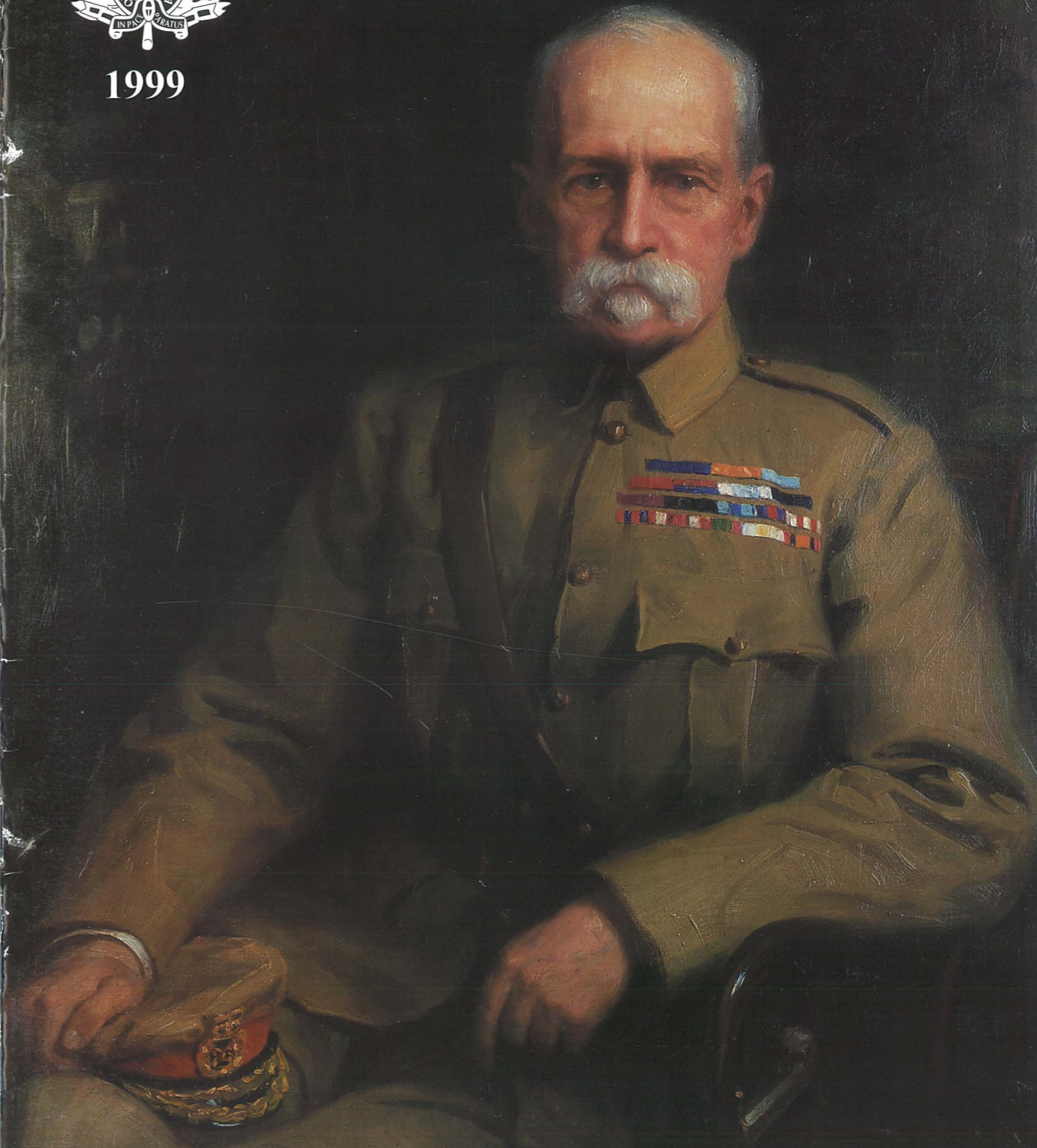


The Rifleman

The Journal of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

1999





DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1999 - MAY 2000

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

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

- ARBER, Jack C.
- BROWN, Herbert F.
- CHALK, David
- COCKBURN, Colin J.L. (Curly)
- CRISP, Alford G.
- DE SOLLA, John A.
- DOWN, Keith G.
- EAGER, Frank Morley
- FISHER, Orville
- HACKNEY, O. Newton
- HASKINS, Allan C. (Punchy)
- HILCHEY, Kenneth T.
- HOLT, Alan
- HORE, Norman E.
- HURLEY, William C.
- JOHNSON, Bernard (Bernie)
- JOHNSTON, H. Trueman
- KARR, W.
- KUSHNIRYK, Stephen
- LAVALLEE, Cyril J.
- LLOYD, Allan
- MALCOLM, Thomas B.
- MATHER, Fred
- MCADAM, Tom
- MCMANUS, Lawrence J.
- MCDONALD, Vance
- MURRAY, Alwyn W. (Al)
- PERRIER, William F.
- POSTMA, Louwert (Jerry)
- ROBERTSON, James B.
- SCHULER, Ted
- SMUCK, John E.
- SUDES, Gorden (Red)
- TANNAHILL, Doug K.
- TASCONA MM, Frank
- TAYLOR, Gorden S.
- TELLIER, John Paul Omer
- THOMPSON, Morris A.
- TILLEY, James A. (Jim)
- UNDERHILL, Lawrence T.R.
- VAN SCHAİK, William F.
- VENNARD, Ernest L.
- WAHN, Ian G.
- ZAHARIA, Thomas R.

Editorial

Lt T.L. Foulds, CD

The year 1999 was more than just an opportunity to carry on the planning and preparations for celebrations of the Millennium and the Regiment's one hundred and fortieth birthday. Significant training activity took place, and the unit responded with alacrity to requests for support from the local community. The Queen's Own placed very well in the viability assessment. The Regiment continued to excel during the course of a year that some would describe as routine.

since before confederation has been extraordinary and inspiring. It is the combination of the energy and dedication of current and former members of the Regiment, together in context with the our rich history of exemplary and extraordinary service, that ensures the Regiment will be appreciated both by the military and the community from which we are drawn.

The incredibly high level of commitment demonstrated by those serving, and those assisting with preparations for the Regiment's 140th birthday celebrations, was awe-inspiring. Upon reflection, the service The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada has provided to the citizens of this country

This year in The Rifleman we have tried to bring together the record of this year's activities with bits of the Regiment's rich history from the past. It is essential that we remember the past traditions of the Regiment. The stories and the deeds of those who have served and form the Regiment in years that came before us, will help to inform and inspire those whose deeds now make up the Regiment's present history.



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The Colonel In Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

Editor's Acknowledgment

Lt. T.L. Foulds, CD

This edition of The Rifleman would not have been possible without superb support from all contributors and from the many who worked diligently in key preparation tasks. We thank the assistant editors, Maj John Fotheringham, CD and Capt Raziel Zisman, CD, for their valuable contributions and consultations. Both of these fine gentlemen are past editors of this journal, a position the current editor aspires to achieve. Sgt. Art Gay at RHQ continues his dedicated efforts in keeping track of the location of members of the regiment, and those receiving this magazine do so as a result of Art's hard work.

I must acknowledge the work and advice of the publishing assistant, Beth Parker, who has to a large degree co-ordinated the production of this journal. Her assistance has been of tremendous value to the editor and has added an extra measure of professionalism to the process of putting The Rifleman together.

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 have tried to avoid errors and typos, and to seek permission for use of material where required. The Editor assumes responsibility for any that remain.

Computer Design and Layout

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Cover Credits

Front cover: The image on the front cover is that of Field Marshall Lord Roberts, of Kandahar, V.C. K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., first Honorary Colonel. It was painted by J.W.L. Forester, was recently refurbished through the kind generosity of Col Paul Hughes, and hangs in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Officers' Mess at Moss Park Armoury, Toronto. A story about Field Marshal Roberts appears elsewhere in this journal. Photograph by Christopher Lawson, Christopher Lawson Photography.

Back cover: Sgt Paton completing his 100th jump at Para Ex Rapid Descent on February 19, 2000.

Inside front cover: WO Shannon keeps watch over DZ Gorvad during Exercise Rapid Descent, 19 Feb 2000. Photo by Captain Adam Saunders.

Inside Back cover: Riflemen marching in Petawawa, Ex Steadfast Warrior 1999.

Honorary Colonel's Report

BGen (retd) D.A. Pryer, CD

Honorary Colonel

All members of the Regiment are to be congratulated for a successful year in 1999. The serving Battalion fulfilled its tasks well in training, parachuting, fitness, and administration. The Band and Bugles continue to provide excellent music, despite the involuntary down-sizing they were ordered to implement five years ago. The Pioneers and Skirmishers keep up their traditions. The Associations in Toronto and other cities keep up the Queen's Own spirit with a real sense of teamwork and camaraderie. A number of former members give freely of their time to support the Regimental Museum at Casa Loma, the Regimental Headquarters at Moss Park Armoury, and the Regimental Kit Shop.

Former members took considerable trouble to equip and upgrade a proper display for our Regiment in the new Calgary Museum of the Regiments. Many are giving freely of their time to make the 140th Birthday a memorable occasion.

We are truly a Regimental family. It only works because of the dedication and support of so many. As we approach our 140th Regimental Birthday on 26 April 2000, I would particularly like to thank the former members of the 1st and 2nd (Regular) Battalions who continue to exemplify the Queen's Own spirit despite the long distance in time from their former battalions, and the long distance in space from Toronto. Your continued contact, interest, and support are recognized and deeply appreciated.

As we come to celebrate our Birthday in April 2000 I ask all of you — serving soldiers, former Riflemen, friends of the Regiment, veterans, and relatives of those who have passed away — to remember why we are here as a Regiment. It is to support Canada in whatever way we are asked. By continuing to serve Canada and our community, the Queen's Own will still be Canada's oldest continuously serving infantry Regiment, 140 years from now.

IN PACE PARATUS



11th Annual Airborne Luncheon, RCM, May 2000. 2Lt Andrew Schneppenheim, Capt Adam Saunders, Lt Wil Beardmore, Col Fraser Eadie, LCol Steve Brand, BGen Don Pryer.

The
Juno
Beach
Centre



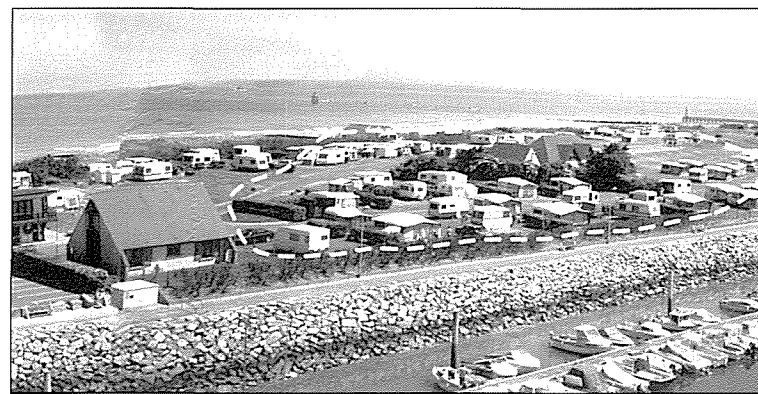
The Juno Beach Centre

By Lt Garth Webb, GPO, 14th Field Regt (RCA) D-Day Veteran

After four years of negotiations with the town of Bernières-sur-mer things were at a standstill. In April John Clemes, our new Associate Director in Paris, was advised by the Mayor of nearby Courseulles-sur-mer that a prime piece of land could be made available for the planned Juno Beach Centre - at no cost to the project. Things moved rapidly from this point and culminated with the recent signing of the initial agreement.

On the 6th of June 2000 the corner-stone ceremony took place in Courseulles-sur-mer in France on the site of the planned Juno Beach Centre which will be constructed in memory of the Canadians who fought and died in World War II. In attendance were members of the Juno Beach Centre - Garth Webb, President, Lise Cooper, Secretary-Treasurer, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Courseulles-sur-mer and many veterans. We were joined by an official Canadian government delegation which included MP Peter Goldring, Edmonton East and MP Pat O'Brien, London-Fanshawe. As well QOR Bugler Allan Day and Drummer Jack Harris were there to support the unveiling along with long-time friends of the QOR, Roger and Raymonde Alexandre and Mary Bennett. CTV news covered the activities as well.

The Juno Beach Centre Project began in 1994. A group of veterans from many of the units that participated in D-Day decided to do something about the fact that there was a lack of a Canadian focal point in the Normandy area to mark the incredible contribution made by Canadians in Europe



Future site of the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles, France.

during World War II. This was particularly noticeable during the 1994 D-Day + 50 ceremonies in France when many Canadian veterans visited the Normandy beaches and the areas over which they had fought fifty years previously.

Aided by younger citizens who appreciate the sacrifices made by their countrymen half-a-century earlier, The Juno Beach Centre Project became a commitment to create a Canadian World War II living educational memorial on Juno Beach at Courseulles-sur-mer. The Juno Beach Centre will commemorate the sacrifices of all Canadian men and women who fought and died for the cause of freedom in all theatres of operation during World War II - including the Battle of Normandy. Hundreds of details require attention in addition to raising the \$1.5 Million needed to develop the Juno Beach site, construct the building and create the displays. It is expected that the Centre will include computer-based displays which will detail the contributions of the Navy, the Army, and Air Force. The Centre is now scheduled to open on 6 June 2002.

Government funding will provide a portion of the money required for the content, but the support of individual Canadians, corporations, groups and associations, and foundations is essential to make this a reality. The Juno Beach Centre Project has worked closely with The Queen's Own Rifles since its inception.

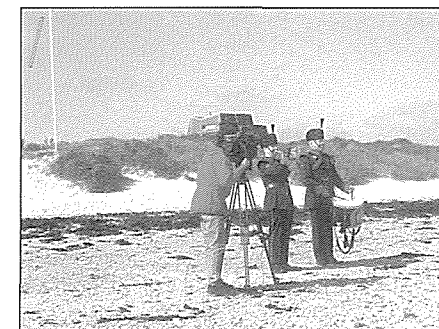
The Project will incorporate a Memorial Garden into the architectural plan for the Centre. The walled garden will consist of

thousands of bricks, each bearing the name of a Canadian veteran of WWII 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)

All donors will be acknowledged in a Donors' Book to be placed 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
Toll free 1 877 828 5866
e-mail lisecooper@home.com

Visit the Project's website at www.junobeach.org



CTV filming Bugler Cpl Allan Day and drummer Jack Harris playing the last post.



Unveiling the cornerstone at Juno Beach.

Editors Note: The Hon Col, BGen Pryer, informed me that for the past four years the Juno Beach Committee had tried unsuccessfully to obtain land at Bernières-sur-mer. Regrettably the town of Bernières stipulated that its support could only be given to a project which incorporated not more than a 10% military content - the majority of content must be cultural in nature. Obviously this did not fit well with a military project. The QOR has now endorsed the move to Courseulles and will continue to support this worthy project and urges all of its members to contribute generously. The town of Courseulles is a very pleasant place to visit and will draw many more visitors than Bernières. This new site has a commanding view of Juno Beach, including the QOR landing areas at neighbouring Bernières-sur-mer. The Regiment plans to unveil a significant QOR display within the Juno Beach Centre. Donations made to the QOR trust fund will be eligible for a tax receipt. The brick program is an excellent way to honour a friend or family member. Bricks must be purchased directly from the Juno Beach Centre Committee. It should be noted that the QOR already provides strong support to The Battle of Normandy Foundation educational program as well as to Le Memorial in Caen - projects which Gen Belzile and LCol Danson are associated with. These two projects are independent of the Juno Beach Centre.

Orville Fisher - Official War Artist 1911-1999

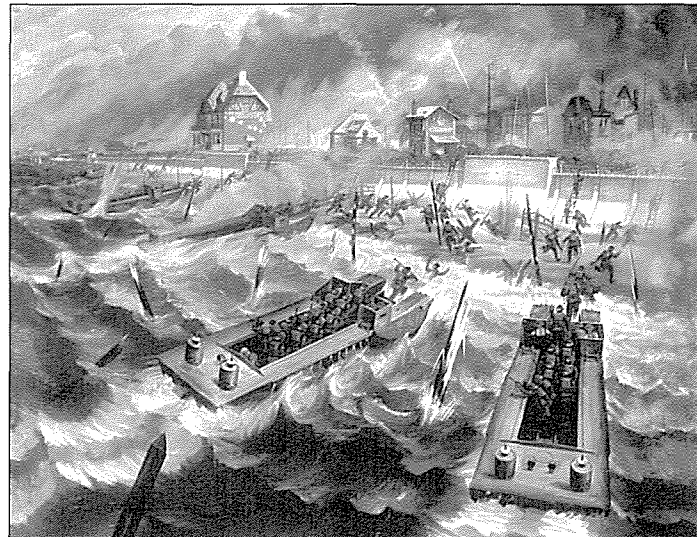
Laura Brandon

Orville Fisher passed away on 12 July 1999. His paintings of the Second World War are one of the most complete records of Canada's day-to-day role in that conflict. Perhaps his chief claim to fame is that he was the only allied war artist actually to land in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944. This achievement is all the more extraordinary given the fact that he almost never made it overseas in the first place.

Fisher worked as a service artist with the Canadian Army starting in February 1942, and a year later became an Official War Artist. He did not re-enter civilian life until July 1946. As a war artist, and undoubtedly as a person, Fisher was a determined and creative man. Nowhere is this clearer than in the preparations he made for the D-Day landing, when he strapped a sketchbook to his arm so that he could make quick sketches as he raced ashore. Unlike fellow war artist Charles Comfort's reconstruction of the August 1942 Dieppe Raid that was created four years after the event in the peace and security of a studio, Fisher's D-Day — The Assault was based on a real-life experience of action replete with all the turmoil and blood. Attached to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, Fisher landed on the beach at Courseulles-sur-Mer on 6 June 1944. For those who were not there, his experience can arguably be said to have been recreated in all its horror for today's generation in the first 20 minutes of Stephen Spielberg's film Saving Private Ryan.

D-Day — The Assault was the sort of composition Fisher excelled at. A browse through the hundreds of works he completed in the collection of the Canadian War Museum show an artist whose interests lay in the action of war rather than in the ravaged landscapes that had typified the art of the First World War. His soldiers are always doing something, his tanks and vehicles

are always going somewhere, his vessels are always sailing resolutely towards shore. This determination always to move forward characterizes his history as a war artist. Obstacles were there to be overcome.



Orville Fisher's painting of The Queen's Own landing at Bernières-sur-Mer on D-Day. The picture has been missing since the early 1970's.

Before the war, Fisher's career as a working artist had been largely as a painter of murals for buildings and churches in the Vancouver area, in partnership with fellow future Official War Artists Paul Goranson and E.J. Hughes. Upon learning the news that war had been declared in September 1939, the trio determined that their artistic skills should be put to use in some sort of official military capacity. Within two weeks of the outbreak of war, they wrote to the director of the National Gallery of Canada, H.O. McCurry, seeking employment as war artists.

