

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment)

Gazetted as the 13th BATTALION VOLUNTEER MILITIA (Infantry)
December 11, 1862

Motto
Semper Paratus (Always Ready)

Battle Honours
(*Honours NOT emblazoned on Colours)

South Africa – 1900

World War I

Ypres 1915-17
St. Julien
*Festubert 1915
Somme
Arras 1917-18
Vimy
Passchendaele
Amiens
Hindenburg Line
Pursuit to Mons
*Gravenstafel
*Mount Sorrel
*Pozières
*Flers-Courcelette
*Ancre Heights
*Arleux
*Scarpe 1917-18
*Hill 70
*Drocourt-Quéant
*Canal du Nord
*France and Flanders 1915-18

World War II

Dieppe
Verrières Ridge – Tilly-la-Campagne
Falaise – Falaise Road
Clair Tizon
*Forêt de la Londe
Woensdrecht
Goch-Calcar Road
The Hochwald
Xanten
Groningen
*South Beveland
*The Scheldt
*The Rhineland
*Twente Canal
*Oldenburg
*North-West Europe 1942, 1944-45

Allied Regiment
6th BN, The Light Infantry

Regimental March
Mountain Rose

Regimental Church
Church of the Ascension

Are you moving?

*If you are moving or if you know of somebody who should receive a copy of
“SEMPER PARATUS”, please mail their name, address, city, province,
postal code, and telephone number to:*

***The Commanding Officer,
Royal Hamilton Light Infantry,
John Weir Foote, VC Armoury,
200 James St. N.,
Hamilton, ON, L8R 2L1***



2004 Annual

Major Battle Honours

South Africa - 1900

WORLD WAR ONE

Ypres 1915-17
St. Julien
Festubert 1915
Somme 1916
Arras 1917-18
Vimy 1917
Passchendaele
Amiens

Hindenburg Line
Pursuit to Mons

WORLD WAR TWO

Dieppe
Verrières Ridge/Tilly-la-Campagne
Falaise
Clair Tizon
Forêt de la Londe
Woensdrecht
Goch-Calcar Road
The Hochwald
Xanten
Groningen



***Sergeant William
Merrifield, VC, MM***



***Honourary Colonel
John Weir Foote, VC***

SEMPER PARATUS

The Regimental Newsletter of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry



Veteran's Day Dundas

Capt Tim Fletcher

Veteran's Park in Dundas came alive this past May 1st when the Hamilton Garrison under the leadership and co-ordination of the RHLI's Capt Rob Marini, set up a wide-ranging display. Including 11 Field, 23 Service Battalion and the Argylls, along with the Hamilton Police Service, the displays provided the Dundas community a look at today's modern Reserves and some community partners.

According to community organizer Andrew Northrup, "Each and every member ... impressed our community with not only their equipment and displays, but with their patience, dedication and professionalism in dealing with people from young children to seniors." He also noted that "The addition of the RHLI band really helped set the tone ..." for the day.



A good old-fashioned tug of war always stirs up interest with the neighbourhood kids! In the interests of community relations, the tug was declared a draw...



RHLI Recruiting Officer Lt. Alec Colic goes over the benefits of a RHLI Reserve career with a couple of interested youth.



MCpl Dan Gauthier and Cpl Robert Pal set up their C6 during the ever-popular "gun run". The RHLI team as usual won handily.

The RHLI in Afghanistan

Captain Tim Fletcher

The RHLI continue their tradition of supporting peace and rebuilding efforts around the world. Afghanistan is probably the farthest away our soldiers have ventured, with MCpl Mark Brewster leading the way in 2003 and now Cpl Warren Pyper, Cpl Mike Bryant and Sgt Matt Kirkpatrick deployed on Op Athena in Kabul.

Operational security prevents us saying more but they report things going well despite one of the coldest winters in the region in many years. The Canadian kit and camp seem to be holding up well, with morale supported by short visits to an R'n'R centre.



Cpl Warren Pyper and Cpl Mike Bryant in their Canadian desert-pattern uniforms at the start of their deployment.

COVER PHOTO: *Cpl Mike Bryant in his Canadian desert-pattern uniform at the start of his deployment in Afghanistan.*

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE PROMOTIONS FOR KEY "RILEYS"



LCol Jack Evanoff, left, along with Captain Bill McBride and RHLI HCol Jim Forsyth at the investiture of their new honours at Queen's Park in Toronto. (Photo: Gwen Forsyth)



Honours and awards for those associated to the RHLI cap badge. Honorary

Colonel Jim Forsyth has been promoted to Commander within the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the parent body of St. John Ambulance. Two of our Associate members have also been honoured. Captain Bill McBride has been promoted Serving Brother, while LCol Jack Evanoff has been promoted Officer in the order.

The ranks in the Order of St. John are: Member of the Order; Serving Brother / Sister of the Order of St. John (SBStJ / SSStJ); Officer of the Order (OStJ); Commander of the Order (CStJ); Knight of the Order (KStJ), and Bailiff / Dame Grand Cross.

Major Larry McMorran, SBStJ; Major Joe Petozzi, Major Stu Chapman (2379 Cadet Corps, Burlington), SBStJ; and Major Dan Stepaniuk, SBStJ, are also members of St. John Ambulance.

St. John Ambulance awards are among the few non-military honours allowed to be worn on CF uniforms, and are given for service to the organ-

ization. The recipients of the Order are allowed to place the appropriate honour after their name within the Order, and wear the black ribbon and either a silver or white enamelled Maltese Cross, depending on the rank achieved in the Order. The ranks are achieved by both length of service and the degree of participation and responsibility in the Order.

St. John Ambulance is popularly known for its first-aid expertise but its origins go back hundreds of years. The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is more commonly known as the Order of St. John. One of five mutually recognized orders of St. John, it is an order of the British crown. Reaffirmed in Britain in the mid-19th century, the Order traces its origins back 900 years to the Knights Hospitaller from whom St. John today derives its inspiration and maxims in the service of mankind. Today, the Order of St. John is an international body with some 30,000 members worldwide. The Order encompasses the foundations of the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and St. John Ambulance.

