



32 Canadian
Brigade Group
Newsletter

STEADFAST

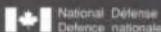


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Sgt John Martin, 48 Highrs, participates in Remembrance Day ceremonies held at their unit Memorial on University Avenue.

Photo by MCpl Eric Davis

December 2001



Canada

Commander's Message

AFTER an extremely successful summer and a good beginning to the new training year, time marches on and the holiday season is now upon us. Training at the individual, unit, and Brigade levels has been hectic; much has been done and much remains to be done. I thank you, each and every one of you, for your efforts so far this year and will continue to count on your support in the New Year.

My message to all soldiers within 32 CBG is straightforward. Take the much deserved holiday time to be with your families and friends. Make the extra effort to spend some good quality time with those closest to you. We all feel dedicated to the tasks and responsibilities given to us as members of the CF, sometimes to the detriment of our families and ourselves. This year in particular, the need for adequate self-rejuvenation is of critical importance.

Most of the soldiers from 32 CBG will be home for this year's holiday season, with our input into overseas operations at a minimum, but we still have several people deployed to Bosnia, Sierra Leone, the Golan Heights, the Congo and Eritrea. I ask that you take a moment during your holidays to pause and remember those that are not able to be home with loved ones.

To all 32 CBG soldiers and families, Judy and I send best wishes. Have a safe and well-deserved holiday. See you next year!

STEADFAST



Col. R.W. DesLauriers
R.W. DesLauriers, Colonel



Photo by Sgt Peter Hartwig

Col DesLauriers, assisted by CWO Bill Darling, promotes MCpl Elaine Darling at the 100th Anniversary Parade for 25 Service Battalion.



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STEADFAST is published six times annually. Its aim is to pass information and promote esprit de corps throughout 32 CBG.

Submission of articles and photographs are welcome. Articles should be submitted in MS WORD or WordPerfect format. Colour or black and white photographs must be accompanied with outlines that identify the activity and personnel (rank, first and surname). The editor reserves the right to edit any articles submitted. Photographs will be returned on request. Send to:

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Photo by Capt Steve Tribbetts

Members of the 48 Highrs conducting a platoon attack in CFB Borden on Ex TARTAN SHOOTER.

Brigade Sergeant Major's Message



AS the Brigade and its units approach the annual Christmas standdown we do so with a feeling of loss and apprehension. It is hard to believe the events that have swept across our nation and the entire world these past few months. It is this new world that we live in that shows us all too clearly the importance of being a Reservist. We will have a Reserve Company in Bosnia for ROTO 13, there has been increased employment of Reservists as United Nations Observer Officers and I am sure there will be many other positions of responsibility handed to the members of this Brigade.

Congratulations to the many soldiers who are currently taking the CF Junior Leaders Course. Your leadership skills will be a major resource for the units of the Steadfast Brigade. Instructors from Regular Force units will not be posted to LFCATC Meaford this summer, therefore the Brigade is counting on you to train our new soldiers.

To all of you and your families go my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your time away from your duties. Rest and recharge yourself for there are many challenges ahead of us.

A.S. Dalziel, Chief Warrant Officer

Remembrance Day, 2001



Photo by Capt Vic Goldman

Photo by MCpl Eric Davis

32 CBG units saw excellent turnout for Remembrance Day commemorations throughout their cities. Left: Sgt Nathan Ronaldson of the 48 Highrs rests on arms reversed in front of the Cenotaph at Old City Hall as part of the City of Toronto's Remembrance Day ceremony. Right: Pipes and Drums of the 48th march along Queen Street.



Photo by Mr Wally MacLaughlin

Photo by Mr Wally MacLaughlin



Photo by Sgt Alvin Derriman

Photo by MCpl Eric Davis

Clockwise from left: The Tor Scot R prepares to march into Knox Presbyterian Church, on Spadina Avenue. QOR of C sentries at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street. Maj Phil Chamberlain with 25 Med Coy in front of the Provincial Parliament. CWO Bill Darling marches with his regiment along Queen Street past Old City Hall.