With no response forthcoming, Fisher joined the Royal Canadian Engineers in August 1940. However, at some point his earlier correspondence appears to have come to the attention of the director of the Historical Section in Ottawa, A. Fortescue Duguid, who began to make use of Fisher and Hughes as war artists in Ottawa in the hopes that a more serious program might develop.

On 5 February 1943, the Canadian War

Artists' Control Committee in Ottawa recommended the appointment of Fisher as an Official War Artist. Fisher set sail for England in September 1943.

As an artist he worked indefatigably. Countless detailed sketches in the Canadian War Museum demonstrate that he earned his position as one of Canada's notable war artists through hard work. Innumerable detailed studies of hands, of equipment, and of dress attest to an ongoing apprenticeship with the material of war that was to stand him in good stead when he crossed to France on D-Day and had to work fast and accurately to capture the action. From his cheerful 1941 recruiting image Recruits Wanted to the drama of his Stormont, Dundas and Glengary Highlanders Advancing in Caen his war art has remained popular. His

best painting is probably the unusual work called Battle for Carpiquet Airfield. Here he combines his preferred grouping of soldiers on the move with an over-arching cathedral-like panoply of twisted metal. More than any other of his compositions it shows an artist who had moved beyond the mere documentary to true engagement with his creative gifts.

Battle for Carpiquet Airfield is an exception because, over the six years that he was a war artist, Fisher largely rejected experimental art forms in favour of painting from the perspective of the ordinary soldier.

These are the works that veterans most admire, and it is probably through Fisher's paintings more than those of any artist, that they can best relive their own experiences. For this alone, his war art is an enduring achievement.

Laura Brandon, Canadian Military History, Volume 9, Number 1, Winter 2000, pp. 56-59.

Commanding Officer's Report

LCol B.G. McEachern, CD

We continued to build on our strengths in 1999.

Training: 60th Company (the rifle company) continued its training until June under the command of Capt Adam Saunders, assisted by his Coy Ops O (Capt Al Champion), CSM (MWO Ken Kominek), and platoon commanders (Lt Karl Haupt and Lt Derek Poteralski).

City of Toronto Snow Removal: Toronto experienced near record snow accumulations in mid-January 1999 and the municipal government was concerned about snow removal. DND responded to Mayor Mel Lastman's request for help and authorized the call-out of the local militia and some Regular Force personnel. As a result, Capt Saunders' 60th Company troops did not attend basic winter indoc in Meaford as planned (Ex Polar Warrior 1, Jan 15th — 17th), but formed part of a composite militia company at Fort York Armoury to shovel snow from bus shelters, drainage grates, etc. for the weekend. It wasn't winter indoc, but helping the public is part of our job.

Winter/Spring training exercises: Ex Polar Warrior 2 was the company's winter warfare Ex in Meaford (Feb 12th — 14th). I observed 60th Company conduct some good training. The proximity of Brigade Headquarters and their helicopters was a mixed blessing.

At Ex Final 25 (Borden, March 19th - 21st), our Regular Force support personnel (Capt Steve Tibbetts of the RCR & WO Perry Gresty of the PPCLI)

set up several trenches at Fox Field firing range to be assaulted with live fire and movement (pairs and assault groups). A GPMG firing live on one flank added some noise and a boundary to watch out for. The slaughterhouse guts stuffed into enemy uniforms by WO Gresty's crew added some smell for the bayonet practice in the final assault! I observed the staff teach our soldiers the use of the 2-grenade method for trench clearing.

I also observed Capt Saunders' company practise platoon advance to contact and hasty attacks at Ex Steadfast 1 in Meaford (May 14th - 16th) in preparation for the summer exercise. We had 63 troops on the exercise, thanks to Capt Saunders, his platoon commanders, and the NCO's. The RSM and I visited Ex Raw Steel in Borden (Jun 18th - 20th), where the RSM's team came 2nd on the nav march.

Machine Gun Course: The Brigade QL4 Infantry Machine Gun course which began in the fall of 1998 was completed in May with great success under the leadership of our Regular Force cadre (Capt Tibbetts and WO Gresty). The principal instructors were Sgt Al Couture, Sgt Jeff Syer, Sgt Justin Thorn, MCpl Matthew Kohler, and Cpl Thane Gamble.

The course had to deal with very dry conditions on the ranges. This led to numerous (and unavoidable) small grass fires that were quickly extinguished by course staff. The CFB Borden range control staff, however, were convinced

that Capt Tibbetts was an arsonist trying to burn down the base.

I observed the MG training in Meaford in late March, and again in May when they employed the C6 GPMG and the .50 cal HMG in the anti-aircraft role. The ever-inventive WO Gresty talked members of a model airplane flying club into flying miniature model planes on the range at Meaford on a beautiful spring day for target practice. He and Capt Tibbetts talked me into buying several planes, assuring me the motors would never get hit. (In fact, the motors were blown to smithereens along with the rest of the planes, but that's what training is for...). Congratulations to Cpl Mike Chisholm for destroying one of them.

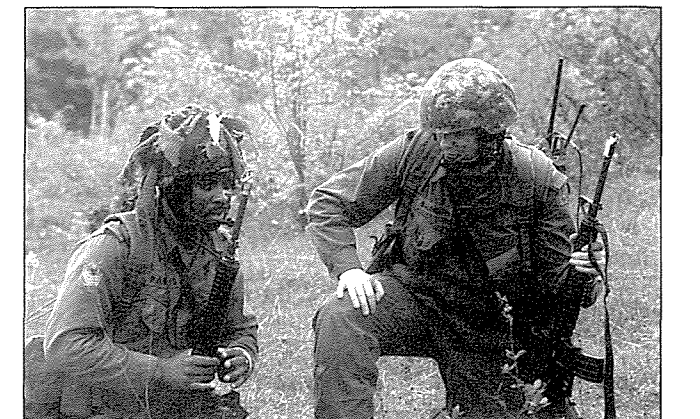
That was the culmination of the course, and I reviewed the course grad parade that evening at Moss Park Armoury. Directives have recently been issued by the Army removing the .50 cal MG from almost all militia courses, including the QL 4 Machine Gun course, so our 16 graduates may have been the last to get hands-on experience with it for some time.

After the course, I noticed a definite improvement in our depth for employing the C6 GPMG on exercise, as our long-standing core of qualified machine gunners finally had some company.

New Soldiers: I limited our intake in January 1999 to 13 new soldiers, for one year only, to use some of our



On the move, Ex Polar Warrior 2, Meaford, Feb 99.



Ex Steadfast I, Meaford, May 99.

instructors on other tasks and give other staff a breather for one summer. Many of the staff have taught in Meaford every summer for several years, away from their families.

The first portion of the Brigade-wide QL2 (Recruit) course ran from January to late May every second weekend, under the command of Maj Erik Simundson (OC Gurkha Coy). 2Lt Andrew Schneppenheim served as the platoon officer, and MWO Scott Patterson was the CSM. Primary instructors were MCpl Mike Bowers, MCpl Rebecca Hanbidge-Kock, MCpl Dave Harmes, and MCpl Erica Mark.

The 10 successful candidates completed the QL3 Infantry course in Meaford in July and August. Capt Tibbetts was 2IC of the company, and their instructors included Sgt Justin Thorn, MCpl Bowers, MCpl Mark, Cpl Jesse Behan, and Cpl Thane Gamble. I was pleased to present the grads with their Queen's Own cap badges at the end of their grad parade in August. However, I was not happy they only got onto the obstacle course once during the course, only did 30 minutes of fairly light PT a day, and did only one day of section tactics prior to the final Ex. I made my views known to the Meaford Battle School, who were already grappling with this problem. After many years of lengthening the course to handle all the requirements, a proposal is in the works to eliminate some of the less necessary training and stick to the basics of infantry soldiering.

Our new soldiers are in fact well trained, and integrated well with the experienced soldiers at summer camp and into unit training in the fall. I am very pleased with their performance.

Leadership training: Five QOR candidates successfully endured many weekends of generic CF leadership training on the 32 CBG CF Junior Leaders Course in Toronto & Meaford in the November 1998 - May 1999 period: Cpls Edmund Chien, Jason Chin-Leung, Gord Harse, Rick Kurelo, and Coogan Wilson. Sgt Doug Halcro from The QOR was one of their instructors. I visited them in Meaford in the late winter, and was pleased to see them all graduate at Moss Park in May.

Cpl Harse was promoted to MCpl in



MCpl Kohler, Ex Steadfast Warrior, Petawawa, Aug 99. (See also page 15)
Photo courtesy of 32 CBG Public Affairs

June, as the JLC was his last requirement for promotion in the Band. Cpls Chin-Leung, Gamble, and Kurelo went on to complete the very demanding **Junior NCO Course** for infantry soldiers at the RCR Battle School in the late spring, where their instructors were Reg Force RCR NCO's. I was honoured to be the Reviewing Officer at their grad parade in Petawawa in June, and received positive reports from their NCOs.

Cpl Chien (our medic) later attended the equivalent Junior NCO course for non-infantry personnel in Petawawa, again instructed by Reg Force NCO's. While attending his grad parade, some exasperated instructors told me that he isn't shy about voicing his opinions. I told them I knew this to be true. I didn't mention his 125 plus colleagues in The Queen's Own with the same tendency.

Cpls Chin-Leung and Gamble were promoted to MCpl when they completed their prerequisites later in the year. Together with the Cpls who have completed their Junior NCO course, we have a small group of excellent new junior leaders.

Other courses: Congratulations to WO Pete Campbell who successfully completed his QL 7 (MWO) course in

the summer.

Several soldiers completed QL 4 Comms training during the year. By the fall, only 2 soldiers lacked the QL 4 course necessary for promotion to Cpl, other than the 10 new QL 3 graduates. The unit QL 4 programme in 1999 - 2000 was thus a great success, thanks to the hard work of our Operations & Training office and our instructors. We do not need to get heavily involved in QL 4 training again until late in 2000.

2Lt Marco Petta returned from several months of civilian work in London, England just in time to be packed off in June to the three Lt qualifying courses for non-students who cannot take two full summers for RESO training (MITCP Basic Classification Training — Infantry). He consistently placed in the top third, and received a well deserved promotion to Lt in the fall.

OCdt Fadi Dar-Ali and 2Lt Paul Benjamin passed their RESO Phase 1 and 2 (Infantry) courses in Gagetown in the summer, and were substantiated as 2nd Lieutenants in the fall.

Report Card error: I was surprised to open the *Toronto Star* in mid-June and read on page three we'd failed our 1998 viability Report Card, especially since

Field-Marshal Lord Roberts (1832-1914) — A Brief History



Frederick Sleigh Roberts (cover photograph)
Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar, V.C., K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
1st Earl Roberts of Kandahar, Pretoria, and Waterford

Born in Cawnpore, India, on the 30th September 1832, Field Marshall Lord Roberts 1st Earl Roberts of Kandahar (pronunciation: kanduhär) was the son of General Sir Abraham Roberts. He was educated at Eton, Sandhurst and Addiscombe.

Roberts joined the Bengal artillery in 1851 and fought with distinction in the Indian Mutiny (1857-58), earning the Victoria Cross. By 1875 he was Quartermaster General of the Indian army and a strong advocate of the "forward" policy of controlling the Himalayan passes to forestall Russian encroachments. This then became the general defensive policy of the British in India. He became a popular British hero for the relief of Kandahar in the second Afghan War (1878-80).

Roberts was made Commander in Chief of the Madras army in 1880 and of the entire Indian forces in 1885. In 1893 he returned to England and wrote his reminiscences, *Forty-one Years in India (1897)*. He became Field Marshal in 1895.

In 1899, when the English were meeting reverses at the hands of the Boers in the South African War, Roberts was appointed Commander in Chief. Aided by his Chief of Staff, Horatio Kitchener,

Roberts reorganized the transport system, achieving a mobility that had been lacking. By late 1900 the war seemed near a successful conclusion, and Roberts was brought home. There he was awarded an Earldom, and appointed Commander in Chief of the British Army. His office was abolished in 1904, and thereafter he devoted himself to the advocacy of compulsory military service for home defense.

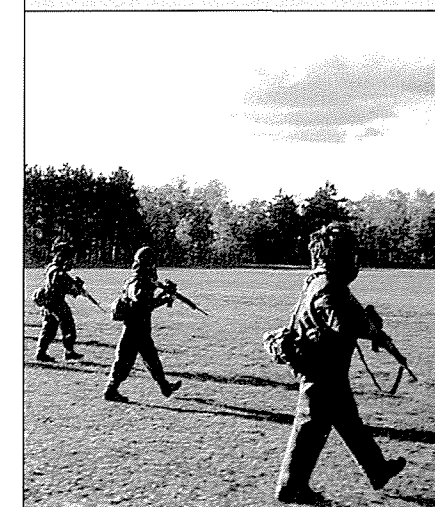
Roberts was always known to be very charming. He was probably one of the most popular and loved officers of his time and his men admired and even adored him. Popular myth has it that FM Roberts, known affectionately as "Bobs" to his troops, inspired the expression "Bobs your uncle", meaning you have nothing to worry about.

By Lt. T.L. Foulds, compiled from sources on the internet, and the Regimental History



13 kilometre Battle Fitness Test, Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.

Live fire in NBC gear, Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.



Traditions of a Rifle Brigade

Capt Adam Hermant CD

The Rifle Brigade, not really a brigade but a regiment, was once the 95th of Foot, but after 1915 its order of precedence was last and it always stood on parade to the left of all other infantry regiments. When there were a hundred regiments, its place was the 101st; when a new regiment was added, it moved to remain at the end. One might imagine that at one time it had disgraced itself and so was doomed forever to be last, but such was not the case. The regiment was taken "out of the line" as a reward for its gallant conduct at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The regiments of the line were numbered from 1 to (eventually) 109, plus the unnumbered rifle brigade. By General Order No. 70 of 1881, numbers were abolished, but some regiments were inordinately fond of them and continued to use them long afterwards. Others did not use their numbers even when they were part of their official titles. The 3rd of Foot, for example, was generally known as the "Buffs", however, the King's Royal Rifle Corps liked 60th, its name and number, and was known as the 60th Rifles.

Every regiment is proud of being different, but no one takes such diligence in what it calls its "separateness" as the Rifle Brigade. It is jealous of its distinction of being out of line and having no number or fixed place (except last) in the order of precedence. Like its sister regiment, the King's Royal Rifle Corps, it dressed in green, wore black buttons and spoke with disdain of the red-coated regiments as the "red army".

Certain commands, such as "attention" and "Slope Arms" - now "Shoulder Arms" were never used. Indeed the rifle was never carried at or on the shoulder, but always at the trail. Bayonets were called swords; privates were called riflemen.

Rifle Brigade officers pride themselves on never using slang or abbreviations, and subaltern officers and captains never saying "sir" to their seniors. Subalterns (second lieutenants and lieutenants) are known as and are addressed as mister.

The Rifle Brigade has a marching pace which is faster than other line regiments. This can make it rather unpopular at

parades. A very close fraternal feeling developed between riflemen in an era when most officers paid little attention to the concerns of the soldiers under their command, and some even regarded the other ranks as a "damned nuisance"....

The Rifle Brigade was also known for its ability to collect mascots and pets. In 1899 when a battalion of the Rifle Brigade left Crete to fight the Boers in South Africa, it carried with it a badger, two ibexes and, of course, a full complement of dogs. Soldiers and dogs always seem to go together and in the Rifle Brigade, it was no exception. Many dogs faithfully followed their masters into battle, for although soldiers were never able to smuggle their wives or sweethearts on board troop ships, they were remarkably successful in bringing their pets on board.

Except for the Guards (who were seldom in peacetime stationed outside Britain) all regiments spent time in one of the far flung posts of the growing British Empire. In 1868, out of 110 regiments of the line, 47 were at home. The 3rd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade was in India from 1878 to 1905, the longest stay of any battalion abroad in the Victorian and Edwardian era. Some of the officers' wives followed their husbands to war and overseas postings.

Prior to 1880 the first twenty-five infantry regiments of the line were all two-battalion regiments; however, the Rifle Brigade and the King's Royal Rifle Corps had four battalions each, while the

remaining line regiments had but one battalion.

The King's Royal Rifle Corps, an expensive and exclusive regiment, was sometimes referred to as the "King's Rich Rude Rifles" and during the First World War, due to their cap badge being in the shape of the Maltese cross, it became derisively known as "The Kaiser's Own".

In the days of Queen Victoria and King Edward, the King's Royal Rifle Corps was one of the most expensive and snobbish regiments in the army.

Regiments, like people, acquire friends over the years. During the Boer War, the Gurkhas, from their meager pay subscribed to a fund for the families of fallen soldiers of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, for the 2nd Gurkhas have a special relationship with the Regiment, for they possess part of the mess table on which had been laid the corpses of the Kings Royal Rifles Corps officers slain at Delhi during the mutiny.

Regiments of similar backgrounds and those who served together remain close. In the 1870s, in the midst of an altercation at the theatre at Aldershot, two Rifle Brigade soldiers found themselves being "worsted". One called for help from the Light Division, and this appeal to history and traditional friendship brought soldiers of the 43rd and 52nd Regiments to join the fight.

Excerpts reprinted from The Rifleman, 1988/89, vol. 4, No. 2, page 2.



Art of War exhibition at the Canadian War Museum until January 2001.

I'd received written confirmation months before from Area HQ that we'd passed. After saying the appropriate things through the chain of command, I was pleased to receive a letter in August, which confirmed we had passed. The Chief of the Land Staff (LGen Leach) corrected the error to reflect this. It was publicized in the Brigade newsletter. We let as many people know of the glitch as we could through our own mailings, and I hope all members of the Regimental family received news of the correction.

Other activities in the spring: Maj Martin Delaney handed command of **Victoria Company** (admin) to Capt Sandi Banerjee in March, having commanded Vics successfully for several years. Capt Banerjee was transferred into this job from his position as 2IC of 60th Company. I re-named Vics a Platoon rather than a Company to reflect the fact it has had no more than 20 soldiers for a number of years. However, its commander retains the status of an OC.

Cpl Winston Hewlin, our stalwart Reg Force Cpl for the previous five years, remustered to lineman (!) and was posted to Kingston in March. Not only did he sort out our Transport, Maintenance, and Sigs sections better than they've been in my 23 years in the unit, but he also built our Sigs section into an outstanding team, probably the best in the Brigade. He also served as the very effective PMC of the QOR Junior Ranks Mess, and PMC of the Moss Park Composite Junior Ranks Mess Committee. On top of that, he didn't hesitate to lobby for his ideas about training and the troops' welfare at every opportunity. He had a strict rule: schmooze the highest-ranking person who would listen to him. I call him 'General Hewlin', but I didn't mind, because he had good ideas that were always for the betterment of the unit and the soldiers. We were sorry to lose him.

Our new Reg Force Cpl, Cpl Roger Yeo, arrived from the RCR in Petawawa in the spring. His head was soon spinning with transport paperwork, which wasn't surprising since he wasn't a qualified military driver. But he surprised the sceptics and kept up our scores in Transport and Maintenance at the Brigade inspection last fall, thanks to

his hard work and help from his friends in the unit.

Cpl Craig Hood rejoined us in 1999, having left about 6 years before as a MCpl to do a tour with the Reg Force (PPCLI). The system decided he should be a Cpl on returning to the Reserves but we did not accept this. Eventually I received approval to promote him to MCpl, after he had done a period of penance for his sins.

