

THE RIFLEMAN

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

2022 - 2023

CANADA HOUSE – 6 JUN 44



**The Regiment bids farewell to its last surviving D-Day veteran,
Alex Adair (page 14)**

CANADA'S LONGEST-SERVING INFANTRY REGIMENT

WHAT IS THE REGIMENTAL TRUST?

The Regimental Trust was established in 1959 to support the Regiment, the Riflemen, the Regimental Museum, the maintenance of Regimental Monuments and Memorials, and Regimental Headquarters. The Regimental Trust accomplishes this by raising funds from donors to support the activities as requested by the Commanding Officer, the Museum, Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) and, from time to time, the Regimental Association and Cadet Corps.

The Trust provides funds for multiple activities that in 2022 included:

- The Annual Children's Christmas Party
- Regimental sports teams, including the Running Club and Hockey Team
- Upgrading display cases in the Regimental Museum
- Installing grave markers for Fenian Raid casualties

Fundraising and support for Regimental trips to commemorate special anniversaries and events including:

- Op Rha 2022 trip to the Netherlands to unveil grave marker for Lt. Kavanaugh
- 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge in 2017
- 75th anniversary of D-Day and Normandy

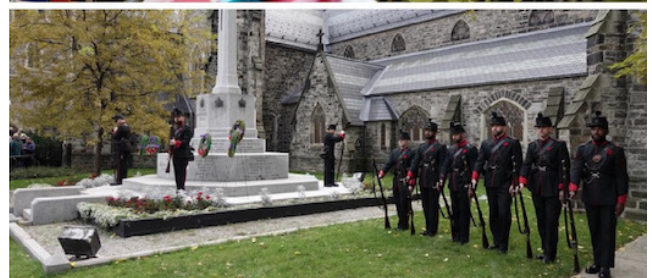
In early 2021 the Trust along with the Regiment and Regimental family launched the 1860 Club to deal with communications within the Regimental family and to facilitate fundraising by the Trust. Since its launch in 2021, the 1860 Club has been a great success with regular communications to over 500 members and contacts, and significant fundraising for the Trust. For more information on the 1860 Club go to www.1860club.ca.

Upcoming Activities and Events

In 2023 the Trust will continue to support the ongoing needs of the Regiment, Museum, Monuments and Memorials, the RHQ and the Cadet Corps. In addition, a major fundraising is being undertaken to support the celebration of D-Day+80 in June 2024 by funding a trip by 65 Riflemen and Bandsmen to Normandy. Information on sponsorships and donations can be found on the 1860 Club website.

DONATE NOW

Credit card or PayPal is accepted at www.1860club.ca/donate or www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14353



If you'd like to send a cheque, please mail to:

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Trust Fund
Box 837
Unit 3, 2375 Brimley Road
Toronto, ON M1S 3L6

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The Rifleman is published on behalf of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Submissions are welcome and may be sent as Word documents to the Regimental Secretary at qorregsec@gmail.com. The deadline for the 2023-2024 issue is February 1, 2024. *The Rifleman* welcomes photos of all Regimental activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference for photos is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to qorregsec@gmail.com. Where possible, please also send images as separate attachments. Please include captions and photo credits. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.

Front cover: From left to right: Jim Leslie, Alex Adair, Bob McBurney and Norman Hore stand in front of the first house that was liberated by the Queen's Own on D-Day in Bernières-sur-Mer. Adair kept this photo on his wall his entire life.

Back cover photo: Her Majesty Queen Camilla, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, and Colonel Paul Hughes, CD.



HONORARY COLONEL

**Major General (ret'd) David Fraser CMM, MSC,
MSM, CD**

Rifles,

It is indeed an honour to be writing to each of you for the first time as your new Honorary Colonel. I cannot say enough about my predecessor and great soldier, MGen (ret'd) Walter Holmes. I have known Walt for more years than I will admit. He is a true soldier whose passion for our Regiment is without question. Thank you for your service.

I also want to thank our former HLCol Vicky Sunohara. Vicky served with distinction during a very difficult time when we were all masked up. We are indebted to her contribution to our Regiment and promoting us. We wish her the very best with her future endeavours.

With change comes renewal. And we are lucky with our new HLCol Manjit Minhas. She brings a wealth of business and leadership to our Regiment. In a very short period of time, Manjit has become a valuable member of our collective command team. Welcome.

Our command team led by LCol Scott Moody and CWO Jeff Johnston continues to provide leadership and example making our Regiment stand out. They are supported by a magnificent team in both the officers and WOs and Sgts Messes. Our leaders are doing magnificent work which can be measured by



the fact that we are now one of the strongest units in Canada. Add to that, we are excelling in unit performance as measured within the Brigade and Division. BZ to each of you and keep up the great work.

I have had the pleasure to join you on several training nights, during the first ever Rifles Conference, and observed a jump in Trenton. Your professionalism, passion and commitment are what we strive for in the infantry, army and CAF. Your example inspires each of us and other units. In short, keep it up and challenge yourself all the time.

As we enter this year, we are beginning preparations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This will be a truly magnificent event. I urge each of you to

ABOVE: *Outgoing Hon Col, MGen (ret'd) Walter Holmes, MStJ MSM CD MBE, with the incoming Hon Col, MGen (ret'd) David Fraser, CMM MSC MSM CD.*



LEFT: On January 22, 2023, HLCol Manjit Minhas was formerly appointed as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in a ceremony at Casa Loma, succeeding outgoing HLCol Vicky Sunohara.

do whatever you can to support the Regiment's efforts.

Finally, I want to thank our Regimental family — our partners, families, formerly serving members. Each of you play a critical role in the health of our Regiment. Without each of you, we simply cannot do what those who wear the uniform do. We need your support.

It has been a great year and the future is bright. I wish you the very best.

Respectfully,
David

2022 Regimental Awards





COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Scott Moody, CD



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada entered 2021 with a sense of cautious optimism. 60th (Para) Coy was still conducting training virtually, as part of the ongoing force protection measures implemented by the Canadian Army amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Parachuting activity by the Regiment was left at a standstill, as consecutive waves of the viral outbreak continued to grip the world.

Through the winter period, limited in-person attendance precluded collective training. For the first three months of the year, 60th (Para) Coy displayed adaptability and innovation, leveraging on-line platforms to deliver important soldier skills and to hone junior leadership development. Subject matter experts gave informative presentations on topics varying from conducting reconnaissance, to battle procedure, to unit history. The senior NCO cadre was critical to maintaining interest and morale through this fraught period, as public health measures continuously evolved.

Despite the challenges, force generation for domestic and international commitments continued unabated. Members volunteered to support Operations VECTOR and LASER across the province of Ontario, while others continued to provide assist-

ance to the Jordanian Armed Forces through Operation IMPACT.

In the middle of April, 60th (Para) Coy was authorized to resume individualized training. The MAROON WARRIOR series of exercises during the late spring saw the sub-unit completing live-fire ranges at CFB Borden, serving as the gateway transition for more complex challenges in the autumn.

60th (Para) Coy would finally find itself back under canopy in June, as part of Exercise GOLDEN BRIDLE. For the first time in almost nine months, the Regiment would descend from a CC-130J with full-equipment. After rigging equipment at CFB Trenton, the double-door exit went smoothly, delivering the Coy onto DZ Hodgson without any injuries. The professionalism of QOR's Air Cell was on display, demonstrating thoroughness, dedication and attention to detail, while re-certifying the Royal Canadian Air Force aircrew on static-line parachuting operations. This event served to culminate the training year, leading the Regiment into the summer on a high note.

ABOVE: *With the static line affixed, paratroopers of The Queen's Own Rifles wait for the green light and their cue to jump from the rear of a CC-130J Hercules.*



PHOTOS THIS PAGE:
 Exercise **GOLDEN BRIDLE** in June 2021 marked the first time in almost nine months that the Regiment took part in a descent from a CC-130J Herc.

LEFT: QOR personnel underwent static line recertification training under the guidance of the QOR's Air Cell.

BOTTOM LEFT: Final rigging check at CFB Trenton.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Hitting their mark onto Drop Zone Hodgson on a beautiful June day.

COVID-19 measures were partially lifted in the fall of 2021, enabling QOR to resume platoon-level training and weekly parading. Galvanized by the return to normalcy, soldiers eagerly undertook preparations for the iterative exercises that were to come. Fire and movement and section-level command and control were emphasized during September, for Exercise **MAROON SWORD 1**. The Coy deployed to 4 CDTC Meaford, where they partici-

pated in pairs live-fire, night shooting serials and urban operations in a dry-setting. The fast-paced weekend set the conditions for what was to come and clearly outlined the 60th (Para) Coy focus on warfighting skills.