32 CBG remembers fallen comrades



Photo by Lt. B. Reistich



Photo by Capt. Cheryl Enders

Left: Gnr Stephen Thomas of 7 Tor. Regt RCA, pulls the lanyard during the Nov. 11 21-gun salute in Toronto. Right: Cpl Ryan Gallagher of the G&SF rests on his arms reversed during the City of Barrie's Remembrance Day ceremony.



Photo by Capt. Fred D'Amico



Photo by Mrs. Wally MacLaughlin



Photo by Mrs. Wally MacLaughlin

Units participated by mounting guards, attending church services, and firing salutes, in a year that also saw a heightened interest from the public. Clockwise from left: Sgt Peter Slote commands the G&SF firing party at the Owen Sound gravesite of Pte. Tommy Holmes, Canada's youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross; Tor Scot R parades to their regimental church; regimental pioneers of the QOR of C at St. Paul's Anglican Church; The QOR of C pauses to remember.

EX TARTAN SHOOTER: *Highlanders on the Move*



Photos by Capt Steve Tibbetts

The 48th Highlanders get in to formation before taking up the advance on Ex TARTAN SHOOTER.

by Capt Steve Tibbetts

A fine morning mist begins to melt in the warmth of the new morning sun as camouflaged figures emerge from the wood line. On a bright clear September day The 48th Highlanders launch the advance on a new year of Offensive Operations training.

Looking ahead to the Combat Readiness Evaluation (CRE) in the Spring, LCol George Turner sets the tone for the

training ahead. "We have some of the finest soldiers and leaders in the Area. Given the focus of our training in the months ahead and the team work witnessed this weekend we are looking forward to proving our ability during the CRE in May."

"With the past training focus on the defense it's a pleasure to step into the more dynamic and aggressive operations associated with the offence", stated Company Commander Capt John McEwen.

Platoons of the Highlanders descended on CFB Borden on the weekend of Sept. 28-30 to practise their skills beginning with the section in the offense progressing very quickly into platoon level advance to contact and quick attack training.

After issuing orders for his platoon's advance Lt Jason Morishe commented, "It's like slipping on an old glove. The skills come back quickly, morale is high and the training is exciting and challenging."

Ex CULLODEN RUN: *Tor Scots train in FIBUA*



Photos by Sgt Peter Hartwig



Left: Cpl Nick Mann adopts a fire position while practising entry drills on the Meaford FIBUA site during Ex CULLODEN RUN. Centre: using a ladder to gain entry through a second story window. Right: practising door entry drills on the final day of the exercise.



QOR of C: Ex QUICK RIG VII

by Cpl Robert Gandhu

IT was 0500 Sunday, Oct. 14. The distinctive whistle and ear-shattering crack of artillery simulators and the sudden eruption of small arms fire shattered the cold, dark silence of the CFB Borden air. Para flares light the early morning sky with their eerie shifting shadows. The atmosphere of pure adrenaline could not be ignored.

Patrolling, ambush, counter ambush, ELOC and a para drop were the scheduled activity for the Queen's Own Rifles of

Canada during Exercise QUICK RIG VII.

Coordinated, concurrent activity was highly successful. Soldiers who had not completed the ELOC training concentrated on this important qualification while the rest of the unit divided into two platoons for "Force on Force" training.

Weather conditions may have been ideal for patrolling and springing an ambush, but the conditions resulted in cancellation of the para drop. Flexibility prevailed and the Airborne troopers used the Griffons to practise helicopter assaults.

Left: OCdt Edward Jun perched in a tree in a defensive posture for the force-on-force portion of Ex QUICK RIG VII on Oct. 13 in CFB Borden.

32 CBG Soldiers Overseas

25 Svc Bn sends troops to British exercise

by Cpl E. Pilon

FIFTEEN Tonne Drop Trucks and British webbing were the order of the day for the nine soldiers of 25 Svc Bn who trained in the United Kingdom with 23 Hamilton Svc Bn and 158 Transport Regiment during a NATO exercise.