Colonel Tim McCoy



The RHLI have lost another stalwart veteran. Colonel Tim McCoy passed away in Ottawa on February 13th, 2005 after a short illness. Born in 1918, Colonel McCoy had an incredibly rich and varied life in the military and after retirement.

His military career began with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry at the beginning of WWII. He went overseas with the Regiment and took part in the Dieppe raid, where he was wounded. He went on to serve with the unit throughout North-West Europe.

After the war he joined the Royal Canadian Regiment in London and was subsequently appointed Commanding Officer of the First Battalion RCR. Later in his career he was appointed Commandant of the Canadian Infantry Training School in Camp Borden, Ontario and served as a Senior Staff Officer at Headquarters Northern Army Group (NATO) based in West Germany.

Following his retirement from the military in 1971, he contributed for many years to international development, as Executive Director of the Canadian Hunger Foundation, as well as project director for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Dominica and as a volunteer.

He was also an active member of the RCR Association (Ottawa Branch), the Royal Canadian Military Institute and other organizations. He is fondly remembered by the many people whose lives he touched as a person who loved life and lived it to the fullest with zest, generosity, a sense of humour and incredible determination.



Members of the RHLI firing the PWT 3 at Gully Range, LFCA TC Meaford.

Photo by Pte Marc Taraso, "C" Coy

Never was an exercise more appropriately named! Meaford in February is no picnic, with frigid air blasting in from Georgian Bay. Working on the windswept expanse of a firing line leaves you exposed to the kind of cold that gets into the bones. Nevertheless, the RHLI was able to get a lot done including firing the PWT level 3 qualification the weekend of February 25-27th, 2005. Pte Taraso was able to capture a sense of the weekend in a few pics snapped when time permitted.



4 C6 GPMG's in SF role on the firing line are bathed in a spectacular Meaford sunset in preparation for a night-fire.

Photo by Pte Marc Taraso, "C" Coy



Photo by Pte Tyrus Darcy and Pte Ryan Longenecker loading mags for the firers

Photo by Pte Marc Taraso, "C" Coy



The gun line was a busy place despite somewhat limited ammo. The sun looks warm but this is Meaford – it's all an illusion!

Photo by Pte Massacar



RHLI Band Releases First CD!

Capt Tim Fletcher

The Regimental Band of the RHLI, long renowned for its top-level performances, has released a superb CD. The Band's first, it covers a broad spectrum of music and is a flawless set of recordings.

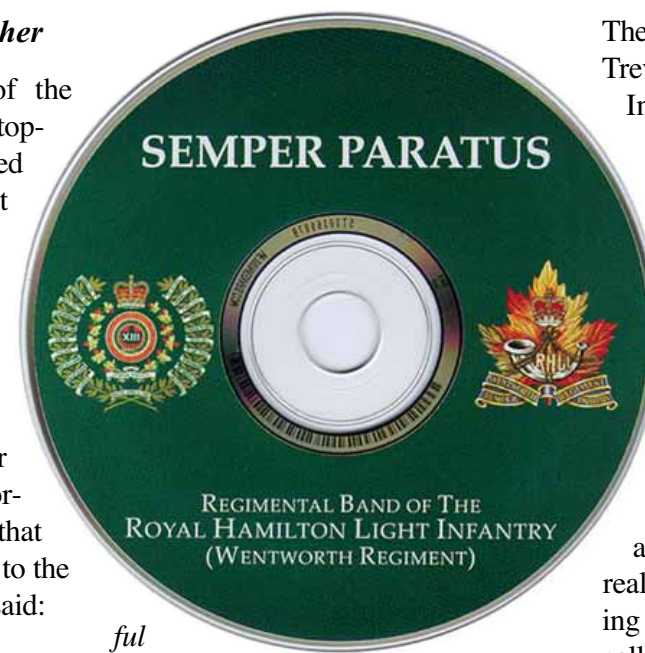
The disc had its genesis in the Regimental trip to Dieppe for the 60th anniversary of that ill-fated World War 2 raid. Hamilton Spectator reporter James Elliott was part of that trip, and wrote the introduction to the disc. Nothing else needs to be said:

"Nous nous souviendrons d'eux"

The French schoolchildren, each bearing flowers, step forward to the memorial and repeat the time-honoured oath of homage "we will remember them."

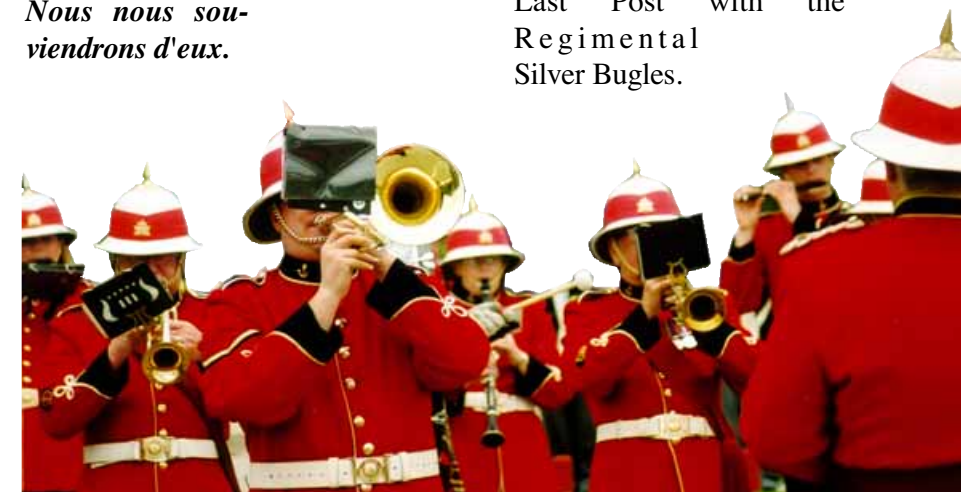
If you have tears ... For the aging veterans, their families, serving members and friends of the regiment it was a scene repeated all over Northern France in the summer of 2002 as The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry marked the 60th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid and revisited Verrières Ridge. For the Rileys those two actions represent the low and high points respectively of the Second World War. In the first - a frontal assault against a heavily fortified port - the regiment was virtually annihilated. In the second, fighting against elite German units outside of Caen, the Rileys took, and held the ridge, winning nine decorations, including a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Six decades after the nightmare of Dieppe the strains of the RHLI regimental march, Mountain Rose rang through the cobbled streets of Dieppe as the scarlet band led a proud hand-