QOR kept momentum into October, where it conducted Exercise MAROON SWORD 2. 60th (Para) Coy built upon the success of the previous month, conducting pairs and section-level live-fire in 4 CDTC Meaford. All call signs that attended were given the opportunity to perform multiple attacks, giving recently promoted NCOs the critical opportunity to lead other members of the Regiment. After completing their ranges, the sub-unit was transported to Lake Simcoe Regional Airport to rig equipment and perform chalk assembly; under fair conditions, jumpers conducted a descent onto DZ Gorvad in CFB Borden, where they conducted DZ RV drills and consolidated their position.

Exercise MAROON SWORD 3 was the final stage of the series, intending to coalesce tactical capabilities within a platoon setting. Coy-level orders were issued prior to deploying to CFB Borden, whereupon 60th (Para) Coy immersed itself in the field

setting. Late November brought early snowfall and frigid conditions, but that did not interrupt two full days of advance to contact and deliberate offensive operations. The exercise was challenging, especially given that it had been over a year since Level 3 battle tasks had been achieved. Junior officers and NCOs alike all took valuable lessons-learned, while improving during each successive mission. By the time the Coy redeployed to Toronto, the soldiers were cold and tired, but proud of their accomplishments and understood the significance of the exercise within the broader context of COVID-19.

During this time, 60th (Para) Coy kept an eye toward the future. One of the most important aspects of maintaining requisite skills and succession as the only parachute-capable infantry sub-unit in the Primary Reserve, is the continual force generation of jumpers. By the end of 2021, a total of





PHOTOS THIS PAGE: In October 2021, 60th (Para) Coy had the opportunity to conduct a descent on DZ Gorvad in CFB Borden as part of Exercise MAROON SWORD 2. Below, paratroops board a CC-130J Hercules.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Final checks and preparations aboard the Herc before exiting during EX MAROON SWORD 2.





seven commissioned and enlisted members from QOR had graduated their serials of Basic Parachutist at the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre (CAAWC). Of particular note, MCpl J. Rowell displayed outstanding technical prowess as he completed the demanding Jumpmaster course and subsequently dispatched his first unit jump during the fall. He would later be named the Airborne Rifleman of the Year.

December marked the closeout to a highly dynamic training year. After the annual holiday dinner at the beginning of the month, 60th (Para) Coy deployed one last time to CFB Trenton, for Exercise QUICK RIG 1. Despite an unfavourable weather outlook during chalk assembly, the winds relented enough for a successful full-equipment jump onto DZ Hodgson. All personnel made it safely to the DZ RV.

Similar to the previous year, 2021 was replete with challenges. When confronted with adversity however, the men and women of 60th (Para) Coy rose to the occasion. They showed patience, perseverance, enthusiasm and flexibility, while consistently surpassing the expectations of higher headquarters.

CSM D. Leader was formally recognized for his accomplishments during Operation IMPACT, receiving the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation for outstanding achievement during his tour abroad. He set the standard for leadership, not only for his foreign partners, but for those in the Coy on a daily basis. TR

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: EX QUICK RIG 1 — the final jump of 2021 came after the annual holiday dinner in December.

Princess Alexandra Bursary

by WO (ret'd) Bob Dunk, CD

The Princess Alexandra Bursary was formed by the Regiment in 2010 as a lasting gift to HRH Princess Alexandra in recognition of her 50 years as our Colonel-in-Chief. In the succeeding 12 years, more than \$100,000 has been awarded to 72 young Canadians from across Canada in pursuit of their post-secondary education. A wide variety of academic studies are represented among the recipients, from medicine to technology to the trades. All recipients have a close connection to the Regiment, either as a serving soldier or cadet, or as a descendant of a former Rifleman.

Here are some interesting facts regarding the bursary recipients:

Of the 72 recipients, 18 have been soldiers actively serving in the Regiment.

Of the remaining 54 recipients:

- 21 were from BC
- 13 were from Ontario
- 12 were from Alberta
- 7 were from Newfoundland
- 1 was from Saskatchewan

A complete list of the 72 recipients who have received the bursary to date begins on the next page.

The continued success of the bursary is dependent upon donations. We have been fortunate that two individuals have been strong supporters of the bursary from the beginning: Colonel (ret'd) William



Ball and Colonel (ret'd) Paul Hughes. Sadly, Colonel Hughes passed away in January 2022 and in his will, left a very significant gift to the bursary which will ensure its continuance for many, many years.

Starting in 2023, information and online applications for the bursary will be found on the www.1860club.ca website. In future, mailed applications will be discouraged due to previous delivery and receipt issues.

If you are a serving soldier or cadet, or a descendant of a former Rifleman, and you are pursuing a post-secondary education, financial support is available. Apply for a grant from the Princess Alexandra Bursary. TR

ABOVE: HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO – Colonel in Chief, 1960-2010. Original 40" x 30" oil on canvas painting by John Stanton Ward hangs in the Officers' Mess. Portrait photo by Christopher Lawson, June 17, 2010.

HRH Princess Alexandra Bursary Recipients

2010

- Geoff Costeloe, Victoria, BC
- **CPL Rui Sarava, QOR, Toronto, ON**

2011

- CPL Dominique Arsenau-Bruneau, QOR, Toronto, ON
- CPL Christopher Hinds, QOR, Toronto, ON

2012

- No applications received.

2013

- Morgan Cameron, Calgary, AB
- Adam Freeman, Toronto, ON
- Hannah Hryhoryshen, Sidney, BC
- Rebecca Leitch, Kitchener, ON
- Claudine Metcalfe, St. John's, NL

2014

- **CPL Dimitry Galameyev, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Rebecca Leitch, Kitchener, ON
- Melissa Mills, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

2015

- **CPL Azeez Baruwa, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Hannah Hryhoryshen, Sidney, BC
- Melissa Mills, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
- Derek Stevenson, Regina, SK

2016

- Samantha D'Amico, Calgary, AB
- **CPL Kody Kroontje, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- **MCPL Robert Matthew Langille, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Kelsey Pagley, Victoria, BC
- Victoria Marie Power, Stouffville, ON

2017

- Remy June Brayshaw, Victoria, BC
- **CPL Brian Buchan, QOR, Toronto, ON**

- Bryanna Riane Doucette, Calgary, AB
- Ryan Hindson, Victoria, BC
- Shaelyn Diana Littlejohn, Victoria, BC
- Kaitlyn McVeigh, St. Catherines, ON

2018

- **SGT Gordon Brown, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Kurtis Butt, St. John's, NL
- Gillian Cameron, Calgary, AB
- Teagan Cameron, Calgary, AB
- Brandon Gallard, Victoria, BC
- Grace Margaret Martin, Victoria, BC
- Victoria Marie Power, St. Catharines, ON
- **CPL Lydia Radewych, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Kyleigh Starnes, Grand Prairie, AB

2019

- Kurtis Butt, St. John's, NL
- Gillian Cameron, Calgary, AB
- Teagan Cameron, Calgary, AB
- **RFN Devan Diamond, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Grace Margaret Martin, Victoria, BC

2020

- Justin Anger, Pickering, ON
- Jack Butt, Mt. Pearl, NL
- Kurtis Butt, Mt. Pearl, NL
- **RFN Devan Diamond, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Lauren Gallard, Victoria, BC
- Aerin Glenn, Calgary, AB
- Russell Glenn, Calgary, AB
- Grace Margaret Martin, Victoria, BC
- **RFN Maximiliano Martin, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Melissa Mills, Victoria, BC
- Maeve O'Halloran, Toronto, ON
- **RFN Richard Waines, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Karsen Woods, Victoria, BC

2021

- **RFN Justin Anger, QOR, Toronto, ON**

- Teagan Brayshaw, Burnaby, BC
- Brandon Gallard, Victoria, BC
- Lauren Gallard, Victoria, BC
- Aerin Glenn, Calgary, AB
- Jaylene Major, Kelowna, BC
- Pratinav Patel, Toronto, ON
- **MCPL Lydia Radewych, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Madison Spencer, Bradford, ON
- Karsen Woods, Victoria, BC

2022

- **RFN Justin Anger, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Joshua Dunk, Brooklin, ON
- Brandon Gallard, Victoria, BC
- Kuangyu (Steven) Hu, Vancouver, BC
- **RFN Shuaib Mohamed, QOR, Toronto, ON**
- Kayla Rozon, Beaumont, AB
- Madison Spencer, Bradford, ON

Airborne Forces 2023 Scholarship Bursary

by Rick Hatton
President, Canadian Airborne Forces Association

Applications are welcome for the Airborne Forces 2023 Scholarship. This fund has been jointly established by the Canadian Airborne Forces Association (CAFA) and the Airborne Regiment Association of Canada (ARAC).