Upon arriving in Gatwick Airport in England on Oct. 5, the troops were sent immediately to the field, and issued with British equipment. Each member accompanied a member of the British unit, which was already seven days into the exercise. After two days' familiarization with the British equipment, including the 15-tonne trucks, the Canadians were given their first mission. Transporting simulated artillery ammunition to an abandoned Second World War airfield proved to be not only challenging but also adventurous.

Following end ex we crossed the Straits of Dover and spent a night in Arras, France. Cpl Lamothe, thank goodness, stepped to the front and assumed responsibility as our translator while exploring this historic city that was home to many Canadians during the Great War.

Visiting the Vimy Memorial was very emotional. As we toured the tunnels and trenches and gazed at the thousands of names carved in stone a shiver of pride and awe swept over us as we thought of those Canadians who lost their lives on this very ground that is now Canadian soil.

Returning to the United Kingdom

after our brief foray to France we spent our last night at the Union Jack Club before our return flight to Canada.

We thank 23 Hamilton Svc Bn for including our unit in their unit exchange program. We are looking forward to renewing friendships when 158 Transport Regiment visits Hamilton in February.



One of the 15 tonne drop trucks that soldiers from 25 Svc Bn worked with while on Ex in Britain.

Interested in photography? Willing to work extra weekends?

Join the Brigade press corps. Call Capt. Vic Goldman at 416-633-6200, ext. 4374

YEAR 2001 REVIEW

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



Photo by Ms. Sylvia Pasquillo

2001 saw all 32 CBG's units working hard on mission task-oriented training. MWO Scott Patterson of the QOR of C confirms landing conditions during Ex QUICK RIG VI conducted at CFB Borden Sept 30.



Photo by Lt. B. Rolston

Many soldiers gained new course qualifications this year, including 370 new QL3's: (Clockwise from left) Col R. DesLauriers inspects the spring QL2 graduates at Fort York Armoury; Capt Fred Moore of The Tor Scot R gives an eyes right to BGen Young at LFCATC Meaford during its summer graduation parade.; Pte Gordon Klage (front) observes the effect of Pte Jordan Bowers' fire Nov. 17 at CFB Borden, during the qualification shoot for the G&SF QL4 Machine Gun Course.



Photo by Capt Cheryl Enders



Photo by Capt Cheryl Enders

YEAR 2001 REVIEW



Photo by Lt. Zane Friesel/Black



Photo by Ms. Sylvia Pecardo

The tempo of unit training was also high: (Clockwise from left) Cpl Powell and Tpr Dalgir of the GGHG move into action in Meaford; soldier of the 48 Highrs takes aim at CFB Borden Sept. 29 during Ex TARTAN SHOOTER; GGHG night exercise at Meaford; Highlander races onto the objective.



Photo by Ms. Sylvia Pecardo



Photo by Lt. Zane Friesel/Black



32 CBG troops also played a large role in Op PALLADIUM's ROTO 8: (left) MCpl Greg Small (on the right) of the Tor Scot R makes friends with some Bosnian orphans. (right) 32 CBG CWO S. Dalziel visits some of the troops.



Toronto Argos salute soldiers at game



Clockwise from above: Members from the 1 RCR Unarmed Combat Team demonstrate Sentry Neutralization Drills for the crowd at the Tailgate Party before the game. The game ball was delivered through the roof of Skydome and onto the field by a member of the Skyhawks. Cpl Scott Hooper of the Lorne Scots had the privilege of representing the Canadian Forces for the Ceremonial Coin Toss.

Junior Leaders start their training

THE brigade battle school once more has started to train its newest junior leaders.

On Oct. 12, 58 members of the brigade showed up at Denison Armoury where they started taking their first steps towards becoming non-commissioned officers. Over a period of 14 weekends, candidates from across the brigade will be introduced to the principles of leadership, military writing, military law, and instructional techniques.

