

The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

1998





“Exercise Rambling Rifleman 1998”



DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1998 - MAY 1999

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

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Allen, W.B.
 Anderson, Eric C.
 Arnold, Boyce
 Ashby, Charles Thomas
 Ashton, Frederick C.
 Aspinwall, Robert
 Avery, Bill
 Barber, Alex F.
 Barnard, Sydney E.
 Barrett, Stanley
 Bayley, Rufus C. (Chuck)
 Bell, Robert M.
 Berry, W.B. (Bill)
 Best, Joubert
 Booth, Wilbert K.
 Brens, John L.
 Bristol, George E.
 Butler, Thomas C.
 Byatt, George
 Caverley, Albert
 Chappell, George
 Charbonneau, B.
 Churnside, Donald
 Coulson, Carl V.
 Cripps, Cameron (Cam)
 Dalton, Charles Osborne
 De Care, Archie
 Demery, David
 Dibben, K. Michael
 Doughty, George T.
 Dunsford, James Elwin
 Fletcher, Robert
 Francis, Harold
 Fryia, Anthony R.

Gaines, Frank
 Gallant, J.A.
 Giffen, David
 Goshgarian, Robert
 Grafton, Sydney J.
 Green, Bill
 Hackett, Ernest
 Hancock, John Les
 Hansen, Alfred
 Harding, Garth D.
 Hurst, Ron V.
 Jackson, Alexander
 Kay, Paul
 Laffradi, W.B. (Bill)
 Lamirande, George
 Lamondin, Wilfred
 Laurin, Cyrille Joseph. (Cy)
 Leduc, Albert O.
 Leslie, Rupert Marchell
 Lewis, Elmer
 Lichman, Jules
 Lucas, Carl
 MacKay, Roderick F.
 MacLean, W.A.
 Matthews, Beverley
 McCreedy, William T.
 McKee, John
 Medcalf, Francis Henry
 Mercury, Al
 Moiny, Kenneth
 Moore, Gord
 Moreau, George F.
 Moyle, Richard G.
 Nickson, Orson Allen

Oates, Clarence Guy (Cliff)
 Parsons, Charles E.
 Patterson, William
 Pearce, Leonard
 Phillips, Ross
 Prosser, William (Dutch)
 Ramage, James R. (Jimmy)
 Reshnyk, Nick
 Rivard, Robert
 Sanford, Matthew J. (Matt)
 Score, Samuel S.
 Sisson, T.E. (Si)
 Smith, Cecil
 Smith, Clifford G.
 Smith, Russell A.
 Spicer, Allan B.
 Stewart, Lorne M.
 Stoyanoff, Christopher
 Sykes, Gerald L.
 Tapper, Charles
 Tremblett, George F.
 Valley, Irwin
 Walker, John C.
 Walker, Robert B.
 Wesley, Milton
 Whaites, William A.
 Wilson, Edward O.
 Woods, Donald Bruce

Editorial

Lt T.L. Foulds, CD



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To be appointed Editor of the Regimental Journal of Canada's oldest Regiment is an honour of immense proportions. To be sure, the task is also one of significant proportions, certainly greater than I could have imagined when I accepted the position, particularly in the shadow of the spectacular performance of my predecessor. More onerous, however, is the responsibility that comes along with the job - to ensure that the contributions of current and former members of The Queen's Own are properly recognised and recorded for posterity.

The Rifleman provides a vehicle to keep former members of the Regiment informed about the unit's current activities. The regimental journal also features information about important regimental personalities, and about past activities that have not been chronicled. In addition, it has an educational function whereby readers can be provided with a glimpse of some of the extraordinary history of our Regiment, a history that is closely intertwined with the history of this great county of Canada.

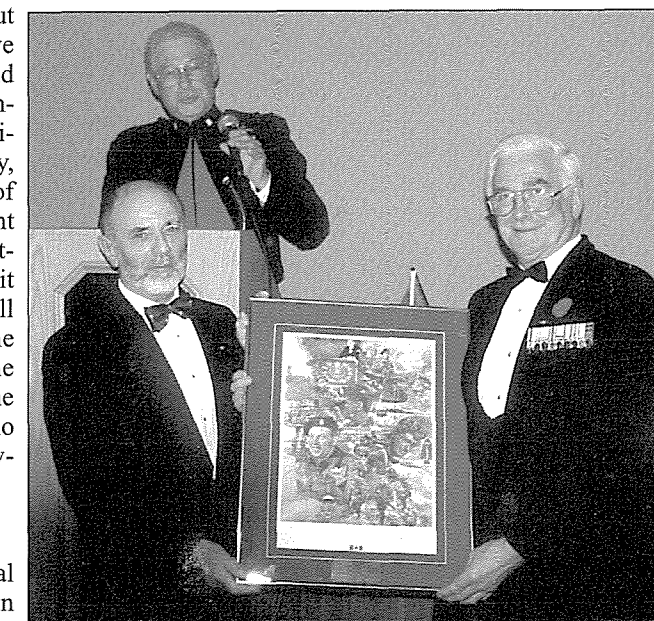
Most importantly, The Rifleman provides the Regiment with an opportunity to remind those currently serving, and their families, about what they have accomplished, and how much their contribution is appreciated. Certainly, while the history of the Regiment belongs to those veterans who made it and shared it with all who followed, the future of the Regiment is in the hands of those who are currently serving.

My own Regimental education began in earnest when I was able to borrow a copy of Colonel Barnard's Regimental History

from 1960. I had anticipated that I would simply skim through the document. However, I became fully absorbed, and spent 25 hours on aeroplanes reading furiously. It was an incredibly powerful experience for me, one that I would recommend to each and every member of the Regiment. It is a disappointment to me that the history is out of print, and also that there is no single document where the activities of the Regiment since 1960 have been compiled.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada are alive and well today, and continue to serve in a manner that honours the achievements of those who have served before. Today's activities of the unit are part of our regimental history. I hope that I have been able to strike a workable balance in this year's Rifleman between the different objectives set for it. And I hope all those who read this journal and who may have a unique perspective on past activities of the Regiment, be it a letter, a picture or a memory, will share it for posterity's sake. Knowledge of the Regiments history, including its recent history, will assist us in ensuring that we remain prepared.

IN PACE PARATUS



1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association President Jan De Vries (left) presents an airborne print to the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Major-General Herb Pitts, MC, CD, at his retirement dinner in Toronto, November, 1998. The Honorary Colonel, Brigadier-General Don Proyer, CD is in the background.

Honorary Colonel's Report

by BGen D.A. Pryer, CD

Editor's Acknowledgment

This edition of The Rifleman would not have been possible without the superb support from all contributors and from the many who worked diligently in vital preparation tasks. We thank the assistant editor, Maj John Fotheringham, CD for his most valuable contribution and Sgt Art Gay for his dedication to QOR veterans. We are most grateful to all of them. A special word of thanks to the staff at the QOR BOR, and to LCol R.A. Campbell, CD, and the staff at Colour Tech for their invaluable assistance. Finally, the Editor wishes to thank the Honorary Colonel, BGen D.A. Pryer, CD, and the CO, LCol B.G. McEachern, CD, for their confidence and patience. We've tried to avoid errors and purge all typos. The Editor assumes responsibility for any that remain.

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Cover Credits

Front Cover: This cover features three important Regimental Treasures. The Silver Regimental Drum was presented to the Regiment by Colonel J.G.K. Strathy, OBE, ED, former Colonel of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer's Bugle, bearing the battle honours of the Regiment, was a gift by Major General Sir W.D. Otter, KCB, CVO, VD, former Commanding Officer and former Honorary Colonel. The sword in the picture is the sword of LCol W.S. Durie, first Commanding Officer of the Regiment, which was presented to the Regiment on its 100th Birthday by his daughter for use by the Commanding Officer.

Photo by Christopher Lawson Photography. Rifle Green backdrop courtesy of Terry Beauchamp.

Back Cover: Members of the Regiment conduct a river crossing by assault boat at CFB Petawawa during 32 CBG Exercise Steadfast Warrior, August 1998.

Inside Front Top: Capt A. Harmes, Cpl V. Udobi and Rfn J. Chin-Leung prepare to jump with the Gurkha Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in England, Ex Rambling Rifleman, July 1998.

Inside Front Bottom: Members of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (pictured) and Royal Green Jackets were attached to The Queens Own during Exercise Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa, August 1998.

Inside Back Cover: QOR Skirmishers at the Cross of Sacrifice at the Regimental Church in Toronto, Remembrance Day 1998.

1998 was yet another excellent year for the Regiment. Symbolic of the strength of The Queen's Own was the Regiment's Change of Command in September. LCol Welsh handed over the Regiment in excellent condition to LCol McEachern. Both officers are highly competent and very successful in their professional lives, and extremely committed to the Regiment. The attendance at the Change of Command of so many former serving members, and the excellent turnout of those currently serving in the Regiment, bore witness to the collective commitment to ensuring the continued success of the Regiment.

The high level of commitment demonstrated by the Officers, NCOs, riflemen and Band of The Queen's Own is highly commendable. Members of the Regiment are obliged to make a huge commitment to the Militia. This includes individual course qualification training, unit training, Warrior training, and brigade taskings for course instruction and support.

The Regimental family owes a great debt to those currently serving for their

personal dedication. My personal thanks to those who continue to serve The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for their dedication to the Regiment and to Canada.

The work of the Regiment has been recognized as excellent. All of the measuring sticks that gauge how well the unit has been performing have shown the unit to be extremely effective. All ranks can take great pride in the performance of the Regiment during 1998, and in their individual contribution which made such a showing a reality.

The Band continued to represent the Regiment in the Toronto area, around the province and overseas. The importance of the Band in reminding many Canadians of our military heritage cannot be understated.

The work of the Association in Toronto, and of our Branches also needs to be singled out for recognition.

IN PACE PARATUS



The Colonel In Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra.



Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Welsh, CD, commanded the 32 CBG Infantry Battalion at Ex Steadfast Warrior, August 1998. He turned over command of the QOR in September to Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce McEachern, CD.

Charles O. Dalton (Globe & Mail - "Lives Lived") April 5, 1910 - February 21, 1999

Born in Toronto, Col. Dalton enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles Cadet Company in 1925 and the 2nd Battalion Militia a year later at the age of 16.

He volunteered for active service and was sent to England in March, 1940, as an instructor to the Canadian Infantry Training Unit. In 1943, he rejoined the Regiment and was soon promoted to Major and made Officer Commanding B Company.

"He and his brother were very distinguished guys. Charlie was the archetypal dashing young officer," said Cpl. Oggy. "He really had a lot of style. He was elegant and acted the part of a fine officer."

"He was fantastic. He was a buddy. His brother was the same way, very down to earth. We would follow him to hell if we had to. His friendliness and rank meant nothing to him as far as we were concerned, he was a buddy and we respected him. He never talked as an officer ordering this and that, he and his brother were good leaders." Cpl. Oggy said.

His command responsibilities followed him to civilian life. After the war he joined Canadian Breweries Ltd. as Assistant to the Vice-President of Sales and was appointed Sales Manager of the Carling Breweries Ltd. in 1946. He was made President of Carling Breweries Ltd. in 1951. He was appointed Executive Vice-President Canadian Operations, Canadian Breweries Ltd. in 1964 and Executive Vice-President of Canadian Breweries Ltd. in 1965.

He also became Vice-President of Canadian Executive Service Overseas from 1969 to 1971. He was a popular and much sought after-dinner speaker.

"He was a reserved person. And yet he was amazingly articulate and spoke exceedingly well and he was asked to speak a great deal because he could express and talk about the war with a light touch and good humour but didn't treat it lightly," said Mr. Danson, who served as a Liberal Minister of Defence.

"War hero, businessman, volunteer. Born on April 5, 1910, in Toronto; died of coronary thrombosis in Toronto on February 21, 1999, aged 88.

As they started to cross the English Channel on June 5, 1944, Charles Dalton threw his ill-fitting dental bridge into the murky water. "The damn thing's killing me. If I survive this day, I'll get a new one, maybe", he said to his brother. The two were majors with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and were leading "A" and "B" companies in the Normandy invasion.

After beginning his working life in the family business Dalton Brothers (1834) Ltd., tasting maraschino cherries and driving the delivery truck, Charles had become a travelling tea salesman in the Depression. When war broke out, he volunteered for overseas duty but spent most of his time training men how to use their weapons.

After years of asking, he finally saw active duty on D-Day. By way of a draw, it was decided that Charles and his brother Elliot would be leaders of the two companies that formed the first wave of the assault. As they boarded the landing craft, Charles left his brother, simply saying, "I'll see you when we get inland." As the gate went down on the landing craft, he gallantly shouted, "Follow me, men!" and jumped into eight feet of water; the craft had gotten hung up on an underwater obstacle. By the time Charles reached land, most of his men had been shot down. He continued to lead the few who remained, even after being shot in the head. He later received a Distinguished Service Order medal for bravery on D-Day.

Elliot was told that his older brother had been killed. A week later, recuperating in an English hospital from a leg wound, he was pleasantly surprised to find the man in the next bed was the other Major Dalton.

The brothers were celebrated throughout the Canadian military for their shenanigans as well as their bravery. After disrupting the hospital with wheelchair races and escapes to the local pub, they were finally sent to separate hospitals.

Returning to the front-line, Charles was active in the campaign to capture the French Channel Ports and the liberation of Belgium and Holland. Charged with training the new recruits who were liberating the northern Netherlands, he set up a military school in the tiny town of Ravenstein. When he saw the desperate hunger of the villagers, Charles ordered his officers to share their rations with them and later exaggerated the number of his recruits to get extra food for the Dutch.

After the War, Charles began working in sales for Canadian Breweries; he stayed for the next 23 years, eventually becoming the President of Carling. At one point, enhancements to the plant meant that Red Cap beer was not going to be produced for six months. By chance, O'Keefe had some surplus capacity, so Charles suggested that they put Red Cap labels on O'Keefe beer for the next six months. Only the brewers knew the truth and to their amazement "Red Cap" took off! At that time no beer advertising was permitted. So Charles got 20 tractor trailers, put big banners on them announcing "The NEW Red Cap arriving in Toronto," and drove them all over Toronto, tying up traffic in all directions.

At 58 Charles retired and became involved with St. Johns Ambulance, which he helped revitalize by selling first-aid training. Charles also chaired the first United Way campaign that exceeded expectations; he sent all 20,000 canvassers a figurine and a personally signed thank-you note. He used his exceptional "gift of the gab" to benefit his own church, St. Paul's Anglican, and others, where he preached about how his faith had helped him through his troubles.

The chapter title in the memoir Charles wrote for his family says it all: "My Wife, My Life." Charles and Helen Cowan began dating in 1926 when he was 16 and she 15. They married eight years later and had five children, Jane, Charles Christopher, Mary (who died in childhood), Ian and Faith. Through thick and thin, Charles maintained, "the best thing which has ever happened in my life was meeting Helen".

Colonel Charles Dalton Honoured Colonel 'acted the part of a fine officer'

The following tribute was written by Mark Gollom of the National Post, and appeared in that paper on 24 February 1999.



Colonel Charles Osborne Dalton, the last surviving D-Day company commander of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who was recognised for his gallantry with the Distinguished Service

Order by Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, has died at aged 88.

As company commander of B Company, then-Major Dalton, along with his younger brother, Elliot - who commanded A Company - led the two front line assault battalions on Juno Beach for The Queen's Own Rifles - Canada's oldest continuously serving infantry regiment.

The brothers, who had developed a strong bond, were known in the Regiment as "Mark I and Mark II" to distinguish the elder from the younger brother.

"The Dalton brothers were legends, everybody was devoted to them and had tremendous respect for them," said Barney Danson, chairman of the Canadian War Museum's advisory committee and a colleague of Col. Dalton. "You always had confidence in what they were doing and they always had the human touch. But they both commanded great respect."

At his brother Elliot's funeral service in 1994, Col. Dalton said as D-Day approached and he began to realise he may never see his brother again, he tried to come up with some parting words.

But as they parted on their respective landing crafts he said quite simply: "I'll see you tonight."

As the landing craft ramp dropped in front of Bernières-sur-Mer, Maj. Dalton turned to his men shouting, "Follow me!", as they plunged into two to three metres of water, trudging their way to shore.

As they made for the seawall, Maj. Dalton turned back to see his men laying on the sand.

"I thought they had gone to ground for cover, then realised they'd been hit," he remembered.

