



Exercise Royal Response

by Cst. Rodney G. Smith

On Saturday, March 17, 1979, forty terrorists of the Bluelandia progressive people's liberation army, (BPPLA), parachuted into a field adjacent to the peaceful town of Hartland, New Brunswick. Their purpose — to disrupt the imminent visit of Mr. B. F. Stroganoff, President of Bluelandia. Their ultimate goal — the assassination of Stroganoff during his brief visit to this maritime community.

Hartland, New Brunswick, is situated on the east bank of the Saint John River, approximately 130 km north of Fredericton. This picturesque and historical town is well known for its quaint atmosphere and pleasant populace, and especially for its famous covered bridge, the longest in the world.

Earlier this year, the Hartland Town Council accepted an offer from the Canadian Armed Forces to host "Exercise Royal Response" during the week of March 19-23, a military exercise involving the influx of over 500 military personnel of the Second Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) of CFB Gagetown, N.B., into this municipality of 1000. Our Force and the Hartland Town Police were invited to participate as the "civil authority." Arrangements with "J" Division HQ and Fredericton Sub-Division HQ, resulted in Insp. Ray Zinck, the Officer In Charge of Detachment Policing of Fredericton Sub-Division, being assigned as the overall civilian commander.

The Grand Falls Section NCO and members of "J" Division Security