Upon successful completion of the CF JLC, candidates will then be taking their newfound skills and using them to complete their Junior NCO course. This course is the second half of their leadership training, which takes place at CFB Petawawa. There they will be taught how to use Battle Procedure to prepare and lead in a tactical field environment. They will be required to lead both recon patrols and section attacks. It is only after successful

completion of both parts of their junior NCO training that these candidates will be ready to take their next step in their career and lead troops in both garrison and the field.

The courses are designed to be both challenging and rewarding for both staff and students, says Sgt. Scott Bustard, training coordinator for the Brigade's

battle school. With the large number of new reserve soldiers coming into the system, the need for junior leaders is critical, he said.

"The number of recruits is up and the Brigade is growing, which makes this the best time for all of 32 CBG to wish the best of luck to all candidates on CF JLC."

Upcoming Events

Ex POLAR WARRIOR 26 January, 2002 • Downsview Park
Fire Power Demonstration 24 February, 2002 • LFCATC
Meaford

•
Ex BOLD VENTURE 9-16 March, 2002 • Fort Knox, Kentucky
M1 tanks, live fire shooting, fighting in a high-tech, state-of-the-art, built-up area. All this and more is yours during Exercise BOLD VENTURE. Be sure to attend this LFCA-planned all-arms exercise.

Horse Guards change command at Ft. York



Photo by Lt B. Rolston

Gov. Gen Adrienne Clarkson was on hand for a tradition-laden ceremony as the GGHG changed Commanding Officers. LCol Robert Shaw replaced LCol John Spiteri on Sept. 30. (Clockwise from top): Horse Guard steeds both old and new; the Governor General inspects; handing the regimental standard to the new CO.



Photo by Lt. B. Rolston



Photo by Sgt David Ferritus

Lorne Scots Troop Colours for Duke of Kent



Capt Christopher Federico salutes the colours during the Trooping of the Colours Ceremony, Oct. 20. The regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Edward, Duke of Kent, was visiting the unit.



Clockwise from upper left: guns from 7 Tor Regt prepare for the Royal Salute; Cpl Scott Hooper receives the Chief of Land Staff Commendation from BGen M. Gauthier, Commander of LFCA, for saving a person's life with CPR while off-duty; His Royal Highness addressing the regiment; Sgt Michael Clazie explains why rappelling is good training.

Padre's Corner: Reflections on Sept. 11

By Maj. G. Federico

ON the 11th of September many of us gathered to support each other in our horror and shock and disbelief over the tragedy unfolding in New York and Washington.

Since that event, we have heard many times that, as a result, life will never be the same and that we have lost our innocence.

Affected as I am by what happened on Sept. 11, I cannot help but reflect that in the last century there have been other events as a result of which, "life will never be the same again" and which had already resulted in lost innocence.

I am referring, of course, to the two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and other conflicts which have punctuated the history of the twentieth century. And these are only a fraction of the armed conflicts which human beings have waged across the centuries.

All too many of them, it seems, are fought in defense of religious righteousness, often with the combatants on both sides of the conflict being thoroughly convinced that God is fully in support of their cause.

A recent presentation in the Toronto Star reminds us that the "Ethic of Reciprocity" – perhaps better known in Judaean-Christian culture as the "Golden Rule" – is found in the writings of every major religious tradition from the *Analects* of Confucianism to the Zoroastrian *Shayast-n-Shayast*.

From the Muslims: "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself."

From the Babylonian Talmud of Judaism: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour; that is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary; go learn it."

From the Jains: "In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self."

And in the Baha'i tradition: "If thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou chooseth for thyself."

We learn these rules as children; our parents try to make us apply them in our youthful friendships. We also learn the horror stories of how our Canadian identity was earned through blood shed in Europe;

we beat our breasts and say "Never Again!"

Last year we wept over the reinterment in Canada of our "Unknown Soldier". We identify Silver Cross Mothers and honour the sacrifice of those who serve and those who died serving.