The company had landed directly in front of a concrete strong point and were immediately met with fierce machine-gun fire. Almost half of the company was lost in the initial dash across the beach. As he and his men tried to capture a German gun emplacement, Maj. Dalton was shot in the head, the bullet ripping off his helmet and peeling off his scalp.

Despite severe wounds, Maj. Dalton continued to lead his men across the beach and was personally instrumental in knocking out one of the pillboxes.



Colonel Charles Osborne Dalton, left, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order by Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery for "leadership and bravery, and his coolness in the face of stiff opposition."

"With blood pouring down the side of his face, he still encouraged us to continue on," said Joe Oggy, a retired Corporal, who was under Maj. Dalton's command at the time.

His greatest fear, he once said, was not being wounded or killed but failing to lead his men. The citation of the DSO read, in part: "By this officer's example of leadership and bravery, and his coolness in the face of stiff opposition, the enemy fortified position was quickly overrun, and the company which followed in the landing on the beach suffered no casualties from the beach defences."

The casualties were the heaviest suffered by any Canadian unit that day. In the end, 56 other ranks had been killed in action; seven died of wounds. Six officers and 69 other ranks had been wounded. [Editor: 80 wounded all ranks]

As Maj. Dalton was evacuated to a hospital in England, his brother Elliot was mistakenly told that Charles had been killed.

"While I was sad to hear my brother had died, I didn't really have time to grieve, as we were still fairly busy," Elliot Dalton recalled.

However, Elliot was wounded a few days later and sent to the same hospital as his brother. As the nurse wheeled Elliot to the bed marked Maj. Dalton, he noticed a patient laying there with the sheet pulled over his head.

When the nurse asked the patient why he was in the bed, Maj. Charles Dalton replied; "Because I'm Major Dalton."

During his recuperation, Maj. Dalton had the honour of meeting Queen Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

By August, Maj. Charles Dalton had recuperated well enough to return to combat with The Queen's Own and served through the Channel Ports campaign as second-in-command of the Regiment during the fighting of the Scheldt in Belgium in the fall of 1944.

He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and appointed to command the Non-Commissioned Officers' School at Ravenstein, Holland. He returned to Canada in March, 1945, to command the Small Arms School at Long Branch, Ont., and retired from active service in September, 1945. From 1968 - 1975 he was the Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



During his recuperation from a head wound, Colonel Charles Osborne Dalton had the honour of meeting Queen Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Commanding Officer's Report

LCol B.G. McEachern, CD

I took command of the battalion in September from LCol Tony Welsh, C.D. As can be seen from the other articles in this journal, the year was busy. I will highlight some activities, particularly those not emphasized elsewhere.

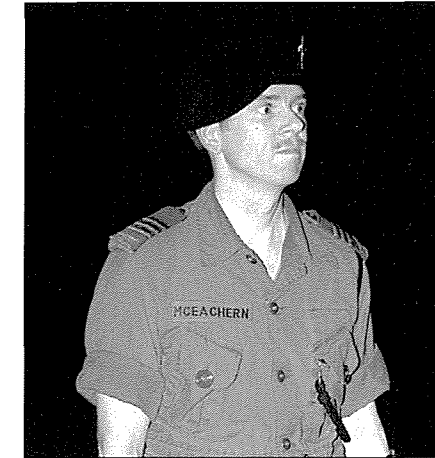
Ex Rambling Rifleman (visits to our allied regiments in the U.K.) deserves special mention. The first phase came to a very successful conclusion with a trip in July to 1 Bn, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, the last of our allied regiments to be visited. (The trip is described later in this journal.) Many thought LCol Welsh was rash in announcing several years ago that we would visit all of our allied regiments. But he pulled it off successfully, and is to be congratulated.

The four trips proved to be real motivators for many of our best NCO's and soldiers, and were excellent experience for all concerned. The visits to us by British troops in previous years were also eye-opening for many in the unit.

Ex Steadfast Warrior was our week-long Brigade exercise in Petawawa in August, consisting of stand training in patrolling. (The back cover of this magazine has a photo taken during the training, which too is described elsewhere in this journal.) What needs particular mention is the time LCol Welsh put into it — he was 32 Canadian Brigade Group's infantry commander for the ex. He set up and ran the training for the infantry, with the assistance at HQ of Maj Peter Lomasney of the QOR. And LCol Welsh commanded the composite infantry battalion in the field during the ex.

Full time cadre: Our outstanding full-time cadre of 10 Regular Force and Class B pers suffered a blow at the end of March when orders arrived from the Brigade to downsize by 2 members. A study apparently determined that 13 full-time staff are required to handle the day-to-day admin and logistics of a militia unit, but we went down to 8 staff nonetheless.

We accordingly lost Sgt Anita (Selby)



Kelly from the Bn Orderly Room to LFCA HQ at the end of March, and Sgt Jeff Syer, the 60th Company Ops NCO, to civilian employment at summer's end. Nonetheless, as the Vics Company report highlights inside, the Brigade's Staff Assistance Visit (inspection) and Annual Technical Inspection in November were very successful again, in large part due to the efforts of our full-time cadre.

Para Company: This shadow organization consists of those in the unit who are para qualified, maintain their fitness, and wear the maroon beret. Jump opportunities with the RCR Para Company in Petawawa were not available in '98 since the RCR was deployed with the NATO mission to Bosnia. But we successfully qualified 17 more soldiers on the Basic Para Course at the Canadian Parachute Centre in CFB Trenton during the year. And our credibility with CPC remains high, due in part to the OC of the Para Company, Maj John Fotheringham, and our Para Instructor, Sgt Donovan O'Halloran. Sgt O'Halloran taught on a serial of the Basic Para Course during the year, and received an excellent assessment.

Major Fotheringham handed over command of the Para Company to Capt Adam Saunders in the summer of '98, and Capt Saunders started to put his own stamp on the company with plans

for continuation para jumps by helicopter in '99. We continue to be very grateful to CPC and its CO, LCol Dan Mitchell, for supporting us in this relationship.

Armoury status: The high level of property taxes on the Moss Park property requested by local authorities, paid voluntarily by the federal government, as well as restructuring of the old Downsview air base by DND, led planners to consider selling the Moss Park site and relocating our unit elsewhere. One proposal was to put all of the infantry units, including us, into Fort York Armoury. Another was to put every reserve unit in Toronto into a new 'super-armoury' in Downsview. This led to several years of uncertainty, and a declining level of maintenance at Moss Park.

Diligent work by LCol Welsh, our Brigade Commander, Col Greg Young (former CO of the 48th Highlanders), the Area Commander, BGen Walt Holmes (RCR), staff at NDHQ, and MGen Reg Lewis (former Chief of Reserves) resulted in implementation of a different plan. Moss Park is to be retained for at least five years, and a significant amount of money was allocated to fix the place up and re-equip its classrooms. This sorely needed work was completed in 1999. The result is an improved facility, and a successful outcome to the uncertain situation of the past few years.

New officers: The DCO (Maj John Fotheringham) scouted out potential officers from those who have served in the ranks in the unit or elsewhere, and loaded a number on the RESO Phase 1 & 2 course in Gagetown in the summer. Herb Drummond and Andrew Schneppenheim were successful, and were promoted 2Lt in the fall. Marco Petta is employed full-time and was unavailable for RESO training, but was loaded on the MITCP Basic Officer and Basic Army Officer courses for those without time to attend RESO. He was

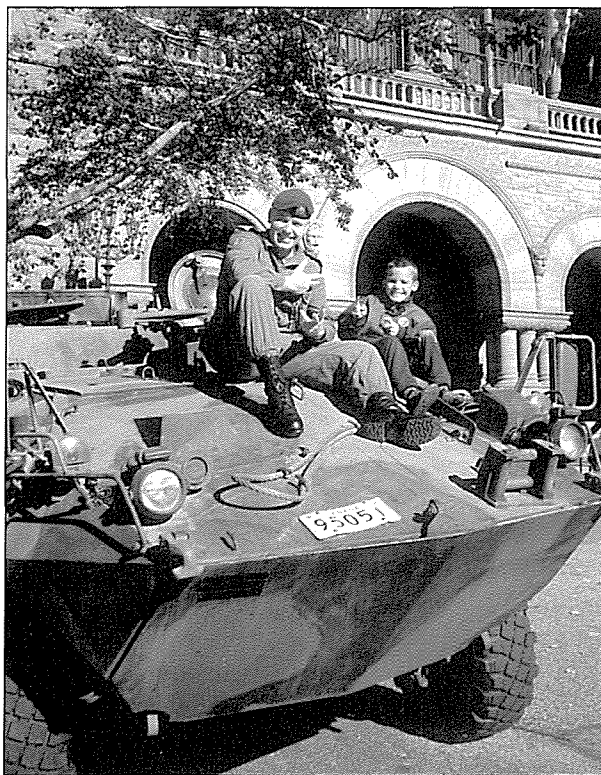
In November we lost our outstanding Reg Force Admin Sgt, Sgt Nancy Boone, who retired from the Army and returned home to Newfoundland. Thanks to her work and leadership, we had very few pay problems, apart from Op Recuperation (described inside), and we probably had the best administered unit in the Reserve Army. However, she wasn't too smart in turning all of her uniforms back to stores so fast. I was surprised when I called her name at her final parade to make a presentation. She marched out in a purple suit! Her replacement will not arrive until August '99, and Sgt Judy Willan, our Reserve Force admin clerk, is holding the fort until then as our Acting Chief Clerk.

Outside the unit, LCol Steve Brand continued to work part-time at LFCA HQ as infantry adviser, no doubt sniping with enthusiasm at any unworkable proposals that cross his desk, and firing his better ideas around the headquarters.

We were sorry to learn of Lt Wil Beardmore's accident while performing on call-out with the CF Sky Hawks in Thunder Bay. He shattered a leg quite badly, and swears he wasn't showing off at the time. Military medicine isn't any better than it was, and I understand Wil and a less than tender specialist in Belleville later made a pact never to see each other again after one excruciating treatment.

Conclusion: 1999 brings with it preparations for Op Abacus, the Armed Forces' effort to provide humanitarian assistance to civil authorities in Canada in the event of computer or system failures on 1 January 2000.

The other big issue on the horizon is Reserve Restructure. The Army Commander, LGen Leach,



Sergeant Tom Fabry and friend at the 32 CBG Freedom of the City Parade, October, 1998.



The Minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton, inspects Rifleman Boris Mozetic, Corporal Lee Harrison and MWO John Wilmot at the 32 CBG Freedom of the City Parade, October, 1998.

is working to create an Army structure which is complete and viable within allocated funding. Nothing is sacred. The Reserve part of this restructure is expected to be announced sometime in '99, and take effect in the year 2000.

This is welcome news. Many things have improved in the past ten years, including pay, training standards, and some types of support. But any improvement will be very positive.

However, change can be wrenching, and no one knows how it will affect our unit or our personnel. Restructure could mean dramatic re-structuring and/or re-assignment of The Queen's Own. We may be given missions very different than our current infantry ones. We may lose our parachute tasking. We may not even have an infantry job to do.

We will do what we are ordered — there is no question of that — but waiting for such decisions to be made necessarily creates uncertainty.

There is no doubt of our direction in the meantime. We will carry out our existing tasks with the highest standards, and do the very best we can with the funds, equipment, and personnel we have. In so doing, we will live up to our motto, and demonstrate our fitness and worthiness to continue to be one of Canada's premier reserve infantry units, and its only reserve airborne unit. I count on every soldier in the unit to support me in that task.

Canada
Normandy
Project
Juno Beach
Centre

The Canada Normandy Project - Juno Beach Centre

by Garth Webb, FOO, 14th Field Regt (RCA), D-Day Veteran

D-Day – 6 June 1944 – the Allied invasion of France and the beginning of the end of World War II. Canadian men and women fought and died for freedom in the campaigns which preceded and followed that famous day.

During the 1994 D-Day + 50 ceremonies in France, many Canadian veterans visited the Normandy beaches and the areas over which they had fought fifty years previously. Several were disappointed at the lack of any Canadian focal point in the area. It bothered them that there was nothing tangible in Europe to explain the incredible contribution made by Canadians during World War II.

Since 1994, a group of veterans, from many of the units that participated in D-Day, have been working to correct this unacceptable situation. They are aided by younger citizens who appreciate the sacrifices made by their countrymen half-a-century ago. **The Canada Normandy Project – Juno Beach Centre** is a commitment to create a Canadian WW II living memorial on Juno Beach at Bernières-sur-Mer, site of the Canadian landings.

The people of Bernières-sur-Mer have pledged to provide one hectare (2.471 acres) of vacant land immediately adjacent to the famous "House On The Beach" and the railway station seen in films of the invasion. The Project will be

constructing an education centre, to be named the Juno Beach Centre, that will serve to show where Canadians were during WW II, and what they accomplished and sacrificed. The Centre will include computer-based interactive presentations and multi-media displays which will include the contributions of the Navy, Army and Air Force. The Centre is scheduled to open on 6 June 2000.

The time to the proposed opening is short, and there is still a building to construct, displays to develop, and hundreds of details to attend to, in addition to raising \$1.5 million. It took Canada 18 years to raise the money and build the beautiful Vimy Memorial after WW I. After 54 years, there is still no stand-alone Canadian memorial in Europe to commemorate Canada's war effort and her fallen patriots. This must be changed.

Government funding will provide a portion of the money required, but the support of individual Canadians, corporations, groups and associations, and foundations is essential to make this a reality. The Canada Normandy Project - Juno Beach Centre has the support of The Queen's Own Rifles, and we need to remind Canadians and the world what took place, and the sacrifices made. We ask for your help to ensure that Canadian history is indeed recorded and permanently available for the world to understand, appreciate and recognise.

The Project has incorporated a Memorial Garden into architectural plans for the Centre. The walled garden will consist of thousands of bricks, each bearing the name of a Canadian veteran of WW II on the interior of the garden, and the names of other donors on the exterior. These bricks are a tribute to the contribution of Canadians, and are available for \$250, for which a tax receipt will be issued. The funds raised will aid in the construction of the Centre. Information on the Brick Program is available from the address below.

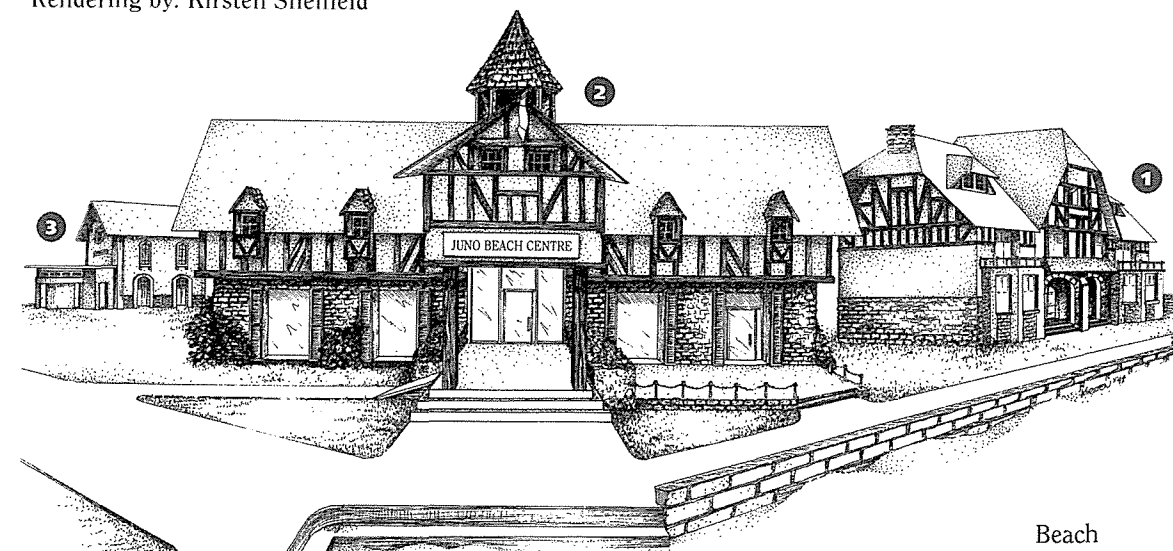
Of course, all donations will help. All donors will be acknowledged in a Donors' Book in the entrance to the Centre, and tax receipts will be issued for all amounts over \$20. For more information, or to make a contribution, please contact

Garth Webb, Juno Beach Centre
2407 Woodward Avenue, Unit 24
Burlington, ON, L7R 4J2
Phone/fax (905) 333-0233
e-mail lcooper@cgocable.net.

The Project's website is at www.junobeach.org.