ful of surviving vets past tens of thousands of grateful French citizens. From drum major to bandsman, through woodwind and brass, the weight of the occasion was obvious in the face, the bearing and the playing of every single member. And in cemeteries from Hautot-sur-Mer to Cintheux, the RHLI band gave the glorious French national anthem, La Marseillaise, readings coloured with the loss, pain and honour of war. The spirit of that pilgrimage in honour of the brave, lives on in this music.

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.



The disc has met with critical acclaim. Trevor Ford is the President of the International Military Music Society. He is very highly regarded as a musician -- ex Royal Marines, knighted by the King of Norway for service to Norwegian youth bands, and is extremely busy as a competition adjudicator throughout Europe.

Trevor, in an email, noted that "The RHLI CD really impresses - and especially as a live performance. Lovely balanced sound and really effective dynamics without losing quality. Very precise and rhythmically secure. I thoroughly enjoy listening to it."

The music is not your usual collection of tunes. It includes 'Elizabeth of England, Belle of the Ball, The Thin Red Line, The Globe and Laurel (to celebrate our connection with the US Marines via John Philip Sousa); Le Carillon De Drapeau; Speed Your Journey; Stirling Castle; Hymn of Dedication; Sousa!; The Phantom Regiment; The Great Escape; The Maple Leaf Forever; Nightfall in Camp; La Marseillaise; The Regimental March (Mountain Rose); and a stirring performance of Last Post with the Regimental Silver Bugles.

The CD is available at the armoury, or follow the "audio recordings" link on-line at:

<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/8324/English/Home.html>

THE RHLI HELP DEDICATE AUCHMAR HOUSE



**Honorary
Colonel Jim
Forsyth, RHLI**

In 1862, the Government of Canada authorized the formation of the 13th Battalion in

Hamilton. The first commanding officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Buchanan, a prominent Hamilton businessman and parliamentarian. Buchanan presided over his regiment from Auchmar House, his palatial estate on the brow of Hamilton Mountain where he hosted elaborate dinner parties, entertained his officers and ran his business interests.

Buchanan's fortunes declined in his later years, and so did Auchmar House. It saw brief service as a hospital after the Fenian Raids of 1866, and again during World War II for convalescing RCAF members. It passed through a number of owners, finally ending up with the City of Hamilton and being used in films and TV



Sir Isaac Buchanan, first Commanding Officer of the 13th Battalion, now the RHLI, and Auchmar House in its former glory. Picture the gardens filled with officers and companions enjoying a post-dinner stroll, paths lit by lanterns in the pre-electricity days...



HCol Jim Forsyth, left, Colonel Dick Butson, Eileen Butson and LCol Guy Smith show off the new commemorative plaque as a tangible reminder of a great Hamiltonian and the influence of the RHLI in today's community.

shows.

Its long and storied history has now been commemorated by the City with a memorial plaque, the first to indicate the historical nature of the house and grounds and their connection with the RHLI. The plaque, unveiled on May 1st, 2004, is the work of the City's Joint Plaquing Sub-committee and the Auchmar Millennium Fund Committee. A key mover of the plaque was Eileen Butson from the Auchmar Committee, working with Dr. John Johnston, Chair of the Plaquing Sub-committee.

The Regiment was well-represented at the event. The Military Band was resplendent in scarlet tunics as it must have been in Buchanan's time. Most fittingly, Honorary Colonel Jim Forsyth; LCol Guy Smith, Commanding Officer, and Dr. Dick Butson, holder of the George Cross and former RHLI medical officer were also on hand to ensure the Regimental stamp on Auchmar House was not forgotten.

The plaque notes LCol Buchanan's contribution to Hamilton and his role in founding the RHLI, yet another reminder of the significant presence of "the Old 13th" then and now in our City.