A \$2,000 bursary is awarded in August each year to one qualified and deserving applicant who will be attending a post-secondary institution in the upcoming academic year in a full-time



programme of study. For further info, such as contact details of the Scholarship Chairman Bruce Ewing,



eligibility, key dates and procedures for application, see the CAFA website at www.canadianairborneforces.ca/about-1.

To be eligible, candidates must have been accepted on a full-time basis at a post-secondary institution and have demonstrated academic aptitude. Eligible applicants include members of CAFA or ARAC; spouses, children or grandchildren of CAFA or ARAC members (either living or deceased); members in good standing of a Cadet Corps that is affiliated with CAFA or ARAC; or any current Army Cadet who is qualified Canadian Forces Parachutist.

Applications may be submitted in either English or French. The deadline for applications for the bursary each year is June 30. **TR**

ABOVE: Aaron Day (right), recipient of the 2020 Airborne Forces Scholarship, with CAFA member Cameron McKay.

LEFT: Claire Wilbur was the recipient of the 2021 Airborne Forces Scholarship Award.

Losing The Last Man Standing

by Katie Daubs,
Senior Writer, *The Toronto Star*



He saw his friends die on D-Day, then outlived his comrades in *The Queen's Own Rifles* one by one.

When Alex Adair died on Christmas Eve 2022, a piece of history died too.

The clue was on the wall of his room. A framed photo of four soldiers standing in front of a shelled house on Juno Beach on D-Day.

Adair was 99 when he died, but he is 20 in this picture, second from the left, standing with a few of his buddies in front of the home that is believed to have been the first liberated the morning of June 6, 1944. The operation to push the Germans out of occupied Western Europe was the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare, with 150,000 Allied troops landing along 80 kilometres of Normandy coast. It was the turning point of the Second World War, but it came at a horrible price. Just out of the frame are the bodies on the beach.

Adair's regiment, the Toronto-based Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, had the worst morning of any Canadian outfit. Of the hundreds of men who landed that morning, 61 died, and many more

were injured. The rough sea and strong winds blew Adair's company right in front of a German pillbox. The tanks and mine-clearing technology that were supposed to help were waylaid in the choppy English Channel. Adair, drenched in cold saltwater, ran through the bullets and explosions. Running was the only way to survive, but it was no guarantee.

Adair would talk about it if you asked him, but he didn't bring it up. D-Day was a strong and traumatic memory for the men of The Queen's Own Rifles, a crucial part of the regimental DNA. Those who survived kept fighting, into France, Belgium and Holland, and a life after the war. Adair sent Christmas cards to his D-Day comrades, and he attended their funerals when he was able to, collecting their commemorative programs in a folder. Bill "Boots" Bettridge died in 2012. His good friend Jack Hadley was gone by 2018. Ed Butler died in February 2022. And then Alex Adair was alone. The last known D-Day veteran of the Queen's Own Rifles regiment.

ABOVE: Alex Adair, shown in 2014, fought on Juno Beach, Normandy on 6 June 1944. He was the last known D-Day veteran of the QOR.

More than 1 million Canadians served in the Second World War, and around 20,000 remain, most in their late 90s. They have long been relied upon to speak at schools, talk with historians, and share their stories about the lived experience of war. But each year, we lose more of them. Veterans Affairs Canada estimates it will be “a little over a decade” before the inevitable passing of the last known Second World War veteran in Canada. The last veteran of a conflict is a symbolic milestone of collective sacrifice — and their death marks the end of an era. Government officials keep track of the group as best they can, monitoring obituaries and keeping in touch with families and health-care providers as the group becomes smaller. “I’m sure that all the attention I’m getting isn’t because of anything spectacular I’ve done,” Canada’s last Great War veteran John Babcock told his local newspaper in Spokane, Wash., a few years before his death in 2010. “It’s because I’m the last one.”

These losses have already begun on a smaller scale for the Second World War: towns losing their last veteran, or regiments losing someone like Adair, who was the last to participate in a landmark operation like D-Day. Eventually, there will only be one left, and then, there will be none. For historians, the loss is great: “What we’re missing is the



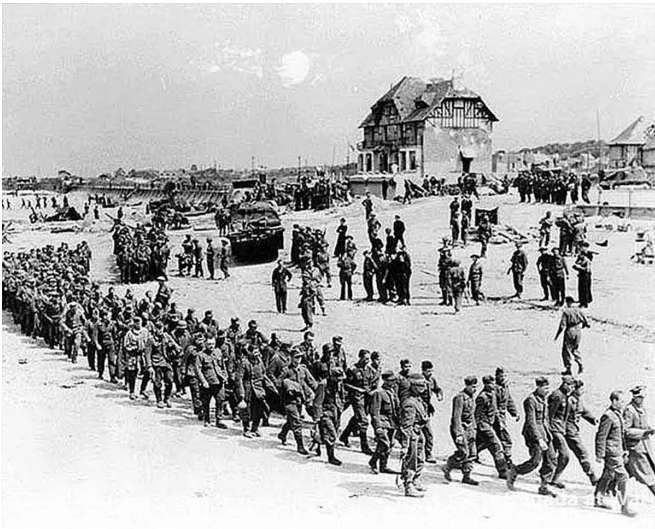
ability to reimagine the past outside of the framework of the written record,” says military historian Terry Copp.

Alex Adair was a farm-boy in Tamworth, a small town north of Nanaimo, when the war began. On D-Day, he crouched down in the hull of the small wooden land-



ABOVE: Alex Adair and the QOR faced the worst conditions on D-Day. Adair, who died at 99, was the last known D-Day veteran of The Queen's Own Rifles.

LEFT: Canadian troops hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in June 1944 as part of history's largest invasion force.



LEFT: Prisoners on D-Day march over a liberated Juno Beach with the pockmarked future Canada House in the background.

BOTTOM LEFT: Before it became known as Canada House, it was the summer beach house of George Hoffer, a Paris optometrist. But after the Nazis invaded France in 1940, German soldiers evicted the Hoffer family and took possession until the Canadian reclaimed it on D-Day.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Alex Adair, seen here after the war, wasn't bitter about his experience. He was proud about what he and his friends had done. Adair family photo.

ing craft for the final push to shore. His craft hit a mine in the water, killing many on board, including his good friend John Lizon, who turned 30 that day. Adair was tossed into the water. He swam to shore, made it past the beach, and into the town where German snipers were waiting in a church steeple. He and a few others took cover in front of that crumbling house, where a photographer snapped the photo. When he walked further into the war-ravaged town of Bernières-sur-Mer, overjoyed locals welcomed him with food, coffee and a local apple-based brandy called Calvados. Adair wasn't much of a whisky drinker, but he liked the taste, says retired Capt. Charles McGregor, a historian of the regiment and a longtime friend. For the rest of his life, Adair kept a bottle of Calvados in his liquor cabinet.

Adair worked in sales in Toronto after the war. He met his wife on a bus. May was a bank teller newly



arrived from Scotland, and she offered him the seat next to her. They married in 1949, welcomed a daughter, and eventually settled in Windsor after he took a job with Kelloggs. They later welcomed a son.

The war cast a long shadow. The attitude in those days was, "You got problems? Who doesn't? If you want to forget, let me buy you a beer," says his daughter Elaine Adair, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Alcohol offered an escape. She remembers times when her dad had trouble holding down a job, when he wasn't reliable. She didn't understand then, but she does now. Her parents were too proud to accept help, but her mother got a job as a secretary, and her dad eventually found his feet.



From left to right: Jack Hadley, Alex Adair and Edward Butler were among the last D-Day veterans of The Queen's Own Rifles. They had gathered to celebrate Ed's 90th birthday.

He wasn't bitter about the war. He was very proud of what he and his friends had done to liberate Europe. He returned to France for special anniversaries, to walk the beaches where they had run ashore.

Retired chief warrant officer Brian Budden of the Queen's Own Rifles met him on one of those trips in 1970. Budden was 18, and Adair was closer to 50. He recalled the way Adair and his friends would break down as they remembered the boys they'd shared bacon and eggs with on the morning of June 6, 1944. Boys who were dead by lunch.