1. **Maison de The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada**
2. **Juno Beach Centre**
3. **Railway Station**

Rendering by: Kirsten Sheffield



Beach

Update on Missing Painting

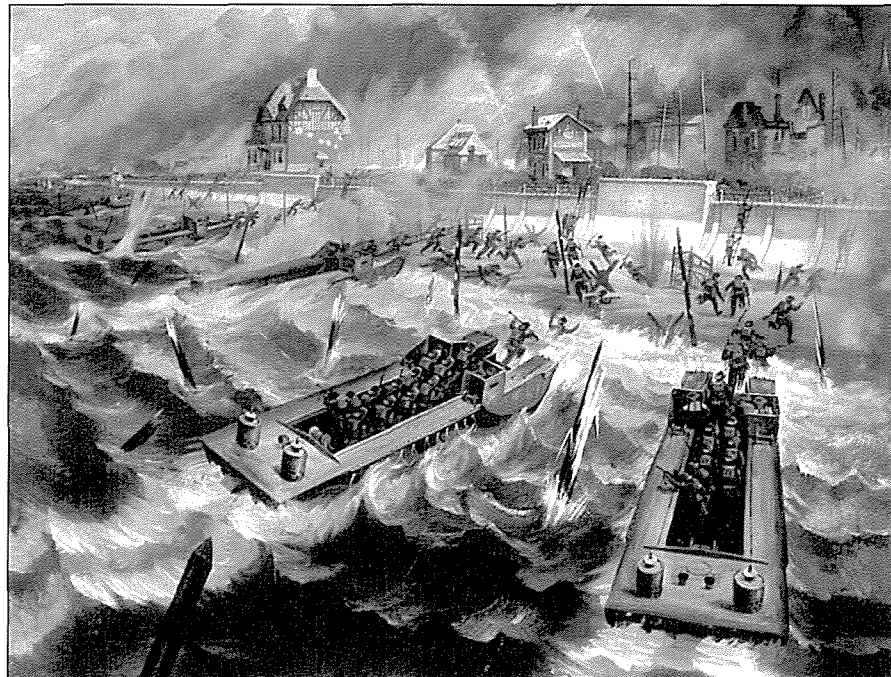
As detailed in the last few issues of The Rifleman, the Regiment is missing one of the three Orville Fisher paintings of The Queen's Own landing at Bernières-sur-Mer on D-Day. Captain Fisher witnessed the landings from offshore, and painted one for each battalion. One now hangs in the Officers' Mess at Moss Park Armoury, one in the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, and the third went missing in the early 70s.

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 Toronto Police Service, 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. It deserves to be returned for all to enjoy, and any help will be greatly appreciated.



The QOR Kit Shop Stock & Price List

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 applicable postage and handling.

(Ontario & East \$5.50, Western Canada \$6.50, USA \$7.50)

TIES		QOR Lapel Pins	Silver Colour	4.	Silver Bugles (1998)	CD	15.
Regimental Ties	12.		QOR Colours	6.		Cassette	10.
Regimental Ties Silk	38.		Bugle Band	6.			
Green - QOR Insignia	20.	BOOKS (Hard Cover)			OTHER REGULAR ITEMS		
Regimental Bow Tie	8.	Canadians A Battalion at War			Reg'l Ice Buckets (Drum)		55.
WEARING APPAREL (size required)		(Roy Whitsed)		25.	Belts - QOR Insignia		20.
QOR T-Shirts	12.	WWII Book of Remembrance		40.	Baseball Caps- QOR		10.
QOR Sweat Shirts	23.				(Regular & Summer)		
QOR Sweat Pants (w/pockets)	23.	BOOKS (Soft Cover)			Whistle Cords		
Airborne Rifleman T-Shirt	12.	Battle Diary (CSM Charlie Martin)		15.	-Officers & Senior NCO's		15.
Airborne Rifleman Sweat Shirt	23.	Fifty Years After (J. Gardham)		15.	-Junior NCO's		10.
QOR Golf Shirt	20.	Ordinary Heroes (J. Gardham)		15.	Coffee Mugs		5.
QOR Sweaters (warm)	25.	Canadian Peacekeeper (J. Gardham)		15.	Regimental Decals - Stickers		2.
CRESTS & BADGES		Valour - Victory Campaign (Fowler)		15.	Desk Flags		6.
Blazer Crests-QOR	20.	REGIMENTAL WALL PLAQUES			MISC. ITEMS		
Windbreaker Crest-QOR	10.	QOR Battle Honours 12x9		30.	D-Day Landing Print		25.
Windbreaker Crest-QOR Bugle Band	15.	Hand Painted U.K. 7x6		52.	- signed by Orville Fisher		150.
JEWELLERY		REGIMENTAL BAND RECORDINGS			Note Cards - per Doz.		9.
QOR Wrist Watches	36.	Traditions (1995)	CD	15.	Xmas Cards - per Doz.		9.
QOR Tie Tack	6.		Cassette	10.	Army Bags (Shoulder)		7.
					Small Rifle - Black Metal		4.
					Deck of Cards		10.

60th Coy Report (1 Jan - 15 July 1998)

LCol B.G. McEachern, CD

It was a great privilege to spend the first half of 1998 completing my tour as OC of the rifle company. We were in the 'adventure training' phase described in last year's edition of The Rifleman. The mission assigned by the CO was to conduct training in small groups with as much live fire as possible, employing soldiers in something different than his usual job if possible.

January: Training was diverted right off the bat by Op Recuperation, assisting Eastern Ontario after the ice storm. I described it in last year's issue of The Rifleman. Our annual winter indoctrination exercise was cancelled as a result.

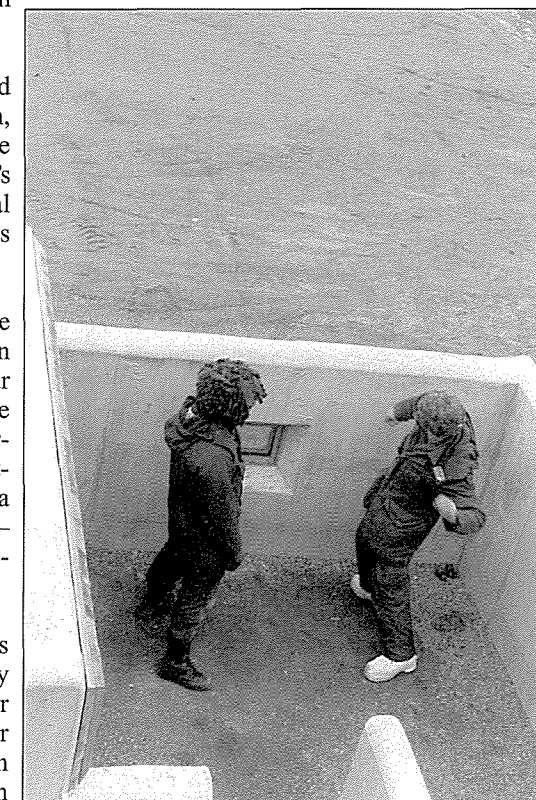
An unfortunate side-effect of the ice storm operation was its effect on some soldiers' pay. It was an honour to be put on Class C reserve service to recognize participation in an operation. Such status is normally granted only to those who augment a Regular Force unit. And the pay — when received — is about 20% higher than Class A or B pay.

But those who developed DND's reserve pay system apparently assumed reservists would never serve on Class C outside of Regular Force units, whose computers can handle it. The reserve pay system cannot do so. But everyone on Op Recuperation was paid through a reserve unit's system.

As a result, many soldiers who volunteered for Op Recuperation were thanked for their efforts with numerous unexplained (and often unjustified) debits to their Class A pay accounts for months afterwards, originating at NDHQ.

This problem highlights the danger of having complex financial and administration systems which require numerous things to be done exactly right at many levels. They are well intended, but not soldier-proof. Problems are inevitable, and the consequences fall on the ordinary soldier. The unit often has very little power to correct them in a timely way, and soldiers are rightly upset.

The problem was addressed. I understand the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Art Eggleton, ordered in April 1998 that reserve pay problems, particularly from Op Recuperation, be resolved within a month. Everyone at NDHQ was already doing their best to remedy the problem, and this order accelerated



Live Grenade Training, Meaford, April 1998

the work. But things were not fixed within a month, and in some cases still are not fixed.

I believe all QOR soldiers and NCO's have now been paid correctly, but my company 2IC (Capt Adam Harnes) and Maj Erik Simundson have still not been paid properly for their service. All efforts in the unit and Brigade HQ have failed to resolve the problem. Requests for resolution of the problem will be forwarded up the chain to NDHQ for resolution. It has also been requested that future pay systems be more capable of doing the job.

February: The SHARP programme is a civilian-run, full-day anti-harassment and anti-racism seminar which DND ordered every member of the Army to

take by the end of March, or stop training. Most members of the unit had already completed their seminars in the preceding months. But the stragglers found themselves sitting in SHARP seminars on various dates in February and early March.

The company went again to a privately-run indoor paintball facility on Saturday, February 21st to practice house-clearing drills and have some fun. Things deteriorated somewhat when some civilians with fully automatic paint-guns did not stick to the rules. Despite being out-gunned, our soldiers did their best and remained well-disciplined. I dealt with the civilian organizers the following week.

March: On Ex Quick Hit (15 - 16 March), our Reg Force training assistant, WO Perry Gresty (PPCLI), supervised firing of the M72 Personal Anti-tank Weapon and the 60 mm light mortar in Meaford by about 20 soldiers.

Ex Maroon Watch (20 - 22 March) took us to Meaford for recce patrols and a march and shoot. In keeping with our adventure training mission, the patrols were all led by soldiers who had not taken the Infantry Junior NCO Course, which is normally a prerequisite to lead a patrol. But they had practised battle procedure

under supervision of the platoon commanders and NCO's in the preceding weeks, and each patrol had an experienced NCO or officer along as a mentor. There was some snow, but gumby boots were better on patrol than mukluks, due to the cold water underneath the snow.

The exercise saw some unconventional approaches, and mistakes were made. But it was invaluable leadership training for the leaders, and good training for those who took part in the patrols. A couple of the leaders have since gone on to take the Inf Jr NCO course.

Sunday morning saw the regular section commanders take over for the section march and shoot, organized by WO Gresty. I was in Sgt Steve Wolfe's sec-

tion. Not only did we have to run (slide) on icy roads, but there were a couple of unconventional tasks along the way. Carrying a stretcher with jerry cans of water on it for a kilometre or so was interesting — my right knee wasn't quite the same for a month, thanks to sliding/falling on the road once while carrying the stretcher.

And moving an Iltis (jeep) another click without using the engine was also a minor challenge while trying to beat the clock. Going down a slight incline, the Iltis threatened to get ahead of us and take out the soldiers pulling the traces in front. Good thing we had a driver in the seat to apply the brakes. Sgt Wolfe's section was the fastest on the march, but our shooting kept us from winning. Cpl Wen Gin's section won the competition.

April: The officers were privileged to hear our departing Hon LCol, MGen (Ret'd) Herb Pitts, MC, CD, speak in the Officers' Mess on Wednesday, April 1st, a week prior to moving to Victoria, B.C. He seldom speaks about his exploits in Korea, where he won the Military Cross as a Lieutenant with Canada's U.N. contingent. But he was prevailed upon to describe his leadership of a patrol into no-man's land under very trying conditions, as well as his other tasks in Korea with the PPCLI (before his Queen's Own days).

It is surprising, but the Army does not expect part-time reservists to complete its basic infantry fitness test, the 13 km Battle Fitness Test, a march with rucksack, helmet, webbing, and rifle. It can be conducted with proper work-up training, but this takes so many weeks to conduct that virtually no units are attempting it. Except us. It is a challenge to conduct the work-up training, but we have not accepted the idea we can be infantry soldiers without doing the march. One of the work-up nights was Wednesday, April 15th, when the

platoon commanders (Lt Karl Haupt and Lt Derek Poteralski) took their troops to Riverdale Park for a short march with their rucks and webbing, but no weapons. Work-up training has continued since.



The Canadian Coast Guard Ship Cove Isle and its crew participated in Ex Neptune Strike, transferring QOR soldiers to assault boats 5 miles off the Meaford shore, May 1998.

We went back to Meaford on April 17th - 19th for an orienteering weekend. Sticking with the theme of small party tasks, the company was broken into small groups. They were dropped off very late Friday night with a mission to navigate to as many points as they could, and get to the finish point by the deadline Saturday night. No team of soldiers had any NCO's or officers with it. The NCO's and officers each had their own teams. Cpl Ian Howard's team won the competition, and later ran up quite a bill on my chit as a prize!

Sunday morning we went to the rappelling towers, where WO Gresty took considerable satisfaction despatching us in various modes. The conventional rappel down the wall was straightforward. Doing it off the mock helicopter skid was more interesting, as was doing it head-first off the skid. I was happy to beat Capt Adam Harmes to the bottom, although he'll say it was because WO Gresty gave me a head start.

May: Rfn Mike Bowers and Erica Mark were promoted Cpl on May 13th, and received CO's commendations the same night for their work during Op Recuperation. They and Rfn Jesse

Behan went on to pass the very demanding Infantry Jr NCO course in the summer.

May 22nd - 24th was Ex Neptune Strike in Meaford, a live-fire ambush patrol inserted into Meaford by assault boats from Georgian Bay at night. The soldiers' shooting and swimming skills were confirmed all day Saturday, followed by the lengthy briefings which military training and operations require. There was a great deal of interest in the town of Meaford while the final briefing took place on the waterfront, just before we boarded the Coast Guard vessels. Many civilians and their children watched with interest.

Capt Harmes realized just in time that his language should be kept cleaner than usual, although one little boy commented on an obvious shift in verbal direction.

As the sun started to set, we took off from Meaford Harbour on two Coast Guard vessels, with the assault boats in tow. Well off the Meaford Peninsula in Georgian Bay, and the sky by now quite dark, we entered our designated assault boats, each skippered by a reserve engineer from Toronto. Then we headed for the beach landing zone. It was marked by notional submarine-borne engineers with marker lights which shone only in our direction, and were not visible from shore.

The engines were cut when we were some distance out, and we paddled the rest of the way in. Then Lt Karl Haupt assembled his patrol quietly on the beach, where the ammunition was distributed and loaded (safety restrictions prevented it from being taken on the boats). The patrol then moved inland and set out the ambush.

WO Gresty had arranged for targets on wood frames to be dragged in front of the ambush position. The targets were

Continued from page 21



Naval D-Day veteran and former Moss Park Armoury commissaire, Robert Connery (left), presented a tribute to CSM Charlie Martin, DCM, MM, to the QOR. With Mr. Connery are Roy Whitesed, who assisted Charlie with *Battle Diary* and wrote *Canadians: A Battalion At War* and Charlie's wife, Vi, herself a WWII veteran.

leadership, honour, honesty, humility, loyalty to his regiment and his country. This award is renamed the Commanding Officer's Award. The committee was led by Rob Grieve, and included members Harry McCabe, Padre Capt Craig Cameron and Brian Budden, with input from Jack Martin and Rolph Jackson that was greatly appreciated.

Church Parade - Remembrance Day - November 8, 1998

There was a good turnout for the parade, with the customary form up on Heydon Street followed by a march with the Regiment, and then a form up around the Cross of Sacrifice. The November 11th

service was given by Reverend Barry Parker, and the Regimental Band and Bugles provided top-notch playing.

Association War Amp's Videos

The Association has purchased the following videos which members may borrow upon request to Brian Budden at (905) 567-4975. The videos are produced and narrated by Cliff Chadderton, a D-Day veteran and President of the War Amps.

• "Never Again!" Four parts on one videotape

"If Ye Break Faith"
"The Eastern Front"

"The Western Front"
"It's Their Future"

• "Take No Prisoners - The Nazi SS in Normandy"

• "Juno Beach to Caen"

• "D-Day - The Story of the Canadian Assault Troops"

• "Operation Charnwood - The Canadian Battle for Caen"

The Association would like to thank the Honourable Barnett Danson PC, Chairman, No Price Too High Foundation, for his generous contribu-

tion of the entire three video series *No Price Too High*, including the book *No Price Too High- Canadians and the Second World War*, by Terry Copp with Richard Nielsen, with a forward by Barney Danson.

