwarded to us with 404 names of soldiers buried with a QOR of C headstone.

One of the Commission's officials makes the pertinent point that former members who were "rebadged (e.g. with the 48th Highlanders), regardless of their regimental number, are buried under that regimental association of that unit. Thus they do not appear on our Honour Roll. Fifteen former QOR members died serving in Italy, one in Hong Kong and 41 with other units in North-west Europe. This fact helps account for the major discrepancy between their total (404) and the list in our Regimental history (460).

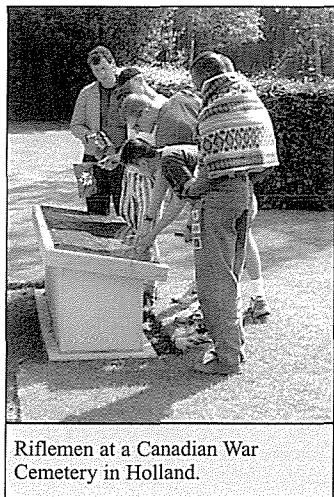
As an example of how soldiers came to die in other places with other units, take the case of Rfn. C. G. Barnett, an original "potato sacker" (B64068). Rfn. Barnett became ill when the Regiment was training at Sussex, N.B., and thus missed the sailing for England on 21 July, 1941. Shortly thereafter, a call went out for volunteers for two Canadian battalions to be sent to defend Hong Kong and Rfn. Barnett joined The Royal Rifles of Canada (Quebec). He was killed on the fourth day of the fierce fighting for the island, 21 December, 1941.

Another cause of confusion is that a number of soldiers (12) are claimed by two regiments. Such duplications were checked by reference to the relevant member's service record, obtained from The National Archives of Canada. For example, three soldiers killed on 11 June, 1944 at Le Mesnil-Patry (Rfns. Bridges, McHardy and McNabb), had been transferred just days before from the Regina Rifles and are buried with that regimental identification. One officer, Lieut., J. D. T. Hailey, killed in the Scheldt on 27 October, was actually serving with The Queen's Own Highlanders of Canada at the time of his death (and never served with the QOR of C).

Another example was documented recently in the War Amps video "Take No Prisoners" (1995). Rfn. Fred Smith, B 32922, was with the QOR on D-Day but was sent to the Winnipeg Rifles on 7 June. He was one of a group of Canadians murdered by the 12th SS on 8 June at Chateau d'Audrieu. Rfn. Smith is buried with a QOR headstone but is not listed in the Appendix in our regimental history. He is listed however, on the official RWR Honour Roll, along with Rfns. Harrison and Garbutt who were transferred on the 7th and killed on the 8th of June.

Several other interesting facts came to light through the CWGC Honour Roll. Eight Queen's Own serving members are buried and or commemorated (two have no known grave) at Bayeux (British) War Cemetery. Another is that 11 QOR members died while serving in this country during and after the war and are buried in various Canadian cemeteries (one in Montreal; one in Norland, Ontario, eight in Toronto and one in Winnipeg).

For any one who is interested in obtaining a copy of the CWGC Honour Roll, a photocopy can be obtained from the Regimental Museum or the Padre, Capt Cameron. The WW II Book of Remembrance will include those killed with The Queen's Own but also listed by other regiments. It will be possible to obtain a copy of the Book of Remembrance once it is published, at reasonable cost by the summer of 1997. Please contact the President of the Association, Brian Budden (c/o of the Regiment), if you are interested.



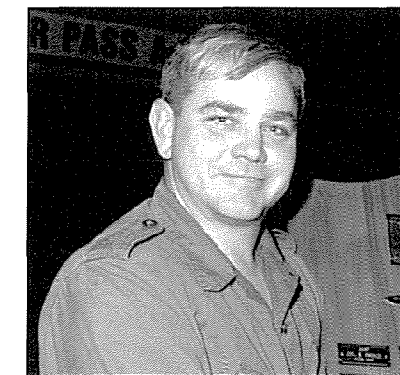
Riflemen at a Canadian War Cemetery in Holland.



Rifleman F.E. Eaman, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 6th June 1944, Age 32

Commanding Officer's Report

LCol A.R. Welsh, CD



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada have faced many challenges over the past year. As I am still able to report to you as the Commanding Officer of the unit, I believe that we have won ... so far. Few of these challenges have actually gone away. Rather, they seem to have changed shape and complexity.

In this article, I will attempt to outline some of the challenges we have faced over the past year and give some indication as to how we are handling them. I will also outline our future as it appears at the time of writing.

In my last report to you, I briefly outlined the activities of the Federal Commission which had been formed to investigate the current structures, roles and future of the Reserve forces in Canada. Their report was released in November of 1995. Since that time, the Department of National Defence has been looking at various ways to implement some of the more long-term decisions from this report.

In November 1996, it was decided that each Militia unit would be given three years in which to prove their worth and by doing so avoid being re-mustered, reduced in size or simply relegated to the Supplementary Order of Battle. Some of the unit attributes which will be rated over the next year include its strength, its history, the support it enjoys from the local community and its overall effectiveness. We are currently in the first year of this trial period and all seems to be going well. More information on this topic can be found in BGen Pryer's article.

In February of 1996, the unit had an opportunity to participate in a unique military event. As the temperature in the City of Toronto plunged and the homeless community seemed to be at peril, the Municipal Government sent a request for emergency assistance to the Minister of National Defence. This was the start of Operation COLD SNAP. Over a two-week period, the

Queen's Own, ably assisted by the 48th Highlanders, 25 Medical Company and The Royal Regiment of Canada, played host to just under 2,000 homeless individuals at Moss Park Armoury. This operation was significant for several reasons. The unit was able to organize a 100-bed facility in just under 5 hours from a standing start, thus demonstrating the flexibility of the Reserves in Toronto. It also afforded us an opportunity to work with other Reserve units and many outside organizations on something that was real and had an impact on the community we live in. All those involved gained a very focused insight into life on the streets. Also in the month of February, we were visited by members of Toronto District Headquarters and CFB Toronto for our annual Administrative Inspection. From the start of the year, this inspection was one that we had set our sights on and we were determined to do well. Great amounts of effort were put forward by Capt. Mike Attrux, Lt Larry Hicks, Maj Bruce McEachern, Cpl Winston Hewlin and all members of Victoria Company. In the end, our efforts were rewarded. Although an official ranking was not determined for the inspection, we were told that we had scored extremely highly in the inspection and that we had bettered our usual standing by a wide margin.

In May 1996, the unit participated in the annual LFCA Infantry competition in ATC Meaford. For those of you who know this area, you will recall the shale and swamp that

make up this area. You can imagine that this defensive competition was not an easy one. The unit did quite well on the competition and placed in a tie for third overall (out of 20 units). Particular mention must be made of the efforts of Capt John Fotheringham and his staff in getting three well-trained rifle platoons out for the competition. In a time when Reserve units are under constant scrutiny, our results in this event served to strengthen our standing as a unit to be reckoned with.

In June, the unit began an activity we entitled Rambling Rifleman 96. As you may recall from my last article, it is my intention to strengthen our links with all of our affiliated units around the world. Rambling Rifleman 96 was the start of this visitation. In all, the unit raised enough money to send 21 soldiers, in three groups of seven, over to the United Kingdom to participate in training with each of the 10th Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, the 5th Battalion of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, the 4th Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets, as well as a Drummer and Bugler to the Light Division Band. You will find some good reading about each of these trips later in the magazine.

I would simply like to thank all of those who participated in the trips for making them the successes that they were. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Regimental Senate who aided me in the support for these event, to Capt Kevin Sheedy for his administrative prowess and to Maj Erik Simundson for his coordination of these visits.

In August, I had an opportunity to do something that I have training for all of my life. Exercise Trillium Phoenix was the name for the annual concentration, this year held in CFB Petawawa. The exercise was one that saw the formation of a Reserve Brigade Group for the first time in many years. Due to the strong field reputation that the QOR of C enjoys, I

was selected to command a 700-man strong, composite infantry-heavy battle group entitled the 1st Battalion, Trillium Light Infantry. This was a remarkable exercise from my point of view and I can honestly say that I had the time of my life.

The Battalion did extremely well in all areas of training. This exercise also served as the platform during which we were able to host 10 soldiers from each of the previously mentioned affiliated units. Each unit sent over one junior officer, one Senior NCO and 8 soldiers. All of our guests fit in with the QOR company extremely well and we look forward to working together with these well-trained and well-led units in the future.

In September the unit went through its usual personnel change. Our Rifle Company, 60th, is now commanded by Maj Bruce McEachern. The focus for this company has been to train towards our annual evaluation which, this year, will take place in October 1997. I am also pleased to welcome an old friend to the unit. Maj Martin Delaney has transferred to the unit from the 48th Highlanders and is currently serving as the OC of Victoria Company. This team, combined with Maj Erik Simundson as the OC of Gurkha Company, and Capt John Fotheringham as the DCO, has provided me with an outstanding level of support and will serve as a strong springboard into the future for the unit.

Our Regular Force Captain, Mike Attrux, and Warrant Officer, Doug Owen, left us and the Canadian Forces, in December to join the Metropolitan Toronto Police and the Ontario Provincial Police, respectively. Their hard work over the last few years is appreciated, and we continue to be well supported by our full-time staff of Capt Rick Cunningham (Ops O), Capt John Fotheringham (DCO), Lt Wil Beardmore (60th Coy Ops O), WO Shaun Kelly (RQMS), Sgt Nancy Boone (Chief Clerk), Sgt Anita Selby (Admin NCO), Sgt Justin Thorn (Recruiting NCO), Cpl Inasio Kim

(Storeman) and Cpl Winston Hewlin (Transport and Signals NCO).

On a more serious side, it is with great regret that I acknowledge the recent passing of BGen Pryer's wife, Gail, in February of this year. Mrs. Pryer had been a lifelong supporter of the unit. She was a fine person who will be missed by all.

The future of the unit looks to be somewhat interesting. Over the next 2 years, the unit will be working under the imminent threat of closure. At the time of writing this article, our Headquarters are drafting a "Unit Effectiveness Report Card" which will be used to feed back to the unit exactly how we stand in all aspects of our operation. This is a challenge which I am confident that we are up to.

In the mean time, we have several events to look forward to. In June of 1997, we will embark upon Rambling Rifleman 1997. This will see the unit sending the Band and a Quarter Guard over to the UK and France in order that we may support the activities of our Association, as well as the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association. More details on the event itself and our current fundraising activities can be found later in the magazine.

The year following, Rambling Rifleman 98 will see several members of our unit being sent to visit the last of our affiliated units, the Royal Gurkha Rifles. As you can imagine, we will need plenty of support for these two expeditions. I am confident that, as in the future, the Black Net will come to our aid as they always have in the past.

I hope that you enjoy this installment of The Rifleman. I would like to acknowledge the work of Capt John Fotheringham, Capt Adam Harmes and LCol Bob Campbell for all the hard work they have put into this edition.

In Pace Paratus

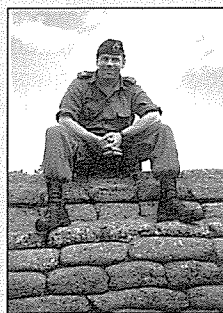
REGIMENTAL PADRE'S REPORT

Capt C. Cameron

We expected 1996 to be "D Year"; a fateful year of destiny for the Reserves and The Queen's Own specifically. Unfortunately, it is not to be. We have striven since 1993 (beginning of CRS) to "run to the front" of units in Toronto and Ontario. Instead of a climax and knowing we have "made the cut", we are now forced to work under the same pressure for three more years.

This has not been as busy a year for me as in previous years. I attended several winter training weekends and the usual fall IBTS training. Due to a new employment situation, I was unable to attend other weekends and Ex Trillium Phoenix.

Some of my time has been spent visiting hospitals and homes of veterans and soldiers who were ill or injured (e.g. Cpl. Harse of the Band who was injured in a car accident, but has recovered fully). As in the past few years, I also meet some of the veterans and their wives at Branch 344 one Thursday a month for lunch.



On the regimental side of things, I participated in the D-Day parade at Moss Park Armoury on 6 June. Also that month, I assisted in preparations for the Black Net dinner held on 22 June in honour of the 130th Anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway. I have also been involved with the Memorials Committee of the Regimental Association. At present, I am engaged in finalizing the Honour Roll of all W.W.II QOR fatalities, and producing a memorial publication to take to France for Rambling Rifleman 97.

I encourage All Ranks and members of the Association to continue to view the Regiment's future with optimism and confidence. Even if we feel reluctant, we must go "once more into the breach, dear friends", as Shakespeare has Henry V say, for the love of God, the truth, and our freedom. We have a noble heritage as Canadian militia soldiers. To paraphrase Admiral Nelson before Trafalgar, "(The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada) expects every man to do his duty".

There are some places in Normandy today which have not changed since 1944 and can be readily recognized when with the aid of old photos or memory. But the farm yard which contained the well pictures in the December 1995 "Rifleman" (below), is now covered by a large agricultural processing plant. Robert Bennett discovered this when he tried to find the well in the picture. Robert and his wife Mary live in Authie which is close to the ocean and Carpiquet. They are expatriate Canadians (Bob was Fort Garry Horse), and friends of the Regiment who often act as liaison representatives with local Mayors, etc.

Further checking on his part revealed that the farmer had sold his farm and moved a kilometre as so to the west. He also moved the fine stone well top. Monsieur Phillippe Guerine showed Jim MacKendrick the well which now decorates his garden when he visited Rim in October (1996) last.



Maj Jim MacKendrick beside the new home of the "old stone well in Normandy", October 1996.



"French well supplies Canadians with water. Pictured here is an old stone well in Normandy." Cpl D. Morland is pulling on the rope while Rfn WF Hindle, also from Toronto, waits for the pail to reach the surface. Both Dennis Morland and Fred Hindle made it through the war. This photo was featured in the 1995 issue of The Rifleman.

A 13-year-old boy never forgot

This was in a Dutch paper June 1995.

A similar monument will be unveiled on June 6, 1997 at Bernieres-sur-Mer.

John Miedema, of Brampton, Ontario, was 13 years old when on the morning of April 16, 1945, he witnessed an explosion outside his village of Wons in the Dutch province of Friesland. A little later, he learned that six soldiers of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada had been killed in that explosion.

occasions, as Canadian soldiers were leaving his village, he heard someone tell the Canadians, "Some day, in happier times, we want you to come back." He never forgot that statement. He even thought that perhaps some day he should be the one to bring these soldiers back to his village.

And so on May 6, 1995, John Miedema, with a lot of help from others, brought 38 veterans of The Queen's Own Rifles and some of their wives from the Dutch city of Deventer to Wons, along the same route they had taken 50 years earlier. There they unveiled and dedicated their monument in the centre of the village, with the participation of many area residents.



That very day his village was liberated, but at the cost of nine more fatalities: four civilians and five members of the Underground. John had seen three civilians lying dead or fatally wounded on the barn floor at his neighbour's farm.

A promise fulfilled

Some years later, John emigrated to the land of his liberators. He got to meet and know some of them. He even joined the Royal Canadian Legion as an associate member.

These incidents made a deep impression on the young boy. On two

At one of the meetings of The Queen's Own Rifles Association, Miedema was able to persuade the members not to place a monument honouring 468 members of the regiment who had lost their lives between D-Day (June 6, 1944) and VE Day (May 8, 1945) in Bernieres sur-Mer in France, the first village they had liberated and scene of their first battle. Instead he urged them to place the memorial in Wons, The Netherlands, the last village they had liberated and the scene of their last battle and casualties.



QOR veteran Bill Bettridge at the QOR memorial in Wons. John Miedema says that Bill was "the first of my liberators I met in Canada"



John Miedema at the Wons memorial. On 16 April 1945, John witnessed a Queen's Own battle outside his village that left six riflemen dead.

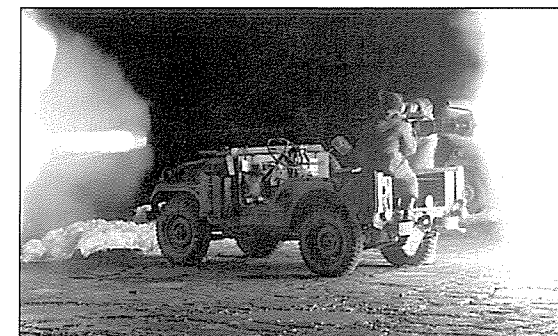
RSM'S REPORT

CWO A. Sarossy, CD

You may have gathered from my last article that I am a bit partial to nautical type stories. From the 1500's to the late 1800's, men and technology developed at a rapid and steady pace. On the oceans and seas, ships became much more complicated, armaments more advanced and modern navigation was established. The men who served in these navies were hard, dedicated, courageous and oddly enough, highly motivated. Hollywood depicts press gangs dragging poor souls out of pubs just for taking the wrong time to enjoy a brew. We also get vicious mutinies with horrid captains being fed to the sharks. And the other side of the coin, where dashing captains swing through the rigging of enemy ships to rescue the hapless beauty and banish the filthy laggards. Well, oddly enough, those things happened too.

What I wish to discuss is the men who served under those harsh and very adverse conditions. More seamen died of disease than of war. And when at war, even small wounds would lead to amputations or death. The Mutiny at Spithead was itself an incredible feat of organization for the common sailor, especially considering all they wanted was some of their prize money, a little shoreleave in their home ports and a little less of the lash. They were prepared to accept all other hardships for the sake of Queen and Country.

The Royal Navy defeated all efforts by the French and Spanish of invasion or blockade. The fledgling navy of the new United States, in turn were victorious in most of their engagements with the Royal Navy. Many a battle was fought and won



while being out gunned and out numbered. This is something the Canadian Forces can relate with to this day.

Perhaps we should ponder our situation today in comparison to the ordeals of those who served in the past.

On a slightly different note, and not to take too much wind from the Sales of Hollywood(not a misprint), a few tidbits of reality. Billy the kid was a juvenile psychopath, William Wallace was somewhat the same but had a bigger gang, and John Paul Jones was made into a hero by a fledgling nation desperately needing a heroic icon. He was little more than a self-indulgent pirate.

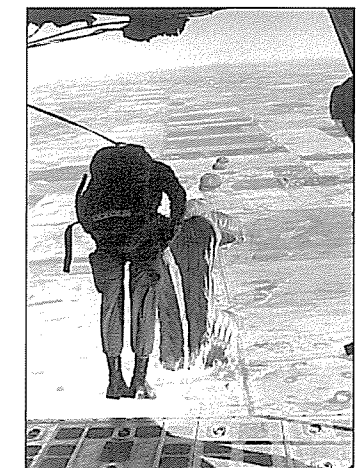
More factual characters of Hollywood are Color Sergeant Borne in ZULU. Some leaders, portrayed in folklore and fantasy, do not really deserve the notoriety.

You may have noticed that I have not made many attendance pitches on parade. I have been on enough parades in the past where attendance is harped on to the very troops who do parade. This pitch is aimed at those who do not parade but will receive a copy of The Rifleman in the mail. The rules allow a soldier to parade once a month and still be effective, on paper at least, but, in reality, that is certainly not enough. Your lack of attendance is much more than just absence; it is also a burden to others and the Queen's Own as a whole. A lack of commitment makes organizing training harder, NCOs lose the skill of instruction without students, and most of all, shows a lack of dedication to the Queen's Own and the CF.

Your attendance should not be seen as an obligation or a burden, but rather a desire or even a passion. It is not easy, especially with the volume of tasks given the

Reserves, but the more you participate the easier the task is for all. We cannot expect the Country to be committed to the Militia without the Militia being committed themselves.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the Brigade exercise this summer. It may not have been everything you expected and I know there were many of you who were disappointed, but as a whole it did demonstrate the ability of the Reserves to mount a large scale mobilization. That kind of experience is lacking and, when gained, can provide a great deal of insight for future training requirements. I went to Germany in 1973 where brigade exercises are much larger. The individual soldier tends to have long periods of inactivity with brief but intense forays into mock battles, then more periods of inactivity. I fear this is a necessary evil that we should live with.



As a final note on what I considered one of my less glamorous tasks. Can you guess how many 5-gallon Jerry cans it takes to fill a Centurion tank, with a 6 man section, a convoy of MLVWs (they had a different name then) and line up at the pump, so to speak? They were all in a hurry and none left a tip. I hate the smell of diesel fuel to this very day.

60th Company - Year in Review - 1996

Capt J.M. Fotheringham

In September, I traded jobs with the DCO, Maj McEachern, who is now OC 60th. It was a pleasure to command 60th Company for two years, and I hope to have the opportunity again. As the last issue of The Rifleman took us to Christmas 95, I can report on the Company's training from January on.

At the Mens' Christmas Dinner, Rfn Kapp and Rfn Vacek were presented with Leatherman tools for their perfect attendance during the fall training period. I chastised Cpl Wood for letting the Regiment down by missing one parade, something out-of-character for Cpl Wood, a very dedicated member of the Queen's Own.

After some good natured and colourful language from Wood, in which he explained that a mistake had been made, and he had in fact not missed a single training day, he was presented with a polar fleece sweater. Well done.

The January winter indoc weekend involved the standard tent group routine, improvised shelters, section and platoon movement, etc. Necessary training, but not overly exciting.

The winter warfare ex the next month was another story. The RQMS had been in Meaford Friday morning, and reported that there was no snow. Apparently, the RQ made his observation from the window of the Mess but, believing him, 60th Company decided to leave their snowshoes behind.

Arriving in Meaford in freezing rain, I told the group that "we'll head up the road a couple of hundred metres, step off into the woods and set up our patrol base there." I knew that we were in

trouble when I stepped off the road and immediately sunk up to my waist in mushy, wet snow. The rest of the Toronto District units, all in Meaford that weekend, chose to sleep in the shacks that night, out of the wind and rain, but 60th got a couple of hours sleep in the wet snow, and then headed out to accomplish their missions.



