



FIDELITER

A Unit Newsletter of The Princess Louise Fusiliers

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April 2002

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Commanding Officer's Forward

It is my sad duty to inform you of the recent passing of our Colonel in Chief, HRH Princess Margaret on 9 February. The PLF was one of only two Canadian units who had the honour of having HRH Princess Margaret as Colonel in Chief. The Regimental Sergeant Major and I have been invited to represent the unit at a memorial service in her honour in April, and we will do so.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all unit personnel and friends of the Regiment that we will celebrate the Regimental birthday on the 15th of June. We will hold with tradition and mark the occasion with a public parade, reaffirming our Regiments right to the Freedom of the City. As in past years, that evening following the parade will be the annual all ranks Regimental Ball, for which tickets will soon be available.

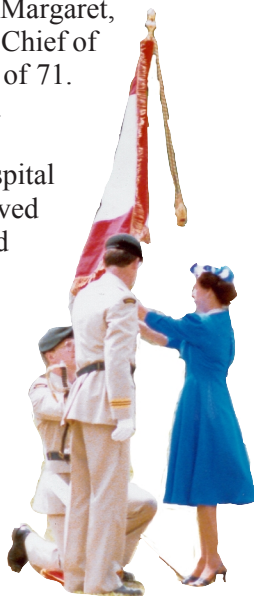
FIDELITER
LCol TG Weatherbee

Colonel In Chief Passes Away

Almost fifty years to the day after the death of her Father King George VI, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and Colonel in Chief of the Regiment passed away at the age of 71. Buckingham Palace reported she died peacefully in her sleep at 0630 hrs 9 February at the King Edward VII Hospital in London. Princess Margaret is survived by her children, David Lord Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto.

Named as Colonel in Chief of The Princess Louise Fusiliers in 1958 Princess Margaret visited the Regiment later that year. She visited again in 1988 when she presented the current Queen's and Regimental Colours to the Regiment.

Buckingham Palace said her funeral would not be a state event



and only the Royal family and friends would attend. There will be an official memorial service on the 19 April. The Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major will be in attendance to represent the Regiment.

Regimental History

The History of the Halifax Armory

Although Halifax was founded in 1749 in order to counter the French presence at Cape Breton Island, in 1894 the militia in Halifax still had no adequate place in which to train. This was not acceptable to Queen Victoria. An order was given to procure (read — “expropriate”) a suitable piece of land and commission the construction of a suitable building.

Thomas Fuller, Chief Dominion Architect for the Department of Public Works (see above) designed the new building and J. E. Askwith Co. of Ottawa was the contractor with an original cost estimate of \$175,000. Like all government contracts since the construction of the first pyramid in Egypt, the project went over-budget with a final cost of about \$250,000, an astronomical sum in 1899 when the building was finished.

On 1 August 1895, excavation began. Officially, on May 1, 1896 the cornerstone was laid containing a “time capsule” in which was placed copies of current newspapers and coins in current circulation. One source says that the cornerstone was actually laid in December of 1895. It is possible that the physical laying had to precede the official unveiling for reasons of construction and weather conditions may have precluded the official ceremony from being held in December.

163 feet wide by 303 feet long, the metre-thick outside building wall required \$17,000 worth of freestone from Pugwash while the interior was lined with about \$35,000 worth of pressed brick of which \$25,000 worth came from Elmsdale. Constructing the foundation required 16,000 cubic feet of granite, and 35,000 barrels of cement was used to lay the bricks.

Over sixty workmen were employed in the construction. Bricklayers were paid three dollars per day for nine hours

of work. Stone-cutters received thirty cents per hour. Nine 40-ton, steam-powered derricks with seventy-foot booms were used to hoist the stones into place and lift loads of bricks to the bricklayers.

The building was completed except for minor installations just before New Year's Day on December 31, 1898. The first floor's facilities were dominated by the 100 foot by 250 foot parade square. Officer's quarters, three armories, military offices, recreation rooms, a lecture room, and a caretaker's residence are reported to have occupied rest of the ground floor and the second floor, with a balcony on the second floor overlooking the parade square. The 303-foot by 160-foot basement is reported to contain officers' quarters, a kitchen, other apartments, a gun shed, a furnace room, storage areas, band rooms, three shooting ranges, and even two bowling alleys

Most articles on the history of the Armory cite June 27, 1899 as the first date of its occupancy. On that day, 500 militiamen from the Princess Louise Fusiliers left their old, inadequate quarters on Spring Garden Road and marched to their new quarters in the new Halifax Armory. They later shared the facilities with the 63rd Halifax Rifles Regiment and the 1st Canadian Artillery battalions.

At this time, on another continent and another hemisphere, tensions were mounting. The discovery of gold in 1886 in the Witwaterstrand, a region partly encompassing the southern Transvaal Republic, attracted British miners to that area who were deeply resented by the Boers. England's actions taken to protect British citizens from what it felt was undue harassment led to Paul Kruger, the president of the Transvaal Republic, issuing an ultimatum to the British on October 9, 1899 demanding the withdrawal of all British troops from the Transvaal within 48 hours and formerly declaring war on October 12, 1899 when the British failed to comply.

