



# PARATUS

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

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 2

APRIL / MAY 2004



Q.O.R.C. Recreated at Nordwind event

**In this Issue:**

- Nordwind AAR
- Nordwind Photos
- Member Roster
- Canadian Repro BD Review
- Vendor List
- Clever Forgery MK III Review
- D-DAY CONNEAUT
- Directions to the Lancaster LH

<http://www.bcoqueensown.org/>

## 2004 Events:

### 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](http://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.

### Sept. 18-19- D-Day Landing

in Ohio. See [www.geocities.com/ddayconneaut/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/ddayconneaut/index.html) for more details.

### 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

 = Past event

## Editor's Notes

The 2004 season has begun in earnest, with a great tactical event beneath our belts (see **Nordwind AAR** page 3). Included in this issue is a vendor list. While small at this moment, it seems that a new variety of items are being reproduced almost monthly. This is beneficial in two ways. It allows easier access to required uniforms/equipment than before, and promotes the preservation of original items that many have collected. As more items become available, they will be listed in this newsletter. Reviews of 2 new items, a Mk III conversion from Clever Forgery and Canadian Repro. BD from Replicators are in this issue.

A unit roster will also be included with each issue of the newsletter. The roster will have the latest contact information. With communication being of the utmost importance, it will be up to the individual to review and update their information.

I would like to thank those members who contributed to this issue. All members are invited to contribute articles, photos, etc. The deadline for the June/July issue newsletter will be **June 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Best regards,

Nathan

Editor



Paratus is a newsletter published bimonthly for the members of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada World War II Living History Association to increase the knowledge of its membership. Opinions that may appear in articles are those of the author and may not reflect opinions of the Association or individual members. The contents of Paratus may not be reproduced or used; in part or whole; in any commercial publications without permission of the editor and author.

## New Web Address

The website for the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Living History Association has now been moved to a new location <http://www.bcoqueensown.org>. Please update your bookmarks. The website is now being administered by Rob Westbrook. If you would like to contribute to the website please email at [rwestb@mfire.com](mailto:rwestb@mfire.com).

## Dues

A reminder that dues for 2004 are **\$20.00**. If you have not paid, please do so as this will be your last newsletter and you will be considered an inactive member. Please make your check payable and send to:

**Hugh Cadzow**  
**465 Lancer Dr.**  
**Columbia, PA 17512**

## In Memoriam

KINGSTON, David Melvil – (D-Day Veteran, Lt., Queen's Own Rifles Of Canada). Passed away after a lengthy illness at Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga, on Monday, March 15, 2004, in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of Margaret. Dear father of David and his wife Linda of Moscow, Russia and Darlene Blashuk and her husband David of Acton. Loving grandfather of David, Andrew, David and Deanne and great-grandfather of Josh and Jake.

\*Obituary from the *Toronto Star* March 17, 2004

## Nordwind AAR

By Nathan Zifra

This tactical event came together as a last minute invitation from its hosts Grossdeutschland. It was held at Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, same area as the large event held in January. This event, had no comparison to the January event.

as mobile infantry, with vehicles provided and driven by members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Recce. Included in our platoon were other elements of the 15<sup>th</sup> Recce, with 3 Bren carriers. We were to be transported in a CMP truck.

The group gathered at the garages while the vehicles were warming up. At first, it looked



The event began on Friday with members arriving and registering. Those attending the event were bunked in barracks group 13, which is above the normal barracks used in the January event. In attendance for this event were James, Nathan, Rob, and Rob W. Attending also were fellow members from "B" Company, including the Imperial Black Watch and the Black Watch of Canada.

On Saturday morning, all participants were treated to a small breakfast, and preparations were made for the tactical. Our designation was to be used

like the group would be walking, as the CMP truck had a low tire. A quick trip to get air remedied that problem. Everyone then loaded up for transport to the field. Riding in the CMP truck offered a different perspective other than walking events. Instead of having sore legs and feet from walking, you had sore legs and feet from sitting in awkward positions. However, it was enjoyable to be part of the convoy rather than standing in the mud waiting for it to go by.

We arrived at our first position and began digging in. "B" Company dug some

(Continued on page 4)

## Nordwind AAR

(Continued from page 3)

beautiful slit trenches and defensive positions. It was all for naught, as the order everyone knew was coming was given. We abandoned our labor of love, and mounted up to move to our next position. We dismounted and were ordered into action to support our allies who were receiving a heavy German attack. As we moved up the German advance stalled. We held the line, and were eventually withdrawn to positions farther rear. We began again to make our defenses when a cease fire was called due to a medical emergency. Since no one knew how long it would last, and there was a full company of SS in front of us, we stayed in our positions awaiting orders. After some time, we relaxed a little and began eating rations.

