



PARATUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA
WORLD WAR II LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Notes:

Welcome to the first 2004 issue of The Paratus. In this issue:

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2003 proved to be a good year for the Queen's Own Rifles Recreated. We have cemented relationships with our parent group "B Company" and helped to grow the great reputation of all groups involved. We have added a Bren gun and a 2" mortar to our group, providing us with an added opportunity to learn and educate. 2004 looks bright for our unit, with a quantity of events and a renewed effort towards organization and recruiting.

The newsletter will now have a publishing schedule of six issues a year. All members are invited to contribute pictures, articles and suggestions. Deadline for the next newsletter will be **April 19th**. Send your articles to nzifra@yahoo.com

Looking forward to a great year,

Nathan

Unit Meeting Recap

The unit meeting was held this year on Sunday, February 15 over lunch at the Gingerbread Man in Gettysburg. The meeting opened with the welcoming of new member Rob Westbrook and a review of 2003, with the only complaints about events was the weather.

The next order of business was a report from Hugh on the unit treasury. Unit dues for 2004 will remain **\$20**. Dues are payable to **Hugh Cadzow, 465 Lancer Dr. Columbia, PA 17512**. The newsletter was discussed next, with Nathan taking over as editor, and an agreed upon schedule of six issues per year.

Recruiting was discussed and it was agreed that a recruiting brochure will be created and published. It will contain a brief unit history and contact information.

Two pieces of equipment are now available as reproductions, and will be considered required. What Price Glory (www.whatpriceglory.com) has gas capes in various sizes for \$65. Gas Capes were issued to all frontline troops, and until now almost impossible to find. Clever Forgery (www.cleverforgery.com/) has reproduction Mark III helmets

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Unit Meeting Recap (Cont.)

available. These are converted post war Mark IV helmets. They are the shell only. The website also has available reproductions of Canadian paperwork, including paybooks and ID cards. The Queen's Own was issued Mark III helmets for the D-Day invasion, and until now have become uncommon to find.

Events were discussed and are listed in this newsletter. The meeting was concluded at about 2pm.

2004 Events

The following events were discussed and agreed upon for 2004.

March 12-14-Operation Nordwind at Fort Indiantown Gap. This event is sponsored by Grossdeutschland. Unfortunately, with GD's apologies, this was a late invite. Registration was due on Feb. 17. Information can be found at www.suldbuchweb.com/nordwind.

May 15-16-Lancaster Living History at Lancaster Historical Society building.

June 4-6-Reading Airshow at the Midatlantic Air Museum in Reading PA. Probably the largest WWII living history on the east coast.

August 14-Training weekend at Speros's Farm in Gettysburg PA.

Sept. 10-12-Tactical Event in Odessa NY. Some members have a conflict with this weekend.

Late Sept.- D-Day Landing in Ohio. More details to come.

Oct. 1-3-Commonwealth Training at Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia, PA.

Oct. 9-Living History on the historic Brown.

December-Training at Sperios's Farm in Gettysburg, PA

GAP 2004 AAR

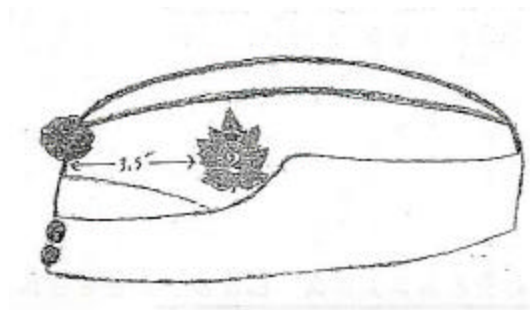
The FIG event was attended this year by four members, and was one of the coldest events in recent memory. Friday was spent in training, marching, and classes. Saturday morning began early, with not much time for breakfast. It was cold enough that the troops were able to stay in the barracks until the buses arrived. The shuttling out to the tactical area was relatively painless compared to previous years. Once dropped off, the waiting began, in the freezing cold and wind. No place was warm, not even in the sunlight. The commanders started sending out patrols just to get the men moving. The terrain was challenging in the snow, which was drifted 3 feet high in spots. Conditions like this give a great insight into what it must have been like in the winter of '44. Once the tactical began, there was a lot of maneuvering, little engagement, and no objectives, typical of the Gap.

There was a memorable moment, at one point in the engagement, a large black bear (some estimated at 500 pounds) was disturbed from its hibernation and ran between the lines, frantically searching for an escape. **(continued on page 3)**

Gap AAR (Cont.)

The tactical ended around 2pm, and the afternoon was spent warming up. The evening was concluded with an outing for diner, followed by night refreshments provided by the Black Watch and Irish Guards.

Grouped with B Company, the barracks impression was top notch, with a front desk and operating field telephones stretched through the barracks. Many compliments were received. For next year's Gap, it may be used for training weekend for B company, disregarding the tactical portion of the event.



*Illustration #1
Badge placement on FS Cap*

The Green Field Service Cap: How to wear it. By James Owens

Recently we reached a high point in our organizations existence, with the purchase of reproduction Field Service Caps in regimental colors.

However now we have to look at the issue of how to wear the cap. Like most other things in any military unit, there is a right way and a wrong way.

First, let's look at the placement of the cap badge on the FS cap. The badge is placed on the cap, so that it is facing the left side of your head when the cap is worn. It is placed on the body of the cap, just to the rear of the intersection of the front peak and side flap (see illustration #1). Be sure to soap or chalk the lugs on your cap badge to insure accurate marks for the punching of holes for the lugs.

Now we come to the wearing of the cap. Like most FS caps in the British and Commonwealth armies, the peak of the cap is worn at an angle to the top of the head, **in our case angled to the right.** (continued on page 4)



*Illustration #2
Rifleman Tom McKenzie*

FS Cap (Cont.)

This is far more pronounced than you see US Army caps worn. In addition, the top vent of the cap is closed when worn. On the original cap owned by Francois Piche, the owner even sewed the top vent closed!

Illustrations #2 and #3 are period photos showing how the FS Cap is worn. Please take a look at these as they will give you the correct idea of how the cap is worn. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jdo@npmhu.org.

Illustrations #2 and #3 are taken from Canadians: A Battalion at War edited by Roy J. Whitsed. Burlington Books, 1996.

For more information on the colored FS Cap, please see Dressed to Kill by Michael Dorosh, CD. Service Publications, 2001.



*Illustration #3
Rifleman Jim Leslie in 1943, during a visit to the QOR's sister regiment The Buffs.*