

## 12

### *Flags and Colours*

The flag, a piece of coloured cloth, is among the oldest of symbols, and at the same time one of the most up-to-date. Dipped in blood and lashed to a pole overhead, it cowed the vanquished in remote times of human conflict. Planted in the lunar dust, it proclaimed the simple courage and faith of men and one more instance of the mastery of his environment. Spanking on a stiff breeze, like a sail before the wind, it is a thing of aesthetic beauty. Draped against a wall, it can mean hope and succour to the suffering, or dread to the fearful.

It is hard to visualize a world without flags because they serve man so effectively. They symbolize his feelings, achievements and aspirations. They identify. They send messages or, as the sailor says, they make signals. They are so practical — a red flag to warn the motorist of road repairs, or to keep clear because ammunition or fuel is being embarked; or the yellow flag of quarantine indicating the presence of infectious disease; or the “Blue Peter” at the fore truck saying: “This ship is about to sail.”

Flags convey abstract yet strongly felt ideas, often with emotional impact — perhaps the symbol of some political philosophy, or the sorrow of the meaning of the flag at half-mast, or the joy of seeing the queen’s personal Canadian flag floating over Rideau Hall when Her Majesty is in residence there.

The most common use of a flag is to show nationality, to identify a people. It is said that the oldest national flag, unchanged in design, is the Dannebrog, the red flag with the white cross which has flown over Denmark since 1219.<sup>1</sup> In comparison, the Royal Union Flag as it is known in Canada today and which was approved by Parliament in 1964 “as a symbol of Canada’s membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown,” dates in its earliest form from 1606.<sup>2</sup> The national flag of Canada, the Maple Leaf

Flag, was adopted by Parliament and proclaimed by Her Majesty the Queen on 15 February 1965.

Because the national flag symbolizes sovereignty, loyalty to the Crown, the laws and institutions of the nation, the authority of Parliament and the proud heritage of the people, it demands respect, and that respect, together with affection, is expressed in custom and tradition, for example colours and sunset.

At Canadian Forces bases and establishments, colours in this context means the hoisting of the national flag normally at 0800 hours. It is lowered at sunset. Proper marks of respect are paid by all persons in the vicinity. In most cases the hoisting and lowering is carried out by a designated non-commissioned officer, sometimes by a commissionaire. Regrettably, an elaborate ceremony is much more likely to be observed with respect to Canada's national flag at a headquarters like Colorado Springs than at Canadian operational bases, even to the parading of a guard and band. Several reasons are given for this: shortage of personnel; the fact that most people live off the base; and, perhaps, the tendency in modern times to down-grade patriotism.

In training establishments, the story is quite different. For example, at the Royal Military College, Kingston, the national flag is hoisted and lowered with impressive ceremony daily by a detachment of five cadets called "the fire picquet." Off to the side, the proceedings are observed by the cadet duty officer and the duty staff officer, a member of the senior staff. At sunset, a piper contributes to the solemnity of the occasion.<sup>3</sup> A similar daily routine is carried out at le Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean, Quebec, and at Royal Roads, Esquimalt, British Columbia.

At Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack, British Columbia, a training base, colours and sunset are accompanied by the appropriate bugle calls and the playing of the national anthem, all controlled electronically from the guard house.<sup>4</sup>

In HMC ships, the national flag is known as the ship's ensign. This conforms with naval practice in French and United States warships where the country's flag is worn as the naval ensign, whereas in ships of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, ship's of war wear a distinctive naval ensign quite different from the national flag.

When HMC ships are in Canadian ports, they generally conform to colours and sunset as performed on land bases, that is, 0800 and sunset. When the alert is sounded on the bo's'n's call, all hands on the upper deck face aft and salute. The ship's ensign in HMC ships in commission is worn at all times, day and night, when under way. The wearing of the Canadian Forces ensign in Canadian ships of war is forbidden.

It is an impressive sight when there are many ships of the fleet in their home port, either at colours or sunset. All ships act in unison, governed by the "preparative" flag hoisted on the port signal tower ashore or in the senior officer's ship afloat. The signalman reminds the officer of the day that it is "five minutes to sunset, sir." When the preparative is sharply hauled down, the officer of the day repeats the time-honoured words: "Make it so!" Should the ship's boat be in the vicinity, the coxswain orders his engine cut, comes to attention in the stern sheets, faces the stern of his ship nearby, and salutes.

Because of the nature of life afloat, flags are used much more by sailors than by soldiers and airmen, and here the pennant plays an important part in the daily routine at sea. Like the ensign at the stern and the jack at the jack staff forward, the ship's pennant at the peak of the mast is part of a ship's "suit of colours."

The ship's pennant, sometimes called the commissioning pennant or mast-head pennant, is the mark of a ship in commission and the symbol of the authority of the captain to command the ship. This symbolism is of great antiquity. Mr Henry Teonge, a chaplain in the Royal Navy, wrote in his journal at Malta on 22 February 1676:

This day we saw a great deal of solemnity at the launching of a new brigantine of twenty-three oars, built on the shore very near the water. They hoisted three flags in her . . . . Then they came out and hoisted a pendant, to signify she was a man-of-war. . . .<sup>5</sup>

When HMS *America*, a frigate of forty-four guns, was commissioned at Devonport in 1844 for service in the Pacific to watch over the infant settlement on Vancouver Island, a naval officer recorded: "The pennant hoisted, the first lieutenant and master remained to fit the ship for sea, . . . and, with the aid of flaming posters, to attract a ship's company."<sup>6</sup>

In HMC ships, the pennant is six feet long and only three inches wide at the hoist, tapering to a point at the fly. Though a new masthead pennant has been designed with three equal vertical panels, white-red-white, HMC ships continue to fly the ancient white streamer with the red St. George's Cross at the hoist. It is broken at the mainmast head at the time of commissioning and is flown continuously throughout the ship's commission.<sup>7</sup>

Closely associated with the ship's commissioning pennant is the paying-off pennant. It is traditionally flown when leaving a fleet or squadron and when entering home port for the last time prior to paying-off (not "de-commissioning"). This pennant and the ritual associated with it have long been dear to the sailor's heart, for they meant going home and at long last receiving his pay.

While a destroyer today may spend her whole life of say twenty-five years in a single commission, in earlier times a ship of war was usually paid off after say three years to be refitted or laid-up "in ordinary" in the dockyard of her home-port. HMS *Victory* of Trafalgar fame was launched in 1765 and is still in commission at Portsmouth today. In her life time, she has served many commissions.

Also in earlier times, members of the ship's company had most of their pay withheld until the end of the commission. So that in addition to the ship herself being paid-off, the seamen were literally paid-off. The passage home was therefore a generally happy one. One of the ways the sailors celebrated was in the making of the paying-off pennant and hoisting it at the mainmast head. Custom ordained that in a normal commission, the length of the pennant equalled the length of the ship. But if, as often occurred, a commission had been extended, the pennant was increased in length proportionately.<sup>8</sup> Many a ship has come home with her paying-off pennant streaming well astern of the taffrail, the tail-end kept afloat by a skin bladder!

One of the most aesthetically attractive bits of bunting still used at sea today is the church pennant. It is divided into a red St. George's Cross on a white field at the hoist, and three horizontal stripes, red, white and blue, in the fly. Hoisted at the mainmast peak or at a yardarm halyard, it means that the ship's company is attending divine service or is at prayers. (This used to be a bit confusing to the landsman for, depending on where in the rigging the church pennant was hoisted, it could mean the recall of all boats or "I am working my anchors").

There is an interesting legend attached to the church pennant. It dates from the seventeenth century Dutch Wars, the sea battles of which usually took place in the North Sea and the English Channel. Before the engagement commenced, it was customary for divine service to be conducted in the ships of both the Royal Navy and the Dutch fleet. So that such devotions would not be interrupted in that more chivalrous age, the ships of both fleets hoisted the church pennant, a combination of the British St. George's Cross and the Dutch tricolour. When the last pennant fluttered down, all hands went to action stations!<sup>9</sup>

Divine service at sea illustrates how customs change. The church pennant may be used as an alter cloth or to drape a podium. During the Second World War the white ensign was often used for this purpose, covering a ready-use ammunition locker or some other convenient upper deck facility. But just as often, flag "negative" was used, simply because it was white and had five black-crosses on it. One sailor of the Second World War describing life in a destroyer on Atlantic patrol wrote: "Church is held on the Seamen's Mess



The HMCS *Huron*, Tribal class destroyer, first commissioned in 1943. She is seen here returning to Halifax in April, 1963, flying her paying-off pennant. The length of the pennant, representing a long time in commission, is fitted with bladders to keep afloat.

Deck. . . . The black and white negative flag is draped over the stove . . . . the Ship's Bible is placed on the flag-draped stove."<sup>10</sup>

However, by the 1950's, the old code of naval flag signals had been superseded for purposes of standardizing communications in combined fleets and the old familiar flag negative with the crosses had disappeared.

Before the advent of the Maple Leaf national flag in 1965, HMC ships flew as a jack the Canadian blue ensign. Today, the jack is a white flag with the Maple Leaf Flag forming the upper canton at the hoist, and a device in blue consisting of an anchor and eagle surmounted by a naval crown, in the fly. Normally the jack is flown only in harbour and always at the jackstaff in the bows of the ship. In 1975, authorization was given for parading the Naval Jack of the Canadian Forces on shore by units of maritime command.<sup>11</sup>

Jacks were first flown at the masthead but in a short time, judging by the numerous marine paintings of the period, it was shifted to the sprit topmast, a short stump mast fixed to the bowsprit at the bow. The jack has remained at the bow ever since. As long as ships were square-rigged, this was a handy arrangement for this important means of identifying a king's ship. But when fore-and-aft rig came into vogue, with foresails and jibs, the jack often fouled the rigging. As a result, it became the custom for the jack to be flown only in harbour. This is still the case today.<sup>12</sup>

The origin of the term jack is open to considerable conjecture. In British tradition, as in the Union Jack, the word is associated with the flag that gave visible evidence of the union of the crowns of England and Scotland. The sovereign at that time was King James VI of Scotland who became James I of England, and who, in signing state documents, sometimes used the French form *Jacques*. The story goes that this is the source of the term jack.

However, there is much evidence that jack, in the sense of identification, long pre-dates the early seventeenth century. In feudal times the mounted knights and soldiers on foot in the field wore an over-garment extending from the neck to the thighs called a surcoat or jacque (whence our word jacket). On this tunic was sewn a cross or other device to identify the wearer's allegiance to a liege lord or king in the same way as nationality would be shown today. These surcoats or jacks came to be known as the jacks of the various nations and were worn also by the sailors in the ships used to transport the soldiers. It was only one short step in the progression to see a sailor's surcoat or jack lashed to a pole and suspended out over the bow as a means of a ship showing her colours.<sup>13</sup>

From the time of the establishment of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910 until the arrival of the Maple Leaf national flag in 1965, HMC ships wore the

white ensign, and naval shore parties on the march carried the white ensign. It was a white flag with a red St. George's Cross overall, with the Union Flag in the upper canton at the hoist. It was identical to that worn by ships of the Royal Navy and other navies of the Commonwealth. This storied flag still exists in the Canadian Forces in the form of the queen's colour of the Royal Canadian Navy which is kept in a special display cabinet in the wardroom of Canadian Forces Base, Halifax. Another, identical in appearance, is held at Canadian Forces Base, Esquimalt.

The queen's colour of the naval service has never officially been laid up or retired, yet it cannot be recognized as the queen's colour of maritime command for it does not contain the Maple Leaf national flag. However, at time of writing, a new queen's colour in the form of a white ensign, and containing the Maple Leaf Flag, is being designed for the naval forces.