The order to resume was given, and we were pulled back again. We mounted up and were moved to what would be our last position for the day. We dismounted under fire and took positions in a ditch that provided some cover (see "In the trenches" photo). We received support from a Bren carrier, who moved up the road and engaged. This gave us time to deploy a Boyes Anti-Tank gun for defense against any enemy vehicles that might approach. The Boyes was presented for our use by the 15<sup>th</sup> Recce. The group was then split, with the Bren team and Boyes operator covering the road, and the remaining riflemen deployed to cover the right flank. A cease fire was called, and the tactical ended. We mounted up and, when back at the garages, marched back to the barracks.

This is an event that has a lot of potential. The tactical was staged with rules and objectives. It is also an advantage being an invitation only event. GD came over to our barracks several times to discuss the event with us, and we received many compliments. "B" company group again worked well

(Continued on page 5)

## Nordwind Photos



**In the trenches...**



**The convoy...**



**"B" Company with our trusty transport...**

## Nordwind AAR

(continued from page 4)

together, and 15<sup>th</sup> Recce's vehicles provided a unique experience. With the option of this second event at the Gap, it is event more probable that the Bulge event in January will be used a training event for "B" Company, and the tactical event will be Nordwind.



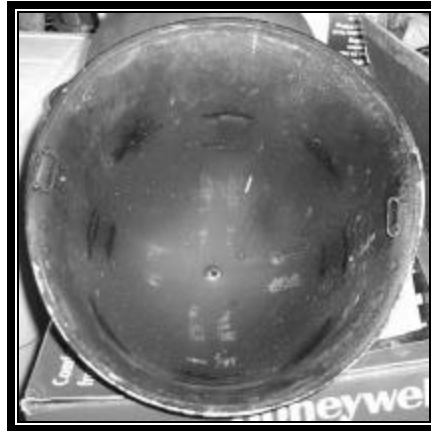
## Clever Forgery MK III Helmet Conversion Review

By Nathan Zifra

I recently ordered and received a Mk IV to Mk III conversion helmet done by Clever Forgery ([www.cleverforgery.com](http://www.cleverforgery.com)). The conversion had only the shell, no liner. When received, it had the strong odor of fresh paint. Upon close inspection, the outside of the shell was painted with a sand texture, the inside smooth texture of the same color. It also included the elastic helmet strap already attached.

I then went to compare it with a 1950's Mk IV. The color was different, with the converted helmet being a darker green, better matching the wartime color. The Mk IV also did not have the sand texture on the outside of the shell. The most important difference was the placement of the strap hooks. The conversion had the strap h-

ooks placed further up in the shell (see illustrations for comparison). The conversion also left no evidence of the strap hook's original positions.



*Mk IV helmet shell  
Notice the location of the strap hooks.*



*Mk IV to Mk III conversion with liner in place*

I was very pleased with the purchase, and Tim from Clever Forgery was very easy to deal with and very quick with email responses. I look forward to comparing the conversion to an original. As it stands, from my research and without the ability to compare it to an original, I would highly recommend this conversion to members having a tough time finding an original Mk III helmet.

## Directions to the Lancaster Historical Society

By Jason Porter.

**(Editor's Note:** This event is to be held on May 15-16)

**From WEST:** Take route 30 east to Rohrerstown Road exit (Rt. 741). At the top of the ramp make a right. At the first street light make a left onto Marietta Pike. You will cross over train tracks just before the light. There will be a gas station on the left once you are at the light. Once you turn onto Marietta pike travel for approx. 2 miles (it's just a shade under 2 mile actually) until you come to a street light at President Avenue. If you look to your right you will see the grounds of the Historical Society, there will probably be a whole bunch of stuff set up depending when you arrive. Make a right at the light onto President Avenue. The drive way to park should be just about 100 yards or so on the right after you turn onto President Avenue.

**From EAST:** Take Route 30 West to the Rohrerstown Road exit (Rt. 741). At the top of the ramp make a left. At the second street light (the first light will be for route 30 east) make a left onto Marietta Pike. Follow directions from Marietta Pike above.

**From South.** Take Route 83 North to Route 30 East. Follow directions from West above.

## July Tactical in Windsor, VT.

**(Editor's Note:** What follows is an official announcement of a tactical event we have been invited to. We will take a poll on which members are interested in attending and make arrangements.)

### NEW HAMPSHIRE WORLD WAR II LIVING HISTORY GROUP PRELIMINARY ACTION PLAN FOR TACTICAL JULY 23-24, 2004

The July Tactical sponsored by our group is still a "go." Please mark that date in your calendar. This will be an invitation only event and we are striving to provide all participants with a memorable experience on "the line."