***Reminder: Association dues for 1999 are due - \$10.00

Upcoming Events for 1999

Warrior's Day Parade - CNE Toronto - Saturday, August 21, 1999

Association Shoot - Niagara-on-the-Lake - Saturday, September 25th, 1999

Regimental Church Parade - St. Paul's - Sunday, November 7th, 1999

Remembrance Day Service - St. Paul's - Thursday, November 11th, 1999

Men's Christmas Dinner - December, 1999

To sum up, I was very honoured and felt very privileged to be selected as Rifleman of the Year. Plans for the Year 2000 celebrations in Europe are currently underway. Personally, I would like to thank all my family and friends, especially Lori, who has been there when I needed someone. Thank you very much, after my accident and during recovery and rehab, for the calls, cards, books and gifts. It was greatly appreciated.

IN PACE PARATUS, yours in comradeship,

Brian



QOR Monument - Doorn, Holland
Photo courtesy of Paul Niedenzu



Sneek Holland

Celebrate the Millennium with Canada's oldest & finest

The Regiment's 140th birthday will be celebrated in the year 2000.

The Regimental Birthday & Rifles' Ball

Celebrated in Toronto on the 22nd of April, 2000.

Regimental Parade at Moss Park Armoury (afternoon)

A traditional Rifles' Ball to be held at the Toronto Hilton Hotel

For Ball information & suggestions contact Maj (ret'd) Norm McCracken CD

Phone ; 705 689 5178 Email ; ballygavin@encode.com

The Regimental Band's Millennium Concert

Friday the 21st of April 2000 at the Regimental Church in Toronto

St Paul's (Anglican) Church at 227 Bloor Street East

For concert information & tickets contact Lt Rita Arendz CD, Director of Music

Phone ; 416 665 7596 Email ; arendz.haire@sympatico.ca

Millennium trip to Europe - 25 May to 09 June 2000

Join members of the QOR Band in supporting our Veterans & Associate members.

Tentative flight plans based in and out of Amsterdam

Guided bus tour and custom hotel package to be arranged

Visits to Regimental sights in Holland, Germany, Belgium and France

Stops in Wons, Oostburg, Nijmegen, Mooshof, Vimy, Boulogne, Normandy

\$200 deposit required by 01Sept 99. Cheques payable to the QOR Association- Toronto branch

For general trip information and suggestions contact LCol Steve Brand CD.

Phone; 705 286 3783 Fax; 705 286 4894 Email; tekbrand@halhinet.on.ca

For a free trip information package & to get on the mailing list or to book your trip now contact ;

QOR Association Director John Miedema - Phone; 905 455 8531 Fax; 905 450 1040

Or

CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden CD - Phone; 905 567 4975

The Millennium lottery

Help raise funds to support the Regiment's Millennium Memorial projects
Lottery tickets out by 1 Nov 99. A great Xmas present. Draw at the Rifles' Ball

Watch for the next update in the fall Powder Horn

Or

Check out the latest details on the Regimental web site qor.com

Capt Harry McCabe, MMM, CD. Association President - Toronto Branch

duly shot to pieces in spectacular style, and the patrol moved on foot to an RV for debriefing and rest.

training year, and the problem was identified as a high priority for the future.

giving me this chance and sparing me the drudgery of a BHQ job for two years. My thanks also to all of the pers

The weather was great and the exercise was a lot of fun, thanks to WO Gresty and the work of many people, including Maj John Fotheringham (Acting Ops O, who had to talk Brigade HQ out of cancelling the exercise because some staff thought it was too dangerous), the Coast Guard, HMCS York (which had to approve the involvement of the Coast Guard), and all the participating officers, NCO's, and soldiers in 60th Company.

June: There was no exercise in June, as we stood down early in the month not long after Ex Neptune Strike. We had one of the more shaky parades I've seen. Certificates were handed out for participation in Op Recuperation, but NCO's should settle the details of such parades, not officers. That evening the officers dined out Lt Ryan Sword, who was a good platoon commander, but whose civilian work commitments were too great to continue with the militia.

Summer: Ex Rambling Rifleman took ten unit members to Britain in July under Capt Harnes' command, including seven members of 60th Company. That trip is described elsewhere in this issue. As for courses, we had three successful candidates on Inf Jr NCO — described above — but very few soldiers on QL4, which is needed to round out an infanteer's skills and is a prerequisite for promotion to Cpl. QL4 positions had been scarce throughout the



QOR rifleman and 2FER sappers conducted daylight rehearsals prior to a night insertion and live-fire ambush, at Ex Neptune Strike in Meaford, May 1998.



Lt Derek Poteralski took time off his civilian job to successfully complete his Lt qualifying course (RESO Phase 3 Infantry) at the Infantry School in Gagetown, N.B. in the summer. Sgt Mark Shannon completed his platoon 2IC's course, and was deservedly promoted to Warrant Officer in September. Many soldiers participated in Ex Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa in August, described elsewhere in this issue.

Effective July 15th, I handed command of the company to Capt Adam Saunders after two years as OC. It was a great opportunity, a challenge, and a lot of fun. My thanks to LCol Tony Welsh for

who worked so hard and gave so freely of their time to assist our training and admin. Particular thanks to my officers; to MWO John Wilmot (CSM); Sgt (now WO) Mark Shannon and Sgt Donovan O'Halloran, the very hard-working pl 2IC's; all of the section commanders, including Sgts Frank Demaine, Tom Fabry, Chris Thomson, Justin Thorn, and MCpl Mike Currie; to Sgt Jeff Syer, my long-suffering but very valuable Class B Company Ops NCO; and to all of the Cpls and Rfn whose attendance, work, diligence, and toughness in the occasional difficult moment make it all possible.

IN PACE
PARATUS

Vics Coy Report - 1998

Major Martin Delaney CD

1998 was a very successful year for the Victoria Company. Not only did we improve upon our successful 1997 Brigade Staff Assistance Visit and Annual Technical Inspection results, we continued to support the Regiment and the CF in a variety of ways. This article will review these accomplishments, as well as provide me with an opportunity to thank all soldiers that I have the pleasure to work with and command as OC of this company.

I write this article as I step down as OC Vics, a position I have proudly filled for the last three years. Thankfully, we have steadily improved as a company over those years. This improvement is a result of the significant effort, hard work and dedication of Vics Coy personnel over the last few years.

The command element of the company saw little change last year, with the exception of the 2i/c position. In September, we saw Capt. Banerjee

move to 60th Company as the 2i/c of the rifle company. Capt. Tremblay was double-hatted and filled his position as Transport Officer in addition to serving as Company 2i/c. For that I thank him. Lt. Burke did an outstanding job as the Regimental Quartermaster and, as well, worked with Gurkha Company supporting the Brigade QL2/3 Course. Many thanks.

We have seen strong efforts from the daytime staff from the RQ, MWO Kelly, MCpl Kim, Cpl Hewlin and all those other members of the company that sacrifice so much of their precious time away from family and friends. This commitment is, and should always be, recognised and commended.

Cpl Ioanni represented her company, regiment and country extremely well during her tour of duty in Bosnia for a callout with IRCR, with other members of The Queen's Own. Cpl Hewlin must be singled out for his herculean efforts

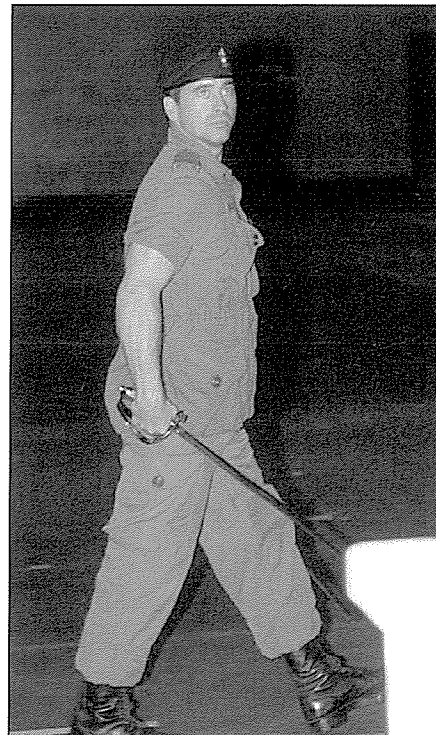
in setting up and maintaining the best Transport and Signals Platoons in the Brigade. In addition, the RQ and MCpl Kim must be congratulated for their contributions to the unit last summer as instructors and support staff.

It has been a rewarding year for all members of the Company and I would again like to thank them for their efforts. I am sure that Vics will continue to provide an important support element to the Unit and the personnel of Vics will make their indelible marks upon the Regiment.

IN PACE PARATUS



MWO Scott Patterson (left) and WO Gerry Senetchko issue live ammo at Ex Final 25 in Borden, March 1999



Major Martin Delaney, CD, OC Victoria Company.

Visit to Normandy, 1998

by B/Sgt Bob Charman

The Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation issued a request, May 1998, to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, for two Buglers to join a university study group. Through swift arrangements by BGen D.A. Pryer and Maj J. Fotheringham, B/Sgt George Walford and myself left on June 1 for Normandy.

We were grateful to have a car at our disposal. The feat of driving in France led to many interesting and humorous situations (lost again George!!!).

We each had our own room at the Abbaye d'Ardenne, outside of Caen. This location was the headquarters of Kurt Meyer and his dreaded S.S. We were privileged to join our hosts also for exceptional meals – wine – and more wine. Lectures were given by Terry Copp, Professor of History, Wilfrid Laurier University, on the role played by Canadians in the Battle of Normandy and the liberation of Caen. Each day after the lectures, the study group attended field trips to the battle fields and cemeteries. Terry was assisted by LCol D.A. Patterson and Serge Durflinger.

LGen C.H. Belzile and Mr. Bob Bennett scheduled times and locations for our participation in memorial services from June 5 to 7. It was a pleasure to assist at the services. A special thanks to Terry for his directions which helped us to arrive on time. We visited the following sites:

Bernières-sur-Mer, Memorial Plaque at Verrieres, Canadian War Cemetery at Cintheaux, Memorial Plaque and Monument at Bretteville l'Orgeuse, Memorial Plaque at le Mesnil Patry

The friendship shown to us by the study group and the hospitality of the towns and villages will always be remembered.

It was indeed an honour and a pleasure to meet and spend time with such dedicated people interested in our military history. Our involvement at the services was most fulfilling. Our thanks to the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation and the QOR for allowing us to participate.



(l to r) QOR Captain (ret'd) Dick White, Ms. Le Brethon (representing the City of Caen), Band Sergeant Bob Charman, QOR LGen (ret'd) Charlie Belzile, H.E. Jacques Roy (Canadian Ambassador to France), and Band Sergeant George Walford, Normandy, May 1998.

Canadian Garden Memorial in Caen, Abbaye d'Ardenne Garden, Memorial Plaque at St. Aubin, Beach Ceremony and Memorial Plaque at Bernières-sur-Mer, Canadian War Cemetery at



Band Sergeants Walford and Charman play Last Post and Reveille at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Normandy.

My D-Day

By Jack Martin

I guess it all started in September of 1943 when we were sent up north to Inverary, Scotland. For me, it was my introduction to amphibious landing and I quickly found out why I chose the Army and not the Navy. Every time I had to participate in one of these schemes, I became violently ill.

So it came to pass that when we boarded the landing craft for what we believed to be the final exercise in June 1944, I vowed that I would not throw up.

As night fell and we moved out into the English Channel, I was feeling a little woozy, so one of the crewman aboard our landing craft tank, or LCT, suggested that I lie on the gun-wale, which is a spot about two feet wide near the bow of the craft to accommodate the ramp's mechanism, and look for mines. This I did, and during the voyage across, in total darkness of course, a number of flares were dropped from one or more aircraft off to our right some distance away. Nothing happened so we continued on our way.

As dawn approached, I could see the great armada - the Navy's 16 inch guns opened up, and then rockets screamed overhead and I was ordered down from my perch. It seemed like an eternity while waiting to land. As we were going in, our Sgt. Carl Warner informed us that only two men would be permitted to land with the carrier. Johnny O'Neil volunteered to be the driver and Johnny Farrell, Gord Osborne and I would go ashore on foot and meet in the orchard on the south side of town.

Shells were landing all around when the ramp finally dropped, right onto dry, or relatively dry sand and who did I see standing there but then Maj. Chas. Dalton, who had blood streaming down his face. "Get up to the wall," he said, (as if we needed any encouragement) and it was then that I probably could have beaten Roger Bannister's record. "C" Coy was landing at the same time so the three of us fell in with them to enter Bernières-sur-Mer.

As we proceeded down through the town, one sergeant from the rifle company kept shouting, "Keep close to the wall, there are snipers everywhere!" and here he was, marching proudly up the middle of the road. I don't think he last-

ed too long. Anyway, down through the town we finally came to the orchard which was our rendezvous location. The 14th Field Regiment RCA was on the other side of the road with their SP's, or self-propelleds, and were in a duel with a German 88 up on the hill. I took a short walk out to the road again to await the arrival of our 3" mortar carrier and I didn't have long to wait. It didn't take long before we had the mortar ready for action.



Rifleman Jack Martin

While waiting for the range, an enemy machine gun started to rake the orchard. Someone flattened out behind the bogey wheel of the carrier and the rest followed suit. Just at that moment, Col. Jock Spragge came into the orchard and seeing everyone behind the carrier, gave out with some choice words, ending with "You don't have to duck for ALL of them". Everyone sheepishly returned to battle station. We began firing after we were given the necessary instructions and while firing on the 88, which had become our target as well, a violent explosion happened over on the other side of the road. An SP, fully loaded with ammo, had received a direct hit from the 88. There was a loud scream-

ing noise that followed and I looked up to see a massive piece of metal hurtling towards me. By this time, I had learned to flatten out quickly, which I did, and the chunk from the SP (I believe it was their gun) flew by me striking the barrel of the mortar and knocking it out of alignment. It left a mark on the barrel that reminded me of the incident right through to the end of the war.

It seemed sort of quiet after a while, and we were advised that the 88 had been knocked out of action. We liked to think that we did it. We moved out of the orchard following the tanks and troops in a long single file as the road on both sides of us bore the German signs, "ACHTUNG MINEN" and we weren't doubting their word. We passed a battery of 75 mm guns that had been knocked out by our forces (but no sign of the gun crew) and then the tanks went off in a very narrow roadway, barely wide enough for the carrier, only to find ourselves behind one of our tanks again. One of our riflemen had been killed and was sitting up with his back to the bank and his legs had already become part of the Normandy soil. There was no way any vehicle, save a motorcycle, could have gone around him. We carried on until we reached Anisy and pulled into a farmyard to bed down for the night.

We then received orders to pull back to Anguerny instead to support our troops in case of an enemy counter-attack. In another farmyard, I dug my slit-trench and not having slept for more than 48 hours, I hit the hay. I slept soundly until morning when I was awakened by a commotion. Climbing out of my slit trench, I saw a group of our guys surrounding a vehicle and it appeared to be one of the enemy's. The four occupants were sound asleep but were soon awakened by the ruckus. They sheepishly climbed out of the vehicle and, surrendering, were searched for their weapons and money, and sent back as prisoners-of-war. I was afraid at first that someone on the other side of the car would start firing but everything turned out OK. So endeth my first 24 hours in Normandy.

Greetings from Bosnia

By Sgt Bill Paton

Greetings from Bosnia. Myself, Cpl Rob Vulakovich, and Rfn Rob Morton are all stationed (in the same 3 PL, Para Coy) at Camp Maple Leaf/Zgon in Bosnia. Cpl Walt Lawlor is stationed at Camp Orvar, where a smaller contingent is located.

We are all having a good time and the weather is a lot cooler than the 45 degrees plus temperatures that we experienced when we first got here.

Being part of para company is great. Makes you feel like the airborne is still within us all. My section commander, Sgt Rob Young is a pathfinder and freefall parachute instructor and mountain ops instructor so he is obviously quite qualified.

In our section of nine we have three reservists, and that is average within the

company. Usually 2-3 reservists per section.

I am learning a lot and meeting some great people. Our platoon's area of responsibility is half in the Republic of Serbia and half in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Federation is Muslim (Bosnian) and Serbia is Serb, obviously.

We go on vehicle or foot patrols about three times a week and usually this means two hours work before and after for commanders. We have interpreters on each patrol so we try to talk to the locals as much as possible. I am very proud to be an Airborne Rifleman over here. I wear my black whistle cord and QOR cap badge which make me feel great.

I wear my QOR and Airborne Rifleman shirts on P.T.

All the best. Up your rifles. Congrats to the new CO.



Rob Morton, Jay Walker, Bill Paton, Matt Clarke 13a - Notice bullet hole behind Bill's head.