I was also pleased to welcome Lt Tom Foulds back into the unit, having left us about 3 years earlier to continue his mis-spent middle age with his family and business endeavours. Tom bravely took on the task of editing this magazine, which everyone knows was a stunning success with the 1998 edition he published in mid-1999. He is also working on completing the Battle Fitness Test (13.2 km ruck march), a condition of being with the Queen's Own.

MCpl Mike Bowers joined the BOR staff full-time in April to assist with clerical duties when not instructing in Meaford or with his section on Wednesday nights.

Our Adjutant, Capt Rick Cunningham, spent much of his full-time job at Land Force Central Area HQ in North York during May and June. He was assisting in the co-ordination across Ontario for hundreds of refugees evicted from their homes in Kosovo, Yugoslavia by their government at the start of the NATO

campaign to protect Kosovo. At home, our Armoury was the site for several peaceful anti-NATO demonstrations mounted by Serb-Canadians, protesting CF involvement in the NATO bombing campaign in Serbia. To help Rick in the unit, I appointed our Padre, Capt Craig Cameron, to be full-time Assistant Adjutant in April.

I conducted the annual Inspection of our affiliated **Army 2881 Cadet Corps** in West Hill, Scarborough on a blistering hot day in late May with the RSM and the Band. A dozen cadets received their Private's chevron from their CO, Capt Kim O'Leary, and I gave them their Queen's Own cap badge for completing their first level of training. Their NCO's were intensely proud to be part of our Regimental family, and I was impressed with their keenness and enthusiasm as they demonstrated their skills.

The **Running Team** entered a record (for us) 4 teams of 4 soldiers each in the YMCA Corporate Challenge Run at the Exhibition grounds in early June, under the leadership of WO Mark Shannon. I have participated in this 5 km relay run since 1989 with a civilian team, and it was great to see so many riflemen wearing their green or maroon Queen's Own T-shirts in the public eye and demonstrating their fitness to civilians.

Later in June, Maj Fotheringham, Capt Saunders, and I visited LCol Dan Mitchell, outgoing CO of the **Canadian Parachute Centre** for a day to discuss parachuting standards and training. I



QOR troops at Pearson International Airport, Toronto, prepare for a full-equipment jump into CFB Borden.

also attended his handover of command to LCol Peter Bartlett in July. It was ironic to see a former Reg Force support officer to The Queen's Own in the early 1990's, Capt Gerhard Hildebrandt, posted to the Parachute Centre (couldn't get away from the Queen's Own!) He visited us several times in late 1999 from Trenton, and is always welcome. However, we don't let him forget about 'working' so hard by checking out the Sunshine girl in the *Toronto Sun* with his feet on the CO's desk in the daytime!

Lt Rita Arendz (Band) successfully completed her Militia Officers Staff Course in the spring. Lt Karl Haupt finally stayed out of mischief long enough to be promoted to Capt. Lt Derek Poteralski was later appointed to be his successor as Senior Subaltern.

Ex Steadfast Warrior: The Queen's Own sent two platoons to this weeklong brigade exercise in Petawawa (Aug 21st - 29th). The training exercised offensive operations at the platoon and company level: advance to contact, hasty attack, reconnaissance and fighting patrols, and deliberate attacks. Capt Adam Saunders was the 2IC of the rifle company (composite of Queen's Own and Royal Regiment troops), and MWO Scott Patterson was the Company Sergeant Major. Capt Karl Haupt and 2Lt Andrew Schneppenheim served as platoon commanders, assisted by their 2IC's WO Mark Shannon and Sgt Donovan O'Halloran. Sgt Bill Paton tore out his hair working as CQMS, while his assistant MCpl Inasio Kim didn't have hair to worry about, having shaved it all off.

The platoons were assessed as Effective during the tests conducted by the Brigade evaluation staff, and we turned out over 70 personnel for the same exercise.

Our parachutists jumped into Petawawa from a Herc at the start of camp, and 22 of them later made the first full-equipment jump from a CH 146 (Griffon) helicopter at the start of the FTX. (The staff work for the jump would have had WO Gresty tearing his hair out, but he'd already cut it off too. It's the latest thing for these young guys.)

Lt Elana Burke worked at the composite Service Battalion supporting two infantry battalions, while MWO Sean Kelly worked as RQMS.

September: The annual rotation of officers and NCO's took place in early September. Maj John Fotheringham moved from DCO to OC of 60th Company, leaving the DCO's position vacant. Capt Adam Saunders had been double-hatted as OC of 60th Company and OC of Para Company, and now works solely in the latter job.

We have no DCO in the 1999 - 2000 training year, but Capt Allan Champion, after a successful year as 60th Company



Capt Côté, 2IC 60th Company. Photo courtesy of 32 CBG Public Affairs.

Ops O, assumed responsibility as Battalion Admin Officer for the DCO's pay, finance, budget, Armoury, Mess supervision, computer equipment, and annual inspection duties.

Capt Simon Côté, a qualified parachutist, recently transferred to us from the Fusiliers de Montréal in Québec, was appointed 2IC of 60th Company. Capt Karl Haupt became company Ops O. Lt Derek Poteralski and Sgt Donovan O'Halloran continued with the care and feeding of 2 Platoon, while Lt Marco Petta and Sgt Bill Paton took on that task for 1 Platoon.

Capt Rick Cunningham was tasked at his full-time job at LFCA HQ with a big job preparing for Op Abacus (preparation for possible computer

glitches in the year 2000). This took him out of town a great deal, earning him a commendation from the Deputy Army Commander in the process. He therefore handed over his duties as unit Adjutant to Capt Sandi Banerjee in October.

Capt Banerjee in turn transferred command of Vics Platoon to Capt Rob Zeidler. Capt Zeidler, also a qualified parachutist, rejoined us in 1999 after service in the British Army via another unit in the Toronto militia. Until this switch, Capt Zeidler assisted Capt Saunders with Para Coy planning and preparation. Lt Elana Burke moved from QM to the Training office, and

MWO Ken Kominek moved from CSM of 60th Company to CSM of Para Company, where he assists Capt Saunders planning parachute jumps and loading candidates on para courses.

MWO Scott Patterson returned as CSM of 60th Company after a successful year as CSM of Gurkha Company (recruit training). MWO John Wilmot continued to work as QMSI all year, assisting JLC candidates with homework, running our unit web site on the Internet, and teaching unarmed combat in the fall.

A very welcome return to the unit is 2Lt Chris Donald, who was a fully qualified platoon commander (and full Lt) when he left us some years ago to study for his MBA in London, Ontario and then abroad. The system says he has to return

Besides, I had given an order and could not back down.

He was a big tough man, and it took three husky Provosts to clamp the cuffs on him and escort him (I mean drag him) to the local digger.

In a couple of days, the paper work was done, and he was turned over to the civilian police. So I forgot about him.

However, two or three years after the war, I was walking down Yonge Street near the Masonic temple at Davenport Road when I saw a big man coming toward me. I knew him at once. The man from Eastbourne, and I said to myself, "Oy oy, here is where I get my clock cleaned real good."

But no, he came up, all smiles, wrung my hand, slapped me on the shoulder, and said how pleased he was to see that I had come through without a scratch. After a few minutes of chin wag, we went our way, and as I ankled down to



QOR company conducts assault boat training, Ex Steadfast Warrior, Petawawa, Aug 99

Bloor Street I reflected on how nice it was to have been born lucky instead of rich!

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		BOOKS (Hard Cover)		OTHER REGULAR ITEMS	
Regimental Ties	12.	Canadians A Battalion at War		Reg'l Ice Buckets (Drum)	55.
Regimental Ties Silk	38.	(Roy Whitsed)	25.	Belts - QOR Insignia	20.
Green - QOR Insignia	20.	WWII Book of Remembrance	40.	Baseball Caps- QOR	10.
Regimental Bow Tie	8.			(Regular & Summer)	
		BOOKS (Soft Cover)		Whistle Cords	
WEARING APPAREL (size required)		Battle Diary (CSM Charlie Martin)	15.	-Officers & Senior NCO's	15.
QOR T-Shirts	12.	Fifty Years After (J. Gardham)	15.	-Junior NCO's	10.
QOR Sweat Shirts	23.	Ordinary Heroes (J. Gardham)	15.	Coffee Mugs	5.
QOR Sweat Pants (w/pockets)	23.	Canadian Peacekeeper (J. Gardham)	15.	Regimental Decals - Stickers	2.
Airborne Rifleman T-Shirt	12.	Valour - Victory Campaign (Fowler)	15.	Desk Flags	6.
Airborne Rifleman Sweat Shirt	23.	My Army Days (J.A. Marin)	10.		
QOR Golf Shirt	25.	Casa Loma (Bill Freeman)	15.	MISC. ITEMS	
QOR Sweaters (warm)	25.			D-Day Landing Print	25.
		REGIMENTAL WALL PLAQUES		- signed by Orville Fisher	150.
CRESTS & BADGES		QOR Battle Honours 12x9	30.	Note Cards - per Doz.	9.
Blazer Crests-QOR	20.	Hand Painted U.K. 7x6	60.	Xmas Cards - per Doz.	9.
Windbreaker Crest-QOR	10.			Army Bags (Shoulder)	7.
Windbreaker Crest-QOR Bugle Band	15.	REGIMENTAL BAND RECORDINGS		Small Rifle - Black Metal	4.
		Traditions (1995)	CD 15.	Deck of Cards	10.
JEWELLERY			Cassette 10.	Regimental Treasures Card	2.
QOR Wrist Watches	36.	Silver Bugles (1998)	CD 15.		
QOR Tie Tack	6.		Cassette 10.		
QOR Lapel Pins					
Silver Colour	4.				
QOR Colours	6.				
Bugle Band	6.				
Juno Beach	5.				

cocky crew. We had proved ourselves to all comers.

Some weeks later, all units were being supplied with transport, and the training area in the camp was getting crowded. Infantry would be crawling around trying to hide behind blades of grass, all sorts of vehicles were messing around, and the Field Artillery tractors (pronounced EfHayTees) were the worst. At that time, they were called jeeps, the Americans not yet being in the war and so had not invented the famous vehicle that later got that name.

Some bright soul asked why the Carrier Platoon could not go to the nearest beach, practice convoy control on the way down and back, and practice tactical exercises on the beach with no one else around. The Brass were pleased with the idea, here were men so interested in training that they were thinking up ideas to make it more interesting and practical.

So away they went, and not being a member of Mad Four Platoon, I do not know just what training they carried out, but would think it was on the lines of cops and robbers on tracks.

One of the carriers threw a track and they jumped to it getting it fixed. One man looked up and said "Hey look at the water." Now this was the shore of the Bay of Fundy and the water comes in 50 to 60 feet deep, and comes in quickly.

I would like to have seen that platoon commanders face as he told the CO LCol Harry McKendrick that one of his brand new Bren carriers was gathering rust at the bottom of the Bay. The air must have been blue.

A vehicle casualty report was sent in and the Brigade screamed their heads off. This was, according to them, the worst thing that had happened to the Canadian Army since the War of 1812. And when it was reported to Headquarters, they were furious and sent us a nasty letter saying the Canadian Division was NOT, REPEAT

NOT considering beach assaulting or any other type of water front training. It said, "This practice will cease forthwith".

So we forthwithed, but the damage had been done, and as far as transport work went our name was mud.

Ah well, you know how it goes. Up like a rocket, down like the stick.

The Regiment arrived in England fully equipped with vehicles, and the order came round that all vehicles must have two gas alert signs painted on them in a conspicuous place. These were an ugly yellow and were supposed to turn pink or even red if gas came. As long as they were a certain size, units could use their own design with circles, squares, etc.

Once again, an idea was raised in Mad Four Platoon. Why could we not have a sign that showed a submarine? The idea was approved with the rider that it had to be sent up to Headquarters for approval.

So a sketch was made up and sent to Brigade, Headquarters, the Division HQ, then Corps Headquarters, and maybe as far as CFHQ. I do not think that it had time to go to NDHQ in Ottawa, but it might have.

Now the whole trouble was that each Headquarters decided it needed a modification, and as a result, it came back a heck of a mess and nothing like the sketch that had been submitted. As a matter of fact, it looked horrible, and there was not a thing we could do about it. We had asked for it, now we had to grin and bear it.

When men from other units saw them, they did not grin. They guffawed and then wondered how come we had such a lousy sign. We had to explain and they roared with laughter again. A unit from a country as large as Canada and we did not have enough Moxie to tell dry land from seawater.

The Regiment was in Inverary, Scotland doing advanced training. Part of this training was waterproofing vehicles, so the Transport Platoon started on a jeep, being the smallest.

So they slaved away, and when it was done, only one thing remained. Would it float? So Harry Baxter got in and drove the jeep down the beach and into the water.

And it floated. They were happy. They had done a good job, but the only one thing they had not thought of was that the tide was going out and Harry Baxter and the jeep were out of reach.

For a couple of minutes it looked as if Harry was going to earn the brass ring for being the first man to drive a jeep across the Atlantic Ocean from Scotland to Newfoundland. Holy Crow. More trouble on the beach. First a carrier, now a jeep.

But there were a couple of Navy types close by, and they noticed what was going on and went over to give Harry a tow back in. Naturally we were pleased about that, and most pleased of all was Harry Baxter.

The Regiment was in billets on the South Coast at the time. They were empty houses because the inhabitants had been moved out by the authorities, it being too dangerous to live. So we moved in, guarding the coast.

One day during COs Orders, a man had been remanded for a Summary of Evidence. This was part of the paper work leading to a Court Martial, so when I marched him out, I said to the Provost Sergeant, "Put him under Close Arrest."

The man objected, saying he had not broken any Military Law, and all he had done was to beat up some local civilians and relieve them of the £SD (This is pronounced Pounds, Shillings and Pence.)

But I had to keep him handy to answer questions and it would have been easy for him to hide in the local houses.

as a 2Lt, so he is helping out the Jr Ranks Mess as their supervising officer. His back is also recovering from the shake-up it got when he participated in the parachute jump into Petawawa for *Ex Steadfast Warrior* in August.

We also welcome back MCpl Scott Moody, who came back to us after several years with 4 RCR in London, Ontario. Also transferred to us is Cpl Tom Kemp from Nova Scotia.

BOR: We were very pleased to welcome Sgt June Parris from London, Ontario to be our new Reg Force Chief Clerk in August. Her patience, good humour, and work make it clear she is a top performer, and it is perhaps no surprise to learn she has a commendation from the Chief of the Defence Staff. The only possible drawback is the blue Air Force beret. Her grandfather and father both served in the Canadian Army, but she had to be different. For her pains, she ended up supporting Army units in this and her last posting, and is doing it very well.

No one was more pleased with Sgt Parris' arrival than Sgt Judy Willan, our Reserve force admin NCO. She single-handedly carried the BOR as Chief Clerk for 9 months after the retirement of Sgt Nancy Boone from the Reg Force in November 1998. Sgt Willan was the only full-time admin or logistics clerk in our BOR, because her assistants were either part-time pay clerks, or full-time

infantrymen masquerading as RMS clerks (Sgt Thorn and Cpl Hing). Despite this, she handled our finance, pay, and admin as well or better than every other Orderly Room in the brigade. For this I awarded her a CO's Commendation certificate at the Christmas Dinner in December 1999, thanks to her inexhaustible energy, unfailing patience in difficult circumstances, and co-operative spirit. Few in the unit realise how badly off we would have been without the work she did entirely on her own.

Fall training: I participated in the Personal Weapons Test in Borden (Sep 10th - 12th), although using less than ideal weapons handling. More will follow on that one! We qualified a fair number of soldiers on PWT 3, which will be important for the upgraded Warrior training in future years.

Maj Fotheringham passed his evaluation as commander of an infantry company with flying colours during the brigade evaluation exercise in Meaford (*Ex Steadfast 4*: Oct 22nd - 24th). Our QOR company minus (2 platoons, with a total of almost 70 soldiers in the field) was also assessed as Effective, despite the cold and wet weather, a bad radio, and some miscommunications about attendance which left us with a few unexpected Cpl/Pte holes in several rifle sections. There was much squawking weeks later from other units about why our soldiers had bivvy-bags on issue.

Thanks to the QM staff, we had most of the bags we needed, unlike some other units whose soldiers got wet. We're working on getting more.

3 RCR's **Parachute Company** expressed interest in resuming our long-standing connections, now that its redeployment from Bosnia is over. Capt Saunders and I met their OC, Maj Don Haisell, in Petawawa in June. At his invitation, we sent MCpl Mike Bowers and Cpl Jesse Behan as part of an RCR company to Fort Polk, Louisiana in September to play enemy force for U.S. troops for several weeks. MCpl Bowers served as a section commander, and both of them received good reports from the RCR.

Laggards spent much of September and October finishing off their long-overdue **Warrior training** ("You mean I *still* have to do it?"), said one unbelieving fellow.) Later, my suggestion box yielded several requests for "unarmed combat training" and "more PT" Maj Fotheringham incorporated these into his schedule for the fall of '99 and early 2000.

The annual **Queen's Cup** competition with the Queen's York Rangers was hosted by 60th Company on November 10th at Moss Park. Our junior officers, NCO's, and soldiers did a fantastic job, and beat them decisively in every sport or task that counted, including the tug of war. Unfortunately, keeping track of the score was beyond our capabilities, so the result had to be declared a tie. We're tough — just don't ask us to count!

The QL4 Machine Gun course anti-aircraft shoot in the spring was so successful that WO Gresty bought more planes and parts and conducted an appropriate machine gun exercise in the anti-aircraft role for the remainder of our soldiers on *Ex Let It Fly* in Meaford (Nov 26th - 28th). It was predictably popular, as was the get-together afterwards at the local diner.

QL 2 Course: This course started in late November, a month earlier than planned, and Sgt Thorn had his work cut out for him to recruit candidates in time. Due to the surprise early cut-off date, we enrolled only 14 candidates for this course that runs well into the year 2000. This was more than any other infantry



Lt Burke and MCpl Kim begin run-down shoot, Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.



Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.

recruit training, more organized unit training (sometimes), and better administration. All has been slowly improving, year by year, over the past ten years.

I speak to a fair number of the fully-qualified soldiers who leave us, and generally hear the same comments: soldiers appreciate tough training on QL2, QL3, and afterwards, they like training with our NCO's. Those who leave find it tough to keep up with school, together with travel to and from the Armoury. We have members scattered over and beyond the whole Greater Toronto Area. They dislike repetitive or boring training, such as numerous Brigade evaluation exercises.

Attendance Policy: We adopted a fairly flexible attendance policy over ten years ago: attend when you can, so long as you continue to be effective, stay fit, and attend the one or two key exercises each year. We have scheduled training events without worrying how many soldiers attended each one. Decisions were made at the leadership level not to grow at the cost of training standards, and not to run a 'sausage factory', with many recruits in one door and out the release section a year or two later.

But our Brigade HQ in 1999 counted how many soldiers attended 4 exercises during the year. We were told the results could play a role in any final Reserve Restructure decisions. The numbers count drove all of us nuts. But our soldiers responded to the challenge, and we had decent attendance on the exercises with good tactics and fieldcraft.