Cpl Desmond Morgan on the Grenade Range, Borden

A night attack on BHQ tents, and a well-organized TD platoon live-fire, including 60mm mortars and Carl Gustav anti-tank rocket launchers, rounded out a challenging exercise.

In February, Sgt Paton, Cpl Gin and Rfn Howard spend a month with the RCR Para Company,

training with them in Petawawa and in Florida. Maj Balacevicius and his Para Coy continue to be very supportive of the Queen's Own airborne company and we are welcome to train with them at any time. We hope to continue this association for a long time.

Two weekends in March and early April trained the company on platoon in the defence, and the CCS evaluation

was held in April in Meaford, involving three platoons operating in the defensive. Despite some problems, the Queen's Own performed well. We sometimes have low numbers on exercises throughout the year but, when the "chips are down" and we need a good showing for an important evaluation or parade, the soldiers always come through. We were one of the few units able to field three complete platoons, and benefited as a result.

Having completed the annual Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) run and shoot in the fall of 1995, the winter months were also spent covering the more mundane tests, such as weapons TOETs and AFV/aircraft recognition, etc. This fall (1996), LCol Welsh directed that we would only spend two weekends on IBTS, qualifying a minimum of 66% of the battalion (the benchmark set by TDHQ), and then move on to the more exciting training. This policy was well received, and 60th can now carry on with the patrolling focus.

As I write this, 60th Company is in Meaford on Ex Long Knife, fighting patrol training.

I wish Maj McEachern success with the best job in the Regiment, OC 60th Company.



Sgt Donovan O'Halloran in the door of his improvised shelter, Ex Quick Chill

LFC Driver (Core) Wheel Course

Capt A.R. Saunders, CD



This course was run by Captain Saunders and Sgt Thorn of Gurkha Coy for a duration of 5 weekends from 01 Nov-15 Dec 96. "Core" course means that only one vehicle is actually taught to the candidates, as opposed to the usual full blown course that teaches candidates how to drive the basic family of CF wheeled vehicles, which are MLVW, LSVW and Iltis. Our troops learned how to drive on the MLVW. (Medium Logistic Vehicle Wheeled).

This was an extremely successful course, and a number of standards were set. We assembled 21 working MLVWs in one place at one time to train our candidates; we utilized the excellent resources at CFSAL Transport Training Company, which included cut away vehicles and engines for proper demonstration and explanation during long technical lessons; and we hosted 60 candidates and instructors in total. Needless to say, this was a large course where the majority of training was conducted in CFB Borden.

WONS, THE NETHERLANDS

In the province of Friesland in the north of the Netherlands is a village which dates back to the year 1200.

killed in action between 6 June 1944 and 16 April 1945.

In Wons, the 300 Villagers now have two important days to remember. The first one is the 16 of April 1945, when they were liberated from German occupation by The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Four villagers, five freedom fighters and six members of the QOR lost their lives that day. The six riflemen, Gordon Ouderik, Harry Pennell, Walter Jackson, Alex Cockburn, Walter White and Frederick Shepherd were brought to the nearby town of Sneek, where the closest hospital was, and were buried there on the 18 of April 1995. On the 26 of March 1996, they were moved by the Canadian Military to the town of Holterberg (now called Holten) to the Canadian war cemetery and reburied on that day with Military honors.

This monument stands in the centre of the village close to the spot where the last 6 riflemen of the Regiment were killed. The villagers are very honored and thankful for this monument in their village, and they assure you they will look after it well so it may stand there for generations to come to remind them of the cost of their freedom and the surrounding area. From now on, we will move our yearly remembrance service on the 4 of May from the small cemetery to the monument, which is across the street. This already happened this past 4 of May - wreaths & flowers were laid and a service held. The QOR Association was represented by Paul Niedenzu, who laid a wreath on our behalf.

We, the villagers of Wons, say thank you again and may God bless you all.

The second day to remember is the 6 of May 1995 when John Miedema, who was born and raised in Wons, brought 38 of those young soldiers from 1995 (who are now seniors and veterans) back to the village to unveil and dedicate their monument honoring the 468 riflemen who were

Lest we forget,

John Miedema
Oct.20, 1996



Wons, Geref. Kerl.



Our veterans at the dedication of the QOR memorial in Wons, September 1995

Australian slouch hats are, of course, nothing new but it is wonderful that so many Aussies from our affiliated Regiments continue to serve with us.

As ever the officers and riflemen of the 4th Battalion extend best wishes to their brother riflemen and comrades across the globe and hope that none visiting London will miss the chance to call in at Davies Street, West Ham, Clifton Street, Putney Bridge or the Mile End Road Drill Halls.

5(V) RGJ

5 RGJ has had a busy first half of 1996 with the conversion to a fire support battalion continuing to keep everyone busy. The Battalion has continued to send up to 25% of its number away on specialist courses. The Machine Gun platoons conducted a very successful exercise on Ascension Island under the direction of Lt Tomczyk. Both the Milan platoons have just completed taking part in the Land Command Milan Concentration where very good results were achieved. The performance of both platoons was highly acclaimed as the only Fire support battalion platoons to have taken part, some 10 months before the Battalion is due to be operational.

The year has not all been hard work though, and many will remember the battlefield tour to Pegasus Bridge at the beginning of June as a particular highlight. The Intelligence Officer, Ian Naismith, planned a Battlefield tour that was to prove a huge success with some two hundred members of the Battalion returning to the battle sights of 52 years ago. The tour was made particularly special by the inclusion of a large number of veterans. Colonels John Tillet and Todd Sweeney gave very moving recollections of the action at Pegasus Bridge, Merville Battery and the Chateau St Come battlefields. A wreath laying ceremony was conducted at Ranville Cemetery after which the Battalion marched over Pegasus Bridge led by the Waterloo Band. The tour was to end with Sounding Retreat at the Bridge

rounding off what had been a great experience. The tour also achieved a large amount of publicity for the Battalion in the two countries including television coverage.

The Battalion will return to a continuing period of exercises post summer leave including the Porton Down Battle Run, which will continue the hectic pace of life set in the first half of the year.

**Army Training Regiment
Winchester**

The last few months here in Winchester have seen a number of significant and welcome changes. The first has to be increased workload brought on by the buoyant state of recruiting. As the barracks seems to burst with recruits of all shapes and sizes it is hard to recall the situation of 12 months ago when platoons, geared for 44 recruits, were only 17 strong. Good times indeed for the training teams, but not for the Army! All Light Division platoons are now planned to have 44 recruits and the majority are hitting that target with an encouraging number of re enlistments realising the error of their ways and returning to the fold. It is of interest too that the single most important factor in recruiting soldiers for the Light Division is "friends and family" which tells us something about the strength of the regimental system.

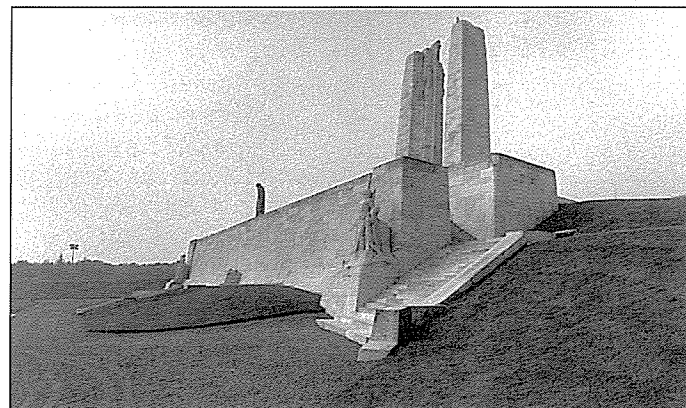
Other changes include the move to "Agency status" of the Army Individual Training Organization, or AITO, which means, amongst other things, that our relationship with the Phase 2 Centre at Catterick will become easier. By far the largest change has yet to hit us, however, although much time and effort has been devoted to it. It has been clear for some time that 10 weeks is not sufficient for a large number of

our recruits and although measures have been taken to improve the pass rate, we are hard pressed to stream recruits and only those deemed to have a very good chance of passing first time will join the training company. The remainder will join an Army Foundation Scheme (AFS) company, based on HQ Coy, where they will undergo sufficient training to bring them up to scratch. There are still a number of important issues to be resolved, but it appears a very attractive scheme in that, unlike at present, only those rated to have a very good chance of passing the course will be accepted on it. Time alone will tell, of course, but at present it is felt that this scheme will improve significantly the flow of recruits to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick.

The future for the ATR is full of challenges which will be met and hopefully, if recruiting remains healthy and efforts to drive down wastage in training continue to bear fruit, the battalions will see increasing numbers of soldiers join. Strong manning states will give both regiments a much more robust bargaining position if and when the next cuts are planned.

Meanwhile Winchester remains a great place to serve, and the job of training recruits is as good a task as can be found in the Army. A constant stream of visitors keeps us all in touch with the outside world, and the proximity of the First.

Photo: CWO (ret) J.C. Figa, CD

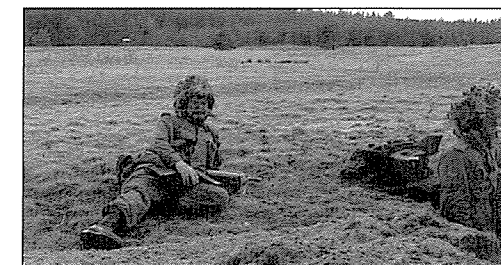


Victoria Company

Capt S. Banerjee

This year was a particularly successful training year for Victoria Company, the Battalion's combat service support company. A new OC and HQ Staff, combined with the stalwart support of company veterans, made for an interesting and much rejuvenated year.

Major Martin Delaney was the first of two ex-Highland Officers who saw the light and decided to become Riflemen, assuming the appointment of OC in early 1996. Capt Dave Clarkson also felt comfortable in trousers, assuming the responsibilities of QM in October when he joined the Regiment. The latter role was handed over by Capt Sandi Banerjee, who returned from his Class C callout at CFRC Toronto in March to become Coy 2IC. Capt Banerjee was double hatted after the QM, Capt Rob Adams, left the Battalion to pursue a career in the US.



WO Shaun Kelly (l) ready for action

Also joining Vics this year was our new CSM, WO Ken Kominek, who replaces WO Gerry Senetchko. Much to the delight of the coy, the CSM was awarded the Senior NCO's Award by the CO at the Men's Christmas Dinner for outstanding service. Congratulation are also due to Cpl Ioanni and Cpl Udobi, who were promoted to their new ranks this year.

Fortunately, the FTUC (Full Time Unit Cadre) complement of WO Shaun Kelly, Cpl Winston Hewlin and Cpl Ted Howard were there, again, to carry the lion's share of the work.. Special mention goes to the RQMS, who had to break in not one, but two new QMs in the space of a year!

The Finance Section has remained unchanged and overworked this year. The Battalion switched to Direct Deposit for all troops last year, and

hopes to bring a new integrated CF pay system (sound familiar?) on line this year.

Congratulations to Cpl Hewlin, who was awarded the CO's Sword Award for outstanding contribution to the Regiment, at the Men's Christmas Dinner. Cpl Hewlin, our RCR Regular Force Support NCO, has embraced the concept of Total Force. Not only did he scare the heck out of the Battalion with his near-death experience in the spring, he married a lovely Master Corporal from another unit this summer, and also found time to be Top Candidate on his Aerial Delivery Course and attend the 5PWRR portion of Ex Rambling Rifleman 96.

Cpl Hewlin, along with Rfn Sherbanowski, are tasked this year to provide support to 60th Company during build up training and the Battalion's evaluation this spring. Cpl. Hewlin also started a program whereby rotating troops from 60th Company develop signals skills to provide integral support to 60th during company level training. If this wasn't enough, he is also working on plans for Vics Coy training, a Regimental Auto Club and an internal Dangerous Goods course for unit drivers.

During last year's summer concentration, Ex Trillium Phoenix, Vics was very busy providing support at all levels. WO Kelly was tasked as the RQMS for 1 Trillium Light Infantry Battalion while the rest of QM provided support to the Rifle company and our visiting British soldiers. During the summer, Cpl. Howard attended Ex Rambling Rifleman to visit The Royal Green Jackets, and completed his Junior Leader's Course. Rfn Sherbanowski and Pte Behabahani also completed their QL4 Supply Tech course, just in time to provide much needed assistancet to the QM.

The closing of CFB Toronto, with its accompanying clothing stores and support elements, placed incredible headaches upon the QM staff. Not only did the unit become responsible for its own clothing stores and exchange

system, a role normally allocated to support bases in the Regular Force, but also had to deal with a new supply system out of CFB Kingston. A new clothing shop has been established, separate from the operational QM, and Cpl Howard is now double-hatted with its maintenance and upkeep. The Battalion is also responsible for providing our own Tailor shop, as well as local purchases of many sundry items, also handled by QM.

Vics was sad to see the departure of 2Lt Ian Townsend Carter...we are not quite sure what it was that he did in Vics...but we do notice his absence. 2Lt Townsend-Carter managed to get himself posted to duh Hawaii National Guard where he was last seen surfboarding killer waves and confusing the locals. Congratulations are also due to "TC" who, while surfing in the remnants of a devastating tropical storm, managed to rescue a fellow boarder in Lake Ontario. Rumor has it that the Sergeants' Mess has a reward out for the Rifleman from this year's trip to France, who finds TC's missing keys from the last Normandy trip! TC, where ever you are, the Mess has not been the same since.

The company has been busy in the new year preparing for the Annual Technical Inspection and staff assistance (!) visits from District HQ, in which the Queen's Own excelled last year. Before the build up for summer training and exercises, Vics will implement the first phase of internal CSS and trades training for company personnel. Preparations are also underway to support Ex Rambling Rifleman 97: the return to Normandy and the dedication of several monuments marking the successful D-Day assault landing and subsequent liberation of North-West Europe. Several parades and events are planned in support of the Regimental Association and Veterans while in France and the UK.

Best wishes are extended to CSM Kominek and WO Kelly as they attend their QL 7 (MWO) course this year and to 2Lt Perreault as he attends the final phase of his Lieutenant qualifying course. Good Luck to all personnel over the summer training period and congratulations for an excellent year!

GURKHA COMPANY

Maj E.R.C. Simundson, CD

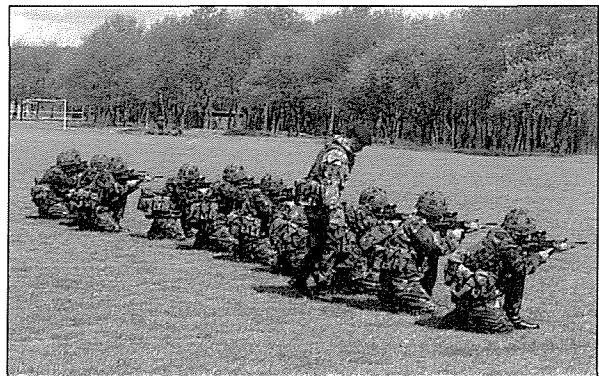
1996 marks the first year of operations for Gurkha Company as a sub-unit of the Battalion. A great deal of success has attended our efforts due, of course, to the personnel who have passed through the company.

The company completed the QL4 Comms course and continued recruiting new Riflemen. We were saddened by the news that CSM Bruce Bamlett was seriously ill and unable to continue as our sergeant major. The success of the comms course was largely his work, and the leadership and example that he set with us was impressive.

In May, I was sent on a liaison visit to the UK to brief our allied Territorial Army Units on the exchanges and training. While in the UK, I was able to visit each of our allied Regiments and renew old acquaintances.

10 Para took me along as they participated in Exercise Executive Stretch, an exercise where civilian managers are brought in on Friday evening, given a complete set of webbing and equipment, a splendid dinner, then roused out of bed at four A.M. to take part in 36 hours of leadership tasks in all kinds of weather. The participants learned many things about teamwork, leadership, their own limits and what kind of skills the TA soldier brings to the workplace.

The majority of the visit was a rapid trip around the south of England briefing the participating units and



organizing details for transport and equipment. I very quickly learned that, "You can't get there from here" is the prime directive of the British transportation system, having to travel back to London for every excursion to a different city.

I must express my gratitude to all ranks I met with, for the hospitality and kindness they extended to me made my job very pleasant. Particular thanks go to LCol George Elliot, RHQ Royal Green Jackets, LCol Guy Pearson of the Gurkhas, an old friend of the QOR, Major Gary Bourne, Training Major 5PWRR, Major Mike Gleason, Training Major 4RGJ, and Major Alan Flavell, Training Major 10 Para. During my stay, my home base was the Officers' Mess of the Irish Guards in Chelsea Barracks. The Commanding Officer and Officers, as well as the Mess staff, were always helpful and made me very welcome.

My participation in Rambling Rifleman Phase 1 ended when Capt Adam Saunders arrived with the detachment to train with 10 Para. Despite being given the wrong airport by our own Training Officer, I picked them up and they were soon in the swing of things (no pun intended) preparing for exercise.

In August, Phase 3 began with the arrival of three British detachments for Trillium Phoenix, and the liaison work began anew with such burning questions as, "Is Sleemans a good beer?"

When the troops returned from Petawawa, they were taken on a trip to Niagara Falls and entertained. The officers enjoyed a pool party, and the Sergeants went sailing with the RSM. The NCMs broke into groups which were well

taken care of. The next morning, everyone was collected, put in a remarkable mini-van convoy, and taken to the airport to be placed on an aircraft for their return flight.

The departure of subsequent detachments to 4RGJ and 5PWRR proceeded smoothly and their adventures will be explained in other articles. Exercise Rambling Rifleman 96 was an exciting and bold plan. I am delighted to have had an opportunity to participate.



The normal routine of the training year began in September with new staff posted in and courses to run. Capt Adam Saunders was appointed Company 2IC and successfully ran a Driver course. WO Phil ten Kortenaar was posted in as Company Sergeant-Major. Sgt Justin Thorn continues to do an excellent job as Recruiting Sergeant, bringing in 35 recruits to send off to the Toronto District Battle School for training.

This year's challenge is to enrol 40 recruits for summer training. Sgt Thorn's skill at selecting quality recruits has given us the lowest attrition rate on a recent recruit course. All ranks in Gurkha Company look forward to new opportunities to provide a base for training in the coming year.

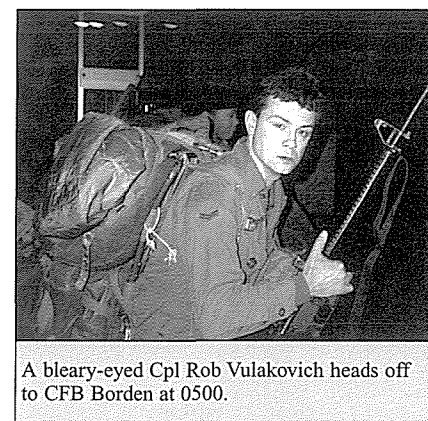
THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS

Colonels Commandant

Commendation

At approximately 2100 hours on the night of 26 Oct 96 an automobile containing five individuals struck a rock face near the front gate of ATC Meaford. The vehicle overturned several times and finally ended up in a ditch. Cpl Trumley of the RCR Parachute Company and Pte Barron of 1 RCR happened to be leaving the base at the time of the accident and arrived on the scene shortly after. Being first to arrive, Cpl Trumley took charge of the situation and, aided by Pte Barron, rendered first aid to the injured personnel. Although four of the victims suffered only minor cuts and bruises, one individual suffered severe head wounds. Cpl Trumley and Pte Barron stabilized his wounds until medical aid arrived. These soldiers demonstrated the resourceful thinking and good initiative of true paratroopers and are commended for their action.

Over the coming months the Company will be getting ready to conduct a number of exercises and support the unit's TQ4 training period. There are still many obstacles to overcome on the road to completing the reorganization of the army's new jump capability.



A bleary-eyed Cpl Rob Vulakovich heads off to CFB Borden at 0500.

Although there have been no changes in personalities in the Colonels Commandant appointments, you might like to know that the General Christopher Wallace, Representative Colonel Commandant, has been promoted to Lieutenant General.

We also have a number of our 1-star officers serving both in key appointments in the MOD and as brigade commanders. Currently there are 2 Brigades in Northern Ireland commanded by Green Jackets.

The Regular Battalions

1 RGJ left the sunshine of Cyprus in Jan 96 to take up residence in Kiwi Barracks, Bulford in the Mechanized (Saxon) Infantry role as part of 1 Inf Bde in 3 (UK)Div. Whilst their Cyprus tour involved deploying an enhanced Company Group to the Falklands Islands and exercises in Jordan, since returning to the UK they have been busy converting to their new role and preparing for their imminent deployment to Bosnia as part of the IFOR. Notwithstanding, they have found the time to settle into their new surroundings, take a bit of well deserved leave, and even introduce some quality of life into their routine.

2 RGJ left Dover in Aug 95 where they had been roled as the ACE Mobile force (Land) Battalion for the "Greener Fields" of Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland as one of the Provinces Resident Battalions. As a result of the Peace initiatives their first few months in the Province were very quiet. This was a welcome period of inactivity which allowed them to pursue greater training and social opportunities. Nevertheless, times do change quickly and they are at this very moment fully focused on the current situation. At the same time they are heavily involved setting up the new orbats and training packages necessary for them to take over from 2 LI in Paderborn, Germany in the Armoured Infantry (Warrior)

role. This move has been moved forward from Aug to Jan 97.

The TA Battalions

4(V) RGJ

The London based Territorial Army Battalion finished last year on a high note after an extremely successful Annual Camp in which it had carried out the task of Armoured Infantry enemy force to a Regular Army battle group on one of the new laser force-on force all-arms high intensity exercises. This was quite a step up from the normal rear area security scenario. The Riflemen rose to the occasion magnificently and gave the regular troops a tough contest with honours about even at the end.