Canada rallied in support of England. On January 19, 1900, the Halifax Armory was the site of grand farewell reception and the point of departure for the 1,320-strong Canadian Contingent Artillery and Mounted Rifles for their departure to the Boer war.

This was the first time in Canadian history that companies of volunteer troops were raised for a foreign war. Less than a year after its completion, the Halifax Armory played a significant part in the Boer war and Canada's history as newly emerging nation.

Significance of the Halifax Armory

The Architect:

Thomas Fuller, Chief Dominion Architect for the Department of Public Works, is also famous for designing the center block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. He also designed the Armory in Quebec City.

Architectural Significance:

The Halifax Armory was the first of only two of its type built in Canada. The other, constructed in Toronto was torn down in the 1960's. Using iron and steel instead of wood as was most common at the time; it was possible to construct a building with a large interior with no obstructing supporting pillars.

It was the first building of it's kind to be constructed with electric lighting incorporated into its original design.

Historical Significance:

On 19 January 1900, it was the point of departure for the Canadian Contingent Artillery and Mounted Rifles en route for the Boer War.

Social Significance:

The Halifax Armory was used to host a grand ball 21 June 1899 to raise funds for a new infants home. The gala affair was a great success and a substantial boost to the building fund.

It was used as a shelter for refugees following the Halifax Explosion of 1917 and once again following the Bedford Magazine explosion of 1944.

Thanks to Mr. Norman DeForest for allowing FIDELITER to use his work. (<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~af380/Armory.html>)

SOUTHBOUND TROOPER II

Submitted by Major R.E.A. Knapp
Officer Commanding 'A' Company

From February 15-23, 2002, some 75 soldiers from 'A' Company conducted Exercise Southbound Trooper II, an intensive week-long deployment to Fort Pickett, Virginia. The exercise was supported by troops from 10 other area units, bringing the total strength to 205, and provided us with the opportunity to deploy and train as a reinforced rifle company.



Soldiers from Coriano Platoon in Fort Pickett, Virginia

Fort Pickett, a National Guard base situated 105 km southeast of Richmond, is home to one of the US Army's premiere FIBUA (Fighting in Built Up Areas) complexes; one of only 6 of its kind. Named for the Confederate General who led the South's doomed charge at Gettysburg in 1863, Fort Pickett boasts a variety of facilities and equipment unavailable in Canada, including live-fire FIBUA

ranges, laser weapons effects simulators and a Leader's Reaction Course to test problem solving skills at the section level. Training was conducted on all of these facilities throughout the week.

The exercise was also supported by aviation units from the Pennsylvania and Virginia Army National Guards, who augmented our force with CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Our troops practised training in offensive airmobile operations in an urban environment, rappelling, and conducted a sophisticated field firing exercise at the FIBUA site.

Our soldiers also had the chance to exchange urban warfare tactics with the US Army's Green Berets, whose 3rd Battalion was training in Fort Pickett during our stay. Accustomed to a more discriminate open fire policy when clearing rooms and buildings, the Special Forces soldiers seemed impressed with our emphasis on fire power to achieve our ends.



Misano Platoon practicing Airmobile Operations with a US Army Blackhawk Helicopter.

Southbound Trooper II was recorded in more than just the memories of the soldiers. Ron Kronstein and cameraman George ?? from ATV News attended, filming and interviewing our soldiers throughout the exercise. We were subsequently featured in a 5-part television series which aired on ATV's *Live at 5* from March 18-22. The coverage was refreshingly positive and emphasised the professionalism, hard work and dedication needed to be an army reservist.

In the end, the exercise was an unqualified success. The climate of southern Virginia enabled the unit to conduct field training at a time of year when we would not otherwise be able to do so, and our busy timetable took full advantage of the many unique training opportunities offered by Fort Pickett. Our soldiers can be proud of a job well done and we look forward to returning to Fort Pickett again.

There are two universal and important weapons of the soldier which are often overlooked - the boot and the spade. - Field-Marshal Earl Wavell, 1948

Component Transfers to the Regular Force

With the current increase in recruiting by the Regular Force, unit members may be considering their options for applying for a Component Transfer. To initiate this process, soldiers should start by submitting a memorandum through their Platoon Commander requesting that a Component Transfer Application be started on their behalf.

The Component Transfer Application is the covering document that accompanies a large number of documents on the applicant to the Recruiting Centre. While most of these documents will already be on your personnel file held by the Battalion Orderly Room (BOR), there will be some items or requirements missing that you must provide or complete. The Component Transfer Application, which must be signed by the Commanding Officer, cannot be forwarded to the Recruiting Centre until all applicable documents are included.

Before submitting your memo requesting a Component Transfer, make sure that the following items are available on your personnel file and up-to-date. This list covers only those things which may be missing at the time of your request.