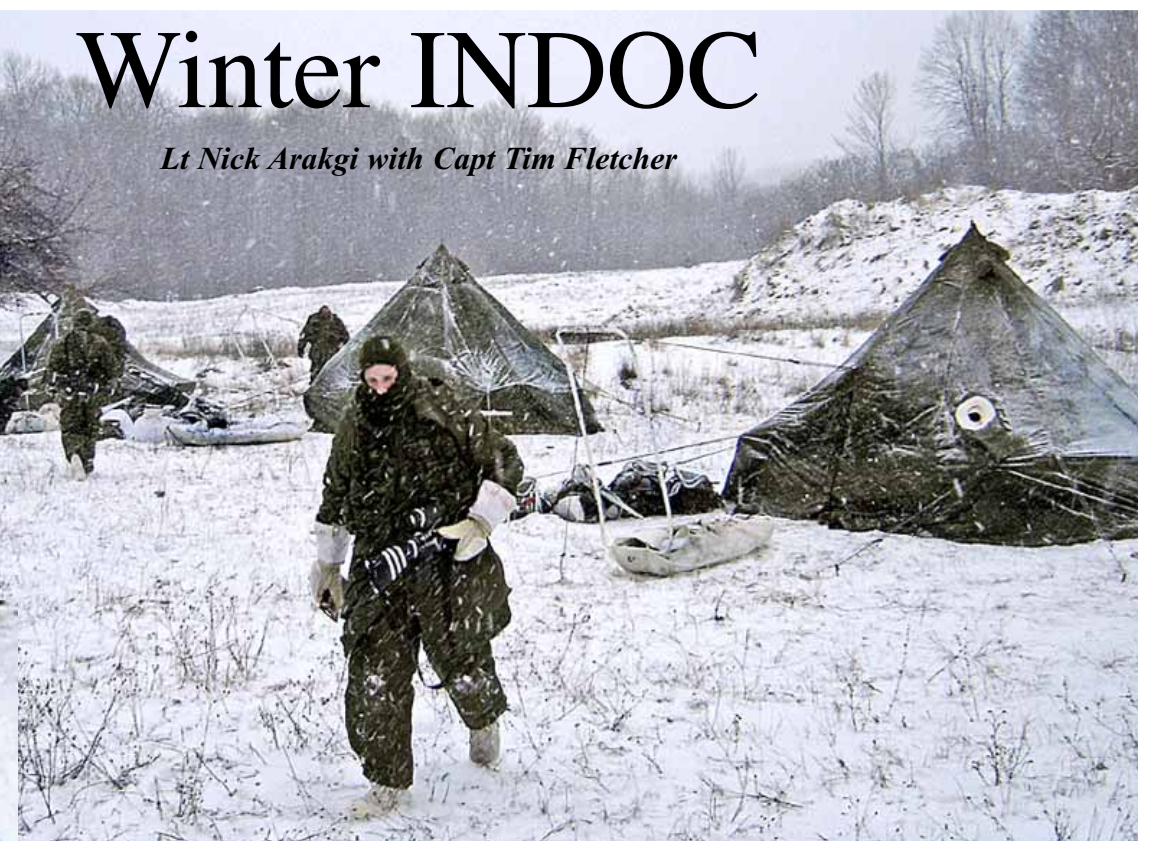
Winter INDOC

Lt Nick Arakgi with Capt Tim Fletcher



Moving in snow with a full pack in winter cam – it's a challenge that can only be taken up by doing it. Pte Lloyd Vermeer moves through the woods to demonstrate how it's done. Canadian soldiers have made winter warfare a "corporate skill" which few other nations can match, and the RHLI are making sure the skills are passed on to our new soldiers.

Living in the field in the winter calls for special skill sets. Just bunking down at night calls for a whole different tent routine. The weekend of 14-16 January 2005 proved a good one to introduce our newer soldiers, and several cadets from our two Regimental corps, to those skills. It was also good to refresh skills for more experienced soldiers. More than 70 all ranks total took part on the ex.



Putting up a tent and taking it down in an armoury is a lot different than it is out in the cold and snow! Tent-up tent-down drills Saturday afternoon brought rapid familiarity with the process and showed how it was possible to work while dressed in proper winter gear.



Pte Drew Nagtegaal, in whites, and Pte Lloyd Vermeer demonstrate camouflage and concealment. The photo has been enhanced for clarity – the low light at the time meant some blurring of the image.



It's the army – you don't do anything without a briefing! Some banked-up earth beside a road made a perfect location for Sgt Sean Fletcher's briefing on Camouflage and Concealment.

The -10 C temperatures lead to continual snow squalls, which quickly replaced snow melted during a warm spell just prior to the ex. The composite company formed from 'B' and 'C' Coy soldiers had the perfect environment to work in. First came the drills – tent up, tent down; lighting stoves and lanterns and using them in a tent safely; how to maintain them, and being shown just how comfortable you can be even snow-bound.

Then came the patrols. Even without ammo, it's useful to manoeuvre in snow, under adverse conditions with weapons, following battle procedure, moving tactically, conducting orders groups and all that goes with military activity. A night-stalking patrol added extra interest.

No exercise ever goes according to plan, but usually it's better than being in the armoury!

Rileys Brighten Hamilton Christmas

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry provided some special and much-needed assistance to St. Matthew's House in Hamilton on Friday, December 10th, 2004. The unit supplied vehicles and soldiers to pick up approximately 2,100 kilograms of food from Ball Packaging of Burlington, and toys from an Oakville pharmaceutical company for delivery to the charitable agency. The food served thousands of people over the holiday season while the toys brightened many children's stockings on December 25th.

"St. Matthew's House lacks the resources to pick up this significant donation and would otherwise be forced to rent a vehicle to pick up the food," noted Canon Wendy Roy, Executive Director of the agency. She said the food made a major difference in the community: "In addition to providing for more than 1,100 families and couples registered in our Adopt-a-family Christmas program, once again our agency's food banks will remain open throughout the month of December until the new year when others are closed."

The RHLI supplied five soldiers and two trucks to move the donated goods to St. Matthews House. The agency provides assistance to economically and socially disadvantaged families in the Hamilton-Burlington area through a variety of services and programs.



MCpl Mark Brewster, left, on ground, along with Cpl Mike Hillmer on truck, Cpl Anthony Rotondi, right, and MCpl Steve Holdom of the RHLI unload more than 2,000 kilos of donated food at St. Matthew's House charity in Hamilton, while Jim O'Keefe stands ready to receive the donation, which will help feed more than 1,100 families this Christmas season.



Cpl Anthony Rotondi loads up part of the 2,000 kilo load of food collected by the employees of Ball Packaging in Burlington for St. Matthew's House. The food filled an MLVW and stuffed toys collected by an Oakville pharmaceutical company, along with additional food, took another LSVW to move.

HALTON POLICE GET COLOURS



The RHLI have become an integral part of the social fabric of Burlington. With the CO are, left Major Stu Chapman, 2379 RCAC, HCol Forsyth, His Excellency Lt.-Gov Bartleman, and Regional Police Chief Ean Algar. (Halton Police Photo)

Halton Regional Police have their first-ever set of Colours as authorized by the Governor-General. "Police colours" are a relatively new category of honours for Canada and Halton Police are among the first to take advantage of them.

At the dedication ceremony officiated by the Hon. James Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the RHLI were well-represented. LCol Guy Smith, HCol Jim Forsyth and Major Stu Chapman, 2379 RCAC, our Cadet Corps in Burlington, showed the cap badge on behalf of the unit.

Burlington is a vital community for the RHLI and we are an integral part of the Burlington. Attending important functions such as the dedication of the Police Colours helps cement the bond.

RHLI Band Important Part of Community Presence



Somehow the sound was just that much sweeter in the special setting of Dundurn Castle, as it must have been at the turn of the century and earlier.