It was a fitting finale to the Battalion's 28-year long role as a NATO reinforcement battalion. The job has now been handed over to others who need the practice. 4RGJ(V) is a General Reserve Battalion. If this might suggest a blow to morale it certainly was not evident in the Spring when team from the Battalion came first, second and third in the District's Blue Ribbon military skills competition, bringing the handsome Courage Trophy back after an absence from the Officers' Mess table of 13 years. It may have been the promise to the winning team that they would have first refusal on a place with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Exercise Trillium Guard, that gave them the champion's impetus.

London is, as ever, a city of many attractions and it has never been more important to keep the Regiment's name prominent in the part of London from where traditionally we have drawn recruits for the TA and for the Regular Battalions. The 4th Battalion along with our affiliated Cadets have been active in shows and events across London. Among other initiatives, we are at the forefront of opening up knowledge and understanding in both directions of our large ethnic communities. Greenjackets wearing

ground in Canada, we deployed on Ex LIGHTNING STRIKE 96 (LS 96) to support the 10/90 Bn of LFCA. After providing the training support teams for Phase 1 and 2, the Company had an opportunity to train on some of the best FIBUA (fighting-in-built-up-areas) facilities in North America. Starting at individual and team level the Company went through section, platoon and Company level attacks and defensive operations. The training included section live-fire attacks in a FIBUA setting and a platoon night attack on a housing complex. After all the hard work was complete, the soldiers received 2 days of R&R during March break in Florida.

With LS 96 over the Company returned to Petawawa to start preparations for the Brigade Small Arms Competition and the 2 CMBG Ironman Competition. One point to note, a congratulations goes out to our ISCC candidates who took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th place, and all 12 of our paratroopers finished in the top 50%.

2 CMBG Small Arms Competition

The unit small arms team finished at the top of the Brigade Small Arms Competition held in March 95 as the unit paratroopers showed the Brigade how to shoot. The placing for the individual team competition were as follows: 1st C7 Rifle, 1st C9, 2nd Sniper, and 2nd pistol.

Adventure Training

The year was not all hard work in Petawawa as paratroopers deployed throughout Ontario in June and July 96 to partake in some challenging but rewarding training. Members of the Company went to Kingston to learn how to scuba dive, Arnprior to freefall parachute and Cobden Ontario for a course in white water rafting. In Petawawa a course was set up to teach sail boat training and WO Gravelle, the Company CQ, led a small group of paratroopers down the Ottawa river from North Bay to Mattawa. While all this was going on, MWO Preeper lead a small but determined group of

climbers to take on Mount Rainer in Washington State.

Ex FIRST STEP

Just prior to block leave the unit conducted Ex FIRST STEP. The aim of the exercise was to establish new unit SOPs for the deployment of the RCR Parachute Company during a Quick Rig to a mounting base and a subsequent Parachute deployment. The exercise also looked at problems and retaught some important lessons that will not soon be lost to many in the unit. Ex FIRST STEP was the first in a series of exercises to ensure operational parachute SOPs remain current as the restructuring of Canada's parachute capabilities continues.

A section of the Queen's Own augmented the Parachute Company on this exercise, and we hope to see them work with us again.

Troops saved Ottawa women in knife attack

On 3 July 1996 four paratroopers from the CFSAC were credited with saving the life of an elderly woman who was almost stabbed to death. Master Corporal Darnell Bass, Corporal Kevin Daly, Corporal Adam Thibodeau and Trooper Darwin D, ° ĩ"RPized for not, êAy subduing the knife wielding assailant but also applying first aid to the woman who was attacked. The Colonel of the Royal Canadian Regiment, Colonel R.M. Dillon, MC, CM, DD, CD, summed up the feelings of the unit best when he wrote to the Commanding Officer:

"In coming to the rescue of a defenseless 81 year old who had been attacked by a knife wielding assailant, in rendering first aid to the victim, and confronting and subduing the assailant, these showed the duty upon which The Regiment has built its reputation and tradition over the past century and more.

Although off duty, they immediately and instinctively played

their part not only as soldiers, but as responsible citizens. And in doing this, they brought credit not only to their Regiment, but to the Canadian Armed Forces as a whole. Especially in times like these, they are to be commended."

Ex DYNAMIC SURPRISE

After the block leave period, the Company went on a one-week unit exercise called DYNAMIC SURPRISE. The scope of the exercise covered everything from individual survival techniques to platoon defence and patrol operations. With the average distance covered by soldiers being over 60 kilometres, more than a few tender feet could be seen walking down the road. Notwithstanding this, the exercise provided a good building block to start collective training and shake out the effects of leave prior to the fall training period.

Ex PEGASUS STRIKE

With Ex DYNAMIC SURPRISE and the general military skills refresher training out of the way, the Parachute Company conducted an airborne exercise with the aim of refreshing Hot DZ drills onto DZ Anzio. In early September, 79 Members of the Company reinforced with an engineer recce detachment from 2 CER and members of the QOR of C landed onto DZ Anzio with blank rounds and thunderflashes exploding on the ground around them. Within seconds of landing, the paratroopers had quickly detached themselves and their equipment from the chutes and formed into sections and platoons advancing toward the enemy positions. Within minutes the Company had overrun the enemy positions and secured the DZ. In one of the most difficult Airborne operations, the skill and experience of the soldiers in the Company quickly became evident. Comments of members of 2 Service Battalion, who provided the enemy force, indicated a great deal of surprise at the speed and aggressiveness of the paratroopers as they took the enemy positions.

REGIMENTAL BAND & BUGLES

WO (Ret) A. Tweten, CD

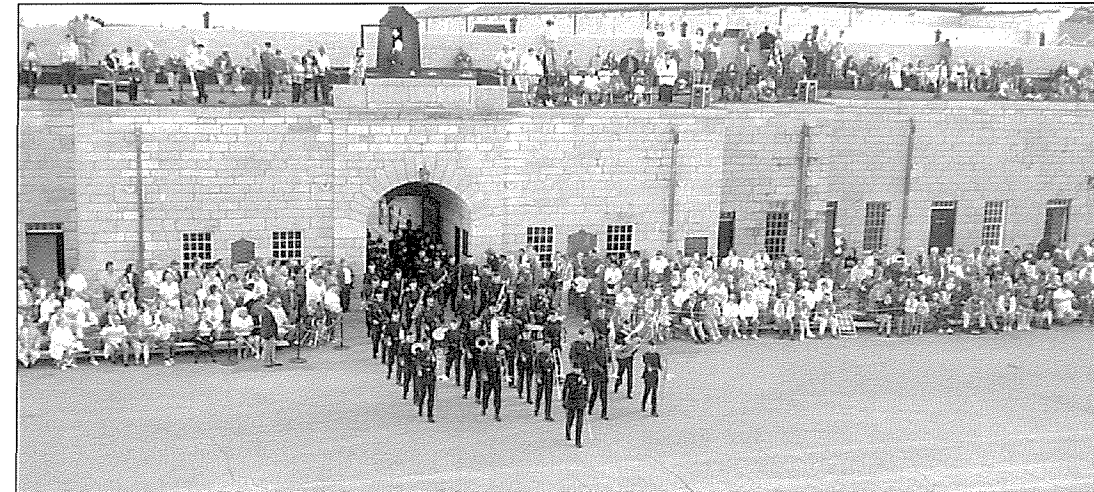
It's been a busy year....

If we thought that 1995 was busy, we certainly got a surprise in 1996! There are only 40 weeks from the first of April to the end of 1996 and the Band & Bugles have averaged more than one function per week for a total of 49 engagements.

travelling to Niagara-on the-Lake. The afternoon had us playing in the Bandshell in the downtown area. The Queen's Own contingent was led by Major Simundson and we're sure that he was proud of the Band & Bugles later in the evening! After supper, the Band prepared to demonstrate its drill routine for the first time in public. We

participate in the opening of the Molson Indy. We performed in front of thousands of people.

The following weekend found us en route to Kingston, Ontario and the engagement that we had been working for on the parade square for the previous three months. It was to be the Tattoo at Fort Henry. We were to share the spotlight with the Ceremonial Guard Band from Ottawa and the Fort Henry Guard. We were delighted to have our Hon Col and Mrs. D.A. Pryer, Hon LCol and Mrs. H.C. Pitts and LCol and Mrs. A.R. Welsh as members of the audience.



The Regimental Band and Bugles at the Fort Henry Tattoo in Kingston, July 1996

The year started, as always, with a busy weekend to celebrate the Regimental Birthday. The weekend began with a concert at Metropolitan United Church. As we move towards the 137th anniversary of the founding of our Regiment, may we remind you that this year's concert will be held at our Regimental church, St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street East on the 25th of April. The concert last year was not our only contribution to the weekend. On Saturday, we were able to provide dinner music for the guests assembled at Moss Park Armoury, and then some dance music for their after dinner enjoyment.

To commemorate the 51st Anniversary of V-E day, the Alliance Francaise invited us to play at their Gala Dinner. A special bond has developed between the Queen's Own and the local French community so it's always special to return to them.

June was a most interesting and busy month for us. We began by

know that the officers outside the quarters enjoyed our 21 minute pattern. The evening was capped with a Retreat & Sunset Ceremony.

The Canadian Forces Command & Staff College held their graduation ceremony in June, and once again, the Regiment provided the music as they said their good-byes. The same day, the annual Black Net Dinner was held and the obvious choice for music was from the Brass Quintet of their Regimental Band!

Branch 258 of the Royal Canadian Legion (Pioneer Village) has a tradition on July 1st of hosting a parade and community day. Once again, the Band & Bugles of our Regiment participated proudly in the short march and moving memorial service at their cenotaph. Later that day, we moved to North York and were a part of their giant Canada Day Parade. This year, we were invited, along with the Pipes & Drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, to

At the end of the month, two of our members, Cpl Gord Harse & Bugler Joe Amodeo travelled to England to work with the Light Division. You can read about this elsewhere in this publication!

August means Warriors' Day at the Ex. This year, we not only marched as accompaniment to our Branch 344 of the Legion, but at the end, we doubled back and paraded the Metropolitan Ambulance Drill Unit along the parade and in front of the Reviewing Stand.

With the need to raise funds for our impending trip to England & France, we were quite pleased to accept an invitation to march in the Labour Day Parade leading the International Aviation Machinists & Aerospace Workers union. If you think the distance from Moss Park to the Regimental Church is a fair distance, you should try University & Gerrard down to Queen and then all the way across to Dufferin, before breaking off just inside the Dufferin Gates.

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation had a Walk-a-Thon on October 6th. A small but enthusiastic contingent from the Band was at the half-way point near Sunnyside to spur the participants on. A worthy cause and we were proud to be part of it. We heard many comments about how the music made them try that little bit harder. October is also a time when 15-20 member of the Band and Bugles team up with all the other Bands in the Garrison and HMCS York to participate in the Annual RCMI Military Band Concert. This year was no exception. We played to a full house and were delighted at the response that we received.

November has many meanings to we in the Band. One of them is that this is the month of Remembrance and another is the Annual Mess Dinner held at the Home Station Officers' Mess. This year was no exception as the members of the Mess dined to the music of our brass quintet. Last Post & Reveille was capably provided the next day to the Black Watch Veterans, the War Amps, the Runnymede Chronic Care Veterans, the Jackman Foundation, the Toronto Board of Trade and one of the local schools. The Remembrance Sunday parade saw us lead our Regiment to the Cross of Sacrifice where a Memorial Service was held outside prior to the service in our Regimental Church.

As we moved into December and the traditional season of good will, we were doubly saddened with the death of two of our former members. CWO (Honorary Captain) George Gresham, CD, lost his battle with cancer as did Bugler Bill Folkard. We will remember them, we will remember them.

December was a light month as we only had three engagements! As the Federal Government transferred responsibility of Lester B. Pearson International Airport to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, the Band of The Queen's Own Rifles was present to provide the incidental music prior to and after the ceremony.

It's been a very busy year. Two promotions were announced as Riflemen Mendoza and White put up their stripes to indicate that they're now Corporals. We also announced some honorary promotions as Master Corporals Tiedemann and West were elevated to Sergeant and Rifleman Donaldson became a Master Corporal. We were very pleased to see our Director of Music, Rita Arendz, receive her long-awaited Commission to Lieutenant.

While this year may have been busy, 1997 promises a lot of hard work, rehearsal and drill practice as we prepare for our trip to England and France in the early summer. To do this means raising a tremendous amount of money. We urge you to take pride in your Regiment by not only coming to our concerts, but bringing at least two more people each to some (or all) of the following concerts or dances to help us get to Europe. We will host our 4th Annual Spring Concert as a prelude to the Regimental Birthday on Friday, 25 April.

You have seen this Band everywhere in 1996. We now ask to see you at our engagements and bring extra people along in 1997. Not only will you be supporting the Band and Bugles, but you may be introducing your friends to a type of music that they may not have considered before. We will continue to give our 110% to our Regiment and look forward to 1997 with a great deal of enthusiasm and zeal.

2881 SCARBOROUGH RIFLES (RCAC)

Capt D. Wilson

Since the last edition of The Rifleman, the Corps has taken part in many parades and activities with The Regiment, The Legion and The Community.

We were unable to take cadets to England or host soldiers here from England due to events in Northern Ireland. Hopefully 1997 will prove better.

Cadet MWO Bridge attended Bisley as part of the Canadian Cadet Team. This is a major achievement as the competition to go there is heavy. Lt Mike Rainforth is taking a Leave of Absence. I would like to thank him for all his time and hard work. We welcome Lt Mike Paulin as Training Officer and congratulate 2 Lt Shawn Bridge on Commissioning. We also have two new Cadet Instructors joining us who will assist with Training.

A successful Annual Inspection was reviewed by the CO, QOR of C in May. The cadets are to be congratulated on the work they put into in and for their efforts throughout the year. I would like to thank all the Corps Staff, The Regiment and The Legion for all their help and support.

New recruits are joining at a steady rate and our objective is to increase the strength of the Corps up to approximately 50 cadets from the mid-30s we have now.

I was able to visit the 1st and 5th Battalion PWRR and turn the page of The Book of Life of the QOR at Canterbury Cathedral in November.

Training continues, and we look forward to an exciting 1997.



Capt Derm Wilson, CO 2881 Scarborough Rifles, turns the page of the QOR Book of Remembrance, Warrior's Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral

RCR PARACHUTE COMPANY



We bumped and stumbled to the front and were presented with plaques and Cold steel Tanto Knives and throwing knives. We shook hands, photos were taken, and we were herded back to our seats to be congratulated by the Brits, slapped on the back, and fed more beer.

The evening ended with the few Queen's Own and the Brits singing soccer songs at the foot of Maj Armstrong's bed with a broken guitar and cracking voices at 0500 hrs. He decided not to confront us at that point but asked the MWO Fancy to quiet us down. He replied "No way, sir".

Realizing our audience was not responding to our serenade, we went to share our talents with the Saudis and Egyptians who were used to loud wailing early in the morning. Our Major then decided that we were going to leave right away before we caused an incident, so we packed up and left under the cover of darkness.

MCpl Lockhart and I put on Brit jump helmets, picked up our trusty guitar, and continued our ballad of "Beaners" for about 80 kilometres. We deposited a very frazzled Major in Trenton along with Cpl Nobrega to continue to Petawawa while the rest of us carried on to Toronto.

It's great to be a Rifleman. AIRBORNE!

This past spring and summer will be remembered as yet another busy period for members of the RCR Parachute Company. With the Third Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, in the middle of standing up as a unit, the Company was tasked to the limit supporting reserve and TQ4 training. Numbers within the Company were reduced from 146 all ranks to 96 by the end of the summer as paratroopers were provided to augment the other companies within the unit. Notwithstanding all of the taskings and reorganization that is ongoing within the unit a good deal of training was conducted by the Company. During the past seven months all members of the Parachute Company performed to a high standard and completed each task they were called upon to do. They have a lot to be proud of.

Winter Training with the US Rangers

In January 96, members of the 75th Ranger Battalion stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia arrived in Petawawa for some joint winter warfare training. With temperature hovering around minus 21C, the Rangers found the weather they were looking for, and got some first hand experience in pulling toboggans while moving on snowshoes, something they will not soon forget. As part of the training, the Rangers jumped from a Canadian C130 aircraft using Canadian equipment while the Parachute Company did the same with American equipment from Starlifters. Both units benefited from the exchange of ideas and techniques and we look forward to seeing the Rangers again in the future.

Ski School

Maintaining a rigorous training schedule, the RCR Parachute Company's next skill refresher was Military Cross Country skiing. While the Company was culminating its winter training period, with a 36 km fighting patrol, Sgt Marty Spriggs

was completing the final preparations for our ski school.

On 29 Jan the Parachute Company glided into the Mattawa Cadet Camp to commence the ski training. The Company was divided into two groups. The intermediate group was under the direction of Sgt Ken Nunn, MCpl Rob Young and MCpl Scott Watson. MWO Dave Preeper also kept a watchful eye on this group for any potential "Advanced Skiers" who could accompany him on the more scenic route around Petawawa. Cpl Winston Rattray was the only one up to the task. The other groups were the "Beginners". This group was composed of personnel who have had limited exposure to Military Skiing. Day 1 and Day 2 were refresher and familiarization days with new military skis. Characteristics of the new skis, different types of waxes and how to use them was all included. Once all skis were prepared, the Parachute Company got on with practical training. Out in the rigid cold we learned the different techniques of lateral, uphill and downhill movement. This also included skijoring behind both LOSVs and MOSVs.

Jamaica

In Feb 96 the RCR Parachute Company deployed on Ex MAINYARD GARDEN. This exercise was conducted in Jamaica, in and around Port Antonio, and was a welcome change from the cold temperatures found in Petawawa. Sgt Jim Davis produced a challenging survival training package and an escape and evasion exercise that allowed everyone to push themselves to their limits. This, combined with the never ending rain, made for an excellent training period and gave everyone a greater appreciation of the jungle environment.

Florida

With less than 4 days back on the

LEAPFEST 96 - QOR LEAD THE WAY!

Sgt F. Demaine, CD

This year's Rhode Island National Guard International Parachuting competition was held on August 13-18, 1996 in Narigganset R.I. U.S.A. The competition consisted of 62 individual teams, each team with 6 members. The competitors came from all over the globe - U.K., Croatia, Saudi Arabia and Brazil, to name a few. The allied teams, except the U.K., sent their national freefall teams in the hopes of crushing the opposition.

This year, Canada was represented by only one team consisting of Queen's Own. On the team from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were Sgt Frank Demaine, MCpl Brett Lockhart, Cpl Geoff Myers from the PPCLI(Ex QOR) and Cpl Chris Nobrega from 1RCR(Ex QOR). Also on the team were Maj Armstrong INT Branch, and MWO Fancy of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

The team arrived in Camp Varnum R.I. at 0200 hrs after a long 12- hour drive. We woke up the reception personnel and were designated a barracks. The first night found our team sleeping on plastic mattress covers as the CQ was not to be awakened to issue bedding.

The next morning, we discovered that we shared the shack with our oil rich allies, the Saudis, who we guessed were used to having servants cleaning up after them. With a few diplomatic (!) words from Sgt. Demaine, we soon found ourselves being moved to another building.

On the 14th of August, the Americans hosted a Friendship jump for all the foreign teams at the University of R.I. The weather was perfect with no clouds and zero winds. The two helicopters were supplied by the Air National Guard, and the team got their first jump onto a golf course style DZ. This jump, in our eyes, would determine who would have a better chance of winning. After watching the Brazilians land almost on top of

each other we thought we didn't have a chance at winning. The only prize we could probably get would be the Booby prize and we would have to beat the Brits for that one, seeing how they had jumpers miss the DZ. However, one of the JMs told his story of a Saudi who would not jump until he was introduced to a friendly tap with a size 9 care of Uncle Sam!

That night the Americans hosted a Beach party for their honoured guests. A keg was tapped and the Canadians and Brits drank together and carried on in Queen's Own fashion. A dare was made and our hosts were shocked at the display of camaraderie and airborne daring. (I guess they never heard of Zulu before.)

We got into our van to discover MCPL Lockhart was missing so I went to recce the Brit's bus. When I boarded the bus I was met by 30 Brits and Lockhart all yelling CANADA!! as if they were hundreds. I decided this was my ride to the bars. We sang our national anthems inches from one another's faces shouting until we lost our voices. The bus driver fearing reprisals, turned off the radio during our singing session.

At the end of the evening the bus pulled out of the parking lot minus a few troops. MCPL Lockhart made his way back in rifleman fashion, covering the 30km via foot and a bicycle that was found in the garbage. After being pulled over by the local police and escorted to the station, he discovered that it was an offence to not carry ID. After convincing them that he was Canadian by singing the national anthem and telling of the secrets of real beer and back bacon, they called a taxi for him.

Like the promised helicopters at Trillium Phoenix, the taxi never appeared, so he made his way back on foot. One of the missing Brits was also lost so he decided to bang on doors at 3am and soon found himself surrounded by 3 squad cars of the

local police. With pistols drawn and lights flashing he held up his hands (occupied with beer) and shouted "Don't shoot, I'm English!" They realised that the county was being invaded by drunken foreigners and just drove him back to Camp Varnum.

The next morning I thought of re-naming the camp to Camp Thumpinghead. All the rest of the teams finally arrived and a briefing was conducted at the University of Rhode Island. 700 paratroopers from all branches of the U.S. forces crammed into the hall. After the briefing the Canadians and Brits went out to bond.

Reveille was at 0500. We made our way to the Pick up Zone and carried on with the U.S. version of a parachute refresher. The PZ was slowly filling up with 11 Helicopters and spectators. The opening ceremonies were hastily conducted without rehearsals or interpreters (for those who didn't understand the English language).

Stop-drop was called due to low ceilings and the first chinks sat in the helicopters and waited. After what seemed liked hours, the first flight took off for the DZ. The PZ was crowded with troops dressing, and others lining up to pick up parachutes, and CSMs yelling for teams to suit up. The teams would only make one jump that day and it would determine the winners.