In response to the new approach, I have made our attendance policy less flexible. Those who can't make 75 percent of our exercises (including summer camp) will not be able to stay. It means that some soldiers who might have stayed longer can no longer do so because of pressures from civilian jobs, school, or family life. We hate to lose them but that's an unavoidable reality. This is a job, as well as a hobby, and its commitments must be fulfilled.

Other events in the fall: The Officers' Annual Mess Dinner on 5 November featured as guest speaker **Col (Ret'd) Dick Cowling**, formerly of the Regular

Continued on page 18

“Convoys and so on” Some Memories

WO1 Harry Fox MBE

The Regiment was in Sussex, New Brunswick at the time, and was short of everything except cold winter weather. The only fighting going on at that time was in North Africa, where the Brits and the Germans were chasing each other all over the place. This time, the Infantry did not march too far but lifted in trucks (pronounced TCVs), and the Brits laid it down in stone that convoy speeds would be from 12 to 15 mph, and the distance between vehicles would be 75 yards. These rules were to be rigidly enforced.

So 8 Canadian Brigade laid on an exercise to do this training. There were only enough vehicles to lift one Company at a time, so it was decided that one company would be picked up at our barracks and taken several miles down the road and dump us off to continue the march on foot. The empty trucks would backtrack and pick up one of the marching companies, and so repeat the process.

Charlie Company was to be in the trucks to start, and I had them all in these open, cold trucks several minutes before start time. We went up to the front of the column and stood waiting. There was lots of time. Transport Cpl Wells came along, saluted the Major and said hello to me. I asked him how things were going, and he replied his only worry was this 75 yard business. He looked directly at me and asked, "Sir, just how far is 75 yards?"

It was a direct question, and I had to answer, so I looked down the street to where I figured 75 yards would be and said keep 3 telephone poles apart. He stared at me, and asked what I meant. So I told him, "We are at a pole now, count three poles down the street, and that is where the truck you are following should be."

He asked if that was 75 yards, and I said it did not matter as long as they stayed that distance apart. It would look good and no one would get a yardstick to measure if it was 69, 75 or 82. It was the spacing that had to be

good.

So he went down the line and told all the drivers what to do. Meanwhile I looked at my Company Commander, and he was furious. He snarled at me, "Get back to your truck." I suppose that remark about it being good enough upset him, as we all know that looking good is not good enough for the army. It has to be good, as well.

The next part of this story was told to me by Brigade Major Crowe. I knew him slightly, as I had fired in rifle competitions against his father. He filled me in some weeks later when we were doing another bit of training together.

The North Shore Regiment had tried this exercise and it was awful. The Brigadier had screamed and raised merry hell.

Next came the Regiment de la Chaudiere, and that was even worse. Every one at Brigade was out for blood. A lot of threats were thrown around as to what would happen if the next exercise were not a great deal better.

All of the officers from Brigade Headquarters were standing on the steps of the YMCA hut, at camp entrance, as that is where the thing would actually start. There was an officer who had come up from Division HQ to watch the event and make his report.

As they watched, a motorcycle rider popped out from behind a barrack, but about a quarter of a mile away just as he was turning into the main road, a truck popped out from behind the same block. As that truck turned in the main road, another truck popped out. Things had started well.

Transport Sgt Angus Scully gave a smart Eyes Right as he passed the hut and went on to the main gate to stop traffic. An officer walked to the side of

the road, keeping his eye on his watch, raising his right hand above his head. As second, minute and hour hand touched 0900 hours, he clapped his hand down, right opposite the front wheel of the Major's truck— right on time. He stood there and checked the time between trucks and they were all within a second of each other.

A spot had been chosen to go in the country where observers could watch a stretch of road for about a mile and half. The route then went up a hill, down the other side and turned right again for more than a mile. All this time the vehicles stuck to the three pole spacing, and looked very good indeed.

So the exercise turned out to be a huge success, and the QOR were officially declared to be the masters of convoy work. Any questions were to be sent to us.

Now the men of the QOR had already proved that they could drink men of all other units under the table. Four months of lapping up Newfy Screech had helped. And so we were a rather



WO1 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.

unit in the city, but that was no consolation. (There is a plan to take in more for the summer of 2000.) In the meantime, the company is again under the command of Maj Simundson. The platoon officer is 2Lt Fadi Dar-Ali, and the primary instructors are WO Pete Campbell, Sgt Cecil Parris, Sgt Bob Shering, MCpl Erica Mark, and Cpl Tom Kemp.

Parachuting: Capt Saunders was OC of our Parachute Company all year, and energized the programme tremendously. With the help of our Ops & Trg cell (Capt Tibbetts & WO Gresty), he arranged a number of Griffon jumps with 400 Squadron, although poor weather or cancelled aircraft prevented many jumps from happening.

It is appropriate to mention here that Sgt O'Halloran's professionalism and commitment have been crucial yet again in making it possible for so many of our soldiers to parachute, and for keeping high standards in place for our parachute tasking. It would not be a reality without him and his dedication.

Some of our soldiers participated on exercises with the **Pathfinder Course** conducted by the Canadian Parachute Centre in the fall. The course needed soldiers to arrive by boat, helicopter, or parachute for the pathfinders to meet, and it was great training for several days over several weeks.

During the year several personnel successfully completed their **Basic Parachuting Course**, and won the right

to wear the coveted maroon beret. More details are inside.

Effectiveness: To be counted as 'effective' today, a soldier must attend regularly (on average, 2 days per month in the training year) and complete a test of some basic soldiering skills called Warrior Training. These include simple marksmanship, weapons handling, emergency first aid, navigation, etc.

Due to our insistence on high quality recruits and high standards in training, we are a little smaller than some other units. I continue my predecessors' policy of refusing to lower standards to increase numbers. Despite this, the number of our Effective troops remains high.

One reason is reduced attrition. Understandably, young people like to accomplish as much as they can and try different things out. All organizations, military or civilian, lose a significant number of their young staff to other interests each year, and the militia is no exception. Normal attrition is nothing to be embarrassed about because we want young men and women to try us out. We don't hold it against them when they decide to put their time into other interests a few years later.

I am pleased, however, that our soldiers have, by and large, been staying around a little longer each year in the past ten years, which has maintained the number of our effective soldiers despite the lower intake in January 1999. This is thanks to good recruit selection, good

A Wartime Reminiscence: Remembering Lieutenant Colonel Baptist Johnston, OBE, VD

Staff Sergeant Carl Lewis

With so many good war histories around I have repeatedly been asked to remember just how it was at The Queen's Own Rifles Headquarters during those tense years. Over all, as the Regimental Orderly Room Sergeant, I kept track of our four battalions active at one time or another. I write from my recollections while my memory is still fairly good.

vacated Newfoundland and conveyed to England. The Fourth battalion came into being after armistice with the enemy and was made up of volunteers of the First Battalion. They became the Occupation Unit and returned in 1946.

From June 6, 1944, D-Day to war's end May, 1945 our office headquarters was a busy, frantic place with its walls covered

On at least two occasions, framed certificates bearing the names of those killed in action were placed on a table and covered with a flag. The arrangement resembled a casket. The ceremony impressed all the relatives who were in attendance at the Armouries and later when the flag was removed, names were called and the memorial certificates were handed out to the families. Those family members who were not able to be present had their certificates delivered to them privately.

Needless to say, Colonel Johnston received numerous letters from relatives seeking information as to how their loved one died. Colonel Johnston kept these letters until war's end, waiting for the return of the Field CO to answer them. When Colonel Steve Lett returned from overseas with the Battalion, he took each letter and dictated to me the replies. Standing in the Orderly Room doorway he spoke with familiar feeling of the action in question, the weather that day, the situation with the enemy, always referring to the man he lost by their first name -- a remarkable memory, indeed. I had to recall all my shorthand and a bit more to record the statements, and today I judge these letters are revered and prized by family members all over the country, a real piece of Canadiana.

Major General Rennie was almost a daily visitor during the early years and when he died Colonel Johnston had his casket Lying In State on the Armouries floor prior to interment.

During all this time, Colonel Johnston's Adjutant was Major Doug Ross, a very efficient and reliable reserve officer who was also an attorney. After his death, he was succeeded by Major J. Milne, a returned officer.

All in all, of all our soldiers, I personally salute, with respect, the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Baptist Johnston, who faced the brunt of grief of our losses during those battling years.

Reprinted from The Rifleman, 1986, page 28



D-Day Memorial Service 6 June 1999 at Moss Park Armoury

I transferred down from the National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, in 1943, to work under Lieutenant Colonel Baptist Johnston, who was the Commanding Officer at RHQ. He was not a tall man but was solidly built, meticulous in dress and always gave clear, specific orders. A bit of a martinet when agitated, he could be precise and demanding. He was also OC University Avenue Armouries and presided over district officers assemblages from time to time. Among my general duties, it was also my responsibility to keep him posted with details of impending activities.

We had an iron safe in the Orderly Room in which all regimental records were kept going back to the previous century. This actually was The QOR of C Second Reserve Battalion. The First Battalion was overseas under the command of LCol Steve Lett. It had earlier merged with the Third Battalion in Newfoundland where it had been at Botwood, under the command of LCol Sankey, shortly after the outbreak of war. Merging with the First, they

with battlefield maps; phones ringing and a constant parade of officers and civilian relatives of regimental members. Worry and anguish were constantly in the atmosphere. Every afternoon at two o'clock, a phone call would come in from the Records Department in Ottawa, when Colonel Line of The QOR Black Network would pass the list to Colonel Johnston of our casualties. It was then Colonel Johnston's duty to call the homes of the deceased and inform them of their death in action.

I can remember the anguished relatives who phoned or visited the Regimental Headquarters and whom I received and introduced to Colonel Johnston. Church Memorial services were held at St. Paul's Church on Bloor Street and names of the deceased were printed on programs. I kept these church programs which were later bound into a large book containing the Daily Orders of the war years. I understand that all these historical records were removed and taken to Records in Ottawa. This, of course, happened sometime after I left the scene.

Report from 60th Company, January to August, 1999

Capt Adam R. Saunders CD, Officer Commanding

We entered into January 1999 participating in what was to be a Brigade imposed winter warfare Ex, but we were tasked instead to assist Toronto dig out of a snow storm which partially crippled the city. Instead of going to ATC Meaford we ended up living at Fort York Armoury where a composite battalion was formed, and our troops were deployed around Toronto. We were dispatched by the City of Toronto Works Department who knew where the critical digging needed to be done around Toronto. The troops dug out bus shelters, drain basins, and emergency access entrances to the subways and electrical stations. That Ex concluded with Mayor Mel Lastman thanking our troops for a job well done. A good number of the troops then went home to dig their own homes out of the very deep, wet snow.

February was our winter warfare exercise, again with a Brigade flavour. Several recce patrols were sent out, leading to an early morning deliberate attack. This was done in conjunction with winter warfare training. Most of the troops managed to stay reasonably warm, and were reminded of the constant efforts required to survive in a harsh winter environment.

Our *Final 25 Ex* in March at CFB Borden confirmed pairs and group fire and movement through a live fire advance to contact ex. WO Gresty from the Battalion Ops shop ensured the unconventional live fire range was as realistic as possible, and a challenge to all those who participated. This ex was designed to confirm our team movement and fire skills in the advance in order to ensure our individual battlecraft skills were finely honed prior to our dress rehearsal platoon training, in preparation for our assessment in May.

In May, we were assessed at the platoon level in Meaford. The assessment was based on the platoon in the advance. We had a good turn out from the troops, and were able to flush out two strong platoons, each to be evaluated. This was the culmination of our assessment cycle (or so we thought), and we completed the assessment with flying colours. This assessment contributed to our overall good standing in relation to other units in our Brigade. The assessment was based on how many troops each unit could muster, and the degree of professionalism each platoon applied to their tasks.

In June 1999 we participated in *Exercise Raw Steel* at CFB Borden, which was a chance to complete our annual warrior classification. The emphasis was on marksmanship and fieldcraft, and the Ex concluded with the detonation of a "few" claymore mines by a few of our select individuals.

Major John Fotheringham took over the company over in September 1999, so I could focus my efforts as OC Para (almost a full time job). This will ensure that we can devote the appropriate efforts in key areas of our training, to ensure continued quality, challenging and realistic training for our troops.

As a footnote, since November 1998 a good number of our NCO's had been tasked out of the company to instruct on various courses around the Toronto Garrison. A number of our troops were also on these courses and the benefit of these courses became immediately apparent once the training cycle ended. As a result of these taskings we really had to depend on our junior leaders to ensure our Rifleman were given good direction and remained highly motivated. We always have depended upon individual and personal initiative to keep the wheels turning, and last year was no exception. Thanks to all for a job well done.



60th Company HQ in the advance, Ex Steadfast I, Meaford, May 99.

Report from 60th Company, September to December, 1999

Major J.M. Fotheringham, CD, Officer Commanding

It was nice to return to the best job in the Battalion, OC 60th Company, following a couple of years as DCO and chief paper pusher. The company was in good shape, following a year under OC Captain Adam Saunders and CSM MWO Ken Kominek. Both moved to assume control of the QOR's Parachute Company and its activities, and have been doing an excellent job (as documented elsewhere in The Rifleman.)

I was fortunate to be able to handpick the company command structure, selecting Captain Simon Côté, a recent transfer from the FMR in Montreal, as 2IC; Captain Karl Haupt as Operations Officer; and Lieutenants Derek Poteralski and Marco Petta as Platoon Commanders, with Second Lieutenants Andrew Schneppenheim and Paul Benjamin as understudies. The NCOs are equally strong, with MWO Scott Patterson as CSM, WO Mark Shannon as CQ, Sergeants Donovan O'Halloran and Bill Paton as Platoon 2ICs, and Master Corporal Inasio Kim as our full-time Operations/Administration NCO.

Training nights this past fall consisted of two periods, the first being a weapons or tactics period, and the second being unarmed combat, conducted by either of our two Unarmed Combat Instructors, MWO John Wilmot or WO Perry Gresty. This theme will continue in the New Year with further unarmed combat and other physical training.

A new Individual Battle Task (IBT) standard was imposed recently and includes increased proficiency with the small arms, grenades, and support weapons. In an attempt to get a head start on this qualification, the company conducted Ex First Shot at CFB Borden in September, qualifying many soldiers on

a majority of these requirements. As well, a 13 kilometre Battle Fitness Test was conducted.

The Brigade followed up the following month with a similar exercise for all units. Unfortunately, as the majority of 60th Company was already qualified on most of the tests, those who attended found themselves serving as a ready pool for butts-parties and general-duty personnel for the rest of the Brigade to qualify.

October was Brigade-directed Ex Steadfast IV, in which each infantry unit was required to conduct a company-in-the-advance exercise and be assessed by their commanding officer. Operating in the worst weather in exercise memory, the company conducted several hasty attacks and a successful deliberate attack on Sunday morning. The success of the company aided the QOR in its annual unit report card.

November was the Regimental Church Parade with our veterans and those from the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. The personnel of 60th Company always enjoy meeting and interacting with these heroes and they

hope to be able to continue to do so for many years to come.

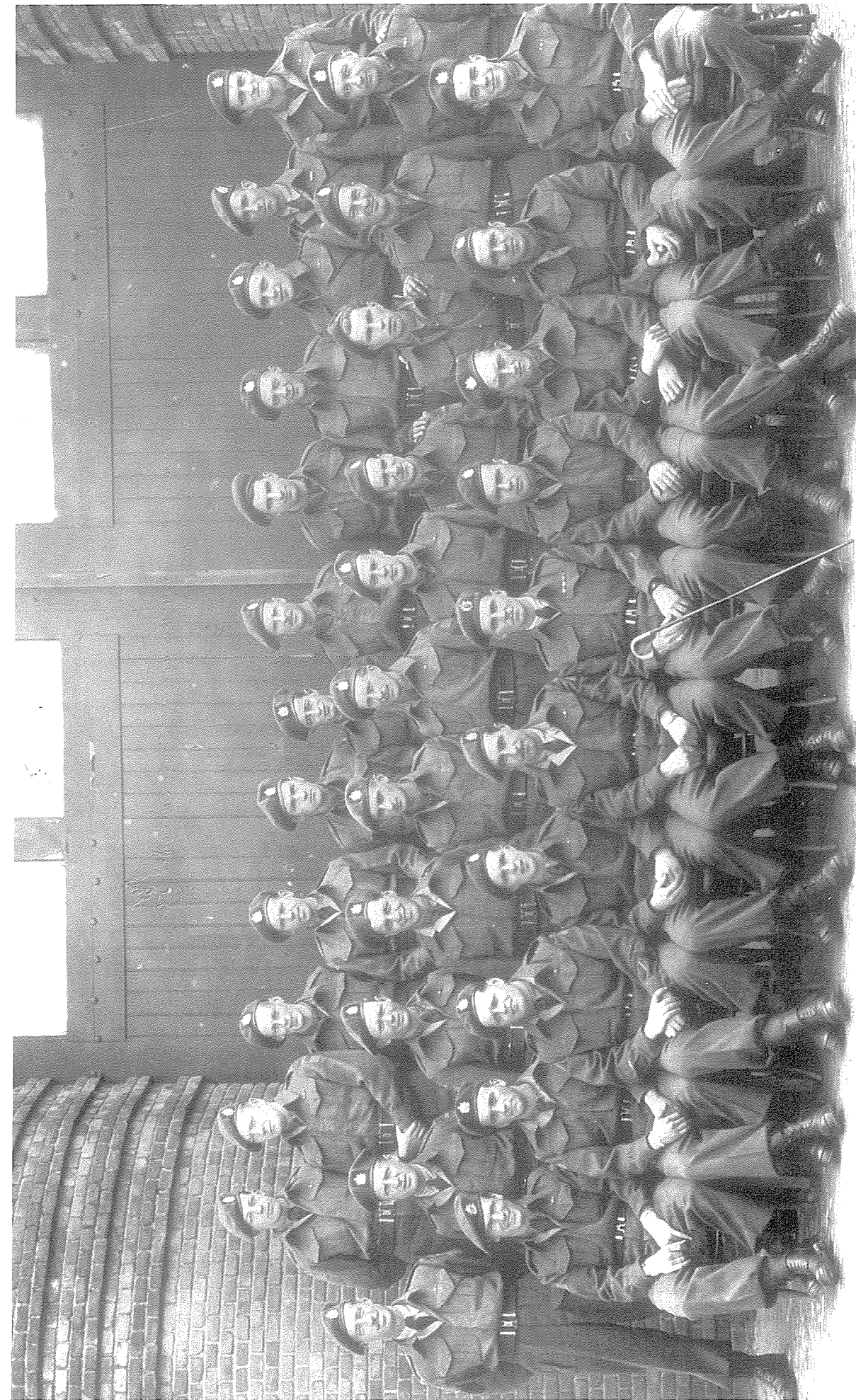
The Men's Christmas Dinner concluded the 1999 training year, again with our veteran comrades. Riflemen Allan and Joseph Kiss won a 60th Company award for near-perfect attendance. As identical twins, it is very difficult to tell them apart. They have been placed in separate platoons to aid their commanders in identification. We hope that in the New Year they will present the instructors at the Canadian Parachute Centre with similar identification problems.