Yet it seems that our memories are much shorter than we realize; current surveys measuring the historical awareness, interest and understanding of Canada's war contributions by the average member of the Canadian public indicate an abysmal lack of all three of these attributes. On a contemporary note, the typical adult Canadian isn't too well informed about the men and women of today's Canadian Forces either. Isn't it sad that we have to turn to a Wal-Mart commercial to stir up some national pride in our citizen soldiers!

The Canadian Forces Liaison Council works tirelessly to educate employers to the advantage of having employees who are Armed Forces Reservists; who does the same for our general

public? Why is it that members of the Canadian Forces may be nervous about being seen in a public place in uniform? Why is it that those who take their freedom so much for granted have forgotten how hard it was won.

The trouble is that human beings are woefully slow learners, and, until we, as a global community, learn the lesson of this Ethic of Reciprocity, there will be a need for those who draw together their strength to counter the greed and hatred and power, pride and misunderstanding which fuel conflict. To fight and perhaps to die.

How quickly we forget!

Why does it take a tragedy like the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to sensitize us to what we have and what we value? If we can make any sense of events such as those of Sept. 11, it is to remind ourselves of the fragility of peaceable human existence and human life, of what things are really most precious to us and to affirm for us that they are worth defending.

RCMI Hosts Band Spectacular



The massed bands of 32 CBG performed Oct. 14 at Roy Thomson Hall during the 11th Annual RCMI Band Spectacular. This year's concert honoured The Royal Canadian Legion. All the Brigade's Directors of Music took a turn conducting the massed ensemble. Pictured above is Capt Roland White, former Director of Music for the Military Band of the 48 Highrs, conducting the massed bands and massed pipes and drums in a lively medley of Scottish airs.

Photo by Capt. [unreadable]

Shooting: the bread and butter of the infantry

By Capt. Steve Tibbetts

THE 48th Highlanders have recently been putting forth the effort to develop marksmanship. First year competitor Highlander Greg Potapenko led the 48th unit's rifle team to a second place finish in the Ontario Rifle Association Service Conditions Competitions held at CFB Borden on the 22nd and 23rd of September. Scoring 546 with 38 V-Bulls out of a high possible score of 600, Hldr Potapenko captured two individual matches as well as the 2nd place Tyro (First year competitor) and 3rd place overall.

In 4th position overall winning 3 individual matches in the Provincial Competitions Highlander Latt, also a tyro, posted the second highest score on the team counting 543 with 33 Vs. Both Hldrs Potapenko and Latt joined the LFCA team in the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competitions this Summer at Connaught Ranges Ottawa. Their outstanding skill with the C7 rifle won them places in the coveted "Elite Fifty" of the Canadian Forces. Rounding out the team were Team Captain, Capt Steve Tibbetts, and MCpl Brian Kwok scoring 522/21 and 460/16 respectively.



Highlander Potapenko Shooting at the Ontario Rifle Association Service Conditions Competitions in CFB Borden.

Unlike the UK or United States, the CF does not have the mechanism, competition shooting aside, to produce credible skill at arms instructors. Skill at arms competitions, in reality, are the sole vehicle in the Canadian Military that produces experts who in turn are equipped to pass on their skill to others.

This is the first of a three year program to rebuild the 48th Highlanders Small Arms Team to a position of

dominance in skill at arms within LFCA. Coming from a near last place finish in team competitions in May to a second place finish in just 5 months, puts them right on track. With new soldiers like Hldrs Potapenko and Latt the unit hopes not only to create a powerhouse team but perhaps, more importantly, master marksmen like these will reestablish credibility in our general skill at arms training within the unit and reserves as a whole.

Civilian supporters of local reservists honoured

By Lt. Bruce Rolston

ONTARIO-AREA employers who gave reservists in their organization support in training and operations were honoured at a special Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) ceremony Nov. 24 in Toronto.

Two employers of 32 CBG members received CFLC certificates of recognition for their support of their employee's part-time occupations. CFLC chair Sonja Bata and Area Commander BGen M. Gauthier presented the awards, at the reception and ceremony held in Denison Armoury.

