



PRIVATE IN 1866.
The shako with green ball was later replaced by a bearskin busby with plume.



PRIVATE IN 1876.
This drawing was made from a photograph of Sir Henry Pellatt, who was then private in F Company.



PRIVATE IN 1909.
This green uniform with scarlet facings will be worn by the Queen's Own on their trip to England.



PRIVATE IN 1910.
This is the new khaki uniform which will be worn by the Queen's Own on their trip to England.

THE SECOND OLDEST REGIMENT IN CANADA

A History of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Which Will in June Celebrate Its Semi-Centennial, and Which Will in September Visit England to Take Part in the Aldershot Manoeuvres.

Cheers resounded thru the British House of Commons a few days ago when mention was made of the approaching visit of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to England this fall. This crack regiment will also celebrate its semi-centennial anniversary by a reunion of ex-members and a week's happy communion at Toronto in the month of June.

There were only militia companies before 1850, when an act was passed authorizing the formation of regiments. The first regiment was formed in Montreal, and is known as the Prince of Wales Own Rifles, the second was formed in Toronto, and is known as the Second Regiment Queen's Own Rifles. It is indeed a unique regiment, men in various stations of life, many occupying exalted positions, have passed thru its ranks, and have feelings of tenderness for the old corps, one thought of which brings forth many happy recollections, although perhaps also days of hardship and suffering, and a sigh for those who never

events in the history of Canada, will last for a week, and will be participated in by hundreds of performers. On Saturday, June 18, the program will open with a garden party at Government House, given by Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson, himself an ex-member of the regiment. On this occasion, there will be a roll-call by companies. All ex-members, no matter where residing, will be kept personally posted as to details by communicating with Mr. B. I. Riddell, the permanent secretary of the reunion committee, 8 East King-street, Toronto. Thousands of names have already been received.

A chronological record of the all-way capable and sociable regiment is of particular interest at this season. The regiment was organized early in 1860, with six companies, being an amalgamation of the Barrie Rifle Company, the 1st and 3rd Rifle Companies, Toronto; the Highland Company, Toronto; the Rifle Company, formerly Foot Artillery, and the Highland Rifle Company of Whitby.

On May 24, 1860, the regiment paraded with the active militia force of No. 5 military district of Upper Canada, on the west of the old Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and fired a "four-jolt" in honor of her late Majesty's Birthday.

On the arrival of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (the present King) in Toronto, Sept. 3, 1860, the battalion furnished a guard of honor, and three days afterwards was reviewed by him.

A wave of patriotic fervor swept over Canada at the time of the "Trent Affair," the capture of the British steamer Trent, bound from Boston to Liverpool, was fired upon and stopped on the high seas, by a cannon shot from an American warship, and two passengers were taken off in the trouble which followed thousands of volunteers sprang to arms to resist any attempt of the United States to take Canada.

It was at this time that the battalion was enlarged to ten companies by the addition of the following new and hitherto independent companies of rifles, viz: The first and second Merchants, Victoria, Civil Service, Trinity College and University, the Barrie and Whitby companies being taken off the strength.

At the time of this reorganization there was great diversity in the uniforms of the various companies. The first three wore rifle green with scarlet facings; four and five wore light grey with scarlet facings; No. six, brown with scarlet facings; No. seven, dark grey, scarlet facings; No. eight, light grey, no facings, and No. nine, Highland uniform. Later on the rifle green uniform was adopted regimentally and is still worn although the regiment will wear a khaki service uniform on its forthcoming trip to England.

On March 14, 1863, Lieut.-Col. Durie, the commandant, was notified that Her Majesty had been pleased to approve of the 2nd Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles being designated in future as the Queen's Own Rifles.

On May 1863, the ladies of Toronto presented a splendid medal to the regiment. By this time the battalion had a regimental uniform, and an order for this parade said: "The companies will parade in their regimental uniforms, including shakos with the green ball."

Battalion orders of 1864 contained the following: "Sgt. W. D. Otter and Corp. James Smith will rank as staff-sergeants until further orders." That sergeant is now Brigadier-General Otter, Chief of the General Staff in command of the forces in Canada.

Fenian Raids. The first active service of the Queen's Own commenced on Christmas Eve, 1864, when, in consequence of the "St. Albans Raid," three administrative battalions were ordered to the frontier to prevent a repetition. The Queen's Own supplied two companies, 60 strong, and on December 30 they proceeded to Niagara, marching there from St. Catharines. Lieut.-Col. Durie was in command. The companies returned from Niagara after an absence of four months, April 28, 1865.

On August 4, 1865, Lieut. Otter was appointed assistant adjutant, and guard for the protection of the drill shed was, on November 2, 1865, ordered to be furnished by the Queen's Own and 10th Battalion. Owing to threats of an invasion, the government decided upon sending a force of volunteers to the frontier, and on November 29, a company of the Queen's Own were despatched to Saratoga.

This year proved to be a memorable one in the history of the regiment. The termination of the long civil war in the United States left a lot of fighting men for the Federal cause doing nothing, and the invasion of Canada was the result. It was on January 30 that

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International Fraternity. The Queen's Own Rifles, since Sir Henry M. Pellatt took command, have steadily pursued a policy of fraternizing with the militia of the United States. The Queen's Own Rifles and the 74th of Buffalo have exchanged visits. In October, 1904, the Queen's Rifles went to Buffalo and were publicly entertained by the 74th, their armories, which is said to be one of the finest in the world. Two years later the Queen's Own Rifles, 300 strong, traveled to New York in two special trains to take part in the military tournament in Madison-square Gardens. This trip cost the regiment about twelve thousand dollars.

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