(Ed: Sgt Paton served as a MCpl with the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia. While overseas, Sgt. Paton was awarded the Reg Walker Award by the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association.)

Op Palladium

By Cpl Lee Harrison

I thought I'd send a few pictures of Bosnia so some of the troops can see what it looks like here in C Coy AOR.

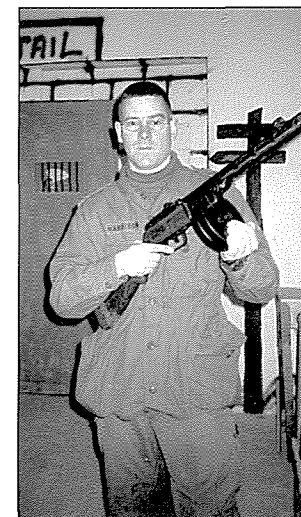
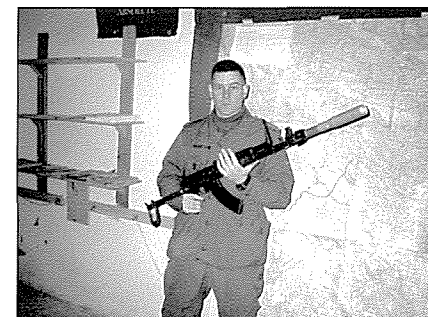
Clockwise: The first two pictures are of confiscated weapons while on patrol. One is a Yugo AKM with grenade attachment complete with rifle grenades. The second is a Soviet APSH-41 1945 fully functional with 71 round drum mag, just a couple of the many weapons we came across here in Bosnia.

Another common feature in the landscape are discarded or destroyed vehi-

cles. Here, a Soviet T-34 WWII vintage, still in its run-up position left undamaged for whatever reason.

Next, Cpl Harrison as gunner of 33C in a town called Martin Brod. A four day long range patrol was conducted there as well as several day patrols.

Just a quick hello to the QOR at Moss Park. We're all working hard to do the QOR proud here in Bosnia with 1RCR on OP Palladium.



Ex Rambling Rifleman '98

by Capt Adam Harmes



QOR soldiers about to receive their British parachute wings, Ex Rambling Rifleman, July 1998

EX RAMBLING RIFLEMAN 1998 involved a visit by ten members of the QOR to the 1st Battalion of the

Tactical Air Landing Operation (TALO). The rest of us - myself, Cpls Pindar and Udobi, as well as Rfns Hing, Pytlik, Sandilands, and Chin-Leung - were off to join C (Gurkha) Coy of the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment at Aldershot to participate in their para insert into the exercise.

Our overall visit was divided into four phases. The first included a week of preparation training in our respective garrisons. In the second, we moved to the 5 Brigade staging area to begin battle procedure for

Royal Gurkha Rifles at their Church Crookham home in southern England. Arriving on the 1st of July, our visit was designed around participating in 5 Airborne Brigade's EX PEGASUS ANVIL, including a week of preparation training prior to the ex.

Having had our first Gurkha curry at Church Crookham, our contingent was divided into two groups. The first group - including Rfn Sparks, Rfn Hayes and Bugler Joseph Amodeo - were to remain with 1RGR for the duration of the exercise and participate in the upcoming

the exercise. The third phase was EX PEGASUS ANVIL itself including the para and TALO inserts, various attacks, FIBUA, a live fire, and the requisite amount of TAB-ing across the English countryside. The fourth and final phase was our return to Aldershot/ Church Crookham for a parting glass of sherry (I think the troops may have had a beer or two as well). In the course of our three

week visit, we gained many new friends, skills and memories. Some highlights of these include:

The battalion run with 2 Para at the staging area. There is something incredibly satisfying about seeing an entire battalion of paratroopers complaining about PT at the same time. In the narrow bits, the 'thin maroon line' seemed to stretch as far as the eye could see. Of course, the downside to this was the inevitable accordion-effect when the single file path opened up into the twenty-across beach.

Tea, curry and the World Cup. Never in my life have I drank so much tea or been forced to watch so much soccer as in the staging area. Daily routine here consisted of morning PT, curry, training periods in weapons and SOPs, curry, orders



Lieutenant Marcus Butlin, 5 PWRR, (right) prepares to cliff-rappel at Ex Steadfast Warrior, Petawawa, August 1998.

Anecdotes from the 75th Birthday

The following article was provided to the regiment in 1997 by Colonel John W. Graham, QC from his personal papers.

The article originally appeared in the Mail and Empire on October 26, 1935.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

by Fred Williams

When the members of The Queen's Own Rifles Association meet around the banquet table at the King Edward Hotel this evening, they will commence a two days' celebration of the completion of seventy-five years of service by our own regiment, now the senior in Canada by reason of the disappearance of the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles of Montreal. The social reunion tonight will be followed by a religious thanksgiving tomorrow afternoon in St. Paul's Church, the tradition of the regiment being always closely identified with recognition of the part that Divine guidance ever played in the regiment.

A history of The Queen's Own Rifles would require more space than at my command; but for the benefit of the junior members of the regiment and that of the general public, I should like to mention a few of the important events in its records:

April 26, 1860 - Militia general order authorised a battalion of riflemen to be styled the "Second Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada"

November 21, 1862 - Regiment reorganised. Whitby and Barrie companies being replaced and added to by Toronto companies

March 18, 1863 - Name changed to "The Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto"

December 24, 1864 - Two companies called out for service on Niagara frontier.

January 24, 1866 - Upper Canada College Rifle Company added.

June 1, 1866 - Regiment left Toronto for Ridgeway, where battle was joined with the Fenian invaders the next day.

1870 - Regiment supplied many men to the Ontario Rifles for the Red River expedition under Colonel Garnet Wolseley.

January 1, 1877 - Called out to restore order in railway riots at Belleville.

February 7, 1878 - Regimental badge authorised. January 13, 1882 - Name changed to "Queen's Own Rifles of Canada".

March 27, 1885 - Regiment called out for service in North West.

March 30, 1885 - Regiment left Toronto for the west.

April 24, 1885 - Relief of Battleford by Otter's column.

May 2, 1885 - Battle of Cut Knife in which Queen's Own participated.

July 23, 1885 - Regiment welcomed home to Toronto.

October 30, 1899 - Royal Canadian Regiment, under Colonel W. D. Otter, sailed from Quebec for South Africa, The Queen's Own supplying a company.

1902 - Queen's Own Bugle Band accompanied contingent, under Col. H.M. Pellatt, to coronation of Edward VII.

1906 - Regiment converted into two battalions of eight companies instead of one of ten companies.

1908 - Queen's Own took part in tercentenary celebration at Quebec and the review by the Prince of Wales (later George V).

June, 1910 - Jubilee of organisation of Toronto celebrated for a week at Toronto.

August 13, 1910 - Queen's Own Regiment, 670 all ranks, left Toronto en route to the British army manoeuvres.

October 2, 1910 - Regiment sailed from England for Canada.

February 21, 1914 - Queen's Own Rifles of Canada made an allied regiment of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

August 4, 1914 - Colonel Mercer offered services of a complete battalion for overseas service.

August 22, 1914 - Service battalion left for Valcartier.

October 3, 1914 - Third Battalion sailed from Quebec.

February 2, 1915 - Third Battalion landed in France at St. Nazaire.

March 4, 1915 - Third Battalion went into action for the first time.

April 22, 1919 - Third Battalion returned to Toronto.

August 4, 1915 - 83rd Battalion authorised.

May 1, 1916 - 83rd left Halifax for England; arrived May 6.

October 26, 1915 - 95th Battalion authorised.

June 2, 1916 - 95th sailed from Halifax; arrived June 8.

January 3, 1916 - 166th Battalion authorised.

October 13-18, 1916 - 166th sailed from Halifax; arrived 19-25.

February 4, 1916 - 198th Battalion authorised.

March 25, 1917 - 198th sailed from Halifax; arrived April 8.

November 22, 1916 - 255th Battalion authorised.

June 2, 1917 - 255th sailed from Halifax; arrived April 8.

After the war there was a lull until 1921 when activities were resumed. By a general militia order in 1926, the final reorganisation of the regiment, having regard to perpetuation of battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was authorised: The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Active Battalions

1st Battalion (3rd Battalion, C.E.F.)
2nd Battalion (83rd Battalion, C.E.F.)

Reserve Battalions

3rd Battalion (95th Battalion, C.E.F.)
4th Battalion (166th Battalion, C.E.F.)
5th Battalion (198th Battalion, C.E.F.)
6th Battalion (255th Battalion, C.E.F.)

July 27, 1928 - Queen Mary became colonel-in-chief of The Queen's Own.

October 18, 1931 - Regimental Cross of Sacrifice unveiled by Sir William Mulock at St. Paul's, Toronto

Many important events have necessarily been omitted, but this summary should prove to the outsider that The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is ever true to the regimental motto "IN PACE PARATUS", and is in fact The Queen's Own Rifles not only of Canada but of the Empire.

City's past vanishes with buildings

By Mike Filey, excerpted from the Toronto Sun, October 25, 1998

During that period in Toronto's history when the city eagerly sought to have its name added to the list of so-called "world-class cities", many of its fine old buildings were ruthlessly sacrificed.

A few citizens attempted to entice the city fathers of the day to be more circumspect about which buildings would vanish in the name of progress and which would remain

Market stands on the site today.

This ramshackle facility was less than satisfactory. (After a particularly heavy snowfall one winter, the roof collapsed). The city fathers frequently petitioned the federal government for a new building that would better reflect the city's loyalty to the Dominion of Canada and its willingness to defend the young nation's future.

Toronto men came forward to sign up to assist Great Britain in her dispute with the Boers in South Africa. And again during the Great War, World War II and the Korean conflict it was within the sturdy walls of the University Avenue Armouries (the name was now pluralized) that more than a quarter-of-a-million young Canadian men and women answered the call to defend the nation,

the Commonwealth and the free world from tyranny. Sadly, many of those who took the colours at the Armouries would never return to enjoy the freedom for which they so valiantly fought. By 1956, war memories were quickly fading. Word got out that plans were being discussed to demolish the Armouries and erect a new Court House on the site to serve the needs of the new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (remember that place?).

At first, there was confusion about who owned the property, the federal government or the city.

Eventually it was determined the federal government owned the site and the structure. Both were sold to the new Metro corporation for \$2 million. The deal complete, Metro officials announced the old building would be torn down and a Court House erected in its place.

That decision ignited a controversy that pitted war veterans against most of the politicians. One notable exception was city councillor Allan Lamport. Although he drew several fellow politicians to his side, it was too little, too late. While the controversy lasted more than three years, the arrival of wrecking crews in August, 1963 finally ended the battle.

Had the battle erupted in recent years, would the Armouries still be with us? With our more enlightened view of our city's past, I'd like to think so. But who knows?

By March of 1886, all concerned had finally agreed on a new building that would combine a drill hall, a drill ground and an armoury - the latter term referring to a secure storage space for munitions and weapons. The new building would be erected on a piece of property on Peter St. in the city's west end.

But there was a problem. The influential property owner refused the price offered by the government and soon the hunt for another site was back on.

Some committee members wanted the armoury built on Richmond St., west of Peter. Not surprisingly, residents of the area didn't. After more searching, the University Ave. location was agreed upon. This time, opposition voiced by the residents of the half-dozen or so small houses in peril fell on deaf ears. By July 1890, the deal to acquire the property had been completed at a cost of \$125,000. Exactly one year later, construction of Toronto's new Armoury began.

Officially opened in 1895, the Armoury became a focal point as hundreds of young



In true QOR tradition: 6 men, 6 different orders of dress. Recruiting office personnel, July 1944. (l to r) Sgt G.J. Moore, CSM J.H. Bate, LCol Baptist Johnston, Sgt. G.G. Fox, RQMS A.C. Smith and CSM Wickham (rear)

to reflect Toronto's past.

Most notable among those eager to preserve our built heritage was Professor Eric Arthur, author of No Mean City (U of T Press, 1964, revised in 1986 by Stephen Otto). This book continues to be the "bible" of Toronto's architectural history... Though listed in the book, the fate of the Armouries on University Ave. had actually been sealed months before publication. The Armouries was a rambling building with a castle-like facade that stood on the east side of the street, just south of the aptly named Armoury St. (a name that reflected the structure's original name when it opened in 1895).

Interestingly, the genesis of the University Ave. Armouries (the name by which it was known when the end finally came) was the North West Rebellion of 1885 mentioned in last week's column.

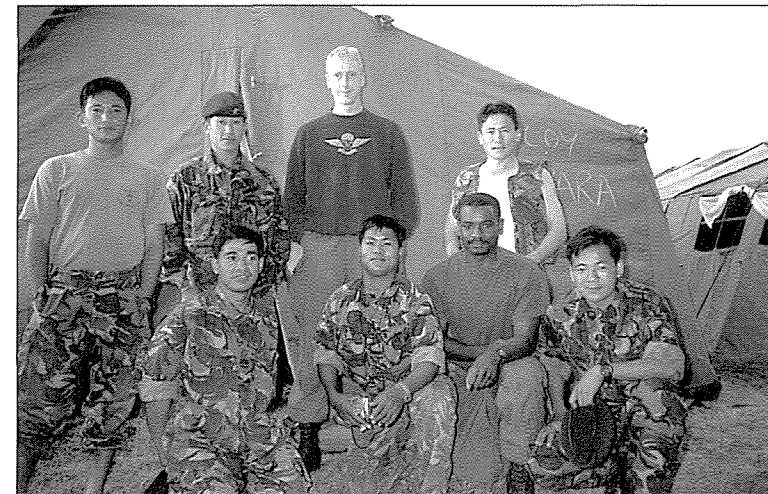
In those days, the building that served as an armouries was the old Drill Shed behind the City Hall of the day at the south-west corner of Front and Jarvis streets. The south end of the South St. Lawrence

groups, and more curry to fill you up before the evening's World Cup match (washed down with a cup of tea).

The jump that almost never was: We owe a great debt to the officers of 2 Para - especially our host Major Simon Gilderson, OC C (Gurkha) Coy - for overcoming the air force's somewhat overly by-the-book outlook on the world. Part of our prep training in Aldershot consisted of learning the ins and outs of British para equipment and aircraft drills. After having completed what amounted to refresher training, we were informed by the air force that we couldn't jump unless we had done a full day's worth of conversion training and completed a non-tactical jump from 1200 AGL; and that there was no time for either of these before the exercise. The response of 2 Para to this information was a simple question: "Do you feel you've had enough training to jump?". Giving the only answer there could be, I was later informed that the Brigade commander had signed off on our jump.

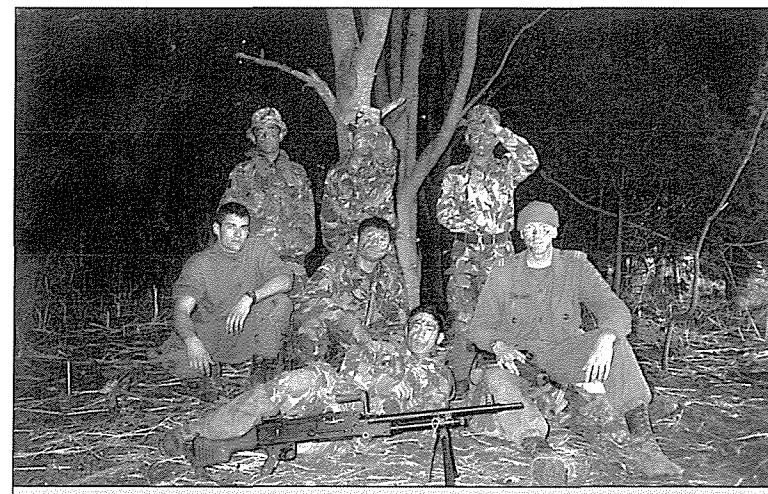
The Tactical Air Landing Operation: I am told by the QOR contingent with 1RGR that the TALO insert was quite an experience. The gist of it is standing next to running vehicles in the back of a cramped, con-tour-flying Hercules waiting for a sharp landing, the opening of the ramp and a 500m or so dash with guns blazing.

Our tactical para insert from 800 feet AGL in high winds and into a 'hot' DZ. High winds almost prevented the jump from occurring but,



Captain Adam Harmes (back) and Corporal Greg Pindar with members of the Gurkha Para Company, July 1998.

luckily, the British Strategic Defense Review was being released that day and, as a result, the jump was under intense media scrutiny; so off we all went, high winds or no high winds.