- A completed Express fitness test with the past year
- A current reliability (security) screening
- Official copies of your high school transcripts
- Official copies of your high university transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation (for officer applicants)
- Record of current medical status (may require Medical)
- Personnel Security Assessment

After submitting your request for Component Transfer, check with the Orderly Room to confirm which items are missing from your file. Until you complete the necessary requirements, the BOR cannot forward your file.

Exercise ROYAL GUARD

Submitted by Sgt AL Veyt

As the temperature dropped well below freezing soldiers from the PLF waited in Gagetown's Field Engineer village in a FIBUA Defense for the enemy to attack. As the morning dragged on, the tension for the final attack grew. Then at 11:45 elements of 2RCR proceeded with their battalion attack on the OPFOR village. Well defended by a Rifle coy comprised of Infantry units from across Atlantic Canada, and various support elements from both brigades. The reservists put up a glorious fight against the new LAV III's only to be defeated in pure OPFOR fashion.

The proceeding two weeks on Operation Royal Guard were fast paced and eventful for the reservists of Atlantic Canada. The PLF and WSNR comprised one of the three rifle Platoons that were utilized as enemy force,

participating in airmobile raids, recces, and harassment patrols against 2RCR. The fight took place in Aldershot and Gagetown training areas as well as Pictou and Windsor Nova Scotia.

The exercise was good experience for our soldiers, giving them the experience of working against a large enemy force in a fully manned rifle company. The fog of war was heavy but in true **Fusilier** fashion, we stood out above the rest!

The Grey Hackle Kit Shop

Drop into the kit shop and take advantage of the spring sale. Enjoy savings of up to 35% off selected items from last year's inventory.

Get ready for summer training with the new line of Regimental gear. Items include embroidered running shorts for \$21 and jogging pants priced at \$32. Be prepared for both the Mess and the golf course with a new PLF embroidered golf shirt. This quality item is priced to sell at \$40. Ensure you pick up a couple of extra olive drab T-shirts before commencing your Class B training. The Kit Shop now has all sizes of olive drab T-shirts with a screen-printed PLF cap badge for \$10 each.

The Regimental Ball is fast approaching, order your sterling silver studs and cufflinks now for \$115. Purchase an elegant sterling silver ring with the regimental crest. These are available in two sizes, \$115 for the large ring and \$80 for the small ring. Impress with a stainless steel PLF hip flask and matching shot glass. Light up a cigar at the Ball with a PLF laser etched Zippo lighter for \$20

Miniature Colours Raffle

Ticket sales will commence in April for a Miniature Regimental Colour, hand-stitched by a master tailor in Britain with a retail value of \$150. Tickets are \$2 and are available at the Kit Shop from 2Lt. Peddle. Only 100 tickets to be sold. The draw will take place when all tickets are sold.

Regimental Ball

The Freedom of the City Parade and Regimental Ball is planned for Saturday, 15 June 2002. Advance ticket sales will be available soon.

And what is more important than that the work of the soldier should be well done? - Plato

The Princess Louise Fusiliers is classified as an English Language unit under the Official Languages Act. The contents of this newsletter are, therefore, published in English only.

"FIDELITER" is published under the authority of the Commanding Officer of the Princess Louises Fusiliers. "FIDELITER" will be published three times annually, with issues in Jan/Feb, Apr/May and Sep/Oct.

Comments, suggestions and submissions should be forwarded to the Adjt, Capt. O'Leary, or the Recruiting NCO, Sgt. Saunders. The editorial board and the Commanding Officer have the right to edit or refuse any submission.

Turn In AWOL Fusiliers

We need your help!! In order to ensure that we get FIDELITER out to as many Fusiliers as possible we need you turn in any AWOL Fusiliers that you know of. There are many "Old School" PLF people out there that we would like to hear from. If you are "Old School" we'd also like to know if you were a Mortarman, or if you did the Guard on the Citadel and what appointments you held as well as what period of time you spent in the PLF.

Form now on each edition of FIDELITER will include a list of the most recent AWOL Fusiliers to be turned in. With your help we will be able to reestablish contact with members of our Regimental family who we have lost touch with. Any information can be forwarded to Sgt. Saunders (902)427-0550 ext 6156, saunders.ck@forces.ca or Capt. O'Leary ext 6194, oleary.mm@forces.ca

Regimental spirit and tradition can be a powerful factor in making for good morale, and must be constantly encouraged. - Montgomery

Personal Photos

The Recruiting Office is searching for interesting and exciting photos showing PLF soldiers in action in the field. You can mail or drop your photos off to Sgt. Saunders. All photos will be returned. These photos may appear in future recruiting publications or in the FIDELITER newsletter.



PLF Soldiers in Aldershot, 1915

Employment – Summer 2002

The Army's planning for courses and employment opportunities during the summer of 2002 has already begun. The unit has already begun to receive offers of employment for 2002. Unit members wishing employment this summer must fill out the form **IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT DESIRED** to declare their dates of availability and the nature and locations of desired employment. These forms are available through your company clerk, they must be forwarded through the chain of command for the Training Office.