"They train with them for three or four years before they went on D-Day, right? It's like a family," Budden says. Elaine remembers the picture hanging in the basement of her childhood home. Her mother didn't like to look back on those hard war years. The couple divorced in the 1980s, but they remained on good terms.

Adair moved back to his boyhood home of Tamworth, and then Cobourg, where he lived in an apartment before his recent move to assisted care at the Golden Plough Lodge. He loved sending mail to his family, which by then included grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed a good chat with "his girls" at the local pharmacy. His broad shoulders, crisp dress and tall stature gave him a regal bearing. "He was like the king of the store, I don't know how else to describe him," says Medicine Shoppe Cobourg owner Leisa Barrett. "We loved him to pieces. We'd call and sing "Happy Birthday" to him."

When he became less mobile, whoever dropped off his medication would stay for a visit, where he

would remind them of the shrapnel in his hip. (In autumn 1944 bomb fragments sliced through his left femur, resulting in a compound fracture that ended his front-line service.) He was thoughtful. He would call the pharmacy to request a "nice box of chocolates" for a nurse who had been especially kind. He sent flowers to his ex-wife May at her assisted-living facility in Brampton on Christmas, Mother's Day, her birthday, even their wedding anniversary in June.

He was enchanted with life-changing gadgets he saw on commercial breaks from his news programs. He sent his daughter a vegetable chopper and a pair of magnifying glasses with a light attachment, and he was a huge fan of the grabber device. ("He really thought Mom should get one," Elaine says.)

Brian Budden was a lifelong friend, often driving to Cobourg to take Adair to the legion. He never got internet, but he loved his cordless phone. "It's Dad here," he'd say to Elaine, who had a standing call with her father every Saturday morning.

In the fall of 2022, the always sharp Adair was beginning to slow down. May was in steep decline and he worried about her. When she died in November, Adair worked the phones to help his daughter. He was stoic, but that death hit him hard. He knew his own health was declining. When Elaine woke up on Christmas Eve, her voicemail light was blinking. Her father had died in his sleep.

On May 6, a military funeral will be held in Tamworth, thousands of kilometres, and 80 years away from the beach that shaped his life. There will be a bottle of Calvados at the legion. A bugler from the regiment will play *The Last Post* at the cemetery. It's a mournful, lonely tune, a symbol of duty fulfilled and peace earned. It's a farewell Rifleman Alex Adair heard throughout his life as he said goodbye to his friends who ran through the sand and bullets with him. This is the first time none of them will be there to hear it. TR

___ Last Post: A Rifleman Reports From North Of 60°, er 54° ___

Text and photos by Capt (ret'd) Kevin Sheedy, CD



Don't worry, it's not what you think. Those that have been following this column will recall that my late-in-life military career had switched from class A Wednesday night parades as a Rifles Officer in Toronto to a class B full-time contract at Joint Task Force North (JTFN) in Yellowknife, to serving with Real Property Operations North also in Yellowknife. Time marches onward and despite the best efforts of my OC at Real Property and a lieutenant-general in Ottawa, my life as a Rifleman is officially closed and I am back to being a civilian.

If you are unsure whether Yellowknife is in the Yukon or Northwest Territories, a quick refresher follows. Yellowknife is the territorial capital of the Northwest Territories and home to many Canadian federal agencies, including Joint Task Force North of the Canadian Armed Forces. The total population of the NWT comprises 40,000 Canadians, of whom 20,000 live in the capital. Yellowknife is also pretty much at the centre of Denendeh, or home of the Dene people that have lived in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and prairie provinces for over 10,000 years. Approximately 50% of Yellowknifers, including neighbours and interestingly a few reservists in C Company of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, are Dene or have Dene ancestry. More on Charlie Company later.

JTFN is a Level II formation headquarters responsible for all things Canadian military above 60° north latitude. Unlike every other Joint Task Force Headquarters across Canada, JTFN is not co-located with a division, fleet or air force formation of any kind. This paucity of Canadian arctic units or equipment stands in stark contrast to our American and Russian neighbours who, between them, have two divisions, a substantial naval presence in the case of the Russians, and major air power in the case of the Americans all permanently based north of the Arctic Circle.

JTFN can turn to very few Canadian military resources based in the North. The 1,500 Canadian Rangers serving in the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group are headquartered in Yellowknife but live across the entire 3,500,000 square kilometre expanse of Canada's Arctic. A single reserve infantry unit, the aforementioned C Company of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, is based at Kam Lake Armoury in Yellowknife. The RCAF's 440 Transport Squadron is based at Yellowknife Airport and possesses just 4 of the capable but tiny CC-138 Twin Otter search and rescue aircraft. They share a single hangar with

***ABOVE:** Capt Kevin Sheedy poses for a selfie on Baffin Island during Operation NUNAKPUT 2019.*



ABOVE: Another Saturday afternoon with Charlie Coy, Loyal Edmonton Regiment, on Yellowknife Bay.

BELOW: On the ice road to Gamètì, NWT with C Coy.

BOTTOM LEFT: Military-pattern snow machines built in Finland by Bombardier in the Kam Lake Armoury, NWT.

the RCMP, which has always maintained its own aircraft in the north. The Royal Canadian Navy has absolutely zero permanent presence north of Hudson Bay, except for the watchkeepers and a handful of Navy staff officers posted to JTFN. Over a decade ago the Canadian government directed the RCN to build a refuelling station at Nanisivik on Baffin Island. Somehow, naval operations in the Mediterranean Sea and Caribbean seem to have taken priority and Nanisivik has been under construction ever since.

Speaking of construction, there is somewhat more interest and investment in infrastructure within the JTFN's area of responsibility, Nanisivik





LEFT: Queen's Old Riflemen participated in Ex READY SOTERIA 2018, which was put into action as part of Operation NANOOK to validate whether the security contingency plan was appropriate and met the needs for which it was developed. From left to right: Capt Martin, Major Nobrega, MCpl Vulakovich, Capt Sheedy.

BELOW: Pond Inlet Ranger Patrol Sergeant Titus Allooloo (left) previously served as a member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA, 1987-1995) for the Amittuq electoral district in the Northwest Territories.

aside. This is where Real Property Operations fits into the picture as the asset manager of existing defence infrastructure and project manager for any work required to keep airfields and buildings functional, as well as play a role in determining which assets or bases are no longer fit for purpose and what future needs have to be planned for, designed and constructed.

My short tour with Real Property Operations saw me reach back to my early days in civil engineering and dust off my project management, drafting and construction skills that had long laid dormant during the majority of my working life. This, together with the challenge of building in the north on permafrost, granite or muskeg has been an excellent way for me to wrap up life in the Canadian Army and rejoin the Sons of Martha.

The RCAF and Royal Canadian Corps of Signals have historically played the most prominent role in providing for and protecting Canadian interests in the North. Consequently, aerodromes and signals matters make up a large fraction of DND infrastructure related work, which proved very interesting indeed. Only since the Cold War has the Canadian military maintained permanent headquarters or buildings of any kind up here. This small number of permanent structures stands in stark contrast to the expansive portfolios of headquarters, armouries, airfields and shipyards that exist mostly within a couple of hundred kilometers of Canada's shared border with the U.S.

At time of writing, and aside from the RCAF's hand in NORAD, there is a single cadet camp in Whitehorse, Yukon with the only licensed DND firing range north of Alberta. This camp sees a lot

of use by the Army, including but not limited to JTFN and the Junior Canadian Rangers, the Ranger counterpart to the Cadets. In Yellowknife, Real Property comprises leased properties for the Rangers and other units in the garrison, plus the Evans Building, which is an owned property and home to JTFN HQ.

In Nunavut, DND maintains the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) on Cornwallis Island in the High Arctic, CSB Alert on the northeastern tip of Ellesmere Island, the incomplete refuelling base at Nanisivik on Baffin Island, as well as other ongoing projects and maintenance for the RCAF, NORAD and North Warning System. DND faces mighty logistical challenges from a short summer construction season in addition to the complexities of simply getting material and contractors across this vast geography, with long lines of communication either by road to the Yukon and NWT or air- or sealift to Nunavut.

As a Rifles officer and infanteer, it was a logical fit to join the staff at JTFN. Switching to Real Property





ABOVE: Reservists from C Company, Loyal Edmonton Regiment, gather at the Kam Lake Armoury in Yellowknife, NWT. This is the only reserve infantry unit at the garrison. Soldiers and officers of C Coy regularly support JTFN on Arctic operations; some also deploy to participate on international operations, such as Lebanon and Latvia.