Nominations are submitted by the soldiers themselves, and are judged on the size of the employing firm, the flexibility of their scheduling, the amount of leave time provided for military training, the support they give during the leave period (such as topping up pay or protecting seniority) and consideration for the length of time and continuity of their support.

The two employers who received awards who were nominated by 32 CBG members were Air Transat (nominated by Cpl Daniel Campos, 2 FER); and The Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (nominated by LCol John Fotheringham, QOR).

Also this month, on Nov. 21, the Lorne Scots gave two members of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

awards for their support of reserve training. Board director Mike Bator (who is himself currently a member of the CFLC executive) and chair Ken Adamson were recognized for facilitating the provision of information about co-op and summer training opportunities to their students.



On Nov. 21, the Lorne Scots presented plaques to local school board members for their support. Left to right: LCol Adcock, Mike Bator, Ken Adamson, 2Lt Rob Walsh.

Royal Regiment sends officer to the Congo

WHILE much of the world focuses on the situation in Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces continue to operate missions worldwide: One such mission is OP CROCODILE in the République Démocratique du Congo. Maj Keith Lawrence, of The Royal Regiment of Canada, has been in the former Zaire since October serving with *La Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en République Démocratique du Congo* (MONUC).

MONUC is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement signed by the belligerent parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as certain rebel factions. Its further responsibilities include humanitarian assistance and the monitoring of human rights in a country the size of Western Europe that has been shattered by war, ravaged by disease and systematically plundered of natural resources that include diamonds, manganese and lumber.

At present, 43 nations contribute forces to MONUC, including over 600 Military Observers and 2800 contingent troops: this force is expected to almost double in the near future. And, due to the

size of the area of operations and the destruction or decrepitude of the water, road and rail systems, MONUC operates a fleet of 30 aircraft, including Il-76, Il-26, Il-24 and C-130 fixed wing aircraft and Mi-8 and S-61N helicopters. Six new passenger and cargo aircraft are on order. MONUC also operates patrol boats and barges on the Congo River and its tributaries. Under its Chapter VII mandate MONUC will shift its operational focus to the eastern border areas of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi in order to conduct operations to effect the Disengagement, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of belligerent forces. As these Phase III operations will be both costly and inherently dangerous, MONUC will re-configure or source mechanized ground forces as well as attack helicopters.

Major Lawrence, one of six Canadian officers with MONUC, is the Chief Information Operations Officer for the mission. Located at the MONUC (Main) Headquarters in Kinshasa, he is responsible overall for information operations in the Congo as well as specific operations in each of the four defined UN sectors. Maj Lawrence will re-deploy to Canada in April 2002. He can be reached at lawrence3@un.org

Gunners take to pistol range



Photo by Lt B. Rollison

Bandsman Annie Holl fires the 9mm pistol at CFB Borden. As part of their October MLOC weekend 7 Tor Regt conducted pistol familiarization training for all ranks who attended.

Promotions



MCpl R. Kemp is promoted on parade by Col DesLauriers during the 100th Anniversary of the 25 Svc Bn.

Since May 01

Maj G. Federico, 32 CBG HQ
Maj S. LePage, GGHG

Capt C. Federico, Lorne Scots

Lt F. Dar-Ali, QOR of C
Lt J. Matthews, 48 Highrs

2Lt N. Grewal, 7 Tor Regt

WO J. Colter, Lorne Scots
WO I. Jimenez, GGHG
WO B. LeBlanc, Lorne Scots

Sgt C. Cadorn, Lorne Scots
Sgt A. Campos, Tor Scot R
Sgt C. Daks, 2 Fd Engr Regt
Sgt D. Gillies, Lorne Scots
Sgt D. Harmes, QOR of C
Sgt C. Pawliw, G & SF
Sgt P. Regnier, 2 Int Coy
Sgt D. Simonelli, 2 Int Coy
Sgt K. Shaidle, QOR of C
Sgt Tramontin, 2 Int Coy

MCpl E. Darling, 25 Svc Bn
MCpl R. Kemp, 25 Svc Bn

Cpl A. Elliot, 25 Svc Bn
Cpl D. Siwy, Tor Scot R

Queen's York Rangers: the army's greenclad scouts

THE story of the Queen's York Rangers begins in the remote days of the Seven Years War, when companies raised by Robert Rogers served the British in raids along the frontiers of French Canada. Trained in woodcraft, scouting, and irregular warfare, units like Rogers' Rangers finally gave the redcoated British regulars an effective weapon to use against the guerrilla tactics of French-Canadian habitants and their Indian allies, enabling them to beat the enemy at his own game.