Congratulations to those company personnel who completed courses or who were promoted this fall. There is a strong crop of junior leaders ready to push out those Sergeant section commanders who get a little too comfortable.

The rest of the training year will include: Ex Southern Drive at Fort Knox in Kentucky, a company skeet shoot, more unarmed combat, and Ex Neptune Strike 2. Ex Neptune Strike will include the Canadian Coast Guard and several other 32 CBG units in an amphibious raid.



QOR riflemen receive safety briefing at the FIBUA tunnels, Ex Southern Drive, Fort Knox, Kentucky, Mar 00. Photo courtesy of 32 CBG Public Affairs.



3 Platoon, The QOR of Canada, June 1945, Amersfort, Holland

BACK: Ross, Mitchell, Massey, Campbell, Garneau, Osborne, Chalmers, Derenzo, King, Haines, Warner, Marin
MIDDLE: Corrigan, Gray, Weatherstone, Pinket, Echert, Tran, Yule, Campbell, Scott, Wilson, Smith
FRONT: Wallis, Bridge, Dowds, Martin, Guiton, Lt. Deans, Coullier, Catlow, Berry, Himmen

Photography by John Marin

Remembering D-Day

The following speech was given by Mr. Bill Wesselius at a reception in Anisys on 08 June 1997. QOR Association member John Miedema has forwarded it for inclusion in this year's Rifleman:

“Veterans of The Queen’s Own Rifles:

We, who are originally from Wons, The Netherlands, are honoured to witness the ceremonies of this day dedicated to the heroes of D-Day, specifically, the members of The Queen’s Own Rifles.

It took dedication, determination, courage, discipline and tough training to jump off a landing craft into the cold waves of the sea. It was a struggle, under heavy enemy fire, to reach the beach, and from there the designated goal of the day, which only the QOR obtained. Sacrifices were made. Young healthy men became disabled and others gave their precious lives. These were the first of a long list of names, from D-Day to April 16, 1945 — the last day of battle for the QOR.

I remember what it meant to us when in the afternoon of D-Day we received the news of the landing. It brought joy and hope. Hope for freedom!

It was a long 11 months before the enemy surrendered; for you in the armed forces, months of heavy fighting, death, injury and hardship; for us in the occupied countries, oppression, hunger, cold and fear of getting murdered. Along the path of war you met the people of the land. They were thankful

and jubilant, but there was also pain in their eyes and faces filled with grief. So many had their loved ones in concentration camps or doing slave labour in German factories. Others were somewhere fighting in the Underground or in prison. Property, culture and treasures were destroyed or stolen. Worst of all, loved ones had died.

As mentioned, April 16, 1945 was your last day of battle, losing, so close to the end of the war, six more of your comrades. A monument in Wons continues to remind us of the price that was paid from the Normandy beaches to Wons.

I would like to share with you my family’s experience on that day. At the same hour when you lost your six comrades, my parents lost three of their children by gunfire. What a shock! What grief and sorrow! But I can assure you that my parents, and we as brothers and sisters, NEVER, NEVER blamed you or had any hard feelings against you. I personally witnessed my mother’s reaction when she was informed of the death of six Canadian soldiers during the liberation of our village. For a moment she was silent and let it sink in. Then she said, and I think mothers all over the world would react the same, ‘These boys have a mother in Canada.’ She closed her eyes and I am sure she was praying for these mothers and for the soldiers in the village, still active in battle.

In conclusion, I would like to give you greetings from the village of Wons and, again, their ‘Thank You’ from the bottom of their hearts.”

Wiepke (Bill) Wesselius
Bowmanville, Ontario

Wons, The Netherlands

John Miedema

In the province of Friesland in the north of the Netherlands is a village called Wons that dates back to the year 1200. In Wons, the 300 villagers now have two important days to remember.

The first one is April 16 1945 when they were liberated from German occupation by The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada. Four villagers, five freedom fighters, and six members of the QOR lost their lives that day. The six riflemen, Gordon Ouderkik, Harry Pennell, Walter Jackson, Alex Cockburn, Walter White and Frederick Shepherd were brought to the nearby town of Sneek, where the closest hospital was, and were buried there on the 18 of April 1945. On the 26 of March 1946, they were moved by the Canadian Military to the town of Holterberg (now called Hotlen) to the Canadian war cemetery and reburied on that day with Military honours.

The second day to remember is the 6 of May 1995. This is when John Miedema, who was born and raised in Wons, brought 38 of those young soldiers from 1945 (who are now seniors and veterans) back to the village to unveil and dedicate their monument honouring the 468 riflemen who were killed in action between 6 June 1944 and 16 April 1945.

This monument stands in the centre of the village close to the spot where the last six riflemen of the Regiment were killed.

Excerpt written by John Miedema 20 October, 1996, and appeared in the 1996 edition of The Rifleman, page 45.



John Miedema at the Wons memorial. On 16 April 1945 John witnessed a QOR battle outside his village that left six riflemen dead.



QOR Parachute Company

Capt Adam Saunders, CD

Our Para coy is in fact a shadow organization comprised of CSM MWO Kominek and me. We have 54 jumpers, 46 who were current at the time of writing this article. Most of our jumpers hold leadership positions within the Battalion, and key positions within the rifle company. Therefore we only assemble as a complete company during para specific exercises and training. This occurs several times per year, as the balance of training is with the rifle company. In house, we have a number of Jumpmasters, one Parachute Instructor and several Drop Zone controllers. We depend heavily upon our Battalion operations cell to execute our plans and to use their initiative in seizing para related opportunities.

This past year has been a busy one as usual. In August 1999, 36 Queen’s Own jumpers parachuted onto DZ Anzio as part of our annual summer exercise Steadfast Warrior. After the re-organization on the DZ, our jumpers then marched 7 km to rendezvous with the balance of our Brigade in a hide, in the training area of CFB Petawawa. This was the first full equipment jump that the company had made together in over one year from a CC-130.

The formula for success this year was to request a helicopter once per month from 400 Squadron, between September 1999 and June 2000. As a result of Canadian Parachute Centre (CPC) support, we managed to get jumps off at least every second month, keeping a good number of our 54 jumpers current. We depend upon the staff at CPC to provide support to our parachute operations by way of riggers and Jumpmasters. Although we have our own Jumpmasters, we depend upon

CPC to provide additional Jumpmasters when the situation calls for it. We do not have any riggers, nor are we likely to be able to train any in the foreseeable future. Riggers are absolutely critical to para operations as they must be on the ground every step of the way during donning as well as while our troops are under canopy. Riggers are a hot commodity and are kept extremely busy at CPC. We thank them all.

With each descent made from the CH-146 Griffon helicopters from 400 Squadron stationed at CFB Borden, we attached a tactical scenario. We have been building on that scenario over the past few months in order to refine our DZ and battlecraft drills. This series of exercises has been known as Ex Rapid Descent, and will continue into next year. These one-day exercises have been held one Saturday per month, and proven quite effective.

CPC Trenton has provided us with numerous opportunities to jump from the Hercules stationed there. The Air Force is often in need of a few good troops to jump out of the back of their aircraft during any one of a number of tactical training flights or exercises they regularly conduct. Troops of ours who can take time off during the week to jump have been able to jump often. Congratulations to Sgt. Bill Paton for having completed his 100th static line jump on 19 February 2000 onto Drop Zone Gorvad, CFB Borden.

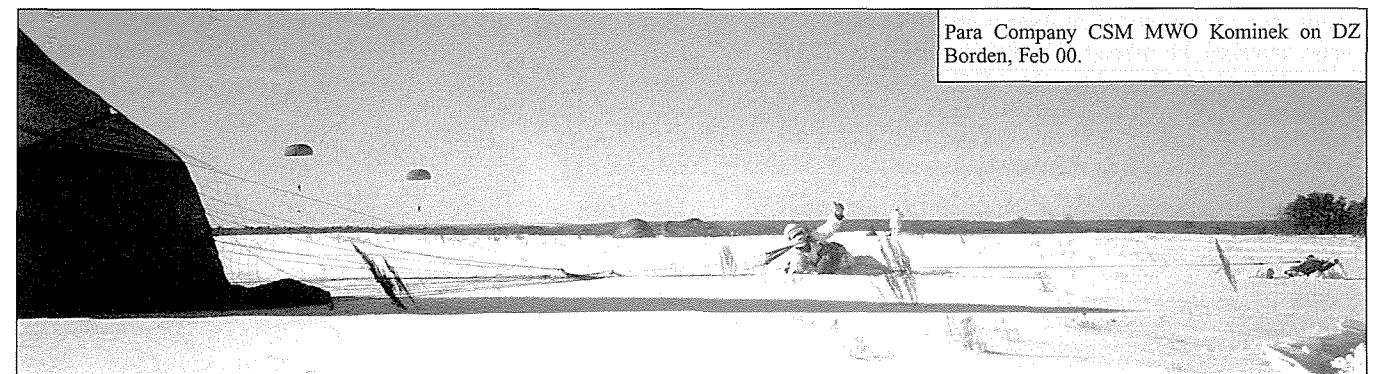
We have had many new graduates from the Basic Parachute Course over the past year. This influx of jumpers will assist us in flushing out our organization, as we are focussing on Riflemen and Corporals to qualify as

Basic Parachutists. Presently we have one Master Corporal on the Jump Master Course. We always need a number of recruits each year to ensure we keep our strength up in the parachute company. A good number of our officers and most of our Senior NCOs are parachute qualified, and hold a position within the parachute company. We need to encourage and foster the newer members of the Battalion towards becoming members of our para company.

Cpl. Behan and Cpl. Bowers went to Fort Polk Louisiana with elements of 3 RCR Para Coy. They both represented our unit well, and as a result of their performance, OC Para 3 RCR will offer similar opportunities to our troops in the future.

Towards the end of this training cycle, May/June 2000, our jumpers will get an opportunity to display their physical prowess by completing our mandatory parachute training testing. To remain with, or become part of the jump company, our troops must run 4 miles in 32 minutes or less, complete 7 straight arm chin-ups, 32 sit-ups and 25 push-ups twice each year. We are planning a complete annual para refresher for the fall of 2000 to ensure all of our jumpers are current and have had their skills finely honed by subjecting themselves to the rigors of the mock tower, landings and flight. The plan is to have the annual para refresher culminate in a jump from a Hercules.

As some very wise veteran pointed out, I wish you all fair winds and soft landings!



Para Company CSM MWO Kominek on DZ Borden, Feb 00.

Support in Motion Victoria Platoon Report 1999

Capt R. Zeidler, CD

1999 proved to be a memorable year for Victoria Platoon. Some things changed, while others stayed the same.

Major Delaney left as OC and Captain Banerjee took up the helm. He then moved over to become the Adjutant and was replaced by Captain Zeidler. After watching "The Great Escape", Lt Burke tunnelled her way across the parade square and is now the Training Officer in the Ops shop. WO Senetchko retired, but not before cooking HQ and Vics platoon an outstanding bacon and eggs breakfast on his last exercise. WO ten Kortenaar took over the leadership of the Signals Det. We picked up two excellent draft picks from Gurkha Coy; Sgt Halcro and MCpl Hanbidge-Kock for two future prospects. "General" Hewlin left a very large hole upon his departure. Cpl Yeo joined us from Para Coy, 3RCR just in time to lock himself out of his vehicle after the first exercise.

The things that remained the same were the outstanding results that Victoria Platoon continues to produce for the Regiment. The SAV inspection results were excellent. MWO Kelly, the RQMS, once again achieved superior results with his team on the QM side. As ever, Signals were firmly squared away and there were no problems on the day.

The departure of Cpl Hewlin left a huge hole in Transport. MCpl Hood stood in for a short period as Transport NCO, prior to being assigned to other duties elsewhere. This left Cpl Yeo squarely behind the eight ball. Luckily, he remembered to pack both his top hat and the rabbit that goes with it. With the assistance of his faithful team of Cpl Ioanni, the scribe, and Cpl Tsang, the grease monkey, he managed to achieve an excellent rating on the SAV. Immediately upon the completion of the SAV, Cpl Yeo returned to his normal routine of bench pressing the LSVWs.

Other news worthy events this past year:

Cpl Sherbanowski liked his jump course so much that he decided to do it again. He is the only person to graduate twice with a double-digit number of jumps before being allowed to wear his wings. On a similar note, MWO Kelly survived his annual jump. As a side note, Sgt O'Halloran had to be revived with smelling salts when the RQ arrived for his refresher training.

When an unnamed OC of Para Coy was asked for a list of stores for an exercise, he responded: "Listen, we have been doing this for a long time. You should know what we want by now." As a result, MWO Kelly used the unit's credit card to purchase a black turban with silver stars on it and a crystal ball. His powers of prediction have increased dramatically since.

After an unnamed OC of 60th Coy told Captain Banerjee that the use of pyrotechnics was allowed, while forgetting to mention that the fire index at Borden had moved from high to tinder; the then-OC and Vics Pl took a crash course in fire fighting. Vics gave new meaning to the concept of a defensive position under fire.

Major Delaney decided that Vics Platoon should have new t-shirts and tasked the respective personnel. While carrying out this task, Capt Clarkson altered the Victoria Regiment's history forever by changing their regimental

colour from red to maroon. Rumour has it that Major Delaney took this with his usual calm demeanour.

Vics conducted a coup d'état and took over the Skirmishers Platoon. Cpls Harrison, Chisholm and Green conducted their own coup d'état during the Y2K preparedness signals course being conducted by 709 Communications Regiment. Cpl Hewlin will be proud to know that QOR Signals SOPs and Battle Procedure have been adopted by 709 Comms, although he might be disappointed to learn that Cpl Green has created a two hour Reader's Digest version of his much feared two day 521 radio set familiarization course. During the assigning of duties for this year's QL 4 training courses, Victoria Platoon took the task of providing instructors and 60th Coy of providing students. To formalize this dominance, Vics beat 60th by a wide margin to capture the Quick Chill Trophy.

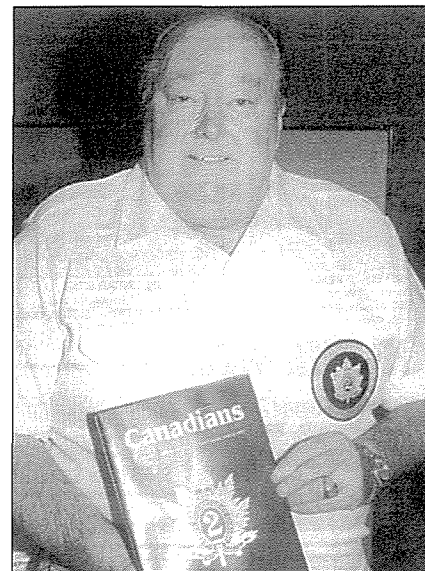
Finally, Vics had the highest percentage of soldiers who passed Warrior testing.

In conclusion, Victoria Platoon continues to do what it has always done best, which is to support the Regiment. This vital, yet unglamorous, task continues to be accomplished efficiently with little fanfare. I am continually impressed at how well the Vic's soldiers adapt to the needs of 60th and Para Coys. I would like to congratulate and thank them all for their hard work and the results that they have achieved.



Members of Vics Pl at ATC Meaford, searching for the bag of frequencies.

Book Honours Regiment



Dwight Resident Ernie Martin holds a copy of *Canadians — A Battalion at War*

"Ernie Martin of Dwight is proud of his regiment, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada" (The QORofC)

So much so, that he has donated copies of a book about the Regiment to all the schools, elementary and high, and public libraries in the area.

The book, titled *Canadians — A Battalion at War*, is written by Roy Whitsed and contains interviews, observations and personal experiences of members of The QOR of C during World War II.

Martin is a former rifleman in The QOR of C and was in the militia for eight years after the war. He bought 24 of the books with help from The QOR of C Association, as his way of doing something positive for Remembrance Day.

I have known a number of veterans who came back and over the years have passed away. I like to think I'm doing something to keep their memories alive, he said.

I also wanted to get the name of our regiment out in the forefront and this is a good reference book.

Martin's family has a strong affiliation with the Queen's Own. His father (WW I) and four brothers all served in what is Canada's oldest, continuous-serving regiment.

The number two depicted on the regimental badge denotes the second regiment formed in Canada. It was formed in 1860, before Confederation, Martin said.

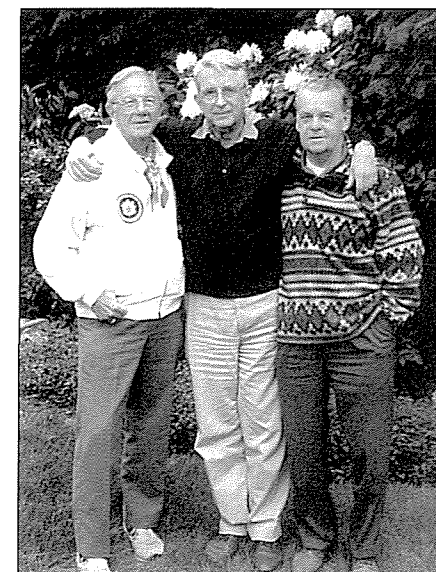
Martin still meets with other regiment members in the Moss Park Armoury in Toronto about four times a year. There are about 35 of us, most of us getting pretty long in the tooth," he said, "We still do some community work involving the military. Presently we are on a drive to erect a memorial in Normandy. France has donated the property to us.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, The QOR of C was the first Canadian regiment to land at Normandy and the first regiment to reach any objective that day. Martin says, with obvious pride, that two of his brothers were in Normandy for D-Day, and a younger brother served in Korea.

Gillian Brunette, Huntsville Weekender, Friday, November 12, 1999"

Used with permission.

Paul Niedenzu Honourary Member of The QOR of Canada



Paul Niedenzu (centre) with D-Day Veterans Jack Hadley (right) and Doug Hester (left), May 1995.

Paul Niedenzu, and honorary member of the Regiment, passed away on March 25, 1999.

Niedenzu was a translator for the Canadian Army during WWII. He then went as a volunteer to England for training as a soldier, but returned to Holland a year later because of poor health. He returned to Doorn where he ran an insurance business and became well known for raising funds with friends in order to buy wheelchairs for veterans. Six wheelchairs were bought for veterans in Canada with money raised from the citizens of Doorn.

Paul Niedenzu continued to keep strong ties after 1995 with the Veterans who visited Doorn. Every year he was a guest at the home of the QOR in Toronto.

In 1997, the QOR made him an honorary member.

In a letter he received on October 10, 1945, from the Canadian Army:

"To whom it may concern: The bearer, Paul Franc Niedenzu is hereby authorized to wear Canadian battledress while employed by this unit as a supernumerary interpreter. The facilities of Regt Canteens and Theatres are available to him."

Paul Niedenzu will be remembered as a loving and kind gentleman who spoke very highly of Canadians, especially of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Veterans. He will be greatly missed.

We will remember him.

