



The Powder Horn

Volume 3

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Issue 3



*Season's Greetings
to all Members and Friends
of our Regimental Family*



People, Places and Pleasantries

Elected...

Members of the Regimental family will be delighted to learn that among the record number of Liberal MPs elected to the House of Commons from Ontario on 25 October is John Richardson. Those who know Jack will recall that he served as a Lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion in Germany between 1957 and 1960. He left the Regular Army in early 1960 to follow a career in education but continued his interest in the military by serving in the Militia. He commanded the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment while being a school principal in Peterborough. On his move to Stratford to become Superintendent of Education for the Stratford Board of Education, he commanded London Militia District in the rank of Colonel. In October 1986, he was appointed Commander of Central Militia Area and promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. Congratulations, Jack, and good luck in your political career.

Home Again...

Colonel W.H. (Bill) Minnis returned to Ottawa in October 1993 after completing a tour of duty as Canadian Forces Attaché in Israel. Bill will start retirement leave early next year when he will join his wife Brenda, who has already moved to their retirement home in P.E.I.

Also Home...

is Colonel Don Dalziel where he did a double tour of duty as Canadian Forces Attaché in Moscow. He is now serving in NDHQ as Director of Attachés.

Did W.S. Churchill Really Say This?...

A baboon in a forest is a matter of legitimate speculation; a baboon in a zoo is an object of public curiosity; but a baboon in your wife's bed is a cause of great concern.

Retiring...

LCOL David Montgomery, now serving in NDHQ, will start his retirement leave in January 1994. He plans to move to P.E.I. and commence the building of his rural retirement home near Bill and Brenda Minnis. Looks like the nucleus of a P.E.I. branch of the Queen's Own Rifles Association.

Congratulations...

to Norm Gardner, a former officer with the Toronto Battalion, who was returned to the Toronto Police Services Board in November 1993. Norm had served a maximum six-year term on the Police Board between 1986 and 1992 and had to step aside in 1993 due to a "sunset" rule. Norm's no-nonsense approach to policing has gained him a great deal of respect from Toronto citizens. ■

Battalion News Highlights

For the second year in row, the Battalion has been well represented in the SSF Ironman Competition at CFB Petawawa this past September. A competition that requires the completion of a 32 km rucksack march followed by a 3.8 km canoe portage and culminating with the 10 km paddle to the finish line is regarded as a true test of one's physical fitness and endurance.

Of the 177 participants, the majority from the Regular Force, SGT Nobrega placed 35th, RFN Hutcheon placed 48th and MCPL Nolan placed 60th. Well done, men!

On 17 September, as part of the 49th anniversary of Operation "Market Garden", CAPT John Fotheringham, MWO Sarossy, WO Wilmot and WO

O'Connor parachuted on the original DZ and marched 23 kms to "The Bridge Too Far" with British 10 Para Regt. During their European trip, these four Regimental stalwarts also made a balloon jump from an altitude of 700 feet.

Not to be outdone, CAPT Ferguson, WO Kelly and MCPL Thorn travelled to the U.K. to participate in the 10 Para Regt. annual camp which included tactical jumping and marine insertion.

MCPL Arendz, a member of the Regimental Band, was selected to represent Canada in ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

The intense activity seen around Moss Park Armoury is a result of the implementation by Commander LFCA of an individual set of measurable standards called the Combat Readiness Standards (CRS). Every member of the Battalion must attain this standard at either the gold, silver or bronze level. Failure to meet these standards will negatively affect the Battalion in terms of allocation of training funds, equipment and ammunition. Go for gold, chaps!

Two jump towers have been installed in Moss Park Armoury for training of parachutists. Named the "Ridgeway" and "Vimy" towers, they will be adorned with bulletin boards and display cases funded by the Trust Fund.■

News from Association Branches

Victoria

■ On November 13th we had our first, and hopefully annual, Happy Hour at the WO & Sgts Mess. There was a very good turnout with 51 members present.

■ Ex-Chief Cook Stan Churnish celebrated his 75th birthday on the day of the Happy Hour and was surprised with a birthday cake and a card with 50 signatures.

■ We were also happy to use this gathering to thank Sandy and Joe Rozon for their efforts in producing our first newsletter. They were also congratulated on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

■ Ron Caven has been appointed the official Kit Shop representative. He can be reached at 1-604-478-6761.

■ The annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held in the WOs & Sgts Mess, 3 PPCLI, Work Point Barracks, on 15 January 1994. We are hoping to attract Nanaimo residents to this meeting.

■ We are saddened to report that Lyle Allen and Aime Fortin passed away this year. Our condolences are extended to their families.