Rifleman Jason Sandilands (left) and Captain Adam Harmes prior to a Gurkha night patrol, Ex Rambling Rifleman, July 1998.

One interesting aspect of the insert was jumping with rifles slung; something the Brits rarely do. The reason they rarely do so is because they land with the rifle still on the shoulder rather than releasing it - makes a left side roll somewhat painful.

Keeping track of our Gurkha buddies during the night FIBUA attack. Darkness, smoke and the all-Nepalese snap orders created some amusing confusion.

The live fire portion of the exercise where we were situated with both the Milans and the machine guns. A great firepower demonstration and a strong showing by Cpl Udobi whose gunner skills were appreciated and commented upon by the 2 Para weapons det commander.

Receiving our British para wings where the Gurkha CSM

summed up one Rifleman's storytelling prowess: "Chin-Leung, too much yip-yap!"

After heading back to Church Crookham to link up with the rest of our contingent, we departed for home with a Gurkha piper escorting our transport to the gate - a perfect cap to an excellent trip.

Epilogue: Four months after our visit, I found myself in London owing to my civilian 'job' and another quick visit to the Gurkhas seemed in order. I was fortunate

enough to find myself in Aldershot for a C (Gurkha) Coy party. I used to think that the Irish were the world's friendliest people in terms of forcing you to drink beers that you didn't pay for...I was wrong.

Exercise Steadfast Warrior '98

by Maj John Fotheringham, CD

1998's annual summer concentration was held at CFB Petawawa from 21 - 29 August, and concentrated on patrolling skills, including live-fire, rappelling, assault boats, and parachuting. 32 CBG's Infantry Battalion was a composite battalion of companies from the QOR, R Regt C, Tor Scot R, and G&SF, all under the command of LCol Welsh. Some events to remember:

- LCol Welsh, rather than making the usual retirement gift to the Officers' Mess, instead purchased 20 Peak stoves and fuel bottles so that each section could be self-contained for cooking and heating needs for a long time to come.

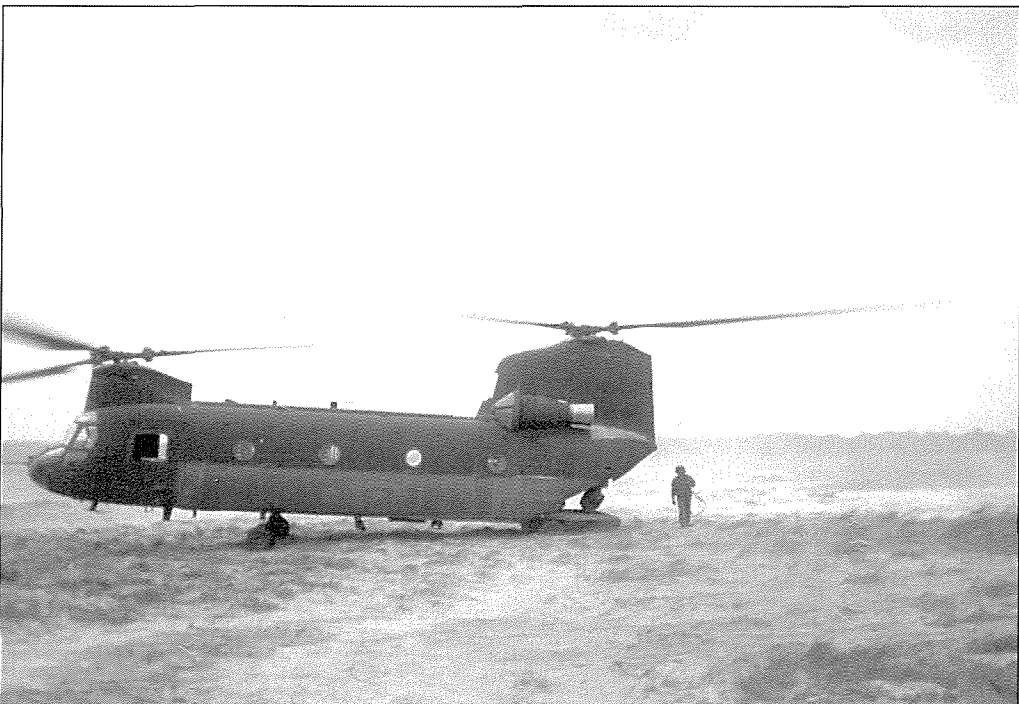
- A C-130 parachute jump into the exercise. 23 QOR airborne soldiers, with augmentees from 2 Int Coy, R Regt C, and G&SF, jumped full equipment onto DZ Anzio and linked up with QOR ground forces to start the ex.

- Being fortunate to have several soldiers from our affiliated Regiments in the UK - a section from the 5th Battalion, Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, and four riflemen from the 4th Battalion, Royal Green Jackets. The 5PWRR

group was led by Lt Marcus Butlin and we immediately tasked him as a Platoon Commander. All augmentees performed 'brilliantly'.



QOR jumpers receive their safety briefing on the U.S. Chinook prior to conducting a para-raid at Ex Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa, August 1998.



- Bears - we left CSM WO Peter Campbell to secure the patrol base one afternoon, and returned to find that he had spent most of his time

chasing off two bears with cubs who managed to ransack and destroy a few Canadian rucks, but left the British kit alone (!).

Continued on page 22

gave the 3rd Bn. the opportunity to show all, especially our rival 20th Brigade unit, 2nd/10th Dragoons, that we were "the boys of The QOR you hear so much about". We did not saunter along at the slow 110 paces per minute of the horseless Dragoons, but raced down the roadway at 140+ with our bugle band blaring, passing other units along the route with LCol. R.H.

Sankey proudly leading us. In the summer of 1983, while on staff at Ipperwash Army Cadet Training Centre, I heard the same story from a cadet in the 2881 QOR Cadet Corps and when I told him I had been there forty years ago as a Rifleman, he could hardly believe it. That story, or similar instances, must have become part of the history of the Regiment passed along verbally.

Camp Ipperwash also bore another connection to The Queen's Own, for in the Officers' Mess was a fireplace bearing the insignia of 2nd Canadian Rifles, which in 1953 became the 2nd Bn. QOR (Regular Army).

I certainly do not agree with LCol Barnard's statement that "no one was sorry" to see the 3rd Bn. disbanded. While it is true that is no longer served a military purpose that could not be performed in other ways, and it was extremely frustrating for the officers and other ranks to see the battalion constantly being robbed of its trained personnel, there were many who regretted the disbanding greatly. These included the underage soldiers who had by that time been instilled with the pride of being members of The Queen's Own, other active service personnel who were still with the Battalion, many of whom were classified medically

unfit for overseas, and yes, even NRMA personnel who had also developed pride in the uniform of The Queen's Own Rifles despite their personal beliefs (which in 1943 we interpreted as cowardice) which resulted in their refusing to sign up for "Active Service".

Prior to the Battalion's move to Dartmouth, I had been declared med-

sadly obeying his orders, however, I still have some of the insignia that I removed that day.

In the 1950's, the original militia battalion was re-designated 3rd Bn. QOR but the 3rd Bn. that was part of the Canadian Army (Active) or C.A.S.F. during the Second World War lives on in the memories of an ever dwindling number of men to whom it was "their Regiment".

I managed to travel to Toronto and march in the Warriors' Day Parade in 1995 despite living some distance away. Marching behind the Regimental Band and Bugles was something I had not done since 1943 when I was a Rifleman and the old motto "Once in The Queen's Own, always in The Queen's



Lunch on route march in Sussex, New Brunswick.

ically unfit for infantry service and was posted to the Directorate of Personnel Selection as a clerk, remaining in Debert and eventually becoming Sergeant i/c Personnel Selection for Debert Camp. Proudly, I upheld the 3rd Bn. tradition until, by early 1944, I was the only former 3rd Bn. QOR NCO remaining in the camp. In June 1944, I was posted to NDHQ and displayed my QOR insignia around Ottawa. I do not recall ever meeting another QOR all summer in that city.

I continued wearing the QOR uniform until October 1944 when I was posted to the Armoured Corps Training Centre at Camp Borden and my welcome to the Mess was quickly followed by the RSM informing me in his booming voice, "Sergeant, you will replace those ungodly black stripes, and obtain a black beret in place of that silly looking cap before you enter MY mess again." I spent the morning at the QM stores and in the regimental tailor shop

Own" quickly came to mind.

IN PACE PARATUS

Ontario standard." My many memories of twenty-one months in Debert certainly include poor food, accommodation and miserable weather. Being promoted to Sergeant improved the food and the accommodation only slightly because by then the 3rd Bn. had moved to Dartmouth and I was attached to the 20th Field Ambulance, RCAMC, for rations and quarters.

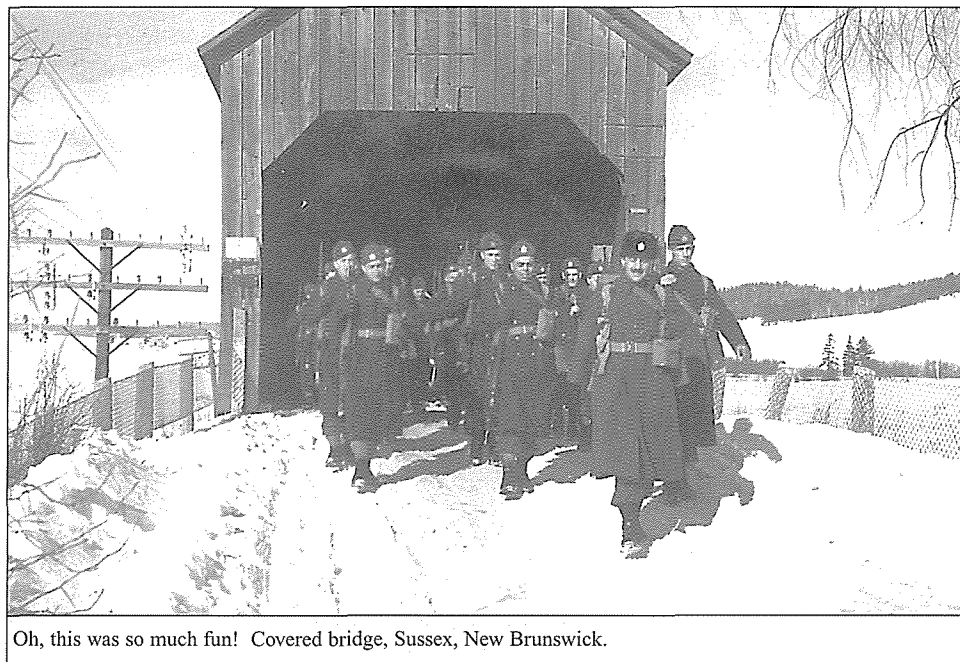
The Maritime weather certainly did not appeal to anyone from Ontario, and citizens of nearby Truro seldom made favourable comments about troops from "Upper Canada". In all fairness to them, having a camp nearby with several thousand men who came into a town of less than 12,000 inhabitants, seeking pleasure, inevitably

created a great many problems and caused much concern to its citizens. Why they disliked Ontario and "Hogtown" was something we did not fully understand at the time, but knew it had something to do with the Depression of the 1930s when most of us were children.

The I.O.D.E. operated the only centre for service men in the town, and apart from one cinema there was little in Truro to liven up our spirits. The Palliser restaurant was for officers only, other restaurants were not too appealing and beer and liquor was unavailable to non-residents of the province. Truro still attracted us however, if only to get away from the bleak surroundings in Debert, to stroll the tree-lined street and park which reminded us of Toronto or watch the trains at the old Intercolonial Railway station.

Within Debert Military Camp there were the usual amenities; a wet and dry

regimental canteen, and at some distance from our lines, Auxiliary Services centres operated by the Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army and the Royal Canadian Legion. Old 16 mm movies, a place to write letters, undertake further education by correspondence courses and a different variety of snack food were about all they offered.



Oh, this was so much fun! Covered bridge, Sussex, New Brunswick.

The photograph taken at Camp Niagara referred to previously also brings a few names to memory. We were housed in bell tents and for the most part were grouped with our tent-mates at the time the picture was taken. My tent included Jack Reilly, who had been our family lawyer in Toronto and who later went on to officer training and Ken Evans, who was killed a few weeks after D-Day while serving with the 1st Bn. The other two, Jack Cooney and Earl Lowry both departed from Debert as members of overseas drafts. Now, over fifty years later, they remain as names in my memory; five buddies who shared a tent for three months in the summer of 1942 at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Forty-six of those who volunteered for active service as original members of the 3rd Bn. gave their lives overseas. Their names can be found in LCol. Barnard's regimental history. It is probable that some of the original offi-

cers are also on the Honour Roll, but the records needed to identify them are not available to me as I write this.

In addition to those who enlisted directly into the battalion, many who were transferred to the 3rd Bn. and received part of their training with the unit also paid the supreme sacrifice. Only one member of the 3rd Bn. died while serving as a member of the unit;

B-52450 Rfn. Doyle, E.J. He was one of 102 under-age soldiers (sixteen and seventeen-year-olds) who were transferred to the battalion in February, 1943, to add to its active service ranks, and was accidentally shot while performing guard duty at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Eleven of the "originals" on the Honour Roll

are listed as members of the Algonquin Regiment, forming part of a draft of eighty sent to that unit in February, 1943 at Debert. It was a sad day when those Riflemen had to cut off Queen's Own shoulder flashes and replace their regimental wedge cap and "Big 2" with a brass "moose" on a khaki FS cap. Such was the pride that had been instilled in all those members of the 3rd Bn. Fourteen per cent of that draft gave their lives in Europe.

H/Captain R.L. Seaborn was a much admired and devoted chaplain to his "flock", a large proportion of whom were still teenagers. After the war, I chatted with him on several occasions and he had many memories of his service with 3rd Bn. By that time, he had returned to his parish ministry at St. Peter's, Cobourg and later he became Anglican Bishop of Newfoundland.

Sunday morning church parades, marching along the single paved road that ran the length of Debert Camp,

The Regimental Band and Bugles in 1998

Bandsman Byron Wall

The Regimental Band and Bugles of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada had a busy year in 1998, playing at over 50 separate engagements at a wide variety of venues – once a week on average. The Band and Bugles played in many configurations: all together, the band only, the bugles only, perhaps a small group from the band (such as our brass quintet), and sometimes only a pair of Bugles or a Bugle and a Drum. And indeed, we played both seated as a concert Band and other times on parade.

Notable among the special events of the year were the opening ceremonies of the Orillia Highland Games in July at which we were the featured band. We paraded through Orillia along with the many pipe and drum bands taking part in the event. On arrival at the site, we played massed together with pipe and drum bands during the ceremonies, and then were featured playing on our own and doing our special tattoo. Another prestige event involving the tattoo was a special guest performance at the President's Evening at the Toronto Hunt Club in June. We played for the opening reception and then performed our tattoo out at the edge of Scarborough Bluffs. Fortunately, no members of the band were lost over the cliff, though marching and reading music at the same time are always challenging. The Band was invited to a sumptuous meal thereafter, and our

Director of Music, Lt. Rita Arendz, dined with the President. Also in June we performed at the Opening of the Victorian Exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum. The band marched to the museum, up the steps and to the exhibit, where it was proclaimed open. Then we played inside for a reception as invited guests entered.

Other events of a military character involving the Band included the change of command at The Queen's Own in September, where we played throughout the ceremonies. In May we played at the 709th Communication Regiment Sergeants' Mess Dinner at Fort York. We also played during ceremonies for the annual inspection and change of command at the Governor General's Horse Guards Cadet Corps. Capt Harry McCabe, MMM, CD, former RSM of The Queen's Own Rifles became their new Commanding Officer. In November the band played at a retirement dinner for MGen H. C. Pitts, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles. MGen Pitts has now moved to British Columbia. MGen Lewis MacKenzie was the speaker at this well-attended event.

The Band and Bugles participated in a rather large event in October, sponsored by the Canadian Forces Liaison Council. First there was a formal dinner at the

Royal York Hotel where we performed in combination with the Pipes & Drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the 7th Toronto Royal Canadian Artillery. The next day was the Freedom of the City Parade. Our Band, together with the 7th Toronto Regiment Band and the band of the Governor General's Horse Guards escorted militia from all Toronto-based regiments as they marched from Moss Park to City Hall. After all guards were received by the Mayor and given the Freedom of the City for the day, we then led them all to Queen's Park where the troops were reviewed by several dignitaries, including Minister of Defence, Art Eggleton. After many speeches we were dismissed to a welcome barbecue in Queen's Park behind the Parliament building.