That evening a steak and lobster dinner was laid on for all at a local VFW branch, complete with more free beer. We ate and drank until the keg was emptied. The award ceremonies started, and we carried on with our conversations with the Brits. Just then the announcement for the top Allied team came and we heard "Canada". I stood up to see "the other team from Canada", and everyone was looking at us. "Wait a minute, we're the only Canadian team!"

QOR AIRBORNE REPORT

Capt J.M. Fotheringham
OC Para Coy

In 1982, The Queen's Own Rifles were tasked to provide a jump platoon (later a Company (-)) to augment 3 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. Other reserve jump platoons were provided by The Royal Westminster Regiment, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment and le Regiment de Saguenay. Fourteen years later, the QOR is the sole reserve airborne unit, now officially tasked by LFC to support the Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton.

Ten Airborne riflemen attended the Canadian Parachute Centre change of command at CFB Trenton on October, and its official opening in January of this year. We wish LCol Mitchell, RSM Hodgson and the rest of CPC the best of luck in the challenging months ahead, and they strive to get the school up and running. Our main support will be providing jumpers for TALEXs and the like. The QOR has told CPC that, with sufficient lead-time, we could normally provide a section of jumpers during the week, and platoon strength on a weekend.

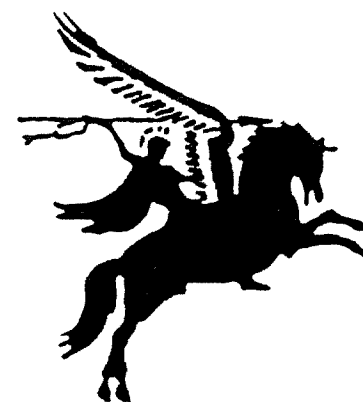
We were saddened to hear of the passing of Capt Dave Wilson, Adjutant with the Canadian Parachute Center. Capt Attrux and WO Owen had served with Dave when he was with the Airborne Regiment, and many of us had met and spent time with Dave during our augmentations with the Airborne. I shared a room with Dave at Lyneham Air Force Base in England prior to the D-Day + 50 jump in 1994, and was looking forward to working with him on our new tasking to CPC. He was a good man, and will be hard to replace.

The QOR continues to receive strong support from Major Balacevicius and his 2CMBG LIB Para Coy, and we are welcome on any and all exercises. Given unlimited funds, we would have personnel in Petawawa year-round, but in reality are able to only send a few soldiers every month or two. Last spring, Sgt Paton, Cpl Gin and Cpl Howard were able to spend several weeks with the Para Coy, including an exercise in Florida, and we hope to be able to repeat that this year.

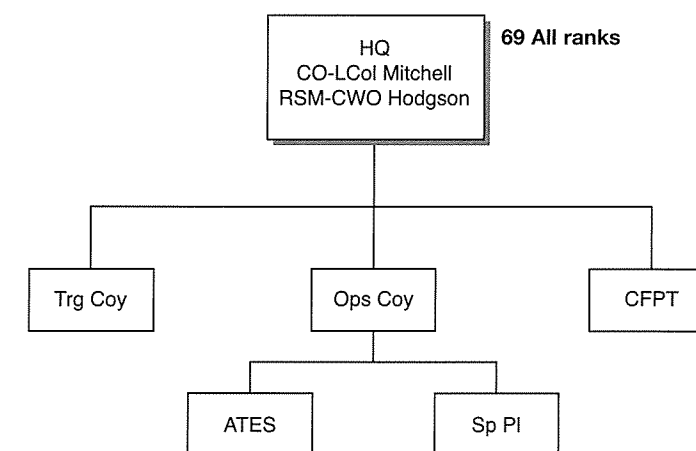
We continue to enjoy our strong ties with 1 Can Para, CAFA and the First Special Service Force associations. In December, 1 Can Para presented the Reginald A. Walker Award to the Regiment. This annual award will be for "the soldier who most exemplifies the spirit and physical fitness required of members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada". The 1996 recipient was Sgt Mark Shannon.

Our Airborne tasking over the past 14 years has provided the QOR with fit, motivated and more experienced soldiers than most other reserve units, and we will continue to give strong support to CPC and the Para Coy for many years to come.

AIRBORNE!

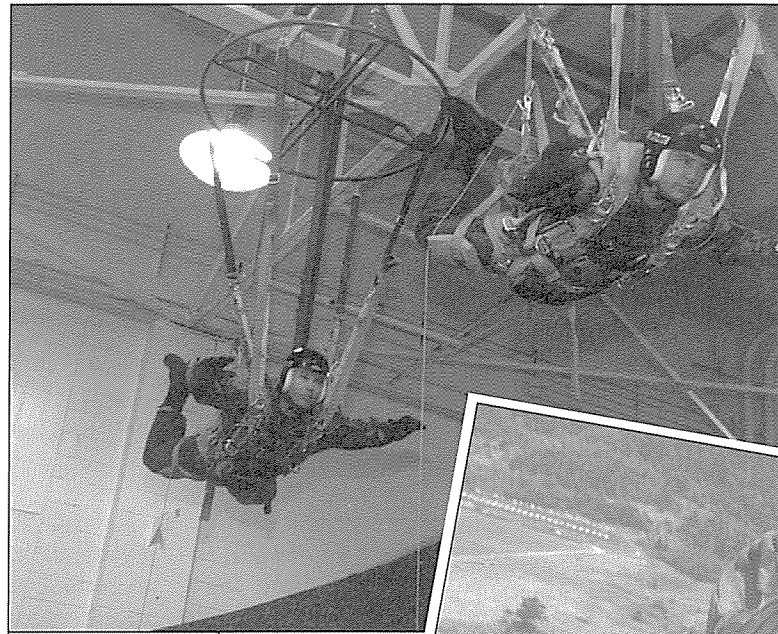


CANADIAN PARACHUTE CENTRE (CPC) TRENTON



TASKS:

- train CF pers for employment in Airborne and Air Transported Ops;
- eval eqpt related to Airborne and Air Transported Ops;
- develop basic procedures and techniques for Airborne and Air Transported Ops;
- with pers augmentees, provide a Canadian Forces Parachute Team (Skyhawks) for demos and competitions;
- Major Air Disaster readiness;
- train CF pers in Mountain Ops; and
- sp Tactical Airlift courses and ops.



Military freefall parachutists practice flight drills

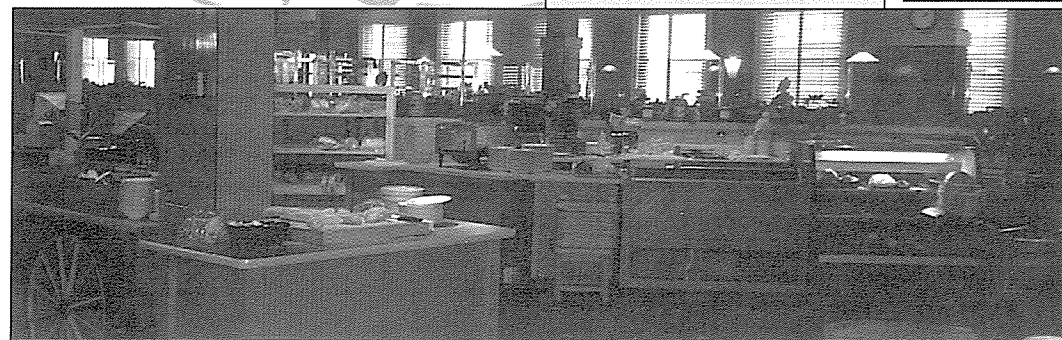


photos: MBdr J. O'Connor, WO J. Wilmot



(l to r) Minister of Defence Doug Young, Sgt D. Harris and LCol Dan Mitchell at the opening of the Canadian Parachute Centre, Trenton, Jan 97.

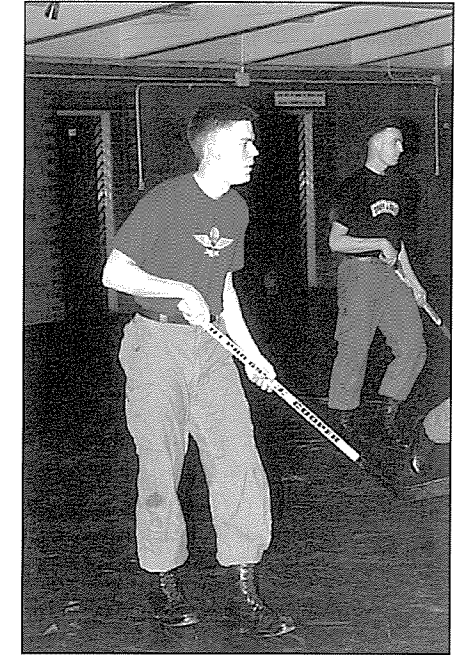
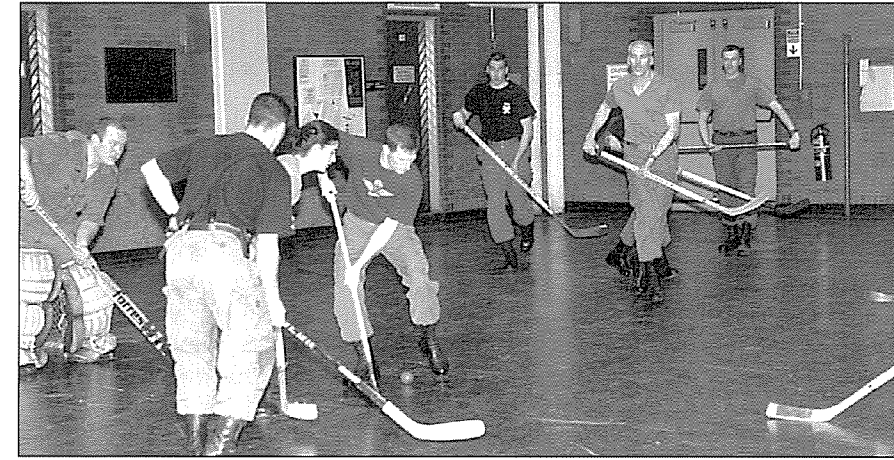
The new kitchen at CFB Trenton



SGT Todd Holmes, having feasted at the Kitchen, tries to keep it down en route to DZ "Thumperhead"

THE QUEEN'S CUP

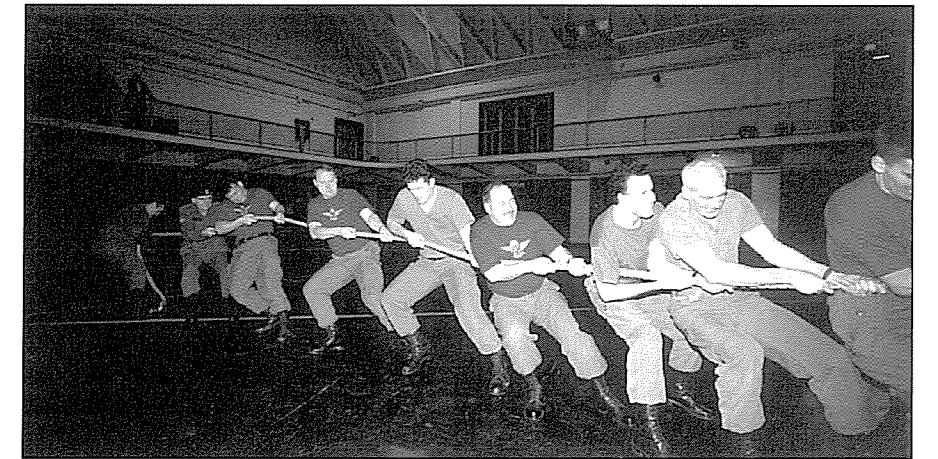
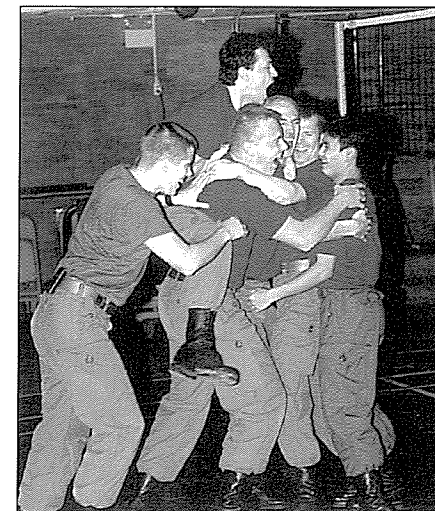
Capt C. Cameron
Regimental Padre



The tenth annual "Queen's Cup" was held on 4 December at Fort York Armoury. Our hosts, The Queen's York Rangers, opted this year for a more direct challenge to QOR's greater physical fitness.

The premiere event of this year's competition was a "chariot race" featuring 1/4 ton trailers being hauled by 10-man teams, from the Armoury up the incline to the old Fort and back - a distance of almost a kilometre. The Rangers, to our chagrin, displayed considerable fitness, and timing were within five seconds.

One other "new" event, also a challenge to our fitness, was a relay race on the balcony with filled jerry cans of water (weighing about 20 kilograms). As well there was the mandatory volleyball, floor hockey and the tug-of-war. Despite taking an early lead on strong performances in hockey, volleyball, and the water relay, after four rounds, the score was even, 8-8. The championship was settled by a tug-of-war. After some negotiations, The Queen's York Rangers decreed that 40 people per side would pull. As always, in this event, the superior Ranger teamwork and weight prevailed. The score is now 8-2 for the Queen's Own and we look forward to 1997 when we host the QYRang and bring the trophy back where it belongs.



EX TRILLIUM PHOENIX

Capt J.M. Fotheringham

This past August's annual exercise was a highlight for me - my second time as Company Commander of Queen's Own troops, and I had the bonus of having 30 British augmentees - soldiers from our Affiliated regiments - 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, and 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

As stated in the last issue, I feel that there is no better job in the Battalion than Company Commander of a Rifle Company. We also had the good fortune, serving in the Trillium Brigade, to have our CO, LCol Tony Welsh, as the Battalion Commander.



Trillium Phoenix had its moments, and its moments. Highlights (and lowlights) included:

- working with the troops from 10 Para, 5 PWRR and 4 RGJ. Excellent men (and woman), who put up with the usual and the unexpected, and kept on soldiering. I must personally thank Capt Mike Wheatley from 5 PWRR, who was outstanding as my Company 2IC, Lt Robin Hall from 10 Para, who commanded 1 Platoon with distinction, and Lt Stephen Lowe from 4 RGJ, who was pulled from us on very short notice to lead a platoon from another company in the Battalion. The NCOs were outstanding, and the men, and L/Cpl Hussein, were a very welcome addition to 'A' Company, and we hope to see them all again;
- my signaller, Cpl Jake Rosser, from 10 Para. I've had good signallers, but Cpl Rosser set the standard, and I hope that our QOR sigs learned from him. He was Capt Saunders' signaller on the 10 Para Ex Rambling Rifleman in the UK, and took care of him as well;

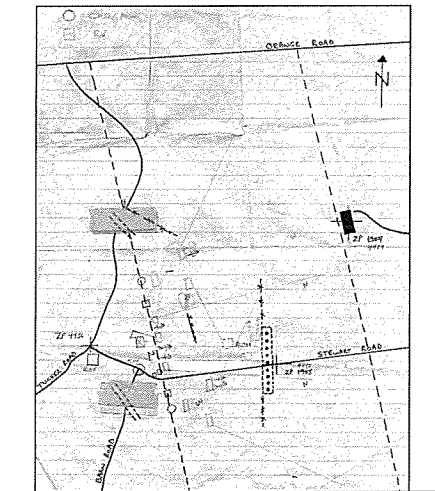
- the total lack of support from the helicopter squadron in Petawawa;
- experiencing the effects of Electronic Warfare (EW). The local EW Squadron did an excellent job in monitoring and intercepting our transmissions, and gave us some interesting radio feedback and jamming;
- locating the EW site. A helicopter raid was planned, and a section from each company of LCol Welsh's battalion was selected to participate. A Special Mention must go to the Toronto District officer serving at Brigade HQ, who shall remain nameless (at least in this issue), who decided that the task of attacking the EW site was too good to pass up, decided that Brigade staff could handle it, and left our men sitting in the sun for the afternoon. Thankfully, the mission was scrubbed;
- being attacked on a regular basis by CF jets;
- an outstanding, and very realistic, enemy force from 2 CMBG.
- the final attack - a highlight and lowlight. In a scenario reminiscent of the crossroads of Arnhem, QOR and British troops were ready to defend against a superior force of armoured and motorized enemy. Morale and tension was high for several hours, as we heard the battle rage around us, then the radio message "End Ex". We had been bypassed;
- Some encouraging quotes from Col Rive, our Brigade Commander, at the final debrief:
 - "What this army needs is more commanders, at all levels, who won't accept "No" for an answer"; and
 - "No staff officer can say No; only I can say No".
- The staff officer who decided that the Mobile Bath Unit should be at the rear of the Brigade. The turn-around time for showers for our Company was over three hours. 'A' Company chose to use the local

lakes and rivers. I just want to know how long it took for his shower.



As they say, "If the troops aren't complaining, they're not having a good time". Trillium Phoenix, overall, was an outstanding Brigade exercise. It's one of the first times that the Reserves have fielded a full Brigade. There are bound to be disappointments and complaints, as always, but I'm sure that our vets can tell you that they experienced the same kind of upsets at the lower levels as they fought their way across Europe.

Summer 97's week-long exercise from 23-29 August will be held in Meaford, with the main focus being preparation for our CCS company evaluation in October. Units are left to themselves to conduct training, with administrative support from Brigade HQ. This means that we'll be training as the Queen's Own want to train, not as directed from higher. In order to do well in October, I encourage all riflemen to plan to attend in August - it's only one week. And, oh yeah, "bags of helicopters" have been promised.



Sketch of Battle Position 101, where A Company spent much of Trillium Phoenix

PIONEERS AND SKIRMISHERS

Maj E.R.C. Simundson, CD

1996 was a significant year in the history of the Regiment. In June 1866, the Regiment took part in repelling the Fenian invasion at the Battle of Ridgeway. In order to properly commemorate this, the Pioneers and Skirmishers bent their efforts to two events; a Military Musketry Competition and participation in a Sounding Retreat at Old Fort Henry, Kingston.



Maj Erik Simundson (l) with members of the 155th NYVI at Niagara-on-the-Lake, June 1996

The Military Musketry Competition was held on the weekend of 2-3 June at Niagara-on-the-Lake Ranges. Captain Saunders did much of the work setting up the weekend, and promptly got sent off to England to participate in Rambling Rifleman, thereby missing out on the Exercise.

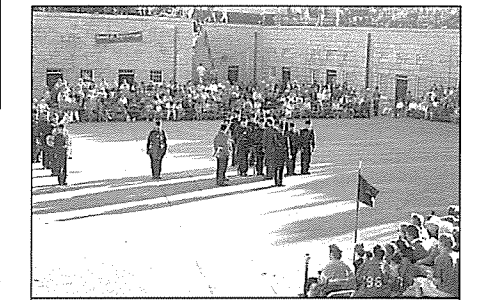
87 participants came from various units to compete in the blackpowder shoot - The Royal Regiment of Canada, the 48th Highlanders, the Brockville Infantry Company and a representative group from the 155th New York Volunteer Infantry reenactment regiment. Competitors shot individually on Saturday and in teams on Sunday. The team shoot was broken into a volley firing competition and a Skirmishing team shoot. Competitors shot for prizes in the form of Gold, Silver and Bronze Regimental Medals.

On Saturday afternoon, the participants conducted a battle reenactment for the town's people. (Please read the extract from "The Harp" newsletter of the 155th NYVI, included below for an interesting description).



Bugler Joe Amodeo at Niagara-on-Lake

Our gratitude is extended to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Mr. Ron Dale of National Historic Sites. Ron Dale's name may be familiar to some of you, since his uncle was MWO Don Dale, who was on the I staff and RSS with the Queen's Own in the 1970's.



The Pioneers and Skirmishers at the Fort Henry Tattoo, Kingston, July 1996

The Band and Bugles attended the weekend and played a splendid performance at the Bandshell in the Town Park at noon on Saturday. That evening, the Band performed a Sounding Retreat in Fort George for the participants and the local citizens. On Sunday, the Band played at the awards parade on Butlers Barracks Common.

The Saturday evening festivities continued with a magic officers' candlelight dinner held in Butlers Barracks (it had to be by candlelight, as there was no other source of light). Sgt Blom and his assistants outdid themselves by producing a gourmet 4 course dinner over an open wood fire. Two Grenadiers, from The Royal Regiment of Canada, volunteered to serve the meal and did a splendid job. In addition to the Officers, the Senior Sergeant from each organization were invited, as well as the ladies who accompanied the 155th.

The weekend climaxed with a full-dress parade and distribution of medals. The Reviewing officer was our CO, LCol Welsh, who came down just for this ceremony. The QOR walked away with the lions' share of medals, followed closely by the 155th NYVI.

EXTRACT FROM "THE HARP" Newsletter of the 155th New York Volunteer Infantry January 1997

Okay, Snot Run was cold. Fort Niagara was cold and damp. Wilderness was like a muddy furnace. Well, the 130th Anniversary Fenian Raid event in early June made up for all that. This was perhaps the best weekend event we had all year. Our camp was like a park - no kidding. The Canadians, who we were re-invading, fed us Fenian scum each meal and we ate all weekend. For this, the 155th owes a big round of Irish applause to our schizophrenic member Erik Simundson. "Schizophrenic" because at the Fenian Raid, Erik, whose normal job is a real-life Major in The Queen's Own Rifles (a Canadian Army unit), led his men against us in battle. At Arcade two months later, Erik jubilantly ran like a bunny through a creek during a Reb charge, all to save the green flag from capture.