■ Finally, best wishes are extended to Cy Arkinstall for a speedy recovery.

Toronto

Members are reminded that Association dues for 1994 should be mailed to Art Gay at Regimental Headquarters located in Moss Park Armoury.

1994 dues will remain at \$10.00.

Calgary

Some time has elapsed since I reported, excuses are many but alas none of any significance. The Regimental Birthday celebrations once again proved most successful, and to those who attended, my thanks and trust others of the Regimental Family will take the plunge to attend our next function 23 April 1994. The occasion afforded us the opportu-

nity to bid farewell to BGEN and Mrs Ashton, we wish Barry and Carol bon voyage and look forward to their return to Calgary!

Happenings in and out of the Calgary area:

■ I have the honour each Remembrance Day of laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Calgary Branch. During the weekend 23/25 July 1993 a large gathering of Korean veterans took place. The guest of honour was MGEN H. Pitts. The General was in his element renewing past friends and comrades. We do request that on the General's next visit he would give us a 'warning order' so we may plan a get-together for him and his wife, Marianne.

It is the intention of the Calgary Branch to have a plaque in the Museum of Regiments showing the presence of the Regiment in Calgary during the days of its existence in the Regular Force.

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News from Association Branches

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Obituary Notices

■ It was with sadness to learn of Norman Whiston's death, he was a most respected soldier. It was with deep regret the passing of Bob Munson on 22 August 1993. I regret to have to inform readers of the death of Aime Fortin of Victoria on 5 November 1993 at the age of 59 years. It came as a shock to learn of the sudden death of Rae Cousins 14 October 1993. It was a pleasure to have served with Rae, he always displayed a warm personality and created friends wherever he served. I was unable to attend his funeral as I was in Europe at the time, but many of the Regimental family did attend. To the families we offer our deepest sympathy in their tragic loss.

Seen in Passing

■ On my visit to the U.K. spent a most enjoyable day with Derek and Mitooli Bamford. In Victoria on a very short visit, I saw Ron Caplan and I also visited Cy Arkinstall in hospital,

he has since been released and is well on the way to recovery. In the Calgary area, Jim Taylor was a little under the weather but is now fully recovered. I had lunch with Doug Williams (he paid).

■ Departed for down south are Ken and June Barrett, yours truly and Donnie to Hawaii for two weeks in December then south for three months in January.

■ Roy Dunford's dear wife Edith has been ill for a number of years but Roy has been quite remarkable in support of his wife and companion. For your devotion Roy, you have our admiration. Of course, Clay and Louise Hoder continue to give me their magnificent support. Speaking of support, one cannot forget Ralph Ridley, thank you Ralph!

That just about brings us up-to-date, one item remaining. From the Calgary area may we wish all of the Regimental Family the warmest wishes for the Christmas season and good health and contentment in the coming year! ■

Trust Fund

The President and Trustees of the Regimental Trust Fund wish to express their appreciation to those members of our Regimental Family who have made donations to the Trust Fund.

A total of \$8,065.00 has been contributed by 116 members to date.

This amount falls short of the costs of Regimental activities that are outside DND responsibility.

If you have not yet made your contribution, we urge you to do so before the end of the year to qualify for income tax benefits.

The Rifleman

The 1994 issue of "The Rifleman" is scheduled to be produced and distributed by 24 April 1994.

Contributors to this annual Regimental journal are requested to have their submissions to the Editor by 1 February 1994.

All articles and photographs should be mailed to the Editor of "The Rifleman" at the Regimental Headquarters address.

In Memoriam

The Regiment is deeply saddened by the death of Colonel J.F. (Jack) Lake, CD, QC, who died in his 76th year on 19 November 1993.

A lawyer by profession, Jack served with the 1st Battalion of the Regiment during the Second World War landing in Normandy on D-Day. He was wounded at Quesney Woods in August 1944. On return to Canada at war's end, Jack resumed the practice of law but never ceased to take an active and prominent role in the welfare of the Regiment. He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Battalion in 1980 and then served as the Honorary Colonel between 1988 and 1991.

Jack also devoted a great deal of time and effort to various organizations serving as President of the Queen's Own Association in Toronto, the Royal Canadian Military Institute, and Fort York Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

A Regimental service of prayer and remembrance, attended by a large number of relatives, comrades, friends and serving members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, was held in Moss Park Armoury on 23 November 1993 at which special tributes were delivered by Joyce Brocklehurst, Norm Manchester and John Strathy.

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember him."

The Regiment

Inspired by the moving service of prayer and remembrance for Jack Lake, this essay on "The Regiment" was composed by Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable Barnett J. Danson, a D-Day veteran and a former Minister of National Defence.