A Dinner and Auction in Support of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal

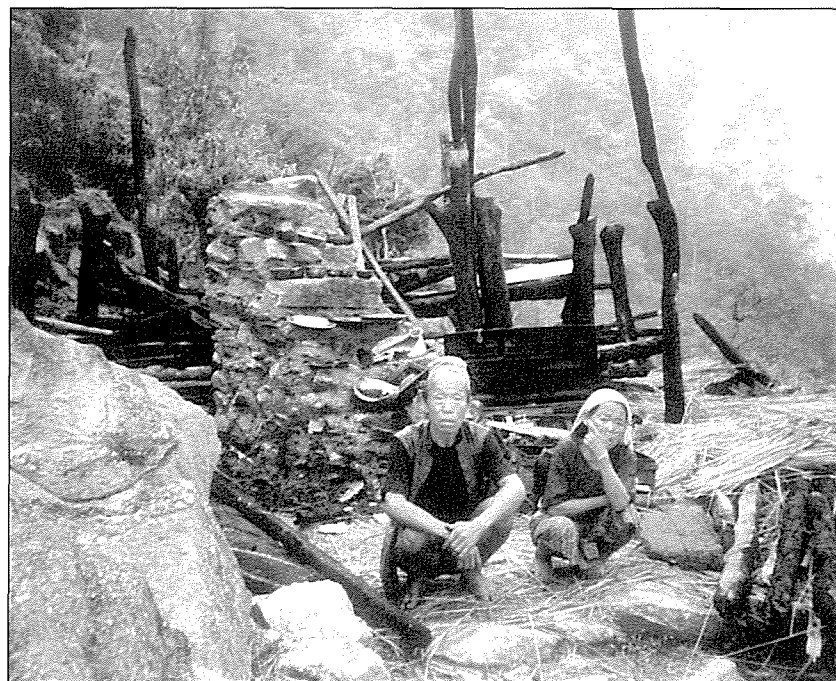
by Capt Adam Harmes

On the evening of Saturday, February 5th 2000, The Queen's Own Rifles Officers' Mess hosted a dinner and auction in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Working through 24 Welfare Centres in Nepal, the Gurkha Welfare Trust provides basic welfare pensions and medical care for over 11,500 Gurkha veterans and their widows. Without the Trust, many of these veterans and their widows would be destitute.

The event was a great success. Most importantly, we managed to raise over \$3,500 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. At the same time, those who attended were treated to an enjoyable evening of drinks, authentic Nepalese hors d'oeuvres, as well as

Marco Petta).

The top item of the auction was a catered dinner for 12 in the QOR Officers' Mess, including vast amounts of wine and port. This was generously donated by Tom Foulds. It went above and beyond any expectation.



the colourful auctioneering stylings of our own WO Phil ten Kortenaar. The auction itself contained some excellent Gurkha memorabilia as well as a number of other desirable items.

Some of the most interesting Gurkha items included a number of service and ornamental khukris of various sizes, a stunning pair of Gurkha cufflinks, a Gurkha military drum ice bucket, and a Gurkha pewter mug (purchased after vigorous bidding by yours truly). Other sought-after items included an interesting number of books on the Gurkhas, two books on the history of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion (donated by Jan de Vries), a cast aluminum Victorian flower box (donated by Lisa Simundson), Maple Leaf hockey tickets, storage space and a Nike gift certificate (donated by 2Lt Chris Donald), and an exquisite pearl necklace and earrings (donated by Lt

Following the auction, which included many rounds of spirited bidding, we were served an excellent dinner consisting of an authentic Nepalese curry and assorted side-dishes by our own mess steward and caterer Hugh Hunter. For those who had not yet enjoyed a meal prepared by Hugh, his skill and versatility were more than demonstrated in a meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. If anyone reading this article were ever in need of a caterer for any event — military or civilian — I would highly recommend contacting Hugh, at the Officers' Mess. In addition to providing a superior final product, Hugh's professionalism and flexibility are a welcome blessing for any soldier faced with the daunting task of organizing a civilized event.

Many thanks go to the generous individuals whose donations of auction

items made this event possible. These included the following: Lt Marco Petta, Jan de Vries, Lisa Simundson, Lt Tom Foulds, Lt Chris Donald, Major Erik Simundson, and Major Mike Burke, and the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch # 344) for their generous donations.

Finally, I would like to thank those individuals who helped out with organizing and running the auction: WO Phil ten Kortenaar for his always-entertaining auctioneering skills and ability to get even the most tight-fisted officer to open his wallet; Maj Erik Simundson for overall coordination and direction in organizing the food; Cindy Jones for great help in decorating the mess and organizing ticket sales; and, finally, a very special thanks to

Lisa Simundson who worked tirelessly on all aspects of the event and without whose help the auction would not have been the success that it was.

A final thanks goes to all that attended. The comments received afterwards indicate that the Gurkha auction has the potential of becoming an annual event.



Recruiting in The Queen's Own Rifles

Sgt Justin Thorn, Recruiter

The Army Reserves is not what it used to be —it's better. With the opportunities and new equipment available to our riflemen, The Queen's Own Rifles is a very attractive experience for those who Dare to Challenge Themselves.

Even with all the military can offer, the civilian world has also increased its opportunities and experiences. These include: part and full-time jobs and studies, full simulation video games, the Internet, dance clubs, and any number of adventure sports. The military has more competition than ever for attracting and maintaining the attention of potential members.

So how does one go about attracting new candidates into the military?

The Queen's Own recruiting position combines sales, media, human resources management, some politics, and constant thought. All this must also be supported by maintaining the skills of your trade, while knowing the skills of other trades. A Recruiter who does not know the answers to questions does not succeed.

The QOR enrolls around 25 candidates per year. The high has been 65, the low 13. They come from all walks of life: police officers, students, corporate sales reps, financial analysts, bus

drivers, tattoo artists, trampoline instructors just to name a few that come to mind. The average candidate is between 19 and 22 years of age, with a good level of physical fitness, who likes the outdoors, enjoys a challenge, and is attracted to the military (patriotism, teamwork, family history, military skills, etc.). When persons from such diverse backgrounds come together, eventually a cohesive military team is created.

The Regiment attracts candidates through school visits, events (military open houses, The Molson Indy, Sportsman Show, etc.), national advertising, visits to the Canadian Forces Recruiting Center (CFRC), word of mouth, and referral from members of the Regimental family. Once interested, candidates enter a recruiting process that involves 4 visits to CFRC to complete six steps. These steps are: a Unit Recruiter's interview and referral to CFRC, aptitude testing, medical testing, a security and background check, an interview with a Military Career Counsellor, and a physical fitness test. This process can be completed in three weeks, but usually takes about nine given each candidate's differences. On average one candidate is gained for every three who enter the recruiting process. The QOR also gains members through transfers from other units across

Canada with the applicant having to pass a demanding physical fitness test first.

Once in, a new recruit undergoes Basic Training followed by Trade Training. This involves 50-60 training days that are completed in different time frames depending on the time of the year. After training, the opportunities begin: challenging exercises, demanding and rewarding training, Basic Para course, Leadership courses, and exchange opportunities with Allied Regiments in England. These are good times, but challenging ones as well.

If you know someone who is interested, up to the challenge, and is:

- 16 years of age or older
- a Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant
- Grade 10 educated or higher, and
- physically fit and of good moral character

we ask that you encourage them to call the Unit Recruiter at (416) 973-3281 or email us at bor@qor.com. The QOR offers excellent opportunities, but only to those who know about it amongst all the other choices available today.

SUPPORT YOUR REGIMENT!

IN PACE PARATUS - AIRBORNE!



The purpose of *Ex Final 25* was to exercise the unit in pairs and assault group, live fire and movement. Realistic targetry was used. It was a very successful Ex, with a great deal learned.

EX FINAL 25 CFB Borden, March 1999
Corporal Rob Vulakovich waiting to conduct live-fire trench assault, with Sergeant Justin Thorn and WO Perry Gresty acting as safety NCOs.

Ex Steadfast Warrior

Capt Adam R. Saunders, CD

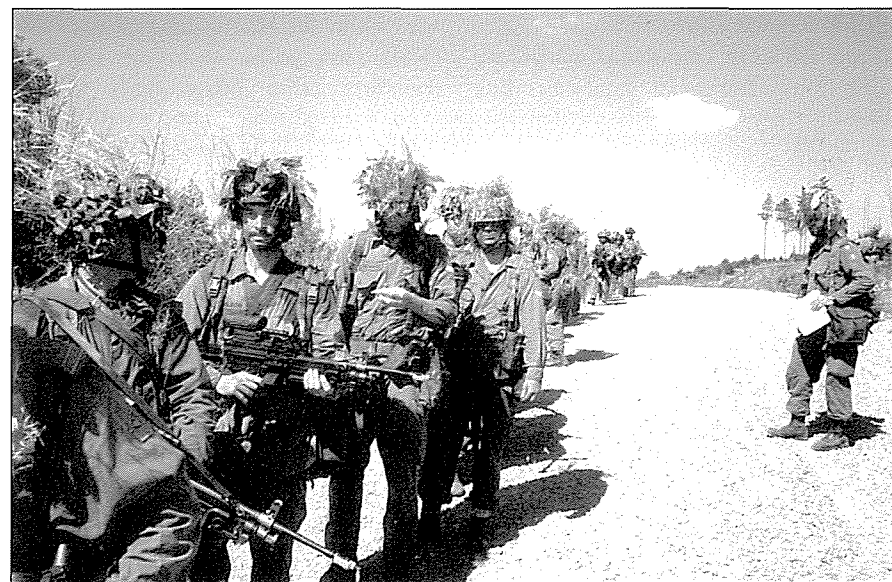


Company conducts assault boat training at Ex Steadfast Warrior, August 1999.

The Steadfast Warrior series of exercises were held over the course of late 1998, through the summer and fall of 1999. These exercises were Brigade-driven as part of our progressive, ongoing unit evaluations. In August 1999, the Ex Steadfast Warrior series culminated with our annual exercise held at CFB Petawawa. Exercise Steadfast Warrior was attended by over 750 troops from our brigade. We provided over 60 troops to our composite light infantry company, comprised of the QOR and The Royal Regiment of Canada. I held the position of Company 2I/C, while Maj V. Sharma (RRegtC) was the OC.

Naturally, The Queen's Own Rifles arrived at CFB Petawawa in style. On day one of the week-long Ex, 36 of our jumpers enplaned in a CC130 from Trenton at Pearson International, and completed a full equipment jump onto Drop Zone Anzio. We then marched approximately 7 km in order to rendezvous with the balance of our company and brigade in the training area.

As the Ex progressed, we spent five days conducting work up training, which was closely evaluated each step of the way. We were preparing for a 36 hour advance to contact ex, orchestrated by our own brigade. In preparation for



The Queen's Own Rifles, Petawawa.

this jump was not built into the tactical scenario of the 36 hour ex, so we came up with our own scenario to keep our troops on their toes. This would also ensure the maximum training value while having such valuable training aids and equipment at our disposal.

24 of our jumpers flew at 15 feet above and along the Ottawa River, and almost as far north as Chalk River prior to heading back south and leveling off at 1250 feet over DZ Anzio. After what was a spectacular ride sitting on the side of the CH146 with a forward airspeed of well over 100 knots, we were given the command "GO!" And GO we did. Our QOR jumpers rendezvoused on the drop zone, and moved back into the brigade tactical hide. Most of the non-jumpers were on a forced rest, and we were wide awake. We spent the next few days in the advance. It was a fulfilling week for most, and the ex ended with a very tame, but well deserved smoker.

It is incredible to me to see the opportunities that members of the Queens Own are given through our unique para tasking. As a result of this tasking we maintain a very special relationship with those from 1 Can Para, CAFA, 1st SSF, and other veterans organizations. Our troops are fascinated by our association with our own QOR veterans, and are in awe of their

the ex we trained in assault boat water crossings with assistance from the engineers, air mobile training, a live fire battle run, company in the advance (a few times), and the usual administrative trials and tribulations associated with any large composite organization.

The jumpers from the Queen's Own were given a unique opportunity to jump with full equipment from 427 Squadron's Griffon helicopters just prior to the 36 hour ex. Unfortunately

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association Report

Jan de Vries, Association President

1999 has been a good year for the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association with the exception that a number of our members passed away.

The Reunion in Brandon was a huge success with a good turnout and a busy three days. Our reunion committee planned interesting programs but always allowed some time for socializing. Brandon was a good choice for the reunion. There was good accommodation provided, good food, and a chance to see our old training camp A35 at Shilo. The tower, mock-up and packing shed are gone. Although upgraded, some of the barracks and administration buildings are still in use. The major change, of course, is that the camp is occupied by German Armoured Corps trainees. Who, in 1943, would have forecast that?

Our members enjoyed a tour of the Canadian Artillery Museum, one of the best base museums in Canada, and had lunch at the Artillery Officers' Mess. Following lunch, we had a tour of a WWII Commonwealth Air Training Base and a museum full of old aircraft being restored to flying condition. On Saturday, the next day, we were bussed to Clear Lake Golf Club for a leisurely lunch and some sightseeing. The

evening dinner dance ended another pleasant day. On Sunday, two full platoons marched to the cenotaph where wreaths were placed for the Battalion and BAFA fallen.

Although an attempt was made to have a large airborne presence at the CNE Warriors' Day Parade in August, it was not to be. Only BAFA, 1 Can Para Association and a group of 1 Can Para re-enactors in WWII uniforms turned up. Even so, the Maroon Berets received a great ovation. At it turned out, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion Association platoon won first prize in the platoon veterans' section.

Our Association again joined the Allied Airforces reunion at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and received a lot of attention for our display. On October 31 at Roy Thomson Hall, our Association had a display at the RCMI Military Massed Bands Concert, with The Queen's Own Rifles on one side, and the Canadian Parachute Centre on the other.

Our last social gathering of the year was a luncheon held at the ANAF Club in Barrie, Ontario. Despite threatening weather, over 75 persons attended, including Colonel and Mrs. Fraser Eadie. Many travelled a great distance

to attend. The year finished with the usual Remembrance Day parades that our Association supports.

In 2000, our Association has a group of 40 touring in the UK, France, Belgium and Holland from May 25 to June 12. There will be some sightseeing and many ceremonies where our Battalion veterans will parade again with veterans of the 8th and 9th Battalions of the British 6th Airborne. If Pier 21 is ready, members will gather in Halifax around the 1st of July to unveil a plaque in the military section and lay up the Eastern set of Colours in the Citadel. From September 8 to 10, a large group of members will gather to unveil an engraved six-foot-high monument at Ex Coelis Mountain. It is anticipated to be a very large public ceremony and will leave a significant marker in memory of the Battalion. With these three main events, along with the usual activities in which our Association participates, we have a busy year ahead of us.



Battalion veterans at the Brandon Manitoba Cenotaph, Brandon reunion.



In front of the same barrack hut used during WWII at Shilo, Manitoba, (left to right): Jan de Vries, Gord Fordyce and Barry Volkers stand next to a young German armoured corps trainee. What a change!

Major (ret'd) Dave Vine and his wife Lucia Saja have also undertaken a project to produce a professional 140th Regimental video compiled from our films and videos in our archives. These should be available in time for the actual birthday and will be given to schools and libraries to demonstrate the contribution of the Queen's Own to Canada. It will also be available for sale to all members of the Regimental Family.

In addition, approximately 50 Association members plus the Regimental Band will travel to Holland on April 30, 2000 to participate in the 55th Liberation of Holland ceremonies. The report on this event will appear in the next issue of The Rifleman.

Finally, I am tremendously proud to be Association President in our 140th year. I promise to uphold the traditions of our fine Regiment and will ensure the Association continues to serve all members of the Regiment Family. I will do whatever is necessary to support the Commanding Officer in his efforts to keep our Regiment active in the Order of Battle.



Harry Rollo, recipient of the Association "Rifleman of the Year" award, stands outside 10 Downing Street, London, England



QOR Capt Karl Haupt reached the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, October 1999. It took 5 days up and 1 1/2 days down the 5895-foot mountain.

accomplishments during and after the 1940's.

We have been getting first class support from 3 RCR Para Coy, CPC, and the airforce. Without the support of jumpmasters, riggers, flight crew, aircraft and various ops cells, we would never get off the ground. Many people are involved at many levels to ensure we continue to move ahead with our unique tasking.

The most important element in all of this remains our own troops. We have a collection of soldiers who are highly motivated and fit. They have voluntarily subjected themselves to the discomforts of soldiering, and the physical demands of carrying all sorts of equipment to accomplish whatever mission they are given, day or night. We have had a very successful annual summer exercise and were able to provide our soldiers with some of the adventure they sought, through being members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



Ex Steadfast Warrior



MCpl Kohler's special non-issue invisibility hat makes the use of cam face paint obsolete.

Regimental Band and Bugles in 1999

Lt Rita Arendz, Director of Music

1999, the cusp of the millennium, the year of loss and of gain. As we proceed from the 2nd millennium to the 3rd, uncertain of what the future will hold, The Regimental Band & Bugles continued to support their Regiment, their Regimental Family, the Canadian Forces and Canada by providing esprit de corps, while maintaining their community footprint.

The Band lost MCpl Gerry Griggs to compulsory retirement age, but thankfully we did not lose him altogether, as he has remained playing with us as a volunteer member. Several of our younger members have temporarily left the band to continue their post-secondary education, some in the United States and one in England. We wish them all the best. But we've also seen some new faces in our midst — Musician (flute) Jason Belyea and Bugler Jack Harris have joined our musical team and have added greatly to our endeavours.

Many members of the Band have had changes in their civilians lives and just like a family, we are there for them, even if it takes some "sneaking around", as was the case with the retirement of WO (retired) Al Tweten from his job as Airport Duty Manager at Pearson International Airport. The Band & Bugles, with some inside help, managed to crash his retirement party at the airport and provide a musical side to this auspicious event.

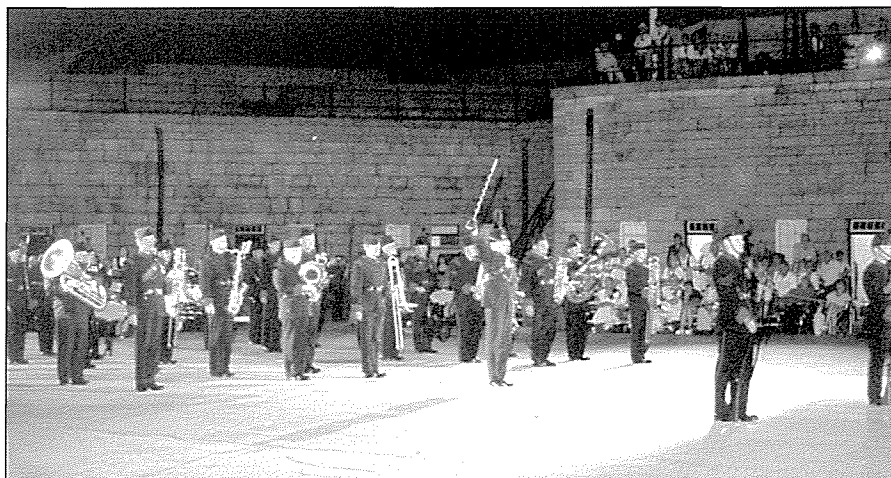
The Band & Bugles were busy, again during the year with approximately forty engagements: supporting The Canadian Forces College for their mess dinners, Graduation, and Garden Party; other mess dinners for Area Support Unit All Ranks and 709 Communications Regiment Sgts' Mess; as well as supporting our own Mens' Dinner, the Sgts' Mess Dinner, and the Officers' Mess Dinner. Also were concerts at our Legion Branch 344, at Versa Care Rest Home, as well as our Annual Birthday and Christmas Concerts at St. Paul's Anglican Church. The Gentlemen Buglers were busy throughout the year with numerous Last Post jobs and we thank them very much for this continued service to our veterans who have passed on.