BELOW: Gathering for a Wednesday night parade at the Kam Lake Armoury.

was a bit of a mystery to the G1 branch of the Army, not just because the Army viewed me strictly as an infantry officer, but a reservist to boot which is not common in the Real Property world. Luck, as usual, played in my favour in that finding engineer officers and NCOs interested and able to screen for service in the North is very difficult. Even more fortunate was the fact that I had maintained my Ontario engineering licence despite having spent most of my 30-year civilian career at commercial banks. So, a licence and experience working with large portfolios of buildings and property were enough to get me in the door. Alas, it was not enough to keep me there beyond my class B extension, which ended in May of 2022. A network of Army buddies and experience at Real Property Operations has helped continue my career as an engineer with Colliers Project Leaders, which has opened new offices in both Yellowknife and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Hence the subtitle “North of 54°.” The plan so far has been to assist in opening both these offices, and developing clients and mandates with government and private sector owners of infrastructure of all kinds in the same sorts of roles I held with Real Property Operations.

What is taking place in Prince Rupert is beyond the scope of an article for *The Rifleman*, but I promise is every bit as interesting as what is taking place in Canada’s Arctic. I like to say that my time in Yellowknife was spent playing defence. That is, the Canadian military is playing a role in not only defending our arctic territory and Can-

adian internal arctic waters, but also promoting Canada’s trade and national interests within our own territory and beyond. Interesting examples of this were the sale of the Hope Bay gold mine off the Coronation Gulf by TMAC Resources to the Canadian mining company Agnico Eagle, the recent dispute with Greenland at Nares Strait, and interprovincial jurisdiction at places like Akamiski and Fafard Islands in James Bay.

Prince Rupert’s story is different in that Canadian businesses and all levels of government are working hard playing offence to further develop the city as a port for Canadian exports to Asia and beyond.





LEFT: Reservists from C Company go through the steps of a general purpose machine gun (GPMG) sustained fire drill at the Kam Lake Armoury in Yellowknife.

Compared to any other Canadian or U.S. West Coast port, Prince Rupert is two days sailing closer to Japan than Vancouver, and one day closer by rail over easier grades to Chicago or Toronto. Prince Rupert's development is having a major impact on trade and has directly improved the prosperity and future of all Canadians.

Back to Yellowknife and previous posts which have not talked much about Charlie Company of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, or Loyal Eddies. Now is as good a time as any to describe my involvement with them since 2019. Before taking the job at JTFN, I made up my mind that parachuting and running around the bush with a C7 rifle was no longer in the cards for a man my age. Instead, I would concentrate on my headquarters duties. Naturally, this plan was short-lived. Soon I found my way to Kam Lake Armoury to see how Charlie Company compared to Buffs, Victoria or 60th Coy at our own Regiment. Before I knew it, I was seduced by the idea of doing PT on skis or driving snowmobiles under the northern lights. These became a great diversion away from banging out paperwork at JTFN.

The soldiers in C Company rate as the best in their regiment. I dare say they would keep pace with our Riflemen at Moss Park. In 2019 they had a cadre of Dene soldiers from Behchokò, the next nearest town to Yellowknife on the north arm of Great Slave Lake. Off-duty RCMP officers from G Division and Yellowknifers who are expert marksmen, trappers or ex-Junior A hockey players rounded out the ranks. A few other noteworthy charac-

ters — the superintendent of the Canadian Coast Guard Western Arctic Region, a multi-engine qualified airline pilot, and a senior civil servant from the Northwest Territories government — all serve as privates or corporals in Charlie Company in their off hours. All are superb soldiers. Charlie Company regularly cleans up at any sports competition within the Yellowknife Garrison or home station in Edmonton. C Company soldiers and officers have recently deployed to Lebanon and Latvia and support JTFN operations on a continuing basis.

Weirdly, it was almost impossible for me to get permission from JTFN to volunteer with C Company. Even more unfortunate is the fact that 3 Division and 41 Brigade have proven completely unwilling and inept in recruiting or enrolling new soldiers into the Company. Charlie Company has an authorized strength of over 130 soldiers with a fully equipped armoury, including all company weapons, vault, military pattern snow machines and stores. Since they were first stood up in 2009, they peaked at approximately 65 soldiers. The first time I visited, they were a platoon minus, but were well led and ran their own Basic Military Qualification Course at Kam Lake in 2020. Since then, not one high school student has been enrolled into the Company despite the guarantee of \$10,000 in summer earnings, generous high school credits and the fact that over 200 fighting age males turn 18 every year in Yellowknife. Responsibility for this rests completely with 3 Division and 41 Brigade. Proud to say 4 Division, 32 Brigade and the QOR are light years ahead. 4 Division has encouraged The Queen's Own Rifles to enrol soldiers well above establishment numbers to the point where QOR recruits are being scooped up by 32 Brigade recruiters for other units. In 32 Brigade, it was expected that anyone on class B service at the headquarters would parade at their home unit.

I could write much more about the outstanding time I had with this small, but excellent group of



ABOVE: Joint Task Force North (JTFN) duty personnel are also part of the Headquarters Shelter System (HQSS) project. Compared to previous shelters, the ceilings of the new HQSS are higher and have a brighter interior.

BELOW: Capt Sheedy with Hon Capt(N) Tony Whitford, former commissioner of the Northwest Territories (2005-2010).

Charlie Company soldiers, including many nights on Kam Lake at -30°C, skiing under the northern lights with a C7 stuffed in my small pack, training in the boreal forest or firing on austere ranges with no one around for hundreds of kilometres. Instead, I'll hope to share these stories in person at the RCMI in Toronto or at Moss Park.

When my OC at Real Property, Major Bernardt van Zyl, asked about my depart with dignity party, I naturally said it would take place at Moss Park. This idea did not get far and Sgt Fernandez from the QOR orderly room soon shipped a Canadian flag from the flagpole at 130 Queen Street East to Yellowknife. My farewell from Real Property took place with a few of my fellows including Major van Zyl, Warrant Officer Bobby Willis of the RCAF and civilian friends from Defence Construction Canada and our office, all on the shores of the Yellowknife River by Tartan Rapids. Later, I handed over my fake 9 mm Browning Hi-Power to my friend Captain Kevin Lui and bought a round for the soldiers in C Company.

In summary, my time as a Rifleman has been a highlight of my life. It made possible our continuing adventures in the Canadian North — one of the most beautiful geographies anywhere on

Earth. My family and I think often of our home in Ontario. I look forward to the day when a drink in my old mess under the watchful gaze of Lieutenant-Colonel Otter, Major-General Mercer, the Dalton Brothers and many others past and present is, well, a little more present! ✎



Chaplain's Report: We Will Remember Them

by Chaplain Lt(N) (ret'd) John B. Howie, CD

I have been asked to submit a report to update those who may not know that the QOR of C Association has been active over the past few years, even though we have been trying to avoid getting Covid. It has been a challenge, however, most of us we have been doing well for the most part. I would like to bring to your attention that over the past few years a few of our brothers have moved on from this part of their journey of life. It is my hope that there is more waiting for us on the other side. The following is a list of those that we will remember for their unselfish acts of duty, loyalty and lifelong service to the Regiment and the Association may be found in the Last Post section of this issue.

I would like to thank all those who joined us in Ottawa for the service held on April 30, 2022 at Beechwood National Cemetery. It was an honour for us to pay tribute to Norm in such a prestigious cemetery. A contingent of association members travelled to Ottawa for the interment of ashes of Maj Norm McCracken. I would also like to thank LCol Scott Moody for sending two skirmishers from the Regiment to partake in the Mounting of the Guard to stand by the graveside during the service.

The service was much different than the normal interment of ashes. I was told by the Canadian Forces Major in charge of military services that it was something he had never seen before, and he



asked me if I would provide a copy of the order of service so that they could use our service in the future. All in all, it was a great service.

The other services for departed members were private family services and condolences were sent out by RSM (ret'd) Brian Budden on behalf of the Association and the Regiment.

As many of the association members are aware, we have several QOR vets in long-term care at various veterans hospitals.

One of those veterans, Cpl. George Beardshaw, is in London at Parkwood Veterans Memorial Hospital. I have been visiting George on a biweekly basis since last March. On August 28, 2022 George was awarded the Legion of Honour Medal, the highest honour of the French government, and received the knighthood title of SIR GEORGE BEARDSHAW. He received his knighthood for his participation in the liberation of France during the invasion on D-Day. Sir George was an orphan who was sent to Canada as a child along with more than a thousand young boys that were sent to be placed with families. Many of these young boys were placed on



OPPOSITE PAGE: Chaplain John Howie and Sir George Beardshaw attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in London.