The action will start early Saturday morning so an arrival on Friday evening is advisable. Anyone wishing to stay over Saturday night is welcomed. The planned scenario will be the summer of 1944 and more detailed impression guidelines will be forthcoming later this spring. All participants will be issued correct rations for 2 meals on Saturday. A fee of \$20 will be asked to cover insurance and rations.

### First Look: A Review of Repro Canadian BD

By Rob Westbrook

I am told by some wizened person that re-enactors are by nature rather conservative. I suppose that's true in many ways. Look at all the discussion about what is and what is not correct and the dogged adherence of some to the way things have been always done. It all makes sense in that context. So, I must be some sort of freak of nature.

When I came to the Queen's Own I was amazed at how abuzz everyone seemed to be at the prospect of a manufacturer who was reproducing Canadian Battledress uniforms. It was genuinely exciting to listen to the conversation. One or two people claimed to have seen the elusive creature, yet none could produce one for inspection, much like the Loch Ness

monster I suspect.

I think it all had to do with that natural conservatism that I had been told about. Or maybe it was the idea that the manufacturer was in Pakistan or India or some such place. Well, it turns out that India is much closer than you would imagine. Armed with some cash and a somewhat large frame I was a prime candidate for the great experiment.

I found the website that hosts Replicators, a.k.a. Sanjay Suri, easy enough (<http://www.-replicators.com/contact.html>).

The hard part was getting through to him. I guess internet services in India leave much to be desired. But that's for another article. Once I got in touch with Sanjay, he conducts all of the communications

for the firm personally, you'll find him quite courteous and willing to make the customer happy.

After the usual exchange of measurement charts and the all-important dollar (\$190 to be exact) Sanjay promised me my uniform within two weeks of beginning work. That's right two weeks. For those doubters out there I had the uniform in exactly four weeks from the time I first wrote to him. He could teach U.S. vendors a thing or two about timeliness.



*Here's the jacket itself with the replacement pocket flaps installed. The garment came with visible buttons on the flaps, like a P40 jacket. Sanjay supplied replacement flaps at no cost to me. All of the buttons had to be replaced.*

When the coat arrived I was at first elated and then a bit disappointed. The color appeared to be right on the money from the examples I had seen and the photos available to me. The cut was precisely like a P37 BD. I said I was a little disappointed. For some reason the pocket flaps came with exposed buttons and the belt buckle at the waist was installed  
(continued on page 7)

## Repro Canadian BD

(continued from page 6)

incorrectly. Also, as we have probably all come to expect, the buttons were correct for a British BD but not for Canadian. About the jacket itself, as I said the cut and assembly is very good and I find no problems that warrant attention. The wool itself has raised some discussion between James Owens and me. When we both had a chance to examine the coat against two original examples, we found that the nap of the wool used in my coat was considerably lower than that of the originals.



*Here's the detail of the cloth. You can see the tight weave and nice color. However, this cloth was much smoother than the examples James had. Both of his coats were closer in weave to a British BD or a German uniform in weight for that matter. All I can surmise is that either Sanjay copied some type of Officer's uniform, being of even finer wool than OR's. Or, he copied a jacket that had been shaved for walking out or some such dress activity.*

In all other respects, this appears to be a quite fair reproduction. James and I hypothesized about the wool and had several theories. It could be representative of a jacket that had the nap worn off by use. It might be a copy of an officer's jacket made of finer wool. It could even have been copied from an example that had the wool shaved down for dress or walking out occasions. No one, including Sanjay is quite sure.

The verdict? It's not perfect. It is a good reproduction though it will require some work to make it better. I certainly plan on replacing my British BD with Sanjay's reproduction. When ordering from Replicators, it is important to be very specific with your needs. Make it clear how you would like the pocket flaps to be configured etc. Sanjay and I have already discussed this extensively, however it can't hurt to be precise. If you would like some help in this area, I will be glad to help.

There is a development on the horizon though. I have been discussing a heavier weight green BD based on the cloth used in British BD uniforms. Sanjay has assured me that it can be done and at a lower price, \$140. Right now it is just a matter of collecting the money to buy one.

On the experimental side of things, I have found some professional quality dyes for wool, that I am going to use on some British BD pants (reproduction of course) and an old Greek BD to see what kind of result I can achieve. I'll provide more information on the results of those experiments later.



*The interior details are identical to the P37 British and Canadian examples, though the cloth used is decidedly more greenish than the examples James had.*

**(Editor's Note:** Rob has very excellent color photos of the BD available upon request)

---

# Vendor



# List

## **What Price Glory**

<http://www.whatpriceglory.com>

Source for reproduction Gas Capes, webbing, equipment, windproofs, and more.

## **AIF Quartermasters**

<http://users.adelphia.net/~cessnapilot/boots.htm>

Source for reproduction WWI British boots which are the same pattern used by Canada in WWII

## **Clever Forgery**

<http://www.cleverforgery.com/index.htm>

Source for reproduction Mark III helmets and various Canadian Army paperwork.