The Regimental Band of The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. That's the "formal" title of what most of us usually call simply, "the band". We take them for granted – they're always there for Resolute Riley, at Regimental ceremonial functions, dinners and the like. When we need them, they're there. But there's a lot more to them than that!

Their bright red ceremonial uniforms, reminiscent of days of yore, are a very familiar sight in the community in the Santa Claus Parade, Remembrance Day, Boy Scout/Girl Guide Parade, Burlington Sound of Music parade, Royal Parades, and numerous concerts throughout the

year. The RHLI band goes back to the very first days of the Regiment and has always played a major role in recruiting, unit morale and community presence. They are indispensable to what we are – just ask the citizens of Dieppe when our band marched through their streets on the 60th



Major Mike Rehill, Director of Music, has honed our musicians to a fine pitch!

anniversary of the Dieppe raid. Ask the federal government when they needed buglers for the ceremony dedicating the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and we sent 10 band members with our ceremonial silver bugles.

One example of their community contribution on our behalf was the annual concert at Dundurn Castle, on August 29th, 2004. Playing with the Argyll Pipes and Drums, the band attracts a good crowd for an evening of military and popular music al fresco, in one of the most picturesque settings in the city.

Their ambassadorial role is crucial to the RHLI mission, and it's carried out by one of the premier military bands today.

EX MAPLE STORM 7-9 May 2004



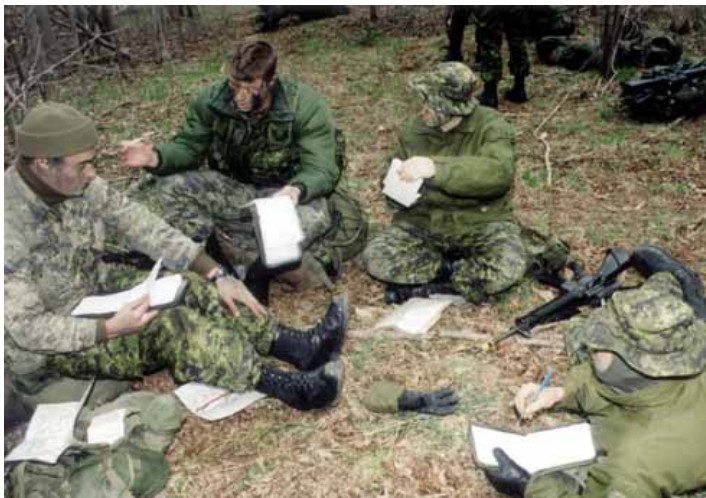
Warrant Officer (now MWO) Brian Robinson oversees the activities of his soldiers as they prepare to move.

The RHLI took Exercise Maple Storm by storm the weekend of 7-9 May, 2004. The Rileys deployed to Canadian Forces Training Area Meaford late Friday and were well established by dawn Saturday as part of 31 Light Infantry Battalion (LIB). The composite unit was formed up as it was scheduled to be for Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN, the Land Force Central Area summer training concentration.

Concentrating on transitional operations, the troops started in the defence and then moved to the offence, practicing the skills needed for this demanding process. It was a busy weekend but a good one!



Capt Rob Marini formulates his orders prior to the Rileys moving out to the attack.



Lt Nick Arakgi passes on orders to members of his platoon during Ex Maple Storm.



This 81mm mortar from 56 Field Artillery Regiment provided inter-mediate-range fire support. (Photo by Sgt Pat McCarthy, 23 Svc Bn)



MCpl Dan Gauthier accepts his new rank from the CO



MCpl Mark Brewster was also promoted during the ex-a good way to finish a weekend!



Sgt Sean Fletcher was surprised when his name was called out by the CO for promotion.



Private Lloyd Vermeer, left and Corporal Mike Bryant received the Nicolazzo Trophy as first-place finishers on Exercise Resolute Riley. The pair finished the competition in 42 minutes and 15 seconds.



The Silver Cap Badge Winners: from the left, Cpl Phil Howie, MCpl Ian MacDonald, Sgt Peter Fairchild and Lt Alec Colic.



MWO Kombo Hasson, in his position as Deputy Sergeant-Major for the RHLI, addresses the NCMs at the Regimental Christmas Dinner.

The extended RHLI Regimental Family gathered December 7th, 2004 for the annual Christmas Dinner. A corner of the floor of the John Foote, VC, CD Armoury was transformed into blue-curtained "Mess" for the event due to the large number of soldiers and guests attending. 157 all ranks sat down for the traditional turkey dinner with the trimmings,

served to the NCMs by the Officers and NCO's.

The dinner is traditionally used to present honours and awards and this year saw plenty. Chief among them was a Commanding Officer's Commendation to a very special couple. Regimental Sergeant-Major Jeff Roswell, incapacitated since a motor vehicle collision at this time last year, and his wife Christiane were honoured, RSM Roswell for his many years of devotion to the RHLI and Chris for her continuing work on the Regimental Children's Christmas Party. RSM Roswell continues to show improvement but remains in hospital. Other commendation recipients included Sgt Pam Kryshoski, Lt Nick Arakgi, Capt Robert Marini, Capt (now Major) Stu Chapman of our Burlington Cadet Corps for his invaluable liaison work with the City of Burlington in conjunction with our LFRR assignment, and Capt Tim Fletcher.

The Silver Cap Badge winners were also announced. Cpl Phil Howie, MCpl Ian MacDonald, Sgt Peter Fairchild and Lt Alec Colic were chosen for their accomplishments from among their peers at their respective ranks.

The Nicolazzo Trophy was also presented to the Resolute Riley team of Pte Lloyd Vermeer and Cpl Mike



Christiane Roswell received CO's commendations for herself and RSM Jeff Roswell from Deputy Commanding Officer Sean McKee.

Bryant, who's winning time over the challenging course was 42:15.

Finally, a number of recent graduates of basic training were presented with their CF Certificates as they experience their first Christmas with their new "family".





The "Mess" created on the floor of the armoury was overflowing with soldiers and guests.