The sovereign's or first colour, usually called the queen's colour, of the navy, is of recent origin compared to that of the army. First designated "the king's colour" in regulations dated 1747 in the reign of George II,<sup>14</sup> the sovereign's colour as approved for British regiments pre-dates those of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force by nearly two centuries.

The king's colour of the Royal Navy was approved for the first time by George V in 1924,<sup>15</sup> and for the Royal Canadian Navy in 1925.<sup>16</sup>

Some idea of the financial stringencies under which the armed forces of the twenties struggled to stay alive may be gleaned from this first king's colour of the RCN.

Approved by the king in 1925, Commodore Walter Hose, director of the naval service, as much as he wanted the new colour for the navy, could not scrape up the necessary sixty pounds from his budget until 1927. And then, too, there were only two destroyers in commission, HMC ships *Patrician* and *Patriot*, one on each coast. A ship's company was essential for the presentation ceremony, for there were not enough seaman ratings ashore, and a ship in harbour just never seemed to coincide with a visit by the Governor-General. So George V's colour never was presented to the Royal Canadian Navy. Today, the one in Halifax is laid up in St. Mark's Church, the one at Esquimalt in the Church of St. Andrew, HMCS *Naden*, now Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

The presentation of the king's colour to the RCN had to await the first visit of the reigning sovereign to Canada. In a memorable ceremony just before the outbreak of war in 1939, George VI presented his colour to the navy at Beacon Hill Park, Victoria. Today, this colour is laid up in St Paul's Naval and Garrison Church, Esquimalt. Carried out on 24 May 1960, the site chosen for the

laying-up seems most fitting, for St. Paul's has been closely associated with all the ships and sailors who have come and gone at Esquimalt for over a hundred years.

George VI's colour at Halifax, considered to have been presented at the same time as that of the Pacific Command, was laid up on Trafalgar Day, 21 October 1959 in the Church of St. Nicholas, HMCS *Stadacona*, now Canadian Forces Base Halifax.<sup>17</sup>

The present queen's colour of the Royal Canadian Navy was presented by Her Majesty the Queen at Halifax on 1 August 1959, and the one at Esquimalt was deemed to have been presented at the same time. During the course of her address to the sailors assembled, the queen said:

This is a solemn moment in the history of the Navy. You are bidding farewell to one Colour and are about to pay honour to another . . . .

I have no doubt that my Colour is in very good hands . . . . During the Second World War, and particularly during the Battle of the Atlantic, you most admirably fulfilled your responsibilities to the Crown, to your country, and to the free world.

I now commend to your keeping this Colour. I know that you will guard it faithfully and the ideals for which it stands, not only in war but also during the peace, which we all hope so sincerely will ever continue. Remember always that, although it comes from me, it symbolizes not only loyalty to your Queen but also to your country and service. As long as these three loyalties are in your hearts, you will add lustre to the already great name of the Royal Canadian Navy.<sup>18</sup>

The Royal Canadian Air Force received its only sovereign's colour in 1950 together with the colour of the RCAF, the latter being comparable to a regimental colour. Both were consecrated and presented in the name of King George VI on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, on the king's birthday, 5 June 1950, by the Governor-General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis. The RCAF was the first of the Royal Air Forces to be granted, as a service, the privilege of carrying the king's colour. Those presented earlier were to particular components of the Royal Air Force.<sup>19</sup>

Besides being the only sovereign's colour the air force has ever had, it having been designated "queen's colour" in 1952 in spite of its bearing the royal cypher of the recently deceased King George VI, it is of unusual design for an air force sovereign's colour.

The Royal Air Force ensign of light blue with the Union Flag at the hoist and the red-white-blue roundel in the fly was authorized in 1920. The Royal Canadian Air Force inherited the same privilege for its establishment in 1924. When the Royal Air Force began to receive its series of king's colours in 1948,





The colours of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the colour guard are paraded before the Memorial Gates at RCAF Station Trenton, July, 1951. The gates, a gift of the people of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, were presented in honour of the RCAF's part in the wartime British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, in September, 1949. (Note that the queen's colour still bears the cypher of her father, King George VI. Note, also, the guards on the tips of the bayonets to protect the colours from damage in the wind, and that, in the air force, swords are no longer in use.)

the design was based on that of the ensign, that is, the Union Flag at the hoist, the royal cypher in the centre and the roundel in the fly, all on a field of light blue. But the Royal Canadian Air Force chose to have its king's colour designed in the army tradition, the Union Flag with the crown and royal cypher in the centre, thus adhering to the regulations first set down in 1747. The second colour of the RCAF is a light blue flag bearing the crown-and-eagle badge of the air force in the centre and a golden maple leaf in each corner.

These colours are still extant today after more than a quarter century. Each of the three stands of colours occupies an honoured place: one in the RCAF Officers' Mess, Gloucester Street, Ottawa; one in the Officers' Mess of Air Command, CFB Winnipeg; and the third in the Black Forest Officers' Mess, Canadian Forces Europe, at Lahr, Germany.

Unlike the air force and the navy, this situation did not arise in the army, organized as it was, and is, on a regimental basis, each unit having its own customs, traditions and colours. In 1968, Her Majesty approved the issue of new colours "to all Canadian infantry units and guards regiments which are entitled to carry them."<sup>20</sup> This process has been going on apace ever since, with the queen's colour being based on the design of the Maple Leaf Flag, replacing the Union Flag design traditionally employed for infantry units other than guards regiments. This reflects the custom established for infantry line regiments in the mid-eighteenth century whereby the sovereign's colour is based on the design of the national flag.<sup>21</sup>

The queen's, or first, colour symbolizes the unit's loyalty to the crown. Authorization to possess a queen's colour can be granted only by the reigning sovereign and may be presented to a unit, command or Service only by the sovereign or her representative. The term itself first appeared in the British army in "Regulation for the Uniform Clothing of the Marching Regiments of Foot, their Colours, Drums, Bells of Arms, and Camp Colours, 1747," which stated: "The Kings or First Colour of every Regiment or Battalion is to be the Great Union."<sup>22</sup>

The second, or unit, or regimental colour is probably the most cherished possession of a fighting force. This is because it embodies a whole spectrum of ideas, beliefs and emotions which together may be characterized as "the spirit of the regiment." The regimental colour symbolizes in a very visible way the pride a man feels in serving in a unit whose reason for being is one of worth, the proud heritage of those of the regiment who have gone before, and the record of achievement of the regiment, perhaps enshrined on the colour in the battle honours displayed within its folds. There is a mystique about the colours which constantly reminds every officer and man how dependant he is

on his comrades-in-arms and makes it extremely difficult for him in battle to fail in his duty, and as often as not spurs him on to undreamed of exploits of valour.

Something of what the regimental colour means to the soldier may be gathered from an account given in the memoirs of James II, telling of the assault on Etampes in 1652 in the time of Louis XIV of France:

... Turenne's own regiment went on in the face of both armies . . . ; and without any manner of diversion, or so much as one cannon-shot to favour them, they came up to the attack. Notwithstanding the continual fire that was made at them, both from the work and the wall of the town, they marched on without firing one single shot; the captains themselves taking the Colours in their hands, and marching with them at the head of their soldiers till they were advanced to the work . . . ; and then at one instant poured in their shot and came up to push of pike with so much gallantry and resolution, that they beat out the enemy, and lodged themselves upon the work . . . . It was universally confessed by all who were then present, that they never saw so daring an action. Marshal Turenne himself, and the most experienced officers of the army, were all of opinion, that it had been impossible for them to have done so much, if their Colours had not been always in their view.<sup>23</sup>

In the journal of a seventeen-year-old ensign of the 34th Regiment of Foot a glimpse is seen of what the colours meant when Wellington met Napoleon's army in Portugal in 1811:

Our gallant and worthy general, riding along our front, said, 'Are you all ready?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Uncase your colours and prime and load.' . . . As I took the King's colour in charge being senior ensign, the major said, 'Now my lads, hold those standards fast, and let them fly out when you see the enemy.'<sup>24</sup>

The forerunners of colours may be traced to the distant past when primitive men identified their leaders and forces in war with some form of totem on a staff or pole. The same purpose is to be seen in the elaborate eagle standards of the Roman legions. In the Middle Ages, the leaders in war were generally noblemen and, in their garb of mail or armour, identified themselves with banners and pennons bearing marks or devices from their coats of arms.

By the early seventeenth century the traditionally basic units, the companies, each with its own colour, were being gathered into regiments often called by the name of the colonels who raised them. Each regimental officer irrespective of rank also commanded his own company in the regiment and the company colours bore devices derived from the colonel's arms. Individual company colours still remain in guards regiments today. It was not until the

regulations of 1747 that a colonel of the British army was forbidden to place "his Arms, Crest, Device or Livery on any part of the Appointments of the Regiment under his command."<sup>25</sup>

The colours, when carried in battle, served two practical purposes — identification and place of concentration. A military writer nearly two centuries ago explained the reason for carrying the colours in the field:

Flags, banners, pencils, and other ensignes, are of great antiquity; their use was, in large armies, to distinguish the troops of different nations or provinces; and in smaller bodies, those of different leaders, and even particular persons, in order that the prince and commander in chief might be able to discriminate the behaviour of each corps or person; they also served to direct broken battalions or squadrons where to rally, and pointed out the station of the king, or those of the different great officers, each of whom had his particular guidon or banner, by which means they might be found at all times, and the commander in chief enabled from time to time to send such orders as he might find necessary to his different generals.<sup>26</sup>

With the advent of more advanced weaponry, the long-established custom of carrying regimental colours in action, ceased. In the Zulu War in 1879, casualties in defence of the colours of the 24th Foot (the South Wales Borderers) brought public condemnation of the practice. Two years later, a similar situation arose for the 58th Foot (the Northamptonshire Regiment) in the engagement at Laing's Nek, South Africa. This was the last time in the forces of the British Empire that regimental colours were carried in action, with one exception — Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.<sup>27</sup>

When the clouds of war rolled over Europe in the summer of 1914, Canada as a loyal member of the Empire responded to the threat. One response was the raising of a new regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, named for the popular daughter of the Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught. Princess Patricia, appointed honorary colonel of the regiment, personally fashioned a colour of red and royal blue, fringed in gold, technically a camp colour, but one which soon took on the full character of a regimental colour. There is probably no more famous colour in the Canadian Forces.

In August, 1914, before the regiment proceeded overseas, Princess Patricia presented her colour to her regiment at Ottawa, and the commanding officer promised that it would be guarded "with their lives and that it would always remain with the regiment."<sup>28</sup> That promise was most faithfully kept.