Saturday at the Fenian Raid we had a battle. It was almost like Snot Run: 50 of the Queen's Own and their blasted redcoated British friends, and against 11 of us Fenians, clad like we just got out of a circus. It was a pretty passable

little scrap we had. The you-know hit the fan when, after we drove the Queen's Own Skirmishers back through some woods, the Queen's Own Battle Line was there to greet us with a volley and a charge. We fell back in good order, until Erik ordered his men forward at the double-quick, and one of them came after us with an ax. A bloody ax! Typical British trick.

You could tell that the Queen's Own aren't really reenactors, despite their great appearance and fine military bearing - we volleyed repeatedly and not one of them, except Erik, went down during the entire fight. Of course, Erik died three times in 20 minutes. It was a glorious day for the Fenian cause, as our little band of 11 men suffered at least 30 casualties.

Saturday night at the Fenian Raid was a hoot, as the enlisted men crashed an Officers' dinner (on the Queen's Own china) to toast Sergeant "Paddy" Burkhardt's 59th birthday. After the dinner, a wee touch o' "the creature" was reportedly seen in the Fenian camp.

In the end, like the real Fenians, we high-tailed it back to Buffalo, but not before capturing 11 of 30 medals during Sunday's live-fire team competition. The 155th team included "Dead Eye" Burkhardt, "Quick Draw" Schultz, "Mad Matt" Davison and, believe it or not, "Sink Me A Boat In The River" Rosche. The weekend ended on a high note as the real-life Colonel of the Queen's Own presented the medals at a formal military dress parade. And if you missed the weekend, you missed a couple of fine performances by The Queen's Own Rifles Band.

FORT HENRY 22 JULY 1996

No. 4 Coy has had a long association with Old Fort Henry in Kingston. Over the years we have purchased equipment, attended the Retreat ceremony as spectators and even instructed their Guardsmen in Light drill. In recent years, due to financial restraints, the Guard has minimised its evening retreat ceremonies to only a

few a year. In January the Coy received an invitation for the Band to participate in a retreat on July 22nd and, after negotiations, the invitation was extended to include the Pioneers and Skirmishers.

The weekend of the show could not have seen better weather and the sold-out crowd included a bus load from the Association, our Hon Col, Hon LCol, CO and DCO, plus the Canadian Airborne Forces Association, who were holding their annual meeting in Kingston. The Grand Military Tattoo began with an inspection by the British High Commissioner and the Fort Henry Guard's musical and drill display at the red army pace. Then the Queen's Own Bugles sounded the "Advance!" and the Skirmishers tore through the arch at the double, swung round and formed squad to the right (still at the double). On the command of the bugle they advanced firing and then retired as the Fort Henry Guard closed up. When the Guard was in place, the Skirmishers retired behind the line to watch the Infantry and guns go at it. After the final volley, and as the Guard marched off, the Skirmishers bided their time until the way was clear and were off at Rifle's pace, catching up to the Guard before it had decently cleared the fort.

The Band and Bugles performed later in the programme and did splendidly, offering an excellent rendition of "High on the Hill". I am assured that both displays were well received and added a note of dash to the evening. All ranks look forward to another opportunity to participate in Fort Henry's Summer displays and show the public the Rifle's way.

ASSOCIATION - CALGARY BRANCH

John Cresswell, President

As in past communications, Donnie and I are enjoying the good weather in Yuma, Arizona. From time to time, our thoughts have drifted to those who have withstood the onslaught of the winter months.

The Calgary Branch is in high gear in preparation for the Regimental birthday. This task is, to a large degree, in the capable hands of Clay and Louise Hodder. There is much sadness as this will be the final time that the Association will hold the Regimental birthday celebrations at CFB Calgary. On the other hand, it should be a memorable one as one reflects on one's service at this historic base and the fine name the QOR brought to Calgary.

A gathering of QOR was held a few weeks ago in Yuma for a BBQ and an ensuing golf game. Donnie and I welcomed Knobby (RL) and Hilda Clark, Keith and Barbara McCarthy Ken and June Barrett and Roy and Lola Benjamin. Subsequently, the same group was hosted by Keith, Barbara, Roy and Lola with the addition of Sunny and Marie Grant. No golf score available, except to give honourable mention to Knobby, by far the better golfer. Needless to say, an excellent time was had by all.

Not to be self serving (however), may it be noted that yours truly took part in the Yuma Senior Olympics and was fortunate to win gold medals in the 10 kilometre, 3000 metre and 1500 metre runs, plus a number of silver medals in swimming and other track events.

Must mention a few comrades who have been on "Sick Parade" lately. Mike Symons had a stroke, but is well on the way to recovery. Chuck Davey has had a couple of bad spells but, as in his hockey days, is making hard checks and fighting back. As well, my dear comrade Jim Bulmer is not at all fit. To you, Jim, Chuck and Mike, we wish you well, and pray for improvement. In doing so, we do not forget their wives, Anna, Doreen and Marsha, those wonderful spouses who hang in there to take care of their loved ones. If anyone deserves a medal, it is you and the many others who do so much. Where would any of us be without them?

So for now, comrades, I will sign off and on behalf of the Association, may I wish one and all the very best of health and, above all, be good to each other.

Take care and God Bless

On our side, we greatly enjoyed working with our sister regiment. Initially suspicious about being paired with a Canadian rather than working as a RGJ section in a British platoon, it turned out to be the highlight of the camp. Most of them impressed us with their enthusiasm and desire to learn. While their support seemed better than ours, the standard of kit they have access to is far inferior. Webbing and rucksacks date from the Vietnam era, radios are heavier, more frequently broken and less widely available than ours, and Night Viewing Goggles and the like are unheard of in the reserve forces. Despite this, the tactics and skill levels are very close to our own, and most reassuringly, wherever you go, the reserve forces soldier has the same concerns, the same worries, is messed about in the same way, and is, for all intents and purposes, the same soldier whether British or Canadian.

The final part of the exchange involved three days of rest and recuperation in Toronto. This was undoubtedly the best bit. Toronto is a beautiful city, the weather was lovely, and our hosts hospitality overwhelming. Sights were seen and several pubs and clubs were well visited. Some riflemen reserved their best for this part of the exercise Rfn. Royer's Green Jacket participation in a Hen night, L/Cpl Hussein doing her bit for Anglo-Canadian relations and the charm of L/Cpl "Do you speak English me old china?" Barry.



As the officer in charge, I was particularly pleased with the way the RGJ alien to B Company settled into our merry band. Rfn. Royer and L/Cpl Hussein have already been mentioned, and Rfn North was described by his platoon commander as "an absolute ox" (I think it was meant as a compliment). All the riflemen put up with their Canadian officer (an airborne one at that) and Sgt. Bryant's grumpy moods superbly. Not only did L/Cpl Sowerby let me beat him at pool, but Rfn Jones and Walsh were not too distraught at my attempts to procure women for them and Rfn McGloghlin not too distraught at my attempts at humour. Our hosts were superb and particularly thanks must be given to Major Simundson (QOR) who organized and provided liaison for the trip. We seemed to leave a good impression behind and I thoroughly look forward to welcoming the Canadians when they visit the 4th Battalion in Sunnybridge in September. (See Cpl Kim's account of Ex Rambling Rifleman - 4 RGJ exchange).

The QOR Kit Shop

Stock & Price

Duty and taxes are included in the prices. Please send all orders to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Kit Shop, 130 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R9. Enclose 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.
QOR Airborne/Rifleman		
T-Shirt - Maroon		12.
Sweat Shirts - Maroon		23.
RESTS & 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.
BOOKS (Hard Cover)		
Cdns A Bat'n at War (Whitsed) (Queen's Own Rifles)		25.
REGT'L WALL PLAQUES		
Pewter 9x7.5		95.
Hand Painted U.K. 7x6		52.
OTHER REGULAR ITEMS		
Regt'l Ice Buckets (Drum)		55.
Belts - QOR Insignia		20.
Baseball Caps - QOR (Regular & Summer)		10.
Whistle Cords		
- Officers & Senior NCO's		15.
- Whistle Cords - OR's		10.
Coffee Mugs		5.
Regt'l Decals - Stickers		2.
MISC. ITEMS		
D.Day Landing Print		25.
Same, signed by O. Fisher		150.
Regt'l Band - CDs		15.
Regt'l Band - Cassette		10.
Note Cards - per Doz.		9.
Xmas Cards - per Doz.		9.
Army Bags - Shoulder		7.
Small Rifles - Black Metal		4.
BOOKS (Soft Cover)		
Battle Diary (CSM C.C. Martin)		15.
Valour on Juno Beach (T.R.Fowler)		15.
Valour-Victory Campaign (T.R.Fowler)		15.

CANADA WITH THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES

Lt Stephen Lowe, 4th Battalion, Royal Green Jackets

Ten fortunate members of the 4th Battalion were selected to participate in a Brigade exercise being run for all the Canadian reserve units based in Ontario. The rump of those selected had been from B Company's successful Courage Trophy team, but they were enthusiastically joined by two members of Headquarters Company and a lone C Company representative. We were to be joined on the exercise by ten representatives from each of the QOR's other affiliated units, 5 PWRR and 10 Para, as well as a platoon of the 3 Highlanders and representatives of London Scottish.

Unfortunately, the flight to Toronto was delayed, but upon our arrival we were swept through customs and onto our coaches by our hosts. We had been warned to expect high temperatures and humidity but the weather had just broken, leaving conditions warm enough to be holiday-like, but not too hot to reduce our effectiveness. Immediately we were issued kit and started a crash course of instruction on the C7 rifle, the Canadian version of the M16 assault rifle.

An evening's drinking was followed by an early rouse and the 5-hour journey to the Petawawa training area. Planning for Ex Trillium Phoenix had started last October with briefings, TEWTs (Tactical Exercises Without Troops) and regular Intelligence updates. Ex Trillium Phoenix was Canada's largest reserve exercise since 1990. The scenario involved a UN force in a Bosnian-type situation. As soon as we hit the ground, commanders were pulled away for recces and briefings, leaving the troops to settle in with the new terrain and their Canadian battle buddies.

Most of the next week was taken up with core platoon and company training. Some of this was unrivaled in our experience - all-arms company live firing and fighting patrols through temperate jungle and swamp.

The end of this phase saw the riflemen and officers pleased with their progress. Cobwebs were successfully wiped away and several new skills had been learnt from the Canadians. For their part the Canadians were impressed with the fitness and enthusiasm of the riflemen under their command, not to mention the benign influence we were having on their new recruits.

Rfn. Walsh's almost perpetual questioning had brought much humour, and slowly our hosts were beginning to catch onto Sgt. Bryant's North London wit. The perseverance of Lt. Lowe's platoon, who had followed him wading waist deep up the Ottawa River, was rewarded by watching him fall 8 feet into a quarry leading the assault during his fighting patrol and L/Cpl Barry's Canadian section had just about learnt to decipher his commands.

The five day FTX (final training exercise) provided the British contingent with a rare chance to take part in a brigade exercise. Particularly useful was the chance to watch all the Brigade assets in action, an opportunity which doesn't often come the way of the Territorial Army soldier. A five day exercise is a luxury, and the speed with which both Canadian and British reservists acclimatized themselves was very impressive.

Four days were spent in defensive positions at the edge of a huge drop zone which afforded panoramic views and blissful weather. Playing at Brigade level, there were frequently quiet patches in the battle, but this allowed us to get firmly established in a defensive routine, which proved surprisingly tiring. The importance of sleep was repeatedly emphasised, as almost hourly positions were strafed, shelled or probed. However, with four days available, we were able to dig in to Stage 5. The riflemen swapped trench building techniques and stories with their North American colleagues

while the platoon commander personally dug three trenches (I will never touch one again).

We had grown rather attached to our positions; the sunshine and the routine accompanying it. Several attacks from some of the 900 regular soldiers from the First Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, who were playing enemy, had been repulsed and the riflemen were beginning to look forward to the Offensive operations which traditionally close an exercise. Unfortunately, the units to our North had not fared so well and our Battalion was ordered to withdraw, which we managed within 75 minutes of the first warning order!

The FTX ended before the much expected fight through our previously occupied position, and while the opportunity to sleep was appreciated, a slight feeling of disappointment hung over the riflemen. This was quickly dispelled with a glowing debrief from the QOR's CO, LCol Welsh. It was one of the finest thank you speeches I have ever heard and we left the exercise feeling ten-feet high.

This was the first time the Canadian reserve in Ontario had turned out an entire Brigade, and while all those who took part will recognize that there were shortcomings in the organization, the result was far, far better than anyone had expected or hoped for. Previously, the Canadian reserves were used individually to reinforce regular units (indeed, 3 of Lt. Lowe's NCOs had recently returned from tours of duty in Bosnia) but there was a genuine feeling after this exercise that reserve units could stand on their own beside their regular counterparts with only a little more training. The commanders of both the Canadian and Russian military, who were visitors to the Brigade, left suitably impressed and everyone involved enjoyed the exposure to the other arms that a Brigade exercise permitted.

QOR ASSOCIATION

CWO (ret) Brian Budden, CD
Association President

1996 has been a very busy and exciting year for the Association. While I've tried to keep up with all the activities through communicating to all members with the two issues of the Powder Horn this year and via phone or mail, I will give you the highlights that involve the QOR of C Association.

Warrior's Day Parade 17 August, 1996

I was very pleased to pass on to all members that the QOR Association was congratulated on receiving an award from the Warrior's Day Parade Council, the Goodyear Remembrance Trophy for a Unit/Marching (21 or more members), in which we came in 1st place. I would like to thank all the members that were on this parade and the Color Party, under Paul Trenchard, which included Harry Fox, Rolph Jackson, Andy MacNaughton and Art Gay, as well as The Regimental Band and Bugles. I was unable to attend the Awards Dinner on September 27th, so I saw it fitting to send two of our veterans, Harry Fox and Rolph Jackson, who enjoyed themselves. (Next time, Harry, bring the trophy home).

Association Shoot 14 September, 1996

The annual shoot at CFB Borden was another successful event. The organizer for this year's shoot was Rob Grieve, who did an excellent job with his staff. We fired the Lewis Gun, Bren Gun, and Sten Gun, and the shooting competition used the issue Lee Enfield Mark 4 (on loan from the Streetsville Cadet Corp, under the kind permission of their CO, Major Peter Marshall). We had excellent support from the Regiment's UTA, WO Doug Owen. The results from the competition are as follows: 1st- Gord Engerer, 2nd- Dave Lavery, 3rd- Brian Budden. The winning team consisted of John Bennett, Brad McCalla, Dave McVeigh and Frank Pearce. Congratulations to all! At the conclusion of the shoot everyone

enjoyed a get together at the Rod & Gun Club over stories and a few bubbles.

Normandy Tour 04-12 June, 1997

As this tour approaches quickly, the response has been very good. The itinerary was published in the last issue of the Powder Horn and all members received a Tour Package from Sears Travel Service.

The main objective of this tour is to visit QOR of C Memorials and the re dedication of the memorial and the "Maison de Queen's Own Rifles" at Bernieres sur-Mer on 6 June, and "Rue de Buck Hawkins" in Giber ville. This will also include visits to memorial sites that the Queen's Own were involved in during the Normandy landing.

At the end of September we had the opportunity to host the Mayor from Le Mesnil Party (The Alexanders), who are looking forward to our visit next year to Normandy. Their appreciation was well noted by members that were in attendance on their visit to Canada. Paul Niedenza, from Doorn, Holland, also paid a visit and had the opportunity to visit the QOR of C Branch and meet old acquaintances again.

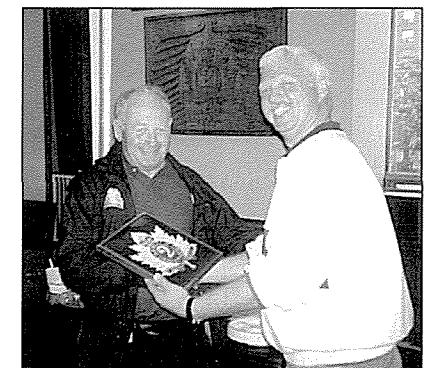
To keep the Association running smoothly - for those that have paid their membership we thank you. We remind you that dues of \$10.00 a year for 1997 can be made out to Secretary of The QOR of C Association and mailed to 130 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1R9. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members we have made donations to the Memorial Fund.

As the Kingston Trip in July was successful, hopefully in the near future the Association would like to put on similar trips. Those interested, or with ideas or suggestions, please give me a call.

At the Remembrance Day Parade I have noticed the attendance is not as it used to be. It is up to the younger members of the Association to start attending this function to show the gratitude that we feel and appreciation of our veterans who made the Supreme Sacrifice. For those members that have passed away over the last year:

*"They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them"*

I'm very pleased to announce that Art Gay has been selected by the Department of Veterans Affairs to represent the Queen's Own at the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France this April. Watch for Art's article in The Rifleman next issue.



Association President Brian Budden (r) with the Mayor of Le Mesnil Patry, Roger Alexander, in the QOR Sergeants' Mess, September 1996

I would like to thank the Regimental Family, the Regiment, Regimental Band & Bugles, Cadets and all members who have lent to me their support and ideas to keep the Regimental tradition thriving.

In closing, let us never regret growing old. It was a privilege that was denied to many. Thank you.

The Leadership Qualities of a Sergeant

presented at
The Sgt Aubrey Cosens, V.C. Dinner 1997
by W.O. John Wilmot



RSM Sarossy, LCol Welsh, Mr. President, members of the Sergeants' Mess and guests.

Tonight we gather to honour the memory of Sgt Aubrey Cosens, V.C. Like so many other members of this regiment, and this mess, he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. In doing so he, he gave us an example of the ideals to which we can all aspire.

Our other purpose tonight is to recognize the corporals of the regiment. These are the people who help us most in our job as Senior NCOs. We invite them to join us at this dinner each year to thank them for their hard work and to introduce them to customs of the Sergeants' Mess. These are the future sergeants of the regiment. We want to recognize them and perhaps inspire them to the ideals demonstrated by Sgt Aubrey Cosens, V.C.

I want to start by reading some words that we are all familiar with;

The Citation

'In Holland on the night of 25th-26th February 1945, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada launched an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof, to capture ground which was considered essential for the development of future operations.

Sergeant Cosens' platoon, with two tanks in support, attacked enemy strong points in three farm buildings, but were twice beaten back by fanatical enemy resistance and then fiercely counter-attacked, during which time the platoon suffered heavy casualties and the platoon commander was killed.

Sergeant Cosens at once assumed command of the only other four survivors of his platoon, whom he placed in a position to give him covering fire, while he himself ran across open ground under heavy mortar and shell fire to the one remaining tank, where, regardless of the danger, he took up an exposed place in front of the turret and directed his fire.

After a further enemy counter-attack had been repulsed, Sergeant Cosens ordered the tank to attack the farm buildings, while the four survivors of his platoon followed in close support. After the tank had rammed the first building he entered it alone, killing several of the defenders and taking the rest prisoner.

Single-handed he then entered the second and third buildings, and personally killed or captured all the occupants, although under intense machine-gun and small arms fire.

Just after the successful reduction of these important enemy strong points, Sergeant Cosens was shot through the head by an enemy sniper and died almost instantly.

The outstanding gallantry, initiative and determined leadership of this brave N.C.O., who himself killed at least twenty of the enemy and took an equal number of prisoners, resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operations of the Brigade.'

A RIFLEMAN'S ADVENTURE

Cpl E.R. Howard

For months we had planned a European adventure when we finished phase three of the most uncomfortable but most rewarding summer of our lives, which had started way back in June with Junior Leaders Course. JLC finished August 10 and, coincidentally or not, Trillium Phoenix started August 11.

When TP96 finished on the 22nd of August, we headed home, washed our gear, had a few good meals and headed overseas for the third phase, The Royal Green Jacket portion of Ex Rambling Rifleman 96 at their camp at Sunnybridge. (See Cpl Kim's article elsewhere in this issue).

Finally, on September 14th we were free to roam the European country side. We had rented a car that we would drive only fast enough to get us to the next drinking establishment, culminating at the greatest cultural event of our time - OKTOBERFEST in Munich.

When we attempted to extend our car rental, the blood-sucking vampires at the rental agency wanted an extra \$60 / day. I explained to them very politely to what to do with the automobile and my companion and I left to deliberate our misfortune over a few pints. Since our flight home was booked through a travel agent we were now stuck in Europe for 25 more days. My companion also was having some unexpected financial troubles.

After seeing the Imperial War Museum for the second time in 10 days, I decided it was time to get out of London. I called a travel agent and said that I wanted a flight to some place warm that was cheap. He replied, "I've got a flight to Tenerife for £69 leaving in 5 hours."

"What's the temperature there today?"

"79."

"Book it!"

Three hours later I was at the airport with no idea

were the heck I was going but I really didn't care because it was hot. I asked the lady at the ticket booth were Tenerife was. She told me it was one of the Canary Islands, so I got on the plane. At least now I knew the name of the place I was going.

At 4 am, we landed in the Canaries, and it was hot - 25 degrees Celsius to be exact. I hopped a cab 6 short blocks which cost 2500 pesetas (\$25 - never ride the Mercedes cabs) which took me right to the beach. I put on a pair of trunks, went for a swim in the nicest water I had ever felt, and then fell asleep on my kit in true rifleman style.

I awoke to find, to my horror, that my beautiful beach had turned into the Spanish version of Niagara Falls in 6 short hours. There was no way I was going to spend the next week in a bad Rickey Ricardo dream, so I grabbed my kit and headed west. After walking for about 15 kilometres, I started coming across these coves which shot into the island. They had these huge cliffs which made them great for looking out on the ocean and at the island.

The neat thing about these coves was that hippies actually lived in huts next to the water. They would have couches and chairs made of palm trees just like Gilligan. After passing through a few of these coves I came over one cove that had normal civilian-style tents scattered on the beach. As I walked down to investigate I noticed that the people on the beach were naked, so I took off my gear and continued down the cliff.