EX MAPLE LIGHTNING 2004 - FORT HOOD, TEXAS



Ex Maple Lightning, 31 CBGs "March Break" annual exercise, has become the lead-up training for the major summer exercise in Land Force Central Area. Taking place out of country, it allows our soldiers to get in good training without being distracted by adverse environmental conditions at that time of year.

For 2004, 31 CBG sent nearly 400 soldiers to Ft. Hood, Texas, including a platoon of RHLI, where they took part in a wide variety of operations while they trained in Transitional Operations. Ft Hood offered an excellent opportunity to use battlefield simulators and an extensive training area including large Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) sites, which allow soldiers to train in larger units. Ft Hood has two MOUT sites. One is about two city blocks in size and the other about four blocks, with a variety of multi-level buildings, alleys, village squares and narrow streets.

"Most of the world right now is



Blackhawk helicopters provided the vertical dimension to the battlefield during Ex Maple Lightning. MCpl Robert Pal is in the middle. Photo by Sgt Sean Fletcher, RHLI

living in urban centres and our ability to fight in urban centres is crucial for being able to meet the Brigade Commander's objectives (to be operationally ready and able to work in all

types of terrain)," stated then-Captain Dan Stepaniuk in an interview.

In addition to urban operations training, the infantry also conducted training raids utilizing Black Hawk and Apache helicopters, inflatable boats supported by Canadian military engineers with high explosives.



Two Rileys, prepare their assault boat for an assault river crossing during Ex Maple Lightning in Ft. Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt Sean Fletcher, RHLI



Ft Hood boasts two MOUT sites, including this one, the "smaller" of the two. These sites allow for reasonable simulation of urban operations, minus the "local" population so often present on today's battlefield. Photo by Sgt Sean Fletcher



Air assault! Members of the RHLI, weapons equipped with the MILES gear, cover against the downdraft from the rotors as their Blackhawk helo lifts off from the LZ.



Pte (now Cpl) Nick Ellens receives an incoming message on the radio he is monitoring.

Photo by Cpl Chris Kennedy, 31 CBG

RHLI RETURNS TO ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Colonel James Forsyth CStJ, CD, Honorary Colonel, The RHLI



In September 1944, The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry as part of 4th Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, took part in the liberation of Antwerp, Belgium. The RHLI was responsible for the capture and preservation of the vital harbour and dock facilities, badly needed to resupply the front lines. The supplies were still coming from Normandy and Cherbourg, nearly 500 km to the west, and were slow in arriving at the front. The capture of Antwerp would cut this resupply route by 400 km, and enable the Canadian and British armies to push on into Germany.

The RHLI with the assistance of the Belgian Resistance Army gained control over the harbour and dock area in heavy fighting, which lasted about a week. The RHLI then took part in the clearing of the approaches to Antwerp Harbour, which the German army still controlled. This action took another six weeks of heavy fighting, and it was November before the first ship was able to use the docks at Antwerp. The RHLI and Belgian Resistance Army losses were considerable.



The RHLI Memorial Plaque is a permanent tribute to the Regiment and the absolutely vital role they played in liberating Antwerp, which facilitated the Allied advance over the Rhine.

It was therefore a great honour for the RHLI to be invited by the City of Antwerp to erect a Regimental Plaque on the harbour front to the memory of our soldiers who fought, and especially those who died, during the heavy fighting there in September 1944.

A group of 16 members of the RHLI Regimental family took part in the dedication of our plaque on the Steen in Antwerp on 5 September 2004. Included in the group were two soldiers of the RHLI who actually served and fought in the battle of 1944. They were Maj Charles Mackay and Pte Doug Shaunessy. Another veteran of the battle, CSM Doug Dolman, was to be with us also, but due to

poor health was forced to withdraw just before the trip. The Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Honourable Albina Guarnieri, joined us for the activities in Antwerp and assisted us with the unveiling of our plaque along with the Mayor of Antwerp. Wreaths were laid at the plaque and speeches delivered by the Mayor of Antwerp and Minister thanking the RHLI for its service in 1944 and for returning to Antwerp to join the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Liberation.

The Belgians were very generous and hospitable in their welcome to us. We were received at a reception at City Hall and given reserved seats at a military tattoo in the square in front of City Hall. Special Commemorative Liberation Medals were presented to our veterans as well as to LCol William Kedziora, former CO RHLI, Capt Stuart Chapman, Chair of the RHLI Regimental Committee and Col James Forsyth, Honorary Colonel RHLI. The Minister of Veterans Affairs hosted a private dinner for us and again expressed her appreciation for our participation in Antwerp on this historic occasion, which added much to the friendship already existing between Belgium and Canada.

Community Open House



DCO Major Sean McKee is interviewed by CHtv's Natalie Marconi and cameraman Nick Garbutt.



This father and his daughter receive an explanation of the RHLI and the Reserves from Pte Ashleigh Lampman.

Have you ever wondered what was happening behind the large doors and gates of the John Foote, VC, CD Armoury at 200 James Street North? Hamilton and area residents had their chance to see first-hand as the RHLI held a community "Open House" on Tuesday night, November 23rd.

It was a great opportunity to see all the latest gear used by an Army Reserve infantry unit. This included basic infantry weapons, our "CAD-PAT" uniform, communications gear and advanced technology such as night-vision devices that allow soldiers to see in the dark. "Riley" recruiters were also on hand to provide one-on-one information sessions on what it's like to be a part of the Army Reserve.

Displays included the chance to try the "SATS" – "Small Arms Training System" battlefield simulator. It's a realistic laser-based small arms trainer which puts you into the middle of a full-size "combat engagement" against "video opponents" using the basic infantry rifle but without real ammunition.

A unique component of the open house had parents of serving soldiers on hand to talk to parents of potential recruits. In addition, parents were able to speak to soldiers with years of experience and get their questions answered in depth, including information on what recruits go through in basic train-

ing even down to what the dormitories are like.

A special section showed employers why hiring a Reserve soldier makes good business sense.