Our cadet corps, 2881 RCACC, did their usual fine job on their annual inspection in May, and we were proud to provide the musical support to their parade and demonstrations.

It was also a year for showing our "colours" in parades: St. Patrick's Day, Norwegian Constitution Day, Royal Canadian Legion 258 Canada Day, Markham Citizens' Canada Day, Orillia Highland Games & Tattoo, Warriors' Day, Labour Day, and Orillia Santa Claus Parade. These were not the only parades — how could anyone not do our Regimental Church Parade for Remembrance Day Service in November. Despite the aging factor within the Band & Bugles, the Regiment and the Association were still led to our Regimental Church at a crisp 140 paces to the minute.



Combined band of QOR and RHLI, led by Bugle Major Haire, enter Old Fort Henry, Jul 99.



QOR Band and Skirmishers at the Kingston Heritage Tattoo, Old Fort Henry, Jul 99.

The annual Massed Band Spectacular hosted by the Royal Canadian Military Institute, held at Roy Thompson Hall each fall, has continued to be a fine showcase of not only the musical talents of military musicians in Toronto, but of our own Queen's Own Bandsmen and Buglers. A comment made by a member of the audience to the producer of the show, Mr. Murray Buckstein, was that one of the items on the show that he enjoyed the best was the first number after the intermission — Our Buglers!!!

If one were to take a view of the events the Band & Bugles participated in, one would notice an inclination towards the road. We highlighted our Birthday Concert by performing a piece called Band On the Bus. Our first road trip was to CFB Borden at the end of June.

Annual Association Shoot

Our Annual Shoot was held on September 25th at CFB Borden. It was a tremendous success and our thanks go to the Commanding Officer, LCol Bruce McEachern, CD for his support. In fact, the shoot would not have happened had it not been for LCol McEachern's timely intervention.

The top shot was Rocco Polsinelli — "one of my protégées" claims WO Gerry (Sasquatch) Senetchko. A great day was spent shooting Lee Enfield 303s, BBQ'ing, swapping jokes and 'war' stories. It is amazing how the things we did in the past take on a new life as years go by, especially after an hour or two at the Base Borden Rod & Gun Club following the shoot.

Our thanks also goes to Rob Grieve for supplying the rifles and for demonstrating his culinary expertise at the BBQ.

Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner

The final event of the year (since New Years Eve was a 'bust' due to the Y2K efforts) was the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto. The Regiment continues to carry on this age-old tradition where the Junior Ranks are served dinner by the Officers, and wine by the Warrant Officers & Sergeants.



Five members at the QOR Shoot in Sept 1999. From left to right: Brian Budden, Joe Oggy, Neil Arsenalult, Steve Budden and the RSM, CWO Andy Sarossy. (the target is reputed to be WO Gerry (Sasquatch) Senetchko in disguise.

Around 40 Association members, many accompanied by their wives, enjoyed a first class meal and the opportunity to join together to celebrate the Christmas season with past and present serving members of the Regimental family.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Association 'Rifleman of the Year' award to Major (Ret) Harry Rollo. Harry has served as Association treasurer for over 35 years and has been instrumental in maintaining the financial solvency of the Association. For his outstanding service, Harry was voted a ten percent increase at the Association Annual Meeting in Toronto in April 1999. Now, before anyone jumps to his or her feet in protest remember that ten percent of zero is still zero.

Congratulations Harry! — A very well deserved reward for a job well done.

140th Birthday Celebrations

As I alluded to at the start of this article, the Regiment will celebrate its 140th Anniversary in April 2000. There are a variety of events planned to celebrate this momentous occasion: a Regimental Band & Bugles Concert at St Paul's in Toronto on Friday, April 28, 2000; a Regimental Birthday Parade at Moss Park Armoury on Saturday afternoon, April 29, 2000 followed by a gala Rifles Dinner & Ball at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto. Major (Retd) Norm McCracken supported by Capt Harry McCabe, the Association President will coordinate the 'In Canada' celebrations.



D-Day Memorial Service at the Moss Park Armoury, June 6, 1999.



D-Day Memorial Service June 6, 1999

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association Annual Report

Captain Harry McCabe, MMM, CD, President

1999 was a tremendous year. We left the 20th century and put in motion plans to celebrate our upcoming 140th birthday.

At the outset, I want to pay tribute to our immediate Past President, CWO (Ret'd) Brian Budden, CD. Brian served as President for five years retiring in April 1999. During this time he continued to demonstrate outstanding leadership and organized two pilgrimages to France in 1994 and 1997. Under his direction, the Association continued to flourish and we are all the better for it. Brian also inspired us with his own personal example of courage following a tragic accident that resulted in the loss of his leg. His optimism and positive attitude have enabled him to not only carry on in true 'Queen's Own' tradition but also to return to work earlier than expected and give motivational talks to other accident victims. Finally, we extend him our congratulations on his recent marriage.

D Day Service & Breakfast

On Sunday, June 6, 1999, approximately 50 Association members attended a 55th Anniversary of D-Day service at Moss Park Armoury in Toronto. As always, the presence of our D-Day veterans is an emotional experience, not only for them, but also for the non-veteran members, family and friends.

This year's service was especially emotional because of the recent exposure given to the D-Day landings in the Steven Spielberg motion picture, Saving Private Ryan. While the film depicted the American landings, the graphic reality portrayed in it gave all who saw it a greater sense of the agony, courage and heroism displayed by our own QOR veterans as they

stormed that French beach all those years ago. A special guest was Captain Dale Dye, USMC (Ret'd) a former US Marine and a veteran of post WWII active service. Capt Dye was the technical director for Saving Private Ryan. He had been a guest speaker the previous evening at a D-Day Dinner held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

At the breakfast held in the Officers' Mess following the service, Capt Dye paid tribute to the veterans who were present. He expressed a wish that a big budget movie depicting the exploits of Canadian WWII veterans would be made at some future date giving the Queen's Own and all Canadian veterans the world wide recognition they so richly deserve. Following his talk, Capt Harry McCabe presented Dale with a QOR Regimental sweatshirt. Capt Dye promised to wear it proudly on future movie location shoots.

D Day Pilgrimage, 1999

Three QOR members, Stan Biggs, Jim McKendrick and Jim Wilkins, celebrated the 55th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. Stan was also the

'official' DVA representative.

The three veterans attended various ceremonies commemorating D-Day and visited many of the battle sites in which the QOR participated as well as the cemeteries where our fallen comrades rest. They also spent some time at the "Maison du Queen's Own Rifles". This is the house seen in the famous D-Day newsreel taken inside one of the 'Queen's Own' landing craft, which was renamed by the owner in a special ceremony during the 1997 Normandy trip.

Warriors' Day Parade

In August 1999, approximately 40 Association members plus the Regimental Band and Bugles participated in the Annual Warriors' Day Parade held at the CNE grounds in Toronto. The route this year was more difficult than in previous years due to ongoing construction and renovations at the CNE. Our admiration for our veterans was deepened as we marveled at their stamina during that long, hot parade. They continue to set an outstanding example and give immense pride to all who have served in our Regiment.



Left to right: Jim McKendrick, Stan Biggs and Jim Wilkins laying a wreath in Normandy at le Mesnil Patry on June 6, 1999.

Every two years CFB Borden holds a weekend called "Base Borden Days". It includes air shows, skills demonstrations, and other events. We were fortunate to be asked to provide some musical entertainment on one of the days. After finding an appropriate place for us to set up and play, we began, and performed music that highlighted the military, the Air Force (as they were celebrating their 75th year) and Canadian music. Whoever said that it never rains on The Queen's Own should have been there that day, because, unfortunately it did! Half way through our performance, we were scrambling to protect music, instruments, cases and equipment from the torrent of rain that suddenly fell. Thankfully, the equipment van and the bus were close at hand!

Although chronologically the Orillia Highland Games would have followed CFB Borden, our next major road trip was to the Kingston Heritage Tattoo 99 at the end of July during a heatwave. However, we survived quite well with an air-conditioned bus and air-conditioned rooms although one member of the band was reacquainted with the laws of gravity. As with everything this past summer, the Tattoo was commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Air Force, but that did not stop the organizers from inviting the Canadian version of "the Green Machine" into their midst. Accompanied by three skirmishers, Sgt Bill Paton, Sgt Doug Halcro and MCpl Paul Alexander, we entered the Fort under a volley of gun fire, zipped up and down the square, and retreated under another volley of gun fire to a roaring applause. If anyone in the audience had been asleep before we entered, they did not stay asleep!

After some at home "gigs" we were again on the road to Quebec City, the home of military music in Canada, to attend the Festival international de musiques militaires for four days at the end of August. This event was the first of its kind, and although it took ten years to get the event off the ground, it was a great success and the highlight of our year. There were 11 bands for a total of over 450 musicians: the Band of the US Navy (President's Own), la Musique de Materiel from France, Heeresmusikkorps 13 from Germany, the CF Central Band, the Band of the RCA, the Band of the Royal 22nd Regiment, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Band of the Voltigeurs de

Quebec, the Band of the 34th CBG, and the Band of the Naval Reserve (Canada). Although the timings were tight, and as with most things in the military, subject to change, the events themselves were wonderful. The Queen's Own Band & Bugles performed six times within three days (there were rehearsals we had to attend as well). We performed as part of the opening ceremonies at the Site Voltigeurs de Quebec de Place George V playing military music, national anthems and, since the theme of the Festival was "Viva Sousa" a rousing rendition with the massed band's of Stars & Stripes Forever. On the Saturday night, the massed band's performed in concert at the Quebec Coliseum as part of Expo Quebec. The Coliseum seated over 9000 audience members — it was absolutely stunning. The musicians intermingled, worked together well, and performed even better.

For some of our bandmen it was a thrill of a lifetime performing beside such excellent musicians as the US Navy Band (the majority of whom have Doctorates in Music). The conductors themselves each had an opportunity to lead this massed band and both musician and conductor could feel the accolades of the more than an appreciative audience. The program included such works as Fanfare for the Common Man by Aaron Copeland, Irish Tune from County Derry, and what massed band program would be complete without The 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. Raw musical power! Enough to have the heart leave the body! An experience none of the Band will forget!

This was only part of the Festival. There were various historical sites/parks within the walls of Old Quebec that were used as

concert venues where each band was to perform a small 45 – 50 minute concert. Our venues included the Jardin des Gouverneurs, the Parc Montmorency, the Edwin Belanger Band Shell, the Place de Paris" and the Musee de la civilisation. And to finish off the whole event there was a parade down the Grande Allee Canada.

We started just outside the Grande Allee Gate in front of le Concorde Hotel and finished at the park in front of le Chateau Frontenac. The people were overflowing the streets and clapping in time with the bands as they passed! It was such an experience and one that so few of the Band had ever experienced before. Even some of the longer serving members of the Band could not recall such a reception to military bands, and military music as that day parading down the street in Old Quebec City.

With our focus towards the events of 2000 and our trip to Holland to support our Regimental family in their pilgrimage for the 55th Anniversary of VE-Day, we will continue to support our role and mission as musicians and as a band to the Regimental Family, the Regiment, the CF and to Canada to the best of our abilities. As this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to write this article, I would like to take this opportunity for all the readers of The Rifleman to understand that this group of bandmen and buglers would not be here today without their own dedication of time, sweat, and hard work to this organization. For that I am truly grateful. To the members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Band & Bugles— Thank you!



The final parade down the Grand Allee to Chateau Frontenac at the International Military Music Festival in August of 99.

CO's Report Continued from page 8

Force Queen's Own and Airborne Regt, to speak about the parachute role: where it's been, where it is, and where it's going. On hand to hear his typically blunt and informative remarks were several Reg Force guests from the parachute world, including his son Maj Cowling and Capt Gerhard Hildebrandt of CPC, and Maj Don Haisell and Capt Jim Vass of 3 RCR's Para Coy.

Under Capt Champion's supervision, our staff performed well again at the annual **Brigade staff inspection** in mid-November. We were reported to be highly organized, with no areas of significant concern. Areas of particular strength were Training (Capt Tibbetts & WO Gresty), QM (MWO Kelly), Transport & Maintenance (thanks to Cpls Yeo & Ioanni), Environment (Capt Zeidler), and Public Affairs (Capt Tibbetts). Finance, Non-Public Funds, Security, and the BOR were also very good. The Brigade staff was favourably impressed our high standards of the past few years have been maintained.

Our initial scores on the **1999 Report Card** were even better than 1998's, thanks to the hard work of the soldiers who attended regularly and completed their Warrior training, those who worked hard at the taskings and evaluations we were assigned, and the DCO (Maj Fotheringham) and his finance staff who kept us from over-spending our budget. Out of our \$1 million budget for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1999, the DCO overspent by less than \$1,000. The Brigade Commander, Col Greg Young, was so impressed that he allocated us an extra \$50,000 for the next fiscal year, which has helped out greatly with some of our training.

While the final Report Card scores for 1999 still haven't been released by the Land Staff in Ottawa (Army HQ), as I write this the news media have published the draft scores they obtained through the *Access to Information Act*. We don't show up on the 'failed' list this year, even in error. It doesn't surprise me, and I'm glad Army HQ agrees with me this year.

Diversity training: The RSM and I took this training about accepting Canada's



Maj Fotheringham, OC 60th Company, Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.

diversity in February with the Brigade HQ. MWO Scott Patterson also took training as a Diversity Training Facilitator. Diversity training commenced with the officers in December, and will continue for all unit personnel in early 2000.

Announcements about **Reserve Restructure** were delayed until 2000 after several ideas for drastic change were circulated. As before, we have no idea if we will continue to have our current roles, or if we will be amalgamated with other units and/or lose our infantry and/or parachuting roles. All we can do is continue to perform our jobs well.

The improvements to **Moss Park Armoury** which the Brigade commenced in 1998 were completed, and much appreciated. Things got slightly out of hand when a 6 foot chain-link fence with 1 foot of barbed wire started to be built at the perimeter of the property along Queen & Jarvis Streets. Work halted suddenly in December after complaints from the City, and the fence is supposed to be torn down shortly. I will not miss it.

WO Gerry Senetchko and MCpl Gerry Griggs (Band) reached compulsory

retirement age in the spring, and we recognized their retirement from the CF after many years of service with parades and presentations. During the year, several other personnel retired from the militia due to the pressures of work, family, and travel, including Maj Martin Delaney, Capt Dave Clarkson, Capt Stéphane Tremblay, and Sgt Steve Wolfe. We were sorry to lose them after their years of service.

Lt Wil Beardmore joined the Reg Force (PPCLI) in July, and we wish him well despite the mischief he caused. He was an excellent leader in the unit and conducted excellent training. He has the opportunity to go to the top in the Reg Force. Cpl Ian Howard moved to Australia at the end of the year, after creating and maintaining our unit Web Site virtually by himself. This is in addition to having been an excellent soldier for some years. We also lost 2Lt Herb Drummond, 2Lt Dave Vandevonne, and OCdt John Fairley, and we wish them well for the future.

Band: I congratulate Lt Rita Arendz (Director of Music), MWO Fred Haire (Bugle Major), and all members of the band and bugles (militia and volunteers) for their work and dedication in 1999 despite the challenges. I was pleased to attend their very demanding spring concert at St. Paul's Church, and was impressed with the organization and quality of their music (and the singing!)

Full-time unit cadre: Despite regrettable Reg Force postings out, our 10-strong FTUC continues to be very effective.

Year-end: At the **Christmas Dinner** in December I awarded the Charlie Martin Award, awarded to the top soldier in the unit, to WO Perry Gresty. The announcement led to loud applause from the soldiers. It is always tempting to give awards to the full-time cadre, since army life is their full-time occupation. But this award was particularly well deserved. Not only does he set the highest standards for training, in interest, challenges, and safety, but he also keeps an eagle eye out for parachute and job opportunities for the soldiers. Most Basic Para courses with QOR candidates see WO

Gurkha Company Report

Major E.R. Simundson, OC Gurkha Company

This training year has found Gurkha Company tasked with supporting the 32 Brigade Battle School in the various courses operated by that agency. Our primary job has been to provide staff and candidates to the QL2 Common Course conducted on weekends at Moss Park Armoury. Having overcome extreme difficulties with an accelerated start date, the course kicked off in December 1999 with 12 QOR recruits in 1 Platoon. OC Gurkha is the company OC of the course, with 2LT Dar-Ali as Platoon OC 1 Platoon; WO Campbell as Platoon 2ic; and Sgt Parris, Sgt. Shering, MCpl Mark and Cpl Kemp with the sections.

The QOR staff and candidates are overall the best on the course for retention, skill and effort. While this all may seem to be a pretty easy task to most ex-members it is quite different than in the past — the degree of which is hard to believe. Not only must the staff answer to the Battle School, but also Area Standards is constantly checking, monitoring, and reviewing.

The Brigade is planning a summer local recruit training program this summer and I am certain that Gurkha Company staff will be heavily involved in its conduct.

This spring will bring retirement for me; but I cannot think of a better job to finish than with the training of new Riflemen.

Officers' Mess Report

Major E.R. Simundson, PMC

This past year in the Officers' Mess, has been fairly quiet as things go. The Mess Committee consists of Capt. Banerjee, who replaced Capt. Cunningham as Vice PMC; Capt. Cameron, who replaced Capt. Champion as Treasurer; Capt. (Hon) McGregor as Secretary; and Lt. Foulds as house member. All have kept the Mess on an even keel.

The oil painting restoration project continues with six paintings having been restored to date.

The seemingly endless saga of replacing silverware is nearing completion. The delay seems to arise from finding someone to stamp the crest on each piece. It is interesting to think about what a tremendous boost it would be if all of those people who just "had to have a souvenir of the mess and nobody would miss just one spoon/fork/knife" could bring them back!

The acquisition of an air conditioner has produced hilarity among the members if not cool air. It would be amazing if we could only get some one to exchange it for a cooler rather than a heater.