LEFT: Cpl Sir George Beardshaw (centre) was awarded France's Legion of Honour Medal by Deputy Defence Attaché Col Roger Vandomme. Also in attendance were Chaplain John Howie (left), RSM Brian Budden and LCol Scott Moody.

BELOW: John Howie teamed up with Curtis O'Rourke and the Budden brothers, Brian and Steve, for the QOR's annual golf tournament, September 2022.

farms and became labourers for the farmers. At the age of 17, George enlisted with the QOR in Toronto and found himself on his way back to England. He had only been on the ground in Normandy for a month when he was captured and imprisoned for 28 days. The end of the Second World War came swiftly after he was imprisoned.

Sir George was very surprised when the event was held. He thought he was going to see someone that was to be honoured for his service. Little did he know it was to be placed on him by Col Roger Vandomme, Deputy Defence Attaché of France. RSM (ret'd) Brian Budden was the MC for the event and did a great job. In addition, to receiving the knighthood, we also celebrated Sir George's 99th birthday. As his birthday is on September 14th it was incorporated with this event. I would also like to thank LCol Scott Moody for attending the event, where he gave Sir George some Regimental attire and one of the coins of the fallen.

The next event was the dinner held at Casa Loma and LCol John Fotheringham invited me to say the Grace. Several association members were in attendance and a good time was had by all.

The last event held was the QOR's annual golf tournament. I was teamed up with Brian and Steve Budden and my good friend Curtis O'Rourke; we

were registered as Team Budden.

I am now looking forward to the Rifle Shoot to be held on the 30th of October at Moss Park with dinner to follow in the officers' mess.

I am also looking forward to the upcoming annual church parade on the 6th of November and I hope to see a good turnout, weather permitting, by the Association.

Remembrance Day services at St. Paul's will consist of a small contingency from the Regiment while many of us will be attending services in our local areas.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Chaplain to The QOR Association, Toronto Branch. And I look forward to serving as long as my health permits.

In Pace Paratus. TR

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Honouring A Lifetime Of Service

*by Joe Rozon,
President, QOR Association, Victoria Island
Branch*

It was a supreme honour to have the privilege of presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Martin, Past President of the QOR of C Association, Victoria Island Branch (VIB).

Tom served in that position for over ten years and was also the Vice President of the Toronto National Association for several years in addition to also being a Director on that Association. On several occasions, Tom attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Toronto along with Major General Pitts at his own expense and ensured that our Association was well represented.

This award is well deserved and serves as acknowledgement of his tireless efforts over the years, to ensure that we remained a strong and vibrant organization.

Retired Honorary Colonel Walter Holmes was to present this award, but due to travel issues, could not attend; however, Colonel (ret'd) Richard Cowling (a member of this Association) was contacted and asked if he was willing to make the presentation on his behalf.

The framed scroll was presented to Tom Martin by Col Richard Cowling at our November luncheon, which was well attended by family, friends, and comrades.

MESSAGE FROM BOB DUNK

Tom, I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honour than you. Not just for your work with the Association, but for your obvious care and concern you have shown your comrades for many, many years.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE: In November 2022, Joe Rozon (below, left) and Col Dick Cowling (below, right) presented The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Martin, Past President of the QOR Association, Victoria Island Branch.

Your selfless actions went beyond The Queen's Own and were shared equally with your friends and neighbours in Victoria and beyond.

And of course, a portion of this award belongs to your lovely wife, Irmgard, who has supported you in your endeavours all the way. ✨



QOR Trust Fund Proudly Supports Peacekeepers Park

by Capt (ret'd) Rob Chan, CD

On August 9, 2022, CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden and Captain (ret'd) Rob Chan attended the Peacekeepers Day ceremony at CFB Borden. Engraved on the memorial are the names of the QOR officers and soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Korean United Nations mission. Major Philip Edwin Gower, MC, was killed on his return from Korea, when his plane crashed in the Fraser Valley with no survivors.

The QOR Trust Fund supports the Peacekeepers Park through donations to the 1860 Club. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is acknowledged as a contributor at the park. π

TOP RIGHT: CWO (ret'd) Brian Budden and Captain (ret'd) Rob Chan laid a wreath on behalf of the QOR Association at the 2022 Peacekeepers Day ceremony. (Credit: Rob Chan.)

BELOW & RIGHT: Peacekeepers Park is dedicated to the 160,000+ Canadians who have served on United Nations sanctioned missions since 1947. A maple leaf is carved into the memorial, which is made from a solid granite commemorative stone that was imported from Pakistan, in honour of all those who serve in peace. (Credit: Tim Laye, Ontario War Memorials.)



Some Half-Century Reflections

by Maj John Holford



In September 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Donald Pryer appointed me to be a company commander and subsequently unit training officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada at Moss Park Armoury, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This began a long association, but no changes of badges or buttons since my Australian Army Reserve unit, the Sydney University Regiment (SUR), also has an alliance with "The Rifles." We are all part of a larger family of part-time soldiers who also make a full-time contribution to the society and the economy that, ultimately, provides the capability for national and international security.

Becoming attached to a military unit in Canada meant being part of NATO, which focused on the need to deter the threat to Western Europe from the Warsaw Pact. As such, the study and training in NATO addressed a potential war with Russian-dominated forces, which could also be in a chemical or nuclear warfare environment. Following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the USSR, there has been both the maintenance and expansion of NATO along with an added focus on terrorism.

"There are no bad regiments, there are only bad officers."

~ Field Marshal Viscount Slim of Yarralumla, 1891-1970

During the 21st century, there have been Russian-sponsored military actions in Georgia, Crimea and Ukraine, and we are now essentially in a situation for which we studied and trained during the Cold War. While threats from weapons of mass

destruction (WMD) remain, there have been great changes in conventional weapons, communications and battle-field intelligence, but the need for leadership

and logistics remain fundamental to the outcome to establish and maintain a more stable peace.

Rather than comment on the current operational situation in Eastern Europe, I consider it would be more useful to reflect on the paramount requirements of leadership and encourage the study of the history and the principles that underlie military success.

By background, I was commissioned in SUR which was originally founded as the University Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1900 at the University of

ABOVE: QOR officers in front of the Moss Park Armoury, circa 1974. In September 1972, LCol Donald Pryer (seated, centre) appointed Major Bill Holford as the company commander and, later, unit training officer of the QOR.



ABOVE: Major John Holford was among the team to present "The Royal Salute" for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh at the CNE Stadium on September 29, 1984 during Ontario's bicentenary celebrations.

Sydney. Then and subsequently the unit has been tasked to produce officers for the Australian Army Reserve and to provide military training for undergraduates. In 1927 the unit became the Sydney University Regiment (SUR) and in 1929, King George V approved the affiliation of SUR with The King's Royal Rifle Corps, now "The Rifles." SUR has provided members in all conflicts in which Australia has participated, especially officers, but never as a combat unit. Its role continues as an officer training unit for Army Reserve units. The current Honorary Colonel is His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who previously served as the Regular Adjutant of SUR.

While the QOR was tasked to train soldiers, this training was also the vehicle for the training of the officers, while the NCOs and warrant officers focused on the basic skills required of the riflemen. In particular, the planning and conduct of training was an opportunity to expand the essential tactical

training of the officers from their qualifying courses by hammering the principles of war in all aspects of an officer's duty. Thus, the principles were applicable to the preparation and conduct of training as well as for exercises. Similarly, these same principles could be applied to administrative tasks which underpin the routine of the unit and which would be beneficial to an officer's civilian as well as military careers.

In particular, hammering "the selection and maintenance of the aim" was made paramount for the initiation of a training task followed by the appreciation of the situation to produce the plan of action to be implemented and against which success was to be assessed. The application of the same process to all tasks meant more opportunities to develop the skills of command. Indeed, we



LEFT: Field Marshal Viscount William Slim (6 August 1891 – 14 December 1970), usually known as Bill Slim, was a British military commander and the 13th Governor General of Australia. Slim saw active service in both the First and Second World Wars and was wounded in action three times. During the Second World War he led the Fourteenth Army, the so-called "forgotten army," in the Burma campaign. After the war he became the first British officer who had served in the Indian Army to be appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff. From 1953 to 1959 he was Governor-General of Australia. Portrait of General Slim as commander of the Fourteenth Army, commissioned by the UK's Ministry of Information.

pleasure to represent Colonel Pryer in liaising with his 98th Committee Group counterpart Colonel Sanford Liebschutz and his staff to negotiate the logistics of the activity at Drum. We were also most ably assisted by the Canadian Air Reserve Wing at CFB Downsview in providing limited airlift to and from Drum as well as providing tactical reconnaissance flights over the training area with their search and rescue Twin Otters.