CHtv's Matt Hayes did his popular noon weather forecast from the

Armoury, publicizing the open house and greatly helping attendance, while an evening newscast with CH reporter Natalie Marconi carried the RHLI name into Hamilton and Burlington households yet again.



Members of the RHLI explain the workings of the C-6 MMG to these interested visitors.



CHtv cameraman Nick Garbutt videos open house visitors trying their hand on the SATS trainer, one of the more popular sites during the RHLI open house.

Remembrance Day 2004



Remembrance Day. It's a day we set aside to mark the sacrifice of all those involved in resolving conflict on behalf of Canada and indeed, of oppressed peoples around the world. The day does not honour war but rather serves as a reminder of the horrors of war and the supreme sacrifice paid by so many who fought – and continue to fight – against tyranny on our behalf. This does not only include the combatants but those at home – wives, family and friends – who could only watch as their loved ones marched into history.



The RHLI traditionally provide the bugler for Last Post and the Rouse at the City of Hamilton Remembrance Day service. RHLI Pte Andrew Schofield did the honours, along with Pipe Major Tom Lee. RCMP Const Allen Rodgers in Scarlets was part of the ceremonial presence as well.

While some today profess to believe that Remembrance Day is a symbol of war, it cannot be. It is a symbol of the hope of humankind,

that perhaps some day, we will truly be able to say, “Never Again”. Evil can only flourish when good people do nothing. Fortunately, Canada has always had those who were willing to stand shoulder to shoulder with comrades to say, “Il ne passeront pas” – You shall not pass.

The RHLI have shouldered this burden through terrible conflicts and continues to do so today, with soldiers still overseas in theatres of conflict not of their making. On Remembrance Day in 2004, we honoured their commitment and the valour of the departed, and so shall we always.



Our aboriginal peoples have fought for centuries on behalf of Canada and their nations. They were present at the Cenotaph along with area MPs, MPPs and members of City Council to lay wreaths and honour their dead.



The CO and MCpl Steve Holdom laid the RHLI wreath at the Cenotaph.



As part of the trip, the RHLI placed a regimental plaque on the Sherman Tank at Courselles-sur-Mer. The tank, from the 1st Hussars of London, was recovered from the English Channel off Juno Beach. It is now a D-Day memorial and it has become a tradition for Canadian regiments to place a plaque on it.



The people of Antwerp, in remembrance of the role played by the RHLI in their liberation under then Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Whitaker, unveiled this magnificent life-size statue of him in their town square.



The Hon. Albina Guarnieri, Minister of Veterans Affairs, along with HCol Forsyth, Capt (now Major) Stu Chapman, former CO LCol Bill Kedziora and numerous civic dignitaries unveil the RHLI Memorial Plaque on the Antwerp waterfront.



Colonel Jim Forsyth thanks Antwerp City Council for their help with the RHLI plaque installation and their support to the RHLI over many years.

RHLI Honour BGEN Whitaker

A noted “Riley”, Hamilton athlete, war hero and distinguished citizen was honoured on Wednesday, May 26th, 2004 by his regiment. Brigadier-General Denis Whitaker, who died May 29th, 2001 has had the main room of the RHLI Officer’s Mess named in his memory.

The dedication of the Whitaker Room took place during a reception in the Mess as part of the Canadian Infantry Association Ontario Region Annual General Meeting. Gen. Whitaker’s wife Shelagh unveiled a portrait of the general after opening comments from Major-General Forand (ret’d), Colonel-Commandant of the Canadian army’s Infantry Corps.

General Whitaker came to Hamilton in 1937 after graduating from Royal Military College and joined The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. He was an assistant superintendent at the Stanley Works. However, he was also well-known as an all-star quarterback for the Hamilton Tigers, now the Ticats in today’s Canadian Football League.

On the outbreak of war, Whitaker went overseas with the RHLI and first saw combat at Dieppe. He was the only one of more than a hundred officers of the Canadian Third Brigade to come home unwounded.

Whitaker rose from lieutenant to lieutenant-colonel in five years and became the RHLI commanding officer in late 1944. He was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order, second only to the Victoria Cross.

Post-war, Whitaker was promoted to Brigadier-General and commanded 3 Canadian Infantry Brigade as the youngest Canadian officer ever promoted to general rank. He retired from the army in 1951. He went on to become president of O’Keefe Breweries in 1962 and was prominent in broadcast commercial sales locally and nationally. Once again, however, he became better known for his part-time activities as head of the Canadian national equestrian team, which he led to two international championships and two Olympic medals, including a gold.

He was named Honorary Colonel of The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in 1973 and held the position for twenty years. His influence in Hamilton and beyond was legendary in both business and philanthropic circles. Together with his wife Shelagh, Whitaker authored four books on the fighting in North-west Europe in World War Two, including a controversial volume on the raid on Dieppe. Shelagh Whitaker is also a member of the Regimental Senate.

BURLINGTON NOW PART OF REGIMENTAL FAMILY

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry has brought the City of Burlington into the Regimental family. Under Land Force Reserve Revitalization, the RHLI was approved for expansion into Burlington a little more than a year ago and things began moving quickly. At the media conference announcing the Regiment's expansion, Commanding Officer LCol Guy Smith told Mayor Rob McIsaac and MP Paddy Torsney that ... "The RHLI is going to give Burlington the attention it deserves." He added, "Burlington is a major city but it hasn't been a focus in terms of RHLI recruiting efforts until now."

The RHLI have made good on that commitment. Recruiting began almost immediately to fill up the ranks of "C" Company, established under Captain Gary McQueen, in the enviable position of being the first Officer

"THE RHLI IS GOING TO GIVE BURLINGTON THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES."



The news of the LFRR expansion was announced to the Burlington community at a media conference with community VIPs and the unit. From left to right, CO LCol Guy Smith, Mayor Rob McIsaac, MP Paddy Torsney, Capt (now Major) Stu Chapman, 2379 RCAC (our cadet corps in Burlington) and HCol Jim Forsyth who is a Burlington resident.

Commanding of this important increase in the Regimental establishment.