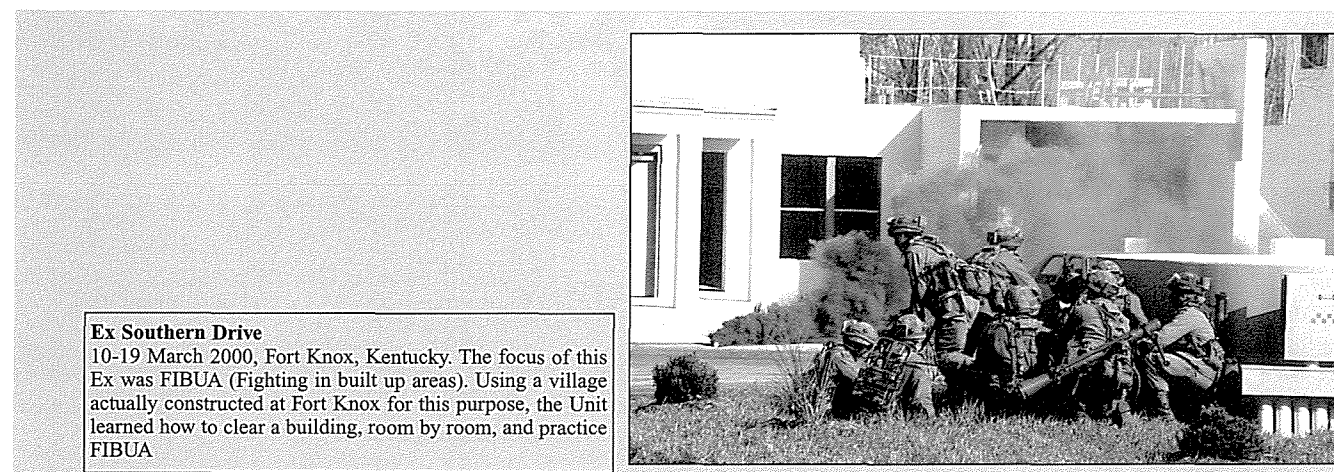
Our steward, Hugh Hunter, was married to Vicki in July. The dinner held in June was a great success. The Mess said goodbye to Capt Tremblay and Capt Clarkson, and celebrated the marriages of Capt Banerjee, Capt Saunders and Lt Poteralski, and continued partying into

the wee hours. The Annual Mess Dinner also was a great success. The response this year was excellent and all who attended dined well and had a great time. The Officers' Christmas Luncheon was less well attended. Everyone who came, however, had a grand time.

The Mess was not open on New Year's Day so that there would not be any interference with possible tasks in support of OP Abacus. The New Year brought no computer glitches of note except at NDHQ.

The Mess hosted an auction night in February 2000, which was very successful. It was in support of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal. This event is reported on page 28)

I would like to thank all of those officers who have given their support to the Mess and my committee over the years. They have made many difficult tasks easy.



Ex Southern Drive
10-19 March 2000, Fort Knox, Kentucky. The focus of this Ex was FIBUA (Fighting in built up areas). Using a village actually constructed at Fort Knox for this purpose, the Unit learned how to clear a building, room by room, and practice FIBUA

Regimental Padre's Report - 1999

Capt Craig Cameron

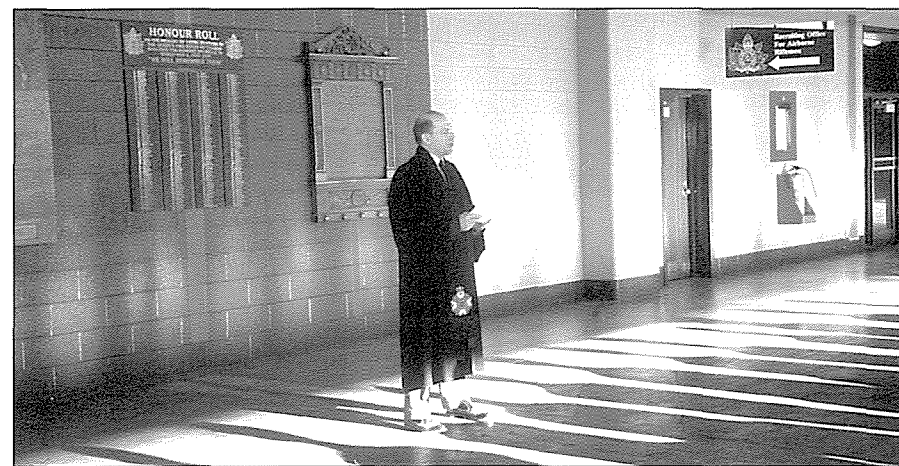
How can one describe the penultimate year to the third millennium anno domini? It was a year of preparation, a year of frustration, and a year of anticipation. This three-fold dimension was symbolized by a two-week course I attended in Ottawa in late October. The course was billed as a "Stress Management Facilitators'

marched along the back roads of Borden early on a beautiful fall morning with the leaves turning yellow all around us. Despite the beauty of the day, several riflemen experienced difficulties and I did what I could to encourage them.

military advisor for war films, including the recent hit Saving Private Ryan, attended the ceremony.

Just as life in the Regiment presents me with sad and difficult duties, there are happier ones too! I was pleased to be able to perform the wedding ceremony for Captain Adam Saunders and his bride Karen, at the Royal Canadian Military Institute on 27 March. I will remember this wedding for a number of reasons. Following the rehearsal two days before, I had to run the gauntlet of Serbian-Canadian protesters picketing the U.S. Embassy over the NATO bombing of Serbia to force a withdrawal from Kosovo. This was on University Ave just south of the RCMI. As I walked by, I saw a police officer being carried to an ambulance after being struck with a thrown object.

The year 2000 promises to be a year of challenges and celebration as we look ahead to such things as: Reserve restructure, a new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, the 140th Birthday, and the trip to Holland to commemorate the 55th anniversary of V-E Day.



Padre Craig Cameron at annual D-Day Memorial Service June 6, 1999 at the Moss Park Amoury.

Program" to train people to lead stress workshops. It turned out, much to the participants' chagrin, that we had to create a stress management workshop for ourselves during the course.

One positive outcome was identifying the ways that I personally cope with undue i.e. bad stress, and to recommend various strategies to other CF members. Many stress management "experts" have finally recognized that one of the biggest resources is spiritual: i.e. prayer and faith in God.

Another unexpected and challenging development in 1999 was a decision to work as assistant to the then Adjutant, Captain Rick Cunningham, who was tasked away for much of the spring in planning for Op Abacus (the military's response to Y2K issue). While the learning curve has been fairly steep, I have helped the unit on the pers/admin aside and this, I believe, will enhance my work as Regimental Padre.

In field training, I attended Ex Polar Warrior at Meaford in February and a brigade exercise as well a unit-run Ex at Borden in June. In September I was on Ex First Shot, a range weekend and participated in a 13 kilometer ruck march with members of 60th Company. We

As far as my pastoral work goes, I have visited various members of the Regimental family in hospital and at home following surgery. I continue to meet for lunch with some of our veterans and widows of vets at Royal Canadian Legion Branch one Thursday a month, playing cribbage and generally keeping in touch.

With each passing year, the number of our veterans declines and this year was no exception. On 24 February 1999 at St. Paul's Church I assisted in the funeral of the late Colonel Charles Dalton, DSO, KStJ, ED, former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and Company Commander on D-Day. I brought the message at the funeral of 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion veteran Cliff Oates on 9 March at Brooklin United Church. There was a good turnout of Association vets in maroon jackets to say farewell to Mr. Oates who just three weeks earlier came to the Garrison Ball hobbling along on feet that had just been operated on! Finally, on 22 April in Scarborough, I conducted a funeral for the late Sergeant Frank Gaines, a 1940 volunteer and D-day veteran.

There was a strong turnout of over 70 Association and serving members at the D-Day memorial ceremony at Moss Park Armoury on 6 June. Special guest Captain (Retd) Dale Dye, USMC, who works as a



Padre Cameron following the completion of the 13 km Ruck March at Ex First Shot, Borden on September 11-12, 1999.

Gresty jumping with them at the J stage. He always makes an extra effort for our training, and everyone appreciates it.

I also recognized the award of Sgt Donovan O'Halloran's C.D. (Canadian Forces Decoration), although he was tending to his wife and new-born son at that time.

With Cpl Hewlin's departure, his successor as PMC of the Junior Ranks Mess is Cpl Mike Chisholm, and he did a great job presiding over the Christmas Dinner.

At year's end, Maj John Fotheringham prepared a group of volunteers to help him with the Brigade's Readiness Company for Op Abacus, in case there were serious computer problems with the transition to the year 2000. None occurred, but no one knew for sure in advance, except perhaps the Y2K consultants.

We are also looking at fewer Brigade exercises in the year 2000, which will give the unit welcome scope for our own training.

Our Millennium event for the year 2000 will be the 140th Regimental Birthday on 26 April 2000, with a parade the following weekend (Apr 29th). While we try to avoid frequent ceremonial events, they are an occasional necessity to remind ourselves, our newer members, and our community that we are members of a team that has been supporting Canada for almost 140 years, and which is going to keep doing that job as long as the government and the Army let us do so.

Personnel: I must mention some of those who work so hard for the unit, often with few thanks. My thanks to Capt Steve Tibbetts for his continued support and work on our behalf, despite the mounds of paperwork required. The Sigs Det, under Cpl Jason Green, continues to be an important part of our tactical exercises. I'd also like to express thanks to our part-time clerical staff in the Admin & Pay cells. This includes MCpl Chris Van Hamme, who does an invaluable if thankless job in the BOR processing releases.

On the Black Net side of the Regiment, LCol Steve Brand gave up his position

as G3 Reserve Adviser at LFCA HQ in June due to civilian work commitments, but retains an interest in our activities and is assisting with the Association trip to Holland in May, 2000.

LCol Tony Welsh continues to work part-time behind the scenes in Kingston and Ottawa in a key staff position, while keeping up with a demanding civilian job.

And our tireless Honorary Colonel, BGen Don Pryer, is always available whenever I need support. He spends a fair bit of time working with Reserves 2000, a national lobby group which has nothing to do with the unit, and we don't always see eye-to-eye about things. He also, however, finds whatever time it takes to support the unit, its activities, and my requests, for which I am very grateful.

I'd like to thank my RSM, CWO Andy Sarossy, for his continued diligence and work for the unit, and those who volunteer their time at RHQ for the many mundane tasks which arise: BGen Steve Andrunyk, LCol John Strathy, Maj John Whyte, Capt Harry McCabe (President of the Toronto branch of the QOR Association), Chick McGregor, Capt Peter Simundson (volunteer curator of our Museum at Casa Loma), Sgt Art Gay, and Sgt Andy MacNaughton. There are many others — thanks to all of you.

In conclusion I'd like finally to thank the ordinary Riflemen, Cpls, MCpls, Sr NCO's, and officers whose spirit, diligence, and toughness in the face of many challenges continue to prove we really are an infantry unit, full of real

soldiers, despite the bureaucracy and paperwork we have to deal with.

What impressed me again and again during the year is the dedication and professionalism of these men and women. It is very tough to make the time to keep fit, keep current on basic soldiering skills, show up for exercises or be at the Armoury on time and properly dressed, with the proper kit, while keeping up with work/school & family. Indeed, there are some who don't do all of this, and a few who do little of it. But those who carry out these tasks are known and respected for doing so. They are true citizen soldiers.

For our full-time staff, regular and reserve, it is tough to work for many masters under less than ideal conditions, and never have enough time to get everything done. But they meet their challenges and accomplish their missions.

Thanks to all these efforts, I am proud to say we fulfil our mission of training young people to be good citizens of Canada, and prepare our troops well for the tasks they may be called upon to perform. There are limitations on what we can do. But I am confident our soldiers are capable of measuring up to Canada's expectations in any situation, given reasonable mission-specific training at the time, and proper equipment when needed.

In short, thanks to them, the unit is living up to our Regimental motto: IN PEACE PREPARED. Keep it up in the year 2000!

LCol Bruce McEachern



Ex First Shot, Borden, Sep 99.

The paper with "The Tough Of The Track"

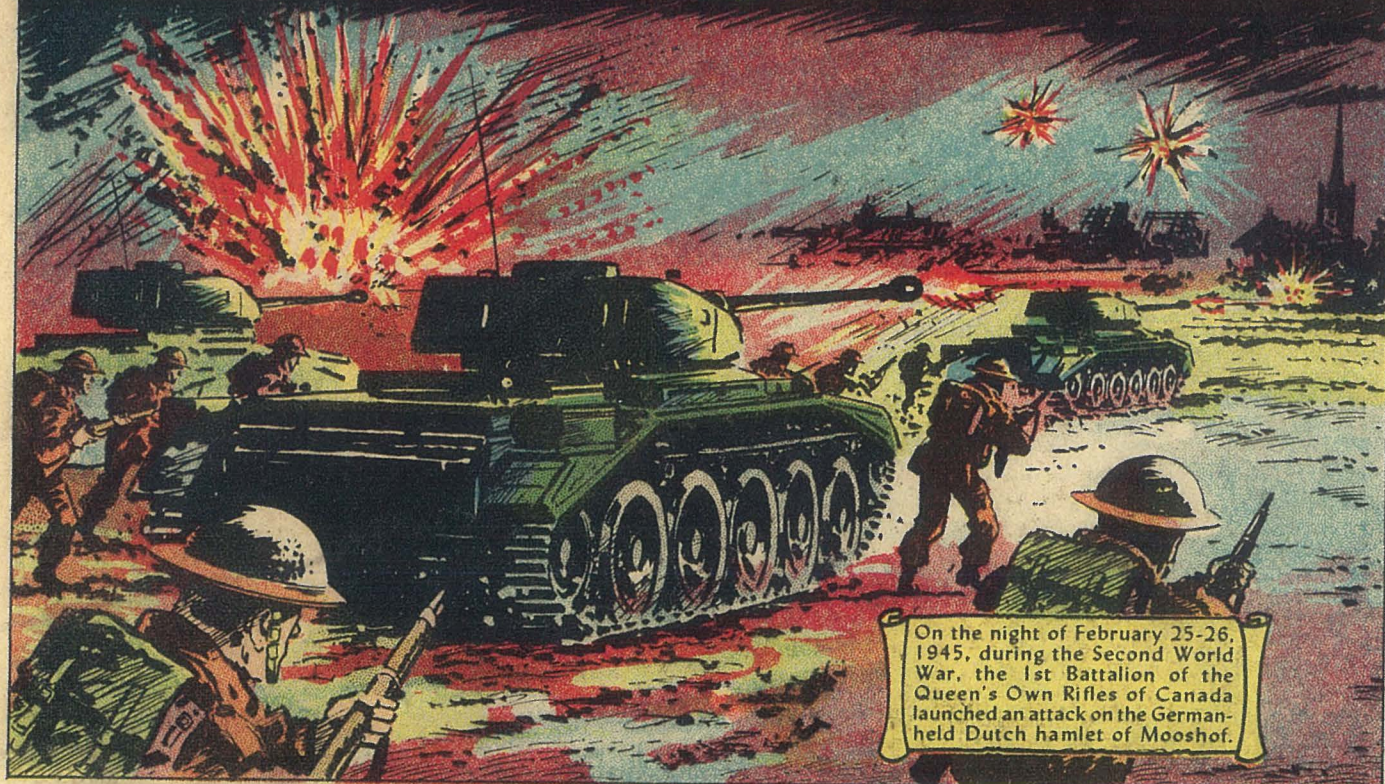
THE VICTOR

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No. 241
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COSENS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN



On the night of February 25-26, 1945, during the Second World War, the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada launched an attack on the German-held Dutch hamlet of Mooshof.

The platoon of which Sergeant Aubrey Cosens was platoon sergeant had a special task.



SERGEANT COSENS, OUR JOB IS TO ELIMINATE THE GERMAN STRONG POINTS IN THAT FARM. WE WILL HAVE TWO TANKS TO SUPPORT US.

VERY GOOD, SIR! WE'LL MOVE OUT RIGHT AWAY!



KNOCK OUT THOSE TANKS AND WE WILL SOON MOP UP THE CANADIAN INFANTRY.



THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE THOUGHT. THEY'VE GOT ONE OF THE TANKS. WE'D BETTER GET UNDER COVER.

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

TAKE COVER BEHIND THE WALL.



The Canadians launched two more attacks on the farm, but to no avail. After the third attack only Sergeant Cosens and four other men were left of the platoon.



I'M GOING TO MAKE A DASH FOR THE TANK TO DIRECT ITS FIRE. THOSE TANK BOYS CAN'T SEE TOO WELL THROUGH THEIR PERISCOPE.

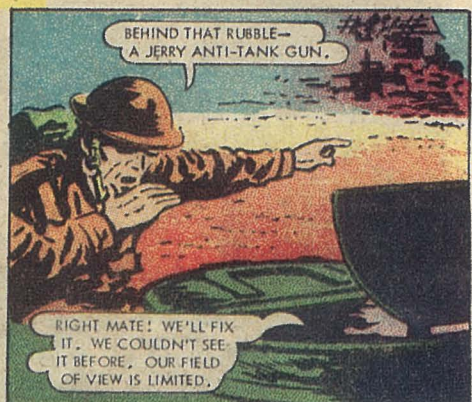
OKAY, SARGE! WE'LL MAKE THE JERRIES KEEP THEIR HEADS DOWN.



THE BOYS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB. THE JERRIES HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME YET.

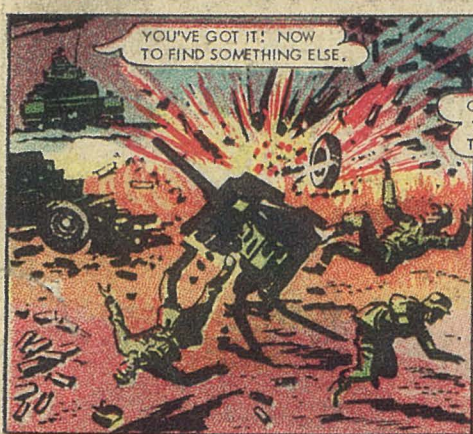


I'LL GET UP AND DIRECT THE FIRE FROM THE TOP.



BEHIND THAT RUBBLE—A JERRY ANTI-TANK GUN.

RIGHT MATE! WE'LL FIX IT. WE COULDN'T SEE IT BEFORE. OUR FIELD OF VIEW IS LIMITED.

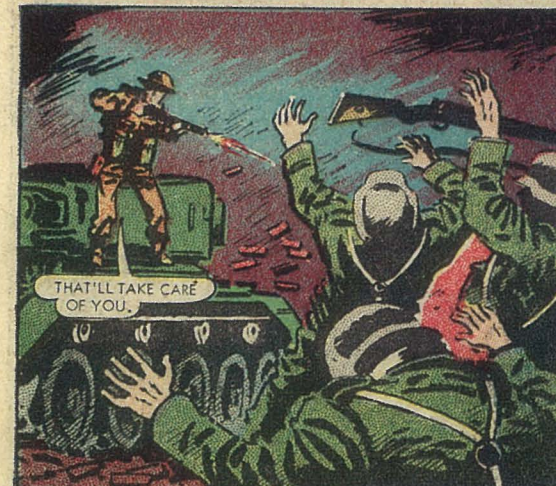


YOU'VE GOT IT! NOW TO FIND SOMETHING ELSE.



With Cosens directing the fire, the German strong-points were knocked out. Then the tank, with the remains of Cosens' platoon, moved in on the farm.

CRASH STRAIGHT THROUGH THE WALL AND WE'LL GET THE JERRIES THAT ARE LEFT THERE.



THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



KAMERAD! KAMERAD!

SURRENDERED, EH? NOW WE'LL GET ON TO THE REST OF YOUR MATES.

Cosens went on to the next two farm buildings and killed or captured the occupants. Just after Cosens had cleared the third building, he was killed by a German sniper. For his gallantry, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.



NEXT WEEK—How the Germans try to trap two Air Sea Rescue launches!