To my surprise, the nudists looked

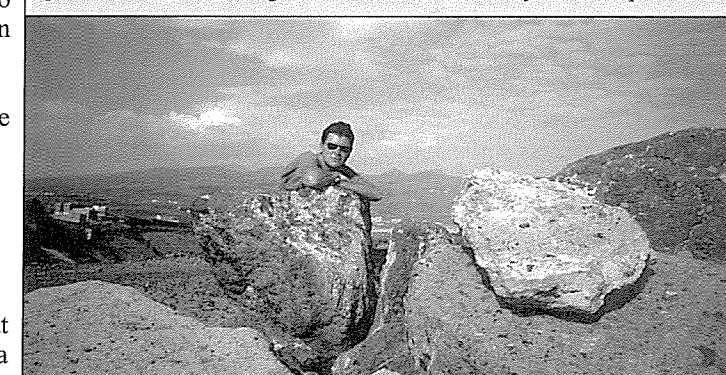
nothing like those National Geographic photos. Most of the people were my age and luckily female, so I decided that I would stay there for a while. Of course, sunglasses were worn at all times.

Once night started to fall, I thought that it would be a good idea to start heading into the next town to find a place to sleep. Just as I got over the first rise, there was a house which was carved out of the side of the cliff and right on the water's edge. When I went to check out the house, I discovered that it was abandoned, so I decided that I would just stay there for a while.

The next morning I went into the next town. It had a grocery store, a few patio restaurants and a English pub. I had a few pints, talked to some locals in the best Spanish I could muster, bought some bread and water, and headed back to my little paradise. After a couple of days I got to talking to some of the naked people. Most of them were from the bigger towns and came to the cove to escape from the tourists. They told me some of the fun stuff to do, so every day I'd walk into the town, buy some food and water and have a few pints. Sometimes I'd take a lesson in snorkeling or surfing or something exotic, then I would walk back to the cove, take a swim and look at the naked people.

When it was time to go home, I realized that I should take a good look around me because I probably would never be back to my little paradise, but I'm sure that they'll always remember the crazy pink Canadian.

Cpl Ted Howard, now serving with the PPCLI, in the Canary Islands, September 1996



(Cpl Howard has been selected for direct entry into the Regular Force. He leaves us in late March to join the PPCLI. We wish him, Sgt Holmes (RCR), Sgt Hutcheon (PPCLI) and Rfn Kapp the best of luck in their careers. Once a rifleman ...)

In addition to the routine of daily bugle practice I also had the honour to participate in a couple of parades with the Band and Bugles. The first parade was an amalgamation parade in which three reserve regiments became The King's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry Light Infantry. This took place on August 3rd 1996 at Nostell Priory which is about a one hour drive from Nottingham. The ceremony was fantastic with all appropriate pomp and circumstances for such an occasion and the parade square manoeuvres of the Band and Bugles were performed at 140 paces to the minute(minimum) for a capacity crowd.

The second parade I participated in was a passing-out parade at Sir John Moore Barracks. This is a celebratory parade for all the recruits graduating into the regiment. It is poignant to see the youth of today take up the torch of tradition and carry it proudly forwards into tomorrow. For them I have only the best wishes and from them I take

the fondest memories.

This exchange of troops not only gave me the opportunity of a lifetime - to bugle with the Light Division was a dream come true - but it also gave me a chance to see some of the English cities and country. I travelled at every opportunity and took in quite a bit: Winchester, Chawton, Southampton, Cardiff, Aldershot, Bath, London, Edinburgh and Durham. It was quite a whirlwind tour and the high point came when I met Bugle Major Green. He is perhaps the most famous Bugle Major in British History, having a very long and distinguished career. He joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps in 1958 and was promoted to Bugle Major in 1961. He then served as Bugle Major with the Royal Green Jackets and now, in his retirement, he is Bugle Major of the 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry(a reserve regiment). I had the great honour of meeting him when I was in Durham and I was also lucky enough to bugle with him and the Buglers of the 7th Battalion L. I.

Near the conclusion of my exchange I also found time to fly to Germany and Bugle with the 5th Battalion Royal Green Jackets (also reserves) in the annual shooter fest in Neuss. Exactly what a shooter fest is, I do not know. But it was amazing fun and an incredible was to conclude the best trip - nay, the best time of my life.



(l to r) Bugler Amodeo, Bugle Major Green, and Cpl Harse. Bugle Major Green joined the KRRC in 1958, served with the RGJ, and is now Bugle Major of the 7th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry

Queen's Own Guard at Bernieres - sur Mer, June 1994



QOR Riflemen and Band will return to Normandy this June to support memorial dedications by our Veterans and Association, as well as the Association of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

Photo: CWO (ret) J.C. Figa, CD

The London Gazette, 22nd May 1945

What Lessons can we Learn from these Brave Acts?

It has been said that "an example is a lesson everyone can see." By his actions, Sgt Aubrey Cosens teaches us many of the leadership qualities that a sergeant must have. He shows us how they are put to use in a real situation and how they flow naturally without hesitation or contrivance. These leadership qualities are not new or mysterious. They are the same ones that we try to teach on leadership courses. The story of what Aubrey Cosens did that night simply brings them into sharper focus.

You Must Know Your Commander's Intent

The relationship between a sergeant and an officer is one of the most important in the army. Together, they represent a strong leadership team. As a team, though, there can only be one commander. A leader does not need another leader, he needs an advisor. Your job is to be the advisor. Your knowledge and experience should guide your commander to a decision but that decision is not yours to make. The way to influence the decision is through the strength of your relationship to your commander. By building on mutual trust and respect you can open a channel of communication that will allow you to have input on any decision.

That channel of communication is vitally important. You must know your commander's intentions. Sgt Aubrey Cosens knew his commander's intentions. He knew the importance of taking the buildings at Mooshof. He knew his commander's intent regarding future operations of the Brigade. Knowing your commander's intent goes beyond knowing the mission and the execution portion of the orders. You have to know what the commander ultimately wants to achieve. What is important and what is not. You do not decide these priorities, the commander does. If you start setting your own priorities you will be working against the commander and that can only detract from the effectiveness of the team.

Knowing your commander's intent is more important than knowing the plan. Sgt Aubrey Cosens shows us that. His commander had a plan to capture the buildings at Mooshof. That plan was unsuccessful. When that occurred, Sgt Aubrey Cosens abandoned that plan but he held on to his commander's intent. He did not give up and say it could not be done. He took the commander's intent and made a new plan around it. By knowing what the outcome should be he could change the orders and still give the same result. If you know your commander's intent you can use your initiative when a plan proves unsuccessful. The first responsibility of a platoon second in command is to take over when the commander is absent. How can you do that without knowing the commander's intent? The goal of the platoon cannot change simply because the person leading it does.

Know your commander's intent. Insist upon it. It is the most important piece of information you can get. Once you have it, build on it. It should guide all of your actions. When you speak to your troops it should always be in a manner that supports the commander's intent. You should be an amplifier not a filter. Do not reduce the message, build it up. Add the details around the commander's intent to make one clear message for your troops. Demonstrate to them that everyone is working toward the same end. Be watchful for those soldiers who are not following the commander's intent. Stop them and redirect them. There may be more than one way to achieve the commander's intent. If someone is following another path to the same end, you should accept that. But if they are on another path that leads away from the commander's intent, they must be turned around. That is your responsibility. You ensure discipline.

Know your Troops and be Concerned for their Welfare

This tried and true phrase is often quoted in leadership schools. The trouble is outside of the schools many leaders have difficulty putting it into practice. Do not hesitate to get to know your troops. They want your recognition and respect. To give it to them, you must know them.

When you were a Rifleman, you were taught the characteristics of your weapons. As a Sergeant you must be an expert on those characteristics. You must know what each weapon is capable of and how to best employ them. But what are the characteristics of your troops? How do you find out what each of them can do? Where do you learn the best way to employ each of them? Who teaches you that? Your troops do themselves. As much as we try to make them all the same, each soldier is an individual. Each soldier has different wants and needs. And each soldier has different characteristics. By getting to know your troops you will learn their characteristics, and from that, you will learn how to best employ them. As a Rifleman you needed to know the characteristics of perhaps four or five weapons. As a sergeant you need to know the characteristics of not just those weapons, but also the characteristics of eight soldiers in your section or thirty in your platoon. A rifle and a machine gun can both give you covering fire but the machine gun is better suited to the job. Likewise two soldiers could both navigate for you on a patrol but one will likely do a better job. You must know how to employ each of your troops. It is not an easy task and it is complicated by the fact that your soldiers' characteristics are constantly changing. Knowing your troops is an ongoing process.

Sgt Aubrey Cosens knew his troops. He knew he could depend on them to give him covering fire when he ran to that tank. He knew how to make them follow him into those buildings. He knew what his troops needed him to do so they could carry on against the odds they faced.

You must also be concerned for their welfare. They can do their job only if you provide them with the things they need. That might be ammunition, food, sleep, guidance or almost anything else. Sgt Aubrey Cosens knew his men needed a tank so he got

them one. They also needed a bold leader and he gave them that too. If you know your soldiers you will know what each of them needs.

You must also let them know you. Be honest with them and avoid trying to act like a sergeant. It will not take them long to see through a pretense. If they know you honestly believe what you tell them, they will accept it better than if they think you are only saying what should be said. When a time comes for a leap of faith, they must have faith in you just as Aubrey Cosens' men had faith in him.

You Must be Able to Make Unpopular Decisions

The job of a soldier is not an easy one. There are many unpleasant tasks that must be performed and many difficult circumstances that must be faced. Nevertheless, that is what the job entails. You as a sergeant must ensure that soldiers do their job. Do not confuse avoiding work with looking out for your troops' welfare. There will be times when your decisions will be unpopular. Do not let that discourage you from making tough decisions. As long as there is no malice behind your decisions, most troops will accept and respect them. There will always be some that complain over almost any decision. Do not mistake the loudest complainer for the groups' representative. Be consistent in your decisions and your troops will know what to expect from you.

Always strive to do what is right instead of what is easy. It would have been easy for Sgt Aubrey Cosens to give up. It would have been easy to stay where he was and hope for re-enforcements. That is not what he did. He knew what was needed and, even though it was tough, he decided to act. He made what must have been an unpopular decision, but his troops knew it was the right decision. Your troops will know when you have made the right decision as well.

Infectious Optimism

"...they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical wellbeing." That is how Montgomery described paratroopers, but it can apply to any soldier. Certainly Sgt Aubrey Cosens showed an infectious optimism when he lead those four men against the buildings at Mooshof. Not only did he know it could be done, he convinced those men it could be done. He must have known better than any how bad the situation was. But still he saw hope. He knew they were not beaten. He knew they could still win. He showed his men how much he believed they could win when he ran across open ground to that tank. Who could help but be inspired by someone who showed such bravery and optimism? Aubrey Cosens and his men won because they knew they could win.

Your troops must believe they can win too. They must be optimistic to the point of cockiness. And they will have to get that optimism from you. You lead not only their actions, but their attitude as well. If you demonstrate optimism they will be infected by it. Optimism comes from knowing your strengths. Montgomery said it comes from physical wellbeing and it does. When you are physically fit, you feel you can do anything. But it also comes from your strengths in other areas. A section that can do a good attack can also clear a house well or carry out a good patrol. Know your team's strengths and emphasize them constantly. Just like when you teach a lesson and go from the known to the unknown, always try to build from your strengths. Do not ignore failure. There are lessons to be learned in failure, but too much emphasis on failure leads to pessimism. Your soldiers need you to show them what they can do.

Turn Defeat into Victory

Sgt Aubrey Cosens was faced with what appeared to be a hopeless situation. His platoon was down to four men. They were being counter attacked and counter attacked. Many people would have given up hope. Many people would have turned to despair. Aubrey Cosens went out and found that tank. Aubrey Cosens rallied his platoon and lead that attack. Aubrey Cosens smashed through the wall of that first building and killed or captured his enemy. He did not give up hope. He did not despair. He understood his commander's intentions. He knew his troops and himself. He made a tough decision. And he drew from within that infectious optimism that inspires soldiers. That night, Sgt Aubrey Cosens turned defeat into victory.

We too are inspired by the example of Aubrey Cosens, or we should be. The things he did are not beyond the abilities of any of us. We can take command when needed. We can re-organize our troops. We can plan and execute an attack. We could even direct the fire of a tank. The things he did are not what make Aubrey Cosens a hero. It is the fact that he chose to do them at that time, in those circumstances, that makes him unique. How often are we faced with the same situation as Aubrey Cosens was? How many times have you come down here to find your platoon is down to only four soldiers and the platoon commander is not among them? Did you give up? Did you start thinking about who let you down or why you cannot do what you are supposed to do? Did you look for ways to rewrite your orders into something easier to achieve? Or did you do as Sgt Aubrey Cosens did and turn defeat into victory?

My challenge to each of you tonight is this. The next time things go wrong. The next time you do not get what you were promised. The next time everything is going against you. Do not think about how things might have been. Do not think about who let you down. Do not think about giving up. Think about Sgt Aubrey Cosens. Think about how he faced all of these problems and more. Think about how he reached inside himself and found the courage and optimism to be a leader. That is what I challenge you to do. To be a leader when a leader is what is needed most. Be a Sergeant like Aubrey Cosens.

Thank-you.

the trip that will be special for the rest of our lives. Bugler Amodeo received a picture taken with the Drummers of the RGJ in their Regimental Chapel. The picture, incidental, was not a standard 5x7 photograph. It has a cherry wood frame measuring 24"x36". A very special gift indeed.

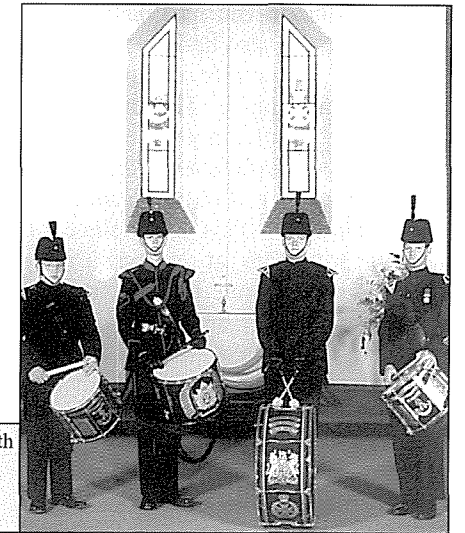
By the time we arrived back at Pearson International Airport, we had collected thousands of pounds of history, three hundred pounds of souvenirs and the knowledge that the Light Division are great hosts. You will be proud to know that Queen's Own Rifles of Canada stickers grace

the walls, traffic signs, urinals, airplane trays and pub railings in every town visited by us in the UK.

Special thanks to the Commanding Officer and everyone who was involved in the planning & execution of EX Rambling Rifleman!

IN PACE PARATUS

Cpl Gord Harse (2nd from l) with members of the Band of The Light Division, August 1996



**EXERCISE RAMBLING RIFLEMAN -
A BUGLER'S PERSPECTIVE**

Pte J. Amodeo

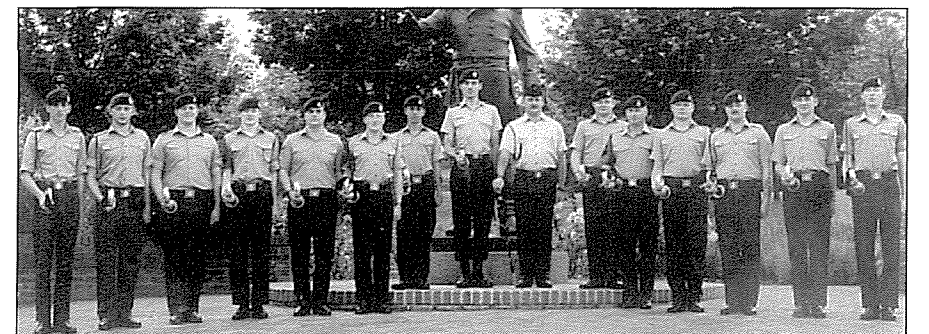
In July 1996 I had the great privilege of participating in the troop exchange between The Royal Green Jackets and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. This exchange was of course a great morale booster and a re-affirming of our historic ties to our Allied Regiments and the fighting men of England. Moreover, it was an exceptionally unique experience for myself, for it was the first time in the history of The Queen's Own Rifles that a bugler had been sent to train with the Bugle platoon of the Light Division.

The Band and Bugles of the Light Division are stationed at Sir John Moore Barracks, just outside the city of Winchester, and this is where I spent most of my time. While attached to the L.D. Bugle platoon, I became a participant of their daily routine. Breakfast was served at 0615 and bugling began at 0830. Typically, the bugling carried on all morning and into the early afternoon, with several breaks for tea, of course. Much of what they play is similar to what can be heard on any Queen's Own parade: pieces like Mechanized Infantry, Silver Bugles and Sambre et Meuse to name only a few. This made me feel right at home. However, I soon came to realize the enormous depth of their

repertoire when the Buglers began to play some fanfares like Lucknow, Entry the Bugler and Sir John Moore. I was then wowed by some incredible combination marches like The Lines of Torres Vedras, By the Left, Hark Forrard and Jellalabad. Everything they play would be split into two or even three harmony and everything is played from memory!

The Buglers of the Light Division, like the Buglers of the Queen's Own, are not musicians. None of them have any musical training, they cannot even read music. Everything is taught by ear and memorized. This, of course, in no way discredits them, for hearing is believing and theirs is the music of the gods. Everything is memorized for reasons of sheer practicality that are rooted deep in their tradition.

With the birth of the 60th Rifles in 1755, the bugle was adopted as a means of battlefield communications over the drums and fifes, for the bugle could easily be heard by the small groups of skirmishing Riflemen who would be spread out across the front. Of course, there is no place on the battlefield for written music, nor any time to use it so all bugle calls were committed to memory by all; Buglers and Riflemen of all ranks alike. This bugling tradition is fiercely adhered to today and is clearly a matter of pride for all in the Light Division. This is reflected by the fact that the horns the Buglers play are made of solid silver ranging in price from \$6,000 to \$20,000+ depending on embellishment and historical value.



Bugler Joe Amodeo (center) with the Bugle Platoon of the Light Division, August 1996

EXERCISE RAMBLING RIFLEMAN - A BANDSMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Cpl G. Harse

A Trip To England

Exercise Rambling Rifleman '96 might have meant learning a bit of the tactics and methods of the British Army for other members of our Regiment, but to a Bugler & a Bandsman, it had a different meaning. To be the guests of the Light Division and Bugles was to be a very special five weeks last summer.

In order to demonstrate some sort of class, both Bugler Joe Amodeo and myself were decked out all proper in Regimental blazers and ties for our arrival. Due to this distinctiveness, we had no problem being found after landing at Gatwick Airport, just south of London. We quickly learned that one doesn't walk around with any sort of Regimental identification due to the terrorist activities that are so prevalent in the UK. This was a bonus as we both enjoyed being a little on the casual side.

The English were amazing hosts. We had our own room in the barracks and were supplied with a lot of little extras - even a tea kettle in the room! Different members of the Regiment hosted us each night so we were able to see each "Pub" for miles around the base. During our pub visits, we noted that at least seven of them claimed to be England's Oldest Pub.

It took well over two weeks before we could weed through some of the stronger northern accents and it was scary when we finally understood what the guys from Yorkshire were talking about.

Everyone in the Regiment is christened with a nickname. To call someone by their proper name will just elicit blank stares-"Who you talking about, mate?". My nickname was a variation on my last name-figure it out yourself - and Bugler Amodeo's nickname is not suitable to

print! In addition to our nicknames, the name most commonly associated with us was **GRIPPERS**. You'll have to ask how that one was derived.

We figured our reason for being there (besides getting a tattoo which we did) was to find out more of the history of the Royal Green Jackets and, more specifically, the King's Royal Rifle Corps. With this in mind, we spent a lot of time (read a lot of money) at the various Regimental Museums. One benefit of the colonial accent was we were quickly identified as the visiting Canadians, so our admission price quickly dropped to zero. Further time was spent taking pictures of literally everything. You could often see the Brits shaking their heads and mumbling "\$&*%^% Grippers" !!

The differences in the uniforms led to an interesting & humorous event during our stay. As you know, our tan shirt includes epaulets with the Regimental identification in gold. A soldier noticed the QOR, and immediately snapped a sharp salute to Joe. This salute was respectfully returned with the words, "Carry On". Imagine what his attitude would have been if he realized that Bugler Amodeo had only been sworn in a mere few days before this trip!

One of the more interesting things that we did was to take some training on the British SA-80, a weapon with very similar characteristics to our C-7, except that it's almost a foot shorter and everything is in the wrong place! The opportunity to fire live did not arise (or they didn't trust us), but we were able to fire on their new, state of the art, £2,000,000 (\$4,400,000), electronic range. It's a computer-controlled range simulator that makes you think you're in Borden - it even includes zeroing of the weapon. IA's and night shoots were included. One distinct advantage to this is the lack of

a Butt Party or the cleanup of the brass afterwards.

Our hosts quickly learned to secure anything lose when we were around. In true Queen's Own tradition, we would liberate anything that wasn't nailed down. If you'd like to see a couple of our trophies, please visit us in the Band Mess downstairs. To give an idea of how successful we were, our Canada to the UK luggage weighed in at 80 kilograms, whereas our returning luggage was well over 160! Fortunately, our connections with Canada 3000 made good and we didn't have to pay for excess luggage!