An initial deal was struck with the Royal Canadian Legion in the

city's south end, at 828 Legion St, to occupy space until more permanent quarters could be found. Work is now underway on an "interim facility" with good access and parking, and details should be announced shortly.

The RHLI have been actively involved in Burlington since the announcement was made. We held one major exercise in the community – an urban patrolling operation – as well as Remembrance Day activities and participation in such community events as the "Tough-Ass Half Marathon" at which we did extremely well and raised funds for two community charities.

This September 18th, the Regiment will be granted and will exercise the Freedom of the City of Burlington. This very important ceremony will showcase the unit to the community and cement the relationship as we continue to grow.



The Band of the RHLI lead the unit through Burlington on Remembrance Day to demonstrate the unit's commitment to the newest part of the Regimental Family.



The RHLI team prepares their C6 MMG prior to the start of the run....



...then shows their winning form as the run gets under way. The RHLI team won by a handy margin.



Ticats fans paid a lot of attention to the RHLI recruiting booth, located conveniently near the food concessions!

RILEYS WIN AT “IVOR WYNN”



It's become a Hamilton tradition over the past few years to have a Canadian Forces presence at the annual Labour Day CFL classic between the Hamilton TiCats and the Toronto Argonauts. Although the format has changed somewhat with time, the core activities remain a recruiting display and a “machine gun run”. Once again, the RHLI have triumphed over the competition, easily defeating the ASH of C.

This year, most of the Hamilton Garrison was present, scattered around the open space on the perimeter of Ivor Wynn

Machine Gun Run Victory on Labour Day

Stadium, with the RHLI in a prime location next to the food concessions on the south side. The gun run took place prior to game start instead of the more usual half-time

show, something that will be re-visited for the 2005 game.

The game showcases the local Reserves to the large audience that attends the game and has proven to be an attention-getter to fans arriving early and looking for something to hold their interest.

The game was opened by the Skyhawks Parachute Demonstration Team. Unfortunately, a sudden gale of wind blew several jumpers off course and out of the stadium DZ, resulting in a few minor injuries, but the crowd loved it just the same. Plans are now afoot for the 2005 game.



Hamilton radio station 900 CHML provided valuable pre-game media coverage of the Reserves at the TiCats-Argos Labour Day game via Jamie West on his popular afternoon talk show.



LCol Smith presents a cheque for \$1,250.00, along with Kelly Arnott, owner of Burlington running shop VR Pro, to Ebbe Marquardson, vice-president of the Joe Brant Community Foundation. \$250.00 comes as a result of a race pledge by LCol Smith on behalf of the Regiment. The other \$1,000.00 represents proceeds of the race, presented by Kelly Arnott, well-known Burlington foot race organizer and owner of VR Pro. The RHLI and VR Pro collaborated on the fund-raising for Joe Brant Hospital. The money went towards Joe Brant's “New Tools for Life” program.



LCol Smith ran the race with his daughter, Lt Stephanie Smith, a nurse in the air force who joined him for the run.



Cpl Mike Nagetegaal was one of three entered in the 5-k short race, along with MCpl Ian MacDonald and MCpl Tim Outtrim. The 21-K team consisted of the CO, Lt. Stephanie Smith, Lt Nick Arakgi, Lt Cole Heffren, Cpl Mike Bryant and Sgt Ken Cameron, currently seconded to the CFRC. The RHLI teams racked up excellent results from their first-ever participation in the race, held on 2 May, including two members tied for first in the 20-24 male, a second in the same category, a first in 20-24 female, and sixth for males aged 50-54. In the 5-K, team members garnered a first and third in males 20-24.



Burlington residents got a glimpse into military operations, and a taste for what people in war-ravaged nations overseas endure every day, when the RHLI mounted an “urban operations” exercise in the community as part of our stand-up activities. Patrols of Rileys fanned out from the Legion on Legion St on observation missions designed to interact with community members. Weapons were not loaded and the posture was not aggressive in this introductory training. Media interest was high with coverage on TV and in area papers.

RESOLUTE RILEY 2004



Private Mike Brake shows the effects of his efforts competing in Exercise “Resolute Riley”, RHLI’s “tough soldier” competition held this past Sept 11th at Valens Conservation Area.



Private Lloyd Vermeer, left and Corporal Mike Bryant cross the bridge at Valens Conservation Area during Exercise Resolute Riley. The pair finished the competition in 42 minutes and 15 seconds.

It’s just over 4 clicks from start to finish. But in that short distance is an 800-metre swamp crossing, a 1.5-k march with 22-kg ruck, a 100-metre water obstacle and a final 1-k uphill stretch. Ex “Resolute Riley” is the way the RHLI kicked off its training year on September 11th, 2004. The annual event starts with an Arrival Assistance Group (AAG) to sort out summer problems and set things up for the fall. Then it’s on buses to Valens Conservation Area, situated in the heart of a local feature known in the 1820’s as the Black Swamp and now as the Beverly Swamp. You can guess the nature of the terrain!

The soldiers are paired off – experienced teamed with new; the MLVW horn sounds and about 40 minutes later, the winners cross the line, tired, muddy and soaked. For 2004, the team of Pte Lloyd Vermeer and Cpl Mike Bryant finished in 42:15. They received the Nicolazzo Trophy, named for a popular Riley master corporal who was killed a few years ago in a car crash.

The Riley’s officers and senior NCOs run the course the week prior to prove the route, check safety – and, of course, for that all-important esprit de corps, which is the prime-mover behind the exercise.

The day finished up with a BBQ where our soldiers could have their families join them. This year saw a record turnout of families and it promises to keep growing.



This Riley runs past the family of another soldier on the final uphill stretch from the water obstacle to the finish line. Families have been a part of Resolute Riley since it began seven years ago.



The aftermath of Resolute Riley. No matter how tight they're tied, boots fill with silt, mud and water after a dunking in the old “Black Swamp” of Valens Conservation Area. The soldiers bring a change of clothing to the park



Members of The RHLI cross Valens Swamp as part of Exercise “Resolute Riley”.