Raised anew among British Loyalists for the American War of Independence, and now including five troops of cavalry, the green-clad Rogers' Rangers fought on the side of those loyal to the British Crown, against the American revolutionaries. Under the command of John Graves Simcoe, the regiment fought in almost every theatre of war and earned, as the premier Loyalist unit, the title 1st American Regiment. Never defeated in battle, their colours were smuggled away from the final British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. Those same colours are now proudly on display in the regiment's officers' mess.

When Simcoe was named Lieutenant Governor of the new Upper Canada (now Ontario) in 1791, his unit was rebuilt around the wartime leadership and new volunteers from England, as the heart of the defence force for this new colony. Rangers were set to work building the original Fort York and cutting Dundas and Yonge streets out of the wilderness to help build the first town at York (now Toronto). Disbanded in 1802, its members carried on in the battalions of the York County militia, fighting in the War of 1812 and, a generation later – fighting as The Queen's Rangers, in honour of Britain's new Queen, Victoria – helping disperse the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. Former officers of the Regiment, who had become the leaders of the county militia, are recalled in the names of streets of the modern downtown Toronto – Jarvis, McGill and Shaw streets among them.

By the time of Confederation, companies of what was then called the York County Battalion were based in Scarborough, Aurora, and King Township; in 1872 they reclaimed their unit heritage, being renamed as the York Rangers. In 1885, they marched west to help put down the forces of Louis Riel in the Northwest Rebellion.

We now skip ahead 30 years. For the regiment's history is also that of the 20th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. This unit, along with the 35th, 127th, and 220th battalions, had been raised and trained by the York Rangers and fought in every major battle of the First World War. At Hill 70, Sgt Hobson won a

Victoria Cross, and in the closing weeks of the war near Cambrai, Lt. Algie won his. Both awards would be made posthumously.

Numerous amalgamations led to the creation in 1936 of the current Regiment, incorporating the battle honours of the 20th Battalion. In 1939, the Regiment was activated for service within Canada, guarding the Welland Canal against saboteurs. A second battalion was raised and did much of its training in Newmarket, but it too was destined to stay at home, as a source of trained men for units overseas. By 1945, the two battalions had dispatched nearly 2,000 officers and men to fronts around the world.

After the war, the Regiment was converted to heavy armour and trained in Aurora and Camp Borden on Sherman tanks. In 1965, however, it resumed its ancient role as the scouts of the army, and reconnaissance remains its speciality today.

With a squadron still based in Aurora, RHQ is today at Fort York Armoury, adjacent to the site of the fort built by Rangers in the 1790s. The regiment's mission is to field the reconnaissance squadron of 32 CBG. Mounted on Ilitis, it scouts the advance, provides screens of observation posts, escorts convoys, and deals, as a Quick Reaction Force, with threats to the rear. Much of this training applies to peacekeeping, and dozens of Rangers have served the UN in Cyprus, Namibia, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The Regiment will soon be focused on the Coyote, the Canadian Army's newest and most sophisticated armoured vehicle. Equipped with a 25mm chain gun and state-of-the-art surveillance equipment, the Coyote offers a challenge the Regiment is well-prepared to meet: still, one can't help wondering what old Indian fighters like Rogers and Simcoe would have thought of this latest tool for the Canadian military's greenclad scouts.

(Based on a writeup by Capt. Robert Kennedy, retd.)



Left:
Ilitis from the
Queen's York
Rangers on
Patrol.

Right:
MCpl Koziak
secures an
MSR.