Today we said good-bye to Jack Lake in a regimental service of prayer and remembrance at Moss Park Armoury –the first time in my memory that such a service has been held. Rather than the august and reverent environment of St. Paul's, our Regimental church, where so many of our happy and sad occasions have been celebrated. Outside of which is our Cross of Sacrifice which commemorates our battles and those who are never to return. Where we pray on Remembrance Day and each anniversary of D-Day. When long-gone comrades become young faces and we try to hide the tears which cannot be suppressed. "They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old." And we are growing old and all too frequently and inevitably, we gather to

say farewell to another from our ranks.

But Jack Lake's funeral touched a special "Big 2" chord. Sure, there are fewer of us. And more widows now come to join us as they too relive memories of their lovers, our comrades, who have already departed. But like salmon who return to the stream where they were hatched, we congregate, not only to pray farewell, but also to touch one another. To be together as we are all too well aware that there will be fewer of us next time. Of course, each of us will be there, just as we knew it was someone else who was going to "get it" next time, but not really certain.

Jack's funeral was very much a Regimental event, of which he would be very proud indeed. For he was one of those who worked selflessly to maintain

the Regimental tradition and spirit. We were joined by many others from other Regiments and Corps who understood and respected our Regiment and our attachment to it. And an increasing number of young men and women who are filling the blank files with vigour. Those who have served with the Regular Force battalions bring special strength. There were others who respect our spirit but don't quite understand it, or feel it. You really can't unless you were part of it, as a serving member, as spouse or sweetheart, or close family.

For many of us, the Regiment was our home for an important — perhaps the most important — part of our lives. The support system that was designed to galvanize us into a cohesive fighting

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The Regiment

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nachine. The discipline which made us efficient and responsible to ourselves and our comrades. Sounds archaic today, but it was in our time, the noblest endeavour commanding our commitment. The crucible that made us men. We enjoyed comradeship in its deepest sense. Fellowship not quite as deep but essential to young men who had to live together, support one another and be surrogate brothers while we were lonely and far from our "real families". Sure we raised hell together, but not more intensely than we prayed together. We were a family, and those of us still around still are. Not so much because we enjoy each other's company, which we do for short periods but because we shared a unique experience and an

intense loyalty to our young friends who we loved in a very special way and whose memories we revere.

The Regiment is more than a military unit, even though it's a very good one. It is an intense personal relationship. The Regiment, The Queen's Own, is and always was an extended family. The "Black Network", a network which computers cannot reproduce. We are inextricably linked and mutually supportive.

When we sing "The Queen", as we did today, it is like a hymn, as was "The King" in our early days. When we sang "O Canada" it was truly an anthem for a proud nation as we belted out each phrase with gusto, and no little emotion. The "Last Post" and "Reveille" were

moments of grace, a special holiness. And then came the Regimental March, the quick step of "The Buffs", when our aching backs straightened, our chins were held high and our arms stiffened by our sides as our rigid thumbs instinctively aligned themselves with the seams of our trousers. The years faded as we recalled the many march pasts, the general salutes and the Royal salutes. It was "our song". We were "Queen's Own". We are "Queen's Own". We are part of a fraternity and family with no easy membership. We have experienced it and we are deeply attached to it. It is part of us...and no one can ever take that away from us. ■

Calgary Museum of Regiments

Former members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment who served in Currie Barracks between 1952 and 1969 will be pleased to know that a stained glass window depicting our Regiment's badge will be installed in the Calgary Museum of Regiments to mark our Regiment's service in that city.

The cost of the window is \$1,500.00 and the donations toward this project would be appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to the Queen's Own Rifles Trust Fund. ■

D-Day Plus 50

Plans are well underway for a significant Queen's Own presence during the 50th anniversary of the D-Day ceremonies in Normandy in June 1994.

A contingent of Queen's Own veterans who participated in the Normandy assault landing are leaving Toronto on 3 June 1994 to take part in a number of ceremonies and to tour some of the major battle sites.

Approval in principle has been given for the Battalion to send a 50 man guard of honour accompanied by the Regimental Band to support the veterans during the ceremonies, to tour battle sites, and to participate in joint exercises with units stationed in Europe.

Although some of the costs will be borne by DND, the major portion of expenses will have to be borne by the Regiment.

A special fund raising dinner will be held in the Toronto Hilton Hotel on 23 April 1994 to help in defraying the costs of the trip.

Several donations from individuals and corporations have already been received to support this worthwhile venture. ■

The Executive
of the Queen's Own Rifles Association
wishes its members a Happy New Year!