The colour, now affectionately known as the "Ric-A-Dam-Doo," was carried to France in December, 1914, and always flew over regimental head-



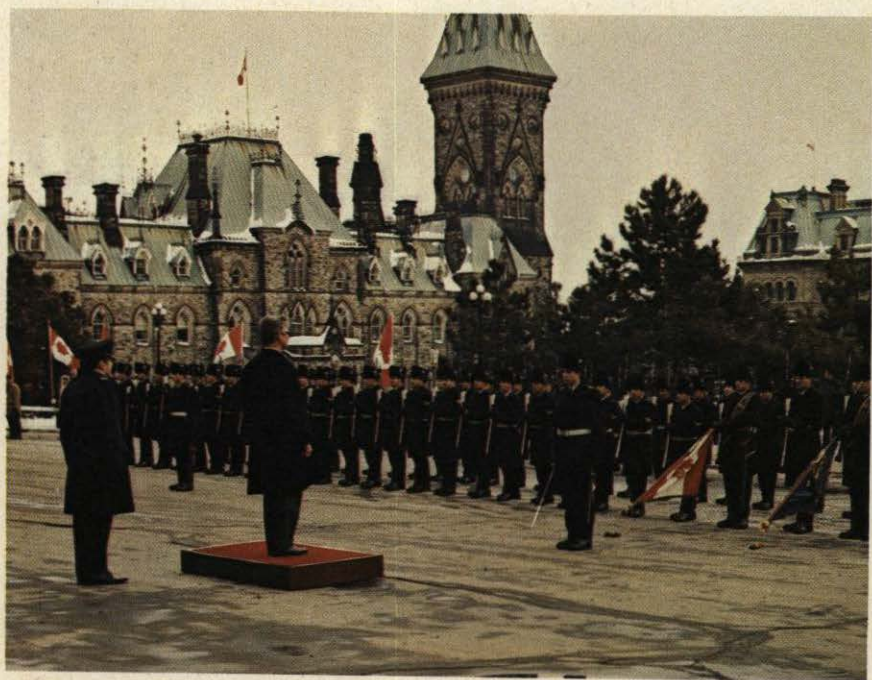
The newly presented colours of the three commandos of the Canadian Airborne Regiment lowered in salute, CFB Edmonton, 1973.



A veteran artillery piece and modern guns of the 30th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (the Bytown Gunners), fire a national salute on Canada Day, 1 July 1975, Parliament Hill, Ottawa.



Howitzers of the 30th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (the Bytown Gunners), firing a salute in tribute to Canada's war dead, Remembrance Day, Confederation Square, Ottawa, 1975.



The Right Honourable Jules Léger, Governor-General, taking the salute of a guard mounted by the Royal 22e Régiment, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, January, 1974.

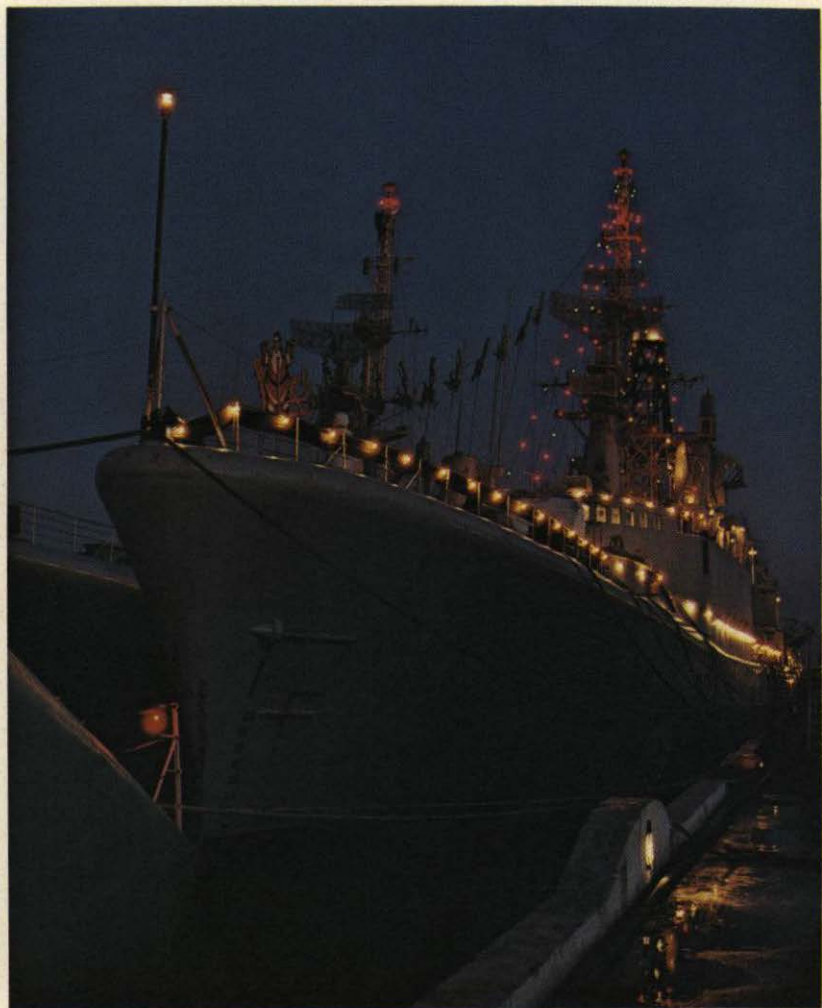




The guidon of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and escort in armoured personnel carriers, while centurion tanks of the regiment fire a feu-de-joie commemorating the regiment's part in the Battle of Lilliefontein, South Africa, in 1900 at Lahr, Germany, November, 1975.



The Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, lieutenant governor of Ontario, and her guard of honour composed entirely of women of the Canadian Forces, CFB Trenton, 1975.



A destroyer alongside at Halifax illuminated for the festive season, Christmas, 1971.



The colour of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the newly-presented standard of 439 Squadron being marched past, Baden, Germany, 1973.



The ceremony of changing the guard by the Public Duties Detachment, composed of guardsmen of the Governor-General's Foot Guards of Ottawa and the Canadian Grenadier Guards of Montreal, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, August, 1975. In the foreground is the centennial flame fountain displaying the armorial bearings of the provinces.



The ship's company of HMCS *Quebec*, cruiser, mustered on the fo'c's'le as the ship crosses the equator to the accompaniment of the ancient crossing the line ceremony, 1954.



Crossing Canada's Arctic Circle — a frigid King Neptune and court — HMCS *Procteur*, 1973.

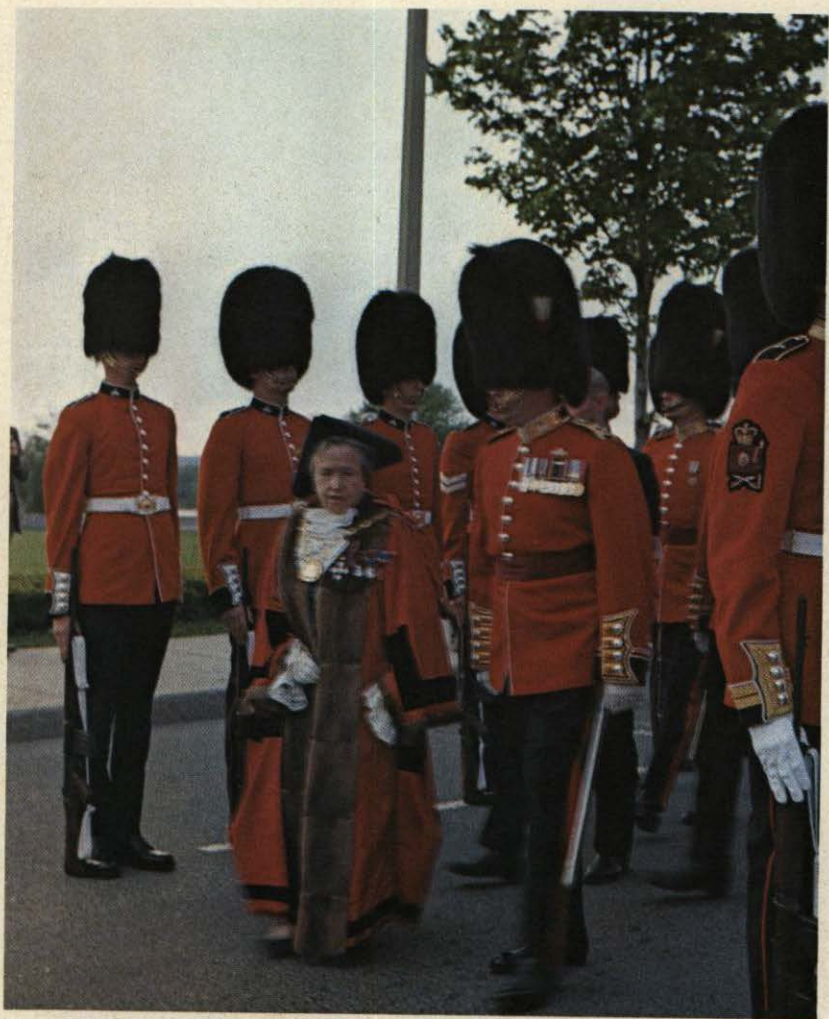


King Neptune and Queen Amphitrite about to preside over the crossing the line ceremony in HMCS *Cape Scott* at the equator on the South Pacific on passage to Easter Island, 5 December 1964.





The flypast of Canadian Forces CF-104 Starfighter aircraft on the occasion of presentation of squadron standards by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in Baden, Germany, May, 1973.



Mayor Charlotte Whitton of Ottawa inspecting the 2nd Battalion, Regiment of Canadian Guards, on the occasion of the regiment receiving the freedom of the city of Ottawa, 1964.



A soldier of the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), leading the regiments mascot, Princess Louise II, 1973.



A quarter guard mounted at the regimental headquarters, the Citadel, Quebec, by the Royal 22e Régiment with the regimental mascot, Batische, in attendance, June, 1958.



The roundel marking of aircraft of the period of the Great War, 1914-1918, as displayed on a restored Sopwith Pup here landing at CFB Ottawa (Rockcliffe), 1975.



The modern roundel identifying Canadian military aircraft, in this case a CF-101 Voodoo of 425 (Alouette) Squadron, 1973.



The pipe band from CFB Ottawa, wearing the tartan of the Royal Canadian Air Force, being inspected by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of presentation of squadron standards at Baden, Germany, May, 1973. The national flags are those of nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



The cadet choir preparing for the annual Christmas carol service, a long tradition at the military college, Royal Roads, Victoria.



The drumhead consecration of the colours of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, Edmonton, June, 1973. The presentation was made by the Honourable Grant MacEwan, lieutenant governor of Alberta.





The consecration of the standards prior to their presentation to 421, 439 and 441 Squadrons by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Baden, Germany, May, 1973.



The presentation of new colours to regiments of the Canadian army by Her Majesty the Queen on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, during the royal visit in the year of the centenary of Confederation, 1967.



The queen's colour of the Royal Canadian Navy with armed escort, Halifax, 1959. The ratings are of the gunnery branch and the chief petty officer is armed with a cutlass.



His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presenting new colours to the Royal Canadian Regiment, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, 1973.



The Canadian Forces ensign.

Approved  
*Elizabeth II*



Maritime Command  
**QUEEN'S COLOUR**

National Defence Headquarters  
January, 1977

*ABuckingham*  
Director of Ceremonial

The queen's colour of Maritime Command.

Hyd 22

*The Royal Canadian Dragoons*

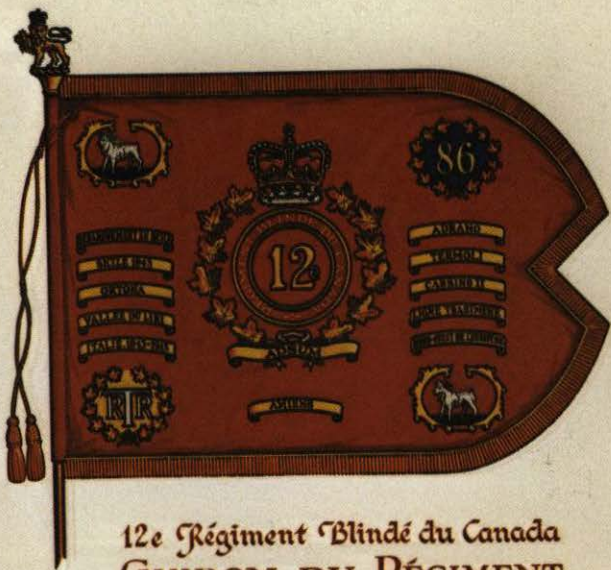


*College of Arms  
18 January, 1960*

*John Walker,  
Deputy Inspector of Regimental Colours*

The guidon of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Approved  
Elizabeth R



12e Régiment Blindé du Canada  
GUIDON DU RÉGIMENT

Canadian Forces Headquarters  
January, 1969

AA Buckle Ram  
Director of Ceremonial

The guidon of the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada.