Due to a mix up and a last minute change of plans, the base was on Block Leave during our final week and a half. This meant that the only people on the base were the security staff and the visiting Canadians. Our hosts, however, didn't leave us stranded. They assigned us a car AND a driver - or was it that they didn't trust us driving on the wrong side of the road? Our driver Kevin's instructions were to "take them wherever they want to go". This means that in one week, we clocked over 2,000 miles(3,000 km) on the car. One of the more memorable trips was a nine hour drive from Winchester to Durham so that we could meet the very famous Bugle Major Green. We spent the afternoon with him as he reminisced and enjoyed numerous cups of tea. While visiting with him, we were also able to attend a rehearsal of the 7th Durham Light Infantry Band. Needless to say, proper respects were paid to the Mess afterwards!

We were also privileged to join up with the 5th Royal Green Jackets on a trip to Germany as we marched with them at a German festival.

As we parted, we were astounded as we were presented with mementos of

THE 1ST CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Jan de Vries
President

Speaking for those of our Battalion Association who have been able to attend some of the QOR functions, I wish to say thank you for the comradeship extended to us.

Our Association is suffering from the same malady as the QOR Veterans' Association - too many years. Although there is much still to be done, the Executive of our Association intends to see that it is done.

The realisation that our Battalion has few markers where we once trod prompted the Executive to initiate a corrective programme. To this end, a small group of our members undertook a recce to Europe in May of this year, and made arrangements to place 3 bronze plaques in June of 1997: one in Bulford, England, where the Battalion was based and trained; and one each at Varville and Robehomme, Normandy, which were Battalion objectives that were successfully taken at considerable cost in casualties.

The recce group then joined with other Association members to unveil a 'stele' at Gonneville-sur-Mer, on June 8th. This 'stele' was dedicated in memory of 7 men, out of a stick of 20, who died at that location. Four survivors of the stick were present at the ceremony. The cost of the 'stele' was borne by the local villagers, the French Government, and our Association. The hospitality was overwhelming and an all-day affair.

The next day, our group continued on to Rochefort in the Ardennes, carrying a 40 lb. bronze plaque that the Mayor decided to place prominently on a monument dedicated to American soldiers who

fought there. In Rochefort, we were, again, treated like royalty, given a wonderful reception, and the 'Freedom of the City.' The next day was spent in Holland at the villages of Buggenum and Nunhem along the Maas. Here we were greeted by friends made last year when we dedicated a plaque now mounted on the Church wall. After 2 weeks of activity our group separated and my wife and I had a few days of easy travel in Holland.

Two weeks after we arrived home we were off to a National reunion in Chilliwack, B.C. The reunion committee did a marvellous job being well supported by the local CAFA members and Col. Roger St. John, Camp CO, who arranged for the use of the Sergeants' Mess. This was the only location that could handle the 250 guests. The General Meeting was attended by 114 members who greatly appreciated talks by Brigadier James Hill, our wartime commander, MGen Brian Vernon, MGen Herb Pitts, and Col Dick Cowling.

The business part of the meeting was pushed through to cover a heavy agenda as well as to hold biannual elections at which the present Executive was re elected. Most members from across the country took the opportunity to do some sight-seeing in scenic BC after the reunion.

A month at home, then it was off to Moncton, NB for a mini-reunion on July 19 to 21, where over 50 members turned up. In the Maritimes, this, now, is good attendance, as many of our eastern members have passed away. As always, the hospitality in the Maritimes is superb. We had 3

enjoyable days, one of which was a luncheon and tour of the Hopewell Rocks, also known as the 'flower pots' in Rocks Provincial Park.

Among other events that took place this year was the final retirement of our wartime Padre, Doug Candy. Twenty four of our members and wives attended the big party as St. Georges Church on the Hill on June 23rd. For some years we have fielded 2 platoons at the August Warrior's Day Parade at the CNE. This year we managed only one platoon with 35 marchers - we still look smart on parade.

We again took up the invitation offered by the Allied Airforce Reunion Committee to join them at their annual reunion on September 28, joining them on the Sunday parade up Bay Street for a service at the City Hall Cenotaph. On October 27, with the help of 2 young collectors who have accumulated a great deal of 1st CPB wartime artifacts, the Association set up a well-received display at the RCMI Massed Band Concert at Roy Thomson Hall. November 10 closed out our Association activities for the year with our members joining the QOR for the remembrance services.

We are finalizing details of our trip to England, France and Holland this May and June, and look forward to seeing the QOR Band at Bulford and the Merville Battery, as well as the Guard at various stops along the way. We appreciate the support.

A prosperous and eventful New Year to all our QOR friends.

1 CAN PARA ASSOC - PRESENTATION OF THE REGINALD A. WALKER AWARD

Jan de Vries
President

QOR Men's Christmas Dinner -
December 1996

"Colonels, Officers, Ladies and
Gentlemen:

Our Association had two objectives
in providing this award plaque to
The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.
First, to acknowledge in some way
the most capable and competent
soldier of the year in the QOR.
Second, to keep the memory alive of
a very special person, Reg Walker.

Reg Walker was that rare type of
person who made friends wherever
he went. Many in the QOR knew
him well. He never said "no" if

someone asked for help. Anecdotes
will be told about him for years to
come. He is much missed and we all
are the better for having known him.

"Sergeant Mark Shannon, it gives
me great pleasure, as President of
the 1st Canadian Parachute
Battalion Association, to name you
the first recipient of the Reg Walker
Award. This is to acknowledge the
high regard held for you by your
superiors, peers, and the men who
serve under you. The example you
set on the running team and the SSF
Ironman competition, your concern
for the well being of your
subordinates, and the competent
manner in which you conduct your

duties, gives us all the reassurance
that the Canadian soldiers continue
to be the best.

Congratulations."



Sgt Mark Shannon, 1996 recipient of the
Reginald A. Walker Award, with Reg's family
and members of 1 Can Para, December 1996.

REG WALKER (1924-1995)

Jan de Vries
President

Reg Walker had an adventurous
spirit, a ready smile, a sense of
humour, an enthusiasm for life, and
a heart of gold.

Reg served for 2 years with the
Governor General's Horse
Guards(Reserve)while underage,
then enlisted for active service in the
Armoured Corps. On completion of
basic training, he volunteered and
qualified for the Paratroops. He was
C Company runner when he jumped
into Normandy with the 1st
Canadian Parachute Battalion, 6th
British Airborne Division, in the
early hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944.
Company runners were not known
for longevity, but Reg survived to
return home with the Battalion in
June 1945.

was widely recognized and
depended upon. With boundless
energy, Reg pursued many activities.
Sky diving until almost 70 years of
age, he earned his American and
Israeli wings, jumping with his
distinctive parachute with the
Pegasus emblem on the centre panel.



Reg had a great rapport with young
people, to whom he passed on his
skills in skydiving, scuba diving,
kayaking, white water rafting, and
skiing. He was, also, an avid hunter
and fisherman. A self-taught
beekeeper, Reg assisted the Metro
Toronto Zoo and University of
Guelph when they learned of his
success with honey production.

Reg was a member of the 1st
Canadian Parachute Battalion
Association, and served as
Quartermaster for 18 years. His
determination to keep members
properly outfitted extended beyond
the Association, influencing and
assisting many other military
associations.

**An outstanding Airborne soldier,
who, in his lifetime, exemplified
the finest qualities of a Canadian
citizen.**

Following his military release Reg
began an outstanding career with
Toronto Hydro, where his expertise

the mighty B Company know we were
about to face the biggest challenge
yet. The coach departed just after
dark, and drove south for five hours,
delivering us to our destination, and
what would be our home for the next
days, shortly before 00:30 hours. In
the morning (with a slight headache
from the Meet and Greet in the Mess,
which I thought lasted a little long
given the hour that we arrived) the
town of Senny Bridge looked quite
peaceful.

The day was to prove to be a long one,
- about 72 hours long in fact. It was
the beginning of a very well
conducted escape and evasion
exercise that involved search dogs,
attack dogs, helicopters, vehicles,
loads of enemy force, and a very
interesting introduction to
interrogation resistance. When it was
over, only one team of four very
hungry, slightly dehydrated, filthy
dirty, hardened individuals emerged
complete from the fields and forests
of Brecon. I don't feel it necessary to
name the team members, suffice it to
say there were Canadians on the team
and the leadership was brilliant. After
the debrief, we carried on with post-ex
drills and began preparations for the
next phase of training which was to be
live field-firing.

Our little group from Canada was
joyously reunited after over a week
apart. Each member managed to keep
themselves busy with different things
including mess dinners, and an
Officers versus Senior NCOs softball
game, umpired by our Cpl (General)
Hewlin, who was ruthless in his
"umpire's call is final" approach. The
game ended in a tie in the 21st inning
with a broken bat and a collective sigh
of relief.

Upon completion of the last stand of
training, the Battalion was brought
back together again at a little farm
where we commenced battle
procedure for the final exercise. The
companies were all going out on
fighting patrols that night and the
following day was to consist of
platoon attacks and end ex. The call-
sign for B Company that night was

Bravo Two Zero, and if there was even
one person thinking that to be a little
ominous, they certainly were not
disappointed.

The lightning crashed, the thunder
rolled, and the rain came down in
sheets thicker than lead. This, coupled
with the driving winds, made the
patrol one to remember for all those
involved. With less than a hour sleep,
still wet and feeling the hunger, we
began the final push to rid Wales and
the rest of the world of the tyranny of
evil men forever. When we were done
all that remained were dead enemy,
sheep carcasses and empty casings.
With a congratulations and a well
done to all, end-ex came, and none too
soon.

We left the hills and fields of "Sunny
Wales" forever that day, and returned
to our home away from home. What
followed was a night of discussion of
the events that took place, down at the
only social spot within a thousand
miles, the pub. As the night wore on,

more and more self-proclaimed
Victoria Cross winners wanted their
chance to tell their tale. When all had
decided we'd had enough, or at least
the staff decided that they wanted to
go home before the sun came up, and
put an end to the singing that grew
exponentially louder with every round
put on the table, 5 PWRR retired for
the evening.

There is not much left to say about
those three weeks in the UK. We did
have two days in London prior to
departure where we stayed at the
Union Jack Club, the details of which
I will not delve into. It is safe to say
that this exchange provided training
which was invaluable, and to a certain
degree, to a level that would not be
have experienced otherwise. As well,
every participant forged new
friendships and memories that will
last a lifetime. We thank the
Regiment and LCol Welsh for the
opportunity.

Rfn Mike Chisholm at the
live-fire range, Brecon
Beacons.



BLACK CLOUDS OVER WALES - 5 PWRR

Lt W. Beardmore

The vehicle slowed, and the engine screamed as we began to ascend one of the thousands of steep and weathered hills which reside in the Brecon Beacons. Twenty minutes out of camp and an eternity from the rest of the world, we sleepily occupied the back of the Bedford, desperate to steal away any last possible slumber as our journey burned up a good hour of the morning. Alas it was not to be. The day still lay in blackness as the members from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment reflected on the previous night's bonding session at the local pub.

all times, or be eaten alive. I got the impression that our British counter parts were quite impressed with the Canadians ability to pick up on the spirit of the game and even out perform them on many occasions.

The lorry rolled to a stop and the Sergeant-Major simultaneously began yelling mercilessly at his soldiers which included, for the three weeks we were serving with her Majesty's Forces, us. Out of the fume-filled troop carrier and onto the saturated mud covered country side jumped the eager troops. Of our group, having departed Canada a century ago, three

from the beginning. We arrived in London early the morning of 2 October , and were met by members of the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. They stuffed us into a van, and drove us for a couple of hours to HQ 5 PWRR.

We spent two days and nights in Canterbury at Howe Barracks where we were treated like royalty. Through museum visits, tours and conversation with many retired and active serving members, we learned much of the glorious history of the PWRR, which consists of many highly distinguished units - including the Buffs - which have been amalgamated and still hold their individual units in the highest regard.

One of our stops was Canterbury Cathedral wherein lies the Queen's Own Book of Remembrance. Every week day in a ceremony at precisely 1100 hrs, a Colour Sergeant arrives at the Cathedral in his best dress and turns the page of our book. On the day of our visit, which must have been much-publicized by view of the turnout, I was bestowed the honour of performing the ceremony myself.

On the third day, we said a teary goodbye to our three companions leaving for C Company, as we linked up with our B Company brethren. While I can only write about the adventures of B Company, they do also apply to C Company as we did partake in the same activities, only at different times.

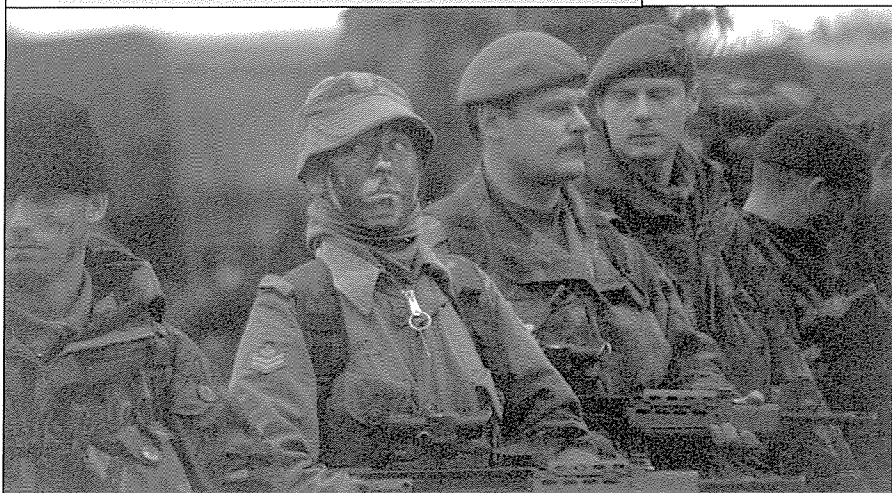
We were transported to a place in the north of Wales called Kinmhall, which would become our home for the next four days. Basing out of this obscure little camp, which has a huge history of its own, we participated in some unbelievable adventure training. At the end of the day we had climbed the face of great cliffs, scaled huge mountains, squeezed our way up through the inside of ancient rock formations and skied down the other side. The day came, as it always does, when we had to move on. Little did

of us were tasked to B Company, and

three were tasked to C Company. At this particular time B Company was enjoying three days of live field firing which would complete the rotation of events. From morning until night over the three days B Company advanced, fought, and captured objective after objective displaying a level of tactical competence and fierce aggression which at times surprised, and even scared the directing staff and range safety officers. By the end of it all we would have put thousands of rounds down range, single-handedly destroyed divisions worth of enemy, and won the highest praise from their most senior staff, all the while sustaining no casualties ourselves.

To bring you completely up to speed, I should really tell you what transpired

MCpl Cindy Suurd at the start of the platoon live-field firing range, Brecon Beacons, September 1996



Fighting the bitter wind which poured in through every possible crevice and cut to the bone, and the water which exploited the flawed construction of our vehicle, was made easier by the endless war of words between every man and woman in the vehicle. To an outsider it would have certainly appeared that there would be a fight any moment, but in fact it only drew the group closer.

In Canada we might call the British soldiers sarcastic, but that is not a strong-enough word for their relentless participation in what they referred to as their national past time, called "Taking The Piss" (apologies in advance) from which no one was safe. It did have a positive side in that one is forced to keep his wits about him at

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct Major Robert Bruce Firlotte, CD 31 May 1966

Capt J.M. Fotheringham

At the recent Black Net Dinner on 5 May 1997, I was speaking to Major Bob Firlotte, who jumped across the Rhine with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and then served with The Queen's Own Rifles until his retirement in 1966. Although I've known Major Firlotte for almost ten years, I had never noticed a silver clasp attached to the ribbon on one of his medals. When I asked him about it, a fascinating story emerged:

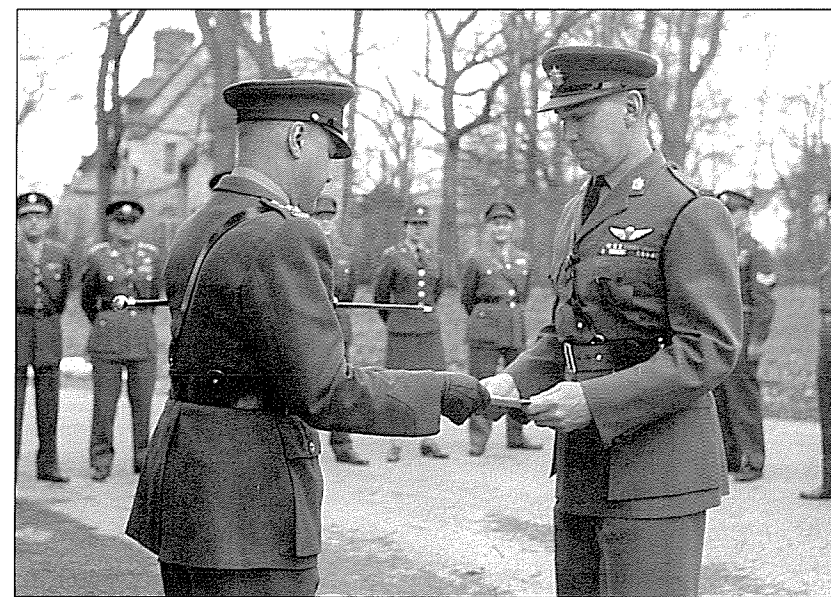
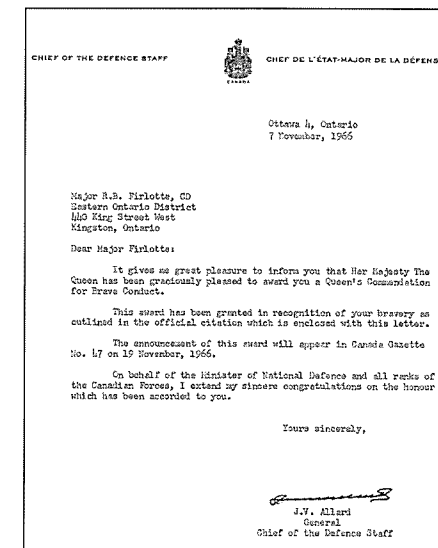
"At approximately 1230 hours on 31 May, 1966 at Kingston Ontario, Major Firlotte, while waiting in a branch office of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for an appointment with the manager, heard one of the tellers scream and then noticed a man detach himself from a teller's window and hurriedly walk to the exit. In the confusion of the next few moments, Major Firlotte heard the teller exclaim that a robbery had been attempted and that the man had threatened to use acid if she resisted. Aware that the man had threatened to use acid but unaware that he was only armed with a toy weapon, Major Firlotte immediately ran after the fleeing man,

seized him and forced him to return to the bank where the police subsequently took him into custody. By his quick thinking, and disregard for his personal safety, Major Firlotte apprehended a felon who would have otherwise escaped." (From the Award of Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct certificate)

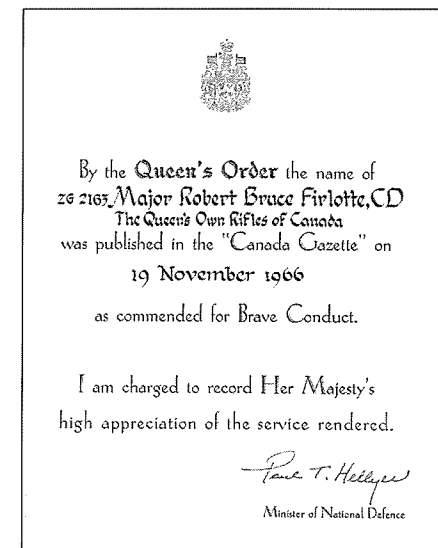
Major Firlotte was on his final days of retirement leave from the army, and on the first day of his new civilian job at DuPont. He and his wife, Doris, were meeting the bank manager to discuss a loan to buy a house when the incident occurred. His heroism was front page news in Kingston, and he received letters from the Chief of Defence Staff, the Colonel of the Regiment, Kingston Police, and a \$400 reward from the Banker's Association. He was presented with the award by Colonel Tom de Faye, Commander of Eastern Ontario Area, at a parade attended by several hundred Area personnel.

Major Firlotte was 49 years old; the bank robber was 23. For all you riflemen who try to use advancing age

as an excuse for decreasing physical stamina and increasing waist size, I hope that Major Firlotte will serve as an inspiration. It's all in the head! (And he and Doris got the loan.)



Col Tom de Faye (l) presents Maj Bob Firlotte with the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct at Kingston, 1966



Ex Rambling Rifleman 96 - 10 Para

Capt A.R. Saunders, CD

The 10 Para portion of Ex Rambling Rifleman was appropriately named Ex Celtic Warrior. The entire trip lasted from 28 May until 18 June 1996. The stalwart participants from QOR were Capt Saunders, Sgt Holmes, MCpl Wolfe, Rfn Kiervan, Rfn Harrison, Rfn Kapp and MCpl Willard from the RCR Para Coy in Petawawa.

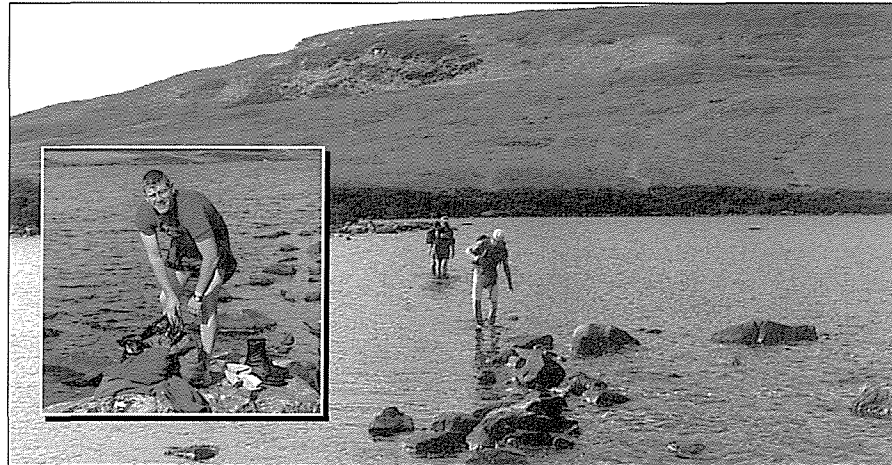
facilities were excellent.