Another unusual event took place at the Toronto City Centre Airport, where we were contracted to play to mark the inaugural flight of a new commuter service between the Toronto City Centre Airport and Rochester, New York. Inauspiciously for the new service, the flight was twenty minutes late! Another inauguration was celebrated in London, Ontario, in September when we performed at a ceremony at the General Motors plant for the unveiling of the new LAV 3 armoured fighting vehicle named the "Coyote." And the next month, we played at the opening of the Plumbing, Heating, and Circulation Convention in Toronto.

Besides these special events, the Band and Bugles performed in a variety of its ongoing commitments at venues ranging from Roy Thomson Hall to the streets of Markham and Orillia.

In November, we were pleased to send again a large contingent from the Band and Bugles to the Royal Canadian



Continued on page 34

Regimental Sergeant Major's Report

CWO Andy Sarossy, CD

1998 was a very special year for the leadership of the unit in that it was the last full year of service before a somewhat unusual event in the spring of 1999, that being the retirement of WO G. Senetchko, CD, a long-standing and hugely valuable member of The Queen's Own Rifles. We all know that there is a significant attrition rate in the Reserves and, more often than not, most leave without much fanfare – in this case, I feel that WO Senetchko's service deserves proper recognition, and we wish him well in his retirement.

The University Avenue Armouries was torn down in 1963, a building where WO Senetchko and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were one-time residents. This was an Armoury most old-timers spoke very warmly of. It was located just west of the new City Hall and was torn down to make room for the current courthouses there, and marked now only in the name Armoury Street. Today that building would have been protected as a historical landmark, but in 1963, progress was looked at in a different light.

When I joined, Cpl Senetchko was not much different from the WO we all know today. As a very young recruit, he impressed me with his quiet but decisive voice and his odd trollish mannerisms. Believe it or not, in the early and mid-seventies, he and I would run around the Parade Square at Moss Park Armoury for literally miles. We estimated that 45 laps would equal roughly 5 miles. I would like to add that WO Senetchko is also a Queen's Medallist, a medal earned for outstanding shooting in the days when our army had the FNCI rifle. Something else, which kind of puzzled me, was the ever-present pipe. For a person who prides himself as a connoisseur of fine tobaccos, I never could quite appreciate that horsehair that he would smoke quite regularly.

All this may sound like a little jaunt down memory lane. We used to have a



CWO Andy Sarossy at the 32 CBG Freedom of the City Parade in Toronto, October 1998.



WO Gerry Senetchko, a QOR rifleman for 40 years, with Sergeant Steve Wolfe in the background.

grand old Armoury, we used to have a full-bore rifle, the militia used to have more units and we used to have more time to run around the Armoury. All true but change is inevitable and for the military, very difficult. Military forces at the turn of the century had to be convinced of the value of aircraft in future conflicts. Most of the command staff, during WW1, was convinced that the infantry must punch a hole through the line so that the cavalry could exploit it. Submarines were considered very "unsporting" and more of a nuisance than a value. All these beliefs were horribly shattered by reality.

As we change, reluctant or otherwise, we need to remember the past and cherish those traditions, which remain incontestable. I was recently reading a 1935 year book for The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association. In it, the author, Fred Williams, reminds the reader how important it is to observe Remembrance Day. The article is entitled, "When We Remember", with a subtitle, "A Request for the Annual Observance of Remembrance Day". Our Remembrance Day Parade should be the best attended of any parade we may hold.

In closing, I would again like to congratulate WO Gerry Senetchko for his long and dedicated service to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. I doubt very much that Gerry will leave the Regimental family as he is, and has always been, very active in such organisations as the Association and the Maple Leaf Club. I hope you can all take the time to congratulate and wish him well in his retirement from the unit.

A Rifleman's Memories of 3rd Bn QOR of C, C.A. (A)

by Captain (Ret) E.R. Collins, CD

Only five pages of LCol W.T. Barnard's 1960 history of The Queen's Own Rifles, "One Hundred Years of Canada" are devoted to the 3rd Bn. QOR of C that was activated in the Second World War. It is a very short segment of the long, illustrious history of the Regiment; only fourteen months during the Second World War. It is greatly overshadowed by the record of the 1st Bn. and its heroic role in the liberation of Europe.

From May 21, 1942 until August 15, 1943, however, the 3rd Bn. represented all that The Queen's Own stood for to some seven hundred men. Its demise was over a half century ago and so, as a memorial, I have written a few of my thoughts and memories from a Rifleman's viewpoint, as on of the 3rd Bn. originals, Regimental No. B-65795, Rfn. Collins, E.R.

In his 1960 history, LCol W.T. Barnard states, "when credit is assessed, second place belongs to those whose intention of serving overseas was thwarted for various reasons." This then must be the place in history for the 3rd Bn. We started out with the intention of taking our place in the forthcoming battles alongside the 1st Bn. but it was not to be. We performed guard duty at vital installations in the Niagara Peninsula and Dartmouth, N.S., but apart from those wartime duties, the 3rd Bn. was merely an infantry training unit, albeit one with a history and traditions like no other.

The 3rd Bn. was activated in Toronto, on May 21, 1942. For me, having "signed up" at a Queen's Own recruiting station in front of the old Toronto City Hall, life in the Canadian Army (Active) started out much as it had been while I was in the Canadian Army

(Reserve), the name given to the militia at that time. I would travel by streetcar to University Avenue Armoury each morning, under basic training all day and at 5:00 p.m., I would take the streetcar home. It wasn't until July 7, 1942, when almost three hundred troops proudly marched to the docks at the foot of Yonge Street

an infantry company with only sixty-three all ranks, which was less than half the wartime establishment. Throughout the battalion's short life there were never enough Officers, NCOs or Riflemen. As soon as they were trained and reached the age of nineteen, they were sent on drafts overseas or to other units.



But first you need all the proper equipment! (Middle row-right) J.T. OBrien, W.J. Eddolls. Can anyone identify the others?

and set sail on board the S.S. Cayuga for Niagara-on-the-Lake that we had the feeling we were finally starting our life as full-time volunteer members of the Active Army.

I have a photograph of B Coy taken in September 1942 at Niagara Camp, with Capt W.G. Palmer as O.C.. At that time, there were forty-five Officers, NCOs and Riflemen wearing Queen's Own caps. Eighteen National Resource Mobilization Act (NRMA) personnel wore khaki field service (FS) caps, but before leaving for Debert, N.S., they too were issued regimental caps and many wore them with pride. About one hundred NRMA men from the 3rd Bn. eventually signed up for active service, some of whom are on the Honour Roll.

This photograph gives an insight into the woes which helped created such a brief existence for the 3rd Bn. It was

Upon reaching Debert on September 29, 1942, we were billeted in barracks recently vacated by another Toronto unit, the Irish Regiment of Canada, which had departed for England a few weeks before. Having barracks with bunk beds and indoor plumbing was an improvement after three months of living in bell tents with paliasses to sleep on and outdoor ablution facilities. Although we later discovered that snow blew through cracks in the walls and the pot-belly stoves provided very little heat during a harsh Nova Scotian winter, at first glance they looked palatial.

The arrival at Debert also saw the issue of 7th Division shoulder patches, a diagonally split dark green and sky blue rectangle, to all ranks. HQ of the 20th Cdn. Inf. Brigade was established across the road, staffed largely by men from the QOR and the 2nd/10th Dragoons, a unit originally from Brantford, Ontario. The third unit in the Brigade was the 3rd Bn. Royal Winnipeg Rifles who were stationed at Camp Sussex, N.B. Divisional HQ was up the main road at the railhead near Debert village, but had few QOR on staff. After the disbanding of the 7th Division, those remaining in Debert Camp were issued Atlantic Command badges, a sky blue diamond. The history states, "Debert was a bleak spot and... rations were below the

The Regiment returns to France in June of 2000.

by LCol Steve Brand, CD

Plans are currently underway to organize a return trip to France in June of 2000 by members of the Regiment. It is anticipated that participation will come from serving members of the Regimental band who will join members of the various QOR associations in commemorating the Normandy campaign. Highlights of the trip will include memorial services at Bernières-sur-Mer, Beny-Reviere, Le Mesnil-Patry, Caen and visits to our friends in Anisy and Anguerny.

The 14th Field Regiment Children's Association has undertaken a very ambitious project to build a 10,000 sq ft Canadian museum in the vacant field beside the Maison de The Queen's Own. The town of Bernières-sur-Mer has pledged the land and the 14th have commenced fund raising activities. They recently received confirmation of Federal funding of just over \$200,000. The QOR continues to support this initiative currently referred to as the Juno Beach Center. There is a plan to have "Regimental rooms" for sale on the second floor. These rooms would be used by individual Regiments or associations as mini-museums. The official opening is planned for the 6th of June, 2000 and the QOR has been invited to participate.

Although no new memorial activities have been planned, there are two of the 1960 plaques to re-dedicate at Bernières-sur-Mer. These plaques were removed from the pill box to make way for the new ones installed in 1997. The plan is to relocate the older plaques - one in the church and one on the beach wall at the west end of the QOR landing zone. The Book of Remembrance donated to Bernières-sur-Mer in 1997 will be mounted in a lectern similar to the one at St Paul's.

All Regimental members are invited to attend and participate in the 2000 activities in Normandy. Contact Harry McCabe for the latest travel itinerary and fare prices. If you are planning on making independent travel plans then please inform me through RHQ of your intentions so that we may include you in the nominal roll of those activities which will require special invitation.

IN PACE PARATUS



"Maison de Queen's Own"

From L to R - The late Bob Bennett (translating), Mr Herve Hoffer (Owner of the home), BGen Pryer and LCol Brand.

The official dedication of the Maison de Queen's Own, June 6th 1997.

Photo by: Mrs Brand



"Regimental talent at work in 1997"

Installing one of the new plaques on the concrete pillbox at Bernières-sur-Mer in 1997.

From L to R - Unidentified town employee, Toronto Association President Brian Budden, friend of the Regiment Roger Alexandre, Unidentified town employee, and the Honorary Colonel, BGen Pryer.

Photo by: LCol Brand

Regimental Padre's Report - 1998

Capt Craig Cameron

The past year has been eventful and interesting. I attended a Critical Incident Stress Management course at NavCanada in Cornwall in March. Various incidents in 1998, most notably the crash of a CF Labrador helicopter as

over a foot of water after a sudden severe thunderstorm and the frantic efforts of battalion staff to drain the water away from the tent. Another interesting experience was participation in an all-night recce patrol as an umpire

time visiting members of the regimental family who were hospitalised: CWO Brian Budden who lost a leg in an industrial accident, Col. Charlie Dalton who was very sick in mid-summer, and then died early in 1999, and Lieut. Tom Butler in a care facility, who subsequently died in early August, 1998. Brian Budden is to be commended for the way he has accepted and adjusted to his circumstances.

As we enter 1999, we can be confident of strong leadership from LCol Bruce McEachern, our new Commanding Officer. I would encourage each member of the regimental family to seek to bring credit to the Regiment and to do our duty diligently and selflessly. May we truly remember and honour the thousands of worthy riflemen, who have worn the "Big 2" cap badge before us, by our own personal conduct.



Captain Craig Cameron, Regimental Padre, conducts a field service at Ex Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa, August 1998. Rfn Delaney is on the left.

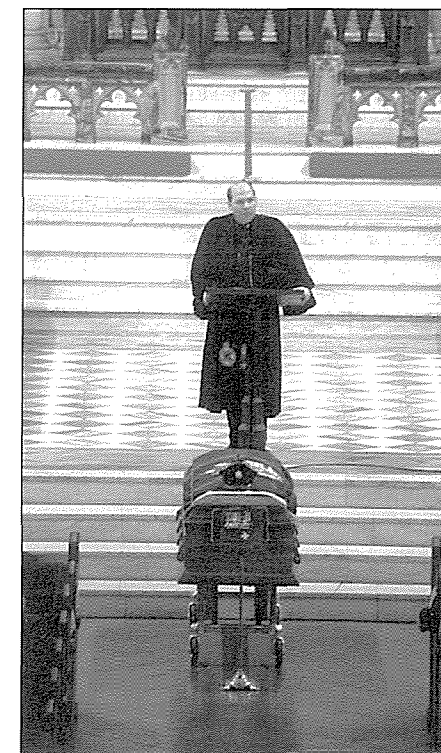
well as a Snowbird Tutor jet, reinforce the importance of all our soldiers being able to assist their fellow servicemen psychologically in times of injury and death. As I drove to Cornwall, I was reminded of the fury of the ice storm of early January as small trees and branches were broken all along the side of the highway in eastern Ontario.

with one of our sections led by a PWRR corporal. I'm not sure if my presence was entirely welcome as I crashed through the woods like a heavy-footed elephant! I had opportunities to ride on both Griffon and American Chinook helicopters while on the exercise. I also witnessed a jump by our airborne riflemen into DZ Anzio prior to the company's assault against the FIBUA site.

Another highlight both personally and regimentally was Ex Steadfast Warrior, our 32 Brigade annual concentration held at Petawawa 21-30 August. I functioned as the padre for the infantry battalion under the command of LCol Tony Welsh. For the first few days I was bivouacked with "A" Coy which was our own QOR company under Major John Fotheringham. Like many of our troops, I enjoyed getting to know several of the British soldiers from two of our Allied British Territorial Army regiments who were functioning as part of the company. Their sense of humour, accents and wonder at the quantity and quality of our rations became semi-legendary within the company. One memorable experience was seeing the Battalion Ops tent being deluged with

Regimentally, I participated in the 138th Birthday in April, the June 6 D-Day memorial parade at Moss Park, attended the Association's annual shoot at Niagara-on-the Lake, the Change of Command parade on 30 September, the Remembrance Day church parade in November at St. Paul's and the Mens' Christmas dinner in December. On Remembrance Day Sunday, the new rector of St. Paul's Church, Rev. Barry Parker, led his first service with The Queen's Own present and gave a very fitting sermon. I also spent time revising the Regimental Catechism to bring it up to date.

On the pastoral side of things, I spent



Captain Cameron at the funeral of Colonel C.O. Dalton, DSO, KStJ, ED, 24 February 1999, St. Paul's - Toronto

The Scarborough Rifles (2881 Cadet Corps)

Kim O'Leary
Commanding Officer

1998 started with a Change of Command in which I took over from Captain Derm Wilson who left after many years with The Scarborough Rifles to work with an Ontario Regiment Cadet Corps located closer to his home in Uxbridge. The next few months were then spent working on the Cadet Star Training Programme.

On April 18th the cadets participated in a Day Field Exercise held in the Rouge Valley where they prepared for their annual Garrison Exercise which was held at CFB Borden the following weekend. The Scarborough Rifles acted as the host corps for this year's Garrison Exercise and Captain Paulin, as OPI, laid on an excellent training schedule for the over 100 cadets that participated from the four corps. This training included a Run & Shoot Competition, an Orienteering Course, as well as a Range Practice. 2Lt Bridge, 2Lt Lee, and 2Lt Klikorka are also to be commended for all their hard work in preparing and throughout the exercise which resulted in a successful and exciting weekend for all!

Other events that the corps participated in include the Legion's VE Day Parade on the 3rd of May, assisting with the Variety Village Special Olympics on the 9th of May, an abseil exercise conducted at CFB Borden in conjunction with the Regional Cadet Instructor School on

the 22nd to 24th of May, the Legion's Altona Road Parade on the 31st of May, the corps' Annual inspection which was held on the 14th of June, and the Legion's Canada Day Parade.

The corps' 98/99 training year has been both busy and successful thus far.

The year began with a team competing at the Skill At Arms competition in September 98. This competition is held annually at CFB Borden and tests knowledge and skills in various areas of army cadet training including orienteering and bushcraft. Our team competed well and achieved the highest standing ever enjoyed by the corps.

In January 99, the corps sent a team to the Central Ontario Area Biathlon Competition which was held in CFB Petawawa. The four cadets who competed braved bitter temperatures but in the end all their months of running, skiing, and shooting training paid off as they placed 2nd, the highest standing ever accomplished by the corps in this competition. Congratulations to WO Sibbles, Sgt Hickey, MCpl Abate, Cpl Hall and Captain Paulin.

The Canadian Cadet Organisation introduced a new shooting programme this year which focuses on the use of the Air Rifle and is much more intensive than in past years. A team of cadets competed

in the Tri-Service Zone Competition in February and placed 4th. Congratulations to our shooting team and to 2Lt Bridge and 2Lt Lee for their work with the shooting team.