Approved  
Elizabeth R



*Royal 22e Regiment*  
**DRAPEAU DE LA REINE**

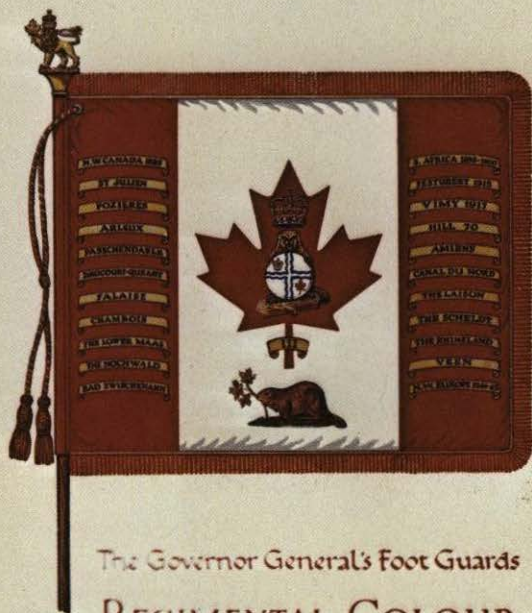
*Canadian Forces Headquarters*

*April, 1968*

The queen's colour of the 1st Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment.



Approved  
*Elizabeth R*



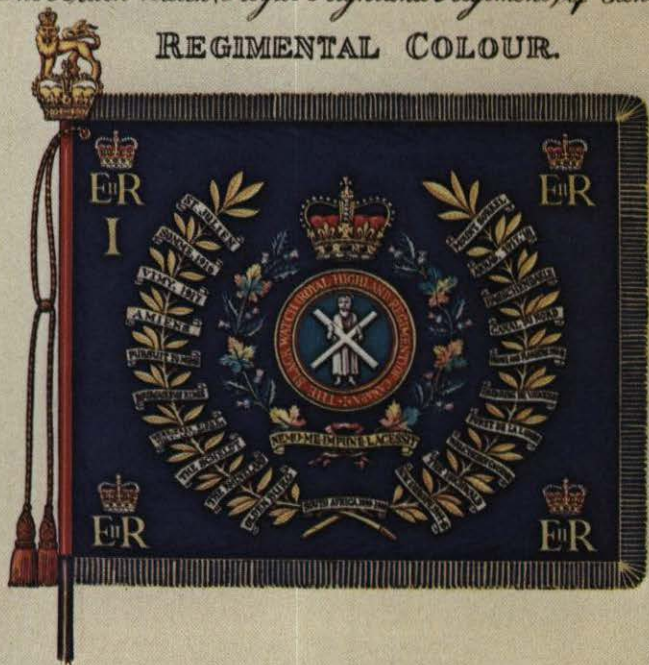
The Governor General's Foot Guards  
REGIMENTAL COLOUR

Canadian Forces Headquarters  
June, 1970

*A. Buckingham*  
Director of Ceremonial

The regimental colour of the Governor-General's Foot Guards.

*The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada*  
REGIMENTAL COLOUR.



*College of Arms  
14 September, 1958.*

*(Signed) G. R. Bellew  
Inspector of Regimental Colours*

*Certified true copy  
John Walker  
G. R. Bellew*

The regimental colour of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.



The Colour of Air Command

National Defence Headquarters  
January, 1977

*At Buckingham*  
Director of Ceremonial

The colour of Air Command.



The squadron standard of 400 Squadron.

quarters. Early in May, 1915, those headquarters were in front-line trenches and it was in that exposed position that the colour was torn by shrapnel and small arms fire. But the inspiration of the Princess's colour to the troops that day "enabled them to hold out against terrible odds with no support on either flank."<sup>29</sup>

In January, 1919, at Mons, Belgium, this colour, which had survived five years of trench warfare, and on the march in France was always carried by an officer with an appropriate escort and with proper marks of respect paid by all troops met, was consecrated as the regimental colour. A month later, at Bramshott, England, Princess Patricia, now colonel-in-chief, presented a laurel wreath of silver gilt to be borne on the regimental colour. It bears this inscription:

To The P.P.C.L.I.  
From the Colonel-in-Chief  
PATRICIA  
In Recognition Of Their Heroic  
Services in the Great War 1914-1918

The laurel had been won at a frightful cost; only forty-four of the 1,098 originals were on parade that day.<sup>30</sup>

The Ric-A-Dam-Doo, pray what is that?  
'Twas made at home by Princess Pat.  
It's Red and Gold and Royal Blue;  
That's what we call the Ric-A-Dam-Doo.<sup>31</sup>

It was the introduction of standing armies in the seventeenth century and their basic organization into regiments which led to the widespread use of regimental colours. In the British army it was the regulation of 1747 which set the pattern of both design and usage as they stand today.

There were three distinct kinds of regimental banners — standards, guidons and colours. Standards are authorized for household cavalry and dragoon guards only. The Governor-General's Horse Guards, of Toronto, which enjoys the status of dragoon guards, is the only regiment in the Canadian Forces today that carries a standard. The standard was a very large flag flown by armies in medieval times. It was not intended to be carried in battle but rather to stand or be planted before the commander's tent, hence the name, standard.

The guidon, derived from the old French word *guydhomme*, the flag

borne by the leader of horse, was authorized for regiments of cavalry such as dragoons, and is swallow-tailed. A dictionary of 1780 defined the word as, "a French term for him that carries the standard in the guards, or 'Gens d'Armes', and signifies likewise the standard itself. It is now become common in England. He is the same in the horseguards, that the ensign is in the foot."<sup>32</sup> Today guidons are used by armoured regiments, the successors of cavalry. Like the horse guards' standard, the guidon is made of crimson silk damask.

The regimental colour, the one specifically mentioned in the regulation of 1747, and which together with the sovereign's colour forms a stand of colours, was for foot guards and infantry line regiments. In the eighteenth century, it was known simply as the second colour. Although it soon took on the sobriquet regimental colour, this expression was not officially recognized until 1844.<sup>33</sup>

A point of interest here is that for infantry line regiments, the old tradition of George II that the sovereign's colour should be based on the design of the national flag (in the regulation of 1747, this meant the Grand Union Flag, commonly called the Union Jack), while the regimental colour should reflect the hues of uniform facings, has been maintained. But also in the tradition of the British army, it is the reverse for regiments of foot guards. In the latter case, the queen's colour is crimson, and regimental colour is similar to the Maple Leaf Flag, and the battle honours are displayed on both.<sup>34</sup>

Flying squadrons of the Canadian Forces, after completion of twenty-five years service, or having earned the sovereign's appreciation for especially outstanding operations, are eligible to carry a squadron standard. An air force standard is a rectangular flag of light blue silk and bears the battle honours won by the squadron. Its institution came about in this way. During the Second World War, in 1943, the Royal Air Force marked its twenty-fifth anniversary. To commemorate the milestone, King George VI inaugurated the award of squadron standards, and thirty squadrons of the Royal Air Force were honoured in that wartime anniversary year.<sup>35</sup>

In 1958, the award of flying squadron standards was extended to the Royal Canadian Air Force. The first unit to qualify was the 400 Squadron and the presentation took place at RCAF Station Downsview by the lieutenant-governor of Ontario, the Honourable J.K. MacKay on 10 June 1961.<sup>36</sup>

In a general way this is the story of the development of queen's and second colours in the Canadian Forces, following as they do in the wake of the much longer established customs of the British Services. However, as is to be expected, many diversions and exceptions to established practice have occurred, and some of these anomalies are of long standing.

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery carries no colours, in the usual



The colours of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, being marched on board a Boeing CC 137 transport aircraft at Winnipeg as the battalion proceeded on peacekeeping duty in Cyprus, 5 October 1972. Note the silver-gilt laurel wreath honouring the regiment for its gallantry in the Great War, 1914-1918, presented by Her Royal Highness the Princess Patricia, colonel-in-chief, in 1919. The ribbon is that of the United States presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, awarded for the Patricia's fight at Kapyong, Korea, in April, 1951.

sense of the word. The guns are its colours. On ceremonial occasions the guns are accorded the same marks of respect as the standards, guidons and colours of other units. The reason behind this long-held tradition is related to the gunners' motto, *ubique*, meaning everywhere, that is, that the artillery has been present in just about every campaign.

The custom of the guns being the colours dates from the eighteenth century and the Royal Artillery's practice of that time of designating the largest gun of an artillery train as the flag gun, that is, the piece accorded the honour of bearing the equivalent of the sovereign's colour. This evolved into the guns themselves being regarded as the colours of the artillery.<sup>37</sup>

Regiments of infantry with a rifle tradition, that is, the rifle regiments, also have no queen's nor regimental colours, but for a different reason emanating from their historic role in the field. The rifles, who wore green uniform clothing with black buttons and black cross belts, did so to keep as low a profile as possible, the better to blend into the environment. As sharpshooters and skirmishers out ahead of the infantry of the line, it was their task to take advantage of every vestige of cover in rapid advance. Hence, no colours were carried in battle to advertise their presence. Today, the rifles still do not carry colours; battle honours won are displayed on the drums,<sup>38</sup> and, in some units, on the cap badges.

Occasionally, a unit finds itself contravening the established order of colours as in the case of the Algonquin Regiment of Northern Ontario. This unit, though an infantry regiment, is the proud possessor of a guidon presented about the same time in 1965 as the regiment was converted from the armoured role.<sup>39</sup>

Although units take great pains to ensure the safety of their colours, accidents sometimes do occur. On 6 December 1917 when the ammunition ship *Mont Blanc* collided with another ship in Halifax harbour, there was great loss of life in the city. A side-light of the tragic explosion was the damage sustained by Wellington Barracks above HMC dockyard where the colours of the Royal Canadian Regiment were buried in the rubble. They were recovered.<sup>40</sup>

In the church of St. Mary Magdalene, Picton, Ontario, a sovereign's colour is laid up together with the bare pike which once held a second colour. In 1960, the regimental colour of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment was stolen from its case in the officers' mess. It has not been recovered.<sup>41</sup>

On 18 April 1975 at Fort York Armoury, Toronto, a stand of colours was handed over to the Queen's York Rangers by the lieutenant-governor of Ontario, the Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon. Both colours have a badge with a shield for the main device bearing the words "Queen's Rangers 1st



Amerens." These are the oldest colours still extant in Canada, which belonged to a forbear of a regiment active in the Canadian Forces today, the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment).

These are the colours that were carried by the Queen's Rangers (1st Americans) commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe in the War of the American Revolution (1775-1783). Known as the Simcoe Colours, they may have been used by a later unit of the Queen's Rangers after the war when Simcoe became the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. These ancient colours, now carefully restored, spent the better part of two centuries in the Simcoe family home, Wolford Lodge, in Devon, England, where they were acquired by interested Canadians some fifty years ago.<sup>42</sup>

During the life of a colour, there are three basic ceremonies — consecration, presentation, and laying-up or depositing of the colours. Because of the meaning of the colours, these ceremonial occasions are always carried out with dignity and reverence, and with colourful military precision and pageantry, usually out of doors.