At the conclusion of the Ex with 10 Para we participated in a 100 km Iron Man style race from the south to north end of the Outer Hebrides. As the sole Canadian Team we finished the march as a team.

Many thanks to those soldiers in 10 Para who ensured our stay with them was a most memorable and enriching experience.

Upon our arrival to the UK, we were greeted by our hosts and promptly escorted to Chelsea Barracks where we would stay with the Irish Guards for the first few days. They were busily practicing for the Queen's Birthday celebrations and were in full Garrison "swing" as only the British, or Irish in this case, can do.

After our Para indoctrination we suited up and boarded a UK Herc for a flight to the Outer Hebrides where we were to be para inserted, full equipment. STOP DROP !! The first portion of the Ex was a two day operation, followed by 10 days of adventure training, which included cycling, windsurfing, scuba diving, hill walking, deep sea fishing, inland fishing, kayaking, and etc, etc. And for those of you who think that perhaps we were having too much fun, we also started each day with a refreshing Para-style PT run at 0600 hours daily. Our barracks were the Artillery Missile Range in the Outer Hebrides just outside of Benbecula, Scotland, and the



Above: During the 100-km race, the riflemen had the choice of walking around a lake, or through it. Inset photo of Cpl Lee Harrison shows aftermath of their decision

Left: Capt Adam Saunders (l) and masked friend en route to a jump at Salisbury

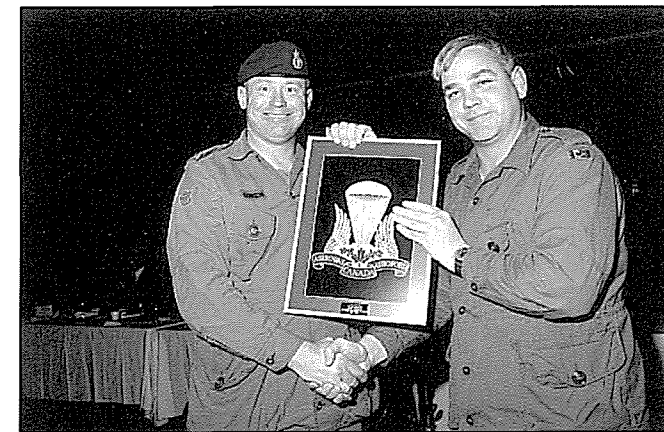
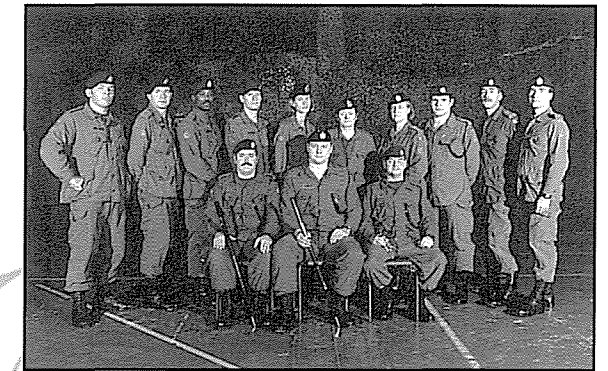
We contour flew home via Hercules at approximately 300 ft above ground level over some of the most scenic country in the UK. What a view for those who had the stomach. We parachuted into Salisbury at DZ Fox Covert, and were promptly awarded our British Parachute wings by the Commanding Officer of 10 Para, LCol Malkin.

Sgt Todd Holmes (r), now serving with the RCR Para Company, receives instruction on the British parachute



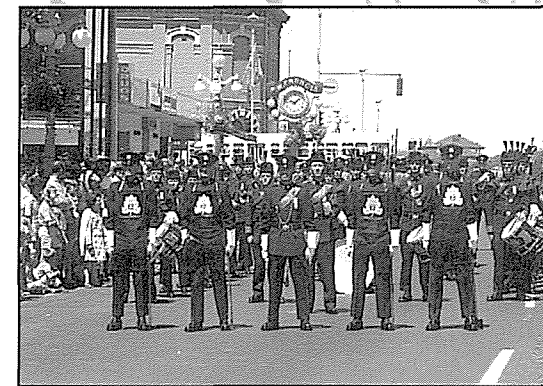
Reminiscent of "The Road to Stanley", QOR and British troops approach Benbecula, Scotland

Warrant officers and sergeants, Dec 96

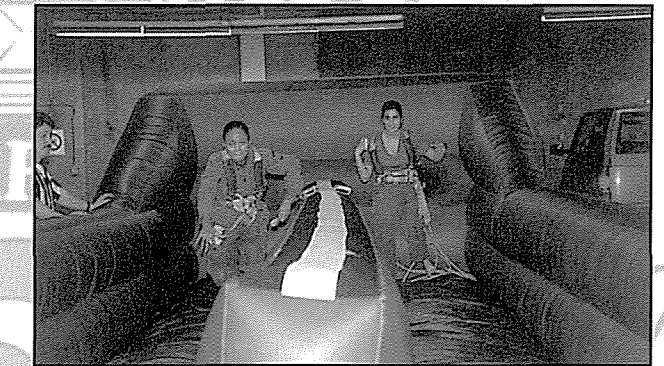


LCol Welsh presents RSS WO Doug Owen with an embroidered Aiborne Regiment cap badge on the occasion of his leaving the QOR and the CF, Dec 96

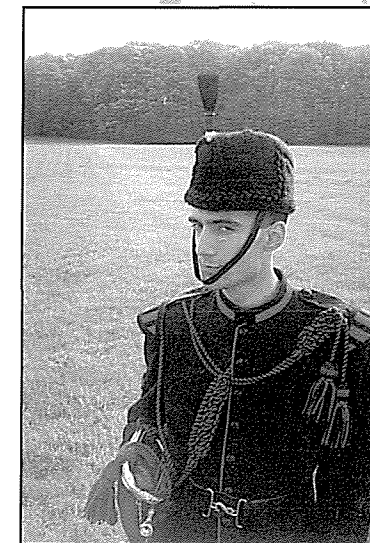
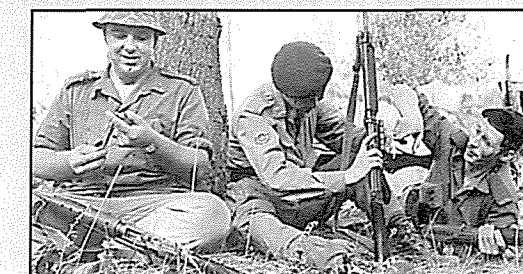
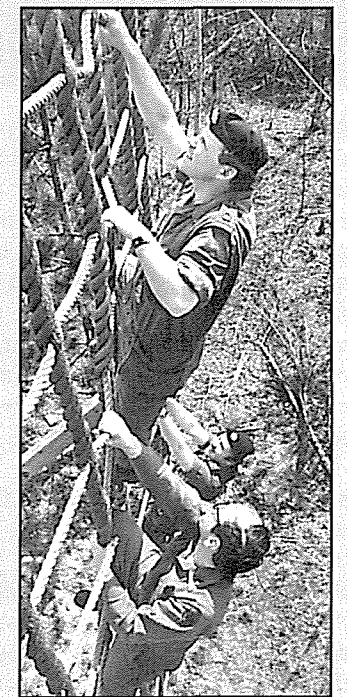
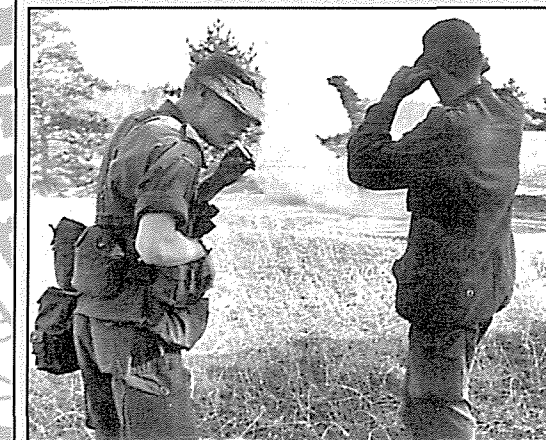
Rfn Dorna Kennedy (l) and Cpl Marina Ioanni on the horizontal bunjee jump, Men's Christmas Dinner, 1996. (All Christmas Dinner photos courtesy of Sgt A. Jette, GSU(T))



1st Bn, QOR exercises the right to march through the city of Victoria with swords fixed and bugles playing, 1 Jul 67.



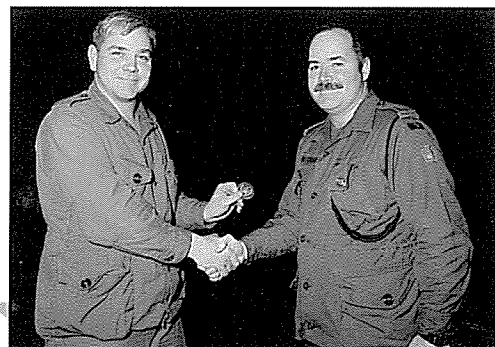
1975 a joint US/Canadian exercise at CFB Borden - recognize anyone?



Bugler Joe Amodeo at Niagara-on-the-Lake



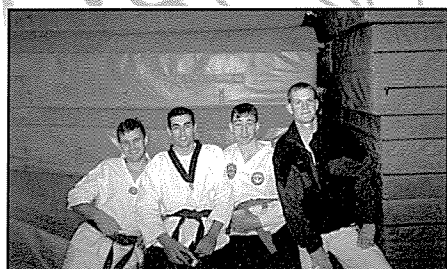
LCol Welsh presents Cpl Winston Hewlin with the CO's Sword Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Regiment, Dec 96



LCol Welsh congratulates Scott Patterson on his promotion to MWO, Dec 96



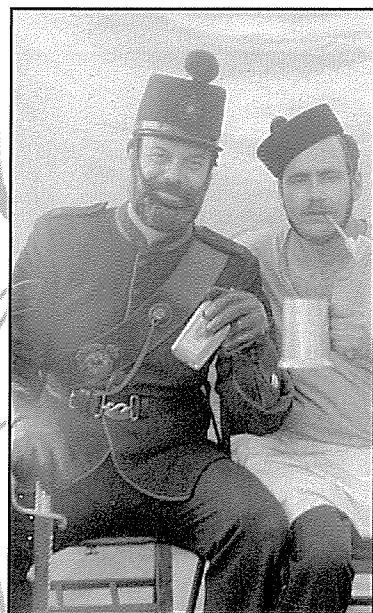
Capt Adam Sauders (standing, 2nd from right) masquerading as an Air Force General with President Alan Alda (seated) during recent motion picture filming in Toronto.



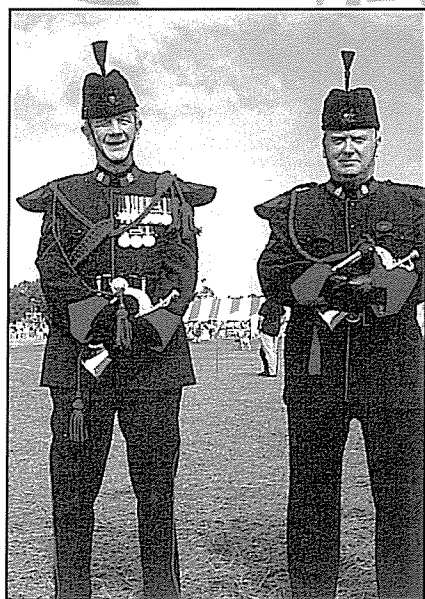
(l to r) Rfn Wilson, Rfn Dias, Sgt Hutcheon and Rfn Beehan at the CF Tae Kwon Do Championships in Kingston. Rfn Dias placed second in his category and was chosen for the CF National team. The other Queen's Own Competitors all finished in the Top 3 or 4 of their classes.



MCpl Cindy Suard and Sgt Steve Wolfe weighing-in prior to the Battle Fitness Test



Officer's Mess Steward, Sgt Larry Blom (l) and Mr. Mark Wilson



Bugler Doug Hester, QOR D-Day veteran, and Bugler Herb Goldring get together each Remembrance Day in Florida to play the Last Post - Reveille.



"Cut to ribbons... wiped out... totally annihilated... by our own side." 1st Bn, QOR, 1970.

Drawing By: MCpl E.G. Berrow

Ex Rambling Rifleman 96 - Royal Green Jackets

Cpl I. Kim

It was an opportunity of a lifetime to represent the QOR in England, and for six of us that opportunity was a reality - Sgt O'Halloran, Cpl Akong, Cpl Green, Cpl Howard, Cpl Smardenkas and myself. For most of us, it was the second time in three years that we were back in England, but this time was different. In 1994, it was for the D-Day + 50 ceremonies; this time it was to train with the members of the 4th Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets - one of our Affiliated Regiments, and probably the most important as our history goes. Most of our regimental tradition comes from the RGJ, from our rifle drill to our ceremonials.

When we arrived, we headed for the Barracks at Fulham, which is right in London. In the first two days, we were introduced to the members of the Regiment, to the British kit (including the SA-80, their service rifle), and of course all the finest local pubs that London could offer. But we had to get down to business and do what we came to do, go to camps as the Brits would say. It is their version of CAC. This year we headed to Wales - Sunnybridge training area in the lovely Breacon Beacons. While on the bus ride we heard stories of how miserable and wet this place could really get. Sitting on the bus with three hours to kill, Cpl Smardenkas and I did a map recce of the training area, and all we saw was hilly terrain - I mean hilly everywhere, and not just small ones. When we arrived it was a cold clear night, and we were expecting to immediately ruck up and head to the field. Instead we stayed in shacks, and believe me, there was not one word of complaint from us.

During the first week, all we did was ranges - live fires, live fires and more live fires. I've never fired so many live rounds in my life. It started with zeroing and grouping and gradually moved on to company attacks. The ranges are something to behold, from regular normal ranges with the numbered backing to wide open areas that go 5-10 miles, and all live. This is where we earned our reputation as absolute animals. We went about our attacks with aggression and speed. It

got to a point where I overheard the Brits saying that they were bloody glad we're on their side. To give an example, Cpl Smardenkas, during the final assault and after the grenade went off, jumped up and not only obliterated his target, but also the \$2000 target system. I overheard one Brit para officer say, "I'll take those Canadians to war anytime mate, but you've got to keep them on a bloody tight leash - they're bloody high strung."

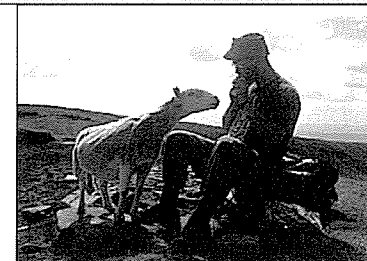
We also got to fire their 54mm mortar, 94mm anti-tank weapon and grenades. I'll give the Brits that! They try to make their training as real as possible. Believe me, it's a whole lot different given live grenades to use during platoon and section attacks and, when assaulting a trench, it feels a whole lot different with bullets going right over your head and shoulder and hitting the mound 10 feet in front of you. This is when you hope you never angered any of your buddies behind you.

It wasn't all work - we got to climb the Penny Phan, all 19 kilometres of steep hills that just goes forever and ever, and is one site of the famous SAS selection training. Believe me, it was not an easy climb with packs on our back, but it was worth it for the scenery. The best way to describe it was like walking on clouds. Words cannot really describe it



(l to r) Sgt Donovan O'Halloran, Cpl Inasio Kim and Cpl Mark Akong in Wales, September 1996

below: Cpl Kim with one of his Welsh girlfriends

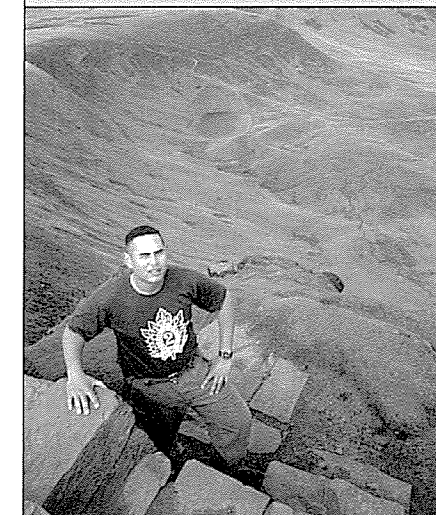


- you really have to experience it for yourself.

The Brits also place a high emphasis on Fighting In Built Up Area (FIBUA) training. The first time we saw the FIBUA training area, we thought it was a small town. When they told us what it was, you can imagine five Canadians drooling at the back of the transport, saying, "When do we get to play, when do we get to play?" All except for Sgt O'Halloran, of course, who was always cool and collected. The FIBUA site had over 50 buildings and streets with complete sewer system and burnt out wrecks of tanks and trucks everywhere. A lot of valuable lessons were learnt by all of us, from defending to leading attacks into buildings.

If you have ever worked with the Brits, you really realize how good our rations are, and when you do eat at the Mess, everything is fried. Believe me, that took a lot of getting used to and the rations weren't what we were used to getting. It was exceptionally bad for Cpl Howard, who is one big eater. I thought we were going to lose him a few times. One thing we were blessed with was the good weather (it never rained) and the hospitality of the members of the RGJ. If you ever get a chance to work with the RGJ, the training you'll receive will be invaluable. To be part of a battalion formed up and doing rifle drill at 144 to the minute is a sight to see.

Cpl Akong atop the Penny Phan in Wales, one site of SAS selection training



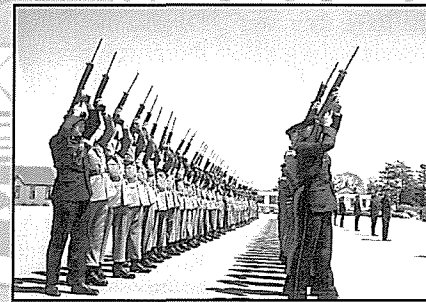
Colonel of the Regiment, Col J.G.K. Strathy, OBE, ED inspects the 1st Bn, QOR at Work Point Barracks, March 69. This occasion marked the Change of Command from LCol H.C. Pitts, MC, CD (left) to LCol T.M.C. Marsaw, CD



MWO Scott Patterson presents Rfn Ian Howard with the Dave Keenan Jump Hog Award, Dec 96. Rfn Howard was also awarded Rifleman of the Year.

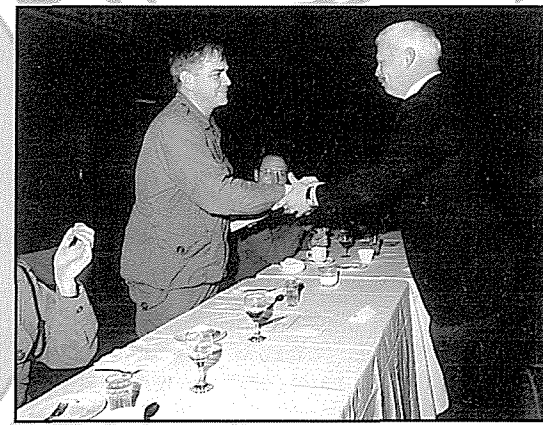


RSM Sarossy (r) congratulates WO Ken Kominek for receiving the Senior NCO of the Year Award.



1st Bn, QOR at final rehearsal of a Feu de joies for Canada's Centennial, 1 Jul 67. Work Point Barracks, Victoria

Rfn Dias (r) receives his silver medal at the CF Tae Kwon Do championships in Kingston

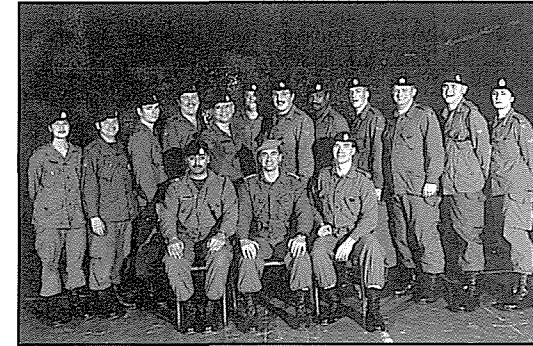


LCol Welsh congratulates Associate President Brian Budden for the longest speech ever made at a QOR Men's Christmas Dinner.

Cpl Ted Howard in the Canary Islands (See "A Rifleman's Adventure")



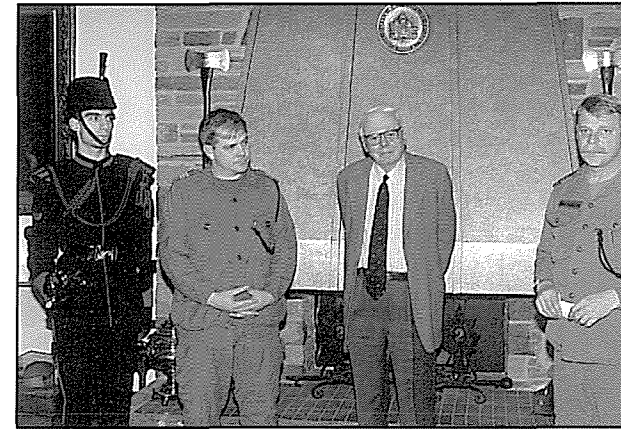
2 Platoon, 60th Company, Dec 96



Victoria Company, Dec 96



QOR CN Tower Climbing Team



(l to r) Bugler Amodeo, LCol Welsh, Maj Burke of the Gurkha Relief Fund, and Maj Simundson in the Officer's Mess. The QOR Association presented a cheque to Maj Burke to aid Gurkha veterans.



1 Platoon, 60th Company, Dec 96

Cpl Hawlin instructs QOR personnel during the annual IBTS Refresher, Borden



1985-BGen Gordon (l) watches as the Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alexandra, and LCol Baskerville cut the cake at the Regimental Dinner.



LCol Welsh presents Rfn Mike Bowers with the Fitness Award, Dec 96.

QOR Running Team