The Committee Group was an instructional unit of experienced NCOs and officers, many with war service. Their length of service was encouraged by the prospect of a military pension after 20 years in uniform. Their mission was to provide instructional teams for basic infantry training and, during their annual period of full-time service, they were "counter-parted" with their regular counterparts at Fort Dix, New Jersey when they were on annual vacation. Fort Dix was a major U.S. Army basic training establishment during the Vietnam War and had included a full Viet Cong village for training purposes. Visiting this training facility, along with the associated McGuire Air Force Base, gave the scale of the U.S. military system which, at that time, had been transitioning from the draft to a fully voluntary service.

A particular training opportunity to study the principles of war arose in October 1973 with the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War in the Middle East. This was a real conflict with much media coverage and we were fortunate to have Major Walt Reid, a regular officer from the Lord Strathcona's Horse, serving on HQ TMD. He agreed to chair a week-

RIGHT: At the height of the Vietnam War, replicas of Vietnamese villages were built for training purposes at Fort Dix and other U.S. Army bases.

ly seminar for the officers after Wednesday night training with the focus on the application of the principles of war in the conflict. It provoked some heated discussion of the political aspects of the contest which were then used to assess the respective aims or objectives of the warring parties along with the more military aspects of the conflict. It was particularly informative to have an Armoured Corps officer leading the discussion given the major roles of the armoured units in the war, with Russian equipment and advice on the Arab side and, hence, of interest to NATO assessment. Most interestingly, the outcome of this conflict was a ceasefire on the Egyptian front leading to the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt. This agreement has now held for nearly 50 years to the mutual benefit of the parties. Indeed, it could be said that it has led to greater *international* stability in the region and put the political focus back on *national* or internal matters. The need for a viable military deterrent has once more been demonstrated.

These discussions reminded me of an earlier lecture I had attended at Victoria Barracks in Sydney immediately after the Six-Day War in June 1967. During this conflict, the Israeli Army captured the Mitla Pass in the Sinai and their ground forces reached the Suez Canal. The lecture was given by General Ariel Sharon who had himself commanded



this particular ground operation. He described how the Egyptian defences had been laid out by Soviet advisors in accordance with their doctrine and were actually present at the time. He indicated how he adopted an all-arms approach with heavy artillery suppression to cover engineer/infantry teams breaching the defensive lines and creating gaps for his armoured units to exploit. It is noted that the Israeli Air Force had launched a preemptive strike on the Egyptian air assets to establish and maintain air superiority over the battlefield. General Sharon emphasized the importance of the leaders being at the front to maintain morale, but also to coordinate and adjust the operation in real time to exploit opportunities.

A similar opportunity for the Regiment's officers to gain from the experience of a commander in combat became available in 1974 when Colonel John Warr DSO was attached to HQ CMA and organized a training course for CMA candidates aspiring to unit command prior to their attendance at the qualifying course at Fort Frontenac in Kingston, Ontario. His training group comprised former unit commanding officers. Colonel Warr was an Australian RMC graduate who had seen active service in Korea and then both trained and led the 5th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment on oper-



LEFT: Gen Ariel Sharon, who commanded the Israeli ground forces during the Six-Day War in June 1967, emphasized the importance of military leaders being at the front to maintain morale, but also to coordinate and adjust the operation in real time to exploit opportunities.

A glimpse of history



★ **ABOVE:** Visiting Canadian Army Reserve officer, Lt. Adam Hermant, of Toronto, Ontario, stepped into Australian history when Cpl. Maurice Lazarus, of 1 Sig. Regt., showed him over Sydney's Victoria Barracks recently.

Lt. Hermant, of the Queen's Own Regiment, visited Australia to attend the 75th anniversary of the Sydney University Regiment and remained for more than two weeks.

Lt. Hermant has served four years with the Canadian Army Reserve.

Maj. John Holford, from the SUR, was attached to the unit for two years as the training and operations officer.

Then QOR Lieutenant Adam Hermant visiting the Sydney University Regiment in Australia in February 1975.

ations in Vietnam in 1966-1967. In addition, he had previously served on exchange with the Canadian Army in Ottawa in 1960-1962. After transfer to the Australian Army Reserve, he was on the administrative staff of the University of New South Wales when his earlier Canadian Army exchange officer colleague was on the staff of the University of Toronto, and they swapped jobs and residences for about a year. At a CFB Borden training weekend, Colonel Warr conducted a seminar for the QOR officers on his experience as a combat commander and how the principles of war remained applicable to all forms of warfare, including jungle warfare. Based on his combat and training experience, he placed emphasis on the need for leaders to "get the command viewpoint" in tactical settings and of "seeing the broader battlefield." He also emphasized the personal qualities of a leader and the importance of the integrity of officers.

Following my years of service based in Moss Park, I was transferred to HQ CMA to be part of the officer training programme started by Colonel Warr. This appointment expanded the opportunity to engage with other elements of the Canadian Armed Forces, including the Air Reserve Wing at CFB Downsview, the Staff College at Armour Heights and its subsidiary Staff School on Avenue Road. I also became part of Lieutenant Colonel

(<https://qormuseum.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/hermant-adam-newsclipping-australia.jpg>)

Then QOR Lieutenant Adam Hermant visiting the Sydney University Regiment in Australia in February 1975.



Soldiers of 5RAR inspect captured enemy weapons at Binh Ba, Vietnam. Colonel John Warr, an Australian exchange officer who served with 5RAR in Vietnam, placed emphasis on the need for leaders to “get the command viewpoint” in tactical settings and of “seeing the broader battlefield.” Photo credit Australian War Memorial.

Bill Stark’s team, which was responsible for the planning and conduct of the CMA participation in the Government of Ontario’s celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II at the CNE Stadium in 1977. The same team was reformed to plan and implement “The Royal Salute” for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh at the CNE Stadium on September 29, 1984. This televised event with commentator Mr. Henry Shannon was staged by CMA for the Government of Ontario as the highlight of the celebration of the bicentenary of the province of Ontario and the 1984 royal tour of Canada. The attached photograph was taken at the conclusion of the 1984 event. On both occasions I was responsible for the administration and logistics of the events, which included travel, accommodation and feeding of up to 1,200 participants and the coordination of security with all appropriate agencies.

Fortunately, the existence and perceived capability of NATO was successful in deterring European aggression during the Cold War and our training of years ago was not put to the test on the battlefield.

“Be an example to your men, in your duty and private life. Never spare yourself, and let the troops see that you don’t in your endurance of fatigue and privation. Always be tactful and well-mannered and teach your subordinates to do the same. Avoid excessive sharpness or harshness of voice, which usually indicates the man who has shortcomings of his own to hide.”

~ Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, 1891-1944

However, the future always remains uncertain and the current situation in Eastern Europe provides impetus to maintain vigilance, training and preparations after the Long Peace. It also provides an opportunity to study, learn and apply the lessons of modern warfare.

Finally, let me remember the late Brigadier General Donald Pryer and the welcoming members of the unit for their support and encouragement during

my time with the Regiment and the opportunity to teach timeless principals to enthusiastic young officers. By so giving guidance and opportunity to officers, I trust they have been able in

turn to continue the traditions and success of the Regiment.

In Pace Paratus TR

MAJOR JOHN HOLFORD was commissioned in the Sydney University Regiment in 1961 and subsequently served on HQ 2 Division, then from 1972 in The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada and HQ Central Militia Area. He is a graduate of both the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College, Fort Frontenac, Kingston, Ontario and United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Visual Highlights Of The Past Year









Mike Holland: One Of A Kind

by Capt (ret'd) Harry McCabe, MMM CD



I'm sad to announce the passing on July 28, 2022 of our great friend and fellow Rifleman Mike Holland.

Mike faced death like he had faced so many other issues and problems in the past — with fierce determination and courage. At the end, he wasn't worried about himself; he was worried about the impact on family and close friends who knew him.

I first met Mike just over 61 years ago when I joined The Queen's Own as a 16-year-old Rifleman. Mike stood out immediately as a force unto himself.

On the one hand, he could strike the fear of God in you with his scowl and determination that you would perform up to his standards. Then, he would completely shock you with his sense of humour. He had a smile that lit up his whole face and he would drop to his knees in helpless laughter by something or someone that he thought was tremendously funny.

He was one of those rare soldiers who looked splendid on the parade square, yet was completely at home in the field and combat training. He was a Pioneer Sergeant on the Regiment's 100th

Birthday Parade and was one of the original Skirmishers formed by former RSM Sid Byatt. He rose through the ranks of the QOR to become RSM and eventually commissioned once his RSM tour was finished.