## **Michel Perrier's Militaria of all Nations**

<http://www.cam.org/~perrier>

Source in Canada for original items.

## **Replicators**

<http://www.replicators.com/contect.html>

Source for reproduction Canadian Uniforms from Sanjay in India.

## **World War II Supply Room**

<http://www.geocities.com/wwiisupply/>

Source for reproduction gas brassards that were worn on D-Day

## **BDL Ltd.**

<http://www.bdlltd.com/>

Source for Enfield No. 4 rifles and accessories.

---



# D-DAY CONNEAUT

*A Public Historic Battle Reenactment*

Last updated March 22, 2004

**NEW: 2004 date set: SEPTEMBER 18-19 - see below!**

## Remembering June 6, 1944

Every September since the year 2000, historical reenactors have stormed ashore from Lake Erie at Conneaut, Ohio, in a representation of the amphibious Allied assault on the German-occupied coast of Normandy, France, June 6, 1944. These reenactors and living historians have traveled from all over the Midwest and Eastern US, Canada, and Europe, on their own time and at their own expense, to set up historical displays of World War Two encampments, tents, vehicles, weaponry, uniforms, and other period artifacts or replicas, and re-create some realistic-looking battle scenarios, in order to educate the public, honor veterans, swap collectibles and stories, and have fun.

Each year the public has been treated to informative and entertaining demonstrations, authentic-looking displays, and some of the most exciting battle sequences to be conducted for live public viewing. Real US Navy landing craft land US, British, and Canadian troops, who struggle ashore at the water's edge amidst a hail of simulated German artillery and machinegun fire. German units on the bluff throw everything they've got at the Allied assault. The Allies answer with rifle and machinegun fire, and push forward by running, crawling, or moving up behind vehicles and flamethrowers. After the smoke from the pyrotechnics clears and the bluff has been secured, spectators and reenactors blend together again, relieved that the bullets expended in Conneaut weren't real, and hopefully a little more appreciative of those soldiers who endured the real landings sixty years ago.

2004 marks the 5th Anniversary of the D-Day Conneaut event, and more importantly, the 60th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Please plan to attend D-DAY CONNEAUT this year as we gather to celebrate our freedoms, and remember.

[See what the Cleveland Plain Dealer had to say about the 2003 event.](#)

---

## Date & Schedule for 2004

**THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BE HELD THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 18-19.** Reenactors and vendors may arrive on Friday afternoon the 17th to set up camp/shop. Please check back to this website for a general schedule of the weekend's events. It should be fairly similar to last year. The best day for the public to attend is Saturday, as that is the day when the most reenactors and vehicles are available to participate in the encampments and the battles. There are generally two battles to watch on Saturday, and before and after the battles you are invited to view the displays and talk with the living historians. Vendors of related militaria and collectible items of period interest will have these items available for purchase. Whether participating or spectating, allow yourself some time to visit the rest of Conneaut and the surrounding area for dining, camping, or entertainment opportunities.

---

## Living History Display Contest

Each year at D-DAY CONNEAUT we hold a contest among attending reenacting units as to who can put together the "best" living history display. Each display wishing to participate is assigned a number or letter designation. The winners are chosen by popular vote by the public attendees, who vote for the display they like the best. This year we are planning to reorganize the contest to make it easier to participate and create better public awareness of the contest and how the public can vote. So reenactors, bring your best display items and encampment materiel and be ready to answer the public's questions.

---

## Interested in Attending or Participating?

D-DAY CONNEAUT is an enjoyable event for the whole family, and everyone is invited to attend. Location, directions, and places to stay are listed on our general Information Page. If you would like to do more than just spectate, and were wondering how you could get involved, either as a volunteer staff member or as a historical reenactor, please see our Event Participants' Information Page (\*site under development - all info currently under the General Information section).

---

The D-DAY CONNEAUT event is sponsored by **BTL 9th Sept** and **5th Gebirgsjager**, two military history reenacting units. If your unit is interested in helping out with any aspect of running this event, please contact [John Keaton](#).

D-DAY CONNEAUT is a public historic battle reenactment, designed to afford the public an opportunity to observe a representation of the historic Allied Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. D-Day Conneaut also offers Historical Military Reenactors and Living Historians the chance to portray a participant in the Second World War and display their collections of historic militaria, both of Allied nations and of Germany. The organizers of D-Day Conneaut do not espouse or promote the ideologies or practices of the National Socialist government of WW2 Germany or any other totalitarian regime, past or present. The appearance of any emblems or symbols of that regime on this site or at the battlefield should be viewed as purely historical, and not in any way an endorsement of their activities or policies.