On Dominion Day, 1972, the Governor-General's Foot Guards were presented with new colours on Parliament Hill by the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Roland Michener, who was also honorary colonel of the regiment. The regiment was drawn up on the lawn beneath the Peace Tower. Detachments of the Canadian Grenadier Guards of Montreal, and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, were also on parade. After the royal salute and His Excellency's inspection of his foot guards, the old colours were trooped and then marched off the parade ground to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." This was followed by divine service in which the new colours were consecrated. The following order of service is typical of the ceremony of consecration of the colours in the Canadian Forces.<sup>43</sup>

#### The Service of Consecration of Colours

Commanding Officer: Reverend Sir, on behalf of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, we ask you to bid God's blessing on these Colours.

Chaplain: We are ready to do so.

Chaplain: Forasmuch as men at all times have made for themselves signs and emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold those laws and institutions which God's providence has called them to obey, we, following this ancient and pious custom, are met together before God to ask His blessing on these Colours, which are to represent to us our duty towards our Sovereign and our Country. Let us, therefore, pray Almighty God of His mercy to grant that they may never be unfurled, save in the cause of justice and righteousness,

and that He may make them to be to those who follow them, a sign of His presence in all dangers and distresses, and so increase their faith and hope in Him, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us pray

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Response: Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

Chaplain: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with Thy spirit.

Chaplain: Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by Thy Holy Word that the hearts of Kings are in Thy rule and governance, and that Thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to Thy Godly wisdom, we humbly beseech Thee so to dispose and govern the heart of Elizabeth, Thy Servant, Our Queen and Governor, that in all her thoughts, words and works, she may ever seek Thy honour and glory, and study to preserve Thy people committed to her charge in wealth, peace and Godliness. Grant this, O merciful Father, for Thy Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

O Lord our God, who from Thy throne beholdest all the Kingdoms of the earth, have regard unto our land, that it may continue a place and a people who serve Thee to the end of time. Guide the governments of our great Commonwealth and Empire, and grant that all who live beneath our flag may be so mindful of that threefold cross, that they may work for the good of others, according to the example of Him who died in the service of men, Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Remember O Lord what Thou has wrought in us, and not what we deserve, and as Thou has called us to Thy service, make us worthy of our calling through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Then shall the Commanding Officer lead the Regiment in an Act of Dedication.

Commanding Officer: To the Service of God and the hallowing of His Holy Name.

Response: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

Commanding Officer: To the maintenance of honour and the sanctity of man's plighted word

Response: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

Commanding Officer: To the protection of all those who pass to and fro on their lawful occasions

Response: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

Commanding Officer: To the preservation of order and good government

Response: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

Commanding Officer: To the hallowed memory of our comrades, whose courage and endurance and undying lustre to our emblems

Response: We dedicate our Colours.

Commanding Officer: In continual remembrance of our solemn oath and in token of our resolve faithfully and truly to keep it to the end

Response: We dedicate our Colours.

The Act of Consecration.

Chaplain: (Laying his hands on the Colours): In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do consecrate and set apart these Colours, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen and our Country in the sight of God. Amen

Let us Pray

All: Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Chaplain: O Lord, who rulest over all things, accept we beseech Thee our service this day. Bless what we have blessed in Thy Name. Let Thy gracious favour rest upon those who shall follow the Colours now about to be committed to their trust.

Give them courage and may their courage ever rest on their sure confidence in Thee. May they show self-control in the hour of success, patience in the time of adversity; and may their honour lie in seeking the honour and glory of Thy great Name.

Guide the counsels of those who shall lead them, and sustain them by Thy help in time of need. Grant they may all so faithfully serve Thee in this life, that they fail not finally to obtain an entrance into Thy heavenly Kingdom through the merits of Thy Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

May God who has called you to this service enable you to fulfil it; may the Father make you strong and tranquil in the knowledge of His love; may the Lord Christ bestow upon you the courage of His gentleness and the steadfastness of His brave endurance; may the Holy Spirit grant you that the self-control which comes from the gift of His wisdom, and may the Blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and always. Amen

Following the actual presentation, the personage making the presentation (normally the sovereign or her representative), customarily addresses the

assembled troops. The thoughts expressed usually take the form of a charge to the unit and it is here that the recruit begins to understand the true meaning of the colours.

On 21 October 1953 the Royal Newfoundland Regiment received new colours from the hands of their honorary colonel and lieutenant-governor of the province, Sir Leonard Outerbridge. These were the first colours to be presented to a Canadian regiment in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Sir Leonard's address ended with this admonishment: "Guard them well and carry them proudly as the symbols of the great traditions and honours which have been won by those who have gone before you."<sup>44</sup>

A century earlier, on 12 July 1849, a ceremony took place at Winchester Barracks, England, which shows the timelessness of the presentation of the colours. The regiment being honoured, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, had just returned from more than a decade of service in British North America, having been stationed at places as far apart as Halifax and Annapolis, Quebec and Montreal, and Kingston and London in Canada West. The presentation of new colours was made by Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert. The drill of that day sounds very much as it does today:

The regiment, being drawn up in line with the old colours in the centre, received His Royal Highness with the usual honours, the flank companies were then brought forward so as to form three sides of a square, to the centre of which the new colours were brought under escort and piled on an altar of drums.<sup>45</sup>

After the consecration service conducted by the chaplain-general, Prince Albert proceeded to give his charge to the regiment in the language of his day:

Soldiers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers! — The ceremony which we are performing this day is a most important and to every soldier a most sacred one; it is the transmission to your care and keeping of the colours which are henceforth to be borne before you, which will be the symbol of your honour and your rallying points in all moments of danger.

Receive these colours — one emphatically called 'The Queens,' let it be a pledge of your loyalty to your Sovereign and of obedience to the laws of your country; the other — more especially the 'Regimental' one — let that be a pledge of your determination to maintain the honour of your regiment. In looking at the one you will think of your Sovereign; in looking at the other you will think of those who have fought, bled, and conquered before you!<sup>46</sup>

It is a symbol of the continuity in the affairs of men that more than a century

later, the prince consort's great-great-granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth II, would be presiding over a similar presentation. It was a happy coincidence, too, that the regiment she honoured on the Plains of Abraham 23 June 1959 is the Canadian regiment allied to the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Royal 22e Régiment.

In a very moving ceremony Her Majesty, as colonel-in-chief, spoke to her French-speaking regiment in a way that is still remembered with affection by the "Van Doos" on parade that day. These were her words:

Commanding Officers, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates:

I am pleased to be in Quebec City with my French Canadian regiment; I am proud of the regiment and take pleasure in presenting it with new colours.

I am aware of your history which dates back to the beginning of the First World War. French Canadians decided at that time to form a regiment recalling their origins. The regimental insignia bears the motto *Je me souviens* (I remember). It is a moving tribute to the country of your forebears.

On the colours that I have just presented to you are inscribed the names of French towns in whose liberation you participated. What emotion you must have felt in liberating people of your own blood, and what joy they must have felt in welcoming the descendants of the French men and women who three centuries before had set sail for Canada.

You have had a short but glorious history. During the two world wars and the operations in Korea the regiment forged a noble tradition of honour, courage and sacrifice.

I have been able to see today that in peacetime you maintain the same laudable tradition of discipline and dress, for which I warmly congratulate you.

I know that my father, King George VI, had the highest regard for his French Canadian regiment. He clearly proved this by becoming its colonel-in-chief in 1938, and I took pleasure in succeeding him in this position.

I thank you with all my heart for the faithful dedication that you have shown me in the past and on which I know I can always rely.

The alliance that exists between you and the Royal Welch Fusiliers, another brave regiment of which I am colonel-in-chief, gives me great joy.

I entrust these new colours to you with complete confidence. Your past makes me certain that you will defend them as your predecessors defended the old colours — fearlessly and faultlessly.<sup>47</sup>

Colours are the embodiment, the visual symbol, of loyalty to the crown, to the nation, and to the unit in which one serves. But, in spite of the aura of veneration and mystique which surrounds the colours, they are at the same time material things and their use does come to an end. In earlier times, they were subject to capture by the enemy as in the case of the defending forces at Louisbourg, some of whose surrendered colours are to be seen in St. Paul's Cathedral in London to this day. Since colours are no longer carried in battle, and barring loss by fire or theft, they are eventually disposed of by laying-up or by depositing them in some safe place, perhaps a church. Whatever the case, colours go into retirement always with great respect and appropriate ceremony.

Closely related to the traditional laying-up and depositing of the colours is the regimental church. From coast to coast in Canada, there have grown up over the years very close bonds between individual units and particular congregations.

After the Great War of 1914-1918, the colours of the old 79th Cameron Highlanders of Canada were marched off to the tune, "The March of the Cameron Men," and laid up in First Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg. This is the spiritual home of Winnipeg's Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada where "the people" and the regiment share the beauty and the meaning of the Cameron Memorial Chapel and the Cameron stained glass memorial window.<sup>48</sup>

The laying-up ceremony occurs when a colour becomes no longer serviceable and is to be replaced by a new colour. Once a colour has been laid up, it is not brought back into service again.

On the other hand, the ceremony of depositing a colour takes place when a unit is disbanded, or made dormant, or transferred to the supplementary order of battle. Such colours remain the property of the crown and may be recovered should the unit be reconstituted in its former status.<sup>49</sup> A good illustration of the two procedures is the case of the Regiment of Canadian Guards who had one stand of colours laid up, and another deposited, in the span of a few short years.

Formation of this regular force regiment was authorized in 1953. The colours of the 1st Battalion were presented in 1957 by the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, those of the 2nd Battalion in 1960 by Mr. Massey's successor, General the Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier.

In the course of a few years the colours, fashioned of fine silk, needed replacement, largely owing to being paraded daily by the public duties detachment of the regiment while performing the celebrated ceremony, the changing of the guard, on Parliament Hill, Ottawa. The Regiment of Canadian Guards



The colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, being paraded for the last time prior to the regiment reverting to reserve status, CFB Gagetown, June, 1970.

carried out this duty each summer for eleven years commencing in 1959. On 5 July 1967 on Parliament Hill, as part of the celebration of Canada's centenary of confederation, Her Majesty the Queen, colonel-in-chief of the regiment, presented new colours to both guards' battalions in a joint ceremony in which guidons and colours were also presented to four other units — the Ontario Regiment, the Sherbrooke Hussars, the 1st Hussars, and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

In due course, the old, worn colours of the guards were laid-up in impressive ceremonies. In August, 1969 they were marched to their respective sanctuaries, the colours of the 1st Battalion on August 31 to Christ Church Cathedral and those of the 2nd Battalion, a week earlier, to Notre Dame Basilica, both in Ottawa. On both occasions the ancient ritual of gaining entry to a sacred sanctuary was exercised — the troops already inside the church, the colour party approached the door and the parade adjutant with drawn sword used the hilt to strike the door the traditional three times. The clergy on the inside answered the summons and bid the colour party enter, the armed escort leaving their bearskins on their heads to leave their weapon hands free to defend the colours in the ancient manner.<sup>50</sup> From the chancel steps, the colours were received by the clergy and placed on the altar. The old colours of the Regiment of Canadian Guards were now laid-up.<sup>51</sup> But within the year, the new colours too, would be retired, this time by being deposited, rather than laid-up.