But he didn't stop there. Mike was also a Toronto police officer in his civilian role and retired as a Detective. When he did so and after he retired from The Queen's Own, he joined the Toronto Police Pipe Band as Drum Major and helped raise the standard of the band. Later, he would spend many summers at the cadet camp in CFB Borden as Drum Major teaching the cadets who took the music courses. He was a great example and certainly helped develop these young Canadians into outstanding citizens.

Finally, and on a personal note, he and I were great friends. My children called him Uncle Mike just as his did to Gail and me. He was godfather to my daughter Kimberly and I am godfather to his daughter Michelle.

I, as I'm sure many of you also, will miss him terribly. Goodbye old friend, and rest in peace.

In Pace Paratus TR

Colonel Paul Hughes: A Lifetime Of Achievements



Following short engagements in the RCAF (Auxiliary) and the RCNR, Colonel Hughes joined the 3rd Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in Toronto as a Rifleman in 1962. He was commissioned a year later and served with the 3rd Battalion for 15 years as Adjutant, Company Commander and Deputy Commanding Officer until 1977 when his civilian job took him to Calgary.

In Calgary, Colonel Hughes served with the Southern Alberta Militia District and Western Militia Area until 1982 when he was appointed Commanding Officer of the Calgary Highlanders. On termination of that appointment, he assumed command of Southern Alberta Militia District until his transfer to the Supplementary Reserve in 1987.

In early March 2000, The Honourable Arthur E. Eggleton, Minister of National Defence, announced the appointment of Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD as

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Colonel Hughes served as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel to 2005, at which time he was appointed Honorary Colonel. He served in that role until April 2012.

One incident that should go down in regimental lore is the selection of the next Colonel in Chief, following HRH Princess Alexandra's retirement from that position after 50 years of service with the Regiment.

It was during the 150th anniversary celebrations in Toronto in 2010, which Princess Alexandra attended. Her Principal Secretary, Diane Duke, pulled

ABOVE: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra with Colonel Paul Hughes during the Regiment's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2010.



Colonel Hughes aside during a small reception, along with Colonel Dick Cowling, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, and Lieutenant Colonel John Fotheringham, Commanding Officer.

Mrs. Duke wasted no time getting to the point, and stated that “Her Majesty, The Queen, would like to know whether The Queen’s Own Rifles would be in support of having Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, as your next Colonel in Chief?”

Colonel Hughes responded in a millisecond, with words to the effect that “The Regiment would be honoured to accept The Queen’s recommendation.”

A visit to the Duchess at Clarence House later that year cemented the relationship, and the rest is history. The Regiment is currently the only Canadian regiment with The Queen as their Colonel in Chief.

Colonel and Mrs. Hughes later commissioned a portrait of Her Majesty, which hangs in the Officers’ Mess at Moss Park Armoury, and presented Queen Camilla with a diamond QOR brooch which had belonged to Lady Pellatt.

Before, during and after Colonel Hughes’ tenure as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary Col-



onel, he and Mrs. Hughes (Bev) were extremely supportive of the Regiment. Key elements benefiting from the Hughes’ support are the Regimental Band and Bugles, the Princess Alexandra Bursary, the Coin of Remembrance program, the Regimental Trust, and many others.

In 2020 he was awarded the Regimental Lifetime Achievement Award by the Regimental family.

Colonel Hughes passed away in Calgary, Alberta on 8 January 2022. His support of the Regiment lives on, and he bled Rifle Green. He will be missed.

In Pace Paratus TR



TOP LEFT: In November 2010, QOR CO LCol. J. Fotheringham, Honorary Col. P. Hughes, RSM S. Kelly and Honorary LCol. D. Cowling visited London to meet the new Colonel-in-Chief, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

ABOVE: Colonel Paul Hughes with D-Day veteran, Bugler Ted O’Halloran.

LEFT: Colonel and Mrs. Hughes travelled to London in early 2019 to present a painting to Her Royal Highness at Clarence House. From left to right, Colonel Paul Hughes, CD, HRH Queen Camilla, Mr. Richard Stone, and Mrs. Bev Hughes.

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Norm McCracken: A Fitting Farewell



On April 30, 2022, fellow Riflemen bid farewell to Major Norm McCracken, CD at the National War Cemetery (Beechwood) in Ottawa. Association Padre John Howie conducted the service.

Thank you to the Regiment for providing two Skirmishers, WO Graham Humphrey and Cpl Travis Lynch, which added another piece of QOR history to the service.

Norm's obituary is included in the last issue of the Rifleman e-magazine. ¶¶





Last Post



In addition to those Riflemen noted elsewhere in this issue, the following members of the Regiment passed away since the last issue of *The Rifleman*:

Adair, Alex

QOR D-Day veteran, B Company, first wave

Baskerville, Grahame

QOR

Butler, Edward

QOR D-Day veteran, wounded in action

de Boer, Jan

Sneek, Netherlands – Honorary Association member

Donnelly, Roy

QOR, PPCLI

Edie, Reg

QOR

Elliott, Graham Bruce

QOR – Battle of Normandy

Gentles, Michael

QOR, Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Hagar, David Royden

QOR

Holland, Michael

QOR

Honig, Raymond

QOR, Cdn AB Regt, PPCLI

Hughes, Paul

QOR, Calgary Hghrs

Hyrhorshen, Gordon

QOR, PPCLI

Irwin, Hugh

QOR

Jennings, John

QOR

Kemp, Guelph Allan George

QOR – WW2

Langdon, Lewis

QOR

Martin, Ernest

QOR

Minnis, William

QOR, PPCLI

Pitts, Marianne

Wife of MGen Herb Pitts, MC

Schoenig, Ralph

QOR

Thornton, Harry

QOR

Vine, David

QOR

Walsh, Kevin

QOR, PPCLI

Welby, Michael

QOR

Wells, Joseph

QOR, Cdn AB Regt, RCR

Williams, Douglas

QOR

Wright, Richard

QOR, RCR, RCN





THE 1860 CLUB

Supporting The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

June 6th, 2023

80th Anniversary of D-Day Fundraising Campaign

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is Canada's oldest continually serving Infantry Regiment. It currently is a Primary Reserve unit based in Toronto. The Unit has served with distinction in every conflict Canada has fought in.

The Unit has the unique honor of being the only Toronto based Infantry unit to have participated in the D-Day Landings on June 6th, 1944. During the battle, the QOR was part of the first wave of the assault on Juno Beach, Sector Nan-White, a 1 km piece of beach that was centred on the Town of Bernières-sur-Mer. The QOR had the highest casualties among the Canadian regiments with 143 killed, wounded or captured, including 61 who made the supreme sacrifice. The Regiment advanced 12 km inland to the town of Anisy, the furthest of any Canadian unit that day.

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and Battle of Normandy, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada will deploy a 65-member contingent to Normandy, France from June 1st to the 8th, 2024. This will include ceremonies in Anisy, Anguerny, Beny sur Mer, Giberville (Caen), and Le Mesnil Patry and will culminate with an morning ceremony at Canada House and a Mess Dinner on June 6th, 2024.

This will be a privately funded trip with no government funding. As a result, the unit will be conducting a fundraising campaign in order to deploy its members to Normandy. The estimated cost per member is \$3000 CDN. We are kindly requesting support from the extended Regimental Family.

How to Support the D+80 Campaign

Sponsor a Rifleman

- Individual or group sponsorship of a serving Rifleman are available. Each sponsorship will support one Rifleman to attend the event in the name of one of the 61 Riflemen killed on June 6th, 1944.
- The serving member and sponsor(s) will be given a coin of remembrance engraved with the name of the Rifleman being remembered.
- The serving member will conduct research and attend the grave at Beny-sur-Mer as part of the trip.
- Sponsors will receive a tax receipt for the sponsored amount of \$3000 CAD and will be made a Founder within the 1860 Club.
- Sponsors will be welcomed to attend the ceremonies during the trip including the Mess Dinner on June 6th, 2024 on the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer.
- More information can be found at: <https://www.1860club.ca/d80>

Corporate Sponsors

- The QOR will welcome Corporate Sponsors who wish to sponsor key aspects of the trip. This can be a financial or service donation.
- Sponsors will receive a tax receipt.

Directed Donation

- New or existing members of the 1860 Club will be able to make a donation direct to the D+80 trip.
- This will include a tax receipt.



Colonel Paul F. Hughes, CD, 1940 – 2022