The corps will keep busy for the remainder of this training year with a Rouge Valley Field Exercise to be run by 2Lt Lee and CI Lutz on the 17th and 18th of April as well as a Range Day in Borden on the 25th. We will then begin practise for our Annual Inspection to be held on the 30th of May. The corps will also be involved in a Cadets Caring for Canada Day in June. This day involves cadets nation-wide conducting activities which focus on citizenship and the environment. The Scarborough Rifles' contribution will be a clean-up of our favourite training area - the Rouge Valley.

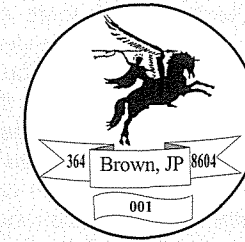
The corps has also been fortunate to gain the assistance this year of Sgt Paulin, formerly of 2nd Battalion Irish Regiment of Canada and soon to be with the Ontario Regiment, and Pte Tinker, also formerly of the Irish Regiment.

One final note, keep your eyes open for new Cadet Instructors Cadre recruiting posters due out soon featuring our very own Captain Paulin!!!



Several retired QOR officers attended the Regimental Birthday celebrations in Toronto, April 1998. BGen Kip Kirby is second from left, and BGen Barry Ashton is on the right.

QOR Airborne Coin



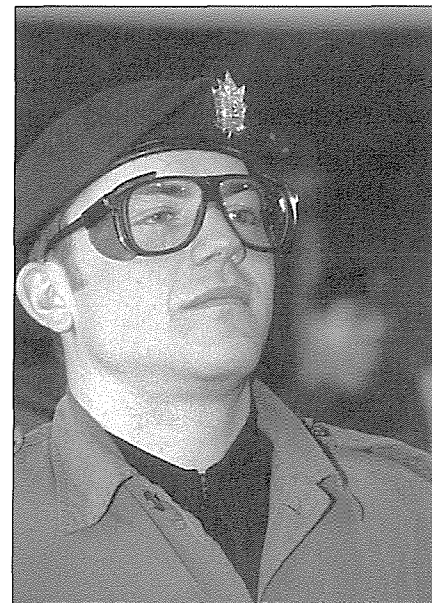
Queen's Own para-qualified personnel are familiar with the Airborne Coin carried by members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. The coin, which was presented to Cdn AB Regt members upon completion of the Airborne Indoctrination Course, was to be carried at all times. If a soldier challenged another to present his coin, and it was not available, drinks were owed. It is rare to find a former member of the Airborne Regiment without his coin. Just ask WO Gresty to show you his (it'll cost you a drink).

Cpl Wilson has designed and produced a Queen's Own Airborne Coin, available to those jumpers who have served in the QOR Airborne Platoon/Company at any time since its inception in 1982. The issue of these coins is strictly controlled and numbered, and there is space for the soldier's name and course serial to be engraved on the reverse.

To order, send your name, address, date of jump course and service with The Queen's Own airborne element, and cheque for \$50.00 to: Cpl C. Wilson c/o the BOR.



Sergeant Justin Thorn (left) acts as safety NCO for a live-fire trench assault, Ex Final 25 in Borden, March 1999



Corporal Ian Howard, QOR Internet Webmaster.



1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Report

by Jan de Vries

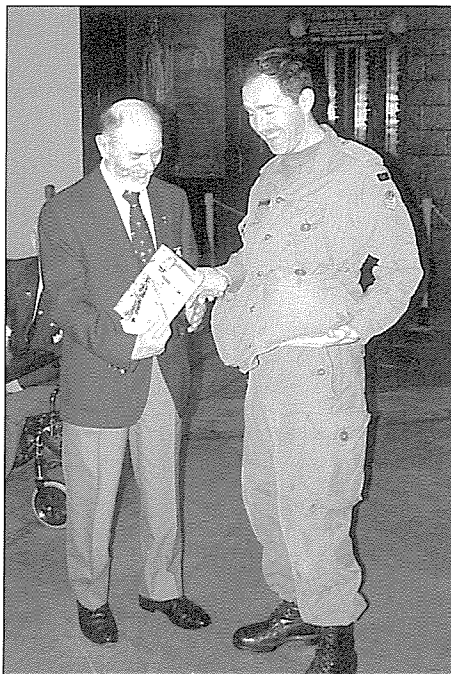
Activities

The Association's first event of the year was a March 24 ceremony at the Cpl. Fred Topham VC Memorial at the Etobicoke Civic Centre, followed by a luncheon at the Legion Branch 442 in Erin, Ontario, attended by members, wives and friends. The event was a commemoration of the Varsity Drop over the Rhine River at 1000 hours on March 24, 1945, considered to be the most successful mass airborne assault of the Second World War. The assault was carried out by the combined forces of the 6th British Airborne Division, which included the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and the American 17th Airborne Division. A wreath was placed at the cenotaph by former Etobicoke Mayor and Battalion member Dennis Flynn, escorted by Association President Jan de Vries and Norm Topham, brother of Cpl. Fred Topham. Eighteen members of the Association formed a guard for the ceremony and a short service was conducted by Battalion Padre Doug Candy. A large and smart-looking platoon of members of the Association, with a colour party, marched a short distance to lay a wreath, and for the Last Post, at the legion cenotaph. After the ceremony and service, approximately 100 people attended the luncheon prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

As in previous years, serving and former Airborne members enjoyed the Airborne Luncheon in April 1999, at the RCMI, hosted by our wartime commander Col. Fraser Eadie, DSO, CD. The members are also invited to the Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton to attend the Wings Parades, when they are scheduled, for an opportunity to meet the newest entries into the Airborne fraternity.

In addition to the Association's participation in the activities of the CAFA and The Queen's Own Rifles where possible, the Association's next major function will be the National Reunion in Brandon, Manitoba, on June 17-20. This event will be a nostalgic gathering, as Brandon is only two hours away from Camp Shilo, where the Battalion members trained during the War. This reunion would normally take place in the year 2000, but as a tour of Europe is

planned for 2000, the reunion will take place this year.



In the absence of the 1998 winner of the Reg Walker Award (Sergeant Bill Paton was on NATO service in Bosnia), 1 Can Para Association President John de Vries presented the award to last year's recipient (and Sgt Paton impersonator) Sergeant Frank Demaine, December 1998.

Memories

by Jan de Vries

In late January 1945, the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes was over and the Germans were in full retreat. The 6th British Airborne Division, including the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion was taken from the line of battle, loaded on trucks, and sent to take over a divisional position along the Maas River in Holland.

What made this trip different was the serious epidemic of dysentery that struck almost all of the men on the day of the move. The situation was most uncomfortable for the men, and many became quite desperate to relieve themselves as the convoy moved through the Belgian countryside.

In one truck, a hole was smashed in the floor for use as a lavatory. In most cases, the men had no choice but to hang their bare behinds over the tailgate and let go, sometimes four at a time -

which must have been quite an extraordinary sight for the people of the villages on the convoy's route. Quite an idea for fertilizing fields! It did not take long for the convoy to make attempts to stop for a few minutes every hour in order to give the men an opportunity to relieve themselves at the side of the road.

This memory brings to mind one of the most unusual photos ever taken. At one stop, squatting in the snow along the long line of truck was an seemingly endless row of bare bottoms - I am still looking for the photo! Although feeling smug at the time, I was the only one struck with the "bug" after arriving in Holland.

The Funny Side

The following tales are from Dick Creelman, a D-Day veteran, via Monty Marsden. Both Monty and Dick live in British Columbia.

One day shortly after D-Day, Creelman and Acorn, feeling very fatigued, fell asleep in a shallow slit trench. In the dead of night, Acorn was suddenly and rudely awakened by a tremendous weight on his face. A great beast had wandered into the slit trench area. A cow had stepped on his face, thereby avoiding any serious injury to the tough Para or his bovine visitor.

On a nice sunny day, Sgt. Halsa and Creelman were sunning themselves near the yellow identification panels they had laid out. As they looked up saw six Typhoons, they commented, "Thank God they are ours." Just then, the leader peeled off with the rest following. Sgt. Halsa said, "Jesus, they are heading for us." Creelman dove into the slit trench first as those SOBs chewed up the ground on either side of us. It sounded like a freight train in a tunnel. To this day, Creelman doesn't know how he ended up on top, exposed bottoms up, with Halsa underneath.

When Sgt. Treleven and Creelman were at LeMesnil, in a brick yard area, there was a four-storey house with an enemy sniper hidden on top. He shot Sgt. Treleven's ear off. When a comment was passed about getting rid of that bastard, Treleven said, "Leave him there. He is such a lousy shot. The next one may be an expert."

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association Annual Report

by CWO (ret) Brian Budden, CD, Association President

Back in July, 1998, nine D-Day veterans of the QOR were invited to check out the Steven Spielberg hit movie Saving Private Ryan and then to participate in a round table discussion. The participants included Alex Adair, Dick Ayton, Joe Oggy, Ken Scott, Jack Hadley, Jack Martin, Orv Cooke, Doug Hester and Dave Kingston.

Association Shoot, D-Day Parade - June 6th 1998

The Annual Association Shoot at Niagara-on-the-Lake, which followed the D-Day Parade at the Armoury, was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Rob Grieve, with the help of Harry McCabe, Gerry Senetchko and support from the Regiment, especially Major John Fotheringham and the PMC of the Officer's Mess Major Erik Simundson. The year's top shoot was Ken Gregory - Good shooting Ken!

Warrior's Day Parade - August 22nd 1998

The Association came second again at the Annual Warrior's Day Parade at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition, for the Goodyear Remembrance Trophy for the unit. The President thanks all members who participated, in particular the Vets and Colour Party under Joe Smith, and the vets that met at the Grandstand. The Awards Dinner was the

third year in a row that the Association was presented with a plaque, which is on display at our showcase at RCL Branch 344 in the Rifleman Room. Members who would like to donate or loan any QORC memorabilia should contact President CWO (ret) Brian Budden at (905) 567-4975.

Canada Normandy Project - June Beach Centre

This project under the direction of Garth Webb and Lise Cooper is in progress. The Centre is scheduled to open on June 6th, 2000. President Brian Budden has contribution forms and information pamphlets for those who wish to contribute to the project funding - income tax receipts will be provided for contributions of \$20.00 or more. He can be reached at (905) 567-4975. The address for the project is: Children's Association, 14th Field Regiment (R.C.A.), 2407 Woodward Ave., Unit 24, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 4J2.

CSM Charles Cromwell Martin, DCM, MM, Memorial Award

This award will be presented at every Christmas Dinner by the commanding Officer, in honour of Charlie Martin, in recognition of all the qualities that Charlie emphasised as an individual -

Continued on page 37



WO2 Harry Fox, MBE, former RSM of the QOR and war-time RSM of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, at Remembrance services in Toronto, November 1998.

As we approach the millennium, I would like to start by paying tribute to our QOR Veterans and members of the Association who passed away this year.

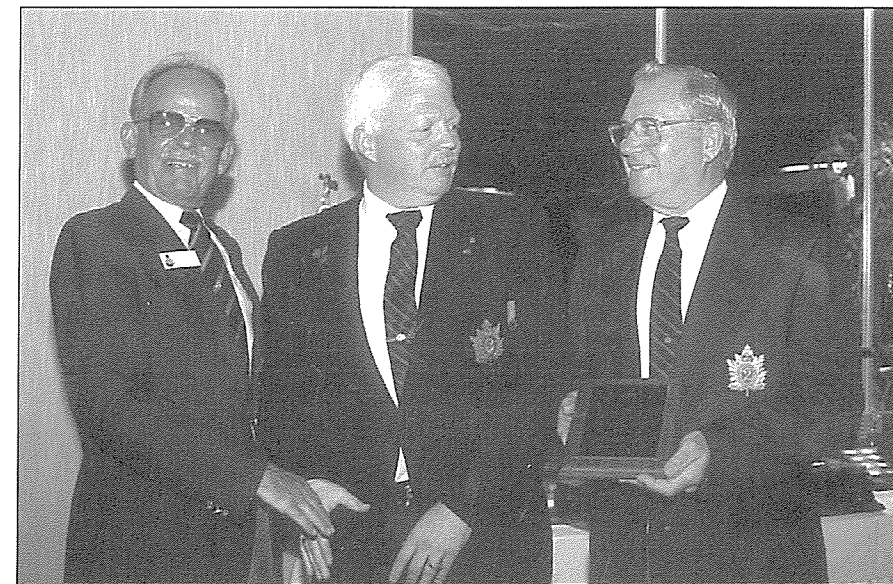
To our fallen comrades:

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.

1998 has been a very active year, made possible by the hard work of the Executive Directors of the Association, whom the President would like to personally thank: Harry McCabe, Vice President; Harry Rollo, Treasurer; Fred Haire, Secretary; Cliff Ashdown, Auditor; Gus Amodeo; Andy MacNaughton, Past President; Art Gay, Membership; Rob Grieve, Association Shoot Rep.

Activities of the Past Year

Saving Private Ryan Roundtable Discussion



Warrior's Day Award Dinner- Friday October 2nd 1998
Receiving 2nd Place Plaque from Warrior's Day Executive Mr. Burns - President Brian Budden and Director Frank Pearce.



15 soldiers from two Allied Regiments, 4RGJ and 5PWRR, joined the QOR for Ex Steadfast Warrior.



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- Receiving a quick warning order to assemble all para-qualified personnel in the company to prepare for a raid upon the FIBUA site. The plan was to jump from a US Chinook, link up with the remainder of the company, and launch an assault upon a group of buildings immediately west of the drop zone.

After an exciting (and crowded) jump from the CH147, aided by our JM friend, Master Sergeant T. Roch Lambiris ("Sgt Rock"), from the 19th Special Forces Group in Ohio, we arrived at the RV to find:



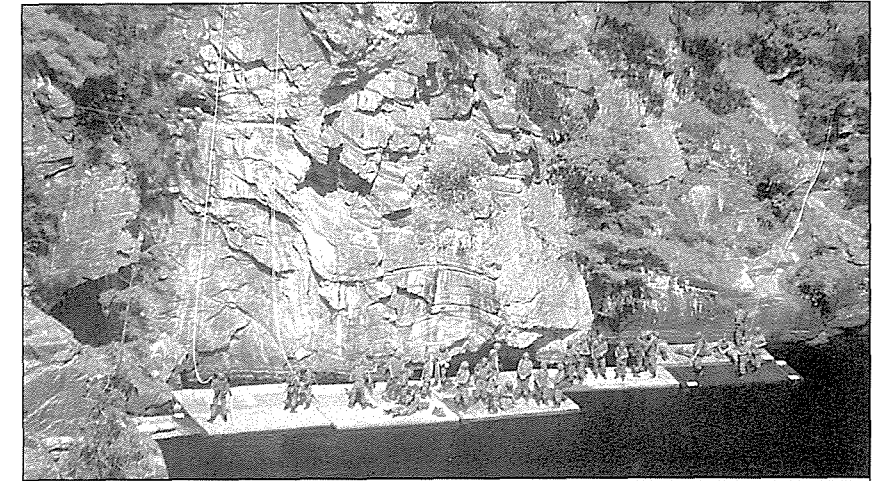
Sergeant (now WO) Mark Shannon at Ex Steadfast Warrior.

- a. the link-up with the rest of the company was not going to happen;
- b. that there were only 12 men available to carry on with the mission;
- c. intelligence reports indicated up to 35 personnel on the objective; and
- d. the CO expected us to carry on with the mission.

Sgt Thorn, using airborne initiative, suggested that we do the unexpected, commandeer an LSVW, and drive right onto the objective. Falling back on higher HQ policy i.e. "It's never been done that way before, so request denied", I initially had my doubts, but was persuaded to come around. With the help of Captain Bob Martyn, DCO of 2 Intelligence Company, who'd jumped with us and was able to talk our vehicle through a couple of checkpoints, we were able to drive to the edge of the compound without a shot being fired, surprise the building occupants, and secure the site within minutes.

- Strong air support from 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton and some U.S. C-130s, as well as the Canadian Parachute Centre and 2CER for the airborne phases.

This summer's Steadfast Warrior will feature more of the same, and riflemen can look forward to another exciting exercise this August.



Following a cliff-rappel, QOR soldiers await engineer assault boats on the Petawawa River at Ex Steadfast Warrior.



Lieutenant Marcus Butlin, 5 PWRR, (right) receives a briefing on the Coyote armoured recon vehicle in Petawawa.