In an army reorganization of 1970, the Canadian Guards were removed from the regular force. On the anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, 6 June 1970, to the tune of "Soldiers of the Queen," the guards marched to Parliament Hill to troop their colour for the last time. After hearing a message from their colonel-in-chief, the queen, they marched off to Rideau Hall on Sussex Drive in Ottawa where the wife of the Governor-General, Mrs. Roland Michener, had personally selected the place in Government House where the colours of the regiment were to repose, the foyer. The ceremony and divine service now over, the colours of the Regiment of Canadian Guards are said to be deposited, rather than laid-up, in the hope they will one day see service again.<sup>52</sup>

Another occasion when colours are deposited is when they are temporarily lodged for safekeeping during the time a unit is away on active service. One sunny day in March, 1940, large crowds, sensing an historic occasion in the life of their city, gathered outside Mewata Armouries, Calgary, to see the colours of the Calgary Highlanders emerge from the barracks to be escorted to a church sanctuary "for the duration." Once formed up, the battalion swung along Seventh Avenue with fixed bayonets guarding the colours. A capacity





An officer of the 2nd Battalion, the Regiment of Canadian Guards, performing the ancient ceremony of striking the door of the sanctuary with the hilt of his sword requesting admittance to lay up the old colours of the regiment, Notre Dame Basilica, Ottawa, August, 1969.

congregation saw the regiment deposit its colours in the Anglican Cathedral of the Redeemer. In handing over the colours to the church authorities, the words of the commanding officer, followed by the placing of the colours on the altar, the "present arms" and the playing of "God Save the King," as recorded by the regimental historian, somehow communicated the significance of that impressive ceremony to all ranks — "These consecrated Colours, formerly carried in service of King and Empire, I now deliver into your hands for safe custody within these walls for the duration of the war."<sup>53</sup>

There is little doubt, however, that what is best known about the colours is that most stirring of ceremonies, trooping the colour. From very early times, the colours or standards, or their more primitive equivalents, led armies into battle and were the rallying points in time of danger. It was essential that the soldier know what the colour looked like so that he would know his duty almost instinctively. He soon learned to look upon and treat the colour with the highest respect. To do so, the soldier had to see his colour at close range, and that is what trooping the colour is all about. It is the ceremonial parading of the colour with armed escort slowly up and down before the regiment drawn up for the purpose. Every soldier of the regiment, or of the company before there were regiments, took a good look at the colour so that he would recognize it in the din and heat of battle and so know his place and rallying point.<sup>54</sup>

Trooping the colour can be traced to the sixteenth century and a simple routine known as lodging the colour. Lodging in this sense is still used today. Just as the queen's and regimental colours are kept today (sometimes cased in a leather container, sometimes on display behind glass) in the officers' mess, so in earlier times the colours were lodged for safekeeping in the ensign's quarters or lodging at the end of the day's parade or, during a campaign, at the end of the day's fighting. With the colours under armed escort, this rather informal ceremony was carried out before the troops with dignity and respect. The same was true when the colours were "sent for" the next day. Simple as the ceremony of lodging the colour was, it evolved into a much more elaborate ritual until, in 1755, it became by British army regulation part of the regular guard mounting drill.<sup>55</sup> The term trooping gradually replaced lodging and is derived from "the troop," a beat of the drum ordering the troops "to repair to the place of rendezvous, or to their colours."<sup>56</sup>

In the ceremony of trooping the colour, only one colour is carried, except at the presentation of new colours where it is customary to troop the old sovereign's and regimental colours together before they are marched off the parade ground. The queen's colour is trooped only when a guard is mounted for Her

Majesty, members of the royal family, the Governor-General, or a lieutenant-governor, or in a ceremonial parade in honour of the queen's birthday.

The trooping of the second or regimental colour is carried out on a great variety of occasions in Canada today. For example, on 6 June 1970, at CFB Galetown, two battalions of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, trooped their colours to mark their departure from the regular order of battle. On several occasions the 48th Highlanders of Canada have performed the ceremony at the Canadian National Exhibition Stadium and Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto for capacity audiences, the proceeds being donated to worthy charitable organizations.<sup>57</sup> The guidon of the British Columbia Dragoons, presented in 1967 by Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra of Kent, is trooped annually in one of three cities of the Okanagan Valley, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton.<sup>58</sup>

Finally, to return to the meaning of the colours, this is brought home in a very special way to the officers and men of one militia regiment. Every year, in the spring, the Royal Montreal Regiment reconsecrates its colours in the regimental church, St. Matthias, Westmount, "to the memory of all our war dead."<sup>59</sup>

*Appendix*  
*Calendar of Anniversaries*  
*Observed by the Canadian Armed Forces*

- January Each year since 1970, in January, the Royal Military College, Kingston, and the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, compete in a two-game hockey series. In the odd-numbered years, the USAFA team visits Kingston; in the even, the reverse.
- January 1 Traditionally, New Year's Day is celebrated widely throughout the Canadian Forces. Many units enjoy activities, the nature of which are peculiar to a particular base, station or unit, and these are mentioned elsewhere in this book. But most consist of the warm geniality of inter-mess visiting and levees. (See page 94)
- January 16 On 16 January 1863, the forbear of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, the 14th battalion, Volunteer Militia Rifles, Canada, was formed. The regiment observes the day annually with a ceremonial parade at Montreal Street Armoury, Kingston.
- January 25 Burns Night. The birth of Robert Burns, 25 January 1759. The Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) hold their annual Burns Night Dinner on the Saturday nearest January 25 in traditional Scottish fashion.
- January 25 The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada celebrates Burns Night at a mess dinner in the sergeant's mess.
- February Annually, usually in February, the CFB Petawawa Military Engineers' Pigspiel is held on the base and is open to all military en-

gineers and their civilian colleagues throughout the Canadian Forces. This curling bonspiel culminates in a grand banquet.

- February Each year, in the first week of February, the officers of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), at Victoria, entertain their ladies at dinner in the mess.
- February 1 The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada dates from 1 February 1910 when the 79th Highlanders of Canada was authorized. This anniversary is observed by the regiment on the first Sunday of February with a church parade to the regimental church, First Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg.
- February 15 A joint mess dinner is held in Côte des Neiges Armoury by the Royal Canadian Hussars and 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Montreal.
- February 16 On this day, the King's Own Calgary Regiment commemorates the mobilization of the regiment, 16 February 1941, with an informal dinner dance. It is called the Mobilization Dinner.
- February 27 Paardeberg Day. The Royal Canadian Regiment observes this day to commemorate the surrender of Boer forces to the regiment at Paardeberg, South Africa, 27 February 1900. The celebration takes the form of field games between all-ranks teams, the emphasis being on fun rather than serious contest. Traditionally, with the 1st Battalion, it is broomball. But for the 3rd Battalion in the deep snows of CFB Petawawa, it is tug-of-war and soccer on snowshoes! These hilarious events are immediately followed by regimental gatherings, usually in the junior ranks messes.
- March Each year, early in March, the cadets from the Royal Military College, Kingston, and the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, meet for a week-end of friendly rivalry in a variety of activities. In the odd-numbered years, RMC cadets travel to West Point, in the even years, the reverse. Highlights of the week-end are the traditional hockey game first played in 1923, and the annual debate.
- March The Goose Bay Annual NATO mess dinner. Each year at Canadian Forces Station Goose Bay, Labrador, the senior non-commissioned officers of the Royal Air Force, the United States Air Force, and the Canadian Forces stationed there, hold a mess dinner which over the years has become the major social event of the year. Sponsored on a

rotating basis by the warrant officers and sergeants of the three forces representing three signatory powers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, this annual mess dinner is honoured by the presence of a general officer as guest of honour and music is provided by the North American Air Defence Band.

- March In mid-March the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) observe York County Night, a custom of a hundred years. In 1878, the warden of York County, Ontario, and his council presented the regiment with a stand of colours. To return the compliment, it became a custom for the rangers to give the colours back each year at the first session of the council. This annual return of the colours carried out with impressive ceremony has been celebrated each year for almost a century and the evening filled with colourful pageantry, is known as York County Night.
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day. As a special tribute to the character of the united counties in eastern Ontario, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders celebrate St. Patrick's Night in the officers' mess.
- March 17 This was the birthday of the Lady Patricia Ramsay, until her death in 1974, the colonel-in-chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. As Princess Patricia of Connaught, this granddaughter of Queen Victoria sponsored the founding of the regiment in 1914, and her birthday, 17 March 1886, was for nearly six decades celebrated as the birthday of the regiment. Today, the anniversary is known as regimental day. It is the occasion for battalion parades, all-ranks luncheons, and mess dinners. A long-time feature of the day is the annual broom-i-loo tournament between the sergeants and the officers played outdoors irrespective of weather conditions, using a soccer ball and corn brooms.
- March 24 The official birthday of 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (regular force) based at CFB Valcartier is the date the unit was established, 6 May 1968. The Regimental Day of le Régiment Blindé du Canada (Militia), based in Trois-Rivières, is March 24, commemorating the day in 1871 when four independent companies were brought together to form the Three Rivers Provisional Battalion of Infantry.
- March 30 On this day, at Sarcee Barracks, Calgary, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) celebrates the anniversary of the regiment's famous cavalry charge at Moreuil Wood, near Amiens, France, 30 March 1918. Spread over a three-day period, the observances take the form of

a ceremonial parade including the regimental guidon, and divine service for which the centre-piece is the Memorial Gong, in service since 1929 in commemoration of those members of the regiment who gave their lives for king and empire during the Great War, 1914-18. Moreuil Wood Day is also the occasion for the presentation of the Hessin Sword, awarded annually since 1961 to the subaltern of the regiment who, in the judgement of his fellow officers, has displayed the highest qualities of leadership, integrity and ability. Each spring, the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment holds its Annual Military Spring Ball.

- April 400 Air Reserve Squadron, Toronto, holds the 400 Squadron Annual Ladies Night, formerly the Red and Silver Ball, for all ranks, the first Friday evening in April.
- April Each spring, the cadets of Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean and their guests attend the Annual Sports Dinner in the cadet mess. The guest of honour, usually a well known professional athlete, officiates at the presentation of athletic awards.
- April Le Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean, on the first Sunday of April, is the scene of the cadets' annual "Assault at Arms." Attended by a general officer as guest of honour, the day-long occasion consists of a ceremonial parade, demonstrations of precision drill and gymnastics, a luncheon in the officers' mess, and a tea attended by all the cadets and their guests.
- April 1 Anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Canadian Air Force, 1 April 1924.
- April 1 The Loyal Edmonton Regiment was founded 1 April 1908, as the 101st Regiment. Annually on this day there is a ceremonial parade and a reunion with the 49th Battalion Association in honour of the regiment's part in the Great War, 1914-18.
- April 1 The Fort Garry Horse was founded on 1 April 1912. At suitable intervals, this anniversary is celebrated by the regiment on the weekend closest to April 1.
- April 1 The regimental birthday of the British Columbia Dragoons is 1 April 1911, when the 1st Regiment British Columbia Horse was formed. Annually, the regimental guidon is trooped in one of three major communities of the Okanagan — Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton.

- April 1        The Rocky Mountain Rangers, with headquarters at Kamloops, celebrates the regiment's birthday, commemorating the formation of the 102 Regiment on 1 April 1908.
- April 1        The Calgary Highlanders observes the regiment's birthday, 1 April 1910.
- April 4        Regimental birthday of the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's). On this day in the year 1848, eleven troops of cavalry were formed into a regiment called the New Brunswick Yeomanry Cavalry, making the militia component of the 8th Canadian Hussars the oldest, though not the senior, cavalry, now armoured, regiment in the Canadian Forces. The anniversary observances include a ceremonial parade and drumhead church service, sports in the afternoon, and mess dinners and dances in the evening.
- April 8        Although officially formed on 8 April 1968, the Canadian Airborne Regiment's regimental day is celebrated on June 6 in commemoration of that day in 1944 when the regiment's forbear, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, made its first jump to engage the enemy, at the invasion of Normandy.
- April 9        On the Sunday nearest this day, the battalion of the Royal 22e Régiment in garrison at the Citadel parades with veterans of the regiment to the wooden Croix de Vimy near the chapel on the heights of Quebec. There, divine service is conducted in memory of those members of the regiment who fell at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, France, in 1917.
- April 9        On the Saturday nearest this day, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the regimental association dine in remembrance of the victory of Vimy Ridge, 9 April 1917.
- April 9        Annually, on April 9, les Fusiliers du St. Laurent holds a regimental dinner. Also, the regiment has its Annual Regimental Ball.
- April 22/  
April 23        St. Julien Day. On this day, the sergeant's mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) dines in commemoration of the gallant part played by the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) in the Battle of St. Julien Wood, 1915.
- April 22/  
April 23        Annually on the weekend closest to this date, the Calgary Highlanders honours the heroic stand of the 10th Battalion (Calgary Highlanders)



during the first German gas attack, Battle of St. Julien Wood, 22/23 April, 1915. The weekend observances include the officers' St. Julien Mess Dinner, the all-ranks dinner with the 10th Battalion Calgary Highlanders Association, and a church parade.

- April 22/  
April 23      The 56th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, annually, on the Sunday after April 22, holds a parade at St. Catharines, Ontario, to honour the gallant stand of the 10th Battery at the Battle of St. Julien (2nd Battle of Ypres 1915), the first German gas attack. The survivors of that day have an honoured place in this parade.
- April 23      Birthday of HMCS *Malahat*, 23 April 1947. Even though this shore establishment functioned as a naval recruiting centre during the Second World War, its birthday is considered to be its commissioning as a naval division, 23 April 1947. This day is observed either by a reception or by a mess dinner.
- April 23      St. George's Day. Annually, on the weekend closest to April 23, the King's Own Calgary Regiment observes St. George's Day to mark its alliance with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. The observance takes the form of a church parade, an all-ranks luncheon, a sergeants' mess dinner, and the "passing of the Wassail Bowl" at the officers' mess dinner.
- April 23      St. George's Day is observed by the Canadian Grenadier Guards.
- April 25      There is a celebration annually in the officers' mess, Canadian Forces Station, Sydney, marking the founding of the unofficial Royal Cape Breton Air Force in 1956.
- April 25      "Kapyong Day," commemorating the battle fought in Korea in which Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry participated, is observed by the regiment, particularly the 2nd Battalion, with mess dinners and regimental balls, decorations for the latter featuring oriental motifs. Kapyong Barracks is located at Winnipeg.
- April 26      On this day, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada celebrates the founding of the regiment, 26 April 1860.
- April 29      Although the regular component of the old Canadian Engineer Corps dates from 1 July 1903, military engineers consider their natal date the day they were designated the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, 29 April 1936. On this day, or close to it, a variety of reunions of military

engineers occur. One of these takes place annually when some fifty parachutists of the First Airborne Engineer Field Squadron of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, from Edmonton, literally drop into the School of Military Engineering, CFB Chilliwack, British Columbia.

- April            A popular and growing custom in the fleet occurs on Easter Sunday when the families of members of the ships' companies are invited on board for dinner.
- May             Annually, early in May, the officers of the Royal 22e Régiment dine those officers leaving the regiment. Each departing officer receives a plaque and a letter of appreciation from the commanding officer.
- May             On a selected day in mid-May, le Régiment de Maisonneuve parades a guard of honour for the observance at the Maisonneuve monument commemorating the founding of Montreal by Maisonneuve in 1642.
- May             The regimental dinner of the Royal Canadian Hussars is held each spring, usually in May.
- First  
Sunday  
in May         On the first Sunday in May, the Royal Montreal Regiment holds its annual church parade to St. Matthias' Church, where the regimental colour is re-consecrated to the memory of the regiment's war dead, with particular reference to the heavy losses at Ypres and St. Julien in the spring of 1915.
- First  
Sunday  
in May         On "Battle of the Atlantic Sunday," commemorative services are held from coast to coast and in HMC ships at sea. The national ceremony is held at Halifax, where the men of the fleet parade to the naval memorial at Point Pleasant. In HMCS *York*, the naval division at Toronto, a wreath is cast upon the waters of Lake Ontario. A similar ceremony is performed at Victoria Pier, Montreal, by HMCS *Donnacona*.
- May             Graduation, better known as Grad Day, at le Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean, occurs annually early in May. The trooping of the college colour takes place in the afternoon, followed by the Graduation Ball at night. The all-night party is concluded at dawn next day with a group photograph out on the parade square of the cadets and their partners who are then served breakfast prepared by the college commandant, staff officers and their ladies.
- May             Annually, in early May, at several major land force bases, field

engineer squadrons sponsor a week-end of festivities called a "Milly Reunion." It replaces a similar celebration formerly associated with the birthday of the old Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers. Attended by military engineers, active and retired, and their families, the three-day event includes a ceremonial parade, a candle-light dinner and all-ranks dance, and, on the Sunday, an old-fashioned family-style picnic.

- May First Saturday of the month. The Battle of Cut Knife Hill, associated with the regiment's first battle honour, North-west Canada 1885, is observed by the Governor-General's Foot Guards with an annual mess dinner in the sergeant's mess.
- May 4 Anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Canadian Navy, 4 May 1910.
- May 6 The official birthday of le 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (regular force) based at CFB Valcartier, is the date the unit was established, 6 May 1968. The regimental day of le 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (Militia), based at Trois-Rivières, is March 24, commemorating the day in 1871 when four independent companies were brought together to form the Three Rivers Provisional Battalion of Infantry.
- May 6 A close relationship has grown up between the chief and petty officers of HMCS *Star*, and United States Naval Reserve units in the Lake Ontario region. Each spring and fall, visits are exchanged with the USNR at Rochester, and also at Oswego, New York. The Battle of Oswego occurred 6 May 1814, when Commodore Yeo's squadron of the Royal Navy successfully attacked the port.
- May 8 The ceremony of trooping the colour is performed by Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in commemoration of the regiment's part in the Battle of Frezenberg, 8 May 1915, particularly by the 1st Battalion. Events include all-ranks luncheons, mess dinners the preceding day, and regimental balls on May 8.
- May 12 Batoche Day. On this day, the Royal Regiment of Canada commemorates the participation of its forbear, the 10th Royal Grenadiers, in the North-west Rebellion, 1885, in particular the capture of Batoche in northern Saskatchewan.
- May 24 "Strathcona Day" of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) marks the anniversary of the Crossing of the Melfa River during the

- Italian campaign, 24 May 1944. Normally held at Sarcee Barracks, Calgary, the event takes the form of an all-ranks sports day and "bun feed."
- May 24      The Royal Westminster Regiment Association holds its Melfa Dinner on the weekend prior to May 24, while the regiment has its mess dinner on the weekend following this date. At this commemoration of the Battle of Melfa Crossing in Italy on 24 May 1944, representatives of Lord Strathcona's Horse renew their battle association with the Royal Westminster Regiment.
- May 24      Official birthday of the sovereign. A royal salute is fired at noon on the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, which is celebrated in Canada on the Monday immediately preceding May 25. Saluting stations for this royal anniversary observance are: St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Fredericton, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Victoria (Esquimalt).
- May 26      Artillery Day. This day is celebrated by most units of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery with a variety of events including special parades, sports days, mess dinners, teas, parties and open house. The founding date of the Royal Artillery was 26 May 1716.
- May          Annually, during the last week-end in May, the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) exercise their privilege of freedom of the city of Victoria, British Columbia.
- June 1      Though formed from four independent companies in 1900, the Algonquin Regiment, based in North Bay and Timmins, Ontario, celebrates the birthday of the regiment on June 1, the day in 1903 that it was designated the 97th Regiment Algonquin Rifles. The observance takes the form of a dining-in for serving officers and associated members of the officers' mess.
- June 2      The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada commemorates the regiment's first battle casualties, the Engagement at Ridgeway during the Fenian Raids, 2 June 1866.
- June 2      The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment holds its Regimental Mobilization and Anniversary Dinner marking the regiment's birthday, 2 June 1885.
- June 4-6     "Rome-Normandy Days" commemorate the First Canadian Special

Service Battalion's entry into Rome on 4 June 1944, and the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion's jump into Normandy early in the morning of 6 June 1944. The three-day observances by the Canadian Airborne Regiment include a church parade, trooping of the colour, exercising freedom of the city of Edmonton, a full day of jumping at Namao, Alberta, with the families of the regiment being served lunch in the drop-zone, a tea party in the officers' mess, and an all-ranks dance.

June 6 The Regina Rifle Regiment parades on June 6 to the Cenotaph in Regina's Victoria Park in remembrance of fallen comrades in the Hooge-Ypres Salient, Belgium, 6 June 1916, and the Normandy Invasion, 6 June 1944. This is followed by a regimental mess dinner in Regina.

June 6 A regimental mess dinner is held on June 6 by le Régiment de la Chaudière, Lévis, Quebec, in commemoration of the regiment's landing in Normandy, 6 June 1944.

June 6 Annually, on this day, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada honours the fallen in the Normandy Landing, 6 June 1944.

June 6 On the weekend closest to June 6, the Fort Garry Horse commemorates the part played by the regiment in the Invasion of Normandy, 1944.

June 6 Although officially formed on 8 April 1968 the Canadian Airborne Regiment's regimental day is celebrated on June 6 in commemoration of that day in 1944 when the regiment's forbear, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, made its first jump to engage the enemy, at the Invasion of Normandy.

June 6 This was for over a century after 1758 the parade day or training day of the old "sedentary militia" (universal compulsory service) of the former provinces and colonies; it was the birthday of George III, a holiday on which the annual muster took place, and for many areas it provided almost the only money seen during the year. This was probably the precursor of our present Armed Forces Day as well as both Victoria Day and Dominion Day or Canada Day.

June, 1916, in which the regiment's Forbear, the Toronto Regiment, distinguished itself.

- June 14        The Service battalions from coast to coast celebrate their birthday on this day. Usually, the occasion is marked by special ceremonial parades, and battalion dances in the evening.
- June 18        June 18 is the regimental birthday of the Princess Louise Fusiliers. It was on this day in 1869 that the Halifax Volunteer Battalion of Infantry was authorized. This event is commemorated by the annual officers' mess dinner.
- June 30        A dinner in the officers' mess of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment is held annually on the eve of the anniversary of the heroic advance of the regiment at the Battle of Beaumont Hamel, 1 July 1916.
- June            Armed Forces Day. On the Saturday preceding Canada Week, which embraces July 1 (Dominion Day), the commands, bases, stations and units of the forces, at home and abroad, are "at home" so that the public may become better acquainted with the forces and their work.
- July 1          Dominion Day. On the anniversary of Canada's birthday, units of all three elements perform public services from coast to coast as well as at stations abroad, in the form of ceremonial parades, gun salutes and fly-pasts.
- July 1          Dominion Day. To commemorate the Confederation of Canada, 1 July 1867, twenty-one-gun salutes are fired at noon, July 1, at Canadian Forces saluting stations at: St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Fredericton, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria (Esquimalt).
- July 1          Commemoration Day. Since 1917, units of the forces have joined with the people of Newfoundland on the Sunday nearest to July 1, a day set aside by an Act of the Parliament of Newfoundland to honour in solemn remembrance the men of the Newfoundland Regiment who fell in heroic sacrifice at the Battle of Beaumont Hamel, 1 July 1916.
- July 1          The Order of Military Merit, of which His Excellency the Governor-General, Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces, is Chancellor, was inaugurated on 1 July 1972. The honours lists of this first truly Canadian military decoration are announced twice yearly on a day close to July 1 and January 1.
- July 3          The regimental birthday of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders is 3 July 1868, when the 59th Stormont and Glengarry

Battalion of Infantry was authorized to be formed from six independent companies. Each year a day is selected for the annual regimental dinner in the officers' mess.

- July 8 The serving officers of the Highland Fusiliers of Canada observe the anniversary of the Battle of Buron in the Normandy campaign, 8 July 1944 at a mess dinner. It was at this battle that one of the regiment's predecessors, the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, suffered severe casualties.
- July 10 This day is celebrated by the Royal Canadian Regiment in honour of its landing on the Pachino Peninsula, Sicily, 10 July 1943. Highlight of the day is inter-company track and field events followed by a regimental gathering.
- August On the first Monday of August, civic holiday, the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) celebrates Simcoe Day with military pageantry in the Borough of East York, Toronto, where the regiment enjoys the honour and privilege of the freedom of the city. (John Graves Simcoe, first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, late in the eighteenth century, commanded a forbear of the regiment two hundred years ago.)
- August 1 Minden Day is observed by the North Saskatchewan Regiment honouring the heroic part played by its allied regiment, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry at the Battle of Minden, 1 August 1759. On that day in both regiments, the White Rose of York is worn on the head-dress.
- August 7 Second Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, celebrates its birthday on this day in commemoration of its formation at Camp Shilo on 7 August 1950, in preparation for service in Korea. In 1975, festivities included a mounted march-past, the firing of a feu-de-joie using 105 mm howitzers, and a dance attended by all ranks.
- August 10 The anniversary of 10 August 1914, the regimental birthday of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, has an origin unique in the Canadian Forces. It is the date of the regiment's charter, the mark of a privately raised regiment. The Patricias were founded through the personal initiative and expense of Captain Andrew Hamilton Gault as a battalion of largely veteran soldiers for service in the Great War.
- August 19 Dieppe Day. The Royal Regiment of Canada observes and remembers its part in the Dieppe Raid, 19 August 1942.

- August 19 On the closest Friday to this day, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada holds a regimental reunion.
- September On a weekend in September, "Stars," past and present, foregather in HMCS *Star* at Hamilton for their annual reunion.
- September Towards the end of September each year, the officers of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), at Victoria, join with the associate members of the mess for dinner.
- September The 30th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, "the Bytown Gunners," holds an all-ranks regimental dinner annually in September to celebrate the founding of the original battery in 1855.
- September 14 On 14 September 1866, at the time of the Fenian Raids, the 36th Peel Battalion Of Infantry was authorized. This day is observed as the regimental birthday by the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment).
- Sunday On "Battle of Britain Sunday," commemorative services are held from coast to coast. Until recently, the national ceremony was held at the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial in Ottawa. Now, the Royal Canadian Air Force Association has accepted the sponsorship of the national observance of Battle of Britain Sunday, with strong support from the Canadian Forces. It intends to conduct this national memorial service in Winnipeg, the home of Air Command Headquarters, and eventually in centres across the land coinciding with the association's annual convention.
- September 15 or first Sunday following 15 September
- October Each October, the officers of the King's Own Calgary Regiment hold their Bride's Dinner and dance to honour the most recent bride of an officer, or the wife of an officer not previously honoured by the mess.
- October Annually, in October, the Saskatchewan Dragoons troop their guidon. The Trooping Ball is attended by all ranks.
- October Annually during October, a Sunday is designated by the Royal Westminster Regiment for church parade and the christening of children of the regiment.
- October A day is selected each year for the annual officers' mess dinner to commemorate the part played by the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada at the Battle of Passchendaele, October, 1917.



- October      Annually, usually early in October, the Royal Military College, Kingston, holds its highly popular and long established ex-cadet week-end. Over several days, former graduates of the college are welcomed back to dine and to witness displays of drill and sports, and to attend a special church parade and service at the Memorial Arch at the entrance to the college grounds.
- October      Annually in October, the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) dine in celebration of the parts played by forbears of the regiment in two battles fought during the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the "Brandywine and Queenston Heights Dinner."
- October 5      The ship's company of the destroyer, HMCS *Margaree*, celebrates the anniversary of the ship's first commissioning, 5 October 1957, at a party on board which includes beer and birthday cake.
- October 8      The West Nova Scotia Regiment marks this day as Ortona Day, though the battle for Ortona, Italy, in which the regiment was heavily engaged, was waged during the month of December, 1943. (Actually, this day is the regimental birthday, its forbear, the First Regiment of Annapolis County Volunteers, having been formed 8 October 1869.)
- October 21      Trafalgar Day. On the nearest Friday to this date, the officers of HMCS *Star*, past and present, commemorate Nelson's victory off Cape Trafalgar, 21 October 1805 at a mess dinner.
- October 21      Trafalgar Day. This anniversary is observed in HMCS *Cataraqui* at Kingston, Ontario, with a ceremonial parade.
- October 21      Trafalgar Day. The day is also marked by HMCS *Scotian*, the naval reserve division at Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- October 21      Trafalgar Day in *Stadacona* wardroom, CFB Halifax, is the scene of a "super weepers" for the officers of the First Canadian Submarine Squadron, and a "penny beer" for the officers of the base.
- October 21      On this day, members of the Royal 22e Régiment entertain their ladies to dinner to commemorate the birthday of the regiment, 21 October 1914, when the 22e Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, was raised for war service.
- October 30      The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada commemorates the capture of Crest Farm (Passchendaele) 30 October 1917, with a mess dinner in the officers' mess on the nearest Friday or Saturday.

- October 31 On the weekend closest to this day, the Calgary Highlanders honour the fallen who died when the regiment led the attack in the Battle of Walcheren Causeway, 31 October — 1 November 1944. The observances take the form of a mess dinner and church parade.
- October Annually, late in October, the warrant officers and sergeants of the Royal 22e Régiment hold a dinner dance at the Citadel, Quebec, in honour of departing members of the mess.
- November Early in November, the officers of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), at Victoria, join with the associate members of the mess, and their ladies, for the annual Social and Ball.
- November On the last Friday of November, the officers of Saskatoon's naval division, HMCS *Unicorn*, hold their time-honoured AQT (Ale, Quail and Tale) Dinner. It is related to the wild game cuisine said to have been served during the only naval engagement in Saskatchewan when the SS *Northcote* was under fire in the North-west Rebellion of 1885.
- November 5 The ship's company of HMCS *Brunswick*, the naval reserve division at Saint John, attends the annual memorial service at the Jervis Bay Monument. On 5 November 1940, HMS *Jervis Bay*, an armed merchant cruiser with a close association with the city and partly manned by the Royal Canadian Navy, went down under the guns of the battleship, *Admiral Scheer*, in the epic defence of Convoy HX-84 in the North Atlantic.
- November 7 On November 7, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the oldest regular force cavalry regiment, holds a reunion of present and former members of the RCD to commemorate the day the regiment won three Victoria Crosses at Liliefontein, South Africa, 7 November 1900.
- November 11 Remembrance Day. At 1100 on this day, with flags at half-mast, a twenty-one-gun memorial salute is fired at each Canadian Forces saluting station at: St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Fredericton, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Victoria (Esquimalt).
- November 11 Remembrance Day dates from 11 November 1918, the armistice which brought the First World War to an end. The observance of this day honours all of Canada's war dead. Commemorative services are held from coast to coast, in HMC ships at sea, and at stations abroad. The national ceremony is conducted at the National War Memorial, Confederation Square, Ottawa.

- November 11 Annually, on an evening close to this date, the Officers' Mess of the Saskatchewan Dragoons holds its Remembrance Day Ball.
- November 11 On Armistice Sunday, the Royal Montreal Regiment parades to the cenotaphs at Westmount and Pointe Claire, Quebec, and to St. Anne's Military Hospital. On the Friday preceding Remembrance Day, the Royal Montreal Regiment holds its annual reunion mess dinner for both former and serving officers of the regiment.
- November 11 On the Saturday preceding Remembrance Day observances, the Royal Canadian Regiment parades with the Regimental Association for Memorial Day Service. This takes place at the regiment's war memorial at the home station, Wolseley Barracks, London.
- November 20 This day is celebrated as the regimental birthday of the Royal Westminster Regiment which traces its origin back to colonial times and the Westminster Volunteer Rifles of 20 November 1863.
- November 20 Cambrai Day. Cambrai Day is the official regimental day of the Fort Garry Horse. On the closest week-end, the regiment celebrates the part it played in the First Battle of Cambrai, 20 November 1917.
- November 21 The Canoe River Memorial Service. On this day in 1950, the Second Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, bound for war service in Korea, suffered seventeen killed and thirty-five injured, in a railway collision near Canoe River in the mountains of British Columbia. In commemoration of this tragedy, memorial services are held on this day by the regiment and at the Canoe River Monument at the regimental depot, Shilo, Manitoba.
- November 30 St. Andrew's Day. On the last Saturday nearest to St. Andrew's Day, all serving and retired officers of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) attend the annual Game Dinner consisting entirely of sea food and game procured by the officers themselves.
- November 30 St. Andrew's Day is observed by the Calgary Highlanders with a mess dinner in the officers' mess.
- November 30 The officers' mess of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders sponsors the St. Andrews's Ball in Cornwall, Ontario.
- November 30 November 30 is observed as a holiday in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and all officers attend the festivities of the St. Andrews Society.

- November 30 In association with the St. Andrews Society of Toronto, the 48th Highlanders of Canada, in alternate years, produces the 48th Highlanders Ball.
- December 400 Air Reserve Squadron, Toronto, holds its annual Black Velvet reunion, for all former and present squadron officers, the first Friday in December. The name stems from the concoction served — stout and champagne!
- December At the annual mess dinner in the senior non-commissioned officers' mess of the Royal Westminster Regiment, the Bungled Bayonet Award is presented with much hilarity to the senior NCO who has committed during the year the greatest *faux pas*. The trophy is a CF pattern boot elegantly mounted on a mahogany shield transfixed with a Mark I bayonet.
- December About mid-month, at the end of the autumn term, the cadets of Royal Roads Military College gather on the quarter-deck in Grant Block for their Christmas carol service, complete with choir and bell ringers. This tradition began as early as 1944 in the days of the Royal Canadian Naval College, quartered in HMCS *Royal Roads*, when "Officers, Cadets, Wrens and Ratings assembled in the main hall of the Castle to sing Christmas carols." (*The Log, HMCS Royal Roads, 1944-1945*).
- December 4 St. Barbara's Day. The day of St. Barbara, the mystical patron saint of artillerymen, is observed by units of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery with church parades, sports, mess dinners and other events, even to firing salutes with miniature guns.
- December 15 The Windsor Regiment celebrates its birthday on December 15, recalling its founding as the Essex Regiment (Tank) on 15 December 1936.
- December 21 Birthday of the Royal Canadian Regiment, 21 December 1883. There is a regimental gathering in the junior ranks mess to commence the period of relaxed duties associated with the celebration of Christmas. The men of the regiment are served by their officers and senior NCOs in the traditional fashion. In the evening, mess dinners are held in both the officers and warrant officers/sergeants messes.
- December 25 The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada celebrate the birthday of the regiment's colonel-in-chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent, December 25.

- December 31 Hogmanay is celebrated by most of the Scottish regiments of the Canadian Forces in traditional highland fashion.
- December 31 Other ranks of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) dine annually to honour the memory of the four members of the regiment who won the Victoria Cross.

## Notes to Chapters

### Notes to Introduction

1. Naval Order 112.05/3 (51) (1958).
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